

## Perth, Fair Dinkum Blue

by Simon Puffett Oct' 2010

Travellers consider it to be common knowledge and culturally good etiquette to learn several customary phrases and perhaps a national past-time or two from the foreign land you will reside in for a spell.

However there is always an exception to the rule... NZ & Australia have enjoyed a long and prolific history in Trans-Tasman rivalry. Common place are the well placed elbows for the occasional ribbing, jovial sporting jibes and good ol'fashion put-downs at the humorous expense of the other nation. Then of course are the frequent blatant attempts at claiming ownership over our national icons like Split Enz, Crowded House, Phar Lap and that most heavenly creation of all time... the Pavlova.

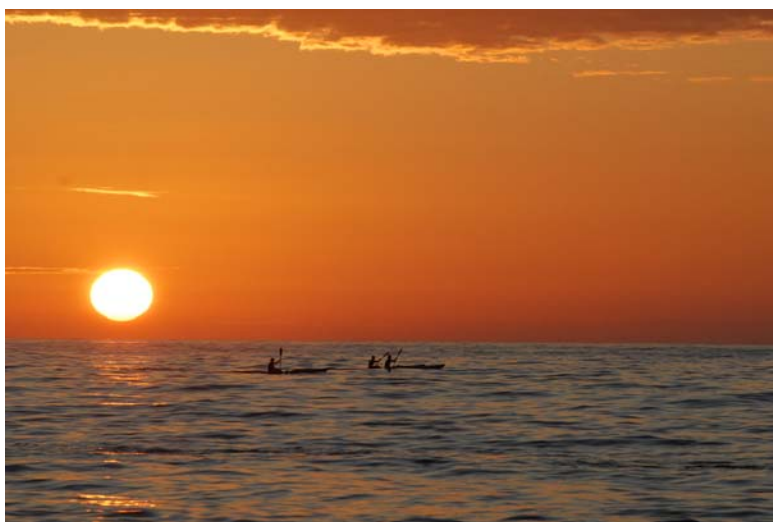
Sadly our two year stay in London had come to an end, our options were discussed and the decision was made to move a little closer to home. Perth Western Australia it was to be, although still seven hours flight time away.



Certainly some interesting creatures here!

Initially we envisaged Perth to be very similar if not more so the metropolised upbeat city compared to Auckland. In fact even with the larger population of two million Perth is still a surprisingly quieter city. Inconveniently shopping hours are restricted on Sunday's like NZ in the nineteen eighties but thankfully Perth has a marvellous public infrastructure that can be credited to past mining booms and current tax regimes.

One of the biggest draw cards is the weather. It's wonderfully sunny and almost fantastic on a daily basis and yet with the odd winter-like reminder dropping the day's temperature down to 22 degrees and teeth chattering 15 degrees at night...Brrr



Every sunset a picture post card at Cottesloe Beach Perth W.A

For young families and retiree's with outdoor interests Perth is a great place to reside. You can enjoy tennis, cycling, golf, kayaking, lawn bowls and fly swatting to name a few. The latter of which I believe should be recognised as a national sport. At first glimpse on arrival you'd be lulled into thinking that everyone is super over the top small town friendly as they appear to be waving to all in sundry. Alas closer scrutiny reveals people are simply trying their best to ward off or dislodge the numerous flies whenever they venture out on a 30+ degree day. Note to self buy, borrow or steal a hat with corks before summer arrives.

On a brighter and more exciting note is Perth's close proximity to Asia, especially if you are fond of inflicting maximum fiscal damage via retail therapy or relish short term excursions exploring new destinations during the long weekends. Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia are just a few destinations that are a miniscule 4 1/2 hour hop by plane.

# AIKIDO SHINRYUKAN

NEW ZEALAND AIKIKAI HEADQUARTERS



Seichi Sugano Sensei  
DEC 1939 - AUG 2010

While living here in Perth I have been training with the W.A Aikikai led by Hugh Derham Sensei 6<sup>th</sup> Dan. Hugh Sensei possesses a wealth of Aikido knowledge from dedicating over forty years of study to Seichi Sugano Sensei 8<sup>th</sup> Dan.

The Dojo is a real family affair with two of Hugh Sensei's sons Tristan 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan & Luke 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan giving much of their time to training and developing the Dojo. Both Luke and Tristan have studied under Seichi Sugano Sensei and Yoshimitsu Yamada Sensei at the

New York Aikikai as live-in students for one year. Together they and a supporting group of Yudansha bring solid experience and skill to the mat, with fellow members making the atmosphere fun and humorous.

The commitment displayed by all to Sugano Sensei who unfortunately passed away recently is a clear indication of the direction Aiki-Kai Australia will continue to promote Aikido across this vast country.



Hugh Derham Sensei



Hugh Sensei



Luke

Simon

Tristan



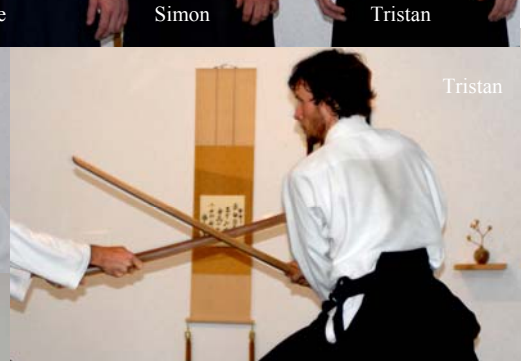
Nick



Brian



Deva



Tristan



Rheinhart



Daniel



Lionel



Ali



Daniel



Tony