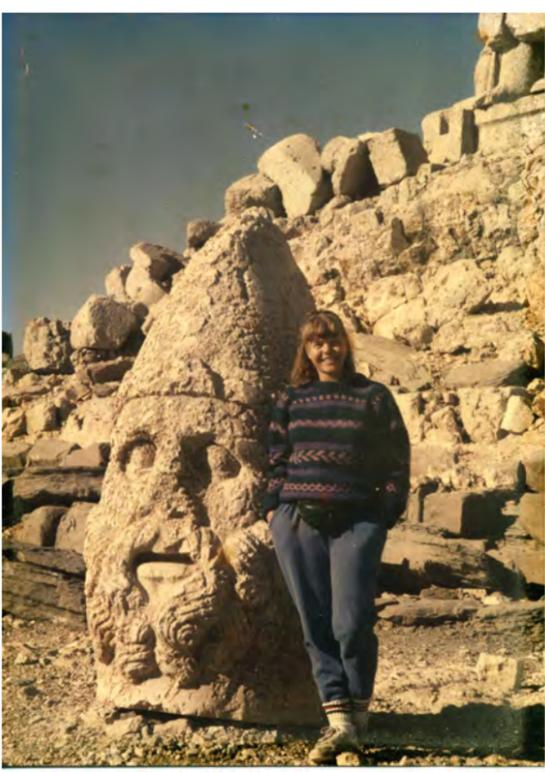


Sarah Hollingsworth (now Johnston)

Worked with EO	from June 1991 to October 1993
Age on joining EO	23
Nationality	Australian / British
Role at EO	Asia and short haul Africa sales
Expeditions/Brief Encounters etc. led or taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Backroads of Asia from Kathmandu to London (March 1991 departure) led by Kerry Bluett as an Expedition member - Turkana Safari Kampala to Nairobi (1992) led by Murray Watson - Conquistador ex Quito (November 1993) led by Rob Hall
Why did you want to work for EO?	<p>As a young girl growing up in Canberra I met Lance Thomas. Lance was a university student at the Australian National University where my mum worked at the time. Lance became very good friends with my parents and like an older brother to me. At some point Lance finished uni and disappeared from my life, although I did learn of his travelling exploits in Africa and Asia with EO. Lance met Kay Stevenson on a trip and later married. Kay's brother, Ian, also drove for EO.</p> <p>In 1990 I was working two jobs and in need of a holiday. I took myself to the Word Travel Expo at Darling Harbour (Sydney) seeking inspiration. I soon found myself searching for the EO stand, collected a brochure and left soon after. By the time I got home on the train I had decided to throw in my job and travel across Asia on the 'Backroads'. On arriving in London, I was lucky enough to be offered a sales job in the Old Brompton Road office. I had aspirations of doing some courier work on the 'Chinese Charters' and/or the Trans Siberian Railway trips run by Sundowners, but these dreams faded as I settled into the fun and drunkenness of London life.</p>
Occupation before joining EO	Office Administration
Occupation after leaving EO	Police Officer
Now living in	Central Coast, New South Wales, Australia

Then photo(s)	Now photo(s)
 <p>Sarah at Nemrut Dagı, Turkey on 31 May 1991</p>  <p>MBBS Travel Agency, Amsterdam</p>	<p>(Insert photo(s) here)</p>

Memories or anecdotes

Backroads of Asia Expedition

We headed off from Kathmandu in HMG820K – duly nicknamed 'Gandalph' and the trailer 'Frodo' (a la *Lord of the Rings*) because Frodo always follows Gandalph everywhere! In the style of most (all?) EO trucks ours broke down in the deserts of Iran. We limped into Tehran and spent a couple of days there while Kerry worked frantically to repair the problem.

I remember meeting in the workshop yard and while the engine warmed up, Kerry inflated the now-flat tyre on Frodo. It was overlooked while we loaded up. Next minute a god almighty 'BANG' as the tyre exploded. Shots fired!!?? Scared the B-Jesus out of many as people hit the dirt. We quickly departed and headed for the border before our visas expired.

We arrived at the border with Turkey late that night and had to sleep in the border compound. I recall changing and sleeping in the required headscarf! Too late to get out tents!

On through the border the next morning only to meet a convoy of aid trucks travelling east. The crews were desperately trying to drink their supply of scotch whiskey before entering Iran. We gladly assisted them – at 8am!

Onwards towards Goreme, but we didn't get far before poor Gandalph broke down again. I have no mechanical knowledge and can't now remember the problem, but we were out of spares and unable to fix the issue. Kerry devised a plan – to lift Gandalph onto another truck. As Gandalph was lowered onto the truck, the sides of the truck sheared off all the hinges on Gandalph's side lockers – ping, ping, ping they went. Another problem to fix!

We all got into Gandalph and enjoyed our elevated view as we continued to Goreme. While we enjoyed the sights of Goreme, poor Kerry became more familiar with the workings of Gandalph's engine. Another breakdown occurred in Austria – we enjoyed the summer ski fields, a day in Salzburg and the salt mines; and copious amounts of Schnapps. This time Kerry had help from a couple of drivers, Andy Sutcliffe and Allyn Glaysher, who had driven out from the Wren Park workshop to assist