

Suzanne and Len 27.03.02

44:44 mins

Suz1.WAV

Kerry: I'm just going to start off by asking you what you think a typical Aussie is ..
and a typical French person .. I'll get you to answer for your respective
nationalities

S: We might get in trouble with each other.. @@@@@

L: um

S: @@@@

L: I grew up in.. in a small country town and .. it was full of what you'd call ..
what people would.. stereotypically call um .. Ockers.. Bogans.. beer
drinkers.. footy players.. um

K: Do you know what Ockers and Bogans are?

S: No.. but

L: Ockers is some.. someone that goes how are you going [mate]

S: [yeah] [like]

L: [mate] come
on mate =

S: = [yeah]

L: [that's] a bit rough

S: like the singlet and the...

L: Yeah and [er]

S: [??? kind of]

L: Sometimes not even the singlet just just the belly

S: [Yeah]

L: [The rug] and a and a couple of tinnies

S: A few tattoos maybe

L: mm.. yeah.. um.. and a bogan is sort of somebody that um .. usually has a
packet of cigarettes under their um..

S: Ah yeah [okay]

L: [Tee-shirt].. um

S: Yeah

L: And wears wears moccasins and and their pyjamas around

S: [@@]

L: [you know] if you want to see bogans you need to go to Moe um in
Gippsland

S: Ah OK

L: It's the bogan capital of Victoria

S: @@

L: nay the world

S: @@@

L: [that's my]

K: [and is] that what you think a typical Aussie is..

L: Um.. yeah [I would say]

K: [is that what] you think outsiders think Australians are?

L: Um.. yeah I reckon.. yep larrikins

K: Was that your image of an Australian before you came?

S: Not before I came.. @@

K: [????]

S: [Well I'm sure] in France you know when you think about an Australian everybody's gonna think about a very athletic person like full of muscles and er =

L: = that's right

S: and er and and sun tanned and blond you know on the beach with the surfboard and all that.. now I've been to Australia and.. @@ well you've got some of those

L: [mm]

S: [but] that's not what ..(1.0) what I would call a typical Aussie person not any more I would yeah.. follow what you're saying... the .. beer drinker follows footy and ... yeah doesn't care much about what he's wearing @@ on the street .. and er they're a bit macho I'd say

K: mm mm =

S: = Yeah.. I wasn't expecting that like I co.. I come from like France is a Latin country and I come from south of France which is even closer to Spain which is even more you know Latin

K: mm mm

S: And.. guys there you know.. every body is expecting those kind of people to be macho.. and when I came to Australia I had .. the Anglo Saxon people are not expected to be like that.. like men.. and er when I arrived I said oh well that's a different way of being a macho but ah.. you know I'm not saying they all are but that stereotype [of]

K: [mm]

S: Aussie bloke would be macho

K: yeah it's true actually that was my

S: [yeah]

K: [und]erstanding of Australians before I came because I'm English

S: Yeah

K: And I'd always thought that they were really macho and I found that they weren't as bad as I

L: [mm]

K: [was] expecting actually [??]

S: [mm]

K: it's interesting I'd forgotten that [I used to think that]

L: [we're very very] sensitive

S: @@ .. well it depends like.. well like my boyfriend is Australian and you know.. if he was really macho I wouldn't be with him [so]

L: [mm]

S: they are not all.. all macho

K: yeah yeah.. whereabouts in France are you from?

S: Toulouse

K: okay .. [right]

S: [yeah]

K: So what do you think a typical French person is then? Maybe we should get Len to answer that first

L: Um

K: Do you have an image of a [French] [person]

L: [well] [I've] only ever met French women I've never met an... um.. French blokes.. I don't know um.. I have actually met a French guy yeah um.. very..(1.0) um.. sort of.. postural.. maybe.. um

K: Postural?

L: Yeah.. you get this idea that .. you know and um maybe um.. sort of.. r.. r.r.. rude? maybe?

S: [@@]

L: [I don't know].. um just that this is the kind of the yeah the images that are come to mind the sort of.. mad frothing um.. quick talking frog guy that's you know.. in in a bar serving wine going no! You cannot drink here unless [you]

S: [a] [@@]

L: [you] English dog

S: [@@]

L: [yeah] you know what I mean? um.. it's really I don't know I've never really thought about that much.. but I guess um... yeah I guess someone that's fai.. a a um.. very articulate as well.. um.. a lot more sort of i.. I'd think that the .. I'd think that the average French men was probably um.. better educated than the average Aussie bloke mostly

K: mm

L: say in in terms of the ways of the world and the way that you you know you view your surroundings maybe? possibly? I guess because you know it comes with having so many different um.. countries around you

S: yeah be.. I agree with that.. but... yeah we're not as.. as lated as Australia is.. and like.. unless it is because of our history and.. all the wars we had [and]

L: [mm]

S: like being invaded and all that that it's true that we pay much more attention about what is going on in the world? and not just only in France and.. and um.. the other day I had a.. um an American girl in my class and she said that French are very political and I completely agree with that we.. we love to debate about things and and argue like nicely but like argue but like giving you my point of view and *give me your arguments* and we are going to debate all that.. you know it's something we love to do.. like we're having a good dinner that will last for three hours and eat a lot and drink a lot and just.. you know invent a new better world and.. *share our ideas*.. and yeah it's true that we love to do that um.. a typical French person.. it's hard because.. well I noticed here a type (??) usually is like striped shirt and a moustache and the red thing (necktie) and the bottle of wine and the baguette under the arm [and]

L: [@@]

S: the bicycle or.. but um...(2.0) yeah you got some people like that @ but they're not all like that and it depends on which part of France you go and if you're in the city or the country well that's like here you know we described the typical Aussie man but you know they are all not like that it depends on where you go so

K: mm

S: mm

K: you said to me on the phone the other day that your boyfriend says to you that you are very French

S: Yeah @@

K: What does it mean when he says that.. is it good? is it bad? is it.. what's he trying to say when he tells you that?

S: Um (2.5) I crack the shit very easily @@@ when something's wrong you know.. ah we need to talk about.. but don't you think blablabla blablabla you know and he's like very Aussie compared to me you know I take things very everything's very seriously? and you know and he's like oh no worries you know and like.. and so that's why he says oh you're so European and but I tell him oh you're so Aussie you know @@ we act very differently.. and I talk about food a lot

K: Uhuh

S: @@@@ this is like a complete part of my life @@@ um..(2.0) yeah I don't know... (2.5) oh right now I don't know but yeah.. this.. these sort of things.. um... (4.0)

K: OK.. have you um.. have you travelled a lot overseas.. Len?.. no?

L: No

K: What do you think you would miss about Australia if you went? I guess it's hard if you haven't [been]

L: [um]

K: overseas but

L: I don't think I'd miss much at all except for um.. the beach because I love going to the beach and soaking my body in it and stuff like that.. sort of like .. um.. my grandmother's in Torquay um up on the co.. on the Great Ocean Road and yeah.. my.. my best.. the best childhood memories like... I always think about being on the beach and on the Fisherman's bay and that's where my my grandad he um they retired down there he was the minister in the church and that's where they went and it was like um... he used to be an angler and stuff?.. and.. yeah I us.. I used to love going to his beach that he used to I used to call my grandad's beach.. that's the thing that's the only thing I'd miss besides that I hate this country... I really do and I can't wait to [leave]

S: [why]?

L: I just... it's so... I don't know.. it's like um.. I don't think that everyone feels like this but .. as a collective group of people Australians see us see themselves like.. kind of like we've got so much and.. and you know we deserve to keep it to ourselves

S: [yeah]

L: [it's like] you know thinking we're an island fortress and I just.. the attid.. like... I said I'm from a small town but I think small town mentality sort of [run]ning

S/K: [yeah]

L: around everywhere I mean I meet a lot of people that are very open minded but as a whole I mean it's really hard to escape from that? sort of [like]

S: [yeah]

L: um... and.. I mean I'm not sure what it is like in other countries but yeah some times this place really gives me the shits @ just our attitudes and stuff like that I just think sometimes it's really fake? because we.. like.. we.. you know we can.. there is all this macho-ism and.. and being athletic and.. you know.. surfing having barbies and all that which is great but.. um.. I dunno it seems.. it is probably because of.. it's.. that's probably why I want..

eventually when I travel like when I finish um.. Uni and stuff and do some writing.. just because um.. I guess.. I can't really.. say what it would be like to leave Australia unless I did it but yeah I just sort of wanna.. see the way other people view their outside world? rather than.. I mean I think it's probably because we are so isolated in certain ways but.. dunno yeah you'd think with.. globalisation and all that sort of stuff and heaps you know of barriers and stuff being a lot easier to go through um.. with sort of that attitude would change but I don't think I mean it's obvious with the way that.. politically we've handled sort of refugees and.. immigration and all that.. and that.. like.. like the country was based on.. on the notion that we're white and we're gonna be young white and [free]

- S: [yeah]
L: and that's the white.. like the white Australian policy and [stuff]
S: [yeah]
L: and that's still.. permeates.. and it re.. it kinds of bugs me like it really does =
S: = yeah
L: um.. like a lot of people would say Australia's a great country but some of the people are.. you know we're just.. you know they're great people? but.. it's like one of my best friends Joe.. he's a farmer and.. he is one of the nicest guys you'll ever meet really generous and kind when it comes to things like um... anything to do with something that he's not sure about it's like it's evil or it's wrong um.. things like.. we always have.. arguments about aboriginal land rights and all that sort of stuff and he's like... no man if they if they come and take my land they will have to fight me for it 'cos we we took it off them and you know if people want to invade us and like... um (groans) that's the way he talks but.. and and thousands and thousands of people think the same way
K: mm
L: and I just can't understand it so.. and that what really shits me
S: yeah but .. it goes back to this question of like.. culture and education like things we just talked before that...(1.0) they're very down to earth? I think Australians.. I'm not saying it's a.. it's a bad thing [but]
L: [mm]
S: that's just the way they are and maybe in a way they are happier than every other people because they're just you know they just think about what they have like their everyday life and er.. and then all the rest is [it's not]
L: [yeah]
S: my problem
L: I [think that's it]
S: [and in a way] well you know they don't .. that's why they have this no worries because well I don't care about the other worries [so]
L: [yeah]
S: Um.. but in another way that.. you know that.. prevents them from.. o.. to open themselves to the to the world and try to understand what's going on and.. maybe ... be a bit less scared of what's.. what they don't know and what's different and er.. yeah
L: yeah people like shut themselves off regardless of.. whether they've learnt something whether they understand it.. they'll but.. doesn't mat.. doesn't change what we know what you've learnt what you've understood.. I mean 'cos we all get taught about you know equality and [all that]

S: [mm]
L: sort of other things at school and you know in life but when it comes down to it it's it's your sorts of actions and
S: yeah =
L: = y.. your reaction to sorts of things that have still got that you know let's keep ourselves away from [the]
S: [mm]
L: outside world because you know.. we might.. we don't.. we we might not like what we see? you know when we [look]
S: [yeah]
L: at ourselves from the outside in or something I don't [know]
S: [yeah] it's funny 'co..
yesterday I had to er.. visit the school I 'm gonna do my teaching practice at and it's a.. it's a state school but it's a selective girl school and the teacher I'm gonna work with was saying um... so she teaches French.. and she was saying ah I've done things about the French revolution and about the Louvre which is a big museum and like a lot of cultural and history things she said because if .. and she said herself if you don't do that.. she's not.. she 's Australian but she's... from... Latvia? or something? originally like she came here when she was probably very young and now she's I guess in her fifties .. but she said because if you don't if I don't do that they don't know anything? like they don't care about you know learning about culture and all that so I was ah okay.. and then in that school she told me ah three quarters of the students are from Asian and Indian background.. and she said because you know they're the ... they're the people who care about education she said the Australians they don't really care like education is not important.. for the parents if their.. if their children succeed or it's not very important whereas the Asians you know they all want to be doctors and they want to be successful and go to.. the prestigious universities and all that so.. it was funny to hear that from an Australian person? [but]
L: [I] I think that's that 's starting to become a pretty common thought about like.. um especially I mean it's always.. and people always sort of put um Asians and stuff into this little bracket that's =
S: = yeah
L: you know.. that you know want to be successful and
S: [yeah]
L: [and] take us.. take over Australia
S: @@
L: and er and soon you know they'll come her in boats from Indonesia and hooligans um.. you know it's pretty scary
S: well I think it's international like we've got a lot of Asian migrants in France as well and this.. they've got this stereotype to be hard workers
L: [mm]
S: [as well] over there =
L: = mm I think that is true though but I mean I know some real slack arse students that are Asian and you know they just sit around smoking bongs and [drink]ing
S: [mm]
L: beer like everyone else so =

S: = mm

L: um... but.. and a lot of people ex.. ex.. like I know this guy Vietnamese guy and his father was is really strict and and he studies pretty hard but he's like I don't want to be a fucking lawyer

S: @

L: you know

S: but h.. his parents want... [him to do this]

L: [yeah.. and he's sort of do]ing it like doing it half-arsed and he got himself into heaps and heaps of trouble he.. because I think he just like screwed with his head.. but um.. yeah you do get that I.. people do.. I think people just generally think that Asians work harder

S: yeah =

L: = and Aussies are the slack [arses]

S: [yeah]

L: they don't care too [much]

S: [well] apparently that teacher [??????]

L: [but um]

S: she was [saying]

L: [oh yeah] it's not necessarily true I just..

S: [yeah]

L: [maybe] we just don't have the.. we.. haven't got the tools that you sort of get over hundreds of years of.. I don't know.. things being passed down.. 'cos it yeah.. I think Australia's.. we're.. I mean.. even though we're predominantly an Anglo-Saxon sort of culture =

S: = yeah

L: or Anglo-Celtic or whatever um.. you you're still.. we're still pretty new.. sort of .. you know ... you develop .. I don't know I guess a psyche as a.. as a.. as a nation or country or something like that and.. I dunno.. and the only thing people sa.. people are s.. starting to um forget or not understand what even being Australian is now?.. because um um.. people would say I'm an Australian because but.. then .. an Asian guy that's lived in the country all his life you'd still assume that he was he emigrated here ?? you know somewhere or.. you know.. got out of a .. one of our detention centres or somewhere like that.. um.. but yeah I mean.. it.. you could see some Asian guy and say he's an Australian but you probably still don't.. look at him as an Australian.. I dunno well you wouldn't go automatically oh! Aussie

S: mm =

L: = you know

S: [yeah]

L: [you'd] go oh! Asian

S: yeah =

L: = or Asian Aussie

S: yeah

L: ???

K: do you think it works? our multicultural society? in Australia do you think it's um.. or do you think it works more so here than in France for example are we more tolerant here? or are we still just as racist?

S: it depends it it's..(1.5) it's dealt differently I guess um.. we don.. in France we don't have such a thing as you know.. multiculturalism like a big thing that is re.. officially part of the country and like =

- L: = mm
- S: you had a multiculturalism minister at one stage or I don't know if you still have one but um.. so it's not such an official thing in France.. but um... (2.0) I know that in some ways ... we're more tolerant over there and in some other ways ... Australians are more varied um... (1.5) I don't .. I'd say in France people mix more? you would..
- L: mm
- S: you know you would er more easily have friends of different cultural backgrounds and er ... whereas here well they it has a lot to do with the schools.. the schooling system .. like in France like 90% of the the children go to state schools and you go to the school um.. nearest to your place and all that so ..
- L: mm
- S: you you will mix with a lot of different people whereas here you know you've got this system of independent schools and private schools [so]
- L: [yeah]
- S: where y.. the the classes they don't mix that much they're not erm.. yes I'd say in France you'd have more opportunities for a child you know to grow up with.. Arabic people or Chinese or whatever and make friends and all that.. but um.. but different things like for example th.. that was on the French news a couple of days ago.. because in that states schools um.. you are not allowed to show those schools its state and ... a long time ago they separated the state and the church okay?
- L: mm
- S: and everything that had to do with the [state like you could]
- L: [????????????????]
- S: I don't know how you say it in English but you're not allowed to show any religious preference or anything =
- L: = mm =
- S: = so if you go to the state school you're not allowed to show any religious preference
- K: It's secular isn't it? [????????????]
- S: [??? I dunno ???]
- L: [yes um.. um er er] they do it here like if you um ... if..like we used to have religious instruction when I was in primary school and then they banned it.. like they did it in my school anyway because my dad got really angry @ with the um.. the principle for saying you know well how can you like come in here and drill this crap into my kid .. you know and then he has to come home and I have to like thump it out of him @
- S: yeah.. [@@@]
- L: [you know].. he believes in the devil

Suz2.WAV

- L: [you know].. he believes in the devil 'cos you know according to him that's me ... but I think um.. I dunno Australian s a.. Australia's weird because like ah... we are to a certain extent a racist country and you can say that honestly and openly because if you just look at our history and the sort of .. um principles and a what went on and how we built like a [nation]

S: [yeah]

L: just even at you know the princi.. you.. the things that were written down like [you]

S: [mm]

L: know the Australian settlement I think it that people call it you know the white Australia [pol]icy

S: [mm]

L: tariff protection all that sort of um... er I think ... we've .. because we've .. Australians are pretty can be pretty open minded and like 'cos we are so laid back it's like yeah yeah cool and but it ma.. it's like gives you this I'm not racist but you know .. but you can still say you know you can say you can make jokes about Chinese people and

S: yeah =

L: = you know pick on .. we've got this guy Lee upstairs Lee San and he's um he's he's a I think he's done a PhD in philosophy or something in Chinese he's a great bloke but he you know he's like this .. and since he's been here he's.. like I I I've known him for two years since he's worked here and I don't know why the hell he's working upstairs but um 'cos he's probably heaps better than that but he like you know he's like how are you going and whenever he whenever he leaves everyone goes "oh no problem"

S: @

L: and he doesn't mind that but that's the sort of .. the [the sa..]

S: [yeah]

L: it's like making a joke because it's just a joke and that's alright? but there's the und.. these underlying sort of the end (?)and I think that's why it's been sort of hal.. semi acceptable and because we're like that's our laconic laid back attitude and so we can [get]

S: [yeah]

L: get away with anything because we can just make a joke like make light of anything

S: [yeah]

L: [and] you don't see the seriousness? of of you know all the impli[ca]tions

S: [yeah]

L: that that has ... um .. that's like you know wogs nibs gooks erm you know daggy dagger you can call a wog a wog and he won't care unless he's like um Hungarian or something

S: [@]

L: [and] then he will probably [thump you with a ???]

S: [@@@@@@@@]

L: and um .. yeah like not all you know I've m.. m.. m.. what like you say ??????? his name's Miroslav Bombonta and he was Serbian and he .. he was extremely racist becau.. and you know more more so towards Croatian people

S: [mm]

L: [there's] a Croatian girl up upstairs and every time she'd walk past he'd be going ??? he [hates]

S: [mm]

L: Asians and you know rarara

S: [that's like]

L: [VERY] open minded guy great guy but he um he.. if you called him a wog he would go absolutely apeshit @ but um there's um the Italian.. I live in Kings street and there's lots of ??? but I never ever use that word just 'cos I'm scared ?? they can they call themselves wogs and that but sometimes you can't get away with it I mean I'm nice to them because I I give them beer bottles and they give me um home made pasta sauce

S: @@

L: but yeah it's pretty strange I dunno

S: yeah

L: and I've I've always thought about that like how can we get away with doing that sort of stuff and that's just the way we are

K: Yeah

S: well what I wa.. I was saying that they deal differently both countries with this kind of thing and that ..

L: mm

S: here I guess it's the same you're in a school you.. which is not religious then they say oh you're allowed to you know practice whatever you want so they ... they allow er for example a Muslim girl to come to the school with her veil on on her head because they say we are not a religious school .. whereas in France we're not a religious school so you are not allowed to come with it because that's showing

L/K: mm

S: your that you be.. you um you belong to that religious community and you're not because that would be trying you know .. so that's ... they have to deal with the same problem like

K: mm

S: but they it's funny to see that they deal with it in the complete opposite way

K: yeah 'cos you had that [huge case]

S: [for the same] reason =

K: = yeah

S: we're not religious so

K: [yeah]

S: [okay] that's fine you can wear your stuff we don't care and you can wear your cross around your thing or whatever but the other's like no nobody has to you know

L: mm =

K: = [yeah]

S: [you] don't have to show anything

K: yeah

S: well

K: yeah

S: that's funny

K: yeah 'cos there was that famous case in France a few years ago [????]

S: [yeah]

K: with the girl with [the veil and the]

S: [there's one again at the moment]

K: ah [okay right]

S: [so that's why I] brought it up because I saw it on telly

L: yeah I think in Australia you can .. everyone can get thrown together and we don't have a problem with that it's the it's underlying?

S: yeah
 L: you know what I mean?
 S: [yeah]
 L: [it's when] the jokes and the and the dirty looks come out you know and I don't trust that guy because
 S: [yeah]
 L: [you know] that sort of thing
 S: yeah
 L: I don't know
 K: It's interesting I've got a friend here at the moment who said I'm sure there are um there are a lot a lot of Muslims on campus this year
 L: mm
 K: and they're all wearing the the complete veil so there's [just the face showing]
 S: [yeah yeah]
 K: and she's saying that that there's much more this year then ever before and she reckons it's political now rather than religious
 S: yeah =
 K: = and I just thought it was it was even interesting that she said that because before September the 11th no one would have even dreamt of that
 L: [mm]
 K: [they] would have just said oh there are lot of Muslims on campus [this]
 L: [mm]
 K: year but we've now we immediately jump to the conclusion that they're now making a political statement and I just thought [that]
 L: [yep]
 K: was interesting [that]
 L: [yeah]
 K: a lot of things have changed since then
 S/L: yeah
 L: um .. (1.0) it's like .. people thinking that re.. that refugees um the blood.. big child children overboard stuff and they're like well if they wanna if they wanna come to the country and you know um blow stuff up and all that I'm like they're [just]
 S: [@]
 L: little kids in a in a boat @ but people think like that or they say it I don't know if they think like that? but they say it? you know what I mean?
 K: [yeah]
 L: [and] it's s.. you know sort of a
 K: yeah
 L: separation between I dunno it's like time and space don't make any sense here =
 S: = the thing is that the medias in Australia the media is.. (1.0) well it's different from France as well and for example if this thing had happened in France we would have like they would talk about it on the news or in the newspapers but on television we would have like big debates like we've got a lot of um ... (1.5) shows like we don't which are not entertainment you know but they just take a topic and they de.. they invite people from you know that board and people from you know with different ideas and oh okay let's all argue about it like what I was saying we like to do at home well

we've got shows for that on television and plenty plenty and um and you know if I'm sure for a month we would have had shows about this and people arguing and debates and all that whereas on Australian television they show it on the news but you know and that's it they're not gonna discuss it in whatever Rove live or whatever other shows there is you know you don't have a place for that on Australian television [??]

L: [but] but the thing is 'cos we um have a very low tolerance for crap I think it's it's been .. Australians would look at a show like that and after a while some people would be interested but if there was so much they'd be going oh it's just a whole heap of wankers talking crap

S: [yeah]

L: [that's] what they'd say

S: [yeah]

L: [don't you think]?

K: [it's just that] I I think as well Australian has a very sort of anti intellectual so[ciety]

L: [yep] it's pretty..

K: to be.. to be an academic is a is a negative thing [??]

S: [@@] oh okay @@

K: whereas the [Eur]opeans

S: [yeah]

K: have a such different attitude [to]

S/L: [yeah]

K: education and academia and I think that.. it probably comes from that [as well]

L: [yeah]

I don't know if you notice when I speak li.. my both my parents were both English teachers so obviously you know I learnt how to speak probably but I've got one of the foulest .. I I grew up in a small town like I said and um ... I find that I interchange between my Ockerisms and and um you know speaking sort of fluently and correctly? um specially like working in the library um you know when I'm seeing 'cos I I work for admin and stuff and you know when I'm seeing the chief librarian I'm going oh hello Mr. Gow how are you and then when .. as soon as I get home I'm oh fffuck

S/K: @@@@

L: unreal is there any beer you know and I can't help that I do it all the time like you've probably noticed it already

S: [yeah]

L: [it's] really strange

K: yeah

L: so I don't know what the hell is going on

S: it's like we talked about it in class yesterday um.. in France you would address to your teacher especially at uni like Doctor Blabla or Mr. or Miss Blabla where as here you know hey John and Sally or whatever their name is they don't call me Doctor oh my god [you know it's er]

L: [mm mm Johnno]

S: yeah and in Europe oh my God if I went to my teacher and I hey Paul.. excuse me? you know

L: do they do the do the blokes call um them their friends and that like you know do they shorten their names like because my name's Macleod and no-one ev.. no-one ever called me Macka but I wished they did 'cos then you know 'cos everyone else had Johnno and Macka you know Smithy and all that do they do that?

S: not as much as [here]

L: [no]? [everyone has got a got a sort of nickname]

S: [yeah sometimes but not] as much as here and here everybody's got like a thousand different nicknames

L: yeah .. I've got Mockfish

S: [yeah @@]

L: [um..] Tossport oh what was the other one um the Artsman 'cos I'm always falling off stuff and bouncing? and people call me oh and like some people call me whatever they damn well like not always that nice um so people used to call me Lasso the bondage clown I don't know why.. I used to do a lot of theatre and I did this really strange thing once and it kind of stuck but um ?? who knows

S: yeah

L: I think we like that kind of..

S: it's hard to follow when you come from overse.. like or from a different group like for example I entered my boyfriend's group of friends and sometimes you know they're discussing about Oh I remember when this person did this and that and that and I was and I'm like to my boyfriend do I know that person he's like yeah yeah he's like that's whatever John or whatever and I'm like but you didn't call him John he said ah no we call him like that and then like a week later they're gonna say a new story and about a guy named blabla and they say yeah and I'm going to be the same who are they talking about John! but now he's John or he's er Smithy but he's not and he's like no but he's called that as well it's like they all have got thousands of nicknames

K: [yeah]

L: [I dunno] we've got this really a friend of ours his name Tweegrave? so we call him gravy mostly but he's also got a name he's we call him shed boy? because he um he actually lived in a shed but then so now Shedboy is whoever whoever's living in the smallest room or in some dodgy bungalow is Shedboy? there's always a Shed.. there always has to be a Shedboy... at the moment it's my mate Ox or we all we call him Roxanne Roxy you know Bullocks Pies 'cos he likes he he's a and or Pieman you know it's just it's endless

S: [yeah]

K: [this] is just as weird for an English person =

L: = yeah

K: don't worry [about it ?? so much to??? as well]

S: [ah okay @@@@]

L: and he and he's also Trusty Blue-eyes um what does he call himself something toast Darth Toastman or something I dunno

S: [yeah]

L: [he] he's he's got more nicknames than anybody because he's a he's an idiot but now he's Shedboy you know so we called him Roxy but we still call him Roxanne you know it's a I think it's just something because we can't think of

anything else you may as well just you know bounce these stupid names off each other and laugh [about it]

S: [yeah]

L: it's not always affectionate @

S: they aren't?

L: quite quite the opposite (2.0) um ... I was just interested because you know I d.. that's we that I think that's a that's predominantly an Australian thing don't you reckon? um [?????]

S: [and it's not] it's particularly for man

L: [mm]

S: [girls] don't have so many nicknames or don't have any at all =

L: = yeah I don't think they like it because [there's this girl]

S: [????]

L: [um Kerry Stevens]

S: [????????? for men]

L: there's this she works in interlibrary loans upstairs and um I've been like I've had a few bad oh excuse me my tummy um I thought she was going to run into me at work lately 'cos you know I'm always genuinely pleasant and a few people like I've found a few people stab me in the back and I got this they offered me this job that I 'm doing now and people thought I was getting special treatment because they offered me the job but I've been doing it for six months or so in a t.. in a temporary position and um I l.. I went crazy .. and I got sort of told off 'cos I act.. I was upstairs and I was going you lot can go and fuck and I'm going am I saying this? and it was understandable I spoke to my boss about it and said you know and there's also this mad English man who fosses about who fixes all the photocopiers I don.. I don't know if you've seen him I always cov.. I always do his job for him and I r.. I resent the fact he gets paid twice as much as me and he never does any work and he but he alw.. every time I slip up he dobs me in so I had a go at him too and then I sort of thought oh I'm not going to let any of this get to me and I think I know I've been more overly sort of I've just been like saying g'day to everyone how's it going good day and there's this chick up there sorry chick um called Kerry Stevens and today I've said oh how you going Stevo and she she just went

S: [@@]

L: [what the] mmm are you on about and um and I said it again and she still gave me the same look so I [think]

S: [mm]

L: she was not impressed I'm going to call her Stevo for the rest of .. [????? what's wrong with Steve eh]?

S: [I'm sure a guy would have been like] the normal thing to hear

L: yeah and she's like mm don't like that but I'm still going to do it though

K: it's like the mate thing isn't it?

L: yep

K: I think that's more bloky [than]

L: [mm]

K: girly as well I do hear it .. girls doing it some[times]

S: [some]times yeah [b..]

K: [but] it's
mainly and it's mainly men to men as well [not]
L: [yeah]
K: men to another girl =
L: = mate's even being extended now we use mate boss
chief all that sort of stuff
K: oh [okay]
L: [yeah] people say chief a lot how are you going chief but um mate mate
is um just a bit too bland now chief's chief most people use if you don't
know someone's name and you've met 'em like twenty times and you just
can't remember their names how you going chief .. or boss is just I always
call people boss thanks boss especially like if someone's serving me I think
people like ca.. being called boss but um I never I don't use mate that much
K: yeah chief's quite English actually that's intere[sting]
L: [chief]?
K: that's come over yeah we all do [it]
L: [yeah]? do you?
K: yeah
L: [right]
K: [um] I'm just thinking of my brother he'll do that all the time
L: ah yeah 'cos yeah I got .. this guy came to I interviewed a guy for a room
that I had for rent and h.. he was very um he's what I call a geezer yeah mate
yeah bloody oath and he he was calling me chief too
K: yeah yeah
L: chief you know geezer I like [that]
K: [yeah] my brother's a geezer [too]
S: [@@]
L: [yeah] and they've
got that weird accent this weird way of speaking geezers are cool though.. I
just don't think I could live with one?
S: [@@@@@@@]
L: [this guy was like brrrrr] oh yeah I could fix this if you've got a TV eh
wicked
S: @@@@
L: I went no I just sort of was picturing him like him every day like crapping on
like that I'm going nah I'd kill him
S: @@@@
L: I'm not racist but geezers I mean
All: @@@@

Suz3. WAV

K: just changing the topic a bit what do you um how important do you think it
is to always give your opinion? (1.0) or your point of view you were just
talking about that earlier .. like in France you know .. you .. like to share
S: [yeah]
K: [your] point of view ... do you think you sort of do it .. a lot more than
Australians? or do you think Australians .. do it
L: mostly .. I reckon Australians give their opinion a lot and usually it's just ..
some .. idiotic sort of crap they're ??? like you know whe.. if we don't like

someone we'll sort of it say it um .. I generally .. like I'm a bit French like that

S: [well I]

L: [I love de]bating and arguing and

S: [it's]

L: [do]ing it in a nice sort of way =

S: = it's just that we debate and argue about different things

K: right [okay]

S: [it's] not that we do it more or they do it more [but] er

K: [right]

L: does that mean .. you just.. you like the political sort of [stuff you think]?

S: [yeah some]thing that Australians wouldn't do in the .. but I would say it would be just a different ?? .. the Australians would argue about ... uh ... I'll b.. I'll be very stereotypical here but like ... I I like VB as my favourite beer oh you're kidding ?????????????? prefer Carlton Cold or you know things like .. and they would argue but

L: mm

S: for fun

K: mm

S: not that they take it seriously but for fun you know like ... um ... (2.0)

[yeah]

K: [mm]

S: but I don't think we argue .. I dunno ... or maybe an Australian would give up more easi.. if that was about a serious thing [that]

K: [mm]

S: it would debate .. er an Australian would give up more easily? =

L: = yeah we'd be going I [can't be bothered with the theme or something I've done it]

S: [yeah .. yeah .. yeah .. that's it .. exactly]

L: I've been there .. through .. I've had it

S: yeah

K: mm

S: it's like yeah yeah you won don't care whatever =

L: = yeah

S: you know whereas in France we would be @@ aargh @@ ????

All: @@@@

K: yeah yeah 'cos it was the way you said you you're quite French for that then do you think you .. maybe share your opinion more than other Australians?

=

L: =

[ah .. oh I just try .. I..]

K: [do you think you're quite un-Australian]?

L: I always try to um ??? you know .. I'm a.. a bit of a l.. bit of a .. people call me a bit of a nutter actually ... 'cos like you know .. I'll basically say anything to anyone and I don't really m.. think about oft.. think often how it affects them but I'm u.. 'cos usually I'm pleasant and stuff sometimes people go .. oh like you know I really enjoy having a good conversation [and]

S: [mm]
L: sort of .. um it's like with my friend s'like you know I said he's a bit .. like anti-Aboriginal and all this sort of stuff and I go and sit down with him and sort of tell him what I know about it and why I think this way ..
K: mm
L: and he'll be going but no man no it's just as simple as that whereas I'll try to .. go through the whole .. process of letting [some]one
S: [mm]
L: know wh.. er .. I think I'm always trying to justify stuff? Like .. I will explain something in five different ways .. [to get the same sort of thing]
S: I do that I do that @@@
L: and because I just don't think you understand [where]
S: [yeah]
L: I'm coming from .. you know what I mean? and and I want to make sure you do .. and I don't care how bored you are
S: @@@
L: you're gonna listen =
S: = [I do that too]
L: [until you understand]
S: and ??????? that's one of these values (??) of French .. it's like you know I repeat things all over and over again in the different way like I wanna make sure he's got it .. he's like yeah I got it but
K: @@
S: no but you know you don't understand why I'm saying this and I want you to [e..]
L: [yeah]
S: I wanna be sure that you understand why it's that
L: [@]
S: [be]cause you know and the consequences and the blah and I go over on the whole topic [and]
L: [yeah]
S: he's like yeah okay whatever forget it you know get over it okay
K: @
L: people do that to me as well [they're like shut up Len]
S/K: [@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@]
S: yeah but you would do that @@@ as well
L: mm .. oh yes oh yeah like I .. take out .. for people listening to me I'm not listening to anyone else ???
K: yeah oh okay @ .. you know the expression "to sit on the fence"? do you know that?
L: yeah
S: no
K: could you explain it to Suzanne?
L: sitting on the fence is where you basically ... it's sort of like being neutral .. but [you um]
S: [mm]
L: ... (1.0) will not make up your mind either way .. it's like um on an issue you might have ... you might have an .. something to say on each .. o.. either way like um ... it's like people call bisexuals like sitting on the fence not quite sure which way to go know [see what I mean?]

S/K: [@@@@]
S: [yeah]
L: [um] .. yeah .. is .. is that what you se.. [the way you see it?]
K: [yeah .. that's yeah] or just .. yeah ..
not .. not giving your opinion not committing [??]
L: [????? you can yeah well you
can be either way ..
K mm
L: you can still say something but y.. [you're not]
S/K: [mm]
L: really .. you'd be going well I agree with this but I also agree [with]
S: [mm]
L: that so I'm gonna sit on the fence
K yeah
S: okay =
K: = so is it um ... does it have a negative connotation? or positive? or...
L: er...
K: neither one of them in particular
L: 'cos I don't think you can always be a fence sitter .. but I think .. but I think
it's a bit more of a negative thing .. it's not .. if you just said you were
neutral .. or passive or .. whatever then it'd .. it's a bit more .. er .. I don't .. I
don't see there's any negativity with that but I think yeah if you get called a
fence sitter it's like you're too gutless to .. you know ma.. take a [stand]
S: [mm]
L: you know what I mean?
S: yeah .. but in the other way you might not know .. really about [what]
L: [mm]
S: the other people are talking about and .. or ... (2.0)
K: [do you sometimes]
S: [or you know] what's happening but you don't know why it happened like
that and you know .. what .. what happened before that and what could
explain this so you know you don't wanna ... take a position on that [like]
K: [right]
S: but that's what I would do like if I don't know much about what they're
talking about =
K: = mm
S: er like if you'd asked me okay what do you think about ... um a problem in
.. the Middle East .. and I'm taking an example like you know like the
Israelis and the Palestinians and .. and ... (1.0) I'd I'd rather have someone
say no sorry I don't know much about the .. you know the history and all ..
all this ty.. and how it all started and all that so you know I'm not gonna
express any ????? than someone who doesn't know and say no the Israelis
are right
K: [yeah]
S: [or]
K: yeah
S: the Palestinians are right for whatever reasons
K: yeah .. do you have a similar expression in French?
S: it was .. I .. I was thinking about it when you asked the question then ...
probably but .. it doesn't come to my mind at the moment

K: maybe the French don't sit on the fence
L: mm .. doesn't sound like it!
All: @@@@
L: um .. I .. I .. I think everyone would know that term here though
K: mm
L: 'cos no-one .. it's like no-one likes a fince.. fence sitter .. 'cos i.. yeah I think it's more .. it is very negative it's like you .. you gutless wonder you w.. you know you're too scared to tell us what [you think or .. you know .. we know what you think but you're too]
S: [yeah yeah to stand for what you really ??????????????????]
L: scared to say sort of thing =
S: = yeah
L: yeah
K: well one last question and then I'll let you escape ... what do you think a good person is if you had to write a list of ten qualities what would you ..
L: a type that's just like me
S/K: @@@
K: okay give us ten of those qualities then those .. those qualities that make you perfect Len what are they?
S/L: @@@
L: I didn't say perfect .. good person =
K: = good person
L: um I think ... (1.0) you need to be ... (1.0) well not .. you can't serve yourself? .. all the time? I think something .. that's something .. to be a good per.. to .. I think to get anywhere you sort of have to .. the people that do it all the time regardless of how successful they are give me the shifts ... um I think you need to be ...(2.0) able to ... empathise? with other people?
S: mm
L: ... um I think you can't really ... (1.0) be considerate .. or u:nderstand how someone's feeling unless you can put yourself in their shoes? I think when you do that your attitudes change to certain things? .. um ...(2.0) I think you should um go to church every Sunday
S: [@@@]
L: [no I don't @] um .. I'm not really sure at all I just you know =
S: = yeah it's hard
to find ten things =
L: = um
K: well you don't have to find ten you can [just]
S: [yeah]
K: think of some of the most important [qualities]
S: [the first] thing like we have a .. a [f..]
L: [eat]
lots of apples =
S: = a French saying and I really abide to it like it .. it's just a saying so you know .. but .. I really think about .. I always think about it it's don't do to other people what you wouldn't
L: yeah
S: like other people to do to you so =
L: = th[at's from the Bible]

S: [and I think if] ... w.. is it? well I'm not
very religious so I don't know [where it comes from]

L: yeah no it..] I know the saying but it actually
[originates from the Bible]

S: [but I think that's ..] a .. the .. you know the basic of ... (1.0)

L: mm =

S: = everything?

L: [yeah]

S: [like] to .. to live in a society that's f..

K: yeah =

L: = I use that when I talk to my friends about refugees and stuff .. I'm
like .. 'cos they're like let them starve if .. you know they get taken to
Macdonald's and ra ra ra ... and .. or .. and I'm like what would you do if y..
someone came up to you .. murdered your best friend or girlfriend or mother
in front of you and then dragged you by your heels around ra ra and but you
had a small ch.. there was a small chance that you could .. you know escape
that? what would [you]

S: [mm]

L: do? and they're like I'd .. you know I'd .. I'd .. it wouldn't happen to me
because I'd kill 'em before they got a chance to [??????]

S: [@@@]

L: I think yeah you do unto others and .. yeah ... doesn't have to it doesn't
necessarily mean that you know it's a religious thing but it's just a pretty it's
one of those things .. some of the stuff in the Bible makes sense

K: [I think so]

S: [yeah .. yeah] ... yeah

K: yeah

L: I had to read it for Ancient Civilisations when I studied that

S: [mm]

L: [but] my Grandma's very religious .. so yeah I've read the Bible a few times

S: mm

L: but I don't think that make ??? 'cos I know other people that read the Bible
and [it's ?????]

S: [and ????? yeah]

L: but um .. 'cos [some]times

S: [yeah]

L: being religious is an excuse .. and ..

S: yeah

L: yeah .. but um .. what else makes you good? (2.0) I guess if you um .. yeah
eat .. eat all the five food groups? ... (1.0) make sure you clean your teeth
every day

S: @@[@]

L: [ne]ver come to work with bad stinky breath ..

K: @@

L: um ... (1.0) and I think um .. I hate backstabbers .. I reckon backstabbers are
bad people

S: mm =

L: = mm

S: yeah

L: 'cos they ma.. they obviously make me angry because I g.. I almost got the sack because of backstabbers

K/S: [mm]

L: [be]cause I went crazy ... it just makes me so angry

S: mm

K: yeah

L: I think if you gotta hav.. if you've got a real p.. issue with somebody and it's becoming a huge big problem but they don't know ab[out]

S: [mm]

L: it

S: [mm]

L: [you]'ve got to go and tell them .. you know what I mean?

S: [mm]

L: [some]one needs to approach it .. and if .. if you haven't done that but you're constantly stabbing someone in the back it's 'cos you're too gutless to address the issue? =

S: = yeah

L: so .. and that .. you know I reckon ... (1.0) yeah .. there's heaps of different ways to be brave and being brave's go.. I think it's a good thing .. and that's .. I think that's doing stuff that you normally wouldn't do but you know that's something that sh.. someone should do and you don't know if anyone's gonna do it so maybe .. y.. you have to? you know what I mean?

S: mm

L: c.. makes 'em m.. run the hard mile sort of thing? .. yeah ... go the extra yard

K: okay well another nice thing ...