

Episode 3

[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.

Hey there. Welcome [00:01:00] to episode three of The New Life in Australia podcast. Today I'm chatting to a really good friend of mine, Tracy Collins, who runs the UK Travel Planning website. I'm really excited for you to listen to this today because it's so much about the mindset involved in making the move to Australia, and I absolutely love Tracy's flexible approach.

So let's get started and we'll dive straight in. Hey, Tracy, can you please introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about yourself?

Hi. Yeah, my name's Tracy Collins. Thanks for the intro. Karen. Yeah. My name's Tracy Collins. I'm originally from the uk. Lived in Australia for nearly six years now. No, it is six years. Just six years, A few weeks ago, actually. Six years. Originally I'm from the northeast, but I have lived all over the world before we moved to Australia.

So I think this is our well for me it's our seventh, seventh country live in, but loving Australia, which is why we've been here six years now. And I'm actually now Australian, proudly

Australian.

I love how you've traveled all around the world and you've ended up here in sunny Brisbane. So can you give us a bit of an overview about your experience of moving [00:02:00] to Australia?

Yeah, so we, I decided to apply in, oh, again, I think it was probably 2012. No, it was probably bef yeah, it was about 2012 because I was about to turn That magic 45 number which if at that point is much more difficult. It was then to get a visa, so we had to make a decision. So actually I think it was probably the year before, maybe 2011 20, I can't exactly remember the date, but we decided that if we were gonna apply for a visa, we needed to do it sharpish.

So we decided to reply. The Visa came through in the October, so it was very quick. We applied for permanent residency. I'm a teacher, my husband's a nurse, so it wasn't, it wasn't too difficult to get really and then we, we came out in, I think it was 2013, we came out just to validate our visa and then we went back to the UK and sat on it for five

years.

can I just ask which

you, said both of you. Have got really good skills. Whose skill did you come on? Was it a 1 8 9 permanent residency visa? You came over on.

[00:03:00] It was, and it was me as a secondary school teacher, I did the application. So yeah, I did, had to do all the lovely English tests and oh, have the fun of all of that. So yeah, we applied, had a, an agent who did all the work for us and. Yeah, just kept asking us for different bits of paper and, and bits and pieces, like university degrees.

And I did my university degree in South Africa, so trying to get all that information was interested. Yeah, so getting all that sorted. So we, we wanted permanent residency. We wanted to have the security of just moving over and, and and having that. So yeah, we applied for that. Got that fairly smoothly actually.

It went through really Quickly. But obviously then you have to validate. And that was a bit tricky because at that point actually my husband was a university studying to be a nurse at that point. 'cause he changed his career actually at his early forties. So he was at university in his final year. And my brother decided to get married at the Easter time and that was the only time we could actually get over to Australia to validate. Now we'd never been here before. Lemme just

say that as well. We'd never visited [00:04:00] Australia before we came for five days. That's all we could take off.

Work in college and university.

decided to move before you'd visited and then after you'd got your visa, you came over for five days.

For five days. Yep. That was it. So we flew over, came to Brisbane had a quick look around and then flew back. But the, the important thing was that we'd validate our visa at that point. So my daughter was only 17. We didn't wanna move her over at that point 'cause she was in an important part of her education.

So, That was, I was committed to making sure that she finished that before we moved anywhere. I just didn't wanna disrupt her. So actually we went back to the UK and we didn't move from that point for, yeah, it was four, four years maybe. No, I mean the Visa was about to expire. So yeah, it was four years after we came and validated it, which we did within six months I think it was. I mean, I dunno if the timeframes are still the same. We had to come validate. Once you validated, you still had the length of time until the visa expired to come. So we actually arrived in August, 2017. And [00:05:00] the visa was due to expire in October. So we really pushed it to the last, we were for, for quite a few years.

We were like, should we go? Should we not? Should we go? Should we not? It was all of that push pull. And then basically about 18 months before we just decided, no, let's, let's just go for it. Let's sell our house and, and move over 'cause we've got this amazing opportunity. So that's what we decided to do.

So looking for work. What were you looking for? Work as a secondary school teacher. Were you looking in Brisbane? Were you looking all around Australia? Did you find it easy from the UK to do job searches online or did you, did you move with a job?

So basically what I did is I registered on Seek. Jobs in Australia. And so my background is a, is a bit interesting in that I haven't been actually teaching as a secondary school teacher for quite a few years. I was actually qualified in special needs and became a head of special needs at school in the uk, but for the last about 15 years, 14 years or something like that, before we moved over, I was actually working for the local authority as an advisor. [00:06:00] So I didn't wanna go back into a school situation. So I was looking for something slightly different. So I just found on Seek a job that kind of fitted the, my skillset. And I

applied through Seek and got an interview and was actually offered the job. So yes, I did move over to Australia with a job and my husband at that point had qualified as a nurse. So once we knew where we were gonna move to, he then applied for jobs in his area of nursing and he secured a job who both had jobs to come

That's amazing. 'cause I know when we moved, we didn't have jobs, and I know so many people don't because. It's very industry specific. I think whether industries are willing to consider appointing you from overseas or not, or whether they're willing to talk to you and interview you before you actually get over here.

So I know that in Matt's industry, he, my husband works in aviation and a lot of the jobs there really, you have to physically be in the country before they'll even talk to you.

Did, did the jobs kind of [00:07:00] give you any relocation expenses or anything like that? Or was it, obviously you'd got your one nine Visa already, so you didn't need to be sponsored by an employer. Did, did they give you any support with moving over.

No, not no financial support or anything like that. Just basically a start date that we were, we, we had to be over by. And that was it. A few conversations before came just about sort of where, where we're going and, and a bit of information about the town. But no, really it was, but it was, it was fine because we had organized a house sit, so we knew where we were gonna go, so that made things a little bit easier for us. But I must admit, once, once we did get here my husband kind of, he, he, he wanted, he'd applied quite often through it, this, for this particular company through Seek, and didn't get an interview from the uk, but as soon as he was in Australia, he did. So he actually did start to work for that company and still works for them.

Actually it'll be nearly six years in November. He's been working with that same company, so it was easier for him with that once he was here. But yeah, it was, it was, it was [00:08:00] probably, we were moving anyway. I literally had, I. Got everything through in about April and then got the job in maybe around about the May time I did the interview. 'cause it was about coming up half term in the uk and I remember having that conversation and then got the job. So we actually, o really only started moving in terms of on things. We knew we were coming, but we didn't exactly know where. We knew Queensland and we'd kind of picked out Brisbane. But we, we went from that.

So we had an area we're looking at, but we're talk, we're talking probably six weeks before we came, we actually had a kind of final idea of where we're actually moving to.

Yeah. And I think there's a lot of benefits in doing it the way that you did it, because when, like when we were making the move, a lot of people kept saying to us, haven't you found a job before you move and, and you are paying of this yourself. You're not being. Sponsored by an employer and things like that.

But actually when you move on a 1 8 9 Visa, you are free to go wherever you like. You are not committed to anything, and it gives you a certain amount of freedom that you don't have. If you are committing that you're gonna work for a particular employer [00:09:00] or moving to a particular state or something like that, it definitely gives you a lot more freedom to, to move around.

So tell us a little bit about where it was you ended up moving to. Where was the job when you first arrived?

So the job is in Mackay, which is in Queensland but further about 11 hours drive north of Brisbane. So a tropical part of Queensland. And it was fine but it just really, and nothing against Mackay and business 'cause it mackay's lovely. It was really nice, but it was a bit too small. For what I wanted.

And also I knew that our daughter was gonna be moving over within sort of 12 months and she would be down in Brisbane. So, you know, after a few months I kind of thought, no, this isn't gonna be right. Doesn't fit feel right for me. And at that point, my husband had applied for a job with a company he wanted to work with and they had offered him a job done in Brisbane.

I was quite lucky in that the company that I worked for also has offices in Brisbane, so they just agreed to transfer me down. So that made things a lot easier and smoother. And that He came down before me, was working here about three weeks, and [00:10:00] then I flew down from Mackay and basically started working in the same company the week after.

Yeah.

So it was very

smooth.

how so how easy was it relocating down to Brisbane? 11 hours drive? I'm presuming it was a lot easier and a lot cheaper than flying out to Australia and getting out to Australia in the first place. Did, had you had shipped things shipped to Mackay that you then had to have shipped to Brisbane?

Or like how did the whole process

The, we had something shipped, which had arrived in, they didn't, it actually didn't arrive in Brisbane until the beginning of December. And that by that point we'd actually moved back down. We'd moved to Brisbane, so it wasn't any issue. Doug drove down, I think he flew down once or twice from Mackay 'cause he, he came up to visit and the very final. The final trip down with our staff. 'cause what we actually just brought over with us, 'cause we'd sent a couple of suitcases over, we just drove down and then I flew back up for the last week or so, I think it was, and then I flew back down and that was, it was, it was fairly easy. We were lucky in that [00:11:00] we had a friend who's a relocation agent who just, who actually found a an apartment for us. She came and did all of that because that was the one thing we were struggling with is that how do we get somewhere to live in Brisbane when we are in Bakay? Without flying backwards and forwards. 'cause you actually have to see somewhere. So she, she just, we found a few places and she went and have a look around for us.

So we actually now live in and bought the place that, that that she found. So that was really useful. And so we didn't bring a lot with us from the uk I'm gonna say that. And we actually rented a a furnished apartment, which made things a lot easier.

So the one, the place you're living in now was one you that was rented for you and secured for you before you'd seen it, and then you moved down and.

Yes, Yes, yes. fantastic. Honestly, we've been very lucky. We, we moved to Australia, we did a house sit for three months, and then we moved into the apartment that we now still live in.

That's amazing. And we've got a podcast coming soon about your house sitting experience as well. So look out for that [00:12:00] one coming up 'cause that is a really great story as well. I absolutely love how flexible your mindset has been through the whole thing, and I think it becomes, it's obviously that you've obviously traveled around a lot and that you've moved to different countries and that you're not, you're not approaching it all with a really fixed mindset.

You moved, moved to Mackay, didn't work for you, you moved to Brisbane, you kind of go off traveling. You like, you make. Things work for how you want 'em to work. You don't sort of feel trapped in a box or that you have to, it has to happen a particular way. And I think, and I hear so many people say, oh, we moved to the Sunshine Coast and we couldn't find a job after a couple of weeks and it didn't work for us.

So we went back home, or we moved to Perth and it was, it was a certain way and we didn't like it, so we moved back home. But actually, you don't have to do that. There's other opportunities here. If the first place you move to in Australia isn't quite right, every city and every town has a really different feeling and different vibe and different opportunities for [00:13:00] you, and it's okay to move again.

Absolutely. It's a, it's a huge, it's a huge country and everywhere is different and you know, where people say the different states are different. So Queensland is gonna be different from New South Wales, which will be different from Tasmania, which will be different from Western Australia, which will be different from South Australia.

You know, you have to literally, Take, look at the place that you live in, and if it doesn't, And you have to actually examine as well. I think this is really important 'cause I've, I've moved so many times in my life around the world is that the first six months are always hard. It doesn't matter where you've been before.

So whether you have lived in the same town or village in the UK your entire life, and this is your first move, or whether like me, you have lived in seven different countries around the world. The first six months are always, always hard because you haven't got your friends, you haven't got the support structure. You don't know your way around the shops. You don't know where the, the dentist is, the doctor is. You don't have all those connections. You don't know where the [00:14:00] mechanic is that you will fix your car. Those connections and all of that that you have built up over the years or whatever, where you've been living. We'll be gone. You have got to build that up again, and you will build that up again. You will get those connections and those people, again, you just have to understand that that is something that you will get through. There'll be days when you'll be thinking, oh, I just want the familiar, I just wanna go back to what I know. And when that happens, you have to think what got you here in the first place?

Yeah,

Why did you leave?

for sure.

I think that's important and I think it's just too easy to become you know, the ping pong player that we, we all hear about. It's just too easy to do that. And actually you've already done the hardest thing. You've already done it. You're here. If you are here, you've done the hardest thing. You just have to get through that first six months, get through that and you'll be fine.

So we re, we came, we spent three months in one place, and then [00:15:00] we moved down to Brisbane, which we've been very happy in Brisbane. We, we, we, we'll be here for the rest of our lives. This will be our base. We've bought an apartment. But you just have to. Recognize you have to also be easy on yourself.

You're gonna realize that there are gonna be days where it's gonna be harder. It's gonna be easier. If you've got kids, there are days where the kids are gonna be find it harder. There'll be sometimes where the kids will find it more difficult. You just have to be aware of it and be prepared for it.

Think that's the thing. So that mindset, if you come over and you think it's all just gonna be, you know sitting on the beach in the sunshine, you still have to go to work. you

know,

And I think that's key is that with, with, especially if you're moving with a family or with a partner, there'll be days when one of you is down 'cause it happens and you've got to aim that when one of you's down, the other one's up so that you can lift them back up with you and you go through cycles of it all.

And it does take time to just find your feet and get settled in. You can do as much research as you can online, which before you move, which really helps, and speaking to people who live in those [00:16:00] areas. But eventually you just kind of need to go with it, pick a place, move there, see how you settle in. And like you say, if you don't settle in.

Do something about it and make the move. But also I think it's good to know that with job opportunities and things, I know that's something that I often hear about why people don't stay is they'll come out for a little while. They couldn't

find the opportunity they were looking for, but quite often you need to take any opportunity as a stepping stone to get you where you want to be because.

I think in a, in a way, we kind of dream that we're just gonna move to Australia and everything's gonna be perfect and in place and we've got this dream life, but actually it's a stepping stone process to get into that dream life. So you might have to start off in a smaller house or With a job that isn't quite the right, perfect job for you and move towards that dream life as you go because it's a stepping stone process to get where you want to be.

But it doesn't mean that it's not working, it just means that it's a bit more of a journey. So yeah, I think mindset is so important and, and it's so good that you were [00:17:00] able to, to do that and relocate.

Yeah, I just wanted to say, I, I think one thing that you just said there, Karen, is really, really important, is that you need to communicate with your partner because you don't necessarily, they may not tell you or show you exactly how they're feeling. And I think, I just remember sitting in the car, Doug and I decided to do a road trip and we both at the same time, were going through a really homesick period. And we've been here a couple of years and we're settled, but it just came. Both of us, and it was really interesting, but we were really open about how we felt. So what we did is we booked a trip back to the uk. So that's what we did. We went back and that was enough to kind of, at that point, we're considering whether to buy the apartment, what we're gonna do, and, and that was the best way for us to deal with that.

But I think acknowledging it, if you ignore it, it doesn't go away, and then it can nor await you because you'll get this. You'll basically put the UK wherever you've come from on a pedestal and it'll be all perfect. You won't remember [00:18:00] the gray days. You won't remember the rain, you won't remember scraping your car or, you know, in the morning to start.

You won't remember all of that. You'll just remember the, the perfect happy days that you had, which of course isn't life. So just communicate is really,

really

that's important. And I know you were mentioning about ping pongs earlier on, and I think a lot people do over and. It doesn't instantly fit what they were expecting. And then they move back to their home country because they've got these rose tinted glasses on about what the experience was like where they used to live.

I know so many people then that have moved back over to Australia again and realized then that that was what they needed to reinforce, that they were doing the right thing all over in the first place. But It, it's an expensive experience to do that and it's a lot of upheaval to, to move back and move back again.

So just give yourself a little bit of time and like you say, just be flexible with where you're gonna go. You don't have to make a decision for the rest of your life right now.[00:19:00] Just be thinking about what you're gonna do next, the next move. So you are in Brisbane now, not too far from me. How does this location now suit your lifestyle So well?

It's absolutely perfect. So we're, when we're about 25 minutes drive away from our daughter who's, who's now here, she's living with her partner in Brisbane. So we're close to her. We're also It's just a fantastic location actually, because there's lots of things to do down here, so we can get to the cold gold Gold Coast really quickly.

We can get the Sunshine Coast really quickly. Get to the, the tweed in New South Wales, which I absolutely adore really quickly. We're also about 20 minutes from the airport, which is fantastic because I do travel a lot for my job, so it means that I can get to the airport and, and jet off without having to think about it. We also have an apartment, which we bought. As I say, it was furnished actually when we bought it. We've slowly replaced all the Furniture, but we didn't have the pressure if I'm gonna buy all new furniture 'cause it was already there. So we bought it. It's very easy for us. There's just me and dogs, so obviously [00:20:00] our daughter's grown up, so we just lock up the apartment. Our, our car stays in the garage below and we can take off for, for a couple of months at a time when we're doing some work around the business without having to think about it. So I just need to mention if people think I'm still in teaching. I'm not, I don't teach anymore. I have my own online business. So yeah, just, it would be lovely if.

I'll pop a link to your website in the show notes, but you, you run a, a website about traveling around the uk, don't you?

I do, which is really ironic since I live here now, isn't it? But yes, I do. I, I help people plan their trip. We, we provide resources and information and lots of inspiration plus a podcast about UK travel for those people who want to visit the uk. Plenty of people in Australia have got connections with with the UK and obviously lots of people in North America and around the world want to visit the uk, so that's what we now do. So I get to travel back to the UK for a few

months every year, which is, which is lovely. Yeah. Best, best of both worlds. I say. So.

Is, and I found it really useful as well because having been in Australia for eight years without doing a trip back to the uk, thanks to Covid last year [00:21:00] we took a trip back to the UK and it was out 'cause it was such a long time since we've been back. And we were able to use your website to, to navigate lots of resources and learn about lots of attractions and things that we wanted to do when we went there.

So it's really helpful even for hop on your,

Yeah.

and. So your citizens in Australia now, so what does the future hold? Obviously more travel opportunities using Brisbane as your.

Yeah, absolutely. So yeah, we were very excited and very proud last September to become Australians. So myself, my husband and my daughter, we are all now dual nationality, so British and Australian. It was a bit tricky watching the football the other day, who just. Who's who to support. But yeah, so it's great.

So it's, it's wonderful having both nationalities and feeling settled. Obviously. My daughter lives here. I would imagine that my grandchildren will be Australian. So the future for us really is using, you know, our apartment and where we live in Brisbane as a base. When we come in and outta the country, we do spend [00:22:00] quite a lot of time abroad traveling, but obviously our main base is in Australia and we spend majority of the year in Australia. But it means that last year I popped off to Singapore and Thailand for a month or so and came back. And then I've just been in the UK for three months. So Doug came over for a month. So, yeah, so it's, it's really useful that we've got the base, we've got the, we've got the apartment, but what we do plan to do, and what we're hoping to do at some point in the not too distant future is to buy a camper van and go and do a lap of Australia.

That's, that's a dream for us. Can't wait to do that. Yeah. Oh, absolutely. I can't wait. And, you know, something that retiring in Australia just really excites me in terms of we'll have our camper van and we're just gonna take off. And, you know, I don't particularly like the cold weather. I, I like to pick when I wanna have the cold weather, so I'll be in the UK at Christmas, which is fine, but yeah, I can just avoid it.

We'll just drive around and stay where it's warm. Then tie air, so just live in shorts and, and flip flops and. That'll be it. So you have to work for that though. That that doesn't come you, you know, you'll have to, you have to go [00:23:00] do work before that. But yeah, so I'm really looking forward to that. And that's such a popular thing for people to do here when they retire, is off.

You go in your camp van or motor home and travel around

Australia.

Yeah, it's, it's really, really common. I know when we were traveling around before we had kids, we met so many retired couples that were doing that. And in fact, our neighbors across the road a couple of years ago, Sold their house, kicked their grownup kids out of their house, to go and find their own accommodation.

And they, they bought a caravan and were going off round Australia for a year or two years, or however long they wanted. And our next door neighbors have just nearing, nearer to retirement age. And they're, they're kind of doing similar things and just, I love the idea of being able to, to go off. I'm the same as you.

I don't like the cold weather. And a friend in Melbourne just sent me a picture yesterday of Frost on the frosty morning, and she had to de-ice her car in the morning. The idea of ever having to de-ice the car again is not for me, which is why we live in Queensland, . But yeah, I, I definitely love the idea of following the sun around [00:24:00] Australia, but.

For us, we've got to wait for the kids to finish school because I'm not homeschooling as we go . But yeah,

I think with, with that kind of thing, it's great to do it either when your kids are really small or you've got to deal with, obviously homeschooling when they're a bit older or you wait till they're older and they're going off doing their own things.

So we're gonna be doing the similar thing to you when when ours are kind of more grown up and gone. I, yeah, I think it's a great place to retire and there's so many great opportunities here to, to explore without having to go too far. So when you are moving to Australia, I think everybody worries about whether they've made the right decision about the location.

I know we agonized about whether to move to Perth or whether to move to Brisbane for so long before we finally. Figured that Brisbane was the right opportunity for us. What advice would you give to somebody who's trying to weigh up their options at the moment, and maybe they're struggling between a couple of different city choices at their or towns or, or different places.

What, what advice would you give them to help them pick the right one?

I think just look at what it is that you are after. So for us, the, the nice [00:25:00] weather was very important. So Queensland was, that was, was a decision made for us. But also I've got, I have got friends who live in Brisbane, so that, that was something else. Those saying that we moved here and they moved to Melbourne for five years.

So so don't depend on friends. So, yeah, we went down to Melbourne quite a few times to visit, which was lovely. So that was one of the kind of factors, I think it's just thinking about what it is that you want and also thinking about budget because I know it has become more expensive to, to move to places like Sydney and Melbourne. House prices there are, are a bit prohibitive unless you, maybe you'll live in London and you're gonna sell up a couple of million quid house But for, for those of us that didn't have those funds moving over, you've gotta kind of consider that. And then I guess, Work in terms of where, where you're gonna find a job. But as I say, you know, you might come over and have that job and decide that you can live in Perth and you might be there for Perth for a few months and go, Hmm, doesn't really suit us. We wanna go to Melbourne, or we wanna go to, to Queensland. And I've certainly got plenty of friends in Perth who keep saying, oh, you should move over here. And I guess think [00:26:00] about things like the, the weather, like it's quite humid and In Brisbane in the summer. So if you are somebody who does not like that sort of weather, then maybe moving further south would be something that would suit you better. Really. I just think it's those sort of things and, and look at what that particular area offers and then just move to Queensland 'cause it's the best.

Well, I'm, I'm with you there. I do. I I think it's pretty perfect, but yeah, definitely with the weather and things that, for me that was a huge thing. Obviously, work opportunities are huge and house prices like this is something that people say to me all the time. It's so expensive in Melbourne. It's so expensive in Sydney.

I think it very much is, as you say, it's relative. So if you move from London and you've had an expensive house in London that you've sold, you are more likely to have the funds to move Sydney or to Melbourne. But if you're moving

from like a tiny rural village in the middle of nowhere, that wasn't too expensive.

Then it's gonna feel really expensive if it just like it would if you were to move to London. So it's, it's kind of it all in perspective as, as you're making those [00:27:00] decisions. But, but knowing as you say that you can go wherever you want to go. You, you aren't tied by anything that you are doing unless obviously you are tied because you are.

On an employer sponsored visa, and there are connections that mean you have to stay there for a certain length of time. But, but obviously that's something you need to consider with the visa that you are taking on board and what commitment you are making with that. Otherwise you are relatively free to kind of make your own decisions and go where, where you want to move.

To get the dream life that you're looking for. So are there any tips

that you would give to anybody? Just who is making the move that, like is there anything that you, that you know now that you wish you'd known?

I wouldn't have brought anything. That, that to me is the thing we didn't bring very much. I have to say. We brought a bed in 16 boxes and the moving company lost the bed part of the bed. So that didn't, so we didn't ever have the bed, which was a waste of money. We, we brought 16 boxes over, which is mainly work stuff for me, I guess.

But to be honest, I, now, looking back, I would not brought anything [00:28:00] at all. It just wasn't, it was so expensive when I looked at moving things over and we did look, we thought, thought, should we, you know, move this, this, and this over and. it it just wouldn't have been worth it. And you know, there's plenty of places here you can go and buy furniture from.

You don't have to spend a fortune on furniture. IKEA is here and most of our apartment is, is beautifully decorated with by ikea. So, you know, those places are here. You don't have to worry about it. To be honest, the houses are bigger in the uk in Australia than in the uk. So you, you know, your, your so, so far might look different in a, in a huge room. So you've gotta think about things like that. And also when you've got stuff. It's harder to move if you come over and decide you wanna re relocate 'cause then you're gonna shell out a whole load more money to move somewhere else. So we were very lucky in that we had very little stuff so we could then relocate within a very short period of time. So do think about that. I, I'm sure other people, and I read lots about this before we

moved here, where some people have brought the entire contents of the house and it was worth it for them.[00:29:00] And some people brought nothing at all and we thought we'll bring a few things. But honestly, looking back now, I would've stuck with a couple of suitcases and that would've

Yeah, and I think, again, like you say, it is relative to your situation as well, because we moved with tiny kids shopping for all of that stuff with three kids under five would've been. So we brought our container of stuff with us and we were so appreciate, appreciate, appreciative that we were able to do that because it meant not having to shop.

But we have bought so much furniture and stuff since we got here and most of what big pieces of furniture like we've bought since we got here, like sofas and, and things like that, and TVs and but it was good having. Having a container of stuff just to get us started when we moved over here. But I think if it had just been Matt and I moving without kids, I think we probably would've just brought a few boxes and settled up with a new, set up, a new house when we got here and had it set up in the way that we wanted.

And as you say, style here is quite different as well. And sizing of products like our TV here is a giant TV versus the small TV in our tiny living [00:30:00] room in the uk, things like that. So, and also just I say how. Amazing. I think your mindset is around travel and locations and everything, because I think that's just worth mentioning quickly before we finish up.

I know that when we moved to Australia, everyone was like, oh my God, it's such a huge move. You're going across the world. It's just such a big thing. We'll never see you again, but just, you just prove that you can just. Go where you like when you like. Obviously it does cost for flights and things. I know that there's lots of way of using credit cards to get points and things for flights, so a lot of people actually can travel quite cheaply by using points.

But you've proved it. You go back to England all the time. I know that obviously your, your website, your UK website is sort of allows you to go back and travel and explore. But even before you had that website, you would travel freely all the time. And it, it's something that you do regularly and I think it's really amazing to just, it it reminds you that the world is a really small place and we aren't tied to anything.

Hundred [00:31:00] percent. And you know something, you're not tied to a decision. So if you come and you've given it a fair shot and you've decided, you know, we've, you've tried everything and it's just not for you, then, then it's, it's

fine. That's fine. You know, you can, you can go back. If that's what you wanna do, just give it enough time.

I will say that because I, because I've moved so many times, seven different countries throughout my life, so it's not just, not just traveling. I've actually lived and worked in seven different countries, and I'm talking for at least. You know, one to two years in those countries you always go through that kind of phase of the, the last place that you at was, was the best because you are just taking that time to adjust.

And so you need to go in with that mindset of like, there are gonna be, you know, and I used to say, it's not better, it's different. And that's the way to look at it. It's like there are gonna be things that are better, but they're gonna be things that are not better, but the ultimately they're just gonna be different.

And it's how you adapt and deal with that
difference.

Oh, I

I think that's

now of course you're in the best place [00:32:00] anyway 'cause you're in
Brisbane

Absolutely.

Not that we're biased all, and telling everyone that they should move to
Brisbane, but , it's special here. But, oh, thank you so much, Tracy. It's been
really fun talking to you today.

Oh, thanks Karen. Lovely to be on the podcast. Thank you.

I really loved recording that episode with Tracy. And I think for me, the biggest
takeaway is that the world is such a small place. And I know that we can get
hung up in our minds about how we're making this epic, huge move across the
world to Australia. And it feels so final and such a big deal, but actually Tracy
proves that you can move.

To one country, you can move to another country. You can move to a different location. You can move to Australia and still travel. You can still see your friends and family regularly. There's really nothing stopping you. There are no barriers. And when you get here, you can travel, you can visit, you can go on holidays to as Tracy and Doug are going off around the world for the next six months now and planning all of their adventures, but coming back to their lovely home [00:33:00] in Brisbane at the end of it.

You'll find the show notes from today's episode over on smartstepstoaustralia.com forward slash episode three.

If you enjoyed this episode, I would absolutely love it if you take a moment to leave a positive review. It really helps more people find it and it will help more people creating their new life in Australia.

Tune in again as we build Your New Life in Australia, one episode at a time.