



PART 4

Great Ocean Road

MAY 2016 | 8 DAYS

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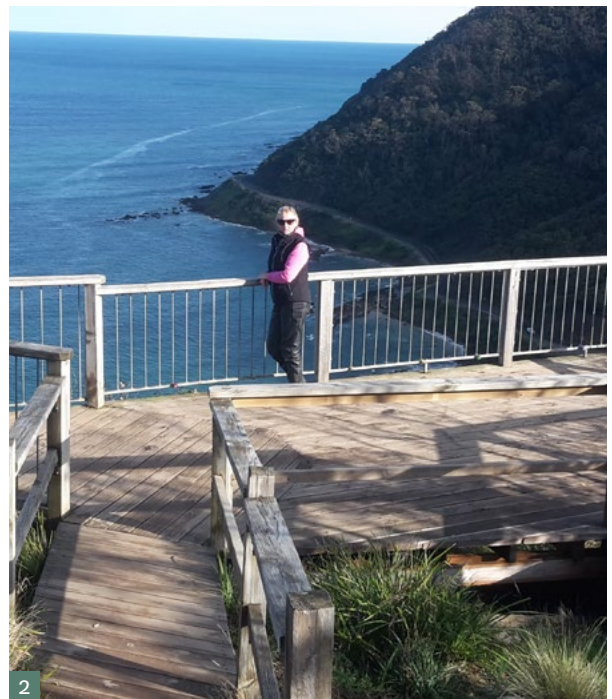
Great Ocean Road

CAROL AND I DID THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND A FEW MOUNTAINS ABOVE MELBOURNE.



After a short bus ride then 1 ½ hours by train we arrived at my little brother's house at Moe. My bike was ready to go except for a few clothes to go in for Carol. She is used to travelling light with me. Space in the Panniers was smaller than she was used to on the Gold Wing but she made do with a few necessities and hopefully enough warm clothes as the forecast wasn't looking good.

It was raining at Moe and it didn't look like clearing, so Carol thought that heading south first, may avoid the worst of the rain, which turned out to be a good call. While crossing the Sorrento Ferry it really poured down so we appreciated the shelter. I was asked to stay by my bike as the crossing could get rough and they didn't tie the bikes down. After berthing at Queenscliff we headed towards Torquay for lunch. It was still raining and we were soaked. We had lunch and I decided that we should keep heading towards the Great Ocean Road. We reached a small place called Lorne, on the coast, where we stayed for the night. Our riding gear dried out nicely overnight only to wake up with more rain. One consolation was that there was bugger all traffic on the slippery roads.





We stopped at a few tourist spots, including the famous 12 Apostles where we decided to turn back as the road got a bit boring. Carol was wet and cold again but we, or should I say, I, decided to keep going to Wattle Hill. We got to Wattle Hill and headed (1800 metres above sea level) up through the winding hill country. Wet, cold and a few miles behind us we ended up at Werribee for the night. Found an RSA for a nice meal. Always a nice affordable place to eat.

1. Carol, wet and cold. **2.** Great Ocean Road lookout. **3.** Limestone Rocks. **4.** Only eight Apostles left.

Next morning we were both keen to head towards the Yarra Ranges National Park and beautiful tall straight gum trees and away from traffic. I had done the Black Spur Mountain before and was very keen to show Carol. First we had to have a look at the Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary and this was incredible with its birds of prey demonstration. This is a must to see as the demonstrations from the eagle and other birds were the best I'd ever seen. Mansfield was our destination that night and a few dirt roads were a must.

Next day we decided to find the hut where they filmed 'The Man from Snowy River'. We rode out of Mansfield and in the pouring rain up the bitumen to Mt Buller which would have been a wonderful ride in the dry. One corner after another, Sean Donnelly and Robin Cottle would have been in heaven here. We got to the top of the mountain, (1800 metres above sea level). The clock showed the time with a temperature of 7 degrees. Carol was cold. I asked a guy "where the hut was?", and he said I was on the wrong mountain. Shit. Down we went and it was freezing cold and slow going as the road was slippery. We found the turn off to Mt Stirling where we should have been two hours earlier. Up we went on a dirt road for 15 kms. Half way up was a large tree across the road and by this time Carol had enough. Not one to give up, I found a way under the tree and up we went and finally found where they filmed the 'Man from Snowy River'. Carol didn't even take off her helmet. A few quick photos then back down to Mansfield to buy dry socks and ski gloves for Carol. After some hot soup and a cuppa Carol warmed up and we headed to Alexandra, Marysville and the Warburton Ranges. Real nice riding on dirt and bitumen roads.





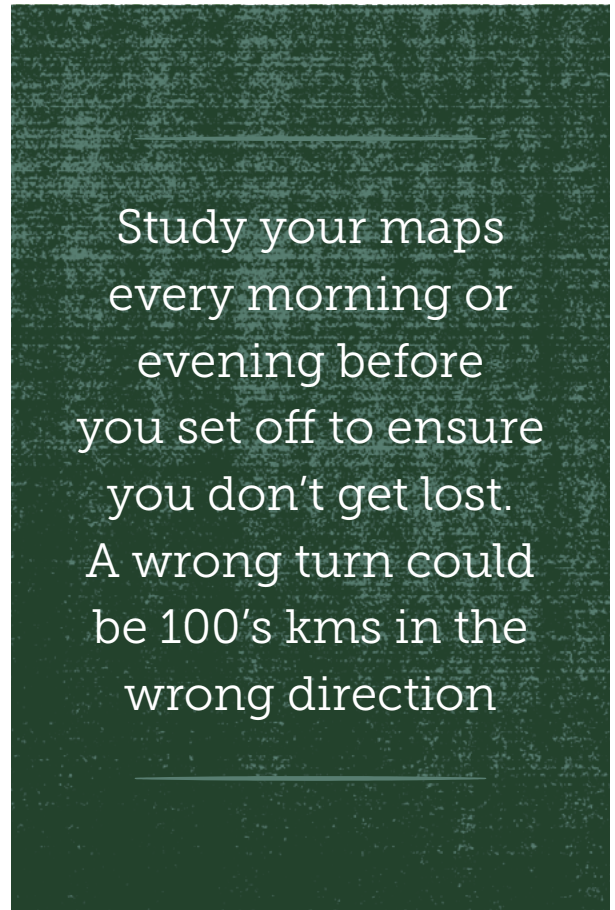
Adventure before
dementia.

1. Craig's Hutt, Mt Stirling.
2. Mt Buller.
3. Australian Parrot.
4. Lost again.
5. Lavers Hill Victoria.

From here I needed to take Carol to Ringwood City to stay with her girlfriends for her last night of the trip. With my trusty GPS I made it even if I did need to ride over a few traffic islands and centre strips. It then took me two hours of busy traffic driving, in the dark, to get back to Moe. A day we won't forget. Carol says the memory is better than the reality. It was all a great memory when she was home warm and dry. She really loved the bike ride and the scenery. Just a shame about the weather.

The next morning it was drizzling but a warmer day so I thought I'd find some rough tracks close to Cliff's (my brothers') house at Seaton. These tracks were overgrown and tracks went off everywhere so I was lucky my GPS was working so I could find my way back out. Flying home at 12.30 am the next morning I thought I had better head back to Alan's to give my bike an oil change ready for my next adventure in July.

Another fantastic trip, despite the atrocious weather.



1. Cockatoo. **2.** Bush track near Seaton.
3. Staying out of the dust.

