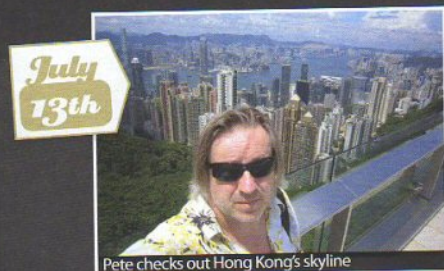


Eat, Sleep, Play, Fly

AROUND THE WORLD WITH PETE LOCKETT IN 14 FLIGHTS AND 21 DAYS AND HOW EXTENSIVE TRAVELLING HAS THE CAPACITY TO MAKE HIM YOUNGER



Pete checks out Hong Kong's skyline

Tuesday

I head off to Heathrow at a surprisingly civilized hour for a flight to Hong Kong. I decided to take a couple of days in Hong Kong to acclimatise myself to the time difference in New Zealand and Australia. I sleep well on the plane despite the little child behind me counting from one to ten at the top of his voice once every hour. Perfectly acceptable if he didn't miss out 'seven' each time!

Wednesday & Thursday

14th
-15th

I arrive at the hotel early in the morning and luckily my room is ready. To deal with jet lag there is a really important rule – sleep only during the hours of darkness. With that in mind I start zapping round Hong Kong in the humid heat until I am sufficiently exhausted and then head back to the hotel and I am all set for a good night's rest.

Friday

16th

An afternoon flight takes me to Auckland, New Zealand. Luckily most of my flights on this trip are at civilised times. Same deal on the plane and a good kip is in order. I feel very lucky to be able to sleep on planes. No counting kid on this flight but a mini version of Ali G plonks himself down next to me.



Hamish, Torey and Pete

Saturday & Sunday

I arrive in New Zealand around 6am and am whisked off to my hotel and get into a bit of email action. These two days involve getting all the Remo and Zildjian gear together for the tour. Saturday evening is the tour director, Torey Leggett's 50th birthday party with the local 70s covers band The Shaggers playing! I toured here last year so I know a good few people to make the evening zap along nicely.

19th



Preparing for the first New Zealand clinic

Monday

We drive down to Rotorua, a volcanic spot towards the south of the north island. Set up in the afternoon after a quick visit to the geezers and mud pools. The event is sold out and is a really good start to the trip. I have been in the studio for the previous six weeks and getting used to solo mode will take a couple of events. It all goes well though.

Tuesday

20th

Two flights take me to Nelson on the south island. It is getting colder now with a wind coming straight from the Antarctic. Another sold out show and we now start to get into our stride organizationally. Torey and Hamish take me around and they are really great guys and super efficient.



Leaving for the South island

21st

Wednesday

Further south and the small outpost of Dunedin. Again, two flights to get there, it is painless but tiring. Again, a great crowd turns out this time at the local muso's club. It is even colder here but still sunny and bright.

22th



The view from the plane

Thursday

Only a single flight to Christchurch for the final NZ event held at the local jazz school. Each night I gave Hamish a phrase that he had to use in the introduction. He was confident and breezed through the first three nights but fell at the final hurdle when he had to integrate 'Paleodendrology transcends mathematics' into the blurb. Fossilised trees are obviously not his thing! Great night though, sold out again and all positive. New Zealand Rockshop has done a great job with the events and everyone has come out of it with a positive vibe.

23rd

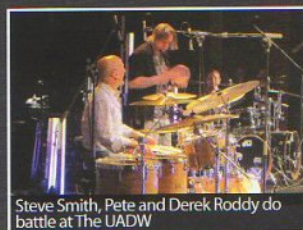


Steve Smith, Derek Roddy and Pete hit the bar

Friday

A lie-in, thank goodness! I take a flight to Melbourne mid afternoon to hit Australia early in the evening. Have a great Thai meal with organiser Frank Corniola, Steve Smith, Derek Roddy and Rick Latham and then hit the bar for some good Australian red wine with Steve and Derek before hitting the sack.

24th



Steve Smith, Pete and Derek Roddy do battle at The UADW

Saturday

My action packed day starts at 9.30am as part of the judging panel for the Australian Young Drummers competition. Beginners and intermediate students today with advanced players tomorrow. The contestants have to play a written snare piece followed by a free kit solo. The standard is very high throughout and it is hard to make a decision in both categories. Then I go straight to setting up on my rolling riser back stage. The day involves workshops by Steve Smith and Rick Latham and performances from Derek Roddy, Graham Morgan, Michael Barker and myself. I also get called up for an impromptu jam in the middle of Steve Smith's workshop. The evening entails a totally off the wall meal for everyone at Frank's brother's Italian restaurant, complete with belly dancers, tons of red wine and Sambuka and a ridiculous out of control 'nutty jam' with some percussion stuff found in the back room.

25th

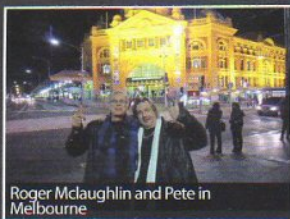


The Australian Ultimate Drummers Weekend stage from behind

Sunday

I start with a 9am lobby call and then head over to the venue for the young drummers competition looking at the advanced students. Again the standard is extremely high. This is no game. The students play a snare piece, a transcribed kit solo followed by a free kit piece. Again, it is very hard to decide between the contestants. Then I kick into an informal lecture and workshop and talk through some of the new Remo gear and demonstrate some hybrid hand drumming techniques. A crazy day follows with performances from Steve Smith, Grant Collins and Rick Latham. I get to play some great duets with Steve Smith and again we end up back at the Italian restaurant afterwards. Meatballs, pasta and tons of other stuff later we all head to the hotel to get some rest.

26th

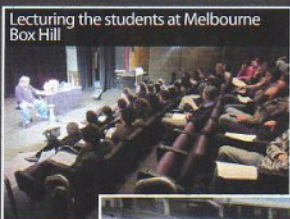


Roger McLaughlin and Pete in Melbourne

Monday

Have a long needed lie-in and hit breakfast at 9am where I chat with Rick Latham before heading off to Melbourne University for a lecture to the students on the improvisation course. Then it's over to the Drumtek store to sort out what Remo gear I need for the following day's workshops and what needs to be sent on ahead to Sydney for my clinics there at the end of the week. Hook up in the evening with an old bass player friend Roger Maclaughlin.

27th



Lecturing the students at Melbourne Box Hill

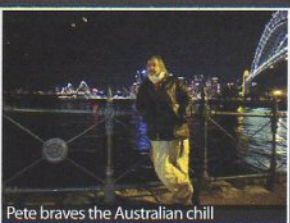
Tuesday

Final work day in Melbourne where I am kept very busy with a two hour masterclass at Box Hill University and two other two hour group masterclasses at Drumtek's teaching studios. I still manage to squeeze in a tour of the MCG although the guy taking us around is the most boring man I have ever met.



Pete at the MCG preparing for The Ashes

28th



Pete braves the Australian chill

Wednesday

I grab a short lie-in and then off to the airport for the flight to Sydney. To my amazement the plane is full of Rangers fans from Scotland on their way to a game – all very unlikely! I am met by Gareth from Music Link and taken into town to check in and then go out to eat by the opera house. It is pouring with rain but still a great vibe. Back at the hotel I find out they have upgraded me to a five-room suite, which is very nice, as I am here for four nights!

29th

Thursday

Gig day but I manage a bit of sightseeing in the morning. The clinic is in-store at Drumcraft in Sydney. It is sold out and I get to include a lot of Remo drums in the presentation from Kanjira, Frame drum and Req to Tabla, Bongos, Doumbek, Djembe and more. It is a hit and my Indian rhythms book proves very popular afterwards. A nice Thai meal follows and it is back to the hotel to get some kip.

30th

Friday

Today is a day off but I need to spend a good portion of the morning working on some improvements for some of the live tracks on my laptop. Then breakfast by the opera house, a few boat trips, up the sky tower, round China town and back to the hotel with a bulk load of boomerangs for the guys at Remo in Los Angeles where I am due to visit later in the week.

31st

Saturday

Last day performance day in Australia and it is an afternoon gig out of town so we need to leave the hotel early to get to Newcastle for a 11am sound check and a 2pm show. Again the turn out is great and they get a good smorgasbord of percussive variety. We experience a front wheel blow out at 120kph on the freeway on the way back and I feel very lucky to see a glass of red wine when I get back to the hotel.

Aug
1st**Sunday**

It is my last day and Nik takes me to Bondi Beach from Drumcraft. We chill for the day with his family before I head to the airport for an 8pm flight. The strange deal here is that I have a 14-hour flight and I arrive in LA two hours before I left Sydney on the same day! Technically, after all this I am two hours younger! I get picked up in LA and head out to the Marriott in Valencia. Pizza, red wine and emails fill my evening before getting a good snooze!

2nd



Filming a Remo video shoot

Monday

I managed a good nights sleep continuing my 100% 'no jetlag' ratio before I am picked up by Chalo and transported to the Remo HQ. Meet up with all the guys and set about the first day in the video studio recording some instrument introductions and basic lessons for some of the Remo World percussion instruments. The videos are all simple introductions and basic rhythms for the instruments that should serve as a doorway into the instruments for newcomers. It is a long day of video cameras, Pro-Tools, coffee and rhythm. Chalo and I end up in a restaurant near the factory before heading back to the hotel to crash out. When travelling like this it is super important to keep up on your sleep wherever possible.

3rd

**Tuesday**

Another busy day at Remo where we kick off with a demo of the new products in the conference room with Remo Belli. Some very exciting additions to the ranges to come for 2011! Then, it is another heavy video shoot before going to sound-check at Remo's North Hollywood Centre. From 6pm - 8pm there is a drum circle. It is very well attended and a great event for the local community that is free for all. Then I go on and play a 60-minute set. It is really great to play for an audience that have just been shedding themselves on the instrument. My mate from London, Steve Sidelnyk, currently drumming for Seal, popped by for the gig and we all shared some wine after the show.



Remo drum circle

4th



The road that leads back home

Wednesday

I have some morning meetings at the Remo factory and then off on Interstate 5 from Valencia to the airport. I am looking forward to being home after three weeks away from my wife. I fly Air New Zealand leaving LAX at 4pm arriving at Heathrow at 11am on the 5th. And, still no jet lag because I slept on the plane! Yippee!

Special thanks to all the people that helped make this trip possible - Remo, Zildjian and Pro Mark, plus NZ Rockshops, Musik Link and Frank Corniola in Australia. Onwards and upwards till the next trip and I have four planned to India alone before the year is out!