

# A COLLECTION OF **bytestories**

A WEBSITE SERVING AS AN ARCHIVE OF MY  
DIFFERENT ADVENTURES ON PLANET EARTH...



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## **Volunteering with HIV orphans**

What a privilege, joy and heart warming experience it has been to volunteer at the Agape Home. For seven weeks, I gave educational fun and strategy activities to 48 school age children, mostly HIV and orphan. Most of the children have their own heart breaking story, physical and educational needs. I taught conversation English, with all instructions in English.

I had taken plastic scoobies. The children loved braiding plastic scoobies, making key chains, fish, heart and helicopter shapes. Many made up to 10 scoobies on the one ring! I ran out of plastics!

We visited a child in hospital twice, giving him an activity pack to fill his hours, which he received with delight. One 39 year old HIV lady passed away in hospital and the Christian funeral service, held at the home, attended by staff and students. [www.nikkisplace.org](http://www.nikkisplace.org)

I loved the 1 on 1 time with a child. This special time gave me great satisfaction. On the last morning, I spent two hours with one child who was receiving oxygen. Others came and sat nearby; small groups were a special time.

The final week, the children made a leather scoobie. After the farewell concert, I handed the children their own Agape memory album. They were so pleased to have photos of their own, having not previously owned anything like this. I was stoked, it was so special. It was a memorable and happy self funded mission trip.

**In Chiang Mai, northern Thailand**

## **Saved!**

My father, a WW2 veteran, told of their departure 1941 from Port Melbourne on the former Blue Riband Mauretania. They steamed due south to escape the U-boats, who shun the dangers of the South Pole ice belt.

They then steamed 2,500 Kms west until due south of Fremantle, then a full steam ahead to Fremantle.

A convoy of 4 ships headed for the Indian Ocean. Proudly leading the group was the Queen Mary, with 25,000 troops, the New Zealand with 3,000, the news Holland with 4,000 and our Mauretania with 6,000 aboard. Destroyers wove among the convoy to protect from any U-boats.

Amazingly and only revealed recently, the RAAF maintained surveillance the entire course to Colombo (Sri Lanka.) Dad was deeply moved to hear this from a participating pilot.

Proceeding north, nearing Sumatra, the stately Queen Mary diverted to Singapore, an imposing sight as she 'full steamed ahead' for Singapore. How Dad longed to be on board, not knowing that many of their dear friends would lay down their lives in defending Singapore and our beloved Nation.

Our reduced convoy proceeded to Bombay (Mumbai today). As they approached the Middle East a dense pea-soup fog enveloped the fleet.

Some grouched at losing sight of the Red Sea, not realising until later the Nazi Luftwaffe had schemed to demolish the entire fleet.

God wrapped a heaven-sent fog as protection. Dad was so grateful to have been spared a watery grave.

### **In Out in the Ocean, Australia**

**Why is the website called [bytestories.com](https://bytestories.com)?**

This is a place for "byte-sized" stories and there is a 1500 character (about 250 words) limit for two main reasons. Firstly, we want you to know that "War and Peace" isn't required to leave your mark. Secondly, it takes about 2 minutes to read each story meaning you can head here whenever you want a quick (and entertaining) read.

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