

A Few Tips for new House Sitters

Excerpts from the appendix to *A Middle-Aged Princess in Tramping Boots* by Nikki Ah Wong

- Most people find a house to sit on a web site. Type “house sitting” into a search engine to find one in your area. Look for one that has house sits that would suit you and check that listings are kept up to date.
- Some sites charge home owners and some charge house sitters. I use one that charges house sitters because it has more homes to offer. I also chose one that did not charge extra for looking at listings in other regions.
- Sign up with your chosen site and post your profile on the site as many people do not list their homes but approach house sitters directly. Highlight your relevant skills and experience. Have someone proofread it so there are no spelling or grammar mistakes.
- After your first housesit, ask for a reference. Also ask homeowners if they are happy for you to give their number to families that are considering your services. Once you have references, mention this on your profile. Some people insist on references.
- Take along, or email, any references you have (even from landlords, or employers) and maybe even copies of your police check and your driver’s licence. Many people do not need them but are very happy to have them.

Useful Websites

I have done all my house sitting through Aussie House Sitters and have found them to be a good source of homes and very helpful when I have a question, but there are many more

www.aussiehousesitters.com.au

www.housecarers.com.au

www.houseminders.com.au

www.housesitaustralia.com.au

www.mindahome.com.au

www.australianhousesitter.com.au

www.happyhousesitters.com.au

There is much more helpful information in **Housesitting in Australia** and **A Middle-Aged Princess in Tramping Boots**. Read more about finding a house sit and applying for a house sit, as well as ideas for before and during your house sit. Both are available from the author at housesittinginaustralia@gmail.com for \$20 including postage or they can be purchased online from Amazon.com

If you are serious about house sitting, you might be like to also buy **The House Sitters Companion**, a helpful journal and planning tool for house sitters.