

Cooling up in Chelsea beach

Melbourne's summer was in full swing. Scorching temperatures continued for days in early days of January leaving us in house arrest, as it was too hot to step outside. The sun rose early seeping the warm rays through the curtains of the bedroom waking us to a many bright and boiling days to welcome the New Year.

Some of these summery days began rather clumsily. It felt as if there was no life left as the body got exposed to unending hotness. Weary, we only longed for coolness. The plush green lawns

unreachable horizon and the breath-taking view of daily dawn and dusk. As you walk along the 1.5km long beach you are never to miss the Chelsea Life Saving Club, founded in 1971, along with Chelsea Yatch Club. A popular beach icon, the bathing boxes stand hand in hand on the sand dazzling off their artistic colours in the sunny beach.

In the vicinity is also the pier that runs a few meters into the clear shallow waters. View down the rusty railing of the pier end is one pool of scattered fish in no hurry to swim anywhere. But they look struggled as if they

the land. The nightfall was fast approaching. Swimmers started back to the land while their families were seen hurriedly packing up as if something was to happen next.

Gorgeous sunset was upon us on the horizon. Sun was slowly setting off glamorously splashing its vibrant colours across the vast ocean. A day's work was

nearing completion. Still, people watched the dawn of the dusk. In a matter of minutes the sun disappeared leaving the darkness to take control only until the next morning.

We drove off Chelsea wishing for another fabulous day for those who would be visiting the beach tomorrow.



nourished in the spring were barely tolerating the climatic change. Thirst for a drop of water, the garden calls for help. Excruciating heat was dominant with no sign of wearing off any sooner.

The humming of the coolers and air cons from the neighboring houses filled the surrounding air every time an attempt was made to open a door or a window. The kids played water fights with the furry, massive German shepherd, our pet dog, hoping to alleviate the heat waves from the animal. The beach could have been the ideal place to visit, had it been close by. A thought of a drive down to Chelsea began cooking up.

Located between Edithvale and Bon-beach, Chelsea is a bayside suburb of Melbourne. Drive down there from Lynbrook is around 19.3 Km, approximately taking 23 minutes off traffic peak. The coastal line runs parallel to the Nepean Highway and on to its eastern side runs a railway line placing the beach in an easily accessible location by public transport.

Famous for a straight and uninterrupted stretch of coastline, the beach at Chelsea creates a panoramic view of the

have noticed they are being watched from above. Repetively kissing the wavy waters are huge rocks laced with greenish moss catching the eye of the over looker from the pier.

We arrived in the beach to notice the hustle and the bustle, people walking in scattered lines down the footpaths to the beach. They were armed with the swimming gear, picnic baskets and what not. Not long after we followed them, a quite a number of us wishing to breeze off the heat in the cool and still waters of Chelsea. A gentle breeze caressing the weary bodies lead the way to a beach swamped with people no matter where the eyes take you.

Hosting the blue beach umbrella in the direction of the attacking sun, we perched ourselves on the chairs and mats adding to comfortable settling down on the sand. Instantly, the kids and the youngsters in the gang set off to the water. Swimming into the sea we saw them basking themselves in the chilled water.

I had a satisfying nice long walk along the beach constantly bathing my feet in the waves that decided to come bit further onto



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