



Cheers: Surfers' Paradise, Queensland

Meet the Lego pair going on a romantic city brick



Much travelled: In Copenhagen with Craig and Lindsey, inset



Smile, please: The Lego version of a holiday snap

By Julie-Anne Barnes

THEY measure less than 5cm in height but have already clocked up tens of thousands of miles on their tiny legs.

And these two Lego travellers have seen some of world's greatest sights, thanks to their owners Craig McCartney and Lindsey Haggerty.

The models were presented by Mr McCartney as a 30th birthday gift to his girlfriend Miss Haggerty, of Gargunock, Stirlingshire, during a trip to Paris.

Since then, they have managed to tour Scotland, England, France, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand and Australia.

The tiny tourists carry a backpack, map and camera and have been captured surfing, sunbathing, rowing and cycling. Mr McCartney said: 'You'd be surprised how long it takes to get some of the pictures just right.'

To view more of the pictures online, visit www.facebook.com/LegoTravellers



Down under: The tiny cycling pair made it to Australia's Bondi Beach

Teachers ditch status quo to bring back Latin lessons

IT was last considered a living language almost 2,000 years ago.

But now Scottish primary school children are being taught classical Latin – thanks to the magic of Harry Potter.

The move to bring the ancient Roman tongue back into schools follows the use of some words as spell names in the wizarding world of JK Rowling.

Now postgraduate students from Glasgow University are holding lessons, teaching both the language and Roman myths.

Five primary schools in the city's most deprived areas are involved, following a similar move at schools in St Andrews, Fife.

Experts say Latin helps children to gain a better grasp of English by teaching them about grammar

By Victoria Allen

and the classical roots of their own language.

There are now calls for the ancient tongue to be reintroduced across Scotland, as few state schools offer it and just 218 pupils sat a Latin Higher last year.

Dr Lorna Robinson, director of the Iris Trust which has reintroduced Latin in Glasgow, said: 'Children don't have the preconception of Latin as a dead language, they are fascinated by it.'

'They may already have picked it up from Harry Potter or the children's character Percy Jackson, and they enjoy finding out which English words come from Latin.'

'They learn about Icarus (whose wax wings melted when he flew close to the sun) and the Minotaur

SOME PHRASES WE STILL USE

ANTENATAL – from 'ante' (before) and 'natalis' (birth).

POST-MORTEM – from 'post' (after) and 'mors' (death).

ETC – an abbreviation of 'et cetera' (and the rest).

QUID PRO QUO – literally 'what for

what', taken to mean one thing in return for another.

AD NAUSEAM – 'to (the point of) seasickness'.

E.G. – An abbreviation of 'exempli gratia', meaning 'for the sake of example'.

and the labyrinth. Studies have shown that children who learn Latin advance their reading levels significantly.'

Latin, once at the centre of the education system throughout Europe, has declined dramatically in recent years.

The 218 Scots pupils who took a

Latin Higher last year was down 10 per cent on the previous year, while just 48 sat an Advanced Higher in the subject.

One of the major obstacles to a nationwide revival is the lack of specialised Latin teachers available to take classes.

The Iris Trust set up its Literacy

Through Latin scheme to plug the gap and schools in deprived areas of Glasgow began teaching the language last October. The lessons, funded by Glasgow University, began at St Michael's, St Anne's and Sacred Heart primary schools in the East End.

Next year, they will be rolled out at Glendale and Blackfriars primary schools on the South Side, along with a Latin club at East End secondary St Mungo's Academy.

Jennifer Hilder, a postgraduate Classics student at Glasgow University who coordinates the lessons, said: 'Not everybody gets to learn Latin, so it's something a bit special.'

A Scottish Government spokesman said: 'The work the university, the Trust and primary schools are doing to introduce Latin to pupils is incredibly welcome.'