

Day 23 – Bondi Beach and Sydney Chinatown [Sunday 13-Feb-2011]

We got up fairly early. I bought a phone card to call the kids back home, rather trying to tough it out with the satellite phone. The latter is problematic in a city which such tall buildings. The bad weather and other electronic noise can't be helping either. After talking with the kids, we decided to head out exploring despite the weather. At least it is almost warm outside!



Got bus tickets for Bondi Beach, so we are good to go!



Bondi Beach, Sydney. Too bad it was overcast.

By the time we got to Bondi Beach, the weather had not improved. It looked pretty dreary, but there were tons of people in the water nevertheless. We saw that there was a major swim race under way in the bay, with hundreds of swimmers battling the waves. I chuckled to myself and wondered if that was a euphemism for shark feeding time. I would certainly not swim out there like that!



This is definitely a beach for surfers. Notice the band of swimmers further out.



Hundreds of swimmers in a 1 Km race at Bondi Beach when we were there

They also have a pretty cool and well attended Skate Board Park at the beach. Some of the younger kids were clearly biathlon ready: they rode their skateboards in wet suits!



Grinding a skate board at the Bondi Beach Skate Park



Going airborne coming out of the "tub"



This wall painting faces the ocean on Bondi Beach. Almost surreal texture



A group of surfers moving along Bondi Beach

We also took some time to walk through the weekend market in Bondi, by their school. It was not really that interesting to me. I prefer to ogle motor parts at the drag way stands, back home, instead.



Australian Whoppers are found at Hungry Jack's!

We ate a picnic that we had brought with us, while overlooking the beach. We could see the rain approach the beach from off shore. We headed up for the bus stop and went back into town. Lilli wanted to check out Darling Harbor, Chinatown and the Hay Market.



Sydney Chinatown: I wonder if they sell Swedish Pop music in there? Probably not..

We also walked several Chinese shopping malls. Some of them were as tight as what I remember from years back when traveling in Asia. I got hungry by looking at all the food stands. Lilli bought a scarf at the City Market. I bought a T-shirt. I must admit that I find Sydney very pleasing to my taste. There is so much happening here.

We've seen ads in several places for a phone card by a company named Optus. I was quite amused when I looked at the poster they used for their ads:

New Prepaid Turbo Cap Plus.
Now packed with added value.

\$30 RECHARGE = **\$300**[^] VALUE

500MB of mobile data

Unlimited mobile access within Australia

BONUS \$100^{*}
on your first recharge each month for 6 months

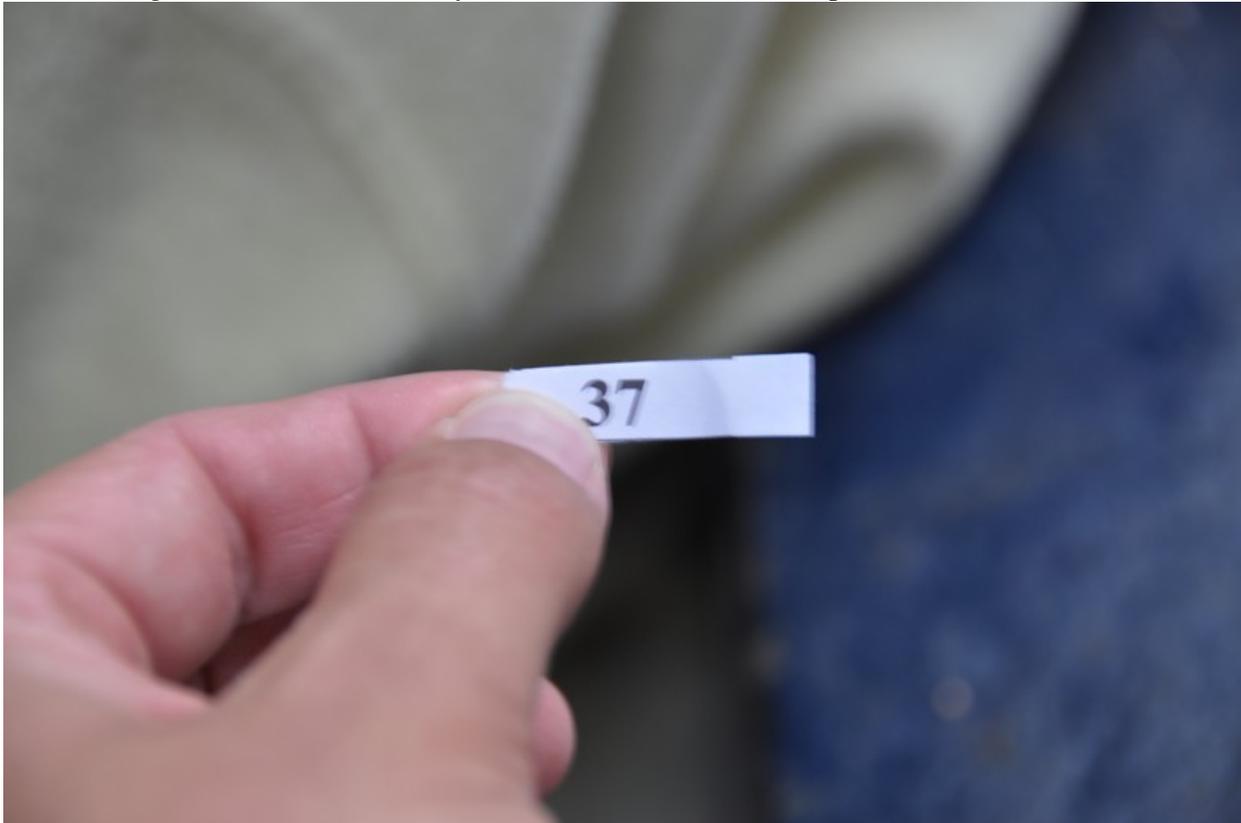
[^]Credit expires on recharge or after 30 days whichever is earlier. \$300 value can be used for standard national and international calls & text, internet browsing & international roaming.

'yes' OPTUS

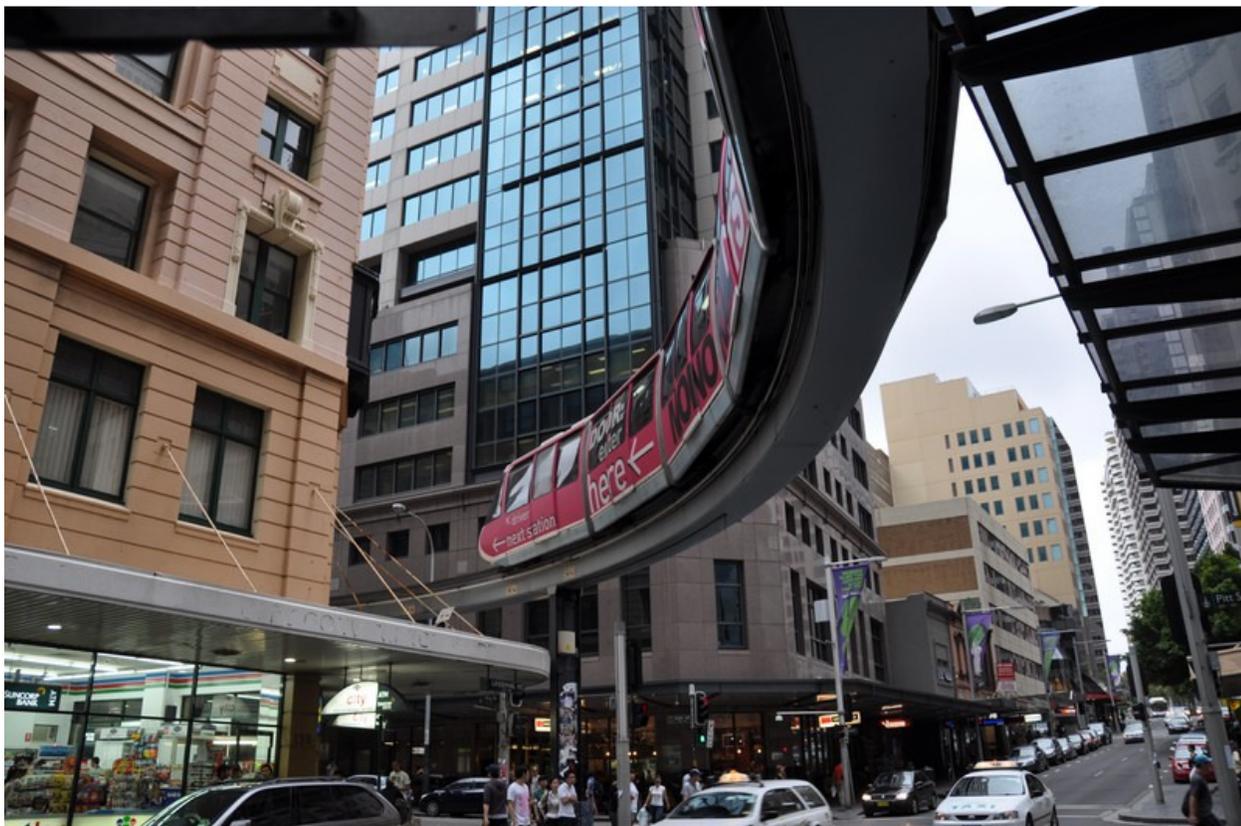
Terms & Conditions: Some restrictions may apply. A maximum of \$20 of your \$100 bonus may also be used for premium SMS & content. See current usage charges, value calling, text and roaming rates. Data is charged in 100 increments per minute for standard and international within Australia. Excess data usage will be charged at \$1/MB. Some parts of the bonus require customers to change their internet connection settings to be able to access the internet while on the Turbo Cap Plus plan. If these settings are not updated, internet access will be disabled. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, MyIn & MyIn are only available within Australia. Access to any other mobile services including 3rd party apps along with any additional data charges applicable on your prepaid calling offer. Additional usage charges will also apply for any internet data accessed via these sites. Facebook is a registered trademark of Facebook Inc. Twitter and the Twitter logo are trademarks of Twitter Inc. Facebook and the Facebook logo and other related marks are trademarks of Facebook Inc. Facebook is only available to customers who connect and recharge with 3G or more on Turbo Cap Plus by 30/07/11 and is only available while connected to their offer. See \$100 bonus credit for full terms and conditions at www.optus.com.au/turbo. *Bonus value is only available to customers who connect and recharge with \$30 or more on Turbo Cap Plus by 30/07/11 and is only available while connected to their offer. See \$100 bonus credit for full terms and conditions at www.optus.com.au/turbo. Bonus credit will be applied on following and available premium SMS & content. See current usage charges, value calling, text and roaming rates. Helpdesk will be applied within 24 hours of recharge and expires in 30 days. Contact Optus Pty Ltd 1800 43 43 333.

If I move to Australia, I'm getting the Prepaid Turbo Cap Plus phone plan

We had eye balled a Sushi bar, the past couple of days, at the intersection of Pitt St and Liverpool St. So we decided to eat there this evening. We first had a beer at the hostel's bar. We sat outside. It was quite windy. Once we got to the Sushi bar, I signed a sheet to be put in line. The waiter gave me a ticket with my number. It was so microscopic I was afraid to lose it!



Ever heard of Japanese miniaturization? This is my waiting ticket for a dinner table!



While we wait for a table we see the cool Sydney mono-rail pass overhead



Life is full of choices at the rotating Sushi bar



One of the many delicious sushi plates we plucked off the line

Now that we've seen cockatoos in Sydney I keep an eye on the sky as we walk around. On our way home from dinner, I noticed some rather large "black birds" flying overhead. They looked like bats. I focused my camera, and sure enough. Turns out there are an estimated 20,000 giant bats living in Sydney. They have a wing-span of more than 3ft! I had no idea until I saw them this evening. No wonder they looked so large when they flew by.



Those “birds” we saw overhead, walking home, we giant bats with a 3ft+ wingspan! Yikes!