

New South Wales Skilled Migration Case Study

HARALD OTT

Harald Ott and his wife Elke took a holiday in Australia in January 2006 and being keen bicyclists decided to cycle along the coast from Adelaide to Sydney. At the same time Harald's employer in Germany, Philips was deciding to close its Munich operation where he worked. The cycle trip took six weeks and by the end of it Harald and Elke had decided to migrate to Australia.

Harald didn't have the 120 points needed for general skilled migration but had 17 years experience as a Systems Administrator. He also had extensive experience in Unix which was in demand in NSW and applied for sponsorship from the NSW Department of State and Regional Development for a State/Territory Nominated Independent (STNI) visa as a Systems Manager in August 2006.

Harald was granted the visa by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in March 2007 and he and Elke arrived in Sydney in June. They initially hired a cabin in the Lane Cove National Park caravan park for three weeks until they found a duplex house in Dundas in Sydney's western suburbs.

Looking for employment through Seek IT within two months Harald had secured a position as a systems engineer in storage and backup with Fujitsu Australia in North Ryde. It was only a few weeks later when Elke found a position in a plant nursery in Lansvale.



Harald Ott at Fujitsu's offices in North Ryde.

After ten months in Sydney Harald and Elke have settled well and now even eat Vegemite! Harald cycles to work every day and enjoys the casual dress policy at Fujitsu.

'We enjoy trips on the weekends: bush walking in the Blue Mountains, travelling up the coast to places like Port Stephens and we've even been kayaking in Sydney Harbour' says Harald.

'We have found people very friendly and open, we can ask for help when we need it and its easy to find information on the internet on health insurance, tax and the things you need to learn when you first move to a new country'.

Harald says lots of Germans think about moving but need a trigger to take the step.

For more information on migrating to NSW go to

www.business.nsw.gov.au/migration