

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

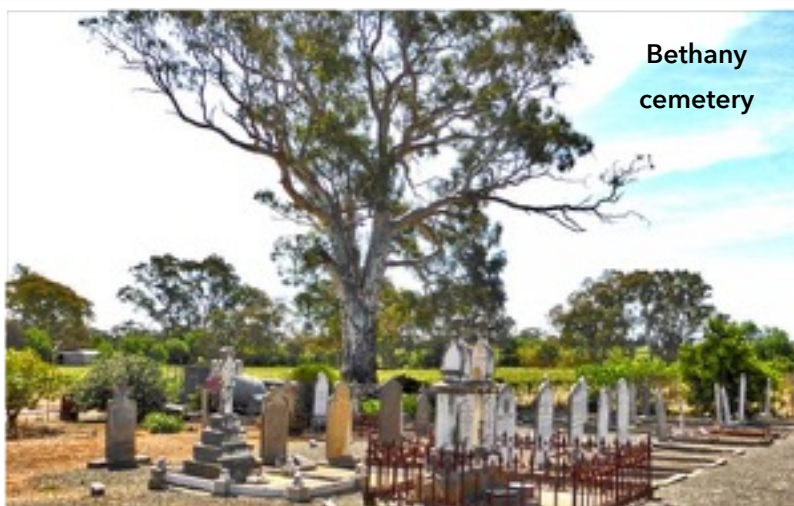
LINGERING LONGER

Siggy and Heather | Travel Blog

Land of Hope

The Barossa Valley was first settled by German migrants in the mid 1840's. The first pioneers received grants of 8 to 20 acre plots from the South Australian Company. A vale was a great place for a village so they set about creating Hoffnungsthal (Land of Hope) against the suggestion of local aboriginals who told the new settlers that the area flooded. The aboriginals knew the area as Yertalla-ngga or flooding land. For six years Hoffnungsthal thrived but the heavens opened up for one week in 1853 and water totally inundated the village. The only building above water was the church overlooking the village.

Needless to say there is nothing visible today - only memories on a plaque next to the church foundations. Most of the villagers resettled in nearby Bethanien. We went there (now called Bethany) and investigated the old cemetery. We happened to meet a local tending his vines in a paddock that adjoined the cemetery. He hates low lying land too. He sighed when he told us that he had just lost 80% of his vines to the recent frost.



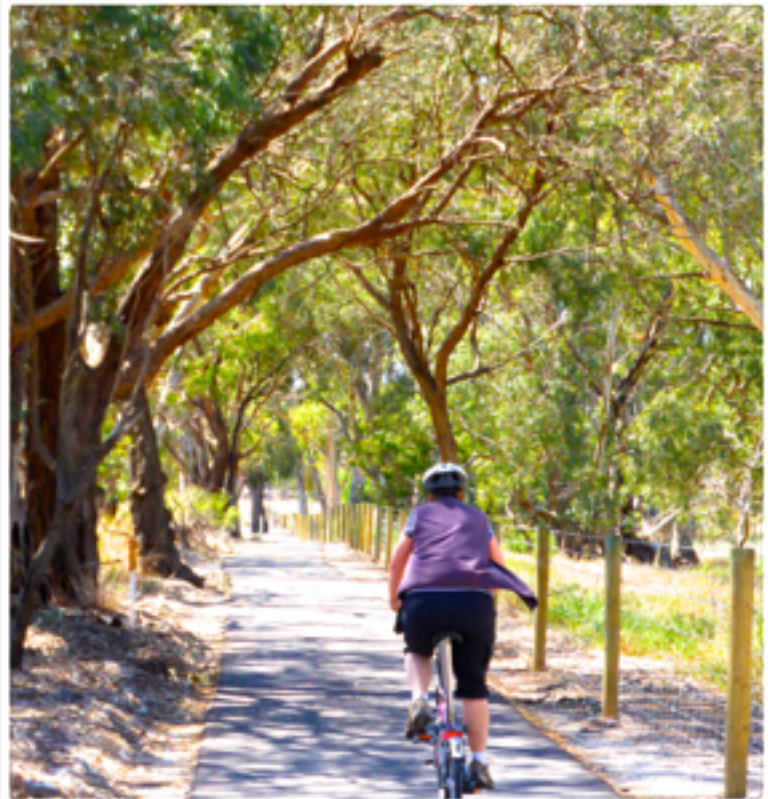
Bethany cemetery



Lyndoch to Gawler by bike

The bike tracks in the Barossa are fantastic. The two we have sampled have been pretty cool so we were determined to complete the trifecta. We could easily have lazed away the day at Creeve Roe and enjoyed our awesome view but Heather demanded instead to get in some exercise and eat up some of the calories we have been consuming. Besides, cycling is a great way to see the countryside up close and personal. We rugged up, drove to Lyndoch and then took off for a 25km ride. Once again it was a cold start that ended up being quiet warm. This part of the track was a little less interesting than the previous sections because it was on roads and a fairly uninteresting section beside the rail line. However there were some nice sections with majestic gums and views of country properties. We turned back just before we got to Gawler as the going was very too strenuous and it was getting very hot according to Heather.

Today the weather has really warmed up. What a roller coaster. The hot weather has really made outside quite unpleasant. We spent the day shopping, cleaning up and getting ready to continue our journey. We are heading off to the Adelaide Hills tomorrow.





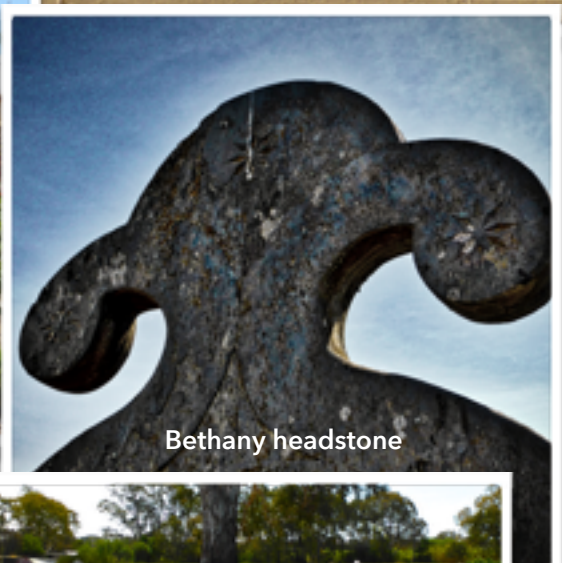
Found this snail on a flower bud



Rest station



Lyndoch Post Office



Bethany headstone

