

YOUR HOSTS (A little history!)

Your hosts, Peter and Daphne, each led interesting lives before finding their beloved haven in the Daintree in 1997.

Peter was born in Dorrigo NSW. His mother's ancestors came to Australia with the Second Fleet and his father, a Church of England vicar, was from Wales. The family moved frequently to different parishes throughout Australia, England and Fiji. With typical Welsh humour his father called himself a "roamin' catholic".

Peter then spent happy years on horseback as a jackaroo, firstly working with sheep and then on a huge cattle station in the Northern Territory before heading for Papua New Guinea where he managed remote coconut and cocoa plantations for Burns Philp.

Daphne was born in England to an English mother and South African father who joined the merchant navy in SA as a deck officer and eventually settled in the UK.

She became a secretary in Liverpool, spent a year on a working holiday in South Africa before achieving her dream of going to sea by being accepted by P&O UK as an assistant purser and spending two wonderful years sailing the world.

Peter spent one of his leaves from New Guinea sailing from Sydney to London and flying back. Daphne was working on the ship and they met at a Captains Cocktail Party in the middle of the Indian Ocean – a shipboard romance with a twist as she was an officer and Peter a passenger!

After a long-distance courtship they were married in England and when Daphne arrived, straight from London, the European population of Peter's tiny tropical island doubled! They spent a further 3 years in New Guinea before leaving Burns Philp and moving to Brisbane, Queensland.

Peter and Daphne have always worked together owning and running several small businesses – swimming pool supplies, a pate and deli goods manufacturing business and finally a large cake and cheesecake factory.

In between businesses they would pack up, sell the house and the business, buy a yacht and cruise the Queensland coast, living on board for a year or two. They actually spent a week sheltering from strong winds in the mouth of the Daintree River, never dreaming that a few years later they would be living in the beautiful Daintree!

They sold the cheesecake factory in 1996, spent a year travelling Australia in a caravan, ending up in far north Queensland where they realised just how much they loved the tropics. They soon found their Paradise, 30 acres in the Daintree Valley with a lovely tropical home but overgrown gardens, exotic fruits and rainforest.

In 2000 after three happy years cleaning up the property someone said "why don't you put in some cabins?"

And the rest, as they say, is history!