

Hi all - this is our second newsletter. Hope everyone is well and coping alright with the Canberra weather. We have now been away two months and it only seems like yesterday that we left. However, we have now established our 'holiday' daily routine which usually involves three meals, morning and afternoon tea, happy hour and plenty of sightseeing in between. We are considering establishing a fund to pay for our rehabilitation when we return - I suspect this will involve some serious dieting.

Victor Harbor

We arrived in Victor Harbor on 7 July 2011 - we decided to stay here for a week (pay for 6 nights and get 7th night free!) and use it as our base on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The drive along the coast was beautiful despite the rain and we crossed the Murray at Wellington on the punt. Sun was shining in Victor Harbor - hurray - and we were right on the beach. Travelling in SA we have come across a large red road sign that says 'Stop Creeping' - between us we came up with a number of interpretations of this ie - 'Don't tailgate, Don't go under the speed limit, ?????'. We finally asked a local what the sign means - it means that the speed limit is the speed limit and you should not 'creep up' a further 5 or 10 kms - now we, and you, know!

Much to Norm's chagrin, in this part of Australia there are a number (heaps!) of antique shops - hopefully in each centre there is a Light Industrial Area as a tradeoff.....

We did a 6 hour lunch cruise from Goolwa across the Murray mouth and into the Coorong National Park with Spirit of the Coorong (Spirit of Australia Tours) - the cost was \$86.00 each and worth every penny - lunch was great. We would recommend this tour to anyone visiting this area. The guides are knowledgeable, the lunch was great and, the scenery spectacular. We were accompanied on our trip by a number of NZ fur seals. The guides did not mention the many species of snakes in the area until we were back on board and heading home - just as well or a number of us (including me) may not have done the walks. We did not see a snake at any rate, apparently they are hibernating in the cold weather.

Whilst on one of our drives, we saw the local Sea Rescue rescuing a dumped hot water service for the local council. To do this they used a craft that is an inflatable boat that can travel on water and land - on land it has three wheels that drop down from the hull - very interesting and Norm almost signed up to join the local Sea Rescue so he could play however, I did knock this on the head, as his main intention was to find out where to buy one - NO!

Whilst in Victor Harbor Norm and I both managed to break a tooth (does not say much for the food does it?). Needless to say, among other things we have contributed significantly to the local economy ie dentists.

We were planning to go to Kangaroo Island but then decided against it - SeaLink make it so difficult for caravanners with large caravans. Prices for deals range from \$700 odd to \$800 odd for two adults, car and caravan. The cheapest deal is if we go over at 6pm in the evening set up in the dark. Then they told us the most preferred caravan park is closed for the month of July this park is more central to everything and allows day trips to almost anywhere on the island. The other caravan parks are at Penneshaw on arrival or at the other end of the island which is quite remote and not where there are shops for groceries etc. We thought about it and whilst doing this Norm talked to some people - one said not to bother going because it was not worth it, another told us on top of the other charges you also have to pay for entry to 3 national parks and you have to pay for all three parks whether you go to them all or not and it is \$60 each for each park (this turned out to be incorrect - you can pay for each park individually). Some of the locals I spoke to said it was not worth the effort or the



money. Norm also talked to some people in the caravan park that went over with their vehicles but minus their vans - they said they would not take a caravan over there. So, no go at this stage, maybe on the way back and, without the caravan.

Adelaide

Before actually going into Adelaide we decided to stay at Mt Barker for a few days - Mount Barker Caravan Park. We did trips around the area to Hahndorf, Murray Bridge, Mannum and Mount Lofty. Mt

Barker Hotel was rated as having the best Parmigiana in the area so we tried it out and we were pretty impressed. Absolutely beautiful area with lovely scenic drives. I found Hahndorf a bit disappointing as the last time I was here (about 20 years ago) it was a quaint village with a strong German influence - now it has the usual cheap shops, Chinese takeaway, Curry takeaway and even a Subway - shame really.

On entry to Adelaide we took the caravan into Dario's Caravan Repairs as the caravan had developed a leak in the hot water system (a malfunctioning pressure valve). Dario's (St Marys) were fantastic and did an excellent job in repairing the problem with the cost at only \$207 - less than what we estimated - the part was \$43 and the rest was labour and it took about 2 hours to fix the problem. We were on our way in good time to get to our planned/booked destination.

We stayed at Brownhill Creek Caravan Park (7 kms from city). We were staying a week here but extended our stay to two weeks as we have good friends who are also staying/living in the park - Bob and Dianna - it was a great reunion and a number of happy hours and dinner were enjoyed with a significant number of bottles being contributed to the recycle bin! We also had a reunion with Gail who I (Glenda) used to work with at Immigration. We enjoyed a lovely long lunch with Gail and a couple of afternoon teas and it was sad to say goodbye to friends, but the travel bug was calling (needed to dry out probably after all the happy hours!). We also met new friends, Graham and Beverley, from Port Pirie and they have invited us to visit on our way through to Port Augusta. Beverley also kindly offered to take delivery of some wool I purchased from Bendigo Woolen Mills and I will pick that up when we visit - Norm has decided he wants a knitted vest and with the cold weather I seem to be getting a lot of knitting done.

While in Adelaide we did some day trips to Glenelg, Port Adelaide, the Barossa,

Maggie Beer's shop - Pheasant Farm, Botanic Gardens. The Barossa was beautiful and we managed to deposit a goodly sum of money at Maggie Beer's shop (cook books, pate, jam etc - many calories!) and at the Angus Park Shop. We also went to Harbour Town (DFO) which is no different from any other DFO - all the same shops so we might not do that again.

At the Botanic Gardens they have a very large glass house and Norm has promised that he will try and build a replica in our back yard (Waine, look out!) - I am sure this was just a pacifier.....



Wouldn't it look great in the backyard at Dunlop!

We also visited the Adelaide Markets and purchased a quantity of cheese and produce - more calories. We also went to the National Wine Centre of Australia which was very interesting and has a lovely coffee/wine/gift shop. Norm attempted to make two bottles of wine on the computerised interactive display - his first bottle was laughed at and would have bankrupted the company

and his second bottle was passable for medical purposes only! Needless to say, Norm is not going to become a wine maker and will content himself with store bought varieties only - not happy Jan!

There are a number of museums in Adelaide and we plan to visit more of them on the way back. We did go to the Aircraft Museum in Port Adelaide which was very interesting and at one point Norm thought he might become an aircraft pilot, however, it will never happen if the planes are this small or some serious amputation happens!



Yorke Peninsula

We travelled from Adelaide to Port Vincent on the Yorke Peninsula SA, having decided to base ourselves here to tour the east and southern end of the Peninsula. Port Vincent is a beautiful spot and we stayed at the Port Vincent Foreshore Caravan Park that has great amenities and a beautiful outlook. We did day trips to Ardrossan, Innes National Park,



Yorketown, Edithburgh, Marion Bay and the scenic route along the lower south west of the Peninsula. This is a beautiful part of the country and at the moment is very lush and green with crops in their advanced stages. I gave in when I visited a craft shop in Edithburgh and purchased a quilt - I will be sending packages to Norm's mother in Geelong during the trip for pick up on our way back - hopefully we will not require a semi-trailer at that time to get everything home! Norm also finally gave in and purchased a beanie to keep his head warm -

cold due to a lack of natural insulation ie hair.

From Port Vincent SA we moved to Moonta SA which is at the north western part of the Peninsula and, we are currently staying at the Moonta Bay Caravan Park which is a beachfront property.

This part of the Peninsula is identified as the Cornish and Copper triangle. A lesser known claim to fame, I am sure, is that this area appears to be home of the highest number of owners of those battery powered 'Gophers' and, they are all of the belief that they have the right of way! They travel down the middle of the road, the middle of the walkway or, on one occasion, down the side of the highway! We have sampled and scored a number of Cornish Pasties and we have visited the Moonta Copper Mine and Museum, the Wallaroo Maritime

Museum and we did day trips to Wallaroo, Port Victoria, Port Broughton and Kadina. Kadina is the biggest town in this area and provides the ultimate shopping experience with Target (country) and Woolies and, it has a Centrelink Office (another one of my NBFs). The population in some of the coastal towns in this area is very low as the result of an aging and declining population. A number of businesses



have closed up and local schools have closed with the arrival of 'area' schools. One wonders what will happen to these small towns and villages in the next twenty years.

One thing we have found on the York Peninsula is that the residents are very proud of their history, as the museums we have visited have hundreds/thousands of historical items (everything from household items, clothing, diaries, pictures thru to large items such as industrial and transport items) that have been donated privately by families in the area. There is also a large number of volunteers that work in the museums as guides or restorers. We have also noticed that a number of the museums are involved with the 'Work for the Dole' scheme. If any of you get the chance we would recommend you visit this area, even though it is a bit off the main road that most people would take.

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I know it sounds like a whinge (okay!) but it is still cold, wet and windy a lot and my NBFs (electric blanket and heated car seat) are still in constant use. We will leave here on Thursday, 11 August to move on to Port Augusta with a short stop in Port Pirie (see above). Once we leave Port Augusta SA we will turn north towards Darwin NT and all points in between. Hopefully the weather will improve considerably - at one point I wondered if we were towing that huge rain cloud behind us because wherever we were so was it! However, there have been a few sunny periods in the past two weeks and one day it reached 23 degrees! Norm and I had shorts and T-shirts on that day - it was wonderful not to have to get rugged up to go out - it only lasted one day though and then it was back to winter gear.

TTFN
Glenda and Norm