

KOSCIUSZCO - AUSTRALIA 16th October - 21st October

I have been really looking forward to going back to Australia. I visited very briefly back in 1996 for a week of which only 2 days were in Sydney and i loved it! As Kosciuszco is reputedly a fairly easy climb (famous last words) i have asked my sister, two girlfriends, and of course my Norwegian friend Sissel Smaller who is climbing the Seven Summits also to keep me company. So our trip comprises of 5 blondes (well sort of!) and the extremely lucky Guy Cotter!! Im not sure Guy sees it that way!

Suze Murray had flown to Sydney 2 days prior to the rest of us to catch up with an old school friend and the rest of us, My sister Lucy, Christy Powell (formerly Murray) Sissel and myself all met at the airport in Hong Kong to fly down to Sydney together. Its a nine hour flight so quite a long way to go for such a short trip.

We arrived in Sydney feeling exhausted. Christys sleeping pill was still in full effect and she walked through sydney trance like and i wasnt in much better shape but my fatigue was due to trying to fit in too many meetings in Hk prior to coming down to australia and combining it with a rigid exercise routine. We are all staying at my friend Nick Barhams apartment in Sydney, this was his contribution to my sponsorship and im hugely grateful to him for helping me out. His apartment turned out to be absolutely stunning, right on the water so we were in heaven. Tanya Byrnie, who looks after Nicks apartment met us and she is also very interested in climbing and knows a lot about it, so the two of us talked for a while climbing talk much to the annoyance of Lucy, Suze and Christy!! Tanya had arranged for us to do the Sydney bridge climb when we returned from Kosciuszco which we were all really excited about! We all looked out the window at the bridge and Sue declared it looked like a piece of cake!! Things always look smaller from a distance so i kept my mouth shut on that matter!!!

Upon arrival we then went to Bondi beach and had a healthy breakfast before doing a little bit of retailing. Having had a heatwave and no rain in Sydney for the past few months it is now freezing cold! I met up with an old girlfriend from HK for a coffee and then we all went back to the apartment to wait for the arrival of Guy Cotter who was flying in from New Zealand.

Sissel and i decided to go for a quick run as i was so tired right now i could hardly focus - always a good way to get some energy back before having to go out for dinner! The run perked me up and we went for an early dinner, Guy and his harem of women - the amount of people that asked him what his aftershave was!!! We all got an early night in preparation for our drive out to Coomba where Mt Kosciuszco is located some 6 hours from Sydney first thing the following morning.