

COLOSSEUM CHRONICLE

TRAVEL EDITION



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Guest Editorial - Mr Brearley

Welcome to the first Colosseum Chronicle of the year. I'm writing this brief introduction as the weather has finally begun to change. Lowering skies, rain and colder weather are on the menu for all of us, but it was not long ago that we were all enjoying a restful break, free from exam or homework worries (or marking and planning worries!) and hopefully enjoying some sun and some new experiences. As a result, we have decided to turn this edition of our beloved *Chronicle* into a travel rag, where we can share our holiday experiences, recommend places and activities which we might not have been to or done before and start thinking about what new horizons, literal or otherwise that we would like to explore when the sun next comes out to play.

Enjoy!

Where to look:

- ◆ Everything you've heard about Australia is true! - Marco Minasi Smith. P1
- ◆ From Coast to Coast: Canada explored. – Anna Horrocks P2
- ◆ Paris in 90 words - Ashraf Azlan P2
- ◆ 'I want to Be in America' - Alizay Gaffar P3
- ◆ Camping vs Center Parcs...or even Southend! - Florence Price, Marcus Booth and Linus Mealey P3
- ◆ India: Why I keep going back - Mr Brearley P4
- ◆ Why Mr Lennard can't get enough of mountains... P4
- ◆ Poetry Prize P5
- ◆ Colosseum Focus Day report P6
- ◆ Colosseum Awards and Puzzle P7

'Everything you've heard about Australia is true.'

By Marco Minasi-Smith

Everything you've heard about Australia is true. That's what I learned when I spent my summer holiday there. You see strange creatures, like the stingray I saw swimming in a river. Nearby paddled six lazy pelicans with their pointy beaks. Other birds, like the Kookaburra, make mocking cries that never stop.

Kangaroos sit in the road at dawn. There are so few cars driving at night

in the Outback, they're not used to traffic. But if you do travel that way, you can turn a bend and there they are. Away from the street lights, the night is truly black. The stars shine out in a way they never can in London.

Even in the middle of their Winter - our Summer - you can still swim in the ocean and the sun is bright and hot. But the sun goes down very fast at night.

The Aussies are all sports mad. I saw a rugby match in Brisbane; the fans were all having a ball. People talk about rugby, Australian rules football and cricket all the time (especially when the beat England!).





Canada - From Coast to Coast

By Anna Horrocks

Canada is known for being a big place; it's the second largest country in the world after Russia. Two of its most famous cities are Toronto and Vancouver. They are over 1,000km apart but are still part of the same country. Since both of us spent the summer in the most popular cities in Canada and we both have spent many summers in them, meaning we know more than the simple tourist sites of the two places and good places around them.

For example in Toronto, you can do all of the simple tourist things like take a stroll along a short stretch of the longest street in the world or go to the CN tower and take one of the fastest elevators (around 25m/h) to the top to see a breath taking view of downtown and maybe catch a game of baseball, The Toronto Blue Jays or Canadian football, The Argonauts. Or maybe you just fly in for the annual festival that Drake hosts on the long weekend at the beginning of August. But some people don't think of going to the beach or to Fran's, a tradition-

al diner next to one of the largest shopping centres in the Toronto areas (Like a Toronto version of Brent Cross).

If you don't like the city scene it's always easy to drive a few hours away into the countryside. One particular spot favoured by some people is around Lake Muskoka; where large cottages, boats and a lot of water skiing and tubing takes place.

If something even more rural than that is your cup of tea then you can drive to Manitoulin Island where many families,

known to the local First Nations (Red Indians). You can also find out all about the colourful past the First Nations on the Island and if you are on the island for the long weekend at the beginning of August, you could attend a traditional pow-wow with a First Nation tribe. If you still want to go more back to nature you can drive to many of the parks such as Algonquin or Killarney where provided you are careful, you can canoe and camp as you please.



Lake Muskoka in Canada, 'where...a lot of water skiing and tubing takes place!'

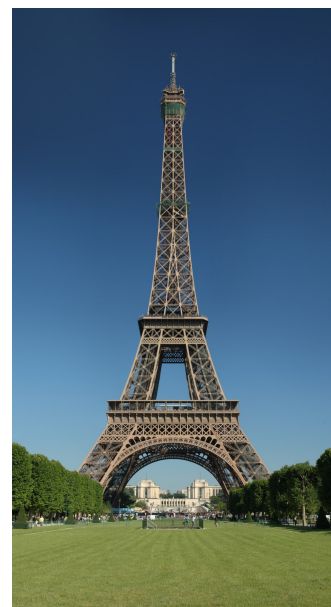
'...TAKE A STROLL ALONG A SHORT STRETCH OF THE LONGEST STREET IN THE WORLD OR GO TO THE CN TOWER AND TAKE ONE OF THE FASTEST ELEVATORS...TO THE TOP TO SEE A BREATH TAKING VIEW OF DOWNTOWN...'

Paris in 90 words!

By Ashraf Azlan

Paris is a very beautiful city with lots of places to see. On holidays its fun to go with family and friends, and it's quite close. Although Paris has a lot of places to see there are only a very few you HAVE to see. The most im-

portant place to see is the Eiffel Tower...everything else is a bonus. The best way to get the most out of Paris is via tour buses if you have very little time. It's only worth staying for a few days and no more.





'I want to be in America!'

By Alizay Gaffar

One bit of the holiday which was very fun was visiting some of the many Californian beaches. We visited Zuma beach, in Malibu, about halfway through the trip and spent the day in the sun in a great location. Later on in the visit we went to Huntington Beach, a beach located much closer to the heart of Los Angeles. Huntington Beach was packed with other tourists, out for the day, and our visit to the trip was followed by dinner at one of the restaurants nearby. Another thing which I particularly enjoyed about the holiday was visiting the safari park in San Diego. With my cousins, we drove for about an hour

and spent the day walking around and seeing a variety of animals from birds, to lions, and reptiles. One part which was exciting was being driven around in the tram, in which we saw even better animals including rhinos and giraffes.

On the last day we visited Downtown Disney, the area of Disney full of restaurants and shops. Since it was the very last night of what had been a wonderful holiday, at around 6PM we set off for Disney and when we got there we ate at an Italian restaurant, followed by a visit to one of the candy shops in the area, where I accidentally spent \$8 on M&Ms.

The most memorable part

of the holiday happened in a hotel in Napa Valley.

After a dinner out in the market of Napa, we got back to the hotel and fell asleep, only to be awoken at 3:20AM by what turned out to be the largest earthquake in California in 25 years. It turned out to be a 6.0 earthquake only 6 miles away! We awoke to the room rapidly moving forwards and backwards. I screamed and looked over at my brother who was looking around in fright, and after what seemed like the longest 30 seconds ever, and eventually all the guests in the hotel gathered in the lobby at around 4AM.

The most annoying thing on the trip, however, was



Walt Disney World—
Good for Italian food???

the journey to California. We only had 1 hour and 30 minutes of transfer time at Houston, from the first part to the second, and unfortunately we missed the flight. After a night's stay in Houston we set off the next morning and arrived in Los Angeles the next afternoon, where we then started our six hour drive north up to the Yosemite National Park.

Camping vs Center Parcs...or even Southend!

By Florence Clapcott, Marcus Booth and Linus Mealey

All of our holidays, camping, Centre Parcs and South End are activity based that involve enjoyable activities and things to do but they have there differences. Here you will find out which holiday is the one for you!

Centre Parcs

Centre Parcs is a fun activity centre for all ages. The main activities are quad bike skating swimming high ropes bmx and football. my number one activity would be high ropes. Because it was recommended

on the website and it was high adrenalin activity.

Camping

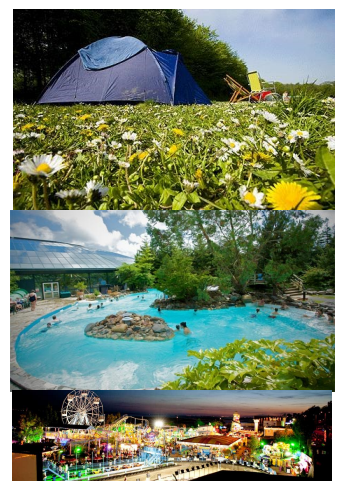
Camping may not seem like a holiday to some but, not all holidays are about relaxing on a beach in the sun! I went to the north of Wales you can swim in the sea and lakes and the sky at night is very clear, so star gazing is brilliant. The landscape is beautiful and so rural you can forget the city. I would recommend going with a big group of people so you can enjoy being together and

bonding over a fire, surrounded by incredible landscapes and stars!

South End

South End is a place where you can go to the beach, amusement park, or the arcade, the food is nice and it is fun overall, the worst part was the pebble beach because if you don't have shoes on you get stones in your feet.

Which is for you? You decide!



India: Why I keep going back - Mr Brearley

I was lucky enough to make my 6th trip back to India this summer. “6th?” I hear you asking, “why 6th? There are plenty of other places to go!” True. There are. But there is something about India, and in particular the bit of India which I have gone too so many times, that takes hold of you and won’t let you go. India is a country of colours, noises, sights and sensations that many people find overwhelming. It slaps you in the face, it tugs you by the hair (and occasionally has you running for the toilet!) but if you embrace the differences and go with the flow, India is magical!

“But what about the poverty? What about the dirt? Doesn’t that stop you from going?” In some ways they are the reasons I do go. I became involved in a school and orphanage in the countryside and it has become my home from home. What strikes me about the place is that I’ve been lucky enough to come across the most



12th Standard at Kings Matriculation High School, Vellore, Tamil Nadu

unbelievable, inspiring and humbling stories you will ever hear. A boy who was adopted into the orphanage at 6 weeks old, slept on concrete floors in 40 degree heat with no fan and has no knowledge of who his parents are, is now doing a PhD in Miami in the US! Another boy who was

found as a newborn baby on a rubbish heap being eaten by ants is now one of the happiest 10 year olds I know. Seeing these kids go on to become nurses, secretaries, electricians, engineers and university graduates should give us all hope for the future, no matter how tough life seems to be. Becoming a member of this community, for three weeks every year, is an incredible experience and an honour.

Why Mr Lennard can't get enough of the mountains...



We spend a few weeks every summer hiking in the Swiss Alps with family and friends. Just getting there can be an adventure in itself; an early-morning ferry, a long drive through France, a climb over the Jura plateau and then round Lake Geneva. Most of our hikes are sev-

eral hours long, although at least once a trip we will camp overnight in a mountain refuge as part of a 2 or 3 day circuit. We always take all our food with us. I’m responsible for lunch and everyone gets a baguette with the possibility of something they like inside it. Although

the Swiss are famous for watches and trains, food is not one of their strengths, and even I can make better lunch than can be found in the average mountain village!

Mountains in the summer can be truly magical places – very few people around, mind-boggling views, blue skies and warm weather – at the bottom anyway. I’ve had several trips starting in t-shirt and shorts and finishing above the snow-line in fleeces and crampons. We always try to plan a route that finishes near a lake –after several hours hard work, to jump in mirror-smooth water surrounded by snowy peaks can be the highlight of a day, if not rather cold. The highest peak we’ve climbed is Mont Fort, at 3,300m above sea-level, and we started at 1,700m. That was a long day.



Poetry Prize

A massive congratulations to Bella Waloschek who was one of the highly commended entrants in this year's John Betjeman Poetry Competition for Young People. She was one of six young people out of 2,200 entries to be selected to read her poem by the Betjeman Statue at King's Cross on National Poetry Day. She was presented with a prize of a £50 book token by John Betjeman's grandson. Bella has kindly given us permission to reprint her award-winning poem here.

Willow Tree Wishes

Remember when we hung our wishes,
From the pendulous branches of our willow tree,
With the patchwork ground beneath our feet,
In a land now so close, yet overseas,

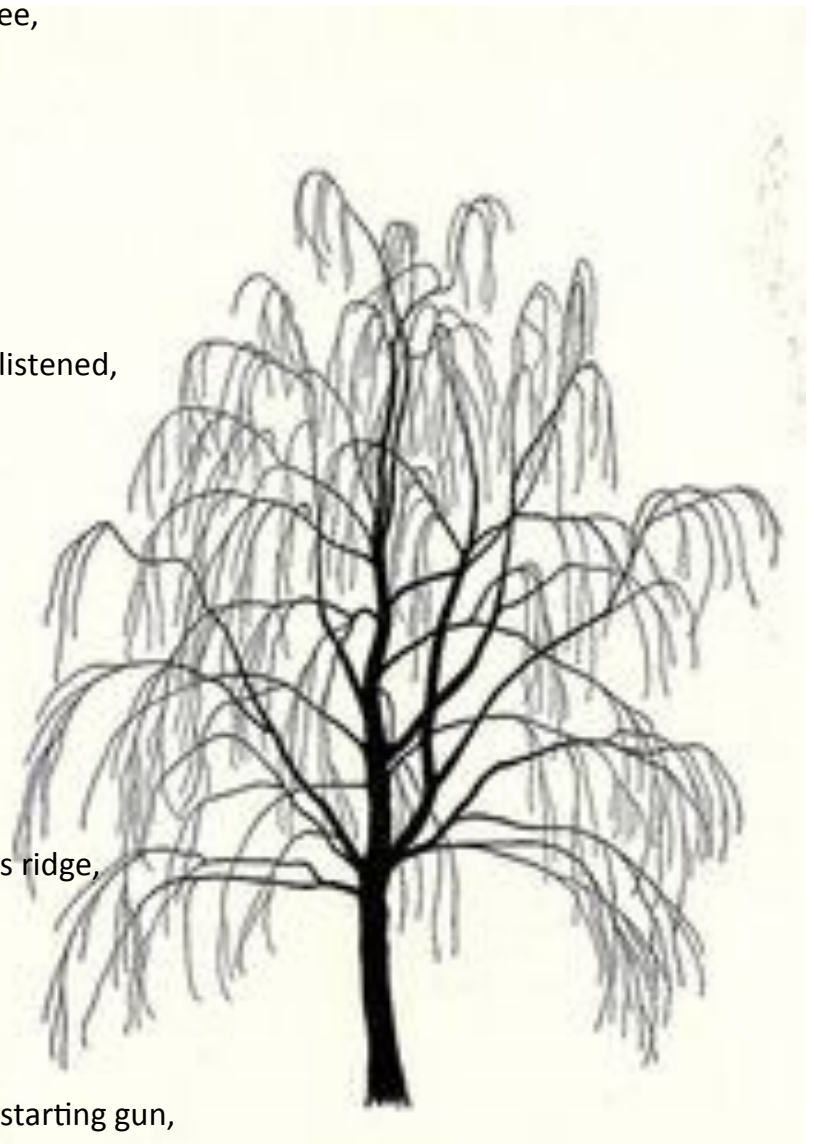
Remember the palatial silky night,
In it a thousand white grains glistened,
Washed up on the shores of our hearts,
And to the distant cordial tides of the sea, we listened,

Remember when we lay like mannequins,
On the lavish grass, by the inky creek,
As we let the pasty water colours of sunrise,
Unto the canvas, leak,

Remember how the sky was ours,
And how we rode across that rainbow bridge,
And threw coins to match the mood,
And watched the stars cross above that creek's ridge,

Remember the willow tree wishes,
And how the sky and the sea were one,
And the day rolled in from night,
And we raced each other to the silence of the starting gun,

Remember when we went,
With the moon on its home run,
On that same inky creek,
Where we owned the sun.



Phew! What a scorcher!

Some Like It Hot at Colosseum's Focus Day

Students basked in high heat on July 18th, the date of the Colosseum Focus Day. Undeterred by the sweltering conditions, 220 students arrived somewhere in a field in Hertfordshire for a day of competition and team building.

The morning began with a competitive dance-off between the forms. This was followed by the space hopper race, the giant sack race and the sumo-wrestler suit race.

By the time the foam inflatables were

brought out, getting wet seemed like a prize not a challenge. There were various races involving getting over a slippery slope, collecting the right yellow balls, and crawling through tunnels.

Congratulations to the winning form: Mr. Woolley's C2. Mr. Hawkes's C3 had to be satisfied with a second place.

Thanks to all parents and carers without whose payments we couldn't have run the day.



Charlie dons sumo suit assisted by Izzy and Joe.



Justin readies himself for the space hopper race.



Marcus readies himself for the challenge. Alex stands behind.



Tanya beats the foam to get the balls.



Joseph scales the inflatable



Leila is justly proud of her medal



Isra and Celie struggle to co-ordinate the giant sack.

Colosseum Awards 2014 — as voted by the students of Colosseum

Most likely to become Prime Minister: 1st Stanley Barrell-Kane; 2nd Anna Horrocks; 3rd: Justin Soetan

Most likely to compete in the Olympics: 1st Tamzin Sherzad; 2nd Joe Naylor; 3rd Miala Stroud-Brent

Most dedicated to Sport: 1st Carlos Simeon; 2nd Chloe Booth; 3rd Emilie Burns

Most dedicated to Music: 1st Seth Tackaberry ; 2nd Millie-Beth Wright; 3rd James Wilkins

Biggest Contribution to School Life: 1st Anna Horrocks; 2nd James Topping; 3rd Georgia Hunt

(Also nominated: Harry Murphy, Nabila Muse, James Wilkins and Doryan Sadi).



Anna Horrocks

And congratulations also to...

100% Attendance: Thomas Allsop; Alexis Psyllides; Charlie Roberts and Jason Soetan

Most money raised for charity: Ms. Bhambra's Form who raised £199.

Millionaire Readers: Grace Dishington, Charlie Roberts, Aitana Sola, Tom Trigg, Tilly Knowles, Sofia Porcaro and David Saipe.

Most vivos: Sofia Porcaro (an incredible 683).

Sports day 1sts: George Miles 100m; Chloe Booth long jump; Freya Barrett long jump; Florence Clapcott long jump.

Less Serious Awards:

Best Dressed: 1st Ellen Worrell; 2nd Matilda Clymer; 3rd Olivia Antoniazzi

Most likely to become a millionaire by the age of 30: 1st James Brett; 2nd Ashraf Azlan; 3rd James Topping.

Most likely to be in a boy / girl band: 1st Alex Worrell; 2nd Tom Skead; 3rd Alex Ormerod

Most likely to win an Oscar: 1st Isabelle Chapple, 2nd Henry Goodwin; 3rd Oliver Clymer.



Famous Family Resort

By Sadaaf Mirzai and Grace Dishington

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ABOUT
CIRCUS
HILTON
MED
RESORT
SPA
TREESORT
WAIKOLQA

AND
CLUB
IXTAPA
OUT
SKI
SUMMER
VERDE

ATLANTIS
COSTA
KINGSMILL
RANCH
SNOWBIRD
TANQUE
VILLAGE