



Seachange Profile No: 3

These days James and his wife have "gone down a gear" and are discovering other sporting and recreational challenges in the Shoalhaven.

On weekends James splits his time between landscaping around their new home close by Jervis Bay, tackling bush trails on his mountain bike, bushwalking and fishing the waterways that are the backdrop to his work-a-day recreational environment.

James said he and his wife (who studied music and languages at university) some time ago made the decision not to live in Melbourne for the rest of their lives and went looking for opportunities, the Shoalhaven being a medium to top choice for employment but among their top choices to provide their desired lifestyle change.

He discovered the Shoalhaven City Council position via the internet, then emailed his application.

They sold their inner Melbourne unit "at just the right time" and are now living in a new home with the beach 500 metres from their front door.

They chose to live in an area with few tourist facilities, which means no people living above them or close by, and virtually no competition for a spot on their beach even during the peak tourist season.

They stay at home when the bulk of the holidaymakers are on the roads and travel when the holidaymakers are back at work and school.

Both knew a regional lifestyle would suit them - James being originally from near the Victorian/South Australian border and his wife from the Murray River region.

James completed a Bachelor of Education in Environmental Science and a post-graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies with Melbourne University. He then commenced a Graduate Diploma in Recreation and Sports Management with Victoria University, whilst continuing to work for local government in Victoria in leisure facilities management.

He expects he will extend his studies as a career move, his current skills being transportable although specialised.

He's backpacked in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and traveled elsewhere in Asia and to Fiji and New Zealand and this helped confirm the lifestyle benefits he and his wife could enjoy in the Shoalhaven - it beaches, its national parks, its weather.

And they're both now "open to ideas" on opportunities in the Shoalhaven. ■

