

“It was a change for the better”

Moving to a rural suburb of Sydney has led to excellent work and lifestyle opportunities for **Emma and Shaun Morgan...**

Rural Glenorie; and (bottom left) the family with Emma's parents after their Australian citizenship ceremony



We came to Australia as we were looking for a new lifestyle [explains Emma Morgan]. My sister already lived here and Shaun was offered a great job opportunity here.

We wanted a new challenge and the Australian lifestyle is perfect for raising children. We have two girls, one born in the UK and one born here in Australia.

I had some experience of Australia prior to migrating having travelled here in 1998 as a backpacker.

The migration process was hard and lengthy! It definitely wasn't 'easy' but it was certainly worthwhile and I am so glad we made the decision to migrate.

We had to wait until we had held the 457 visa for a certain period of time and our application had issues as Shaun didn't hold the relevant license for his occupation. Even though the license was not needed for his 457 visas it was a requirement for permanent residency.

Shaun also has children back in the UK so this added another layer to our application as we had to get the relevant documentation enabling them to be included in the application and Shaun's son was turning 18 where he would not be eligible as a family member thereafter.

Fortunately we had First Class Migration Australia helping us with our visas. We used them because the process is so complex and we needed a team of people we could



Meet the movers

NAME

Emma and Shaun Morgan, both 45, and their children aged 12 and 7

MOVED FROM

Leamington Spa

MOVED TO

Glenorie, a rural suburb of Sydney, New South Wales

OCCUPATION

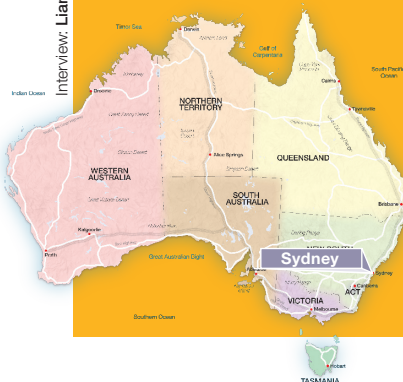
Emma, who worked as a Marketing Manager in the UK, now works as a Creative Director. Shaun, who worked as a Roof Plumber in the UK, now works as a Project Manager.

USEFUL CONTACT

Michelle Le'Fevre, a Registered Migration Agent and director of First Class Migration Australia. Web: firstclassmigration.com.au



Interview: Liane Voisey





“OUR SYDNEY PROS AND CONS”

PROS:

- Great weather
- Outdoors lifestyle
- More opportunities
- People are friendly
- Away from the craziness of the rest of the world

CONS:

- Missing friends and family in the UK
- Can feel a little backwards in technology – terrible internet
- Expensive living

trust and that knew the system. This was the best decision we ever made given the complexities our family experienced – it all looks so easy online completing the form but there is complex legislation behind every visa class. It can be complex and frustrating at times – but with the help of First Class Migration they made it so much easier and less stressful.

We moved within six months of Shaun’s job being offered and in that time we had to sell our house and book our flights.

ARRIVAL SURVIVAL

We arrived in Australia in 2008 with our eldest daughter when she was only three years old – so it was a huge decision to make moving her from family (grandparents) and friends, but we knew we had the support of my sister who was already here in Australia, as well as from Shaun’s work, and friends we had who already lived in Australia.

We have since had a second daughter, and we have moved from the city to the country, where we have a big property, with so much space and we live in a wonderful village community.

My parents also decided to migrate and they made the big move back in May 2014 – we were able to sponsor them under the parent visa.

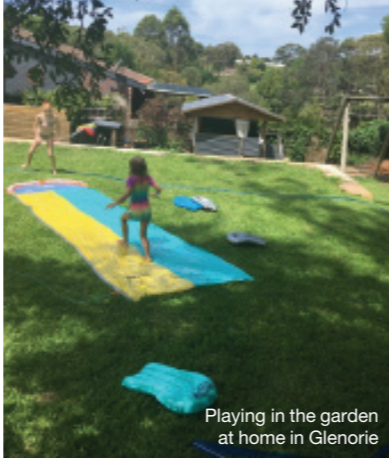
It has been wonderful having my parents out here and for our children to have their grandparents out here and seeing them integrate into the Australian lifestyle – they have settled so well and they absolutely love it out here – they have a new lease on life.

In both instances, we were so grateful to our agent, Michelle Le’Fevre, for her experience, expertise, professionalism and care – it was Michelle who supported my parents through the parent visa, ensured everything was ready immediately they landed so she could immediately lodge the application.

We became Australian citizens in 2016 and the citizenship ceremony made me feel very proud and lucky



The girls receive their citizenship certificates



Playing in the garden at home in Glenorie



The family enjoy going out on their boat

“We are hardly ever home in the summer as we spend our time doing outdoor activities”

to be able to call Australia home. The whole process to get to citizenship was five years. We went from 457 visas, to the 186 employer sponsored visa, to citizenship.

LIVING HERE

Glenorie is a small village one hour outside central Sydney. We wanted to live somewhere with a small country town feel but close to the city, so for us, Glenorie was perfect.

We have a lovely home, plenty of land and we live in a very warm village where we feel very much part of the community.

We bought our house for A\$620,000. The process was very quick and made us feel a lot more settled owning our home rather than renting – which we did for the first five years.

It is a 1970’s architecturally designed home, with four bedrooms and large open plan split across three levels. It has real

character and is on a good size block of land surrounded by bush.

It took about three years to settle in – but now we are in Glenorie we feel very much part of the community. We have got to know some families similar to us and have made a lot of good friends here.

Moving here has definitely changed our lives for the better – it’s great for kids. It feels like a safer place to raise our children.

Australia certainly offers a great work-life balance. We have a lot more outdoor fun. We have a boat and off-road bikes – and we are hardly ever home in the summer as we spend our time doing outdoor activities. We actually like it when winter comes as we get to enjoy some time in our home.

Our advice for other British people wanting to move to Australia is to just do it! Be prepared for a rough couple of years whilst you settle in, but the lifestyle is worth it 🇦🇺

WHY MOVE TO... Sydney

This vibrant city’s warm, sunny climate and strong economy attracts many migrants...

WHAT IT’S LIKE

Sydney’s population of four and a half million people enjoys living in a dynamic, multicultural city.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, almost 40 per cent of Sydney’s residents were born overseas. People from the UK are Sydney’s biggest migrant group, making up five per cent of the population.

In quality of life surveys, Sydney scores consistently well. The city enjoys a temperate, humid climate with abundant sunshine that is well spread through the year. In fact, Sydney basks in more blue-sky

days in winter than in summer.

GETTING AROUND

The vast majority of Sydneysiders use their own cars to get to work.

Like many big cities, Sydney suffers badly from traffic congestion and jams. If you have a strong dislike of driving in these conditions, you would be well advised to live within walking distance of your work or to get a house close to a bus stop or a train station.

HOUSING MARKET

Around 40,000 new people move to Sydney each year and



Vibrant Sydney is known for its excellent quality of life

15,000 new homes are built to accommodate them.

Apartments are common in the centre of Sydney.

Sydney ranks as the second most unaffordable housing market in the English speaking world. While house prices have been relatively stable for the past few months, property is still expensive here. The house prices in Sydney do vary

though depending on where you live.

The eastern suburbs, between the CBD and the beach, are the most expensive. The northern suburbs, especially between the Pacific Highway and the sea, are nice but expensive. The more south west you go, the cheaper the housing, but you are further from the sea. 🇦🇺

Homes in Sydney



FAMILY HOME
A\$689,990 (£426,275)

This spacious three bedroom home located in a quiet residential street has been recently renovated to a high standard, and is ready for a new owner to move straight in to. Close to schools, shops and public transport, this house is great for a family looking to move Down Under.

Contact: **Foremost Property Group**
Web: www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/au-magazine



PARADISE IN THE HILLS
A\$1,700,000 (£1,050,260)

This gorgeous house offers plenty of European charm. This five-bedroom property has an old English manor exterior, but with the functionality of a modern home inside. It boasts lush green landscaped gardens and offers gorgeous panoramic views.

Contact: **Foremost Property Group**
Web: www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/au-magazine



MODERN LIVING
A\$759,000 (£468,910)

Situated in a quiet suburb is this four bedroom contemporary bungalow that offers generous interior spaces. Outside there is plenty of space to enjoy a barbecue, entertain and for the kids to run around and play. Ideal for a family looking for a modern property.

Contact: **Foremost Property Group**
Web: www.foremostpropertygroup.co.uk/au-magazine

The beautiful New South Wales coastline