

1991 - 2015

Larry's Creature Friends

Over the years, I have accumulated a collection of little friends. They come all the way from Mexico to Australia. This is their story.

Larry B. Anderson

1991 - 2015



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Preface

When I retired from IBM in June of 1990 at the age of 49, we set sail on our 37 foot yacht, IsaLei-Rua and started out on a ten year sailing adventure that took us to the USA, Mexico, French Polynesia, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand three times, and finally Australia where I now reside. Details of this adventure can be found on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/andgen/SailingStoriesPages/SailAdventuresAll.htm> .

Naturally, as we travelled, I bought mementos and souvenirs. Amongst these souvenirs, were several stuffed animals that have now become a big part of my life and are my great friends. The following pages tell their stories and show photos of each one. Some of the stories are true and some are fictional. I'll leave it to you to decide which is which.

The order of appearance in this book, relates to the order they arrived on the scene, consequently Dr. Duck is before Mr. Kiwi even though Mr. Kiwi is the Chief of the basket.

Most of them are wearing feathers. The Chief, Mr. Kiwi, wears a large white feather as well as 3 smaller feathers he was awarded for proficiency in some aspect of life. The maximum number of proficiency feathers any one may have is 3. Why each one has their proficiency feathers will be explained along the way.

In some photos, they are wearing their winter outfits as some of them were taken when it was quite cold at night.

June 2012

Revised January, 2014

Dr. Duck



I was lucky enough to find Dr. Duck in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico playing in a rock and roll band. He was, unbeknownst to me at the time, a world famous guitarist who was looking for a change of scenery.

I asked him if he wanted to go sailing with us to the far corners of the world, and he jumped at the chance. He was hoping to take up a new vocation and find a new life. As a rock and roll guitarist, he had attained huge success and was now getting very bored.

We sailed to many different places as we headed west across the Pacific, and he was great company, especially on night watches when he would play his guitar and we would have great conversations.

I found out through our conversations at sea, that he had a very big interest in medicine, so when we got to New Zealand in

1992; we were able to find medical books at the Russell library. He studied very hard, spent many hours and asked many questions. He was able to attain his medical certificate and then achieve the title of Doctor. Since then, he looks after all the health problems of the creatures as well as our cuts and bruises. He even stitched me up on one occasion when I cut my finger scraping barnacles off the bottom of the boat. He did a great job, by the way.

As can be seen by his photograph, he is a bit of a character. In 2002, he grew his hair into an Afro and started wearing his lucky chain. Now in 2012, he still faithfully wears it. He doesn't play his guitar any longer but helps the other bears learn the guitar. He has donated his guitar to Huggie Bear who is plays it very well. His main protégé though, is Patches. Patches, who will be described later, has become extremely good, likely due to the fact that he had a wonderful teacher in Dr. Duck and the fact that he practices very hard, for hours every day. He also teaches the others the finer art of guitar playing.

Dr. Duck became the assistant chief to Mr. Kiwi in about 2003 and helps keep peace and harmony in the basket.

Dr. Duck's feathers were awarded to him in the fields of medicine, philosophy and the game of cricket. He has many other areas of expertise but as of now, there is only a maximum of three feathers allowed.

Each of them has a bird friend assigned to them. Dr. Duck has the Owl Eyes (Finches) with Scarfy.

Mr. Kiwi



Mr. Kiwi, on the left, is the chief of the basket and a most respected, wise and talented individual. You can see his giant, white chief's feather, which he is very proud of.

Mr. Kiwi appeared out of the blue one day soon after we arrived in Opuia, New Zealand in 1992. As I recall, he was in a shop in Whangarei, a larger city south of Russell where we would go regularly for provisions with other cruisers who had bought cars.

We were in a souvenir shop one day when I spotted Mr. Kiwi hanging from a hook by a loop attached to his head. He looked very unhappy and sad and when I made eye contact with him, I knew I had to rescue him from this terrible life he was living.

So Mr. Kiwi came into my life. He hung by the mast in the saloon of *IsaLei-Rua* until 2000, when the boat was sold. On

all our voyages after 1992, to Fiji, Australia and back to New Zealand, he was our constant companion and great friend along with Dr. Duck.

It wasn't long until he and Dr. Duck got to be great friends and they shared many stories about Mexico and New Zealand to pass the time. Of course, we tuned in and got an education as well.

Mr. Kiwi was hatched in New Zealand in the area just north of Whangarei. His mother was killed by a possum and he was found and given refuge in Whangarei. How he ended up in the souvenir store is unclear, as he doesn't want to talk about that time in his life.

After we arrived in Australia in August 2000, Mr. Kiwi, along with the Banana sisters, who will be described later, spent a couple of years in the garage watching over my tools and the car. He did a fantastic job at this task, but since he was getting a bit older and we found we didn't require a watchman, he asked if he and the Bananas could come into the house to be with Dr. Duck.

This is when we came up with the idea of a small basket to hold them all. Of course, we needed someone to be the head of the basket and the Bananas and Dr. Duck voted Mr. Kiwi as Chief and head of the basket. In those days, the basket was very small with only five occupants.

This was to change dramatically as you will see, as the story continues.

Mr Kiwi has earned his feathers in fishing, rugby union and cricket and proudly wears his large white chief's feather as an indicator of his status as Chief of the basket. All the basket chiefs get to wear an extra large white feather.

Mr Kiwi is responsible for the Lorikeets along with Bigert. In 2008, he got fed up with their continuous squawking and fighting and went outside to give them a piece of his mind. He told them to be nicer to each other and not make so much noise in future. To a large degree, he was successful, as they have toned it down quite a bit. Below is a picture of him delivering his lecture to the Lorrikeets.



The Banana Sisters



Left to right: Dolé, Chiquita and Bonita in their cooking outfits.

The Banana sisters were found at a craft fair in Opuia, New Zealand in 1993. They were made by a Maori lady who made stuffed creatures to sell. They pleaded with us to take them with us because the end of the sale was coming to a close and they didn't know what was going to become of them. We couldn't bear the thought of them being separated and sold to 3 different people where they would never see each other again, or even going back into a box and taken away, so we bought them to keep Mr. Kiwi and Dr. Duck company.

These guys we soon found out were a lot of laughs as they didn't have a serious bone in their bodies. They laughed and joked every day bringing us a lot of joy. They hung up by the mast beside Mr. Kiwi and got to know each other very well.

We travelled a lot of miles over the next 3 years sailing to Fiji, Australia and then back to New Zealand. They were always happy and cheerful although Dolé did get sea sick a few times but all in all they were a pleasure to have aboard. They lived there until the boat was sold and we moved to Australia in August 2000.

When we arrived in Hervey Bay, they decided to stay in the garage to keep Mr. Kiwi company, as they had become great friends. In 2006, they all went into the house and into the first small basket.

Bonita



Bonita Banana, one of the notorious Banana Sisters, was the joker in the basket along with Dolé. They hee-hawed their way through each day bringing smiles to all.

However, she was becoming bored and started looking for something to do, other than joking around all day. She tried her hand at many things but couldn't find anything that tickled her fancy.

It was only after Chiquita achieved a standing of Chef that Bonita decided, along with Dolé, to try cooking under the tutelage of Chiquita.

Well, once she got rolling in the cooking department, she became a very proficient assistant to Chiquita in many aspects of cooking. In 2012, Chiquita started to assign parts of the meal to her and she did very well. She had some assistance with the likes of Fuzzy, Bigert and Dolé at this time but more about that later.

In the photo you can see her medallion which she won for writing a short story about her life and submitting it on the internet. She was

shocked to receive the letter telling her about winning first place in that division and this medallion. She refuses to take the medallion off and proudly wears it continuously. She isn't writing lately as she is having trouble coming up with a topic, but we are all hoping she will find a subject soon. Maybe after she has more cooking experience, she will write about that aspect of her life.

In the meantime, we all enjoy Bonita's company and cooking prowess.

Chiquita



Chiquita is the most scholarly of the Banana Sisters.

She was always interested in everything that was going on around her, and after she came to live in the basket, she asked if she could help when it was my week to do the cooking. Janet and I alternate cooking every week and I now have Chiquita as my head chef.

But we are getting ahead of the story. Soon after starting to observe me cooking, she started making suggestions about modifying recipes, what to serve along with the main dish and other helpful hints. It was very clear that I had a very intelligent assistant, so I got her to read about cooking techniques and about being a chef, on the internet. She then started recommending recipes from [www. food.com](http://www.food.com) and a couple of other websites and they were always winners.

I promoted her to Chef in 2009, and Janet made her a great chef's hat. Her hat can be seen in her photo on the left. She has it decorated with the golden gem she was awarded, when she won first place honours in a cooking competition, and the Aussie flag which she won in an internet recipe contest.

Chiquita often helps the cooks from Janet's basket as none of them has acquired chef's status as of yet, although Kappy Kapunda is very close to achieving that status.

As a chef, Chiquita is responsible for the organisation and instruction of her apprentices, meal timings, plating up the food and other things necessary to maintain her high standard of dining. She and I go over many recipes when planning our weekly menu and she wants to have at least one or two new recipes each week, in addition to our old favourites.

One of her favourite TV shows currently is Masterchef on channel 10 where she continues to pick up hints and techniques from the professional chefs on the show. Great show and we all enjoy watching it together.

Dolé



Dolé Banana was always the quiet, shy, reserved, one of the sisters. When they came to live in the basket, she didn't say much and kept to herself. Then one day, Chiquita decided that she needed more help in the kitchen and asked Bonita and Dolé to try out as apprentice cooks. Well, it wasn't long before she was being very vocal about things. It was then that we all knew she was going to be a super apprentice. She indeed has become a very capable assistant in the kitchen. She really has a hard time keeping a clean apron but I guess that's because she is right in amongst the ingredients making sure everything is fresh and top quality.

Dolé has become a great baseball fan and since we get 3 or 4 live Major League Baseball games per week, she and some of the others are very enthusiastic about the game. Most of them cheer for the Toronto Blue Jays or the New York Yankees.

Dolé's bird is the doves (round heads as she calls them), which she shares with Bonita and Chiquita. They really enjoy the birds and there are several doves that come

right up to the patio door and look in at them. Dolé also lets Jan know when the bird's food is getting low and has come up with a bread and sugar mix that the lorikeets just love. They usually make a lot of noise when there are 25 or 30 of them around the trough pigging out.



Prostie



Prostie Bear is my first bear acquisition and a very special bear. When I was in the hospital having a prostatectomy, when I woke up, Prostie was sitting at my bedside waiting to try to cheer me up. He has been with me ever since and for a long time sat on my bedside table and kept me company when I was recovering. Jan had found Prostie in a store and thought he would be a nice friend for me. How right she was. He has been with me since March 2006.

Prostie has been an inspiration to all the other inhabitants in the basket with his intelligence and kindness. He is the founding member of the 'Back Row Boys' along with friends Huggie, Patches and Checkers and they sit on a bench along the back of the basket beside Mr. Kiwi and the Banana sisters. He is also the foreman of the Worker Bears consisting of, the 'Back Row Boys' & Sam who lives in Jan's basket.

Although he is pictured with his guitar, he only plays it occasionally when they have a concert, as he is usually too busy

to practice. Involved heavily with his workers and in sports, he has his feathers in cricket, baseball and NFL football. That's not all the sports he is interested in however, as he also likes rugby league and rugby union, swimming, netball, Olympics and almost any sports that he sees on the TV.

Prostie also has a bird he is responsible for, and that is small Honeyeaters which he shares with Alby.



The 'Back Row Boys' L>R: Checkers Patches Prostie Huggie

Huggie



Huggie is Prostie's brother. We were very lucky to spot him in a shop in Hervey Bay one day and because he looked so much like Prostie, asked him if he had a brother. He said he did but had given hope of up ever finding him. All he knew was he was in Hervey Bay somewhere. We thought we had better take him home to check and sure enough he was Prostie's long lost brother. They hadn't seen each other since they left England several years before.

Notice Huggie has an old guitar. This is the famous guitar that Dr. Duck played when he was a rock star in Mexico. He gave it to Huggie when he was certain he was completely and totally retired, and ever since Huggie has played it in the orchestra which everyone plays in. He gets a lot of help from Patches who is a maestro, when it comes to guitar playing.

Huggie has feathers in cricket, baseball and rugby but is interested in just about any sport you can think of. His bird is the sparrows which used to be thick in the yard but don't come as often these days, as they don't like the lorikeets and drongos who can be a little boistrous.

Huggie is also a member of the 'Back Row Boys' and a key member of Prostie's workers, handling most of the electronic & electrical problems. Sam from Jan's basket handles the mechanical problems.

He is quite a character once he gets wound up. He sits next to the Bananas and is always joking around and playing tricks on them. Sometimes I think they wish he would be a little less energetic, but they all seem to have a good time together.

Hoppy



Hoppy Kangaroo was found in March of 2002 in Victor Harbour, South Australia. Jan bought a Teddy Bear by the name of Victor and as we were leaving, he insisted that we go back and get his best mate Hoppy. They had been together for several months at the shop and they had become best friends. I went back and got him and he has been a member of our basket ever since.

Hoppy, as can be seen in the photo, plays the didgeridoo and enjoys playing in the orchestra. His mate, Sydney, described later, also plays the didgeridoo and they play a very good duet on a few songs.

Hoppy also has his maximum 3 feathers. They are for rugby league, rugby union and cricket. He has taught the rules and strategies of these sports to anyone in the basket who will listen to him and makes a lot

of noise cheering when the games are on the television.

Hoppy is responsible for the White Headed Pigeons that occasionally come to the yard. Since they are a migratory bird, he only sees them as they pass through annually, but he looks forward to their arrival each year. He also helps me get the inverter/power meter numbers every night.

Hoppy is the original member and organiser of the 'front row boys' which he formed after Prostie organised the 'back row boys' in 2010.



The 'Front Row Boys' L>R: Hoppy Bigert Sydney

Patches



Patches arrived at our house in late 2009 after Jan saw him sitting forlornly on the top of the till at the Op Shop at the foot of Main Street. He looked so sad and unloved and besides Jan was concerned that he was going to fall off and get trampled. He got his name because he was all covered in small patches.

He struggled to fit in during his early days in the basket, so I made him a fancy guitar which Dr. Duck taught him to play. Well that was all he needed, he practiced every day without fail and was soon playing for hours on end, entertaining all and sundry. He is now likely the best Teddy guitar player in the world and it's all due to dedicated practice. Since he now goes out various places to play, he has grown his hair so that he will have an identity like Dr. Duck.

Patches is also very interested in other things. He has his 3 feathers; one in each of music, cricket and baseball. He likes cricket and baseball because they

aren't violent like rugby and are more intellectual and have a lot more strategy and less brawn.

He is a member of the 'Back Row Boys' and the 'Black Hat workers (back up).

Patches is responsible for the yellow faced cockatiels that occasionally show up in the yard, and is also a member of the vaunted 'back row boys'. No longer shy and introverted, he has now got a basket full of friends whom he enjoys playing for and entertaining.

Hervey



Hervey also came from the same Op Shop as Patches. I saw him thrown into a cubicle on his head with about ten others and decided to sit them all up so they might have a chance to go to a nice home. Hervey grabbed my attention and asked if I would take him home as he had been there for a long time. I said yes, and that's how Hervey came to the basket.

Hervey is an accomplished drummer and plays in the orchestra. He did a 5 minute solo when the orchestra played their Christmas concert in 2011, and was wonderful. He was even requested to do an encore which he did cheerfully. He practices a few times a month, when Patches plays his guitar and they have a lot of fun jamming together.

Hervey 's bird is the magpies along with his mate Churchill. The magpies can be very aggressive at nesting time, and it is their job to keep the peace with them. We have never had a magpie attack us since they became their responsibility. Good job, guys!

Hervey has his feathers in baseball, cricket and NFL football and enjoys most other sports as well. He is really looking forward to the 2012 Olympics when they come on in a couple of weeks.

Checkers



his hair long just like Patches.

Checkers has his feathers in baseball, cricket and philosophy and his bird is the sparrows which he shares with Huggie.

Checkers is the fourth member of the 'back row boys'.

Checkers came from the same Op Shop as Hervey and Patches. One day while looking through some bins, I found him hiding under some of the goods. I asked him why he was there and he said that the other stuffed animals picked on him because he was so small. When I asked him if he wanted to come home to a lot of friends his size, he jumped at the chance. He was a big hit amongst the others and learned to play the flute all by himself. He loves playing in the concerts and practices the orchestra periodically schedule.

Checkers sits next to Patches and is a member of the 'back row boys' founded by Prostie. They have a lot of fun in the back row, carrying on and playing tricks.

Checkers, because his coat is very short, has a problem with the cold in the winter so has a super-sized winter coat. He has also grown

Sydney



Sydney was found in the huge Sydney markets in a small shop at the rear of the market area. Hoppy had asked if we could try to find his cousin who he thought had been taken to Sydney. When we found Sydney, we could hardly believe it. We named him Sydney because he could not remember his name but he did know he has a lost cousin living in Queensland. When we got home, they were ecstatic to meet one another and have been best mates ever since. Sydney is a member of the 'front row boys' along with Bigert and Hoppy.

Sydney is responsible for the Ring Necked Parrot that occasionally makes an appearance in the back yard. They are a large parrot and are likely an escaped tame bird.

Sydney has earned his feathers in rugby league, rugby union and cricket and seems to really enjoy the 'State of Origin' rugby league series every year.

Sydney also plays the didgeridoo in the orchestra along with his side-kick Hoppy. They both have become very good players. The didgeridoo is an ancient musical instrument invented and played by the Aborigines of Australia.

Sydney is also a member of the 'front row boys' as described earlier.

Fuzzy



Fuzzy was found in the Op Shop at the foot of Main Street by me while wandering through the store waiting for Jan. He wasn't with the rest of the stuffed animals, but in the back of the store on a display. He had the famous Fuzzy smirk on his face and said as I walked by, "Hey mate, want a new friend, just take me home and I will be your friend." Who could resist an offer like that, so I took Fuzzy home and introduced him to the rest of the guys. He was an immediate hit with everyone.

Fuzzy has tried the drums and guitar in the orchestra and has decided on the guitar. He now has a nice new silver guitar that he plays once in a while.

Fuzzy talked Chiquita into letting him cook with her, back when she

was cooking all by herself and has become a great help. Shown in the picture wearing his apprentice apron, he does a great job making any kind of rice and using the convection oven.

Fuzzy has earned his feathers in cooking, rugby (both versions) and soccer and is always being asked questions by the newer bears about these sports.

His responsibility amongst the birds that come to the yard, are the Pink Galahs who he shares with Kappi Kapunda in the Jan's basket.

Fuzzy is a friend to all, in all the baskets, and is known as 'the bear with attitude'



Scarfy



Scarfy was named because he always wears his red scarf. He wears it summer and winter, hot or cool. Scarfy also came from the infamous Op Shop at the foot of Main Street. He was such a cheerful bear that I couldn't leave without him. He is always ready to help anyone who needs it and has made lots of friends in all of the baskets.

As can be seen by his photo, he plays the drum in the orchestra and makes quite a bit of noise when he does. His idea is the louder the better.

Scarfy is great mates with Hervey and they sit beside each other, and have since he arrived. They are always

playing jokes on each other and get a lot of laughs from their mates.

Scarfy has earned his feathers in cricket, baseball and netball and is always asking when the next game is on the TV. He is a big New York Yankee fan.

His responsibility with the birds is the 'Owl Eyes', a small finch that occasionally visits. He shares them with his mate Dr. Duck.

Bigert (Big-heart)



Bigert, as he wishes to be known as, was a bear who was being sold as a fund raiser for the Heart Foundation of Australia. Jan found him and thought he would be a nice addition to my basket.

Bigert has a similar personality to Fuzzy, the bear with attitude, so they hit it off immediately. Fuzzy convinced Chiquita that Bigert would make a fantastic apprentice cook and after a month long try-out, she accepted him as a second apprentice to Fuzzy. He does a lot of the grunt work in the kitchen and sometimes assists Fuzzy with his rice dishes.

Some of the others regard Bigert as a bit of a smart-ass but

they all love his great attitude and cheerfulness.

Bigert has achieved his feathers in cooking, netball and rugby league and is a great fan of the Queensland State of origin team, and is a member of the 'Front Row Boys' along with Hoppy & Sydney Kangaroos.

His bird responsibility is the lorikeets with Mr. Kiwi.

Churchill



Churchill showed up on our door-step one day telling us he had come all the way from Canada to see his cousin but couldn't find him anywhere. We looked in every Op Shop and place we could think of but no luck.

We finally realised that the cousin he was talking about was living in Jan's basket and named Snowy. Churchill said he would like to stay for a couple of weeks and get to know Snowy if it was alright.

It didn't take long for him to realise that life without snow was pretty good, and so kept finding excuses not to leave. Finally he admitted that he would like to try living here in the warm weather, if it was

OK with the others. It took him

months to decide whether to go back to Churchill, Manitoba where he came from, or stay here. Finally, all his new-found friends convinced him to stay. Patches taught him to play the guitar and he now plays in the orchestra.

He really likes the BBC and Discovery Channel travel shows of the Arctic, but definitely does not want to return.

He has earned his 3 feathers in NFL, baseball and hockey, or ice hockey as it is known in Australia, due to the fact that the hockey played here mostly is field hockey. There are ice hockey teams in the larger cities and they play in a league in the winter, but the calibre is quite poor compared to what he is used to seeing in the NHL in Canada.

Churchill shares the magpies with Hervey as the bird he is responsible for.

Alby



Alby is the most recent bear to join the basket at this time (23 June, 2012) and he comes from a town over in Western Australia called Albany, on the southern coast. Albany is a very nice place but does tend to get cold in the winter.

As usual, we were wandering through the shops, in this case an Op Shop, when Jan spied Alby in a plastic bag with a lot of other bears for \$2. She asked if she could just have Alby and they could have all the other bears back. They wouldn't take the \$2 and charged her 50 cents. Alby had been very unhappy as he had been in the bag for months, and was overjoyed to get out of there. He joined the two other bears we had picked up on our travels, Marky and Vinny. It was decided that since Vinny and Marky were cousins,

they would stay together and go into Jan's basket, while Alby joined my basket.

As can be seen, Alby is taking up the guitar under the tutelage of Patches and he has picked up a few basic cords. Patches is very happy with his progress at this point.

A few months ago, Alby took up cooking and is now the regular Thursday morning breakfast cook and lunch time short order cook as well as the Sunday BBQ and dinner cook, and has a special cooking apron so he stays clean. He's doing very well so far and hopes to join Chiquita's team, should there be an opening. He has enlisted Wishful Bear to help him and they make a great team. Wishful is from one of Jan's baskets. (Alby cooking, revised 15 August, 2016).

Alby is responsible for the small honey eaters along with Prostie, and already has two feathers, one in baseball and the other in tourism. He likes the Cleveland Indians because he found out that I had Indian ancestors from the Kootenai tribe in Alberta and BC in Canada.

Kooky



Kooky showed up at our place in November 2013. One of Jan's friends thought that Kooky would be a lot happier at our home, in the company of our other friends, than he was at her place. She gave him to me because she had read this story on the internet, and wanted Kooky to be one of the gang and have a lot of friends instead of sitting by himself at her house.

Kooky has fit in very well with the others. At this point, he is learning all about tennis and cricket so he can get those feathers soon. Mr Kiwi, his chief, has also been very happy to have him join the group. The Aussie cricket team has just blasted the POMs 5 – 0 in the Ashes series and he learned a lot

from watching that.

Kooky has a very loud call, just like the kookaburras that come to our yard, and once in a while he lets fly with his Kookaburra call and scares everyone out of their wits. He is very interested in the birds that come to the yard and has asked Coffee, the head bird watcher bear, if he can join his team of four watchers. Scarfy, from his basket is a member of Coffee's birdie watchers and Scarfy has been teaching him the names of all the birds that come to the yard every day. Possibly he could get a feather in bird watching but that takes quite a while to achieve, because of the amount of knowledge required. In 2015, Kooky took over the weekend chief birdie watching job from Coffee so Coffee could have a couple of days off every week. He has his group of watchers, namely Checkers, Churchill, Tutu and Tartan (latter 2 from Jan's basket).

In the meantime, Kooky has proved to be a most welcome addition to our gang. He sits beside the basket all the time, as he is far too big to sit in it.

William



We found William while on holiday in Melbourne to celebrate Janet's 70th birthday, on a day trip down the Yarra River from Downtown Melbourne to Williamstown near the mouth of the river.

As we were walking through a small souvenir shop, we heard a voice asking everyone that walked by if they knew of a bear called Bigert. Everyone ignored poor William except us. We rushed over and said that we had a little bear at home by the name of Bigert. Well William described Bigert to a Tee. He said he was his cousin and they had gotten separated several years ago and that he was trying to locate him, because Bigert was the only relative he could remember.

Well that was good enough for us. We bought William on the spot and brought him home to a warm welcome from Bigert who remembered William from many years ago. Since then, William and Bigert are inseparable and William is learning all about birds and sports from Bigert and all the guys in the baskets.

William is hoping to get his feather in tennis after the Aussie Open and has also developed a great interest in Cricket.

William has been a wonderful addition to Mr. Kiwi's basket and everyone loves him dearly! In 2015, he joined Chiquita's cooking team and is doing very well. He loves cooking with Bigert and has earned his own apron with a big W on the front!



Bigert & William January 2015

Cuppy



Cuppy came to our home as a Christmas present for myself. He was living in a coffee cup in the store when Janet saw him and knew he would be just the right bear to add to our Christmas (2015) cheer. He is still learning about the birds and other things but he is fitting in well with the other guys. He is looking forward to learning about cricket and will be watching the Boxing Day test against the West Indies. He already has made good friends with Churchill and Fuzzy. He sits between them in the basket and they are making him very welcome as is everyone else!

Cuppy is working under the tutelage of Bert, the retired RAAF pilot bear who was hurt when his F-16 crash landed. Bert looks after the weather forecasting and Cuppy is his apprentice.

The preceding, is the story of my friends in the basket, who share our lives here in Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia.

The date today is the 27th of June, 2012 and this is the end of the story. That is, until another friend is found and added to the family. If that happens, we will require a much larger basket and an extension to this story. Kooky was added to the story on the 8th of January, 2014 and William on the 3rd of January, 2015. Cuppy was added in January 2016.

Last revision 15 August, 2016

Photograph of the Happy Basket



Photo with permission of the Chief, Mr. Kiwi

Photographs of the Cooks



Larry's Cooks, [L>R] Dole, Bonita, Head Chef Chiquita, Fuzzy, Bigert



Jan's Cooks, [L>R] Pinky, Mom, Head Cook Kappy Kapunda, Targy, Bella. Tiny has joined after Bella decided not to continue her apprenticeship and is not pictured (Jan 2014)



27th June, 2012

Chiquita put on a class for all the cooks and showed them how to make enchiladas.

The End