

Moving Across the Country, Teresa Drapers Journey.

By Annelise Draper.

A clock is just a way of reminding you what the time is, it's not about the time you have left but it's about making the most of life and loving every minute of it. Teresa Draper is a great example of this, and this is why.

Teresa Draper explains that growing up as a child in England was challenging because World War 2 was on. At primary school in the time of World War 2, Teresa had to carry around a gas mask to all her classes in case of bombing. She also explains that they had air raid shelters over the playgrounds, that they could run to at break times to shelter themselves from severe bomb attacks.

Teresa was only eleven when she moved to Australia from England, she came over on a ship called the Georgic. She states that her entire family got seasick for most of the trip and the whole trip went for a month. When she arrived on the ship the women and men were separated from each other but only when it was dusk. When it was daytime on the ship there were so many different activities that you could do, such as card games, read books, talk to one and other about what their plans were going to be like when they moved to Australia. Her favourite thing to do on board the ship was the special ceremony which was called crossing the line. Crossing the line is where someone dresses up as king Neptune and you were put into a swimming pool and king Neptune would dunk you under the water as part of the ceremony. You would think that it wouldn't be much fun, but Teresa says that "everyone enjoyed it because it was awfully hot on the ship, so it was nice to cool down". It didn't help that she came from England because England's climate was so cold so when you move further and further to the tropics it gets hotter and hotter. She had no say in moving to Australia so she didn't really mind moving because she was so young but there was the thought of leaving all her friends behind.

Teresa didn't like Melbourne when she got to Australia because all the houses were crammed together, there was lots of noise in the city of people that were drunk. She never had seen a drunk before because the countryside part of England where she lived was so peaceful and quiet. She much preferred the house in England which was a large house made of brick that was two stories high and had an inside bathroom. Then when she came to

Australia she lived in a small wooden house with an outside bathroom and laundry. Her brother, two older sisters and her Mum and Dad were all squished in two rooms.

When she was older in Australia, she became a primary school teacher. She loves children very much and she quotes that "you need to love helping children to become a primary school teacher". She spent most of her time teaching English and she loves the fact that when you teach young people, they will tell you the truth. So, if they like the dress you're wearing they will tell you or vice versa. Teresa's older sister inspired her to become a primary school teacher because she saw how happy she was being a teacher. Her sister was a kind and caring person who helped everyone. Teresa explains that she treated the kids in her class with the same respect she would with her own kids. If someone was being misbehaved, she would discipline the child in the exact same way she would with her own kids. All the classes had roughly 50 or more students in each class which you would think would be a lot, but she says that very rarely a kid was behaving badly because "the students knew that they were at school to learn".

And now today Teresa still loves English and writes lots of creative stories to inspire others, whilst sitting on her front porch in Ocean Grove looking out to her English inspired country garden. Whether it be her English garden or her love of English writing she's never too far away from her England home.