

creative

Traveller

HOLIDAYS WITH DOGS

TROPICAL COAST RETREAT TRIP REPORT

CHRISTMAS ART

FUN CHARACTER DRAWING WORKSHOP

GUY HULL

THE DOGS THAT MADE AUSTRALIA

THE

ANIMAL

Issue

Travel + Art + Life

CreativeTravellerMag.com



Holidays with Dogs





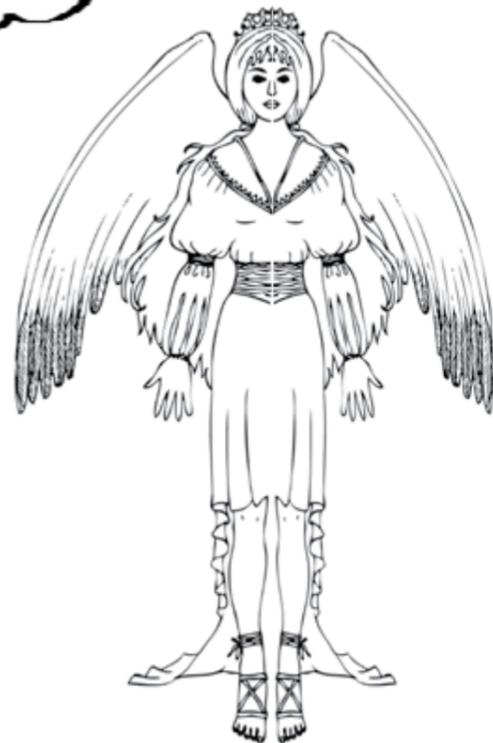
Tree in canola field
Image © JROD Captures



Bathing huts
Image © JROD Captures

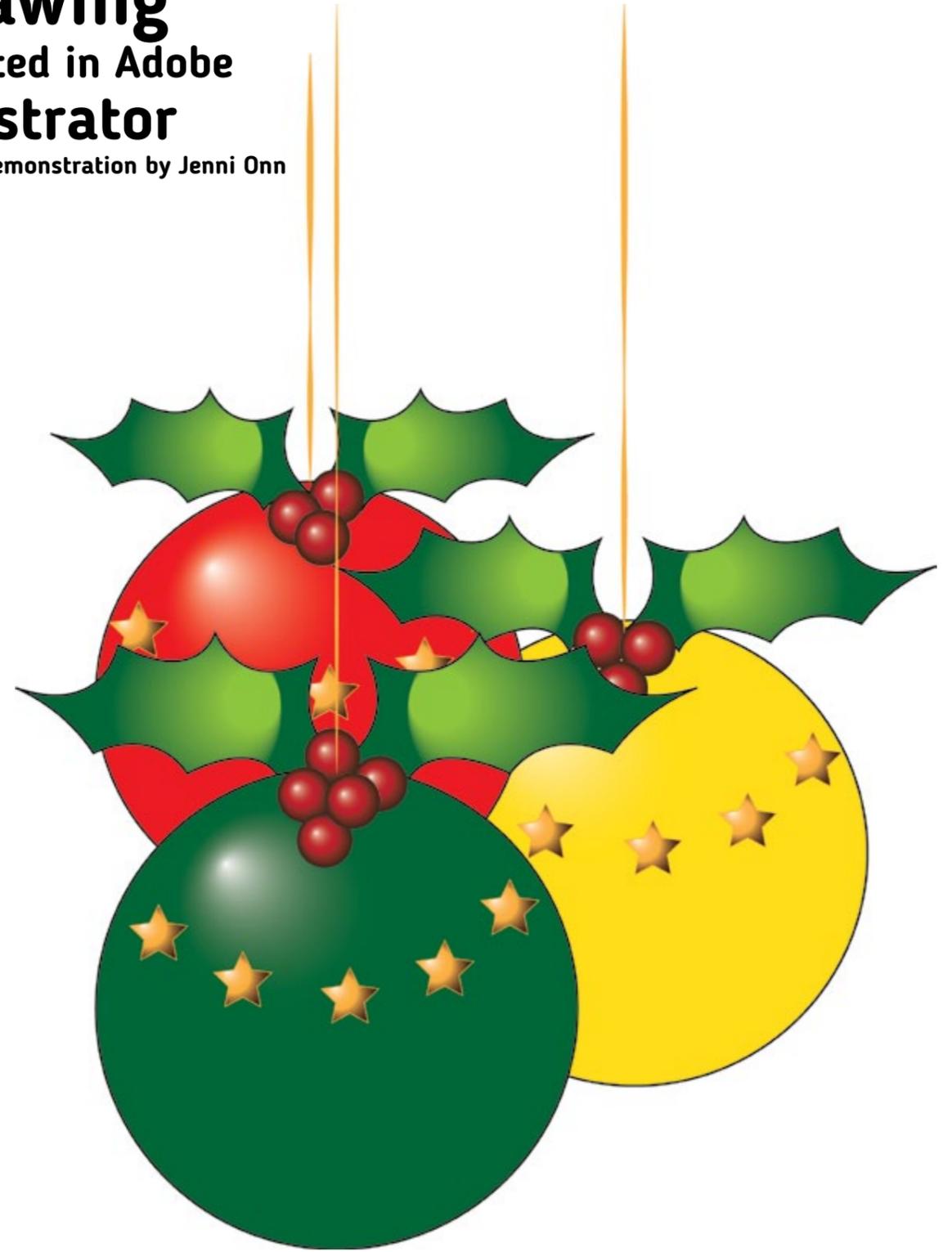


Step-by-step
easy
Christmas
drawings
by hand or
with a wacom
drawing tablet
+ Video Tutorial by Jenni Onn



Christmas baubles
vector
drawing
created in Adobe
Illustrator

Video Demonstration by Jenni Onn



Contents

CONTRIBUTORS	7
EDITOR'S DIARY	8
HOLIDAYS WITH DOGS - A TROPICAL COAST RETREAT TRIP REPORT	9
TROPICAL COAST RETREAT REVIEW	11
ADVENTURE IN MONGOLIA - AN EXPEDITION ON TWO WHEELS PART TWO	15
THE MINDFUL TRAVELLER - ANIMAL TOURISM	25
HOLIDAYS WITH DOGS - SOUTH TO TASMANIA	31
NEW YEARS EVE FIREWORKS	33
ADVENTUROUS DAYS DESERVE PEACEFUL NIGHTS	34
THE ANNUAL MIGRATION NORTH	35
WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND - GUY HULL'S BOOK THE DOGS THAT MADE AUSTRALIA	41
PICTORIAL FEATURE - PHOTOGRAPHY BY JROD CAPTURES	45
STEP-BY-STEP - CHRISTMAS DRAWINGS	51
UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERIES AROUND FITNESS SUPPLEMENTS	59
TECHNOLOGY WITH PEOPLE	63
CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOKS	65
SUBSCRIBE TO CREATIVE TRAVELLER	67
INVITE A WRITER	67
NEXT ISSUE	67

contributors

Writer, **Leanne Weber**

Photographer, **John Nicholls**
Rockwater Resort, Vanuatu

Leanne cares about the plight of endangered species in the fabulous South Pacific island nations.

As a fellow TripAdvisor contributor I asked if she would like to write an article to educate and inform readers about the subject. Many thanks to Leanne for her helpful and fascinating article.



John and Silvana Nicholls have lived in Vanuatu for many years and have now set up their own resort on Tanna.

Many thanks to John for providing photographs of coconut crab and market shell souvenirs.

To read more about Rockwater Resort and Vanuatu sustainability visit - <https://www.rockwaterresort.com/our-sustainability-our-future>

To read Leanne and John's contribution to this issue read page 25 - **"The Mindful Traveller - Animal tourism - How to ensure your tourist dollars are not used as an excuse for animal exploitation!"**.

©All rights reserved. No contributor images published in this magazine may be reproduced without prior written authority. Every endeavour is made to ensure the information contained herein is correct at time of distribution. Opinions expressed by writers are their own and not necessarily the opinions of Creative Traveller magazine. No responsibility is accepted for lost manuscripts, artwork or images. Creative Traveller is published quarterly - ABN 61688266954, PO Box 5509 Stafford Heights QLD Australia 4053

Full articles, or an excerpt of same, may be republished in print or online provided the attribution, "Published with permission from CreativeTravellerMag.com" is printed clearly in 12pt or larger font on the published item.

Cover Photos:

Main - One special dog - Image © Trevor Onn

Full page right - Cudgen Headland, NSW, Australia - Image © Trevor Onn

Double Page Spread pages 3 and 4 - Images ©JRod Captures

Double page spread - Christmas art tutorials - Image © Jenni Onn

editor's diary

In this issue - Animal features, Christmas art and a new travel series. Woohoo!

I saw a show on YouTube called "My £9.50 Holiday". It was produced by the BBC in 2014 and followed a few families/friends who took a budget weekend away at a holiday camp.

All I could think at the end of it was, "We really do live in paradise".

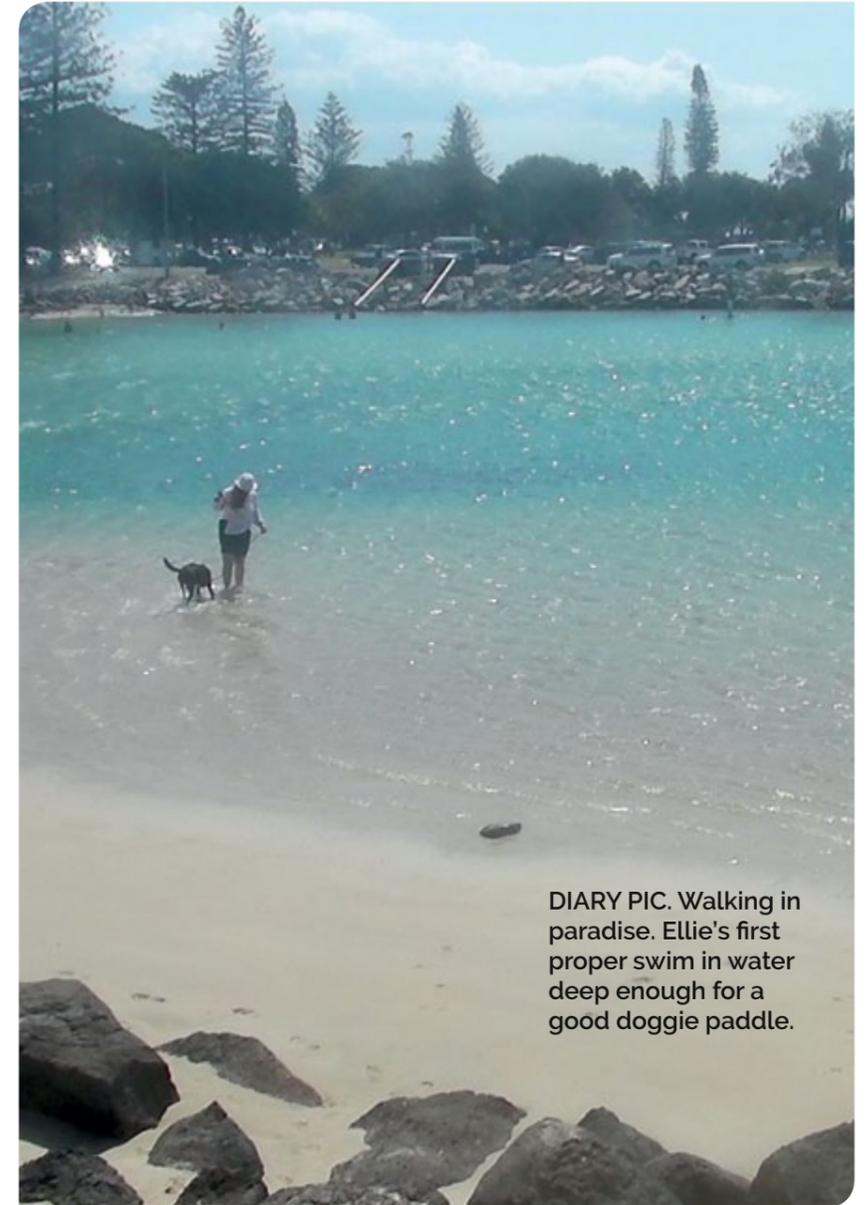
Some years ago I saw a Billy Connelly travel show where he visited various places in Australia, one of which was Newcastle. There were miners on the show talking about the difficulties of their jobs, and at one point they took Billy fishing. It was to a fairly typical Aussie beach with nice surf and soft sand. Billy laughed and told his companions they had nothing to complain about because "you live in paradise".

Newcastle is not really considered a holiday destination. To drive to Newcastle we would have to pass many stunning beach destinations with enormous holiday appeal, so we just wouldn't go there, unless we were headed for nearby Hunter Valley, a well-known wine region. But compared to the holiday camp featured in that BBC production, Newcastle and its very attractive surf beach would certainly be paradise.

All of this got me thinking about gratitude. I am grateful for many things. Now I'm especially grateful for the fact that we can take an hour's drive (or less) in virtually any direction and be walking in paradise. If it's warm enough we can be swimming in paradise. For Melbournians who are used to cold water, you are probably in the sea/pool/river/lake/creek already.

In this issue, I hope you enjoy the stories and images we present to you from around the world, and from our own little patch of paradise.

Contributors. As always, thanks for being the best team in the known universe!



DIARY PIC. Walking in paradise. Ellie's first proper swim in water deep enough for a good doggie paddle.

Happy Travels!

Jenni Onn, Editor & Creative Director

Jenni.Onn@CreativeTravellerMag.com

[facebook.com/CreativeTravellerMag](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeTravellerMag)

[@creativetravellermag](https://www.instagram.com/creativetravellermag)

[YouTube http://bit.ly/CreativeTravellerVideos](http://bit.ly/CreativeTravellerVideos)

Dog friendly Cudgen Creek, NSW, Australia
Image © Trevor Onn

HOLIDAYS WITH DOGS

A TROPICAL COAST RETREAT TRIP REPORT

We can't have an animal edition without scoping out a suitable holiday destination for our favourite animal of all. Ever compelled to research the good and the great, Trev and Jenni Onn set off on a very important mission, to find a properly dog-friendly resort.

We began 2018 with a very important purchase. My animal obsessed daughter had been researching intensely for some months and one night I received an SMS with a photo of a tiny little fragile looking bundle of fur.

"What about this one?" the SMS said.

"Is it a girl?" I replied.

"Yes"

"How old?"

"Eight weeks"

"We are about to go away for a few da..."

"We will look after her until you get back!"

"Okay then. She is a cutie."

Enter, our new bundle of joy and mischief. Eight months and much carpet ruination later, I decide we all need a holiday. One glance at those deep brown puppy eyes and I could swear she knows what I'm thinking. Right away I know there will be no holiday unless our puppy comes with us.

Now I like research, especially travel research, but have you ever tried to find a properly dog-friendly place to stay that won't break the budget?

In past years (with previous beloved doggie) we went camping at Inskip Point in Queensland. It is certainly dog friendly and in a beautiful location.

So think tents, lots of sand, lots of gear, sleeping bags and no showers.

These days we have come to appreciate our creature comforts and to this end I decided we needed a place with a shower, a flushing toilet and a proper bed.

First stop for research was all the usual multi-property search tools. It wasn't long before I realised the "dog friendly" concept has many variations.

Some properties have rates that would allow for gold plated cleaning services to whisk through the unit and sprinkle Swarovsky crystals around for extra sparkle before another tenant opens the front door.

Other properties had so many rules about where your dog can and cannot go that I didn't feel they sounded friendly enough for me to part with our hard earned dollars only to be treated like second class citizens.

Many properties had size limits, which is fine if your dog looks more like a rat on a string than a cuddly bundle of doggieness. (I like little dogs too, so don't get me wrong, but you get the drift.)

The whole process was getting frustrating. Many years ago I trained a flight attendant in the joyous art of graphic design software.

As a travel obsessed nut, I had to ask her where she went on holidays. She told me, after so much work related travel, she just wanted to chill out in a stunning and peaceful retreat

in the hinterland of northern New South Wales. It sounded great and I did some research at the time and found out the property in question was, surprisingly, dog friendly.

Remembering this I decided to see if I could track down the details of that place again. A quick Google search popped up a few suggestions, one of which was a website called "Pet Friendly Retreat" with a URL of "holidayingwithdog.com". Now that sounds like the business!

Rates. Let me find the rates. Ah good. No Swarovski crystals required.

Reviews. So what are the reviews like? 4.7 out of 5 stars. Looking better and better.

Further research uncovered another website belonging to the same property. "Tropical Coast Retreat" with a URL of www.tropicalcoast.com.au and it looked good. Nice property. Nice facilities. Nice location. Nice views, and several photos of happy dogs enjoying the grounds.

One final test...an email to the owner "I'd just like to confirm that our puppy will be allowed inside with us, on her own bedding of course". This is an important question because if we locked our pooch outside she would whinge and scratch at the door because she is part of our family, and we don't lock our family outside with the mozzies and scary frog noises.

The reply comes, "Thank you, yes your dog can be inside with you"

Did you just hear angels singing hallelujah? Well I did. Looks like we are going on holidays!!! They are sweet words.

TO THE DESTINATION

Day 1. Check in is after lunch so we head to Kingscliff to explore the local delights. For us, coffee and food is always the primary objective upon arrival at our destination. We find a car park and proceed to find a dog friendly café.

Café owners are smart these days. They know that during long days at work people miss their four legged darlings and want to share brunch outings with them on weekends. Consequently, we are spoilt for choice.

We pick a nice looking café on the main street and enjoy paleo friendly salads and coffee near to a strategically placed dog bowl of cool water.

After lunch we stroll along the lovely beachfront gardens. Trev pops in to the tourist information centre and asks for directions to the nearest dog friendly beach.

Back to the car and five minutes down the road we turn into the entrance to the parkland leading to Cudgen Headland.

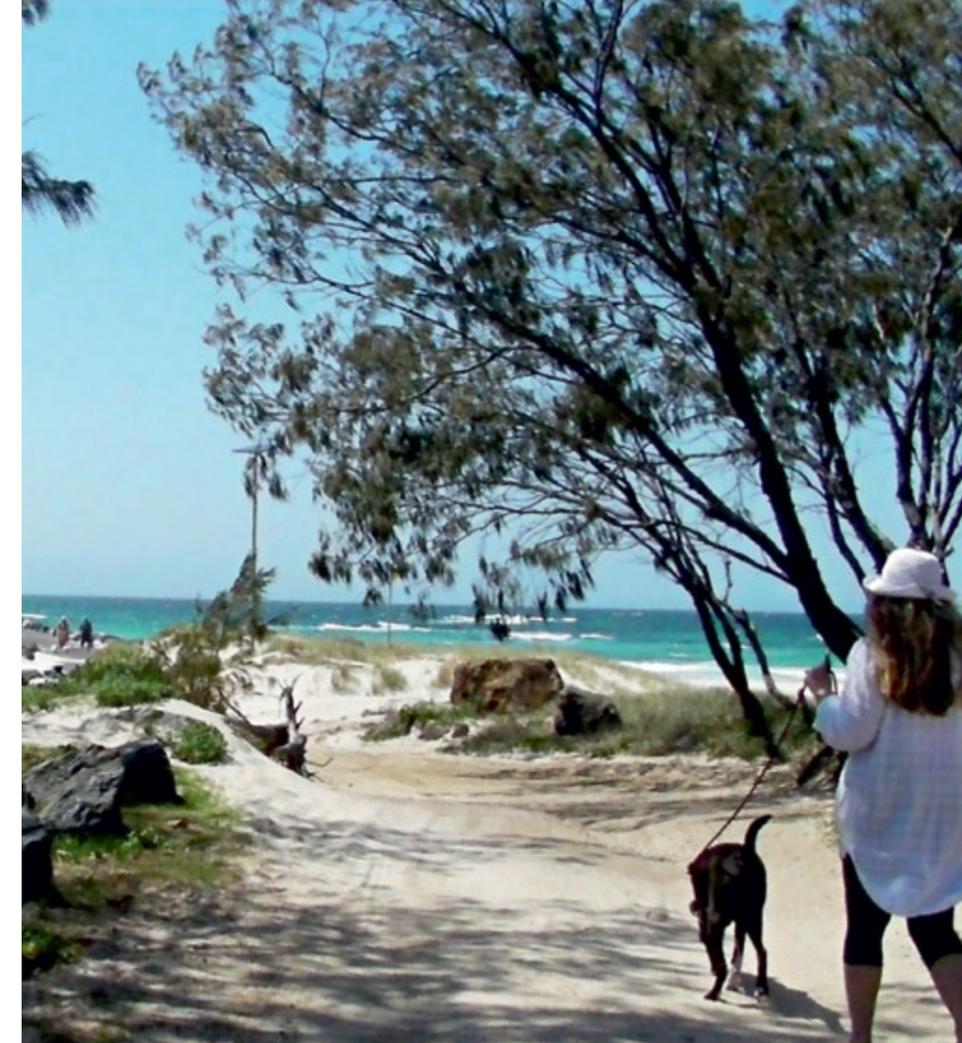
Let's just say it is a stunning bit of coastline, with a postcard perfect beach and the gobsmackingly gorgeous Cudgen Creek running beside it.

I did a quick search to see why anyone would be inspired to name this beauty spot "Cudgen Creek". I don't think they put a lot of thought into that.

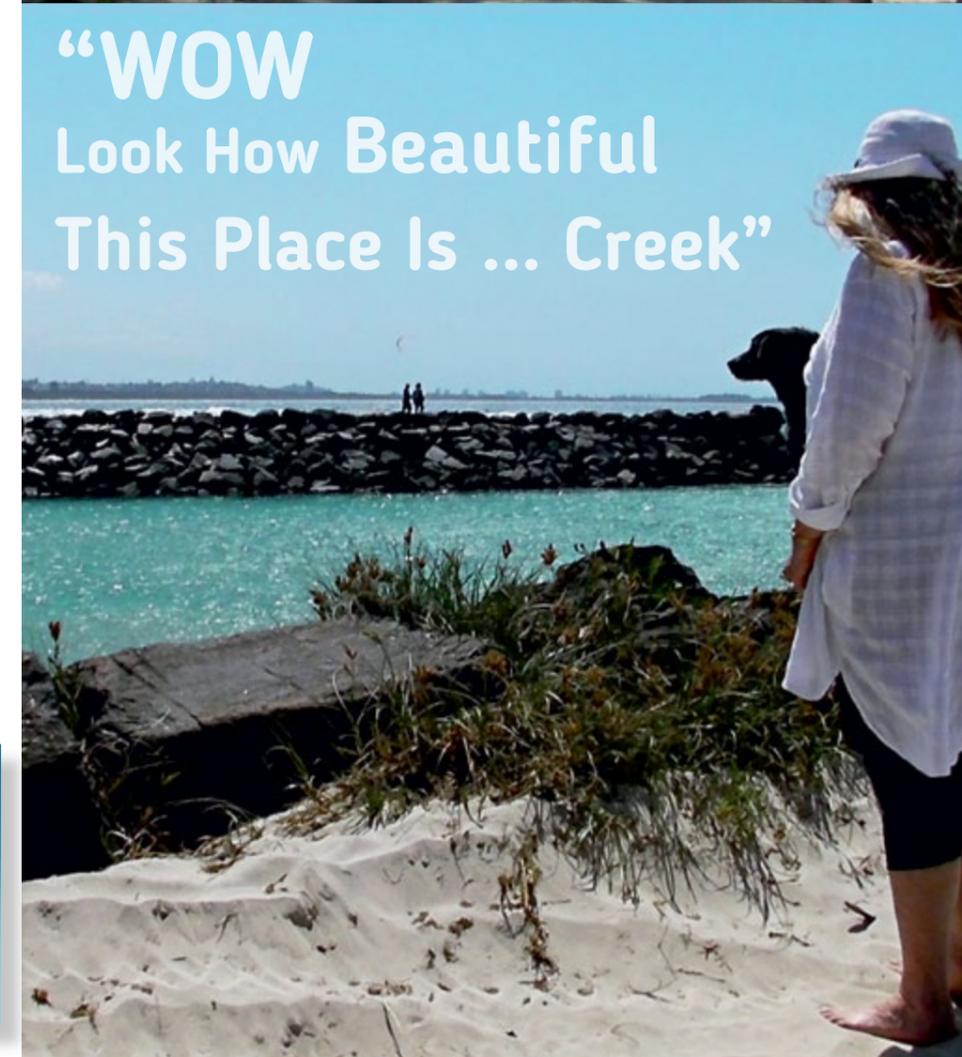
A more appropriate name would be "Wow Look How Beautiful This Place Is Creek".

We enjoy a marvellous afternoon in a stunning location, and many swims later we head for Tropical Coast Retreat.

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE PET FRIENDLY TROPICAL COAST RETREAT CONTINUES OVER THE PAGE.



**“WOW
Look How Beautiful
This Place Is ... Creek”**



TROPICAL COAST RETREAT REVIEW

Continuing on from the previous page, we come to a full review of our accommodation, Tropical Coast Retreat.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Well, impressive is how I'd describe the drive. Through cathedral sized arches created by the interlocking branches of giant trees on either side of the road, then views forever from the hilltop drive, and past the touristy "Tropical Fruit World" before we enter the private road which runs past acreage properties (a few cows, calves and wildlife so we have to drive carefully) before arriving at Tropical Coast Retreat.

We are welcomed by Veronica and Rick, more importantly for us, our dog Ellie is made very welcome.

"She doesn't need a lead here" says the lovely Veronica.

"She might run away" we reply. Puppies do you know.

We are escorted around the garden and told of the various fruit trees growing in abundance before being ushered to our poolside apartment. One final word is that we are welcome to pick whatever fruit we fancy. Now fresh lemons and limes are appealing but black sapotes are choice pickings indeed. Thoughts of chocolate pudding fruit desserts take shape in my mind.

Dragging our entranced eyes away from the lovely garden we enter our unit to find a nice pool-safe fence around the front balcony, great for Ellie. Bespoke, solid wood, outdoor furniture gives a great first impression as we enter the apartment itself to find a thoughtfully decorated lounge/kitchen area with a huge flat screen TV. A doorway leads into a hall with bathroom on the left, separate toilet at the end of the hall and a spacious bedroom on the right. Everything is beautifully clean and

tastefully decorated. There are no crowds. This property only has two self-contained suites.

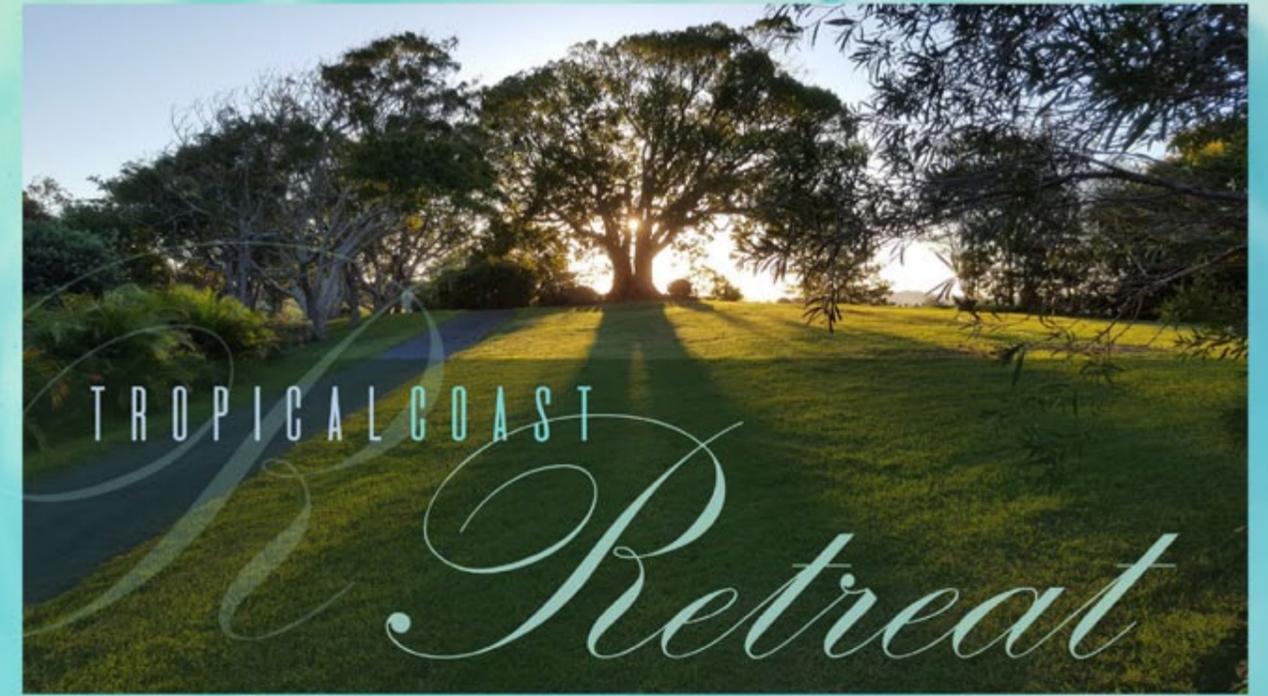
This brings me to an unexpected turn of events. Because of an unusual booking request by another couple, Veronica had asked if we mind spending a night in the other unit, the spa unit. I had the option to say no and we would have spent our entire stay in the poolside suite, but being something of a sticky beak I was happy to experience both apartments.

The benefit to readers is that now I can regale you with a full description of the other accommodation choice at Tropical Coast retreat.

THE SPA SUITE

First impression, wow. What a huge apartment. Now for travellers who like a touch of luxury we are aware that "huge" is a term that means different things to different people.

Continued over page ►



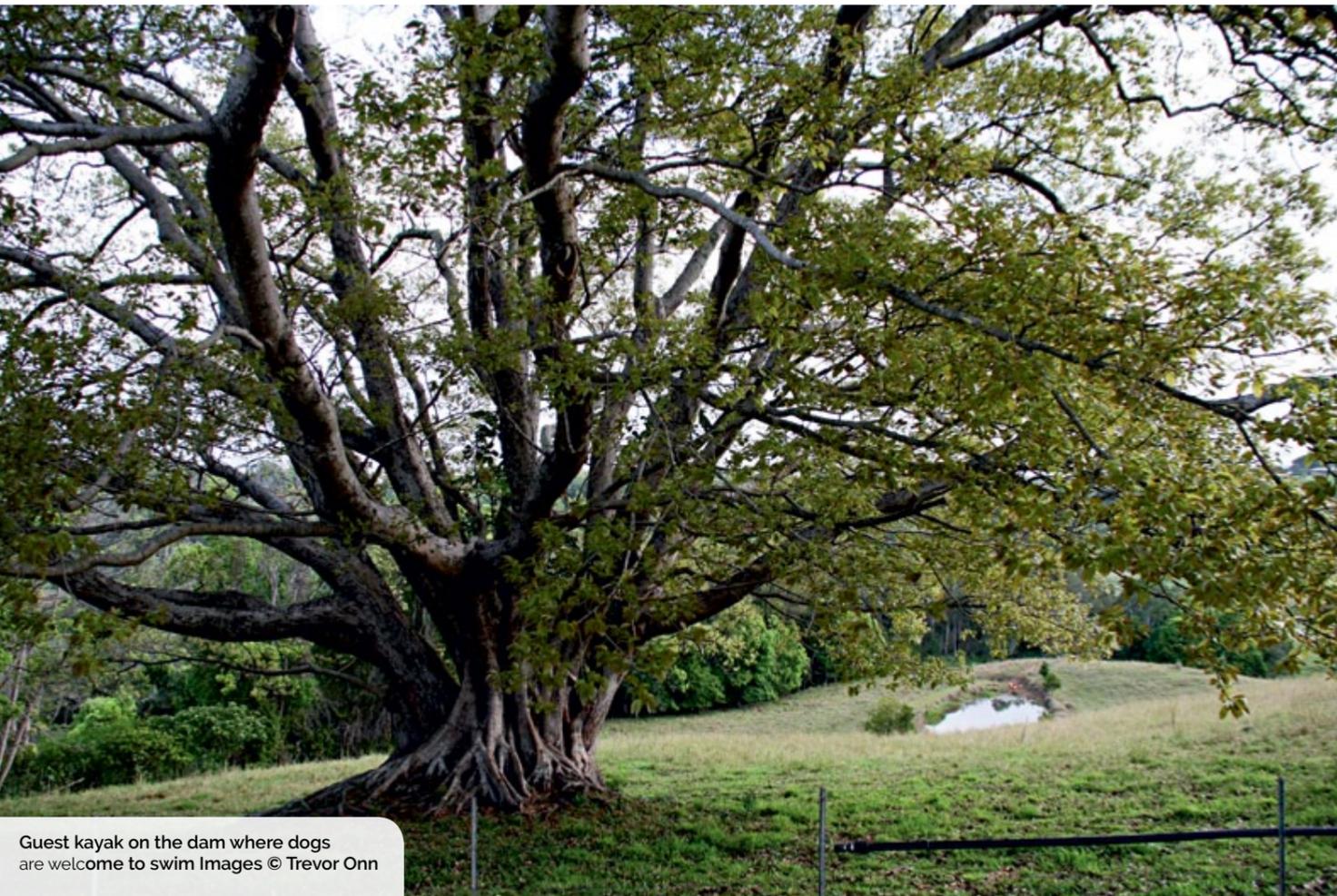
TROPICAL COAST RETREAT

Holiday accommodation in a hilltop sanctuary overlooking the beautiful Tweed Coast.

You'll feel a million miles from the hustle and bustle as you kick back, relax and de-stress in 35 acres of rural beauty just 5 minutes drive from the beaches, shopping, cafes and world class restaurants of Kingscliff. Pet friendly.

249 DURANBAH ROAD, DURANBAH NSW 2487
0434 141 796 retreat@tropicalcoast.com.au

[HTTPS://WWW.TROPICALCOAST.COM.AU](https://www.tropicalcoast.com.au)



So let me be more specific. We live in a high set double brick house in a pleasant suburb. We have one main bathroom upstairs. Let's just say our bathroom would fit into the spa suite's bathroom several times over.

So there's a spa bath, not surprisingly, and there's a very large, glass screened shower, big enough to fit more people than you could squeeze into a Mini Cooper (apparently the record has just been broken and it's 28, so maybe not quite that many).

The bathroom leads onto the covered veranda overlooking the pool. There is another door from the bathroom into the bedroom. This is quite fun when the dog sees me disappear into one room and re-appear from another room altogether. (Ears up. Head tilts to side.)

The veranda overlooks the good sized pool and is furnished with a heavy carved timber table and there's a grassed area with a garden at the side, all of which is enclosed with a pool-safe (dog-safe) fence.

Veronica had told us we could pick fruit, and that cumquats could be preserved in brandy, so Trev is assigned the task of collecting cumquats and taking Ellie for a wander. Bravely risking the puppy's tendency for tearing around like a wild thing in vast open spaces, Trev lets Ellie off the lead to explore the property with him. And yes, she takes off at a great rate of knots, but after doing a few laps at greyhound speed she wears herself out and happily joins Trev on the rest of his walk. He finds a dam where dogs are welcome to swim, a walking track through a wonderful tropical garden (apparently this property was once a tropical fruit orchard), and a 4 hole golf course. Now that's a surprise.

There's a sauna amid the trees and one ancient tree with a cascade of flowering orchids at its base. All this sounds like a lot, but when you realise the property is set on 35 acres, you begin to see how you can immerse yourself in the natural surroundings and really get back to nature. Birdwatchers would love it. I prefer to listen to birds rather than

stalk them with binoculars, and there are a few of my favourite birdsongs on the go. There's one bird, don't ask me its name but its call sounds to me like the beachy tropics. And it punctuates the air with its enjoyable "kerplunk" call every few minutes. Cool.

We tend to gravitate toward the outdoor spaces and these are comfortably furnished to allow for this. The verandas of both suites are completed with an outdoor barbeque.

Another comfort is having an undercover area for the car. This proves to be valuable when a late thunder storm blows through the region on the first night of our stay.

WE ARE BACK NOW.

So did we have a good holiday? Yes.

Was there other dog-friendly stuff to do? Yes.

The Tweed Regional Art Centre has a fascinating Margaret Ollie exhibition, and a dog-friendly café.

Nearby the gorgeous beachfront town of Cabarita has an excellent takeaway fish and chip shop called "The Stunned Mullet". Now with a name like that you know the food is going to be good, and it is. We had hamburgers and sweet potato chips by the way. Not very paleo friendly but you don't go on holidays to save money or lose weight.

You can however, have an affordable holiday with your four legged bestie and enjoy loads of healthy tropical fruits and plenty of outdoor exercise plus all the comforts of home at the wonderful Tropical Coast Retreat.

You may think we were invited to visit this destination but you'd be wrong. When we find somewhere we really like, we give an honest review and share it with our readers, as we have done here. 📌



Heavy timber furniture on the veranda overlooking the pool - Images © Trevor Onn

Watch the Video

<https://youtu.be/giWMRixcdu4>



Above - One precious lemon
Right - Rainforest grove
Images © Trevor Onn

ADVENTURE IN MONGOLIA

AN EXPEDITION ON TWO WHEELS PART TWO

Pete and Dave's adventure continues in remote Mongolia on Compass Expeditions inaugural motorbike tour of this vast region of "truly incredible landscapes", mysterious ancient monuments and generous hospitality.



Travel Diary Continues... Tuesday 19th June

DAY 3

Monday was 380kms, no wonder we were tired. We were in the Terelj National park which is renowned for its strange rock formations like this turtle in the image at right.

Today was billed as 300 kms and with a really hard off-road stretch. We were excited but a little fearful. We left at 8.30 and rode into Ulaan Bataar and the joys of city traffic. This was the only way to get to our destination.

At least the weather was fine even if the air was bit polluted.

At last we got out into the country again and camped on the top of a hill for a picnic lunch. A horseman and a couple of young bikies came to check us out.

The bikies nonchalantly rode off to the top off a local mountain to show us how easy it was.

I would have worried about walking it!

Then we were off for the off-road ride.

Continued over ▶





Modern riders - Images © Peter and Dave Grace

Continued from previous page

FOUR HILLS AND ALL GREAT FUN

There are 17 bikes in the group. A leader and 16 riders from Australia, NZ, USA, Canada, Sweden, Germany, UK and Taiwan (four riders have their spouses as pillion). We viewed the track from the top of the hill – we could see the track drop down the hill and wind up the other side. This was the first of four hills and all great fun. No accidents today. The other pictures show the track winding away with puffs of dust where bikes are. It was a lovely ride ending in a wide valley with a traditional ger camp.

Then we rode onto the steel city of Darkham. Nothing is simple in Mongolia. We had 2 punctures caused by the enormous potholes in the roads, the support truck got pinged for speeding and a bike broke down. But we all reached the hotel – and drank the bar dry of the nice Mongolian beer. We did that at the last hotel too. Our Taiwanese rider shouted the bar after Japan beat Colombia in the soccer.

Tomorrow is a slower and easier day.

Wednesday 20th June

DAY 4

It's now Saturday but I'm writing about Wednesday.

We retraced our path down the main road of Darkham and turned right (west) onto dirt tracks. Nice easy riding and lovely wide valleys with herds of animals roaming free. There are no fences so the animals go where they like. It is necessary to take care as they cross the roads or loiter around the roads. Don't hit a sheep a glancing blow. Fortunately, it got up and ran away (right in front of me) but I grabbed all the brakes and stopped.

We stopped for a picnic lunch in a copse of trees and then rode on to our first ger camp. Before we settled in we went to visit a monastery via a couple of river crossings. Lots of animals taking a drink and lots of young. This is early summer for Mongolia lasting from June to August so they have to get their young established before winter arrives (that's basically the rest of the year).

The ger camp had a big ger for dining and a bar, three chalet type buildings for the staff, toilets and about 15 gers in the middle of nowhere. They were quite cosy and didn't need any heating in summer.

After the evening meal I got my ukulele out and we sang and played songs together in the outside pagoda. To maintain our reputation, we drank all their beer as well.

Thursday 21st June

DAY 5

There are 3 mechanics who follow our line of 17 bikes. They have been kept busy with punctures and breaking bikes.

It was my turn on Wednesday with a bolt falling off my hand guard and a bolt falling out of the back brake. Fortunately, a truck was bringing a new bike to replace a broken one and they brought the new parts for my brake. Honestly my bike is an old bomb well past its prime. It's a 650 Yamaha with 40027 miles on the clock but as the speedo doesn't work there is no knowing what it has done. It still handles well on the dirt and will go on paved roads at about 100kph so it's doing its job.

Again, we retraced our path and then turned onto a wide gravel road until we came to a paved road. Thankfully the leader has GPS.

We stopped for coffee at a roadside ger shop on a lovely sunny day. It often starts cold and then we strip off as we go along and it warms up. We rode on to Endernet, an awful old copper town. It's a smelly part-relict town and we found a nice area to stop for lunch.

I had a purple taro ice cream to finish my lunch.



Puffs of dust - bikes - Images © Peter and Dave Grace

Traditional rider - Images © Peter and Dave Grace



“It was a lovely ride ending in a wide valley with a traditional ger camp”



Sunrise at Kutang Undur - Images © Peter and Dave Grace

EAGLES KITES AND CLASSIC VIEWS

We often see eagles and kites presumably on the lookout for weakling young animals or placental remains from births. Or maybe fallen motorcycle riders (but we have done well lately with no tumbles). We only had 2 punctures today – seems to be 'normal' with the local roads. Dave took an artistic picture of a rest stop from a field of buttercups.

The next ger camp was in a beautiful spot with classic views. Sadly, we were the first guests of the season and the showers were cold, the beer warm and the meal was cold. We gathered outside for another singalong. I tried to teach the group to back me on *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow* - my aim is to have it right for the last night dinner.

Friday 22nd June

DAY 6

Got up for an early morning pee and snapped the sunrise. This was mostly a tarmac day and we rumbled along keeping our eyes on the clouds as a storm was forecast. We stopped for coffee and donned all out wet weather gear and sure enough it rained and as we were getting near 2000m above sea level it was getting cold. All very unpleasant but us bikies just grit our teeth and strive on.

We stopped at Moron for coffee in a nice warm hotel and pushed on in dry but cold conditions.

Next we stopped at a reindeer camp - poor things are moulting ready to grow new fur for winter.

BACK TO THE FIRE - BEER IN HAND

The track to the ger camp was 33kms long and all rutted and very wet and muddy. Quite a challenge on a cold wet day but we all arrived safely. Dave held forth with his back to the fire and beer in his hand. He was soaked to the skin. Showers were hot, there was a fire in our ger and there was a lovely view over the Khovsguul Nuur lake.

The lake is 36kms long and 262 metres deep. It holds almost 70% of Mongolia's fresh water and 0.4% of all the fresh water in the world.

We couldn't see the other end (or the bottom). There were yaks wading in the shallows.

We had a rest day on Saturday and a forecast of fine weather for the rest of the trip.

MONGOLIAN CURIOSITIES

Toilet facilities on the roads are fairly basic – well very basic to fairly basic.

Here are a few examples. The prize for the most basic goes to male and female dunnies with no door (long drop).

The view from the cubicle was pretty good.

Next is the dunny with a door, and the best is a very long drop dunny with a door and a 500T (30c) entry fee.

Continued over ▶



Buttercups - Images © Peter and Dave Grace

*"It's hard to describe the scale of it all!"
Peter, Australia.*

*Mongolian Magic
Adventure Motorcycle Tour
August 2019*

Join one of our motorcycle tours and you will experience a truly unforgettable adventure. With 20 incredible itineraries across 45 countries on 5 continents we can take you to the most stunning places on the planet.

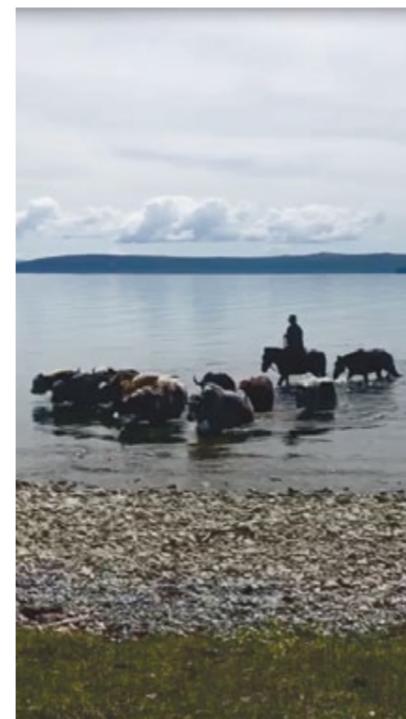


+61 3 9747 2379 | compassexpeditions.com | info@compassexpeditions.com

<http://www.compassexpeditions.com/tours/mongolian-magic/>

Watch the video on YouTube

▶ <https://youtu.be/SvJiYa4oFjA>



Yaks wading in the shallows of Khovsgul Nuur lake. Images © Peter and Dave Grace



Continued from previous page

DRIVING

Mongolians drive on the right-hand side of the road and about half the vehicles are left hand drive. The rest are right hand drive which is odd. We guess that Mongolians are the beneficiaries of cheap second-hand cars from Japan. A white Toyota Prius is the most common seen in the city, herding sheep and driving up impossible roads on the steppes.

WRITING

Traditional Mongolian script runs down the page from top to bottom. One of the positive legacies of the Russian period is that most writing is in cyrillic script. English is also quite common but we found a pizza shop that used French as well. I wonder how many of their clientele understood what it meant.

Saturday 23rd June

REST DAY

We got a lie in with a late breakfast and a choice of going for a ride on motorbikes or horses or doing nothing. We chose the horses and ambled through the forest for a couple of hours. We both had a doze after that and I caught up on emails whilst Dave went for a short bike ride. Quite restful

Sunday 24th June

DAY 8

We retraced our path away from the lake on a dry and dusty road (it had been muddy and puddled on Friday). I had another problem when my bash plate under the engine nearly fell off but the mechanics had a bolt to fix it. It was a lovely day for riding. We turned off onto a dirt road and came to an enormous flat basin – dubbed 'mototopia' – a perfect place to ride motorbikes. You could go anywhere you wanted, no roads required. Dave got bogged down by the lake.

We stopped for lunch at a volleyball court (yes in the middle of nowhere) but the accompanying shelter gave us welcome shade. Then we rode on to see bronze age (3000-4000 years old) deer stones. All very mysterious – about 1900 have been found mostly in Mongolia.



Forest above Khovsgul Nuur lake. Images © Peter and Dave Grace

They are thought to be memorials to significant people or even to animals. Whilst we were looking at deer stones a local family herded their flock with horse and people mover!

Our next ger camp was up another long dusty, rocky road and sadly the beer was warm but cold supplies were soon rustled up. After the evening meal, the family who owned the ger put on a Mongolian culture evening with singing (accompanied by harmonica and piano accordion) and dancing and explanation of the traditional clothes. We were invited to dress up and we posed for photos. Great fun. I played ukulele and our group sang *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* to our hosts which went down well.



Mysterious deer stone
Images © Peter and Dave Grace

We finished with a traditional dance. The head man treated me with great reverence because he discovered I was one year older than him.

Monday 25th June

DAY 9

A day of difficult riding though only 80kms. It was all on 'dirt' though it was very rocky in places and we crossed 2 passes over 2500 metres high. The valleys are immense. It's hard to describe the scale of it all. At right is a picture of the view from a hill looking down on the support trucks down on the track. We usually stop on the top of passes to see where we've been and where we go next.

Often then locals will come and stare and we have a few gifts to hand out – I've been giving out little koalas to children.

We are in the remotest part of Mongolia with no WiFi and limited phone coverage. The people who live out here live really simple lives herding their sheep and goats, cattle and yaks. They move camp to bring the herds down onto the plains where new grass is growing, before preparing hay for the winter and returning to sheltered places where there are rough stables for the animals.

Many animals are lost because of the cold and lack of feed.



Distant support trucks
Images © Peter and Dave Grace

Continued from previous page

**YOUNG YAKS
LOOK LIKE LARGE DOGS**

In really tough years (called 'yuds') whole flocks may die. There are lots of young animals in the herds. Young yaks look and run like large dogs.

I hit a big stone and stalled my bike exiting a creek crossing today. I stopped the bike falling over but needed to wait for 2 other riders to hold the bike up for me to get going again. There have been more creek crossings lately, Here's Dave in a cloud of spray. We get wet but dry out pretty quickly when we get moving on the road.

We had a snack and drink in the mid-morning and reached the ger camp for lunch at 1.30. We had a doze and then tried our hand at archery – one of the traditional skills of Mongolians. There was a big electrical storm in the evening and there were fears that rain may make the next day even more difficult.

Tuesday 26th June

DAY 10
This was billed as the toughest day of the trip – only 165kms but all on dirt with many gullies, creek crossings, rocky sections and opportunities to get lost. Our leader has GPS but even he makes mistakes and we find ourselves making a 'new road' in the direction we have to go. We left an hour earlier than planned in case the rain had made conditions more difficult – but we made good time. All the 16 riders (except two) have done tours with Compass before so are pretty disciplined about being on time and following instructions. We stop every hour or so to get water from the support truck, take in the views and take a rest.



“Here’s Dave
in a cloud
of spray”

I had one unexpected and delightful moment. We have seen a few two humped (bactrian) camels on our travels but today I found myself riding parallel to 13 camels all racing along. I was doing about 40kph and they kept up the pace all the time.

We stopped in a dusty small town and bought drinks, snacks and the entire stock of 3 hats from the general store. At a stop on a pass, a young lad rode up riding bareback to check us out. He posed for photos and showed us how he got on and off his horse and demonstrated galloping.

We were delayed for a while when, Doug, one of our riders dropped his bike and seriously hurt himself. We took him to a clinic in the next town where they patched him up but he needed a proper hospital. He was able to join us for lunch under the trees by the river but was unable to ride any more. It was sad to lose one of the team because we have become a tight little community helping each other out and enjoying the adventure together.

We reached White Lake at 6.30 – tired, dusty and thankful to have completed the day. At right is a photo of Dave and I with the lake behind us. Dave is very dusty, he's not usually as dark skinned as this.

Doug was driven to UB where he discovered he had broken his leg.

Wednesday 27 June

DAY 11
A rest day so we had a slow start but went for a short ride to explore a local volcanic lava field.

The eruptions happened just 8000 years ago and the lava dammed the rivers to form the White Lake.

SINK HOLES AND CAVES

There are places where a bubble has formed in the lava and the roof collapsed forming a sink hole or cave. One still has ice in.

We rode on to a volcano and climbed to the top up a rocky trail. The crater was about 60m deep and very impressive.

On the previous day we had formed the Compass Expeditions International White Lake Swimming Association.

Representatives from Canada and Australia had braved the lake waters and we challenged other countries to join. There was a great response after the dusty ride to the volcano with swimmers from Australia, Germany, NZ (2) Sweden, UK and USA (2).

Thursday 28 June

DAY 12
We awoke to rain and cloud which would make the rocky track to the paved road more difficult. We all donned wet weather gear but the clouds cleared and we gradually stripped off. We stopped for morning tea at a deep river gorge. Mike our leader had been having trouble with the rear wheel bearing and it became too bad to continue so he swapped to a spare bike.

The unpaved roads at times seem to go on forever usually with no other users on them but us.

We detoured to go and see a local icon – a volcanic plug which has many myths and legends told about it rather like the Glasshouse Mountains (for those that know them). Mongolians say that a boy becomes a man when he can throw a stone over the rock.

For a change from gers our accommodation was a Guest House run by an Australian lady. I had Roast Beef and Yorkshire pudding whilst others tried the Aussie Burger. It was an alcohol-free place so we went next door to a 'Russian pub' – very dark and mysterious where we met other bikies and shared vodka chasers.

We stumbled home later than planned and slept well!

**Friday 29th and
Saturday 30th July**

DAYS 13 AND 14

Friday was a long day riding on dirt roads, lots of rocky patches and crossing a lava field across magnificent hills and valleys. We stopped by a river to enjoy cinnamon rolls baked by the Guest House we had stayed at the night before.

We stopped in a fir tree valley for lunch in the shade but were besieged by flies. The local Mongolians lit a smoky cattle dung fire to deter the flies – smelt a bit like a poor-quality cigar but quite effective.

We rode away from the last tree we would see for a while – you cannot imagine the scale. At one point I commented it felt as if we were riding on top of the world. We descended into the Orkhon Valley and crossed the river by an 'unusual' bridge. We had 2 breakdowns at the bridge – one was a fuse on my bike – and then started across the lava field. Sadly, Chris, another of our riders fell and was unable to continue. We were delayed for a while whilst we made him comfortable in the car.

The delays continued when we had 2 punctures. It was a hot afternoon and we all stood our bikes to create the maximum shade and laid down for a snooze. It meant we were late to our ger camp – a hot and frustrating day but a cold beer cures all ills.

On Saturday we visited the monastery at the site of the fabled city of Kharckhorun (built in 1220) and then set off to cover the 330kms to Ulaan Bataar. We had five punctures which delayed us considerably and arrived at our hotel with 45 minutes to get ready for the farewell dinner. My little 650cc trail bike survived to the end as did our boots – a little dusty, muddy and 'used'.

Finale

It was good to have a lie in on Sunday and reflect on what we had achieved. It was certainly the most challenging ride I have ever done and that makes getting to the end safely all the more euphoric.



Our fellow riders were a great bunch, ever willing to help or encourage and to join in the fun of the adventure. But we each must take responsibility for ourselves on a bike and it was disappointing to lose two riders through injury. This is the first ride I have ever done where some riders failed to make it to the end.

We covered 2,190 kms in two weeks. Mongolia is indeed a magical place. The open steppes are great places to ride motorbikes – freedom, big skies, enormous plains and little traffic.

It was tough work on the dirt and rocky roads but worth it for the joy of riding free.

Compass Expeditions, the tour organisers, were marvellous. This was the first time they had run this tour and teething problems were to be expected but the route, the accommodation, the food and support were first rate. If I ever have the misfortune to be injured on a ride, I want people like Compass to help sort me out.

Mongolia is changing and the nomadic life will become less common in 20-30 years under the influence of broad acre farming, mining and the attractions of 21st century life in big cities. We feel privileged to have seen it and meet a few of the friendly and inquisitive rural people. Ulaan Bataar has half the country's population, is growing fast and is grandiose in parts but also dirty, polluted and crowded (I suppose like any fast-developing city). It was a shock to return to it after the unspoilt open steppes.

On our last night in UB we went to see an operatic, ballet and classical music concert in the main square. It was very well done and a wonderful setting. Then we went to an Irish pub to see the end of the Russia vs Spain World Cup soccer game. The pub had beer but could not sell us any because the first of every month is a state imposed 'alcohol free day'.

That's all from me. I hope you have enjoyed the virtual tourism experience 🇺🇸

THE MINDFUL TRAVELLER

How to ensure your tourist dollars are not used as an excuse for animal exploitation!

By Leanne Weber

Tourism is an important industry in the South Pacific and souvenir sales, 'exotic' food choices and animal experiences make up a large part of the tourism pie. If travellers come across food products, souvenirs and trinkets made from animal products, shells or corals they should be aware that these could be from endangered or ecologically significant species.

The locals that gather these items may also be exploited by the end-seller, being paid only a few cents for each item despite being sold at huge mark up to tourists. Catching or supplying these species to tourists may also discourage villagers from developing more sustainable incomes. By making informed entertainment, dining and souvenir choices you can make a valuable contribution to sustainable tourism, avoid having holiday mementos confiscated or being hit with a hefty fine for inadvertently bringing restricted species home.

Tourism operators still need to please travellers, respect the local way of life and support host communities. By educating staff and customers, those involved in tourism can help ensure that the Pacific islands will continue to provide the same pristine environment for your grandchildren that you experience today, ensuring that tourism will remain a viable industry for future generations.

CASE #1 - COCONUT CRABS

Progressive operators and restaurateurs in Vanuatu are becoming very aware that continuing to offer items such as endangered Coconut Crab on the menu can be quite detrimental to their reputation.



Pretty shells sold in the market once contained live creatures living on the reef. Image © John Nicholls

Travellers are becoming more educated and learning of the serious decline in Coconut Crab populations -most of which are now caught in the outer islands of the archipelago due to diminishing numbers of breeding-age specimens on the main tourist islands.

Soon they will also be scarce on the outer islands.

The Coconut Crab is a large land based crustacean so named because it eats coconut flesh, amongst other things. It is a scavenger, eating ground scraps and carrion like their competitor, the bush rat. They can live up to 60 years and as little as 10 years ago you could find them with a leg span of a metre - now you will seldom find one bigger than a dinner plate.



The Coconut Crab looks fierce but faces unjustifiable extinction. Image © John Nicholls

There is no such thing as a Coconut Crab farm

There is no such thing as a Coconut Crab farm as they need to live part of their lifecycle both on land and in the ocean. They mature very slowly, taking 5-7 years to reach breeding age, with this aged stock much reduced even on outer islands as it coincides with eating size. They are illegal to catch in the breeding season and the government sets a yearly quota and size requirements. Unfortunately, this is difficult to police and not strictly enforced so are available all year round and openly sold in local markets too.

The inevitable eradication of this creature in Vanuatu has lead responsible restaurants to resist the lure of the quick dollar and place long term environmental protection (and tourism potential) as their objective.

If even a couple of people each day are consuming coconut crab, that adds up to an incredible number of dead crabs each year, which can't possibly be replenished at the same rate. Those operators refusing to serve the crab should be congratulated and supported for their guardianship of the country's natural resources. Their policy to remove Coconut Crab from their menu (and potential loss of tourism revenue) is what sustainable tourism is all about.

They are a remarkable creature so please do your part to prevent them becoming a memory for future generations.

If you see Coconut Crab on the menu, know that the only coconut flavoured part is the sauce and you can have that coconut cream

sauce on any seafood, preferably something more sustainable like locally farmed fresh water prawns or common black claw crabs (which look like mud crab).

COCONUT CRAB RECIPE

1. **Go inside the garage and get 200 grams of plain and clean cardboard.**
2. **Get a pair of scissors and cut the cardboard in 2 cm long strips and dip in ready-mix concrete**
3. **In a pot, cover the cardboard strips with a can of coconut milk.**
4. **Bring to boil for 10 minutes.**
5. **Add garlic, coriander, salt, a tablespoon of sugar and black pepper as you prefer.**
6. **Add 3 tablespoons of WD 40 to simulate the oily after-taste the coconut crab leaves in your mouth after you have eaten it.**
7. **Note from the chef: No amount of boiling will make these guys easy to crack.**
8. **Note from the editor - DO NOT EAT THIS - it is a joke, people!**

Continued over page ▶



Sea turtles are susceptible to human viruses and vice versa .
Image © Trevor Onn



A different perspective on the coconut crab
Image © Trevor Onn

CASE #2 - SEA TURTLES

In your travels in the Pacific you will come across tourist attractions that exhibit animals, such as the Coconut Crab, turtles, exotic bird and fish species etc for tourists to interact with. Please be aware that these animals were likely caught in the wild, badly treated during the process, and may not be kept in optimum conditions or fed correctly by amateur keepers.

Sea turtles for example are very susceptible to human viruses and vice versa. While there is little risk to people who come across turtles when snorkelling or diving it's a different story when handling captive turtles. These turtles are often kept in a confined space with inadequate water filtering systems and are overcrowded.

Some turtle "farms" even allow travellers to swim with the turtles in small tanks, leading to exposure to

contaminants like bacteria, viruses and parasites for both the turtle and the handlers. Salmonella or e-coli bath anyone?

Sea turtles also have extremely sensitive skin and the chemicals in your sunblock or insect repellent will contribute to a shortened lifespan.

In the Pacific Ocean the Hawksbill, Green, Leatherback and Loggerhead Turtle are all considered endangered or of ecological significance.

Over the last few decades, the numbers of marine turtles have declined around the world. This is largely attributed to ocean pollution (e.g. plastics, marine debris, metal contaminants and fishing gear), coastal development as well as poaching and the illegal trading of turtle eggs, meat and shells.

Some success in increasing turtle populations has been found with Turtle monitoring programs – such as the facility at Tranquillity Island

Resort on Moso Island, Vanuatu – which raises hatchlings until they are one year old for tag and release.

To date they have raised and released over 1200 healthy Hawksbill Turtles to increase their natural survival rate.

Before visiting animal attractions, consider:

Where is the animal from?

It may have been captured wild as an exhibit for human entertainment from another island. Sustainable tourism does not promote establishments which breed animals that are not endangered. Animals bred in captivity are usually not reintroduced into their natural habitat.

When are the animals released?

If they are on exhibit in a 'rescue' facility due to injury are they released after rehabilitation?

Do they have a veterinarian or qualified zoologist on staff to supervise their care?

Why is the animal captive?

Does the attraction exist and hold animals in captivity purely for the purpose of attracting paying visitors?

Often "rescue centres" have conservation and education as a secondary aim to money making. Any handling of wild animals is extremely stressful to them.



Whale watching, Hervey Bay, QLD
Image © Trevor Onn

Do the animals give rides or performances?

A true sanctuary will not exploit animals for their entertainment value and does not encourage handling

and cuddling of animals unless human interaction is required for their rehabilitation.

Do you really need a photograph of a lizard on your head when the poor thing is dragged around town for paid photo opportunities?

Do they exhibit endangered species?

Some centres do this to preserve animals who are genuinely endangered due to loss of habitat, disease, poaching and illegal trade and where captive breeding is best for the species as a whole. Serious breeding facilities will not allow animal handling by tourists.

Is the attraction sustainable?

Whale and bird watching are just two of the many sustainable tourism activities involving animals.

Another example is watching turtles laying eggs at certain times

of the year. These are becoming an increasingly important component of the sustainable tourism industry. Note the emphasis on watching not touching!

Does the attraction meet the Five Freedoms for Animal Welfare?

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
 - » responsible animal husbandry
 - » qualified keepers
2. Freedom from discomfort
 - » customised natural environment not a chicken wire cage or concrete tank
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
 - » onsite veterinary care
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
 - » minimal human interaction and low stocking numbers
5. Freedom from fear and distress
 - » not exposed to cruelty, abuse or unnecessary handling

Continued over page ►

Responsible travellers believe that wildlife should only be found in the wild unless it is injured and needs to be captive temporarily for its own safety. Of course, unscrupulous operators can always spin you a story to encourage your patronage at their 'backyard' animal exhibits.

CASE # 3 – SOUVENIRS

We have all seen those attractive shell necklaces, huge clam shells, turtle shell items, coral décor and pig tusk jewellery at the markets in the beautiful Pacific islands.

Did you know that it is illegal to take, harm, have in your possession, sell or purchase many types of shell unless you have a permit to remove it from the country?

The permit system allows the total export numbers to be monitored by the Government within a quota. Fisheries laws apply to Trochus, Nautilus, Green Snail, Trumpet and Cowrie shells across the Pacific.

Yet many shells that do not meet export criteria are readily found in handicraft markets despite governments having signed international agreements to protect them.

By not purchasing shells of any type the traveler is sending the message that the fringing reefs of developing Pacific islands are not a supermarket for plundering and selling to tourists. When holidaying with kids its normal for them to want to collect pretty shells found on the beach. You can use this to educate them regarding the shells place in nature by ensuring there are no live occupants inside any shell and then returning them to the beach before you leave.

The so-called "farmed shells" available for purchase as souvenirs are often of highly dubious origin, and may not even be from the country you are buying them in.

The majority of large shells available are harvested from the pristine reefs of developing countries around the world, such as the Philippines, where the reef destruction has reached epic proportion.



Four little sea creatures once lived in these souvenir shells.
Image © John Nicholls

"Farming" is the term used when a reef is temporarily "Leased" from a poor village and then pillaged of any saleable creature...when of no further use, it is then returned to village. It is estimated 20% of the world's coral reefs have already been lost.

Let's face it, the best place for shells and coral is back in the ocean where they can continue to be part of the ocean ecology.

The gathering of shells to make souvenirs has an unintended long-term outcome for the local people because of the many environmental functions they provide: helping to stabilise beaches and anchor seagrass; providing homes for hermit and juvenile coconut crabs and breeding places for sea life.

Turtle and tortoise shells are made into items such as combs, hair brushes, necklaces, hair clips, frames for glasses and jewellery or as whole shells for use as decorative items. The treatment of animals when they are caught is often inhumane and not an outcome that most travellers want to be a part of.

Large fines apply if you get caught with any banned animal product and, to top it off, if you do bring something out of the country without a permit you may find it confiscated on your return to your home country and also be facing a large fine, regardless of what the seller tells you!

While there is no danger that humans will take every shell from the Pacific Islands – and taking one shell will not leave all the hermit or coconut crabs homeless – our cumulative impact continues to grow as shown by the reduction in reef formation across the globe.

CONCLUSION

Think about where your souvenirs are going to end up and ask yourself if they're doing the world more good on your shelf or out in the natural ecosystem where they came from?

Luckily for many animals, educated travellers increasingly want to see healthy animals and sea creatures in their own environments, displaying natural behaviours. They want to return home with the knowledge that their holiday contributed to genuine conservation efforts and helped encourage developing countries to declare themselves sanctuaries for future generations.

When we are supporting sustainable travel with our wallets we are more aware than ever how our tourist dollar can hinder or help developing countries.

By being selective in the attractions we visit, the souvenirs we buy and the things we eat we can still get those holiday memories and "WOW" moments while making sure we are also doing some good! 🍷



Whale watching, Hervey Bay, Queensland
Image © Trevor Onn



A curious wild squid watching us, Port Vila Harbour
Image © Trevor Onn

HOLIDAYS WITH DOGS

SOUTH TO TASMANIA

Who would think taking your dog on a trip to the island state would be so challenging? There is a lot you need to know in order to undertake this journey with your four legged bestie as Chris, Vee and Tilly explain.

In February we were getting ready for our crossing on the Spirit of Tasmania. We had done heaps of research into what to expect, but a lot of information kept leading back to the Spirit of Tasmania's own website. There wasn't any first hand accounts of people who had crossed, let alone people with pets.

We had asked a lot of questions on social media platforms about the kennels allocated to animals on the boat. Is it warm enough? Do we bring Tilly's own bedding? Is water supplied? Are the animals checked on through the crossing? With a list of questions as long as our arm, we thought we'd put this information together on what to expect on the Spirit of Tasmania. Whether it's just yourselves and your caravan, or if you will be travelling with your fur baby, here's everything you need to know.

WHAT YOUR DOG NEEDS

We researched what health care we would need for Tilly. One thing we found out is, things vary from state to state. In Western Australia, we're quite lucky with the requirements. Tilly has her normal annual vaccinations, worming and tick prevention tablets. We don't have to worry about paralysis ticks, or some of the more tropical diseases like leptospirosis.

Tasmania has strict guidelines on importing animals. We were informed Tilly had to be treated for Hydatid Tape worm within 14 days of arrival in Tassie.

There was a fair bit of debate about whether it should be administered by a vet with a vet certificate. Or would



Tilly
Image © Chris, Vee and Tilly

a self cert that a tablet had been administered be enough? To save on delays on arrival we decided to go with the vet option.

DEPARTURE DAY

We had opted for the day time sailing both ways as they were the shorter crossings, which meant Tilly would have less time in the kennelled area.

We were up and about at 4am. We got to the port area nice and early. There is a road just as you pull off the freeway called Beach street. It's a tree lined boulevard with grass edging each side of the road. We decided to give Tilly a last chance saloon toilet break and thankfully she did what she needed to. As we weren't sure if the seas were going to be rough we opted not to feed her too much before the crossing. We gave her a handful of dry biscuits, just to put of a bit of food in her tummy. Then we headed for the port.

PORT CHECK-IN

As you can imagine the port is pretty busy at this time of morning. It's definitely best to arrive as early as possible. At this point, you're directed to a check-in lane, where the port authorities and quarantine staff go over your van and car.

They're checking all gas is turned off and you're not carrying any fuel apart from what's in the fuel tanks. They are also checking that you're hitched up securely before checking under hood. We were actually carrying an extra passenger under our bonnet in the way of a dead bird... we have no idea how he got there or how long he had been in there.

Finally quarantine have a good rummage through your fridge and freezer and then you're signed off as ready to sail.

After a short wait, you drive past the ticket office. You are given your tickets and if you're travelling with your dog, they will also give you a tag to attach to the front of their kennel. It has identification on it, so if you need to be contacted they know who the pet belongs to. You are then directed to a holding area.

BOARDING

About an hour before departure, they start loading you on deck by deck. If you're travelling with animals you'll be on either deck 3 or 5.

You are given yellow tags so port authorities know you're travelling with a pet



Yellow tag
Image © Chris, Vee and Tilly

One option to be aware of is, you can leave your pet in the car. We thought long and hard about this option. Tilly would have probably slept most of the way, however it comes with its dangers. There can be rough seas and pictures have circulated the internet of a lorry toppling and falling on to a car parked next to it. Another concern for us what the issue of ventilation. With all those vehicles parked and not too much in the way of open decks, the air would be stifling. Finally another safety concern was the risk of a choppy crossing. We didn't want Tilly getting thrown about too much. For all these reasons we opted for the kennel option to be safe.

Once on deck 5 we selected the kennel suitable for Tilly's size. Be aware if you put a small dog in a large kennel, they may need to move the dog. If a larger dog comes in and your chihuahua is in a kennel meant for a Great Dane, your dog will be moved. We put some bedding down for Tilly and put her in the kennel. Water is also supplied in a large steel container, which is secured to the base of the kennel. Tilly settled quite quickly, but a lot of dogs were barking.

TOP TIP

The animal kennels are located on deck 3 and 5. We recommend to get your pet onto deck 5. As we were loaded onto deck 3, this is where Tilly was supposed to be contained during her crossing. However, there is absolutely no fresh ventilation. They do have fans but they weren't running when we were supposed to drop Tilly off. Not happy to leave her on this deck, we spoke to one member of crew and he showed us to the kennels on deck 5. This area has open vents with fresh air coming in.

THE CROSSING

We made our way up to the main deck and to the cabin we had booked. It was \$100 for the cabin, which we were grateful for. The cabins are basic, with 2 single beds and an ensuite. However as we had been up super early and hadn't

showered that morning, we made use of the bathroom and had a bit of a sleep.

BYE BYE MELBOURNE

The main decks have everything you'd need for the crossing. There is plenty of seating dotted around the various decks alongside bars, cafes and restaurants. There is also plenty to keep the kids entertained with climbing frames and a games areas.

For the crossing we had taken food and drinks on with us as we weren't sure how the pricing would be on board. However, it wasn't too bad pricewise for food and drinks.

There is plenty of information at guest services of what to see and do whilst in Tassie. We grabbed a few brochures to give us ideas of where to go and stay.

The crossing going out was really smooth. As the boat left Melbourne, we went up on to the top deck to watch the sail out of port. We were pleasantly surprised that even when leaving the heads of Port Phillip Bay the boat remained calm.



Happy to be back on land
Image © Chris, Vee and Tilly

ARRIVAL IN DEVONPORT

One great thing about travelling with pets is that you're allowed down to the car deck first. It helps that there aren't hundreds of people all clambering down at once. We raced down to get Tilly as we still had to get her down on to deck 3 for the car. The girl was an absolute legend. She hadn't had any accidents or been sick. Tilly was beyond excited to see us, but absolutely fine. We were really happy with how she'd pulled through the crossing.

We loaded her into the car and waited for the doors to open. When the doors finally open, you are directed to different areas. Those travelling with a pet need to show their documentation that their animal has been treated with the hydatid worming tablet. The port authorities have quick look then wave you through.

As we didn't get in until after 6pm we stayed locally in Devonport at the discovery park. It's only a two minute drive from the port to the park. It's an amazing park, right on the ocean front with great walks for a dog.

SAILING BACK

On the morning of our sail back we had an early start again. As before we got to the port nice and early and asked for deck 5. This didn't happen, we were loaded on to deck 3 but knew the score and got ourselves up the stairs to deck 5.

At this point, I'd like to say it was just like the sailing to Tasmania, however it wasn't.

On the crossing to Tassie we were on Spirit of Tasmania 2, which is a newer boat. On the way back to Melbourne we were on Spirit of Tasmania 1. The kennels aren't near the lovely open decks. They're next to the elevator and stairwells. It's also next to where the road trains are pulling in and parking, the fumes were horrid.

We loaded Tilly into her crate again, gave her a Kong filled with treats, said our fond farewells and made our way upstairs.

Prior to sailing, we knew that the seas were forecast with up to a 10 metre swell. We had made preparations for ourselves with seasickness tablets and acupuncture bands.

As we had booked a cabin again, we made our way to the room. Our crossing consisted of lying down in bed and waiting for the seas to settle. This didn't happen until we entered the heads of Port Phillip Bay.

All the way back we were wondering how Tilly was going on downstairs, hoping she was ok.

Continued over page ▶

BACK TO MELBOURNE

As soon as we were back in port and allowed to collect Tilly, we did so. It was chaos at the kennel area. Dogs were barking and had been sick. Their worried owners were bundling up their best mates up and carrying them off to their cars. Tilly was beside herself, but she'd held herself together really well, no toilet issues and she hadn't been sick. We quickly got all her blankets and Kong and headed for the car.

We quickly cleared Port Melbourne. Like last time we parked up on beach street and let Tilly out for a toilet break.

This time we decided to stay at Werribee South Caravan Park, just a 45 minute drive from port Melbourne. The park is a lovely quiet stop and well located next to the beach. The sites are great and ablutions are new and clean.

Once settled on site we got to give Tilly a full check over. She had settled down and didn't seem quite as stressed. However, her nose was red raw. She must have been feeling so nauseous that she'd licked it to the point of being sore.

Tilly's poor nose took weeks to heal, but thankfully there was no scarring.

We spoke to our own vet (back in Perth) the following day and they said when dogs or animals in general feel nauseous, they hyper-salivate. Our vet advised us to keep an eye on it and if need be take her to a local vet.

IN SUMMARY**The pros**

We really wanted to see Tasmania and saw so many beautiful places along the way. If you're going to make the trip with your caravan, we'd probably recommend at least a couple of months stay as it's not cheap to take the car and van. From memory, we paid about \$2000 for a return ticket and this is on the cheaper side.

Tasmania is full of stunning scenery at every turn. The food is amazing, it has an abundance of fresh local produce. We also found it to be really good for dog friendly accommodation across the state. Whether it be caravan parks or free camps, you don't struggle with your fur babe.

The cons

Our only real concern is the trip on the Spirit there and back with Tilly.

Unfortunately you can't pick the weather or sea conditions when you book your travel. Naively we thought as it was summer it shouldn't be too bad. However it's Bass Strait and it's renowned for rough seas.

We wouldn't make the trip again with Tilly. After this trip I emailed the Spirit of Tasmania booking office and voiced my concerns over the kennel area. I believe they are building new ships and suggested they could make a small percentage of the cabins dog friendly. We would pay extra to have Tilly in a room with us, even if she still had to be confined to the room during the sailing. The message back was a stock standard response, citing health and safety reasons. However in Europe they have pet friendly cabins on their sailings.

Maybe going forward it's something that The Spirit of Tasmania may consider. We are a country of animal lovers and spend millions a year on the best for our furry companions. There is money to be made for Spirit and I think people would pay a premium to have their pets with them for the sailing.

Lets hope things change. 🍷

<http://www.chrisveeandtillysbiglap.com/>

ADVENTUROUS DAYS DESERVE PEACEFUL NIGHTS

How would you like to indulge in restful sleep knowing your skin is protected by an incredibly light 100% mulberry silk travel sheet? If this sounds like the sort of comfort you'd like to take with you on your next trip then read on.

Brave Era's 100% Mulberry Silk travel sheet helps you stay clean while protecting you from allergens and even bed bugs and mosquitoes. Bring with you during your next hotel stay, add extra warmth to your sleeping bag, or use alone for optimal comfort in warmer climates.

Travellers of all kinds love their Brave Era travel sheets: campers, glampers, weekend warriors, extreme adventurers, roadtrippers, cabin crew, cruisers, stargazers, backpackers, music festival-goers, gap-year wanderers, and luxury seekers.

Don't be fooled by cheap polyester imitation sleeping bag liners that claim to be "silky."

Indulge in the real thing.

Retails at \$99.99. Now available at the special price of \$79.99 on Amazon via this link.

COMPACT AND LIGHT
About the size and weight of your phone



<https://amzn.to/2DhvvRo>

NEW YEARS EVE FIREWORKS

Where's a top spot to see twice as many fireworks on New Years? Frequent traveller Jenni Onn divulges all.

Christmas is just around the corner. YAY! This usually overshadows the fact that New Year's Eve follows just a week later.

One of my regular New Year's Resolutions is to go somewhere exciting to see in the next New Year.

Now we've enjoyed some pretty special New Year's Eve celebrations in cities such as Paris, and fabulous

tropical destinations like the South Pacific Islands, but one of the best kept secrets for a great NYE fireworks extravaganza is the Coolangatta/Tweed Heads region straddling the Queensland/NSW border.

The thing to take note of with this NYE destination is that you are treated to four, yes four, sets of fireworks.

Because of daylight savings effects on the region, midnight happens twice. For families travelling with kids, there are two displays, an hour apart, in the early evening. Then at midnight, there are another two bang-up displays.

This is where we jollied in the New 2018 Year.

What a blast! 🍷



THE ANNUAL MIGRATION NORTH

In this issue Feature Series Writer, Keith Trotter, begins a new expedition to explore the east coast of Australia from Victoria to Tropical North Queensland. Let's see if he can find some impressive views in Australia's favourite holiday state to rival the beauties of his "Holiday at Home" experience from the previous issue.

(Read more at <http://bit.ly/AsiaAdventureMag>)



It's been a life-long dream to travel this unbelievably diverse and dynamically beautiful country, that by extreme fortune I was born into, and I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to share the story of my travels in this magazine.

As you travel around the country, it is apparent by the sheer number of caravans on the road that something big is happening. There is a movement that was there a generation ago, but not to the extent it is today. Many of these caravanners are referred to as grey nomads, and probably represent the largest contingent. These are the Aussies that have retired, either fully or partly and are living the life they always dreamed of. This is the group we fall into.

It's not just the nomads who are doing this, there are a lot of overseas travellers. Often in their '20's or early '30's, and mainly from Europe, most of them hire small campervans to travel around the world's biggest island while many still choose to stay in hostels and backpack their way around.

We also came across quite a few families with children, on the road for extended periods of time.

Last year we did the big lap, travelling up through the red centre then around the west coast before heading home, covering 24,000km in the process.

This gave us an intimate glimpse into a part of the country that you only ever read about in magazines. This travelling holiday gave us a lot of time to plan the next adventure (escape Victoria's cold winter) while having one of the best times of our lives in the process. The east coast was calling.

Our plan this year was no different to thousands of others who live in the southern states, and that was to escape the cold winters we have endured for decades, by living out those few months further north where it is warmer. The annual migration north can take you anywhere really, from the south coast of NSW to Cape York at the northern tip of Queensland.

On our previous trip we were accompanied by my brother and his wife, in which we were the apprentices, learning from an experienced traveller. When we got to Darwin, we were comfortable and confident enough to continue the rest of the way on our own, so as previously planned, we turned left and they turned right.

This year our trip would be a bit different. We now had friends who agreed to come along for the ride with us. Barry and Wendy had recently bought a new Autotrail motorhome and were keen to come at least part of the way with us. Family commitments meant they had

to be home earlier than us, but still they made it most of the way north before peeling back and meeting those family commitments.

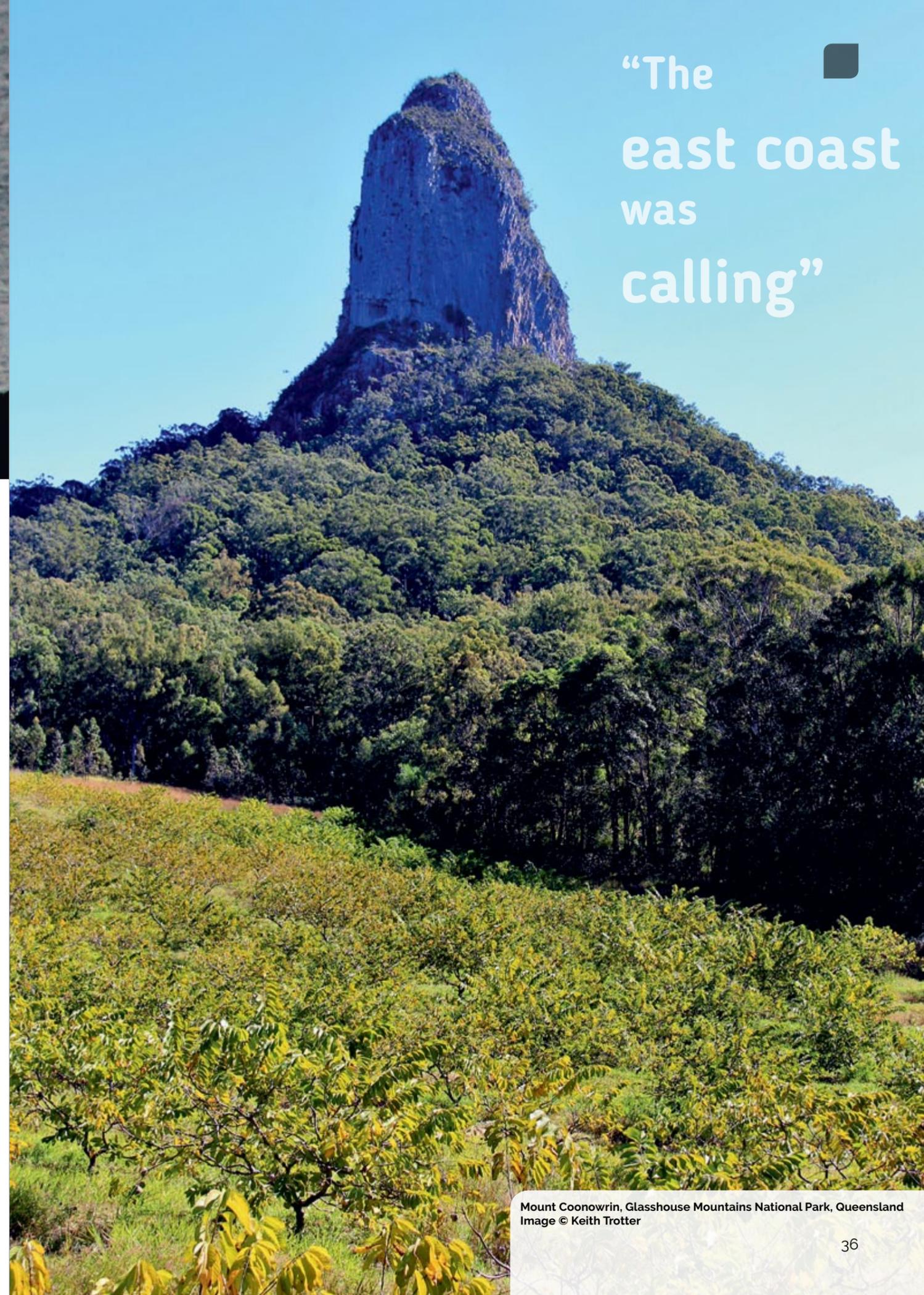
We all gained benefit in travelling this way. For Barry and Wendy, it was their first big trip and, as the new apprentices, they learned a few things from our experience, and for us there was the benefit of always having friends to share happy hour with, but also, in years to come, to be able to re-count those experiences and cherish the memories of our journey together. With a planned 20 weeks away from home, this was going to be a holiday to remember.

The game plan was to spend most of our holiday on the Queensland coast. The further north we went, the longer we would stay. This meant spending no more than 4 weeks getting through Brisbane and on to the Sunshine coast. Once we had moved past here, we could put the hand-brake on.

The first thing was to get the heck out of Victoria as soon as possible. Our home state is sensational with so much on offer, but it isn't that big, and we can travel anywhere in Victoria in a long weekend. We also wanted to keep travel to a series of short trips, so we elected to stay at 2 of the nicest places along the way, Lakes Entrance, about 4 hours from Melbourne, and Mallacoota on the far east corner of the coast.

Continued over page ►

“The east coast was calling”



Mount Coonowrin, Glasshouse Mountains National Park, Queensland
Image © Keith Trotter

AMAZING ROCK FEATURE

Day 4 saw us crossing our first border. The first destination that I just had to visit was Bermagui on the south coast of NSW. Partly because, as a kid, I'd read about this place in the classic '60's book "They're a Weird Mob" by Nino Culotta, but recently I'd heard about the amazing rock feature called Horse head rock which is hidden along the coast near Bermagui, and only accessible at low tide. This naturally formed rock looks just like a horse's head, drinking the sea water that surrounds it. The longer you look at it, the more realistic it seems.

It's a bit of a trek to get there safely, needing both hands free to negotiate your way safely across the rocks. There were 5 other photographers there to catch the morning light on this small patch of beach. This is about the maximum number of people you would want there before you all started blocking the view of others. We were fortunate that low tide coincided with sunrise, so it was accessible, but unfortunate that the sunrise was totally devoid of colour.

Towing a caravan around the country can be daunting, especially finding your way safely through the capital cities.

Sydney traffic is the worst in Australia, (sorry Sydney but your traffic is the pits) and only slightly worse than Melbourne, and just the thought of tackling this can cause a shiver. Fortunately Sydney's freeways offer the answer, (not completely though), providing you travel during off peak because there is still that 8km of suburban nightmare at Pennant Hills.

We got onto the M7/M2 motorway to Pennant Hills where you then turn off and negotiate your way through 8km of stop and go, up and down busy suburban streets with trucks either side. While it wasn't peak hour, it was still 15 minutes of white knuckle, heart pumping stuff. Refer to the previous paragraph regarding my opinion of Sydney's traffic. I'm not afraid of traffic, it's just that this piece of roadway is the weak link in the chain.

TRAVELLER'S BEST FRIEND

Heading further north we arrived in Newcastle in pouring rain (can't put enough emphasis on how heavy the rain was) and set up for an overnight stay. It's times like this that you really appreciate the benefits of a full size caravan. You just jump in the van, run off battery power and enjoy your first cocktail.

In between downpours, we caught up with cousins for dinner before moving on to Taree for two nights and caught up with cousins again. This was all going to plan, short stops, quick visits and keep heading north. The sunshine state awaits, but not until we stop twice more while scooting through our most populous state.

There are many times when every traveller has to confer with their best friend, and every traveller's best friend is Wikicamps. This app is almost as important as Google maps, or dare I say, almost as important as air in the tyres. It has all the up to date everything on every camp ground, park, reserve etc. You will find everything, ranging from prices, cleanliness of amenities, which staff member was rude or simply got out of bed on the wrong side. Information ranging from imperative to downright trivial, it's all on Wikicamps. And so it was wikicamps which led us to our next destination; the campsite at Trial Bay gaol, Arakoon, at South west rocks, half way between Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.

This was one of those places that was really worth taking the time exploring, and I can't really put my finger on what was so special about this place. It's like everything was an 8 out of 10, nothing perfect but nothing imperfect either. I'd never heard of the place before, but along the way, nearly everyone we met had been there.

BEST WEATHER IN AUSTRALIA

Continuing along the theme of catching up with cousins, we stayed in Yamba for 2 nights to catch up with cousin Colin who had promised us the best weather in Australia. Colin had moved there a few years ago

and would bang on about how great the weather was, and we should move there. Sorry cousin, but two days of solid rain doesn't qualify as the best weather anywhere. We might try again another day.

BORDER CROSSING AND NEW EQUIPMENT

Ahead of schedule, we crossed the Queensland border and had to make a call on where exactly we were going to stay. We'd been to the Gold coast many times before (like so many other Victorians) but still wanted to tick a couple of boxes there, and at the same time, I had some old army mates in Brisbane that we just had to see, so we settled on a park in Eight Mile Plains, about 15 minutes south of the city and is perfectly situated to give easy access to all the freeways. By choosing this location, we could set up camp for a week or more and start the unwinding process.

It was here that I had to make two replacements. Firstly the door handle on the van broke. This could have proved disastrous, but when I searched the internet I discovered the manufacturer was only 50 minutes up the freeway. Problem resolved and repaired by lunchtime.

The second issue was a very concerning one for me, and that was my humble 6 year old HTC phone, the one with the camera that I thought was the bees knees, broke.

When I had to choose my next phone, my request was simple.

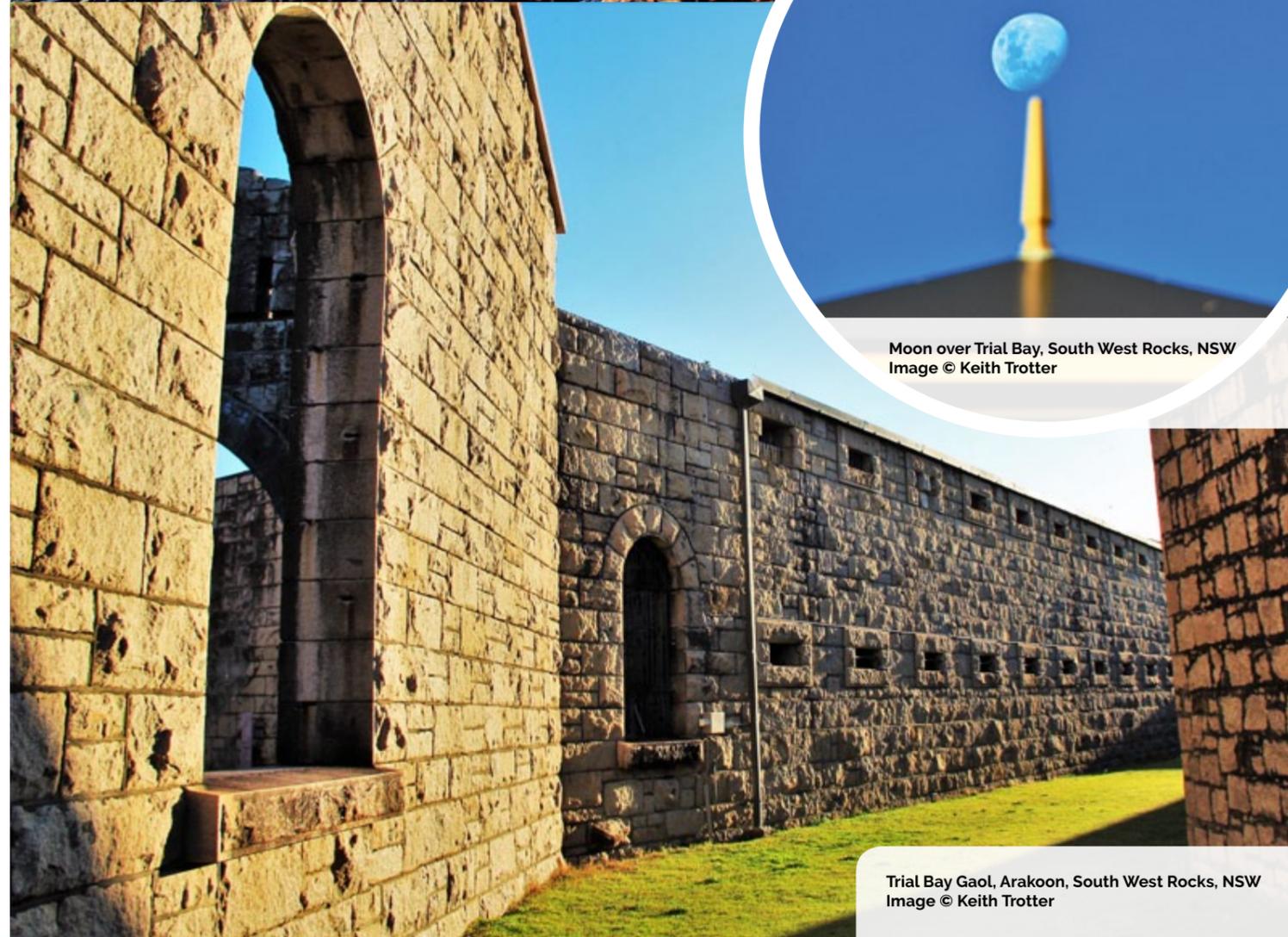
Give me a top end camera that makes phone calls. This is akin to choosing your next car, it is an important decision and one you don't make lightly.

After all the sales pitches, and comparing those phones that matched my request, I had no hesitation at all settling for an Oppo phone. The colour of the photos it takes were more dynamic than any of its much dearer competition, and with two lenses, one 16mp lens and the other 20mp, I now find myself coming home from a day's shooting and often finding the best pics were taken with a mobile phone.

Continued over page ▶

Horse Head Rock, Bermagui
Image © Keith Trotter

“Only accessible at low tide”



Moon over Trial Bay, South West Rocks, NSW
Image © Keith Trotter

Trial Bay Gaol, Arakoon, South West Rocks, NSW
Image © Keith Trotter



Gold Coast skyline, Queensland
Image © Keith Trotter



Tiger Island, Dreamworld
Image © Keith Trotter



Tiger Island, Dreamworld
Image © Keith Trotter



Tiger Island, Dreamworld
Image © Keith Trotter



Dingo, Dreamworld
Image © Keith Trotter



Peter Brock's First Car, Dreamworld
Image © Keith Trotter



Dreamworld
Image © Keith Trotter



Peter Brock's Cars, Dreamworld
Image © Keith Trotter

THE GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast. So much to see and do here but we decided not to do all the theme parks again except Dreamworld which was our favourite. With all the "thrill a minute" rides being out of action, we enjoyed the "Tiger Island" show and I was quite surprised to walk into "Brock's Garage". This was a display of nearly all of Peter Brock's racing cars, from his first racing Austin A40 to everything else in between.

We met up with my best mate who lives on the coast and went with them to see the "Australian Outback Spectacular" which is next to Movieworld. For an entry fee of \$80, they provide a three course meal and a show. I wasn't expecting much and found that they delivered to my expectations. The dinner was great but the show underperformed.

MOUNT TAMBORINE

The drive up to Mount Tamborine the next day was worth the effort, despite Ms Google taking us up the wrong way. No big deal eh? Only that she took us up the steepest roads anywhere on the planet (seemed like it at the time), went the long way around and brought us to a dead stop where the "roads people" were re-surfacing the second steepest hill in the world.

That's 25 minutes I'll never get back, although watching that heavy cumbersome road roller do its job

up that hill, while painful at the time, seems quite humorous now. I think I can, I think I can.

SUNSHINE COAST

The Sunshine Coast is more of the same but different. Always less commercialised than its southern brother, the Gold Coast, and thankfully so. The hinterland is a thing of beauty.

GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS

The Glasshouse Mountains, which I've driven past a hundred times, remained a mystery to me until now. I highly recommend following the scenic route ending up at Maleny. This is one of the most beautiful areas we've been to and where the holiday really started to feel like a holiday. 🇺🇸

Next issue...

The holiday really kicks into gear.



Glasshouse Mountains, QLD
Image © Keith Trotter

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND "THE DOGS THAT MADE AUSTRALIA"?

Best selling author Guy Hull generously shares his inspiration for this entertaining and insightful book, as well as his individual take on modern dogs as pets. Thanks Guy!



In this issue, we are featuring Guy Hull's bestseller "The Dogs that Made Australia" and, as it is the animal issue, we decided to delve deeper and discover the story behind the motivation for writing it.

Following on from that we ask questions related to current best practices of dog ownership.

Why do modern dogs need injections and tablets to get them through life when their ancestors would have had no chemical help whatsoever?

As you read on you'll discover that Guy is not only a talented author, but he is a dog behavioural expert as well, with many years' experience in canine training and management.

Q. Your book "The Dogs that Made Australia" – Why did you decide to write this? What is the story behind the book?

A. Like every other Australian dog-mad man, woman, and child I was influenced by the information contained in Australian Barkers and Biters, the famous book by Robert Kaleski published in the early 20th century. Unfortunately, Australia and the world took Kaleski at his word. I realised, as I learned more about cattle dogs and through my own dog behavioural experience, that Kaleski was a fraud. And when I met historian Bert Howard I realised

Australia had been misled and mis-informed about the origins of Australian dogs for over a century.

I was good friends with the late James Cruickshank the keyboardist and rhythm guitar player from the Cruel Sea. James had an abiding interest in the arts and all things Australia. We were recording an album together in 1997, and we were discussing cattle dog one evenings. He asked me to name best book on the Australian dogs and I told him the book that everyone needed to read had never been written. He told me to write it myself. Twenty years later, I did.

"Peppe's behaviours are so primitive he is a reliable glimpse into the past"

Q. Do you have a dog or dogs of your own and if so what are they like?

A. I had long owned Australian Cattle Dogs and Border Collies, though I now have a Pharaoh Hound, Peppe. He's five.

They are Maltese, not Egyptian, and their Maltese name is Kelb tal Fenek, the dog of the rabbit. They are an ancient and very primitive breed, probably the oldest domestic breed, around 5000 years.

They are hard-wired hunters requiring constant management when they are out and about.

They are a stubborn, difficult dog to control, but very sweet and gentle.

They have no dog odour, are cat-clean, and blush bright crimson when they're exhausted or being admonished. Peppe's behaviours are so primitive he is a reliable glimpse into the past. He is an interesting study.

Pharies hunt with all their senses. They are one of the few breeds that do, and all are the erect-eared running hounds of the Mediterranean region.

Q. Do you have a favourite breed of dog? Why this breed?

A. I have a strong preference for the basic types: medium sized, short to medium-coated, erect-eared dogs with a tail.



Left and above - Peppe the Pharaoh Hound Images © Guy Hull

Below - Guy Hull at Creative Traveller Office Image © Jenni Onn



Continued over ►

Continued from previous page

I also have a lot of time for the small British terriers particularly the Scottish terriers like the West Highland White, the Cairn, and the Scottie. They are incredible little dogs. I appreciate every breed, even if they're not my type of dog. There is a breed or a type for everyone. Dogs of every breed exhibit the same instinctive behaviours. Temperamentally, breeds usually only differ in certain traits. Hounds want to hunt, working dogs want to work. Dogs are what we make them, and breed traits can be exploited for better or worse. If a dog displays inappropriate behaviour it is due to human mismanagement, not it's breed. Every breed has a lot of appeal for the right people.

Q. I personally would like to know why dogs from decades ago didn't seem to need things like heartworm tablets but now it is vital. Why do modern dogs need so much chemical help to get them through life when, as a child I don't remember any of this going on? A bit of flea powder once in a while was the most intervention any of my childhood dogs ever had. Now we face the peril of the tick and all sorts of regular injections and medical necessities that simply weren't around a few decades ago. Sunscreen even!

A. Things have changed rapidly for the urban dog over the last fifty years. There are several reasons for this increase in medications and treatments. Veterinary science has advanced and conditions and parasites that were hardly recognised a few decades ago are now being regularly treated. Thousands of dogs would have died of heartworm before affordable preventable treatments were readily available. That said, today our dogs are over-vaccinated and over-treated partly also because of the rise of anthropomorphism and the pet industry's exploitation of the resultant fur baby phenomenon.

A dog is a simple creature and is best kept simply.

Thousands of years ago when women domesticated the wild dog humans produced healthy, faithful domestic dogs that were raised, socialised and trained with the bare resources of a primitive family group. They did alright. Those dogs facilitated civilisation. Today, our dogs are cosseted and over-indulged and we are made to feel guilty if we don't provide for our dogs as we would for human children.

Q. What do you feed your dogs?

A. Peppe's base diet is Blackhawk kibble and plenty of table scraps and meat and bones daily. And plenty of veggies.

Malta has always had meat shortages so the Pharie is particularly omnivorous and I let him eat whatever he fancies. Which is just about everything. The raw-diet movement is over-kill and another expensive example of a guilt-driven fad for folks with soft hearts and disposable incomes.

Dogs are omnivorous opportunists. While they should be fed a high-quality diet, and admittedly there is a lot of rubbish on the market, no dog needs their owner to spend almost as much on its food on it as on a human member of the family. What healthy wild canines live on would appal most people. Our dogs are getting as soft as us.

Q. Do you have an opinion on agility training and obedience training?

A. I do. I believe that any sensible activity with one's dog is time well spent.

Agility and obedience training are fantastic activities that only build a tighter bond between human and dog. Likewise, even in the backyard or home, simple tricks and sensible games are as much as any well-managed family dog needs.

A book of dog tricks is also a fantastic tool, particularly for families with children. Kids these days spend most of their spare time staring at devices and are losing touch with their dogs.

The dog needs its brain exercised daily and so does the dog's human.

Dogs are humankind's most flexible and ingenious collaborator. It is a fact that dogs and their people who participate in regular activities together enjoy a closer, more cooperative relationship and a high quality of life.

Q. It looks like the historical mismanagement of our wild dogs continues to this day. Is there anything that can be done to improve the situation? Do you have suggestions?

A. The Wild Dog Action Plan is a concerted nation-wide strategy, but the wild dog and the dingo are the most wearing adversaries.

There are two sides to this story. The graziers who are under constant attack, and the conservationists.

It is a problem that will never be fixed without extreme measures. But the elephant in the room is rabies.

As of 2015 rabies was only a couple of hundred kilometres from northern Australia. It is sweeping through south-east Asia and it is inevitable that it will reach northern Australia if it hasn't already.

The wild dog, camp dog, domestic dog, and dingo populations in the top end and Cape York are the perfect reservoirs to enhance its rapid spread.

Rabies will change Australia into a dangerous, terrifying place. Pity help Australia if rabies establishes itself in our wild dog population.

<https://conference.ava.com.au/13303> and <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/naqs> for further reading.

Q. Are kangaroo dogs now extinct?

A. The original lines that were developed early in New South Wales are probably extinct now. However, enthusiasts today keep, breed and hunt with a dog they call a Staghound which is generally the same Scottish Deerhound x Greyhound basis to that breed.

In the USA a dog called the Staghound with identical breeding to the early NSW dog was developed for coursing deer and antelope on the prairie. The original Staghound was a huge, smooth-coated, lop-eared version of today's English Foxhound. It was used for coursing deer in the days when Britain was mostly forest. It has long fallen to extinction.

Q. I've heard commentary suggesting goats would be a smarter alternative to sheep in this country, for meat that is. What do you think of that idea?

A. Not much. Goats are a bigger environmental disaster than sheep, being browsers and a far more enterprising forager, they are far harder on the country.

They are certainly a better commercial proposition for the red soil mulga country that covers much of the semi-arid interior, but managing stock in that rough, scrubby, environmentally sensitive country presents its own set of problems.

Q. Do you have any favourite anecdotes that were scrapped from the published version?

A. I don't, really. It was basically published as I wrote it.

Q. How long did you work on this book?

A. I thought about how I should write it for around twenty years! Then when I decided to sit down and actually write it, it took me a year to get it to my and my agent's satisfaction, with a three-month mid-year break.

Research was a large component of the development of *The Dogs That Made Australia*.

It took a month to secure the right publisher, HarperCollins, then there was another six months editing and preparing the book for publication. Around eighteen months from start to publication.

Q. Are you preparing any new books?

A. Yes, I am currently working on a proposal for my second book which will be an Australian urban dog management resource with a difference.

Q. Border Collies have earned the general reputation for being the smartest breed. Do you have an opinion on this idea?

A. I think dog intelligence is generally evenly spread among all breeds. It's how that intelligence is moulded and motivated by instinct and breed build and traits, breeding – and how the individual is managed since birth that gives the impression that some breeds and individuals are 'smarter' than others.

They're all really smart and resourceful as any predator must be, but having said that, biddability, or the willingness to cooperate with and please a human, is usually what we confuse with intelligence.

Biddability is shared to a high degree among the breeds we usually consider to be the smartest, such as working dogs, though biddability can be further developed by good management or diminished by mismanagement.

A highly biddable Border Collie would generally be considered to be really smart. Another, just as intelligent but not as bonded to humans – and therefore less biddable - would be thought to be less intelligent.

Both assumptions are wrong. Dogs of any breed that never develop or lose their confidence and trust in people naturally display poor biddability. Likewise, the independent breeds with minimal natural biddability such as the hounds, are often thought to be lower in intelligence. They're not; they are just wired-up differently because they were developed to think for themselves and to work independently of people.

Many people think their obedient dog must be an intelligent dog.



Peppe's daily walk on the beach
Image © Guy Hull

It may be, but it ain't necessarily so. It could have average or low natural intelligence but high biddability, not that there's anything wrong with that.

A biddable dog can be taught anything. 🐾

For Further Reading

| <https://conference.ava.com.au/13303>

| <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/naqs>

Guy Hull

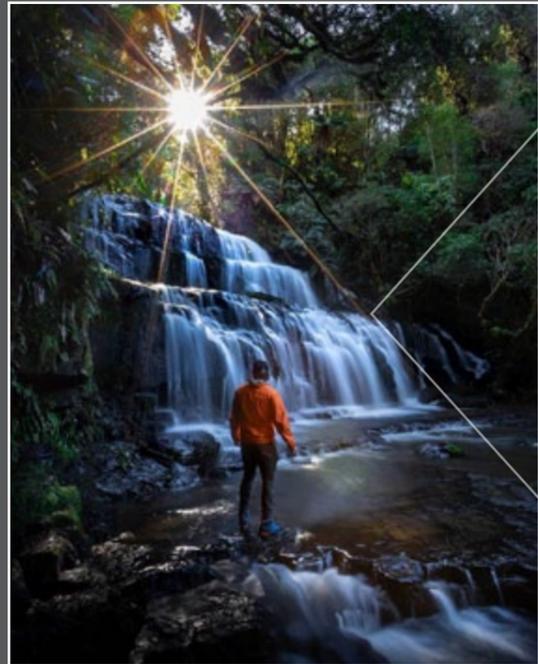
<https://guyhulldogbehaviourist.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/guyhull57>

PICTORIAL FEATURE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JROD CAPTURES

“I'm JrodCaptures a 32 year old personal trainer, gym owner and self taught Landscape/Travel photographer on the side. Once I turned 21 I went on my 1st solo travel adventure and have since worked overseas in 3 different countries and visited 32 countries in total. I first got into photography about 5 years ago by wanting to capture and share my adventures using a GoPro, and since then have slowly wanted to get better and more creative as time went on, which brought me to purchasing my DSLR camera 2 years ago. It's been a major passion ever since, I can't wait to get back to all those places, as well as new places to get my shots.”



10 STAR RATING!! The Catlins for waterfalls is insane. There are just so many epic waterfalls within a 40min drive from each other and they all have amazing greenery surrounding them... Deep South producing the goods?
@canonaustralia #benroaustralia

The Catlins, New Zealand
Image © JROD Captures

WHEN IN ROME!! Couldn't go to Sydney and not get this shot! @vivid Sydney is over and can't wait to head back next year. Have a look through my Vivid posts and drop a comment on which one is your favourite. I'd really appreciate it. #canonaustralia <https://www.facebook.com/jrodcaptures/>

Canon 80D @canonaustralia - Tokina 11-16mm @tokina_global - Nisi Natural Night Filter 30" | f/7.1 | ISO100 2 shots - @benro_australia Tripod



PICTORIAL FEATURE

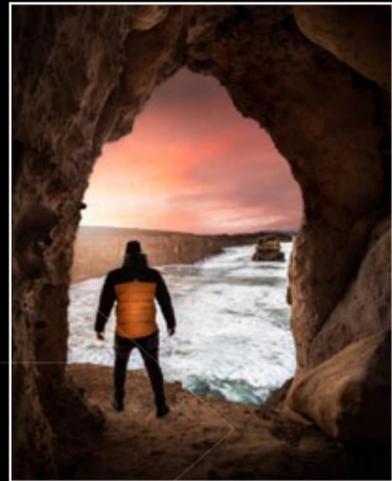
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JROD CAPTURES

The stories behind the images

THAT FAMOUS PUDDLE!! It wouldn't be a real trip to Sydney if it rained and I didn't get that puddle shot. Hell if it didn't rain I was going to bring 2L of water with me and dump it on the ground to get the shot! #canonaustralia



CATHEDRAL ROCK UNDER THE STARS! Another shot from that epic night on top of Mount Buffalo with @hangingpixels_photo_art. Oat kindly lit up the foreground using his @lumecube and I blended in a bit of blue hour glow in post. @canonaustralia #canonaustralia



IF NATURE DIDN'T WANT ME TO GO HERE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE PUT IN A WINDOW WITH A VIEW! It's a spot I've tried not to go to for ages but this time I just couldn't help myself. it's just too epic? @canonaustralia

HOW'S THE COLOUR PALETTE OF KAIKOURA!? Our unscheduled and last stop of our South Island NZ road trip was at this unique little town with an amazing black pebble beach, blue water, snow capped mountains and an abundance of sea life. @djiglobal



HOOKER LAKE IS SOOOOO PHOTOGENIC!! Definitely one of my favorites images from the NZ trip. @jake.bolton.photo myself and a random bloke from Portugal that we met earlier hiked up the Hooker Valley Track and into Hooker Lake. We were meet with some pretty crazy winds that only got stronger the longer we stayed but I found my spot a good 1h before sunset then just lounged back on the rock wiping my lens from splashes of water and waited for the colours to pop. I just love the colour and flow of the water and the shape and lines in the rock in the foreground and then those big snow capped mountains in the distance... NZ you bloody did it again! @canonaustralia @benro_australia #canonaustralia

HOW'S THE COLOUR PALETTE OF KAIKOURA!? Our unscheduled and last stop of our South Island NZ road trip was at this unique little town with an amazing black pebble beach, blue water, snow capped mountains and an abundance of sea life. @djiglobal



YOU CANT MISS THIS LIGHTHOUSE!! Yesterday I was kindly picked up by some of the local Sydney crew and taken to this epic little lighthouse at Lady Bay. It wasn't going to matter what the sky did that morning when you have a lighthouse that looks like that on a cliff top and @janbreckwoldt_photography bring a mad prop, like a real oil lantern, along and model for me. Awesome morning!!

Hooker Lake/New Zealand - Canon 6d Mark ii @canonaustralia - Canon 16-35mm ii f2.8 Nisi CPL /10Stop / Nisi Med GND - 120" | f/11 | ISO100 - @benro_australia Slim Carbon Tripod



Harbour Bridge, Sydney, Australia
Image © JROD Captures
www.CreativeTravellerMag.com



Cathedral Rock, Mt Buffalo, Australia
Image © JROD Captures
www.CreativeTravellerMag.com



12 Apostles, Australia
Image © JROD Captures
www.CreativeTravellerMag.com



Kaikoura, New Zealand
Image © JROD Captures
www.CreativeTravellerMag.com



McLean Falls, New Zealand
Image © JROD Captures
www.CreativeTravellerMag.com



Hooker Lake, New Zealand
Image © JROD Captures
www.CreativeTravellerMag.com



Lady Bay Lighthouse, Australia
Image © JROD Captures
www.CreativeTravellerMag.com

STEP-BY-STEP CHRISTMAS DRAWINGS



Ho, ho, ho! It's time to play with some arty, cool stuff. Have a go at these fun drawings and you'll be able to create nifty cards and gift tags for all your friends and family

SIMPLE SHAPES TO PRACTICE ON

STEP 1
Draw a rough circle

STEP 2
Draw a round dot

STEP 3
Draw a wide letter "C"

STEP 4
Draw a wiggly worm

STEP 5
Draw a simple curve

STEP 6
Draw a curly wave

STEP 7
Draw a wide letter "u"

STEP 8
Draw just half a letter "u"

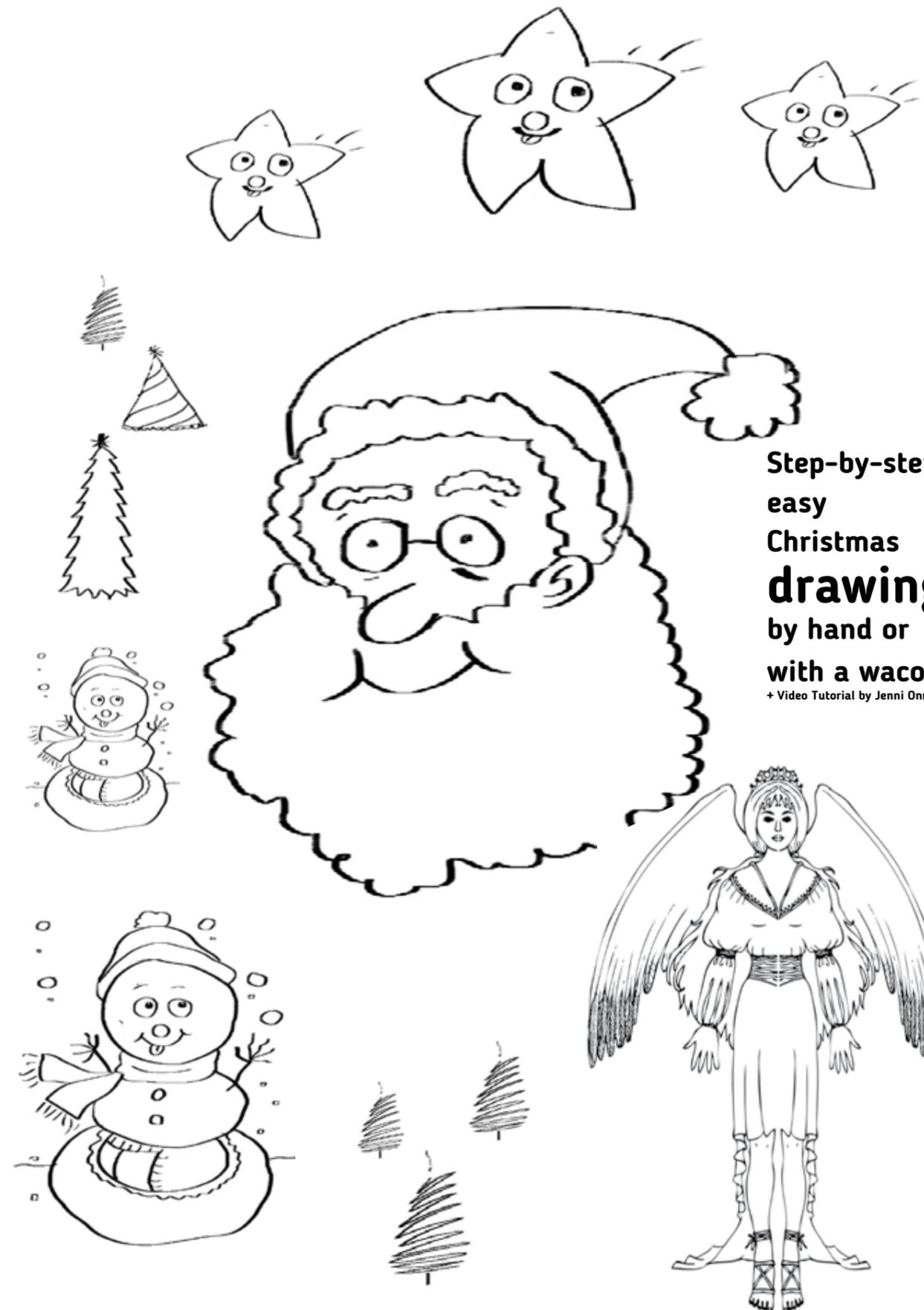
STEP 9
Draw the other half of the "u"

STEP 10
Draw a wide mound

STEP 11
Draw just half the mound

STEP 12
Draw a lazy "j"

FINAL STEP
Draw a fluffy cloud



Step-by-step easy Christmas drawings by hand or with a wacom

+ Video Tutorial by Jenni Onn

Watch the videos on YouTube

 <http://bit.ly/ChristmasHolidayCartoons>

STEP-BY-STEP LET'S DRAW SANTA

STEP 1
Draw a rough circle



STEP 2
Draw another circle



STEP 3
Draw the dots inside



STEP 4
Add the wide letter "c"



STEP 5
Draw a wiggly worm over each eye



STEP 6
Draw the simple curve on the right side between the eyes and the nose



STEP 7
Draw the curly wave inside the ear



STEP 8
Draw the wide letter "u" under the nose



STEP 9
Draw half a "u" at one end of the smile



STEP 10
Draw half a "u" at the other end of the smile



STEP 11
Draw a big wiggly worm all over the top of the head



STEP 12
Draw the big mound behind the head



STEP 13
Draw half a mound on the right side of the head



STEP 14
Draw half a mound under the tail of the hat



STEP 15
Draw the fluffy cloud at the point of the hat



STEP 16
Draw the edge of a fluffy cloud from nose to ear



STEP 17
Draw the edge of a fluffy cloud from nose to ear on the other side



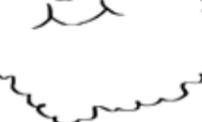
STEP 18
Draw the edge of a big fluffy cloud all around from one side of Santa's face to behind his ear



STEP 19
Draw a couple of half letter "u" shapes under Santa's glasses and eyebrows.



STEP 20
Draw a line to join Santa's glasses together above his nose

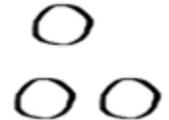


THERE YOU HAVE IT! A GREAT SANTA FACE FOR CARDS GIFT TAGS AND DECORATIONS



STEP-BY-STEP LET'S DRAW A STAR

STEP 1
Draw a rough circle



STEP 2
Draw another circle



STEP 3
Draw the dots inside



STEP 4
Draw another circle for a nose



STEP 5
Draw another circle for a nose



STEP 6
Draw a wide "u" for a smile



STEP 7
Draw a narrow "u" for a cheeky tongue



STEP 8
Draw the start of a mound inside the tongue



STEP 9
Draw a point over the top of the face

STEP 10
Draw a point for each arm and a point for each leg.

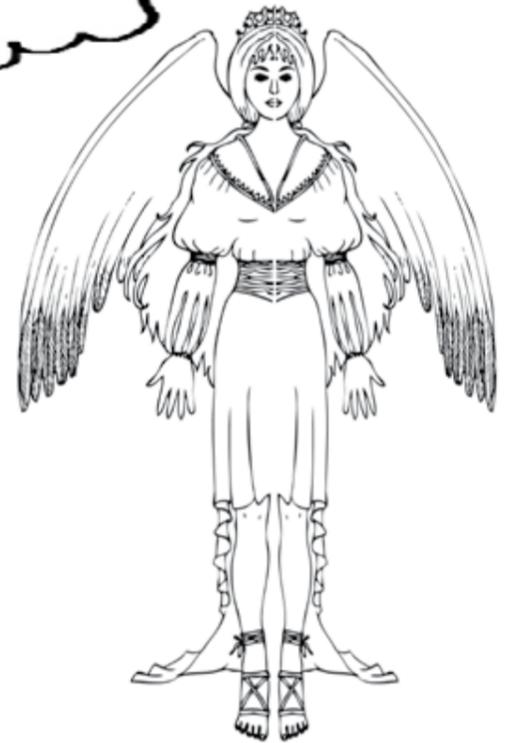


AND THERE YOU HAVE YOUR FINISHED STAR!

NOW DRAW A SET OF STARS TO PRACTICE THE PROCESS A FEW TIMES, THEN USE STEPS 1 TO 8 TO DRAW A CHEEKY FACE YOU CAN USE FOR ANY CHRISTMAS CHARACTER.



HAVE A GO AT THIS SNOWMAN FOR STARTERS.



▶ Watch the videos on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/ChristmasHolidayCartoons>

CREATIVE CHRISTMAS ANGEL



For a little more of a challenge, create your own beautiful Christmas angel. You'll need to print out these two pages and grab your favourite fine point drawing pen for this one. Or try it with a drawing tablet.

STEP ONE

Draw over the angel from left to right. This will give your mind/brain/eye/hand coordination the blueprint for the drawing.



STEP TWO

Draw the right side of the Christmas angel as a mirror image, exact opposite of the left side.



UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERIES AROUND FITNESS SUPPLEMENTS WITH BRISBANE FITNESS EMPIRE

We've all heard of fat burners and other fitness supplements but what do they actually do?
Where to start?
We interview a young businesswoman in the fitness industry to find out.

Underweight or overweight there are supplements designed to help. But do they? Do they have other benefits and if so what are they? What precautionary measures should you consider before taking the supplement plunge?

DIFFERENT TYPES

Q. What are the different types of supplements and what are they for?

A. There are many types of supplements for certain desired results such as weight loss, muscle gain, meal replacement, muscle recovery and immune boosters to name a few.

Q. Are there any supplements you personally use, and if so why and what are they?

A. Yes I use glutamine. It is a very powerful immune booster. It helps with muscle soreness & aids in muscle repair. Naturopaths recommend it for its powerful immune boosting components & trainers promote the use of the product for its muscle repair and healing abilities.

Q. Are there any dangers associated with use of supplements?

A. Yes. Incorrect use, whether intentional or not.

You should always do your own research and ask the person providing you with the supplements as many questions as you need to, to feel comfortable consuming the product, to ensure it is not only safe for you but will help you obtain your desired outcome.

For example, if you are sensitive to caffeine or gluten, find out if the product contains these ingredients. There are always alternatives.

Q. Are there occasions when you wouldn't recommend supplements?

A. Yes. Sometimes for example a client feels they need certain supplements to attain their goals, but I can see that the supplement won't help them or they don't need it (for example they are at a healthy weight and they want to take fat burners). I will suggest other alternatives.

“Pregnant women need to be very careful.”

Pregnant women need to be very careful and those who are sensitive to certain foods and additives.

Q. Do you have any case studies of clients' experiences with fat burners?

A. Yes a fair few. I have had clients lose up to 60kgs. This was not solely because of the fat burners. These results are a combination of healthy eating, tailored exercise programs and supplements. Sometimes fat burners are just that extra push a person needs or it will help them get past the plateau they are experiencing. Glutamine always helps with the muscle soreness. So instead of being really sore for many days, they were only a little sore for a shorter amount of time, which means they were able to keep pushing hard in their sessions.

Q. Do you have any case studies of clients' experiences with other supplements?

A. Yes again a fair few with different goals. We have had young men wanting to build some muscle. So again with the right dietary changes, tailored exercise program and supplements, we have been able to achieve these goals.

We have also had seriously underweight clients who are in desperate need of gaining weight and getting fit so we change their lifestyle as well as recommend supplement.

Clients who have had very weak immune systems have been doing really well on the glutamine.

Continued over page ▶



Brisbane Fitness Empire client in training
Image © Suzi Karim for Brisbane Fitness Empire



Sparring action - Image © Brisbane Fitness Empire

Q. Are some brands better than others in your experience?

A. Yes. I prefer to purchase the pharmaceutical grade supplements with next to no additives. Might not taste fantastic but at least you know what you are putting into your body.

Q. Do supplements have any other benefits?

A. Yes, sometimes it mentally encourages people to either train hard or keep going.

Q. What should a person know before they consider trying them?

A. What results are they actually wanting? Can they achieve these results without supplements, for example through diet? Do they need them or do they just want them? Who are they buying them from and who has recommended that product?

Q. Is there any other information you think would be of benefit to readers who...

A. Want to lose weight

Start off slowly. A small change each week can make a huge difference.

One week you might make a small exercise change, for example go for 2 x 30min walks each week.

The next week it could be a food alteration, such as only 1 glass of juice per day instead of 3. Just small simple changes. It doesn't have to be gruelling and scary. You don't have to "want" all the time to be healthy.

B. Want to gain weight

Are they eating enough and are they eating enough of the right food? You have to eat to gain weight. Protein is super important.

C. Are recovering from injury

Injuries shouldn't completely stop you from exercise. Normally there is always a way to exercise. For example, you have a sore foot. Use machine weights where you sit down and take the pressure off your foot, or do floor exercises with weights. Your hand hurts. Do leg exercises.

D. Want to improve their fitness

Start off small. If you already exercise do something different. For example at the end of your run, sprint the last 50 meters. Increase that length a little bit each week.

E. Feel a bit nervous at even the thought of trying out supplements

Talk to a professional. You might find that you can achieve the results you want through food. Look for natural supplements.

Q. Do you have any further comments?

If you're not sure, find a person to talk to that you trust. Someone who can understand your hesitations.

Q. Who should people contact if they have more questions?

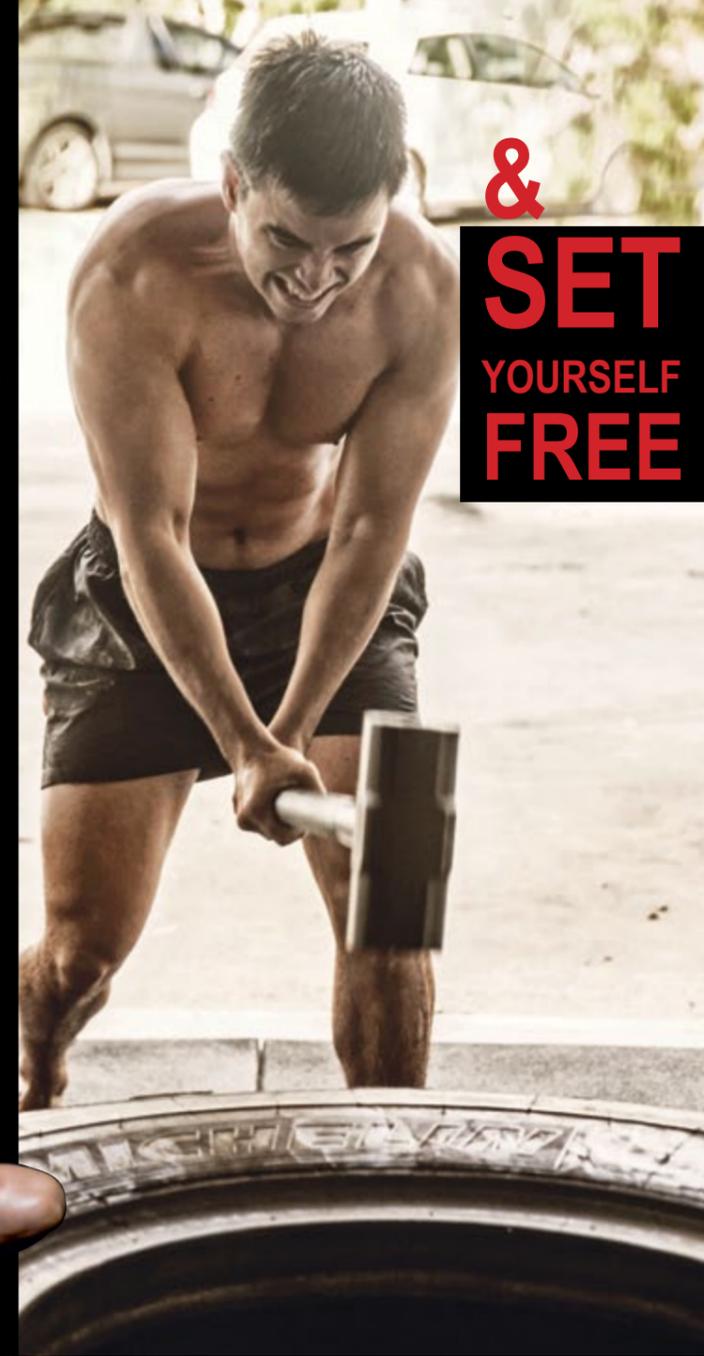
A. Depends what the questions are. Again ask around and see who knows what. Google questions. Dieticians are a great way to start for healthy eating and supplements and personal trainers are the ones to talk to regarding exercise. 📌

HAVE FUN AT BRISBANE'S ULTIMATE PERSONAL TRAINING & KICKBOXING STUDIO

**\$130 for 10 classes + 1 Personal Training session
You save \$70**

PAY AS YOU PLAY

- ▶ NO JOINING FEE!
- ▶ NO CONTRACTS!



& SET YOURSELF FREE

Make the Change & Contact Us Now!

- ▶ 0424 382 697
 - ▶ brisfitempire@gmail.com
- Drop in to 3/37 Windorah St Stafford.



FREE Class Pass!

▶ **PLAY VIDEO**
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/CXGJR0MIUD8](https://youtu.be/cxgjr0miud8)

Use this voucher to receive 1 Free Class of your choice at Brisbane Fitness Empire Offer open to all Creative Traveller magazine subscribers INCLUDING existing BFI clients. Email brisfitempire@gmail.com or phone ahead to book your free session.

TECHNOLOGY WITH PEOPLE

Art as Document

The completeness of any original work is of creation from non-existence to the one hundredth percentile: Individual uniqueness. All collectives of Nature's Law and of Human Natures' Law exist of individual uniqueness: One individual "creation" developing as "complete" from original creation.

Documents of Nature have been for many millions of years grown or created with adjustments to rock, flora, fauna and other life by currents, tectonic, destructive, creative or life movements within or external from oceans of lava or water to fissures or vastness of similarity, different and new: Options and potential possibilities in concert.

Creative documents of Human Nature are likely to be remembered personally as an occurrence of the complete Role of Artist: Role of Individual Work from Role of Work from Role of Artist from Creativity of Human. Recognising "new" from similarities and differences of "concept" or "reality" of human creative endeavours as a consideration of All Works is not exclusive of Nature. The Role of Creator is of the Role Law of the Personal Law of the human. Role Law is not Personal Law.

Documents do not necessarily occur in order. Human completeness is not diminished by completeness, consideration or dispersal of human works, not least of which because of Space-time. It is separate and different from the Artists' or Creators' Personal Law. Personal Law is of one human, one law created by Every Choice of All Choices of the only original owner of the Role of Creator, Inventor, Artist that is the one life owned. No human owns more or less than one life each, alive or dead.

Sure, the child paints with fingers and toes from soggy old mud to walls and floor but how long before

the completed Role of Educator allows the child to explore the concept of brushes dipped in paint or moulding clay, staples, string, old PC motherboards or bicycle tyres, glued to a board or wall? "Technology with People" denotes people creating from technology, a completeness with the already complete technology. The brush, pen, ink, canvas, computer complete with software, can be dipped in mud, dragged on glass and thrown real-time-shattered at walls to land in limpid pools: A collective work of individual unique natures.

The artists' choice is the value to the work of the artist from the works' non-existence infinitely. The iterations, convolutions and incarnations of concept from cognitive, contemplative or meditative device or structure with context and constancy consistent with achieving the completeness of work by one unique individual, or collectives of individual humans working in agreement or domination in conflict or harmony of choice will continue to create a work that can complete at any individual unique one hundredth percentile chosen. Sentence complete.

If a human artist begins existence before a technology of humanity to achieve a work fully reconciled with technology, the technology of choice must first be fully automated in its' capability to achieve the completed work whether "powered" by human, electricity, gas, solar, wind, or any other device that generates the physicality or process required to complete a document of art.

The document, a work of Finite | Infinite | Fiction | Non-fiction for the Role of Document from Human requires technology complete first from non-existence to concept and completeness for the choice of tool to have the technology

supportive of the work without the human continuing to adjust for the tool. The technology, machine, tool, can only adjust within its' range of completeness in offering process, device or physicality capable of allowing the human to Assess | Adjust | Automate for the creative work rather than imitate the machine in a more capable manner to complete the work.

The choice in assessing potential technologies' "fit for purpose" relates to capability with and without the human. Beings of Humanity are capable of creativity whereas Machines of Humanity are capable only of imitating creativity. Even the code for computerised machines carries the creativity of however many humans were involved in the process of coding. However complex or "powered" the brush, pen, trowel, baton, micro-processing device, "fit for purpose" can be assessed at "least-capable-complete-machine" for delivery against the completeness of your own individual unique document: Work of Document as Art of Self.

"Technology with People" is technology services and products achieving for the lives of humanity against expectation, not exclusive of time budget or money budget.

The Assess | Adjust | Automate of technology is human by nature. If a human using a knife to hack a meal into manageable chunks recognises (assessed) value from a handy fork they might adjust by stabbing the fork to steady the passage of the knife, the fork repositioned, automated by the human hand moving in repetition. The fork to this day, sans-human, is inanimate. A fork capable of fully automating the processing and delivery of food from raw materials to human consumption without a human hand is a complex machine. The human being fed is

reduced to one action of mouth-opening from the previous two of mouth and hand. The machine achieves the work that was of the human hand: Technology, human by nature, not necessarily replicating human action.

A more modern one-purpose invention created since the fork is the refrigerator. A place to keep food safe from predators and rot, the "fridge" requires no human support to continue its automated role of cold air creation until a part fails or is damaged. The process of providing the service of cold enough air from the refrigeration machine, the product of human design and manufacture, will continue for years and not uncommonly, decades and although the fridge can be said to "create" cold air, it is not "thinking" nor "alive", none of the traits of being human.

People using technology of nature and of human nature is "normal". Moulding and matching clay with paint from grinding, squashing and mixing, weaving or securing with vines or hair, chipping or scraping at rock, trees or vines with rocks or parts of trees, all very normal for millennia.

Expectation of "modern" technology is of technology that betters being "normal". For the being to better the nature of self with technology, the technology must first be complete. The creative work completes when the artists' nature of self-first chooses technologies complete: "Technology with People". Nature itself since before human existence has delivered tools for the completeness of nature and with the creation of humans from non-existence did humans themselves recognise nature and completeness of tools for survival with art for bettering as, "People with Technology". The way forward for life of humans creating and machines repeating "Assess | Adjust | Automate" is, "Technology with People".

"Technology with People" includes completed technologies for completion of creative documentation. "Art as Document"



recognisable to machines of code for better repetition, with humans creating as only humanity can: Individually unique documents of human code for survival and better. Individual unique documents of Art, Love and Life coded individually uniquely from the code of All Existence that includes All Humanity: Law from the Origins of Law, however it began its infinite existence, the origin of individual uniqueness and the only law that is finite as the one Law that is All Law: Law. ...the entirety of the completed document at the 100th percentile of... ..information technology (I.T.) is just one part of technology, for five decades recognised as "complete" by saying in marketing material, "we say this is complete therefore it is complete". It is complete when it delivers on set expectations. The fridge is complete; the fork is complete. I.T. integrated fully with humanity is humans and machines creating complete services and products with complete technologies, for use by humans and machines of humanity, Documents of Role in evidence as "fit for purpose" in Space-time.

Recognising "new" from similarities and differences of "concept" or "reality" of human creative endeavours as a consideration of All Works is not exclusive of Nature.

Role of Individual Work from Role of Work from Role of Artist from Creativity of Human. Automating machines into roles supportive of humans and collectives of machines with humans, begins with machines. "Technology with..." Choice.

However many artistic images of beaches or beautiful open fridge doors we see in advertising we are clear that our expectation for cold air from refrigerator will be met and supported by law-makers. Those who make and uphold law can also expect an original work in evidence is original and the creator who still owns the work has every right to sell copies or the original or to create another original work.

In the entirety of Humanity and everything that exists each human and Role of Humanity is adjusted by humans' choice with the one Law that is All Law. Creative "fit for purpose" is "set" by the Artist-Creator, as service or product with the agreement to exchange art or creation for money. The artist sets the expectation for content of the complete work when the work is completed. 📌

By **Brendan John Donaldson**,
Generalist Most General, Consultant,
Technical Writer for professional
engagement by appointment:
bjd@brendandonaldson.com
ABN: 51 419 322 631

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOKS

For everyone!

This issue we take a look at the untold story of the dog's role in building our nation, plus Sydney for dogs, & great books for the whole family.

the Dogs that Made Australia - Hunter. Worker. Legend.

by Guy Hull

The untold story of the dog's role in building our nation.

Have you ever had the thought that everything you were taught at school was wrong?

The history of Australian dogs, from the Dingo to the gorgeous Kelpie has been misrepresented for many decades, until now.

Guy Hull and his friend James Cruickshank (from *The Cruel Sea*) were recording an album and one night entered into a discussion about cattle dogs. James asked Guy to name the best book on Australian dogs and Guy responded it had not been written. James advised Guy to write it. Twenty years later, he has.

The Dogs that Made Australia is here to set the record straight.

Do you think your Kelpie has Dingo ancestry?

Although the nation rode to prosperity on the merino's back, it was not the nation's favourite animal. So what was?

Which two breeds share the prize as the best sheepdogs in the world?

Which Australian breed has been exported to work sheep in California, cattle in Arizona and Texas, sheep and Boer goats in South Africa, and reindeer in Scandinavia?

How many Australian dog statues are glaringly incorrect?

Who deserves recognition as the founding father of Australia's cattle dogs?

What's the true story behind the famous Red Dog of movie fame?

Dog lovers will want to know the answers to those questions. History lovers will want to know the answers

to those questions. They are all answered in Guy Hull's excellent book.

There are several chapters I found to be astounding. The mismanagement of wildlife in this country was and still is alarming. If this sounds like too strong of a statement, let me present this excerpt.

"The first legislation to regulate vertebrate pests in Queensland, the horrendous Marsupials Destruction Act, date from 1855. In an 1885 amendment, dingoes and certain other native and introduced animals were declared pests. Bounties were paid for the introduced European hare, the European red fox and the feral pig, good, but just to ensure the baby (that wasn't carried off) went out with the bathwater, there were also bounties on kangaroos and wallabies, pademelons, rat kangaroos, bandicoots, koalas, and of course the notorious lamb- and baby-snatcher, the wedge-tailed eagle. Half a million koalas were destroyed in Queensland alone in 1927. 500,000. In one year. But let us not forget the villain of the piece. Bounties were paid on presentation of a dingo scalp."

A few pages over begins with this insightful paragraph.

"Inside a national park, where dingoes can become habituated and dangerous, they are protected. Outside of national parks, where the dingo poses no threat to personal safety, it is declared a pest and can be shot on sight. It is a very sad indictment of the management of Australia's apex predator."

There are many delightful stories to enjoy as well. Here's an excerpt about a remarkable dog called "Zoe".



"Zoe even had her own miniature car, which she was able to drive so competently under remote instruction that she actually passed a driving test at Sydney's Domain and was issued with a driver's licence. A miniature army tank with a coin collection well was made for her to raise funds for the Red Cross during the Second World War, and as unbelievable as it sounds she was even taught to fly her own miniature plane. For safety's sake, it remained attached to a main pivot point, but she flew the little aircraft around in circles with such competence that Denholm was fully convinced that Zoe would be capable of flying it unattached."

From the first dog of colonial Australia, the kangaroo dog, to the modern service dog breeds, it is clear that Australia as we know it wouldn't be the same without the incredible support of our dogs.

So if you care about your history, you'll want to be sure to read the Dogs that Made Australia.

It certainly has convinced me that without the hunters, the workers, the legends, in short the dogs that made Australia, the starving settlers, convicts and government officials would have all died out, and become nothing more than meat scraps for the local dingoes to quarrel over.

ISBN: 9781460756454
eISBN: 9781460710449

HarperCollins, 2018
Reviewed by Jenni Onn



Cordially Invited, a seasonal guide to hosting any occasion and making a memory out of every day by Zoe Sugg

We will only pass this way once, it is the one place you can never revisit!

So - why not celebrate each day? Let's make it memorable, even if only in a small way.

Zoe Sugg's "Cordially Invited" is all about celebrating the difference in the every day, the big, small and momentous, the seasonal and the year's landmark days.

In her beautiful book, she shows us how to make a feast from the least, momentous for the seeming trivial, and headline the big occasions.

Zoe shows how to shoe-string it on a budget.

She advises using your inbuilt style sensor to ferret out bargains in Charity Shops/OpShops. Careful buying of preloved and thoughtful repurposing can make op shop look a million dollars!

Two of her spreads highlight delightful mix and match tableware and crockery, all charity shop sourced! A dinner set made up of odd but intricate florals or varied but vibrant patterning adds a heap of interest to any setting!

Stunning flower arrangements don't need antique shop vases, a repurposed container with a bit of added flare will make a setting dance! So...

What are you waiting for?
CELEBRATE!

ISBN: 9781473687776

Hachette Australia, 2018
Reviewed by J. R. Poulter,
award winning author



Sydny for Dogs - Sydney's best dog-friendly destinations by Catherine Proctor

From the city to the sea and into the western suburbs the choices for Sydney dog and owner exercise jaunts are many and varied.

Arm yourself with this helpful guide and you and your pooch will be spoiled for choice every weekend.

Exercise is one of the best ways to bond with your four legged bestie and it's extremely healthy for both of you to head for beautiful parks, wind swept beaches and walking tracks through natural bushland.

Did you know there are excellent views of Sydney Harbour and the Harbour Bridge from the off-leash dog area at Observatory Hill Park?

How about taking the 5km circuit from Glebe Foreshore Parklands to the Sydney University Women's Rowing clubhouse and on to the Sydney Fish Markets before crossing Anzac Bridge and returning to your starting point.

With several off-leash regions for your dog to enjoy, this walk takes approximately 2 hours. There's a handy map and the full details in *Sydney for Dogs*.

Featuring over 370 off-leash dog-friendly destinations, *Sydney for Dogs* provides the ultimate guide to the city's dog-friendly beaches, parks and walks.

This 4th edition includes updates on recent Sydney council changes and new annual dog events. What a great gift idea for Sydney dog owners.

ISBN: 9781925403541

Woodslane, 2018
Reviewed by Jenni Onn



A 2018 Readers' Favorite Illustration Award Winner!

The Soldier Who Was Afraid by J.R. Poulter and D.O. Poulter

is a children's illustrated fable about a soldier, a princess and a king. The soldier has a terrible secret that no one knows about, except himself. The secret is soon revealed after he is promoted, and it causes the soldier to be banished.

Everyone is afraid of something, even if we don't admit it to ourselves. But this soldier knew what he was afraid of, and ran from it. The consequences prove almost disastrous, but the story ends on a positive note while teaching a lesson. This story is well written, imaginative and enchanting. It helps the reader experience the failures of someone else, but in the safety of their own home. I appreciate how the words didn't "preach" at the reader, but simply allowed the story to unfold. The artwork (by Anna Stepien) was dark and well crafted, setting the mood for the fearful consequences that followed; it was detailed so one could imagine living there. Yet it was light-hearted as well, capturing the fantasy element and fitting the characters squarely inside.

In facing our fears, we may learn that they never go away completely. But it does not matter, as this story illustrates. If we can keep going and not give up, eventually the reward will be there. This lesson is clearly given, though subtly stated. It's an adventure that children will want to relive again and again. The Soldier Who Was Afraid by J.R. Poulter and D.O. Poulter is a highly recommended read.

Available through Lulu.com

Reviewed by Bruce Arrington
for Readers' Favorite

SUBSCRIBE TO CREATIVE TRAVELLER

If you received this copy from a friend and you'd like to enjoy the same free digital subscription go to www.bit.ly/ctmTravel and enter your details, or send an email to media@CreativeTravellerMag.com and we'll sort it for you.

Remember we are a quarterly publication so you can expect the next issue in February/March.



INVITE A WRITER

If you'd like to invite a writer to review your event, business, product or service please send details to Editorialteam@CreativeTravellerMag.com

Our schedules are tight so please be patient. If your service/project/business aligns with our upcoming features we will contact you to make further arrangements.

NEXT ISSUE

Our first issue for 2019 is all about **transport** - planes, trains, ships and automobiles. We learn how one of our favourite writers began their writing journey working for a well known car magazine.

There are some fantastic creative tutorials for the arty set. Right now is your opportunity to request something specific for an upcoming art tute. What would you like to learn? Send an email to editorialteam@CreativeTravellerMag.com with your requests.

Life has a new set of bookish treats as well as subscriber giveaways. Until next time - Happy travels!

Have you missed an issue?



<http://bit.ly/LaunchIssue2017>

<http://bit.ly/EuropeFreeDigital>

<http://bit.ly/NewZealandMagazine>

<http://bit.ly/2018-Q2>

<http://bit.ly/AsiaAdventureMagazine>

