

# Our Journey to South Australia and Victoria April and May 2008.

To a succulent convention then my relatives and a general journey. Bev Spiller went with us but came home after the convention.

## Forward

Another book about one of our short jurnies in Australia. Our overseas travels are now in the past due to health and other reasons. We hope with God's blessing will in future be in our country, Australia.

As I now have a digital camera, a Nikon which David bought for me on one of his trips to Japan, I'm taking many more photographs. They are all archived on CDs and DVDs. Some are in normal paper form and some are inserted in my books such as this one.

I do not possess a digital/analogue move camera but my Nikon digital camera can take short video clips. If I have time or inclination I will use such clips and make short movies which I can edit and save/write onto DVDs which can be viewed using a domestic home DVD player.

In this book I have inserted some plastic sleeves which contain brochures and the like.

### Technical details

I produced this book using OpenOffice.org (OOo) on my PC11 2.4GHz PC and PC18 2.6 GHz PC using both GNU/Linux and MS W98 operating systems.

Most of the photos were taken with my Nikon E4100 digital camera and a few with a film camera which I scanned with my Canon FB 630P flat bed scanner.

I edited a few images with The GIMP and Irfanview.

I printed with my Lexmark Z25 inkjet printer.

The short videos which are not in this book but are converted from the camera's MOV files to MPEGs by MAGIX Movie Edit Pro application are written onto DVDs.

The filename of this document is;

2008\_Journey\_to\_SA\_and\_VicF04.sxw

I dedicate this book  
to Christian Field,  
our youngest grand  
son.



The blue dots are our accommodation places.  
 The green line is the route we travelled.

## Departure

*Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.*

16c at 6am. My weight 61kg. We had only one suitcase which weighed about 19kg. Marie had her carry on wheely case and I my backpack.

Bev has stayed Wednesday night because of our early departure by Yellow taxi to the Brisbane Domestic Terminal.



Bev and Marie before getting into taxi to take us to the airport.

Our Virgin Blue flight departed at 12.10 am, on time. I couldn't see much land from my window seat but what I did see seemed rather dry and brown. We arrived in Adelaide at about 14.15pm South Australia time. The cost was a special price of \$99.00 each plus extras.

It was cold and a little cloudy as we collected our Hertz Rental Car, we had booked by our Milton travel agent. It was a Hyundai Sonata with the registration number plate of AR8-1WB so we nick-named it "Archie" which was Bev's suggestion. Thanks Bev.



The estimated cost was to be \$723.46 for fourteen days which was the figure when we returned Archie later. There were three extra scratches about 30cm long on the bonnet which I had the Hertz man note on our rental agreement papers. There were only 19453km on the odometer, almost a new car. Dark red.

Bev was our navigator and guided us to the Sturt River Caravan Park in Brookside Road, Darlington. This I booked myself months ago and cost us \$380.00 for the



three of us for four nights. Darlington is about 12km south of Adelaide and about 1km from the Flinders University. We booked into the cabin about 4.45pm. As soon as we could we drove out to go to the Succulent Convention which seemed would have been easy to do but drove around for about an hour. We arrived there for Marie and Bev to register for the Succulenticon.

*Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008.*

Up early on Marie and Bev's first convention day, Anzac Day and temperature 12c.

I drove them to the convention venue and continued I on to Adelaide city. At the Convention Marie and Bev heard various speakers, some from the U.S.A

Adelaide is a very well laid out city which was planned by Colonel Light.

Our impression of Adelaide is that it's a easily navigated city, by foot or car and the free inner city bus called 99B. Similar to Brisbane's. One only has to walk a couple of blocks from the Rundle Mall and the shops and little business' are as they have been built half a century ago with the customary shop awning held up by posts. We hope that Adelaide doesn't become a big city. I took photos and video of many things including the Anzac March.

I walked and walked to see as much as I could.



Photo of Her Majesty's Theatre in Grote Street.

I drove back to the convention venue and picked up Marie and Bev about 6.30pm. Marie's cold was becoming worse and she wasn't too happy that her doctor had given her the yearly 'flu injections.

***Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008.***

Hooray for South Australia as there had been rain during the night as the state seems to be in a worse drought than Queensland. I again drove Marie and Bev to the convention. Here they are in front of the venue.



I then continued on to Glenelg by way of Brighton. So many cities have places called Brighton. I purchased a few groceries at a supermarket. It was still cold, showery and windy. I arrived at Glenelg which is a famous beach suburb. It was miserable but I was determined to see as much as I could because I wanted to relive memories of when Marie and I brought her mother here in 1990, not long before she passed away. I visited the Glenelg Town Hall which among other things held old time dances years ago.

The museum is a very interesting one but not overwhelming.

There are four old original penny arcade machines where a coin can be inserted to make them work as

happened years ago. I think I had not seen such machines for about four decades. The photo shows one of a monkey wearing a red coat which moved to music.



The photo below of the Glenelg Town Hall with the palm tops being blown by a wind says it all, cold, rainy and windy.



I walked up and down Glenelg's main street named Jetty Road Glenelg then drove to the Glenelg Football ground where there was a game in progress between Glenelg and Sturt, a suburb of Adelaide. At one of the entrances there is the WWII air raid shelter which is heritage protected. The photo shows it.



Here is a close-up of one of the plaques.





There is a section about the way women worked and lived in the railway system which included telephonists.



I walked through to the other end of building and outside past the three track sizes as in the photo to the building one can see at the far end.

This is the building which shows the the West Australian, South Australian and the New South Wales rail system in particular much to do with the Perth to Adelaide and Sydney systems. The three gauge systems.



I had a very interesting time at this museum and was a lead up to seeing the three track system in Peterborough up north which we would visit in a few days time.



Above is a photo of the two Succulent and cactus buffs enjoying a meal in our cabin.

*Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008.*



I haven't mentioned the temperatures so far but the minimums have been about 12c which is what one expects here at this time of year.

Today we are going to depart from the cabin, take Bev to the airport and we to continue northward.

We left about 9.30am and had Bev at the airport about 10.15am. We drove on the highway arriving at Hahndorf at about 11.15am with a lovely view of the commencement of Autumn as the photo shows.

The model railway place we and Marie's mum saw in 1990 no longer is in the main street and may now be defunct. We walked for a couple of hours having a lovely lunch at The Groundsheet Hotel.

Hahndorf is an old town settled by German's in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



Here the photo show Marie peering into an old stone building, the type that we will see many of in the next weeks or so.

For more information the We site URL is;  
[www.hahndorfsouthaustralia.com.au](http://www.hahndorfsouthaustralia.com.au)



In the cabin that night we watched a programme on TV with Richard Attenborough's segment about lizards. As the park is about 1km from the highway from Adelaide to Melbourne we heard some traffic noise during the night.

***Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008.***

Before we departed in the cold about 8c I think I walked to the back of the park, out through a gateway to the Mt. Barker Railway Station. Of course it's not in use by the SA Railway system but for little tourist trips.



We needed to buy our first lot of groceries but there is no such shop in the main street so I asked at the Visitor Information Centre and was told one needs to go to the next town, Mount Barker for such things and also the caravan park there was a good place for accommodation. So we drove on about 6km and booked into the Mt. Barker Caravan Park, in a cabin for \$95.00 for one night. We drove into the town centre where there is a big supermarket and other shops where we purchased a few groceries.

Our comfortable cabin with Archie to the right of it.



The photo shows it was a reasonably big and busy station in years past.

**Lobethal**

Our next stop was Lobethal, another German town which was a very busy place due to the Onkaparinga Woollen Mill which was famous for their blankets. I remember my mum talking about Onkaparinga Blankets and I wonder now did she ever work there. My aim was to find out about my descendants on my mother's side. I have not known much about them until our daughter Maria has done much genealogy work.

I visited the Visitor Information where the woman told me that a Barry Klose has a supermarket up the street. We had a nice 30 minutes or so in his supermarket.



He even took us up to his office to show us his history photos. His father owned the business before him. Marie took the photo of us.

He also introduced us to his son who will probably be the next manager or owner of the business. A Foodland Supermarket.

We drove up the street and took a photo of the



original stone home that Barry's grand parents lived in, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

What a fantastic day so far. All due to Maria's genealogy work.



## Birdwood

Next stop was Birdwood which was named Blumberg before the First World War. So far since Adelaide the country is hilly with quite a lot of green vegetation. It is part of the Barossa Valley. At Birdwood we had our picnic lunch in the car park of the National Motor Museum which is supposed to be Australia's biggest.

The museum has a whole rook of motorcycles and a small mock-up of an open air theatre with part of a car and a wired loudspeaker hung on the wound down window. Remember those?



## Angaston

We arrived at Angaston at 2.00pm and booked into the Vineyards Motel where the manager John Morgan showed me on my map exactly where the place called Hoffnungsthal is near Bethany.

***Wednesday 30 May 2008.***

We bought Archie another drink at the petrol station next to the Motel then drove to where we would see the area where many Germans who were persecuted in their own country because they were Lutherans had settled in 1847. After a few years they had built a little village until a big storm one night in 1853 flooded their town. The

area was about 400 acres so was quite large for a little town.

### Hoffnungsthal

The area is a bit like a valley but without an outlet such as a creek or river so the water could not run away. Very sad. The people all moved out to other parts of Australia and to the U.S.A.



The other photo with the plaque on the left side shows part of "valley". The area is fenced off so it's not easily possible to walk in the area. It was also cold and windy.

We drove through Lyndoch on the way.

### Bethany

The photo shows Garfield, our travelling mascot reading the Bethany sign.



This area is about the people on my mother's side. Mum usually spelt her surname either "Blessing" or "Blesing". On the plaque here it's spelt "Blaesing" which is fourth from the top on the left hand side column.



On the way back we stopped at the old Bethany Cemetery. In 1990 when we had mum with us we stopped here also, not knowing that my relatives live in the area.