

### 13 May 2010, Thursday

We are off today to the south of Scotland. I suspect that Linda Martin is sad because we are leaving.

The all ordinaries are up today. That is a good sign for GESB super this week. Time to recover from the bad performances in the past 3-4 weeks. This whole debt crisis in Greece is affecting the way some people invest in the stock market. It is a little beyond me why they panic so much.

We travelled north instead of south – in the direction of the City of Perth. Very nice city and well laid out streets. There was none of the busyness and tight corners you see elsewhere. Parked in a car park and went for a 2 hour stroll.

Drove on to Arbroath.



This is where the Declaration of Arbroath was prepared. We also spent some time in the late afternoon visiting the ruins of Arbroath Abbey. The picture on the left is a model of how the abbey would have looked. This is



it today. Go to this website for more information -

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/arbroath/arbroathabbey/index.html>

Stayed overnight in Arbroath in a bed and breakfast (Brambles bnb). Muriel Clark is the owner and she has relatives in Perth. Very clean and nice. Their wi-fi does work. No credit card facility. Payment is a very reasonable 50 GBP for the room per night including breakfast.

### 14 May 2010, Friday

The all ordinaries are down today. I expected that the profit takers would move in.

Looking forward to seeing how Collingwood go against Fremantle today. Collingwood won – you beauty!



Travelled from Arbroath in the

direction of St Andrews (for all you golf lovers – not my style). We walked along the golf course fairway and observed men hitting this little white ball. They have stands set up along each hole for the public to sit and observe. I guess that means



the public cannot walk and observe each hole (does not make sense to me). You probably gathered that golf is not my style. I prefer hockey!

Parked and spent around one hour in the old part of the town of St Andrews. Had cappuccino in a small coffee shop – they made it with ordinary coffee and then added frothy milk - Café Janetta - don't go there – give the place a miss.

Travelled on to Lower Largo. This is where Sandra's dad brought her for summer holidays. It is also the place where they scattered her dad's ashes.



We are in the Crusoe Hotel right on the waters edge. For this they charge 95 GBO – a three star trying to be much more. It really is a shitty little hotel. We are staying in the most recent extensions. Nice view of the water which is right up to the wall of our room. The TV is a 15 inch that is

not tuned properly. I think that the hotel can charge what it likes because there is no competition in the form of bed and breakfasts. They are simply none in the area. There is only one other hotel in town and that is not very good.

Lower Largo is an interesting place but I would not come here again. It is however a spiritual journey for Sandra and I must respect that.

Had tea in the hotel and then went for a walk along the shore after the tide went out. I did that the last time prior to 2001 at 80 mile beach in Western Australia.

### **15 May 2010, Saturday**

We are going to drive from the east coast to Ayr in the west coast today. On the map it looks a huge distance.

Ayr is Robert Burns country although he is claimed by all of Scotland as their own.

We travelled through the morning and arrived in the town of Ayr around lunchtime – did not spend much time there opting to travel to Mossdale (this is where Sandra had her bnb before she left to come to Australia).

It was surreal arriving at this place (Mossdale) that I have seen once on Google with its 8 houses. One person lives in the village that Sandra remembers. Her name is Lily and she is famous as the school bus driver that had trouble negotiating round-a-bouts. She said she remembered Sandra but that is doubtful. We will go back there tomorrow (Sunday) and try and get a picture of the front of the house.

It appears that Peter and Jean Euhler (the people who bought the bnb from Sandra and Abraham) have left. There was no one home at the bnb to ask so Sandra ended up

speaking to the lady next door. She gave Sandra all the good gos and mentioned that Jean Euhler died of cancer.

As I have said before Sandra is on a spiritual journey and I am glad to be a part of that. She does not talk in detail about some of the things she has got up to but on this trip she has been full on.

We are currently staying overnight at Albion House, Castle Douglas (GBP 70 per night for a family suite – top floor – 2 sets of stairs – groan), a bnb run by Mrs Kirk who recognised my Australian accent. We have the whole top floor with access to a kitchen and lounge. No credit cards here and I don't know if they have wi-fi. My dongle works but only one bar. Website - <http://www.albionhousecastledouglas.co.uk/>

There are bnb's in Castle Douglas but they seemed to be fully booked out. There are hotels as well. The tariff for hotels appears to be 70 plus GBP per night.

Checked super balance and found we made money this week – the first in 4 weeks. Hope it keeps up.

Sandra is trying to find her friend Betty Thorburn – made some calls – no luck so far.

### 16 May 2010, Sunday



We are going to stay in a hotel tonight – in Castle Douglas – the Imperial. We had a meal there last night and were shown the room. Despite the outside appearance, it looks quite good and the tariff is 70 GBP per night.



We travelled to Mossdale after breakfast and Sandra immediately took photos of the bnb that she once owned. That is me standing in front of the house.



The person living in the old schoolhouse started chatting with Sandra and invited us in for a cup of tea. We met his wife and spent nearly 2 hours talking. They gave Sandra lots of good information about life in the village since they arrived to live in the old schoolhouse. On the way out we saw that the person living in the old bnb was in. He invited us in to look at the place. I walked through the rooms that Sandra has previously told me about. It was a large bnb and Sandra must have been very busy running it with two kids to look after as well.

After Mossdale we drove back to Castle Douglas and checked into the Imperial Hotel. I watched the F1 race and was delighted to see Webber win again.

Kirkcudbright was our next port of call. I was surprised at the wide streets and the layout of the town. It was very well done. The picture is the school that Linda Etherington attended when she lived in Mossdale.



All is well with the football. The Eagles won. So did Essendon (Dylan – high five) and so did Hawthorn (much to the delight of the long-suffering Grant who has probably not recovered from the fact that the Eagles [he calls them budgies] beat Hawthorn).

### **17 May 2010, Monday**

We are leaving Castle Douglas today. Had to change the rooms in the hotel when I found that the first room allocated did not have a TV that could change channels. Very strange! They gave us another room and all was well. Sandra does not like the hotel. Says it smells like a greasy spoon. They do have wi-fi that works very well.

The all ordinaries are down today. I suspected that would happen.

I see that Australia lost the T20 cricket to England. It will make for a good ashes series later on. Both teams are playing well.

We are going up to the Raiders Road (near Mossdale) and then up to New Galloway (the very old primary school (not the one that Linda and Andrew went to) is now an art gallery. We will find a place to stay overnight.

We are thinking of travelling into the north of England to see Hadrian's Wall (probably stay in the City of Carlisle) and then on to York (which is an old roman town). Need to work back up to Darlington for Janice Harwood's dad's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Scott's (Alasdair and Dorothy) are also going to be in Scotland towards the end of May 2010. I suspect that we may not be able to meet up with them.

