

## Karijini Trip Journal: 19-Jul to 31-Jul-18

### 19-Jul-18:

On our way North - first stop Cervantes: that's Cervantes island out there, named after a ship that was wrecked there, named after the Spanish author, Miguel de Cervantes, who wrote Don Quixote.

A bit more about Cervantes before I admit we have now moved on. Famous, of course, for the Pinnacles, which actually we didn't go to see this time (here's a photo from last time, in 2011). But we did check out the stromatolites in Lake Thetis, and admired Don Quixote standing tall at the entrance to the town.



I was surprised to find quite a few wildflowers in bloom as we travelled North. These only as far North as Jurien Bay.

### 20-Jul-18:

Called in to Greenough today. They've done a good job of preserving a range of buildings in Greenough Central. Then there's the "leaning tree" nearby. The cafe makes nice coffee!



Arrived in Geraldton, and checked out the HMAS Sydney II memorial - quite moving.



**21-Jul-18:**

Hutt River!!



Internet access has mostly been disabled (blamed by locals on the NBN arrival), so I've been a bit quiet. At Kalbarri, of course, we visited Nature's Window, as well as Hawk's Head and the cliffs, and the spot where the Murchison River enters the sea.





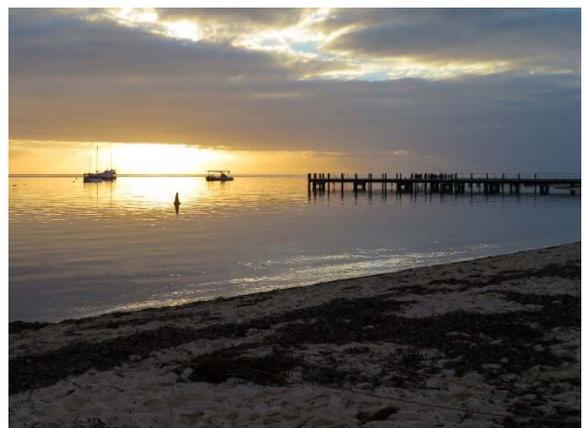
**22-Jul-18:**

At Hamlin Pool, saw more stromatolites, shell quarry & osprey.



**23-Jul-18:**

At Monkey Mia, got up early to feed the Dolphins (4 showed up of the 5 they currently cater for). [added another photo I forgot when I posted this - a dolphin eye-balling us!]





**24-Jul-18:**

At Carnarvon, visited the Space Station  
Very well done altogether.



Museum.

**25-Jul-18:**

Just left Coral Bay. Lovely spot. Went on the glass-bottom boat and also did some snorkelling.

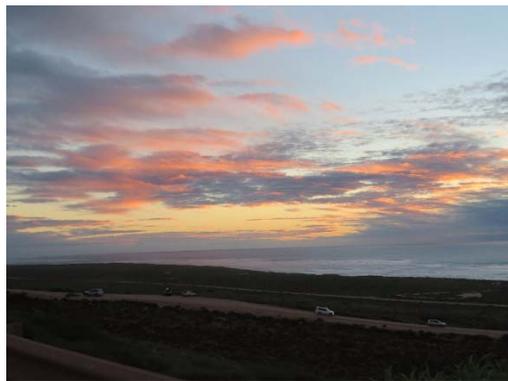


I had very little luck snorkelling on Ningaloo Reef at Coral Bay. The setting was stupendous - just walk off the beach into the reef! But I couldn't get the snorkel working properly, and kept getting a mouthful of water. But I did manage to film some fish, of which this was the clearest (being late in the day, the waters were a bit murky).

Many wildflowers out, including many places where they stretch on and on as a blanket.



Just been watching humpback whales on their migration North past Vlamingh Head (near NW Cape). I forgot we did some whale watching at sunset at Vlamingh Head, Exmouth (before heading for Karijini).



**26-Jul-18:**

Tenting at Karijini Eco Retreat. (no mobile coverage, no WiFi, no TV, no fridge, no heating, no air-conditioning - a truly amazing experience!). We did have an ensuite, behind the tent but accessible from within, open to the elements above head height. Hot shower but very cold surroundings in the morning! (now in Meekatharra, where we're connected to the world again!).



Karijini Eco Retreat - that's our tent, with our very own anthill out the back.

**27-Jul-18:**

Scenery of the gorges is wonderful! Joffre is within walking distance of our tent. Others we visited include Wittenoom, Red, Hancock, Weano, Dales. I descended into Joffre & Weano & Dales. The "amphitheatre" at the head of Joffre was superb, and Fortescue Falls in Dales gorge gorgeous (of course!).



Here's a map derived from Google Satellite view, showing the main gorges we explored (and the relationship to the old town-site of Wittenoom).



Dinner at Karijini Eco Retreat last night. Barramundi for Helen, mine were the sausages - (from R to L) Crocodile, EMU, Kangaroo.



**28-Jul-18:**

In Dales Gorge, you can see strips of blue asbestos in the rocks (safe as long as you leave it intact!).



**29-Jul-18:**

Lots of wide-open spaces up in the Pilbara, Murchison, etc! And lots and lots of trucks carting huge loads up from Perth (suggests that mining is back in vogue).



Still more wildflowers 😊

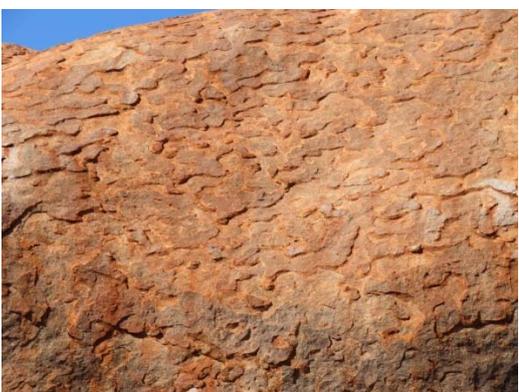


**30-Jul-18:**

Today, we travelled from Meekatharra to Dalwallinu, stopping at Cue (Helen's rellies have history here; her father was actually born in Meeka). Some lovely substantial civic buildings, plus the biggest free-standing 2-storey corrugated iron building in the Southern Hemisphere - the Masonic Lodge (now National Trust).



Took a diversion from Cue to visit Walga Rock, 2nd-biggest monolith in Australia after Uluru; lots of aboriginal paintings, including a curious sailing ship (not a recent addition!).



Final stop before home, at Dalwallinu. Staying at The Old Convent, on the edge of town. Really nice! And 2-course dinner (roast pork) was marvellous.

