

Palindromes From Perth 2

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My wife Pat and I first travelled to Perth in Western Australia (WA) to visit our daughter and her husband in 2012. This led to 'Palindromes From Perth' (*Word Ways*, Nov 2012).

We recently spent some more time in WA, mostly north of Perth. Before our trip up the coast we had a day at the zoo, where Pat had an 'Eye2Eye' experience with one of her favourite animals, the giraffe. After an up-close feeding session with a notorious 'reprobate' (rep) and his 'harem', this was the comment:

"Perth giraffe, Jeff! A right rep!"

There were lots of brilliantly-coloured parrots in the aviary, and a visitor exclaimed,

"Oo, zanier! A rosy-roll lory, so rare in a zoo."

Next we encountered the three Australian q-marsupials, the **quokka**, the **quoll** and the **quenda**. In the nocturnal house we saw **dalgytes**, **mulgaras**, **dunnarts**, **rakalis** and **woylies**, all small mammals. Some seemed happier than others.

Dalgytes - sure, russety, glad

Mulgara - glum

One dunnart ran nude - no!

"A rakali, over (eh?)... there! Voila, Kara!"

"Woylies - bastard rats abseil (yow)!"

At the monkey enclosure a spaced-out-looking character said loudly (and cryptically),

"Rev on! I ram at pot, not to call a cotton-top tamarin over!"

A couple of days after our Perth Zoo excursion we headed north. After seeing the amazing 'Pinnacles' rock formations in Nambung National Park and the ancient stromatolites at Lake Thetis our first stop was Geraldton, where we stayed at lovely unspoiled Tarcoola Beach.

A loo crate's reverse - Tarcoola

On our last night at the beach we were lucky to get a booking at a popular local restaurant.

So nail a tilt at L'Italiano's

The next day we headed north to Kalbarri, stopping off at Pink Lake, which gets its name from the high concentration of pink halobacteria in the water. This was overheard from among a group of excited Scottish tourists:

"Deryk 'n I pose (Kalbarri affair, Rab) Lake so pinky red!"

In the Kalbarri National Park we visited the spectacular Pot Alley ocean gorge. The acoustics are great if you...

Yell atop Pot Alley

At the parrot sanctuary of Rainbow Jungle we wondered about the unusual 'mood' music.

'Parrot, Parrot', or 'Raptor Rap'?

On our last night away I read an article in the '*Australian Geographic*' magazine on Aussie dinosaurs. Most are aptly named, for instance **Ozraptor** and **Muttaborrasaurus** (which was found near Muttaborra in Queensland). My three favourites are:

Qantassaurus after the national airline Qantas

Atlascopcosaurus after Atlas Copco, the mining equipment manufacturer who sponsored the dig that discovered it

Serendipaceratops arthurcclarkei from the serendipity of the find and in honour of the famous sci-fi author

Back in Perth we spent a day at Aqwa, the aquarium of Western Australia. Three interesting exhibits are the **zooxanthellae** (or “**zoox**”), plantlike organisms that live inside coral polyps, **gobbleguts**, a type of cardinal fish, and the **anemonefish** - can you find 'Nemo'?

On the way home we stopped off for a few days at Norfolk Island. Overheard in the kitchenware section of a local store where someone was taking a photo of a young girl. Emily Bay is a scenic beach on the island.

“Snap Emily Bay, not Tonya by lime pans” (Echoes of Ross Eckler’s “Sit on a potato pan, Otis.”)

Finally, a ‘Coruba Gold’ revelation before leaving Norfolk Island.

Deeds live on (Eureka!)

With gilded Norfolk rum

- nine, ten, in murk.

Lo, fronded light!

I wake, rue no evil’s deed.