

Julia Price Streets of Your Town transcript

- Released November 9 2018

Nance:

From the Wandering Journo at Stories That Matter Studios, I'm Nance Haxton, and this is The Streets of Your Town, the podcast that takes you on an audio journey through Theatre of the Mind, highlighting a different slice of Australian life each episode.

Nance:

Today we head to one of the few crowded parts of the remote island of Tasmania, the Salamanca Markets next to the sparkling Hobart waterfront. We have a wander with one of Tassie's favourite adopted daughters, former wicketkeeper of the Australian Women's Cricket team, Julia Price. We find out what took the Queenslander so far south she shivered through her first days in her new home and how she was invited to join the greats of the game as a life member of the Marleybone Cricket Club at Lords. But first in the great Australian tradition, all good chats start with good coffee. (upsot from coffee cart) Latte on soy losers. Thankyou. Two mochas. One is on soy.

(upsot coffee making noises)...

Nance:

So Julia, thank you for joining us on Streets of Your Town.

Julia Price:

No worries at all.

Nance:

So tell us a bit about, here we are in Hobart in the Salamanca Markets. This is one of your favourite places I gather.

Julia Price:

I do love to hang out here. I don't get here too often, particularly in summer with the heavy cricket schedule generally.

Nance:

That's right.

Julia Price:

But yeah, the weather's turned on for us today. And they always have great quality stuff here and it's a good atmosphere. So I love hanging out here.

Nance:

And what about this particular coffee shop? You're very picky with your coffee and mocha.

Julia Price:

I know.

Nance:

What is it about this particular one?

Julia Price:

I just love it. The fact that it's real chocolate they put in your mocha. So I hang in for it. I walk the entire length of the place to get here. But it's well worth it in the end as you're now tasting.

Nance:

It was quite a theatrical experience actually getting it.

Julia Price:

He's a bit of a character. You don't usually get off lightly. There's always some sort of grief he gives you.

Nance:

So what's the name of his place?

Julia Price:

I don't even know.

Nance:

I suppose I'll add it in at some point. The Mystery Red Tent Coffee place in Salamanca. Just look for the guy yelling at you. Come get my coffee.

Julia Price:

Exactly.

Nance:

So yeah. How long have you been in Hobart for? You live here?

Julia Price:

I've been here five years now. So a bit of a change from Brisbane?

Nance:

Yes. Grew up in Brissie?

Julia Price:

Yes, absolutely.

Nance:

You couldn't get much different with the weather.

Julia Price:

No but it's been great actually. I struggled initially. I moved down in July, so right in the heart of the winter.

Well, that was a test for you.

It was. And my heater didn't work and I didn't even know how to work it, so I actually went and rented a hotel for two nights and lay in a bath. So I had no power. I just didn't know how to work out how to use the heater.

Nance:

And you had the wrong doona you tell me to begin with.

Julia Price:

I did.

Nance:

So this is an important thing you learned about Hobart life.

Julia Price:

I didn't even know there were different types of doonas living in Queensland, just had the one year round. Yeah, down here you've got different types. So yeah, I learnt the hard way and then I learned about thermals and flannel sheets and just all this stuff that just didn't exist in Queensland. So yeah, baptism of fire.

Nance:

And playing cricket in a cold climate. I mean this is it quite different? Different approach in some ways?

Julia Price:

Very much so. Yeah, well I played down here for three years before I moved down here as the coach. And then, yeah, so some days you'd be playing and it would be snowing on top of Mount Wellington in December and you're like, what is going on? This is crazy. But at the same time, that's the fun side of what I like about Hobart and Tasmania is you do get those different weather patterns, which you don't in Queensland it's sort of hot or sort of hot.

Nance:

Yes.

Julia Price:

And down here you actually...

Nance:

Winter you wear a cardigan. That's about it.

Julia Price:

Yeah, correct. But yeah, it's great. You've got a fireplace down here, you get to see snow, you get all the different types of weather conditions. I love it. It's actually really quite exciting.

Nance:

So you've come round to the cold?

I have, yeah. You've got to change your lifestyle a little bit. I brought my surfboard down and I've used it once, so, in five years.

That would be a test I would've thought. I don't think the water would ever warm up here, would it?

Julia Price:

No, it doesn't. And I always had a rule that I would never surf in a wetsuit, so...

Nance:

Oh really?

Julia Price:

There was no chance of it.

Nance:

Well, no, it's not really bikini country down here.

Julia Price:

Absolutely not. But at the same time, they love their water sports. Sailing down here is huge. Do a lot of kayaking down here. Bushwalking as we did a bit yesterday.

Nance:

Yes.

Julia Price:

Franklin-Gordon out there.

Nance:

Oh, gorgeous. That Wild Rivers country. God's own country there.

Julia Price:

So all that sort of stuff. You've just got to change your lifestyle a little bit, but at the same time you can experience different things, but it's still great fun. It still can be outdoors.

Nance:

And I think it sort of changes. People think Hobart's a conservative little place in some ways. But you were saying this particular area becomes quite crazy around the time of year of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Julia Price:

Oh, it's massive because it's a Taste of Tassie. The Sydney to Hobart yacht race. Then Summer Mofo leads in after that. You've got the regattas, all the regattas happening sort of January, February. It's fantastic. MONA's made a huge difference down here for Hobart as well. It's really changed the perspective of people and how they look at Hobart and Tasmania and obviously where Queenstown have got their Unconformity festival on from this week and Dark MoFo's on during the middle of the year. And so David Walsh is doing a great job in really promoting Tasmania and all the things like this. So then Salamanca markets can benefit from all the tourists that are coming to go and see MONA as well.

Nance:

Well there's quite a few people wandering around. Yeah. So New Year's Eve's actually quite party town down here. It sounds like it might be something to match Sydney eventually.

Julia Price:

Oh, absolutely. It's great fun down here. Yeah, it's really good. And the Taste of Tassie, they put on bands and you've got all the different food places, all the cideries putting on their ciders, all the breweries, putting their beers on. You've got some gins. You've got everything that's happening.

Nance:

Yes, the Tassie gins are going off aren't they.

Julia Price:

They're absolutely going off. So yeah, so it's a real festival and a celebration of what Tasmania can offer. So it's great fun around that time of year. Absolutely. Come down.

Nance:

So Julia, we should really ask you and get us to tell us a bit about your history in the great Australian team. If you don't mind me asking, come on. Tell us all about it. What was it like actually being able to wear the Baggy Green Cap as wicket?

Julia Price:

Yeah, no, it was fantastic. I loved every moment of it. Yeah, I was very lucky to get in the team when I did. I started quite late after I'd finished school, so I had a lot of catching up to do. But yeah, no, it was such a privilege to be able to play for Australia and travel as much as I did and meet the people that I've met. And probably in the situation that I am in now, it's sort of funny because obviously we were amateur and we didn't get paid back then. But because of that reason, you had to work and you had to travel and you had to find employment places and therefore you got different experiences and experienced different people and got different skills up that you wouldn't if I was just a full-time player. So I really enjoyed that sort of amateurish time or moving into the semi-professional sort of time that now it's - but at the same time, it's great that the girls are now getting some acknowledgement and recognition of the work that they put in.

Nance:

And you must have travelled all over did you when you were with the Australian team.

Julia Price:

With the Australian team, yeah. We did a lot with obviously a few World Cups. One in India, South Africa, New Zealand, the usual and the Ashes series. We went to Ireland a few times. It was always a highlight in every trip that we went on was always and...

Nance:

And being in an Ashes. That must have been incredible.

Julia Price:

Oh, Ashes was fantastic, particularly the first year in 1998, we went to England and we were the first team to play at Lords in an Ashes sort of series.

Nance:

Oh really? Like the first women's team.

Julia Price:

Yeah, it was fantastic.

Nance:

And you were part of that. That's pretty cool.

Julia Price:

I know, it was great, but it was sort of funny. We did an orientation the day before. They were telling us how to get down onto the ground from the change rooms upstairs and you have to walk through the Long Room and women aren't allowed in the Long Room. So the guy was saying, 'so when you come down to bat, can you just hurry through?' And we are like, what are you talking about? We're playing. This is crazy. So it's changed a lot in 20 years to have the finals. I think it was early this year that I can't remember the Women's Final at Lords and England winning and packed crowd. And it was fantastic to see that that change in 20 years that a lot of women have really fought hard to get has been great. And I also got made a life member of MCC really early in the year. I thought it was a mistake when they emailed me.

Nance:

Oh, that's fantastic.

Julia Price:

I know it was fantastic.

Nance:

Because of your history?

Julia Price:

Contributions to Cricket. Yeah.

Nance:

Good on you.

Julia Price:

I know it was really, I actually did cry. but it was...

Nance:

Did you go over to get it or what happens with that?

Julia Price:

No, they just sent it over. But I've got access to Lords anytime I want. Just go over there. And I know it was really nice to receive. I've never really been one for all the awards and all that sort of stuff as a wicket keeper I sort of stayed in the background. So it was really nice that that was recognised.

Nance:

Oh, you were the trailblazer Julia in that first crew I think - that's fair enough.

Julia Price:

Yeah. Well, I don't know. It's hard to say.

Nance:

You are excited by the sound it though, by like you say, the progress. So Australian cricket team, the women's players are getting paid now. They're getting far more recognition you think.

Julia Price:

Absolutely. And they're playing a lot of games. My first year I played in 95/96, we played three games for the year. So it was a lot of training for three games. So now it's great to see that the Australian girls are on tour pretty much 12 months of the year, whether at home or away, which can be tough at the same time on your body and mentally, but at the same time,

that's what it is, being a full-time athlete and a sports person. So yeah, absolutely.

Nance:

Good to see the recognition for that.

Julia Price:

Absolutely. And leading into the World T20 and the exposure now that the media has jumped on board and the media rights deals with everyone trying to follow it and put it on TV or radio, it's just fantastic.

I mean it must've been hard for you to balance being an elite athlete. It's not like you can just rock up after a big night the night before and having to earn money in other things or just to balance all those aspects of your life must've been challenging.

Nance:

Yeah, it was challenging actually. I actually used to work for a guy called Trevor Lockland who played for Australia himself, and he owned a chain of sports codes. So I was in a sports store and the day before I'd been hit in the face by a cricket ball and had six stitches in my nose and my face was just blown up. So I had two black eyes, but I had to go into work cos I needed the money to sell shoes. But they sent me home - I was scaring all the customers away because my face was just an absolute mess. So yeah, it was challenging at times.

Julia Price:

And I suppose ultimately cricket brought you to Hobart too.

Nance:

Yeah, absolutely. So I got the job down here as the coach of the Tasmanian Roar, which has been great fun. So I did that for five years.

Julia Price:

And they're going to get into the commentating and stuff.

Nance:

It's great.

Julia Price:

Yeah, so Channel Seven put me on for the summer, so beautiful. Really excited about that.

Nance:

Good to have someone from the Australian team who knows their stuff on the commentary. Can I say?

Julia Price:

Yeah, what are you saying?

Nance:

Well, not being sly about it, but yeah, sometimes you just think, yeah, it would be good to have some people here to know a bit about it. That's great.

Julia Price:

Yeah, no, so I've really enjoyed that and it sort of keeps you in touch with the game, but I really obviously want to keep in touch with a bit of coaching as well at the same time. So I really enjoyed that five years and sort of bringing the team through to where they are now. Yeah,

Nance:

And you were saying you really liked that the mental discipline almost side of it.

Julia Price:

Absolutely and also the holistic sort of view.

Nance:

The motivational. Yeah.

Julia Price:

Yeah, definitely. Yeah. And the holistic side of the whole thing is making sure the girls are getting a good balance in their life. Even though they're

nearly a professional at the domestic level now, they really need to make sure that they've got other things ready to go because anything can happen at any stage. And I think it's also good for that balancing their life to be able to imagine if you had to work 24 hours a day, you need that outside cricket sort of life. And definitely working on that.

Nance:

So that's a big part of Yeah, you try and teach that as well. Absolutely. As well as what's on the field.

Julia Price:

Absolutely. And obviously as you would try and play, that's the hard thing is trying to push yourself constantly to be failing, which no one ever wants to do. But the more you fail, the more you learn.

Nance:

Well thank you for bringing me to Mystery Red Tent and the Salamanca Markets. This has been absolutely lovely and for introducing me to a bit of Hobart and I didn't realise it's quite buzzy down here. I'm surprised.

Julia Price:

It is. It's great. It's always great fun down here on a Saturday until three o'clock and then all the bars kicking in.

Nance:

Oh, nice. Well, we'll be doing MONA things. So yes, as so many people, as you say, coming to Tassie do now. Thank you very much for coming on the Streets of Your Town.

Julia Price:

No worries.

Nance:

That was Cricketing legend Julia Price speaking to us from the Salamanca Markets in Hobart, Tasmania. Streets of Your Town is produced by Nance

Haxton, aka, the Wandering Journo with production assistance from Michael Adams. That's it for this episode. I'm Nance Haxton. Stay up to date with the latest episode of Streets of Your Town by subscribing on your podcast app on iTunes or SoundCloud. See you next time.