

HELEN RIGBY, HER HUSBAND MATT AND DAUGHTER TASH RECENTLY TOOK A 7 WEEK TRIP TO THE STATES, TAKING IN MEXICO, BELIZE, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND CALIFORNIA. THIS IS HER TRAVELOGUE. PART 1



Tash and Helen. "On our way!"

Day 1: 29th September 2011

It is a familiar start to a trip, the drive to Brisbane and the night in the cramped comfort of the Formula 1 Motel. We have even made the walk to the bulk lolly shop an institution after a coffee stop. It is a sugar hit made in heaven. Pity the only thing I really wanted wasn't able to be justified for the cost. Those delicious little chocolate liqueur bottles full of Whisky, Grand Marnier etc etc. The feeling of being here is still descending on me. I'm waiting for that overwhelming excitement to hit. Maybe at the airport tomorrow morning? I think the excitement has been dampened by the waiting. I wonder if simply deciding on the spur of the moment, booking something and going is more exciting.

So here we are, in Formula 1, me typing away, Matt trying to work out the DVD Camera and Tash up on her (top) bunk playing some annoying DS game that has fun, jerky, cartoon music that I know after 7 weeks will have well and truly driven me nuts.

So our waiting consists of having take away tea that I hope doesn't take 2 hours, showering in the cramped bathroom and then trying to sleep with the hum of traffic and all of us in the one small room. So this is the picture to imagine of the first day of our holiday. Bring on the airport. Bet I get fed up pretty quickly of flying. Can't wait for the thrill of the jet taking off though.

Do I feel free? Starting to. Do I feel like a traveller? Sort of. What will I be when I reach this place again? Who knows—that is part of the joy of travel.

Day 2: 30th September 2011

V Australia flight VA007

We have been in the air for about 3 hours, have had lunch. Feeling like a nap after some red wine which was also very nice.

It has been a relatively uneventful flight so far, and time has been going quickly—at least it has up to now. The time between when we arrived at the airport and when we boarded flew by, being taken up with a queue to check in and then customs and immigration. We barely had time for a coffee and then they called boarding for the flight. The plane is larger than the ones we have flown in to Asia. It is all feeling real, more now than just imagining.

I just watched *Australia*, which has passed 2 and half hours of the flight, I'm glad I finally got to see it after watching about a third and always wondering what the ending was. Very emotional for me (could be partly the red wine) but I sat in my seat thanking my lucky stars I'm Australian, I'm proud of it! Then when the final scene of 'King George' embracing all Australians by saying OUR Country came on I could have cried for ages.

Matt is filling in our US customs declaration and Tash did a small amount of video blogging, which she has requested that just she do.



Day 3: Los Angeles, California

After arriving at LAX (which was fairly uneventful) we transferred to the Radisson where we are moderately comfortable. Some of the inclusions you get used to in an Australian hotel are lacking such as a kettle and coffee and tea making facilities, mini bar etc. The room service alcohol prices are horrendous.

Not much sleep on the plane, Matt appeared to sleep a little but he was probably just dozing due too much noise, light, movement etc. Having a shower refreshed us a little, the water was hot and the shower head delivered a nice lot of it all over you.

Tash is pretty excited to be seeing Nathan (her boyfriend who was over here on an Australian Institute of Performing Arts Singer/Songwriter Talent Development Program), so after a coffee we investigate the options for getting to Hollywood where Nathan is. We decide to take a car and driver from the hotel costing \$60.00US. All in all the drive is one of fast movement and comparisons voiced about the differences in driving in America. The driver is friendly though, chatting away about this and that. After dropping Tash off, Matt and I have the rest of the day to ourselves. Tiredness hasn't hit yet so with boundless enthusiasm we head for Hollywood proper.

Even though I might be called cynical or judgemental by Matt, I have nothing to praise Hollywood over. It appear to me to be dirty, not very attractive and a little thrown together. There is so much rubbish around, however this isn't much different from Sydney I guess.

Because we are tourists we visit the Hollywood walk of fame and Graumann's Chinese Theatre where lots of the stars have put hand and foot prints and signed their names. Plenty of favourites old and new, even our own beloved Hugh Jackman (yum). Awesome Sushi for lunch though, very differently prepared from Zen in Lismore. There are also a number of not very authentic looking movie characters wandering around such as Captain Jack

Sparrow and some more authentic looking Storm Troopers and a Darth Vader.

Matt and I walked a fair way in the wrong direction which necessitated a cab ride back to the main tourist area. Again the cab driver was really friendly. Same with the cab ride back to the hotel. Cost is astronomical \$80.00US including the tip. I'm a bit suss over this tipping thing, it is kind of expected and doesn't seem to relate to much as far as good service goes. Oh well when in Rome!

Waiting for Tash and Nathan right now and they're bit late so we are a tad concerned. Don't know when they will turn up, but I hope it's soon as we planned to eat at 6pm and then have the Limo pick us up at 8pm for our tour. I hope the plans don't go awry.

Tash and Nathan turn up at about 6.30. Anyway apart from being late for dinner all was well.

Dinner is at the Palmira restaurant where we are attended to by Juan who was from Mexico (he uses the correct 'soft' pronunciation). I am very impressed by both the service and the food. Matt's steak was still mooing as is his preference but the flavour and texture is delectable. We try a Californian brewed beer and a Sonoma Chardonnay and are impressed.

Unfortunately the limousine has got caught in traffic so we have a 40 minute wait. It's worth it though with the driver being a lovely fellow originally from Morocco who knows lots of places to show us. We head back to Hollywood which is a better experi-

ence at night, having more atmosphere than during the day. The characters are back adding to by the presence of 'Mr Muscles' who is trying to engage people to have their photo taken with him, he doesn't appear to be having much luck though! We drive past some of the homes of the stars and up to see the lights of LA and Hollywood, unfortunately though the look out is closed. Universal Studios however is open for business and we are able to have a lovely ice cream from Perry's Ice Creamery. Nathan has to be back at 11.30pm so we drop him off and then head back to the Radisson for a quick 3 hours sleep before we catch our plane to Mexico. AAHH!

Helen Rigby, travel writer extraordinaire, signing off.

Public Exhibition of Draft Lismore Local Environmental Plan 2011

Council undertook the public exhibition of the Draft Lismore Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 from the end of April 2010 to the end of August 2010. After considering submissions to the 2010 Draft LEP, Council resolved to make a number of amendments to the exhibited document. Council also resolved to re-exhibit the revised plan as the Draft Lismore LEP 2011 (Draft LEP 2011).

In accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and associated Regulation, notice is hereby given that the Draft Lismore Local Environmental Plan 2011 is on public exhibition between 17 November, 2011 and 30 January, 2012. The Draft LEP 2011 and accompanying documents are on exhibition and available for inspection between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday during the exhibition period at:

- Council's Corporate Centre, 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah
- Council's CBD Centre, 55 Magellan Street, Lismore
- Nimbin Visitor Information Centre, Cullen Street, Nimbin

The Draft LEP 2011 and supporting documents are also available on Council's website at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

The Draft LEP 2011 will apply to the whole of the Local Government Area (LGA). It has been prepared in accordance with the NSW State Government requirement that all councils prepare one LEP based on the Standard LEP Instrument. The Standard LEP Instrument, State Environmental Planning Policies, the North Coast Regional Environmental Plan and the Section 117 Directions applying to the Lismore LGA substantially govern the content and operation of the Draft LEP 2011. Council has had regard to these documents when preparing the Draft LEP 2011 and they are also available for perusal during the public exhibition period at the places listed above.

Public Submissions

Any person may make a submission relating to the Draft LEP 2011 during the exhibition period. Submissions should have regard to relevant State Environmental Planning Policies, the NSW Coastal Policy, the North Coast Regional Environmental Plan and current Section 117 Directions.

All submissions must be in writing and addressed to:

The General Manager

Lismore City Council

PO Box 23A

LISMORE NSW 2480

Submissions close: Close of Business Monday, 30 January, 2012

Enquiries: Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 87 83 87.

