



## Meet the movers

### NAMES

Sadie (45) and Ferdi (46) Covati

### OCCUPATIONS

Sadie used to manage a corporate uniform company, while Ferdi ran his own restaurant. In Australia, Sadie now works in real estate while Ferdi works as a carpenter.

### MOVED FROM

Leicestershire, UK

### MOVED TO

Doonan, Queensland

### FURTHER INFO

The Emigration Group: 0845 230 4390 [www.emigrationgroup.co.uk](http://www.emigrationgroup.co.uk)



# Wish you were here!

With the lovely beaches of Noosa nearby and a relaxed rural lifestyle in tropical Queensland, every day feels just like being on holiday for the Covati family...

**H**aving spent many holidays in Queensland, moving from the UK to Australia was a natural step for Sadie and Ferdi Covati. "We holidayed in Australia many times and always ended up back in Queensland – even when we flew into Perth," says Sadie. "We just liked the relaxed and chilled out way of life here."

Sadie and Ferdi decided to live in a "very beautiful" area called Doonan, just 10 minutes away from the beaches of Noosa, but at the same time, enabling them to enjoy rural living and a lovely country life. "It's a popular place for getaways, so every day feels like a holiday. The

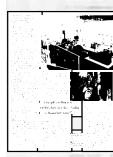
beaches are superb, and the dogs love beach walks," says Sadie.

In Britain, the couple had their own businesses in Leicestershire. Sadie owned a corporate uniform company and Ferdi worked as a chef, running his own restaurant.

Sadie, 43 when she moved to Australia, now works in real estate. She commutes daily to nearby Eumundi, a friendly market town just five minutes away. "I made an effort to get to know people and joined a ladies business group in Eumundi, which is a very close-knit country town, and it really was plain sailing from there," says Sadie. "I pretty much know most of the locals now." Sadie describes herself as an

**Below** Sadie and Ferdi instantly fell in love with their split level home





outgoing person and that, she says, has helped her network, make friends and settle. "Once you are working, that also gets you another circle of friends," she says.

Ferdie, 44 when he emigrated, has given up a life in catering. He completed a 10-week course in carpentry and now works part time at a cabinet-making firm. To keep himself busy he also works for himself as a handyman, carrying out general repairs to properties in the local area.

"It took us both a few months to settle in and find our place job wise," says Sadie. "You have to keep going until the right job comes along."

Sadie describes their working weeks. "The working day starts early for Ferdi - he leaves home at 6.15am, something which he would never do in UK, but in Queensland everybody gets up at the crack of dawn. Ferdi does three days cabinet making and a couple of days working for himself doing general maintenance. He has nights and weekends off, which he would never have had in England, being a chef.

"I work from 10am to 4pm, five or six days a week, depending on my workload. I love my job very much and work for a fantastic company, so the weekend work just seems normal, and if I need a weekend off it's no worries. We do not have the stresses of owning two businesses which makes a massive difference to our lives."

#### QUALITY TIME

The couple said it took them around 16 months to settle in. "We rented a house to start with until we found a house we liked," says Sadie. "We bought it about six months after we arrived. It was a good feeling after renting for a couple of years. (We also rented in the UK before moving into our first rental property here in Queensland)."

Sadie says they fell in love with their house when they first saw it. "It sits on a couple of acres of land and is a split-level home. It is modern, light and airy, which you need here in the summer as it gets hot and humid. It was brand new when we bought it



and we have done quite a lot to it, like putting a pool in and terracing the gardens. I call it the Miami Vice house! I am not sure why but it suits it!" The couple are currently looking at buying an investment property to rent out too.

They have great neighbours who they see on a regular basis for drinks, dinner or family get-togethers. "We are very lucky, as we have a good social circle where we live, spending



**"Our split level home is modern, light and airy – I call it the Miami Vice house!"**

time with like-minded people who know how to enjoy themselves," says Sadie. Often they have friends round for dinner or drinks, or the couple go to their friends' houses.

"Life is good here - good weather, good beaches, good wine and a great circle of friends. Really you can mix with people as much or as little as you want to. It's just making the effort in the first place."

Ferdie uses his spare time to go to the footie with his workmates and Sadie enjoys doing lunch "with the

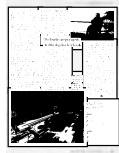
girls" and going to the cinema. "It's very reasonable to eat out here too, so we go out with friends to dinner quite often," she says.

There are no children in the Covati household, but their two dogs, brought with them from the UK, enjoy running around on the acre of land the couple's luxury home sits on. "We back onto the bush. It's very quiet, old fashioned living - just 15 minutes from the modern world of Noosa," says Sadie.

Sadie and Ferdi even bought a camper trailer so they could get to know their new country better. "When we get a couple of spare days we go off to Tin Can Bay, or Rainbow Beach for a couple of nights, take the dogs and really >>

**Above** Ferdie makes the most of being outdoors in his spare time

**Top** The sun streams through the modern open-plan ground floor



chill out – it’s a very economical way of seeing the surrounding areas. Ferdi would never have done this in UK. mainly due to weather. There he was strictly a hotel man!”

**NO REGRETS**

While she has no regrets about leaving Britain, Sadie says leaving their families behind was her biggest concern. “It’s all very sad but you are also excited about starting your new life, so you feel pulled both ways,” she says. “I look at it like this - the UK is just 24 hours away. You feel guilty for leaving, but in your heart you know that your family wants what makes you happy. You are only here once; life’s not a dress rehearsal so if you want something you have to go for it.”

The worst thing was not seeing family on a regular basis. “Although I speak to them everyday, it took a long time to get used to being away from home. You just see them in one big chunk, rather than now and again! I also miss the fab shopping in UK, but I live in shorts and T-shirts now, so fashion has gone out the window a bit.”

Sadie says that there would not be anything that they would do differently. “The only advice I could give would be to visit the country

first,” says Sadie. “We made sure we knew as much as possible about Australia so that by the time we arrived we had read every book there was on life here. There were no surprises – we perhaps knew more than the Australians did!”

Sadie says their migration consultant at ‘The Emigration Group’ in Chester helped them to get full Permanent Residence Visas

**“The beaches are just superb, and the dogs love beach walks**

by using Ferdi’s skills as a chef.

“The process took a while, but the company’s staff are always on hand and very helpful. Even when things are tense – while you are waiting for all the paperwork and getting stressed out – the company smooths things over and acts as a kind of mediator,” says Sadie.

“We would not be here without them. They kept calm and positive, which is what you need – someone to hold your hand.”

And now the couple are settled, in retrospect, they feel the move was all worth it in the end. “The changes for us are mainly no stress and good healthy outdoor living,” says Sadie.



**Above** Sadie and Ferdi love chilling out and taking their dogs for walks

**Below** The couple built a swimming pool at the back of their property

“Somehow when the sun’s out you feel happier. Wine is cheap, we have made great friends and we lead a very happy life. What more can we ask than that?”

“We have also travelled extensively round Australia. This year we have enjoyed weekends in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Tasmania.”

And their first Christmas in sun-drenched Queensland?

“We went camping during our first Christmas here and it rained and rained while being hot and sticky,” laughs Sadie. “But the following year we went to a fellow Pom’s house – there were 20 of us and we had a great time.

“It will never be the same as Christmas in the UK but you can always holiday there at that time of year if you really miss those wet, freezing winters!” 🇺🇸

