

## A journey across the Nullarbor

[illegible]

# Across the Nullabor

To most people the Nullabor is a 1850km road that takes you from South Australia to Western Australia. I have been across the Nullabor many times but have always been in a hurry to get to the windsurfing area's of Western Australia.

The temperatures in summer(November to February) can reach 45 degrees, if you are travelling west the sun is hot through the drivers window. In the late afternoon the sun is directly on the road making it hard to see where you are going

This time i have chosen a cooler time in May when i am able to take my time and have a good look at the Nullabor. This trip took over a month to do, previously i crossed the nullabor in 3 days.

# The Equipment.

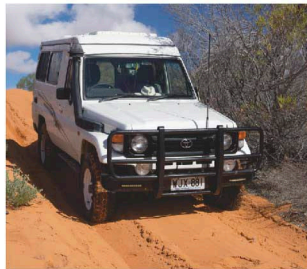
My vehicle is a Toyota pop top camper with dual 90 litre fuel tanks ,and a 50 litre water tank.

The vehicle can sleep four people with the roof extended, it has a cooker, sink, fridge, storage cupboards for food utensils and clothing.

The vehicle has a 150 watt solar panel and a 3000 watt inverter for 240 volt power, it also has dual batteries so as to keep the fridge going day and night.

I have recovery equipment consisting of a snatch strap, high lift jack, Max trax, long handled shovel and an exhaust air jack.

Safety equipment is a first aid kit, fire blanket, 2 fire extinguishers one at the front and one at the back, a satellite phone and UHF radio.

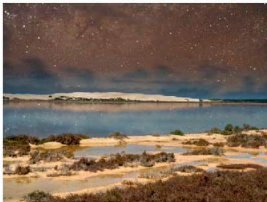
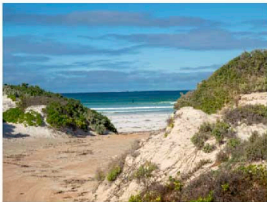


The Waterpump Windmills in Penong.



The track across the Pink and the Blue Lake at Cactus.





## Cactus

Cactus has a campsite and 5 surf breaks Cunn's, Cactus, Castles, Caves, and Crushers. I have surfed Cunn's and Caves.

Page left:  
Top left: Entrance to Shelly Beach.

Bottom left: Point Sinclair.

Top right: The Milky Way over Cunn's.

Bottom right: Cactus Surfing Reserve.

Page right: All Surfing pictures of Caves.







## Fowlers Bay

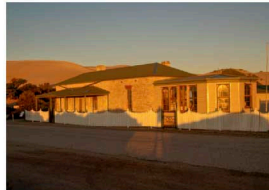
Fowlers Bay was known as Yalata until 1940. It has a large jetty which has been extended over the years. The Overland Telegraph Repeater Station was built here in 1875. Fowlers bay has large sand dunes that are constantly moving towards the town.

Top left; Track through the sand dunes.

Top right; The Fowlers Bay Jetty.

Bottom right; The old Overland Telegraph Station.

Left; The road / track onto Fowlers Bay.





Animal warning sign on the Nullabor.



NEXT 96 km



# Whale Watching

Southern Right Whale

Pygmy Blue Whale

Humpback Whale

Breeding

Grounds

105°E  
1000

120°E  
1100

135°E  
1200

150°E  
1300

165°E  
1400

Indian ocean

Pacific ocean

YOU ARE HERE





## Head of the Bight

The head of the Great Australian Bight is where the Southern Right Whales come, from mid May to September to calf and feed there young before heading back south for winter.

Top left; A whale slapping its tail.

Top right; Mum and calf swimming together.

Bottom left; A white whale using its blowhole.

Page Right; Mum and calf swimming together.





### Old Nullabor Roadhouse

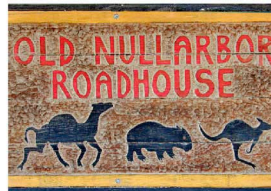
The old Nullabor roadhouse is on the old dirt track that crossed the Nullabor, it was important for fuel and supplies. The new road across the Nullabor is further south and bitumenised..

Top left; Track to Cook from Koonalda Station.

Top right; The last menu at the Old Nullabor Roadhouse.

Bottom right; Sign at the old Nullabor Roadhouse.

Page Left; The old Nullabor roadhouse.







## Koonalda station

Koonalda station started as a grazing station and became train station and a place for supplies for people crossing the Nullabor on the old track.

Top left; Track to Koonalda Station.

Top right; Koonalda Station homestead.

Bottom left; the old cars that did not make it across the Nullabor.

Page Right; The Koonalda Cave .







### Nullabor bush

People say there is not a lot to see when crossing the Nullabor, if you take your time and look you will find lots to see.

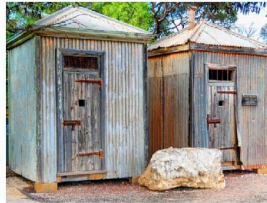
Top left; Sturt Dessert Pea.

Top right; Spider web.

Bottom right; Spider webs in the morning dew.

Page Left; Sunrise on the Nullabor.





## Cook

Cook is a town in South Australia which is the changeover point for the train drivers for the Trans Australian Railway from east to Western Australia.

Top left: The Cook gaol lockups.

Top right: The Cook school.

Bottom right: Memorial to Murray Sims who served 28 yrs on the railway at Cook.

Page Left: Cook hospital was demolished due to asbestos.





## The Bunda Cliffs.

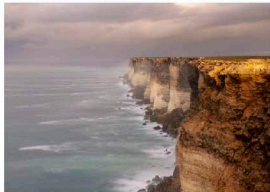
The Bunda Cliffs form a part of the world's longest uninterrupted line of limestone sea cliffs between the Nullarbor Plain and the Great Australian Bight.

Top left: The Marine park sign.

Top right: The limestone cliffs.

Bottom left: Sunrise on the limestone cliffs.

Right: The crumbling cliffs.





The Bunda limestone cliffs of the  
great Australian Bight



## Eucla

The town of Eucla was formed around the overland telegraph station in 1877. The Telegraph Station had to convert the code from American code to international code.

Top left; The Eucla Hotel and Amber restaurant, the restaurant is good for some tucker because the border people take all your fresh food.

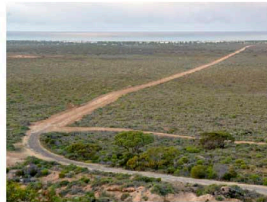
Bottom right; The Amber water garden.

Top right; The Whale Statue at Eucla.

Page Left; The S.A and W.A border.







## The overland Telegraph Station at Eucla

A rabbit plague ate away the vegetation holding the sand dunes together. The sand is now encroaching on the Telegraph Station.

Page left; The Remains of the Telegraph Station.

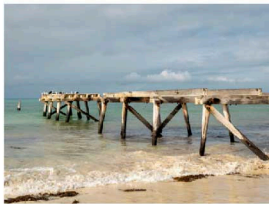
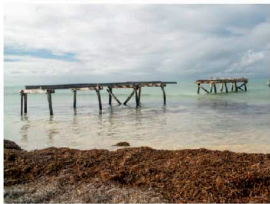
Top right; The sand in the Telegraph Station.

Bottom right; The sand in the Telegraph Station.

Top Left; The track to the Telegraph Station.







## The old Jetty at Eucla

Built in 1887, the old Eucla jetty was once used by sail and steam ships to bring stores from Albany and Esperance. It was also used to export wool and Sandalwood from out of the Eucla region.

Top left; The Eucla jetty.

Bottom left; The sand dunes.

Top right; Cormorants resting in the sun on the jetty

Page Right; Waves through the Eucla jetty.





## The Nullabor

Nullabor means "no trees" in Latin, but the Nullabor is covered with bluebush and mulga scrub, and even wildflowers after rain. There are wild camels, kangaroos and emus.

Top left: The long road.

Top right: The Milky Way over the Nullabor.

Bottom right: Sunrise on the Nullabor.

Page Left: Sign for the Nullabor from the western end.





## Roadtrains

Roadtrains drive across the Nullabor mainly during the night, late morning and early afternoon. I have a uhf radio to communicate with the truck driver making it safe for me and them to pass.

Top left; Mining road train.

Bottom left; Oversize Roadtrain.

Top right; Roadtrain overtaking me.

Page right; Roadtrain delivering fuel to the roadhouse





## Wildlife

There are wild camels, kangaroos and emus that roam across the Nulabor. The crows and raptors seem to follow the blacktop looking for roadkill.

Top left; Crows eating road kill.

Top right; Wedgetailed eagle.

Bottom right; Big red kangaroo.

Page Left; A Camel.





## Cocklebiddy

Cocklebiddy is a roadhouse with accommodation and a caravan park, its water supply comes from underground lakes via a desalination plant.

Cocklebiddy is said to have the longest cave in the world, a cave which is over 6 km long with over 90% of the cave is underwater.

Top left; The Track to the caves.

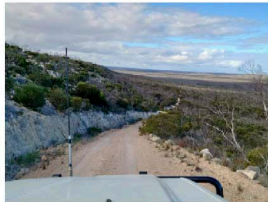
Top right; The entrance to the caves.

Bottom left; Cocklebiddy caves sign.

Page Right; The Cocklebiddy Roadhouse.







## Eyre Bird Observatory

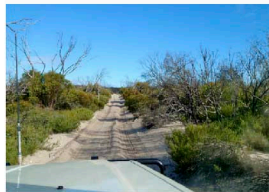
The Eyre Bird Observatory is a remote research station, to collect information about birds and wildlife. It is the most isolated research facility in Australia.

Top left; The descent down the escarpment.

Bottom right; The sand track to the Eyre Bird Observatory.

Top right; Green bottle junction.

Left; Track warning sign to the Eyre Bird Observatory.







## Eyre Bird Observatory

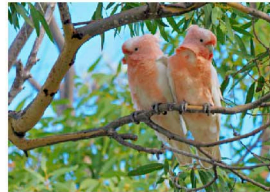
Eyre Telegraph Station was built in 1877, and replaced by the current limestone building in 1897. The Observatory has a museum showing the role the Telegraph Station had in communications between S.A. and W.A.

Top left; Major Mitchell bird.

Top right; The Eyre weather station.

Bottom right; Pair of Major Mitchells.

Page left; The Welcome to the Bird Observatory sign.





## Eyre Bird Observatory

The Bird Observatory has several walking tracks through the dunes and to the beach. Accommodation is available but you must book in advance. Day visitors are welcome.

Top left; A raptor.

Top right; Lizard.

Bottom left; Resident snake.

Page Right; The Honeymoon suite.





## Eyre Bird Observatory

Eyre Telegraph Station was built in 1877, and replaced by the current limestone building in 1897. The Observatory is run by volunteers who cater for guests and monitor the birds and rainfall.

Top left; Track to Kanidale beach.

Top right; The Eyre Bird Observatory.

Bottom right; The Old Telegraph Station.

Page Left; The Sand dunes at sunset.





## Twilight Cove

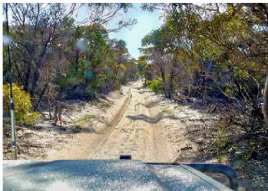
Not wanting to chance going along Kanidale beach as i am travelling by myself, i am taking the track back up to Cocklebidy to get to Twilight Beach.

Top left: The beach and cliffs at Twilight Cove.

Top right: The sand dunes at Twilight Cove.

Bottom left: The track to Twilight Cove.

Page Right: Sand dunes and cliffs at Twilight Cove.





## Baxter Cliffs

The Baxter cliffs were named after John Baxter a companion of John Eyre, John Baxter was killed by natives (aboriginals) at Baxter Cliffs.

Top left; Caiguna Blowhole.

Top right; The John Baxter Memorial plaque.

Bottom right; Toolinna Cove.

Page Left; Baxter Cliffs







## The Bilbunya sand dunes

The Bilbunya dunes are about 100 metres high and about 5km long. The sand dunes are undisturbed and just beautiful to see and photograph.

Top left; A whale carcass on the beach.

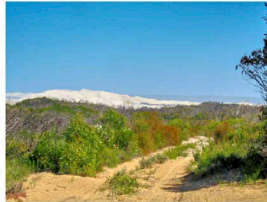
Top right; Bilbunya sand dunes.

Bottom left; Bilbunya sand dunes.

Page Right; The Bilbunya sand dunes, no footprints, no tyre tracks.







## Bilbunya Dunes

The Bilbunya dunes are very large sand dunes (100 metres) you can go along the beach to pass them there are conveyor belts laid on the sand to help you come off the beach.

Top left; The track to the Bilbunya dunes

Bottom right; Track to Wattle Camp.

Top right; The track onto the beach.

Page Left; The Bilbunya Dunes.





## Israelite Bay

Israelite Bay telegraph station was originally built in wood in 1876, the station at Israelite Bay was replaced with a stone structure in 1896.

The jetty was used to bring supplies from Albany.

Top; right; The Overland Telegraph Station.

Left; The Arch and the fireplace in the Overland Telegraph Station.

Page right; The old jetty at Israelite Bay.



Israelite Bay



Daringdella lakes





## Cape Arid National Park

Cape Arid National Park is a large (279 832 hectares). The park supports a wide variety of flora and fauna, and of bird life.

Top left; Entrance to Cape Arid National Park.

Bottom right; Sunset at Cape Arid.

Top right; The beach at Cape Arid National Park.

Page Left; Junction of the track to Balladonia, Israelite bay, and Esperance.





## Lucky Bay

Lucky Bay is in the Cape Le Grand National Park. Located south east of Esperance, the bay is known for its bright white sands and turquoise coloured waters.

Top left: Lucky Bay and Kangaroo warning sign.

Top right: Kangaroo escaping the people at Lucky Bay.

Bottom left: Frenchmans peak.

Page Right: Lucky Bay.









## Esperance

Esperance is a town on the south coast of Western Australia. Its beaches include calm Blue Haven, and West Beach, with its surf breaks and Cape Le Grand National Park

Top left: Firsties Beach.

Top right: West Beach.

Bottom right: The Clocktower.

Page Left: Stonehenge in Esperance, was built from 137 locally quarried stones of up to 50 tonnes, and is aligned to the summer and winter solstices.





## Kalgoorlie

In 1893, prospector Patrick (Paddy) Hannan, was travelling to Mount Youle, he noticed signs of gold in the area what is now the Mount Charlotte gold mine. Hannan filed a Claim, leading a goldrush, and Kalgoorlie, originally called Hannan's Find, was born.

Top left: Welcome to Kalgoorlie Boulder.

Top right: Questa Casa massage parlour.

Bottom left: The York Hotel.



## Kalgoorlie

Today (2022) there are 14 pubs operating in Kalgoorlie and another eight in Boulder.

Top left: The Exchange Hotel.

Top right: The Australia Hotel.

Bottom right: The Palace Hotel.





## Kalgoorlie

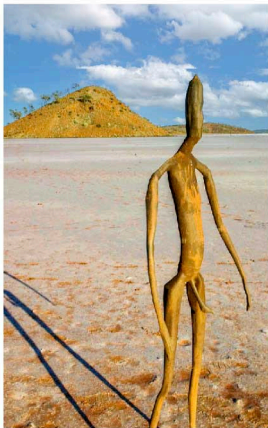
Left: The Super Pit consisted of several underground mines, in 1989 the super pit was created from the underground mines.

Top Left: Patrick 'Paddy' Hannan was a gold prospector who found gold in 1893.

Top right: Mining trucks can carry up to 245 tons of ore. They have a fuel tank that can hold 3790 litres of fuel and has 2300 of horsepower.

Bottom right: Road train leaving the mine with ore for processing.





Lake Ballard has 51 Sculptures







## Norseman

Norseman was called the Dundas Field and was renamed after a horse Hardy Norseman that discovered a large nuggat. Norseman is the last major town before heading east across the Nullarbor Plain.

Top left; The Corrugated Iron Camels.

Top right; Road trains parked up for tucker and rest.

Bottom left; Road trains fueling up.

Page Right; Lake Cowan





## Balladonia

Balladonia is the first roadhouse east of Norseman. Balladonia homestead is 28km east of the roadhouse and was part of the Overland Telegraph Line.

Top left; Road train tanker refilling the fuel tanks at Balladonia Roadhouse.

Bottom right; The old boiler.

Top right; Split Rock at Balladonia.

Left; The Overland Telegraph Station at Balladonia.



## The Nullabor

This trip from Ceduna in South Australia to Kalgoorlie in Western Australia was approx 1800km one way.

I have travelled across the Nullabor many times on my way to windsurf in Western Australia. This time I travelled in may as its not so hot, temperatures on the Nullabor can be 45 degrees in summer.

As you can see from this book the Nullabor is not just a straight road with no tree's, it has lots to see.





A journey across the Nullabor

A journey across the Nullabor

NULLARBOR PLAIN  
EASTERN END OF TREELESS PLAIN

