

Contact Details:

Janette Frawley

PO Box 8155

Camberwell North VIC 3124

Australia

jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com

Higher Ground Australia



www.highergroundaustralia.com/

Volume 3 – Edition 8

HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – August 2006

Welcome

Welcome to our August newsletter. We have now reached the beginning of the second half of the year – scary thought. I hope you enjoy the newsletter this month – don't forget that we love to receive submissions from you, so please let me know if you want to share some JD News.

Happy Birthday

Belated Birthday Greetings to Erma Deutschendorf, mother of John. We hope that you had a wonderful day.



John Denver Weekend Oct 2006

The John Denver weekend will be held from Friday 13th – Sunday 15th October, 2006.

We need to confirm our numbers by Friday 29th September. Please contact Margaret Gilby marjo@powerup.com.au or me on jefrawley@optusnet.com.au. Margaret and Maureen need to have firm numbers as soon as possible so that they can work out the catering needs. They also need a \$15.00 per person deposit to confirm your attendance.

Food: \$30.00 per person for the weekend (\$15.00 deposit, plus \$15.00 paid at the beginning of the weekend)

The total cost for food and accommodation for the weekend is **\$102.00 per person**

Our preparations are well under way and our annual John Denver weekend promising to be our best yet.

Our friend, Max Moore will be attending again this year. He will regale us with plenty of stories from his years as tour manager for Lee Gordon and Kevin Jacobsen. He also has plenty of stories to tell about his favourite performing artist – John Denver.

Annual Silent Auction Donation

All proceeds from our annual silent auction will be donated to **Broadwings Raptor Training and Conservation Centre**. Broadwings is situated at 63 Castle Hill Drive, Nerang, Queensland.

Anyone going on holidays to the Gold Coast for the next term break, please do not hesitate to drop in at Broadwings to see what they do. Say hello to Paul and his staff. Broadwings staff have promised to be a part of our JD weekend this year. More details will be included in our next newsletter.

Silent Auction Donations

Keep your eye out for items that may be suitable for our annual silent auction. Any JD-related items would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me jefrawley@optusnet.com.au with details of your donation and it will be included in the catalogue, which will be sent out prior to the JD weekend.

Higher Ground Australia Website

Keep checking the website as it changes often. We will also be posting information about the John Denver weekend at Boonah, including directions for getting to Boonah from Brisbane.

John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth

The John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth will be making a return visit to Australia this year. A panel of this wonderful work of art will be on show at Boonah in October. This will be the second time the cloth has come to Australia, and we look forward to seeing it. I would like to thank the tireless volunteers who care for the cloth, including sewers, co-ordinators and fundraisers. It is a huge undertaking by a group of dedicated people, without whom, it would be impossible for us to have the opportunity to see this work of art. For more information about the peace cloth, please click the link to the site.

<http://www.johndenverpeacecloth.com/>

JD in the Music Stores

A recent look around the local music stores has proven quite fruitful if you are looking for John Denver. There are a number of CDs and DVDs available at the moment – all of which are reasonably priced. JB Hi Fi is the best store for JD-related goods. I have seen a number of CDs. They also have the Montana Christmas Skies, Portrait and A Song's Best Friend – John Denver Remembered are all in the DVD section.

Bush fires in California

The recent bushfires in California have proven to be very devastating with the destruction of an entire town. The mother of one of our members lost her home and all her possessions as a result of this fire in Pioneertown CA. We pass on our best wishes as she struggles to rebuild her life again. There is a slide show, displaying some of the images from this terrible fire. Turn on your speakers

<http://www.platsis1.com/SawtoothFireJuly06/SawtoothFire.pps>

The Travelling Wilsons

Carmel and Alistair have continued their travels from Broome down the Western Australia coast. A side tip to Monkey Mia resulted in Carmel having the opportunity to feed the dolphins. Here is what Alistair has to say....

Hello there,

Carmel was able to feed the dolphins this morning at Monkey Mia unfortunately in my haste to take a picture and also do some video the shot is not as clear as I would have liked. But she did enjoy herself and was thinking of you all. We are in Denham for another day and are having a wonderful time



I have since heard that Alistair has been trying to 'knock off' one of our national icons after getting up close and personal to an emu. Apparently 'Emus' and 'Lumbagos' are not a good combination. Seriously, we hope the repairs to the Winnebago are minimal

John Denver's Car

John Barry, who purchased a car that once belonged to John has written the following

Hi just an update about the event I was going to participate in this september the Aussie supercruise has been postponed until September, 2007. The organisers have decided to run the event next year due to the facilities in Alice Springs are under redevelopment and won't be finished in time. So I probably won't be able to catch up with some members like I had hoped but I shall be able to meet up at the gathering at Boonah later on in the year.

Thanks for the update, John. September 2007 is not that far away and you will probably be glad that the event has been postponed as you would have more time to prepare for this gruelling trip. We are also looking forward to seeing the car in October in Boonah.

Linda's Sweet Dreams Place

Linda has created a new songpage. This month she has used one of my very favourite songs – Sweet Surrender.

<http://www.freewebs.com/sweetdreamsplace/sweetsurrender.html>

New Video on the Dutch JD Website

Another part of the 1992 Ray Martin interview is the latest clip. John discusses a range of subjects with Ray and the other guests, amongst them the student representative for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the Australian Clean-Up Day founder, Ian Kiernan. John also sings Potter's Wheel. <http://home.wanadoo.nl/mtenbrug/denver>

This is a wonderful interview and great quality.

Everybody's Talking About It...

The Youtube website has many video clips of John performing. Here is the link:

<http://youtube.com/>. Please return on a regular basis as new clips are being added on a regular basis. There are some really good clips on this site. Here is a snippet for you to check out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBcwAJZGXsk>

Great News about Tegan

I have written about Tegan, one of our favourite John Denver fans a couple of times this year, after 'meeting' her and her sister, Glenys through a newspaper article written by Neil Kearney in Melbourne. Although Tegan and Glenys have many special needs, it is always great news to hear of their achievements. Tegan has been making great headway with her walking and she has surprised everyone this week. This is what Tegan (through her mum, Judith) has to say:

"I have continued to delight Mum, Dad and Poppy with my new achievement. I come out of my bedroom from my standing position listening to John Denver at my chest of drawers and walk into where ever whenever I want to!!!! And then if I feel like it I turn around unassisted and walk back to my room."

Congratulations, Tegan. We are all very proud of you.

Peace Cloth Event, Aspen, 2006

Join us for an afternoon of Peace! The John Denver Peace Cloth is proud to present our annual concert and silent auction in support of the Peace Cloth.

When: October 13, 2006, 1-5PM

Where: Mountain Chalet Ballroom, Aspen, CO

Special Guests: Chris Collins and Mark Cormican, performing the music of the "Back Home Again" album, Bevan Gardiner, a talented young man from New Zealand, Jack Knight & the 3KR Band, a wonderful singer/songwriter

Presentation of the annual Peace Cloth Vision Award. Other surprises to be announced

As always, special John Denver items will be available for purchase and any donations to the silent auction will be gratefully accepted. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering at our event. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased in advance by emailing Eve Kleinfeld at Eve@Johndenverpeacecloth.com or can be bought at the door on the day of the event

Hope to see you there!

John Adams Concert, Aspen 2006

I would like to let you know that tickets for my 8th Annual tribute to the Live & Music of John Denver, "ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH" on Sunday, October 15, 2006 at the Historic Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, will go on sale on MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006 at 10:00 am.

Call the Historic Wheeler Opera House at +1-970-920-5770 for reservations or order your tickets on-line at www.wheeleroperahouse.com

I am looking forward to seeing you all at my show!

Take Care, JOHN ADAMS

Tribute Concert – Britain, 14-15 July 2006

On July 14 and 16, 2006, Pete Huttlinger, Chris Nole, Mack Bailey, Neil & Gill Sharman and Ray Freeman performed John Denver tribute concerts in Kirkby-in-Cleveland, North Yorkshire. Some photos from this event are available at the following site.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/moonstarjd/sets/72157594204932025/>

Annual Beach Cleanup – Pacific Grove

It's hard to believe that it's July already, and time to gear up for the annual Beach Cleanup and Tribute Weekend in Pacific Grove on **Columbus Day Weekend - October 9, 2006.**

We'll be gathering again at John Denver Beach (the turnout on Ocean View Blvd., between

Acropolis and Asilomar) at 11:00 am for the beach cleanup, followed by a picnic. (We're still deciding if we're going to split up this year and go to Lovers Point Park for lunch, or stay at the beach like we did last year. What are your thoughts?)

Later, starting at 5pm, we'll be at the beach for the Memorial Tribute, with the moment of silence at 5:28pm. We'll be reading the letters from Aspen, Australia and Pacific Grove, and remembering the life, work and music of John Denver.

Dinner will be at Gianni's afterwards, as usual.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Debra at PixieDmyr@aol.com.

And please feel free to pass this email along to any of your JD friends that you believe haven't gotten onto this email list and may not know about our gathering!

Peace, Love and Understanding -

John Denver: The Legacy Continues...



Volunteers Wanted - Aspen 2006

Volunteers are needed for two very important events in Aspen this year. If you can help, please do not hesitate to contact these people.

John Denver Sanctuary Clean Up
It's been said something like you do what you can do, I'll do what I can do and together we can make a visual difference in the John Denver Sanctuary on Thursday, October 12th beginning at 9:00 a.m. lasting until about 12 noon. I need 15 to 20 people to volunteer for the work detail. I don't have the specifics of the projects that we will be working. I would imagine we will be doing similar tasks as we have in the past. Please email me at Curtis.Griffy@quidant.com so that I can add your name to the list of volunteers.

For more information please click this link:

<http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=3251&id=6>

Also, don't forget you can make a tax deductible (US Tax payers) donation to help fund plantings to

help dress up Windstar. If you are moved to help out in this way send a cheque to Windstar with a note that these funds are for plants/perennials. Cheques are to be made out to Windstar and posted to

Windstar Foundation
PO Box 656
Snowmass, CO 81654

Windstar open Day

Hello everyone! It's getting closer and closer to our special time in Aspen and I can't wait. I hope that you guys are as excited as I am. It's time, once again, to solicit volunteers to help out at the annual Windstar Celebration on **Sunday, October 15** out at the Windstar Land. You must be a member of Windstar to volunteer that day - and if you're not a member of Windstar yet - you can join! Yay! The more the merrier! Volunteers are needed for several things: setting up, cleaning up, the silent auction, merchandise sales, check in table, refreshment helper, and parking-hand-waving person (oh yes, this is a FUN job)! See... there are lots of things to help out with for a short or long shift! Heck - you can help out all day long if you want to - I will be! We'd love to have you - so come on out. If you can help us out that day - please email Deb Perry at aspeninOctober@wowway.com and she will hook you up! Now, if you don't want to volunteer, but you want to come out to spend the day with us - we want you too! This year, we'll have lots of great music for you as usual, cool things you can bid on at the auction, groovy Windstar merchandise you can buy to take home and show off, the John Denver Peace Cloth, and... drum roll... something new and fun and exciting and challenging all at the same time... a Scavenger Hunt on the Windstar Land... Follow the clues from point to point and learn about Windstar while you're at it! You might even win a prize! This will be held weather permitting, of course.. so keep your fingers crossed for a gorgeous autumn day! Soooooo... please join us on Sunday for a wonderful day filled with memories, music and friends... You'll be glad you did! And so will I!!! Love - Shari APokey1@aol.com Shameless solicitation to follow.....

If you have anything that you'd like to donate to the silent auction that will be held that day.. Please do! Send it to Debbie Murphy at Windstar! She'll be SO happy AND so will the lucky person who wins the bid on YOUR donation that day! Yay!

Symphony in the Valley

We are excited and proud to announce the addition of country star, KATHY MATTEA joining the John Denver band with the "Symphony in the Valley" for the Friday, **October 13, 2006**

performance of the 9th Annual "A Musical Tribute to John Denver" at the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, CO. We need your immediate help to spread the word to all John Denver fan club family and friends by forwarding the attached announcement email ASAP to your distribution lists and address books. We want to get the message out to as many folks as possible now that Kathy is joining us for the Friday performance while tickets for the Friday show are still available.

More Forthcoming John Denver Events

August 26, 2006 - Blakely Island, WA - John Denver Tribute featuring Mack Bailey, Mollie Weaver, Chris Nole, Pete Huttlinger, John Sommers, Kenn Roberts and Chris Engleman
<http://www.mackbailey.com/schedule.htm#aspen>

August 26, 2006 - Lake Tahoe, CA - "Dancing with the Mountains" Celebrating the music of John Denver 8:00am - 10:00pm \$15 / Activities/ Concerts / Movies / Camping / Food & Fun. Tahoe Valley Campground / 1175 Melba Drive / South Lake Tahoe (530) 541-2222 * Laurie Kern (916) 416-3547

September 1, 2006 - Carbondale, CO - Mack Bailey will play at Steve's Guitars / 19 S. 4th St / Carbondale, CO 81623 \$20 - reservations recommended 970-963-3304

September 3, 2006 - Fort Collins, CO - Brad and Kathy Fitch and their TropiCowboy Band - Concert of John Denver's music 6:00pm Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive / Fort Collins, CO 80526 * (970) 221-6644
www.cowboybrad.com

September 16, 2006 - UK - John Denver Music by Neil and Gill Sharman / Arden Hall, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, West Midlands, England / <http://www.timberwolf-studios.com>
Info: neilandgill@timberwolf-studios.com

October 8, 2006 / Pacific Grove, CA - 9th Annual John Denver Beach Clean Up and Memorial Tribute / John Denver Beach / The turnout on Ocean View Blvd. between Acropolis and Asilomar. Clean Up and picnic starting at 11:00am / John Denver Memorial Tribute 5:00pm / Dinner at Gianni's after the Tribute. Debra PixieDmyr@aol.com

October 21, 2006 / Pilot Mountain, NC - 8:00pm "An Evening With Christopher Westfall" - Sawbriar Acoustic Stage, a coffeehouse-styled venue. 111 East Main Street \$10 <http://chriswestfall.com>
www.sawbriar.com

October 28, 2006 / Annapolis, MD - 6th Annual "Music From the Mountains" - a tribute to John Denver / The Hard Travelers and friends / Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts 8:00pm Tickets not yet on sale / www.mdhallarts.org
<http://www.musicunites.com>

October 28, 2006 - UK - John Denver Tribute Charity Concert by Neil & Gill Sharman / The Gladstone Theatre, Port Sunlight, near Birkenhead, Merseyside, England
<http://www.timberwolf-studios.com>
neilandgill@timberwolf-studios.com

November 11, 2006 - Vero Beach, FL - "Music From the Mountains" - A Tribute to John Denver / Benefit Concert for Indian River Memorial Hospital / The Wax Lax Center at St. Edwards School / 1895 St. Edward's Drive Tickets: \$150 & \$250 include a reception, dinner, silent and live auctions (772) 567-4311 <http://www.irhf.org>
Indian River Hospital Foundation
<http://www.musicunites.com/Schedule.htm>

November 11, 2006 UK "Denver Day" - Coventry / Performances by Brad & Kathy Fitch / Info: president@fojd.org.uk <http://www.fojd.org.uk>

December 3-10, 2006 - Richard Hatch's (not the Survivor!) Jammin' Jamaican Adventure Cruise / From Miami, FL to the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and back. <http://www.richardhatch.com>

December 9, 2006 - UK - Neil & Gill Sharman's annual songs for Christmas Show. The Scout Hall, Chapelton, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. 3pm
<http://www.timberwolf-studios.com>
neilandgill@timberwolf-studios.com

John Denver's Bench, California

For anyone visiting Pacific Grove over the next few months, you might be interested in seeing the bench dedicated to John. This is situated at the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary at Pacific Grove. <http://www.pacificgrove.org/dirpages/butterflywatching.htm>. Being in Pacific Grove during the incredible migration of the monarch butterflies would be an experience in itself and one that I am hoping to have in 2007.

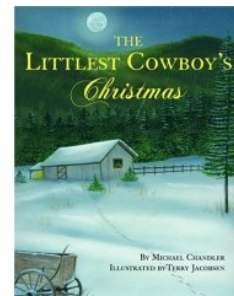


The Littlest Cowboy's Christmas

A new picture book called **The Littlest Cowboy's Christmas** will be available soon from Amazon. Here is a description of the book:

Author Michael Chandler and his young son, Preston, spent many winter afternoons working a snow plough through the drifts of Colorado snow

near their Little Woody Creek horse ranch. Sometimes they made paths for cars, for people, or for cattle, and sometimes they just made paths for fun. One day they decided to clear a road that led to a snowbound home. The owner, a rugged cowboy named Joe Henry, asked if someone had hired them. When they said no, the cowboy smiled, and they all became fast friends. A few weeks later, Joe Henry--a one-time miner, hockey player, and sailor who now wrote cowboy poetry--invited them to his Christmas Eve celebration. The party was held in Joe's barn in honor of his horse, Lefty, who was to enjoy his annual Christmas carrot and oats pie. Another man and his son had also been invited. What occurred that magical evening was to be the most memorable Christmas Eve in Michael Chandler's life . . . an evening of live acoustic music in the Rocky Mountains with John Denver! The three men, two boys, and one horse enjoyed each other's company with stories, song, food, laughter, and peaceful silence. John Denver, known to the author's son only as a "guitar playing fella," completed the evening with a peaceful rendition of "Silent Night." His version of the song is included as a CD in *The Littlest Cowboy's Christmas*. This heartwarming true story evokes the special spirit of Christmas and is a celebration of the simple pleasures of good music and good friends. John Denver fans will especially appreciate this glimpse at his life "offstage," when he was simply a "guitar fella."



Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter.

This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.

This month's song is one of my personal favourites and is the theme song for higher Ground Australia.

Higher Ground

There are those who can live with
The things they don't believe in
They are giving up their lives
For something that is less than it can be
Some have longed for a home
In a place of inspiration
Some will fill the emptiness inside
By giving it all to the things that they believe
They believe

Maybe it's just the dream in me
Maybe it's just my style
Maybe it's just the freedom that I've found
But given the possibility
Of livin' up to the dream in me
You know that I'll be reaching for higher ground

I will stand on my own
I will live up to this vision
I will trust in what I feel
And follow my heart until it brings me home
Bring me home

Maybe it's just a dream in me...

Keep me through the night
Lead me to the light
Teach me the magic of wonder
Give me the spirit to fly

Maybe it's just a dream in me...

Maybe it's just a dream in me...

THE TRAVELLING WILSONS

*We were driving along the "Savannah Way"
Under an early Kimberly moon
And just as the sun was about to set
We found a roadhouse in a place called Doon Doon*

*The management was obviously prepared to go all out
To attract the tourists passing through
A power site was only \$14.00 a night
And the amenities were not only clean but new*

*It was a long drive to Hall's Creek
Where the Canning stock route is quite near
And we couldn't do a flight over the Bungle Bungles,
The operators haven't worked all year*

*We were told about an overnight stop a little bit further on
Called Mary Pool so on to there we will push
It was a popular spot by a creek, but I couldn't watch the
deciding state of origin there's no reception in the bush*

*Fitzroy Crossing is where the explorers
imagined an Inland Sea,
Sadly their efforts to find it only brought sorrow
There's a rodeo on in town today
So there will be some sore old cowboys tomorrow*

*We took a cruise through Gekie gorge with its high
limestone walls and freshwater crocks basking in the heat
Then we drove up to Derby and booked a flight over
The Buccaneer Archipelago which really should be neat*

*Now it seems that when the moon and sun are at right
angles to the earth
You get a "neap tide" so they say
And the tide up here reach eleven metres
So it's pretty bare when the waters away*

*On the day we arrived in Derby
It was Boab Mardi Gras day
And the parade went down the main street
With all the floats on display*

*Schools and services as well as the TAFE,
And families lining the road both black and white
With smiles on their face it was a big event
And it went on till late in the night*

*Our flight is going to be in a very very small plane
So we had to be up pretty early the next day
And they individually weighed us to balance the load,
Then soon we were up and away*

*Our pilot's name was Bernie
And he had 900 flying hours under his belt
He said it should be a fairly smooth ride
If only he knew how my stomach felt*

*We flew over the horizontal waterfall
Where water flows through a very narrow neck
And then landed at beautiful Cape Leveque
For a swim and have some lunch on the deck*

BROOME

*The Lumbago rolled into Broome at last
So now for some sun and sand and fun
The Caravan Park at Cable Beach
Has 480 sites and they gave us the last one!*

*We just had to go down onto cable Beach
With the entire crowd to watch the sun disappear
There were four wheel drives for as far as you could see,
The ladies sipping wine and the men drinking beer*

*You can ride on a camel along the beach
That's one thing Carmel want's to do
So I'll take pity on the poor old beast
And wait on the beach till she's through*

*It was good to finally get a safe swim in the surf,
It was calm with just the occasional wave
And I was enjoying myself like a big old whale
Floating about on an energy save*

*When one rogue wave lifted me up
And deposited me about a metre or two away
My left leg came down hard into the sand
And the rest of me continued towards the bay*

*I could feel my knee joint give a twist
And thought nothing of it at the time
But a few hours later when walking back to the Lumbago
I knew all was not fine*

*For what I'd been dreading the whole time
We've been away was painfully letting me know
That I'd better rest up and take the weight off it
For a while and give the ache time to go*

*But we're on holidays and you can't just sit around
So I'll have to devise a plan
I know I'll hire a car, nothing too big
And I'll get one cheap as I can*

*So we've got a Toyota "Echo" and it is pretty small -
Just a bit bigger than a bubble
But it will certainly do us and give the knees a spell
And save us a lot of trouble*

*When the moon is full and rising
And the tides all the way out
And the mudflats are exposed to the air
The staircase to the moon
Occurs only a few times every year
And the people all flock to be there*

*As the moon rises above the horizon
The beam of light on the remaining pools of water
Give a staircase effect
The view we had was excellent
And when a digeradoo played in the background
It gave a true aussie aspect*

*Broome was founded on the mother of pearl
And some big fortunes were made as well
But the invention of plastic in the USA
Put an end to the demand for the shell*

*In the 1970's the Japanese developed a way
To culture the pearl in a farm
And Mr Mikimoto and friends turned the industry around
And gave Broome's pearls word wide charm*

*We did a tour to a local pearl farm
And they explained how their pearls are nurtured with care
And produce the finest pearls in the world,
Lustre, size and shape are all there*

*One place gave us a pearl to pass around
It was worth a over a hundred grand
You could have your picture taken and pass it on,
I nearly had to prise it out of Carmel's hand*

*There was a race meeting in Broome one day
So we went with our friends Don and Di
And after the third race we were miles in front
With winners to Carmel and I*

*We had a great day and left with more than we took in,
Now you can't do better than that
Winners are grinners so they say
So we all had a Chinese meal to celebrate and spent the
lot in no time flat*

THE PILBARA

*We'll never know what Port Smith was like
The road is unsealed for over 20ks
We started off hoping that it might improve
But when it shook the lumbago to bits
We decided to turn back and try other ways*

*The road into eighty-mile beach was also unsealed
But they do grade it after every good rain
The problem was it hadn't rained for months
And the four wheel drives had it corrugated and rutted
again*

*So we just took our time it was only 10Ks
And finally we were within reach
But there were no power sites left at all,
So they parked us a sand hill away from the beach*

*I'd filled up the water tank in Broome
So I knew we'd have plenty to spare
And the solar panels on the roof charge
The house batteries up so there'd be no bother there*

*We've even got a 12 volt TV
And there's two channels to choose from I hope
But I can't get the ABC tonight
So I'll miss Andrew Denton's "Enough Rope"*

*Here on the beach when the tide is way out
The ladies gather the many varieties of shell
Then on the high tide the "Big Rods" come out
And the men try their luck in the swell*

*There were anglers up and down the beach
All trying to tempt a fish to its fate
But not a soul caught a fish that day
And the only one to prosper was the local shop selling bait*

PORT HEADLAND

*Port Headland where they mine the iron ore
And salt and ship loads away overseas
But the iron ore dust covers everything in town
Whenever there's an on shore breeze*

*There's not a house or a tree in town
That can escape the reddish brown dust
Even the local hospital that overlooks the sea
Has a dirty brown crust*

*Needless to say we were both keen to move on.
Yes, they can have it for mine
It's just the iron ore that keeps them all here
And they breathe it in all the time*

*Just behind town, away from the brown,
Is a Salt mine with stockpiles several stories high
Talk about a contrast with the mountains of white
Reaching up to the sky*

POINT SAMSON

*We decided to head a bit further down the coast
And arrived at Point Samson in the late afternoon
It's school holidays here in WA and the parks are all full
But they kindly found us some room*

*It was close to the water with some nice sandy beaches
So we booked in for a three-night stay
And there's a famous seafood restaurant there
With take away meals that's only 300 metres away*

*We have noticed as we've been driving along
That the wildflowers were beginning to bloom
And the Stuart Desert Pea was growing on
Each side of the road wherever It could find some room*

*It looks like we will have to go see the movie "Cars"
For it's our grandson "Liam's" favourite show
He's collecting the set and there's some he can't get
So were checking out the stores wherever we go*

*We left Point Samson and drove to Cossack,
An old historic town with buildings
That have stood the test of time
Once it was a thriving port during the pearling days
But when the fleet shifted to Broome
That saw its decline*

KARATHA

*We continued on to Karatha it's all spread out
But centres on its shopping complex and mineral export
We found some cars there that Liam hasn't got
And continued on the Dampier, another shipping port*

*There's a cove called Hearsons there
And I don't care if I ever see it again
We drove in for a look on a huge sandy beach
And I don't know what went on in my brain*

*I reversed the lumbago and went to drive out
And got nicely bogged in the sand
I tried all ways to get out but it was only getting worse
I knew I needed a hand*

Along came a family in a 4wheel drive, who had a tow rope,
"Would you like some help to move your bus?"
His wife had a glass of wine in her hand and he had a can of beer
She called him "Nugget" and he certainly was a lucky strike for us

He hooked his Toyota to the Lumbago and pulled
But it just refused to budge
So we dug away some sand and packed rocks
In front of the tyres then gave it another nudge

The Lumbago slowly rolled forward
When "Nugget" gave it the gun the second time
He was just happy to help out and
Wouldn't accept payment
So we gave his wife a bottle of Rosemount wine

My sister Rosemary is holidaying in Europe
And visiting our Aunt and her family in England
She called us up when she arrived there
And we spoke to them all – it was grand

It was getting late and the sun was about to set
But we wanted to continue another 100 kilometres away
We arrived at Fortescue Roadhouse at 6.30pm
It wasn't much but a nice relief at the end of an interesting day

THE NORTH WEST COAST

Our next stop was at Onslow,
A little village by the sea,
And once again we got the last power site for the night
We spent some time on the beach
And collected more shells
I tried to get the Sunday paper
But it comes in tomorrow "that'd be right"

We needed some fuel so I stopped at a roadhouse
Along the great northern highway
And had to pay \$1.84 per litre
So I only bought \$50.00 worth just to get us to Exmouth
And it hardly moved the fuel meter

We took a trip on a glass bottom boat
On Ningaloo reef and I did some snorkelling as well
I have seen more colourful coral in the Pacific
But the fish were large
And I followed a green sea turtle for a spell

Then we drove to Cape Range National Park
And yes we got the last camp site at Osprey Bay
We were less than 30 metres from the ocean
And could see and hear the waves crashing on the reef,
all for ten bucks a night Yea!

We set up and had lunch then went to the beach
And had it all to ourselves for the rest of the day
I had a swim in the turquoise water,
We worked on our tan
And let the rest of the world slip away

Our very good friends Jean and Ash from North Haven
Have decided to join us in Perth for a spin
So were trying to find a park with a nice comfortable cabin
And room for the lumbago to squeeze in

It's our second day here And the wind has got up
So were not too keen to step out the door
The sun is still out and it's really quite warm
But there's a gusty wind onshore

So we'll sit and read till we get bored with that
And have a cuppa every now and then
Have a nap after lunch and wake up refreshed
Then do it all over again

Sadly we had to leave
The National Park at Exmouth
But we called in
To every beach on the way out

CORAL BAY

We arrived at Coral Bay and it was fully booked out
And getting a power site was highly in doubt
We had to take a non-power site next to the noisy
backpackers with their loud music and tent pitchin'
I spent an hour or more charging the phone,
laptop, video and camera batteries in the camp kitchen

Next morning it was time to leave but first we climbed up
to a lookout over the bay and the view was just grand
I decided to go snorkelling over the reef for a while
And Carmel was my body guard on the sand
Then I waited for an hour at the Tavern
While she took a ride in a sub to see the coral and the fish

CARNARVON

Our next move was to Carnarvon
And our first glimpse of the place in the setting sun
Was a huge disused satellite dish
We were weary after our long day
So we thought a feed of Chinese would do us
And we ended up at a flash pub restaurant by the water
Oh well it saves the fuss!

Next day on a tour of the town
We arrived at the one-mile jetty
And the wind was cool and brisk
For just a mere three dollars each
You can walk out on the old structure
At your own risk

We made it all the way out and back
It was really worthwhile and some nice views to see
Both of our old legs were like rubber in the end,
It felt more like five miles to me

We called in at "Woollies" and filled the fridge back up
Again at a reasonable price
Carmel cooked some corned meat for tea that night
And it filled us up just nice

SHARK BAY

It's the first time we've seen rain in weeks
As we drove into beautiful shark bay
This is where they feed the dolphins at Monkey Mia
Three times every day

We're here for four nights the weather might change
So we'll take a walk and keep an eye on the sky
Shark Bay has all four criteria for World Heritage status
and the Interactive Centre in Denham explains why

*The next day we were up and away to see the Dolphins
And perhaps be chosen to give one a munch
Carmel was lucky enough to be selected on the second
feed and gave "Nikky" a fish for brunch*

*I had my video running and tucked under my arm
And the digital camera clicking away
I just hope I managed to capture the moment
You don't get to do that everyday*

*We decided to have some morning tea ourselves
At the restaurant and chose a table out front in the sun
I placed the order for tea coffee and cakes and they said
They'd bring it out when it was done*

*It was beginning to get quite hot so we decided to move
back to a table in the shade
And begun to wonder at just how long it was taking to get
a cuppa and cake made*

*A couple who'd come in later than us
And had sat at the table in the sun
Had been given our order instead and when the bloke
seen the pecan pie he smartly begun*

*They were embarrassed to find out
That the order was ours
And they promptly paid for another piece of pie
It just goes to show that the decisions you make
Ad the service you get don't often comply*

*I wish we could say that we have caught some fish
But we haven't really wet a line
However the fish factory at Denham sells the local catch
Everyday and the whiting fillets tasted fine*

*KALBARRI
Completely surrounded by a national park
Is the picturesque town of Kalbarri right on the sea
When the season is right the wildflowers all bloom
In a carpet of colour that's something to see*

*Unfortunately for us there hadn't been enough rain
To bring them out in all their glory
So we'll have to rely on the pictures in the books
And the early ones for our story*

*A unique place to visit is Rainbow Jungle
where they breed Australian parrots then they're released
What a wonderful selection of birds on display
And the results show the numbers have increased*

*Our friends Don and Di have arrived in town
So we all went to the tavern for tea
Everyone else was drinking little pots of beer
But it was pints for Don and me*

*I had to be on my best behaviour because I had to drive
The lumbago back to the park
Position it just in the right spot
And then hook everything up in the dark*

*The next night we had a barbecue and Ross
Who was with us all in Darwin came along as well
There will be some laughs when I read out the poem,
And some travelling stories to tell*

*From a lookout on the beach
We saw a pod of at least five humpback whales
Heading north to the warmer waters
To give birth and kicking up their tales*

*We continued south and found
The fishing village of Horrocks
What a weird, terrible name
The fish and chips from the local shop was nice
On a cold day,
It might fine up so we'll stay here just the same*

*It was too cold and windy to go outside for a look
So we'll chill out inside for a bit
And have a quiet afternoon with the TV and books
So in the lumbago we'll sit*

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Alistair and Carmel are on their way to the capital of Western Australia. Although their adventure is coming to an end, they have a lifetime of experiences that they will share with us for years to come.