

4. South East of Western Australia

Norseman

Norseman was named after a horse that is reputed to have pawed the ground and dislodged some gold-bearing quartz. There is a sculpture of him on one of the street corners.

The old mining towns have very wide streets and they were made that way because the camel trains that transported most of the supplies for the mines and the miners had a very large turning circle and the streets had to allow for this. The town has recognised this by placing a series of sculptures on a roundabout in one of the streets.

When I booked into the caravan park at Norseman I decided to stay for two nights so I could catch up on washing my clothes and other admin. I checked the price of an on-site cabin – \$69 per night. No, thank you! The tent will have to do.

Once I was set up I phoned the Umlaufs and organised to meet in a couple of days at Kambalda, between Norseman and Kalgoorlie.

I had a good dinner at the motel alongside the caravan park, although it was a bit expensive.

Friday, 19 August

It was a dark and stormy night – actually, I think someone else has already said that – and freezing cold. My sleeping bag

was supposed to be good to -5°C , but even so I had on my normal day clothes plus a tracksuit and a beanie, and still woke up a couple of times because of the cold. I got up early, partly because of the cold and partly because my body was still operating on Adelaide time (6.00am in Adelaide is only 4.30am in Norseman). The tent, trailer and tarpaulin over the car were all covered in sheets of ice.



Norseman's equine gold-digger.



Tin sculptures of camels showing their importance to the mining towns in the old days.