

“HIDDEN TREASURES”

by Wendy Thomas.

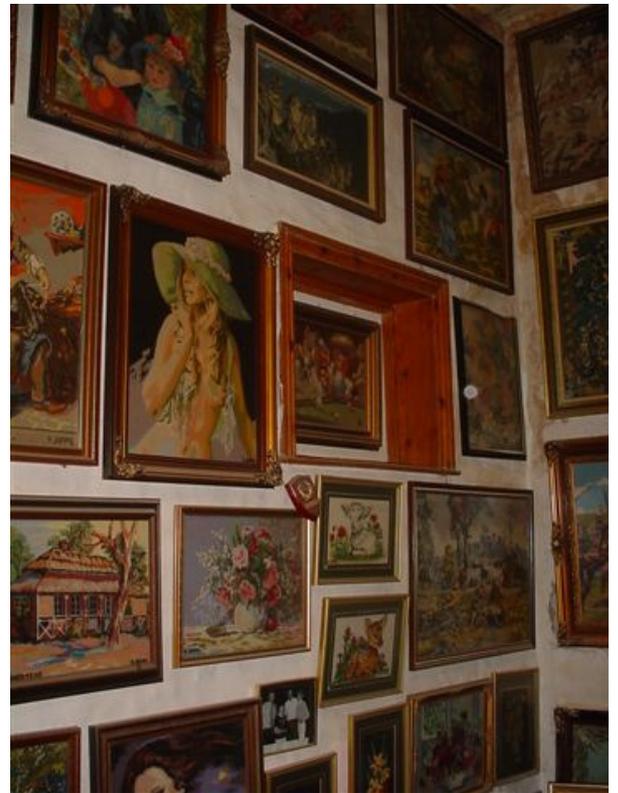
Usually on our caravan trips, we come across at least one ‘hidden treasure’; invariably in an out of the way place or town, or at the back of a shop, and entry to view these is normally only a gold coin donation.

This trip we found three of these ‘treasures’ and we would like to share them with you, and for those of you travelling to or from the Eastern States, you may like to look them up for yourselves.

The first one Brenda and Wendy found when they left Bob and Ralph looking around the very interesting local museum in Morgan, but let’s face it; a woman can only look at so many museums! They went for a walk up through town, where they came across Carmine’s Antique Shop. After a look at her substantial display of all sorts of ‘goodies’, they made their way to the back of the shop, where they found our first ‘gold coin donation hidden treasure’. The two back rooms, one filled with a marvellous tool collection, and the other choc-a-block with framed Tapestries. These were done by Carmine’s Mother, Kath Apps, from the age of 77; when Carmine gave her the first one as something to occupy her after the death of her husband. This one by all accounts was finished, framed and hanging in a matter of 10 weeks.

There were approximately 150 tapestries of all shapes, sizes and subjects on display, which were apparently about a third of the prolific output Kath Apps had done before she died at the grand age of one month less than 100 years of age. Kath worked approximately 25 square inches every day for over 22 years. The tapestries were all framed by the same local man. Added to the tapestries was a selection of toys which had been handed down through seven generations of the family. What a clever woman and what terrific eyesight she must have had; and what a marvellous legacy she has left to her family.

Carmine’s Antiques,
Railway Terrace, Morgan, S.A.





Our second 'hidden treasure' was in the town of Wilmington, on our way to Port Augusta. We already knew of a 'Toy Museum' in this town, where this time Ralph spent \$100 on a box of miniature windmill parts; but we had spied on our way into town a new Puppet Museum; which we hoped we were in time to visit that before they closed, and we were. The Sansouci Puppet Museum and Gallery was another of the brilliant finds for a gold coin donation, to visit Australia's only Puppet Museum and see over 1000 puppets, marionettes and ventriloquist dummies on display, aged from over 100 years old to the present day. Brian and Rosemary invite you to relive your Childhood Memories, and introduce your Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren to their Magical World of Puppets and Puppeteering. Brian is known as 'The Puppet Man' (and it was easy to see why) and Rosemary (his apprentice) are always happy to show their puppets and encourage all, from 1 to 100, to try your hands at the magic of 'bringing puppets to life'. We are sure their visits to children in hospitals, schools or wherever else they go, are of great delight to all.

Their one rule is that you enjoy yourselves; and this we certainly did!

Brian and Rosemary, phone (08) 8667 5356; email – sansouci@active8.net.au





Our third 'hidden treasure' was as we were coming to the end of our trip; at Balladonia Road House, and unfortunately Bob and Brenda had decided not to stop here, so missed this special occasion. As we entered the roadhouse we noticed a tour bus with a choir name on it, as well as quite a large number of children in the area. When we enquired we were told that they were children from Uganda, who had been on a tour of Australia, and were expected to reach the Eucla Pass that night, then give a concert in Ceduna and Sydney, before returning to their home base of Brisbane.

After lining up for photographs, Ralph asked if they would give us a song; which they were delighted to do. It was quite a marvellous experience, and they were lovely children; the boys, with shiny shaved heads, and the girls, with beautiful braids in their hair. Their harmony was marvellous and their movements were lovely as they sang in their own language. Afterwards, we were swarmed with children giving all the spectators hugs. It was a wonderful experience, and we wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled internationally since 1994, as advocates for the estimated 50 million children in Africa, orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, war, poverty and disease.

Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto's vision and mission through their stories, music and dance. Watoto choirs act as ambassadors to raise awareness about the plight of the orphaned and vulnerable children of Africa. Issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, the effects of war and the child soldier crisis in Northern Ugandan are highlighted.

Each of the children in the choir has suffered the loss of their parents either through war or disease. They live in Watoto children's villages. The experience gives the children exposure to other cultures broadening their worldview. It also gives them confidence and boldness and helps them rise up out of their own situations of sadness and despair.

The choirs have toured Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Australasia, Canada, UK, Germany, France, USA, South America, Hong Kong, China and Japan.

Their audiences have included princes and paupers, warming many hearts wherever they go, and we can understand why.

It is this sort of thing which makes caravanning so special to us, and adds to the normal attractions of scenery and new places we find on our holidays.



