

The Bus to Bondi Beach

Growing up with the children's book *The Tram to Bondi Beach*, it seemed fitting, since the trams no longer operate, to travel by bus for my first visit to Australia's best known beach. The bus took off with a shudder along the busy road, stopping every few minutes to allow a variety of Sydney's diverse community to stream in. On came the afternoon beach goers. One came the old Italian ladies and the blonde surfers. The bus filled and Mum and I realised we had no idea when to get off. On came the Chinese man with bags of shopping. "Move back," yelled the bus driver to allow more passengers to squeeze in. Still the bus filled. Just when I thought we'd missed our stop, the bus turned a corner and Bondi Beach appeared below us in all of its glory. But compared with the bus journey, it was less than exciting.