

Places of the Heart



Quentin Bryce

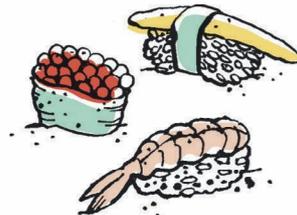
Since stepping down from vice-regal office, the former governor-general has been travelling with people she loves to places that left a mark.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAN TIGER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAT CHADWICK



2014: Ballycastle, Northern Ireland

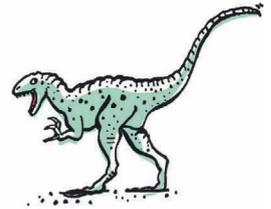
My husband, Michael, and I made our first visit to Northern Ireland in July 2014. The weather was glorious and we drove leisurely through picture-postcard villages. I was on a mission to explore some family history in Ballycastle: my great-great-grandfather, Thomas McCauley, was born in 1812 in Ballintoy and, as a young man, settled in the Wollongong region [of NSW]. Ballycastle is a charming rural seaside town on the north-eastern tip of County Antrim, surrounded by beauty and steeped in history. We followed winding narrow roads to Moyarget Woods, Turraloskin and Knocknagoran [in Ireland] – places where the McCauleys farmed. Helpful people in Ballycastle put us in touch with the local historian, the library, the museum, churches... there are McCauleys everywhere! Our family loves to gather in Austinmer, near the NSW South Coast. It's easy to see why Thomas settled there. It's beautiful – so like the place he came from as a lad.



2015: Tokyo

Last April I travelled to Japan with my eldest granddaughter, Alexandra, 15, for cherry blossom season. We made our base a hotel in Tokyo Bay with splendid views – magic lights across the city at night. Each day we set out to see the gorgeous pink and white blooms in parks, gardens and avenues, stopping to wonder

at their beauty and perfume. Alexandra is a talented art student so we gave priority to museums and galleries, marvelling at the aesthetic of Japanese culture, the exquisite attention to detail in the tea ceremony, the presentation of food. A highlight was a visit to the GK Design Group's studio – famed for its designs of high-speed trains and Yamaha motorbikes – and we loved the shops in Ginza, where Alexandra found groovy gear for her twin sisters. The best bits for me were late-night conversations with my very dear companion after long days in a rich culture.



2015: Winton, Qld

In May I took my daughter, Revy Bryce-Browning, to a very favourite place in Central West Queensland: Winton. As we flew into the birthplace of Qantas I thought of my mother, a city girl setting out to take up teaching there in 1932. It was where she met my father. My parents loved the west; it's where our family was formed and it remains very special to us. How terrible to see the devastation of the drought, to sense first hand the anxiety and stress affecting communities desperate for rain. I was invited to launch Stage 3 of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History, where you can join a dig or drill a bone – both are addictive tasks! The landscape is enormous; magnificent wilderness surrounded by cliffs, boulders and gorges. Its grandeur and beauty touch my heart and give me a sense of belonging. ●

Inspirations, a free exhibition of the works of William Robinson, curated by Quentin Bryce, is showing until June 26 at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.

Flight Plan



The passenger

Angelos Frangopoulos

Occupation

CEO, Australian News Channel, which owns Sky News channels in Australia and New Zealand

Where he's travelling

The Philippines

What are you doing in the Philippines?

My wife, Rebecca, and I have always wanted to see Manila and the Philippine islands so we're going with our daughters, Libby and Amy, and sons Max and Leo.

Do you travel a lot for work?

I attend the big, influential conferences and exhibitions. There are a few trips a year but I've become a FIFO-style traveller, arriving on the day events start and leaving on the day they finish.

What's the secret to a stress-free journey?

Go with the flow. Once, our flight back from Thailand was cancelled for technical reasons after we'd already boarded. Rather than get worked up, our family ended up visiting Bangkok's Dusit Zoo on our bonus day. It turned out to be a highlight of our holiday.

What's your approach to packing?

I'm hopeless. When I'm travelling alone, my packing sometimes begins as the taxi arrives at the front door. Rebecca is far more organised on our family holidays. On my own, I take only carry-on. When it's the six of us, there's a kitchen sink packed just in case.

Do you have a secret to travelling light?

I tend to take the minimum and if I get stuck I can always buy something there.

What do you never leave home without?

My APEC travel card [which gives frequent business travellers faster and easier entry to participating APEC economies]. It makes passport control in Asia and the US a breeze.

Do you get to the airport late or early?

I try to arrive as late as possible.

Have you ever missed a plane?

Nearly. I had a flawless track record until last year at Heathrow when I went to the wrong terminal. I got to the departure gate just in time after a mad run. My travelling companions were not impressed.

What do you wear on the plane?

I always board in my suit if I'm travelling long haul for work then get changed into something comfy. The suit gets hung up so it's nice and fresh when I go straight to work at the other end.

Do you wear the pyjamas?

If I'm lucky enough to be in Business Class, I get changed into them before we take off.

What's your routine on the plane?

I put my phone on charge and power through emails. Then a meal and a movie. If it's an overnight flight I try to get to sleep straightaway. Of course, sleep is relative to how close you are to the front of the plane.

What's the last book you read on a plane?

My reading is confined to a pile of unread magazines I've grabbed from home. I also download newspapers and magazines on the PressReader service [through the Qantas app].

What's the last movie you watched?

I love the latest releases but I always scan the older movies. I recently enjoyed re-watching *Minority Report*.

Do you request a particular seat?

When we're travelling as a family, I choose three consecutive window rows. Lots of windows equals no arguments equals a pleasant flight for parents.

Are you a chatty seat buddy?

I figure if you're going to be sitting next to each other for 23 hours it's polite to say g'day but I don't seek out a life story, nor do I offer one. Sometimes you get talking and you do meet amazing people. I also really enjoy meeting the crew.

How do you deal with jet lag?

I always power through to the end of the day to make sure I get onto the right sleep cycle. ●

INTERVIEW BY DI WEBSTER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE BACCON

Catch Sky News inflight and in Domestic and select International lounges.

QSpirit.

View from Above





31°14'12"N / 35°22'30"E

Looking like a severe case of metal corrosion – or an enormous toothpaste stain – this section of the Dead Sea's shoreline in Israel is not only a manifestation of the lake's famed high salinity but also its falling water level – dropping at a rate of about 91 centimetres per year. The area is pockmarked with gaping sinkholes up to 40 metres wide and 25 metres deep – the result of extraction of raw materials from the basin and diversion of water from the Jordan River that feeds it. In 2013, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority signed an agreement to replenish the Dead Sea. Those plans are underway.

The Journey



Scientist Tim Flannery has discovered 16 animal species in remote regions of the Pacific

A straightforward research trip to Indonesia became a delicate exercise in diplomacy for the renowned environmentalist.



The traveller

Tim Flannery

The journey

Indonesia

The year

1991

IN JANUARY 1991, I set out with Boeadi, my Indonesian colleague, for the remote island of Mangole, in Indonesia's North Maluku, to survey its mammal fauna. The island was once covered in magnificent rainforests, surviving patches of which perhaps sheltered species found nowhere else.

The sea was choppy as we boarded a traditional outrigger canoe for the 500-

metre crossing. In the distance, I could see a mosque. We soon learned that, in a region made of a patchwork of Christian, Muslim and animist communities, our destination was strictly Muslim. As a Western scientist studying creatures like rats and bats, which Muslims consider "unclean", I expected that some diplomacy would be required.

The village headman, known as the *kepala desa*, was polite but stand-offish. He explained that the region was parched by drought and people were desperate for money to buy food. He seemed relieved when we agreed to employ some villagers to help us collect samples. One kind of possum was so abundant that we quickly had three or four – all we needed for our research. I euthanased the creatures with Nembutal, a heart-stopping drug used by vets. A drop on the tongue is enough to send small animals to sleep.

We recorded data and took our DNA samples. While I wrote up our diary, Boeadi disposed of the carcasses. It was late by the time I finished and I fell onto the platform of split bamboo that served as a bed, exhausted and vaguely uneasy.

At 3.04am I was awoken by a noise I had never heard before but instinctively recognised. It was the sound of "death rattles" coming from nearby. Then, abruptly, they stopped: someone had died. In the silence that followed, my mind filled with thoughts and suddenly I was gripped by

horror. What had Boeadi done with those poisoned possum bodies? Surely nobody in the village was hungry enough to eat them?

My heart raced. Was it possible that I had killed someone? I went to Boeadi's bed. It was empty. Perhaps I hadn't explained clearly enough how dangerous Nembutal can be. Had I killed my Indonesian colleague?

On the verge of panic, I walked to the beach. The stars shone bright in the moonless sky, the restless waves ground into the shore. What would the villagers do when they woke? An outboard motor started somewhere and a canoe disappeared into the distance. Perhaps the kepala desa had gone to fetch the police.

Eventually I heard footsteps in the coarse sand and a familiar voice: it was Boeadi. Unable to sleep, he had got up to listen to the BBC World Service. The man who died, he told me, had been sick for a long time. And, yes, Boeadi had disposed of the possum carcasses safely. But, he said, something very bad had happened. The Americans had invaded Iraq. As far as the villagers were concerned, the West was at war with Islam.

Later that morning, I entered the village fearful of how things might play out. A small ceremony was underway and donations were being handed to the widow. I lined up and pressed a roll of notes into her hand. Later that day, people began smiling at me. I learned that we now live in a world village, in which surviving requires care and understanding. ●

An Expat Life



Jodie Fox

Since taking her online bespoke footwear business, Shoes of Prey, to the US, this Sydney entrepreneur's feet have barely touched the ground.

INTERVIEW BY **DI WEBSTER**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **DAVE LAURIDSEN**

When did you move to the United States?

I left Australia in December 2014 and I've been all through the US – San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Washington, DC, and New Jersey – opening our six stores. This year, I've also been to Europe, Thailand, New Zealand and lots of places in Australia. I've actually got a spreadsheet of everywhere I've been.

What are you up to in the US?

We're opening design studios in Nordstrom department stores. We see a lot of activity on our website but all the offline experiences are within Nordstrom. It made sense to move here to expand the business because you really do need to be on the ground.

Do you have a house?

No, I've been living out of a suitcase but I think I'll end up with a residence in Los Angeles and split most of my time between LA and New York. I'm looking forward to having a place so I can fly my cat over.

Do you stay in hotels or apartments?

Mostly Airbnbs. It's the closest thing I get to feeling like I'm in a home and I don't have to eat out every night.

What do you like about the lifestyle?

The incredible freedom. It's amazing to be able to focus purely on the business because there's nothing else pulling at my time. But it has suspended a lot of things in my life that I don't think I can suspend forever.

What's the key to adapting to a new city?

Picking the right neighbourhood and finding all of those life services you need.

What do you like most about living in the US?

How convenient everything is. LA and New York are very bikeable. New York has the Citi Bike network – grab a bike, ride it where you want then drop it off at another Citi Bike station.

What do you miss most about Australia?

Gelato Messina! Sydney beaches. I miss that beautiful summer smell in the air, my friends, family and cat. Overall, I miss the familiarity. In Sydney, I'd be going to the beach on a Friday afternoon and having wine and a barbecue with friends on Saturday.

What aspect of Australian life would you like to see there?

Our dry, ironic sense of humour and a little informality as well. It's funny; in the US there's an extreme formality in business culture and an unbelievable informality in social situations. A balance would suit me more.

What's your favourite place to eat in LA?

For breakfast, Gjusta in Venice. And on the first Friday of every month, food trucks line up on Abbot Kinney Boulevard, also in Venice. It's a really fun night.

And New York?

Breakfast or dinner at Cafe Minerva for delicious Italian-influenced food.

Favourite bar?

The Ten Bells wine bar in Alphabet City [in New York's East Village] and The Dead Rabbit [Financial District] for its cocktails.

Which place feels like home now?

Honestly, wherever my parents are.

What advice would you give a new expat?

Take a deep breath and start getting a routine into place.

Do you think you'll return to Australia?

I'm really not sure. I'd like to live in a few more places. Next on my agenda is Europe.

What remains the most Australian thing about you?

I want to say my accent but, unfortunately, it's dropping Australian colloquialisms into my speech. ●