

Email #1 From Perth, Australia

Sent 1/23/2009

We have finally arrived in Perth (after a 14 hour flight to Sydney and another 4 hour flight to Perth) and have settled into a temporary apt hotel while we find more permanent lodging.



Our Hotel in Central Perth, WA



Cathie with all of our luggage!!



Our living room and dining room and kitchen



Our bedroom



The view from our only window



Across the street from our hotel

I have been going out with the relocation specialist a few times now and today (Friday) Bill is joining us for a second look to perhaps settle onto a place. The only downside is that this place is not available until 2/16, so we will have to live in this apt hotel for another 3 weeks. Our air shipment, with our bikes, will not clear customs for possibly another 2 weeks so everything may come together timing wise. I will send pictures after we settle on a place. New properties come on the market all the time, so we shall see what happens.



View of Perth from across the Swan River



more of the view



View of Perth from Kings Park

Monday is a really big holiday in Australia as it is Australia Day!! Sort of like our 4th of July. Everything is closed on that day and there is a huge fireworks display in the river at night. About 1/2 million people attend. We are going early with sandwiches to get a good viewing spot.

Even though this is an English speaking country, we have had to find out the translation for many words and concepts. The Aussie's have their own way of speaking about many things. Just my experience in the grocery store was amazing. I was actually felt illiterate as the common names for things we are familiar with are called by completely different terms and even the containers make it difficult to recognize some things. I did figure the basics like bananas and celery. The relocation specialist (Phillipa) took me to a grocery store after my confusing experience and showed me what she buys and that helped a lot.

We also watched the inauguration until 3 AM in the morning. It was big news here.



We tried the Marinated Kangaroo!!!



Bill and Cathie in Fremantle (a port town near Perth)

Hope all is well in the US

Cathie & Bill