

EUROPE 2023

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Haag and Surrounds

Today is National Day in Austria. It is celebrated on this day because on 26 October 1955 the last of the Allied forces left Austria and Austria became a separate nation once again. They then declared their neutrality and this day celebrates this. Once again we did not see any overt signs of any celebrations. The streets were abandoned but for a few people walking. We had hoped to go on a steam train ride but we were not able to organise it. Our drive out to the countryside north-east of Steyr was however very enjoyable, as usual. The place is so classy. Clean, organised and beautiful.

Once again we simply wandered and ended up at a bigish village called Haag. It presented us with a small display of historic houses and farm equipment. It was free to wander through (as is Coal Creek at home in Korumburra). There was a great display of horse drawn vehicles including old sleighs. The huge water wheel pictured below is the epitome of "cobbed together". Very impressive.

Another interesting thing we have noticed is the production of elder flower. We have seen many paddocks of it and have enjoyed the elder syrup we found in the supermarket on the day we arrived here. It is actually quite a refreshing cordial and not seen much in Australia. I looked it up and it is said to "instill a sense of youthfulness, vigour and restore inner strength". Wow! We obviously needed to get on to this sooner. Having said that, Kelly did produce her own elder flower cordial and, along with her elderberry wine, we got to have some of her first vintage.

We have also started to see a little bit of art work on buildings - like the picture opposite on a farm building. We have seen a lot of that in other parts of Austria. It is really very easy on the eye.

We arrived home early afternoon in time to watch the Matildas play Iran. However the telecast would not co-operate and we had to be content with a live update of the score and a replay of highlights. Hopefully, when we get to Wales next week, there won't be any shortage of football for Siddy to watch on local TV.









We have seen these stork signs quite a few times. It is obviously the way a new family member is announced. We struck the jackpot today with triplets!