

# WA's GREAT Outdoors

CARAVANNING • CAMPING • ACCOMMODATION



## Narembeen - a beautiful place to visit in winter

THE COUNTRYSIDE comes alive in winter with green crops being an outstanding feature of this majestic landscape.

Located between Wave Rock and the Great Eastern Highway, Narembeen is 286km east of Perth. It is the perfect location to discover, explore and stay!

Enjoy beautiful nature trails as you take in tall salmon gums, native animals, and splendid wildflowers during spring. Climb majestic granite outcrops, take in the beautiful views of the district and enjoy the undisturbed beauty of Narembeen.

Narembeen is a small country town that offers you convenient amenities and an opportunity to mingle with the friendly locals. The town has a range of accommodation options



including the Shire of Narembeen caravan park and chalets, Narembeen Motel (recently renovated), Narembeen Hotel and Santa-leuca bed and breakfast. For more information contact the Narembeen Community Resource Centre on 9064 7055 or visit [www.narembeen.crc.net.au](http://www.narembeen.crc.net.au).

Coming Events: 19 September. Narembeen ladies long lunch.



Jeanette Woolerton

by Jeanette Woolerton

FOR this month only, I have shelved the Victorian Tourism information column to venture into *Have a Go News'* home state of Western Australia.

The motivation behind this decision is to share a tale of a remarkable man, a West Australian man, who has dedicated his life (post retirement) to accommodating, rescuing and caring for old, sick, injured or otherwise compromised horses.

Approximately 220km south of Perth, along the vast (and sparsely inhabited) Great Southern Highway, beyond the unprepossessing town of Highbury, lies a garden of equine Eden named Calan Horse Sanctuary.

It is approximately a thirty minute drive to Calan Sanctuary from Narrogin, along a broad tarred road, flanked by rich, red earth for which this area is renowned.

This sanctuary is the result of the committed efforts of one intrepid man, Alan Gent, who purchased 100 salt affected acres of land in Highbury in the late nineties, as a 'getaway' from his home town, at the time, Perth.

## Alan's a true blue gentleman...

Alan single handedly planted 22,000 trees on the property and despite a number of setbacks (which included a significant underground salt vein and a locust plague) the majority of trees flourished under his tender care.

Alan was raised in Como, South Perth, and always loved horses. However, due to family circumstances, owning a horse was an impossible dream for this young man, so he entertained his fantasy by filling scrapbooks with cut out images and photographs of breeds of all shapes, sizes and breeds.

Alan attended high school in Northam and became a carpenter shortly after leaving school. He married Carol in 1962 and worked as a carpenter until he became a registered builder in 1981.

He built his own spectacular home in Mandurah (on the canal) and travelled down to his property in Highbury each holiday season. The land became his private getaway.

Over time he built a shed, set up a bunk to sleep in and eventually he built an immaculate, comfortable ranch style home.

His first equine acquisition appeared in the form of Rebel, a magnificent standard-bred, whom he adopted from a neighbour (for his granddaughter). As horses are herd animals, it soon became clear to Alan that Rebel needed a companion, so he adopted Merc, an old chestnut thoroughbred in dire need of a lov-

ing home.

As he became more and more aware of the plight of horses that had passed their 'use by' date, Alan opened his heart, mind and property to provide a sanctioned space for horses in need.

Whenever the opportunity presented itself, this gallant man came to the rescue.

Today, there are 17 horses at Calan, as well as two sheep, two alpacas, three cats, a dog and two benevolent human volunteers.

There is a peaceful, serene, expansive and enlightened feel to this property. The love that Alan has for these horses is evident everywhere on everything that his gentle hand has touched. The attention to detail is astounding.

Each horse has its own yard, shelter, feed bin, water trough (filled with clean water daily) and tack/grooming kit.

Each yard has the occupant's name upon the gate, lovingly engraved into wood by Alan himself.

Alan taught himself equine crafts and skills via the internet and from attending various workshops/clinics.

Due to his devotion to Carlos Tabernaberi's method of establishing a solid, equal relationship with the horse (based on trust, consistency, leadership and respect without the use of bits, spurs or force) Alan's horses have thrived, both physically and emotionally, under his care.

A visit to Calan Sanctuary is like a trip to Mecca for



Alan Gent and his horse Irish

horse enthusiasts and animal lovers alike, for the visionary and valiant efforts of one man have forged an unforgettable, life enhancing, gentle green belt in an otherwise arid and harsh landscape.

Alan Gent is living proof that one man can make a tremendous difference. In fact, he

has not only made a difference to these horses but created an entirely unique and meditative experience for anyone blessed enough to tread this hallowed ground.

For further information on the sanctuary, please refer to [www.calan.cavalletti.com.au/index.html](http://www.calan.cavalletti.com.au/index.html).

## THE GREAT BEYOND VISITOR CENTRE

Explorers' Hall of Fame



Complementing the rich visual history of the Northern Goldfields, the Great Beyond Explorers' Hall of Fame utilises cutting edge technology to bring to life the characters and stories of the past. Step back in time with several notable explorers who led challenging expeditions through central Australia during the mid to late 19th Century as they recount their stories of hardship and bravery. Discover what it was like for women and pioneers living and working on the Goldfields during the pioneer days and learn about the valuable industries that sustain our inland.

Home of the Explorers Hall of Fame. The Visitor Centre also houses a cafe and gift shop.

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm and Sat - Sun 9am - 1pm  
The Great Beyond Visitor Centre  
Augusta St, Laverton WA  
Tel: 9031 1361  
Email: [greatbeyond@laverton.wa.gov.au](mailto:greatbeyond@laverton.wa.gov.au)  
[www.laverton.wa.gov.au](http://www.laverton.wa.gov.au)



## GOLDEN QUEST DISCOVERY TRAIL

A 965 KILOMETRE SELF DRIVE ADVENTURE THROUGH THE WA GOLDFIELDS



A comprehensive Guidebook and Audio CD's providing historical and current information and locality maps is available from Visitor Centres and requested online at [www.goldenquesttrail.com](http://www.goldenquesttrail.com) [www.goldfieldstourism.com.au](http://www.goldfieldstourism.com.au)  
Email: [info@goldenquesttrail.com](mailto:info@goldenquesttrail.com)  
Phone: 0408 511 969

For those going bush, enquire about the new Green Trail, a spur trail of the Golden Quest which links sites of Environmental significance in the Coolgardie Bioregion.

### Relax at CLOVER COTTAGE

CHECK WEBSITE FOR MID-WEEK SPECIALS

Limestone Spa cottages with woodfires overlooking the river valley. Trout stocked lakes and river fishing. Grass tennis court and canoeing. Close to the many wineries, restaurants and natural attractions of Pemberton, Manjimup and Walpole region.

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## NORSEMAN

The Gateway to Western Australia

- Nullabor Links Golf Course - the world's longest golf course
- Tin Camels - a tribute to the Camel Trains that carried mail and freight
- Beacon Hill - Enjoy a walk trail and panoramic views of Norseman
- Phoenix Tailings Dump - resembles a topless pyramid and contains gold
- Granite Woodlands Discovery Trail - 16 interpretive sites, offers opportunities for camping, bushwalking, exploring granite rock formations and viewing spring wildflowers
- Pack a BBQ picnic and take the 28 km heritage trail to explore Dundas Rocks' huge ancient boulders and rock formations.
- Hyden Rock - enjoy the rock's walks, surrounding flora and fauna.
- Bromus Dam - free camping area with bushwalks, lots to explore or a great place to have a BBQ or picnic.
- Mt Jimberlana - 5km east of town, offering spectacular views from the top with a picnic area at the base.
- Phoenix Park - educational, historical and is close to the town centre

Norseman Community Resource Centre  
Your local connection

Government of Western Australia  
Department of Regional Development and Lands

## Tweed Valley Lodge

On the Blackwood River, Bridgetown  
RAC ★★★★★ Your tranquil adult retreat in a picturesque riverbank setting 2 kms from Bridgetown CBD featuring

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[www.tweedvalleylodge.com.au](http://www.tweedvalleylodge.com.au)