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Heading for a new life down under

The New Year brings a new start and many people look to make changes in their lives.

For some it can be as big as starting again in another country. David Walton from Darlington hopes 2010 will be the year that his dream of moving to Australia will start to become a reality.



Most immigrants live around the coastal areas of Australia.

It seems they are not alone, Australia continues to be the top destination for Brits deciding to move abroad.

Living the dream

David and his wife joined around 20 couples from the region at an information event in Durham hosted by migration agents, The Emigration Group.

David's an engineer and his wife a nurse so the couple hope they have a good chance of getting a permanent visa.

Both their occupations are on the Australian government's critical skills list which could ensure a quicker route to living and working in the country.

Not all those thinking about setting up their home 10,000 miles away have visited Australia but David and his wife fell in love with the country after a holiday.

“ I'm an engineer, they're looking for them so, the wife's a nurse, they're looking for them even more ”

David Walton

"It looks pretty good so far. I'm an engineer, they're looking for

them so, the wife's a nurse they're looking for them even more." While many families go on to successfully make Australia their home, Paul Arthur from The Emigration Group said there can be teething troubles.

"You will always find an element of the grass is greener...

"The thing everybody is going to suffer from when they emigrate is homesickness, you lose the network of family and friends and that's a big thing.

"It's just a question of being focussed working through it and then the opportunities are there for yourself and your family."

He also said he expects some Corus workers to contemplate moving to Australia and using their skills there, where they could be more in demand.

And BBC Tees will be following David Walton's journey to see if he makes his dream of moving to Australia a reality.

Have you ever been tempted to move abroad? Maybe you left to live somewhere else, found it wasn't quite what you were expecting and moved back?

Tell us what happened to you

Emigration facts

An estimated 500,000 migrants arrived in Australia between January and June 2009

That is 15% more than the previous year.

Over 225,000 residents left Australia