

Episode 1

[00:00:00] Welcome to The New Life in Australia podcast, hosted by me, Karen Bleakley, founder of Smart Steps to australia.com. Moving to Australia with my family was a life-changing experience, but it wasn't without its challenges. That's why I'm passionate about making the relocation and resettlement process easier for you so you can enjoy this exciting adventure.

Join me and my special guests as we share professional secrets and tips. Learn from people who've made the move and discover businesses that can help you realize your dreams. Now. It's the best time to create the life you've always wanted. This podcast is here to show you what's possible and to inspire you every step of the way. Let's go

Let's take a moment to acknowledge the Gubbi Gubbi people, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which I live, work, and play. I thank them for the privilege of being able to live in such an incredible part of the world, and I pay my respects to their elders past, present, and emerging. [00:01:00] Hey, welcome to the New Life in Australia podcast. My name's Karen Bleakley, and I'm your podcast host and I'm the founder of Smart Steps to australia.com. The website that I created to help support families who are making this amazing life-changing journey of relocating their lives across the world to Australia.

I moved to Brisbane with my husband, Matt, and our three kids who were under the age of five at the time. It was emotional, exhausting, stressful, all of the things. So that really inspired me to want to help support other families who are making the move.

I've been wanting to create a podcast for a really long time. Anyone who knows me knows it's been on my to-do list and it keeps getting pushed down my to-do list. Really, really excited to actually be sitting down and hitting record right now because I know that it's really important to share these stories and to have these conversations.

I'm a writer by trade. I hide behind my keyboard. I'm not naturally somebody who steps up and speaks out like this. So I'm really looking forward to getting out of my own comfort zone [00:02:00] with this. The podcast will be, Imperfect. It won't be heavily edited. I want it to be real life conversations. I want it to be about having a laugh.

I want it to be about ending the isolation. Just sharing stories and helping you feel like you are not on your own in this journey.

A few fun facts about me because you might not know anything about me at all.

I absolutely love the beach. Just after my husband and I got married, we went off backpacking around the world with the sole intention of discovering the world's best beaches, and we spent a lot of time driving around Australia, two hunting out the world's best beaches. We do have some incredible ones here, especially in Queensland where I live, so that definitely influenced our decision to move over here.

I also really hate being cold. I hate the cold weather. So again, another big tick for why we chose to move to Queensland. I really love never having to de-ice my car ever again. I'm a massive fan of nineties Brit pop [00:03:00] music. I'm absolutely a mega fan of the Manic Street Preachers, and I love all of the indie music and all of that kind of thing from the nineties.

That's my era and that's my kind of music. And I love getting to see these bands live when they come to places like the Triffid in Brisbane.

I'm a freelance writer, so you'll see me pop up writing about parenting, lifestyle and travel all over the internet. I'm a regular writer for Kidspot and I'm a member of the Australian Society of Travel Writers, which means I get to have some pretty cool travel experiences too.

My background before I moved to Australia was in creative project management and marketing, so that really helped when it came to planning the move to Australia, and it's really helped to help support other people who are making the move to, to organize all of the different tasks that are involved in the moving process.

Find little fact about me. I am obsessed with unsolved mysteries, like real life mysteries, things like ghost stories, aliens, the [00:04:00] Bermuda Triangle, anything like that. I love reading books about it. I love watching documentaries about it.

Finally, my favorite thing to do is lay beside the pool with a really good book. I love reading. I love laying in the sunshine. I love looking out at the palm trees, and I love looking at the bright blue Brisbane sky above me.

What can you expect from this podcast? Well, I think there'll be a lot of fun, a lot of conversations and a lot of chats. I do like talking, I like having a laugh, and I'm really looking forward to connecting with lots of different people, people who've made the move, businesses who can help you make the move.

People who have settled into their lives in Australia, who can share the things that they wish that they'd known before they made the move. Just shedding some light on this journey so that it can help you.

So the podcast will be released weekly and I really would urge you to subscribe so that you don't miss any of the episodes that are coming up, and I'm really excited to get started.

Tune in again as we build Your New Life in Australia,

one episode at a time