

## **Stage 8 Coffin Bay to Esperance**

### **3 December Elliston**

Leaving Coffin Bay behind reluctantly, we moved on to Elliston. Elliston is a beachside town, with a pub, a supermarket, a bakery (alas it was shut while we were there) and a million dollar set of views of bays and beaches. The jetty gave us a relaxing walk in the evening, before we went to the pub for a bistro meal.

We find that often, hotels in these towns, large and small, all have good tasty meals for a great price. Yes, I am back on that theme...

We stayed at the park right in town and it was a nice relaxing little place which charged a pittance for a powered site. \$16 I think it was....

### **5 December Ceduna.**

“Oh well, it’s only for the night” Val said, as we looked at the sparse, sandy and dusty van park on the Eastern side of town. We had been told that parks out of town have less problems with indigenous locals, as it is too far for drunks to stagger out that far, and so it would be more peaceful. We noted that on the foreshore grassed park areas, groups of local people were lolling about in what looked like drunken stupors. Apparently it was pension week. Sigh.

### **6 December Eucla**

A peaceful night was spent at a free camp along the Nullarbor, at a spot near Eucla. Well off the road, nestled around some bushes and trees, we had a lovely view of the range running along the highway. It had been a relatively long day and we were tuckered out. Bloody flies again!

## **7 December**

Another free camp, this time to the East of Balladonia. This time we were facing into some lovely blossoming gum trees and overlooking a salt lake. Selfishly, Val complained about the blossom and his hayfever. The man has no aesthetic appreciation. Of course, I don't suffer from the condition myself.

## **8 December**

And another free camp, this time at a site called Bromus Dam, 32kms south of Norseman. We had called in to a supermarket at Norseman and stocked up on new fruit and veges, to replace those confiscated by the quarantine checkpoint.

Bromus Dam is lovely; we found it listed in both Jan Hollands and the Camps Aust Wide 3 books. Lots of shady trees, and a nice bag dam, originally built in 1925/26 for the railway line linking Kalgoorlie and Esperance. It was clean and fresh water with a sandy bottom. A local woman from Norseman had come out for a dip, and had brought with her two large and ferocious dogs. One of the dogs got a good eyeful of Val and went for the jugular. He fended it off, with the help of the owner, but had sustained a bite on the leg. Again, selfishly, he had allowed it to bite through his jeans and causing me some fairly strenuous needle repair work. Diligent application of teatree oil, antiseptic cream and a spray of liquid bandage saw him right. (Actually, I felt fairly shaken by the whole episode, but Valdis seemed to take it all pretty calmly).

## **9 December**

Mid-morning we arrived at the delightful seaside town of Esperance, and had settled into our site at the Seafront CP. I had booked a couple of months ago, on the internet, and so we had been sure of a site. The park is nice, and our site is a reasonably good one (no 62) under some shady trees and if we peer hard, we can see the ocean through the vans in front of us. We have several

days here before going out to camp at Cape Le Grand Beach, about 50 kms out in the National Park.

We scampered out to the National Park the day after we got here, and picked out our site for the van. With the permission of the volunteer ranger we erected our tent on the chosen site, to “stake our claim” to it. We had chosen a site which is one of five individual areas backing into thick vegetation just behind the beach dunes. Our site has a little shady tree and some lovely flowering bushes. Hopefully the weather will be kind when we come out on Monday.