

Opal Ewermysunshine's Orange Living

22nd March 2020

It's been almost a year since we left Hay and came back to live in the Orange, and I have finally persuaded Camanda that the world needs my blogs to stay cheerful in these strange times.

Camanda has always regretted that no matter how many times she takes the VIA Strengths Questionnaire <https://www.viacharacter.org/survey/account/register> her number one strength always comes out as Humour and she says 'and what good has humour ever done me in my career.' I always tell her that people enjoy her humour and her laugh is as infectious as Covert 19.

When Camanda was an Executive Director in the inastate government her boss always told her that she would never get anywhere because 'she lacks gravitas'. I do agree with that as The Daddy normally makes the gravy. He always makes plenty so that Jasper and we can have the leftovers with our breakfast.

Anyway, we came back to the Orange after last year's Hay Mardi Gras. The house had never been so clean and tidy (and hasn't been since as Camanda has a medical certificate as she is allergic to housework and The Daddy has other important priorities).



Such sartorial elegance from 2019!! Because of the Covert 19 the 2020 Rainbow on the Plains, Hay Mardi Gras, has been cancelled. Camanda is very disappuointed.

Some of you may remember that Jasper and I are actually undercover Police doggies. Don't tell anyone but my operational name is Covert 19, and Jasper's is Covert 20. We have

always been good at keeping our distance from each other as I think he is a stupid boy and he is scared of me.

So, lots of things have happened in the last year, and I'll mention some of them in a gradual catch up. Camanda fancies herself as an artist. She did some more painting over Christmas and painted pictures of her food. Deter Pay said that if any paintings of her food are purchased then she can claim the tax back on the food she used as a model. So, Prawns for Christmas dinner was exhibited at the Corner Store Gallery and now Camanda thinks she's a proper artist. She has also sent 3 of her Hay pictures for the Hay Mardi Gras art exhibition - My Happy Place – including the picture of me wearing my winner's ribbon as Number One Border Collie in Hay. Camanda now has a gallery of her paintings on her website: <https://www.amandaspaldingconsulting.com/>



So, when we got back to the Orange it was in the grip of the drowt. That means that it hasn't rained for a long time. Hay was also having a drowt, but it was like a lovely green oasis in the middle of the desert as all the grass was watered all the time.

Now, the Orange only has itself to blame for its lack of water as it was settled by white fellas because they found gold nearby. It would have been more sensible to watch where Aboriginal people went because they normally sat down where there was water, like for example, a river. So Orange is not on a river and keeps making pipelines to get water out of other peep's rivers. You can't drink gold.

First day back in the Orange we went for a walk to the Bloomfield and Jasper remembered being there before. He ran all the way down the steps across the oval and jumped in the creek and then looked amazed. Something was missing and he couldn't quite put his toebean on it. I eventually caught up with him and said: 'You stupid boy (channelling Captain Mainwaring from Dad's Army). Water!! There used to be water there!'

So, lots of other things have happened in the last year too. Jasper and the girl next door resumed their unfriendship and The Daddy put a gate on the deck, so we are only allowed out in the garden if we promise not to bark at her next door and jump up at the fence. Jasper promises and then forgets the moment she barks and then they're at it again!! Things are a bit calmer than they were now and she only tries to hang off the top of the fence snarling about once a day!! You have to admire her strength.

I tell Covert 20 it ill becomes an undercover police doggy to behave in such an undisciplined way.

Camanda now goes out to work 2 days a week and works from home the rest of the time. She writes a weekly column about local government – How to get the Best out of our Councils - for Orange City Life and those are also on her website - <https://www.amandaspaldingconsulting.com/>

Lots more to tell you, but Camanda says we shouldn't tell all of our best jokes in the first edition.

Opal Eweremysunshine

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