



Western Australia Now and Then NEWSLETTER

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THE RUINS TRIP

Originally we hadn't planned any more trips this year as we were (and still are) going through the pics and info from the gold-fields trip.

As it turned out, three days before the school holidays, we made up our minds to get away and look for material for our 'Abandoned Western Australia' Facebook page.

After a crazy couple of days throwing everything together and planning out a route, we got away on the first Sunday of the hols. and made our way to Marrinup townsite near Dwellingup for our first campsite.

As is usual when we go away, it started to rain, so we just sat at Marrinup until the rain decided to go away.

Marrinup is a good campsite as (currently) it is free and close to both Pinjarra and the smaller town of Dwellingup.

Close by are the ruins of the WWII P.O.W. Camp that once housed German and Italian wartime prisoners.

The campsite can get a bit crowded and noisy at peak times but of the three nights we were there, only one was noisy.



The Hotham Valley steam trains were running and they pass close to the campsite so we managed to get some pictures as they passed by.

Once the weather started to clear we headed out towards the wheat-belt and started to look at places that are a bit off the usual tourist routes.



One of the first places we found was Marradong. This is on the Dwellingup to Quindanning road and there is an old church and a graveyard with some interesting old headstones.

We passed through Quindanning where there is another church and a historic inn and then crossed the Albany Highway and stopped at Wagin before making our way to Noring Lake where we intended to camp for the night.



Once there were toilets, BBQs and a shelter by the lake but these have all been removed. Even so, it was so quiet and peaceful that we decided to stay 3 nights.

The mozzies got a little too friendly around dusk but as long as we stayed in the van until they went to sleep, they didn't bother us too much.

Our journey took us south to Woodanilling and then to a couple of places we have never seen before; Kenmare and Queerearrup Lake.

Kenmare has a lovely restored hall that was open and contained some local historic information.

The lake has very nice picnic facilities and a boat ramp for the times when the lake has enough water in it for water skiing.

We dropped in at Lake Towerinning where water skiing is still very popular and the camp ground was overflowing with holiday makers.



We had already found and photographed a number of abandoned buildings but one that was high on our list was the old general store at Dinninup.

While we were there a car pulled up and Barea Jones introduced himself and asked if we knew about the local tea pot collection. We probably should have known about this but we didn't and we followed him a couple of hundred yards down the road to The Tea Pot House.



This is probably one of the best collections of tea pots in the southern hemisphere. Barlee and his wife share their home with hundreds of different types. Their collection has become so large they have had to extend the house.

The rain was threatening again and we thought we might get stuck, so headed to Jayes Bridge campsite near Boyup Brook.

The rain politely held off until we got set up and then it poured down.

We waited for a couple of days and finally the skies cleared and we were on our way again.

Wilga, Collie, Stockton Lake, Darkan and Williams followed in quick succession and we found more and more abandoned farmhouses to take pictures of.

Boyagin Rock was our next campsite and we spent another couple of lovely peaceful nights in the bush.



Next came Brookton and then only a short drive to Yenyenning Lakes where we stopped for another couple of days.

One town in this area I have never seen is Quairading, so we made sure not to miss it and found it has some great RV facilities including free hot showers!

Finally we visited York and Beverley before spending one more night in the hills closer to Perth before making our way back to suburbia.



York

We have managed to put many of the pictures from this trip up on to our Facebook pages at :

Western Australia Now and Then

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

Camping in Western Australia

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

and Abandoned Western Australia

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

Some of our main site pages have now been updated including:

Dwellingup

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/dwellingup.html>

Lane Poole Reserve

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/Lane-Poole-Reserve.html>

Marrinup

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/Marrinup.html>

Wagin

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/wagin.html>

Woodanilling

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/woodanilling.html>

and Quairading

<http://www.wanowandthen.com/quairading.html>

We still have a lot more to do from this recent trip and plenty left over from the gold fields so we will be busy for the next few months.

We have only managed to create one new video recently and it features some of the campsites we stayed at during this trip.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGLOKdEMGjw&list=UUcy8liO11_fYuRtxwAOUIMw

CLOSER TO HOME

With all the activity since mid-August we haven't managed to get out to many places locally.

One exception was Lake Leschenaultia in the hills near Chidlow.



We hadn't been there for many years and found it is now a very pleasant place with excellent facilities including a camp ground.

Entry was free but camping fees are charged if you want to stay overnight.

There is a walk trail around the lake and picnic and BBQ facilities dotted around all over the place.



Canoe hire is popular with kids and you can swim in the lake but, as with all still freshwater lakes, it is best to keep your head above water.

If you haven't been out to Leschenaultia, or just haven't been for a while, we can highly recommend it either for a lovely day out or for a few days away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

