



Sandringham Sunset – November 2011

2011 – learning to be retired

This has been a massive year for us – learning to be retired, well sort of retired, in our new home. This is one of many sunsets we have enjoyed from our balcony.

Bruce is still managing a day or more a week with a local advertising agency and I've even been called in a couple of times with my specialist knowledge.

[Caffeine Concepts](#) remains alive and well, Bruce is designing iPhone apps with a hope that when sold they will give Hayden and Evan some additional work, and dollars as well. We actually make up a good team with a concept designer (Bruce), analyst and tester (me), programmer (Hayden) and graphic artist (Evan).

As promised, this has been a year of travel for us all:

- Bruce & I had a wonderful 6 week meander through Indochina
- Hayden came home for yet another wedding and spent 2½ weeks with us
- Ev and Steph spent 5 weeks in Bangladesh, Nepal and Hong Kong
- Hayden spent summer with his girlfriend's family in Granada
- Ev & Steph then spent 3 weeks in France, Belgium and Spain – excuse was a wedding
- Bruce & I drove across the Nullarbor – 9,044 km in 3 weeks, a fantastic journey
- Then Bruce & I finished the year with a quick trip to Tasmania to see the amazing [Museum of Old and New Art \(MONA\)](#)
- Hayden's work takes him to London periodically, where he catches up with friends and sees more of Mother England

And there is more to come in 2012. We have let out both our Sandringham and Sorrento homes and will be nomadic for a year. Armed each with a backpack and a computer, the plan is to travel unplanned. We will leave in mid-February, and spend a couple of weeks in Malaysia and a few days in Dubai before joining a tour of Egypt for nearly 3 weeks in March. As our tour friends make their way back home we will continue on to Europe via Jordan and Turkey. At this point our plans have run out; however our travels will be documented on our blog sites.

Travelling wasn't limited to the immediate family with nephew Alex in Europe for 2½ months and brother Matt and Genevieve touring up and down the north east coast of Australia in a caravan. I created a [blog site](#) for Matt and he did a wonderful job of keeping us updated with their travels and experiences.

Evan is now a Motion Graphics Designer at the new look [Method Studios](#) (formerly MRPPP). He and Steph moved from their beautiful, tiny flat in the Cairo building to a larger and more modern flat, still in Fitzroy. They love life on the dark side of town, seem to know all the good markets, restaurants and bars. They will have to find someone else to feed Bott the turtle when we are away!

Hayden continues his studies in the beautiful city of Barcelona. Those who have visited him say he is an excellent guide. He didn't take his aunty to the raunchy Tapas bar and he didn't take his cousin to the up market restaurant. Now almost half way through his PhD, he is hoping to spend part of next year on exchange at another European university, as he grapples with the "computation of one dimensional integral closures". He will spend Christmas with Andrea's family in Granada and is madly knitting to finish a rug for Andrea's new nephew, as a Christmas gift. He is still working for Titan in London and now learning German. As always, Hayden keeps us updated at [voo-du.net](#).

We send you warm wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a safe, happy and perhaps adventurous new year. Our special Christmas treat this year, in lieu of a snail mail Christmas Card to you, is the homeless who the Salvation Army are looking after around the world. We only hope we don't need to succumb to their services.

Much love,
Bruce & Thea

Bruce & Thea Stainsby

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