

IDLE CHATTER Mark II

Newsletter No: 127

Thursday 15th January 2015

This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Progress Association

Sponsored by Bland Hotel

WE'RE BACK

I hope everyone enjoyed their New Year Celebrations and have or are enjoying any breaks away.

Which brings me to my tale of woe.....

John and I had 4 days away from Quandialla at the beginning of the year and it has been 10 days since we came home and I still have sore muscles and could sleep another month. Before we left the weather prediction for Sydney was rain so I was visualising a laid back few days away. How wrong could I be!!

We drove down on the Thursday, checked in and then walked down to Darling Harbour, wandered around a bit while trying to decide how we were going to fill in our few days of relaxation. A lot more walking in not so appropriate footwear, an early dinner and a longer walk home should have been a hint that this mini holiday was going to be more like a marathon.

Have I mentioned that there was no rain, it was bl#dy hot and horribly humid which really knocked me around. Especially Friday which we spent on the harbour, John has wanted to visit Fort Denison for soooo long. First stop on the "Hop On Hop Off" ferry was this grand old island. Don't get me wrong it is well worth the visit but the only time you were in the shade was while you were doing the tour. Not another skerrick of shade unless you went to the restaurant which wasn't on our programme. Due to the crowds because of school holidays, our ferry was an hour late for which we had to stand and wait or wander around the very small island in the sun. Next stop was the Zoo until I saw the very, very long queues of adorable children and cranky parents – so I pulled the "I'm feeling sick card". Which I wasn't kidding, by this stage I was as red as a beetroot matching the bl#dy red hat John had bought me that would not stay on because it was so bl#dy windy. We got to Watsons' Bay for a very long lunch which brought the day back to almost bearable. Another hour wait for the ferry, enjoyed the ride back to Darling Harbour and feeling sort of okay until I visited the ladies and saw

my sunburnt self. John took pity on me and thought I needed to be inside somewhere so he suggested some retail therapy, but he forgot to tell me I would have to walk miles, and all uphill. I can report I did it because my goal at that stage was to spend all his money in one go so we couldn't afford to do anything the next few days, but alas I couldn't find anything I wanted to buy. Things picked up when we had a very nice dinner and the ever so romantic took me to the movies. We came out of the movies at 11.45pm to find major road works being done in George St, not the end of the world until I realised we couldn't get a taxi back to the motel – which meant more walking, all uphill.

Saturday – John was a gentleman and we got a taxi to Circular Quay and we enjoyed breakfast in the Domain, took a tour of the Botanic Gardens then hiked across to the Rocks, wandered around there for a couple of hours, had lunch and then headed back to the Quay to catch a ferry back to Darling Harbour. John's goal was to visit the Maritime Museum – my goal was not to. Thankfully we came to a mutual agreement without me throwing a paddy – he did the tour and I sat and waited in the air conditioned waiting area. So while he viewed the warship, submarine, tall ship and the museum I sat and people watched and played games on my phone. Have I mentioned that Saturday was more humid than Friday and I was looking and feeling 20 years older than my actual age. After 3 hours of sitting I was able to walk back to the motel (a bl#dy long way and then uphill). This was our last night in Sydney so we went all out for dinner and for me it was the highlight of our trip, along with the fireworks and drinks on the harbour.

Sunday – finally a leisurely breakfast, a little bit of shopping and then we were on our way home – I was so tired it wasn't funny. I did not realise that I was so unfit, the first thing I did when I got home was sit on the lounge with our dogs and have some chocolate to make myself feel better.

John and I have both agreed that if we ever return to Sydney for more than a night we will have to go into a rigorous training programme and pray for cooler weather. However besides the sunburn, humid weather, sore feet and legs and trying to fit 6 days of activities into 3 days, we had a marvellous break away.

Hope you will forgive me I just couldn't help myself I had to tell you all about our mini trip that we had waited months to do but was over in a flash.

They say the older we get the faster life goes byhow true.

P.S. I know there are some readers out there asking why the need to walk so much. Answer - John thinks it is more exciting walking as you miss so much in a taxi, and I agree to a point. However, I would like to say a taxi ride or two extra, would make a happier wife (hope he is reading this for future reference).

*Things are a little quiet in Quandialla at the moment due to school holidays but we are gearing up for Quandialla's Australia Day Celebrations
The following is your invitation*

2015 AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN QUANDIALLA

Monday 26th January

Yabbie Competition – Register, Weigh in – 6pm & Races – 8pm
for more information contact Bland Hotel or Geoff E.

2.30 pm - Quandialla Swimming Pool will be open- entry free

3.00 pm – Australia Day Bowls at the Bowling Club

All ages – flat sole shoes or bare feet – bowls available

6.30pm - Ceremony & Family BBQ & Yabbie Races

at The Bland Hotel on the “back lawn”

No BYO – hotel facilities available.

Ladies please bring a salad to share. Meat etc for the meal will be provided at no cost.

Come along and enjoy a part or all of what is on offer in Quandialla
Celebrate Australia Day with Family & Friends

BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES: Tom Priestley received a wonderful birthday surprise when son James and daughter-in-law Jane arrived home from England to help the family celebrate his 70th birthday on the 28th December.

From all I.C Readers – ‘Hope you had a great 70th Birthday Tom’.

I’M CRANKY AND ANNOYED that I need to inform you that the Quandialla Post Office is no longer reading the weather for the Bureau of Meteorology as from the 1st January 2015. For reasons that were too long winded for me to listen to and then respond with how nice thank you very much. I was told the Bureau was required to make cut backs and 14 weather stations in NSW would cease operating, Quandialla being one of them.

It is a sad day when they say that progress means that a service that has been provided and recorded for Quandialla since 1925 or any of the other towns are no longer required. However I’m happy to say we will continue to record the rainfall for those locals who are interested.

BLAST FROM THE PAST Extracts from IDLE CHATTER

Extract from IDLE CHATTER No: 221

Thurs. 5th April 1966

ECONOMICS – Consciousness of the Country’s economy is being fostered by TV. Advertisements, Newspaper articles and radio talks and let me tell you that it is definitely bearing fruit. The local Post Office is always open for banking business and yesterday it was my luck to witness an amazing result of all propaganda. Quite calmly one of the many town fowls walked through the doorway, nonchalantly made a deposit and sauntered out again. Fortunately for Post Mistress King, the fowl was not tall enough to reach the counter. Nevertheless it was a most smelly bit of business.

GOLF – The Golf Associations held their Annual meeting last Sunday. Freida McAlister was elected President with Elsie McAlister acting as Secretary and Treasurer. The opening of the season will take place on Sunday April 17th with play commencing at 1 o’clock. There will be high tea and a good day is promised. Please attend if it is at all possible.

THE END – This has been one of the hardest copies that I have produced for a long time. This sheet helps me in my business that I admit but cannot continue to publish it week after week without cooperation from its readers. I am rarely guilty of using it to advertise my own wares and I am sure that if I did so it would not be read. It is published to publicise activities in and around this town. Free publicity at that. An example of what I am griping about is the fact that a tennis tournament has been arranged for this week and which I could have wrote about but only shop windows are supplied with the announcement. I do not overwork myself that’s for sure but cannot always spare the time to go around looking in the shop windows for something which should be given to me willingly. Now that’s off my chest I have to state that I have discovered what the red letter “P” means on a car. PERIL that’s what it is – I saw Cheryl Hazell driving the other day. I have increased my insurance. You know that I am only joking don’t you. You haven’t collected a guide post yet and that’s something I can’t say....

Cheers everyone **Sue Priestley**