



Corner Country Settlement

Camels in the Outback

Camels bring stores to the goldfields

In 1882 severe drought caused near-famine for the miners and settlers of the Albert Goldfields. The Darling River ceased to flow and the paddle steamers were prevented from carrying stores to Wilcannia.

Horses and bullocks were unable to use the road to the goldfields because of the conditions. Essential foods were in desperately short supply.

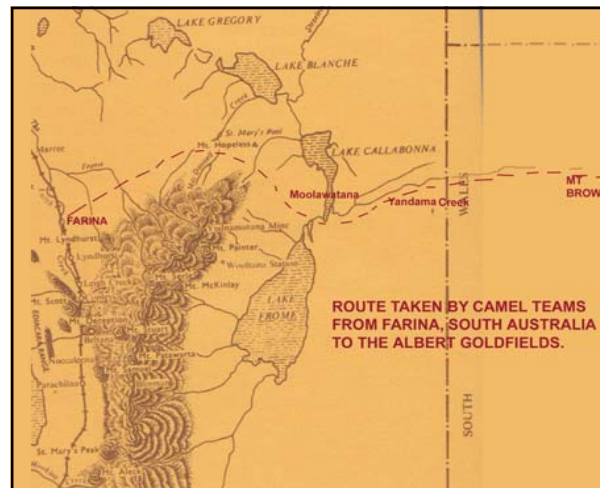
Just as the situation became critical, relief organized by the New South Wales Government arrived from the west, with the first-ever camel teams arriving from Farina on the Transcontinental line.



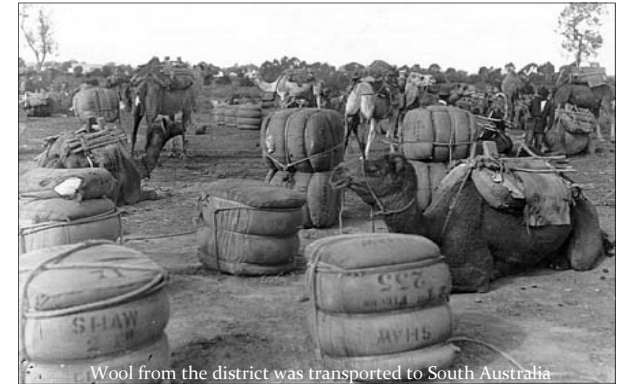
Camel teams were common in the Corner Country.

Tracks across the desert

Following an ancient Aboriginal track, the route took the teams around the northern end of the Flinders Ranges and between Lake Callabonna and Lake Frome. Then, following the Yandama Creek eastwards, the Mount Browne Hills were finally visible in the distance.



Almost 100 kilometres of the track was waterless. The route from the west eventually became known as the Mount Browne Track and was regularly used to bring goods from South Australia



Wool from the district was transported to South Australia

Wool grown in New South Wales was also transported back across to Farina.

Miners moving to the goldfields to find work used this route, but many perished along the way. There were reportedly scores of unmarked graves along the track, now lost forever.

In 1899, as part of a government program to provide water artesian bores were sunk along the Yandama Creek which provided relief for travelers taking this difficult route.

The track is no longer used.