

## **Bike Ride: Darwin to Mandorah, 30-31 May 2009**

By Yasmin Barnes

Geoff, Ruth and I set off from Nightcliff on Saturday morning, around 7.30am and headed south via McMillans Road. The trip down to Palmerston was quite pleasant as we rode along on a bike path which generally was away from the main road.

Got to Coolalinga by 10.30am for a well-earned coffee stop. Here we were joined by Ros, Bill and the back-up vehicle, driven by Ginni. Another stop at Noonamah before we left the Stuart Highway and headed for Tumbling Waters. It was more pleasant away from the Stuart Highway, where we could enjoy the scenery without the hassle of cars.

Arrived at Tumbling Waters around 2pm and booked into a Villa – complete with shower, air-conditioning, TV and fridge! In the evening, we feasted on BBQ steak, barramundi, gourmet cheeses, fresh salads, wine and beer. Some of the group went and enjoyed the free deck chair cinema.

Day 2 was another 7.30am start. Craig joined us for this leg of the journey. As there was little traffic, the group stretched out a little and enjoyed the tranquillity of the morning. The road was long and the shade on the road had disappeared by 10.30am. However by noon we were all able to enjoy lunch at the Mandorah pub.

The back-up vehicle was well appreciated by all. It meant that we could travel light and look forward to a few luxuries at the end of the day. It also came in handy after a flat tyre and allowed some of us to have a break and skip some of the 130km cycle.

All in all a fun trip.



The back-up vehicle



Ros on the Stuart Highway



Relaxing at Noonamah



Safe and sound at the end of the trip.