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Persian Gulf Contribution

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U.S. Department of State



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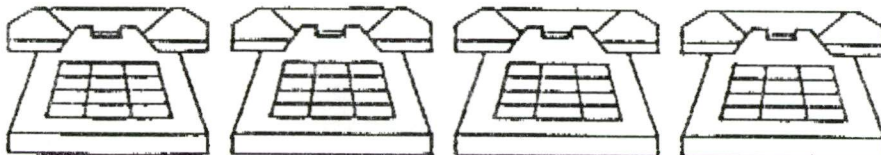
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AUSTRALIA NOTES

From Australia in Brief:

Trade: Australia ranks about 20th in the world in international trade.

Flag: The flag of Australia is the only one to fly over a whole continent. The Union Jack in the upper left corner represents the historical link with Britain; the large seven-point star represents the six states and the territories, and the small stars form the Southern Cross -- a prominent feature of the southern hemisphere night sky.

Colors: Green and gold; adopted in 1984.

Coat of Arms: Australia's coat of arms -- the official emblem of the Australian Government -- was granted by King George V in 1912. The arms consist of a shield containing the badges of the six states. The supporters are native Australian fauna -- a kangaroo and an emu. A yellow-flowered native plant, wattle, also appears on the design.

(NSEW points) From Wyndham to Whyalla, from Bunbury to Bundaberg...

Encyclopedia notes:

-- Much attention and support (public and private) have been given to the expression of distinctively Australian qualities in all art forms.

-- Quote these literary figures: Henry Kendall, Henry Kingsley, Marcus Clarke, Fergus Hume, Rolf Boldrewood (aka Thomas Alexander Browne), Adam Lindsay Gordon, Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson, Henry Lawson (the best to quote)

-- Poetry quotables: Robert David Fitzgerald, Kenneth Slessor, Judith Wright

Movies: Mad Max

Stars: Mel Gibson, Paul Hogan

Music: the Bee Gees, INXS, Olivia Newton-John, Helen Reddy

From Bartlett's

Sir Thomas Browne: "When we desire to confine our words, we commonly say they are spoken under the rose."

Adam Lindsey Gordon: "Question not, but live and labour till yon goal be won, Helping every feeble neighbor, seeking help from none; Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone -- Kindness in another's trouble, courage in your own."

From USIS:

Us-Australia Historical References...

-- In May, 1836, President Jackson appointed J.H. Williams as the first American Consul in Australia. Mr. Williams arrived from Boston on January 10, 1837. The Colonist, a newspaper of the day, said...

"We welcome his arrival with unfeigned goodwill, regarding it as a pledge of increasing intimacy between the two countries, from which mutual advantages may be expected to flow."

-- Upon entering Sydney Harbor via ship, Mark Twain was asked by a local citizen what he thought of it. "I said it was beautiful - - superbly beautiful. Then by a natural impulse I gave God the praise."

-- Sydney: Mark Twain said, "A person ought to see Sydney in the summertime if he wanted to know what warm weather is; and he ought to go north ten or fifteen hundred miles if he wanted to know what hot weather is. they said that away up there toward the equator the hens laid fried eggs."

-- Aussie/US military history: In September 1918, Australian and American troops fought alongside each other in the main attack on the Hindenburg Line which ended WWI, a battle experience to be shared again in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

-- In 1969, Australia's radio telescope at Parkes was used in conjunction with another 210 foot antenna in the US to carry the historic television pictures of the first manned landing on the moon. The picture everybody remembers -- Neil Armstrong's leg searching for the surface of the moon -- was first seen in the briefing room of the Honeysuckle Creek tracking station near Canberra. As a compliment to Australia, NASA in 1971 named Apollo 15 "Endeavour" after Captain Cook's "Endeavour".

Sports: Greg Norman-golf, Rod Laver-tennis, Dawn Fraser-swimmer, John Landy-running.

Author: Colleen McCullough "The Thorn Birds"

Other notable Aussies:

Rupert Murdoch--media guru

Jim Wolfensohn--chairman at Kennedy Center

Patrick Oliphant--cartoonist at WPost

State's Office of the Historian

Highlights in relations between the US and Australia

May 1, 1982, Bush as VP visited Australia to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty

June 24-27: PM Hawke made his 5th visit to W,DC to meet w/ GB.

Australia Overview

Bilateral relations are excellent, but Australian concerns over US trade policies have caused problems. We are working closely in the GATT Uruguay Round to resolve trade issues. On issues of major importance to the US, we can count on Australian support.

The US and Australia are important trading partners, with 2-way trade exceeding \$12 billion in 1990. From that trade, the US enjoyed a surplus of about \$4.1 billion. US investment in Australia totals over \$30 billion. Australia's investment in the US is about \$15 billion. The US is Australia's second largest investor and second largest export market.

Australia was quick to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, to endorse economic sanctions, and to send naval forces (3 ships) to participate in the multinational force in the Gulf. Australia also sent 4 military medical teams and a specialized team of divers.

Concerned that European economic integration and the US-Canada Free Trade Agreement could lead to diminution of Australian markets overseas, Hawke took the lead in organizing the first APEC (Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation) ministerial conference in November 1989. APEC's goal is to promote economic cooperation among Pacific Rim market economies, including the US.

Australia National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice, for we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil, our home is girt by the sea.
Our land abounds in Nature's gifts, of beauty rich and rare;
In hist'ry's page, let ev'ry stage advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing, "Advance Australia Fair."

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross we'll toil with hearts and
hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas we've boundless plains to
share;
With courage let us all combine to advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing, "Advance Australia Fair".

From Cities of the World (3rd Edition)

Geologically, Australia is one of the oldest continents; in
civilization, the most recent.

Its 16 million (1986 estimate) people enjoy a high standard of
living which is still in the process of developing its great
natural resources.

Canberra

Canberra: an aboriginal word meaning "meeting place". Often called
the "garden city" because of the millions of trees and shrubs which
enhance the parks and thoroughfares of the entire area.

Increasingly, Canberra is becoming the nation's political,
administrative, commercial, educational, and scientific hub.

Lake Burley Griffin (named after the architect of the city, Walter
Burley Griffin) is supplied annually with rainbow trout and brown
trout, which may be taken only with line and rod.

Canberra was chosen as the capital when the rival claims of Sydney
and Melbourne could not be satisfied after the unification of
Australia in 1901.

Sydney

Sydney is the capital of the State of New South Wales. It is
Australia's largest city and it is situated on the magnificent
harbor of Port Jackson. It was the first European settlement in
Australia, founded in 1788 as a penal colony.

Sydney was named for Thomas Townsend, the first Viscount Sydney,
secretary of the Home Department, who was responsible for colonial
affairs when New South Wales was established.

Sydney is in many ways like San Francisco. It has an international seaport with a scenic harbor, home of a world-famous opera house, old homes perched alongside modern apartment buildings on hills overlooking picturesque bays and coves. In other ways, the city resembles LA, with its pleasant climate and informal outdoor life.

Sydney grew rapidly with the arrival of free settlers; the establishment of wool raising and wheat growing in New South Wales; gold rushes; building of road and rail networks focusing on the harbor; and the growth of commerce, industry and banking. The development was largely unplanned, and the winding narrow streets and jumbled buildings which add to Sydney's charm also aggravate traffic problems.

Bushwalking (hiking) is very popular -- joke potential.

Melbourne

Melbourne was the capital of Australia until 1927, and several Commonwealth government departments and offices are still located here. It is a major port city and rail hub, as well as a principal center of industry, business, and finance. Major traffic problems here.

Australia's program of immigration has brought to Melbourne many "new Australians" from western and southern European countries. This has been especially noticeable since WWII. These people have injected a continental influence that is reflected in delicatessens, restaurants, and shops, and in sports, music, and cultural programs, as well as the frequency with which foreign languages are heard.

Australia's Commerce and Industry

Australia's economy is based on a combination of free enterprise and state-owned or-licensed monopolies (with considerable federal government authority) in banking, credit, and agriculture. Railroads and utilities are owned by state and federal governments. Telecommunications are a responsibility of the latter. Wages are determined by state and federal boards and, to some degree, by collective bargaining. Most major agricultural products are subject to marketing controls or stabilization arrangements.

Australia's economy was traditionally based on agricultural and mineral production, mainly for export. In recent decades, the economic structure has changed. The manufacturing sector's share of GDP rose after WWII, under the impetus of import restriction policies. More recently, finance, business services, and community services have accounted for an increasing share of the GDP, while the manufacturing share declined.

Important shifts in overseas trade patterns have occurred since WWII. The UK is now much less important in Australia as a trading partner than it once was. Asian countries and the European Communities have recently become prominent markets for Australian products. Japan is the nation's best export market, especially for wool. Japan also ranks first as a source of Australian imports.

Australia imports a wide range of goods from the US -- machines and machinery, transport equipment, scientific and professional instruments, and other business equipment. Exports to the US are mainly beef and veal, chemicals, ores and minerals, sugar, and seafood.

American Chamber of Commerce in Australia is located at 50 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales 2000.

Australian Tourist Commission; 489 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10017
(212) 687-6300.

From ACT Tourism Commission/Australia's Natural Capital

Canberra can be described as a park with a city scattered through a park. No matter where you look, you see trees.

Seasons -- pink spring blossoms, sun-drenched summers, crisp orange autumns, and crystal blue winter skies.

"Get to know Canberra, go and visit it, spend a little time here to get to know your way around and you'll love it just as much as I do." -- Dame Pattie Menzies

Canberra, born in 1913, is the tailor-made national capital of Australia. Meticulously planned and carefully laid out, it is a world capital of undeniable beauty, merging with nature at every opportunity.

"The morning and evening lights at Canberra are wonderful. The shadows of the clouds and the mists as they cross the mountains are very beautiful indeed." -- Walter Burley Griffin, Canberra's designer

Nearly 70% of the ACT is national park or native bushland.

Population 300,000 "friendly souls".

From National Geographic, Feb 1988

Australia has always been a land of immigrants. Aborigines arrived from Southeast Asia at least 40,000 years ago. The British came in 1788, followed by Germans, Chinese, Italians, and Greeks.

By 1850, Australia had 400,000 people and 13 million sheep. Sheep still outnumber people, and Australia's wool exports were worth 2.7 billion US dollars in 1987.

The term "mate" arose on the goldfields, and, in the era of the bushman portrayed in the film "Crocodile Dundee", it remains the trademark term of address of the ordinary Australian.

In WWI, more Australians than Americans died in battle -- though America was 20 times more populous.

Pearl Harbor awoke Australians to the existence of Asia. The Japanese attack also pushed Australia closer to the US. With the Pacific world in shock, PM John Curtin told his nervous fellow Australians, "Without any inhibitions of any kind, I make it quite clear that Australia looks to America free of any pangs as to our traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom." It was almost like a divorce and remarriage.

There are ten times as many jumbuck as people

How to speak Strine:

bonzer: great, terrific
bush: country away from the city
chook: chicken
dingo: Australian wild dog
dinkum, fair dinkum: honest, genuine
jumbuck: deer
ocker: basic, down-to-earth Aussie
outback: remote bush
Strine: what Aussies speak
tucker: food

Australia contains the oldest known fragments of the earth's crust, from the Jack Hills, at 4.3 billion years.

Literacy is virtually 100%

American influence is felt through the economy, popular culture, and technology, and is always in flux. "We are becoming Americanized only in the sense that we're becoming universalized," observed Tony Staley, a former cabinet minister. "It so happens that the US is at the forefront of many things; the whole world is going in that direction."

"What we want is not going to fall into our lap the way it did before. The obligation is to work together to get it."

-- PM Hawke

Photo caption: A "regular bloke" to voters who first elected him in 1983, PM Robert Hawke attributes his success to a strong Labor Party Platform and to his wife Hazel. A former Rhodes Scholar, and 1954 world beer-drinking champion, the now teetotaling Hawke has won enactment of a tax overhaul and opened the economy to foreign banks.

"There is a certain innocence about being an Australian," painter Sidney Nolan said years ago. Perhaps it stems from the youthfulness of the nation. Or perhaps it results from closeness to nature.

"Australia's lost its feeling that it could never do anything," said New South Wales environment minister, Bob Carr.

Despite skillful efforts at disciplined economic management by the Hawke government, economic crisis still shadows the face of Australia. Nothing can take away the unpleasant facts. The Australian dollar has lost 50% of its value against the Japanese yen in the past three years. Australia's foreign indebtedness is so huge that nearly a fifth of yearly export income goes to pay interest on it. Both the inflation rate (8.3%) and the unemployment rate (7.7%) are well above the average of Western industrialized nations. Savings are low, and business investment is even lower. In some realms the "lucky country", as Australia sometimes calls itself, seems out of luck. The farmers are in debt. Industry labors under the disadvantages of protectionism's lull, a small internal market, and high costs. Mining has not yet proved a panacea.