

Interview with Chris 2.11.23

[00:00:00] Welcome to the New Life in Australia podcast hosted by me, Karen Bleakley, founder of smartstepstoaustralia. 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. It's 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 is 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 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 to the New Life in Australia podcast.

I'm your podcast host, Karen Blakely, and this [00:01:00] week I'm really excited to share with you an interview that I did with Chris, who has been a really fantastic member of the Move to Australia Facebook community for a really long time. Now, Chris moved to Australia earlier this year. She'll tell you all about that in the interview, but she's moved over here to live with her daughter, and she set up a business in Australia too, and she's got a lot of really inspiring thoughts to share.

So I'm really excited for you to listen today. So let's play the interview. Hey there. Today, I'm going to be talking to Chris, who has been an active member of the Move to Australia community for a long time. We're going to be talking about all the things today. So Chris has moved to Australia, started up a new business, and we're also going to be talking a bit about standup paddleboarding as well, and why that is a really amazing hobby to have in Australia.

So there's lots to talk about today, lots of different topics. So Chris, can you just tell us a little bit about yourself? Where did you move from? Where have you moved to? Just give us a bit of an overview.

Well, hi everybody and thanks Karen for inviting me [00:02:00] to do this podcast. yEah, so I moved to Australia from the northeast of England a place called Crammington and Northumberland.

And I'm now living in Queensland in a place called Biloela, central Queensland. So nowhere near the coast where everybody thinks that, you know, you're coming here to live the dream, the Australian dream. But you know, it's, it's a very quiet town. There's only about six and a half thousand locals.

living here. It's a mining area and farming. And yeah, I've been traveling in and out of here for probably the last 11, 12 years since my daughter came here as a backpacker.

Oh, wow. Does she live in the place that you've moved to?

Yes, yeah, I actually live with my daughter and family. Yeah.

That's good.

Cause I was going to say, how did you choose this, this obscure place sort of, that's not one of the main towns, but she moved

there first. It's not, yeah. She came traveling and got a job [00:03:00] and kind of never left. Two kids later and we're still here. So you

were coming over here on lots of holidays, fell in love with it and decided to move.

Yeah, but it was more falling in love with the fact that I wanted to be with Kirsty and the children and yeah, living in the UK was just too far away and it was too expensive to keep coming backwards and forwards on visits. So yeah, the visa process began.

So what, like the visa process I know can be a real headache for parent visas, so how did that all work?

Oh,

yes, it's been going on for a very long time. The application is the Contributory Parental Visa, the 143, and it's not an easy process. It's very, very long winded

and very expensive, but the only one that I could come in on and be able to. Australia [00:04:00] and live as a permanent resident. So yeah, it was.

Back in 2015, after hiring a consultant, um, found out that they couldn't help me, had to find somebody else. I finally found a company who were amazing in every way. And we got the application process started. That was just before I came out here on a granite gap year. So, I'm not a grandma, I'm a granna.

And so yeah, I came out here on a gap year, and obviously the visa process has to stop there because you have to be offshore to be able to submit the application. So I just took the year to kind of find my feet and see if it was going to be a viable option. So, I was here for the year, my granddaughter was born in that year, [00:05:00] and then we all travelled back the following year, 2016, for a family visit to the, family in the UK and show off baby, et cetera.

And from there, I, I submitted my application. It took about six weeks to hear back from Perth, Perth, Australia, that is, not Perth, Scotland. to Say that the application had been lodged. So during that time... Sorry, at that time, it was about a 12 to 24 month waiting time to progress with the visa, but it soon became apparent that it went, you know, straight up to 36 months and then COVID hit.

And, you know, that went up to 48 months waiting time because nothing happened in those two years of lockdown. And yeah, it was just frustrating. [00:06:00]

A lot of waiting.

Yeah. And in that time, the consultancy management firm that I'd hired went into administration. So that put things back again because they came back to me and said, I can either take my visa.

application back and deal with it myself, or they recommended this chap in in Australia who was happy to take on my application with no further fees to be paid. So obviously I was going to take that option because finding someone else was just going to be a nightmare at this short notice. So anyway Endeavor Migration, Richard was absolutely

fantastic.

I love that. I love getting personal recommendations from people that have had a really good experience. It's really valuable.

It's really valuable, yeah, because there's so many people out there just not getting the right [00:07:00] advice. And obviously that's where I started, not being given the right advice. So, so yeah, it was wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, and seven, nearly seven years on, all of a sudden, things started to move. Back in August, medicals, police checks um, payments. Yeah. And Richard said, you're in the queue. You'll get an email to hear about paying your Second VAC payment and that was back in January.

That was a large amount of money and no amount of help from Richard could help me with that payment, making it from overseas. Through PayPal eventually to the Australian government was horrendous. I've never felt so much stress ever, but it was done and two weeks later um, yeah, it, it was, [00:08:00] it was granted.

My visa was granted. What a

relief though, after all those years of waiting and all of that money and all of that sort of upheaval and confusion to finally have the

visa. In that time, obviously, before COVID, I was traveling backwards and forwards. Up until last year, I hadn't seen my family for two years.

sO yeah, I was back here for a six month visit. It wasn't planned to be that long, but it, it got extended for different reasons. But yeah, during that time, you know, I'm, I'm self funding any visits that I, that I have over here because on a tourist visa, you can't work. You couldn't even volunteer. Queensland services. So yeah, it was, it was eating into savings all the time and then obviously having to go back and find another job because each time I came for a long visit. I had to leave a job.

And very unsettling, very unsettling to be going from [00:09:00] two different places and not being settled in either.

That's

right. It just felt like I was treading water, literally. Yeah. So when

did you actually move out? Was it earlier this year? Yeah.

Yeah. So I traveled on the 30th of, no, I arrived here on the 30th of April had a week in Brisbane. My daughter was down there with my grandson and a

granddaughter. Because my, my grandson has a rare brain condition which we didn't know about until last year.

So I'd planned to fly out and meet them there while he was having more tests. So we just stayed the week and had a bit of downtime and. And then flew back up here I think it was around about the 5th or 6th of May and I've been here ever since.

Wow. And how lovely for you to be able to be there for the family and to be close to them while these tests are going on as well.

That really makes a difference for, for how much you're worrying about them and, and how much support you can give them and all of that. So that's right. Yeah. [00:10:00] Relieved. So you came over here. You've got settled, you've got your family, you're living with your daughter. What made you then decide to set up a business?

So because I'd been traveling in and out of Biloela for numerous years, um, back in, I can't remember when it was now. It was about five years ago. I think it was just before the COVID situation unfolded. I was out at the dam which is like a local body of water. I think back in the UK, we call them reservoirs or lakes, that the dams here in central Queensland.

And we'd hired a couple of old paddleboards from the Calide retreat there. And I'd had a couple of taster lessons back in the UK. So I kind of knew the basics and we were out there on this huge body of water and there was nobody else around. And I just thought, this is incredible, you know, back in the UK, there would be so many people [00:11:00] out there on the water, especially if it was a good day weather wise.

So yeah, I went back to the UK and I became absolutely hooked on paddle boarding and in many forms, mainly racing competitively and training for those races and. a Friend of mine said, why don't you apply for your Academy of Surf Instructors qualifications? And I'm going, no, no, no, I can't do that.

I'm not fit enough to do that because you have to take a fitness test as well as. Do all the qualifications and and he kept saying, Yes, you are. Yes, you can and all, you know so yeah, eventually he persuaded me just after restrictions were lifted in the UK to go through the qualification and him and I both passed right through to level two, which is, which means I can teach [00:12:00] an exposed area.

So like the coast on the ocean, you. Exposed areas, uh, as well as inland waters. So yeah, the, the, the seed was planted because with this ASI accreditation, you can travel the world with it.

I was going to say, how does it translate into Australia? Because I know that we have such a strange country here in that.

So every different state and territory has different rules and different laws. And it's almost like. If you move across the border to a different state in some occupations, you have to retrain completely or apply for a whole new license. But this is one that translates from the UK to anywhere in

the world to anywhere in the world.

Yeah, because it's actually an Australian. It was first set up for surfers accreditation. But then they've developed it into paddleboarding bodyboarding yoga, super yoga. So yeah, there's [00:13:00] qualifications for everything to do with.

Wow. And so how hard was it then? You've got your qualification, you've moved over to Australia, you decide you're gonna set up a business, teaching people how to paddleboard or renting out paddleboards. How, what does your, tell us a bit more about your

business. So so the idea to get the accreditation to be able to teach over here, um, was hope in the hope that I would get my permanent residency, which I did.

And in that time, the dam is still underutilized um, so I made inquiries with ASI, the Academy of Surf Instructors, to teach over here, and to be able to do that, you had to be a school, so four months of going through paperwork and setting up the school through ASI, it's been quite long winded, but I think, Ultimately, it's going to be worthwhile um, I had to obviously get in touch with the council, the local [00:14:00] council, to see if there was any permits are needed, Queensland Waterways or Sunwater, who is the governing body for the dams in central Queensland um, to see if it was going to be a viable, viable option.

This was even post setting up the school So it wasn't easy. I've never set up a business before. I didn't know what I was up against, but I knew ultimately it was a viable option because there was no other school around this area offering this type of service.

I love it though. You've just moved to a new country and then you're going to just, you've started fairly recently a new hobby that you've not been doing for that many years and then you decide to set up a new business when you've never done it before and you just, just go all in with all

of it.

Why not? I

mean, I've got a background of health and safety, office management, contract management. So, you know, there's kind of a lot of background there where I Had [00:15:00] a, an idea of who to contact and who to speak to, you know, the pro, not, I didn't know the process obviously because it's a strange country, but not, not a strange country, but a different country, different country.

Yeah. Yeah. And obviously the laws are different here. Then they are in the UK, but I always think that every day is a learning day and I've learned so much and made contact with so many people.

I was going to say, but it's a great way to meet people too. And I bet you've been networking and meeting people in business and in tourism and, and, and the clients that are kind of coming in and learning from you to learning to stand at paddleboard and so many different people.

So it must be really exciting.

From, from making that initial. Contact with Banana Shire Council. I had this random phone call from the Tourism Development Officer. saying I hear that you're, you know, going to set up a [00:16:00] paddleboard school. And I'm so excited that somebody's venturing into a new business to offer a service to the locals.

Cause it's quite limited to what's available out here. If you're not into horse riding or sports as in, Racket sports or footy or swimming as well. So yeah, they've, they've been out interviewed. They've done some drone footage of me paddling out the dam with my daughter and just waiting to see what that footage looks like now.

And Yeah, it's just that the contacts that are coming up, it's, it's unreal.

Oh, I love it. And stand up paddleboarding is such a lovely hobby to take up when you get over here because it can kind of suit all fitness levels or ages.

Like, and I know that we talked on, on a Facebook comment about how you'd listened to my podcast about overcoming homesickness.

And one of the things that I'd said in there was to. Get outside and enjoy and appreciate the [00:17:00] beautiful landscape that we've got here. And you were just sort of saying how paddleboarding can really help with that. It really gets you out in this beautiful scenery. It clears your head and you can really appreciate this lovely landscape that you're now living in.

Can you kind of share a little bit more about why Australia is such a great place to, to learn paddleboarding?

Yeah. So, you know, we live in central Queensland, it's the sunshine state. You know, it's very rare that we don't see the sun. It's warm. Even in wintertime for us, it was warm. And you know, paddle boarding.

It's a low impact. It's a good all around sport, as you've just said, for any age group, any level of fitness. And it's great, not just for body fitness, but for the mind and the soul as well. yOU know, it is. Whether you participate in the sport for well being, mindfulness or fitness, there's something there for everybody.[00:18:00]

It's just an incredible sport and just being in touch or being beside water in all its forms is therapeutic. You know, there's a scientific term, blue mind, which refers to the mildly meditative states we fall into when on, near or in the water. So, you know, paddle boarding gives you all of that option.

And like you were just saying before that whereas in the UK, if there was. A reservoir to go paddle boarding in, it would be packed, the car parking would be horrendous to try and get there on a sunny day, where you are, and, and lots of locations, they're just open and quiet, and you can just drive there, pack a picnic, pack a barbecue, go for a paddle, chill out, and be on your own in a bit more solitude.

You

can that, you know, obviously the only restrictions I had was to be able to set up that school and get the insurance and all the risk assessments sorted out. But for anybody who's learned to [00:19:00] paddleboard, you do have that freedom. Because again, here in Australia, you don't have to have a permit to go on these.

Dams, whereas in the UK, you do have to have permits or, you know, in the county that I lived in Northumberland, Northumbria water just wouldn't let you go on their reservoirs at all for safety reasons. So, yeah, the laws are very different out here, a lot, lot less restrictions in that

way. Are you touched on safety there?

Are there any safety issues that people do need to be mindful of with paddle boarding in Australia?

It's, it's, it's easier to predict here with the weather but we do get a lot of wind. So, wind is your, your biggest thing to, to think about. I never, or as a, as an ASI accreditation, accredited instructor, you don't teach in wind anything over 12 knots.

And that's simply [00:20:00] because you're standing on an inflatable paddleboard. And, you know, you could be taken out into the center of the dam, or if you're at the coast, you could be blown out to sea if you don't understand wind directions. So it isn't just about standing on the board and paddling. A lot of instruction is around safety, weather, understanding weather apps, understanding your local...

paddle area, you know, like I paddle out at the dam. If we had heavy rainfall, which isn't predicted for quite some time um, sun water, the governing body for the, the dam could potentially be letting water out of the dam, which would cause fast flow release of water. So, you know, there's things like that to consider you, you wouldn't go out in those conditions.

So, I'm in [00:21:00] contact with Sunwater if we have, um, sudden rainfall. Are they planning to do any work like this? There are exclusion zones around the Downwall. But on the whole, it's just understanding where you want to paddle, going in, looking how you're going to access the water. What does the water look like?

Is there blue green algae which grows as the sun gets hotter and water still? If it's fast flowing um, yeah, there's, there's so many different elements to, to paddle boarding. It's, the weather definitely is. Is a a big plus here because I've only got to think about the wind and maybe going out earlier in the morning before the sun gets to too hot.

Yeah, I was just going to say that that probably is also a danger of the sun because it gets so hot here and water and sort of reflecting the sunlight. That's [00:22:00] great. And lots of UV rash vests.

That's right, hats and all of stuff. But at least you don't have to wear a wetsuit, you know, back in the UK, you'd be wearing a five mil wetsuit by now.

And that becomes very restricting. I mean, that depends on how many times you anticipate falling off the board, but um, yeah, it's, it's just. It's just, it's just incredible to think that nobody is using the dam in that way. And, and that's why I knew it was a viable option to build the school.

Sure. So can you give any, give me some tips?

Like I'm really keen to, I've tried paddleboarding a couple of times. I love it. I'm thinking of getting an inflatable paddleboard. Can you give some tips to somebody like me who doesn't really know what they're doing, how to get started?

So you've just touched on there about the inflatable paddle boards.

Obviously, there's two types. There's the the hard [00:23:00] boards and inflatable boards. Inflatables are brilliant because they pack down into a rucksack. So if you park up near a body of water and you can't get the car near enough, at least you can put it on your back. You've got your pump, you just blow it up and you're all set to go.

for storage back, back at your property that's easy because it's, it sits under a bed, um, or in a cupboard. Whereas if you have a hardboard. You've got to be able to have the roof rails to put it on for transport or inside a van. You've got to have the storage back at your property the heavier to use.

So it depends, you know, what people want to do where they want to paddle, what they have. Location wise storage wise, transport wise um, there's so many different variations on puddle boards. So, so that's, that's down to thickness, um, [00:24:00] width, length. So part of a, a lesson, which, you know, if you're, if you're setting out to have, you know, to have sup as a, sup as in stand up paddle boarding as a hobby, it is definitely worth investing in lessons.

I think that is a must just to get understanding of how the board works, where the balance points are, why you Yeah. And, and. Like I've said before, standing on the board is, that's the easy bit. That's the easy bit, yeah. Yeah, it's

maneuvering and you know, being able to deal with objects that might be floating in the water, other water users, you know, because You do get the occasional water skier or wakeboarder or fisherman, and the last thing you want to be doing is heading head on with another water user and not be able to maneuver around them.

So definitely look at a few, few lessons to start with. [00:25:00] And The Academy of Surf Instructors, especially, especially on the coast in Queensland, there are a few schools, obviously for me here, I've got no competition, um, in central Queensland. So yeah, it's, it's just being able to test out. The different sizes and understand what you would require for your size, your weight, your ability.

And like I've said where you want to paddle is the main thing or how far you want to paddle. You know, you might just want to just sit there and, and meditate under the sun, in which case you don't really need anything too fancy. But then if you want to race or, you know, do race fitness. You need a different style of board.

So obviously in a lesson, you would be taught about the differences and, and why they're different. So yeah, you [00:26:00] know, you could look at an ASI school and, and see what's near you. If not, book yourself a holiday and come and visit me at Blue Therapy Sub, you know?

You need to run some paddle boarding retreats, I think.

Well, it would be good because just along where, from where I teach, there's a, there's the Calide Lake Retreat. So they have cabins, they have camping sites, and you know, it's a lovely quiet spot. You get the most beautiful sunsets, beautiful sunrises. Not that I'm up often enough for sunrises, but sunsets definitely.

So yeah, there's just, it's just something for everybody. I just, I just would, I just want the local community to be hooked on. Sup, like I am become a sup junkie, basically. And yeah, so that, so lessons actually kicked off at the weekend there. [00:27:00] We couldn't have asked for any more perfect conditions. The water was like glass.

There was no wind. It was just beautiful. It wasn't too hot because we went early morning and yeah, my clients had a fabulous time and they're coming back for more, which is even better. And I've been invited to run, scout camps as well. Oh,

yeah, that would be great. That would be really good. I can imagine my kids loving it as well.

So, yeah, we'll have to come and visit you sometime and do a lesson. That would be really good

fun. Yeah, because we can, you know, with kids, you can, they don't really want to. Paddle, they just want to stand on the board, jump off. And so we can play loads of different games with them. It's different teaching kids as it is to teaching adults.

And, but what I love about it is the people, a lot of the people getting in touch with me are women and older women [00:28:00] who haven't had the confidence to give this sport a try, but wanted to give the sport a try. And I, I think that's really good. really good because they get on the board and they realize that, Oh, I can't stand.

Oh, it's not as scary as I thought it would be. And, you know, they worry about their mobility, their fitness. And like I've said before, there's something for everybody. You can, you can cater for all, all kinds.

I'm, I'm sort of in that sort of campers in I'm mid forties and scared of breaking things now, like a broken arms and ribs and all kinds of things over different years of ice skating and doing random other thing, horse riding and all kinds of things.

So I know when my kids are trying to get me to do different sports and things, I'm always a little bit like now I don't really try different things in case I break something. So I think it's the idea of doing something that it's quite gentle and relaxing, but you can push yourself as much as you want to with it as

[00:29:00] well.

And that's how I got into it through a sporting injury here in Australia and my gran at Gap year, I was learning to kite surf, which is massive over here and something that I'd always wanted to try. But yeah, I, I damaged my wrist big time and ended up having surgery.

I always looked at kite surfers and thought it looked too scary for me.

try that.

Yes. I've never, I've never gone back to it. It's, it just fills me full of dread when I see those kites go up now, but it's beautiful to watch.

Yes, it is. It is for sure. When we first moved out, actually we rented a home for four weeks. It was right on the waterfront where all the kite surfers are.

At Brighton in North Brisbane. And it was just so cool watching them, but really quite scary. So have you got any tips for anybody who is thinking of moving to Australia and starting a business that maybe they've run a business before? Maybe they haven't. Have you got any kind of tips? Is it worth doing?

Do you, do you recommend just getting straight in there and [00:30:00] starting the business or finding a job first? Or what, what would you recommend?

So I've kind of done both. I have a job as well as running the school. I work in an outdoor shop called CQ Outdoors here in Biloela. It's under new ownership as of July and the, you know, the, straight away they were looking to expand into water sports.

So, you know, it's complementing my business. My business thoughts at the time and, um, setting up a new business. It was, it's strange because I've never ever thought about having my own business before. There's, there's too many paddleboard businesses in the UK, good ones, bad ones, and indifferent ones.

But I think for anybody's. If you, if you're passionate about something and you, you see a niche in the market, which obviously I did, the dam was and still is underutilized. [00:31:00] I, I, you know, I had, I could see there was a potential there. So it, it, it depends where you're, you're locating to in Australia as well.

You know, what, what have you got available? What are your qualifications? What are you passionate about? So yeah, it's just, Scoping it all out before you get here. I think a lot of people travel here on sponsorships, whereas for me as an aged parent. Piggybacking my daughter's uh, visa. It was a lot harder, um, to think, what am I going to do?

You know, I've got so much background, different, you know, working for different organizations. I was looking to have something that was going to see me through to. Older age, I'm old age now, but older age and paddle boarding definitely was the option.[00:32:00] Working in the store also is as well. You know everybody works well into the 70s over here, 80s and.

Understanding the superannuation when you get here, you might build up enough super to be able to retire here comfortably or anybody younger for that matter. Whereas for myself, I'm never going to have those years to build up my superannuation. So the superannuation is basically our old age pension back in the UK.

sO I had to find something that was, you know, I was going to be able to fund and still gain from financially going into future years. Yeah.

And also while enjoying it as well, because I think you've moved to a new country.

That's right. And still spending time, obviously with my grandchildren, my daughter, um, so it's [00:33:00] just getting that fine balance.

But for anybody, anybody moving over, do your homework first, follow Karen's smart steps to Australia. There's some fantastic information there. Make sure you do speak with a consultant first and look at all your options. But Think about your skills and whether you would be competing against too many people to set up that new business.

It's difficult because you don't know what's out there until you really get here. Or if you, like me, you've been traveling in and out for a number of years to understand what you could do, what you can't do, how you can do it. It's, it's not an easy, I'm not trying to put anybody off by [00:34:00] any way, shape or form, but yeah, do your homework, do your research.

I think

it's good to come out in a way and see where the land lies, kind of maybe find a job initially, figure out how it all sits and where you can fit into things. I always think that's quite a good idea. But then I also, I, Arrived and was working freelance and set up my website quite quickly. And when you've got a passion for something, you can just kind of go all in and get on with it.

But it's good to balance it as well. Like you did with the risk of, you've got your business, you've got your outdoor shop job as well, that kind of, they work together really nicely with one another. So it gives you that

stability. And it still gives me the freedom to help out with school runs, help out with school holidays.

You know, it's, it's so flexible. So it's a real win win situation. I would never have had that back in the UK.

No. And now back to that what tips would you give to somebody who is, maybe they're a parent who's got a child over in Australia, what would your tips be for them if they're [00:35:00] thinking about making the move permanently to Australia?

That's really

difficult. Like we touched on when we first started this conversation, the queuing times were 12 to 24 months. I was planning that move. I was planning that move before my granddaughter was even anywhere near kindy age. And it took seven years. We're now looking at, I think the queuing times near a 12 years.

on this particular visa. So yeah, start, start the process now. Things might change, the, you know, rules, regulations are changing all the time. The current queue in time is 12 years. And very expensive. So start saving unless you've got that pot of money. That's on the Contributory Parental Visa 143. There is another Visa [00:36:00] um, Aged Parent.

But I think that's something like a 30 year waiting. Processing time, you know, I mean, how can you plan, how can you plan that far ahead? Yeah. So I think that, I think ultimately they'll probably phase that one out because people just aren't going to be granted them. When I was applying for the, the one, four, three, a lot of people gave up the real, they gave up the weight, you know, the, the personal circumstances changed.

Financial status changed as well. Cause that's the big one. So yeah. It's, I feel sorry for any, any parents wanting to be out here. I, I didn't have to weigh up the family balance. I don't have family. any family back in the UK. I have a one daughter. So it was once the process started, it was easy.

It wasn't complicated because I didn't have to think about [00:37:00] any other, you know sons or daughters back in the UK or grandchildren for that matter. There's, there's such a lot to weigh up for people. So come out for visits. If you've got a huge pot of money.

If you don't use it, you'll lose it. You know, take time out to come and visit family and, and if you still, you know, wish to apply, get on, get on the waiting list. You know, I think things do change. Q And times last year did quicken up,

but now they had an allocation. Fortunately, I was within that allocation of how many visas they'll grant each year.

The queues now slowed down and I, you know, I belong to a Facebook group where people are still waiting to hear when people have heard and they're here and their application was. [00:38:00] Submitted at the same time. So I think the UK is easier than it seems to be from coming in from other countries.

That's just my perception. I don't know if that's right or not. But yeah, it's a very, very difficult process. And it's, it's one that you can only commence when or if your child has permanent residency here or citizenship status. Fortunately, my daughter had permanent residency way back when I was on my Grand Agap year.

She's since become a citizen. And, and that's something that I would progress to as well, but I've got to wait four

years. Well, that's been really, really helpful. We've covered so many different subjects there. So where can people go to find out about you and your business?

So I don't currently have a website, but that's not to say I won't build one in the future.

We'll just see how the school goes. [00:39:00] Ultimately the best way to find me is on Facebook. Through Blue Therapy Sub, so that's Blue Therapy S U P. And you'll find out lots of information. I'm trying to build lots of safety information into there as well as showing off beautiful pictures and um, and there's information on there with my phone number and email address.

And you can obviously message me through Facebook as well.

That's great. So I'll pop a link to that in the show notes as well, but yeah, thanks so much. It's been really fun talking to you today.

Thank you. And thanks for having me and yeah, come up for a visit. I'd love, I'd love for you to, to have a lesson, Archie.

I'll definitely add that to my traveling list. So thanks so much to Chris for sharing so much today. It was really inspiring to hear her story. I'm sure you'll agree. So if you enjoyed that, please do leave a positive review and I will pop. Chris's [00:40:00] details for her business in the show notes. So you can click through and send her a message, let her know that you listened today.

Ask her any questions you might've got on standup paddleboarding or about moving to central Queensland or about moving over on a parent visa. I'm sure she'd be really happy to hear from you. If you enjoyed today's episode, I would love for you to leave a positive review. That would be really great.

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