

travelling

let's go travelling

FEBRUARY 2016

• Frank Smith's trip to Mexico • WA's Great Outdoors • Going Fishing

*Have a Go News' travel liftout
for the mature traveller*

Have a Go News' journalist Frank Smith and his wife Mary-Helen recently toured around Mexico. Pictured above is Mary-Helen in one of the streets of Taxaco in Mexico. Read more about Frank and Mary-Helen's Mexican adventures on page 23. Picture: Frank Smith

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian



Jen Merigan

TRAVEL insurance is an absolute necessity but it's also important for consumers to be aware and investigate the particular policy they buy.

Choice Australia recently issued a press

release to warn consumers to think carefully about pre-purchasing travel insurance following an ASIC investigation that found Tigerair misled customers into thinking they were cov-

ered for flight delays when they weren't.

Choice warned consumers, especially for those with a pre-existing health condition, not to be tricked by the airlines' one-size-fits-all travel insurance. To take the time to read the detail of the policy and contact their insurer to find out what is covered and what is not.

It seems with so many insurance companies around these days it really is very important to do your homework before purchasing a policy.

Don't forget to buy your travel insurance when you book your holiday so if anything goes wrong with your health prior to your travels you are covered for the cost of cancellation.

The Chinese New Year kicks off on Monday 8 February and celebrations will take place throughout Asia and of course in most countries around the world.

Crown Perth are holding celebrations throughout February and will have a special fireworks display on Saturday 13 February.

Most of the restaur-

ants feature special menus for Chinese New Year.

This month we feature in our pages Frank Smith's travels to Mexico and some of his interesting experiences in travelling to this country.

The Talking Travel seminars will return in March and I will update readers in the next issue of the coming dates.

If you have a particular topic you would like covered please email me and I will try and organise a guest speaker.

If you have a travel issue, enquiry or would like to share some information, don't hesitate to contact me on the email below. If you're a Facebooker then like *Have a Go News* at www.facebook.com/Haveagonews. There's always extra opportunities to win prizes and share interesting and fun information.

Happy trails

Jennifer Merigan
Travel Editor



The travel industry and readers are welcome to contact the travel editor:
Ph 9227 8283
Email: jen@haveagonews.com.au

Easter is approaching why not spend it with Cascade Tours

CASCADE Tours pride themselves on friendly, professional service where clients can relax and enjoy every day of their holiday.

Their 2016 Easter tour, (24 - 29 March) will be based in Geraldton for the first four nights, with a night at Cervantes Motel on the way home.

An overview of the tour includes: home pick up and return. Travel to Geraldton, stopping at Halfway Mill Roadhouse for lunch, then on to accommodation at the Ibis Styles Motel.

Day trips from Geraldton include: Local sights, Geraldton harbour and the HMAS Sydney memorial. A visit and lunch at the Lavender Valley Farm in the picturesque Chapman Valley, the Tin Man and a visit to the fabulous old museum at Yetna. A tour at the heritage listed Oakabella Homestead built in 1851 and believed to be haunted, plus free time in Kalbarri after visiting some of the amazing gorges.

The return journey will take you to Cervantes for lunch. After lunch check into the Cervantes Motel, enjoy free time or for those who wish, a visit to the Pinnacles Desert. On the way home travelling to Moore River for lunch and enjoying a relaxing river cruise.

This tour includes all full breakfasts, five lunches and all dinners, plus morning or afternoon tea every day. People will never go hungry on Cascades tours.

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This is a friendly and relaxing tour with fun and games on board the coach, home pick ups and returns. A chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Cascade Tours has more than 21 years experience in the coach industry, which includes providing seniors day tours. For further details contact Cascade Tours on 9574 0218 or 0421 306 734 or visit www.cascadetours.net

The Villa fire appeal fundraising tour

THE team at Villa Carlotta Travel, like all West Australians, are greatly saddened by the recent tragic fire in the Waroona and Harvey districts. Thoughts and best wishes are with those whose lives have been dramatically impacted.

For many years, Villa tours have visited the warm and friendly townships of Yarloop, Harvey and Waroona.

It is devastating to now see some of Villa's near and dear friends from Yarloop, who they consider part of the Villa family, now tragically without homes and businesses.

Whilst Villa and our staff have already made donations and sent care packages, they would like to do a lot more and what better way than to use their skills, expertise and a Villa coach to help the victims of the fire.

They invite people to gather with friends and neighbours to join them for the Villa Fire Appeal Fundraiser Tour to help raise funds for the proud regional WA communities which have been affected.

Proceeds from the tour will be going to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF), Waroona and District Fires Appeal.

In addition to all the proceeds from the tour, Villa will also make a further cash contribution of \$1000 and staff will be donating their time.

They look forward to people's generous support of this fundraising appeal.

Highlights include a visit to the world class Dardanup Heritage Park, enjoy Margaret River's finest local produce, a visit to Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse, Gnomesville and Ferguson Valley and dinner by the Busselton foreshore.

Included in the tour is pre/post tour transfers (ex Perth), 10 meals, four nights accommodation, tours and attractions, with a professional Villa tour leader and coach captain.

Day 1 - Perth to Busselton (D)

Day 2 - Margaret River Wine Region Produce (BD)

Day 3 - Dardanup Heritage Park and Ferguson Valley (BLD)

Day 4 - Dunsborough and Busselton (BD)

Day 5 - Busselton to Perth (BL)

Itinerary is subject to change. Terms and conditions apply.

Five days from Monday 18 to Friday 22 April.

Cost per person twin share (inc GST) \$1180. Single option \$190.

FreeCall 1800 066 272 for details.

EXTENDED TOURS



Golden Circle, Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Albany
3-8 May, 6 days, 5 nights

COST Adults \$1600 Seniors \$1550 SS \$430

Includes morning, afternoon tea, accomm, lunch, dinner, breakfast, BYO one lunch.

Rottneet Island in a Day

18 March, COST Seniors \$185

Train to Oliver Hill, tour gunnery and bus around island.

Mystery Tour, 23 February, COST Adults \$105 Seniors \$100

Wagin Woolarama, 12 March, COST Adults \$50 Seniors \$45

Pilbara & Broome 14 day Tour, 20 July, BOOK EARLY

Mystery Tour, 14-16 November, 2 days/1 night

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2016 TOURING PROGRAMME

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|-----------|----------------------------|---------|
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| MAY | THREE RIVERS CROSSING | \$1,795 |
| SEPTEMBER | CAPE TO CAPE WILDFLOWERS | \$1,495 |
| OCTOBER | AMAZING ALBANY WILDFLOWERS | \$1,795 |
| DECEMBER | MANJIMUP CHERRY FESTIVAL | \$ 900 |
| DECEMBER | CHRISTMAS BY THE BAY | \$1,850 |

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Yalgoo Visitor Information Shire Office,
Gibbons Street Yalgoo
Tel: 9962 8042 www.yalgoo.wa.gov.au

Yalgoo Caravan Park, Gibbons Street Yalgoo
Tel: 9962 8472
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Call Elite Tours on 9314 2170
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Easter Tour

24 to 29 March
4 nights Geraldton and
1 night Cervantes

Exciting day trips include:

- Lavender Valley Farm
- Visit to a fabulous old museum at Yetna
- Tour haunted Oakabella Homestead
- Free time in Kalbarri after visiting some of the amazing Gorges
- Visit to the Pinnacles Desert (optional)
- River cruise and lunch at Moore River
- Full breakfasts, 5 lunches and all dinners are included
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DAY TOURS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Valentine's Day | 14 Feb 2016 |
| Toodyay, Northam, York | 28 Feb 2016 |

EXTENDED TOURS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 6 Day Southern Parks | 20 Feb 2016 |
| 6 Day Outback Goldfields | 1 Mar 2016 |
| 13 Day Nullarbor Great Ocean Road | 14 Mar 2016 |
| 7 Day SA Outback Tracks | 2 Apr 2016 |
| 6 Day Monkey Mia | 17 Apr 2016 |
| 13 Day Central Aussie Attractions | 1 May 2016 |
| 8 Day Red Centre | 15 May 2016 |

For all prices, full itineraries and brochures, please phone 1300 662 026 or email aussieredbacktours@yahoo.com.au or visit www.aussieredbacktours.com.au

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

Meandering through Mexico...a country of many contrasts



Frank at the Pyramid of the Moon

by Frank Smith

MEXICO has many of the world's largest pyramids and many more, unexcavated are probably lurking in the jungles of the Yucatan. When the Spaniards arrived in Mexico uninvited they destroyed all temples that were in use for worship by the ruling Aztecs. But those that

had been abandoned before their arrival were ignored. In many cases they survived until rediscovered in the 19th Century. The templo mayor in Mexico City was not so lucky. The 40-metre high pyramid was destroyed by the conquistadors and built over, only to be rediscovered in 1978. Colonial buildings have

since been demolished to allow excavation, a work still in progress. The temple was built on the exact spot where the Aztecs saw their symbol of an eagle perched on a cactus with a snake in its beak. A modern museum showcases artefacts recovered and explains how the temple originally looked.

Some 50km north of Mexico City lies the remains of what was central America's largest city Teotihuacán, which reached a population of 125,000 and commanded a Toltec empire stretching as far as El Salvador. The city included the pyramids of the sun and moon built some 2000 years ago. The Pyramid of the Sun is the third largest pyramid in the world exceeded only the pyramid of Cheops in Egypt and another Mexican pyramid at Cholula. Each pyramid was built in several stages with an initial pyramid covered with a second larger construction and then more was built later. Pre-Hispanic Mexicans assembled three million tonnes of stone without wheels, pack animals or metal tools, yet they had a sophisticated writing system and a complex calendar. Between the pyramids is the avenue of the dead

which was lined with palaces, temples and murals, some of which still survive. The city was burned, plundered and abandoned in the eighth century possibly due to the rise of the Aztecs. Many other pyramid and temple complexes were constructed by the Olmecs, the 'mother culture' of Mexico and the Maya in the Yucatan. One of the best preserved is at Uxmal in the Yucatan which was built and rebuilt five times. Most famous is the Maya complex of Chichen Itza in the Yucatan built by a Maya civilisation and abandoned in 14th Century. The 70 odd buildings, not yet all excavated include an observatory important for predicting the best time to plant crops. "The Americans have no history, but they do have money," said our guide, Juan at Chichen Itza. That explains why much of the archaeology

and restoration is supported and paid for by American universities. Chichen Itza also has the largest and best preserved ball court where teams of Mayans competed to force a rubber ball through a stone ring without using their hands. The captain of the successful team was decapitated willingly as this led to his immediate access to heaven. The preconquest Mexican civilizations practised human sacrifice on a massive scale, attacking other tribes to provide victims. A major reconstruction and re-dedication of the great temple at Teotihuacán involved the sacrifice of

20,000 victims over four days in 1487. The Maya believed that the Gods had sacrificed themselves to create humans and demand human blood in return for their sacrifice. There is more to Mexico than pyramids. There are beaches, cañons, art galleries, museums, floating gardens, spectacular scenery, jungles, flamingos, silver mines and much more. Mexico has its dark side too. There are drug wars in the north and Mexico City itself averages four homicides a day, but staying in the Centro Historico and tourist areas we never felt threatened.

Enjoy a Fall Colours Garden Cruise of Canada and USA



Newport Rhode Island

JOIN West Australian Deryn Thorpe, renowned gardening expert, writer and presenter, on this garden cruise from Montreal to New York visiting stunning gardens in glorious

fall (autumn) colours. Deryn has worked as a journalist for more than 30 years and writes a weekly gardening column, as well as presenting on *Greenfingers* tel-

evision show on Channel 7. As a popular speaker at garden clubs and the WA expert for *Your Garden* magazine, there is no better-qualified person to guide people through the glorious gardens of Quebec, Charlottetown, Sydney, Halifax, Bar Harbour, Boston and Newport. Highlights of Travelrite International's 2016 Fall Colours garden tour include a 10-night cruise aboard the luxurious MS *Rotterdam*; Chateau de Ramezay in Montreal; Anne of Green Gables Museum at Silverbush; the maples and elms at Halifax Public Gardens in spectacular autumn

colours; the 19th-century Halifax Citadel National Historic Park; the gardens of Mount Desert Island, Maine; Long Island's Old Westbury Gardens; Highline Park on Manhattan Island and the New York Botanical Garden. Priced from \$9,530 per person twin share, this 19-day round trip departs on 13 October and includes economy air travel from Perth to Montreal and return from New York, 10-night luxury cruise, two nights in Montreal and four nights in New York City including breakfasts, welcome dinner in Montreal and farewell dinner in New

York, as well as sight-seeing tours of Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, Charlottetown, Sydney, Bar Harbor, Boston, Rhode Island and New York City. For more information, call Travelrite International on 1800 630 343 or visit www.travelrite.com.au.

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UPCOMING 2016 TOURS

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 20 January | Swan River Cruise | \$85 |
| 29 January | Astronomy Night Tour | \$85 |
| 4 February | Jarrahdale Tavern | \$85 |
| 15 February | Ravenswood | \$75 |
| 24 February | West Coast Motor Museum | \$85 |
| 3 March | Moore River Cruise | \$90 |
| 11 March | Mystery Tour | \$75 |
| 22 March | Caversham Wildlife Park | \$80 |
| 4 April | Irishtown | \$85 |
| 13 April | Harvey River Bridge Estate | \$85 |
| 27 April | New Norcia | \$80 |
| 30 May | 3 Day Wave Rock Tour | \$795 twin share |

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Three Chimneys Bed & Breakfast
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twin share

\$640
solo traveller

Sleepwell Motel
Price includes continental breakfast daily

\$248pp
twin share

\$448
solo traveller

*Please note that this is not a guided package tour. It is independent travel on either TransWA or self drive.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



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February a special month to celebrate many things



by Jeanette Woolerton

FEBRUARY is always a significant month in Australia as it signifies the onset of the harvest season. It is a time to celebrate

the earth's bounty, as well as feed passions as lovers share chocolates, flowers and wine on Valentine's Day.

Plump, ripe fruits are displayed on roadside farm stalls in a kaleidoscope of culinary colours. Deep purple berries and grapes, green, red and gold apples, rustic pears, hot pink watermelon slices, edged with white and green, amber pineapples and crimson strawberries lure people with their

fragrant aroma. This is a magical and romantic month, as lovers gaze at the stars and the keen gardener's most revered mentor, the mystical moon, takes centre stage.

Observing the planets at this time of year is both educational and inspirational.

Before electricity, moonlight was crucial for farmers who had to work after sundown, especially in early autumn when many crops were ready to be harvested.

For that reason, the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox (it can come either two weeks before or two weeks after depending on the year) was called the 'Harvest Moon'.

The Harvest Moon falls on Sunday, 20 March in

the southern hemisphere this year. Typically, the moon rises about fifty minutes later each day throughout the year. However, when the full moon occurs near the autumn equinox, the gaps between moonrises become shorter. The moon rises only about thirty minutes later each night, appearing at sunset. This is due to the moon's path, which creates a narrow angle with the horizon at the beginning of autumn.

Not only does the moon rise earlier than usual in the evening, but this happens for several nights in a row - before and after the full moon - resulting in three consecutive days of the moon appearing at nearly the same time.

Both of these events give the illusion that the Harvest Moon is bigger,

brighter and closer. As the moon hovers over the horizon, it passes through dust and cloud particles that scatter blue light and only lets red light reflect upon the moon's surface.

That is why the harvest moon usually appears to be yellow, orange, or red. In Melbourne, this planetary observation is taken to a whole new level as people are invited to celebrate the most romantic night of the year at the Melbourne Planetarium.

It is a unique opportunity to take a seat at the centre of the universe and uncover the mysteries and mythologies written in the stars that have filled lovers with awe for thousands of years.

On February 14, the Valentine's special event includes:

of wine and cheese on arrival (cash bar available).

- Viewing of the Japanese full-dome film *Musica: Why Is the Universe Beautiful?* that explores the concept of beauty through common elements hidden in music and nature.

- An exclusive live dome presentation of Melbourne's night sky, highlighting some ancient love stories from the celestial past.

- Outdoor stargazing through telescopes (weather permitting).

Despite the romantic element, this tour is suitable for all ages.

Visitors also have the opportunity to travel on a (virtual) spacecraft heading to uncharted limits of the solar system.

People will become immersed in fantasy and

facts, for example, did you know that approximately once in every 19 years, the month of February does not have a full moon at all?

The years in which this anomaly occurs also have two full moons occurring in two different months. This phenomenon will occur next in 2018.

There is little that can compare to the exquisite connection that people feel with the universe when seated beneath that seemingly infinite dome in the planetarium.

It is a highly recommended experience, particularly at this time of year.

For further information (and bookings for this event) refer to museum.victoria.com.au/planetarium/



Saint Isaac's Cathedral, St Petersburg, Russia

Free flexible travel vouchers from Beyond Travel for early birds

UNIQUE holiday specialists Beyond Travel have recently added five new exclusive small group special journeys to their collection for 2016, with early bookers receiving up to \$600 in travel vouchers per couple to use against any additional Beyond Travel services.

These unique small group tours have been carefully designed to offer Australian travellers an insight to lesser travelled regions of the world by combining areas of

natural beauty and national parks with in-depth guided tours and a focus on authentic local experiences.

They offer guaranteed departures, with comprehensive touring conducted only in English and include centrally located hotels, most meals, all transportation and gratuities and hotel portorage.

New for 2016 is the Central Asian Odyssey tour that explores the legendary Silk Road cities of Khiva, Samarkand and Bukhara.

The 17-day journey has four departures in 2016 and is priced from \$6995 per person twin share.

Also new for 2016 is the Highlights of Russia and Scandinavia tour which showcases a fascinating combination of regional cultures across the Baltic Sea. Visit five countries over 21-days, with private touring to many regional areas.

There are four departures in 2016. It is priced from \$11,790 per person twin share.

Book before 29 February to receive flexible travel vouchers, which are valid for a year. These can be used on any additional Beyond Travel product, such as hotel accommodation for pre and post river cruises, additional sight-seeing, European rail passes and more.

For more details on this contact Beyond Travel on 1300 363 554 or visit www.beyondtravel.com.au/tours/exclusive-special-journeys

TASMANIAN HIGHLIGHTS - 13 days

12 departures - Jan to Nov 2016



FEATURES INCLUDE

- Cataract Gorge
- Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre
- Platypus House and Seahorse World
- East Coast Natureworld
- Freycinet National Park
- Port Arthur Site
- Salamanca Market
- Tahune Forest Airwalk
- Wall in the Wilderness Gallery
- West Coast Wilderness Railway
- Gordon River Cruise
- Cradle Mountain

FARES LOW SEASON PEAK SEASON

| per person twin share | Jan 11, Apr 25 | Feb 8, 15, Mar 21, 28, Apr 18 |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| ex Perth | \$4,445 | \$4,595 |
| Single Supp | \$ 705 | \$ 705 |

Tasmanian Short Break - 9 days



departs Feb 29, Mar 7, 14, Oct 17, Nov 14
ex Perth \$3,275 ppts \$425 single supp

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



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Road hazards of Mexico



A typical road in Mexico

by Frank Smith

I RECENTLY travelled through southern Mexico in a minibus as part of an adventure tour. This is not recommended for nervous back seat drivers.

The road rules in Mexico are you drive on the right. However on country roads Mexicans usually drive on the side of the road with fewest potholes, moving to the right only for on-coming vehicles. Indicating is optional.

There are a number of other hazards too.

In winter dogs like to lie in the warmest place. That is usually the centre of the road. Mexican drivers good-humouredly try to avoid them, often without waking the sleeping mutt.

Chickens in rural areas of course play chicken with the traffic, as they do in most third world countries, and Mexican chickens are no more chicken than those of other countries.

To discourage speeding, Mexican authorities have placed speed bumps at the entrance and exit to most towns and often in between. These are known as topes and are sometimes marked with roadside signs, but not always. Unseen at night they serve also to waken sleeping drivers.

Accidents and breakdowns are frequent, especially as trucks often appear old enough to have seen service in the Mexican-American war.

Throughout the country are army checkpoints aimed to prevent drug smuggling. We were lucky to be allowed past without serious delay but a ute in front of us with a load of tomatoes and capsicums was individually unloaded before being allowed on.

In the mountains of the Sierra Madre frequent signs warn of dangerous curves. There are so frequent it would have been far simpler to have labelled the few curves that aren't dangerous.

In Chiapas, the southernmost state, where Zapatistas rebels still persist, locals close highways for hours by blocking them at strategic points with stationary vehicles. Apparently this is a protest against government activity or inactivity. A phalanx of thickset men armed with machetes ensures police and frustrated truckies do not try to enforce a right of passage. Blockade sites are carefully chosen so there are no easy alternative routes.

After waiting for several hours we walked past a blockage on foot and hired a minibus on the other side. Our original driver had the choice of the five-hour trek through a neighbouring state or wait until the blockade was eventually lifted. This occurred around 11pm. He and our luggage finally caught up with us at 2am the following morning.

In Mexico arriving is definitely preferable to travelling hopefully.

More holidays, more often in 2016



Perth Holiday & Travel Expo - one-stop-shop

IS it that people are working harder and stretching themselves too thin that they need to get away and recharge the batteries more often, or are they becoming more adventurous, and seeking out unique travel options to make the most of the wonderful world we live in?

Whatever the reason, people are using up more of their annual leave than they have in over a decade. Whether it be short get-aways or that once in a lifetime dream holiday, start planning an adventure now at this year's Perth Holiday and Travel Expo.

So where should people be going in 2016? Cruising is still a popular option for many travellers. Accommodation, meals, room service, entertainment, and an endless array of activities are on offer from the moment you step onto the ship.

Princess Cruises' Sam Titley says, "When you take everything into consideration you'll discover that you can actually save money by going on a cruise."

APT's Jo Ellies suggests cruising down the Danube, or immersing

yourself in the unforgettable beauty of the Amazon River.

"River cruising is life-enriching, relaxing and unique where you only have to unpack once, enjoying the floating boutique hotel as great destinations appear at your doorstep," Ms Ellies said.

African safaris, 'glamping' in the Kimberley, organised European coach tours or mystical Indian rail journeys are just some of the offerings at this year's Perth Holiday and Travel Expo.

With more than 100 exhibitors from around the world showcasing their products, services and destination there is bound to be a hot deal to capture everyone's taste, budget and imagination. Destinations in-

clude the most popular to the obscure - covering Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Middle East, Arctic and Antarctica, and North and South America.

"We understand that planning a once-in-a-lifetime holiday, or even a short trip away can be quite daunting but it should be an exciting experience in itself," says Expo director Pat Strahan.

"The Perth Holiday and Travel Expo has it all - the convenience of being able to research travel options, talk directly to the travel experts, and then compare and book everything in the one location taking all the hard work out of holiday planning. Bookings can be made on the spot including flights, accommodation, tours and even travel insurance for that

extra peace of mind and with so many hot deals on offer, there are massive savings to be made."

There will also be a daily fashion parade showcasing holiday wear, live music and informative travel seminars providing tips and hints on getting the most out of your holiday experience.

The 2016 Perth Holiday & Travel Expo is a one-stop-shop for all your holiday needs. Head to Claremont Showground, Silver Jubilee Pavilion on Saturday, 20 and Sunday, 21 February from 10am to 4.30pm. Entry is \$10 for Adults, \$8 for aged pensioners and seniors and free for children under 15 years when accompanied by an adult.

Visit www.holidayexpo.com.au for full details.

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Discover the natural wonders of Christmas and Cocos Islands

CHRISTMAS ISLAND is the lush tip of an ancient volcano rising enticingly out of the warm waters of the Indian Ocean.

An extraordinary array of plants and animals have evolved in isolation from the rest of the world making it a haven for nature lovers. The island's national park is home to more species that are found nowhere else on the planet, than any other Australian protected area. These include seabirds and millions of crimson-coloured land crabs, whose annual migration was recently labelled by Sir David Attenborough as one of his top 10 nature experiences of all time.

However, it's not just the island's rainforest that wows visitors - clear waters which wrap around the island are home to some of the most acclaimed snorkelling and diving spots in the world.

A short flight from Christmas Island is one of Western Australia's best kept secrets - the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. With palm-studded white sandy beaches, this spectacular string of 27 small islands (only two of which are inhabited) are a classic tropical paradise.

Chill-out on the beach under a palm tree, a stone's throw from your beachside bungalow or 'make it yours' by wading or paddling between each of the captivating coral

cays that enclose a large, central azure lagoon.

Both Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

are serviced by Virgin Australia from Perth. Prices start from just \$464 one-way.

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Highlights of China

Including the International Peony Festival

18 Days, Thursday 7 to Sunday 24 April 2016



Have you ever considered taking a trip to China? Please join me on this journey of a lifetime. I have visited the country many times by rail/road/air and it has been one of the great experiences of my life and stands out predominantly in my memory.

Besides seeing some of the country's greatest sights such as the Terracotta Warriors, The Great Wall and cruising down the Yangtze, we'll pay a special visit to the International Peony Festival, the largest event of its type in the world. The culture, history and landscape is fascinating to say the least and certainly a trip to be remembered.

Jennie Rimmer, Tour Manager



Terra-cotta Warriors

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- * City sights tour of Beijing
- * Excursion to the Great Wall to explore the wonders of the world
- * Visit the Changing Tomb
- * Peony Festival
- * Visit the Terra-cotta Warriors Factory
- * Cruise on the Yangtze River
- * Travel on the "Bund Sightseeing Tunnel to Pudong
- * Dinner at the TV Pearl tower

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Home pick-up and return
- ✓ Kings Tour Manager
- ✓ Return economy airfare and taxes with Singapore Airlines plus internal flights
- ✓ Kings exclusive tour of China in a luxury air-conditioned coach
- ✓ 16 nights accommodation in 4 star hotels
- ✓ Bullet train fares - Beijing/Luoyang/Xian (first class)
- ✓ Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily
- ✓ Sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary

TOUR COST

\$8,495 Per Person, Twin Share
\$10,350 Single Price

*Visa required for this destination (additional expense)
The above cost includes \$875pp of air taxes which are subject to change.



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Gold Coast Glitz & O'Reillys Retreat

8 Days, Monday 18 to Monday 25 April 2016



FULLY ESCORTED FOR ONLY **\$4,250***

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- * Ride to the 77th floor of Skypoint for a view over the Gold Coast
- * Luncheon Cruise through the canals and Broadwater
- * Enjoy the captivating show at the Australian Outback Spectacular
- * Say "hello" to the Polar Bears, Penguins and Dolphins at SeaWorld
- * Enjoy 'Breakfast with the Birds' at Currumbine Wildlife Sanctuary
- * Be treated with a very special High Tea at Palazzo Versace Hotel
- * Spend 2-nights in the Lamington National Park

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Home pick-up and return
- ✓ Kings Tour Manager
- ✓ Return economy airfares and taxes
- ✓ Exclusive Kings Tour of the Gold Coast & Lamington National Park
- ✓ Luxury Coach Travel with professional Driver
- ✓ 5-nights on the Gold Coast at the Marriott Resort and Spa
- ✓ 2-nights in the Lamington National Park at O'Reilly's Mountain Guesthouse
- ✓ 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 high tea and 7 dinners
- ✓ Sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary

TOUR COST

\$4,250 Per Person Twin Share
\$5,150 Single Price



Kota Kinabalu Sandakan & Singapore

10 Days, 18 to 27 July 2016

Tour Highlights:

- * Kota Kinabalu sights
- * North Borneo Railway Tour
- * Visit the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre
- * East Coast and Changi Tour, Singapore
- * Singapore Garden Festival and Gardens by the Bay
- * Footsteps of Raffles Tour with High Tea & Bumboat Ride

Tour Includes: Home pick-up and return • Kings Tour Manager • Return economy airfare including taxes • Exclusive Kings Tour • Transfers throughout in a luxury coach • 3 nights accommodation at the Pacific Sutra, Kota Kinabalu • 2 nights accommodation at the Four Points by Sheraton, Sandakan • 4 nights accommodation at the Royal Plaza on Scotts, Singapore • Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 1 high tea and 4 dinners • Sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary

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Per Person Twin Share



Mauritius

8 Days, 24 to 31 July 2016

Tour Highlights:

- * Stay in the beautiful Grand Baie
- * Visit the capital, Port-Louis
- * Shopping time at the Caudan Waterfront and Curepipe
- * Enjoy the Botanical Garden of Pamplemousse, one of the most beautiful botanical gardens in the world!
- * Visit a dormant volcano - Trou aux Cerfs
- * Visit the Grand Bassin sacred lake
- * Lunch at the Le Chamarel restaurant overlooking the southwest coast of the island with a view on Le Morne Mountain
- * Bois Cheri Tea Factory and the museum
- * Tea tasting in a chalet overlooking the plantations

Tour Includes: Home pick-up and return • Kings Tour Manager • Return economy airfares including taxes • 6 nights' accommodation at the Lux Merville Beach including late check-out on day 7 • Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 6 dinners • Exclusive Kings Tour of Mauritius with luxury coach travel • Sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary

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South Africa & Victoria Falls

16 Days, 3 to 18 August 2016

Tour Highlights:

- * Take in the spectacular views of the Cape Peninsula and Cape Point
- * Enjoy the day in the beautiful Cape Winelands region
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- * Exclusive Game Drive to spot the Big 5
- * Visit Kruger National Park then experience an Elephant Interaction
- * Guided walk to Victoria Falls
- * Spend 2 nights in Victoria Falls - one of the 7 wonders of the world!
- * Glide along the beautiful and romantic Chobe River in unmatched style, elegance and pure comfort

Tour Includes: Home pick-up and return • Kings Tour Manager • Return economy airfares including taxes plus internal flights • 4 nights in Cape Town at the Commodore Hotel including early check-in • 3 nights at the Shiduli Private Lodge including meals and activities • 2 nights at the Hippo Hollow County Estate • 2 nights in Victoria Falls at the AVANI Victoria Falls Resort • 2 nights on-board the Zambezi Queen • Meals and sightseeing as per the itinerary • Tipping for the local guides and drivers • Access to the private lounge at Johannesburg Airport on the last day

FOR ONLY \$10,290
Per Person Twin Share



Autumn Leaves

12 Days, 19 to 30 April 2016

Tour Highlights:

- * Tour and morning tea at Chateau Barossa
- * Entry and train ride at the Australian Inland Botanic Garden
- * Dinner cruise on board PS Rothbury, Mildura
- * Pyab Cruise and Sound and Light Show
- * Entry to Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum
- * Entry to the National Holden Museum, Echuca
- * Tasting at Varapodio Estate, Milawa Cheese Company, the Brown Brothers Winery & at the Bright Chocolate Shop
- * Locally guided tour of Bright
- * Talk and morning tea at Lavender Hue
- * Tasting and light lunch at Wyanga Park Winery, Lakes Entrance

Tour Includes: Home pick-up and return • Kings Tour Manager • Return economy airfares and taxes with Qantas • Exclusive Kings Tour to Victoria with luxury coach travel throughout • 11 nights accommodation • 30 Meals (breakfast & dinner daily and 8 lunches) • Sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary

FOR ONLY \$4,295
Per Person Twin Share



Lord Howe Island

9 Days, 25 April to 3 May 2016

Tour Highlights:

- * Lord Howe Island Cruise
- * Half day island tour
- * Visit Neds beach
- * Craft Activity at Ginny's Shed
- * Little Island walking tour
- * Glass bottom boat cruise
- * Talk from Ian Hutton (A local from Lord Howe Island)

Tour Includes: Home pick-up and return • Kings Tour Manager • Return economy airfares and taxes with Qantas • 1 night at the Travelodge Phillip Street, Sydney • 7 nights at Earls Anchorage, Lord Howe Island • Sightseeing as per the itinerary • Breakfast daily, 3 lunches & 7 dinners

FOR ONLY \$5,495
Per Person Twin Share



The Kimberley

5 Days, 3 to 7 June 2016

Tour Highlights:

- * Day tour to Zebra Rock Mine & Gallery including lunch, cruise, evening canapés and dinner, Kununurra
- * Sunset tour at Home Valley Station including drinks and nibbles
- * Wilderness Park Entry El Questro Station
- * Chamberlain Gorge El Questro Station
- * Lunch at Diggers Rest Station, Wyndam
- * Locally guided Station tour - Home Valley Station

Tour Includes: Home pick-up and return • Kings Tour Manager • Return economy airfares including taxes • Exclusive Kings Tour to Kununurra and the Home Valley Station • 2 nights at the Ibis Styles Kununurra • 2 nights at the Home Valley Station • Includes breakfast daily, 4 lunches & 4 dinners • Sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary

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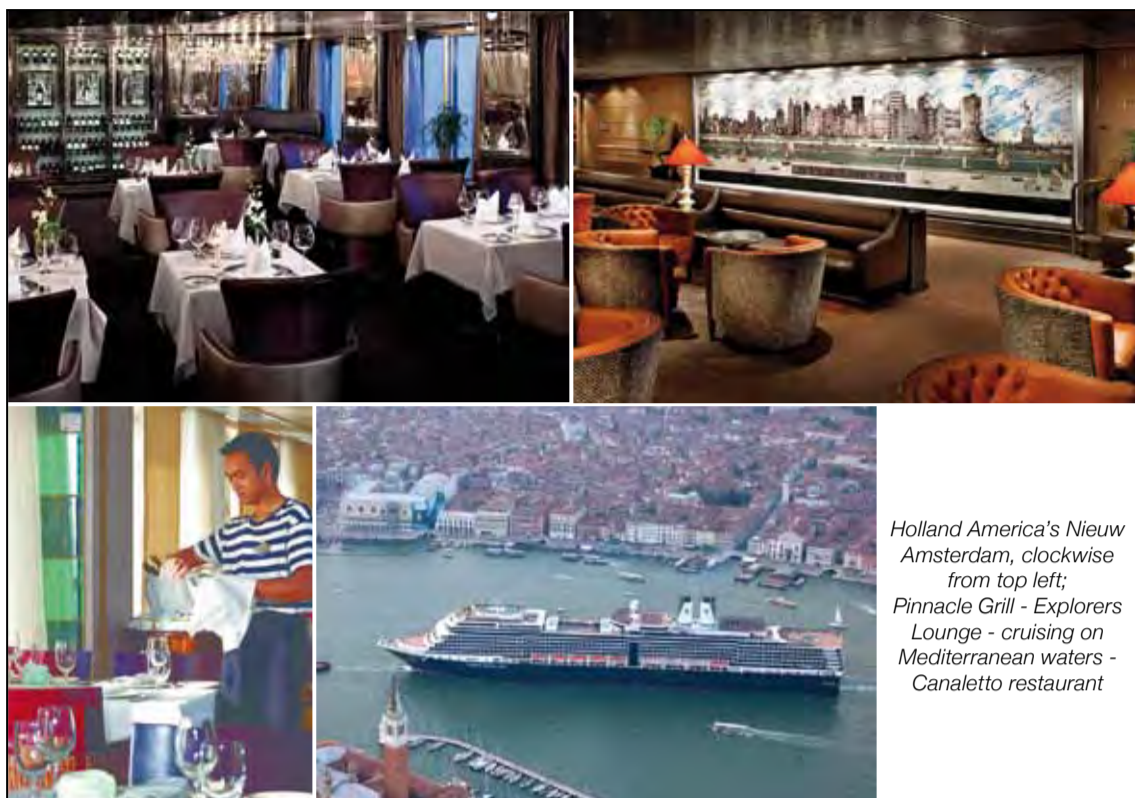
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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

Spoilt for choice on a Mediterranean cruise



Holland America's *Nieuw Amsterdam*, clockwise from top left; Pinnacle Grill - Explorers Lounge - cruising on Mediterranean waters - Canaletto restaurant

by Ann Rickard

IT'S all about the choices. And there are many. Should I eat Italian in Canaletto restaurant? Or go for Asian at the Tamarind? A steak would work, and they don't come any better than the big beauties in the Pinnacle Grill.

Then there is the tempting a la carte menu in the Manhattan dining room, and a wood fired pizza on the aft deck with my name on it.

This is the way it is on a Holland America cruise.

There is much to do, a lot to eat, even more to drink. But there is also the option of doing nothing, and eating light – if you must.

On board the graceful *Nieuw Amsterdam* on a Mediterranean cruise recently, mixing it up was the way to go.

An early morning stretch class in the fitness centre, a cooking demonstration in the culinary arts centre, a photography lesson in the digital workshop, an outdoor movie on deck... a lot to fit in in a morning... but it had to be because there was free champagne in the Ocean Bar at 1pm for an art auction and no dedicated cruiser was going to miss that.

How to squeeze everything into your day could be your dilemma on board, especially with the duty free shops on deck three having a jewellery sale on the already ridiculously cheap prices. Still, a quick jewellery browse would leave time for the signature cocktail sampling in the Crow's Nest bar before an early dinner and a show in the two-tiered theatre and later a flutter in

the casino, followed by a late-night song in the Piano Bar with resident pianist Jeremy.

You see, much to do. Fortunately, it is a simple matter to get around *Nieuw Amsterdam*.

The ship is mid-sized and elevators whiz you up and down decks so you can plan your day at sea with military precision and fit it all in.

Or, and this is a biggie, just flop on a sunlounge on the Lido deck by the pool and do nothing except peel yourself away for an hour for a pro-collagen facial in the fragrant Greenhouse Spa.

Everything is micro-managed on board *Nieuw Amsterdam* so despite the other 2,000 guests on board there is no waiting to disembark in ports, no lining up at the front desk to book shore excursions (all done on-line before you sail, ditto for a super speedy embarkation), no queues at the food stations, no waiting at bars, no long lines to get in the theatre.

It is a seamless operation run by a surfeit of crew who all know your name within minutes of your embarking – and all who seem extraordinarily pleased to see you.

Cabin stewards smile broadly when they fill your state-room ice-bucket and place little chocolates on your pillow.

Bar stewards remember your favourite tipple, dining crew herald your arrival as though you were Kate and William coming in on the red carpet.

It all makes you feel pampered more than you deserve – even though you do.

All this and the pleasure of unpacking just the once in your spacious state-room with its airy sitting area and private veranda and wide screen user-friendly television and its spacious bathroom stocked with Elemis products.

'I really do love this cruising lark,' will be your last thought at the end of each day as your head hits the soft pillow and you snuggle under crisp white linen.

Then there is the thrill of a new port each day, guaranteed to be a place of allure and interest.

On our trip, we sailed from Venice to Dubrovnik, Corfu, Naples, Rome, Florence, St. Tropez, Monaco and Barcelona.

Could there be any more romantic ports?

Each shore excursion was managed with the same friendly efficiency we had become used to on board.

It was a case of disembarking one luxurious vessel to hop into another (an air-conditioned bus) to be whizzed away in more comfort while local guides gave valuable information about what lay waiting at the glamorous destination.

After each exciting day out in some of the world's most desirable locations (more about them another time), the smiling crew were always there, waiting at the gangway with cold towels and bottled water, more smiles and more love.

Cruise itineraries, prices and information at website: www.hollandamerica.com

The writer was a guest on board *Nieuw Amsterdam*.

Titanic fever sweeps through Perth with its season extended

DUE to overwhelming demand *Titanic – The Exhibition* season has been extended through until the end of February.

Already 50,000 people have enjoyed the exhibition since it opened at the Perth Convention

and Exhibition Centre on 12 December.

This is the largest and most comprehensive *Titanic* exhibition in the world. It is a journey on-board 1912's largest and most luxurious ship, culminating in one of the deadliest

maritime disasters in history. Beginning with her conception and construction, the exhibition sails through *Titanic's* short, but grand life at sea and includes re-creations of her interiors alongside relevant artifacts. Sights, sounds and smells transport visitors back to 1912 to experience the opulent and excessive era of luxury steamship travel.

The exhibition is open daily at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre Monday to Friday from 10am (last entry 4pm), Thursday from 10am (last entry 5pm), Friday from 10am (last entry 6pm), Saturday and Sunday from 9am (last entry 4pm).

Tickets available at Ticketek or bit.ly/tixtitanic, group discounts available. For further information: www.titanicexhibition.com.au

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Magical nights under a Kimberley moon for the Ord Valley Muster



The Durack Homestead holds a dinner during the Muster – tickets by ballot only

PEOPLE who plan to head north in their caravans should book early for the Ord Valley Muster from 13 to 22 May. The breathtaking ancient landscape of the Kimberley with its magical energy deserves to be listed as a star attraction in the Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster, alongside the top Australian culinary, music, and entertainment luminaries who feature in the stellar

line up. Tickets are now on sale for key events including the Kimberley Moon Experience and the Kimberley Fine Diamonds Corporate Circle on Saturday 21 May, the Kimberley Kitchen, Melbourne International Comedy Roadshow and the ballot for the incredibly popular long table Durack Homestead Dinner. MasterChef Australia

judge and decorated chef and restaurateur George Calombaris will be leading the event's culinary creations at the Kimberley Kitchen (presented by the Kununurra Country Club Resort) and Durack Homestead Dinner, two events that are expected to sell out

quickly. Another event set to sell out quickly is the extraordinary Kimberley Moon Experience. One of Australia's most loved singer-songwriters, former Powderfinger frontman Bernard Fanning will perform with six-time ARIA nominat-

ed Fremantle band San Cisco and country music singer-songwriter Troy Cassar-Daley. A festival highlight, the extraordinary Kimberley Moon Experience concert will be staged under the stars on a full moon along the banks of the majestic Ord River at the Jim Hughes Amphitheatre. It's the Muster's biggest event and a huge party. Picnic on the grounds and dance the night away with friends in general admissions or celebrate in style in the Kimberley Fine Diamonds Corporate Circle, which treats tickets holders to a black tie concert and dining experience including champagne and canapés on arrival, a sit down gourmet meal with premium beverages as well as a private dance floor area. Other event high-

lights include the Durack Homestead Dinner, a fine dining long table dinner under the stars at the historic Durack Homestead at Lake Argyle; the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow held at The Hoochery Rum Distillery, Western Australia's oldest continuously operating legal distillery; the captivating Waringarri Corroboree; the Kimberley Kitchen presented by The Kununurra Country Club Resort, a unique and intimate food conversation and cooking demonstration hosted by celebrity chef George Calombaris on the banks of Lake Kununurra; the Kununurra Rodeo, and the community based Horizon Power Float Parade and Moon Fair which includes the Argyle Diamond Dig. Set against the magnif-

icent backdrop of the Ord Valley, Lake Kununurra, spectacular fresh water gorges, national parks and stunning reserves, the Muster rewards visitors with magical and distinctive experiences. Kununurra is the host town. Visitors can expect a warm Kimberley welcome from locals on arrival. Awarded Australia's Best Regional Event at the 2015 Australian Event Awards as well as taking top honours in the 2015 WA Tourism Awards in the Regional Events category and entered into the Awards Hall of Fame, the Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster encompasses 30 varied and brilliant events over a festival of ten days. For more information and tickets, visit www.ordvalleymuster.com.au.

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- 3 nights in Melbourne
- City tour and river cruise
- Rail travel on the Overland, Melbourne to Adelaide in a red seat
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- Adelaide City Sights Tour
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Reflections of moving to and from Perth from readers...

THIS MONTH we feature two stories that have been contributed to the paper from readers. The first story is from Anne Osborne who arrived in Perth as a 'ten pound' POM in 1961, Anne found she was thinking about her old country through rose coloured glasses. Fifi Lefebvre's story is about her move to live in Israel after residing in Perth for 18 years. She remembers Perth with great affection and talks about her every day life now in Israel.

It's time to put down the rose coloured glasses...



by Anne Osborne

I ARRIVED in Australia from the UK in 1961 as a '10 pound Pom'. It was not an easy transition for me, in fact from the moment I jumped off the SS Orion at Victoria Quay in Fremantle, I hated Australia. I hated the smell of the eucalypt trees, the heat and every-

thing about the environment.

Filled with nostalgia, I remembered the cool, shady beautiful environment back home and wondered, what on earth I was doing in this awful, awful place.

The camp that I lived in was totally abhorrent to me, Australians were rude and the bush was ugly, not like the green fields and cool woodlands back home.

And the sign, Pommy's Graveyard erected in the main street of my new hometown, did nothing to instil a love of Australia.

Then there was the strange contraption called a wood stove which I was supposed to cook on and a chip heater to heat the bath water.

But I coped and gradually my feelings about this country changed.

After 18 years in WA

and a long awaited holiday in the UK, I realised I was looking at my old home through rose coloured glasses.

I suddenly realised that Australians were not rude, just different. The bush is, in fact, beautiful, not ugly at all, just different.

The Australian sense of humour is wonderful, not like the English sense of humour, just different.

As for the eucalypt trees, how could anyone not like those magnificent trees?

But the best part of all is that I am now an Australian, and a proud one at that.

Coming to Australia was the best thing I ever did, apart from raising my beautiful children. I couldn't imagine my life now if I had not come here and had a go in a country that I now love so much.

Fond thoughts of Perth from abroad



by Fifi Lefebvre

IT'S been 12 months since I boarded a flight at Perth Airport, armed with sufficient cabin baggage to warrant arrest. However the heaviest luggage I was taking with me was that embedded deep in my heart, emotional baggage. For once again I was on the move.

Perth had been my home for the past eighteen years. Flawless blue skies, scorching heat, the Swan River shimmering in the sunlight, congested highways, swooping magpies, beaches unequalled in their natural beauty. Skyscrapers rising higher and higher piercing the clouds, glorious parks offering respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, train stations swathed in colourful bougainvillea, crowds jostling in shopping malls rife with bargains, the skyline at night - fe-

tooned with twinkling stars.

All this I was leaving behind. Although excited to be following the call of a new adventure, I felt somewhat a traitor, abandoning the friends with whom I had forged strong and rewarding bonds, leaving a fulfilling job and rejecting a lifestyle which had been both satisfying and fruitful.

Departure was not easy. With the scent of star jasmine still teasing my nostrils, the vision of worn footpaths carpeted in soft Jacaranda blooms, the cooing of the doves from terracotta rooftops as they settled down on a warm evening, the sight of an army of fierce crows swooping down on the bottlebrush trees snapping off the bright red blooms willy-nilly.

The welcoming Fremantle Doctor on a hot, airless, summer afternoon, Christmas pageants, opera in the park - all these memories tugged at my heartstrings as I sat on a hard plastic bench in the departure lounge at Perth Airport waiting to board my flight.

If all this laid so heavily on my heart and conscience, then why was I leaving Perth, a place of calm and splendour, to fly to Israel, a tiny, troubled country in the Mediterranean besieged by wars and uncertainty? The answer is simple.

Having been estranged from my daughters and grandchildren for so many years I suddenly had the opportunity to join them. I was

confronted with two choices. Either to restore family allegiances or to continue to carve out a comfortable life in a Perth suburb, content and unperturbed. I chose family.

Nearly 12 months have passed and I have been thoroughly swept up and initiated into the way of life here.

It is a life in which uncertainty reigns and of contrast.

Each day I find I am still converting Australian dollars into new Israeli shekels.

A life which is peppered with languages drawn from all over the world and where religion and culture clash on a daily basis. A life where the scent of exotic spices emanating from the felafel stall follows me along the street and where one knows the value of time.

A life of conflict resulting in unnecessary early burials and a life of insecurity and where my rental gobbles up three quarters of my pension and money is hard to earn, though easy to spend. But this is a life where family comes first.

The transition was not difficult. I have lived here before. My reason for coming far outweighs the fond memories I have of a lifestyle abandoned.

However when seized by gusts of nostalgia, causing my heart to flutter when remembering with affection all that Perth had to offer, I focus on why I made the decision to relocate. Family.

Memories are ever powerful and a wonderful panacea.

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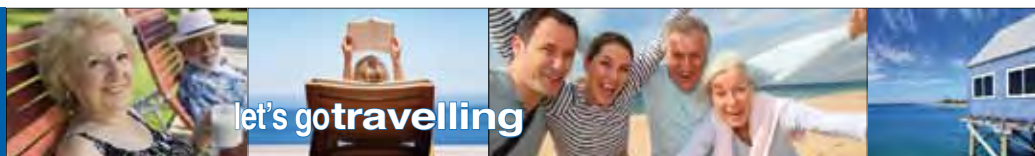
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Keeping or releasing fish is largely a matter of commonsense

by Mike Roennfeldt

ATTITUDES towards how we treat the fish we catch have changed a lot over recent years. It was only as far back as the 1980s that fish were almost invariably killed when caught, whether

they were needed for the table or not. Fishing competitions were often the worst offenders, where big fish were regularly weighed and discarded. How times have changed. The penny seemed to drop around 25-30 years ago when

Treating released fish the commonsense way

people realised that fish are a finite resource and looking after the future of stocks is up to individuals as much as government agencies.

These days, anglers go to great lengths to look after their fish, be it in the way they treat and store them before heading home, or how they handle them during the catch and release process. Boat fishermen, for example, usually have an ice box on board and make up an ice/seawater slurry to keep their catch in good condition during a day out on the water. The difference in flesh quality is extraordinary compared to the old days when the fish were stored in a wet sack on the deck.

The fish release ethic became more than acceptable – it became politically correct. In an age of digital photography,

there is no need to keep a fish for bragging rights anyway and in many cases the kudos associated with releasing a fish became greater than keeping it. There was a danger of us going too far in this direction but it seems to me that a balance has been reached where the keeping or releasing of fish is largely a matter of commonsense.

But if you are going to release a fish that you don't need for the table it should be done in a way that the fish has the best chance of survival. Keep a freshly caught fish off hot sand or a hot deck, for example, and try not to squeeze the life out of it while holding it to remove the hooks. Handling fish intended for release with wet hands is a good idea if you can manage it, or keep a wet rag handy for that purpose. Ideally, big fish should be kept in the

water while the hooks are removed, but that can be a bit scary with toothy critters like mackerel or tailor.

Big fish like mackerel, tuna or samsons can be speared back into the water head down, so the force of the dive gives the fish some momentum and a certain amount of recompression. It seems

to work well. Bottom dwelling species like dhufish or baldchin need to get right back down deep to recompress, which is why it is mandatory these days to carry a release weight on board when fishing for them.

Mulloway can be slightly problematic as they tend to exhaust themselves during a fight,

so a little more time spent swimming the fish up and down before release is needed. Gently massaging the mulloway's gut at the same time has worked for me more than once while trying to revive an almost lifeless fish – a bit like fish CPR I guess.

In short, treat them like you really want them to survive.

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Wanted - three couples or families for the caravan trip of a lifetime



The Pink Minnie caravan

THE competition that makes dreams come true for three adventurous Australian couples or families is back, with Dometic announcing the 2016 *Follow The Sun* competition.

This year not only will the winners receive a three-month expenses-paid road trip across Australia, but funds and awareness will also be raised for a special cause.

For the first time in *Follow The Sun's* history Dometic will be raising funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF), Australia's largest 100 per cent community-funded organisation awarding grants for life-changing breast cancer research.

The NBCF has provided its Pink Minnie caravan, to be driven by one lucky couple who will assist in both raising funds and sharing information about the foundation throughout their journey.

In addition to this prize, two other couples or families have a chance to receive an 'RV RENO', where their caravan, motorhome, campervan or other recreational vehicle will be fitted with top of the line Dometic products.

Dometic marketing manager Natalie King said this year's competition would be unique, as it offers the three

lucky winners a chance to cruise in comfort for a good cause.

"We are excited to announce our partnership with the National Breast Cancer Foundation. We are aiming to raise funds to support this organisation which changes the lives of the one in eight Australian women, and rare cases of Australian men and their families who are impacted by breast cancer," she said.

"Once again the winners will become Dometic Australia's ambassadors on the road trip of a lifetime as they experience some of our most amazing countryside while promoting leading Dometic products and raising awareness and funds for the NBCF."

Dometic is running two separate competitions, one offering two caravan makeovers, and the other for a chance to travel in the NBCF Pink Minnie (tow vehicle provided by Dometic); both include expenses-paid road trips.

The two 'RV RENO' competition winners will receive up to \$25,000 worth of Dometic products tailored to their individual vehicles, and \$10,000 of selected travel expense costs.

The NBCF Pink Minnie winner will receive \$10,000 in travel expenses, plus \$5,000 worth of portable Dometic products to ensure they have the most comfortable travel experience possible.

The chosen winners will become Dometic Ambassadors on their three month journey, hosting 'Follow The Sun - Happy Hours' at predetermined stops along the way for members of the public.

"We are looking for couples or families who not only love travel, but also meeting new people and who have the ability to show people a good time while sharing their knowledge and experiences," Mrs King said.

Competition winners will be notified on 3 June with the winners travelling from August to October.

Entries are open now head to www.dometicfollowthesun.com.au or visit the Dometic Australia stand at this year's Perth Caravan and Camping Shows from 16 - 20 March.

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