

Arriving in Australia at the Sunshine Coast



Friday 22nd September 2006

I arrived in the afternoon, just in time to help Liz pick up Jesse and Eli from school. Jesse is 7 and in Year 2, Eli is 5 and in pre-school, and Zoey is 3 and at home. They and their school friends were excited to see me at last, and loved my super long hair.

Liz wanted to take me to the school library where she works, but unfortunately the school holidays were just starting, so she wasn't going to be at work during my visit. The good news was that I'd get to travel with the family on their holiday to Sydney.



Adam and Liz took me out to see the sights on Monday, and were in a particularly good mood as they had one of their very *very* rare child-free days together. So I was hoping that it wasn't a case of two's company, and three's a crowd! First stop was for coffee at the seaside in Caloundra. I stopped to talk to a pelican. He was busy trying to steal fish from man fishing off the wharf. And they say that there is no such thing as a free lunch!



After Caloundra, we traveled up into the mountains for lunch, to the charming town of Montville with its stunning views across the mountains and over to the coast. Liz and Adam spent their honeymoon 12 years ago just up the range from here at a small town called Mapleton. Here I am with Liz inspecting an artistic lamp-post.

I also enjoyed time just hanging around the house with the family, and meeting some great dolls. Here I am with the triplets Mary, Kerry, and Terry. They are great girls, but I find them soooooo hard to tell apart.



Here I am meeting a few the Dawn dolls who live with Liz. They certainly are glam gals. I'd love some of those outfits in Crissy size!



I was introduced to some new Crissy friends, and they agreed to lend me some clothes for my holiday to Sydney.



Before we left to travel by car to Sydney for a family holiday, we stopped by Australia Zoo, home of the Crocodile Hunter. It is 3 km from where Liz lives. Along the outside wall of the zoo there is a makeshift memorial to Steve Irwin, who died this month. It is a wall with flowers, letters, signed khaki shirts, and other mementos left by fans who are very upset by his passing.



On Wednesday we left for Sydney, and as it was a two day drive we stayed overnight at Coffs Harbour. The motel was right next to the tourist icon, the Big Banana. The kids got me a suitably tacky souvenir, a banana pin with flashing lights. Just lovely!





Well, by Thursday night we arrived in Sydney. Hurray! We went to stay with Liz' aunt and uncle, David and Jenny, and had the house to ourselves for a few days until they and the kidults returned from a trip to Thailand. We took the dog for walks around the lovely streets, and visited the park opposite the house. I was dying to get a glimpse of the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge – you can just see it in the distance of this photo, with the city behind me. Gorgeous! A few years ago, Adam went on a bridge-climb for his 40th birthday, and told me that the view from the top was stunning. Pity that I'm afraid of heights!

Friday night we had a dinner party, and caught up with some friends who Liz and Adam hadn't seen in ages – Wei-Ying and her new husband Bernard, and Jill and another Liz. Had a lovely lasagna, mmmmmnnn.

On Saturday we went to the markets, and visited friends. Also went for a long walk in Nielson Park, across the road from where we were staying. It has its own beach and a number of historic buildings. Stopped to admire this lovely tree, and thought that I may as well give it a bit of a hug!





There are some amazing mansions around Vaucluse, so I went for a long walk on Sunday with Liz and Adam to admire the architecture. Here I am in front of one of them. Imagine how many Crissy dolls Beth could have if she lived *here* with *me*!



Here I am going for a walk with Eli and Thomas the dog.



I was thinking of having a swim, but it really is a bit too chilly for moi.



When not out and about, I liked to sit on the sideboard and keep an eye on the goings-ons in David and Jenny's house. It is a busy place – one night there were 13 people staying the night – but luckily it is a large place, so everyone could spread out.



Oh dear! My last day already. Time for a cuddle with Jesse, Eli and Zoey.



Here I am with Adam having a coffee at a little deli.

Liz took lots more photos of me – guess that I’m rather photogenic, really. I was a bit late leaving Sydney due to the long weekend and the post office being closed. I didn’t mind too much, as I had so much fun, and got to try on lots of new clothes borrowed from my new Crissy friends. I just wish that all of the dolls could have come on holidays to Sydney with me too, but they had to stay home and take care of the house.

So I’m now off to see Judy, who lives near Melbourne. Australia has so many great places to visit, and now that I’ve been to Queensland and Sydney it is time to say goodbye to Liz and family. Thanks for having me... **Crissy** xxx