A Day at the Beach

It was boiling. I could feel the heat hitting me through the window of the Holden, my cheeks were already going red and sticky droplets of sweat rolled down my back. My mate Lachie was chatting and laughing with Hannah, my sister, but I stopped listening when I glimpsed the blue sea behind some trees. ‘Nearly there, kids’ said Dad.

As soon as we parked I slipped on my thongs and Lachie and I ran over to the lookout to check out the waves. Beautiful! Then we grabbed our stuff from the car — cricket bat, boogie boards, footy and towels — and headed to the beach. When we got there Hannah was already sun baking in her bikini, Dad was setting up the barbie and Mum was busy tying Russell, the dog, to the sun shelter.

‘Ripper’, I shouted as I felt the first wave wet my boardies. Lachie whizzed past me on his boogie board, his blond hair spraying water as he went. It was going to be a good day at the beach!

At that very moment I heard Russell barking and turned towards the sand. Uh oh. It didn’t look good! Russell was running along the beach dragging the sun shelter behind him. Still attached to his lead, the shelter was bobbing and blowing behind him like a giant kite. But it didn’t seem to slow Russell down. He was off!

Mum and dad were soon following behind. “Stop!” they yelled, “Come!” they pleaded, “Bad dog!” they shouted, but Russell just kept going.

Firstly, he ran straight through a family group, collecting their Frisbee in his kite as he went by. Then he headed for a couple of surfers, whose meat pies ended up in the sand. Next he landed on the stomach of a woman wearing a pink sunhat who got such a fright she spilled her coke down her front.

Mum and dad were still running after Russell, trying to say sorry to everybody as they went. But Russell had had his fun, and was heading back to our spot on the beach. As he sat down on my towel a gust of wind lifted the kite one last time, and the sun shelter settled back on the sand once again.

Just then my sister, who was happily lying on her tummy reading New Idea, looked up at Russell lying beside her. ‘Good Boy’, she said giving him a pat. She had missed the whole thing!

And me, I couldn’t stop laughing, which was fine until a huge wave came up behind me and I got dumped. Served me right I guess!
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