



WHAT A B&B CAN LEAD TO



In 1998 my husband and I went to Australia for the second time, and this time we really wanted to experience a farm stay with lots of sheep and sheepdogs. In a brochure on farm stays we found a farm in South Australia close to Adelaide and booked a week's stay. We caught a bus from Adelaide to the town of Pinnaroo. Here we met our land lady, who took us to their farm Alcheringa approximately 25 km from Pinnaroo.

We thought we knew what a sheep farm in the outback would be like, but we were very pleasantly surprised. Alcheringa was different from anything we had imagined. It was a beautiful, cool and clean house and we thoroughly enjoyed our stay and experienced genuine Australian hospitality.

Our hosts, Trevor and Sonia, turned out to be wonderful people. During our

stay they did everything to make us feel at home. We also met Roger, their son, we went to a BBQ in the bush, we helped Trevor and the two dogs Sergeant and Major rounding up 30 sheep which were to be sold. We had a great time together, and we soon realised that we had the same kind of humour.

On the day we were to go back to Adelaide, the bus was cancelled. "No worries", Sonia said, "I might just as well do some shopping in Adelaide, I'll give you a lift". So she took us all the way to Adelaide Airport - 250 km! And she stayed with us until we boarded the plane.

When we left, both Sonia and Trevor said: "You came as guests and leave as friends". We have kept in touch via mail and letters, and we had the good luck to visit them again in 2003 and 2009. When they visited us in 2005,

they stayed in our house for 3 days and after that we went to our holiday house on Fanø for a couple of days. Our house is named after the farm in Australia: Alcheringa, which pleased both Sonia and Trevor.

Sonia and Trevor now live in Adelaide, their son having taken over the farm. In Adelaide Sonia is busy in the organisation "Dial an angel", and Trevor often spends his time at the farm, building ultra-light planes.

I have asked them to tell a little bit about themselves, and they have both contributed an article to our magazine.

If you plan to go to Adelaide I am sure that Sonia and Trevor would be delighted to hear from you.
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DIAL-AN-ANGEL

in AUSTRALIA
(and other things)



Text: Sonia Würfel. Photo: Hanne Bache

Many, MANY years ago, fresh-faced and newly-trained, I was sent by my State Education Department to a small school in the Australian "bush" as part of my three-year obligation to them.

In common with many other young teachers from the city, I soon found myself married to a local farmer, raising children and enjoying the wonderful atmosphere of life in a rural community.

Nearly forty years passed. As our offspring left for city educations, the empty homestead became a B & B, welcoming guests from all over the world for seventeen of those years. How we enjoyed showing them "our little corner". Kirsten and Svend Erik Hornbak were two of our more memorable guests - the Danish sense of humour matched well with ours!

But soon our son was ready to take over the management of the farm and we headed to the city ourselves - 250 km away.

What to do now?

In Australia we have an organisation named "DIAL-AN-ANGEL". If your household is in need of a gardener, cleaner, babysitter, handyman, pet-or-human carer-or-companion - give them a call and an ANGEL will appear on your doorstep!

Well ---- having completed my First Aid Certificate and other formalities, here I am ----- a fully-fledged ANGEL!!!

Initially, I elected to work with children, but my repertoire soon expanded and I have since found myself in the company of people of many diverse ages and backgrounds. Each has a story to tell. In the course of my Angelic duties I have visited countless numbers of homes --- shops --- supermarkets --- doctors' surgeries. I've walked dogs and babies and old folks on frames, washed the dishes, the clothes, the hair, the floor, the indoor plants (not the dog, as yet), been forced to drink litres of coffee in all kinds of interesting places, had lots of laughs and learnt a great deal. The work is ever-changing, sometimes challenging, and our clients often become our friends.

Employees may choose to work in areas of their own interest/expertise and nominate times of availability - the perfect occupation for those of us looking for a flexible, not-too-stressful workplace in our latter years! The demand for these services is enormous and increasing and employees (we have male ANGELS, too!) range in age from young folk to --people like me--!!

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Call an ANGEL

So if you're living in Australia and you need some help call an ANGEL. And if you're visiting Australia - well - the old B and B instinct dies hard and we do miss our guests. If you'd like some Aussie hospitality - majortsw@bigpond.com.au should find us and we'd be happy to answer your questions.

PS And please look after "our" Mary, won't you??