

Painting Trip 2019. (Flinders, Clare Valley, Hahndorf with Amanda Hyatt.)By Joy Rogers

<p>1. Some started the trip from an expensive Adelaide Hotel And of no hot water they did tell.</p> <p>We boarded the bus and drove from Adelaide Past huge wind farms with many a blade. We went past pink salt lakes And stopped at Quorn for a break. There was a café called Quandong. Where we saw a sight that looked all wrong. Tied to the post, just near the door Two tethered horses there, we saw.</p> <p>Next day, painted a view from Huck's Lookout. How to paint the layered lines, we learnt about. Use a fan brush to squiggle and pull And the Ranges shapes stand out in full.</p> <p>Next we visited a dry creek bed Where stood magnificent gum trees. Hundreds of years old, it was said. Painting them was quite a tease. Amanda told us, to ourselves be kind Not painting nature right, we should not mind.</p> <p>Budgies, corellas, parrots, galahs All were flying very far. Eagles, kangaroos, emus We saw quite a few.</p>	<p>2. On day two, we went to see The old gnarled Cazneau tree That has battled the elements for years. Painting it in the wind was challenging, I fear. Easels fell, papers blew Conditions discouraged quite a few. Paints ended up in the sand Hard to keep everything to hand.</p> <p>Afternoon painting was at Old Wilpena Station... A relic of the past of our Nation. Old building, magnificent trees Once again we battled the breeze. Apostle birds came to visit. In us, they showed great interest! Megan went to sketch an old dilapidated shack Where she sat and drew. But soon she hurried back Because she spied a dead kangaroo!</p> <p>Our next painting excursion Ensured in a Range view we had immersion. When a painting plan would sink Amanda said, "Don't panic and think!"</p> <p>That afternoon we had a critique, At everyone's work we had a peek. Some were finished, some were not. All in all, we were surprized at what we got.</p>	<p>3. When we left Wilpena Pound It was raining all around. A spectacular rainbow in the sky Caught and held our artistic eye. Amanda called, "Stop the bus!" Photos were taken by all of us. A very strange scene we saw - The elements seemed to be at war. Look one way to a rainbow..... To the other there was dust. True! In me you'll have to trust.</p> <p>Stopped at Hawker to see some art Representing scenes of this country part.</p> <p>Next at Burra we stayed, With our painting, rain havoc played. Visited a winery at Seven Hills, Tried to paint vines growing up the hill. Next to Skillogallee for lunch Where they over fed our happy bunch. The sun briefly appeared Though more rain was greatly feared. Amanda bravely soldiered on Painting and being rained upon. When things are too difficult, she said Don't give up in dread. Use the scene for inspiration And add your own interpretation.</p>
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<p>4. Next we painted in Burra by the river. The weather was making us all shiver. A great view of the church steeple And many more ducks than people.</p> <p>Then we went to the old copper mine. The weather started off looking fine. An interesting open cut mine to paint But the weather, our efforts tried to taint. We made a start And of our painting we did a part. But then started the rain drops And of spots on our work, we had a crop. Getting it to dry was a trick. Then we had to pack up real quick!</p> <p>Cloudy again to go to Martindale. Amanda told us not to bail. "Crack on," she said. "You won't fail!" What an amazing place is Martindale Hall! What a place home to call. An era past – a lifestyle so grand Surprising in this farming land. Our painting time here was short. No time for very much deep thought! Sketch it up – put on the paint - Not much drying time to wait.</p>	<p>5. In Auburn, we went to seek our lunch. Many could not find much to munch. The place was all booked out... So we were often turned about! Some had to be content with chips... Some put a liquid lunch to their lips.</p> <p>We were surprized at our critique Just how much we'd achieved in a week When, with rainy, windy elements we'd had to contend Our painting styles, we'd had to bend.</p> <p>Stopped at the farm of Maggie Beer's Set by a lovely lake so near. Some bought pates, jams and sauce... Taste buds were tempted there of course! We stopped at Seppelts, a winery so fine. Some bought soaps, glassware or wine. Had lunch at Tanunda And went for a wander. Found a gallery of surprizing art.... Back to the bus for a later start!</p> <p>In Hahndorf we arrived, Some to shopping then they strived. A cute old German town In the street, shops up and down.</p>	<p>6. Went to visit the studio of Hans Heysen. To paint like that we all did yen. Learned something about his life... -his children and his wife -his talent and his sponsorship -his wartime threats and local mateship -the experiences that made the man -his tree conservation plan.</p> <p>Then, to paint it was our turn, To succeed we all did yearn. Don't feel overwhelmed, Amanda told us... Have a go, and try, don't fuss!</p> <p>To Strathalbyn then we drove Set up in a park where shadows wove. Amanda reiterated, "It's all about the light. Keep it bright, get it right." The ducks were very tame Right up to us they came. At our bags they pecked. The weather there was perfect, No challenge from wind and rain, So a good painting we hoped to gain. After lunch was pen and ink – Amanda did hers quick as a wink. Some went off and tried But some were very tired. It was a lovely day As everyone did say. Our first with perfect conditions For our painting missions.</p>
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<p>7. Our final painting at Heysen's place Some of his gum trees we did face. We were told, to copy, don't you try - You can never succeed is why. Get inspiration from other's art Then paint from your own heart. Though we found it hard, It was nice to paint in Hans' yard.</p> <p>Sadly, our trip is at an end... Homeward bound we'll all wend. But just before we go A few words of thanks, our appreciation to show.</p> <p>We thank Amanda for her advice Now to implement it, we'll roll the dice. Through her five steps, she had us walk And frequently reminded us in a pep talk. -Compose and draw it up. -Choose your colours. - Build it up. -Shadows you must not forget -Pull together with darks and lights, you bet. On us, she always impressed that to use your mirror, it is best. She said, "If you don't have a go You'll never never know."</p> <p>When things got tough And conditions rough Amanda told us "Crack on!" Before the time is gone.</p>	<p>8. Thanks to Alex, Geoff and Jan Who ensured the tour smoothly ran. To our driver John, Without you, we could not have gone. Your efforts we appreciate, Our thanks we'd like to state.</p> <p>To all who travelled along the way Enjoying learning and company each day... Thanks for tips and friendship. Without you, there'd be no trip.</p> <p>This poem was read out on the bus The last time together for all of us. I was asked to add some more To mention our farewell evening before.</p> <p>In Hahndorf we had our last night Our farewell dinner was just right. An exhibition of ALL our art Of the evening was a part. Amanda gave us her last comment, And said progress shown was evident.</p> <p>Then came a performance so dramatic! Miming of Amanda's tips so emphatic! Who could forget the mirror to use After watching such an acting muse!</p>	<p>9. And so our painting trip came to an end As our way homewards we did wend. Paintings and photos with us we took - Memories we will recall when we have a look.</p>
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