

# SERVA AUSTRALIA

August 2013

## A message from our President, Geoff Sheldon Servas is not a charity, but.....

There is nothing in the rules of Servas Australia Inc. or of Servas International that describes our organisations as charities. Our rules don't provide for Servas Australia to make donations to charities, although we do maintain a "development fund" from which our rules permit us to make contributions to help get new Servas organisations going in less developed countries. The Australian Taxation Office does not treat Servas as a charity, neither for taxing our corporate earnings nor for allowing our members tax deductions for their membership fees or donations. A Commonwealth working party is about to hand down recommendations to redefine "charity" for those and other purposes. I and many other individuals have recommended that the definition of "charity" under Australian legislation be broadened to include organisations whose main purpose is to build peace around the world. That strikes me as a very charitable thing to do. However, what has been seen so far from the working party interim reports suggests it is unlikely that "peace" and "charity" are going to be included under the same legislative heading.

None of this means that individual Servas members do not often act charitably when opportunities arise. Servas Australia may not be authorised to make charitable donations, but our members most certainly can, and Servas can help them to do so. On a few past occasions, in support of urgent charitable need in other countries, Servas Australia has coordinated collection of donations from Australian members and transmission of those funds to Servas organisations overseas to support their local charitable needs. The centralised approach greatly simplifies the international funds transmission process, and cuts down on bank fees and the high overhead costs that burden so many large charitable institutions. In this way, Australian Servas members have helped flood victims in Pakistan and provided funds and equipment for small scale business start-up in Cambodia.

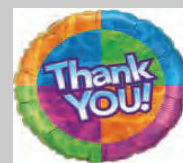
Very often, opportunities for individual acts of charity arise through host and traveller contacts between Servas members. The recent experiences of Servas Australia members on SYLE visits to Malawi (see page 2 of this newsletter) have thrown light on one such opportunity. Prisoners in the female section of the main Malawi prison are in urgent need of mats and blankets. It is cold, cold, cold in Malawi in August. Just a few dollars can provide much needed winter warmth.

Getting international money through the Malawi banking system is no simple task. If you wish to support the Malawi cause, rather than send your personal donations direct to Servas Malawi and incur the fees and paperwork burden yourself, I encourage you to send your donation to Servas Australia Inc, with the reference "Malawi" on the Paypal or direct debit authority. Our Treasurer will then arrange a single, consolidated funds transfer.



*Open Doors Throughout The World*

**In this issue:**  
**2013 Peace Picnics**  
**dates**



*Thank you to everyone for their contributions and input to the newsletter.*

*Its great to hear about Servas news from home and abroad.*

*A BIG thank you to Helen and Charlie Adam for folding and posting to hosts and Gil Webster for printing of labels.*

*This newsletter is intended to provide a communication forum for SERVAS Australia members. The content, collation and distribution is undertaken by SERVAS members for SERVAS members.*

#### NEXT ISSUE

Submissions Close: 31 October 2013 Distributed: November 2013

#### SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are welcome from members. Emails (word documents and high resolution photos via attachment) are preferred. Contributions are subject to approval and size restrictions. Sorry, late contributions may have to wait until the following edition. Newsletters are compiled in February, May, August and November.

#### DISTRIBUTION

The Newsletter is distributed to all members by post and email.

#### NEWSLETTER CONTACT DETAILS

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#### DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to ensure information is correct at the time of printing, however no responsibility will be accepted for misinformation. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of SERVAS Australia or the Newsletter Editor.

## Membership Categories and Fees

### Hosts:

- Pay a joining fee of \$25 which is placed in the Development Fund and used to assist with the development of Servas in less developed countries.
- Pay an annual membership renewal fee of \$20.
- Receive newsletters in February, May, August and November
- Receive a Host List book containing details of hosts.

### Travellers:

- All travellers, including hosts, must contact their State Travel Officer to obtain a Letter of Introduction. Australian hosts do not need a LOI when travelling within Australia.
- Hosts pay \$50 per person for a Letter of Introduction.
- Travellers who are not hosts pay \$100 per person for a Letter of Introduction.
- A Letter of Introduction is valid for 12 months.

## Servas.org.au



**There is a very easy way to keep up to date with new additions to the Servas website.**

Click on the following link: [servas.org.au/category/featured/](http://servas.org.au/category/featured/) and scroll down to under "Recent Posts" where there is the following **"Notify me of new posts by email**

Your email:" Fill in your email address and you will receive a notification by email whenever there is a change made.

If you haven't visited the website for a while I suggest you have a good look around. There are lots of newsletters from other Servas groups and SI. Under "People" there are some interesting travellers tales including the reports of the Argentinian SYLE visit to Australia and the Australian SYLE visit to Malawi, just to name a few.

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## Looking for a new Editor...

After 5 years 'on the job' I would like to give someone else the opportunity to keep hosts up-to-date with Servas activities in Australia and abroad.

The newsletter is currently produced in MS Publisher and basic computer skills will be all you need. It is mostly cutting and pasting from emails. Very kind hosts volunteer to fold and post the newsletter after it has been copied, usually at Officeworks, or such. A pdf version is sent to the membership officer who emails the newsletter to those who have chosen an electronic version. Newsletters are compiled in February, May, August and November.

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## Malawi: SYLE volunteers, a new venture

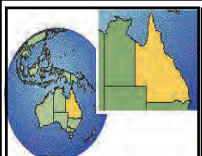
In March, Demelza, National Secretary in Malawi, sent a message about Servas volunteers going to Malawi.

In an attempt to encourage more Servas travellers to their country, Servas Malawi has created a volunteer version of the youth SYLE language programme. In the project, a Servas Traveller comes and spends the first 2 weeks with 7 hosts explaining to them hosting and travelling with Servas and giving a presentation about their country. They then spend 1-2 weeks with longer stay hosts and carry out voluntary work on each day of the stay. Our first SYLE-volunteer will be working with the Blantyre blood donation centre, collecting much needed testimonies from blood receivers. Our next volunteer from Australia worked in rural areas, creating a practical language programme followed by 2 weeks teaching at our local prison. Anyone interested in trying the same idea, contact Demelza Benbow. Follow the links below for more information.

<http://servas.org.au/june-2013/>

<http://servas.org.au/june-update/>

The Malawi update talks about Marian Mandeville from Australia who has just spent 6 weeks in Malawi as an adult SYLE exchange person.



## Queensland News

### Introducing our new Queensland

#### Host Co-ordinator...

Hi ! My name is Bev Wilkins, my husband John and I have been associated with Servas since we joined as travellers in 2004. We travelled for the whole of 2005 and stayed with Servas Hosts in America, Canada, England, Ireland, several European countries and Turkey. We were hooked, loved the Servas experience, made wonderful friends, fantastic memories and couldn't wait to return to Australia to build our new home and become Servas Hosts to as many travellers who wanted to come!

We live at Witta which is about 8km from Maleny in the beautiful Sunshine Coast Hinterland. John is retired and spends his days happily restoring and riding old motor-bikes. I have a casual job with Sunshine Coast Council Libraries, mainly working at the Maleny Branch. This gives us the flexibility to travel which we do in Australia with our 4wd and caravan and we also like overseas travel. We have just been to Bali for two weeks for our daughter's wedding on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. We also went to Myanmar (a fascinating country) in March for our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. There is only one Servas Host in Myanmar and we were fortunate enough to be able to have dinner with Mabel and her daughter Soung on our last night in Yangon. We arrived at their home at around 3pm and spent the afternoon and evening talking and Soung drove us to the airport at around 9pm. Another magical Servas experience.

John and I have two daughters who are now both married, are fortunate to have a wonderful life and are glad to be involved with and making new friends within the Servas family.

### Queensland News

In South East Queensland we hold 3 lunch time meetings and four pub nights each year.

Our lunch meetings are held at the home of one of our Hosts. We bring food to share, exchange experiences and just enjoy each others company.

Our July lunch was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> July at the home of Allan & Diann Sirrett on beautiful Bribie Island. It was a gorgeous sunny day , we had 22 Hosts as well as 2 visiting families, one from South Korea and one from Taiwan.

The Sunshine Coast group had a lovely picnic at Coolum on the 14<sup>th</sup> July with 10 people in attendance, again thanks to Tony and Helen Mitchellhill for co-ordinating this event.

The last Pub Night was in May and 19 people attended, always a good night.

#### Welcome to New Hosts

A warm welcome to two new hosts since the last Newsletter

**Lesley Orr & Andrew Johnson,**  
2/16 Cypress Terrace, Palm Beach 4221  
ph 0408 987 992 email: lesley\_orr0420@hotmail.com

#### **Bob & Anne Maczkowiack**

77 Coutts Drive  
Burpengary 4505

ph 07 3888 1869 rimacz@gmail.com

We also have had new enquiries, one from Townsville and another from Rockhampton, so look forward to hearing back from them.

#### New Contact Details.

Please note new contact details for Carol De Visser page 52. ( 2013 list) New phone 0434 996 100 home number no longer current, also new email caroldv@me.com

#### Dates to Remember

**21<sup>st</sup> August** Pub night at the Irish Club. 175 Elizabeth Street Brisbane from 6pm onward. We welcome Hosts, Travellers and Friends.

**21<sup>st</sup> September** Peace Picnic—Manly Foreshore from 11am. Bring food to share, friends and family.

**17<sup>th</sup> November** Lunch at the home of Marian Mandeville (page 47 - 2013 Host List) 22 Arabella Street Bardon ph 3369 6054 marmandeville@gmail.com Marian has been in Malawi with the SYLE program so we look forward to hearing all about it. Please RSVP to Marian.

Bev Wilkins - Qld Host Coordinator

e: qldhosts@servas.org.au | p: 07 54944302



## New South Wales News

The first NSW get-together was a very warm and friendly lunch at the home of Neryle and Geoff Sheldon on Sunday 21 July. Seventeen people enjoyed very lively conversation and excellent food. Long-serving German hosts, Christiane and Ludwig, who are here on a year teaching exchange, were delighted to meet so many Aussie hosts.

#### **Peace Picnic**

Our third Peace Picnic will be at Balmoral Beach on Saturday 21 September. Thanks again to Valerie Orton for going early to claim a good table in a beautiful location. We hope the wind will not be quite so nippy this year.

#### **November Get-together**

Host Patricia Bernard has kindly offered to have our third get-together for the year at her house on **Sunday 24 November, 54 Birrell Street, Queens Park**. Her house is only two blocks from Bondi Junction train station. For assistance with transport to all get-togethers please feel free to contact me.

Neryle Sheldon (NSW Host Coordinator)



## Tasmania News

Our last shared lunch in June was well attended and it was fun to swap travel stories of members and guests we have hosted.

Those who attended all expressed a wish for more travellers but we have had visitors from Spain and Sweden as well some fellow hosts from other parts of Australia.

The next gathering will be our Peace Picnic BBQ on Sunday 22 September at the Waterworks Reserve at 12 noon. Meet at Site 2 which has a covered hut, gas BBQ and is close to the children's playground.

Family and Friends Welcome.- Today more than ever we need to spread the message of peace and friendship in Australia!

Barbara Mawson (Tasmania Host Co-ordinator)

## Peace News



International Peace Day is celebrated on 21st September. Following are details for 2013 Peace Picnics in each state.

Please let me know of any upcoming Peace events in your state or any Peace activities you have heard about or been involved with.

Is there anyone in WA who is prepared to arrange a time and a place on the 21st Sept. for a Peace Picnic?

I have recently heard of an activity which sounded very interesting. Some of you may like to try it and I would be very interested to hear your thoughts and how it went. The host for the meeting chose 3 or 4 "TEDsTALKS (u tube) with an appropriate topic eg Peace. Apparently the talks are 10-15 mins and they discussed each one after playing it through. I'm sure we could learn a lot from such an exercise. Who will 'give it a go'?

Gwen Gregg (Peace Secretary)



# 2013 PEACE PICNICS

## South Australia

Sunday 22 September

By the boating pond in Bonython Park opposite Coca-Cola on Port Road. BYO food and a chair. There is a very popular BBQ about 2 mins. away.

RSVP to Charlie: charlieadam999@gmail.com or ph 8272 2870

## Victoria

Saturday 21 September

**Country** —Drouin Civic Park from 11-3pm. There are BBQs available and a wet weather venue has also been sourced if needed.

**City** — Civic Park, Warragul from 11am wet weather venue, yet to be advised.

Contact Marg Desira for more information

## Tasmania

Sunday 22 September

Waterworks Reserve at 12 noon. Meet at site 2 which has a covered hut, gas BBQ and is close to the children's playground.

Family and Friends Welcome.- Today more than ever we need to spread the message of peace and friendship in Australia!

Barbara Mawson (Tasmania Host Coordinator)

## Queensland

Saturday 21 September

Manly Foreshore from 11am. Please bring food to share, friends and family

Sunshine Coast—check with Helen & Tony Mitchelhill

## New South Wales

Saturday 21 September

Balmoral Beach,

contact Neryle (02 94876073) for more information

## ACT

Saturday 21 September

Servas members and friends are invited to meet

(weather permitting) at Nara Peace Park within Lennox Gardens, Yarralumla (behind the Hyatt Hotel) at noon. Bring along a plate to share.

Look for the picnic table sporting the Servas banner.

Contact: Robyn and Gerry 0404 849 291

## Upcoming Peace Activities in Queensland

### **Multi-Faith Centre**

The Multi-Faith Centre at Griffith University Nathan Campus has a new Reading & Reflection (R&R) Room. "Filled with comfortable chairs in quiet nooks and overlooking the serene Toohey Forest, this is a great spot to get away from your many distractions for a few minutes each day and lose yourself in the many resources on offer." At the moment, it is featuring a student photographic exhibition: 'Bangladesh: Stories of a young nation'. These beautiful, moving photos are part of a collaborative project between Griffith University students and their counterparts in Bangladesh.

### **EVENTS UPDATE**

#### **Sunday 25 August**

BWCP Committee member Carole Powell will share and reflect on her experience as a member of a **Christian Peacemaker Team in Palestine-Israel**. All members, friends and other interested women welcome. Carole's presentation will be followed by a dialogue and afternoon tea.

**Venue & time:** Justice Place,  
5 Abingdon St, Woolloongabba, 2 – 4pm.

#### **Saturday 31 August**

The leaders of this year's **BWCP Annual Retreat** will be two members of a group who practice **Dances of Universal Peace**, involving movement and reflection based on prayers of different faith traditions. Members or contacts with girls or small children are welcome to bring them. The cost will be a flat rate of \$10 per person. We will have a shared picnic lunch, and tea and coffee will be provided. A separate notice will be sent out to invite registration for the retreat and provide additional information.

**Venue & time:** Mercy Centre,  
371 Simpsons Rd, Bardon, 10am – 4pm.

#### **Saturday 21 September**

As part of this year's International Day of Peace commemorations, the winner's of **BWCP's "Portraits of Peace" photographic competition** will be announced. The plan is to display the entries in two venues: the Multi-Faith Centre and St John's Cathedral, in conjunction with the IDP event there (see details below).

**Venues & times:** To be confirmed.

#### **Sunday 20 October**

**BWCP Annual General Meeting**, with a special guest speaker.

**Venue & time:** Justice Place,  
5 Abingdon St, Woolloongabba, 1.30 – 4.00pm.

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

#### **Wednesday 28 August**

In the lead up to the federal election, the Ethnic Communities Council of Qld (ECCQ) has organised a debate on **"Multiculturalism+Political Leadership=The Lucky Country"**, to enable the public to understand where the

political parties stand on issues such as access and equity, cultural diversity, social inclusion and immigration. Panel members include: Teresa Gambaro, MP from the LNP; Senator Claire Moore from the Labor Party; Rachael Jacobs from The Greens and Connie Cicchini from the Katter's Australian Party. Questions for the panel can be sent in advance to [administration@eccq.com.au](mailto:administration@eccq.com.au). Drinks and canapés will be served. Cost per person \$20. Registrations close 20 August. To register go to

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=9888>

**Venue & time:** Riverside Receptions,  
50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm, 5.30 – 7.30pm.

#### **Saturday 21 September**

Commemorating the United Nations **International Day of Peace**, this year's Brisbane Peace Lecture will be delivered by the Hon Michael Kirby AC, CMG. Former High Court Judge 1996-2009, and leading UN Human Rights Council three-member team investigating human rights abuse in North Korea. The Peace Lecture will enable Brisbane citizens to join with people all over the world to support the struggle for justice and promote peace. The program will include the Combined Union Choir and the WILPF Performers for Peace. All welcome. Supper provided. **Limited numbers, RSVP essential.** Phone 3254 1096 or email: [unaaqld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:unaaqld@optusnet.com.au).

**Venue & time:** St John's Cathedral,  
373 Ann St, Brisbane, from 4.00pm.

#### **Wednesday 30 & Thursday 31 October**

**International Religion Journalism Symposium**, co-sponsored by the Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre and the International Association of Religion Journalists. Join journalists, faith leaders, and opinion makers from around the world for two days of discussion about the role of religion in the media. It will include such issues as religious freedom, human rights, and inter-religious relations, as well as the reporting and analysis of religion as it relates to the political and social realities of specific regions, religions and issues. For more information on the speakers and program or to register phone Ricky 3735 7052 or go to <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/international-symposium-on-religion-journalism>.

**Venue:** Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University, Nathan Campus.

Believing Women for a Culture of Peace  
c/o Wendy Flannery, Coordinator  
84 Park Rd, Woolloongabba, QLD 4102

Tel: 07-3844 1950 (Home)

07-3393 2840 (Office)

Mob: 0439 771 692

Email: [wendy.flannery@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.flannery@gmail.com)



## Welcome to new hosts...

John Sandilands, St Mary's, Tasmania  
Peter & Gisele Nicholls, Chinderah, NSW  
Fiona Baillie and Rosco Taylor, Sandy Bay, Tasmania

*A warm welcome and may you enjoy  
many rewarding Servas experiences*

## Travellers

### Tales



Last year I spent a three month period working on organic farms in rural France. On my way to farm destinations I was able to make use of two Servas hosts: Nicole and Georges Blot near Chateauroux and Marion Deltheil in Toulouse. Both households were very busy with work but were wonderful hosts to me, arranging to meet me or send friends to the station to greet me and making sure I was comfortable in my accommodation. Marion took me to an art exhibition at a chateau and helped me organise visits to many of the wonderful sites in Toulouse. I have had ongoing communication with the Blots as Nicole is now planning to try some Servas visiting herself in Australia. (I have inspired her!). I got on very well with my Servas hosts and we found we had lots in common though we were somewhat hampered by our limitations in each others' language. I did try to contact a few other hosts for times when I was passing through Brive and Toulouse but found a number in July /August were also away on holidays.



Janice Newton



## Overseas Servas gatherings ...

*There are many opportunities to attend overseas Servas gatherings. These are advertised on our website [servas.org.au](http://servas.org.au) in the Featured Posts area. Servas travellers and hosts should look there if they are planning an overseas trip and would like to attend a Servas meeting in another country.*

### Servas 7th East Asia Meeting

15-17 November 2013

Guangzhou, China

(1.5 hrs by train from Hong Kong)

For more details visit [servas.org.au](http://servas.org.au) or contact our Secretary, Pam Webster



## New Zealand Servas hosts enjoy their taste of Queensland

Having been Servas hosts in New Zealand for 13 years and explored our country thoroughly by camper-van, Leon and I were keen to likewise spend time travelling Australia by campervan, visiting Servas hosts along the way, especially new hosts and those wanting more travellers. Pension requirements restrict us to only six months abroad in any one year (if you want your full entitlement), so we decided to start off finding out why the grey nomads find Queensland so attractive in winter.

We bought ourselves a Ford Transit Hi-top in Brisbane, fitted it out ourselves and embarked on a 7000+ klm circuit from Brisbane to Charleville, Longreach, Mt. Isa, Karumba, Atherton Tablelands, Cooktown and then back down the coast to Brisbane with several excursions inland.

We have found our Servas hosts absolutely marvellous. Their hospitality as warm as the weather. In Toowoomba we helped Derek and Annette Curnow distribute left-over bakery bread to the needy, while the limes we gave them magically transformed into a jar of marmalade for us overnight. In Longreach, Lenore and Gerry Roberts surprised us by telling us we were the first Servas guests they'd had in 2 years. Gerry's bees donated us a jar of honey, as did Paul and Jane Rodwell's in Ravenshoe. In Townsville, Rita Luebke and Matt Way left us in charge of their home for 5 days after one night together while they visited relatives in Cairns. We were able to link into their social network when a friend of theirs took us circle dancing one night, too. Cooking them a meal on their return home was the least we could do for them. In Mackay, Mark and Yessica Radke's young family took us back to when our children were a similar age and we started hosting to broaden their horizons by bringing the world to them.

Our latest hosts, Julienne and David Brimblecombe have given us the opportunity to experience what its like to leave the highway and visit a mixed grain and beef farm. Having grown up on a New Zealand dairy farm, I was intrigued to see how high-tech the farm machinery has become, and to learn that the Chinese are buying up sorghum to turn into liquor.

Ironically so far we haven't visited any new Servas hosts or ones requesting more travellers, but I guess there's still time... We have the rest of Australia to visit over the next few years! Thank you hosts for enriching our Queensland visit.

Isabel Marshall and  
Leon Talaic



## A rewarding hosting experience in USA.

In late April-May 2013 my partner and young daughter travelled to America for five weeks to visit a very special friend and family near Geyserville in the wine growing country, California, and to experience American life and peoples, landscapes and icons.

We have been SERVAS hosts for six years or so, and have stayed with hosts in Victoria and NSW on family trips but this was the first time we have been overseas for a holiday as a family. Despite knowing where we wanted to travel to (incl. West Coast, Grand Canyon, Albuquerque, and New York) and having booked our internal flights and car hire arrangements some weeks in advance of our departure, we found it difficult to make arrangements with American hosts which fitted with our circumstances (two adults and one child) and their availability or requirements. The American SERVAS booking guidelines require hosts to be approached one rather than several at a time; this works OK if one has lots of time and flexibility which we did not have given our other commitments and the territory we wanted to cover. The electronic version of the list we received was cumbersome to work with. The document could not be highlighted or converted to an easier format to aid searching (eg town, conditions, amount of notice etc) and decision-making. Not being about to cut and paste email addresses added to the frustration.

As it turned out we stayed with just one host family on our travels. This visit however was extremely positive and memorable.

The host family lived in one of the inner city southern suburbs of San Francisco up on the side of a hill with a view to the north through large glass windows. We could see the city lights and the fog rolling in as it does. The blended family comprised two adults and four children; one of the children was my daughter's age. Mina and Imogen took to each other like ducks to water. The intensity of the bond was palpable, like long lost sisters. As we shared our respective family details and heritage it emerged that there were racial and locational links between us across the globe. Michael comes from Germany, born of German parents. My mother was born in Germany. Michael's partner was born in China. One of her siblings lives and works in Adelaide not far from where we live! Michael's three children are of Korean decent. The adopted children of one of my closest friends are both Korean. What a global village we now live in! We stayed two nights but it seemed much longer. We got engaged in wide-



-ranging conversations covering topics such as the fiscal downturn in California and its impact on public health, and the down side of political correctness and how it can discriminate against men to the detriment of families. On the second night we shared family photos on an overhead data show – all very illuminating about our interests and aspirations.

Apart from our five days with friends in Geyserville, we stayed mostly in hotels, except for our eight-day AIR BNB accommodation in Mid-Manhattan, New York. AIR BNB is a bit like SERVAS in that the accommodation is in people's homes, although in NY at hotel prices. We got to know our host, Bianca, a fashion designer, whose roots are from the Dominican Republic. She was warm, friendly and helpful. It was great to draw on her local knowledge and to hear about her experience of Hurricane Sandy on Manhattan Island (MI). Bianca's street and everything south of it on MI was without power for one week.

Witold, my partner, took over 2000 images, a couple of which he exhibited during SALA week. For my daughter, it was a trip of a lifetime full of new and sometimes challenging experiences: seeing the rough sleepers sleeping outside our Hotel Cadillac room in Los Angeles; the drive through of the ritziest parts of Beverley Hills; the beauty of the Canals of Venice Beach; the overwhelming intensity of Las Vegas (we saw a Penn and Teller show - world renowned magicians) contrasted the next day with the timeless and awe-inspiring vista from the southern rim of the Grand Canyon.

Other highlights included the amazing petrified forests in the SW, Yosemite National Park in torrential rain and sunshine, Statue of Liberty in fog, the rainforest in and the earth roof on Academy of Sciences (San Francisco); the Hy-line in New York.

When I asked my daughter about the highlight of her first day in NY, which included a visit to Time Square, she replied: 'The subway!' A train that travels up to hundred metres below the ground was mind-blowing. This reminded me how individual and unique the travelling experience is. For me, the subway also had appeal: people of all different shapes, sizes, accents, colour, and styles, travelling harmoniously cheek by jowl, in a confined and noisy space ... so interesting.

However, the greatest pleasure of the trip for me was seeing my daughter grow up in those five weeks. The diversity of experiences (cultural, artistic, environmental and social and aesthetic) opened her eyes to the world and herself. It taught her more than I could have imagined. What is also so special is that Mina and Imogen are still communicating with each other via Facebook. This wonderful friendship is stuff that lasts a lifetime.

Hero Weston

### SERVAS Board—Effective 1 April 2013

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President	Geoff Sheldon 02 9487 6073	president@servas.org.au
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NT Host Co-ord & Travel Officer	Uta Vorst 08 8932 2152	nthosts@servas.org.au
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### Servas Keyworkers—Effective 1 April 2013

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