

Sydney: Stories from the city



Winter
Two Thousand
Zero Eight

Edition of 50
Ten dollars

**a lazy dangerous [place]
with razors up lanes, trams
crushing starched corn,
hawkers spitting [and]
straw hats on the ferry.**

Les Murray
*The Boys Who Stole
the Funeral* (excerpt)
Sydney, 1980

Sydney-

ney

Sydney:
Stories from
the city
Compiled by
Anthony Calvert

Con- tentents

June
2008

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Stories from the city: Sydney

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Designed and published by
Anthony Calvert

joyoftxt.com
anthonycalvert.com

Intro

Hello

Introduction

Stories from the City is a collection of text messages about life in Sydney, Australia.

All messages were sourced from Twitter.com and are in the public domain (twitter.com/public_timeline)

The The medium is the message SMS

History of the SMS

The SMS has changed the world. Originally intended for use by mobile phone technicians, there are now billions of text messages sent around the world every day.

The first commercial text message was sent over the Vodafone GSM network in the United Kingdom on 3 December 1992, from Neil Papworth (using a personal computer) to Richard Jarvis (using an Orbitel 901 handset). The text message read "Merry Christmas".

The SMS was launched commercially in 1995 and was soon adopted by young users as a cheap alternative to voice calls.

Statistics

5000 texts were sent every second in the UK in December, 2007.

290m texts were sent on New Year's Eve 2007 in the UK.

570%: The increase in total text messages sent in the UK between 1999 and 2007.

95% of 16-24 year-olds use text messaging regularly, each sending an average of 100 texts per month.

2.3 trillion texts are expected to be sent worldwide in 2008.

Sources:
Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org>)
Mobile Data Association
(<http://www.text.it>)



**Says the bus driver:
'You look very dangerous in
your big black trench coat.'
A regular public menace, i am.**

glittertrash,
26 June 2008

Photo: Flickr (ecagamic)

Search:



Buses

01

Sydney

June
2008

05

Wariach: I find the older passengers are worse than the kids, but all the kids get off my regular bus routes just before I get on.

Wariach: Yeah I'm usually the prick who shouts "Can you all move down the fucking bus?" Stupid people need to be yelled at so they learn

Wariach: Also, while I've got my cranky pants on: so help me if you're the next person I see sitting on the outside of an empty seat on a crowded bus

06

Alegrya: nursing home in Germany built a fake bus stop to catch escaping Alzheimer's patients

07

ApostrophePong: An American tourist girl getting on Sydney bus says 'Wow, it's so long!'. Uhh yeah baby

08

bloodvial: This bus smells like dehydrated onion

12

hollingsworth: LOL on bus & 2 high school girls both talking to each other at same time whilst sharing iPod headphones. A lot of info is being exchanged.

June
13

jameswilson: It's friday the 13th. There is 13 people on this bus and we're heading

to a church to sing at a funeral. Superstitious people, leave now.

13

Rozza: On the bus to work. I hate fat kids. There is one next to me.

Broady: Why the hell is this guy on the bus looking at me constantly? Not even glaring, just constant glances. WTF

June
14

Naimo: Watching a 30+ couple play clapping games on the bus.



June

15

Alegrya: amusing bus ride when the driver starts playing with the coins and a guy up the back bursts into profanity filled song. Smirks all around

16

tBCaoyonan: On a bus being driven by a lunatic

17

rotassator: Oh noes! Bus driver has 2MMM playing in the bus very loudly. And hot air con. :(

18

stilgherrian: Dear Bus Driver, if having to change a \$50 is your day's worst then you and Mr 9mm need to chat.

24

hissohathair: Bus driver monologuing. He is loudly covering a wide range of bus related topics. Current topic: Fines.

foraggio: going home. The man next to me on the bus smells boozy.





**Looked from the monorail in
a random office window and
saw Facebook up on three of
five screens**

angusf,
18 June 2008

Photo: Wikipedia

Search:

+

"Saw"

02

Sydney

June 2008

07

deanburge: I just saw man-camel-toe ... Bee Gee's Stayin' Alive... grose!

11

achlanhardy: just saw some power-dresser driving her kids to school in a blandly grey whiny Maserati sedan. I don't get it.

eskimo_sparky: the barrista saw and secretly spat in her coffee ;-)

16

nickhac: just saw an old man buying a single bottle of methylated spirits with coins at kings cross coles... made me sad... i gotta get outa here

June 16

Nevinho: Just saw an old lady picking cigarette butts out of the trash using chopsticks outside The Bourbon. Married to metho-man, perhaps?

17

darrenjrobinson: Haha I just saw a young girl (late teens) with an old school tape walkman.

zarathevegan: I just saw a seagull swallow a pizza crust whole. Even a human would choke on that.

21

bananasontoast: Bahahahahaha! Just saw a skinny asian guy wall past with a shirt saying "<3 YOU LONG TIME!"

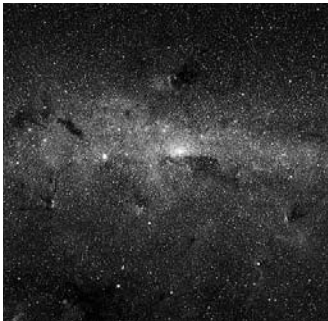
June 26

liubinskas: saddened & sickened by what I just saw & the courage I lacked.

June 18



maymaym: Just saw a young girl with an Acer laptop trying to explain to an older man: "It's not a trillion gigabytes! It's in terabytes!" OMGSOCUTE!



**When angry, simply throw
glitter into your enemy's
eyes.**

gsnail,
16 June 2008

Sydney

versus

New York City

Which city is the most angry?

03

June 2008

Stories from the city: You wouldn't like me when I'm...

10

WendyJoy (SYD): feeling angry cos some stupid girl put sand and feathers in MissN's lunch... not something you expect from a 13 yr old!

12

osthamba (NYC): is angry furious spitting fire... got another speeding tickets unbelievable...

14

Areilla (NYC): im angry and at jackson hole. why must everything piss me off lately. also why is EVERYTHING ALWAYS MY FAULT!!!!

15

stinkyreddog (NYC): On my way home from the supermarket aka the place that makes me very angry at humans

angry?

18

tonybgoode (NYC): Reading up on Nietzsche. In this day and age he'd be an angry blogger.

iamhaen (NYC): You know you use your iPhone too much when you hit the spacebar twice on your keyboard and get angry it doesn't make a period.



littlekiwi (SYD): sick on couch... angry at germ spreaders... too much work, and so little clear brain.. even worse, no bandwidth to dload couch entertainment



albertrosa (NYC): So here I am again square 1 but you know this time it's different!! I'm not angry any more, depressed a little I never ment to blow up!!



shinmeko (NYC): I have to scan again today after I am done with a couple books - I am so angry right now. Coworkers low numbers = I have to do their job too



adambozarth (NYC): Just took a cold shower. Now i'm angry. Gotta get some sleep.

19

June 21

ducci16 (NYC): Angry with the party people in the alley keeping me up until 5am and thankful that I don't have to take a 'Staycation.'

Sydney (2)

winner



New York City (9)



**Love Harry de Wheels pies –
so good!**

bmn,
26 June 2008

Search:



Love

04

Sydney

June
2008

05

redshoes7: Bats are a swirling mass around the clock tower. Love it when wind gusts are strong enough to push you along. Makes me smile.

11

xierme: It's hilarious seeing Matt at work turn red because his girl sent him love heart balloons for their 3 year anniversary.

08

notaphysicist: The flatmate-who-doesn't-talk is home and playing bad.hiphop=all.hiphop. I still love my home. Spice of life.

12

agronaught: Wow a lot of tweet love this morning. Still fuming over my mother. Considering severing ties for good. Need to calm down first.

_gnosis: I love how the red cross always conveniently leave off the no butt secks rule when promoting blood donating on Sunrise.

4fthawaiian: I love it here. Fantastic city. A LOT bigger than anywhere I've ever lived before. I learned to love big city life here :)

June
11

13

Robguy: I love a sunny windy day to hang clothes. not only are they fresh smelling and dry, but fluffed w/ the dog hair blown off. Cuddly soft :D

17

glenmcfarlane: I love seeing our Aussie soldiers come home safe after a tour of duty. There's not enough of those stories in the News.

18

garthk: I love the wooden escalators at the York St exit of Wynyard. It's almost worth riding them back down and up again.

bananasontoast: Finally in bed after two meat pies and a bottle of wine.

June
19

bananas ontoast: Coffee... How do I love thee..? Let me count the ways...

nichodges: i'd love to join you for beers. but it's not even 8am yet.

glittertrash: I love letters that make me smile and look away, able to read them only in fragments, for the whole is just- too-much!

superspace: life's strange. sometimes, it seems, hate can be stronger than love. Isn't it supposed to be the other way around?

June
20

robypn: A couple of girls in a street brawl outside office I love Surry Hills

21

neitski: Relationships are all about compromise. Melb is freezing, but i love love, LOVE it! It's a whole other story.



**I just saw a staredown
between a police car and an
ambulance, both with sirens.
Ambulance won.**

ashenphoenix,
20 June 2008

Search:



Police

05

Sydney

June 2008

06

jjprojects: One of the best things that can happen for a contemporary artist's work, to be impounded by the police and debated via mass media.

June 15

stilgherrian: Our Korean cleaners have just returned the borrowed DVD of "Team America: World Police". They looked... shell-shocked.

June 18

mattburga: Just spotted two Police officers using ATMs. It made them seem more human.

19



mobilesimmo: OMG 2000 people lined up for Sydney Apple store. Military operation - Police & security & street barriers.



dalethornton: Apple have issued police & security with Apple branded golf umbrellas



?

jamesmcc: watching people on the news queueing for the Apple Store, I am geek as the next guy but dont get it ... same as queueing for XP or Vista



thegreeno: The police are handing out coffee... This is a strange store opening

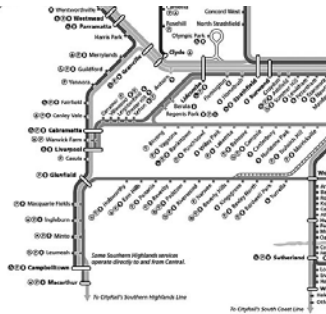
June 24

rebel: just dodged a fine on the train, transit police pointed out that my weekly expires tomorrow, thank goodness for starting on Wed last week

27

james: Just saw police radar trap city-bound on Botany Rd Mascot at 8:20am. Lucky to be going 20km/hr. If someone can find a way to speed on Botany Rd I'm all ears!





**I'm all dressed up on
the inside (a woman in
Katoomba).**

yewenyi,
23 June 2008

Search:



The invisible man*

06

* Find more invisible man updates at twitter.com/yewenyi

June 2008

01

they said it must have been him. (A man in marrickville)

02

you fucking pricks have to! (a man in the south of Sydney)

03

they said that he is a mothers boy. Mised people

04

people on the north shore who say that they do not thank that

06

talk about detoxification

07

and youse were the only ones in the street to fucking complain! (A teenage girl hurles accuse at a middle aged man)

08

a girl in auburn talks of dangerous life styles

09

angry and upset women taking about post 911.

06

people talking about the "tuna part"

people saying that the mormons did something. not sure what.

11

a man speaks of missing his identity thing.

15

a group of people: we are god and we are godless

June 12

Someone claims that the spider bite was a warning. A warning for what?



June 17

"He knows" whispers a man in paddington

18

they can't beleive that he humped that. (Woman. Paddington)

19

you said he thinks like that! Angry people to those who misled them

20

we were just trying to distract him (liars in the eastern suburbs)

22

we love it, we fucking love it! (girls in the subway at Katoomba.)

the arseholes who do are still claiming they don't. (Men in the west)

lots of people talking about southern cross



**Overheard:
'But now the future comes
so much earlier.'**

mpesce,
23 June 2008

Search:



Overheard

07

Sydney

June
2008

Stories from the city: Heard it on the Eastern Suburbs line...

05

bananasontoast:
Overheard old lady at cafe: "How sexist are Americans?! They can choose between a woman and a black guy, they choose the black



18

stevendoyle:
overheard: "why does it have to be so big just to sell computers?"

stilgherrian:
Overheard: They're fuckin callin the cops on me for being fucking rude, how fucked is that. They can get fucked.

19



bananasontoast:
Overheard small child: "Mu'um... I did a poo before and a crayon came out!" Mum: "What?" Kid: "I put a crayon up there but it's out now!"



willcannings:
"friends should be there for when u throw up and pass out on oxford st" overheard at myer syd



stilgherrian:
Overheard: They still will give him a hug if I tell them to. (Skanky woman, Newtown.)

June
22

mattrobs: Overheard a 6-year-old girl at the Apple Store on the Macbook Air: "... but it only has one USB port!" Ha.



**Taxi home on company coin
is always good.**

drew,
26 June 2008

Photograph: acagamic

Search:

cab

+



Taxi

08

Sydney

June 2008

05

beerninja: Got my phone back off evil taxi driver. He had it for 5 days. As you do...

jharder: That was the most depressed and negative cab driver ever. Wow.

June 10

JamesGreen: Why is it i get the one cab in a million that wants to kill me?

20

joshglid:
1: credit card
2: destination
3: cab

June 18

franksting: thatwas like the blind taxi driver in the chaser

18

timnoonan: once left PDA in cab. left @ copshop. They got excited by braille display, pressed the record button and I got 4 hr cop talk

19

saffronh: Is late and waiting for a cab. But a really pushy lady is too.

21

fairymunchkin: Never waited so long for a cab. I used to be the cab getting queen. Whats happened to me!

alancse: Finally in a taxi after waiting an hour for a booking... And we had to flag it down!

The About book

About Twitter

Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that allows users to send "tweets" (text-based posts up to 140 characters long) to each other.

Updates are displayed on the user's profile page and instantly delivered to other users who have signed up to receive them. Users can receive updates via the Twitter web site, instant messaging, SMS, RSS, email or through an application.

Source: Wikipedia
(<http://en.wikipedia.org>)

About the author

Anthony Calvert began collecting personal text messages in 2002.

These were published in a book called *The Joy of Txt* in 2007. They were also published on an accompanying web site (joyoftxt.com).

The web site has since been expanded to include hundreds of text messages from people all over the world.

This book is an exploration of the city of Sydney via text messages and mobile phone culture.

For more information about *Stories from the city* please visit: <http://joyoftxt.com>

For more information about the author please visit: anthonycalvert.com

**my boy just asked me if I
was tweeting...
hipster 6 year olds.
No sammy, Im designing,
thanks now go to bed.**

andycoffey,
26 June, 2008

