

Travel 5 to 26 November, 2008  
South Yunderup, Western Australia

Wednesday, November 5th.

We left in the afternoon at 16:00h. We fly at 20.30, so enough time for a snack or a drink with our transporters. At least that is what we thought. Obviously there was a problem with my visa. The travel agent had a zero confused with the letter O, that joke gave us nearly two and a half hours delay. Rushing to the gate without a drink and without food. With some 650 people stacked in a 747 Boeing, we flew within 12 hours to Kuala Lumpur. Of course in a straight line to the already on the Internet spottet smoking area for a smoke ore two. I know it is not good for me, but it is the only thing I have. Like a spear to the tax-free for a carton of cigarettes and a bottle of whiskey. Also not good for me, but I already have so little. Quickly into the plane (Malasyan Airlines) hoi, hoi.  
So much better than KLM, Even the stewardesses are younger and prettier.

Friday, November 7th.

Arrival at 01.00h.(local time), it is still yesterday in Holland. Our host awaits us at Perth Airport. Another transfer of a 90 minites and we can finally return to smoking and drinking. Around five to bed and get up early. On day 1 I explored the banks of River Murray. I immediatly saw a Nankeen Night Heron and a couple of Pelicans on the pier. Furthermore, I saw a lot of birds that I still do not know. In the afternoon to Pinjarra to get beer at the liquor store.



Saturday, November 8th.

To Mandurah (pronounced Mendraa) to have a cup of coffee at the Peel Inlet. On the terrace it was prohibited to smoke and there where no drinks available. Whe should have taken that ourselfs. Strange boys those Australians. Bring Your Own (Byo) is quite ordinary. If they don't have a full liqourlicense, then you'll have to bring your own spirits.  
In the evening an undistorted Australian barbecue. It's summer here in Australia, you know.

Tuesday, November 11th.

Made a tour to Serpentine Fall. A waterfall near a large dam to a reservoir. Beautiful landscape, kangaroos spotted (and photographed) in the wild.



Wednesday, November 12th.

To Pinjarra at 09.30 for a visit per bus to the Alcoa Aluminum Mine. Trough Jarradale Forrest, a beautiful old forest, which is part of the plant Alcoa (not to be confused with Alqaida). Fortunately, the Australians have tight plans for redevelopment of mined areas. On the way back a coffee (Byo again and I had nothing on me) at the clubhouse of the local golf course. Here I made some pictures of a Yellow-billed Spoonbill and a Magpie. On the way back I spotted a pond with about 150 Black Swans in it. I urgently need to go there.

Thursday, November 13th.

Made a trip to Rockingham (near the coast), enjoyed the scenery and the beach. On the other side is Penguin Island. I sure would like to go there.

Friday, November 14th.

Back to the pond with the Black Swans. Had a good walk. Besides photos of the Black Swans I also photographed te Little Egret and the Common Greenshank. In the distance, there are circling two Ospreys. A little later I walked a bith in a wetland area. Not to far because there has been warned for snakes. Especially the Tiger Snake can do a lot off damage. Shot some landscapes there.



Saturday, November 15th.

Been to the Peel Zoo. Made some photos of Koalas. These animals don't live in Western Australia, but I managed to photographe them by going into the cage with the sitter.

Sunday, November 16th.

Being sailing with friends of our host. Relaxing day on the water with a stopover in Mandurah. Cozy diner at the port.

Monday, November 17th.

Started a three day trip to the South. First we went to Bunbury. Here we went with Uncle Jan Vergeer (87) on his boat to watch dolphins. Uncle Jan went to Australia in 1955 with his wife Miss Ellie. Now an old goat that still plays harmonica while he stands on his head. Uncle Jan took us to places where the dolphins are. He has a score of 100% he says. In total we get about 30 Bottlenose dolphins next to the boat. A great experience. Eyes and ears deficit. After this tour we go towards our rented house in Bosselton. A typical old building of wood, with a large garden. The interior is also authentic, the walls decorated with tin plates and in almost every room a beautiful fireplace.



Tuesday, November 18th.

On our path to Dunsborough to sail out with the boat for Whale spotting. The boat trip takes a little longer than 2.5 hours. Despite that we see a lot of Humpback Whales, photography is poor. The boat goes up and down significantly on the water and it is difficult to focus. Even with a 400mm lens it is difficult to make a proper picture from those big boys (16 meters long). Yet a great experience. Back to our rented house again.

Wednesday, November 19th.

Early in the morning we started our trip to Pemberton, which is about 400 km to the south. Near by, according to Australian measurements. Trough Margaret River we drove in a beautiful scenery of ancient eucalyptus forests and vineyards. Again, you do not know what you see. Everything is so big. Trees are growing into the sky and vineyards that stretch to the horizon. At Gloucester Tree (a really big tree where you can climb in) in Pemberton, the Western Rosella's and the Australian Ringnecks are sitting on your head while you try to make a photo. (Using a piece of bread and a chocolate cookie of course.) In the afternoon we drove back to South Yunderup, where we arrived around 20.00 hours local time.



Thursday, November 20th.

Cobie and I went to Perth. In contrast to the views of the others we found Perth a great city. With the double-decker we took a tourist tour through the city. Then took a ride in the tram with driver Bob! Bob told us all about the history and the present of the city and brought us finally to Kings Park, a wonderful park where all the beautiful flora of Australia is classified in handy borders. From here there are wonderful views over the bay of Perth. A few Australian Wood Ducks photographed and an Australian Magpie.



Friday, November 21th.

Today my father, God rest his soul, would have become 85 years. Took a walk along the banks of Murray River and took some pictures of a few different birds.

Saturday, November 22th.

A trip to Penguin Island. This island opposite Rockingham is very special. In addition to the Little Penguins, Pied cormorants and Pelicans are breeding here in great numbers. Also many types of Gulls and Terns nest here in colonies. Just great. On one of the sandy beaches I photographed also a See-lion.



Sunday, November 23th.

It is nice weather (26 degrees or so.) And in honor of our visit, half Australia is invited to a barbecue. In the morning I took a walk along the banks of Murray River for the last time and was lucky to find a Sacred Kingfisher. The Willie Wagtail posed for me as if she was on the catwalk.

Monday, November 24th.

All of us went to Perth. Of course to purchase souvenirs. Although I found this a lost of time, we finally ended up in Perth Zoo. As if Australia has not enough animals in the wild. Because they had none in the wild I made some pictures off Meerkats there.

Tuesday, November 25th.

And then with mixed feelings back home. Three weeks is too short to see Australia. Yet in a short time I saw a lot of its wildlife. And, I'm in for more. It's been a great experience.