

The Hamer Newsletter



15 November 2010

Hello to One and All,

Well, we are now in Geraldton after having been at Osprey Bay in Cape Range National Park since the end of September. It is such a beautiful place with almost artificial colours in the ocean



– so many shades of aqua and blue – and so much marine life.

Whales, dolphins, turtles, stingrays and seemingly thousands of beautiful fish. Add to that the kangaroos,

emus, bungarras (huge lizards) and blue wrens and you can understand why we enjoy it so much there.

Of course, this time we were there as camp ground hosts, so didn't have quite as much freedom to do as we pleased. For the first few



weeks we were kept very busy with our camp ground and another nearby area which is the "overflow" camp used when all the other areas in the park are full. Suddenly in early November it was as if someone had flicked a switch and from being full one day we were down to half full the next. By the time we left on 12th

November there were only 3 sites occupied.

We were able to do a lot of snorkelling, swimming and fishing and also sightseeing including the boat trip into Yardie Gorge with its well hidden blackfooted wallabies.



Most of the time we had windy to very windy conditions, with just a few lovely days now and then with gentle breezes and calm seas. The kite-surfers loved it and we enjoyed watching them skimming over the ocean. We had quite a few camping there, including Swiss, French, German and other assorted nationalities all enjoying the warm weather and living out of their cars or small campers, and trekking to Sandy Bay a few hundred metres away with their kites and boards.

There is no normal mobile phone reception. However, with the large 9dB aerial we were getting weak reception, enough to use the phone and get intermittent internet connection. Justin and Caroline who were camped next to us for a couple of weeks lent us their Yagi aerial for a few days and the difference was amazing. We had a strong phone signal and could even make phone calls on Skype. We bought one and had good reception from there on.

We met lots of interesting people and made some more friends to keep in contact with. We spent a few hours fishing with not much luck. Frans caught one swallowtail dart which made a small meal, but apart from that the fish were not biting with very few being caught by the campers.

So, it's a short newsletter this time but hopefully the photos will tell the story.

Now we are slowly moving back south to spend Christmas and New Year at Margaret River, same place as last year. We have decided to remain in W.A. next year and have lined up some more campground host assignments to keep us occupied.

We want to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year and we will continue our travel tales in 2011.

Regards,
Frans and Bev





Bungarra resting in shade of table



View from our back window





That's our home. The shallows of the reef can be seen out to the breakers

Some of the underwater shots while we were snorkelling. Unfortunately, being a disposable camera and murky conditions, they are not as good as we would have hoped. Note to oneself, buy a decent underwater camera.



Wall of fish. Pity they were not close to shore to catch on a line



One of the numerous turtles with which we swam.



Bev snorkelling in comfort on her noodle



This friendly fellow kept us company some of the time we were out there