



# The Journey

By Leo Corboy



Dedicated to Ollie

Ollie was born in 1954 in Oxford, England.

He lived near the river Thames and can remember smelling the hedge roses, coming into bloom in springtime.

He liked the taste of Fish and chips in newspaper, English Sausages, and Hovis bread.

He also remembers the sound of trains, buses and birdsong in the morning.

This was the happiest time of his life but not all happy families- some of my memories include isolation, bullying and sadness



I didn't really have a happy family when I was growing up. My mum and dad lived far away and didn't drive and they were divorced. When he was 15, Ollie's English teacher recognized that he was having a difficult time outside of school. His teacher invited him to come to his house so he could escape the tough family situation he was in.



Ollie's teacher helped regain his confidence and he got back on track to a normal life again. The teacher and his family really shaped his life. Ollie found friends and they loved to play football (soccer) and squash together.



Later in life Ollie meets a woman named Doz. They owned a beautiful house and had a gorgeous sheep dog called Sheeba. They were very happy and had 2 children, Mandy And Bec.. Ollie now had his own family and felt he had made a home.



Ollie's 2 brothers lived far away and he had lost contact with his family.

Ollie and Doz were just 24 years old when they wondered "Is there something more to life"?

They tossed up whether to go to South Africa, Canada or Australia who were all looking for skilled workers.

We decided on Australia.





In June 1978, Ollie, Doz, Bec and Amanda boarded the flight to Australia.

Bec was just 6 months old and Amanda was 2.

When they got on the flight Bec started to scream and they didn't know why.

The other passengers helped by taking turns of holding her.

Ollie and Doz dint know that Bec had an ear infection which is why she was crying..

It was a long and difficult flight.

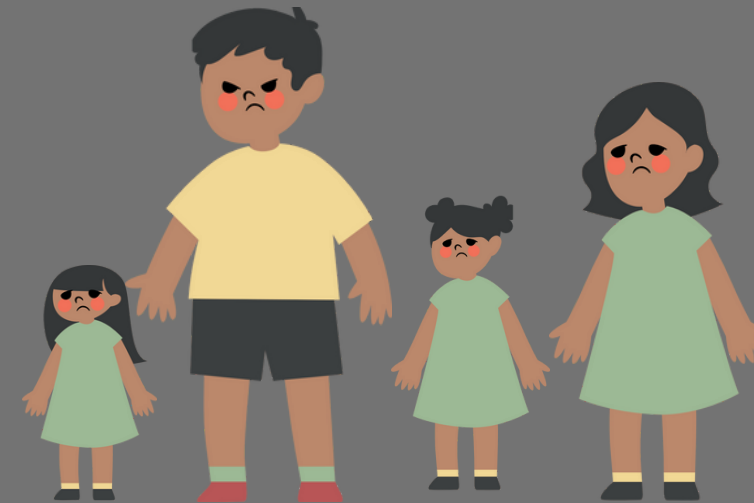


When they landed they couldn't believe how cold it was they thought it would be warm.

They lived in a hostel here with Vietnamese refugees.

They thought that they would be allocated a social worker, to help them get set up and used to the Australian culture but they were all allocated to the other refugees.

They were left to fend for themselves.



They were all in one small room.

They had to share the bathroom, kitchen and lounge room with everyone else.

All the meals were provided but they got a sore tummy.

Ollie and Doz bought an electric frypan and cooked in their room which was against rules.

They were allowed to stay in the hostel for 12 months.

They didn't like it much and found their own place to rent after 3 months.

Ollie found a job as a Fitter and Turner and they soon had another child Daniel who was the first born Australian.

Some of the things they missed from home were:  
The countryside, English style food, cups of tea and the cakes.

Ollie loves sports and he has a picture of 3 blue rampaging lions which signify the English sports teams.

He has a keyring of the Oxford United soccer club which was my home team



Ollie has lived in Australia for 44 years and calls himself "Australian".  
BUT he still doesn't know the rules to AFL.

When he thinks about whether he would rather be in England or in Australia he says "It's a no brainer, where else would I rather be- In Australia".



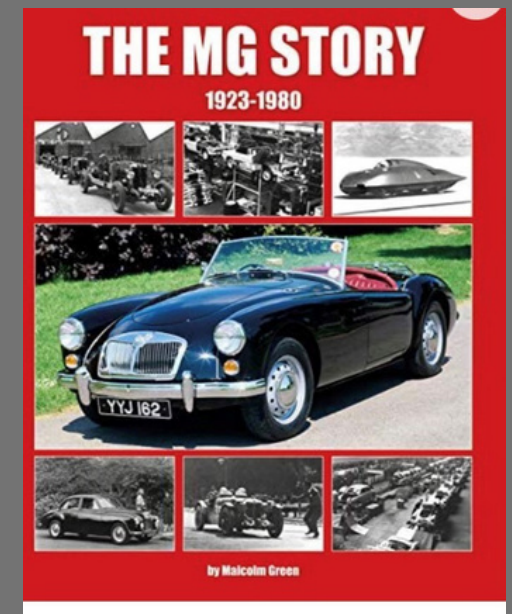
In the end Ollie and Doz made a great life in Australia and over the years other family would follow them to Australia.

Ollie left his struggles in England behind.

They have made many friends and never regret coming to Australia

Ollie, Doz and the kids have grown up.

Ollie has some things that remind him of his past and the journey he has travelled.





"The Journey" shows us all the things that can happen that lead to making a huge decision.

The journey is not easy and at times it is hard but you have to stick together and keep going.

Ollie and Doz wanted to make a happy life for their own family and experience other things in life.

They also like to remember things from their home country that give them happy memories.

The journey was long and hard at times but Ollie and his family are proud to be Australian.

Even if Ollie doesn't know the rules to AFL and prefers soccer!

