

## Home

Lilly Gundacker  
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*Our Family*

Eleven years ago my Mum almost begged me to attend an auction in the next street. Her dream was that I come back home, possibly buy a local house and settle in Ardeer.

I grew up in Holt Street in the nineteen fifties and sixties. We called it Deer Park East in those days.

The first time I left home I was seventeen. The flat was in Carnegie and I shared with former school friends, who were now students at Monash University. I drove to work on my motorcycle which got me there at a fraction of the time it took me on public transport.

### **Commonwealth Public Servant**

My work at NBSL - National Biological Standards Laboratory with the Commonwealth Department of Health, was preparing tissue cultures for vaccine potency tests. It was the virology department. We had high security, with inspections at the gate. We were dealing with Smallpox and other vaccines, which meant that we also dealt with the virus.

### **Adult Education**

Monday and Tuesday evenings I attended Footscray Institute of Technology for a laboratory technician's course.

When Mum and Dad took their first trip back to Europe in 1972, I came back home as the housekeeper. Dad prepaid board for my younger brother. Mum took the two youngest with her to Munich to see her aging parents. My oldest brother had a friend of his move in as a boarder. I was rewarded with no need to pay board for the job of managing the household.

### **Gap Year**

It was during this time that I saved up my money so I could also travel. I remember in those days I didn't know anybody who had travelled "overseas". Even a gap year was something not really practiced.

Friday nights I did the laundry and served coffee for my brothers and their friends who came to play cards. Saturday, I did the weekly shopping and then the ironing. Every night I did the cooking, and my

brothers did the dishes in turn. I remember insisting that they had to dry the dishes and put them away. Our boarder refused. No need to dry dishes. They dry themselves. I remember one time the dirty dishes were still in the sink, so I just went into my room and closed the door. No way am I going to cook for you guys when you don't even bother doing the dishes!

About an hour later, my older brother knocked on my door: "Dinner's ready", he said. My brother also washed the kitchen floor. Funny thing, I never noticed the dirty floor. I was so proud of myself coping, managing all the shopping, cooking, washing, ironing, studying, working. My brother ate anything I prepared. I really appreciated that. He said if I can eat it, so can he. The boarder was not quite so accommodating.

## **"Overseas"**

As soon as my parents returned home in December 1972, I wanted to move out again. Mum knew that I wanted to travel and shortly after my 19th birthday I took off for Europe. The first leg of the flight was from Melbourne to Sydney.

My first time flying. I was thrilled! It took another five stops before I arrived in Munich: Singapore, Bangkok, Karachi, Frankfurt, Munich. I had a ticket from Melbourne to London, valid for one year, with a stopover in Munich. Mum's parents had moved to Munich when she came to Australia in 1951.

## **Home is where the heart is**

Home is where the heart is, they say. People ask me where was it best? I've lived in Melbourne, Munich, Switzerland, Adelaide, Canberra, Hobart, Wollongong, Sydney. I've even spent a couple of years just travelling around. And then there's the time I spent in America in Medford, Oregon, and Yakima, Washington State. In Austria I've lived in Seebenstein, Linz, Zwettl, Kirchberg am Wagram and Vienna.

I left Australia in 1986 and came back home five years later with my husband and two small children. It was another ten years before I came back to Australia, this time with five children and my husband.

As Mum aged and all my brothers got their own place, I felt like I was the only one attached to the house that Dad built. It was my anchor, my home, my roots in Australia.

## **Memories**

They say your memories change with time. You adapt them every time you recall, associating various emotions.

When I moved to Europe I initially kept my dream of owning my own home. I collected information on kit homes, visited the Blue Lagoon display village: [www.blauelagune.at/](http://www.blauelagune.at/). As we made our way from one base to the next, I still maintained that the best place to live is where I am now.

Today, we live in Vienna, just the two of us. Actually, all my children also live in Vienna.

In 2018 I visited Mum for her 90th birthday. I did what she did. She came to Europe to visit her Mum for her 90th birthday. I returned to Australia a second time in November to attend my niece's wedding. Mum had four sons and 12 grandsons. She had one daughter and one granddaughter.

Mum told me about her experience returning to Czechoslovakia and feeling like a displaced person. In Australia she was a New Australian. In time, she had spent longer in Australia than in her hometown.

Well, now that's me. I've spent longer in Austria than I spent in Australia. So I ask again, where's home?

Our family house is probably going to be sold. I was attached to it. I interviewed Mum in it. I marvelled at my Dad's genius in building it. Yes, I am nostalgic. I remember we had about 17 apple trees in the garden. Now there are other trees. Maybe they will all be cut down. Home is a memory. Home is where the heart is.

Now look at this [video](#) of the auction Mum asked me to attend.

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## State-of-the-art prefabricated houses with innovative technology

The exhibitors at the Blue Lagoon show the latest trends in prefabricated houses: Whether it's a plus-energy concept, smart home equipment or accessibility - here's an overview of the latest house models.

[read more](#)

### Current opening times!

As usual, we have for you

**Open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

The exhibition grounds are closed on Sundays and public holidays.



### The Blue Lagoon at a glance

The current exhibition and consulting offer as an overview.

[more info](#)



### New ELK innovati

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### Flexible f

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## The construction of the building center is progressing rapidly

With the new construction center, the Blue Lagoon will also become an attractive presentation, advice and sales platform for other construction-related sectors. The demand from exhibitors is enormous. And the construction is progressing quickly - read more about it!

[to the construction documentation](#)

## Around

In the Blue Lagoon, exhibitors are showcasing prefabricated



## Fence Sa

High-quality stone look: world



## Trendy bungalow by Scala Haus

A bungalow that corresponds exactly to today's zeitgeist!

[more about the house](#)



## #AninnovationforEurope: The new construction center

The new building center will be a unique exhibition, information, consulting and sales platform for all those interested in building (private and commercial), but also for architects and planners. Whether a new apartment and its sampling, whether a new company building, whether the renovation of an old property, whether a new bathroom, smart home equipment or future topics such as vertical green, urban farming or aquaculture! Opening: 2022



## Bangerl | the Blue

Three garage requirements for your own car



## Living and Corona

Living has a new status due to Corona: The appreciation for one's own home has increased and at the same time new wishes have arisen, depending on the current situation.

[more info](#)



[to the project](#)

## Find your house!

Pure inspiration for the Blue Lagoon. Further modern inspiration!

co



Pallet House - seen in the Blue Lagoon

**Contact**

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