

# QSpirit.

Page **67**

## Capital idea

Lucy Turnbull on the cities that have moved her.



John Appleyard

Places of the Heart



# Lucy Turnbull

The former lord mayor of Sydney and wife of Australia's 29th prime minister has a passion for cities and how they work. Three have stolen her heart.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN APPLEYARD  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAT CHADWICK



## 1970: New Delhi, India

My first trip overseas was to New Delhi with my parents when I was 12. Landing in India with its rich colours and smells and multi-century history was completely mind-blowing for a 12-year-old girl. I remember walking the streets of Old Delhi and seeing intricate handicrafts and ornate jewellery being made in very small studios. I was a bookworm and my father always told me to have a reading light on, yet these people were doing extraordinarily detailed work under the light of an oil lamp. I was worried they'd lose their vision and not be able to work any more. But seeing kids my age begging on the street taught me one of my most important lessons – that I've been incredibly fortunate and should never feel sorry for myself.



## 1979: New York City

The first time I went to New York, I was still a uni student. The punk-rock scene was pretty big and the city had a gritty edge to it. It was before the crack epidemic of the mid-'80s but there was still a lot of street crime. While that was happening under the surface, above it was the most incredibly dynamic, energetic, pulsing global city and financial centre, and there was a really

lively arts and music scene. I just loved it and it was then I realised that high-rise living and lifestyle don't have to be enemies. One day, Malcolm and I decided to walk from Midtown to SoHo to visit my uncle. Places like SoHo were pretty grungy then – ripe for urban renewal, as they say – but it was a lot of fun. We walked through a park and because we didn't look like people trying to buy drugs, locals were completely surprised to see us. Once we got to my uncle's place, we explained the walk through the park and he said, "You can't be serious! You were lucky to come out alive." We got a taxi home...



## 2010: Havana, Cuba

Malcolm had been wanting me to go to Havana for ages because he'd been there years earlier with our son, Alex. He said, "You must see Havana – you'll love it!" My passion is walking the streets of cities. In Havana, a lot of the beautiful Spanish colonial buildings were decayed and crumbling, and it has stayed the same as it was when Fidel Castro came to power. The cars, the highways, the streets are the same. It's amazing to see a city that was pickled in aspic in 1960. But it's a very lively culture and the music is fantastic. Those famous old cocktails are great, too. Cuba will change but it has World Heritage sites so I don't think it will change too adversely. I hope they have the resources to create the good bits of 21st-century cities, more modernisation and the restoration of the beautiful heritage buildings. ●

## Flight Plan



Passenger

# Delta Goodrem

Occupation

Singer/songwriter

Where she's travelling

Sydney to Los Angeles

INTERVIEW BY **DI WEBSTER**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **PIERRE TOUSSAINT**

**How much time do you spend away?**

It's rare for me to be in one spot for a long time. I love being committed to projects, like *Cats* or *The Voice*, where you have a structure and you get to be home a bit longer. When I'm making an album, I normally spend half my time in Australia and half in America.

**What's the secret to a stress-free journey?**

I love to travel. I enjoy the quiet time in the air. I have my computer to catch up on work or watch TV shows. It's my "me time".

**What's your approach to packing?**

I find out what the weather will be where I'm going and put together outfits, bringing all my little trinkets that make wherever I'm going feel like home – candles, crystals. I put all my shoes in bags; I don't want any rogue shoes. And I fold in a particular way.

**Is it possible to travel light and be stylish?**

It's harder for women because we have a lot of accessories. We might need certain sunglasses and jewellery... I think you can definitely do it but it's not my forte!

**What do you never leave home without?**

My phone, my computer, my keys to the house and a notebook so I can write songs.

**Do you get to the airport late or early?**

I wouldn't get there super-early because my lifestyle is very busy but I'm also not late. I'm consistently on the border of the middle.

**Have you ever missed a plane?**

I've missed a few over the years – one in New York due to traffic.

**What do you wear on the plane?**

I like to be comfortable. It gets colder in the air so I tend to pack jumpers and a tracksuit. And I always bring an extra outfit in my carry-on in case my bags don't make it.

**Do you get into the pyjamas?**

Absolutely. I get into the pyjamas before take-off sometimes, which actually got me into trouble once because the plane ended up not taking off and they had to get everyone off. I was the only person in pyjamas; it was so embarrassing.

**What's your routine on the plane?**

I get out the things I need from my whee-lie bag. Normally I have two wheelies; one has my hats in it so they don't get crushed. Then I do my last phone calls of love for everybody, always – love, love, love.

**Aisle or window?**

The window so I can look out at the world. I think you get perspective on a plane. It's a great time to write in your journal.

**Are you a chatty seat buddy?**

Sometimes I meet great people and chat away to them. Sometimes I just need to watch a movie and go to sleep. I'm pretty clear if I'm open to chatting. I've made many great friends on flights over the years. I've gotten to know the entire Qantas crew, I'm pretty sure.

**What's the last movie you watched on a plane?**

*Blended*, the Adam Sandler movie; it was so funny. I love comedies. You'll never get me watching a serious movie, because I'll be crying and I hate that on a plane.

**What's the last book you read on a plane?**

*Women Who Run with the Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estés. It was a fantastic book. I was highlighting bits.

**Can you sleep on a plane?**

Yes, I can be out cold in a second. I get my best sleep on planes.

**Is there a secret to that?**

Exhaustion [laughs]? I don't know. I just really enjoy flying. I cocoon myself. I look forward to my long-haul flights. ●

Delta Goodrem is currently starring as Grizabella in Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Cats*.

Q Spirit.

## View from Above

06°53'49"S 31°10'16"E

"As the Katuma River, in Tanzania's Katavi National Park, dries up at the end of the summer, hippos and crocodiles vie for space in the remaining few waterholes. Both species are forced to spend the hottest hours of the day in these waterholes, lying next to – or sometimes on top of – each other," says Kym Illman, co-author of *Africa on Safari*.



Photo by Kym Illman, from *Africa on Safari* by Kym and Tonya Illman (Papadakis, \$65)



## The Journey



Desert art: Michael Nelson Tjakamarra and Michael Leunig near Papunya, Northern Territory

Tracing an Aboriginal artist's spiritual pilgrimage led to this cartoonist's own awakening.



The traveller

## Michael Leunig

The journey

To Central Australia

The year

1987

THE mosaic in the forecourt of Parliament House in Canberra is based on a painting called *Possum and Wallaby Dreaming* by Indigenous artist Michael Nelson Tjakamarra. The centrepiece is a group of concentric circles depicting a sacred place far from Canberra and the eyes or imagination of most Australians.

In January 1987, I travelled with a film crew to Papunya, a community north-west of Alice Springs. It was the height of summer so the heat was extreme but the beauty of the Western Desert was astounding. There

I met Michael and, accompanied by an elderly uncle of his and an extraordinary historian, Dick Kimber, we set off into the Tanami Desert in search of a remote, sacred cave – a vital location in Michael's initiation into Warlpiri manhood. Since the initiation, his people had been moved off that country by the government and relocated to the small, inhospitable settlement of Papunya.

The going was slow and rough but after a long journey through wild country, we arrived into a spectacular landscape of large mesa-like hills of red rock, brilliant-green eucalypts and bleached grasses. This was the land where Michael was raised in the time of boomerang and spear and where he learned the vital details of country, tribal law and stories from which his paintings were now made. He was among the last of his people to be initiated on the original country.

We made camp and Michael and his uncle set off on their search, returning several hours later in an enlivened state. They had found the cave and wanted to take me there.

After a gruelling climb up a cliff of red boulders, we arrived at Niimpi, or Mowadji, the Warlpiri names for this important place in the possum dreaming. They led me into the cool darkness of a curving chamber. On the wall was a band of glassy smoothness at waist level. Dick explained that it had been polished over many thousands of years by the dust on the passing hands of young men as they moved through the cave, before

setting out to learn the details and features of their country.

"I'm the first whitefella who has seen this place and you're probably the second," he continued. "This ceremony happened here for 40,000 years and it all stopped in Michael's lifetime and in yours – finished, no more! We're going back down to the camp now but Michael wants you to stay here for a while, think about these things and understand what has happened."

As their voices faded, I sat alone in that beautiful solemn place and began to cry as the enormity of what had happened to this land and its Indigenous people struck me like never before. Tears of deep sorrow were my baptism into a profound new understanding about my country. It was an initiation of sorts; a coming of age.

More than a year later, at the opening ceremony of the new Parliament House in Canberra, I watched Michael meet the Queen and explain the mosaic to her. The cameras rolled, the band played and later, under the shade of a tree, I sat and shared a cigarette with Michael. "Can you tell me about the mosaic?" I asked.

"That circle in the middle," he said, "that's the place we went together, that cave called Niimpi – you've been to that place." ●

Michael Leunig's latest book, *The Wayward Leunig: Cartoons That Wandered Off* (Penguin), is available now.

## Then & Now

# Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc

Frequented by the stars of the silver screen, both past and present, this French Riviera hotel is the epitome of glamour and romance.



Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc was known as Villa Soleil when it was built in 1870 as a writers' retreat

ACTRESS. Dancer. "Gilda". Rita Hayworth is one of the most enduring symbols of Hollywood's golden age, hitting her peak in the '40s. And, like many screen idols, what the red-headed beauty did off-screen was just as newsworthy as her on-screen performances.

Along with the showbiz set, Hayworth was a regular at the famous Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc, a mansion-turned-hotel in Antibes on the Côte d'Azur. Not surprisingly, the hotel was the setting for some of the more memorable Hayworth stories of the era, from the time the actress flew to France to patch things up with her estranged second

husband, Orson Welles, to the occasion when Argentine shipping magnate Alberto Dodero nobly surrendered his suite for the star when she was unable to get a room.

Ironically, the hotel's best-known Hayworth anecdote concerns her *absence* from the hotel. As the story goes, Hayworth was supposed to meet the Shah of Persia for lunch at Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc but she stood him up so she could spend the day with Indian prince and legendary playboy Aly Khan at his villa.

"The gloomy shah sat with his back to the terrace, as if lost in thought," wrote Charles Murphy in the September 13, 1948 issue of *Life* magazine. "But the empty apéritif glasses multiplying on the table, the smoke issuing volcanically from the butt-filled ashtray testified to his inner agitation."

Fortunately, the hotel's quick-thinking proprietor saved the day by arranging for a beautiful woman – allegedly Miss Côte d'Azur 1947 – to serendipitously appear by the shah's table and defuse the situation.

Seven decades later, the hotel remains popular among the rich and famous, although the likes of Marlene Dietrich, the Kennedys and Pablo Picasso have given way to Brangelina, the Cruises and various Jennifers of the entertainment industry.

Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc's commitment to the notion of elegant luxury led to widescale renovations that have gently eased the property into the 21st century with such amenities as hair dryers, wi-fi and the ability to pay by credit card. Management also succumbed to guest requests and installed televisions in all the rooms. Although, as every traveller knows, the really good bits almost always happen off-screen. ●

STORY BY MAX VEENHUYZEN

## An Expat Life



### Andy Thomas

This Adelaide-born former NASA astronaut orbited Earth 16 times a day for 20 weeks in 1998. These days, his sea of tranquillity is a ranch in Texas.

INTERVIEW BY AKASH ARORA  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT TURNER

**When did you move to the US and why?**

After I finished my PhD [in mechanical engineering] in 1977, I was offered a position in aerospace in the US so I went, thinking I'd stay only a couple of years. But you make personal relationships, build a career and a couple of years become three, four... Before you know it you've built your life there.

**Where do you live in the US?**

My wife [Shannon Walker] – who's also an astronaut – and I have a hobby ranch about 80 kilometres north of San Antonio, Texas, in an area called Hill Country. That's what I've been doing since I retired from NASA.

**What's the key to adapting to a new place?**

To have an interest in other viewpoints, lifestyles, cultures. It's not so much the place itself but the personal relationships we cultivate when we're in that environment.

**Is there an Australian community in Houston?**

It's bigger than you might think. There's a lot of activity in oil and natural gas in that

part of Texas and the Australian companies Woodside and BHP Billiton are there.

**What do you miss most about Australia?**

The countryside. As you get further into the outback, it has a uniqueness. It's the colours of the sky, ground and trees, the sounds of magpies and squawking galahs. You don't get that in any other part of the world.

**What do you like most about living in the US?**

People accept you for who you are. There was an unfortunate tendency when I was growing up in Australia for you to be judged by the city you came from, your family background or how much money you had. In the US, those things don't matter.

**What aspect of American life would you like to see in Australia?**

There's an optimism that people can take on different challenges and do whatever they want. Australia could use some of that.

**And what aspect of Australian life would you like to have in America?**

I think the multiculturalism and the just-don't-take-things-too-seriously idea.

**When you think of home, where is that?**

It's the ranch because I spend so much time there and I did a lot of the work on it myself. I swung the hammer, drove the nails and cut the lumber. But Adelaide feels like home, too, because my mother lives there.

**Has Adelaide changed much over the years?**

The most dramatic change is the suburban sprawl in all the big Australian cities. You can see it from space. Sydney's western suburbs are huge and you can see the sprawl of Adelaide into the hills, which I think is a bit sad. It's an unsustainable path for the evolution of the Australian urban landscape.

**What was your favourite part of the world to look at from space?**

Some of the most striking areas are the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Northern Africa because there are terrific delineations of the coastline. And when you fly over Europe or the US at night, they're lit up like a Christmas tree!

**What about Australia?**

When you see red desert, you know you're above Australia. You approach from west to east so you're first above the Indian Ocean, which is very dark blue. Then you strike deep-red land. As you move east, it becomes lush and verdant. It's a striking set of contrasts and quite spectacular.

**Where do you experience the most solitude?**

You certainly have tranquil moments in space but the most peaceful are on my ranch. Sitting on the deck, watching the hummingbirds, armadillos and deer and enjoying the tranquillity is very nice. ●



## Location, Location

The film

# Jurassic Park

The location

Hawaii

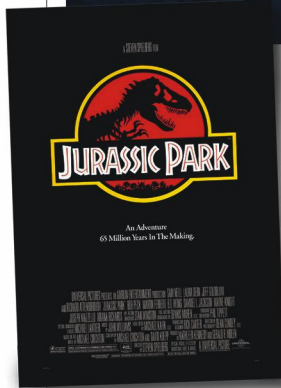
Roam this lush volcanic archipelago in the Pacific, where digital dinosaurs have nothing on nature's special effects.

WHEN *Jurassic Park* hit cinemas in 1993, the dinosaurs shamelessly grabbed centrestage. But, for many viewers, it was the stunning natural backdrop that made Steven Spielberg's CGI-boosted flick – adapted from Michael Crichton's sci-fi novel of the same name – such a visual feast.

The action pans out on Isla Nublar, a fictional tropical island off Costa Rica. Yet the movie and its three sequels – including 2015's *Jurassic World* – were largely filmed in Hawaii, with most scenes shot on the island of Kauai.

Nicknamed “the Garden Isle” – it's carpeted in dense, verdant rainforest – Kauai is a beauty on every level but especially from the sky. Tours operated by Island Helicopters ([islandhelicopters.com](http://islandhelicopters.com)) swoop past locations that starred in *Jurassic Park*, such as the awe-inspiring Nā Pali coast, where sheer jungle cliffs rise majestically from the Pacific Ocean. The chopper also soars over dramatic canyons and stops at the base of the 110-metre-high Manawaiopuna Falls. Dubbed “Jurassic Falls”, it's where the lead characters – played by Sam Neill, Laura Dern and Jeff Goldblum – land after flying to Isla Nublar with Richard Attenborough's eccentric-billionaire park creator.

Another enticing *Jurassic*-flavoured journey is a four-wheel-drive and hiking adventure ([alohakauaitours.com](http://alohakauaitours.com)) through Kauai's serene green interior, pausing at the so-called “Jurassic Park gate”. Although the theme park's entrance was



Prehistoric paradise: the fluted cliffs of Kauai's majestic Nā Pali coastline (above); a scene from the original *Jurassic Park*



removed post-filming, two poles mark the scenic spot where it stood, in the shadow of the often mist-shrouded Mount Waialeale.

At the exotic and arty Allerton Garden ([ntbg.org](http://ntbg.org)), on Kauai's south shore, you'll find the twisting Moreton Bay fig trees against which Attenborough's two on-screen grandchildren and Neill are disturbed by a sneezing Brachiosaurus.

And do you remember the thrilling scene where they're caught up in a screeching herd of Gallimimus fleeing a T.rex (left)? That was filmed at the ravishingly lush Kualoa Ranch on Kauai's neighbouring island of Oahu. A favourite of TV and movie makers – *50 First Dates*, *Hawaii Five-0* and *Lost* are among the dozens of productions shot here – this working cattle ranch and farm can be explored by vintage school bus, quad bike and on horseback ([kualoa.com](http://kualoa.com)). The fallen tree, under which Neill and the kids take shelter from the hungry T.rex, makes for a wonderful photo opportunity. ●

STORY BY STEVE MCKENNA

Matthew Micah Wright