

Stage 7 Adelaide to Coffin Bay

23 November

“I know it’s only a few hours since we set out, but this place is so special we must stop here for a night or two!” I said as we arrived at Mount Remarkable National Park’s Mambray Creek camp site. We had left Adelaide at about 8 am that morning, and it was only lunch time, but what the heck! Mambray Creek is 55 kilometres south of Port Augusta, on the eastern side of the highway.

Nestled in around the huge red river gums and bushes, we were surrounded by a cacophony of bird calls and other animals. Two or three emus wandered through the site frequently, and there was a little mother euro with her joey. The little euro hopped and skittered and played all day, as far as I could see.

We spent a couple of days here as it was so peaceful and refreshing. There were a few day walks (we even did a short spell on one) and the bird watching was rewarding.

The ranger station at the park entrance allowed us to purchase a two month permit and camping pass for the princely sum of \$44, and this enables us to enter a variety of SA national parks and camp for up to five nights at a time over the next 8 weeks. This will be handy in the Eyre Peninsular, I have no doubt.

25 November

Onwards toward the Eyre Peninsular...when we set out it was starting to get overcast, and a wind had started to blow. By the time we arrived at a beautiful beach site south of the little town Cowell, a hot strong wind whipped the sand into a stinging assault on our legs. The site was undoubtedly scenic and isolated, but the wind was too much! So we abandoned the site without setting up camp, and decided to head for Port Lincoln and a caravan park. Friends had previously told us how nice Kirton Point caravan park

is so we headed for this delightful park. Overlooking Boston and Porter Bays, the park's sites are tiered on the side of a hill. Our view is of a bright sparkling blue ocean.

The next day we took a recce trip out to Lincoln NP (national park) to find some good bush camping sites. There were numerous locations and we were spilt for choice.

26 November Lincoln National Park

The weather was sunny but there was a stiff wind as we drove out to Engine Point, and positioned Okie right on the edge of a cove. We were able to step right from our awning onto the beach, and had the whole sweep of curving beach to ourselves. For two lovely sunny days we watched the birds, walked the shoreline, read, ate, slept, and wondered what all the poor sods who work for a living were up to! But the flies were something else!

We have been accompanied by pesky flies since we left the Roper River back home in the NT.

29 November Coffin Bay

Retracing our footsteps back through Port Lincoln (well, almost) we headed the 40 odd kms over to Coffin bay and booked into the sleepy little town's cp. They have a regular population of 600 but it swells to thousands during the summer break. Our daughter-in-law grew up here and so we were keen to see it for her and to take photos.

Back in Adelaide I had purchased the new Photoshop computer editing package, and have been trying it out on my digital photos ever since. Frustrating but fascinating at the same time.

We are finding that these little towns all have the most perfect beaches and coves....why didn't we know about this beautiful area before?

1 December Coffin bay NP

“Wow, how lovely is this!” we exclaimed, when we viewed the bays and beaches in the National Park. It is awe inspiring to see so much beauty.

Back at the campsite, a ranger-run campground on a bay about 15 or 20 ks out of the town and called Little Yangie Bay, we had set up the van with the awning facing into green and protecting vegetation. The first night there was no one else camped near us (unless you count the emus, rabbits, birds and other little critters) and we revelled in the tranquillity. We will come back here one day when we have more time to spare. We need to get to Esperance well before Christmas, and time is running short. The weather was mostly fine here, but we had a few showers of refreshing rain.

The flora in this area was stunning and I was surprised to see so many flowers still out, so long after their normal season. The bushes and creepers around our camp site have delicate flowers which lift the spirits. It is soooo nice to drink the gin and tonics in these refined surroundings. And the champagne.