



Western Australia Now and Then NEWSLETTER

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MAJOR RESEARCH TRIP

We have only just completed our long awaited research trip that took us out to Kalgoorlie, north to Leinster, then Cue, Yalgoo and several towns in the Mid-West that thankfully coincided with wildflower season.

Pictures and information from this trip will take us a while to process but if you want to have a look at the early results you can visit our Facebook pages to see many of the photographs we took.

You can see many of the ruins and abandoned vehicles on Abandoned Western Australia :

<https://www.facebook.com/abandonedWA>

The campsites we visited are on Camping in Western Australia :

<https://www.facebook.com/campinginWA>

The rest of the photos are on the Western Australia Now and Then page at :

<https://www.facebook.com/WAnowandthen>

Simply go to the albums on each of these pages and you will find many of the over 2500 photos we took during the three week trip.

We have also put together a trip blog that is already available on our website in three parts :

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/Travel-Blog-09.html>

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/Travel-Blog-10.html>

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/Travel-Blog-11.html>

This was our first major look at the goldfields in W.A. And there were so many interesting and beautiful places to explore.

ORDER OF TRAVEL

From Midland we drove up into the hills and past most of the areas we are familiar with. Our trip really started at Meckering. This town was made famous by the 1968 earthquake and some evidence still remains. The most graphic example being the Salisbury ruins just out of town.



Salisbury ruins

We passed through Cunderdin and Tammin (that we had visited previously) and looked around Kellerberrin before stopping in Merredin for the night.

The first surprise of the trip was the small town of Westonia that sits a few kilometres north of the Great Eastern Highway.

This rather charming little town is located close to the Edna May mine which is one of the main reasons the town exists at all.

Westonia is located in an area where farming gradually gives way to mining further east.

There is a fairly new museum in town that was great fun to walk around. If you get to visit you should check out the underground blasting simulator.

The next main stop was Southern Cross and here you really start to see a change in the countryside.

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Coolgardie

Coolgardie is a poor cousin to Kalgoorlie, only a few kilometres further east but it is a great base to use for exploring the surrounding area.

The town boasts many heritage buildings and has one of the best museums you will find in any of the Goldfields towns.

From here we took the unsealed road north to a campsite at Rowles Lagoon. On the way we saw our first historic ruin at Kununalling.



Kununalling

Next came Ora Banda, Broad Arrow and Menzies before we got to the (almost) ghost town of Kookynie. After taking many photos we went to Niagara Dam campsite to set up camp.



Niagara Dam

One thing that struck us about the areas we had seen so far in the goldfields was the number of trees and the amount of vegetation.

There is a tendency to think of the area as rather parched and lifeless but that is far from the truth.

The more barren areas are further north but around Kalgoorlie there are some very pleasant woodlands.

The highlight of the central goldfields is Gwalia. Here you will find miners huts just as they once were complete with all sorts of personal items. On top of the hill is the museum and Hoover House where you can stay for \$150 a night.



Hoover House

Our journey took us north to Leinster and then to Sandstone, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Big Bell, and Yalgoo where we first started to notice carpets of wildflowers.



Wildflowers in the Mid-West

For a few days we wandered through the towns of Perenjori, Morawa, Carnamah, Three Springs and Coorow before finally heading home once the weather started to get wet and windy.

Now we are gradually including all the information on our website and it will start to appear over coming weeks.

