

PhD Vlog 1 Year One Wade Kelly

Hi there, coming to you from Noban, Australia. It's been almost a year since we chatted. The folks at the website asked me to check in with you to give you a little bit of an update and I'm happy to do it. I think its really, to give you a little bit of a background, I started out in Wagga Wagga, Australia, my supervisor got a job in Melbourne, not Melbourne, Mel-Bin, so I moved with her and that was last March when I started with this institution, so big changes. A couple of things that I think are worth mentioning, - that took way more time and effort than I thought it was going to take, so if you have supervisor who's like "come with me to a new university", get ready for it to take, it's not just the moving and the finding a place, it's the dealing with the new administration. Figuring a new university, and if your supervisor is new, so are you and you're both trying to sort through all this bureaucracy and figure things out and it can be really challenging. I had to re-apply and I had to get matching scholarships, I had to do a ton of paperwork, it was basically like starting at square one. I figure I had lost at least two, two and a half months of productivity just dealing with paperwork nonsense, dealing with bureaucracy, dealing with, you know new rental agency, all those kinds of things. So, forewarning, if you end up moving, there's a lot to contend with. Now that being said, I think it was really worth it, I met a whole new network of people, I've got new resources, more resources at a larger city, my network just keeps on broadening and broadening. I'm exposed to many more opportunities to go to conferences that are within the building or you know, a tram or a train ride away, so all that's great.

Now, I'll give you a quick update on what's currently going on and why I'm wearing a shabby shirt at night. In a nutshell, I worked all day in the office, ran home, my wonderful husband made me delicious food and then I ran back here to keep on working. And this is the first time I have been able to do the video because its night now and most of the people, all the people in this area, this cubicle farm, have gone home and I can be loud because typically this is a no talking kind of completely quiet zone. So, that's what's going on here, that's why I am here.

I think its worth giving you a quick update about what I've been doing, my progress. Last time we talked I was coding my data and doing primary data analysis. All that's done now, I'm using ground theories, so the analysis is never really done, it's continuing on as I write but the majority of analysis is done, I know my theme, I know where the information needs to go and now it's all about writing that up, so I'm weaving this narrative. Some things I learnt, when you're doing your analysis you get stuck into it, so deep into it, and I think doing a PhD is sometimes more challenging because you don't have anything else necessarily to go away to. I'm not teaching and if I was teaching then I would have that burden to worry your mind, and you know, get you away from things, whereas when you're in it in the PhD, it's a wonderful thing to be able to be in it completely, but then at times I think it's really useful to back away. So, I went to a conference in October in DC, and that was a really great opportunity to talk with people who are in my field, who are related, who know the kind of work that I'm doing, who have insights to give and, more than anything, it was just good to get away from the screen, from NVivo, and have some breathing time, because I came back from that and it was like right into it. I had new clarity, I had new understanding that, when you're stuck in the

weeds, you just can't see the forest for the trees, or any other metaphor you want to apply to it. So many metaphors.

So that's my analysis ramped. The writing thing I don't know, I don't know what the magic is. I have spurts of productivity, I tried Pomodoro's, but then the world has other requirements of me as well and I still have to respond to emails and all these other things so, I don't know. I don't know, if anyone's got suggestions let me know what your system is, I don't know if there is a system that works 100% of the time but I'm trying and I'm making progress and I've got my little word counter and scrivener that tells me how many I'm getting done today and some days its really depressing, and some days its really rewarding. And so, I'll soldier on and keep on moving and hopefully in the next five months or, so I'll wind this thing up and I'll be submitting.

So, if we don't talk before then, I wish all the best, I hope your project and your PhD is going well, and if you haven't started it yet, its worth going back, looking at some of these videos, some really good advice, and if you're slugging it through, then I'm there with you. Wishing all the best from a warm, lovely, summery Australia.

END OF TRANSCRIPT