

Kinquaid Aboard Sengo

Aboard Sengo

February 2017

Around Warrigul

We finally head out
of Melbourne.

2

Mallacoota

Resting at the pointy
end of Victoria.

3



Looking towards Mallacoota from near Bretka River

Canberra

A quick visit to catch
up with friends... and
the diorama isn't
dead.

8

Curving north

Leaving Melbourne behind we dropped into Central Gippsland to visit friends and then settled ourselves in to East Gippsland for a few solid days rest and recuperation in Mallacoota. The crew is doing well, although Cilla's last trip to the vet has revealed her kidneys have started to fail so we have to be even more careful with her from now on. The three week delay renovating in Melbourne has in some ways put our arrival in Darwin back somewhat - however the Northern Territory is having one of the wettest years on record so maybe it wasn't such a bad thing.

Around Warrigul



The picnic tables on the tracks around the park were put in by several 4wd clubs after the Back Saturday fires of February 7th, 2009. The one pictured above is a little overgrown – it is a pity they are not utilised more.

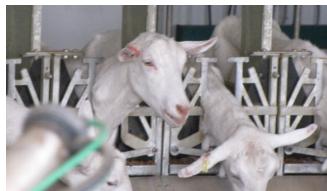
Glen Cromie

Whilst our first few days in Melbourne (in January) were spent catching up with friends, the start of February, (apart from impromptu catch ups with **Take it Easy** and ex **Wombat**) marked a period of work. On 18th February, after spending close to three weeks renovating a house (and leaving any remaining tasks to professionals and the property manager), we finally escaped and continued on our road trip. Our first stop was Glen Cromie, a caravan park in West Drouin, conveniently located so we could catch up with friends in Warragul.

Glen Cromie is situated on the banks of the Torago River and has cabins, well set-up annual camps, and powered and non-powered sites. There are a couple of short walks through the bush around the park; the longer with picnic tables and wooden seating installed by some helpful 4wd clubs in the apocalyptic aftermath of the Black Saturday Bunyip fires in 2009. The first morning we awoke to corellas; the second to bell miners. Other birds seen or heard here included yellow-tailed black cockatoos, firetails, eastern whipbirds, and grey fantails.

Gippy Goat

The Gippy Goat is a goat farm with a restaurant in Yarragon where the kids can interact with kids (children can feed the goats (and ok, adults can feed the goats too)) and at around 2.30 you can see the goats getting milked on a rotary milking machine. Unfortunately the goat curry had paprika in it so I couldn't indulge but we did time it so we could see the milking process. The goat sheds were full of very expectant beasts keen to lose their load and the process mostly went smoothly. Of course this is farming and it was a production run but it was still sad to see two injured animals in the stalls. One first clearly had problems with her back leg (she was holding it up). The second beast was noted as it was leaving; its limping so bad we suspected a break.



Mallacoota

20th -24th February 2017

It had rained steadily overnight and we had to deal with everything being wet or damp when we packed up to leave: the advantage however was that the rain had washed off all the dirt and stains gained whilst under the trees for the four weeks we were at Lilydale. Wet roads however are not the ideal and we travelled the 430 km to Mallacoota in oscillating wet and dry conditions. Our one stop was Sale, where we got soaked getting from the car to the shopping centre (my raincoat was buried in the cupboard in the caravan!).



View from Mallacoota foreshore. The entrance (depth unreliable) is just at the right of the photograph



Genoa River



View of lakes from Mallacoota township



Heading east from Warrigul

Shady Gully Caravan Park at Mallacoota is a kilometre inland from town and does not have the spectacular view of the lakes that the foreshore caravan park has. It does however have the advantage of the protection of the Shady Gully Reserve



Camp visitor



Our site



Camp visitors



Loop Track



Loop Track



Loop Track



Loop Track



Loop Track

Double Creek

The main road crosses Double Creek around 8 km north of the township of Mallacoota and from here you can partake in three short walks; a short loop track through both rainforest and dry eucalypt forest; a one way track up Double Creek Arm to a point, and another track that interacts with other tracks on the Croajingolong National Park. We did the loop track and the walk to and from the point. Birds seen

for the two short walks include bell miner, azure kingfisher, blue wrens, and grey fantails



Loop Track



Double Creek Arm Track



Double Creek Arm Track



Double Creek Arm Track



Double Creek Arm Track



Double Creek Arm Track



Double Creek Arm Track

Mallacoota



Beach below Bretka Loop Walk

Some beaches are better seen from land. The surf that was coming onto the beach and rocks near the Bretka River entrance was constant and non-relenting. The Bretka Loop Walk follows just above the beach and then returns to the car park via bush adjacent the Bretka River



Beach below Bretka Loop Walk



Beach below Bretka Loop Walk



Beach below Bretka Loop Walk



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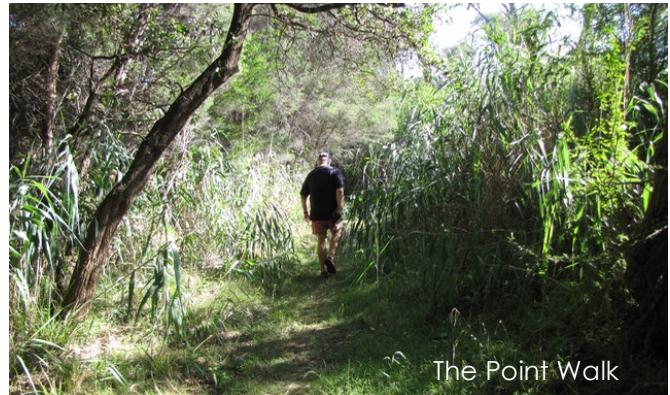


Beach below Bretka Loop Walk



Gipsy Point

The Point Walk is a short walk through bushland at Gipsy Point. There were lots of birds; specifically flocks of silveryeye, grey fantail, wrens and bell miners.



Gipsy Point

River Cruise – 24th February 2017

Our one 'touristy' activity during our stay at Mallacoota was a boat ride from Gipsy Point

Captain John Gerard (who is not as pompous as the title on the advertising material sounds) took over this little cruise several years ago and for a couple of hours heads you up the Genoa River and then into the Maramingo Creek. Apart from the usual 'trained' raptors with an opportunistic feed (white bellied sea eagles and whistling kites) (all boat cruises we have been on seem to have this) the Captain will be on the lookout in usual spots for azure kingfishes and Gippsland water dragons. He also spotted a red-bellied black snake sunning itself and a lyrebird in the bush (not bad from on the water). We only saw two black cormorants - which is apparently unusual. Other birds seen of note were white-faced herons, a golden whistler and two Australian hobbies. Having worked around the area for a long time, the Captain's knowledge of the area is thorough. The cruise includes a cuppa and bikies (and I was pleased to see macaroons - which was great for me).



Around Canberra

25th – 28th February

Our stop in the Canberra area was primarily to catch up with friends – who generously let us park in their front yard in Bungendore. Whilst there we revisited the War Memorial (or some of it) and had a very quick look at one gallery of the National Museum

Bungendore

The township of Bungendore is an historic town known for its artists, woodwork shop, leather shop, a few antiquey shops and a variety of cafes. The town also has an IGA, two hotels, a petrol station and various industrial businesses. The local butcher has apparently just sold his holding paddock for expanding housing estates and land is expensive. The township also has some of the oldest buildings in the state.

The foundation stone for St Mary's Church in Bungendore was laid in 1851 but it is believed this quaint little architectural building was finally finished in 1862. The Deacon invited us to have a look around but we weren't staying. The stained glass window was apparently made by an ex-convict; the first glass maker in the colony.



Bungendore Woodworks Gallery

The Bungendore Woodworks Gallery has some amazingly beautiful work – some of it practical and some of it pure indulgent. The smaller pieces are priced for tourists – the larger pieces priced for collectors. The Hannah Cabinet is the result of 6 years of work by Geoff Hannah and is made from 17 species of wood, 4 species of shell, 18 types of precious stones and has 18 doors and 140 drawers. It is pure indulgence and is yours for a cool \$1.5 million dollars



National Museum

We used the National Museum as a meeting place to meet **Free Spirit** in the café, and spent three hours catching up with them. After morning tea and lunch we thought we might take a look around. Heading into the Museum we entered the 'circular' theatre; a rotating theatre that I assume is trying to tell the story of Australia in pictures on screens. This needs a bit of work. One of the screens in the first 'theatre' was not working, and the next screen had several images going at once across an area that was too wide for the visitor

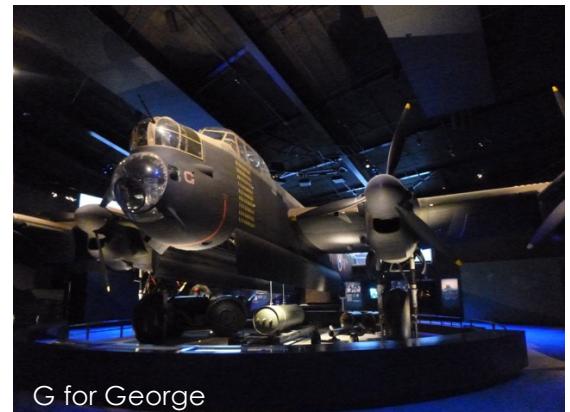
to see without turning the head from left to right (and missing the image on the other end). The next 'room' had screens in static before merging into the history of television. I am not an expert but I thought this might be a bit too busy for anybody who is epileptic. I don't think this exhibit worked. I understand what they were trying to do but unless you were Australian you would not understand or recognize some of the images; for instance images of Phar Lap's heart and the Hills Hoist. There was no overriding narration to this exhibit.

Moving on we started through the first major gallery space. This had potential – although a depressing first theme – that of the extinction of our native animals. I found Colin Mcenzie's collection of medical specimens of native animals fascinating (Colin Mcenzie started Healesville Sanctuary east of Melbourne, Victoria). Moving through to the visual representation of the spread of pest species is again a great idea. It was at this time that we got invaded by school children. Time to go. I look forward to visiting this museum next time we are in Canberra – without the fifty plus screaming kids around.

War Memorial

It is about eighteen years since we've been to the War Memorial in Canberra and I don't really remember much of it except that it was different. By a quirk of circumstances we started our visit in the Anzac Hall – right up the back where there are three exhibit spaces. Each area is quite large, has a central theme (World War I, World War II, and the submarine invasion of Sydney) and each has a large sound and light show to accompany it. The beauty of this space is that the sound and light shows are timed so they run at different times. The most iconic exhibit is 'George' a Lancaster bomber (G) that undertook 89 missions; its first fight in December 1942 and its last, to Australia, in July 1945. The most recent conservation work on the plane finished in 2003 and was undertaken by a group of dedicated volunteers.

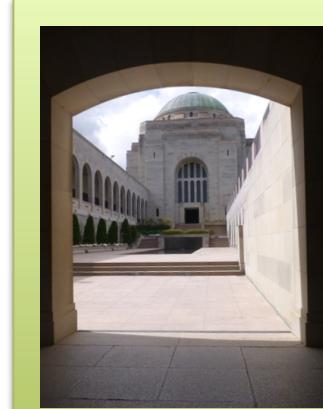
After a quick look at the Aircraft Hall (where the noise from several exhibits interfered with the noise from several others (very disconcerting)) we spent time skirting through the World War I gallery and at the end of that decided that we would just have a quick look at the WWII gallery. My feet were getting tired so Andrew suggested I wait out the front. An hour later he hadn't emerged so I went searching and I found him in the same place! There are four more large galleries downstairs. This building definitely needs at least two days to see it properly – if you don't get overwhelmed by the sorrow and negativity, that is. Unfortunately in the way it is written, some of the interps still glorifies war.



G for George



The Diorama is not dead. There were several in the War Memorial



Looking toward the Tomb of the Unknown soldier.