

THE CHENRY CHRONICLE

By Christopher and Heather Henry



Chris and Heather with Steve Irwin and the poisonous snake.

Crocodile Hunter

Chris, Romain (a French student), and I went to the Australia Zoo on Friday, December 31, 2004. It is about a three hour drive from Toowoomba along the Sunshine coast. We got there at 10:30 in the morning. The first thing we did was go to the Crocoseum to see the shows. This stadium is very large. We got there late so we were sitting at the top of the stadium. We watched a tiger, bird and crocodile show. Of course the whole reason why we went during summer break was to see Steve Irwin. Many of you know him as the Crocodile Hunter the feature presentation on

the Discovery channel. We had a great time petting the kangaroos, wallabies, and wombats. The koalas were there but they sleep 20 out of 24 hours of the day. The Asian sea otters are very active at the zoo they have 2 sisters who play all the time with each other (video of sea otters swimming included as a attachment). We took our picture with Steve Irwin holding a brown snake one of the most venomous snakes in Queensland, he held it just out of reach of our arms. Steve's parents started the zoo in 1970 and now Steve and Terry Irwin own the zoo. The zoo is getting bigger and bigger.



Heather petting a kangaroo.



Chris resting with his kangaroo friend.

New Year's Eve

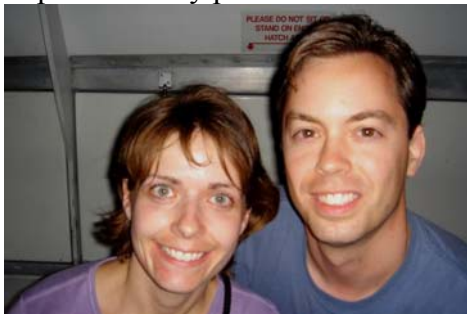
On our way home from the Zoo we decided to bring in the 2005 year in Brisbane. We took

the ferry downtown, what is called the South Bank area where they had a street dance and fireworks displays.



Fireworks....

We watched a group called, Flaming Oz, perform, a very impressive demonstration. Basically they dance with flamed batons, ropes, and other objects. It was pretty cool to watch. Chris being careful to avoid the crowds and get his money's worth out of the ferry ride, decided to park in a city park on the outskirts of town.



Chris and Heather Happy New Year 2005.

Upon returning from the fireworks display, the gate to the park was closed. It appeared as though we were going to be locked in until the next day. After a long deliberation and the development of a plan to squeeze a car through a granite structure and a row of trees with only about an inch to spare, we decided to sit back and re-evaluate our situation. After close inspection, Chris discovered that the keepers of the park had failed to actually engage the locking mechanism, so away we went closing the gate ever so carefully for the next unlucky motorist. I guess it is a deterrent to keep people from lounging in the park at wee hours of the morning, and to keep people like ourselves from using it as a parking lot. On our way back to Toowoomba we saw a kangaroo on the side of the rode. Luckily he

decided to run the other way after Chris honked the horn at him. It was a long day since we didn't get back to Toowoomba until 3 am.

Garage Sales....

Being budget minded to conserve funds for touring Australia, we have decided to embrace the tradition of acquiring second hand goods, commonly referred to as "garage sales." It has been very interesting trying to find cheap stuff. The short duration of our stay makes it difficult to find the logic in purchasing the quality items we are accustomed to. The first week we didn't get to the sales until 10am. We would stop by the locations and there would just be junk, we thought why are they having a sale just to sell this. After inquiring, the sellers had quite a bit that they sold during the first hour. In fact it is not uncommon for the dealers to be at your door at 4am, if you put your address in the paper. So the next week we were out the door with our list at 7 am. We found a heater, gas stove, fan, a sofa and set of sheets. We also heard about a place called the Tender Center. It is a warehouse that people can bring their stuff to sell, and buyers can look tryout and bid on items silently for 3 days. By Sunday evening, you are notified if you were the highest bidder and if you won the item. It is a pretty good set up. That is how we found our vacuum for \$30. We are considering starting our own "tender center" in Nebraska.

Jondaryan Woolshed



Jondaryan Barn built in 1853 still in excellent condition.

The Jondaryan Woolshed is the biggest in the Queensland area. We took the guided tour and were able to watch a sheep being sheared. Life as a shearer began at 6 am and ended at 6 pm in the woolshed. Fifty two shearers could process

3,000 sheep a day. Shearers were powered by a 20 horsepower steam engine by shafts located throughout the woolshed. We tried the damper and hot tea. Damper is a self rising bread that is in a round shape which used to be cooked over the open fire. The name damper comes from a British dialect word meaning 'something that takes the edge off the appetite'. It is traditional to eat a slice of damper with butter and maple.



Inside the Woolshed: Note the wooden open slats, manure was collected below the barn. It may very well be the oldest high rise barn in existence.

Cobb and Co. Museum

One afternoon we went to the Cobb and Co museum to see history and development of the stage coach system. It has many wagons, carts and buggies that were horse driven from the US, Germany, and Australia. Cobb and Co. delivered items like the post office does. Cobb and Company did for Australia what Wells Fargo did for the western US.



Chris next to the Cobb and Co stage coach.

The shopping centers

The grocery stores are only open M-F 9 am –9 pm and Saturday 9 am -5 pm. Sunday closed. Most stores, like Target and Kmart, are only open M-F 9-5 Saturday 9-12. Sunday closed. The Car Parks have tent like structures to provide shade for your car. The grocery carts have crazy wheel casters, like the front two wheels on US carts, only here its on all four wheels. It makes going in a straight line almost impossible. Bananas for instance usually cost \$2.98 per kilogram. Translated to pounds and USD is \$1.06. The biggest bag of Doritos you can find in the store is 230g. A bag of marshmallows is \$1.50USD for 200g. The marshmallows taste different here as we tried to make rice krispy treats. They have pink and white marshmallows that are smaller than our big marshmallows. Mayonnaise is runny and taste different here also.



K-Mart carpark tents provide shade for the cars.

Telephones

It is very expensive to make calls here in Australia. You are charged a flat fee just to have a phone land line every month, \$18.95-29.95. Any calls you make using the line you are charged. If you make local calls you are charged per call, 20-40 cents. Long distance calls are more. When you use a land line to call a mobile phone you have a connection fee 45 cents and 42 cents per minute charge. It's no wonder people don't talk on the phone all the time around here. Maybe we have it pretty good in the US.

Prepaid mobile phones basically cost \$1 per minute after all of the charges. Unlimited nights and weekends don't exist here. If you receive a call on your mobile phone, you are

not charged for it. Only if you make the call are you billed. It is against the law to talk on a mobile phone in the car having the ear to your phone, \$250AUD fine if you are caught! Hands free devices are the only allowed method to drive and talk.

The Workshops Rail Museum

We went to the Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich, QLD to learn about the steam engines and other trains. They still actually restore the engines and have blacksmiths on staff. Quite a learning experience for young and old.



Full Size version of "Thomas"



Heather operating a GE locomotive simulator, which she later derailed from traveling too fast.

Australian Vocabulary

Barbie = Barbeque
Biscuit = cookie
Bonnet = hood of the car
Boot = trunk of the car
Bottle shop = liquor store
Car park = parking lot
Chips = French fries
Choock = Chicken
Docket = receipt
Esky = Cooler
Fitted = Mounted
Hire = rent
Nappy = diaper
Pudding = dessert

Piggery = Pig Farm

Puggy = very wet manure at field capacity

Sepe = American

Take away = take out

Tea = Supper

Toilet = restroom

Serviette = napkin

Ute = a pickup truck

The Technical Corner

This month has had a slow start with the holidays, many of my colleagues took the weeks around Christmas and New Years as their annual holiday. This time is comparable to the US summer vacation. I presented a seminar to a group of colleagues about the regulatory system in the US, my extension program, and the status and progress of odor research at UNL. It has prompted many discussions and helped further refine common interests we will pursue during my time here.

I have been reviewing regulatory differences and have had several meeting with the regulatory group here, the Department of Primary Industries and Forestry, is the government agency responsible for regulatory oversight, research and extension outreach in Australia. It is a stark contrast to the US system of separating research and extension from those that are responsible for enforcing the law.

I recently toured my first AU feedlot with a colleague, I have been studying feedlot design and there is a higher standard when it comes to the design and maintenance of feedlot surfaces than US feedlots. Much more goes into the design of the feedlot floor, collection channel, slopes and waste structures than is typical in a US feedlot.

Feed costs for raising animals are considerably higher here than the US and corn based diets are rare or non-existent. Instead wheat, sorghum, silage, and barley diets are predominant in AU animal agriculture diets.

Queensland is essentially ten times the size of Nebraska, yet Nebraska has twice the number of cattle and ten times the number of pigs. However because of packing plant location most facilities are located with 1 days driving distance of each other, with several exceptions. This lower density would appear to allow Australians a much bigger margin of safety when it comes to estimating setback distances than we would have in the US. It is very common for the closest receptor to be at least 1-2 kilometers away from a feedlot. However I have observed several newly constructed chicken houses just a few hundred meters from a residence. There is a different “bar” for piggeries and feedlots than for Choock (chicken) sheds.

Expansion of the feedlot industry is rampant in Australia. With the BSE situation in the US and the ban by the Japanese of US beef, Australia is gearing up to fill the void. Many of the larger feedlots have plans in place to double in capacity. They actually grow an old fatty steer for the Japanese market; it is called a “Jap-Ox”. A “Jap-Ox” (not considered to be a derogatory term) is a 600 kilos (1300 lbs) beast mostly fat and meat on hooves. Angus breeds are rare here, the predominant breed is Brahman, with some British and European breed mixes.



Typical AU Feedlot: Note shade structures and absence of mounds. Very unusual to see so many European and British breeds.

In mid-February I had my first lesson with AUSPLUME, the Australian version of ISC (Industry Source Complex) dispersion model.

It is the regulatory model that the Aussies use to regulate odor sources, including livestock facilities. So currently I am learning how to make AU odor footprints, they use a similar approach that we use, and it is very automated. How they use and assess odor concentration results is a bit different than our approach, more on that next time. Most new licensed (permitted) facilities do not use the modeling approach but the “S factor” system, modeling is generally only required for larger facilities, sensitive areas, or when the S factor method is “close” and a more thorough analysis is needed. I have learned that the number and quality of climate and weather data in Australia is extremely limited and many times weather data is approximated from several weather stations several hundred miles away. Most facilities are permitted on just one year’s weather data from an on-site weather station.