

OzBlog

G'day ...

On 31st March 1988 I left my very first school where I had worked as a teacher (and loved it!): Taverham High School, just outside Norwich. I said my goodbyes to children, parents and colleagues and moved on (to Winifred Holtby School in Hull). One of the colleagues I said goodbye to was Keith Bartley, Senior Teacher. 24 ½ years later, on 3rd September 2012 in Adelaide, Australia, I said hello again to Keith who, via Northamptonshire, Rutland, Oxfordshire, Ofsted and the General Teaching Council, is the current Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Child Development in South Australia. It really is not as big a world as we think ..! (Although Oz is not exactly little either!)



CU Australia in colours ...

In partnership with the University of Adelaide, the Department of Education and Child Development in South Australia alongside a good number of other interested parties are now looking to develop, establish and implement the CU Trust Australia to lead on the Children's University 'down-under'. CU Adelaide will be the starting point ... very very very soon!



The other partners include the Art Gallery of South Australia where I witnessed a brilliant event on Sunday 2nd September: START ... art for kids and mums and dads – the event was truly inspiring not least because of the contribution of all the wonderful volunteers and their big big smiles! Little Henri Matisse (ages 6) was also there with his mum and dad ...



Guess what Henri gets up to on a Sunday ...

Others? From the Museum of South Australia to the Tattoo Gallery and from the Migration Museum to the gum trees, Adelaide Zoo and the Cleveland Wildlife Park with its kangaroos and koalas ...



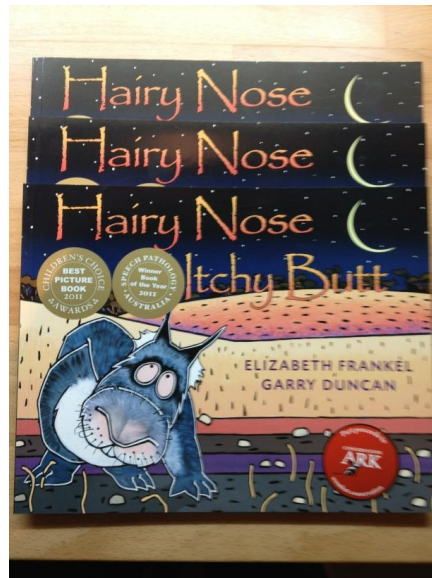
The cute and cuddly one is on the left ...

The 2nd September was also Father's Day – a really big thing of family and loving in Australia and not so much a commercial enterprise ...



Take note ... I emailed this to my two!! No response as yet...

I stayed at the Kathleen Lumley College, not far from Adelaide city centre and not far from the Adelaide Zoo as I discovered: I left the bedroom window open on my first night and thought for a minute that the gibbons were just outside and indigenous to South Australia!



From the gift shop at Adelaide Zoo

One of the highlights was my visit to Mark Oliphant College where Lynne Symons is the Principal and with Grahame and colleagues runs a school from 'birth to adulthood' which has more than its fair share of awe and wonder..! And wonderful young people of course!!



At Mark Oliphant College

And then the deed was done: one day people will remember the 3rd September 2012 as the day that the talking stopped and the walking started ... CU Adelaide and CU Australia!!



The first CU Australia meeting..! Keith is wearing the red tie!

Normal blogging will soon resume but I wanted to share this special *OzBlog* ... because it is special! We will be seeing a lot of Kiri and Sally, Tanya and Rod and Lynne and Grahame and Paul ... and Keith of course! We will be seeing them at our 2012 national conference and at our House of Lords reception in January 2013 ... We will be working with them, learning from them and listening to their stories ... about kids and learning, about lectures and jokes, about what worked and what could have gone a bit better and about what's next!

And, in our heads and hearts, we already are at the first CU Australia graduation in December 2013 in the University of Adelaide's Bonython Hall ... full of children and mums and dads, brothers and sisters and friends, grannies and granddads, pride and the sweet smell of success!!!

My thanks to all the wonderful people who we are already working with and the fabulous kids I had the privilege to meet and I for one can't wait until the next time ... thanks mates! And good to see you again Keith!



Bonython Hall, the University of Adelaide

... and TTFN!

J.W.