

The Hamer Newsletter



11 June 2016

Hello to One and All,

After 9 months in our new house we went on the road again and are now in Western Australia for the winter. So far we have had more good weather than bad, but it is getting very cold and we are happy to have our diesel heater to keep us warm at night. Along the way we have found quite a few geocaches and have enjoyed some interesting walks and met up with old friends.

This has proved to be a fairly expensive trip with a few things going wrong at the start, but fingers crossed all is good now. We were just relieved that all the bad things happened before we started on the Nullarbor crossing!

Because we have travelled almost continuously since leaving home, we decided to condense the details so we don't bore you all too much.

2 April

We left Maryborough and travelled via Allora & Stanthorpe QLD (2 nights with Geoff & Gloria there and a broken door handle which had to be fixed next day by a local locksmith), then Guyra, Bendemeer, Binnaway and Trangie NSW. (5 nights with Sue & Jim because we had to order a new awning when ours decided to come apart at the seams).

14 April

We drove to Dubbo, had the new awning fitted and overnighted at Toongi Hall, then on to Gum Bend Lake at Condobolin, Goolgowi, Sandy point Reserve in Hay, and on to Yanga National Park near Balranald where we camped for 3 nights in Mamanga campground on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River.



Although it was all dry and dusty it was a beautiful spot and we enjoyed our time there.



The old Yanga shearing shed is massive and was well worth a visit. A 40 stand shed, it was established on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River so wool bales from the store could be loaded directly into paddle-steamers for transport to Echuca. It operated until 2005.

21 April

Off to Portland VIC to stay with Geoff & Glen with overnight stops along the way at Woomelang, Brim Lakeside

campground, Rupanyup and Balmoral. The Brim Silos paintings recently completed are amazing, just like photos of the featured locals. While at Portland a roof vent cover blew off in strong wind so we had to buy a new one (a 2 hour round trip to Warrnambool for that and lucky there was no rain).

28 April

We left Portland and stayed at Harrow (where Frans had to fix a broken shelf in a storage hatch), then on to Serviceton next day to sit out some very wet and windy conditions. Frans was also battling a nasty cold so we decided to stay put until he felt better.



2 May

With weather still not good, we went to Kuitpo S.A. near McLaren Vale to stay with friends Neil & Marieke. It was cold, very windy and wet so a few days indoors in front of the log burner were very welcome.

8 May

With another bout of wild weather on the way we decided to start heading north and west and went to Mallala for 2 nights. The winds were very strong but we did not have much rain. As soon as the weather cleared we headed off again.

10 May

Comparatively nice weather, so we drove to Jamestown and stayed in the RV park there.

11 May

We went to Mount Little Station north of Hawker for an outback experience. At \$25 a night it is expensive for a patch of red dirt and some fire wood, but we really enjoyed the sense of isolation and the absolute



quiet. We spent one day doing a round trip of the Flinders Ranges and found 10 geocaches.

The 10th was our 1000th find and it was at the Cazneaux tree which made it a special find. This tree was made famous in 1937 when Cazneaux photographed it and called it "The Spirit of Endurance". 80 years later it looks much the same as it did then so it must be very old indeed.

14 May

To Iron Knob RV stop for overnight. The next morning when we were about to leave Frans noticed a front wheel on the truck was cracked. He changed the wheel but we decided not to travel any further until we could get a new wheel. Being Sunday we could not do anything. On Monday he ordered a wheel from Ford in Port Pirie who had to get it from Melbourne then send it on the bus to Whyalla. It arrived on Wednesday so we drove to Whyalla, collected the wheel and went to a tyre dealer to have it fitted.

During our enforced stay in Iron Knob we visited the mine museum, went on a mine tour and were interviewed by a reporter/journalist from SBS World News Adelaide. The article on Iron Knob and the interview hasn't been aired yet.

19 May

Finally left Iron Knob and drove to Cummins near the bottom of the Eyre Peninsula. From here we did a day trip to Coffin Bay National Park in beautiful sunshine, then prepared for another bout of bad weather.

23 May

Sunshine again and we left Cummins and went to beautiful Sheringa Beach on the west coast. We were the only people in the camping area and squeezed in to a great spot close to the water. A full



moon that night was a bonus. The next day we saw a big pod of dolphins fishing and playing close to shore.

25 May

Time to start heading for W.A. so we went to Elliston overnight, then Perlubie Beach then Ceduna for 2 nights to do all the laundry, top up the water tanks, and make sure we were ready for the next week. Frans bought the Nullarbor Links Golf Course kit and went to Ceduna golf course to play the first 2 holes.

29 May

To Penong and Nundroo for golf holes, then overnight at Yalata West rest area where we met 3 Kiwis in a motorhome and sat at a roaring fire with them until it was too cold to stay outside. The next morning was thick fog and very cold.



30 May

To Nullarbor for the golf hole, then we found a hidden track to about 200 m from the cliff edge overlooking the Bight. The weather was sunny and calm and we were hoping to spot whales, but no such luck. Still, we had a great night by ourselves in this lovely location.

31 May

We travelled about 60 K and found another overnight spot behind a truck parking bay, again about 200 M from the cliff, so decided to stay the rest of the day and night. Again, no whales to be seen, but it was a great place.



1 June

To Border Village for the next golf hole, and afterwards the quarantine search of the van was quite thorough, but the only items we had to declare was some honey (which they confiscated of course) and some allowed vegies which were OK.

Frans then played the golf holes at Eucla, Mundrabilla and Madura Roadhouse and we overnighted at the Madura Pass lookout.

2 June

Thick fog which quickly cleared to a beautiful sunny day. We stopped at Cocklebidy and Caiguna for golf, then overnighted at Woorlba Homestead rest area. We went a long way to the back and were by ourselves, had a lovely fire until the cold got to us.



3 June

Thick fog again but it soon cleared. On to Balladonia for another golf hole, then to Fraser Range Station where we met up with Carol & David McAnulty from RV Homebase, who were travelling back to the east. We had 2 nights there, did the Sunset Tour and had dinner, and spent a cold wet day playing card games with Carol & David. Frans also played the golf hole there.



5 June

To Norseman where we stayed in the sportsground. 2 holes of golf there at the golf club then we restocked with some fresh fruit & veg which was welcome after 4 days without any, and went to Kambalda RV stop for the night.

6 June

Frans played the golf hole in the rain and wind and we headed towards Kalgoorlie. We decided to go to Lake Douglas campground for the night. The graders were working on the dirt road as we went in so it was lovely and smooth, but muddy with the rain. We had rain overnight but got out OK the next morning and went to a caravan park in Kalgoorlie for 2 nights.

Frans played the last 2 holes of the Nullarbor Links course at the very well maintained Kalgoorlie Golf Course (where there is a dress code!) and it was a welcome change from the rough bush holes he had been playing. After that, off to the Visitor Information centre to get the official certificate and a pat on the back for completing a very challenging 18 holes spread over 1,365 kilometres.

We had the truck serviced in Kalgoorlie and the wheels rotated, so all is good for the next part of the journey.

10 June

We left Kalgoorlie intending to wander around the goldfields and wheat-belt while we make our way to Bindoon by the end of June, where we will be farm-sitting for friends during July. We detoured to take a look at Goongarrie Homestead (south of Menzies) and decided to stay here for 2 nights. After that we plan to go and visit places we have not been to before, such as Laverton and Willuna.

Until next time,

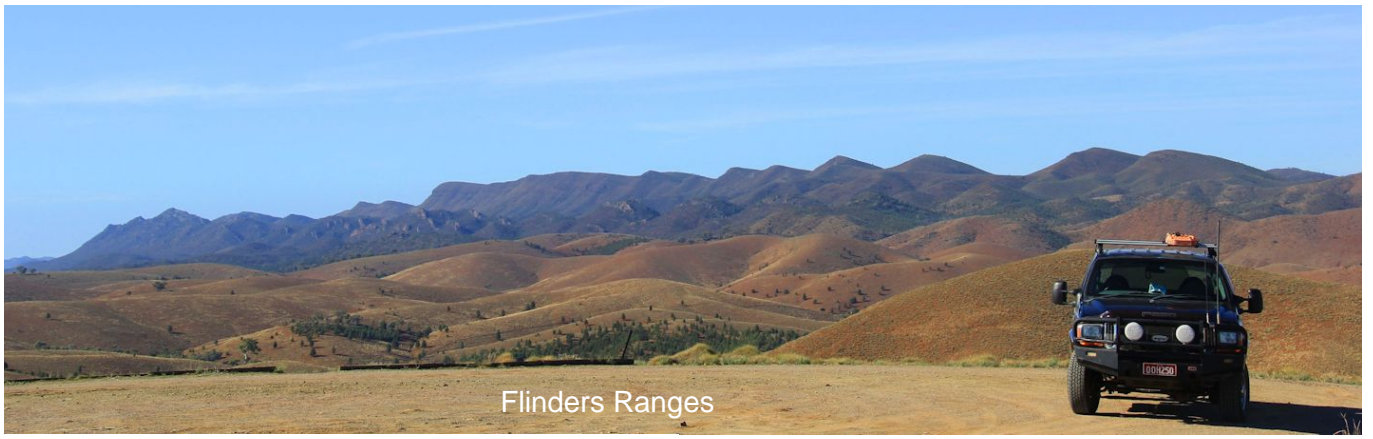
Regards from Frans & Bev



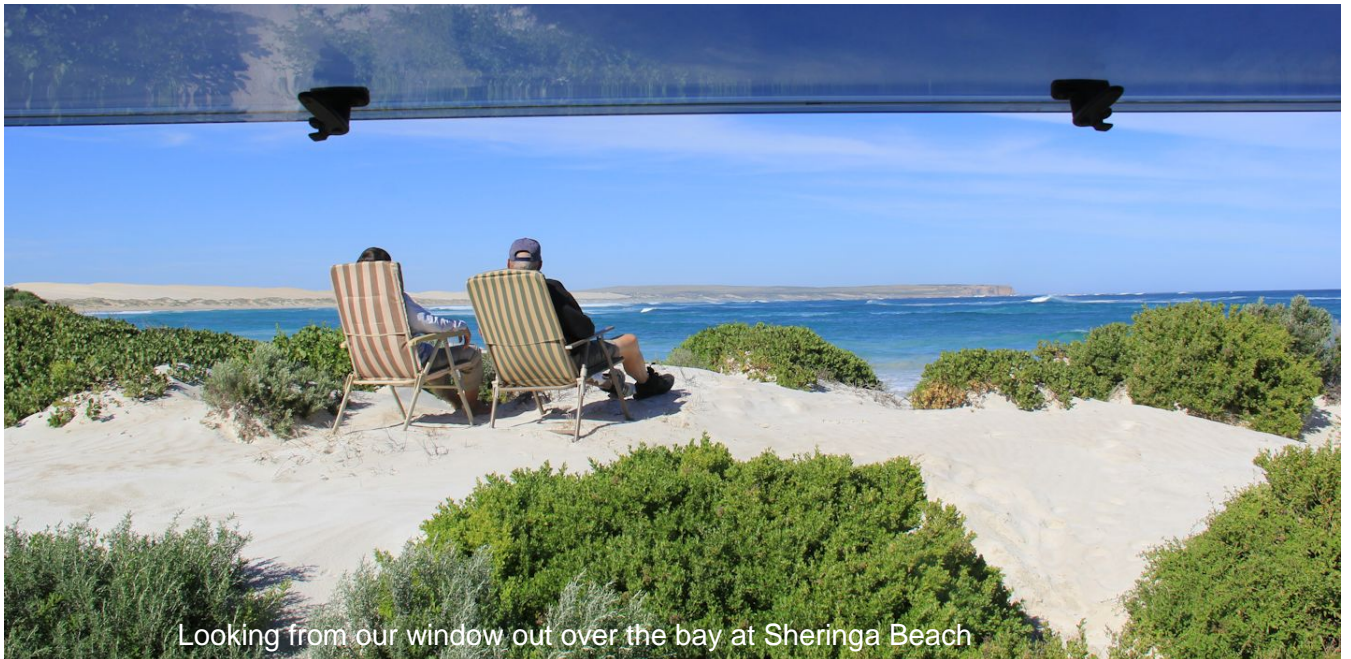
Looking at our camp across the river at Yanga NP



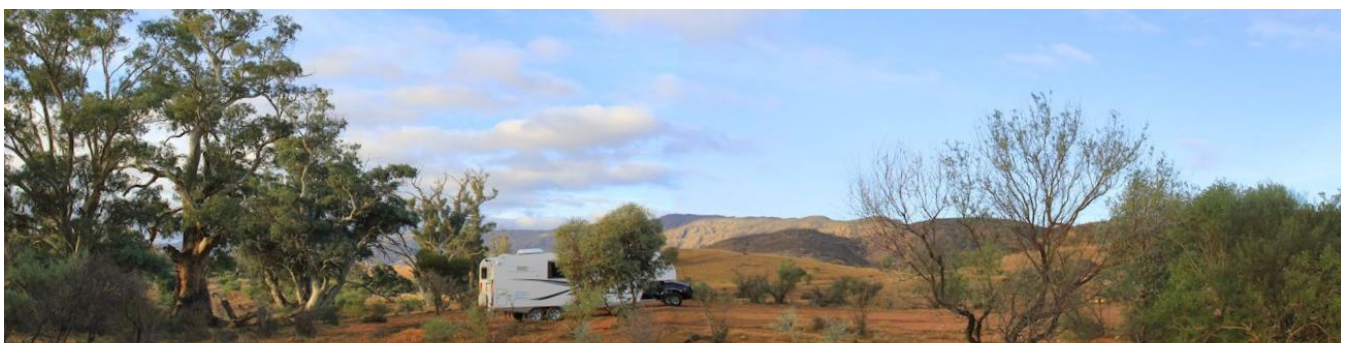
Mt Little station



Flinders Ranges



Looking from our window out over the bay at Sheringa Beach



Our camp at Mt Little station

