

DIARY: 1994

JANUARY

1 Saturday

Hike: Tai Mei Tuk → Sam A Tsuen → Hok Tau reservoir → Tai Po (7 1/3 hours, last 1 1/2 mainly walking). On the hike, saw a guy with a shotgun.

2 - 3 Sunday - Monday

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4 Tuesday

Warmer. Teaching practice visits in the morning.

5 Wednesday

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6 Thursday

Saw on TV - NZ jet boat racing.

7 Friday

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8 Saturday

Hike: Plover cover → [Sam A Chung turnoff] → Tai Mei Tuk (5 1/2 hours). A 9-year-old girl killed by two dogs. Cleaned the car.

9 Sunday

Warm. "60-Minutes" on Christchurch Cooperites.

10 Monday

Teaching practice visits in Ma On Shan. A paint thinner bomb ignited in the Shek Kip Mei HSBC bank - five killed.

11 Tuesday

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12 Wednesday

Three teaching practice visits.

13 Thursday

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14 Friday

Shark nets to be installed at two beaches. Wet.

15 Saturday

Hike: 5B → Stages 8. 9 (Tai Lam Chung reservoir) → Sek Kong (5 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours). Cloudy but fine.

16 Sunday

Mini Rugby tournament at Police ground (Tai Hang Tung, Boundary Street).

17 Monday

Warm. Curriculum Development Council meeting in the afternoon. Leonie loses boyfriend - gone to Scotland.

18 Tuesday

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19 Wednesday

Teaching practice visits in Tuen Mun. Autographed my textbook for students [and made them late for their next lesson].

20 Thursday

Getting colder. Last teaching practice visits - to Lam Tin;. Went on MTR; school kust past the last station on the line.

21 Friday

Minimum 7-8⁰C. Another fire/bank victim dies - the 10th.

22 Saturday

Hike: Station → (4) → Stage 7 → 5B (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours). Ran past a hill hire. Cold.

23 Sunday

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24 Monday

Shatin Junior School bus drivers on strike.

25 Tuesday

Nadine to school on another bus. Nadine starts netball at school.

26 Wednesday

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27 Thursday

Bus strike over.

28 Friday

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29 Saturday

Hike: Sai Kung → Stage 3 → (Stage 4) → CU station (6 hours). Met runners participating in the “Four peaks” (boat) race.

30 Sunday

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31 Monday

The 12th victim dies.

FEBRUARY

1 - 4 Tuesday - Friday

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5 Saturday

Humid day. Leonie off for A Duke of Edinburgh overnight. Hike: Sai Kung Road → (1, 2), 3 (5 ½ hours). Chinese University fair.

6 Sunday

Warm and humid. Daya Bay [nuclear power plant across the border] officially opened.

7 Monday

Gavin to Edward's for overnight. Nadine to Happy Valley. Prince Charles attached in Auckland.

8 - 9 Tuesday - Wednesday

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10 Thursday

[Start of Chinese New Year holidays] All day at the office doing the revised [?teaching of] chemistry notes. Very humid.

11 Friday

Again at the office. Wet later, but the fireworks display still held.

12 Saturday

A bit wet. Humid. Shorter hike: 5B to lead mine pass → loop (new route) and back to the pass → 5B (4 hours).

13 - 14 Sunday - Monday

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15 Tuesday

Dinner with M Phil students in the evening.

16 Wednesday

Wet. To the SCR for a “high tea” in the afternoon; not as good as last year's.

17 - 18 Thursday - Friday

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19 Saturday

Hike: Station → (4, 5) → Shatin → Station (4 hours). Very wet!

20 Sunday

Fine. Got a lot of washing done and dried.

21 Monday

Finally got the hole in Bathroom 2 filled.

22 - 23 Tuesday - Wednesday

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24 Thursday

Nadine to friend's after school at HLY.

25 Friday

To the dentist for about 2 hours! To get a temporary crown. Leonie to gym with me in the afternoon. Cooler at about 16°C.

26 Saturday

Cooler at about 14°C. Hike: 5B → (Stage 8) → waterfall/landslide → [Kadoorie farm] → Fanling (5 ½ hours).

27 Sunday

Cool. Gavin to Happy Valley for a Rugby tournament.

28 Monday

Watched a replay of the closing ceremony at the Winter Olympics [at Lillehammer, Norway].

MARCH

1 Tuesday

Still cold.

2 Wednesday

Budget day; many financial breaks for some.

3 Thursday

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4 Friday

Call from Singapore about Science books. Leonie to gym.

5 Saturday

20°C. Hike: Sai Kung road (?) → (1) → Chek Keng → Wong Shek → Yung Shue O → Kei Ling Ha (5 ¼ hours). Leonie to a basketball tournament.

6 - 7 Sunday - Monday

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8 Tuesday

To the dentist to have a crown put on an upper tooth.

9 Wednesday

Humid. Meet and have lunch with Eddie Christiansen.

10 Thursday

Stupid! V buys a new washing machine and drier.

11 Friday

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12 Saturday

Very humid. Hike: Jacobs ladder → Hoi Ha → Wong Shek → Kei Ling Ha (a new way) (5 ¼ hours). Gavin overnight to Edward's.

13 Sunday

Flying Kukris mini Rugby tournament. I didn't go.

14 - 17 Monday - Thursday

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18 Friday

Hike: → Pak Tam Chung → (3)(4) → CU (5 ¼ hours). 18°C.

19 Saturday

All day at work. Lunch at Chung Chi. Interviews for new intake of full-time students in the afternoon.

20 Sunday

Clear, fine day. Last day for Gavin's Rugby.

21 Monday

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22 Tuesday

Bit wet. Cooler. Leonie and Nadine to concerts at school in the evening. (I had a class!) The BBC to stop broadcasting on “Star” TV.

23 Wednesday

Leonie to see “Schindler's List”. Aeroflot Airbus crashes on its way to HK [son of pilot was at the controls!].

24 Thursday

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25 Friday

Five British and HK soldiers found and rescued from the slopes of Mt Kinabalu.

26 Saturday

Warm; about 25°C. To the HK Rugby 7s.

27 Sunday

Cooler; about 19°C. NZ wins the Cup. Beat France in the quarter-finals 21 - 12; beat Fiji in the semifinals 28 - 14; beat Australia in the final 32 - 20.

28 - 30 Monday - Wednesday

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31 Thursday

YF, Nadine and Gavin off to Gui Lin in China.

APRIL

1 Friday

[Good Friday] Worked in the office all day drawing apparatus on the computer [?for teaching of chemistry notes].

2 Saturday

25°C. Hike with Leonie and dog to lead mine pass. Breathing a bit bad.

3 Sunday

Easter Sunday! Did about six loads of washing.

4 Monday

The others get back from China.

5 - 7 Tuesday - Thursday

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8 Friday

Ph.D. Seminar in the afternoon. Warm.

9 Saturday

Cooler. At the office all day working on the Integrated Science book.

10 - 11 Sunday - Monday

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12 Tuesday

Warm, but felt cold because of a fever. Difficult in class. V brings a lot more furniture.

13 - 15 Wednesday - Friday

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16 Saturday

Leonie back early in the afternoon. Her team failed the [?Duke of Edinburgh] hike behind the Pak Sin Leng range. I stayed in bed all morning; still not feeling well.

17 Sunday

Last day for BBC on Star TV.

18 - 20 Monday - Wednesday

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21 Thursday

Heavy rain early afternoon.

22 Friday

Fine. Pool opens for the season. I did a good 20-length starter.

23 Saturday

Former President Nixon dies in New York. Hot.

24 Sunday

Worked out the route for the summer holiday in Northern Europe. Filled in half the YHA reservation forms.

25 Monday

Hot. Swim. To Kowloon in the afternoon to get postal (reply paid) coupons, YHA things and more computer discs.

26 Tuesday

A China Airlines Airbus crashes in Japan. Last M Phil lesson.

27 Wednesday

Tired. Swim OK.

28 Thursday

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29 Friday

Royalty statement arrives. V, Leonie, Gavin and Nadine on a junk trip in the evening.

30 Saturday

Hottest April day in HK for 100 years.

MAY

1 Sunday

Ayrton Senna killed during the Italian F1 Grand Prix.

2 Monday

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3 Tuesday

Very heavy rain in the morning, as I was walking to work! Posted application for job [?what job].

4 Wednesday

Heavy rain in the morning, as I was walking to work! Pool closed in the morning.

5 - 7 Thursday - Saturday

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8 Sunday

Spent hours cleaning the flat again.

9 Monday

Educational psychology department meeting. Nelson Mandela becomes president of South Africa.

10 Tuesday

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11 Wednesday

Swim in the afternoon with Nadine - with her first, I think!

12 Thursday

John Smith, British Labour Party leader dies.

13 Friday

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14 Saturday

Watched the FA Cup final in the evening; Manchester United beat Chelsea 4 - 0.

15 Sunday

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16 Monday

Nadine has earache. She didn't go to school, but went to ballet.

17 Tuesday

V brought Nadine home [?from school] because of fever. Hot day. Meeting in the afternoon.

18 Wednesday

An armed robbery in Central; one woman was killed. China Airlines plane makes an emergency landing at Kai Tak. Nadine's temperature 103°F.

19 Thursday

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20 Friday

Lunch [?staff] at Shatin. Gavin not home in the afternoon. I helped Leonie with Maths revision.

21 - 22 Saturday - Sunday

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23 Monday

One of the governor's dogs bites a workman. [His two dogs are named Whisky and Soda.]

24 Tuesday

Hot. Hot. Board of Studies (Executive) meeting. Swim with Nadine.

25 Wednesday

Hot.

26 Thursday

To the dentist about a broken tooth filling; got a temporary replacement. Swim with Nadine.

27 Friday

Marks meeting in the morning followed by a lunch. China's MFN (most favoured nation) status renewed.

28 - 29 Saturday - Sunday

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30 Monday

Got all the SCT Teaching of Chemistry notes finished. Lecture by C K Leong.

31 Tuesday

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JUNE

1 Wednesday

Six ATV staff resign over management censorship in China.

2 Thursday

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3 Friday

To town to buy things for the NZ [???] visit.

4 Saturday

Anniversary of the crackdown in Peking in 1989. A factory building collapses in ShenZhen; two killed. The yacht “NZ Endeavour” wins the round-the-world yacht race.

5 Sunday

Leonie and Nadine for a swim in the morning. Special documentary on TV in the evening of the D-Day landings in Normandy

6 Monday

Today is the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. Renewed my driver's license. Another Chinese airliner crashes.

[→ August 27, no entries.]

Trip to Northern Europe: Holland, Germany and Denmark

AUGUST

1 Monday

Arrived at Schiphol Airport from HK and Kuala Lumpur after good flights on Malaysian Airlines. Reconfirmed return flights on arrival.

Picked up the BB&Leonie rental car at the airport and off by 8.30 am. North around Amsterdam up to the Barrier Dam built to separate the sea from the land; 32 km long and completed in 1932. (Interestingly, Schiphol is below sea level, except at very low tide.) Climbed the monument but couldn't get a good view because of the haze. Continuing across, we stopped at locks and watched boats going through.

On through Friesland to a place called Drachton. Waited for the 1 pm opening of a supermarket. Bought initial supplies. Had a late lunch alongside the highway to Groningen. Then on to Roden - temperature reading shown as 32^oC! - then to the Youth Hostel at Roderesch (4 x £22.60 + 1 x 19.10 = £109.50). Decided against the £2.50 each for the use of the kitchen so ate a cold dinner of salad, etc.

Gavin Practised Rugby goal kicking. Leonie and Nadine played with girls from neighbouring rooms who befriended them.

Temps up to 32°C and humid.

Me and Le played with girls who were next to us. Tock along drive and finall got here. Went to a super market and bought lots of things. At the hotel, I played table tennis with dedy.

2 Tuesday

Good sleep. Up for breakfast at 8.30 am. Fine day after heavy rain last night. Leonie, Gavin and Nadine played until 10 am when we set off for Bremen.

Passed through Leer (in Germany) to look at the Youth Hostel we could have stayed at. Hostel easily found but harder to find our way out of the town.

On to Oldenburg in Germany. Parked by a drawbridge. Leonie and I walked back into the centre of town to a market and bought some grapes. A supermarket stop then on to Bremen, arriving at about 4.30 pm. Should have been easy to locate [Youth Hostel, which overlooks the river] but missed seeing the river when crossing it!

After check-in, had something to eat in our room - no members' kitchen. Overnight:DM 245 (2 nights. B and B).

Hot again today too.

Went Shopping again came here sat around had fun (not) had dinner had a shower went to bed Played with pushy and dyon and the girls and went here. At the end I Played tabletennis with deddy.

3 Wednesday

Good breakfast - cereal, yoghurt, juice, milk, breads, meats. Then off along the riverbank to the Schnoor district. Sights included the dog barber, four musicians sculpture. Then along to the P.O. For Leonie to post a letter - DM1.

Nearby to the main square. Listened to 4 brass musicians. Sat on benches next to local drunks outside the Rathaus. Some time in the square then to McDonald's toilet for the ladies! This was followed by listening to the 12 noon glockenspiel music then to the Cathedral for the last part of an organ recital.

Along to a river park for lunch. On one corner saw two accidents; a woman fell off her wheelchair while crossing the road, then a bus side-swipes a car. After lunch with the ducks (one injured), back to the hostel.

After a rest, Nadine and I went along to see the German navy's training sailing ship.

Very hot again.

Very hot and me and Beddy went to see a boat and saw a dog run away and went to the square and saw two horses. And we went and eat lune [?] and me and Le feed some ducks.

4 Thursday

Happy birthday Leonie!

Out of the hostel at 9 am. I went with Nadine to a playground for a while before departing for Hamburg. Didn't take long. Using the (20-year old) map, we got to the hostel easily (fortunately no one-way roads to trap us!). Checked in before 12 o'clock (5 x DM18.50) for two nights. Rooms open about 1 pm.

Walked down to the waterfront, along a bit then up to the red-light Repperbahn area! Along to a fun park that was just opening, along to a supermarket (which included DM22 for sun lotion - ridiculous!).

No-one could agree on how to have dinner, so ended up eating left overs.

Later, Leonie and I went for a walk along the waterfront.

Still hot and humid.

YH fee: DM 185 (2 nights, each DM13 bed 5.50 breakfast).

Happy B'day Le Went ti a park with Rex and then to Humber and along the way Le stop to Take a pee. We went for a walk in the town. At Humber me and Rex played table tennis. (Le and me to.)

5 Friday

Hot night. Breakfast OK but not as good as at Bremen.

Bought a family ticket (DM12.60 covers 4[?] Adults and 3 Children) for public transport. Set off from the hostel to the City Hall. Thence to cash cheques - eventually at Thomas Cooks' without commission. Then down the inner lake to the edge of the large lake. To the main station and a long train ride out to Pinneberg. Bought ice-creams. Nothing of interest there so headed back. Got off at Altona and bought things at a supermarket. Another train ride to the botanical gardens. On the train were South American (?) buskers singing.

During lunch, there was a thunderstorm. Rain evaporated and made conditions very humid. Back to St Pauli station via a 'S' and 'U' bahn. Gavin and V returned to the hostel while Leonie, Nadine and I looked at an old city wall. Thence past an open-air concrete 'Hexe' to the fairground. Leonie and Nadine walked through a 'House of horrors' (DM3.50 ea). Back to the hostel via the Bismarck monument.

Made our own dinner in the hostel kitchen. After dinner, all except Gavin took the train along

to the Diechstrasse(?) to see a 17th - 19th Century reconstructed merchant houses.

Fireworks from the fairground late at night.

Went to a house of horrors. It was so scary We went on a train 10 times I think we saw the consil)?) (???) then we came back and had dinner.

6 Saturday

A little cooler on getting up. After breakfast, Leonie and I went down to the waterfront. Saw a Greenpeace ship.

At about 10 am, driving first along autobahns and later on the lesser roads. Just before leaving the autobahns, there was long traffic jam.

Took a 'green' route westwards towards Heide. At Marne, turned off to look at a windmill [wind turbine] park. Then a visit to the North Sea! Not much sea [to see!]. Not able to have a swim in the shallow marshes area. Bought two portions of chips (DM2 ea). Also got cauliflower from a roadside farm.

Thence to Heide. Found the hostel quite easily. Played more table tennis with Nadine. [If I remember, a bee was annoying us!]

Youth hostel: 5 x DM17.5.

7 Sunday

After breakfast, Nadine and I played table tennis. Set off, but didn't get far. Drove around the town square then came across a flea market. Spent some time there, with V buying a DM10 briefcase.

Drove north towards the border [with Denmark]. Found a domain for lunch. Leonie had a driving lesson; staying in first gear only.

Crossed the border [into Denmark] at 2.30 pm. Had to turn on the car lights. Got to Tonder Youth Hostel early so went for a drive, ending up at an airfield where gliding was going on. On display was a former [jet] fighter (Swedish make). All sat in the cockpit. Apparently we were not supposed to climb up without a ladder!

After checking in at the hostel, Gavin and I returned to the airfield where he put back in the cockpit a manual he had "borrowed". Made our own dinner (hostel dinner Kr 60 each!)

Family room: Kr 318.

8 Monday

Bought food from a supermarket then came back for breakfast. Off at 10 am. Along the coast road to Ribe. Had a look through the town - which includes the oldest town in Denmark.

Through Ribe - another supermarket. Had lunch alongside the road near Esbjerg. Then on to

Varde. After dinner, had a long chat with a chap from Denmark.

Overnight (family room): Kr 260.

9 Tuesday

Had our own breakfast of eggs and cereal. Off at about 10 am towards the coast. Stopped at a rifle/shooting range in the sand dunes then over to have a look at the beach.

On to a fishing port. Not far past this, I looked around a churchyard and saw several RAF graves. Passed a camping site where Leonie and Nadine bounced around on inflated sheets.

Next stop was a supermarket at the northern end of the fjord; spent 1 ½ hours there. Nadine spent some the time on a castle bouncer! Soon after, we had lunch. Gavin and I walked over the dunes to the sandy beach. Many remains of concrete gun emplacements apparently built by Rommel early in WWII. Then on to Struer, arriving at about 3.30 pm. Before checking in, Leonie, Gavin, Nadine and I walked to the lakeside a short distance away; ladybirds everywhere.

Overnight: Kr 360.

10 Wednesday

After breakfast, left Struer for, firstly, Skive. Notable change in topography; more undulating due to the action of glaciers apparently. Stopped in town - V and Leonie went into the post office to get stamps. Drove along to an information bureau then down to the local harbour. Looked around for a bit then continued on.

Lunch alongside a fjord then past a forest where the former king had a hunting lodge, and a Cistercian monastery. Then for a loop near Ranum to see the area where the chap I met in Varde lived. Also ran along an adventure track with Nadine opposite a holiday camp. Then on to Fjerritslev and checked in at the hostel. Walked around the village later.

Overnight: Kr 400. TV in rooms.

11 Thursday

Viking day! To the same supermarket again first. Then to Gonenstrand to see the old heather windmill. Then to Klim Strand where Nadine played on the “adventure” apparatus.

To Tornby church which I had a look through. To Vestlos (no storks seen on houses) and filled up with petrol from a machine. Oh! Just before this, we looked around a Viking burial ground with stone settings shaped like ships and free-standing monoliths. The cemetery was one near the fjord which has now receded.

Down to Aggersborg - not by the shortest route - to see a circular Viking fort.

Up to Husby Hole to view a monument to a peasant uprising in 1441. Then to Skraem to see

a 70 m barrow from the stone age. Found it near an old railway station. Got directions from a farmer making hay, who knew where it was but not what it was.

Now 1.45 pm, so on to Aalborg, taking only ½ hour. Stopped at Lindholm Hoje, the site of the biggest and most important Viking burial site. Gavin more interested in the army shooting range nearby and a jet fighter training.

Drove through Aalborg then on to the hostel at Rebild.

Overnight: DKr 345.

12 Friday

Leonie, Gavin and Nadine had a better and longer night's sleep. Set off at 9.45 am (15 minutes later than planned) for Aarhus. Took just over an hour. First stop was the old town (Kr 40 adult, children free). Interesting. Spent about 1 ½ hours there. Then off to a museum in the south of the city. Saw old Viking houses [including a long-house] and a 2000-year-old preserved man (Kr 25 adult).

Back into town and off towards Silkeborg. Called in at a Kvickly supermarket for food and petrol. Arrived at Silkeborg at about 3.30 pm.

V, Leonie, Gavin and Nadine went to see the Tollund Man [I had seen it years before, though just the head; now it is attached to a body!]. Expensive - Kr 20 for V, Leonie and Gavin; Kr 5 for Nadine. Had a brief walk around the centre of town.

Overnight: Kr 420.

13 Saturday

A lot of rain during the night. Much cooler in the morning; needed pullovers on all day.

Off at 9.15 am to Legoland, taking nearly one hour. Into the park at about 10.30 am. Entrance fee: 2 x Kr 95 (adult), Kr 80 (child). With a Kr 30 voucher given us by the lady in front of us (from Holland), the cost was Kr 400! Spent 4 ½ hours inside. A few moments of rain but otherwise fine, but windy.

Off to Horsens at 3.15 pm. (Looked at the new Billund YH on the way.) Stopped off at Jelling on the way - the centre of Viking history. Look at the burial grounds (Gorm the Old) and stone carvings. Then a rush to Horsens via Vjele, arriving at 5 pm.

Overnight: Kr 365.

14 Sunday

Windy in the morning and on leaving. Drove around for a while - very few people around. Stopped at the port and saw four whaling (?) ships. To the centre of town to look at the memorial to Vitus Bering in a park. Then with Nadine to look at an old school.

Off to Odense slowly. Took a quick detour to Fredirica. A heavy shower just after this. On to Odense, arriving at 2 pm . As the hostel was not open till 4 pm, we had a drive around town. Cool and showery.

Overnight: Kr 672 (2 nights).

15 Monday

Cool during the night but fine during the day. I drove around to a local supermarket early to buy things for breakfast.

At about 10.15 am, we managed to get going into town. Called in at many banks to [try to] cash travellers' cheques. Most had commissions of Kr 20 per cheque / Kr 40 for first and Kr 20 for others. Ended up not cashing any. Due to this, spent a lot of time in the shopping area.

Saw H C Andersen's house, his statue as well as that of King Canute. Later, I walked around by myself - tired of all the whining and continual criticism! Back to the hostel for a rest. Then drove to a supermarket.

16 Tuesday

Fine day but not hot. Left the hostel at 9.30 and into town. Cashed US\$200 cheque (Kr 35 for commission). Then towards Zeeland. Arrived at the ferry terminus at 10.48, the ferry leaving exactly at 11 am (Fr 270). The crossing took one hour. Then on to Ringsted, with a supermarket stop at Soro. Before registration at 4 pm, I had a walk around the town - the windmill, square, St Bendt's (Benedict's) cathedral.

Overnight: Kr 400. Good dinner including sausages.

17 Wednesday

Took a long time to get to sleep because of Nadine's "toothache". Not many at the hostel. After breakfast, went for a short walk to the square and back, a ride to the old windmill then back to the cathedral for a look inside.

Off to Roskilde. Called in at an archaeological site in Lejre but didn't go in. On to Roskilde. Walked through the town square and market, to the cathedral, then down to see Viking boats in the harbour.

After a supermarket stop, off to Copenhagen, arriving at about 3.30 pm. Had lunch in a park on the way.

Dinner was two pizzas and a plate of chips (Kr 97) at a pizza bar at a nearby café. Cool, especially in the evening.

Hostel fee: Kr 65 pp per night (total Fr 935 for three nights).

18 Thursday

Wet overnight. Cool (about 14°C) with occasional showers during the day. Slept in! Off to town at about 10 am, parking close to town quite easily [long-term parking; not sure if free or not]. Walked into town looking for lower-commission banks on the way. Down to the port. Then to the Royal arsenal museum. Gavin and I went in (Kr 20 / 5). Another light shower as we walked further. Then we parted, again!

I continued to the Norway ferry pier then to the Royal Palace and on to the Danish Resistance Museum (free). Interesting; included a guided tour in English. Not enough time to visit the Little Mermaid. Back to the car to meet the others.

Got a load of washing done.

19 Friday

Again a slightly longer sleep. Cool, overcast but no rain to speak of. Maximum temperature about 17°C.

Off at 9.45 am, driving through town to see the Little Mermaid. Walked along to the Resistance museum for the others to have a look.

About 11.15 am, off to Helsingor [in the north], arriving at Kronberg Castle [used by Shakespeare in his play "Hamlet"] about noon. The others had a look at the royal rooms and the dungeons (Kr 20 / 10) while I walked to the outer ramparts.

Then a supermarket stop and off towards Hillerod (the Queen's summer residence) then Frekericksborg Castle at Hillerod. Back to Copenhagen, taking about 30 minutes.

20 Saturday

Again a sleep in. Packing and check out at 10 am; said goodbye to Willem at the reception. An altercation with Gavin, then took V to the Copenhagen airport [for her flight back to HK].

On the way from the airport, had a look at the other [?Copenhagen] Youth Hostel. Down to Vordingborg, having a look around Naestved on the way.

Check in at about 3 pm. [I remember the hostel was situated in a large grassy area and rooms had ceiling to floor windows.] Drove around looking for a supermarket but all closed at 2 pm. Bought some food at a Shell shop.

Nadine and I drove over to a nearby fun fair. Had a ride (Kr 15 each) on a fast merry-go-round that made me feel very sick. [Gavin and I found a used pair of Addidas running shoes in a rubbish bin outside the hostel.]

Overnight: Kr 256.

21 Sunday

Longer sleep in; hostel not worried about check-out time. Had noodles and sauce and milk for breakfast.

On leaving, had a quick visit to the fair for Gavin to see Lada cars. Then by motorway to Nykøbing. Quick walk and drive around, then on to the ferry at Rodbyhavn. Arrived at 12.15 pm and got the 12.30 ferry, which left a few minutes late. The crossing to Puttgarden [Germany] took one hour.

On to Oldenburg, arriving at 2.30 pm. Too early for check in so went and looked at the "Wall museum" (DM 4 / 2) then to the old wall / mound around the original town.

Dinner at the hostel - wieners, rice, tomatoes, lettuce, herbal tea. Played table tennis with Nadine.

Fee: DM 17 each; DM 7 for dinner. Total DM 96.

22 Monday

After the hostel breakfast, Gavin and Nadine (and occasionally Leonie) played for about an hour with a large group of other children who were at the hostel. Fine and warm day though the wind was a bit chilly.

Drove to Kiel, taking about one hour. Drove through the town and to the harbour. Leonie and I walked along the promenade - navy training ship, shipyards and small boats. Then around to the Nord-Ostsee Kanal.

Off to Lubeck. A supermarket and lunch stop on the way. Not too difficult to find the hostel after looking at a roadside map.

Played table tennis with Nadine. No warm hostel dinner - too late!!

Hostel fee: DM 8 x 18 (2 nights B & B); total DM 144.

23 Tuesday

Up earlier for breakfast from 7 - 8 am. Walked into the old town - town hall, market, square, down to the "twin tower" gate, around to a restored cathedral and back towards the centre of town again. Bought salads from a supermarket for lunch followed by frozen yoghurts (DM 1.50, 2.50).

Back to the hostel for a rest. Leonie and Nadine went to play in a park; Gavin went to buy T-shirts. After Leonie and Nadine returned, we went for a walk around canals, then to the centre of town for a snack: Leonie - pizza, Nadine - MacDonald's Junior Tute (DM 6.95); me - same as last night. [I remember sitting at tables in the town eating the food.]

24 Wednesday

Overnight thunderstorm and wet on waking up. After breakfast, set off in light rain. Drove through town then along H75. Eventually got onto the A1. Some very heavy rain. At one stage, the rain reduced visibility to almost zero. As a result, we missed the road around Hamburg and found ourselves driving through the city, so continued.

The rain cleared and it became quite warm. On arriving at Rotenburg (Wumme), drove around a while before locating the hostel. Check-in not until 5 pm so back to town. Had lunch by the river then Leonie and I had a walk along the main street. [I seem to remember looking through a book shop, or was this the next day?] Couldn't get dinner at the hostel though groups (one was from Latvia) did.

Overnight: DM 4 x 19 = DM 76.

25 Thursday

A smorgasbord breakfast. Off to town at 9 am for Nadine and Leonie to buy something. Got petrol then off to Meppen with just a supermarket stop and a lunch stop.

Arrived at Meppen about 2 pm. A bit of driving around before finding the hostel which didn't open till 5 pm. Meanwhile, crowds started arriving for a football game at the stadium adjacent to the hostel. The game finished about 8.30 pm! Nurnberg 2, Meppen 1.

Couldn't get a hot meal at the hostel. Bought things at a nearby supermarket.

Overnight: DM 4 x 18 = DM 72.

Leonie floods the floor during her shower, causing trouble with the warden!!

26 Friday

Not such a good breakfast. Had to wash the dishes afterwards! [?normal duties or 'punishment' for flooding the floor.] Off at about 8.45 am. Quite happy to leave this hostel!

Fine day. Drove all the way to Bunnik with only two rest stops, arriving at noon. Able to check in, and get lunch packs instead of breakfast because of an early start tomorrow. (We also stayed at Bunnik at the end of the 1993 trip.)

Returned to town to fill up the petrol tank.

Costs: Overnight: = f100 + dinner (4 x 16) = f164.

27 Saturday

[No diary entry, but presumably to Schiphol airport and return trip to HK.]

Letters to NZ:

1. The Barrier Dam → arrive Bremen
2. The Musicians of Bremen → end of Hamburg

3. Windmills and fleas! → Tonder
4. The 2 invasions → Fjerritslev
5. Days of the Vikings → Aarhus
6. The peat bogs saga → Legoland
7. Gorm the Old → centre of Odense
8. Roll-on, roll-off → Royal palace
9. The Little Mermaid → Oldenburg YH
10. The Storm → off to Bunnik
11. The trip ends

Travel statistics

Car: Distance

Initial reading = 82641

Final reading = 86118

distance travelled = 3477 km

Petrol

Date	Cost	Price/litre	Octane
6/8/94	DM 76.04	1.579	92
11/8/94	DKr 4.88	5.54	95
	DKr 200	5.58	95
12/8/94	DKr 100	5.60	92
17/8/94	DKr 200	5.39	95
20/8/94	DKr 100	5.34	95
	DKr 50	5.48	98
24/8/94	DM 50	1.579	Super 95
26/8/94	DM 12.50	1.629	Super 95
	f 65.30	1.89	95

	Cash		Travellers' Cheques	
	Start	End	Start	End
Dutch f	1925	170	200	0
German DM	1000	620	1100	0

Danish Kr	7000	1200	-	-
US \$	-	-	1500	800
UK £	150	150	-	-
HK \$			1300	1300

Airfares

[NZ (leave allowance for 2 ½ years) 7820 + 7320 x 2 + 4880 = NZ(?)\$ 27 340]

MAS 8047 x 3 + 4047 + 4020

SAS 5684

Total airfare = HK\$ 37 892

Expenditure

Dutch f 1755 @ 4.2 → HK\$ 7371

German DM 1480 @ 4.7 → HK\$ 6956

Danish Kr 5800 @ 1.2 → HK\$ 6960

US \$ 700 @ 7.78 → HK\$ 5446

Total expenditure (ex airfare) = HK\$ 26 318

Total expenditure (+ airfare) = **HK\$ 64 210**

CUHK allowance = HK\$ 6839 x 4 + 4585 = HK\$ 31 941

AUGUST

28 Sunday

Back [from Denmark] at 3 pm, ½ hour late. Temperature about 24°C.

29 Monday

[Holiday] Have a sleep in. I then spent most of the day washing and tidying up.

30 Tuesday

To the office. Home again at about 2 pm.

31 Wednesday

Most of the day at the office. To the gym and an easy workout.

SEPTEMBER

1 Thursday

Nadine begins school [now in P5] with old uniform! Swim - 20 lengths but difficult. Staff luncheon.

2 Friday

Leonie and Gavin return to school. To the dentist to have the temporary filling replaced with a permanent one.

3 Saturday

A lot of the day spent tidying up Nadine's room.

4 Sunday

—

5 Monday

Some heavy showers. Got 'stung' by a caterpillar on the way back to the office from the swim.

6 Tuesday

—

7 Wednesday

Some heavy showers. Swim. First Teaching of Chemistry class.

8 Thursday

Had to take Nadine to ballet. First educational psychology class.

9 Friday

Part of a building under demolition collapses onto Nathan Road; five killed.

10 Saturday

Gavin and Nadine to friends for overnight.

11 Sunday

Four hours cleaning the flat. [I think this is the year Gavin does not go to mini Rugby as he is now too old.]

12 - 14 Monday - Wednesday

—

15 Thursday

No exercise today.

16 Friday

Felt an earthquake in the afternoon, the first significant one for 76 (?) years [epicentre in Taiwan Strait].

17 Saturday

Gym after class. Nadine again out for an overnight.

18 Sunday

Cooler. District Board elections.

19 Monday

Leonie, Gavin and Nadine to a lantern parade at Chung Chi College in the evening. Nadine starts flute lessons.

20 Tuesday

Heavy shower early morning. Nadine didn't go to ballet - had a sore ankle. Mufti day at [? which] school. Leonie at home with a sore ear.

21 Wednesday

[Holiday] Wet at times. Office and swim. Gavin to Wellspring to clean up.

22 Thursday

—

23 Friday

In the evening, a Hercules cargo plane crashes into the harbour on take-off; six killed.

24 - 25 Saturday - Sunday

—

26 Monday

The 10th anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration between China and the UK over HK's future.

27 Tuesday

—

28 Wednesday

Ferry sinks in the Baltic Sea; 800+ drowned.

29 Friday

A 10-year old boy kidnapped boy found dead on Tai Mo Shan.

30 Saturday

—

OCTOBER

1 - 4 Sunday - Wednesday

—

5 Thursday

Lunch with the Vice Chancellor [Charles Kao]. Governor gives his policy address.

6 - 13 Friday - Thursday

—

14 Friday

Shoot-out last night with the police leaving and illegal immigrant and his hostage dead.

15 Saturday - 24 Monday

—

25 Tuesday

Gavin off to a four-day camp in Sai Kung.

26 - 27 Wednesday - Thursday

—

28 Friday

Gavin back - tired. The Oxfam “Trailwalker” began today.

29 - 31 Saturday - Monday

—

NOVEMBER

1 - 3 Tuesday - Thursday

—

4 Friday

Britain and China sign an accord on financing for the new airport.

5 - 7 Saturday - Monday

—

8 Tuesday

Teaching practice visits in Tai Po and Yuen Long. Nadine off to a class camp on Cheung Chau.

9 - 10 Wednesday - Thursday

—

11 Friday

Nadine's camp ends.

12 Saturday

Last educational psychology class for the term. Hike up to Grassy Hill and back. Gavin makes some nice cookies.

13 Sunday

Remembrance Sunday - winding down! [?]

14 Monday

Four teaching practice visits to HK Island.

15 Tuesday

—

16 Wednesday

Leonie sits her first public examination; a GCSE Mathematics exam.

17 Thursday

—

18 Friday

Thesis proposal seminar in the evening. Leonie has her second GCSE Mathematics examination.

19 Saturday

Hike. Faster than last year for the same route because a backpack, just a waist pouch. Shatin College and Junior School fair today.

20 - 21 Sunday - Monday

–

22 Tuesday

Teaching practice visits in Tuen Mun.

23 Wednesday

–

24 Thursday

More teaching practice visits in Tuen Mun; again signed my Chemistry book for students for a class in one school.

25 Friday

Swam one mile! Starting marking student projects.

26 Saturday

Hike. Very warm and humid. Nadine has Joanne here overnight.

27 - 28 Sunday - Monday

–

29 Tuesday

Five teaching practice visits. Warwick Reid deported to NZ [?].

30 Wednesday

Poor sleep due to KCR work repairing line. Last swim for the year - one mile. Water temperature 23⁰C.

DECEMBER

1 Thursday

Nadine not well; missed school. I worked at home. The AIDS documentary "All about Eve" on TV in the evening.

2 Friday

Nadine better but still stayed at home.

3 Saturday

Overnight drizzle. Hike. Nadine and I put up the Christmas tree and lights [the same plastic one we have used in previous years].

4 Sunday

—

5 Monday

Leonie to clinic with conjunctivitis. More teaching practice visits.

6 Tuesday

Teaching practice visits. Leonie at home. Gavin too - has a sore throat.

7 Wednesday

—

8 Thursday

Heavy rain all day. Leonie to school concert in the evening. Two catamarans collide in the harbour [?fog] - five killed.

9 Friday

—

10 Saturday

Nadine to a netball tournament at St Georges School. Hike to Needle Hill and back.

11 Sunday

—

12 Monday

Very humid and warm. Two teaching practice visits. A City Bus bus turns on it side.

13 Tuesday

Much cooler. Two buses collide; one driver killed.

14 - 15 Wednesday - Thursday

—

16 Friday

Lunch for teaching practice school principals. Brought back some left-over food. Nadine to a sleepover.

17 Saturday

Hike. Nadine [?Gavin] to Rugby game for school (won). Leonie out for a Duke of Edinburgh hike.

18 - 19 Sunday - Monday

—

20 Tuesday

Nadine to an ice-skating class then a class party.

21 Wednesday

Schools finish for the term.

22 - 23 Thursday - Friday

—

24 Saturday

Hike - started raining halfway through; fast 4 hours 25 minutes.

25 Sunday

[Christmas day] Wet all day. An Air France plane hijacked in Algeria.

26 Monday

To the office in the morning. Back in the afternoon to help Leonie prepare for her Science examination.

27 - 30 Tuesday - Friday

—

31 Saturday

Warm - nearly 23°C; too hot for a hike/run. Tired and had breathing problems initially. Got cramps in the last hour.

Hikes (1993) - 94

1994

9	01/01	TMT → Sam A Tsuen → Hok Tau → Tai Po	7 1/3
10	08/01	Plover cove → Sam A Chung → TMT	5 1/2
11	15/01	5B → 8, 9 → Sek Kong	5 3/4
12	22/01	Station → (4) → 7 → 5B	7 1/2
13	29/01	Sai Kung → 3, (4) → Station	6
14	05/02	Sai Kung road → (1, 2). 3	5 1/2
15	12/02	5B → lead mine pass → loop → 5B	4
16	19/02	5B → (4, 5) → Shatin → Station	4
17	26/02	Station → (8) → landslide → Fanling	5 1/2
18	05/03	Sai Kung → (1) → Chek Keng → Wong Sek → Kei Ling Ha	5 1/4
19	12/03	Jacob's ladder → Hoi Ha → Wong Sek → Kei Ling Ha	5 1/4
20	18/03	Sai Kung → Pak Tam Chung → (3, 4) → Station	5 1/4

Hikes 1994 - 95

1994

1	5/11	Station → Ma On Shan village → station	3
2	12/11	Office → Grassy Hill → 5B	3:20
3	19/11	Station → (4, 5) ==> Shatin → station	3:45
4	26/11	Tai Wo → Cloudy Hill → reservoir 1 → family walk → Hok Tau reservoir → Tai Wo	4:15
5	3/12	Station → (4) → Pyramid Peak → Ma On Shan → (4) → station	3:50
6	10/12	5B → Needle Hill (on road) → Grassy Hill → 5B	4:50
7	17/12	5B → Tai Mo Shan and return	4:30
8	24/12	TMT → Nam Chung → Hok Tau → Cloudy Hill → Tai Wo	4:30

1	5/11	Station → Ma On Shan village → station	3
9	31/12	TMT → Sam A Tsuen → TMT	4:30+

1995

10	7/1	Plover cove → Pat Sin Leng → Tai Po	7:30!!
11	14/1	5B → Tai Mo Shan → Ng Chai Tung (not via waterfall) → Fanling	5
12	21/1	Shatin → (5), 6, 7 → 5B	5:30
13	28/1	Sai Kung → Pak Tam Au → 3 → (3) → Shatin → station	5:45
14		Sai Kung → 1, 2, 3	6:40
15		Kei Ling Ha → Sham Cheng → Hoi Ha → (Wong Shek) → hill → (3)	?6
16		5B → (Chuen Lung) → YHA → 5B	7:15
17		Sao Kung → Pak Tam Chung → (1) → ?Wong Shek Rd → Pak Tam Chung	
18		Kei Ling Ha → Jacob's ladder → TV tower → Tai Tan → Wong Shek → (3) → KLH	5
19		5B → Tai Lam Chung reservoir → Sek Kong	5:25
20		Station → (4), (5) → Amah rock	5:25
21		5B → (Tai Mo Shan) → watercourse [?] → 5B	5:15?
22		Station → (4), 5 (+Tai Po road?) → Tai Wai	4:30
23		5B → lead mine pass (loop?) → Kau To Shan → Station → 5B	5+