

## BSLog5 - Where's Bluey?

Well you are fed up with Wally by now and we are in Australia!

Notes from a large nay huge island or the thunder down down under.

Maybe he is looking for Raffles?

Before we leave the Interhash behind, I need to mention a few people.

Despite my illfated journey on the coach trip, I have to thank the Christchurch commandos led by the irrepressable WORKASHIRKA and DRY HUMP, HE'LL KEEP, D.T., KUMMSHOT & STD who arranged a 5 day trip stopping at different hotels each night and climbing too many mountains.

But never forget this chap who is an American but was forced to share several nights with me as we could not get separate rooms.

His name is Drink Her Pretty which I think is a euphemism of the old Beer Goggles.

He was honoured to share with a king but I was not so happy to be with a subject but sometimes needs must?!

He is the ONLY person I know that hasn't abused me!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



The thing you notice arriving in Sydney is how many tall buildings there are - the Crown Sydney the tallest but there are 50 other buildings over 490 feet in this city!!

Also the harbour is buzzing with ferries going to different beaches every 15 minutes along with jet boats and other assorted craft. I am surprised there are no collisions and

again we have these cruise ships that moor right at the Circular Quay.





Of course the 2 main attractions are the bridge and opera house but there is a building dedicated to me.



The favourite activity is a cruise around the harbour of course.

I was on this and they had an old chap giving the commentary and he was very knowledgeable!

However, he didn't know that I had just read Bill Bryson's Down Under and knew most of the stuff.

So when he said 700 prisoners were landed in Australia I told him it actually was 788 and pointed to the book and he had to say "well maybe the actual figure was 788". This



continued with the number of officers on board - he said about 500 I said 522 and he had to correct it again. I think he was grateful for my help [**Really?!**]. Then the number who had died he said 124 and it was double that. The important point was that they threw the bodies overboard lightening the ship and so it travelled faster!

At the end of the cruise he said if you want to give a tip that would be appreciated.

He had done a good job (with my help) and so I was keen to do that.

Having been trained by the BBC a long time ago with Alver Liddell I suggested to him "To enunciate more clearly".

This reminded me of Some Mothers Do Hav'em - mm Betty and Frank Spencer.

In an episode on Customer Relations he kept interrupting the teacher (the redoubtable James Cossins) which got him very angry. Also in The Office on Training Day they had employed an expensive consultant to run a course. David Brent hijacked this by changing



the agenda which got the trainer (Vincent Franklin) really frustrated.

What I find it difficult to understand is that both Michael Crawford and Ricky Gervais are very successful using this technique. So if I used the same technique it should make me as successful?!



Anyway the next day I was recommended to go to Manly Beach, a 15 minute ferry ride. Although not as known as Banzai beach it wasn't crowded and everywhere was as clean as a whistle.

A lot of surfers out doing very little but one chap was using the new surf foil which is amazing as once up the board moves much faster - like the Sail GP boats.

I said to the lifeguard - good name Manly Beach keeps the women off it.

Oh no, he said we have plenty of Sheilas. I said is that fair on the Anns, Bettys, Karens etc?



He looked at me in a strange way and walked off - difficult to understand.

So in the evening I decided to do the Rocks walkabout guided tour - this introduced me to 3 of the Sydney's oldest pubs - Lord Nelson, Heros of Waterloo and The Fortune of War.

We didn't stop but I went on a pub crawl to them the next day!!!

The Lord Nelson has a micro brewery in it. I insisted on seeing the brewer. I looked at what he was doing and was not impressed. Besides their normal lagers they like to think they can make ale.

Most of it is pale ales, pale, paler and something like water.

They claimed to be using English hops but I looked at them and they weren't.

I then remonstrated with this man as they serve lots of "beer" and again claim it comes from this tiny brewery - not possible it must be brewed elsewhere.

He would not accept any of this and told me to leave.

Was this fair when I had given him sound advice - difficult to understand?

But there are other things about the city I liked - it is a business and tourist place and really clean.

My favourite thing were the trains - double deckers with a little holding area called a vestibule. I think of it more like a pouch for baby roos and I enjoyed myself in it.

The trouble was some young girl offered me her seat - do I look that decrepit? - ***I won't answer that - Ed.***



Gengis Khan could learn a lot from these tube trains but maybe they are too high to go through the London tunnels? Look here is the vestibule (they call it that) but I prefer pouch.



This is upstairs and it is the same downstairs!!!! Never crowded!!! So it was farewell to Sydney - I would have liked to stay longer and off the Cairns to sort them out.

