

would show at various clubs, the Cactus & Succulent Society of Queensland (CSSQ) etc.

We stopped once more on the way back for a pit-stop arriving back home at 8pm. Kim 'phoned to let us know they would have to postpone our dinner until another night due to his wife Maryann and their son Jack were not too well. Maryann was expecting their second child.

#### **Thursday 5 Sept 15c**

Last full day in Perth. This time we caught an ordinary suburban bus to travel the 2km up to Kings Park which is on top of a hill west of the CBD. This bus system is also good because if one travels within the Perth area, equal to Brisbane' bus zone one, then it is free. Kid you not! Because we got on the bus inside this area and got off it just before it went past the Park it did not cost us anything. Great! It was still overcast but cleared up so we enjoyed the park. Some workers were setting up oblong wooden frames about 5mt by 3mt by 30cm high which were to be the support for flowers for the coming Kings Park Wildflowers display. Marie was and still is disappointed that the photos that one sees in brochures and books shows masses of wildflowers knee high but in fact is only temporary. I did take a couple of slide shots of a group of flowers about 10mt square.

By now we realised and were told that due to the drought wildflowers would not be flowering just yet and then perhaps only sparsely. This was to be the case.

We caught the bus, remember for free, to the CBD and had lunch at the Anzac Club which is similar to the east' RSL clubs minus the gambling machines. Both the previous Liberal and present Labour State Governments do not allow gambling in clubs as we easteners' know. Perth does have a casino for such things. Marie and I agree that it' morally correct.

The reason that we searched for the Anzac Club was because Bill and Lorraine used to dance there. The dance floor has long been removed, history. Marie and I enjoyed a good meal and a couple of drinks. Marie had Pork schnitzel and I a steak & kidney pie for \$8.00 each. We got talking to a woman at the next table who used to dance there years ago. Another CAT to the harbour and this time we heard the bells of the Swan Bells which sound only at certain times. It is possible to pay a fee to walk up inside but we declined. Back home at 2.30pm. We prepared things for tomorrow when we would collect our car. Marie cooked dinner again. I went down to the hotel' foyer and tried to collect my E-mails but the system is only a Web based one and I received an error message so I gave up. Anyway it wasn' important and I was quite happy to be away from computers for a few weeks.

#### **Friday 6 Sept 13c 81km To Mandurah**

Still drizzly.

After breakfast I got a taxi to the Perth Hertz office a bit early to collect our rental car. The taxi driver thought it was funny that I wanted a taxi to go only a couple of blocks to Hertz but I had walked a lot during the few days in W.A. Anyway I was too early as our car was on its way from the airport which still had to be cleaned but would be ready at 10.00 am which was the collection time, not before. So I walked back to the hotel where Marie was waiting and sat for thirty minutes or so and walked back to Hertz. We had prepaid all except the petrol so just had to leave an imprint of our credit card which is the normal thing done.

The Hertz car less petrol cost was AUD\$1824.00. For more about the car see the end section of the book.

A nice Toyota Camry as we chose because they have a big boot to accommodate two suitcases, two hand luggage and room for a food box. A standard Camry without cruise control unlike the one we had in the USA in 2000. A grey/silver colour with 53124 km on the speedo. Racheal's route is shown in blue on the maps.

I drove back to collect Marie and our luggage and departed there at 10.45am. The Victorian registration of this Victorian car was **RCW 490**.

#### **Racheal**

As soon as Marie saw it she chose a nickname of Racheal. Our friends know that we always give our cars a nickname. We call our own car Butterfly.



We drove onto Mounts Bay Road which then becomes Stirling Highway also #5 highway which means we went through the shopping centre of Cottesloe where we went by train the other day.

#### **Fremantle pop 26,000**

We arrived at Freo about 11.30am and looked for a parking spot for Racheal in the Freo Football Ground. I mention this because of Bill's affinity with Freo. None there but soon parked in a multistorey park then walked to the well know Fremantle Markets. All sorts of vegetables, fish, clothes etc. We had lunch there, pie and slice of pizza and bought some fruit and vegetables. A pretty town, very cosmopolitan and plenty of footpath coffee shops. We drove further, on South Road then Stock, Rockingham, Patterson and Ennis Roads all being #1 highway. We arrived at Mandurah and the Resort called Silver Sands. As usual we were too early at 3.00pm so we waited in their Adult Lounge and enjoyed

more tea or was it coffee.

### **Mandurah 49,000 pop**

We were booked into a 2nd floor unit but at our request they cheerfully changed us to a ground floor unit and was in our unit # 19 at 3.45pm.

Soon after we 'phoned Maria, Grace and Christian. The unit was great, double bed, all cooking facilities, shower ensuite and a separate lounge with TV. Later in the evening I watched three quarters of the Collingwood versus Port Adelaide footy game. The Web address of the resort is;

[www.silversandsresort.com.au](http://www.silversandsresort.com.au) if the reader is interested.

### **Saturday 7 Sept 15c 99.5km**

#### **Local sightseeing**

We did local sightseeing, the Weekend Markets on the road to Pinjarra then to Barragup and the Botanic Garden. We saw in a brochure that this place also had many cacti and succulents. Marie didn't know about this place until we were in Perth so it was a good surprise. I took many slide photos here. Marie got to talk to the young owner named John who gave us a sort of tour when Marie told him the name of some of his plants. We continued onto Pinjarra where we had lunch in a little cafe. Further onto Dwellingup which is a timber town.

### **Dwellingup Pop 400**

The main reason was to ride a small train further into the bush where logging of the big trees was an industry years ago. A tragedy struck the little town in January 1961, a bush fire that burnt most of the town. The little diesel loco pulled the four carriages, two open and two closed to Holyoake then to Etmilyn, about 8km where there is nothing, all gone. We saw wattle, cycads, boronia, cream coloured freesia and watsonia. I think this is where we saw the most amount of blackboy trees, just masses of them. The little trip took about 90 minutes. A little note here is that I lost my white Colorado cap on the train. More about this later.

The nearest town to Dwellingup called Marrinup was the site of a Prisoner of War (POW) camp during WWII. It housed mostly Germans and Italians. They were good workers and did plenty to assist the town. Back to Mandurah where we bought snapper, potato chips, a bottle of chilli and garlic onions which we had in our unit for dinner. Later we watched on TV the movie, Rabbit Proof Fence which was very interesting in more ways than one. The story itself and about the fence. More about this later.

The Web site for the Dwellingup area is;

[www.murray.wa.gov.au](http://www.murray.wa.gov.au)

### **Sunday 8 Sept 16c**

#### **A lazy day today**



I should mention here that as Marie and I usually do when we journey somewhere in Australia or overseas we have our own breakfast in our room of cereals and muesli and milk. We buy milk as required.

I walked to the beach which is about 800m down the street and touched for the first time the Indian Ocean. Further west is India and Africa. I watched TV of another AFL final between Melbourne and the Kangaroos (North Melbourne). Then most of the local WAFL East Perth versus Subiaco. Marie and I also watched on TV a local produced garden show, "Gardening Perth" which was the first one compared by Neville Passmore and Trevor Cochrane. I checked the time of sunset to take a photo of it another evening. The car park for the resort people is at the front next to the



road but inside a fenced area which is locked at night. One of our keys could be used to gain access to it then another key to get through another gate to the resort units. Very good security.

**Monday 9 Sept 11c 125km**  
**To Fremantle again**

We drove up to Perth the same highway as we had driven down the other day and parked in the carpark on Mews Road across from the Maritime Museum by paying so much money and leaving the ticket on Racheal's dashboard. I 'phoned Kim from a public 'phone box and we arranged to see him tomorrow. We spent \$2.00 each entry and an hour or so in the Museum. The reader should note that the coast of Western Australia is where many sailing ships came to grief in years past so there is a lot of ship/boat history here. Fremantle also has a free bus service as in Perth but only one route and it's also called a CAT service. So we caught a CAT to the Fremantle Prison. Now some fun! We didn't know where the entrance was and didn't see on any travel brochures where it was either. Well we walked and walked around three sides of it and it is as big as a city block. We did a tour costing about \$8.00 each which lasted 90 minutes conducted by an Irishman who was excellent. A 14 year old girl fainted while on the tour which is understandable because grim things occurred in such gaols years ago. Forty seven men and one woman were hung in the gaol. At least it is under cover here not out in the open as in the Dubbo, NSW gaol. Night tours are also conducted and many people say ghosts appear so it is very eerie.

The prison's Web site address is;

[www.fremantleprison.com.au](http://www.fremantleprison.com.au)

I walked about 600m back to Racheal, collected Marie waiting near the Gaol and drove around the side where Kim had his business.

This is quite unique and possibly the only such place in Australia where some of it is a tourist attraction and some is a business site for small businesses. Some businesses have just one cell and others the space of two cells where the adjoining wall of two cells is removed. Kim has a double cell. Quite nifty. Kim was out so we parked Racheal again and caught another CAT to the Town Hall where we booked a tour to Rottnest Island. This cost \$30.00 each which we did the next day.

We departed Freo at 4.15pm and arrived back home at 5.15pm. We dined at the Silver Sands Tavern which is next to the resort. Marie had sweet and sour fish and I rissoles and gravy which were big meals. We began to think that Sandgroppers served big meals.

**Tuesday 10 Sept 10c 120.3km**  
**To Fremantle again**

This time we drove up on Highway #1 which I think is also Cockburn Road and runs close to the ocean so we

saw some different scenery arriving in Freo to park Racheal in a park on Mews Road again. We caught a CAT

to the wharf area to board an Oceanic Cruises twin hull catamaran at 10.00am to Rottnest Island. The trip was calm and we arrived on the island at about 10.50am. The inside seating was for about two hundred and twenty with room for another twenty people upstairs. The boat also has a few packet nibbles and the usual soft drinks for sale. A video tape was also shown. There were plenty of life jackets stowed in various places.

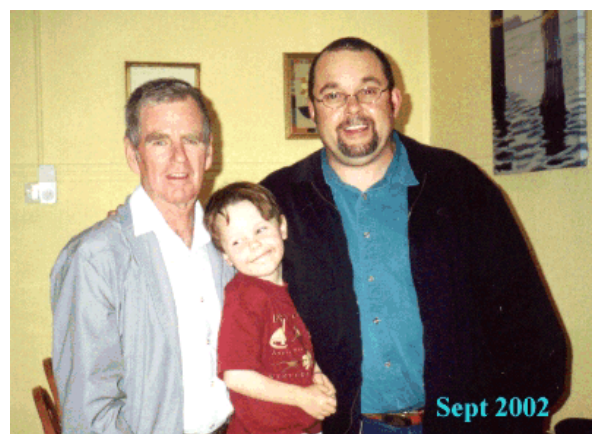
We walked around the immediate shopping area rather than do a long walk or tour. At the toilets just next to the jetty are lockable lockers about 1m square for people to store items if necessary. We saw many old buildings, aboriginal housing, a gaol, a church, school and shops. Marie really wanted to see some quokka's, the little rat type animal and found two in the front yard of a house.

We went back to the Boat to catch the next return trip which departed at 12.30pm. There were only about ten people on this trip. It is a very busy summer destination for people because there were a hundred or more buoys floating near the jetty which is where people moor their boats. The boat travels at about 40k/h so is quite fast.

We got a CAT back to Racheal and drove to a quiet street where I had an hours sleep because we had to kill some time before going to Kim's home.

### **Kim D'Alton**

We arrived at Kim, Maryann and Jack's home at 5.30pm and enjoyed a couple of drinks. Kim is a distant cousin who I contacted via the Internet months ago. I don't see any of my relatives as a rule as most of them live in the southern states. So it was good to meet Kim and his family for the first time. We gave Jack, their four year old son a toy truck. He played with it there and



then, as boys do. Kim and Maryann showed us their back yard which includes a cactus or two. Their home is half of a building, a detached home I think is the style; an old stone place with high ceilings and picture frame boards all around some rooms. Their next door neighbour has cacti growing so Kim took us through the dividing back gate to show us.

Their home is about 200mt from the Fremantle Gaol. Kim's business is graphic designing, for brochures, advertising and so on and is situated in the Gaol so his work/business is so close. Kim drove us up to a nearby hill which overlooks Freo while Maryann walked for exercise to the Cicerellos Restaurant which is on the waterfront across from the Maritime museum. A fantastic meal with Jack being a well behaved little boy. Marie had Lasagne and I Spag Maronaria. We certainly were getting the message that Western Australian's meals are big. We thank Kim and Maryann very much.

Back to their place to take a couple of ' photos then we drove back home arriving at about 9.45pm. Goodbye Freo.

**Wednesday 11 Sept 16c 17km**

#### Local sightseeing

We drove to a Bunnings store closeby then to the Mandurah village which is a pretty town on the ocean's edge. We also noticed a few British people during our few days in W.A. Also many older cars, Kingswoods, Falcons of 1970' and 1980s vintage. Also practically no graffiti so things are much tidier. Good! An FM radio station on 96.5mHz called Classic 96.5 in Mandurah played music of the 40' to 80' ,stunes and songs we hadn't heard for decades, lovely. We then drove to another big shopping complex on the Pinjarra Road where we purchased a few souvenirs. Back home by 1pm when I had a sleep after lunch. Even though there is quite a bit of green lawn, grass and shrubs etc in the area they do have water restrictions and so the people say they are in a drought. A lot of their water is obtained from underground bores, which they fear are drying up so we all are having such water problems. Nearly all private gardens consist of Australian natives and daisies, very few gardens as we easterners have. More about this later. I drove down to the beach and took a couple of ' photprints and slides of the lovely sunset. The first I have ever seen over an ocean, this being the Indian Ocean.

Back home we watched some of the American 11th of September TV specials. Every ounce of it was shown over and over, it was getting a bit much.

**Thursday 12 Sept 15c Okm**

#### To Araluen Botanical Gardens

This tour was conducted by the resort in a mini bus. We departed at 9am costing \$4.00 each. We were driven north to the Gardens at Rolystone which were only fair. On the way in the bus we saw lots of freesias, arum

lilies, watsonias and wild wattles growing wild. Some mass plantings were of tulips, magnolias, acers, lilacs and camellias.

Its Web address is; [www.araluenbotanpark.com.au](http://www.araluenbotanpark.com.au)

Unfortunately it rained a little so we didn't do the gardens justice. Then onto Dwellingup for lunch at a hotel across from the Tourist Centre where Marie and I had been a few days ago. Remember when we took the little train ride into the forest and I lost my cap? Well when I finished my lunch I walked briskly over to the little railway station and my cap had been handed in for me to claim. Somehow I felt that I would get it back. Back into the mini bus to visit the Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre which is for teaching young people how to work with Jarrah.

We arrived home at 4.20pm where Marie cooked dinner. The bus journey today was probably about 150km long.

**Friday 13 Sept 17c 186km**

#### To Busselton

Overcast again when we departed at 8.30am. By now we had things running to a system, the suitcases and bags in a special position in the boot, also one carton with the main food items and a smaller carton for the drinks, milk, wine, beer and so on. Whenever we stopped and leave Racheal for any distance we always put any items that we may have put on the back seat into the boot (Americans say trunk). Our jackets, sweaters etc.

We drove again to Pinjarra onto the South Western Highway # 20 and stopped for a cuppa at Harvey. A rebuilt cottage lived in by the well known Australian Governor James Stirling is here but we didn't go into it. The little coffee shop/cafe had a real wood fire burning so I chose a table next to it. This sort of thing brings back memories of my childhood. In the corner was a small display about Snuggle Pot and Cuddlepie, children's characters of May Gibbs stories. She also lived in the original Stirling Cottage about 1890.

Then on to Bunbury.

**Bunbury pop 28,000**

We stopped to take photos of wild flowers. A couple of km from Bunbury centre in Koombana Beach where there is a tourist place called the Dolphin Discovery Centre where Dolphins can be seen at times. Unfortunately none were there then but we have seen dolphins before. I asked the expert guide what was the difference between porpoises and dolphins? I always thought the correct name was porpoise. Yes. Porpoises are found around New Zealand where as dolphins are in Australian waters. A porpoise has a short snub nose/mouth and a dolphin has the long nose/mouth as we usually see. So now I know! By this time we noticed that not every house had a front fence.

## 232km South of Perth

Busselton is under 3 hours drive from Perth along the South-Western Highway (Route 1). The highway junctions at Bunbury and is completely sealed.

### Brief History

A French expedition by Nicholas Baudin in 1801, with his ships *Geographe* and *Naturaliste* saw the naming of *Geographe Bay* and *Cape Naturaliste*. He also named the *Vasse River* after one of his missing sailors.

Founded in 1832 as "Vasse" by settlers from Augusta, namely the "Bussel Family", the area was depicted as "a kind of paradise". The settlement grew as a result of the port facilities available in *Geographe Bay* and the fact that produce from the area, particularly horses, was being exported to India.

By 1835 people were starting to call settlement on the *Vasse*, *Busselton*, after John Garrett Bussell who was the first European settler in the area and in the same year the official name was adopted.

We know that this is the trend these days but W.A. is different.

We had lunch in the city in a Kebab cafe/takeaway, as usual a big meal in most unusual surroundings. So many things are different in W.A. We drove around the town including up onto the little hill which overlooks it. A good view from there. There is a signpost indicating directions and distances to various cities in the world. Hobart 2890km, Brisbane 3623km, New York 19344km and London 16035km plus others.

Just 5km south of Bunbury Racheal had her first fill up of petrol. We had travelled 563km since collecting her with a full tank in Perth. Great low consumption! Regular Unleaded cost 95.9c/l.

### Busselton pop 15,500

Back on the road past Capel to arrive in Busselton where we visited the Information/Tourist Centre. I asked if there were any old time ballroom dances in the town. The woman suggested I try at the Senior Citizen's Centre which was only 60m away. A woman there told me they hold them at their centre but not this weekend but I could try the Bowling Club which I did. There I was told that the club doesn't hold dances anymore but there would be one on the next street next to the Soccer Club at 7pm. We drove about 4km to arrive at our second resort, the Busselton Beach Resort which is right on the beach. This was about 4.00pm. We moved into unit 6 which is on the beach side and very good. Racheal parked inside the resort but not fenced on the road side of the resort. This unit was even better than the Mandurah one. A bigger lounge, two bedrooms, full kitchen etc. Two units were joined to form a block and although there was a young family next door we only heard them on perhaps ten occasions. No problem.

I watched another footy game, Port Adelaide defeated Essendon in a final.

**Saturday 14 Sept 17c 100km**

### Local sightseeing

Very windy, a storm and hail predicted.

At 8.15am we drove to Vasse to a nursery, then to Hemsley to the Wicked Ale Brewery. We were too early so waited thirty minutes or so for a young woman to open it. We bought two \$2.00 samples, one being Chilli Beer and a Passionfruit one for Marie.

From there to the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse. By the time we reached the car park the predicted storm had arrived, lightning and small hail so we didn't even get out of the car and so drove back. It was a bit scary as it was a bit like a Queensland storm. Back along Caves Road which is along the Indian Ocean's edge. About 5km from Busselton on the beach side of the road are ten holiday camps. These belong or are run by various churches and other groups.

French seafarers touched onto the West Australian coast at various places which is why the names Cape Naturaliste, *Geographe Bay* and *Vasse* are in the area. Home for lunch. Today we saw more arum lilies, very dense masses of them. After lunch my darling commenced writing her life story which I will type into a computer and make it into a book. We had dinner then went to the resort's get together in the Adult Lounge and had a couple of free wines and nibbles then to the dance. We drove the 3km to Churchill Park which is a multifunctional area. It has a trotting course, a soccer ground and a hall for various functions and their Show.

We were there by about 7.15pm but the place was in darkness until a man came about 7.30pm who I asked if a dance was to be held here. "Yes". Others came soon after who set up chairs, tables and the band's items. We paid \$8.00 each and was cordially invited to sit at a table near the door which was the Committee's table. The people were friendly. We danced a few dances of which most had little variations but interesting to watch. The three piece band, a woman electronic organist, a man on sax/trumpet and a drummer. It was rather cold, as I mentioned to some people that my nose and ears were cold, as cold as we would experience outside our dances in Brisbane in the middle of winter; this was September. Marie didn't like the dance much because we sat down most of the time and another thing was that there were no drinks for sale. Everyone seemed to have brought their own, water, soft drink, wine etc. So we left at 10.00pm before supper. This would have been the "plates" that most people had brought. At least we did go to a dance in W.A.

**Sunday 15 Sept 8c 156km**

### To markets and wineries

Now the weather was going to be colder. We left home to be at the local markets at 8.30am but because of the storm yesterday and they are in a park, there were only about ten stalls. We purchased a home made fruit