

# Barossa SA to Cummins (SA)

## Stage 1 January 2024

Usually we head off on a big trip about May, but this year it was 9 January when we left home. As Kathryn was looking after our house and the garden, we were free to head off.

The rough plan was to spend a month or two on the nice cool Eyre Peninsula, having the luxury of enough time to see places and stay in spots we have previously enjoyed.

Our first port of call was Mambray Creek up near Port Augusta and as a firm favourite, we looked forward to bush camping. It turned out to be very hot there this time and our second day wasn't all that pleasant. Fortunately it was much cooler on the Eyre Peninsula coast!

And we gave the new Starlink internet a good workout. This is a game changer for folk who travel remotely.

This stage of travel encountered all the range of weathers we could imagine; wet, hot, and lovely. Mostly though it was lovely weather.



Leaving home

### The First Few Days

This stage started on 9 January. The day we headed off was sunny and cool, perfect weather! It was a nice sunny and cool day all the way up through Clare (we stopped at Sevenhills Bakery for pies) and pulled into a rest area to eat lunch about noon. A nice breeze allowed us to enjoy the break before continuing on up to Mount Remarkable National Park and the Mambray campground. It took us about five hours to get there (but that included a lunch break on the way). They have made extensive upgrades to the campgrounds and slightly changed the sites. We had site 26, a large site with good sun for our solar panels. This turned out to be a lovely spot and in normal

weather would be perfect.

It was warm the first day and very hot the next (at 36 degrees) and so we did a day trip over to nearby lovely Melrose during the hotter part of the second day. We had a nice lunch at the main hotel and enjoyed the cool dining room before heading back to the campsite. Early afternoon saw a cool change so all was good.

On the second day very hot weather set in and the forecast was for even warmer days ahead. So we headed over to the Eyre Peninsula where it is cooler.

## Whyalla

But the hot weather was due to continue for two more days so we booked a site at Whyalla Caravan Park. The foreshore sites are gorgeous, but we were given one on hot gravel behind the first row, and were squeezed in closely to our neighbours. Next time we would ask for one of the sites on the foreshore.



But Whyalla has become a wonderful tourist destination, with lovely beaches and a neat, clean town with lovely parks. The new circular jetty has to be seen to be believed. It is lit at night and is an engineering miracle.

## Lipson Cove

**S34 15 48 E136 15 39**

Situated approximately 15km north of Tumbly Bay, Lipson Cove is a beautiful beach location with several camp sites and vehicle access to the beach.

The Lipson Cove campground is on the online booking platform.

There are 12 sites of different dimensions to suit small to large groups. The pet-friendly campground is accessible to motorhomes, caravans and camper trailers.

We had booked site 10 which was together with site 9. Had anyone turned up for site 9 they would have been reasonably close, so we solved the problem by simply booking and paying for that site too. (it was not too expensive at \$10 a night!)



### ***Lipson Cove***

When the tide is down, you can make your way from the shore to Lipson Island Conservation Park, home to numerous species of birds including little penguins! If you're a bird enthusiast, this place is perfect for birdwatching. Be careful not to get stuck on the island when the tide rises, though.

The last night we were at Lipson it rained (I love it when the only rain is when we are tucked up in bed and not inconvenienced at all by the wet weather). But come daylight another clear day emerged.

### **Tumby Bay**

So after our three idyllic days here we hitched up the van and car and headed South on the Lincoln Highway to nearby little Tumby Bay.

A short drive off the Lincoln Highway is Tumby Bay, the Eyre Peninsula's street art capital. 'Tumby' was traditionally known for its slow-paced lifestyle and great fishing, popular with caravaners and those on summer holidays. But more recently it's become known for the enormous street artworks dotted around town, including its painted silos, and this busy little town has plenty of activities, mostly connected with the beautiful beaches and surf.



### ***RV Camp at Tumby Bay***

The RV camp is a cheap option for travellers wanting to stay and enjoy this lovely region. It has a water tap, dump point and 16 sites (unpowered) which can be booked online. We were fortunate in our chosen spot as it backed onto some nice vegetation and had good sun for our solar panels. It was absolutely perfect weather while we were here and we relaxed and explored the town thoroughly. We ended up extending our two days to staying for

four days.

Then we headed further South on the Lincoln Highway to Lincoln National Park.

## **Lincoln National Park**

Surfleet Cove (Site 13)

This is a spot we have stayed at before. The national park has several campgrounds and this is one of the most accessible. It is reached entirely on bitumen roads and the campground has individual well spaced sites in a circle around a toilet, and overlooks Boston Bay.

While here we experienced the full range of weather. Of the five days we stayed, one was baking hot (38 degrees); one was full rain; and the other three were absolutely beautiful. It keeps one on the toes. 😊 We coped with the weather by going into Port Lincoln township and doing some shopping and having lunch. Then when we came back to the van at about 3pm we fired up the generator and ran the airconditioner. Yes, you are allowed to use a genny at this national park, as well as over at Coffin Bay. I am unsure why... It would be the first time we have ever run a generator in a national park (in fact rarely use one at all), and we had no other campers within hearing distance.

Our site enjoyed a panoramic view of the bay, and was nicely sheltered from wind, so it was a great spot. The first four days of our stay we had no other campers within sight, but the last day, which was Australia Day, had a number of other campers arrive.

We went over to nearby September Bay for a morning tea visit and popped in to see the newly renovated Fisherman's Point campground. The work they have done there by putting in separate and accessible sites is to be applauded. I don't think I have ever seen such beautiful camp sites with the most astounding views. We took note of the sites we would like to stay in on a future visit - which would be very soon we hoped.



*Eucalyptus Diversifolia, Lincoln NP*

## **Coffin Bay National Park**

Our next campsite was over at nearby Coffin Bay (Site 14). It was 61 kms from Port Lincoln to the campground (at Yangie Bay). As the check in time was 1.00pm we had the luxury of packing up in a leisurely manner and doing some housekeeping first.

In order to reach the campground out in the national park we had to drive through Coffin Bay.

On arrival in Coffin Bay township (population about 650) we stopped in at the general store and café for lunch. There was plenty of parking for the van. After a nice break at an outside table, we continued the short trip out

to the campground at Yangie Bay.

We had been here many times over the years but it has all changed markedly since our first visits. The campground now has distinct and numbered sites, which must be booked and paid for online before arrival. This suits us, as it means we have our chosen site waiting for us whatever time we arrive.

Our site (14) is perfect for us. It is on a hill, well away from any neighbours and has a good view of the bay. As the weather continued to be cool and sunny, with little to no wind (amazing!) we had a wonderful five days. We decided that if possible we would come back to this



campground before we left the area, as there were several activities we still wanted to do.

We went over to nearby Coffin Bay township for a drive, and to have lunch at the new Oyster HQ restaurant. What a lovely spot...a verandah extends over the water, and shaded tables allow you to sit and enjoy a meal of just coffee and cake.

### *At Oyster HQ*

Coffin Bay had reasonably good phone reception, even the Optus phone. But we were on a rise above the bay, and Optus didn't work so well in the lower sites.

## **Cummins**

It was about a 60kms drive over to Cummins, a wonderful little town inland from the coast. The town has a population of about 1000 people but it feels larger than the population would indicate. The range of services is impressive, with a small hospital, a bakery (oh what a bakery!), hotel,

supermarket, opp shop etc. There is a nice little community caravan park which we have stayed at before and enjoyed. The site we like (no.8) has lots of shade and green grass, and we are always comfortable there. On this occasion the site behind us had a family (parents and four children) and it was clear they had been there for quite a while. I am not sure they appreciated us occupying their green space to play on and sit in the shade; but they were nice people and had very well behaved children.

While we were here we caught up on laundry and housekeeping, and visited the bakery. This is not your average bakery - this one is a four star Michelin Guide scoring establishment. They have two pastry chefs and four apprentices and employ 20 people. And oh, the pies, buns and breads!

I had a coffee cream dome which came complete with a small disc of white chocolate with the name of the bakery - 5 Loaves. Previous owners had a church connection (Seventh Day Adventist, I think) and the name is a riff on the loaves and fishes feeding a horde of biblical proportions.

