

# Tony & Wendy's Travel Blog

## 20121009 – Commute Into City

Tuesday – sun and cloud.



Today I'll not bother telling you where we are it should be obvious from the pictures.

Join the iPhone brigade of commuters in and out of the city. What a bloody rat race. How did we survive before the mobile and Internet?

Train seats are really neat they pull either way so you can face forward or back.

Some of the school uniforms are horrendous. Imagine being a 16 year old, complete with iPhone and white headphones, but having to wear sub near length shorts; white short sleeved shirt and tie; knee length white socks, neatly pulled up and folded over of course; topped off with black shoes. What must that do for their street cred?

Rest of Oz is very civilised, good toilet facilities everywhere. Apparently this city is not so. Try finding a public toilet in the Central Station or surroundings. They're as rare as politicians with common sense.



Catch the typical red bus, hop on hop off, city tour. It's a tad cold on the open top deck but we survive. Great way to see the city. Even got to see the Apple store. Surprised there wasn't a bus stop directly outside – how weird!

Have our lavish lunch outside the opera house. Pass on a performance of Madame butterfly. Really not our cup of tea, and I doubt, even in Oz, shorts and sandals would be accepted.



After lunch we catch the Bondi Beach tour. Lovely beach but not a bit like we expected in terms of thongs and bikini shops on the front. Hardly any and very few tat shops. Almost unspoilt.

language means "I can't understand you".

Today's useless and doubtful piece of information. The word Kangaroo came about when some white settlers pointed to the then unnamed Kangaroo and asked some Aborigines what it was called. The Aborigines didn't understand a word of English – how uncivilised – they said "Kan ga too" which in their

Good news ordered my iPhone 5 which should be waiting for me when I get back to England – an incentive to come home.

More non PC humour:

Sheila wants an all over suntan but is not quite sure how to do about it so she says to Bruce; you reckon I should go sun-bathing in the nuddy in the backyard? Yeah, no worries, says Bruce, go for it. But what if the neighbours see me naked, what will they think? Bruce; that I married you for your money.....



Blonde to her friend; I have to be really careful not to get pregnant. Her friend; but didn't your husband get a vasectomy done recently? Yes, exactly, that's why...



Three blokes were working on a high rise building project, Macca, Chook and Simmo. Chook falls off and is killed instantly. As the ambulance takes the body away, Simmo says, "Someone should go and tell his wife." Macca says, "OK, I'm pretty good at that sensitive stuff, I'll do it."

Two hours later, Macca comes back carrying a slab of VB. Simmo says, "Where did you get that, Macca?"

"Chook's missus gave it to me." "That's unbelievable, you told the lady her husband was dead and she gave you beer?" Macca says, "Well not exactly. When she answered the door, I said

to her, "You must be Chook's widow." She said, "No, I'm not a widow." And I said, "Wanna bet me a slab"

Wednesday – hot and sunny, despite the weather forecast which said rain.

Again it's the commute. This time we have a day pass that's valid on all trains buses and ferries, they're a great way to see the city skyline.

I just love the next train time board at the local station. Low tech; practical; it works as long as geezer pops out to change it on que. Really satisfies Occams Razor.

Visit the Australia museum and see all the deadly species that dwell here. Amazing 120,000 people die in Oz each year and less than a handful die from the deadly wildlife or sea life. Yet every one equates Oz with the dangerous and deadly.



Really need to master this typing with just thumbs. It really seems to be an under 20's skill, perhaps we're evolving into it and future generations will be born with pencil sharp thumbs. The technique seems to be trust the predictive text and don't worry about spelling, punctuation or grammar – never my strong point.

This city has an awesome skyline. Ironic the skyline is littered with the skyscrapers of banks, banks, banks and more banks; accountants; management consultants; insurance companies. The useless scavengers and leeches on society that got us all into this financial mess.



Try catching a bus? First you have to find a bus stop – rocking horse shit springs to mind. Oh theres one! Hang on it says "Set Down Only". Yet the picture shows an androgynous being getting on the bus – common sense strikes again!

After our usual lavish lunch and coffee we catch the ferry to Manly. Great views of the opera house, bridge and harbour. Fantastic skyline.

The catch the ferry to Darlin Harbour. Ferries run every 15 minutes and are a great way to get around the city.

Try the Chinese Gardens. Sorry they're closed today and no we couldn't be bothered to put a notice under the signs to stop people wasting their shoe leather – whackers.

Wander around the harbour and there just so happens to be a few shops.

Coffee on the harbour front watching the World sail by and contemplating yet again how lucky we are.

Then it's a swish tram back to Central station and the commute home. In keeping with the locals we pick up the free daily paper to read on the train back.

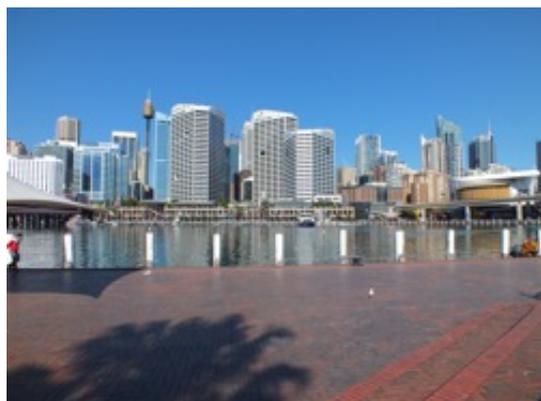
I've had two days without any religious nonsense but then the free paper has two articles to remind me that the fruitcakes are still out there and very active:

Taliban shoot a 14 year old school girl because she had the guts to protest in favour of education for girls.

Muslim private school expels a young girl who was captured, held and raped by a gang for a week. The girl bought shame upon the school. No you managed to bring shame on the school!

Oh and to top it all there's an article about a Hotel manager asking his staff to post great fake reviews on Trip Advisor to increase it's ratings. Amazing it's my regular billet, the Ramada at Glasgow airport, must be slow free news day! Offer me a free bottle of Pinot Noir and I'll do you a good but true review.

Let's end on a funny non PC note:



What do you say to a feminist with no arms and no legs?

Option A: NICE TITS !!

Option B: How ya gonna do the dishes?

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer.

Man comes home drunk and says to his wife; Jesus, you're ugly! Wife replies; you are pissed! Man; yes, but that'll be gone by tomorrow!

Sheila was in a coma. Nurses were in her room giving her a sponge bath.

One of them was washing her private area, and noticed that there was a response on the monitor, when she touched her. They went to her husband Bruce and explained what happened, telling him, "Crazy as this sounds maybe a little oral sex, will do the trick and bring her out of the coma."

Bruce was skeptical, but they assured him, that they'd close the curtains for privacy. He finally agreed and went into his wife's room. After a few minutes the woman's monitor flat lined, no pulse, no heart rate. The nurses ran into the room. "What happened?" Bruce replied, "I guess she choked."



A married bloke was having an affair with his secretary. One day they went to her place and rooted all arvo.

Exhausted, they fell asleep and woke up at 8 PM. The bloke hurriedly dressed and told his lover to take his shoes outside and rub them in the grass and dirt. He put on his shoes and drove home.

"Where have you been?" his wife demanded.

"I can't lie to you," he replied, "I'm having an affair with my secretary. We had sex all afternoon."

She looked down at his shoes and said: "You lying bastard! You've been playing golf!"

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This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged common sense, fundamentalists, Oz humour, Religious fruitcakes, Sydney on October 10, 2012 [<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/10/20121009-commute-into-city/>].

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## 20121008 – Lazy Day With The Lorikeets

Monday – warmish, sun and cloud.



Parrots are on the balcony squawking for their breakfast. At home we get hoards of boring Starlings squabbling over their food, here it's the same only they're beautiful parrots. They have a special porridge like mix with water, but they prefer fruit juice. I think I'll buy some mix for home and then we'll get parrots!

Parents were talking about explaining the birds and the bees on Oz radio. One 6 year old rugrat came home and said to his Mum "My mate told me how you make babies. I can't believe you've done that with Dad 4 times (he had 3 siblings), how revolting". Mum replies "Don't forget we have twins". Rugrat says "OK so you did it twice and once for a long time! It's still revolting".

Have you ever noticed how all garages position their tills such that you need a pair of hiking boots to get to them. It's never near the door, but where you have to pass loads of merchandise. A cynical person - which is not in my nature - might say this is yet another example of the marketing ?? exploiting the customers rather than treating them with respect and minimising the inconvenience.



Lazy day around the house and then a trip into the Mall, need a portable speaker (someone left our other one in a hotel). The Malls lovely, as Malls go, but to top it all I nearly have an orgasm when I see there's an Apple store. Temptation!



Afternoon tea around the pool just watching all the birds in the Bush. This place is right on the edge of the Bush, another awesome place.

More non PC Ozzie jokes:

What's the difference between a girlfriend and a wife? About twenty to thirty kilos!

Why do women stop menstruating in their fifties? 'Cos they need the blood for their varicose veins!

How do you know your wife's dead? Sex is the same but the dishes pile up high in the kitchen!

If your dog is barking at the back door and your wife is yelling at the front door, who do you let in first ?  
The dog, of course. He'll shut up once you let him in.

Scientists have discovered a food that diminishes a woman's sex drive by 90%.. – It's called a Wedding Cake.

Why do women fake orgasms ? – Because they think men care.

If your wife keeps coming out of the kitchen to nag at you, what have you done wrong? – Made her chain too long



Why do women have smaller feet than men? – It's one of those 'evolutionary things' that allows them to stand closer to the kitchen sink.

Why is a Laundromat a really bad place to pick up a woman? – Because a woman who can't even afford a washing machine will probably never be able to support you.



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This entry was posted in Uncategorized on October 8, 2012 [<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/10/20121008-parrots/>] .

## 20121006 – Port Macquarie

Saturday – hot and sunny to start but gets cloudy later on.



After a lavish breakfast of Toblerone croissant and cake we set off for the short drive down to Port Macquarie. Arrive before lunch, so find a hotel and then have a lovely walk around the harbour and of course into the town shops – joy there's an arcade. Very pleasant place with a great skate board park for the kids.

As usual beaches are lovely and full of surfers.

Hotel's very swish, complete with balcony and great views. Pity

the weather is a bit cloudy.

Here we go again, more lunacy:

“Students from the University of Reading Atheist, Humanist, and Secularist Society (RAHS) were forced to leave the Freshers' Fayre this week after they labelled a pineapple Mohammed and put it on their stall.

Staff from the Reading University Student Union (RUSU), as well as a number of Muslim students objected and asked the society to remove it, with a statement from the society stating that they were told Either the pineapple goes, or you do .

Tim Rouse of the Atheist, Humanist & Secularist Society, issued the following statement on Facebook:



Among the material displayed on our stall was a pineapple. We labelled this pineapple Mohammed , to encourage discussion about blasphemy, religion, and liberty, as well as to celebrate the fact that we live in a country in which free speech is protected, and where it is lawful to call a pineapple by whatever name one chooses”.

What is happening to free speech. The Dhimi's are just giving it away. One day we'll wake up and find it gone and we're being stoned for some supposed blasphemy. I'm getting just sick of hearing the tantrums, violence, threats and savagery. Why don't all these religious freaks – no matter what persuasion – just go and do religiously pleasant things.

Anyway in the name of free speech, and as a feeble gesture against all this crap, I'm going to name at least one thing in my house Mohammed and just to show there's no bias I'll probably name some other inanimate object as other religious leaders. I know it will not change anything but hey ho, it'll make me feel better! I must say the dustbin and doormat are strong contenders. Suggestions are welcomed.

Now for some Ozzie humour:



Bruce comes home from the pub and sees Sheila watching Gordon Ramsay's F%\*#ing cooking show on the telly.

Bruce says; "What are you watching that shit for? You can't cook to save your life!"

To which Sheila replies; "So what? You watch porn movies, don't you?"

Sheila walked into the kitchen to find Bruce stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting Flies" He responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" She asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 Females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

Do the Terrorist Test here:

YOU MAY BE A TALIBAN IF..."

1. You refine heroin for a living, but you have a moral objection to beer.
2. You own a \$3,000 machine gun and \$5,000 rocket launcher, but you can't afford shoes.
3. You have more wives than teeth.
4. You wipe your butt with your bare left hand, but consider bacon "unclean."
5. You think vests come in two styles: bullet-proof and suicide.
6. You can't think of anyone you HAVEN'T declared Jihad against.
7. You consider television dangerous, but routinely carry explosives in your clothing.
8. You were amazed to discover that cell phones have uses other than setting off roadside bombs.
9. You've often uttered the phrase, "I love what you've done with your cave."
10. You have nothing against women and think every man should own at least one.
11. You bathe at least monthly whether necessary or not.
12. You have a crush on your neighbor's goat.



Sunday – sunny, warm and very windy.

Lost an hour last night as clocks spring forward.



Pleasant breakfast with stunning views then have a walk around the headland to watch the early morning surfers. Then it's tea on the balcony whilst we read the papers – newspapers there's a rare luxury. Watch the surfers and early morning exercise freaks from the balcony – this is plenty of exercise for me.

Here's a test to weed out Muslim terrorists who would not be able to control themselves. It will probably be more effective than the millions the government spent on anti-terrorist measures and fridge magnets. If nothing else it will provide some pleasant eye candy entertainment – one hopes.

As we all know, the Taliban considers it a sin for a man to see a naked woman who is not his wife. So, this Saturday at 2:00 PM Eastern time all Australian women are asked to walk out of their house completely naked to help weed out any neighbourhood terrorists. Circling your block for one hour is recommended for this anti-terrorist effort. All men are to position themselves in lawn chairs in front of their house to prove they are not Taliban, demonstrate that they think it's okay to see nude women other than their wife and to show support for all Australian women.

And since the Taliban also does not approve of alcohol, a cold six-pack at your side is further proof of your anti-Taliban sentiment. The Australian Government appreciates your efforts to root out terrorists and applauds your participation in this anti-terrorist activity. God bless Australia!

Drive down to Sydney. Good dual carriageway most of the way. Takes about 4.5 hours to do the 250 miles.

Arrive at our VRBO Rental place. Very nice and comfortable complete with its own pool and barbecue area. It's in the suburbs of Sydney but right out in the bush. Greeted by the owners and have a pleasant beer and chat around the pool.

Then it's a trip to the supermarket to get stocked up for the week – joy. Driving around the suburbs is a nightmare. Dread to think what central Sydney must be like.

A few more Oz jokes, this time, its the men who take the abuse.

Men are like ... Laxatives ... They irritate the crap out of you. Men are like ... Bananas ... The older they get, the less firm they are.

Men are like ... Vacations ... They never seem to be long enough.

Men are like ... Weather ... Nothing can be done to change them.

Men are like ... Blenders ... You need One, but you're not quite sure why.

Men are like ... Chocolate Bars ... Sweet, smooth, & they usually head right for your hips.

Men are like ... Coffee ... The best ones are rich, warm, & can keep you up all night long.

Men are like ... Commercials ... You can't believe a word they say.

Men are like ... Department Stores ... Their clothes are always 1/2 off.

Men are like ... Government Bonds ... They take sooooooo long to mature.

Men are like ... Mascara ... They usually run at the first sign of emotion.

Men are like ... Popcorn ... They satisfy you, but only for a little while.

Men are like ... Lava Lamps ... Fun to look at, but not very bright.

Men are like ... Parking Spots ... All the good ones are taken, the rest are handicapped.

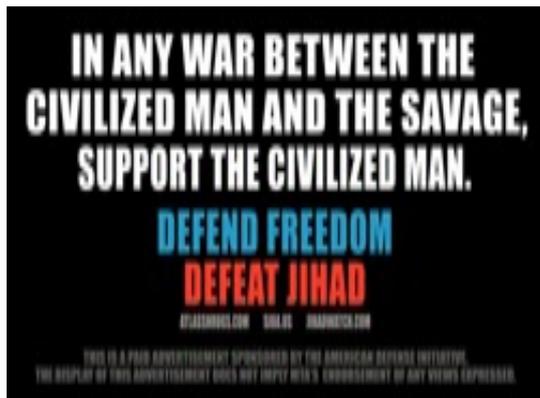
Men are like ... Snowstorms ... You never know when they're coming, how many inches you'll get or how long it will last.

Finally what a classic:

What is the definition of a Wife? An attachment you screw on the bed to get the housework done.



Meanwhile a victory for common sense and free speech in “the land of the free”:



WASHINGTON — A federal judge says the D.C. transit system must allow a pro-Israel ad that equates Muslim radicals with savages.

U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer said in a one-page opinion Friday that the advertisement must be displayed no later than 5 p.m. on Monday.

The American Freedom Defense Initiative sued last month for the right to display the ads in the Metro system. Metro officials had delayed putting up the ads because of the violent reaction in the Middle East to the video the “Innocence of Muslims,” which denigrated the prophet Muhammad.

Metro spokesman Dan Stessel says the system will comply with the order and the ads will go up this weekend.

Similar ads were expected to be added Monday along the New York City subway system.

Don't you just love this video, he's nearly as good as Pat Condell:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl-TNg4YH-Q&feature=related>

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**Share this:**



This entry was posted in Uncategorized on October 7, 2012 [<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/10/20121006-port-macquarie/>] .

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## 20121005 – Coffs Harbour

Friday – hot and sunny 33C.



Breakfast at McDonalds. Hearty Breakfast McMuffin was delicious. A cholesterol special all on a cob (muffin). Age profile of the clientele was interesting, average age must have been 55. Not at all what I expected but mainly having a breakfast.



3 hour drive down the pacific highway to Coffs Harbour. Another lovely coastal town with one of the oldest harbours on the East coast. Not quite as touristy as Byron Bay but the usual surf beaches and beach life. Thankfully not a single thongs or bikini shop.

Arrive at lunch time so we have the whole afternoon to explore. Have a great 3 hour walk around the old harbour and the two main surf beaches. This drive in the morning, arrive at lunch and explore in the afternoon is a much more enjoyable way of travelling and exploring.

Another lovely motel, Best Western this time with very pleasant receptionist. Not the usual aggressive Sheila who studied at the Ozzie school of charm and culture. Motel has an African restaurant with some unusual dishes too tempting to miss so we splash out. I try have the Kitfo (raw beef with spices) followed by the slow roasted Goat with jalapeno (level 4 on the heat scale) with a fennel and peanut puree; Uyoga mushrooms sautéed in Nitter Kebbah; Miele (not the dishwasher) mash and Polenta. Being a wimp I passed on the Habanero + Naga Jolokia (level 6) described as insane heat.



There was a level 7 heat dish consisting of Capsaicin a pure chemical extract of the heat from chilli, but apparently it is so hot it has been declared illegal in Oz. Scores 16,000,000 on the Scoville scale for heat measurement – Jalapeño score 8,000. Scientific studies even show

it can cure Prostrate cancer.

Wendy had the Char grilled Turkish bread with Nitter Kabbah and African butter as a starter. So much more tasty than garlic bread. Must get the recipe it's absolutely gorgeous. For main she had something like chicken and chips.



I tried a tasty Tasmanian lager and then to be a real Ozzie had a VB – Proudly Australian. A unique and very spicy meal. If I wake up dead I blame it on the VB.

Two blokes bump into each other in the supermarket. Sorry mate, says the first one, I am a bit nervous, I lost my wife, can't find her anywhere. Second bloke replies; gee, I can't find mine

either, how about we go and look for them together? Sure, says the first one, what does you wife look like? Eh well, she's blonde, long hair, tall slim body, well tanned, large breasts and she's wearing a tight fitting low cut black dress. What does your wife look like? Forget about my wife, says the other bloke, let's go and look for yours!



Sad sign! Makes for boring beaches.

Oh dear is this a major threat to the Ozzie economy? Thongs — known as flip-flops in America — can be responsible for health problems such as tendonitis plus general knee, hip and back pain, according to a study from the American College of Sports Medicine.

What's the difference between a G-Spot and a golf ball? An Australian man will actually search for a golf ball.

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This entry was posted in Uncategorized on October 5, 2012 [<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/10/20121005-coffs-harbour/>].

## 20121003 – Goodbye Tamborine

Wednesday – Sunny and warm.



It's our last day here. Up early to clean the house etc. drive down to Coolangatta to pick up the Hertz – nice Ford Focus auto and yes it does have cruise control. Pick Pam up and take her out to lunch at the Burleigh Head Surf Club. Great views right on the beach. Call in to say goodbye to Peter and drop off some Avo's – if you don't know what they are see my guide to Oz language. Then it's home for a leisurely last night.

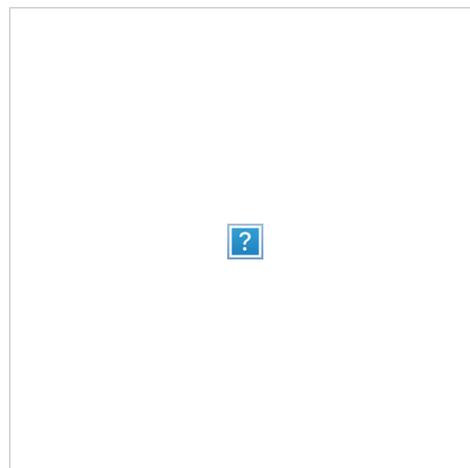
The Oz language seems to be follow some simple guidelines:

- If you can abbreviate to to 3 or 4 letters.
- If in doubt add "i.e." or "y" at the end.

Simple.

Excerpt from a speech Steve Jobs – y'know the Apple geezer – gave in 1983:

“Apple’s strategy is really simple. What we want to do is we want to put an incredibly great computer in a book that you can carry around with you and learn how to use in 20 minutes. That’s what we want to do and we want to do it this decade,” says Jobs. “And we really want to do it with a radio link in it so you don’t have to hook up to anything and you’re in communication with all of these larger data-bases and other computers”.



Then to quote a luddite boss of mine “then along came the iPad”. That speech was almost 30 years ago – what vision.

Now here's a new twist:

“Ahmed Abdallah, a Muslim television preacher in Egypt, has been charged with blasphemy against Christianity. Abdallah was videotaped tearing up and burning a Bible in a protest in Cairo earlier



this month.

Abdallah told Al Jazeera that he'd do it again if Bibles were not so expensive".

Thursday – hot and sunny.

Up early ready for the trek down to Sydney. What a great home exchange we've had. Dropped really lucky. Fantastic home and great unspoilt location in midst of so many National Parks. We'll really miss the early morning bird calls, especially the Cuk-aboroo; breakfast on the deck looking out over the forest and the Gold Coast. Seeing Pam again and meeting and eating with her friends made it great stay.

Really civilised on the roads here. They have "Driver Reviver Stations" where you can Stop, Revive, Survive. Free coffee – how very civilised.

Only going as far as Byron Bay today so we drive around the Tweed Coast. Really nice small towns. If ever we came back would be a lovely quiet place to stay.

Road into Byron bay is a nightmare. 20 minutes traffic jam the place looks very busy – is this a big mistake? Find a trendy up market Motel on the outskirts, reasonably priced, and have a walk down to the beach. All very pleasant. Great example of beach life. Have a walk along the lovely front and back down the beach. Wendy chickens out at walking up to the light house – too far.



Stop off on the corner cafe for coffee and some people watching. A lovely way to pass away the afternoon. Then it's a wander around the shops – joy. Wendy gets really excited when she sees a Aldi.

Lets consider Oz's sartorial trends. These seem to consist of half the male population wearing bright yellow high vis shirts; thongs everywhere; Sheila's in skimpy, ripped shorts; tattoos.

I'm sure thongs must be a bell weather of the Oz economy. Sales up economies doing well.. Then you have the economic terrorists wandering around naked, thong less, must be an considered un-Oz activity,;

some wear odd thongs, different colour on each foot; then you have the old lady struggling along with her zimmer frame in a pair of thongs.

Tattoos seem to be another Oz essential. I'm sure some have that many tattoos that they don't need to wear a shirt; one bikini clad Sheila had a half a novel written across her body, I was tempted to go up and read it but thought she may be offended; another had a poem tattooed on her back. Then you have the ultimate in minimalist tattoo on the arm of another Sheila – 16. What the hell does that mean? Is it her age 10 years ago; dress size; her door number in case she forgets; date she lost her virginity; number of children – who knows.



Meanwhile I now know we live in rip off Britain. I though Oz was expensive but I've just been pricing up a new Mac Air. Even with an educational dissent in the

UK they're at least 15% cheaper over here and nearly 25% cheaper if you reclaim the tax when you leave the country. In Hong Kong and the USA they're nearly 30% cheaper. Am I surprised?

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**Share this:**

This entry was posted in Uncategorized on October 4, 2012 [<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/10/20121003-goodbye-tamborine/>].

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## 20120927 – Dinning Out

Thursday – Warm and sunny but some clouds on the mountain.



After our hectic city day we have. Leisurely day on the mountain. Get a bit of reading and SQL work done. Then after lunch Wendy does the gallery shops without me – apparently I have a bad attitude towards shopping. Instead I find a nice coffee shop and enjoy the sun, watch the world go by, whilst having a long black – probably not PC but who gives a dam. **These Muslims are giving religion a real bad name. As my atheist hero Pat Condell says can you imagine how appalled Jesus, or that other geezer, would be if they came back and saw what was being done in the name of religion.**

I've had enough of all these fundamentalist fruitcakes and will stick with Dawkins.

Finally got to see the iPhone 5 in the flesh yesterday. Very nice; slimmer; longer; lighter; bigger screen – should help my typing; Siri sounds amazing and I'm convinced will be he another paradyne shift; on top of it all its about 6 times faster than Wendy's iPhone 4.

And more slang:

“Enough yabber from this old ocker ... take a trip to the dunny, then grab a coldie and a dog's eye with dead horse on the way back, get a matilda, and have a Captain Cook at the rest of this blog”.

Just to put this country into perspective:

“The average world population density is 117 people per square mile, that of the United States 76 and that of Macao is 69,000. Australia's is only 6”.

Friday – warm and sunny.

Don't you just love it when young women take their thongs off in public.

Drive down to Surfers Paradise to go on a boat trip around the waterways of Southport and Surfers paradise. jams everywhere its a bank holiday weekend.

The boat trips a pleasant way to see the Gold Coast. More expensive houses on the waterfront complete with boat docks and some even have helipads. Sadly most of them are empty. How the other half live. After the boat trip we have lunch at the “Titanium”. All included in the \$29 fee. Expected the lunch to be very mediocre but it was quite good – rump steak and snapper.

More astute observations from Wendy as she observes pigeons and seagulls. “They're the same the world over, the lucky ones are here on the Gold Coast and then you have the less fortunate in Belthorn”.

Then we nip into the big shopping mall, Wendy's treat – joy. Good to see you can buy Gollywogs over here, no stupid political correctness here yet. We don't really want one but we're tempted to buy one just to kick





PC in the teeth. Mind you knowing our loony country it'll probably be confiscated at customs in case it causes offence!

Go to Pams where we have dinner with the residents Try some Ozzie beers, not exactly the best beers in the world, but their wines make up for it. A very pleasant evening and get to meet some interesting people and now know how to make and rejuvenate fudge, never realised it was such a big and profitable business.

Stay overnight at Pams and get a taste of high

rise living. Misha, the cavoodle, dives into the bed to stake her claim before we get in. At 06:00 we get a bed wash from Misha Really cute , just the right size and lovely temperament.

“Australia’s first police force was a band of 12 of the most well behaved Convicts”.

Saturday – warm and sunny.

Take a nice walk into one of the Broad Beach parks, lovely greenery in the middle of the city. Meet up with Brian, one of Pams friends. When we get to Pams apartment Camilles



there, she’s grown up a bit since we last saw her.

More signs of a liberated society they have licensed brothels. Massage parlours offer happy time, usually at the end of a massage. I leave it to your imagination as to what makes people have a happy time.

In the evening Wendy and I go out to the Polish place for a quiet dinner. Unfortunately the kids and parents from hell are there. The kids shouting pizza, pizza,pizza, pizza. Then he starts making a sandcastle with the salt and

pepper while Dad watches on. Fortunately he, the kid that is, starts gnawing on the 2" thick table. That silences him but probably doesn't do the table much good.

The restaurants won loads of top awards and the foods excellent. Start off with a tasty Zywiec, Polish beer,

then try Pierogi, traditional meat filled dumplings, they're really tasty. I try the Bigos and Wendy has a Ham hock.

Useless facts:

“In 1954, Bob Hawke was immortalised by the *Guinness Book of Records* for sculling 2.5 pints of beer in 11 seconds. Bob later became the Prime Minister of Australia”

Sunday – warm and sunny.  
Heavy and noisy rain overnight.



Pat Condells strikes again with a great rant about the Muslims violent tantrums from the religion of peace. You can see it here [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCXHPKh-RCVg&feature=em-subsub\\_digest-newavtr](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCXHPKh-RCVg&feature=em-subsub_digest-newavtr). Just so true and to the point.

Drive down to Peters, one of Pams friends, for lunch. What a fantastic spread he's laid on. All very Italian. Certainly changed my attitude to Italian food. The Melanzane Alla Parmigiana was lovely. All very leisurely, took all afternoon, unfortunately we had to leave before the cheesecake.

Good to see yet another religion getting upset over trivia:

“US coffee chain Starbucks has managed to ‘enrage’ a group of Buddhists by opening up a store directly outside a well known shrine. This has inspired in a number of anti-coffee protests by religious activists”.

Meanwhile:

“A pom, fresh off the plane at Sydney airport, is trying to negotiate Australian customs. Finally, when it's his turn to get his passport stamped, the customs officer starts rattling off the usual questions:

C.O. – How long do you intend to stay?

POM – 1 week.

C.O. – What is the nature of this trip?

POM – Business.

C.O. – Do you have any past criminal convictions?

POM – I didn't think we still needed to”!

Translation:

Enough chat from this old uncultured Ozzie – take a trip to the toilet, grab a chilled can of beer and a meat pie with sauce on the way back, get a blanket and have a look at the rest of this blog.

**Share this:**



This entry was posted in Uncategorized on October 1, 2012 [<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/10/20120927-dinning-out/>].

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## 20120923 – Cedar Falls

Sunday – hot and sunny yet again. Abandon breakfast on the deck as it's too hot – mind you we'll have the



same problem on my new decking back in Belthorn no doubt:-7.

Nip to the Sunday fruit and veg market. All of one table selling some rather ropy looking veg and no fruit.

Never mind next stop the Tamborine historical society is open today so that's the next stop. A tad disappointing so we don't bother.

Watch the hang gliders.

Next stop Cedar Falls, that's if we can find it. Finally track it down. Take our lavish picnic but all picnic tables are occupied. It seems like there's some Germans around, no it's not

towels, but picnic table ready set and no one around. Bugger that we go and use it.

The walk down to the falls and the pools has some lovely views and youngster are out enjoying themselves. Another lovely little National Park in the rain forest. Wendy just loved the lizard lumbering bow legged down the path, testicle dragging along.



Why do we and the USA keep sending billions in aid to these tripe hounds in Pakistan.

“As Obama runs ads in Pakistan apologizing for free speech, Pakistan Minister offers \$100,000 reward for death of US filmmaker”.



If our politicians can't stop frittering away money we don't have then I suggest we send them to Pakistan to calm the rioters – it's just goldfish for jam jars.

More Oz sayings:

Man's not a camel. = Get me a beer.

Let's hope the Ozzies don't throw a muslim and get offended by my Oz jokes:

“If it takes an IQ of 60 to tie shoelaces, why do

so many Australians wear thongs”?

“Why do so many Australian men suffer premature ejaculation? Because they have to rush back to the pub to tell their mates what happened”!

Monday – hot and sunny.

Breakfast on the balcony. All the Gold Coast is under a blanket of cloud but up here we're above it all and it's clear blue sky.

Drive down to pick Pam up and it's off to the Gold Coast Wild Life park. Visit a few beaches on the way. By the time we get there the mists lifted and it's a hot sunny day.



The parks great. Allows you to interact with animals such aKangaroo's and for a small fee you get to have a picture with a Koala Bear. Although they seem a tad reluctant to let you pet their 5 Metre salt water crocodile. The Kangaroos are amazingly friendly and they don't even seem to get upset with people petting their Joey in their pouch. I think I'll just let the pictures speak for themselves. A great day and we just man-



age to leave before a thunderstorm rolls in.

Enlightened:

**“On September 18, 2012, Muhib Ru'yat Al-Rahman, a senior writer on leading jihadi forum Shumoukh Al-Islam, suggested that Muslims living in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and the U.S. kill Westerners and display their decapitated heads along roads with a statement reading: “This is the punishment of those who insult our prophet.”**

Thank Allah the UK's escaped.



Good news, only salt water crocodiles consumes humans. Bad news, salt water crocodile – can grow up to 6 metres long – are not just found in salt water and can be found inland. Good news, remember the “15 15” rule keep at least 15 metres away from water and don’t stay for more than 15 minutes.

Short-beaked Echidna [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short-beaked\\_echidna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short-beaked_echidna).

Why do people go to other countries and expect that country to change to accommodate them? If what they want was so good why don't they stay where they were?

"Today in New York City was the Muslim Day Parade, where Muslims protested against blasphemy and for the imposition of the sharia in America".

Tuesday – warm and sunny.



Drive down to Pam's for our first Ozzie barbie. They have these free barbie units in the apartment block so you don't need to light a fire and suffer the smoke and flames.

A very pleasant afternoon with Pam and Peter and of course Misha enjoying every minute of it. It's a Cavapoo or in Ozzie lingo a Cavoodle, sounds a bit kinder on your carpets. Wendy wants one.

Wendy and Pam go off to the ladies afternoon while I manage to do a bit of work – boohoo:-{.

Meanwhile:

"The Maldives has moved to ban dancing in public between men and women, an official and a report said, confirming the influence of the nation's extremist muslims".

Never mind perhaps homosexuals dancing together is to be promoted. Now there's a muslim world first. Notice the lower case m do you think this will cause more riots in the muslim world?

Now for some more Oz language lessons:

"The cook and I had a fair suck of the sav, ropeable and were just spewin when we made a blue and vegged out to watch "The Estate", about these dole bludgers, rorting the system, chucking sickies all just a load of mongrels not a days yakka between them. Made me want to chunkier. We were rapt to see one guy stand out like a shag on a rock as a bastard battler".

And now for something Non PC:

A tourist is driving along in the outback when he hits two Abos who are crossing the road. One crashes through the windshield and into the car, while the other bounces off the fender and stag-

gers off into the bush. A local cop turns up and calms down the hysterical tourist. "Don't worry mate. We'll have the one that came through your windshield arrested for breaking and entering, and the other bloke arrested for leaving the scene of an accident."

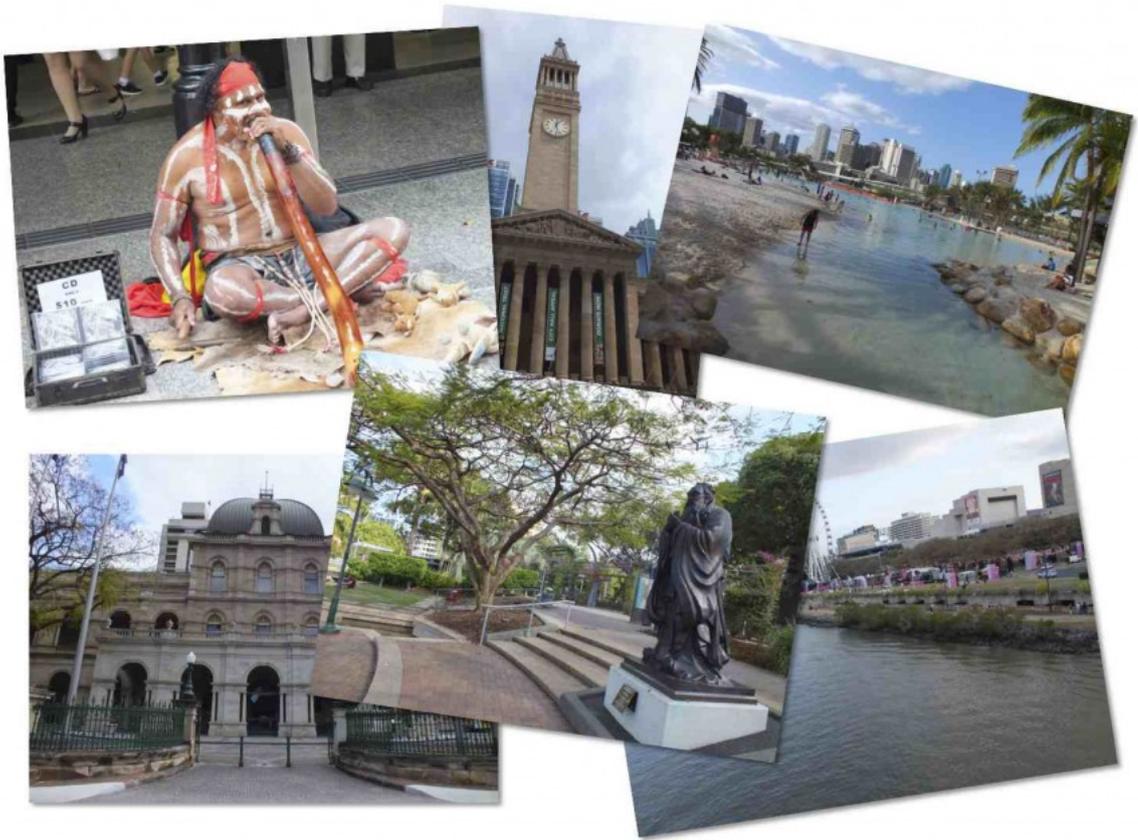
Wednesday – warm and sunny.

Up at the crack of dawn; drive to station and catch the express train into Brisbane. I think express has a different meaning in Oz. Only 100 minutes to travel 40 miles – thank god we missed the slow train – I think they must have an on board funeral service.



Pass on the Brisbane hop on off bus tour and do a free walking tour. Very interesting all the history, information and stories about Brisbane. 3 hours and amazing it was free.

Have a walk around south bank and a late lunch there. Very pleasant and vibrant.



After 5 hours "our dogs were barking", we've seen enough. Catch our 2nd express train back along with all the commuters and iPhone brigade. If you can't beat them join them so I get my blog done but somehow I really can't seem to master this thumb tie pin. Must be an age thing.

Brisbane was ok. Glad we've seen it but one days enough of any big city is enough.

Long drive back up the mountain, yet again. Nice bottle of Oz Merlot to finish the day.

More Ozzie taunts:

An abo goes into a pub with a parrot on his head.  
 The bartender looks at him and says, "Where did you get that?"  
 The parrot said, "There's plenty of 'em out in the bush!"

Q: What do you call an Abo with dandruff?

A: A Lamington (Australia's famous squares of sponge cake dipped in chocolate glaze and then in coconut!)

This ones a bit deep:

While waiting to finalise their Australian residential status, two Afghanistani men start chatting. As they part, they agree to meet in a years time and see who has adapted better to the Australian way of life.

True to their word, they meet after the year is up. The first says to the second "We have integrated so well...yesterday, I ate a meat pie and drank a VB while watching my son play Aussie rules"

The second man replies "F\*\*k off, towelhead"

Translation:

"The wife and I were outraged, annoyed and ready to throw up when we made the mistake and sat and watched the TV programme "The Estate", about these scroungers on the dole, ripping off and exploiting the benefit system, skiving all just a load of scrots with not a days work between them. Made us want to throw up. We were pleased to see on guy who was the exception, a good guy working hard for very little pay".

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**Share this:**



This entry was posted in Uncategorized on September 26, 2012  
[<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/09/20120923-cedar-falls/>].

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## 20120922 – Supermarket & Coffee

Saturday – warm and sunny.

Life is good. Wendy gets her weekly treat in the supermarket and I get a coffee at the local cafe, with free wifi of course. Nice thing here is that the library is next to the supermarket – now that's what I call civilised.

After lunch we pop down to the highlight of the year in Tamborine – the annual show. Pig racing and fire-works. Sadly not worth the £7 admission fee, so we give it a miss.

Back home for afternoon tea and a leisurely read.

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**Share this:**

This entry was posted in Uncategorized on September 23, 2012  
[<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/09/20120922-supermarket-coffee/>] .

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## 20120915 – Tamborine Mountains

Sunday – warm and sunny.

Lazy day around the house. Settle down to read the Steve Jobs biography – Doug has it in hardback form so I needn't have bought the Kindle edition.



The house and views are stunning.



In the mornings as we have breakfast on the deck we get to listen to the laughing Kookabora  
<http://www.freesound.org/people/pocket/sounds/44554/>,

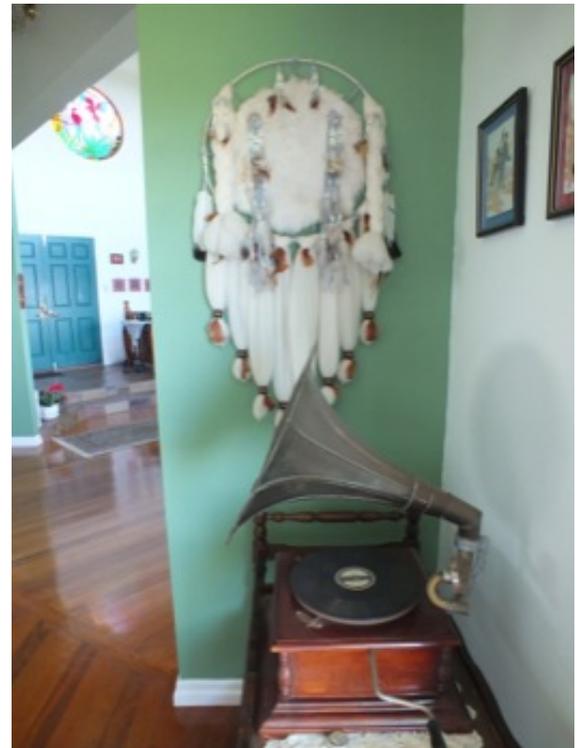
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Il98W12WqH4&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Il98W12WqH4&feature=youtube_gdata_player).

Who needs an iPhone when the house is equipped with the latest communication systems uses that new fangled thing called electricity. Apple watch out!



In the evening we can keep ourselves entertained with music from our state of the art hifi system.

Great to just relax after all those hotels and travelling. Manage to do a bit of work in the afternoon.



To improve my Oz beyond the Teach Your Self Oz level and give you an example I've constructed a typical Oz sentence.

"A larrikin digger one arvo sees a spunk nuddy Sheila with a great mappa tassie and so fancies having a naughty, but alas he has no franger for his old fella so he's spewin". Translation at the end of this blog.

How have they got the brass balls:

*"Calls in Pakistan for the producer and all those involved in the production and release of the movie must be hanged publicly and that:*

*The US must make a law against blasphemy — or we will not let the US consulates in Pakistan function".*

Let's hope they make the same threat to the UK and we ignore it. Then the UK and the US can save Billions in foreign aid – although our dhimi politicians will probably act on it and double the foreign aid.

Monday – warm and rain.

Day starts off fine so we drive down to the tourist info in the village. Did plan on doing a walk but it starts to



rain.

Pop in at the Polish place for a drink. Try a Polish coffee. The coffee grinds are still in the cup and you pour cream on it to settle the grinds to sludge in the bottom. Strong – I don't think I'll sleep for a week.

They have parrots galore their. They'll come and eat the food off your table whilst you're having lunch. and we get our first glimpse of a Kookabura. What a beautiful cuddly looking bird.

Wifi in the house is great 4.5Meg. I think this is what it must be like in heaven.

Techy talk – ignore this paragraph. Regrettably once I switch my VPN it deteriorates to 450K. Ping is 400m – is that realistic given the distance to the UK? I wonder whether it's the latency that's causing so many retries and hence attenuating the speed. Or is it just the usual VPN service degrading as they get too many customers. I did warn you but you couldn't resist could you. Don't you just love dirty talk!

Meanwhile more censorship:

*"A screening of a controversial documentary on the history of Islam has been cancelled on security advice after its*



*presenter was threatened. Holland was threatened online with a torrent of abusive messages on Twitter.*

*Historian Tom Holland's Channel 4 film **Islam: The Untold Story** sparked more than 1,000 complaints when it was broadcast.*

*A Channel 4 spokeswoman said: Having taken security advice, we have reluctantly cancelled a planned screening of the programme **Islam: The Untold Story**. We remain extremely proud of the film which is still available to view on 4oD.*

*There appears to be no mention of the police following up the violent threats, perhaps they are too busy with following up trivial un-PC insults to worry about a violent attack on free expression”.*

Tuesday – rain but warm.

No breakfast on the patio today it's raining.

Drive down to Southport to have a look around. High rises everywhere. Not really all that attractive but clean.

Try to get some coffee but such an abysmal choice. They must all live on Nescafe and instant coffee. Finally track down a Dan Murphy's – cheap liquor store. £60 later we're stocked up on wine, beer and Bacardi.

Get some serious SQL programming done in the evening. Work, it's that four letter word.

Meanwhile:

*“An Iranian religious group has increased a reward offered for the murder of British author Salman Rushdie after managing to blame him for **The Innocence of Muslims** film”.*

Wednesday – hot and sunny. Normal breakfast service on the patio is resumed. Just look at those awesome views.

“Ughh, snake, snake” goes the cry from Wendy as she goes into the downstairs laundry room. Excitement. False alarm it’s just a very thin lizard.

Politicians, there just bloody useless. Sat here on the balcony looking out onto the Gold Coast makes you start to think.

It was the bloody politicians who sent the criminals here to this country. If they’d had an ounce of common sense they’d have left the scrots in the UK and let the rest of us go to Oz or the USA.



Two fantastic countries lost and what are we left with? A near bankrupt country paying out billions to a load of lazy scrots. I've no problem with the concept of a welfare state to help people on hard times but what's wrong with workfare. If you get welfare then you should earn it, when will the politicians fix this, its not rocket science. Rant over.



Birds here are amazing, in our garden we have all sorts of parrots, magpie, kookaboro and new species that no one else has discovered. Never mind Wendy's iPhone app will help solve that. Then there's the bird cries. Just like you imagine in the jungle a real cacophony of eerie and sometimes scary sounds. Fantastic! Yes I keep mentioning the iPhone. If she's really lucky I might give her an iPhone 4 in excellent condition – did anyone mention the new iPhone 5's been released.

Go down to the Botanical Gardens in Tamborine. This is a first for us. Better not let the kids know. What with bird watching and gardens they'll be having us committed. They're absolutely amazing and what's more they're free. Great birds also. See that picnic table, it's been superbly varnished, a glass like finish.

Oz definition of foreplay – “you awake”?

Then go down to the Curtis Falls in the midst of a tropical rain forest. A very enjoyable afternoon.

Here we go again a French magazine has had the audacity to publish some cartoons of Mohamed. This could get interesting. They're just cartoons for gods sake:

*“France in lockdown over Moe-toons, French gov't orders 20 embassies, schools to close*



*Earlier today a kosher store in the Paris suburbs were bombed. Despite the West's delusion and denial, we are at war. Freedom of speech in the age of jihad. Stand up, fight back. Do not sacrifice freedom so as not to offend savages.*

*“Charlie Hebdo's chief editor, who goes by the name of Charb and has been under police protection for a year, defended the cartoons.”I'm not the one going into the streets with stones and Kalashnikovs,” he said”.*

Thursday – hot and sunny.



Breakfast on the deck. Not only are the views and birds awesome but the smells from the plants are just lovely.

Reasons why a beer is better than a women:

If you pour a beer right you always get a good head.

You can have a beer in public.

Then we drive down to Tamborine National Park – it's on our doorstep. Queensland's first National Park founded in 1908. Have our lunch at a picnic spot. Can you believe it they even have free barbecues set up in all the parks? Do a 5k walk to Witches Falls. A tad disappointing as it's only a trickle when

you get there despite the recent rain, but the walk through the rain forest was worth it. It's 28C today but is nice and cooler in the rain forest.

Splash out and have a leisurely coffee at the Bavaria House complete with typical German music. Brings back good memories of our German trips.

How can we be so lucky? Tamborine Mountain and the house is awesome. Seems so much nicer than the coast and oh so relaxing. It's certainly on a par with Sedona.

You know you've arrived in Oz when your car has Roo bars.

Everyone you meet is so friendly. I'm sure it's the sunshine brings out the best in people and makes them happy.



“Crack Jenny's teapot” to spend a night in a brothel.

Some useless facts from the Oz bureau of statistics:

31 Ozzies have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree lights whilst they're plugged in.

Don't you just love it:

*“GENEVA | Wed Sep 19, 2012*

*(Reuters) – A leading Islamic organization signaled on Wednesday that it will revive long-standing attempts to make insults against religions an international criminal offence.*

*The bid follows uproar across the Muslim world over a crude Internet video clip filmed in the United States and cartoons in a French satirical magazine that lampoon the Prophet Mohammad.”*

Friday – overcast but warm.

Drive down to Broad beach on the Gold Coast to visit Pam who we've not seen in 20 years. Have a pleasant afternoon in her lovely apartment, then take a stroll around Broad Beach. As we've missed lunch we have "Lunner" in a Bavarian Café. I think I must have died and gone to heaven. As well as a lovely German meal I have a pint – well 500ml, even better – of draught Hof Brau followed by draught Lowenbrau – sorry about the missing umlaut. And to top it all both were served in the correct barrel glass. Proper beer in proper jugs. Not a bloody flower vase, but then comes the bill £8 a 500ml – what a great way to end the day, it's only money!



And here's the two of them are deciding on what to eat – how would I ever get a word in edgeways



Then Wendy has the long dark drive back up the mountain. Fortunately we didn't need the Roo bars or splat a Koala.

Meanwhile it's good to know that the UK has it own band of religious fruitcakes:

*"Fashion chain Next has been slammed by Christian nutters over a Sinners T-shirt which depicts a woman in underwear coupled with Bible references.*

*The T-shirt carries the headline Sinners and strap line The Night Before above the seductive image of a woman in black underwear lying on a bed. Below the image is the slogan Live for the Day. Finally, there is a long smallprint passage which carries a number of definitions of sin including one from the Bible from epistle to the Romans, chapter seven".*

If any body missed the controversial video thats caused the Muslim world to throw its tows out the pram yet again, here it is [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAiOEV0v2RM&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAiOEV0v2RM&feature=youtube_gdata_player).

It's not really all that good and would probably have withered on the vine if the savages hadn't, yet again, and rioted, slaughtered and killed in order to try and get their own way. In the name of all those on the re-

ceiving end of this senseless savage violence and free speech I feel compelled to watch it and promote it.

Well I don't know about anyone else but I'm just totally brassed off with religion. What a bunch of savage superstitious hypocrites most of them are. As that great atheist Pat Condell says "If Jesus or Mohamed – assuming they ever existed – came back now they be appalled at what is being done in their name". I think we should take any of these religious fruit cakes and deport them to a spare continent. I suggest Africa might be a good choice. It's already heavily populated with a goodly smattering of nutters. Then these savages can all terrorise, rape, pillage, fight, kill, stone, decapitate, flog, crucify, torture and persecute one another until Armageddon.

Did we have similar riots and violence when "The Life of Brian" and the "Holy Grail" were launched?

Never mind having a international blasphemy law, what about an international intolerance law that sends to Africa anyone who tries to cripple free speech or spouts religious bolox.

Answer to the translation exercise:

"A cheeky chappy soldier one afternoon sees a lovely nude women with a great pubic region and so fancies having sex with her, but alas he has no condom for his penis so he's very annoyed".

Great news if my house is a place of worship then you don't pay council tax. Well I've just had an epiphany. Every morning the Kookaburo wakes me with its infectious laughter, it tells the sky people to light the great fire in the sky that warms the earth, and it's spirit revealed to me a vision to cease my wicked ways and go forth and enjoy the full fruits of Mother Earth (Hedonism) and henceforth start a new religion called Tonylim. I can tell you it was a very spiritual moment. I'm therefore declaring 18 Rydal Mount, Belthorn a place of worship for Tonylim. Open house and all welcome to worship in the zen garden every Monday at 21:44 when the Grand Elder Tony is present – bring your own wine.

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**Share this:**

This entry was posted in Uncategorized on September 22, 2012  
[<http://blogs.4uand.me.uk/2012/09/20120915-tamborine-mountains/>].

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## 20120907 – Cairns

Friday – clear blue sky and sunny.

Overnight flight from Singapore gets us into Sydney for 05:00. Clear customs in record time, no messing about.

I know I was ashamed of Heathrows buses etc but Sydney is even worse. You have to produce your boarding card; sit in lounge for 20 minutes; then catch a bus to the domestic terminal. Yes, that's right you need a boarding card to get on the bus!

Despite my best efforts at Teach Yourself Aus I still can't understand a word of the announcements – perhaps they're all ex British Rail announcers who have emigrated to Oz.



Pleasant 3 hour flight up to Cairns.

Pick up Hertz and by 13:00 we're settled in our executive room in the All Seasons hotel. Lovely big room, bathroom and small balcony, but come on at least one picture on those bare walls would be nice.

Have a walk down to the Harbour and visit Wolworths – yes they're still alive and prospering over here – to pick up some food for dinner.

Saturday – warm and sunny.

Up early for breakfast and walk to the harbour to board the 09:00 Reef Magic catamaran out to their platform on the lagoon at Moore Reef. Manage to part with some of my breakfast before we get to the reef platform.

Have a fantastic dive on the Great Barrier Reef. I'm the only certified diver this morning so it's just me and the guide.



My dive had some great swims through fairly tight coral canyons. With the current these were tricky to negotiate but managed without major incident or damaging any coral. Awesome and the coral canyons really made the dive. At one stage I just touched a piece of coral with my left hand. Razor sharp results in 3 minor scratches. Moral is have some gloves, no wonder my guide is fully covered from head to finger tips to toes.





It seems like another good reason to be well covered is the delightful Box Jellyfish. One sting and you can be dead in 90 seconds. Impressive eh!



Pleasant lunch on the platform, followed by some snorkelling. By now its getting a tad rougher. Reef is quite shallow in the snorkelling area, only 2 - 3 feet deep. Waves can easily drop you very close to the coral. It would be so easy to end up shredded. Wet suits are a great idea for swimming with razor blades but quite a few people have no protection at all.

Coral and fish aren't as impressive when snorkelling. Makes scuba with all that kit, training and weight (for future reference I need 6 weights with 3mm wet suite in salt water) well worth it.

This is my sort of diving, warm water; gorgeous coral; pretty fish and less than 40 feet deep.



Wendy braves the semi-submersible sub so I go on the the trip with her. Gives a glimpse of what Scuba is all about. Thankfully we've both invested in some Qualms which seem to keep the sea sickness of the sub and the return journey at bay.

Wendy asks some deep metaphysical questions. What do fish do with themselves all day? Do they have a day out to pop and visit parents and friends? What's their purpose in life? Who knows!

On the way back we have the advantage of a spot of whale watching. I would post a photo of the whale leaping out but at those distances it's just a few pixels.

After an fantastic bucket list day we stroll back to the hotel for a mediocre dinner in the hotel followed by a pleasant but expensive bottle of wine, an expensive Aussie beer and an exhausted sleep.

That's one more ticked off the bucket list. Need to consider some additions.

Sunday - warm, sunny with clouds.

Leisurely breakfast and morning.

Drive up the picturesque coast road to Port Douglas. Joy, just like any French town, there's a market - how can I be so lucky. Try a real coconut drink then have the contents of the coconut with a banana. This guy really knows how to crack open a coconut. One tap with an iron bar and it's perfectly cracked in two. Not really to my liking as the young coconut produces more milk but the flesh which isn't as nice as the less creamy and drier mature coconut. Interesting how they scoop out the flesh though with what can best be described as a rotating grater on the end of a power



drill. Makes it so easy.

Wander down the high street. Pick up a BLT for Wendy. Then view the 4 mile beach. PD is a typical "seaside resort". Thankfully not a Blackpool but not nearly as nice as Cairns despite everybody else's opinion to the contrary.

Drive back to Cairns and call in at Palm Cove. Another pleasant beach resort.

Then as a treat for Wendy we call in at the Mall and visit Coles – no they don't sell ski gear – for some fruit and supplies for our long drive down to Tamborine Mountains. Also manage to pick up some nice Oz wines and Lowenbrau – heaven. Thankfully wine in the big liquor stores is quite cheap, wish we could say the same for the food – each trip to the supermarket needs another 2nd mortgage.

Call in to a Subway to pick up a sandwich. Subway and wine for dinner, not a chopstick in sight.

Monday – cloudy but warm.

Drive up to sky rail to go up to Kuranda. Closed for maintenance. Train to Kuranda, closed for maintenance. Aboriginal village – yes you've spotted the pattern. Co-ordinated customer care!



Drive up to Kuranda. Another World Heritage site – Wet Tropics – tropical rain forest. Kuranda is a quaint village full of shops selling all sort of knick knacks that you neither need nor probably even want – nothing new there then. Of course there are plenty of cafes and restaurants.

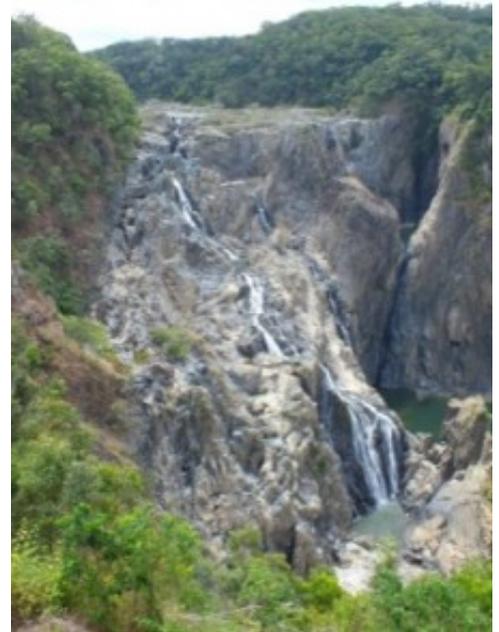
Go for a pleasant 3K rain forest walk. Pleasant and not too hot. Good to see that job creation schemes are live and kicking over here. There's a guy cutting grass in the rain forest!

Take a drive down to Barron Falls and enjoy our lavish lunch of a banana and trail bar by the falls. Actually the falls look a bit insipid. That's because the majority of the water is now piped underground to drive a hydro electric scheme. In their hey day they looked pretty powerful.



Back to the hotel for afternoon tea and then take a leisurely stroll, complete with tourist sized camera,

around Cairns. It's a very pleasant and relaxing place.



For dinner this evening we have the pleasure of a MacDonalds, ginger beer and wine. A welcome relief after all that chopstick tucker of last week.

Remember those 3 little coral scratches from Saturday? Well they're still showing no sign of healing. Only trivial little scratches. Hardly noticeable but apparently coral scratches need immediate attention and can need anti-biotic cream and tablets. Try some anti-septic stuff – looks like iodine.

It seems like they're a tad concerned about Electric ants around here – I think they're the same as the American Fire ants, but of course I'm sure the American ones are bigger and have a better sting.

Interesting sign on the roadside "Gay men – rip and roll". Don't get it? Safe sex advert, rip open the condom packet and roll it on your "old fella".



The Oz "No Entry" sign is "Wrong way go back" – perverse.

Tuesday – torrential down pour, but what can you expect we are in a tropical rainforest.



Leave Cairns and drive about 450 miles down to Airlie Beach. Pleasant little seaside resort. Very picturesque and tropical. Stay in a pleasant Best Western hotel. Very modern and trendy. Manage a enjoyable stroll around the beach. Pick up a Pepperoni pizza for dinner. Real food.

Good to see that it's not just the UK that suffers from an excess of trivial and stupid laws. How's this one "It is illegal to drink any alcohol around the pool that was not purchased in the Hotel". Firstly I hope it's just a pack of marketing lies. If it's not then I despair. If whoever passed this law was a full shilling then he would have turned around to the proposer and told them to go fourth and multiply your profits without wasting the laws time. The law is not an extension of your marketing department.

Don't I just love Oz wine, especially now I've found a cheap BWS shop. There's just no pretensions, unlike the French. Sensible screw top and lovely smooth blended Merlots and Pinot Noir.

Wednesday – hot and sunny.

Drive down to Rockhampton. Road works every 5 minutes.

Rockhampton is a tad disappointing, not really much there although there is a lovely park with waterfalls. It's main claim to fame seems to be the most protected old buildings on one street in the whole of Oz.

Comfort Inn hotel was interesting. Wifi is free. That's if you can get on the network and then cope with a blistering 356 Bytes per second. Asked the guy on reception to solve the problem. "No use asking me mate I don't even know or want to know how to turn a PC on". Wait until the evening and speak to the owner. Usual fob stories. "Have you put the password in". "it was ok last night". Finally convince her to try it and she can't get on. Conversation the deteriorates. "What do you expect me to do about it?". "Get onot your support and get it fixed". "They'll not come out in the evening". "There's nothing I can do". "You offered me a service and now you're not delivering". "Wifi's free". "there's nothing I can do. They'll charge a fortune. We're always having problems". "Ah so there is something you can do". "Theres nothing I can do".

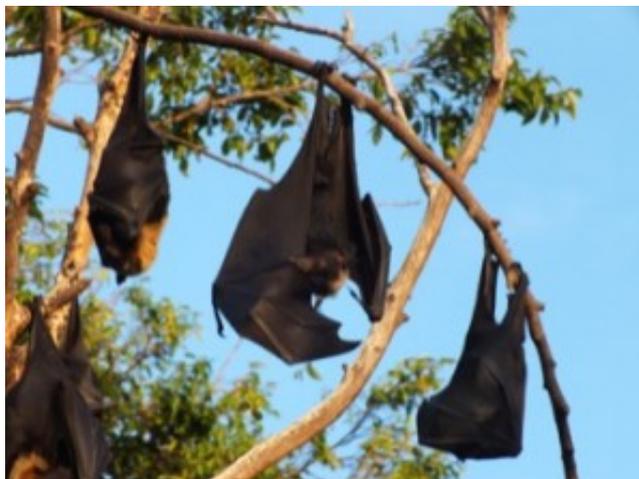
At which point she says I can have the room for free. I say no a \$20 refund is more than fair. "No you'll have the room for nothing". Who am I to argue with stropy Sheila with bad customer service attitude.

Devastated I miss the iPhone 5 announcement.

Thursday – hot and sunny.

More road works as we drive down to Hervey Bay. Arrive around lunch time. Another Comfort Suite. Very comfortable suite for just \$99.

Have a pleasant walk down the sea front and a coffee on the beach. All very pleasant. Lovely bay. Flying foxes hang from the trees. For dinner it's Ned Kelly pie and a Lamington – a dessert of Australian origin. It consists of squares of sponge cake coated first in a layer of traditionally **chocolate icing**, then in **desiccated coconut**. All very tasty washed down by a beer and some excellent Merlot.



Unusually breakfast is delivered to your room. Another stropky Sheila tells us we should have pre-ordered . Do they have a special customer service and charm school for all these Sheila's to attend before they're let loose on those delusional people who think they're a customer? But alas no one told us we had to pre-order. Moral here seems to be deal with a bloke!

Friday – hot and Sunny.

Last leg of our journey down to Brisbane and onto the Tamborine mountains and our home exchange for the next 19 days.

A little travel quiz to pass away the 1,200 mile journey from Cairns to Brisbane.

What is the biggest industry in Queensland?

Mining. Well thats the Wiki answer but I'm afraid it's wrong.

Sugar cane. Wrong.

Tourism. Wrong again.

The correct answer is road works. If you don't believe me try driving the 1,200 miles from Cairns to Brisbane and I'm sure you'll agree. There are even more road works than in the UK. Unbelievable and unimaginable but true.

Anyway as I just got so fed up with this every 5 minutes that I decided the best solution is if you can't beat them join them – see picture. Minimum wage, but just think how much misery you are inflicting.

Finally make it to our home exchange. We're in the midst of a national park and tropical rain forest, all very pleasant and cool – no I've not lost the plot and started using such bastardised words. Being 1,500 feet up it's that bit cooler than on the gold coast.



The house is awesome; fantastic views over the gold coast from our bedroom, office, lounge and Wendy tells me even the kitchen; vaulted ceilings; massive deck; giant barbecue, puts even the Americans to shame; fantastic birds and parrots on the garden. So far no snakes or black spiders!



Went out for dinner with our hosts to a lively Irish bar with great atmosphere and typical music.

Saturday – hot and sunny.

Our host leave early so we now have this massive house all to our selves. It's really nice to meet up with the host and have a handover, it's amazing how much we all have in common.

Breakfast on the deck admiring the views and birds.



Then we drive down to Coolangata – Gold Coast airport – don't you just love those town names. Car was due to be dropped off at Brisbane Airport as we have the use of a car with the home exchange. But Hertz are so flexible. Give them a ring and of course sir it's no problem just drop it off at Coolangata – now that's what I call service and no extra cost.

Then it's the dreaded supermarket. Well I wanted to lose some weight, it's certainly going to be easy here in Oz. Foods that expensive we can't afford to eat. Red

cross food parcels would be greatly appreciated.

Fortunately there's plenty of calories in red wine, that's cheap, along with avos (advacados) – yuk!

Give Pam a ring and set up to visit her down on the Gold Coast on Tuesday.

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