



## Top Tips on getting here and staying- what we've found along the way

### Before you get here...

#### Working Holiday Visa

All people applying to work at Balmoral Sailing School must have a working holiday visa or have a right to work in Australia. See the section on Australian Work Rights on the Balmoral Jobs web page for further information.

You will be required to have funds to support you at the time of entry in to Australia, and then you are able to seek work to help supplement your travels. You must declare on your application that you will have the required £2300 (\$5000AUD), or £3000 if you have not purchased a ticket for your onward journey, in your account before entering Australia. However, you will not be asked to supply financial evidence at the time of application.

Applying for a Working Holiday Visa:

You can apply on-line, please ensure you have the following information available:

- Passport Details
- Contact Details
- Means of Payment
- Details of any convictions or medical conditions

#### Flights to Australia

If you are thinking about travelling the world before or after you get here- do it!

You can get cheap round the world flights from a number of different suppliers.

Try going into an **STA Travel** shop or check at their website [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com)

and select the country you are coming from on the scroll down bar on the right.

Otherwise try **Flight Centre**, **British Airways** or **Qantas**. If you've got a couple of hours it's worth

Google searching various flight specialists and comparing flights. Direct flights from the UK are generally from around £1000-£2000 which is roughly around the same price as a round the world ticket.



## **Insurance**

Travel insurance is a good idea to get when visiting Australia as it can be very costly to get you back home if something happens. If you are planning on going to Asia before you get to Australia then travel insurance is a must. There is no public health service over here so doctors can be pricey. Try online insurance companies as they are usually slightly cheaper- **insure and go** [www.insureandgo.com](http://www.insureandgo.com) are pretty good and cover all of the bases at a reasonable rate. Or try Down Under [www.duinsure.com.au](http://www.duinsure.com.au). Try and steer clear of travel agent insurance companies such as STA as they can be VERY expensive for the same service. As with flights- a good Google such to compare prices is a good idea to ensure you get the best deals.

## **Scan and Email Important Documents**

In order to work at Balmoral Sailing School we need to see your instructor qualifications, powerboat certificate, first aid certificate, CV, CRB check, written references x 2 and both parts of your driving licence and your passport. The best way to keep hold of all of your qualies and important bits of paper is to scan the copies and email them to yourself before you leave for Australia, simply keep them in a saved file in your hotmail and forget about them until you need them.

If you are going to be working with children during your time in Australia then many employers will ask to see your latest CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check and/or a police check from your local station. Make sure you have one or both with you when you travel.

References – most employers will ask to see references – ask your current employer and your last previous employer for a reference and have it on file – it saves a lot of hassle and looks good.

## **Hostels and Hotels**



Have a plan of where to stay before you get here, at least for the first few nights. The closest place to Balmoral Sailing School is Manly so check out Manly Backpackers [www.manlybackpackers.com.au](http://www.manlybackpackers.com.au) or Manly Boardriders [www.boardrider.com.au](http://www.boardrider.com.au) for the latest prices and availability.

## **Mobile Phones**

You will need an Australian phone number when you get here as it's a lot cheaper than using your number from home and racking up the bill! Try are get your phone unlocked before you leave so it is compatible for any sim card. Phones are quite expensive over here compared to what you pay in the UK so to save some money get it switched.

## **Have a Plan B**

Having some spare funds is the best advice we can give you before you get here. Australia is an awesome country with so much to do, so don't spend your time couped up in your hostel when you're not working here- get out there and see it! Working at Balmoral Sailing School is hard work, the hours are long and the work is tough especially in the hot Aussie heat which sometimes isn't to everyone's liking. Remember, you could have 100 interviews with us over Skype but you still won't experience the intensity of working here until you arrive and do a hard days graft. We realise that working in these hot and tiring conditions aren't for everyone so have a back-up plan or a plan B in case it's not quite for you.

### What to Bring Along...

We have instructor buoyancy aids here which also have a knife with them for you to use. Feel free to bring your own if you have enough space in your luggage but it's not essential. We have a random selection of wetsuits, which are for public use, which you are welcome to borrow when teaching. Yup it does get cold here despite what you have seen on home & away! You might like to bring a spray top as it does get nippy out on the water. Feel free to bring dinghy boots along with you as well as any teaching aids to help you while you're here. We do have harnesses which you are welcome to use.

### When you arrive...



### **G'DAY MATE- WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA!!**

Whether you arrive directly into Sydney or work somewhere else beforehand here are some top tips for you to do before applying for a job or going for an interview:

### Get yourself a Tax File Number

This is a bit like a National Insurance number BUT IT IS NOT THE SAME NUMBER. You need to apply for it online through the Australian Government in order for you to work without being taxed the Earth. Have a look at the *'Things to do before you get to Australia to make your life and ours easier'* attachment for more information on applying for your tax file number online or, if you've got that chilled out Aussie feeling already, you can pop into a **Travellers Express** and they do it all for you free of charge, for your nearest branch or information on work and travel go to [www.travellersxpress.com](http://www.travellersxpress.com).

### Medicare Cards

Getting a Medicare card is simple and easy- all you need to do is find your nearest centre on [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) and take your passport and a copy of your working holiday visa (just print off the email from the Australian Immigration). The Medicare centres are similar to Argos in that you go to a machine and grab a ticket relevant to your enquiry and wait for your number. Again, there is more information on this in the *'Things to do before you get to Australia to make your life and ours easier'* attachment. Getting a Medicare card as soon as you get to Australia will save you a packet if anything happens to you while over here instead of waiting for your travel insurance to come through.



### **Bank Accounts**

Having an Australian bank account, especially if you're here for a while is definitely the way forward. It costs a fortune to use your card at an ATM or in the shops plus most employers will ask for an Australian account in order to pay you. It's a very easy process and all you need is your passport and enough money to open the account. More info on this in the '*Things to do before you get to Australia to make your life and ours easier*' attachment through a bank called Westpac although if that bank doesn't float your boat there is also Commonwealth Bank, ANZ or St George's which can all be sorted either before you get here or when you arrive.

### **Claiming Tax Back**

Oh Yes! Keep reading the '*Things to do before you get to Australia to make your life and ours easier*' to find out how this is done.

### **Mobile Phone Sim Cards**

Buying a sim card is pretty easy although understanding the way it works is another matter. There are plenty of mobile phone shops around where you can buy a sim card or buy a new phone if you didn't unlock your old one. It costs around \$75 for a phone, sim card and \$30 credit although once you've topped up the phone will register as having \$300- \$600 worth of credit on it. You need a permanent address to get a contract phone so getting a pay as you go is the best way to go. You can buy top up vouchers from mobile phone shops, supermarkets and Seven Eleven stores.



### **Somewhere to live...**

If you decide that Balmoral is where you want to work, we would recommend Manly as the place to live. It's got everything you need; bars, beaches, shops and did we mention beaches? If you get the chance, go and visit Manly for the day to see if you like it before getting a place straight away- as with everything it's not for everyone. If you decide Manly is the place for you then check out the local newspaper the *Manly Daily*. This is a free newspaper that gets delivered around Manly everyday (apart from Sundays) and has a great classified section with places to live. Another option is to try the local internet cafes that usually have a wall dedicated to private ads for flatmates or house share. A third option is to post an ad or look at adverts on Gumtree. Check out [www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au). On average the price for renting is roughly \$150-\$300 per week depending on whether you share a room or have your own room and in which area of Manly. On top of that bills are generally around \$50 per quarter and food is about \$80 per week (grocery shopping is more expensive over here than in the UK). Eating out is relatively cheap though, you'll be expected to pay around \$10- \$25 for a nice dinner and most restaurants are bring your own soft drinks or alcohol. A beer (a schooner- slightly less than a pint) is around \$6 and a glass of house wine is around \$7.

### **Buses and Public Transport**

Sydney is pretty good at public transport with buses being the main source of travel (if you don't have a car). When getting to Balmoral you will need to catch a bus- take a look at [www.sydneybuses.info](http://www.sydneybuses.info) for more information on buses in and around Sydney.

### **Contacting Balmoral for an Interview**

When you're in the process of getting all of the important stuff sorted it's time to check us out. Even if you have had a chat on Skype with us we will need you to come and meet with us in person at the beach - which is also a great excuse to come and meet the team. Give us a call before hand on 99605344 to arrange an interview time-we are open 7 days a week although during the week is better for us as weekends are pretty manic although call us first to confirm. You will need to bring along copies of all of your documentation for us to keep such as your instructor qualifications, powerboat certificate, driving licence, first aid certificate, CV, CRB check, bank cards from Australia (if you've got one),

Australian bank details such as BSB number and account number (if you don't know this get your bank to write it down and keep it in your wallet) and written references from past employers. Hopefully you would have emailed them to yourself already so all you need to do is print them off!

