

Reflections ~ the road to Karijini National Park

I bumped my way
out of Barn Hill
and grinned
as I sped up
on the bitumen...
80kms/hour
hadn't been an option
for a few days...
HmMMM??
Where will tonight be?
Call into a Rest Area
use the loo
make a cuppa....
look around,
have a yarn
to another traveller
Here looks good
(but it's only 10:30 a.m.!
SO???)
I stayed!
I had a good book
and a look around,
watched the birds
in the
'mother-in-law's cheek'
tree....



so called because
the pairs of leaves
never face each other!
Just on dusk
four huge trucks
with ½ a building
on each
come in,
find a place to park
and spend the night.
As we travel
the Northern Highway
the next day
I KNOW where I want
to spend tonight.
Many fellow travellers
have sung the praises
of De Grey River Rest Area
and I arrive
in time for lunch
and my first real dose
of bull dust!
It's so fine
and puffs up
as you walk along.
And I do walk,
right down to the



railway bridge
where a l...o...n...g...
train
had whistled its presence
not long before,
but alas,
no camera handy!
Will I? Won't I?
Stay another night...
Enough dust
and I want to be
at Karijini
before the WA
school hols begin
later this week.
I call in to Port Hedland,
shop, phone
and wander the port
but I do not stay
as the caravan parks are full
and charge \$50 per night!
I keep going
to Indee Station...
10 kms of
not too dusty road in
and \$10 per night!
Happy hour's from
5:30 to 6:30



and everyone
says 'Hello'.
There's Sturt Desert Pea
right at my front door
and other pretty, hardy flowers
with soft, furry grey-green leaves.
You can walk up the hill
and there's a map
to Red Rock
and Poonthuna Pool.
I chat with Jenny
another single woman
travelling...
we have a lot in common!
I chat with Betty
the wife of the owner.. Colin.
They got married 6 years ago
after her husband died
of burns
which crippled her.
She doesn't go into detail
and it's not something
I feel able to develop more
so I leave it,
enjoy the wine
and (supplied) nibbles
and resolve to stay 2 nights!
From the top of the hill



the next morning
you can see forever
over the top of Matilda
and the others
and I surprise myself
with how easily
I do it...



All the Barn Hill training
has paid off!

We join others at the homestead
for fresh, hot scones
with jam and cream for morning tea
and then Jenny and I head out
for Red Rock...



We're both entranced
by what we find....



And as we explore
the base of the rock
we become even more surprised

as there are a series of waterholes
nestled around the end
that seem to have
quite deep water
in them.



The rock is peeling,
onion skin like,
just as we saw
at the Devil's Marbles
all that long time ago!
We rock hop for ages,
ooooing and ahing
over this and that
as we go...



the ever tenacious plants
whose roots are anchored
in seemingly impossible places
and yet, they thrive!
I notice a skitter
across the rock
and have to look very hard



Red Rock from Pebble Mouse Mound



for what creature made it
the camouflage being so complete!

We return to Indee homestead
to collect Gail and John
who want to come
to find Poonthuna Pool
and I have the 'mud map'...
head to the east,
passed crossroads
over a single railway line
then over a double railway line
(BHP owns the double,
another company the single)
turn right then left
onto next door's property
head through sandy creek beds
and over rutted tracks
then stop where the river sand
deepens cos there
Poonthuna Pool awaits!
We all trudge through
the deep, river sand,
passed the rock walls
over the very wide, sandy river bed
to the other side
to see what we can see!



I am,
yet again,
gobsmacked!
And then Gail
spies
some baby birds
being fed
way up in a tree
and we all stand and watch
as the parents fly in
and out
to catch insects then feed
the fledglings
balanced precariously
on a windblown branch.



Another very happy hour
follows a hot shower
the water heated in
the 'boiler'....ingenious!!!



I tear myself away
from Indee
the next morning
though I resolve
to revisit some day!
It's hard going
when I turn for Karijini
as the wind
hits us on the front
lefthand corner
but we're following
a HUGE machine
being trawled on
a huge truck
so that's okay
except when I tuck in
to use their protection
from the wind
they wave me passed!!!!
I'm glad to reach Munjina Roadhouse
where I fill with diesel, unleaded (generator)
gas and water
(and a fresh pineapple and coconut muffin!)
before hitting the highway again.
Pretty soon the camera's out
and as I drive through Munjina Gorge
I snap, drive, eat and look
ALL at once!

There's crumbs everywhere!
Karijini National Park
is not far now
and I am grateful
the wind has dropped
and is behind me
as we turn and head west
and into the park.

