

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HERE WE COME

Siggy and Heather | Travel Blog

Smelling the roses

This is the first time that we have left home without really planning our route in advance. We have allocated 2 months to experience a part of this vast country - places we have heard about - the Eyre Peninsula, the Barossa and Claire Valleys, Adelaide hills, the city of churches and Kangaroo Island.

During our many trips to Victoria over the years we have taken a direct line south along the usual highways. This time around we have the luxury of time to enjoy more of a zig zag route.

We did not get very far the first day. We even ended up having lunch in Beenleigh after diverting to book our flights for our 2015 trip to Europe. The lovely little scottish town of Maclean was our overnight stop. We made it to Moonie Beach on the second day before heading inland via Coffs Harbour and Dorrigo to Armidale, the highest city in Australia. Then it was on through Merriwa to Forbes, and on to Balranald. Two nights in Gol Gol before crossing the SA border and in to Waikerie. Its taken a week to finally start our blog.



The Road South

There is something about enclosed bush paths that suddenly open up to vistas of rolling surf on white sandy bays and an inviting but windy treeless bluff. Moonie Beach has this and more. It has the shallow safe water and sand of the Moonie Creek estuary, pounding surf at the estuary entrance, inviting picnic shelters and bbqs under shady pine trees. Overlooking this scene is one of the most relaxing caravan parks we have experienced. Its the place we come back to over and over.

Just the two of us

Its so nice to travel along unhurried - just the two of us. We stop when we want to explore something like a market or an attraction. Our bikes are an exercise and exploration tool.





Yanga Station

While staying in Balranald overnight we were advised to go back and visit one of the Riverina's most productive pastoral stations - Yanga. We were glad we did. The homestead was built around 1870 and was acquired by the National Trust in 2006. We were surprised that the 1.5 hour tour of the station was free. It was a fascinating view of an earlier time. So many things to please the eye:

- original rose garden and a number of rooms being restored by volunteers
- drop log and wood slab design
- books, cooking stoves, telephones and other paraphernalia left where they lay when the owners vacated the place. Everything older than 15 years had to stay.

The station covers an area of 165,000 acres with a long frontage on the Murrumbidgee River. The buildings overlook graceful Yanga Lake.



