

Fan Thai Camden

It's not all that common for my extended family to get together for a dinner. A university holiday visit from my niece Alana was reason enough for everyone to make a little effort. Alana studies at Melbourne University's VCA and we don't get to see her a lot.

Most of the tribe met at Camden Hotel for predinner drinks. It was a Sunday evening and the slick, sophisticated lounge bar is perfect for a quiet drink. Not that you could call my family quiet. Alana and her two siblings were taking pictures of each other on their phones and applying apps to the pics and then shrieking at their own grotesqueness. The rest of us chatted about the Super Rugby Final and other such important matters. It wasn't long before our predetermined hour had passed and it was time to walk down to Fan Thai.

The owners had allocated one of the front rooms to us. I didn't count, but their must have been close to 30 in our group. As everyone arrived, the noise levels went from loud to PARTY!

I cracked my bottle of Bethany Riesling and awaited the arrival of 'banquet A'. First a mixed entree plate for each of us. All fairly predictable but the fish cakes and curry puffs were highlights.

Then came a steady stream of Thai classics. There was heaps of food too. Fan Thai did a great job on the night. The food was good, the service was stealth like and the private room was perfect (if a little on the percussive

side). I must say that I really didn't notice the noise but my parents always struggle with it when we all get together. They were the first to leave.

With most of the room cleared I turned to Alana and asked, "OK - where to now Lani Jane?" We wandered down Argyle Street to Barenz. They must have been close to shutting shop when we walked in. Just a few of us by now. A nightcap for some, a dessert for others, and maybe a coffee. It was a lovely end to a very nice night that should happen more often (even when Alana is not visiting). To predict this Sunday night we enjoyed in Camden would have been laughable just five years ago. Macarthur now has a few of these more city style lifestyle opportunities.

I will go to Melbourne and stay with Alana soon. We aren't to Melbourne standards yet, but hey you have to start somewhere! I love

Melbourne and I love Alana. She is heaps of fun - in an Everett way. She even has an awesome boyfriend with a super hero pseudonym name (?).