

Billy's Blog # 10

" Playing The Nullarbor Links" - The World's Longest Golf Course.

Even before Leonie and I had departed Sydney for our three month trip to the west across the Nullarbor Plain, I had heard of the world's longest golf course, The Nullarbor Links.

I had to learn more as I was uncertain how this course would be played and what I needed to do to start the adventure.

Naturally, Mr Google helped me out so I decided this would be a fantastic way to break up our three day journey across the Nullarbor Plain in our caravan.

The course starts in Ceduna SA and finishes in Kalgoorlie WA travelling east to west and the other way around from west to east.

First port of call in Ceduna was at the Visitors Centre to pay your green fees of \$70, obtain your score card, which was then stamped and an information brochure which let's you know where each hole is played.

Holes one and two are played at "Ceduna Golf Course" which can only be loosely described as such.

The first hole is named "Oyster Bed" and the next " Denial Bay".

On the tee at the first hole there is a board describing some history of the area, a local person who settled in or around the town, the par and length of each hole.

Whilst there was some grass on the very small teeing ground, there was none at all on the fairways, and this could also be said of the "greens" which of course were sand with a roller to smooth out the sand to the hole to enable a fair roll of the ball to the hole.

You play holes one and eighteen at Ceduna and Mark your score card accordingly.

First tee Ceduna Golf Course



The next hole was at a town called Penong 70ks away which also was home to a bunch of windmills, the hole is aptly named "Windmills".

Upon arrival I went into the roadhouse and had my score card stamped.

Three holes down fifteen to go.

Another 80ks on brought us to the Nundroo Roadhouse, now we are seriously on the Nullarbor Plain and the wind was blowing and red dust was everywhere.

Undeterred, I headed into the roadhouse for my next stamp. Glad that hole named "Wombat Hole" was over quickly.

The fifth hole named "Dingo's Den" was at the Nullarbor Roadhouse 150ks along the Eyre Hwy.

We could hear dingoes howling in the distance later in the night.

Diesel at this stage had climbed to \$1.92 a litre.

I decided to play this hole the next morning.

It is a par 5 538m into the breeze, which also entailed walking to the tee 538m away and hitting to the green which was next to the caravan park.

So off we headed with Leonie my caddy assisting.

I reckoned that if I took driver and wedge that would be fine (tee up on fairways as there is no grass).

Beautiful tee shot down the middle only to have the resident crow swoop out of nowhere to nick my ball.

So, walk back to car for another ball, then walk back to where tee shot finished to start again.

Sent caddy forward this time to scare off crow and finished with bogey six (after three drivers into the wind).

185ks to the sixth hole "Border Kangaroo" at WA - SA Border Village after driving past the most spectacular scenery along the Bunda Cliffs, where the Great Australian Bight meets the Eyre Hwy.

After crossing the border (which seemed like crossing into another country due the COVID-19 rules and quarantine laws regarding fresh fruit and vegetables) we only had another 12ks to the seventh "Nullarbor Nymph" at Eucla WA. This also entailed a 10 minute drive through bushland following hand painted signs on pieces of iron sheets.

We eventually found the tee and a fairway that had to be 200m wide with a track running along side.

As the hole was 350m long I hit driver and jumped back into the ute towing the caravan, drove to the ball, hit the next shot and drove to the green to putt out. 😊

The Eighth hole "Watering Hole" was at Mundrabilla Roadhouse another 66ks.

After an overnight stop in the middle of nowhere we played the ninth hole just after brekky at the Madura Pass Roadhouse, a short par 3 "Brumby's Run" which I managed to par.....now at the half way house.

The ninth at Madura Pass Roadhouse



Another 92ks to Cocklebidy Roadhouse for the next the Tenth "Eagles Nest" and then onto Caiguna Roadhouse where I played the eleventh "90 Mile Straight"

Caiguna is famous for two reasons ie you start the longest straight road in Australia here, 146.6ks (90 miles) without turning the steering wheel. Secondly, many wedged tail Eagles live here.

They feast on roadkill and on approach they take forever to take off, many are killed, we just missed one, luckily we were only travelling at 90ks.

Think of them as an A380 of bird life.

The start of ninety mile straight



The 11th at ninety mile straight



The twelfth was at another Roadhouse at Balladonia, 173 ks away where after topping up with diesel I played another par 3.

This hole is named "Skylab" after pieces of the US space craft Skylab fell to earth near here in 1979.

The thirteenth and fourteenth are at a town called Norseman, 188ks west where we stayed for 2 nights.

They are called "Sheep's Back" and "Golden Horse" and are part of the Norseman Golf Course, again if you call red soil fairways a golf course.

The 14th fairway Norseman Golf Course



The next day we headed south to the coastal town of Esperance.

It rained the whole day of travel, the next day was cool, overcast with showers. Finally our last day was fine and sunny around 26deg.

Heading north we passed through Norseman again heading towards Kalgoorlie 390 kms away.

A town 60ks outside Kalgoorlie called Kambalda was the venue for holes fifteen and sixteen named "Ngadu" and "Silver Lake" again part of the local course, again played on red soil fairways and grey soil greens.

The 16th "green" Kambalda Golf Course



Just happened to arrive in Kalgoorlie on Friday so after setting up our camp we headed to the golf course to book in a round on the Graham Marsh designed course.

At last, couch fairways and real greens. What a gem, beautiful layout had 33 points off 12 and of course left a few out there.

Played in the comp with three blokes, one from Queensland, one from South Africa and the other from Zimbabwe.

*The first hole at Kalgoorlie Golf Course.
If you miss the fairways you are in red dirt.*



The last two holes of the Nullarbor Links are the tenth and eleventh, the tenth named "CY O'Connor" which I parred after sinking a nice putt and the last of the Nullarbor Links was a par 5 502m which in fitting style I birdied, sinking a long putt. My first birdie 😊🍷

If anyone is ever near Kalgoorlie be sure you have a game, you will not be disappointed.

Overall, I had a great time playing the Nullarbor Links, a total of 1365ks in length.

I shot 91 off the stick, 19 over.

The lady in the Kalgoorlie Visitors Centre where I had my last two holes stamped on the score card was very impressed, she said one of the best scores she had seen. 🏌️🍷