

Emerging writer: Wendy Margaret

An excerpt from Emerging Writer Wendy Margaret's book: Flashback

Nepal, June 1977: An excerpt from my diary

We got off a local bus and hauled our bags into Pokhara, a town at the base of the Himalayas.

Wandering up and down the streets we eventually found a mud-brick house where we could rent a room with a couple of hairy mattresses.

Later that afternoon a massive freak storm hit the town, taking off half the roof of the house where we were staying.

Hurriedly grabbing our bags we headed to the river where we had seen a self-haul raft and crossed over.

We scrambled up the bank to where there was a substantial hotel. Happily we were able to get a room with a hot shower and a clean bed.

But it was a short stay as we were travelling on a strict budget and this was a luxury we couldn't afford.

Morning brought a scene of destruction. Some travellers who had camped on the river bed all disappeared during the storm.

Washed away? We never found out.

It wasn't the travel experience I thought it would be.