

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Wombatville, Australia

2005



"I'm back". I think that Arnie's catch phrase in Terminator 3. Well we're back. Leeds didn't work out so we returned to Australia in October. Veronica enjoyed her holidays in England but it will take hell and highwater to see Garry back in England anytime soon. We actually made the decision to return late last year after a confrontation with the Dean but it has taken 12 months to develop a viable bail out plan for Garry. Garry applied for a professional fellowship from the Australian Research Council in March and was told last week that it had been successful, which means from January he will have a full time research professorship at Newcastle Uni (yah ... no teaching) for 5 years, at which time he'll be back on the streets again. He has other things in the pipeline that if successful will be even more significant, but we won't go counting chickens just yet.

Veronica continues to run Scone Court House. In her spare time she continues to use her statistical skills to analyse data for the union. In the future she may be taking a more active role in union activities. Gardening and swimming also keep her busy. After work she can be found at the pool swimming laps and at the weekend there is the lawn to be mowed and the vegetable garden to be tended. Family history continues to provide interest. It's amazing how much you can find on the Internet these days. After going to the Tamworth Country Music Festival for several years and wishing she knew how to line dance, Veronica took the plunge and she now goes to line dancing classes in Muswellbrook after work on Tuesdays. She'll probably never master the more difficult dances but it's good fun

all the same.

Garry. Leeds University. I'm sure you'd like to know more but most of it's not for publication. Lets just say there was a disjunction between what they promised and what they were able/willing to deliver. Most of their incumbent research stars also left during Garry's time there, and for much the same reasons; a mishandled budget crisis that saw the potential generators of extra departmental income being disproportionately targeted by the budget cuts (rationale: that's where the easy cuts could be made). This, on top of the stress of re-establishing himself (both professionally and personally) in a foreign country, and the (unexpectedly ... yup naïve) incestuous and unsupportive nature of the UK university system triggered an early bail out. He would have left earlier but he judged (correctly in retrospect) that return-to-Australia options were limited and that hanging on until the end of 2005 made more sense. During all of this we were both commuting backwards and forwards between Australia and England, trying to hang in there. It's nice to draw a line under the English misadventure.

So we are living in the bustling metropolis of Scone (5000 people, 10000 race horses, 5 doctors, 30 vets and 20 million flies). We quietly bought a house here just before Christmas last year and moved our furniture back mid-year. Garry's office stuff and clothes should arrive any day now. With Garry's fellowship at Newcastle the intention is that in between travelling he will spend 3 or so days a week in Newcastle and the remainder of the week in Scone. Garry is currently looking at rental/buying options for a harbour/beach side apartment at the moment, which we will use as a pied-à-terre. The dream of a harbour side apartment kept him going over the last few



Veronica clammers to the top of Lillefjellet to see the fantastic view down into Raulmadalen (800m down) in Norway.



The spectacular view from Pulpit Rock (600m overhang) down the Lysefjord, Norway. Not a bad lunch stop!

months.

Health wise we both came out of 2005 unscathed. Now there's a change in tone from when we were in our 20's and indestructible! Garry's pericarditis continues to improve though he did have a bit of an ugly turn in August when, as suggested by his doctor, he tried to finally quit the anti-inflammatories he has been taking for the last 5 years. Did you know they call hospitals "sykhus" in Norway? How appropriate! Back to Plan B, which is to continue to wind down gradually ... meanwhile elsewhere in the 22nd century. Otherwise we are both in pretty good shape.

Veronica came to Leeds for 4 months over the summer and we spent one month of that on a farewell road trip around Norway, Sweden and Denmark. We took our car over by ferry. This ended up being a sun soaked adventure full of hairpin bends, fjords, glaciers, bridges and tunnels, and that's just Norway. In Sweden we added canals, while in Denmark we added history (Tycho Brahe's observatory, Viking ships at Roskilde, and Denmark's oldest town, Ribe, where the nightwatchman leads you around the town and tells you the history of the various houses), Mary's home (for our non-Australian friends if Australia were to adopt a royal family at the moment it would be Danish not English, what with their future King being half Australian ... Australia's besotted, so sad) and of course all the Lego you could manage and more at Legoland.



Veronica and Elgar (our newly adopted Norwegian moose) cross the Gota Canal on the shortest ferry trip in the world, at Toreboda in Sweden. See Elgar tobogganing on the front.



Garry with Kay Feltham at the Willgoose family get together she organised in Matlock, Derbyshire in March.

England had a decent summer this year so Veronica was out and about walking and cycling. On the rainy days she visited various libraries and did some more family history research. A second edition of the family book is a distinct possibility in the not too distant future. Veronica also used her Britrail pass to go to some places where ancestors came from that aren't on the normal tourist routes and was very pleasantly surprised by how nice they are. Mansfield in Nottinghamshire and Clitheroe in Lancashire are definitely worth a visit and the village of Wellow (also in Nottinghamshire) is simply delightful with the maypole on the village green.

Speaking of family history in March Garry went to a Willgoose family get together in Matlock, Derbyshire near where the Willgoose's come from (Crich) and finally met Kay Feltham (and other cousins) who has provided invaluable information about the English end of the family.

Veronica was glued to the telly watching one of the best Test cricket series in several years, well the 1st and 5th Tests, as we were in Scandinavia while the three middle Tests were on. However, Veronica did enjoy a day at Headingley watching a very good county match with several international players and there's another summer of

Australian cricket already started

Best you update our contact details. Veronica loves letters but Garry prefers email. We now both have home email addresses (courtesy of Garry's Plan C bail out option, which was to go full time commercial with his software, www.telluricresearch.com) as well as work.

So we hope you also had a fun and full 2005 like us, and hope 2006 fulfils all your dreams.

Home:

100 Barton Street
Scone, 2337
Australia

Phone/Fax:

(02) 6545 9574

Veronica email:

Work: veronica_antcliff@agd.nsw.gov.au

Home: v.antcliff@telluricresearch.com

Garry email:

Work: garry.willgoose@newcastle.edu.au

Home: g.willgoose@telluricresearch.com