



Christmas Letter 2012



Christmas greetings from Australia!

We have currently spend 1.5 years down under, a stay that is filled with impressions and adventures. We hope you also had a memorable and good 2012, with the best wishes for an amazing 2013.

We started the year of 2012 at Cairns with fireworks and BBQ in the park. We drove further south with our new car via Fraser Island, Brisbane and the Gold Coast before we reached Sydney for celebrating Australia Day there. The fireworks over Darling Harbour was by far the most impressive one we have ever seen. Our car brought us to Canberra for a short visit and the Victorian Alps was easily conquered before we ended in Melbourne where we visited Birgitte's Cousin and his family. Before heading back to Adelaide, we had two weeks at Tasmania where we enjoyed beautiful nature, white beaches and charm full small cities. The whole road-trip was nothing more than 10120 km, including 1390 km with an old crappy rental car at Tasmania.

Due to the fact that uni started a week earlier than what we thought, the first week back in Adelaide was somewhat stressful, as we also needed to find a new accommodation. We ended up in Semaphore, a small community 30 minutes with train northwest of Adelaide, and only 900 meters from the beach; through a very nice main street with shops, cafes and restaurants. Despite a little longer travel time to uni, we do not regret that decision.

The Easter weekend was during our mid-semester break, and we figured we wanted to go for a short road-trip (1200 km) to the Great Ocean Road and the Grampians, which is not too far away from Melbourne.

Easter was probably the worst time to go for this trip, as it was packed everywhere, including at the view of the 12 Apostles. We were also forced to stay two nights in the car, one due to a heavier storm that our tent probably couldn't handle, and one due to lack of camping ground. Luckily we were awake when the Victoria Authority visited the cars at the parking space the next morning, as there for some very strange reason was illegal to sleep in cars here.

July was mainly our winter break, and there was time to pack the car for more camping, this time to the other side of the Nullarbor Plain to Perth and the South West coast. Perth was clearly a nice city, but we also enjoyed the impressive wonders of the nature around, like the giant karri forest, white beaches outside Esperance where kangaroos jumped around and Pinnacle Desert. We counted 7560 km on this trip, and included driving both ways on the ninety mile stretch (146,6 km); Australia's longest straight road.

Our last camping trip in Australia was to Flinders Ranges, which provided us with an excellent walk up to St. Mary Peak at 1170 meter, and breath taking views.

Our parents decided to visit us in October, which was very nice of them. We showed them around Adelaide, Barossa Valley and Murray River. Birgitte's parents also got to visit Sydney, while Magne's mother went on a trip to Melbourne and back through The Great Ocean Road and the Grampians.

Our last year at uni has also ended good. Magne finished his last exam (ever?) in the middle of November, while Birgitte is handing in her Master thesis about immigration in Australia and Norway right before our flight back to Norway. We have both gained a lot of new knowledge and experience during our study in Australia, which is going to be of good help in the future.

We also joined the Adelaide University Photography Club, and together with other passionate photographers, we have extended our passion for photo. With the Mountain Club we have also this year had some nice bushwalks in the Adelaide area.

We are leaving the summer and Australia right before Christmas, but will enjoy the beauty of New Zealand for 18 days before we head back to winter.

Back in Norway we are both going to move back to Magne's hometown, Sandefjord. Magne continue his job at PwC, but at the Tønsberg Office within the Fraud Academy. Birgitte continue searching for jobs, and will take part time jobs at Post Offices until she find something relevant.

We wish you all a pleasant Christmas and a fantastic good new year.

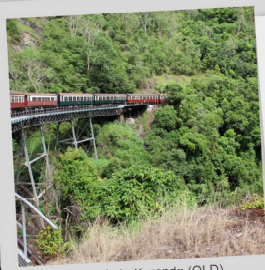
Christmas greetings from Birgitte & Magne :-)

PS: Christmas letters from previous years can be found on www.makh.no

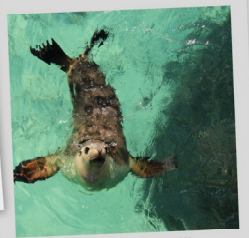
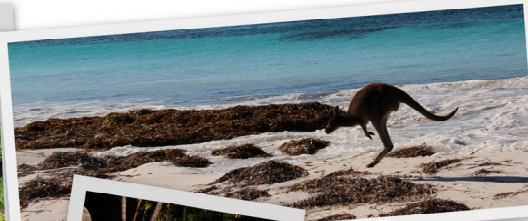




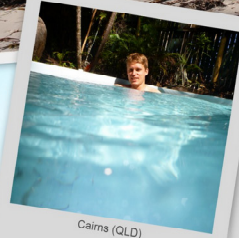
A Rock Wallaby attacks (QLD)



The train to Kuranda (QLD)



Sammy, the sealion! (WA)



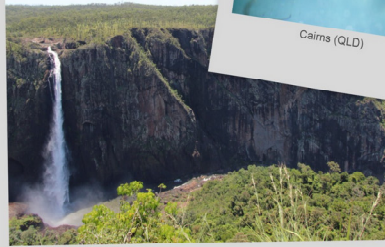
Cairns (QLD)



Diving at Great Barrier Reef (QLD)



Our Car



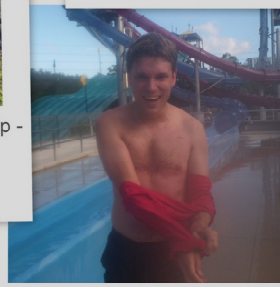
The most amazing waterfall we saw on the trip - Wallaman Falls (QLD)



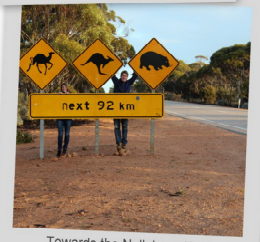
Bush walking (SA)



Bay of Fires (TAS)



The AquaLoop at Wet 'n' Wild (Gold Coast, QLD)



Towards the Nullabour (SA)



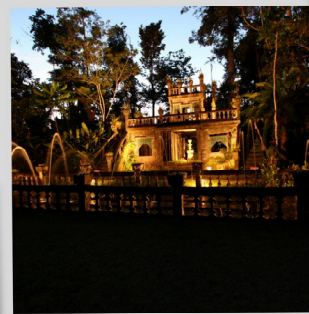
Relaxing in the sun on Australia Day (NSW)



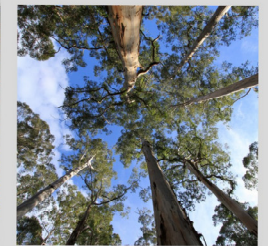
Great Ocean Road (VIC)



Rock wave (WA)



The buildings are build by an Italian... and he lived here with his family (QLD)



This is the worlds third tallest kind of trees (WA)



At the top of Australia :- (2228m, NSW)



A Fig Tree at Cape Tribulation (QLD)



Painted Cliffs at Maria Island (TAS)



Tourist in Hobart (TAS)



Handorf (SA)



In the Town of 1770 camping. A warm night even though it looks like Birgitte is cold, but it was because of the bugs (QLD)



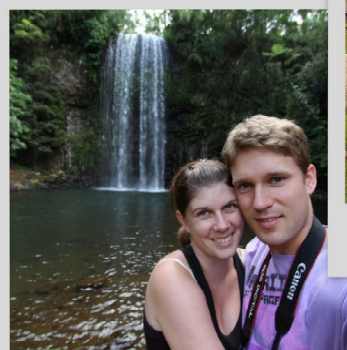
The Pinacle Desert (WA)



Murray River (SA)



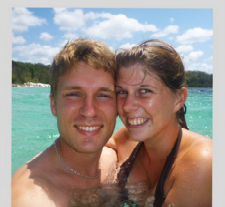
Flinders Ranges (SA)



Milla Milla falls (QLD)



Feeding Alpaca and Kangaroo (WA)



Fraser Island (QLD)



Relaxing at Daydreamer Island (QLD)