REPORT ON THE WORKING LIFE OF GREG KELLY IN THE TWELVE TRIBES

Greg is from NZ and met the TT there in Auckland in 1993 and joined them July 1993.

“I worked in the painting crew since the beginning of my involvement. I used to wake up at 5 sometimes and worked mainly from 7 AM to 5 PM. I worked until we came to Australia in 1995.

We first lived in Strathfield and got back into painting right away. I worked for Porters, a painting company who contracted us. In 1996 the community acquired Peppercorn Creek Farm in Picton as a result of Peter Baker joining. The farm was a demolition yard. We took over Peter’s business which included plumbing as well as demolition in the local area. I continued to work as a painter as a side job but that stopped after 1 year of being in Picton. We were by then working only on demolition, plumbing and landscaping.

While in Picton I worked from 8 am to 5 pm, 6 days a week.

Everyone until 1998-9 was living together in Picton. Then some of us moved to Sydney, Burwood to work at our rented bakery in Lidcombe. Also we renovated and rented a cafe in Rozelle, the first Common Ground Cafe in Australia.

While in Burwood I worked still at demolition jobs in the city. After 6 months I was put to work at the bakery in Lidcombe. I left home at 5 got there at 5:30, started work straight away. We had one break for lunch half an hour. You do not stop for a cuppa, you drink as you go. I worked in Lidcombe for 2 and half years from 1999 till 2002.

The industry crew after 3 years moved back to the Farm in Picton.

I was part of it again. We commuted to Sydney, Pyrmont and started at 7 am and finished anywhere between 4 and 5 pm, Sunday to Friday. 2003

A year later we focused on our local area for demolition work and stopped commuting.

I worked for 2 years and the hours were the same as in my first years in Australia.

I was part of the building crew in Katoomba working from 9 to 5, renovating what would be the Cafe in Katoomba.

When the Cafe opened I was back at the Farm for a year mainly demolition and work on the farm. I was working 5 days a week from 7 to 5 30.

In 2009 I lived in Katoomba above the Cafe and worked doing dishes from 7 am till midnight on a regular basis, from Sunday to Thursday. Friday we would finish early around 4:30. My weekly schedule went as follows:

1. Sunday- dishes
2. Monday -dishes
3. Tuesday –preparation kitchen
4. Wednesday -prep. kitchen
5. Thursday- dishes
6. Friday- dishes.

This went on for 2 and half years.

I went back to the farm for 3 weeks then was sent to Wyong. Matthew Gardener had passed on his demolition and recycling businesses to the community upon joining. And I worked there from 8: 30 am to 5 pm 6 days a week. For 9 months it was easier, and relaxed in a small family environment. We went to the beach on the weekend. It was like having a holiday.

In 2011 I was back at the farm and did demolition again until I left the TT in Feb. 2012”.

From 1993 to 2011, all the years I part of the Twelve Tribes I did not have holidays except while visiting my family in New Zealand for a week.

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