

Aboard Sengo



**With Sengo penned up
- it is time for us to catch-up!**

Visiting friends and places in and around Melbourne



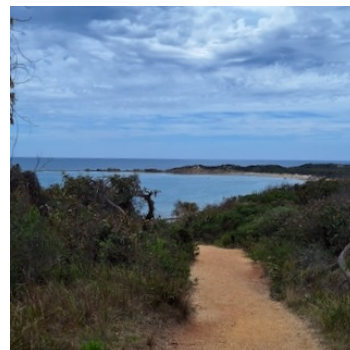
The first half of January was spent in New Zealand walking the Greenstone, Routeburn and Hollyford tracks. The diary notes for these days are written up in a separate document. We got back from New Zealand on 16th January 2024.

Back to Boat!

17th to 31st January 2024. Back to Boat and back to normal. Sort of. We were back in Australia. We were on dock. And we had a lot more people to catch up with - some of whom we hadn't seen for nine years.

We had time. We were not scheduled to leave dock until 22nd March. This long stay was spurred on by the idea that we might 'paddle the Murray.' But in order to do that we had a lot of planning to do. By the end of the month, given temperatures and floods, we decided that perhaps this wasn't the year for that. Perhaps we would do something else with the time (I suspect we weren't going to be able to ask for our money back).

So, for the rest of January we caught up with old friends, did boat jobs, and took day trips!

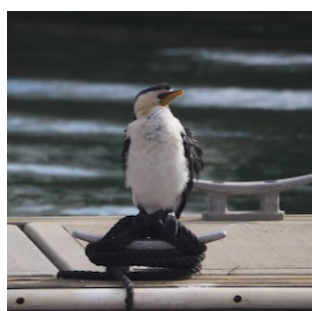
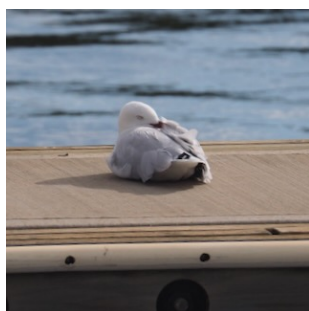
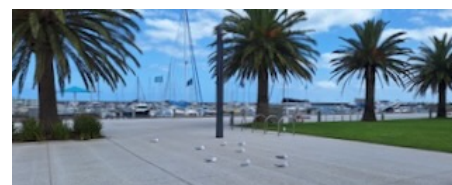


Wyndham Harbour

Back to boat.....

17th January 2024. I got up at around 0600. Andrew had gone to bed later than me and was still sleeping at 0700. Last night I had crashed at 1900, snoozed on the front cockpit cushions (which has resulted in a neck/head ache this morning), and dragged myself into bed at 2020. The washing would wait until today. Yesterday afternoon Andrew had eventually pulled himself away from the computer and decanted his bag, we pulled the covers down (there was to be possible storms overnight), and made yoghurt for this morning's breakfast.

I got one photo with some colour prior to sunrise this morning, but as I didn't know if I had missed the 'pinkening' of the sky I didn't wait outside. I spent some time today putting stuff from our NZ trip away, and writing emails.



Defrosting!

18th January 2024. It was raining when I got up and I washed a third of the top deck of Sengo whilst it was still precipitating - I don't like wasting water. After that I decided I was too wet and chilly to stay outside; this isn't warm rain like you get in Queensland. Today's big job was defrosting the fridge -an absolutely desperate job and one that may as well be done when there was practically nothing in it.

Whilst waiting for the ice to melt I got several loads of washing done, and put some gear away that we had taken on holiday.

The afternoon was spent watching the Australian Open tennis.

Dreaded lurgy?

19th January 2024. Andrew seems to be coming down with a cold. At least we hope it is a cold. We are, however, extremely aware that we were on an international flight from New Zealand three days ago; and three days seems to be a good incubation period for all sorts of bugs, including the bug of our time: the dreaded Covid! We have form; we both got colds travelling to Tassie in 2021 on a domestic flight because there was a 'splutterer' behind us and a 'splutterer' in front of us, and whilst masks on planes were still mandatory at that time, the spluttering seemed to happen when we were all eating a meal!

So, hoping for the best, but bracing ourselves for the worst (we have yet, that we know of, to have Covid) I pulled out a box of RAT tests. We've not done a home RAT test before - although in Canada we were tempted. In fact, this particular box was one of two that went to Canada with us - and came back again. It was, according to the date stamp on the box, two weeks out of date. Given it was all we had in the 'house', and it had had a long shelf-life anyway I suspect it was probably okay for a first go. So after reading the instructions we stuck the probe up our nose and made the appropriate movements. And of course several comfort (or rather, lack of) related noises. Fortunately, at this stage, the result, for both of us, was negative.

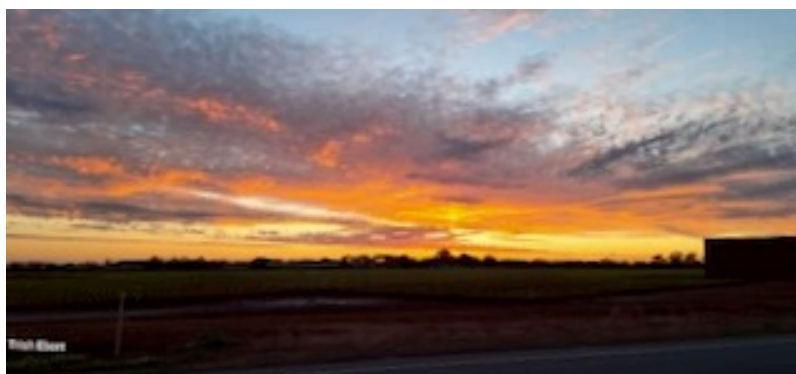
I spent the day mostly on the NZ walk write-up. And a lot of reading.

20th January 2024. Our original plan for today had been to do something a bit different, and head to the Geelong 'caravan' show. But Andrew wasn't feeling all that great so we crossed that excursion off the list. In fact, for Andrew, we crossed all excursions off the list. I spent most of the day on the NZ walk write up.

I was feeling fine but none the less, once I had gone to town and obtained some new (in-date) RAT tests, I took a test too. We were still both negative.

Because I was feeling good I still went out to dinner. We had a friend flying in to Melbourne tonight for a relative's wedding tomorrow, and then she was flying out again. The only time I could see to catch up with her (we haven't seen each other for several years) was to meet at the airport for dinner. Which I did, I left Andrew at home. It felt strange driving - I don't do it very often - and in a bigger than normal car; we were upgraded to a RAV4 when we picked up the hire car. But it was such a smooth ride - the vehicle is another hybrid (we had our first in Sydney), and the road to the airport so smooth. The roads were busier on the way back, but, apart from a couple of crazy drivers, I enjoyed the trip back. And the sunset was magnificent - not that I could take much notice of it - my eyes were occupied with driving. I did stop on the edge of Duncan's Road to try and get a good photo - but the gloriousness of the sky had passed. Back at boat I noticed, with the clouds, that the sunset sky would have been a delight.

I felt sorry for the many visitors to the marina grounds tonight - there was a stargazing event scheduled. With the amount of cloud cover that eventuated, I doubt they saw anything.



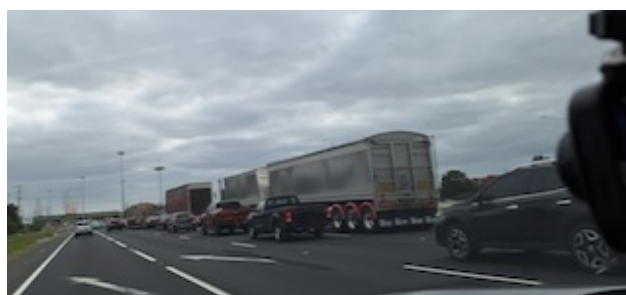
21st January 2024. Andrew was feeling better...but still not doing much. So we didn't! He was however feeling good enough to go out to dinner tonight and we headed back to a restaurant in Templestowe that we had been introduced to late last year. Again dinner was with friends we had not seen since our last visit - in 2018!



22nd January 2024. I wanted to leave boat at 0730. I woke up at 0705. We finally left at 0755. Peak hour traffic was starting as workers were returning to work after the holidays. The West Gate Bridge lane closure didn't help the stream of traffic backing up. Fortunately we were getting off at the M80 ring road... for a long drive to a storage facility.



We have a couple of shelves worth of stuff in a relative's shed. I had resolved on the journey south, that it was about time that we cleaned that up (or at least, started to). This was the stuff we saved as we moved onto boat. We haven't wanted or needed most of it in almost ten years (although we did get the car fridge transported to us). So glassware, crockery, a slow cooker, an iron, other kitchen bits and pieces were piled into the back of the vehicle for rehoming. Most ended up being donated to a friend in case her nieces and nephews wanted it as they are moving out of home. A big thanks to D & J for dinner - as we didn't turn up until 'dinner time'. We got back to boat around 2230.



23rd January 2024. I had a fidgety sleep and I got up around 0330 to click my back into place. Perhaps it was a result of too much sugar...that's usually the catalyst for dreams. When I got back to bed I slept well but was woken up by a mistaken phone call. At 0715! I went back to bed again and got up for the day at 0830.

We managed a gentle walk this morning - before breakfast. It was flat and we walked the waterfront to Werribee South

Birds spotted: blackbird, magpie, crested pigeon, blue wren, house sparrow, white faced heron, pelican, tern (sp?), silver gull, little pied cormorant, little black cormorant, crested grebe, other grebe, starling



24th January 2024. It was the wind that got me up just before 0530. Heading upstairs there was a flash of lightening to the north. I checked the bom.gov.au observations: Avalon had gusted to 37 knots although that was a bit to the south of us, and a smidge inland. Point Cook and Point Wilson, our closest observation marks, had only gusted to 24 and 25 respectively. I turned the instruments on - and saw 36 before the roll on the gauges settled down to high twenties to low thirties. The rain radar had a band of rain (the lightest of droplets that I felt rescuing adventure sandals and thongs from the tinnie) coming up from the south west. the wind however was north to north east!

Forecast for Bureau of Meteorology: Summary for Geelong and Surf Coast area: Max. 29, Possible Shower or Storm. Chance of any rain 40%

We had another catchup with friends today; this time yachties R & D, although they are going to the 'dark side' (moving into powerboats). As we were meeting them in the city we took the train in - with works still on the West Gate Bridge I didn't want to attempt access via the already confusing roads into town - or confusing to me as there has been so many upgrades since I last drove this side of the city, and with roadworks I don't think the neurones in my brain would cope. Of course I would get Andrew to drive but I would be navigating; the train trip would be *official*, driving in just wasn't worth the stress.

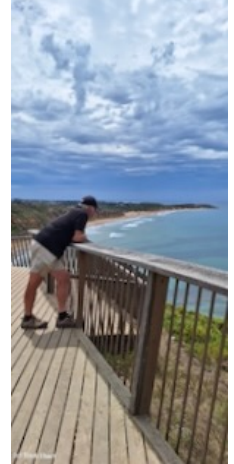
Because it was a lunch catch up and workers were back to work there were no station carparks available so we parked some blocks away from Werribee Station. We managed to jag the timing of the trains (both into the city and out again) within a few minutes, and a limited express service meant that the trip wasn't too long.



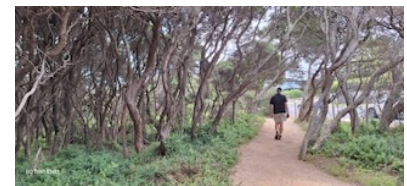
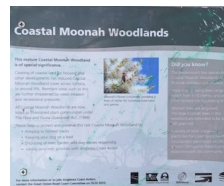
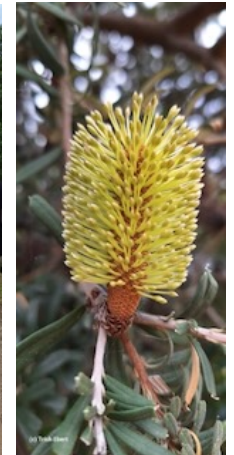
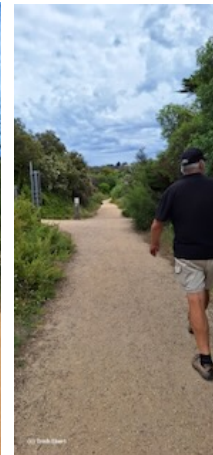
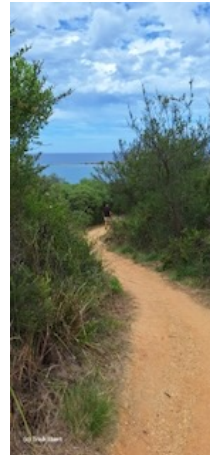
25th January 2024. I had another broken sleep overnight; itchy skin - which meant I reacted to something I consumed yesterday. I was up at 0730. I had done the dishes by 0800. Andrew was still in bed. It was quiet!



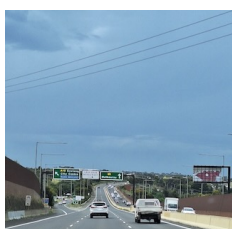
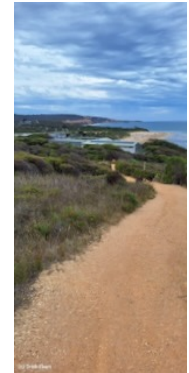
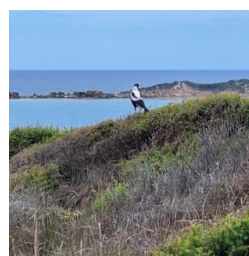
I wanted to get off boat and go exploring - although I didn't have a specific destination in mind. A decent walk would have been good but I didn't want to push Andrew. We left the marina area at 1030, had morning tea at Geelong, and lunch at Anglesea.



We did manage part of a walk to Point Roadknight, but we turned around early because Andrew was still recovering from the lurgy, and he was running out of energy. It was overcast all day - and there were two drops of rain at morning tea. The raindrops started to *cumulate* on the windscreen on the way back to boat but the rain was light and we were driving so it didn't affect us.



Back at boat, I managed two loads of washing and continued the NZ writeup



26th January 2024. When we got up the three monohulls who were in the pens beside us last night, were still there. Sometime before we returned from a 20 minute circuit walk however both the boat with the engine trouble to our starboard, and one of the training boats (the boat immediately to our port) had left. I was thinking with the increasing winds perhaps the other smaller training boat (the one I had done my competent crew course on) would stay put and be *trepid* by the weather conditions, but by 1000 it was gone too, and by 1030 where there had been two mono sailing boats in the pen next door, there were now two large power boats. Wind was westerly with uncomfortable gusts. I would not have been going out today, or coming in for that matter.

We had guests for lunch - or rather, we had visitors, and we went to the cafe for lunch. Again, we haven't seen D and R for five years so it was lovely to catch up. Meeting them in the carpark I spotted the seal inside the marina boundaries. I had been delighted to read in the local paper the other day that a seal had been spotted on a beach nearby; I didn't realise that he was very much a local.

I spent the afternoon configuring some photos from one of our NZ walks so I fit them better in our photo frame. (625 photos)

It briefly rained at 1030.

Limeburners Bay to Lara

27th January 2024.

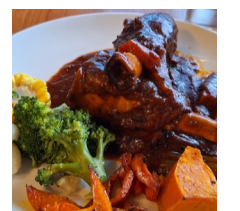
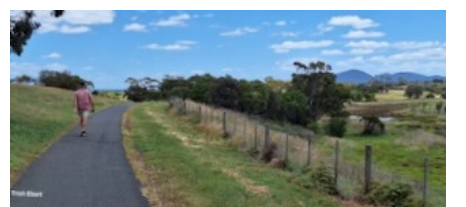
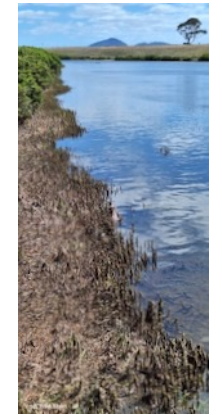
The weather was good. The likelihood of rain minimal, and I wanted a walk. I didn't however wish to push Andrew - he was still coming out of his lurgy. In AllTrails I found someone's trail around eight kilometres long. It started at Limeburners Bay but the trail seemed to continue past the walker's tracking to Lara - maybe we could start at Lara I suggested. I just couldn't work out how it was going to cross the freeway.

So we headed to Geelong, and before turning toward North Shore I did note the trail on the side of the road. The path went under the highway. Well, that made sense.

The trail we followed is called the Hovell Creek Trail. It is approximately six kilometres one way, and there was, conveniently, a hotel where we could have lunch at the Lara end before we walked back again.

I had offered a coffee to a neighbour if we got back early afternoon. We got back late afternoon and I was too tired to socialise..I politely put a rain-check on the coffee. I hope he doesn't think I was being *frugal*. My phone suggested we had walked 16km ..the track was listed as 6km each way plus we did the side extension. And there are quite a few steps between boat and the office!

The evening job was booking flights for our June adventure.



Rust runs and pink fits

28th January 2024. I was up at 0745. It was quiet outside although there was movement on both adjacent boats. At 0805 I could hear someone sneeze loudly, hopefully we don't get too close to them today! The craft market was due to start at 0900. I would have expected the car park to fill up with exhibitors but from boat it looked pretty empty. We couldn't see the market space from the living area...our view was blocked by a large powerboat.

Clearly our walk yesterday had overtaxed a recovering Andrew and he didn't get up until around 0900. And his only exercise, after breakfast, was a five minute walk around the market. There was really nothing that we wanted. Hand made goods are all well and good if you have a use for them - and the space. There was no point checking out the food stalls - there was probably nothing I could eat.

Back at boat Andrew was on the computer most of the day. I spent the day reading, continuing the NZ writeup, Italian, conducted a basic rust run on stanchions, and had a fit at the the discovery of an emailed Telstra bill...of course by the time I discovered the overcharging it was out of business hours and the automatic woman on the end of the phone told me the consultants who could help me were not 'open'!

The old and the new

29th January 2024. I started with a short morning walk, by myself - before Andrew got up

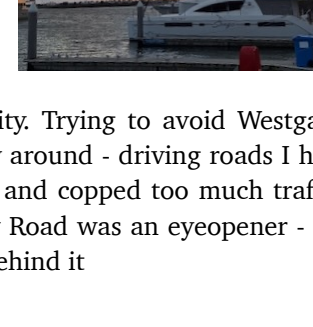
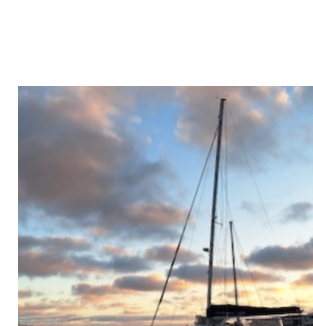
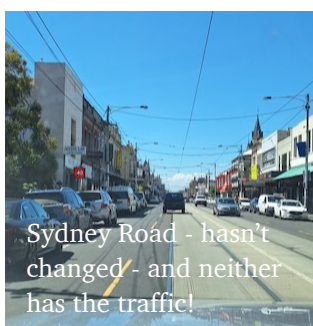
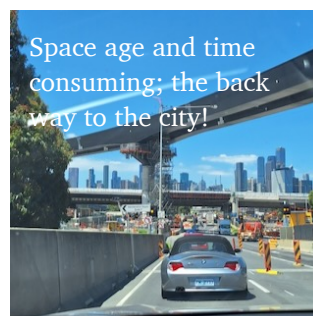
Some things change. Some things stay the same. I had a list this morning of jobs to do. I got some of the items ticked off.

I managed to drop most of the stuff in the car boot to the op shop, start the process of changing property management of one of our properties over to a new company, organised two catch ups this week despite the mechanic not calling (we needed to chase him up and he was not ready). I also finalised the NZ writeup - but did not publish it.

I didn't get around to washing the solar panels. Neither did I get around to chasing Telstra for unacceptable charges, although I did waste 27 minutes on hold. I tried to organise a 'priority callback' through their App - which indicated the wait time would be 39 minutes! I gave up.

After lunch we headed to Werribee town - predominantly for a walk around the shopping centre.

We also took a drive to Whitworths in the city. Trying to avoid Westgate Bridge on the way back we went the long way around - driving roads I had perhaps not driven along for twenty years — and copped too much traffic to be pleasant. The Bunnings Store on Sydney Road was an eyeopener - an historic shop front with a gouged-out edifice behind it



Space age and time consuming; the back way to the city!

Sydney Road - hasn't changed - and neither has the traffic!



Boabs in Bacchus Marsh!?

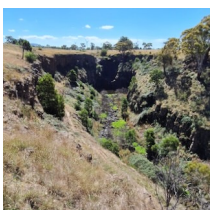


What?



Mooroolool Falls

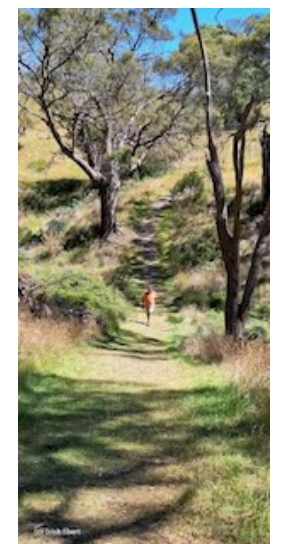
30th January 2024. We didn't have a specific destination in mind today but we ended up at Mooroolool Falls. We drove north to Bacchus Marsh, got some information from the Information Centre, had lunch in a pub-like restaurant in the middle of town, and headed west - ish. The wind farm at Mount Edgerton was a prominent sight on our drive, and from the east of this we took a back road to the Falls (on a road not listed on the navigation system we were using - it had a name but I suspect it is a recent addition of the pine(?) plantation area). If you type Morrooolool Falls into whereis.com you get the wrong impression of access. The 'road' in the system that goes right up to the falls is no longer a 'road,' just a mown access track. There is more walking than expected and this was a hot day! The falls weren't as spectacular as I anticipated. Admittedly I could have gone to the base for a better view - but as I had sneakers on, (rather than walking boots), the risk of the excessively rocky terrain was more than I was prepared to take. We drove back to boat taking a southerly route, passing by the back of Geelong and through Lara.



Lal Lal Falls is also in the area



The walk gives you views of Lal Lal Reservoir



31st January 2024. I left the marina carpark a couple of minutes to 0700. I was on the freeway at 0720. I turned onto the M80 at 0730. Speed was restricted to 80 kilometres per hour for most of the trip, quickening after I passed the Sydney Road exit. I got off the M80 at the Greensborough end at 0800. I was at Diamond Creek at 0810, Kangaroo Ground at 0820 and, after stopping for nibbles, arrived at Montrose at 0914. I was catching up with friend this morning for morning tea. I left her at 1220, stopping briefly at Diamond Creek for a toilet stop - and discovering a park I didn't know existed (I had lived in the area for ten years!). I was back on boat close to 1500 when I had a late lunch.

After lunch I washed the solar panels, changed our contact address with a Ballarat contact, played with Duolingo, watched the Italian News and went shopping for tomorrow's lunch. I got to bed at 2200.

Andrew had stayed on boat. This was the day we were originally expecting a contractor to turn up!



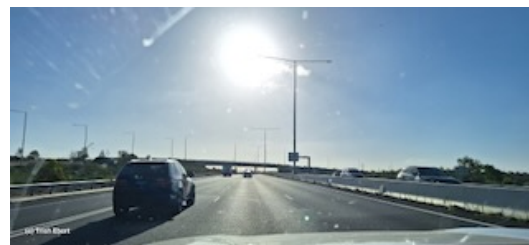
February 2024

Like January's diary notes, February's Aboard Sengo notes consist of only around half a month (1st February 2024 - 11th February 2024). There was no overseas trip involved this time; just a road trip that I have written up in a separate document. The first part of February was catching up with friends, and exploring locally (mainly).



Catching up with friends....

1st February 2024. I woke at 0630. Quiet. There was a line of grey clouds to the north-east, east and south-east. The sun was coming up between the patches of grey. Today was a simple social day. Firstly we popped into our 'old' General Store. Our mail still goes to this establishment and the current manager resends it on to wherever we are upon request. Whilst he has managed the store for several years, we had not actually met face to face (although there have been several phone and text conversations), so we thought we would *rectify* this oversight. After this task was completed (and morning tea consumed, completing our aim of leaving little parcels of money in all the 'towns' we visit), we headed off to lunch. We had been invited to catch up with friends whom we hadn't seen for many years. They have moved house since last time and gone from a valley bush block to a bush block with some height...and some fantastic views. It was great to see them and I am hoping we will get another opportunity to catch up before we leave dock.



Country Cleanup

2nd February 2024. Today was another cleanup of the stored 'stuff' from our transition from land to boat - not quite a *hibernaculum*, but dry. Yesterday, quite by accident, we had found a new owner for our old wine rack, and today found a new owner for a modern-looking lamp. These items took up most of the space in the back of the vehicle so the rest of available space was taken by books. I had a box of 'good' cookery books that I was clearly intending to keep. If I haven't used them for ten years, I don't think I will miss them now. We piled a few more odd books into the back of the car. I will keep a couple on boat. Most however were destined for an op shop. We had tried to miss the peak hour traffic with our timing and the number of cars was building up significantly on the way back toward Werribee. At twenty minutes to 1700 it was too late to risk getting caught in more traffic to get to the op shop. That job would have to wait.

A Mini Road Trip

3rd to 6th February 2024.

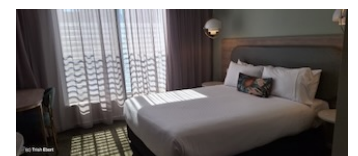
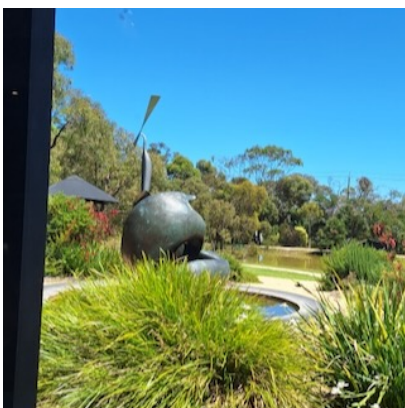
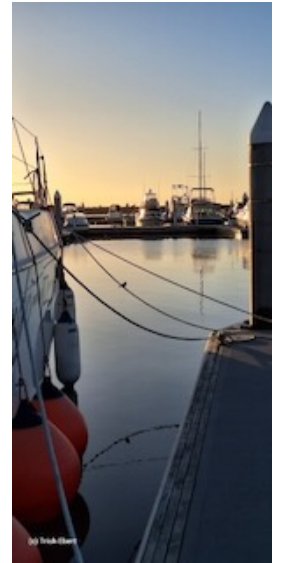
Because this trip was only four days I have included it in the Aboard Sengo document. The longer road trip later in the month has it's own write-up.

More socialising and the start of a mini road trip.

3rd February 2024. The sun was just coming up over the marina wall horizon when I went to shore for a shower. Blue sky. No clouds. The atmosphere was relatively quiet although a few silver gulls flew about, and there were common mynas near the building. Back at boat two swallows were on the lines; one by time I got the camera out.

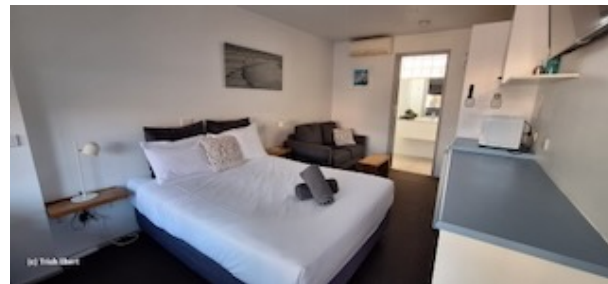
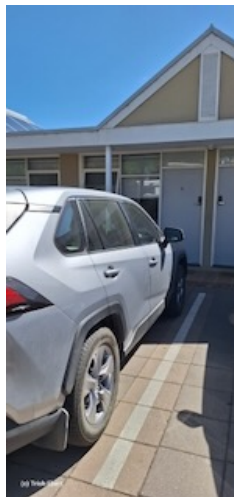
Today's social event was catching up for lunch with my bridesmaid and her hubby. As we missed them last time we were in Melbourne for any length, it meant that it has been about ten years since we have seen each other face to face! The lunch venue was the Maclelland Gardens and Sculpture Park, a place we haven't been to before

After lunch, in the heat and trying not to feel too sere, we took a stroll around the gardens. At the end of our time together, they headed east, we headed just down the road. We were catching up with family members tomorrow morning - who just happen to live less than half an hour away from where we were; we had booked a local hotel.



Locked out!

4th February 2024. Brunch was at 0930 with family. Again it has been many years since we caught up with today's social participants. We left mid-afternoon, and headed to a hotel room in Blairgowrie for two nights. Today had been the hottest day of Summer for Melbourne so far this season. However, temperatures were starting to drop by the time we got to our accommodation, so



a forecast seaside swim, just across the main arterial road from our accommodation, didn't happen. We did manage a short evening beach stroll before deciding on the local restaurant for dinner. I headed back to the room to swap my sunglasses back to normal specs...and had trouble opening the door. The door is not opened by a key...you plug a code into an electronic keypad. I got the door open, swapped my glasses, and headed the hundred or so meters back to the restaurant. The meal was okay but we were happy to head back to the room when we had finished.

Whilst the door struggled to cope earlier, it refused to open at all now. We found ourselves locked out: In dropping temperatures, darkening skies and with an increasing number of mosquitoes!

Whilst not exactly the way we wished to start a mini road trip off boat, we took it in our stride, and as we both had charge in our phones we amused ourselves until help came. We had very apologetic managers (who organised coffee for us), and the owner turned up with her apologies as well. But none of us could do anything until the locksmith turned up. In the end the door was jemmied open and the electronic lock replaced with an old fashioned barrel and key. We got into our room around 2030!

Just a simple drive around....

5th February 2024. A shower is a good way for a good sleep. And last night before bed I had had a good shower. I was in a deep sleep when the car alarm went off outside ... at 0020! Not ours! With the noise I expected *pandemonium* outside - but I couldn't hear a thing - perhaps everyone else in this establishment was trying to ignore it as well!

In some ways we didn't do anything we planned today, not that we really planned anything. We knew the forecast was for cloudy and cooler weather, but we hadn't originally factored in rain. Having missed the IGA opening hours last night we had to wait until 0830 for opening hours this morning so I could head out to get breakfast. I stepped out of the room, passed the car, and turned around and headed back inside again. It was raining. Checking the rain radar I thought perhaps we would wait awhile. Yellow patches were on the radar...heavier rain was coming. I tried this exercise twice more. On the third attempt I got to the (expensive) grocer....dry!

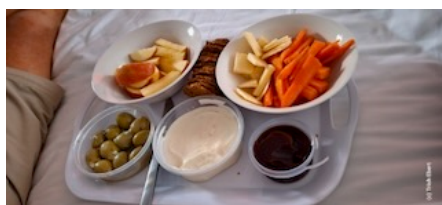
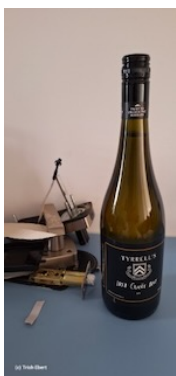
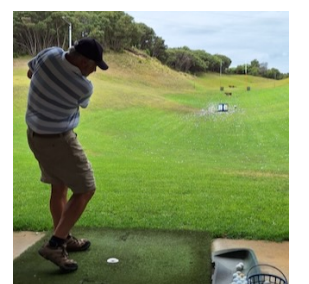
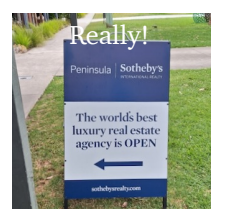
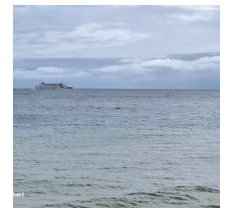
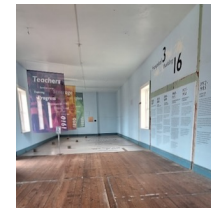
After breakfast we headed to Point Nepean National Park. Given the weather, and a strong, cold, wind, a long walk was not desirable. A walk to a lookout that we hadn't done before was considered but instead we took a brief stroll around the Quarantine Station.

Because of the late start it was now late morning and getting 'toward' lunch time. Nothing appealed in Sorrento and after a bit of a drive we ended up at the Flinders Hotel. What a fancy menu for a 'pub!'

The afternoon activity involved Andrew only. We had grabbed a couple of his golf clubs from storage, his idea to check if he could still hit a ball and whether it was still feasible to store them. We just happened to pass a driving range on our way to lunch. So on the way back to base we paid for a bucket of balls and Andrew had a fun time getting his eye-hand-and-body coordination back into his golf swing.

Just before getting back to base we stopped at a Woolies (much cheaper than the independent grocer) and picked up nibblies for dinner. When we got back to base the bucket with clean crockery was waiting outside our door. Along with a bottle of sparkling...what a perfect accompaniment to dinner!

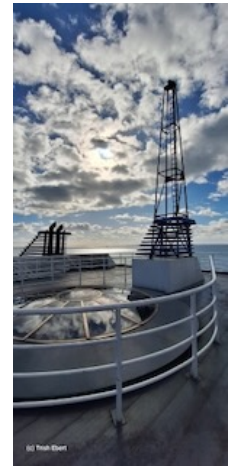
We spent the evening watching television and organising a ferry.



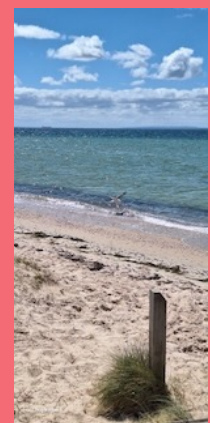
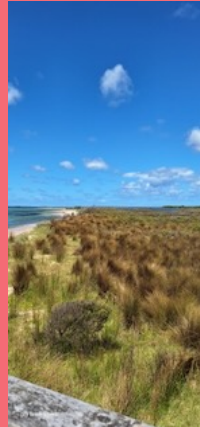
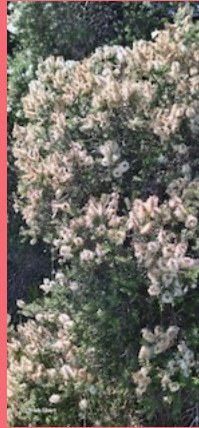
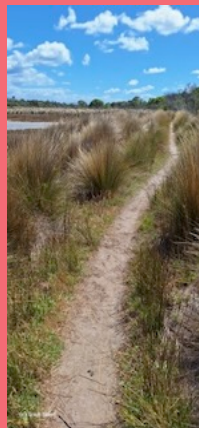
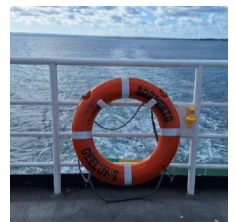
Blairgowrie to Werribee - via the 'Queenscliff to Sorrento' Ferry

6th February 2024. As ferry crossings go, this one was delightful. Smooth. Calm. Hardly a *zephyr*. Sunny. Andrew stayed downstairs during the 40 minute crossing. I headed upstairs and chatted to a NSW couple who were doing their 'bucket list' trip and heading to the Great Ocean Road. I don't think they realised how lucky they were for such a good crossing. Getting off the ferry we left Queenscliff, had a cuppa in a cafe at St Leonards and then walked the Edwards Point Reserve..what a lovely flat walk full of birds.

Bird list: Lapwing, white-faced heron, silver gull, pacific full, little pied cormorant, silver eye, red wattle, sount flocks, common myna, Caspian turn, red-capped dotterel and chick



We made the ferry by seconds - but it was the earlier ferry... so in fact we were ahead of our schedule!



Edwards Point Reserve

Enjoying a drive...

7th February 2024. Finally a car with Victorian plates. The QLD registered Rav4 was swapped for a Victorian registered model this morning...petrol only. Running costs would be a bit more but the difference in hiring costs was worth it. Having however now swapped the car, we had nothing left scheduled for the day. So we headed north and took a short but steep walk in the Organ Pipes National Park. It is probably 40 years since I've been here...I know I have visited once before but cant remember when; I suspect it was a school trip.

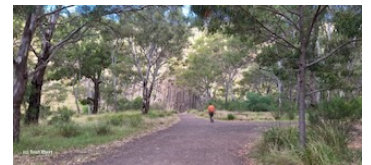
From The Organ Pipes we continued north on a general drive heading west from north of Woodend, through Trentham and back down to boat through Bacchus Marsh

My evening activity was working on the December diary notes.

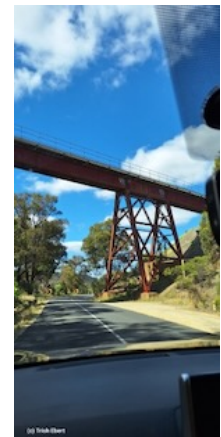
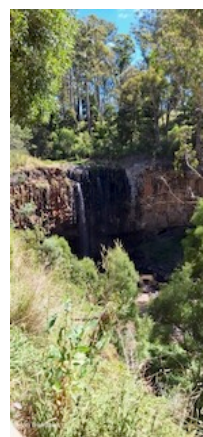
Organ pipes wildlife: two live kangaroos one possum. Blue wrens were everywhere, willy wagtail, shrike thrush



Organ Pipes



Wildlife spotted during the drive: dead kangaroos, one dead wallaby, one dead wombat, craven, common myna, (heard) cockatoos, magpies, white faced heron



Water pump reinstallation and a walk in the hills

8th February 2024. I headed off to the mountains today (Maroondah Dam and Badger Weir) to spend time with a friend (D). Andrew stayed on boat; we had a contractor turning up to return and reinstall our 'now serviced' water pump. Hopefully no impellers will be destroyed for a long while; we went through two in a short time on the way south.

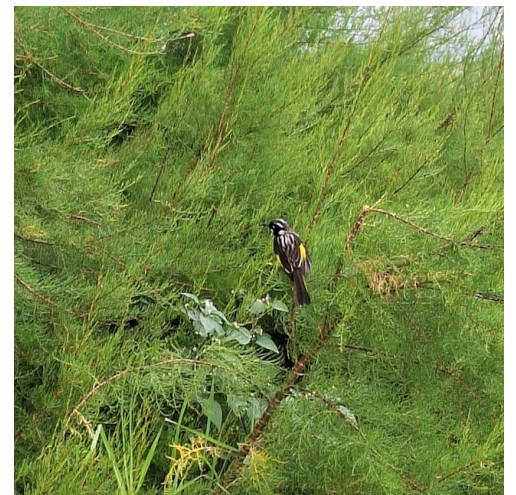


Magpie at lunch: Badger Wier

An easy day...for all the locals.

9th February 2024. We had guests coming to catch up with us today. They are boaties but hadn't been to this marina before and wanted to check it out. I decided I didn't want to cater so we ended up at '3030'...with a slightly better experience than we had last time (22nd December when we arrived).

Wanting to show our guests a different arm I asked for access to a permanent arm (we are on the Visitors arm). A member of staff gave me access to D... where one of the local residents was there to welcome us! We didn't get too close - who knows what *nefarious* activities this beast has been up to



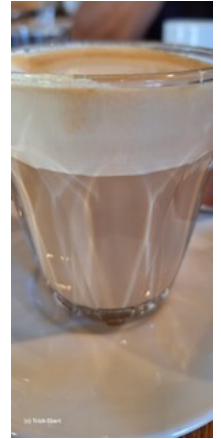
Views from our morning walk to Werribee Jetty



Destinaton Daylesford: a lazy day and a drive

10th February 2024. I knew Andrew wasn't in the mood for boat jobs today, so I suggested a drive. But first I had to get rid of the stuff from the back of the car. So whilst he woke himself up, I headed off to the op shop.

It was getting quite late by the time I got back (with an empty vehicle) and we headed out, and it was close to lunch time when we got to Daylesford. And we were hungry. We chose the first restaurant we saw - an Australian/Asian fusion establishment run by a chef who used to work at the Lake Resort. After lunch we took a very gentle stroll around town, took a quick cuppa at a pub, (who actually got close to making the coffee I had ordered!), and then drove back toward boat - detouring for a circuit walk around St Georges Lake at Creswick.



St George's Lake Circuit Walk

St George's Lake bird list: Yellow faced honeyeater, coot, pacific black duck, silver-eye, black swans, pied cormorant (sp), black cormorant (sp?). Superb fairy wrens were also flitting about.



Just a pleasant country roadway

11th February 2024. We weren't in a rush this morning as we were going to a friends' (M&P) house for lunch. We did manage a bit more packing for our next road trip, and I disturbed not only some swallows from settling on our lifelines but as well as some *winsome* galahs from playing around on the rigging above. The morning weather was very still - the water was glass; that however didn't last all day. In order to get to lunch on time we left boat at around 1000. We got back to boat around 1800. The evening task was to make sure we were ready to head off on a road trip tomorrow -we had a relatively early start.

