

Indian Pacific Margaret River Indulgence

Day 1. We were collected early from our Perth hotel (Parmelia Hilton) for a morning departure from Perth and took a scenic coastal drive through charming seaside towns.

A coffee break by the foreshore in Mandurah, then stopped to visit the Featured Wood Gallery in Bunbury showcasing artworks and furniture handcrafted using beautiful native West Australian timbers.

We then continued onto Busselton to enjoy a delicious lunch at 'The Ship Inn' followed by a leisurely walk along the longest timber pile jetty in the southern hemisphere stretching 1.8km out into picturesque Geographe Bay.

From there we travelled further south to the famous 'Margaret River Chocolate Company', with its beautiful handmade chocolate truffles and more.



Day 2: After a fab brekky at the Beach Cafe, we dropped by Surfers Beach, then the mouth of Margaret River before driving on to Mammoth Cave. Next stop the Leeuwin Lighthouse, John Z, Glenn and Chris braved the weather and took the challenge of climbing up and down 176 stairs to the Lighthouse Light Platform! Lunch was taken at The Colour Patch, the last restaurant in this corner of Australia as the sign board reminded us. Final stop was the Redgate Winery for a wine tasting. Later that evening we partied in the Zarembers' room for Chrissie's Birthday. It was a wet and windy day, but we made the most of it smiling through.

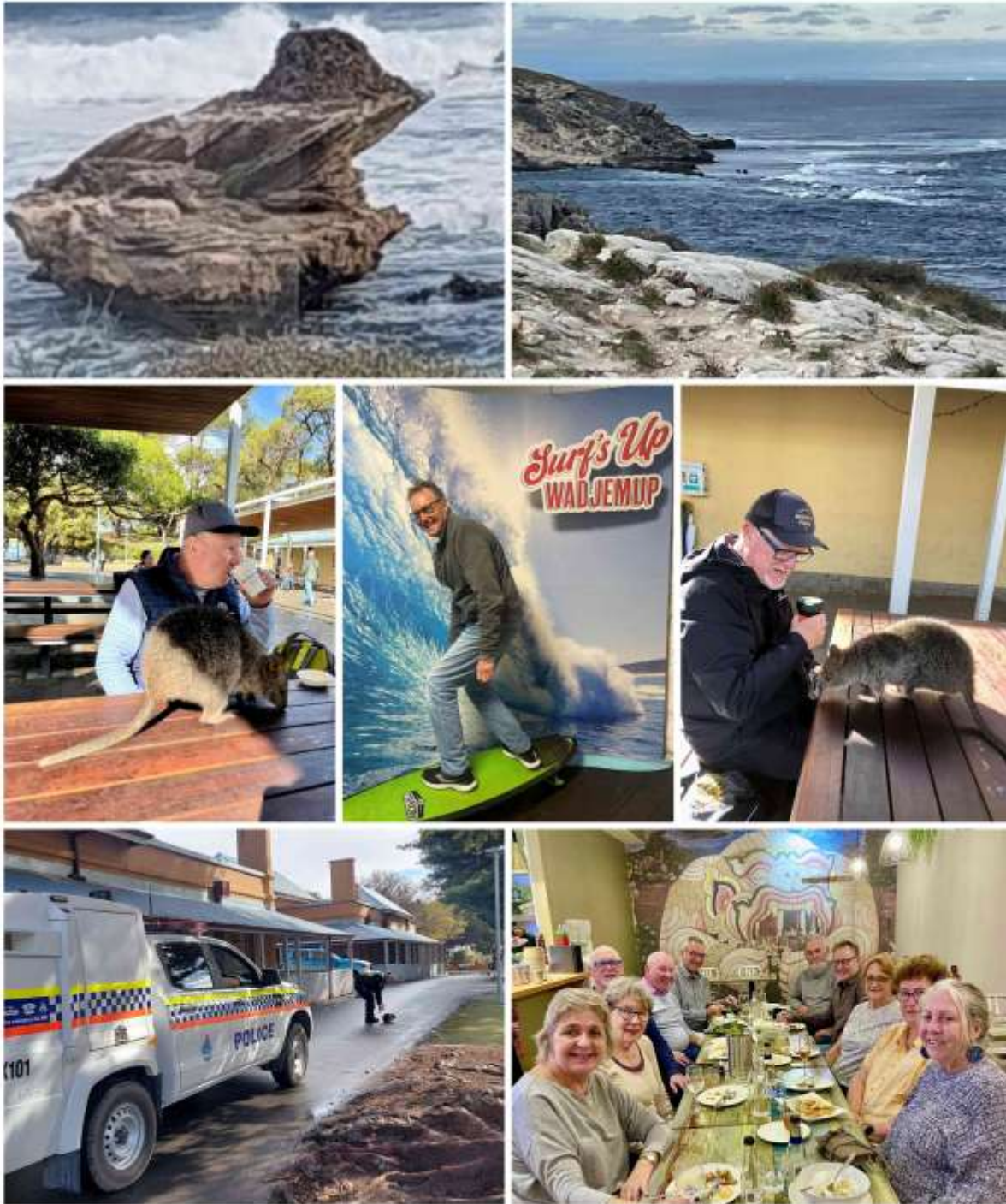


Day 3: After a top buffet breakfast at a Margaret River Hotel it was back on the bus. 1st stop was Yahava Koffee Works for a tasting of 3 coffee types. We all liked the iced Koffee syrup mix just add milk and stir in. 2nd stop was a family run Winery Brown Hill - good but no cigar. 3rd stop was at Edwards Wines with the restored Tiger Moth at the entrance. Much better wines here. Glenn and I shared a case. Then the final tasting of the day was of Olive Oil before another big lunch. Most of the afternoon was spent driving back to Perth.



Day 4 : the Trip to Rottnest Island via Freeo Dock. On Rottnest Island. A police car had to stop for a quokka in the road. Even the police are not allowed to touch them!

Then a fab Thai Dinner back in Perth.



Day 5: Perth to Kalgoorlie - after settling into our Cabins - we're in a row D1-5, we had drinks, lunch, drinks, tea, drinks and dinner and arrived at Kalgoorlie around 9pm. We were loaded into coaches and taken to the mining museum, which had some interesting things in it, if you could keep your eyes open! A Midnight bedtime.



Day 6: Kalgoorlie to Adelaide via Cook. I caught the Sun rising before we got to Cook. Interesting little ghost town with just 2 inhabitants now who work for the Trains. Back on the train it was soon cocktail hour with singer guitarist (she is very good!) getting us to sing along with her.



Day 7: Adelaide to Broken Hill: we started early, having to vacate the train at 7am so that Adelaide people could get off and on. 4 diff tours were offered. **Glenn** and I did the Adelaide Oval Tour which was great for us while Angie and **Mary** went up the Hills to Mt Lofty and back. **Derrick** & **Sue** did the City Sites and **Chrissie** and John did the market tour as did **Chris** and **Sharon**. Everyone enjoyed whatever they did. Back on the train with 6 new faces in the lounge car - 4 from Glenfield and 2 from the 'Gong! It's a small world after all. After lunch Brooke played her last set including my fave song "Way Out West". Then came the moment that Derrick never knew was coming - meeting Shelita Buffet - presenting her act of Drag Queen Bingo - a game of Who am I? And a song and a pat on the head for DB and an invitation, amongst others, to adjust her boobs as one had come adrift! JZ won a prize from the Train's Merch Cabinet for a bingo block! Then she was gone and we had arrived in Broken Hill. We opted for an early dinner and an early night - we had had too much fun!



Day 8: Wednesday we are all staying on the train to get back to Central by midday for the South Coast Line train home. It's been another terrific trip. Next year it's Outback Queensland, please think about joining us!