

# “Our sunshine lifestyle”

Since moving to sunny Western Australia, **Sarah Holmes** and **Daniel Barker** are embracing their outdoor-focused lifestyle...



Mandurah's Dolphin Quay marina; and (inset below) Daniel and Sarah in Perth

Looking for a change in lifestyle and weather, we had travelled to Australia before and knew what to expect. Our Permanent Residency visas were awarded in March 2016 and we arrived in Australia in May 2016.

We funded our move through saving and after selling our house we moved in with parents prior to our move to help us save. The move cost us approximately £13,000, which included the costs involved in transporting our dog.

### MIGRATION PROCESS

The migration process took 13 months. There was a lot of paperwork to do so we are glad we used a migration agent. Katherine Van Greuning at Getme2Oz really helped to make the process more straightforward and was really helpful.

On 10 May 2016 our dog Freddie, a Boston Terrier, was collected by Petair and taken to Heathrow Airport for his flight Down Under. We left the UK on 13 May 2016 from Birmingham via Dubai, arriving at Perth airport on 14 May 2016, where we were collected by Sarah's godparents.

We stayed with them for the first five months and during this time we enjoyed exploring the local area and jumping on the train up to the city to enjoy the busier nightlife.

Sarah soon secured a job at a dental surgery, which was just a five minute walk away. Daniel struggled at the beginning to find employment as he needed to gain his Western Australian Plumbing



## Meet the movers

### NAME

Sarah Holmes (29) and Daniel Barker (33)

### OCCUPATION

Sarah is a dental nurse and Daniel is a plumber

### MOVED FROM

Boston, Lincolnshire

### MOVED TO

Mandurah, Western Australia

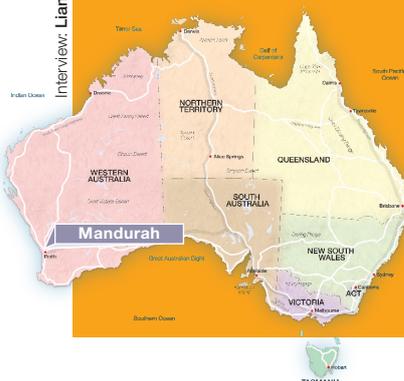
### USEFUL CONTACT

Katherine Van Greuning is an Australian registered migration agent and the director of Getme2oz.com.

Tel: 01227 732434.

Web: [www.getme2oz.com](http://www.getme2oz.com)

Interview: Liane Voisey





“OUR MANDURAH PROS AND CONS”

PROS:

- House prices and the cost of living is cheaper than other areas.
- Proximity to Perth.
- Lovely parks and beaches.
- Great weather.

CONS:

- There aren't any pubs or bars close by.
- Can be quiet here on the job front.
- Missing family and friends.



Sarah and Daniel enjoy Christmas on the beach with Sarah's godparents



A pelican on Mandurah's Eastern Foreshore

“It's a sunny climate all year round. We spend most of our social life outdoors...”



Daniel taking part in a local fun run

and more time on the beach these days! On a typical week day we get up early as it's warm and sunny. When we get home from work we take the dog down to the beach for a long walk and watch the sunset.

At weekends, we mostly go to the beach. Dan is currently having surfing lessons on a Saturday morning. On an evening we either have a barbecue or go out for a meal with friends.

The downside about the move has been being so far away from family and friends but we plan to head back to the UK for visits every three or four years. Our plan for the future is to buy a house and start a family here.

Our advice for other Brits wanting to move to Australia is to do as much research as you can. Working with a migration agent will help to ease the process. Also, try to save as much money as possible. You also need to be as organised as you can be! 🇺🇸

License. Once we were settled in our jobs we moved to a rental property just around the corner from Sarah's godparents.

SUNNY LIFESTYLE

We live in a three-bedroom two-storey property with an open plan style layout overlooking a golf course in Meadow Springs. It's a family friendly suburb and we have found the locals here to be very friendly and helpful.

It's a very sunny climate nearly all year round. We spend most of our social life outdoors enjoying the weather. The beach is just a two minute drive away. We are spending less time stuck in traffic

WHY MOVE TO...

# Mandurah

Experience relaxed coastal living in this attractive Western Australian city...

WHAT IT'S LIKE

From a small fishing and retirement town, Mandurah has grown into the largest and fastest growing regional city in Western Australia.

Situated on the Peel-Harvey Estuary 72 kilometres from Perth, this coastal city is famous for its excellent beaches, superb fishing and crabbing, top golf facilities and Mediterranean climate of warm summers and mild winters, making it a relaxing lifestyle destination.

Its foreshore is home to pelicans, shags, dolphins and other marine life, with dolphin and whale-spotting cruises particularly popular.

There is a new world class marina and several canal systems here which allow access to the sea. These systems

are always a big attraction for the water loving Aussie. Fishing and boating, swimming and other water sports are extremely popular, with all being supported with various annual events.

EMPLOYMENT

One of the main industries in the area is manufacturing and construction, and to a lesser extent, mining and agriculture. Tourism is also big here and the hospitality industry employs many people. Even if you could not get employment in Mandurah, it is not too far to travel to Perth.

LOCAL AMENITIES

Mandurah has excellent shopping facilities with shops to cater for all your needs. There is a good selection of



Marina-side living in Mandurah

restaurants and fast food outlets as well as hotels and clubs offering good entertainment.

Sport is well catered for here with many venues for different sports and activities. There are some excellent medical centres, hospitals and allied health professionals.

Perth is an easy commute away thanks to a railway line and a direct road connection to the Kwinana Freeway.

Mandurah has two primary schools and John Tonkin College, the local high school.

PROPERTY

Everyone from young families looking for more room to move to retirees are attracted to the easy-going coastal lifestyle that Mandurah offers.

Property ranges from flashy marina-side townhouses and apartments in the city's south to suburban back-blocks with family homes from the 1960s. According to Realestate.com.au a four-bedroom property here costs A\$310,000 (£188,137) to buy A\$340 (£206) per week to rent. 🇺🇸

## Homes in Mandurah, Western Australia



**MARINA LOCATION**  
A\$265,000 (£158,133)

Situated on the marina is this fantastic three bedroom townhouse that is close to the city of Mandurah. Enjoy a large family room, balcony and courtyard, with the original kitchen in great condition. Leave the car at home and walk everywhere to explore this great city.

Contact: **Foremost Property Group**  
Web: [www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/au-magazine](http://www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/au-magazine)



**CITY LIVING**  
A\$299,000 (£178,422)

This stunning two-bedroom apartment is located right in the heart of Mandurah offering easy access to Mandurah's local cafes, restaurants and train station. Situated on the ground floor, the alfresco entertaining areas can be enjoyed with family and friends.

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**GOOD LOCATION**  
A\$369,000 (£220,193)

Brand new and never been lived in, this fantastic three bedroom townhouse is ideally located in the new residential community of Mandurah Junction. Just a couple of minutes' walk to the train station, this new development is set to become the community for the professional commuter.

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