



Christmas letter 2011



Christmas greeting from Australia!

This year, the Christmas wishes for you are coming from Adelaide, Australia. I hope you had a really great 2011, and wish you a happy 2012!

I'm currently back to the university and study for Master of International Business at University of Adelaide for 1.5 years in Adelaide. I'm here together with Birgitte who study Master of International Studies at University of South Australia. So far has the first half year with Australian school experiences been very different, but good. They are more focused on real life cases and not as much theories as back in Norway, which we find useful and better than home, but it's also more work during the semester and very bureaucratic systems here.

In the first half of 2011; I managed to go a trip to my hut in the mountain with Birgitte for a little skiing, and Birgitte was also on a girl-trip to Eritrea and Cairo. I went on a small weekend trip to Copenhagen with PwC, and I was also quite busy arranging a yearly swing-dance-weekend in Kristiansand. Due to the fact that I entered the 30s this year, has it also been several 30-years birthday parties.



We had the possibility to travel a little around this big country since we got here. During the mid-semester break did we go with a couple of friends for a 4300 km (2700 miles) long road trip to Alice Springs, Uluru & Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon, the Painted Dessert and Oodnadatta track. It was a really nice trip, but we all agree that Kings Canyon was the nicest place. There has also been a weekend trip to Kangaroo Island with almost all the exchange students in the area. At the island did we get close to Koalas, Kangaroos, Penguins, seals and sea lions. So a very nice trip all together. South Australia is known for a lot of good wine-districts and we have visited Barossa Valley and four wineries there. In the beginning of December, I also get on a trip to Port Lincoln where we had a nice trip in the national park with 4x4 cars over the sand-hills, sand boarding and swimming with the big tunas.



We are at the moment travelling on the East coast, and just got to Cairns 4 days ago (2120 km (3120 miles) from Adelaide) and has just bought a car to drive back to Adelaide again for the next two months, include a trip to Tasmania. There it a little strange to get the Christmas feeling at the moment when we got 36°C (97° F) and it's summer, sunny and nothing that reminds about white Christmas, despite the fact that there has been an impressing Christmas parade, and a nice Christmas-concert in Adelaide before we left for our vacation.

Adelaide is a nice city with 1.3 million people and a very compact city centre. It's only one shopping street in the city, but a few areas with restaurants and bars, and only a short trip with the tram before we got to the beach. There is also a big central market where we can buy all kind of meat, fish, cheese, fruit, vegetables and a lot of other nice things, and this is probably something we're going to miss when we get back to Norway.

We are going to celebrate both Christmas and New Year here in Cairns, something that will be very different from the Christmas celebration we are used to in Norway, but I think it will be a good memory. I wish you all a merry Christmas and an amazing new year, and if you in any case plan to visit this part of the world during 2012, it would be nice to meet you!



Christmas greeting from
Birgitte & Magne :-)



