

The Hamer Newsletter



3 January 2010

Hello to One and All,

After leaving Osprey Bay and staying in Geraldton for a few days to catch up with laundry, restocking the pantry and shopping for other necessary bits and pieces, we started travelling southwards again with no fixed itinerary and time on our hands.

Wednesday 17 November

To Sandy Cape Recreation Reserve north of Jurien Bay, along the Indian Ocean Drive. It was hot but there was a cooling sea breeze and we thought we might stay a couple of



days. It is such a beautiful place that we ended up staying 5 days. We had some rain, even a brief thunderstorm. The boardwalk over the dunes to the lookout is a great asset to the area and worth the short walk for the views.

Monday 22 November

Reluctantly leaving Sandy Cape we went to Cervantes for a couple of days. The main attraction was the Pinnacles Desert Park, and it



certainly lived up to its reputation of being a unique and very interesting landscape. The whole area is very picturesque with whiter than white sand dunes and deep blue ocean, and masses of flowering bushes at this time of year. We also visited Lake Thetis with its 3,500 year old stromatolites and thrombolites.

Wednesday 24 November

Leaving Cervantes, we travelled south along the new section of Indian Ocean Drive through



really beautiful scenery – more white sand dunes, blue sea and masses of flowering grass trees. We have never seen so many grass trees over such a large area. We then turned east and headed to Bindoon but the camp spot we intended to stay at was a bit too small for us so we went instead to Wannamal and stayed at a free camp on the former site of the town primary school. The Shire provides clean toilets, BBQ and picnic tables and it is a pleasant place to stay for a day or two.

The self-guided walk around the old town sites is very interesting although you have to use your imagination to try and picture the buildings which no longer exist.

Friday 26 November

To Narrogin caravan park so that we could go and check out Congelin camp ground in the Dryandra Woodland, with a view to doing some camp ground hosting around Easter 2011. It is a lovely camping area and there are many walks and an endangered wildlife habitat so it will be a very interesting place to spend some time. We visited the Ranger and hope that he will be able to fit us in as camp hosts, otherwise we will just go and camp there.

Monday 29 November

To Caversham outside Perth. We had lunch with friends (and fellow campground hosts) Richard and Dianne. We visited Perth Hills national park campground near Mundaring and organised with the Ranger there to spend March 2011 as campground hosts. It is a tent-based campground, but there is a spot we can park Stopalot with power and water supplied – what a bonus! The big challenge will be manoeuvring Stopalot through the car park and backing into a narrow entrance, not designed for big rigs.



Wednesday 8 December

Leaving Perth we went to Leschenault near Bunbury to visit friends Mike and Ros, who we met at Osprey Bay. A planned overnight stay extended to 5 nights parked in their driveway, a lovely spot with trees all around and very hospitable hosts. Mike & Ros took us out in their motor boat one day and found a large pod of beautiful dolphins. Then we moored at a pub on



the Bunbury foreshore for lunch before heading for home and seeing more dolphins.

Monday 12 December

A short trip to Busselton where we stayed in a van park for 3 days and were treated to a lovely lunch by friends Colin and Linda at their home – within walking distance of the van park so we could enjoy a couple of glasses of wine.

Thursday 16 December

To Big Valley campground at Margaret River to settle in for the silly season. It feels almost like coming home after spending so much time here earlier this year, and it was good to see hosts Kevin and Shelley again.

A very quiet Christmas with a pleasant dinner with our hosts and the other campers, was followed by an equally quiet New Year's Eve spent with friends Ray and Dawn from Perth who came in their



motorhome to stay for a couple of weeks.

We went to Dunsborough on New Year's Day to see Bev's niece Emma who was visiting from England – lovely to see a member of the family and a great start to the year.

We also drove to Big Brook Arboretum near Pemberton, to see the campground we are going to be hosting at during February. It is a lovely place, but the access roads are narrow with trees close along the sides, so getting Stopalot in will be a challenge.



Monday 3 January 2011

The next few weeks will see us visiting the dentist – Bev has to have last year's root canal tooth pulled out and Frans has to have a molar crowned. We will celebrate Bev's 60th birthday with a quiet lunch with friends Colin and Linda. There are a few maintenance jobs to attend to and then we will head to Pemberton to start "work" again at Big Brook Arboretum campground on 1st February.

The last few weeks have been special as we have been able to catch up with several friends and of course, niece Emma. As we spend so much time on our own, we treasure the times we can spend with friends, so **Thank You** to all of those people who have given us their time and company.

To all of our family and friends, we wish a happy and healthy 2011.

Regards,

Frans and Bev

