



Meet the movers

NAMES

Robert (44) and Laura (43) Garrad

OCCUPATIONS

Robert works as a carpenter and Laura works in administration

MOVED FROM

Lincolnshire, UK

MOVED TO

Richmond, Tasmania

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about migrating to Tasmania visit www.migration.tas.gov.au



“The best thing we’ve ever done!”

A backpacking trip Down Under inspired Robert Garrad to seek a new life in Tasmania, writes **Kristilee Ransley**

After falling in love with the Antipodean lifestyle as a young backpacker, Robert Garrad was keen to emigrate to Australia and both he and his partner, Laura, are now delighted with their new lives in Tasmania.

“We have a much more relaxed lifestyle in Tasmania and easy access to many more outdoor activities, including camping trips, canoeing and photography,” he says.

In fact, Robert, 44, a carpenter by trade but also an accomplished photographer, has found the Tasmanian environment so inspiring that he has established a website (www.isnapimages.com) to share his portfolio of wildlife and landscape photography.

Robert and Laura, 43, made the move to the island state of Tasmania in 2005 and they became Australian citizens in 2008.

Lying 250 kilometres off the south-eastern tip of mainland Australia, Tasmania is equivalent in size to the Republic of Ireland and has a population of just over 500,000 people.

On what motivated him to choose ‘Tassie’ as his new home, Robert says, “I looked at the different states and territories and decided to select one that offered the State Sponsorship Scheme. I opted for Tasmania over other

‘We have easy access to more outdoor activities’

states that offered a similar scheme, as I love the great outdoors and felt that Tasmania offered me the greatest variety of places to explore and enjoy.”

Within a week of their arrival in Hobart in December 2005, >>

Above, Robert and Laura celebrate acquiring their Aussie citizenship



Robert and Laura had bought a car and headed south for Christmas, staying in Cradoc, in the Huon Valley fruit-growing region.

A week after moving into their own home, Robert and Laura adopted a puppy from the local dogs' home and began settling into

'We chose the Richmond vicinity, as we wanted to be close to the city, the airport, and amenities'

He says, "It took three months for my tools to arrive from the UK, so we enjoyed the time exploring Tasmania. As soon as my tools arrived, I started to look for work and was lucky to find some straight away. Laura secured a job in administration within six months."

ARRIVAL SURVIVAL

Robert and Laura initially rented in the historic village of Richmond, the setting for much of Bryce Courtenay's *The Potato Factory*, and later bought a house on the outskirts of town.

When choosing a place to settle, Robert says, "We looked at a number of different areas and chose the Richmond vicinity, as we wanted to be close to the city, the airport, and amenities but also have a rural property with wonderful views. The Richmond area met our needs perfectly."

their new life, welcoming their second puppy to the family six months later.

"We quickly made friends with people we worked with and at clubs we joined, and feel really settled here," says Robert. "We have also enjoyed spending time with our families, who have come over to Tasmania on holiday to see where we live. For some of our family, the visit to Tasmania was their first overseas trip."

One of the most welcome benefits of the move has been a reduction in commuting time to and from work. "It has been great to escape the city traffic of the UK, with people referring to peak hour traffic in Hobart as 'rush minute' rather than 'rush hour'!"

In terms of his working day, Robert says that it is very similar to working as a carpenter in the UK, just with better weather!

A typical weekend generally comprises a myriad of outdoor activities for the pair.

"I usually have at least one day on the weekend where I go out with my camera, taking photographs. Tasmania is great as most places are accessible in a day trip. We frequently combine my hobby with a camping trip, as there are many fantastic, free places to camp and we regularly find that we have them to ourselves.

"We often get together with friends for a meal and sometimes we just have a relaxing day at home. If you want to become part of the community you need to be pro-active. The more you put in, the more you get out."

DON'T GIVE UP!

For Robert, the most difficult aspect of the emigration process was having his trade assessed. Completing and submitting the paperwork himself, rather than through a specialist organisation, his first application failed.

A second, more detailed submission proved successful and, once his trade was approved, the year-long residency process was straight-forward, supported by the



Tasmanian government under the sponsorship scheme.


While leaving friends and family wasn't easy, Robert believes that a positive outlook helped to make the emotional journey easier.

When asked what his advice would be to other UK residents thinking of moving to Australia, he responded, "Don't give up if you fail one of the stages, you may be lucky second time around."

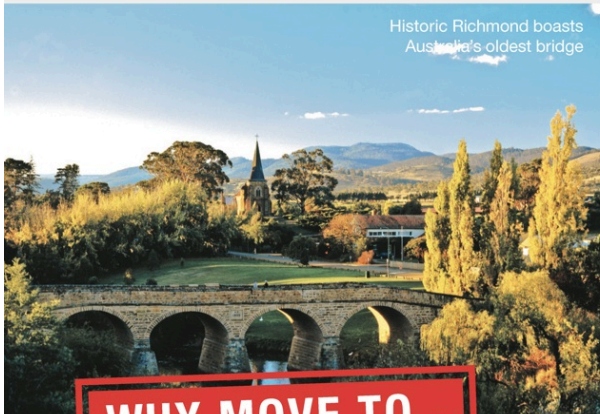
"When you arrive, give yourself enough time to settle in – you will probably be homesick initially but with today's technology it is really easy to keep in touch."

When looking to the future, Robert happily envisages more of the same of his current lifestyle. Having undertaken a number of driving holidays already, he and Laura are planning to take their car across Bass Strait on the Spirit of Tasmania ferry to discover parts of mainland Australia next year.

Robert says, "For us, there are more opportunities to get away from it all in Tasmania."

"We really appreciate how lucky we are to live here."  >>

Historic Richmond boasts
Australia's oldest bridge



WHY MOVE TO...

Richmond

This historic town is famous for its Georgian architecture...

WHAT IT'S LIKE

Located 30-minutes drive east from Hobart, Richmond is Tasmania's most important historic town, and the perfect base for exploring Tasmania's South East. Nestled in the Coal River Valley, the town is famous for its 19th-century Georgian architecture and for being home to Australia's oldest bridge.

The town is as elegant today as it was in the 1820s, when it was an important military staging post and convict station linking Hobart with Port Arthur.

There are some excellent vineyards and wineries to be found here, and the town is a hub for food and wine lovers. The maximum average daily temperature is 22.5 degrees Celsius (72.5 degrees Fahrenheit) in January and 13 degrees Celsius (55.5 degrees Fahrenheit) in June.

LIVING HERE

Inhabitants of Richmond may commute to the city of Hobart for work, or they run or work in small businesses within the region or own/work on the various agricultural and horticultural properties.

There is a thriving hospitality industry within the region, particularly bed and breakfast businesses. The district is well supported by primary schools and there are many community and sporting organisations here.

HOUSING MARKET

The area is well-known for its early European history and consequently has many historic properties in the towns and on the farms. The kind of property that can be bought here includes colonial style sandstone cottages in the historic township, semi-rural housing with large acreages and hobby farms, as well as vacant land packages. The average house price here is around A\$350,000 (£223,180).

Image above: Tourism Tasmania

Property in Richmond



RIVERSIDE HOME

A\$880,000 (£561,207)

Nugent is a riverfront homestead, set within 5.4 acres of land. It boasts double glazed windows, a stunning new kitchen with high quality appliances, two stunning bathrooms and a large sun-drenched lounge taking in beautiful rural views. The property has four bedrooms, formal and informal sitting rooms, a large family kitchen with breakfast nook, a study area and laundry facilities.

CONTACT: Wellington Auctioneers and Property Brokers

WEB: www.wellingtonproperty.com.au



COUNTRY HOME

A\$520,000 (£331,581)

Located on the brow of a hill and enjoying commanding views of vineyards and farmland, this property has the unique appeal of an English country house and offers extensive accommodation. The ground floor has a large lounge and dining room, a fully-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The first floor has a large open plan lounge, dining area and kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

CONTACT: Wellington Auctioneers and Property Brokers

WEB: www.wellingtonproperty.com.au



RURAL OUTLOOK

A\$369,000 (£235,295)

Creating culinary delights will be a breeze in the abundant kitchen of this family home. This spacious, three-bedroom home with one bathroom features two big decks with gentle rural outlooks – great for the family who enjoy al fresco dining and spending time with good friends. It has a light and airy living and dining room with timber flooring. This property is set on a large block of land.

CONTACT: Elders Real Estate

WEB: www.eldersbrighton.com