

cake then drove on the Busselton Highway #10 south to the Margaret River region.

On the way to the Bootleg Brewery we had to turn back due to a medium sized tree had been uprooted and fallen across the road. On our reverse run we indicated to two other cars about the tree which saved them a couple of km. On our way we visited a lavender farm and bought two jars of moisture cream made from lavender. Then to the Bootleg Brewery where I bought six stubbies of Raging Bull beer. A thick beer, a mixture of stout and black beer is the way I describe it which I enjoyed in later days.

I think most Australians have heard of the Margaret River Wine Region which has a lot of vineyards and two breweries. We visited Oscar's Leap and bought a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon then to Gralyn and bought a bottle of white port. Very white and very nice. By this time we were travelling on Caves Road and to Gracetown. I remind the reader that one of our granddaughters is named Grace so what better than to visit Gracetown. It's on the ocean beach where we enjoyed lunch overlooking the Indian Ocean. We had potato wedges and salad. Gracetown is a small town, perhaps one hundred homes, one cafe where we enjoyed lunch and a grocery store next door.

Then to the Margaret River Cheese Factory and bought some chilli cheese. Then the Margaret River Chocolate Company which was a disappointment. We could not see chocolate being made, just being sold which was expensive although there were containers of small 10mm size buttons free to taste which we did. Heading back home we stopped at a little bush church near the Metricup turn-off where there were people inside so I didn't go in but took a photo of it. Back in Busselton I went into St. Mary's Church which is old, built between 1843 and 1845 being the oldest stone church in W.A.

Home for Marie to cook dinner and me to see the last few minutes of footy, West Perth defeating Subiaco.

Monday 16 Sept 5c 136

To Boyanup

Winter clothes on now. Marie likes the cold.

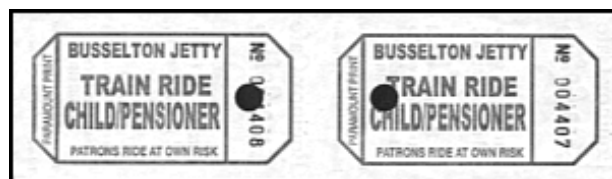
We left at 8.30am northward on #10 highway through Capel to Boyanup on a small road through flat farming country. We had our morning cuppa at a little shop/cafe then to the Boyanup Transport Museum where as usual we were about ten minutes too early. A young woman soon came and opened the museum. We got talking, what's new, until she said she had to go out to her car and bring her baby in. A little girl about five months old and guess who nursed her? Marie nursed her for about thirty minutes. We both walked around the museum, inside and outside. Like many country towns in Australia and indeed many countries around the world, the railway/train systems become defunct for one reason

or another.

In this area of W.A. closures due to mining being discontinued, logging being wound down and so on. It's a shame that this happens because little towns just die. What is there to keep people living in such places? There was a busy station here but nothing now except a couple of trees.

Just inside the door is an old horse drawn hearse. A very ornate glass one. We saw the largest collection of barb wire we have ever seen. Hundreds of lengths of about 50cm of ordinary barb wire. Cars including a three wheeled one similar to what we saw in England. Farm machinery, some train passenger carriages, a couple of steam and diesel locomotives; a good display but needing some attention. Entry was \$5.00 each. We returned via Donnybrook where we stopped at a fruit and vegetable shop and bought some strawberries.

Then into the township which is a very neat and tidy town about the size of Kilcoy. We had lunch here, Marie a bacon burger and I a meat pie. I walked to the railway station which is opposite the shops but not used anymore. This line is still used for goods, timber and such like, the line from Bunbury, through Boyanup, Bridgetown to Pemberton and Northcliffe. We arrived back in Busselton at 1.45pm in time to catch the 2.00pm train ride on the Busselton Jetty. The Busselton Jetty is two kilometres in length, that is long. It's the longest timber pile jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. The train loco if one could call it that, is a rubber tyred and train steel wheeled unit. When the train has pulled the three or four little covered cars to each end, the driver uncouples the loco, puts the metal tram wheels up and drives it around to the other end of the train on the rubber wheels, couples to the train and puts the tram wheels down. Quite clever! Cost was \$11.00 for the two of us. One hour for the ride which includes fifteen minutes at the ocean end.



I should mention here that most tourist attractions have concession/pensioner prices. An underwater observatory is being constructed near the end and is planned to open in 2003. The Busselton area was extremely busy in the 1800's which was a major logging port. There was also a railway jetty about 100m from this one. Big ships could anchor side on to either jetty. It was cold on the ride because I wore my beanie and gloves. Great!

Back home and Marie cooked dinner again. Love her!

Tuesday 17 Sept 8c 233km

To Augusta

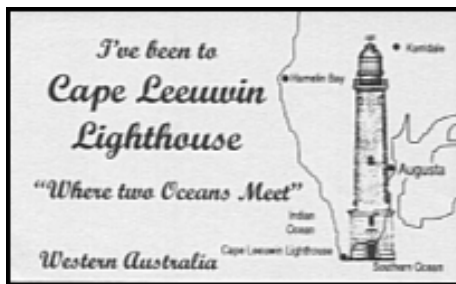
Brief History of Augusta

Originally explored by the Dutch in 1622, it was, however, Matthew Flinders who named the south-western tip of the coastline "Cape Leeuwin" on 6 December 1801.

The first European 'settlers' in the area were the whalers and sealers who sought protection from the storms of the southern ocean. Reports of the land were good, so, on March 12, 1830, Augusta was founded by James Stirling accompanied by settlers from the ship "Barque Warrior".

Up until the 1870s, the town struggled to grow due to the obstructed transport back up to Perth. The town suddenly grew when the value of the local hardwood trees Karri and Jarrah was recognised and local sawmills were setup.

A bigger journey today. Marie made a picnic lunch. We departed at 8am onto the Bussell Highway #10 again through Margaret River to Augusta. The reason to go to Augusta is to drive another 10km or so to the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse and where the Indian Ocean and the Southern Oceans meet. To me this was an important part of the journey. To know that some people, even Australians will die never seeing an ocean let alone two side by side, if that's how I should put it. We went to the little tourist shop, Marie walked back to Racheal while I walked another 80m to the lighthouse. I had to wait in the cold wind for about ten minutes until the previous tour people came out before I and others could go inside it, about 9.45am. The woman gave us a good talk as we walked up the 176 steps round and round which was worth the \$6.00. A good view across to India and Africa and south to Antarctica.



Back to Augusta and another drink for Racheal; 51L at 101.5c/L. Then on our way back home to the Jewel Cave but the tour was some time off for \$15.00 each but as we have been to a few caves before we didn't do it. We had our picnic lunch in the cool bushy car park then to the Berry Farm about 20km east of Margaret River township. We bought two bottles of fruit syrups which we had not seen before. Quite expensive. They have a few different fruit trees which in season people can pick their own. They also sell jams, chutneys, butter, preserves, vinegar and wines.

These are all expensive but if the reader is interested their Web site is;

www.berryfarm.com.au

During the day we saw a sign for the Higgins Family B&B. I mention this because John and Ruth Higgins are members of the CSSQ.

Into the town we visited the Fudge Factory which is in the main street. Again too expensive. After a short walk up the streets we drove back home at 3pm. We both walked down to the water and looked for some sea shells but very few around. There were big heaps of seaweed banked up on the sand. Some are about 1.8m high. During winter the seaweed is pushed up onto the sand and in spring it's all washed back again into the sea. Marie noted that there were lots of Pelegonium plants growing in the sand.

Marie cooked dinner again but as we would be moving on soon she would then get a rest from it.

Wednesday 18 Sept 12c 24km **A local lazy day**

We drove to the Busselton town shops. It is a healthy town being near a beach and only about 130km from Perth. Back home for lunch then I drove to the Busselton Historical Museum in the Old Butter Factory Building. It cost about \$3.00 and is another good museum. After the factory stopped making butter it manufactured powered milk until about 1970. It appears that museums in W.A. also do family historical research as there are big scrap books of all sorts of information set out on tables for people to read and research. A great idea!

Thursday 19 Sept 6c 194km **To Pemberton**

We packed Racheal with all our travelling possessions and departed the resort at 7.30am. I tried to play another sound tape that I had brought with me but it would not work. The radio didn't either. The radio unit read-out showed the letters "SEC" which I didn't understand. So we had no music, ah well travelling is hard!

We drove on the Vasse Highway southeastward to Nannup. Here I must point out that there are a lot of towns/places in W.A. ending with the suffix "UP". "UP" is the aboriginal word meaning "place of" similar to the English "ton". Nannup means "place of rest". We left the flat countryside behind us driving through small hills. Near Bridgetown there was fog hanging in the lower valleys which we had not seen before since about when we were in Greece so I took a photo. It looked so pretty with water clinging to cobwebs. It lasted for about 10km.

We stopped at the Bridgetown Information Tourist place. It has a room with one hundred and thirtynine jigsaw puzzles in the collection, many completed and are mounted on the walls in big picture frames. There are a couple that Marie had done at home. Some people know that jigsaw puzzles is one of Marie's hobbies. One is a 5000 piece puzzle, another was a hand made wooden

one about 10cm X 10cm, small. There are some other historical items so this is one of our recommended places to visit. They also have a collection of photos of bridges which unfortunately was partly dismantled. I asked one of the women would they like me to send them photos of bridges by E-mail and she said "yes please".

Their E-mail address is;
tourist1@iinet.net.au

We had morning tea in a little coffee shop, yummy. I walked to the railway station but it is not used anymore due to what I have already mentioned.

We arrived at Manjimup shortly after and visited their Information place called the Manjimup Timber Park. I walked up the stairs inside the building for a view of the forest.

Pemberton pop 920

Onward to arrive at Pemberton at 12.15pm and booked into the Pemberton Caravan Park for \$72.00. This was for a very nice cabin # 23, ensuite, cooking facilities, TV, linen and blankets etc, the usual these days and in a very quiet location. Pemberton is quiet anyway with only a population of 920. We drove about 1km to The Pemberton Tramway Co. which conducts train and tram tours into the bush. One tour is to Warren Ridge which is a three hour 21km tour. We didn' do any so I just talked to the young man in the little shop/office about football. He played fullback in the local team a few days ago. Their E-mail address is;

pemtram.wn.com.au

This is the western fringe of the Karri forests, the big trees. So we drove to the Gloucester Tree about 15km away. The Gloucester Tree is a tree that has metal rods rammed into the tree at about 50cm intervals which circle around it to the top. At the top is a constructed platform. These type trees with the "steps" were constructed years ago to be lookouts, mainly for fire. Very ingenious. The Gloucester Tree is now for tourists to try their skill and power to walk/climb up the tree which is about 70mt in height. The \$3.00 entry fee for Racheal and ourselves was well worth it. There were about five young people climbing it at the time. On the way back we called into the Gloucester Ridge Winery tasting a couple and so bought a bottle of White Port for \$18.50. A coach load of Thai tourists left as we arrived.

Back home at 3pm. I had a try to fix the radio/tape unit without success. I read Racheal' s manual with instructions about the special pin code number. New model cars have these numbers to be a deterrent to would be thieves stealing the radio. If the thief does not know the number, which can be changed, the unit will not work. I tried to guess the number but after three errors I gave up. Only nine errors or attempts is allowed before the unit has to be returned to the manufacturer to be reprogrammed. I' m glad I' m not in business servicing

this type of equipment anymore. For dinner we drove the short distance up the street to a Chinese Restaurant for a nice Chinese meal.

Friday 20 7c 265km To Albany

We departed at 7.45am from a misty caravan park continuing on highway #10. I have not mentioned this as yet but there are many parts of highways that have a maximum speed of 100k/h and even of 110k/m. Even taking into account the little amount of traffic, these speeds are far too high. We drove through Northcliffe and soon joined the South Western Highway #1 again. We arrived in Walpole at 9.45am. Another tourist information and morning coffee and hot chocolate stop. To this point this morning we travelled 123km and counted only twentytwo (22) vehicles on the roads. Eighteen cars, three campervans and one bus/coach. We knew there would be less traffic than this later on our journey but this is not that far from Perth and on good roads. This is W.A.

At the tourist place Marie bought two bottles of Baronia Perfume for \$20.00 each. We saw signs on the roadside at various state parks or forests that poison baits have been placed there. 1080 which is to kill foxes. Other signs showing that a parking area was 1km ahead and the next one 20km ahead, as an example. A little like as in the USA. Just east of Walpole we visited the Tree Top Walk which is in the Valley of the Giants. I went on this walk which cost me only \$6.00 which consisted of a raised metal walkway about 40mt above the ground. It did shake or wobble perhaps about 1cm so it' just as well Marie didn' do it. Only a short walk which I did in about fifteen minutes. Great view!

Their Web site is at:
www.naturebase.net

Denmark pop 4,400

We arrived in Denmark (Australia) at 12.30pm having our Racheal boot picnic lunch next to an Information board. The Denmark Tourist Information Centre is in the Denmark RSL building. Marie purchased a pearl necklace and bracelet for \$49.00 for both. We looked around at some of the shops then onward to arrive in Albany at 2.15pm on the #1 Highway. From about Denmark the countryside is rather flat. We checked into the Mt. Melville Caravan Park in a cabin although sometime cabins are called chalets. This is a Big 4 place so their facilities are top class. Our Chalet number 7 for \$75.00 with all the usual which I won' repeat other than the handles on the bathroom fittings are gold coloured.

Albany pop 30,000

We drove about 3km to the city centre and I inspected a replica of the Brig Amity, a ship that amongst other places sailed between Tasmania and W.A. This cost \$3.00. Then we both visited the Albany Gaol and a place

called Albany Residency Museum and Precinct. The goal is not much bigger than our house but is quite historical. Enough things to see that could take all day if one wanted to do the place justice. The main street of Albany is York Street and runs north and south to the harbour. The road that runs around the water' s edge is Princess Royal Drive, a pretty name for a pretty city.

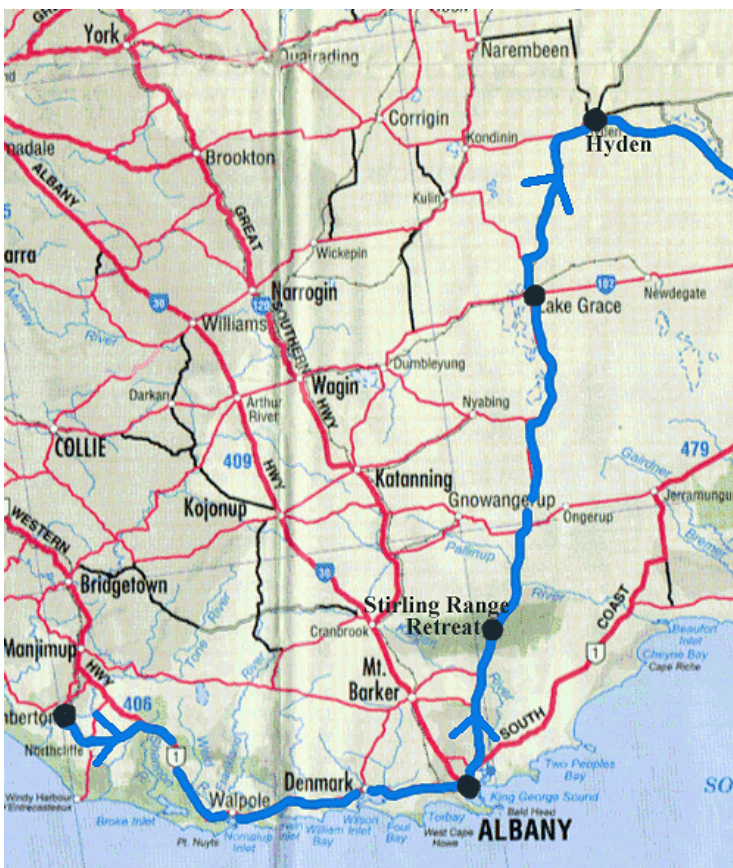
On our way home we called into Chicken Treat and purchased our dinner. All the places where we stayed had colour TVs and as the programming is almost the same all over Australia we got to see the garden and home shows that we like. Of course I have mentioned the football already.

It was about this time that I realised that Garfield was not skiing on Racheal' s dashboard. He was still in my backpack so I put him on the dashboard about where he skis in all our cars. Garfield is a little mascot that Maria gave me many years ago who has skied in Europe, U.K, Ireland, Canada, USA and around Australia. He did actually ski on snow one day in Italy.

Our next stop was the Stirling Ranges. Sue White at Harvey Travel had mentioned the Stirling Range Retreat which I had E-mailed earlier in the year so I' phoned them to double check accommodation. Yes one cabin remaining. Good.

Saturday 21 Sept 8c 135km

Up at 6am due to noisy birds and traffic. We left at 7.30am to see more of Albany. Pronounced "Al" as in "Aluminium" not as "hALL".



The Albany Wind Generators

The Albany Wind Farm, owned and operated by Western Power is the newest and biggest in Australia. 12 massive turbines, which are 65m high with 35m blades, provide enough clean, green electricity for 15 000 homes, which is equivalent to 75% of Albany's needs. The turbines are driven by strong southerly winds. Promoted as an eco-tourism attraction, new viewing platforms will soon be constructed, as the turbines overlook some amazing coastal scenery.

We drove up the hill (Mt. Adelaide) overlooking the harbour to the Princess Royal Fortress costing \$3.00 each. This place is similar to Fort Lytton in Brisbane. A defence system and fort was built here during the wars. During WWI many Australian and New Zealand troop ships came and departed from this harbour and was the last landfall until the ships arrived in Europe. We drove back to the city where I let my darling off at the top of town while I was to go and see the Historical Communications Museum down near the harbour. Alas it did not exist anymore. What a pity. So I drove up the street and picked Marie up and then back down to the harbour to purchase more groceries. We also had a sausage sizzle at the entrance put on in behalf of a local Judo club as they were going to Brisbane for some competitions later this year.

We then drove around the harbour to the Shell Museum and then to the Wind Farm. These are wind power generators that supply about 75% of Albany' s power. That' s very good. We did drive close to one in Austria but this "farm" has twelve of them. We parked Racheal only 20mt away from the nearest one of which we could hear the quiet swish as each blade whizzed past. They are big.

The Web site address is;

www.westernpower.com.au

Albany was our favourite place.

We arrived at the Stirling Range Retreat at 1.15pm after stopping a couple of times to take photos of wild flowers. This highway is the Chester Highway which is quite flat and straight and runs in a sort of valley between the Stirling Range mountains. A smooth highway with an occasional bend and slightly hilly. The Retreat is on the left side (west) of the highway in amongst the low shrubbery that is typical of this countryside. Our cabin was an earlier type one without ensuite. Just the next step up from an on site caravan costing us \$59.00. The linen hire for \$6.00 totalling to \$65.00. and we had to use the general bathroom facilities which were about 40mt away. Our cabin # 15 was called "Mt. Magog" after one of the mountains nearby. We paid \$20.00 each for a tour to see wildflowers tomorrow. Marie

went to a slide show of wildflowers and other local items in the little hall at 7pm conducted by Tony Sands, part owner of the Retreat while I listened, yes I said listened, to my little AM radio to the ABC radio station to the football. I could only hear two stations because this area is not so much remote but because of the mountains reception is very poor. Definitely no TV here, the Retreat doesn't even have any TV sets. Anyway I heard the Brisbane Lions defeat Port Adelaide.

The Web site is;

www.stirlingrange.com.au

Their Web site is quite good with plenty of information. The highest mountain is Toolbrunup Peak at 1052mt asl and possibly the lowest is Mt. Hassel at 847mt asl. There are many walks that can be done as the Retreat is a good Eco tourism place. They supply little maps for this purpose. Although the countryside is not very high above sea level (asl) it reminds me of part of the Snowy Mountains area in NSW.

Sunday 22 Sept 10c 162km To Lake Grace

Before driving onto Lake Grace Marie and I joined the little tour that we booked yesterday. We and eight others got into the ten seater mini-bus at 9am. Ayleen, Tony's wife was our driver/guide. She drove about 100mt or so to the edge of the Retreat to show us some orchids then back to where we got onto the bus to use the toilets as the next possible pit stop would be about noon. Well Marie and I were so cold that I went to Racheal and got a couple of warmer clothes from the boot. We were then driven along the highway, stopped where Ayleen showed us how to walk single file into the scrub, to keep within the one metre wide kangaroo tracks. We saw about twenty little orchids and of course I took many slide photos, some at 20cm close-up. We also took a few print photos. Marie spotted two orchids which Ayleen did not know were there which pleased Ayleen because she knew that someone was as keen as she was to find them.

We were taken to the foot of Toolbrunup Peak where we walked about 100mt up a very slight incline. Back at the car park we were given morning cuppa of coffee, tea and biscuits by Ayleen. By this time I think some of us could have done with another pit stop but no place here although as Ayleen had told us if anyone desperately needed to go then there were plenty of shrubs to hide behind. While we were enjoying our cuppas we saw about twenty young people hiking further up the mountain. Some years snow does fall here but only lasts a few hours.

We arrived back at the Retreat at 12.45pm where Ayleen gave Marie a chocolate frog as a reward for finding the two orchids. Marie also received an epiphyllum for free and a hug. Ayleen and Tony really like living the life they now live. Both had worked and I

think lived in cities.

Back onto the Chester Highway to stop for lunch at The Lily Dutch Cafe. This is a real windmill built by a Dutchman and at present is a restaurant. When he completes building the workings of a grain mill it will no longer be a restaurant. The big blades rotate all the time unless turned to stop them. Two other people who were from the Retreat came also so they asked would we like to join them so we did.

The Lily Web site is;

www.thelily.com.au

It took an hour or so before we were served our lunch, both of us soup and special dutch bread. It doesn't sound much but being in W.A. meant it was big enough. On through Borden to stop for a special reason at a little town called Pingrup. This is where Bill Cortes kicked a goal when he played football in W.A. many years ago. I stood between the goal posts for Marie to take a photo. Memories for Bill! Now we were seeing lots of salt lakes, some with water and some dry. Many parts of fields and farmers properties being overtaken by the salt. A terribly looking place where this is occurring. Some fences are now standing in salt water so the farmer had to run a new fence on higher ground.

We passed Lake Grace lake just before the town. I went into the Lake Grace Hotel Motel bar to enquire about accommodation and there were only two men drinking at the bar watching football. One of them was the owner. Yes there was a room but when I asked could I check it out he wasn't too happy saying something like "no better ##%&#@% rooms in this town mate". I checked it for smoke and was OK and explained that to him when I went back to the bar to pay. I think he understood. He told me that dinner was served in the restaurant from 6pm which would cost with the room a total of \$85.00. That was reasonable.

Lake Grace pop my guess 200

A town where we thought of Grace

We drove up and down some of the streets as we usually do. A railway station but as usual not for people.

We had dinner as planned in the hotel's restaurant where there was a big bar about 10mt long, a billiards/pool table and guess what? A wood fire burning so I chose a table near it. Our dinner was brought out from the kitchen within a few minutes. We had a big roast meal each and a couple of drinks. We spoke to the owner asking him he must get big crowds in this room. "No, not anymore" he said. He was only too glad to have our business. We talked to two other men who were at the next table and we quizzed them about the "no crowd". The new drink driving laws caused the small patronage. They were truck drivers and said that most drivers don't come here anymore because of the

new laws. It has effected the whole town and we suppose many such towns the world over. A great pity in a way!

Back to our room where I switched the electric strip wall heater on because it was cold , windy and light rain now. A good sleep because the pillows were about the fluffiest we have encountered on our journeys.

Monday 23 Sept 6c 111km
To Hyden and Wave Rock

Sunshine this morning but cold. I left a note about the pillows and thanks. We drove around the town again to take more photos. I went to the only remaining Australian Inland Mission Hospital in W.A. where there is the old one which is a tourist attraction but it was closed but I managed to see through the windows. A typical hospital in years past. A photo of a little church, another looking along the main street, the Railway Station and a device that shows the level of the underground water. Underground water is tapped from bores in many places in W.A. This gauge is associated with the salinity problem so is important to the people living there.

An interesting Web site about the salinity problem is at;

www.agric.wa.gov.au/RuralTowns

On the way we stopped to photograph more wild flowers and orchids. Morning coffee at a town called Karlgarin. The toilet facilities near the bowling club must have been built only months ago, so clean and modern. The woman in the local store (Rosalie Wells) told us how the previous owners had fallen out with some of the towns people. Forty one people have formed a group and bought the store and this woman is running it. It was to prevent the closure of the school and post office etc, please read the article here.

She didn' have the facilities to serve snacks or hot drinks but was good enough to make two cuppas for us using her hot water thermos.

Hyden

We arrived at Hyden at 10.15 and drove the 4km to Wave Rock. The entrance cost us \$6.00 for Racheal, Marie and I. We spoke to a young German couple, we exchanged taking photos which I did for another young woman. I walked up the edge of one part and saw the little fresh water dam, quite interesting.

Back to Hyden and booked into the Wave Rock Motel. This was one place where we might have had trouble getting accommodation because Wave Rock is a major attraction and not much accommodation. Our modern room cost us \$105.00, a bit expensive but we didn' have any choice. There is a caravan park at the Rock but very basic. Our room had not been cleaned/serviced so we went next door to the petrol/roadhouse and had lunch. We enjoyed simple fish and chips prepared by a Philipino woman costing

\$30.00. I gave Racheal her lunch; 39l of petrol at 102.5c/l. We drove around for awhile and I showed Marie another football ground. Outside the motel on the main street a young man was relieving himself in full view of everyone; dirty sod. We moved into our room then I went for a walk and the first person I spoke to was a young footballer who was going to join others at the hotel. The Hyden football club won their first ever grand final yesterday so it was getting to the young players.

KARLGARIN co-op

The Karlgarin community are now the owners of the General Store in Karlgarin.

In February when it became clear the closure of the store was imminent, a group of concerned residents got together and approached everyone in the community to ascertain if they were interested in purchasing the store, and if so, how much they were prepared to pledge. If the store were to close it meant we would lose the Post Office and mail run that services our district twice weekly along with all the other services such a business provides. Not only does it provide these services, but is part of the structure of our community, and if it were to close it may have meant the loss of other amenities.

A Public Meeting was then called, and was attended by representatives of all families. Ross Murray from Pingaring spoke at the meeting, explaining the procedure for such a move, as Pingaring had made the same decision some years earlier and their local store is also community owned.

A committee of 5 were elected to negotiate the business, and if successful to then proceed with the legal issues etc. along with advertising for a lessee for the business.

The rest is history - due to a great deal of work by the committee, at a time when we should have been seeding etc. However with the lack of opening rains they were able to spend time with the business of the purchase of the shop.

A good many changes have been made in the store, including some structural work - this store was built in the late 20' and very little had changed, and was long overdue. The work has been done voluntarily by the community, under the guidance of John Greay, our Chairman, and is a credit to all concerned. It's amazing what a difference a coat of paint can make.

We now have a cool room, additional fridge/freezer space and a much better selection of goods. We recently had a sausage sizzle and get together, as a way of thank you for everyone' help.

We welcome Rosalie Wells to our community and wish her success in this venture as the new lessee.

I went to a few shops and saw the local sports area which has a swimming pool, basketball courts and of course the football ground. Although I didn' go into it, it may have been closed in any case, was the

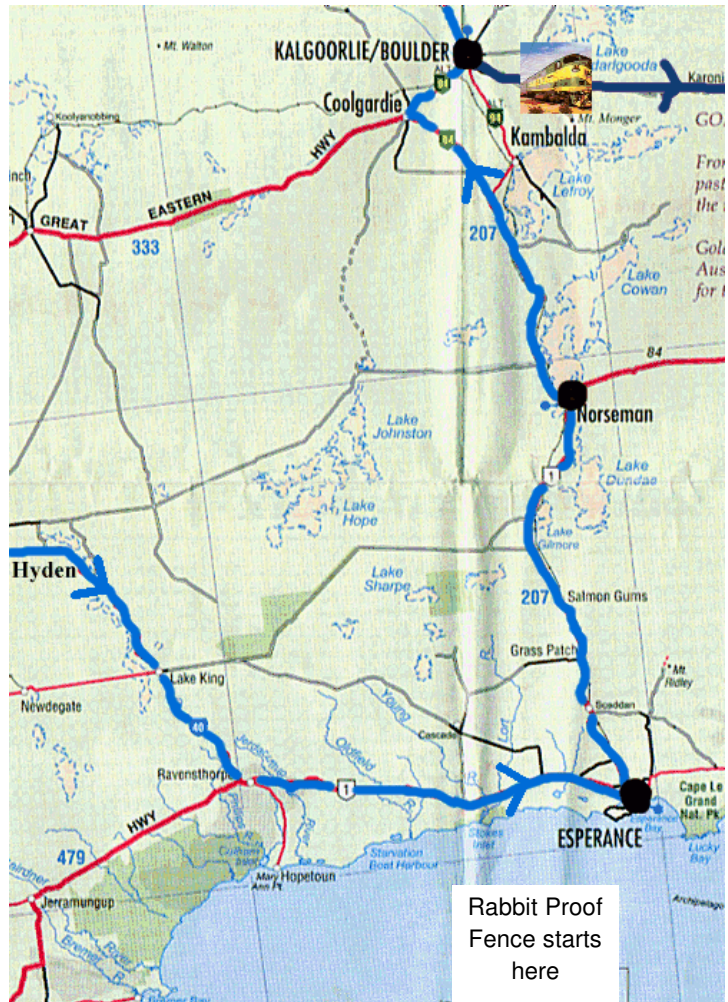
Telecentre. I did see this type of centre a few times previously. A Telecentre is a building that houses a library and new technology devices such as FAX and Internet computers. This allows students and other people to use the facilities rather than having the units at their own home. These little towns are not one would call financially well off.

On the way back there were about six young men, probably footballers sitting on chairs in the middle of the road. I remind the viewer that this is a main highway through Hyden. They were singing and yelling out and obviously drunk. As we had a big lunch we had toast with ham and cheese in our room. We also 'phoned Maria when she told us that two of her paintings had been sold to someone in England. Congratulations Maria! Grace was doing a good job looking after Nana's plants. Our room was at the rear of the Motel so we didn't hear any noise from the young footballers or anyone else.

**Tuesday 24 Sept 8c 388km
To Esperance**

A long drive today but easy going due to straight highways. We were woken again by the clock radio that some one previously had set, at 6am. We departed at 7.15am driving southeast on the Brookton Highway #40 on fairly flat countryside seeing more salt pans and lakes. There were many grain silos and centres so there were a few long road trains, all with three wagons. But they didn't drive fast or cause any problems for us. One just has to allow a couple of kilometres of straight road to pass them when travelling in the same direction.

First real stop was Ravensthorpe which is on the junction of #10 and the South Coast Highway #1 which we had been on at Albany. There is a special wall which is called the Jubilee Park and Mural which is very well done. It is a three dimensional wall depicting the area. This was another gold mining area which would have



been competition to the Kalgoorlie area.

We had morning tea at a petrol station. I enquired there as to where the Rabbit Proof Fence crossed #1 highway and if we could see it. The young man said about 40km eastward. It was 40km as he said. On the left about 20mt off the road is a communications tower of some sort with radio and microwave antennas on it. About 30mt east on the southern side of the road is a dirt track entry and a little green building about the size of four old type 'phonboxes. It is signed "Jerdacuttup Freight Depot".

There is a couple of other signs at the fence or what remains of it about 30mt from the little green "box". Very interesting!

Esperance pop 9,700

490km from Albany and 400km from Kalgoorlie

We arrived in Esperance at 1pm and booked into the Esperance Bay Holiday Park another Big 4. These are excellent. Chalet #12 for \$74.00. The building consists of two chalets with the door for each unit on opposite sides. Similar to the Resort in Busselton that we occupied. It had a fully equipped kitchen, two bedrooms, two TVs and bathroom. A pretty town a little similar to some parts of the Gold or Sunshine coasts with many trees.

