

For Six Month Period Ending Feb. 28, 1994  
(Insert date)

Name of Registrant: AVISO, INC.  
Registration No.: 04220

Business Address of Registrant:  
1150 Marina Village Parkway, Ste. 104  
Alameda, CA 94501

I-REGISTRANT

1. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:

- (1) Residence address Yes  No
- (2) Citizenship Yes  No
- (3) Occupation Yes  No

(b) If an organization:

- (1) Name Yes  No
- (2) Ownership or control Yes  No
- (3) Branch offices Yes  No

2. Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in item 1.

N/A

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, and 5.

3. Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position

Date Connection Ended

N/A

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SECTION  
REGISTRATION UNIT



smell sassafras and mud, fern leaves and damp, disintegrating wood – the musty scents of life germinating, thriving, dying, and decaying.

"Go on, have a seat," Laurie said. "Plenty of logs about. Just mind the leeches."

I decided to stand.

Laurie – gray-bearded, wet-eyed, and wearing a green terrycloth hat that looked as if it might have been with him on his first climb up Cradle Mountain more than a half-century ago – smiled. "The Ballroom Forest is what they call this place," he said. "A good spot for a boil up, wouldn't you say?"

And it was. Granted, many people might find it a bit incongruous to stop for a Devonshire tea surrounded by the baroque vegetation of an old-growth rain forest, but those people have never visited Tasmania. Because here, on this quiet, West Virginia-size island 150 miles off the southeastern shore of Australia, British traditions have proven surprisingly adaptable to exotic antipodean climes. Afternoon tea among the leeches is only part of it.

Tasmania is also one of the few places in the South-

ern Hemisphere where you can find a game of King John's favorite sport, royal tennis; it's played on the indoor court on Davey Street in Hobart, with balls made of champagne corks wrapped in string and tape.

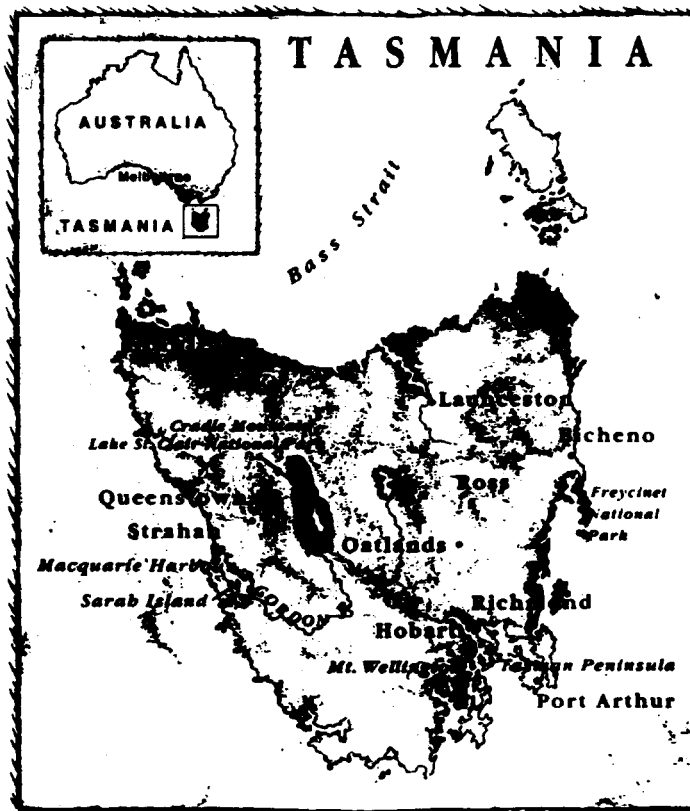
And anyone with an undemocratic yearning for the golden age of British

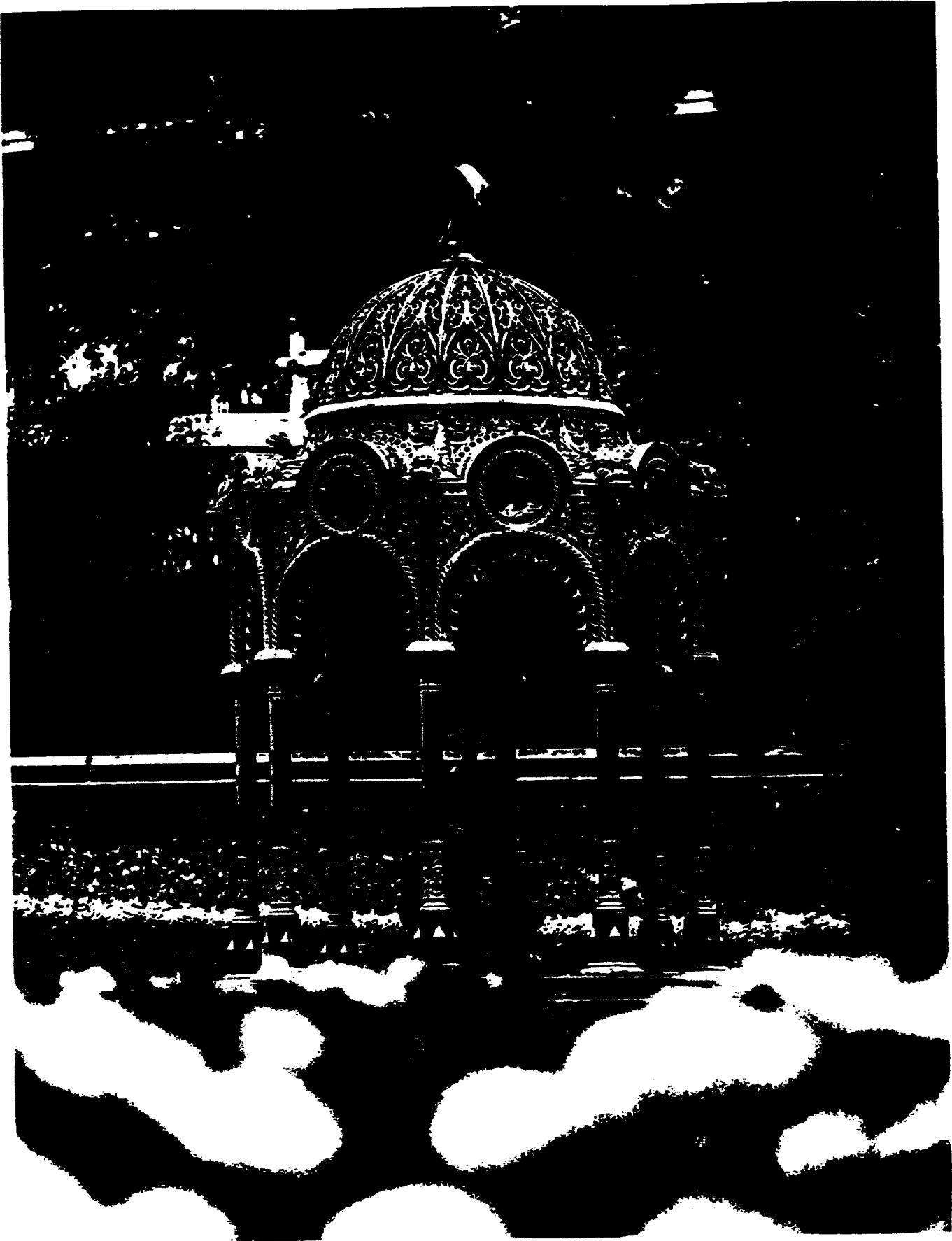
landed gentry can easily fuel their fantasies at, say, Prospect House, Glen Derwent, or one of the other well-preserved Georgian mansions scattered across the Tasmanian countryside, any of which could serve as backdrop for one of those agonizingly faithful BBC adaptations of Jane Austen (although extra stagehands

might be required to keep wallabies and possums from wandering onto the set).

In fact, it's a conviction among mainland Australians that the island state of Tasmania looks and feels just like England. And to desert-seared eyes from Western Australia, perhaps, Tasmania – blessed with good rains and greenery – may indeed seem an exact replica of Surrey.

But my eyes saw something different, something more like a Surrey gone bush, with multicolored parrots, weird organ-pipe cliffs, and treelines transformed by the profiles of swamp gums and Huon pines. And now, in the Ballroom Forest, as I sucked raspberry jam from my fingertips in the shadow of the world's tallest heath, some 30 feet high, it seemed obvious to me that Tasmania, while echoing certain





DAVID J. HARRIS

Victorian *froufrou* adds a playful touch to a park in Launceston (above), while Victoria Dock in the capital of Hobart maintains its workaday air (opposite).

details of the country that used to be known here simply as "Home," resembled nothing really except Tasmania. "Sui generis" is the Latin term for it: of its own kind. A class unto itself.

I HAD BEGUN MY TRIP IN HOBART, the handsome little capital city that is the focus of cultural, political, and financial life on the island. Located on the deeply indented southeastern coast, Hobart forms a kind of geological bowl, at the bottom of which sits a placid harbor and a series of 19th-century warehouses now converted into mercifully unquaint galleries and pubs.

From there, the streets rise gently through a historic government district of sandstone colonial buildings, then a humming business district (where the shopkeepers' gates rumble down chastely at six every evening), before finally reaching the hilly suburbs. Beyond those stand low mountains, including Mount Wellington, whose 3,000-foot cliff face gives the city a touch of visual drama.

But drama is not Hobart's major manufacture. "No, life is rather slow here," said David Rankin, who, when not sketching or painting, serves as the chief operating officer of a little map-and-print shop on the waterfront. He gave his beard a few strokes. "Not staid, though," he added. "If you know the right people, it's not staid at all."

I asked whom he knew in Hobart.

"Oh, I've lived here for 30 years, so I know almost everyone," he said, choosing to ignore my irony. "Tasmania's like that. You know practically everybody, and if you don't know somebody, it's probably because you're related to them, and they don't want to know you."

That kind of small-town ethos suffuses the entire island, but it takes its most picturesque form in Battery Point, the old residential part of Hobart on the bluffs overlooking the harbor.

I walked that neighborhood with Isa Hurburgh, a member of the local group of the national trust and a longtime Battery Point resident. As we wound through the narrow streets lined with churches and old terraced houses festooned with iron lacework, Isa was constantly greeting neighbors: an old man

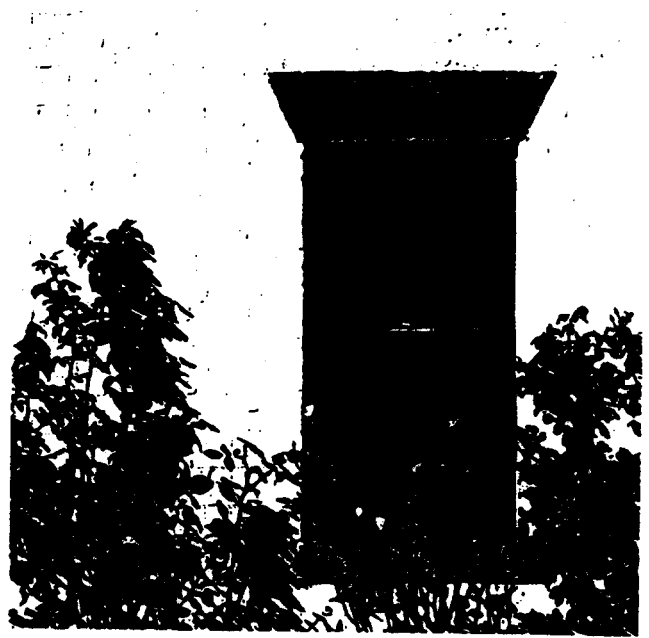
carrying an armful of dusty LPs, a gray-haired lady wearing white gardening gloves who was tending her rosebushes. When two young girls approached, displaying a handful of red hair ribbons and a basket of plastic barrettes, Isa seemed delighted.

"Ah, been to the fair, have you, dears?" she asked, a line I could have sworn came straight out of A. E. Housman.

Down along the waterfront, life was moving at only a slightly more 20th-century pace. *Rainbow Warrior*, the Greenpeace flagship, was in port to deposit two barrels of toxic waste on the steps of Parliament House (in protest of a delay in the tightening of environmental regulations). But the office workers and tourists strolling the wharves seemed blithely unconcerned.

Following their lead, I stopped at one of the floating seafood stalls at Constitution Dock and ordered a half-dozen Pacific oysters, four giant prawns, and a

bottle of Cascade Lager, the local beer. Then I found a free bench near the yacht basin and consumed one of the best lunches of my life. The prawns were firm and delicately flavored. The oysters – plump, briny, and slick – literally detonated in the mouth. Tasmanian seafood, as I discovered throughout my trip, is a revelation, a throwback to what seafood must have tasted like before the incursions of the Industrial Revolution.



From carefully tended roses (above) to an English church in Port Arthur (opposite, top) and the sound of a cricket bat (opposite, below), Tasmania's image hearkens back to another island far across the seas.

After lunch, I followed the office workers back downtown. Compared to the rest of the city, the shopping district was a virtual mob scene, teeming with schoolgirls in blazers and straw hats, boys in shorts carrying cricket bats and skateboards, morose-looking teenagers lounging around in the uniforms of International Grunge, and plenty of older shoppers – ample matrons, harried mothers – trailing bags full of houseplants, cloth, and bread.

Nearly all the faces I saw were white, the Tasmanian aboriginal population having died out (or been murdered, not to put too fine a point on it) sometime in the last century. The ethnic homogeneity of Taswegians (as some locals call themselves), combined with the downtown architecture (Victorian and Edwardian shopfronts, along with 1950s department stores) reinforced the feeling of being in a small English city in the age before mass immigration.

But of course the population of Tasmania is made up entirely of immigrants, or descendants of immigrants – a function of the island's bizarre and often brutal history. Until 1803 Van Diemen's Land, as it was called, was exclusively the domain of a small number of Aborigines and the occasional whaling ship. But in August of that year a small group of settlers arrived from the mainland. Half of them were British convicts (Australia began as a convict settlement, after all).

*The first Europeans  
to arrive were a mixed  
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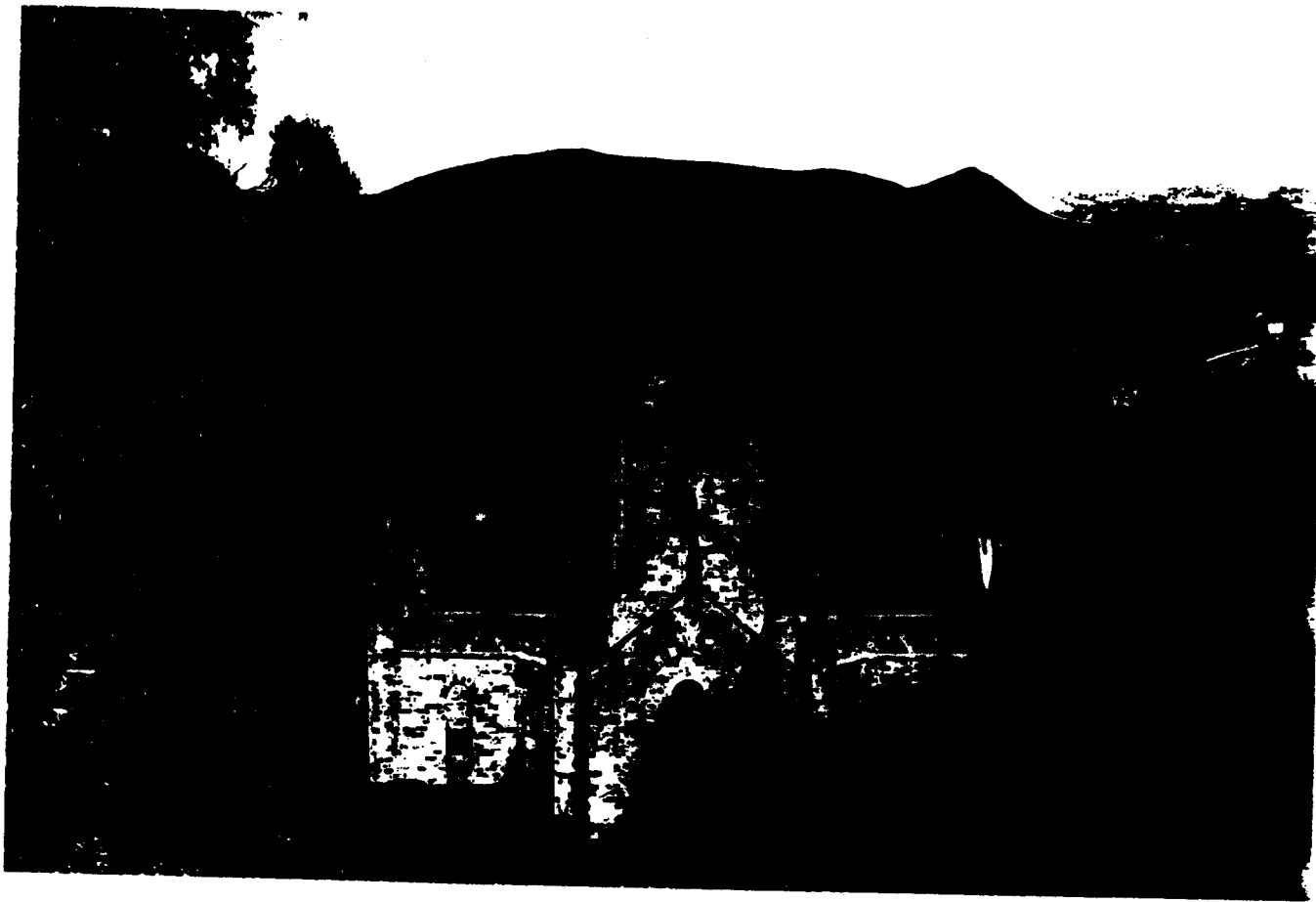
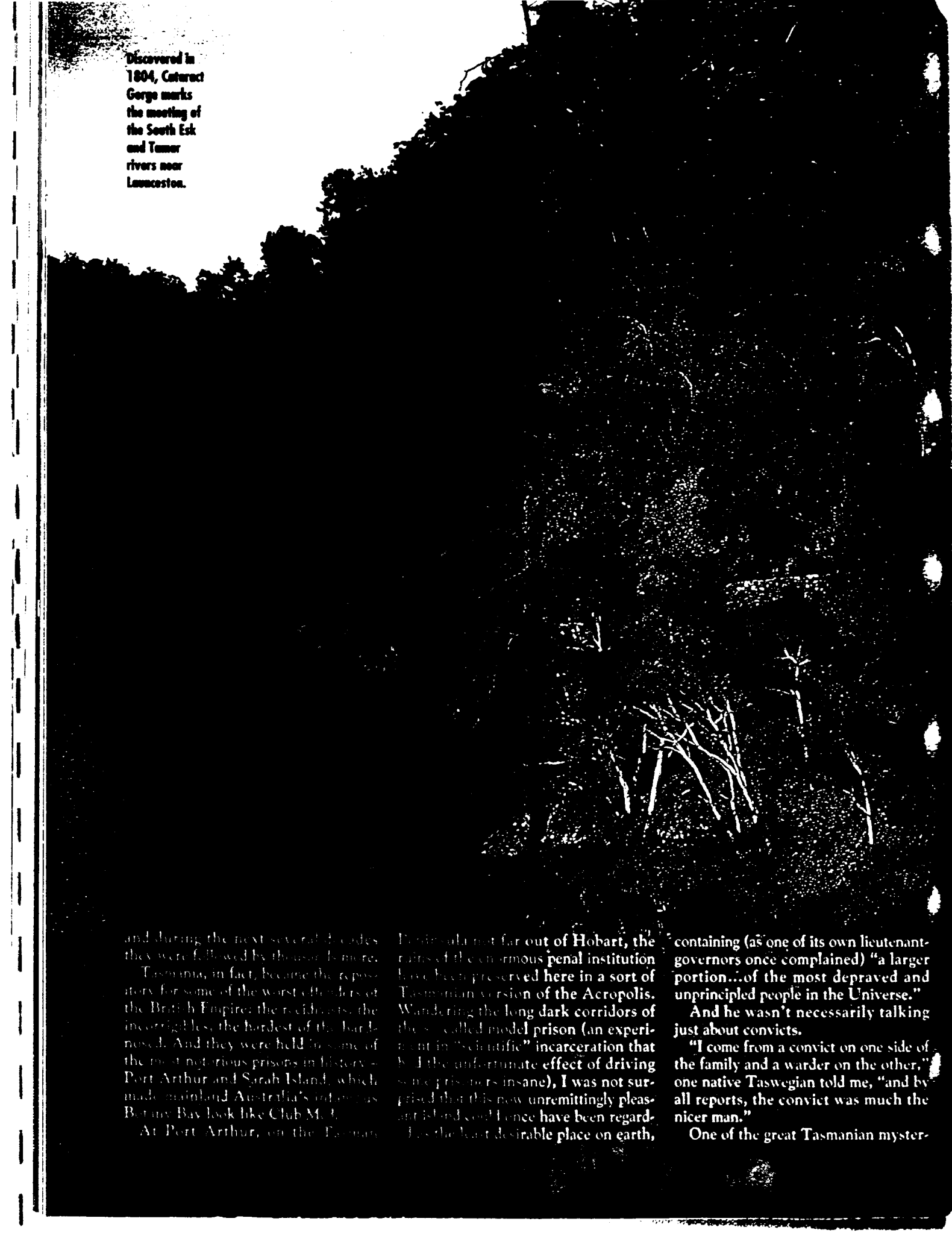


Photo: James Jones



Discovered in  
1804, Cataract  
Gorge marks  
the meeting of  
the South Esk  
and Tamar  
rivers near  
Launceston.

and during the next several decades they were followed by thousands more.

Tasmania, in fact, became the repository for some of the worst offenders of the British Empire: the recidivists, the incorrigibles, the hardest of the hard-nosed. And they were held in some of the most notorious prisons in history — Port Arthur and Sarah Island, which made mainland Australia's infamous Botany Bay look like Club Med.

At Port Arthur, on the Tasmanian

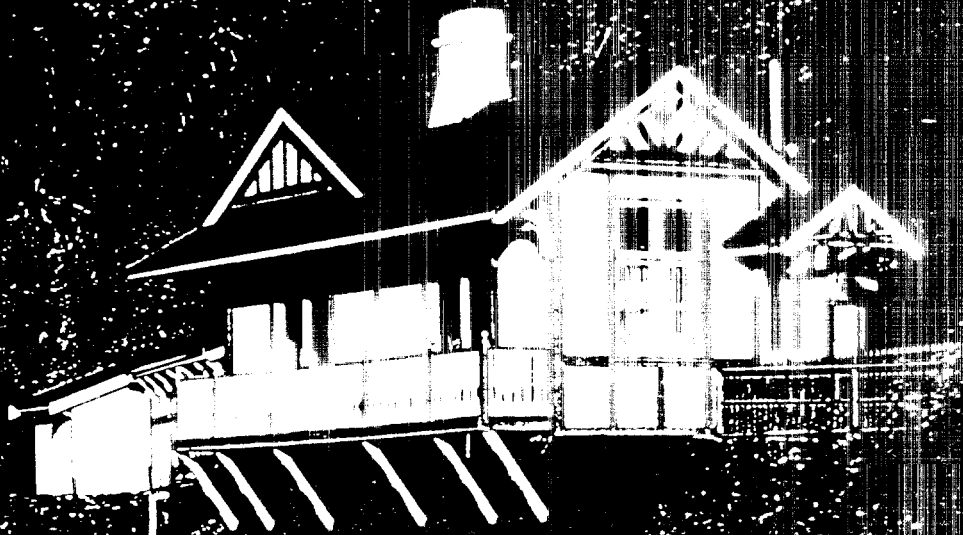
Peninsula not far out of Hobart, the ruins of the enormous penal institution have been preserved here in a sort of Tasmanian version of the Acropolis. Wandering the long dark corridors of the so-called model prison (an experiment in "scientific" incarceration that had the unfortunate effect of driving some prisoners insane), I was not surprised that this now unremittently pleasant island could once have been regarded as the least desirable place on earth,

containing (as one of its own lieutenant-governors once complained) "a larger portion...of the most depraved and unprincipled people in the Universe."

And he wasn't necessarily talking just about convicts.

"I come from a convict on one side of the family and a warder on the other," one native Taswegian told me, "and by all reports, the convict was much the nicer man."

One of the great Tasmanian myster-



ies, in fact, is how this population of convicts and their often corrupt jailors has evolved, over several generations, into the conservative, law-abiding, genial people that inhabit the island today. Mainland Australians like to flatter themselves by looking down on Taswegians, much as the British do on the Irish, or northerners do on southerners in the United States. As a tourist from the mainland admitted to me, "Yeah, we give the Taswegians a hard time, saying

they inbreed and all that, that they've all got two heads and no brains." But Taswegians, it seemed to me, are just like other Australians—only more self-deprecating in their humor.

"All of those stories about imbeciles and inbreeding," insisted Sally Martin, who with her husband, David, runs a guest house near Port Arthur, "they're just not true. Simply not true."

David looked up skeptically from his breakfast. "Don't listen to her," he said.

"Judge for yourself. In Tasmania we've got a population of 450,000 and 54 state politicians. That's the highest rate of politicians to people in Australia. Of course we're imbeciles!"

David notwithstanding, I found in my ten days of nosing round the rest of the island far more politicians than imbeciles among the population. The federal government had called elections, and the newspapers were predicting one of the closest races in Australian history. Elec-





tion posters dotted the island – from the dry, pastoral midlands and east coast, to the high alpine interior, to the wild, thickly forested west – and just about everybody was fed up with the whole process.

"I'm trying to understand your politics," I would say to people I'd meet.

"Good luck!" they'd answer back. Or: "You're a brave man, I'll give you that."

**SHEEP GRAZED THE OCHER HILLS** of the midlands, a region of farms and old country towns that stretches between Hobart and Launceston, Tasmania's second city. Horses stared idly at ponds full of wild black swans. Quiet farm towns – Richmond, Oatlands, Ross – punctuated the road at regular intervals, their sandstone colonial houses and tiny churches overlooking the sweep of rolling grasslands.

I stopped at Richmond, where an elegant, convict-built bridge, the oldest in Australia, arches over a bushy little river clotted with reeds and noisy ducks. The 19th-century Richmond Gaol ("home" of many of the bridge-building convicts, who were treated as a kind of slave labor) is strikingly well-preserved. The lightless solitary cells have lost none of their horror, though now they contain only grinning Australian vacationers being photographed by their companions.

I checked into a brick manse from the 1830s whose haylofts have been converted to guest rooms. Surrounded by rosebushes and brick paths, the house has been scrupulously maintained by proprietor Mike Buscombe, who is actually the great-great-grandson of the original owner. Mike treated me to a short lecture on Australian politics (his party was losing ground in the polls) and took me down to the old convict quarters in the cellar, which now (in a nice little metaphor for how much Tasmania has

changed in the last 150 years) serves as a wine cellar.

Afterward, I had dinner in the marble-hearthed, candle-lit, mahogany-trimmed dining room – one of the few Tasmanian experiences that really did seem unadulteratedly English to me – except for the fact that Orion, shining through the antique glass windows, was upside down.

Halfway up the east coast, however, this comfortable Britishness gave way to a more typically Australian eccentricity, in the form of the Hazards at Freycinet National Park. These 1,000-foot-high granite cliffs form a monolithic – and decidedly pink – wall that overlooks a lovely bay on one side and the ocean on the other.

I hiked up over the shoulder of one of these cliffs, through a forest chittering with parrots and laughing kookaburras, and came to a long, untrodden curve of beach: Wineglass Bay. Two almost shamefully adorable wallabies browsed the bushes at the perimeter of the beach while I lay on the sand, the surf chuffing quietly at my feet. Looking out across the water, I felt that I had reached the end of the earth.

After spending a night at a Freycinet lodge (where I shared a bit of Tasmanian cabernet with a presumptuous ring-tailed possum on the redwood terrace), I went looking for some of the seafood for which this coast is famous.

I found it – in glorious abundance – at a cray stall near Bicheno, where, if you'll excuse the redundancy, I had another of the best lunches of my life: a huge, lobster-size crayfish fresh off a fishing boat.

Jane Wardlaw, ensconced in the stall, showed me how to

splinter the shells to extract the sweet, milk white meat.

"My dad used to get up at two or three in the morning to get the crays from the fishermen in Bicheno," Jane said wistfully, cracking claws. "He'd bring them up here, Mother would cook 'em, and he'd serve 'em while he listened to his Louis Armstrong records. He loved his jazz, Dad did."

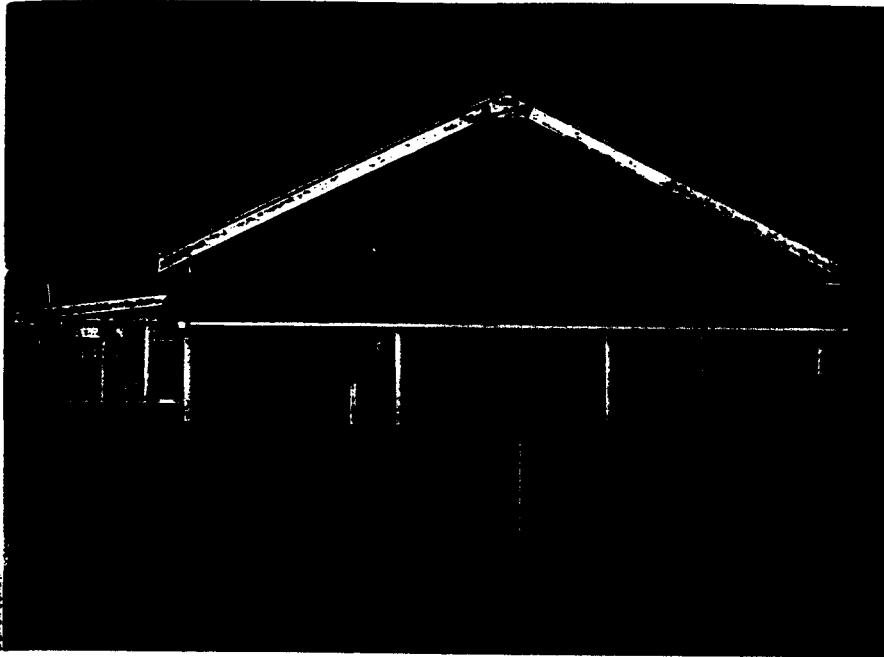
Christopher Wardlaw had died just a few months earlier, but his jazz was still playing over loudspeakers hanging above a few scattered picnic tables. I joined a group of cyclists at one of these tables, and there we all sat, sucking noisily and unself-consciously at our crays, while Armstrong's rendition of "Mack the Knife" crackled from the speakers overhead.

*The reflective eyes of wallabies would suddenly appear in my headlights.*



The island's far northwest, known as "Cape Country" (opposite), also thrives as sheep country (above) for young Nick Beeton of Stanley (top).





Late light suffuses a homey cottage near Strahan (above), at the edge of the western wilderness. Inland, autumn's palette paints a primeval landscape in Waterfall Valley at Cradle Mountain (opposite).

I KNEW THAT I SHOULD HAVE bought the "I Brake for Wombats" bumper-sticker at the tourist shop in Launceston. That, at least, is what I kept telling myself as I crept along the unpaved access road in Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park. It was a moonless night, and as I wound my rental car slowly through the overhanging eucalypti, I kept having to slam on the brakes. The reflective eyes of wallabies and brush-tailed possums would suddenly appear in my headlights; then I'd turn a curve and find a rotund wombat limping across the road in front of me. No, I told myself, I refuse to be responsible for the death of something that cute.

It was my last night at Cradle Mountain, the gateway to Tasmania's extensive national park system. A vast portion of the western part of the island has been set aside as parkland, a UN World Heritage Site. In fact, so wild and remote is this 3.3-million-acre wilderness that even today there are parts that are virtually unmapped.

But I had found the area immediately around Cradle Mountain to be fairly well-trodden ground, largely because of the 86-cabin lodge spread around the forest at the entrance to the park. The main structure is a huge building of native timber, the kind of place where you drink hot toddies in front of a huge stone fireplace after a day of hiking and canoeing.

Despite that tempting fireplace, how-

ever, I spent as much time as possible out in the remarkable landscape that surrounds the lodge – rain forests, eucalyptus groves, buttongrass moors, and, of course, on Cradle Mountain itself, a 4,500-foot crag rising above a pristine alpine lake. The extravagant lushness of the forests held surprises – the elegance of a fern leaf, the gnarl of a eucalyptus trunk – each of which satisfied some deep need in me for the exotic. No, this was not England.

*They warned me  
not to be deceived by the  
bay's pristine-looking  
surroundings.*

And that impression was driven home even more vividly by the park's prodigious fauna. Many of Tasmania's native species are nocturnal, so most of the animals I'd seen were those flattened by cars. But at Cradle Mountain dinner scraps were put out every night on a platform near the main lodge. Attracted by the food, droves of possums, wallabies, and pandemelons (tiny versions of kangaroos) would appear

out of the darkness, to the coos and cheers of the onlooking lodge guests.

One night, as I was watching this daily debauch, I felt a gentle tap at my elbow. I turned, expecting to see another guest maneuvering for a better view, but it was a brush-tailed possum looking for a hand-out. He and a few of his cohorts had climbed the terrace railing to try their luck with the pushover *Homo sapiens*.

We also had a visit that night from a Tasmanian devil, the growling black carrion eater about half the size of a pit bull and twice as ornery. The devil lurked, invisibly but very noisily, just beyond the reach of the lodge's spotlights.

I got a more realistic sense of Tasmanian wildlife on my late-night drive. The animals along the park road seemed leery, secretive creatures, not brash like the ones begging handouts back at the lodge. In the heavy darkness of the Tasmanian night, their mystery remained intact.

When I reached the end of the road at Dove Lake, I got out of the car and tried to glimpse the peak of Cradle Mountain through the darkness. Suddenly I felt a bat swoop over my head, soundless, eerie, a reminder of the impenetrable strangeness of the bush.

DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN A CONSTANT concern in Tasmania for some time, particularly on the intense battleground of the wild western half of the island, where mining and hydroelectric interests have gone chin to chin with the so-

called tree-huggers at every turn. A showcase for the environmentalists is at Strahan, a fishing town that was a seldom-visited outpost until recently. Nowadays, however, the tour buses chug along the waterfront to disgorge their passengers onto ships, which then proceed to ferry them down Mac-

quarie Harbour, past Sarah Island, and up into the wilderness of the Gordon River.

Thanks to a blockade that made international headlines a decade ago, the Gordon was spared a controversial hydroelectric scheme. Vast areas of forest – including some of the last strongholds of the Huon pine – were saved as a result of this action.

The controversy has been preserved at

the new Strahan Visitor Centre, a state-of-the-art audiovisual museum that harangues visitors about everything from the absence of gay rights in Tasmania to the multiple harms that tourism does to the environment (although the museum seems happy enough to gather in the tourists' dollars at the entrance gate). Meanwhile, prodevelopment forces bombard residents daily with the usual promises of jobs and prosperity.

Caught in the middle of all of this are people like Paddy Williams and Ann Farley. I came across them on the waterfront at Lette's Bay, a remarkable little village made up exclusively of dilapidated corrugated-iron huts, a few miles from Strahan. Paddy was loading firewood onto a trailer, while Ann sat nearby, watching a couple of men wrestling a fishing boat out of the water. I walked up and – as I had found remarkably easy to do with Taswegians of all kinds – just started talking to them.

They warned me not to be deceived by the pristine-looking surroundings. "See this bay," said Paddy, taking off his decrepit straw hat to wipe sweat from his close-cropped gray hair. "It looks all right from here, but there's actually a couple feet of pure tailings under it – from the mine up in Queenstown."

"That's where we're from," Ann added. "Most of us is Queenies in this place."

I had seen Queenstown on my way in – a homely little place in a moonscape of red hills denuded by logging and pollution. Queenstown epitomizes the developer side in the environmental wars. To be honest, I had found its grandiose ugliness mesmerizing, another aspect of Tasmania's deep physical weirdness.

"This is a lot different from Queenstown," I said. And, looking at the boats, at the corrugated-iron huts, at Paddy's crownless straw hat, I went on: "It's a lot different from anywhere else I've been, come to think of it."

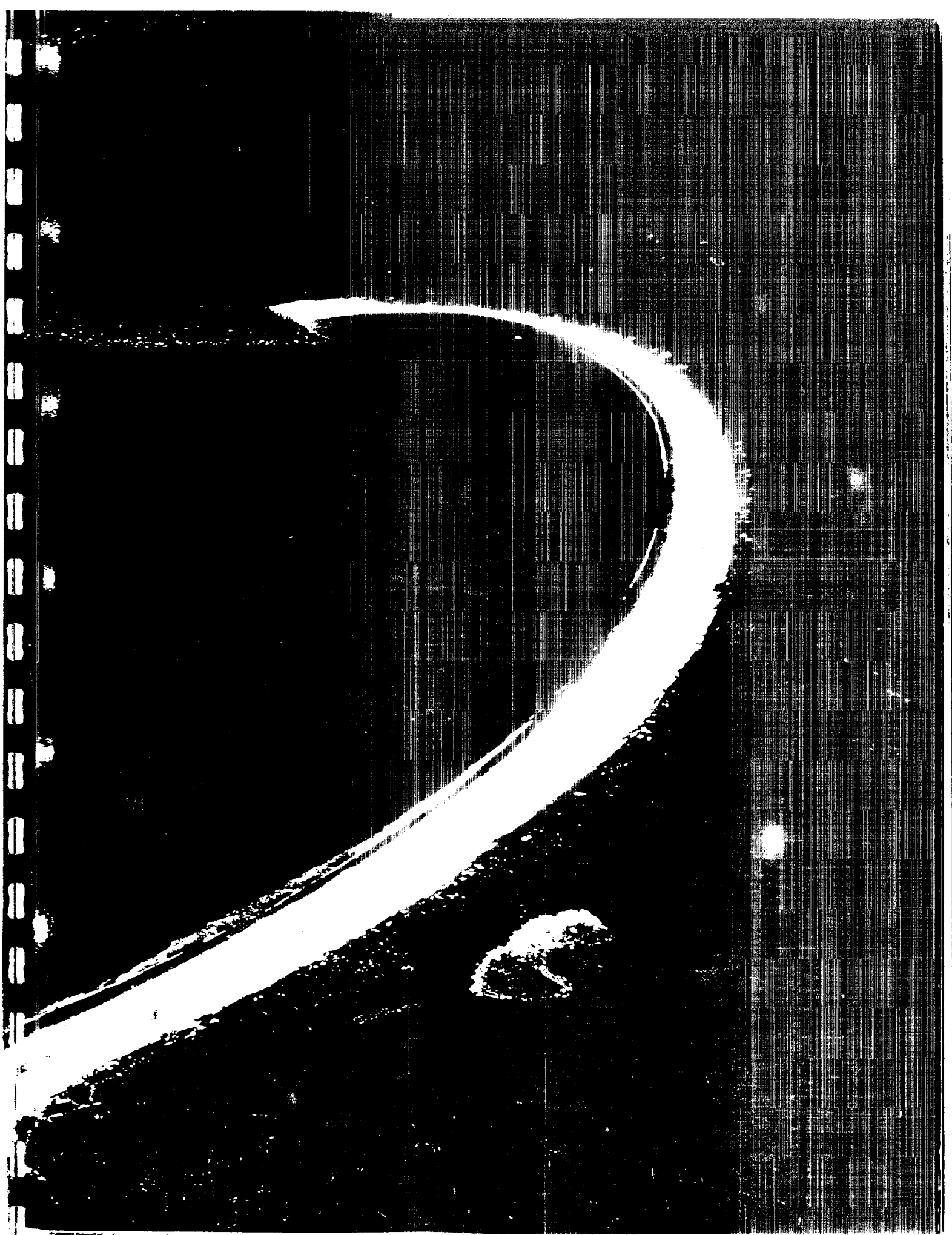
Ann and Paddy exchanged an amused smile. "You're absolutely right on that, young man," Paddy said.

"No," Ann added, sighing, "you don't see too many places like this nowadays. Even in Tassie."

Even in Tassie. This strange little hybrid of an island may be full of echoes from other hemispheres, but on that cloudless afternoon in Lette's Bay, as the gulls swooped low over the water and the ex-Queenies dragged their boats up the shore, the England of the midlands seemed as far away as the moonscape of the Queenstown hills. ♦

White sands and brilliant blue water combine for a heady view at Wineglass Bay in Freycinet National Park.

Dennis Harding/AUSCAPE



**CANADIAN  
VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM**



BY MARGO PFEIFF  
and JIM HUTCHISON  
Special to The Globe and Mail  
Australia

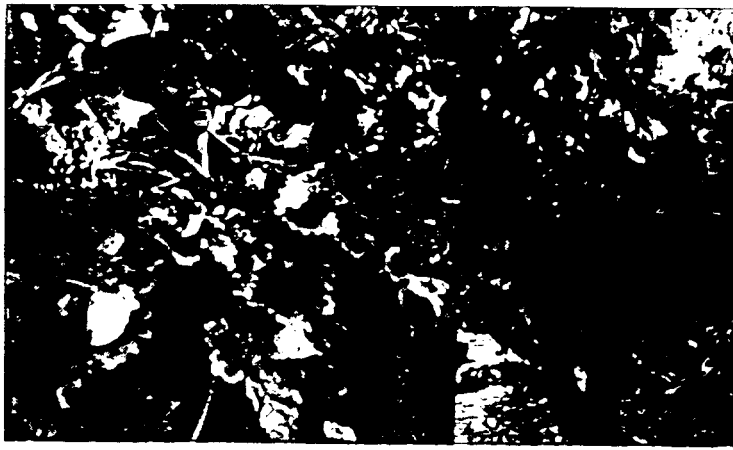
Despite the vigour with which Paul Hogan and Foster's commercials flog the image of Aussies as a nation of beer-swilling Crocodile Dundee types, the truth is that most of them are more likely to know their way around a wine shop than across the outback. And no wonder. In a country of only 16-million people there are now over 7,000 vineyards and 600 wineries. In the days when many Australians thought a Cabernet Sauvignon was a French cupboard, picking a wine was a simple decision between red or white "plonk", but today it means choosing from over 10,000 labels of pinot noir, merlot, fume blanc, chardonnay, white burgundy and others. That's not to say they don't still enjoy their amber nectar, but Australia now has an annual wine consumption of over five gallons per capita, the highest of any English speaking nation.

It was the influence of mostly Italian, German and Yugoslavian immigrants in the 1960s who brought their wine drinking traditions with them that started the present boom. With vin ordinaire selling for \$8 or less for a one gallon "cask" — a technology invented down under — it was a rare household that didn't have a box of wine in the refrigerator alongside the sixpack of "tinnies". But in the last 20 years Australians have become increasingly more sophisticated about quality wines and the rest of the world has noticed: In the face of stiff international competition Australia has captured 10 per cent of the world export market in less than a decade and their share is rapidly increasing. In their World Wine Encyclopedia, Sotheby's noted that the reason for the success is simple — Australia's quality wines are among the best value for money in the world.

Australian wines are quite different in character from European styles, especially the reds which are often 'big wines' — full bodied and robust compared to the dry, light reds of France. Whites are more popular in Australia than reds and are fruity, crisp and clean, though there tends to be more oak in Australian whites like chardonnay than in their French and Californian counterparts, but even that trend seems to be softening in recent years. Unlike European wine growing areas where Bordeaux wines are produced in Bordeaux, Champagne in Champagne, in Australia it's not uncommon for a single winery to produce everything from red and white table wines to champagne, sherry, port and brandy.

Wine is grown in all seven Australian states. The Margaret River and Swan Valley regions, near Perth in the southern part of Western Australia.

# WINE RUSH DOWN UNDER



Australia's top restaurants — the fare includes such homegrown specialties as gum-smoked kangaroo. Country bakeries like the gingerbread trimmed Linke's in Nuriotoopa sell freshly baked apple Strudel, Streusel, Bienenstich and mounds of weighty European breads.

In delis such as the Wurst Haus in Tanunda and old fashioned butcher shops, fresh sausage dangles temptingly above a showcase stocked with leg hams and roasts — the stuff of picnics that goes down well in a quiet bushland setting with a bottle of Barossa red or white. Many of the wineries provide park-like

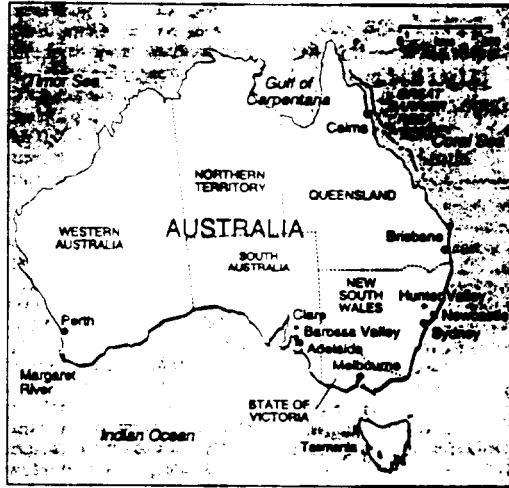
are gaining recognition and the Rutherglen region north of Melbourne in Victoria has long been famous for its fortified wines. The sign at the entrance to the region boasts: "Sydney has a nice harbour, but Rutherglen has a great port." Even the outback has not escaped the wine boom. In the parched red heart of the continent where summer temperatures routinely soar over 30 C the intrepid souls at Chateau Hornsby just outside of Alice Springs manage to turn out passable table wines in what must be one of the most hostile environments the noble vine has ever had to deal with. But the two most important and interesting wine regions to visit are the Hunter Valley northwest of Sydney and the Barossa Valley near Adelaide in South Australia.

"The Hunter", 176 kilometres from Sydney, is close enough to tour on a day trip, but its peaceful rolling countryside of backroads with wineries tucked amid the eucalyptus has an almost English air about it and deserves at least a couple of days' exploration with overnight stays at country inns. You can tour the wineries at leisure by hiring a horse drawn carriage which includes a champagne picnic lunch or glide above the vines in a hot air balloon.

That the Hunter Valley produces only about four per cent of the national vintage belies its importance as the birthplace of the wine industry in Australia. Most of the well-known old family wineries are clustered around the town of Cessnock in the Lower Hunter. International exporter Lindemans is here as well as Wyndham Estate, one of Australia's most popular labels, established in 1828 and the country's oldest producing winery. The vines grow right up to the old white-washed sheds at Wyndham, now classified by the National Trust. A favourite is Tyrrell's, another big producer that has kept its facilities rustic; a traditional outback slab hut with a dirt floor is the tasting room where visitors sample among old oak barrels.

Between these legends are boutique wineries created by a stream of Sydney lawyers, accountants and advertising executives who abandoned their professions to chase the dream of running their own winery. Max Lake was one of the first. He gave up his life as a surgeon to open a winery in the Hunter called Lake's Folly, now one of the most respected small wineries in the valley. Also close by is Rothbury Estate which holds lavish candlelight dinners for guests in the Great Cask Hall.

The Upper Hunter Valley, 56 kilometres farther northwest, is a well kept secret. Less travelled and slower paced than the Lower Hunter (which can be as busy as the Napa Valley on weekends), it is as well known for its horse studs as its wines. Arrowfield



is both a winery and a world-class race-horse breeding facility. Around the town of Muswellbrook are Rosemount Estate which makes one of the country's most popular chardonnays and the Richmond Grove winery.

Near the country town of Denman, Pam and Niel Burling have restored their 1827 convict-built home into a charming gingerbread trimmed bed and breakfast inn on 400 hectares of countryside where kangaroos come to browse at dusk. There are several bed and breakfast inns in the Lower Hunter Valley too. Right in the middle of wine country in Pokolbin, The Carriages is a charming new guesthouse on a quiet country lane. Each suite has its own open fireplace and verandah and is decorated with antique pine furniture. One of our favourites on the alternative Wollombi Road back to Sydney is Mullia Villa set in a lush country setting just under a kilometre from the historic village of Wollombi, a half hour's drive from the Lower Hunter.

Francisca Maul and her family run their three-room inn in another 1840 convict-built house that is classified by the National Trust. Meals are excellent, her son heads out fishing at dawn each morning to catch stream fish that are served as appetizers to guests at dinner. Organic and home-grown foods are emphasized.

The gracious city of Adelaide is lucky to be encircled by a wealth of wine-growing areas. To the north is the lovely Clare (the setting for the Australian movie *Breaker Morant*), to the south are the seaside vineyards of the Southern Vales, and just further afield is the fertile sliver of the Coonawarra where some of the country's most sought after reds are born. But of all Australia's wine growing regions the Barossa Valley, an hour's drive from the South Australian capital, is the most enchanting.

It has everything you would expect of classic European wine country: stately French and German style chateaux rise from rows of vines, silver Lutheran church spires tower above country towns. Oom-pa-pa bands pump out the tempo in parks and in the streets a peculiar dialect of German still lingers.

The valley is just 32-kilometres long and about 11 kilometres wide with the Barossa Valley Highway — more of a country road — knitting together the four main towns scattered amid the low summer brown hills. Each has its own distinctive character, but they all share an obsession with the fine food for which the region is as renowned for as its wines. At Die Gallerie, a bistro and art gallery in Tanunda, the biggest and most German of the towns, summer dining is beneath a courtyard shaded

*Top, wine cooper during harvest time in the Barossa Valley, a region that not only turns out 30 per cent of Australia's wine vintage but is the most enchanting as well.*

*Bottom, a huge cask outside the Lyndoch Bakery and Restaurant, the valley's only true German-style eatery.*

*Photos by Margot Pfeiff/ Jim Hutchison*

grounds with picnic tables and coin-operated gas BBQ facilities.

The 54 wineries that produce 30 per cent of Australia's national vintage (the Barossa is also the nation's biggest producer of award winning wines) are scattered along the main route or on dusty sideroads. They range from tiny family operations to the country's biggest wine corporations. Although there are opulent affairs with names like Chateau Yaldara that would be at home on the banks of the Loire, some of the loveliest wineries like Yalumba, with its clock tower, and Seppeltsfield are built in Australian colonial style. Rows of date palms line the country road to the Seppeltsfield winery complex, a small village. Prince Charles and his sons Princes William and Henry all have private casks of port aging at Seppeltsfield, laid down as gifts by the winemakers in the years they were born.

One of the valley's biggest success stories is Wolf Blass whose wines are among Australia's most popular; if you're undecided or unfamiliar you can't go wrong with their selection of premium red and white table wines. Blass arrived in Australia from his native Germany as a winery consultant in 1960 and set about pressing his first grapes in a tin shed at what is now his Bilyara Winery near the Barossa town of Nuriootpa. Over the past quarter century the flamboyant Blass — never seen without his trademark bow tie — has created a \$50-million industry and is selling half-a-million cases of wine a year around the world. His wines have scooped up over 2,000 national and international awards and he is even exporting vintages back to his native Germany.

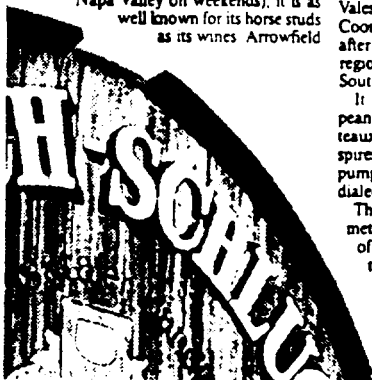
Most of the bigger wineries like Orlando and Penfolds who is Australia's biggest winemaker, offer tours of the production facilities and storage areas with tasting rooms open seven days a week; at small boutique wineries like Bethany or High Wycombe winemakers have time for a glass and chat with patrons. Aussies tend to be unpretentious about wine so tastings everywhere are casual. Staff is well informed not only about their own company's product, but about wines in general and can often recommend something that should please if you mention a favourite French, German or American wine you enjoy.

The best time to visit the Barossa is during Canadian winter when the vines are turned out in their best yellow and red autumn dress, from February through late March. Every odd numbered year harvest is celebrated with special gusto during the Barossa Valley Vintage Festival. What began in the 1940's as a small village get together after the harvest has blossomed into the world's biggest wine festival. Though the festivities now attract up to 250,000 people there is still the feel of a local country celebration. The festival kicks off on Easter Monday with parades and carries on during a packed calendar of outdoor markets, dancing round the maypole and music festivals for seven days.

The Barossa offers all manner of accommodation from the Landhaus, an 1850's shepherd's cottage with room for just two to the luxury of The Lodge, the original family homestead within the Seppeltsfield winery complex and the Barossa Junction, a cluster of refurbished railway coaches set on a siding near Tanunda.

For more information contact the Australian Tourist Commission, 2 Bloor St. W. Suite 1730, Toronto, Ont. telephone (416) 925-9575, fax (416) 925-9312. The 128-page Australian Travellers Guide is issued free by the Australian Tourist Commission (081-780 1424).

Further reading: *Wine Atlas of Australia and New Zealand*, by James Halliday, available from Raincoast Books of Vancouver, \$65.



# Opera House puts Sydney on world musical stage

• From Page F1

classroom, I discovered that the House plays an important role in Sydney as a community centre.

Every Sunday throngs of local people congregate on the patios along the back and sides of the building to enjoy impromptu performances of mime, dance and juggling or high school band concerts and string quartets. This open-air entertainment is free-of-charge, a factor I much appreciated since my leave of absence was of the unpaid variety. I also attended the free lunchtime concerts held almost daily in the northern foyer and came to understand that this public access typifies the egalitarian Aussie attitude.

In 1980 the House saved me from an angry mob — or so it seemed at the time. I had ventured Down Under as the escort for an educational tour — a job I had visualized as no more difficult than shepherding a long field trip. However, after nearly two weeks of rain in New Zealand, my otherwise-charming charges were starting to get hostile. When we arrived in Australia the sun was shining, and I quickly organized a harbour cruise. They ooh-ed and aah-ed over the view of the Opera House from the water, and I breathed a huge sigh of relief.

In contrast to this peaceful place, the Opera House has been the cause of much controversy. From the beginning, many people thought that Danish architect Jorn Utzon's avant-garde design was unworkable — that the judges had made a major mistake

in 1957 when they chose his plan from the 233 entered in the world-wide competition. Even Utzon himself struggled with the engineering required to support the shells which form the roof. He had not seen the site when he sketched his winning entry, only photos of Bennelong Point and the harbour dotted with boats. His shells mirrored the masts he saw in the picture — building them was another matter.

**From the beginning, many people thought that Danish architect Jorn Utzon's avant-garde design was unworkable — that the judges had made a major mistake in 1957 when they chose his plan**

He eventually resolved this dilemma — some say by observing the way sections of an orange fit together — but other problems arose, and in 1966 the government accepted his resignation.

The Bennelong Restaurant, the priciest of the House's five dining options, has also caused some grumbling. It occupies a beautiful harbourside site, but is frequently chock-a-block with tour groups, and the food has never been equal to the view.

Of course, there have been lots of high points, too. Certainly one of these was in 1974 when Joan Suther-

land came home to sing in her country's new House for the first time. She also gave the final performance of her career when she sang *Les Huguenots* at the Opera House in 1990.

Mel Gibson, patron of the birthday celebrations, will oversee the 20th birthday party planned for the House on Sunday, October 24. These festivities include free tours, outdoor activities, and a "Monster Piano Concert" featuring 17 pianos on stage at one time.

In preparation for its birthday and the years to come, the House is getting a face lift. Among other things, the 1,056,000 tiles on the roof are being re-grouted. This work is being done by a team of men in white space suits who travel over the shells in a moon-buggy-like vehicle. Sydneysiders feel such affection for their House that no one is complaining about the more than \$100,000,000 (Aus.) being spent on this renovation. No one even seems to remember that this same amount was hotly contested 20 years ago when it was the cost of construction. The locals realize that the Opera House has brought the world to Sydney. To date, 36-million people have attended a performance or taken a tour.

In recent years when I've returned to Sydney, I've tried to analyze what makes this building so special. What gives it the charisma, the magical quality that no other has. I'm sure it has something to do with the way sunlight and moonlight reflect off the tiles, making it seem almost alive.

Happy birthday, House.



The Sydney skyline with the Harbour Bridge at left and Opera House at right.

(Photo by RICHARD ADAMS)

## IF YOU GO

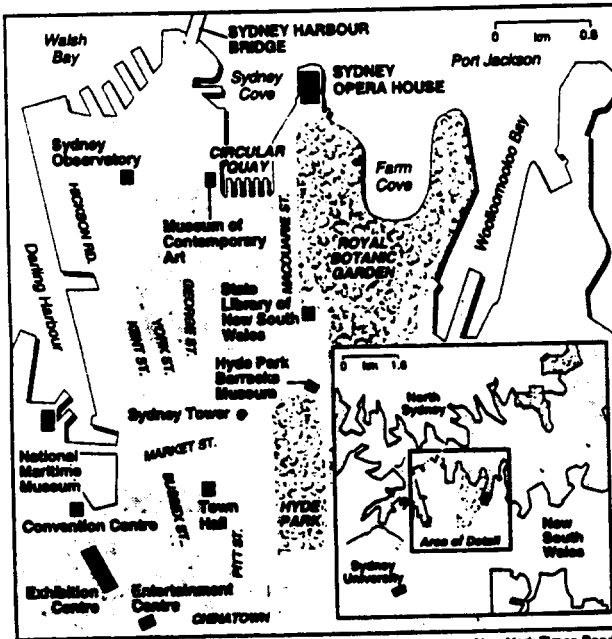
Guided tours of the Sydney Opera House take place daily (except Christmas Day and Good Friday) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$7.50 (Cdn) for adults and \$5 for children. Backstage tours are on Sundays only and cost about \$11. For information in Sydney call 250-7111 (011-61-2/250-7111 from North America).

Tickets for performances in the Opera House can be obtained by contacting the Sydney Opera House Box Office, P.O. Box R239 Royal Exchange, N.S.W. 2000, Australia (tel. 011-61-2/250-7777; fax 011-61-2/251-3943) or Showbiz Bookings, c/o ATS Tours (tel. 800/423-2880 ext. 840, toll free in the U.S. and Canada).

Half-price, day-of-performance tickets are often available at the Halifax Booth (tel. 235-1412) located in Martin Place in central Sydney. These must be purchased in person and paid for with cash. Halifax also sells discounted tickets for harbour cruises.

For information on the free open-air entertainment which takes place on the patios around the Opera House every Sunday, look for the "Sunday Around the House" listing in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Hotels offering rooms with views of the Opera House include: The Stafford, 75 Harrington St., The Rocks (tel. 2/251-6711; fax 2/251-3458; \$156 (Cdn.) for a studio apartment with a full kitchen); All Seasons Harbour Rocks Hotel, 34-62 Harrington St., Centra Hotel North Sydney, 17 Blue St., North Sydney (tel. 2/855-0489; fax 2/922-3689; \$179 single or double); The Regent, Sydney, 199 George St. (tel. 2/238-0000; fax 2/251-2851; \$248-\$345 single or double); Park Hyatt Sydney, 7 Hickson Rd., The Rocks (tel. 2/241-1234; fax 2/256-1555; \$382-\$428 single or double).



New York Times Service

Sydney-bound travellers should know that the city is overbuilt where hotels are concerned, and the published rates quoted above are only a starting point for negotiation. Ask about lower weekend rates, corporate rates, discounted rates for auto club members and special packages. If you're willing to wait and book a hotel after arriving in Sydney, the best deal is the stand-by rate available through the Travellers' Information Service (tel. 889-5111) in the international terminal at Kingsford

Smith Airport.

Dining with an Opera House view? Try the MCA Cafe in the Museum of Contemporary Art, Bilson's (upstairs in the Overseas Passenger Terminal; pricey, but great), Eliza Ble (on the water in the Overseas Passenger Terminal) or Wolfie's Restaurant Grill, The Waterfront Restaurant, Italian Village or Imperial Peking Harbourside (these four restaurants are in the historic Campbell's Storehouse in The Rocks). Request a window or patio table.



by Arthur Proudfoot

### Sad Sign Of The Times

U-Drive vehicles at one time had their names painted on the doors. But consumers rebelled and the practice ceased. Times and people change, though, and the neat U-drive bumper sticker initiated its way into the picture a few years ago. For reasons known to all, a couple of B.C. U-drive companies are removing their car decals. I always carried maple leaf decals when I travelled and would stick them on the rear window of any vehicle I rented. Since they indicated that a foreigner was at the wheel, I received courtesies normally unheard of in driving circles. It's a sad indictment of our times that a car clearly marked as a rental is a target for the criminal element. Will I dump my maple leaves? The jury's still out.

### Beats A Layover

Not a wonderful experience is that weary 17-hour layover in Hawaii when travelling north-west from some South Pacific flights. Until this changes, there is an alternative: Continue on to LAX; overnight there, and fly to Canada the following day. Qantas delivered my sleepy warm frame into the hands of the Hawaiians at 8.45 a.m. as scheduled. There I joined a mass of Japanese tourists newly arrived with JAL. Together, we waited patiently for attention by U.S. immigration. After that, it's off to U.S. Customs, then pick up checked baggage and hand it over to the Qantas "lady in red." She is well accustomed, ragged, sometimes squirrelly, weary people. With all responsibility handed over and the baggage on her shoulders (not literally), decisions now have to be made as to what kind of a meal will sit comfortably in a digestive tract that has no idea that it has crossed a date line in the dark.

### A Boost For Sydney

Great news that Sydney will get the Olympics in the year 2000. I happened to be in the Qantas Vancouver office celebrating its soft-opening at the time of the announcement. Qantas VPR Richard Porter came to town specially for the occa-

sion and sales manager Bill Duplak presided. Graham Wackett, chief executive of Southern Pacific Hotels, had a lot to say about the historic occasion in a release: "While there has been a massive explosion in the number of hotel rooms on offer throughout Australia, corporate travel has declined and consequently

room rates have fallen significantly in real terms. Over the next several years that pattern should be reversed." He went on to say that new hotels being built over the next few years would be unlikely, hence a gradual increase in rates to a more realistic level. Why do I feel that the Sydney Olympic experience will be a supreme

one, as was the Los Angeles effort?

### Quick Picks Agents

Quick Shuttle, A Vancouver-based motorcoach operator, relies on travel agents for 80 per cent of its business. Barry Keys, the president and CEO who runs and administers his fleet of 12, broke this news to me at a re-

cent travel show when I asked him what value he put on the retail agent. Eighty per cent is a lot of revenue coming out of this part of the community for bus seat sales! Keys agrees. Quick Shuttle is one of those services that came along at a time when there was a need. Travellers out of U.S. airports could take a

*Continued on Page 29*

## FROM THE WEST

### (1024) From The West

*Continued from Page 25*  
Greyhound bus, but not to the airport door. Starting with one vehicle, the business has grown the past six years, carrying people to and from the airports of Birmingham and Seattle.

### Viva Las Vegas

From Nov. 28 through Dec. 23, travel agents can stay in the

New Las Vegas Mirage Hotel for US\$39 a night. The offer is good only for bona fide agents, and suitable identification will be asked for on arrival. In Canadian dollars, this figures out at \$52, unless the dollar weakens even more in the next couple of weeks. Still a great buy, and an affordable chance to see Vegas's best and more.

### Waikiki Gets New Hotel

Opening in Hawaii is the

Royal Garden Hotel in Waikiki, with a US\$76 night a rate through to official opening date on Dec. 1. Included in the rate is continental breakfast. Call 800-367-5666, remembering that 9 a.m. in Vancouver is the shank of the morning at 6 a.m. in Hawaii. Adjust accordingly throughout the country. Those in suites and on the executive floor get the same breakfast as well as cocktails while watching the sun set from the 22nd floor.

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# Australian nights

## Bargains for backpackers Down Under at hostels

By Lucy Ives  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

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Advice  
budget

**B**udget travelers in Australia are faced with two challenges: having to cover vast distances just to reach the country and then covering more vast distances to travel around it.

Nonetheless, in a recent study the Australian Tourist Commission found that visiting backpackers were spending \$155 million (U.S.) per year in the country. Their adventure is made easier

about 160 independent hostels. The cost of a bed in a dormitory room for either network starts at about \$10 Australian (\$7 U.S.) per night. Many hostels have twin and double rooms at slightly higher rates.

Both hostel networks provide guides with addresses, maps, membership information and discounts for other services (such as transportation). Copies are available from the Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067; telephone 310-552-1988.

iginal: it means "white fellow's hole in the ground." The heat often is so intense that many of the homes, hotels, motels and businesses here have been built underground.

Budget travelers here can stay underground at Radzka's Dogout Hostel (telephone 082-72-5225), next to the underground Catholic Church.

Another of the most popular sites in Australia is Ayers Rock, a monolith boulder whose above-ground section stretches 2.23 miles. It's an important cultural site for the aborigines, who call it Uluru.

Visitors like to climb the rock (its summit is 1,141 feet), learn about the aboriginal sacred sites at its base and enjoy its colorful sunsets. There isn't an international hotel in the surrounding Uluru National Park but the Aus-

tralian Youth Hostels Association recommends bunkhouse accommodations at the Red Center Hotel (telephone 089-069-622), 12 miles from Ayers Rock. The hotel is on the bus route.

Wildlife lovers might want to head down to Kangaroo Island, 89 miles south of Adelaide. Koalas can be spotted in treetops and there are so many kangaroos that park picnic areas have fences around the tables to keep the koalas a safe distance from the food.

The island's Seal Bay is another fascinating site where visitors, accompanied by park rangers, can approach the friendly creatures on the beach.

The island is reached by ferry from Cape Jervis, near Adelaide. The 40-bed privately owned Peninsular Youth Hostel (telephone 0846-31284) has a courtesy bus that meets travelers at the dock.

Information also is available from YHA, GPO Box 5276, Sydney, New South Wales 2001, Australia; fax 011-61-2-901-1989. And from Backpackers Resorts Australia, Box 1000, Byron Bay, New South Wales 2481, Australia; fax 011-61-61-64-7100. (The leaflet produced by Backpackers Resorts includes accommodations listings for Fiji, Hawaii and Papua New Guinea.)

The Australian Tourist Commission also has Destination Australia, a 126-page free magazine to help plan your visit. It includes information on budget accommodations and transportation. Copies are available by calling 800-535-0282.

Some destination highlights: One of the most unusual towns in Australia is Coober Pedy, on the Stuart Highway, 534 miles north of Adelaide, on the bus route to Alice Springs. The name is abori-



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# 9/10/24 Backpackers spend big bucks Down Under

By DENNIS PASSA  
The Canadian Press

**BRISBANE, Australia** — Backpackers may be known for travelling economy-style, but in Australia their spending is making a big impact.

Although other tourists spend more on a daily basis — including those that avail themselves of five-star hotels and expensive meals — the backpackers actually inject more into the Australian tourism economy.

"Because they stay longer, the backpackers each spend on average \$3,267 (about \$2,775 Cdn) — almost double the amount other international holidayers spend in Australia during their stay," says Ken Rosebery, chief executive of the Queensland state Tourist and Travel Corp.

The average international holidayer in Australia spends \$1,579 (about \$1,345 Cdn), said Rosebery.

Government figures show that in 1992, Queensland played host to about 70 per cent of the 165,000 backpackers that visited Australia. Many remain in the country for two or three months.

"Backpackers are very important to our regional areas because they take the time to get

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## Aussie notebook

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to the hard-to-reach places," said Rosebery.

Queensland Rail will soon introduce a new train aimed at snaring backpackers off the buses.

## National gallery

Canadian visitors to Australia's national capital may want to include the National Gallery in Canberra on their next trip Down Under.

In mid-October the gallery, which has more than 93,000 works of art, was named the country's best tourist attraction.

The Australian Capital Territory won four Australian Tourism Awards during a gala awards evening in Hobart, Tasmania, that concluded the Australian Tourism Conference.

Canberra's Floriade Spring Festival was judged the best special event; the Capital Parkroyal was named best hotel-motel; and the Bungendore Wood Works Gallery won for tourism retailing.

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# Australia realizes backpackers' worth

By DENNIS PASSA  
The Canadian Press

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"Backpackers are very important to our regional areas because they take the time to get to the hard-to-reach places," said Rosebery.

Queensland Rail will soon introduce a new train aimed at snaring backpackers off the

buses. The "disco train," as it has been nicknamed, will travel between Brisbane and Cairns and offer discount travel for young people as well as an entertainment coach with rock videos and a dance floor.

## BEST ATTRACTION

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The National Gallery beat the Gold Coast's Warner Bros. Movie World for the top attraction prize.

Queensland state's Hayman Island took the prize for best resort, while Sydney's Park Hyatt Hotel was judged best international-style accommodation.

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**AUSTRALIA** / *Snubbing their noses at traditional fare, Aussies are discovering the joys of 'bush tucker' or bush food. Or throwing another grub on the barbie*

# 544b If it moves, just eat it

BY MARGO PFEIFF  
and JIM HUTCHISON  
Special to The Globe and Mail  
Australia

**U**NTIL a few years ago if you asked an Aussie about his native cuisine, he'd likely list meat pies, pavlova (a popular dessert of meringue, whipped cream and fresh fruit) and vegemite sandwiches. So I was surprised last year when my friend invited me to dine at Ribberies, an "Australian restaurant" in the heart of Sydney.

Surprised and — when he mysteriously added they were serving one of my favourite dishes — suspicious. Now this guy knows I've spent a fair bit of time over the last decade in the Outback. He knows all the stories of my encounters with the aboriginals including the time a fellow named Bill and I came across a witchetty bush. Excited at the discovery, my mate went straight for the roots, dug them up and pried out great thick grubs, wiggling whitish worms — larvae of the giant moth — the size of a man's middle finger. He unconsciously bit off the grub's head, spat it out and swallowed the rest.

"You game?" he asked dangling a plump specimen in front of me. Arming myself with the thought that this would make a colourful addition to my already gruesome repertoire of past exotica that included stewed bear paw, sauteed jellyfish and whole baby spider crabs, I chowed down. An amusing little larvae, I thought; tickles the palate with a pleasant nutty, scrambled egg sort of flavour. But the mushy texture was, frankly, gruesome. "Good tucker," Bill patted his stomach. I swear I could feel something moving around in mine. Welcome to "bush tucker" or bush food.

There was no way I was going to see witchetty grubs on the menu here, I told myself standing outside the door of this nice old 19th-century house, the tables laid with pink linen and crystal, a French chef in the kitchen. Twice.

"If we want an Australian cuisine, we need the indigenous flavours of this country. That is what makes French cuisine taste French and Thai cuisine taste Thai," says Jean-Paul Bruneteau, the French-born owner and chef as he delivers our appetizers: a half-dozen golden brown witchetty grubs which Bruneteau has gently barbecued. They are neatly nestled in a small *coolamon*, a carved wooden dish similar to those used by aboriginal women for food gathering. The ugly creatures were were miraculously transformed on the grill and gave off a hazelnut aroma, light and crispy like a small

Margo Pfeiff writes about food and travel. She lives in Westmount, Quebec.

eggroll, they were delightful.

Bruneteau opened Ribberies in December, 1991, which now offers the country's premier Outback haute cuisine. With more than a decade of experience using native Australian ingredients, Bruneteau and his partner Jennifer Dowling have been perfecting an intriguing menu that is an encyclopedia of exotic flavours: a salad of smoked emu or pan-fried stingray; seared roo rump; flathead fillet. For desert, there is Ribberies (a delicious spicy red berry related to the clove) with clotted cream or wattle-seed pavlova.

Menus at Australian restaurants springing up around the country include a wealth of goodies from the desert, forest and sea: Morton Bay bugs from Queensland; Barramundi, one of Australia's favourite fish from the Northern Territory; Tasmanian crayfish, and Aussie lamb. Salads are tossed warragal greens — a native spinach — and sauces include bunya nuts, a favourite aboriginal food. Men clamber to the crowns of towering bunya pines, often cutting steps into the trunk to reach the cones containing the starchy nuts.

"If the French had colonized this continent," Bruneteau says, wasting no time in delivering a jab at British cooking, "Australia would have its own thriving cuisine by now."

With the increase in interest in Australian native foods over the last five years, 30 to 40 new flavours (of an estimated 30,000 types of edible bush foods) are now readily available in all the major cities across Australia. Restaurants are taking advantage of the availability and experimenting.

At the award winning Tai Hung Tol Chinese restaurant in Darwin, Szechwan crocodile was prepared with a fiery sauce and at the Gajudju Crocodile Hotel in Kakadu National Park — a hotel built in the shape of a crocodile — I sampled a mild but tasty crocodile paté. Crocodile is low in fat and cholesterol with the texture of chicken and a flavour similar to veal. Like most game, kangaroo is also a healthy alternative to beef and reaches its culinary peak at Maggie Beer's Pheasant Farm restaurant in the rolling countryside of South Australia's Barossa Valley wine-growing region. Voted one of the country's three best restaurants in 1989, her gum-smoked kangaroo is dark and tender, perfect in the company of one of the Barossa's full-bodied red wines. Overlooking a tranquil trout pond at the elegant country restaurant we also sampled rabbit sausage in pastry with sorrel sauce, pan-fried saddle of kangaroo and tender wild pigeon. The kangaroo served in restaurants is not wild, but specially raised on game farms.

Emu is also flying off the Aus-

tralian coat of arms and onto dinner plates across the country. Purchased wholesale from emu farms for just over \$40 (Cdn.) a kilo, Rumpole's Restaurant in Brisbane is serving emu pies, emu steak with a native pepper sauce, and emu sausage rolls. The dark meat has the rich flavour and dark colour of beef liver. The giant birds' eggs are also used for emu egg crêpes and pavlova.

Like Americans, Australians are fast-food addicts and it's not surprising bush tucker has already hit the fast-food counters. Across the tropical north, people are turning the tables on the notorious man-eating crocodiles and sinking their teeth into croc burgers and deep fried morsels called "croc croquettes". In the Northern Territory "Buff and Barra" is a kind of Antipodean surf-and-turf of roast water buffalo and barramundi, a combo that often appears on pub blackboard menus, as do camel steaks. Camel has also found its way into the Great Aussie Meat Pie which will soon be making an appearance at Australian rules football games.

With the explosion of interest in bush tucker, Australia's bookstores now offer a wide selection of cookbooks with recipes for such dishes as Bogong moth in cream sauce, and black nightshade flan. There is even a television series called *The Bush Tucker Man* hosted by Les Hiddens, an army major who is a leading expert on edible plants.

"Tucker trips" are some of the most popular expeditions for both domestic and overseas tourists throughout the tropical north and in the Outback around Alice Springs. People actually pay good money to hunt and sample the notorious witchetty grub au naturel: eating one is a kind of down under initiation rite and tops the list for party-stopping anecdotes.

To find out what these bush tucker trips were like I boarded a small plane in the Northern Territory capital of Darwin for the 20 minute, 80-kilometre flight north to Bathurst Island. Bumping over pot-holed roads, my guide Michael and I stopped at the homes of Kerri-Anne and Mary-Margaret, Tiwi Islanders, who were waiting with buckets, axes, and shovels to take us foraging. By the time we arrived at the boat that would take us to a favourite mangrove forest on nearby uninhabited Buchanan Island, our group had mushroomed to include a handful of relatives and children with time on their hands, all keen to be off for a bush picnic.

"Watch out for big lizards," Michael warns only half jokingly as we jump out of our boat into the thigh deep, crystal clear, crocodile-rich waters of the Arafura Sea. We walk a kilometre across white sand to reach the island's fringe of mangrove swamp. From the excitement and chatter of my companions you

Freshly barbecued witchetty grubs nestled on a bed of shredded greens and served in a coolamon, an aboriginal wooden bowl. Below, setting out on a bush tucker expedition on Bathurst Island.

Photos by Margo Pfeiff and Jim Hutchison

would never guess that sinking knee deep into sulphurous mud with sandflies and mosquitoes making bush tucker out of my legs in the sweltering heat is the least bit unpleasant: to the Tiwi Islanders, mangroves are an outdoor supermarket stocked with shells, crabs, fishes and their favourite, mangrove worms. Soft-spoken and shy, elderly Mary-Margaret wields an axe with the muscle of a lumberjack, shattering fallen tree trunks in a single blow. She's barely done before everyone scrambles for a chunk of wood, drawing out and gobbling up the slippery whitish mangrove worms that have tunneled inside.

Meanwhile, Kerri-Anne has stoked a campfire beneath the canopy of a shade tree. Quickly boiled, the mud crabs we have coaxed out of watery holes taste like Florida stone crabs. The big hit with the kids were "long bums", conical shells they had gathered from the swamp floor. The meat inside is pulled hot from the shells with a bent twig after a roasting in the ashes. The consistency of calamari, they have a flavour similar to mussels. All I could think of was how sensational they would be in the company of garlic butter and fresh crusty bread and the children whined for more as though they were candy. The mangrove worms — once I got past their appearance — tasted like fresh salty oysters on the half shell though a big gritty with mud. But, I'm certain not even Bruneteau with his magic whisk could transform "yurli" worms into dinner table fare. I've been wrong before.

"Wattle it be?" jokes Vic Cherikoff, owner of the small Wattle Seed Deli near Sydney's Chinatown. On my last day in Sydney I dropped in to see Cherikoff who supplies more than 40 restaurants across Australia with their bush tucker. We sipped wattle cappuccinos made from the ground and roasted wattle seeds in the deli-style health food shop, and nibbled a white chocolate wattle truffle. The wattle (acacia) was of the most important trees to the aboriginals and grows across Australia; it was so valuable that aboriginals went to war over it. With a flavour that is a combination of carob and hazelnut, wattle is the most popular of Australian bush tucker and one of the few that is being commercially grown. Qantas Airways is now serving wattle-seed ice cream in first class.

To stock his Bush Tucker Supply company, Cherikoff pays dozens of aboriginal families across the country to gather native ingredients and encourages them to start up small-scale growing operations so that they can benefit from the knowledge they have shared; he himself garners about \$10,000 worth of bush tucker from "ornamental" trees and bushes throughout downtown Sydney. "We've really just begun experimenting with food from our own backyard," says Cherikoff. "There are hundreds of new flavours out there waiting to be discovered."



## IF YOU GO

For information and brochures contact the Australian Tourist Commission for their guide to aboriginal tours, arts and crafts. Come Share Our Culture. Some of the Tiwi Island expeditions include full day trips for about \$260 (Cdn.) per person including airfare from Darwin. During the dry season from May to November small groups spend two, three or five days at Putjimirra Safari Camp on Melville Island to search for wild honey or collect turtle eggs. Airfare, all meals and accommodation for the two, three or five-day stays range from \$570 to \$1250.

Out of the Ayers Rock Resort at Alice Springs take a walk with aboriginal conservation commission rangers on an Edible Desert tour for \$40. From Alice Springs fly into the Outback for three, six or 10-day camping tours with the Pitjantjatjara desert people to collect and prepare bush foods and join in traditional songs and dances.

Vic Cherikoff leads Bush Tucker Tours of various lengths departing from Sydney. He hosts everything from an intensive bush skills week-

end for \$170 per person to a 10-day North Coast rainforest tour in April.

For more details contact: Vic Cherikoff, Bush Tucker Tours, P.O. Box B 303, Boronia Park, New South Wales 2111, Australia. Phone: (02) 816-3361.

**BUSH TUCKER DINING:** Here is a sampling of some of the more popular restaurants:

Gagudja Crocodile Hotel in Kakadu National Park, LB 4, Post Office Agency, Jabiru, Northern Territory. Phone: (089) 79-2666.

Bradshaw Room, Mella Alice Springs Hotel, Barrett Drive, Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Phone: (089) 528-000.

Pheasant Farm Restaurant, Near Nurrulooka, Barroosa Valley, South Australia. Phone: (085) 621-266.

Rumpole's Restaurant, North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland. Phone: (07) 236-2677.

Riberries, 411 Bourke Street, Darlinghurst, New South Wales. Phone: (02) 361-4929.

Wattle Seed Deli, 37 Ultimo Rd., Ultimo, New South Wales. Phone: (02) 281-6532

**U.S.  
PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS**

► **SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART** — "ArtExpress — Art from Downunder," works by high school seniors from New South Wales, Australia. Through Wednesday. Displayed at Spectrum Gallery, 511 Harrison St., San Francisco. "Max Beckmann Prints from the Museum of Modern Art." Through Nov. 14. "Preserving a Modern Masterpiece: The Conservation of a Motherwell." Through Nov. 28. "Judith Joy Ross," her first solo museum show. Through Nov. 28. "The Elise S. Haas Collection." Through Nov. 28. "John Hearfield: Photomontages," through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. First Tuesday of the month is free; reduced admission after 5 p.m. Thursdays. Van Ness Avenue and McAllister Street. 863-8800.

Oct 10

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## EDITORIALS

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### Sydney Week

**"SYDNEY WEEK,"** celebrating the silver anniversary of the San Francisco-Sydney sister city relationship is under way, and the occasion represents a first-class example of a long-term commitment toward goodwill between two cities on opposite sides of the world.

A highlight of the celebration here is the opening today of ARTEXPRESS, an exhibition of art by young people of New South Wales, Australia, at the Spectrum Gallery. Representatives of San Francisco and Sydney travel, of course, back and forth throughout the year to exchange political, social and cultural courtesies. But this week's observance gives us a chance to honor a special connection.

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# Aborigines involved in tourism

Knight-Ridder Service *WTS*

In Australia's 600,000-square-mile Northern Territory, where only 175,000 people live, tourism has boomed in the last 20 years. The territory, much of which has been returned to Aboriginal ownership, is the site of some of the country's most dramatic scenery.

"But Aborigines were often the objects of the tourism rather than active participants," said Bill Baker, regional director, the Americas, for the Australian Tourist Commission.

Over the last decade, Aboriginal operators have slowly entered the tourism market. But they were excluded or confined to lower-level jobs.

Now, however, Australian Aborigines are starting to take a bigger piece of the \$50 million Aboriginal tourism industry. A group of them was in Chicago recently to make that point to the U.S. travel industry.

Aborigines, said Baker, "face many problems, not the least of which is a history of negative Aboriginal stereotyping by the broader Australian and international communities."

Ownership of Northern Territory land has helped encourage Aborigines to move into the tour market. Of the 50 so-called Aboriginal tours operated in the Northern Territory, 10 are run by Aborigines, according to the commission. An estimated 20 tourist-related companies are now operated by Aborigines.

"In the past, a lot of safaris

have been owned by non-Aborigines but were calling themselves Aboriginal tours," said Brian Rooke, who, with his wife, Phyllis Wilson, owns and operates Umorrduk Safaris, based in Darwin. For \$220 a day plus air fare, Rooke takes tourists to the bush country of western Arnhem Land, a one-hour flight by light aircraft from Darwin, home of the Gummulkbun Aboriginal clan.

Rooke is among 17 representatives of Aboriginal tour companies who are traveling in the U.S. hoping to lure business.

Rooke, 42, is descended from Aborigines in Tasmania, and Wilson is a Gummulkbun. Until four years ago Rooke operated a gardening business in Darwin.

"I loved going into the bush," he said, "and I was looking for a way to earn a living there."

Harold Wilson, 25, town clerk of Peppimenarti, a community of 220 people, became the operator of his clan's tour business a year ago.

Peppimenarti was established in 1973 as a "cattle station," an Australian term for a ranch. "Now it's a community," said Wilson. "We set up the (tour) business three years ago as a means of self-determination. Aboriginal people want to be independent."

The tours have been "pretty busy" the last year, Wilson said, but "it's going to have to take a while for it to really get going. It's like any new small business."

One impetus for the sprouting of Aboriginal tour businesses came from the cattle industry. Beef importers in the U.S. and other countries charged that some buffalo in Australia were infected with bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, which could spread to cattle.

"In our area, a source of income for the clan was from working in the program for testing cattle in the 1980s. When that finished, they needed to look around for an alternative," Rooke said.

Some clans considered min-

ing and tourism.

"Fortunately for everybody, they chose tourism," said Rooke. "That wouldn't have as much impact on the culture, the environment, particularly if the tourism was on a small scale."

Bill Harney, 62, who operates a business building fences for government installations and cattle ranches, started Jankangyina Tours in 1988, taking visitors on camping trips in what's called the Land of the Lightning Brothers, whose clashes, according to legend, established the seasonal cycles of storms and droughts.

Harney, who was raised in a rock shelter and never attended a school, says the business lets him "share my culture with white people" when he guides them on a trip.

Rocky Mountain News

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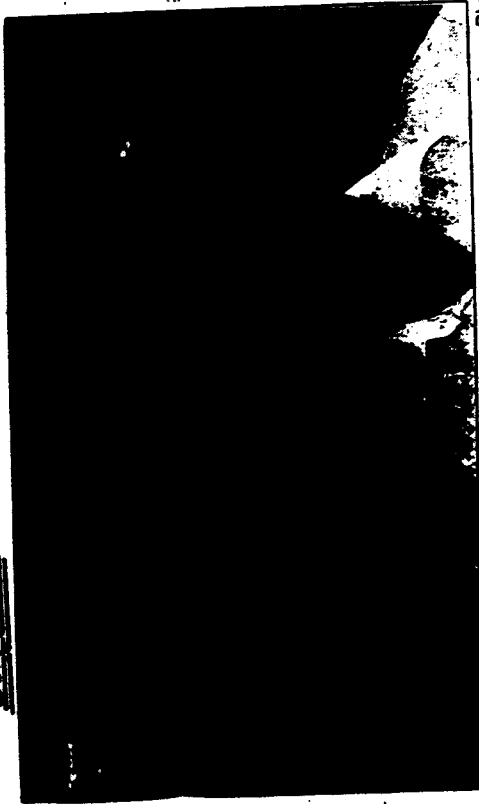
**BURRELLE'S**

# Journeying to global villages

*Tips ease the way  
for travelers visiting  
indigenous cultures*

By Laura Bly 6675

At a recent international conference on the promises and pitfalls of indigenous tourism, Australian Chris Burchett told the story of an Alice Springs tour group that had signed up for an aboriginal performance after reading a brochure that touted the "haunting strains of the didgeridoo."



Laura Bly

Tour leader Bill Harney in front of aboriginal rock painting in Australia's northern territory.

The trouble was, the long, hollow musical instrument is carved from trees that don't grow near Alice Springs. It isn't considered part of the local aboriginal culture, and therefore wasn't included in the program.

"So, right in the middle of the dance, two busloads of tourists got up and walked out," recalled Burchett, director of cultural affairs for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission in Darwin.

"They came to hear a didgeridoo. And when they didn't, they said (the performance) was a sham."

When the United Nations tagged 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, it focused new attention on the economic and cultural plight of more than 300 million indigenous and tribal people living in 70 countries.

At the same time, the U.N. declaration has spotlighted the often-troubled encounters between First World tourists and Third World native cultures.

"By and large, tourism has been devastating to indigenous people," says Robert Leavitt, education director for Cultural Survival, a Cambridge, Mass.-based human rights organization that focuses on native culture.

"More and more people are looking for what they think is an 'authentic' cultural experience, but what we're seeing are facades put up to manufacture that authenticity," Leavitt adds. "It's been going on for decades in Hawaii and the Caribbean, and now it's global as well."

Getting past those facades is a difficult, sometimes treacherous passage both for native cultures and the tourists who come to admire and learn from them. Here are some suggestions for smoothing the journey:

■ **Don't let your own curiosity become invasive.** Each November thousands of tourists head for the small volcanic island of Janitzio, near the colonial Mexican town of Patzcuaro. There Purepecha Indians celebrate the Day of the Dead with a poignant, all-night vigil that combines Catholicism with the pre-Hispanic beliefs of their ancestors. And there, those same tourists have turned vigil into carnival — trampling on graves, swigging beer and sticking camcorders into worshippers' faces.

Not every breach of cultural privacy is as blatant as that at Janitzio. Sometimes, it's as seemingly innocent as asking questions about long-held, carefully guarded beliefs — and expecting answers that might better come from pre-trip research.

■ **Respect restrictions on photography and other visitor access.** Many native cultures request visitors not to take photographs or make sketches of sacred sites or celebrations — a request that, in some cases, may be backed up with confiscation of the offending camera.

Even if you're not taking photos, be considerate of a site's spiritual or historical significance by tailoring

your own behavior to that of your hosts.

In Australia's Northern Territory, for example, participants on some aboriginal tours are separated into men's and women's groups because the knowledge presented is sex-specific. On other aboriginal programs, visitors are taken to areas of special significance but are requested not to photograph or even talk about what they've seen.

■ **Find out who benefits from, and decides the nature of, your visit.** Among the questions the San Anselmo, Calif.-based Center for Responsible Tourism recommends asking potential tour operators: What percentage of the trip cost stays in the community you visit? Does the tour's pacing allow time to create or accept opportunities to interact with local people? Is there a pre-trip orientation program? Most important, how much input and control does the local culture have over the conditions of your visit?

■ **Don't impose your own standards of "authenticity."** "Escaping to a civilization that has never seen raisins dance on TV or a Liz Claiborne label fascinates me," humorist Erma Bombeck once wrote. "If I wanted to drink the water, speak English and eat Italian, I'd stay home."

Honorable sentiments, to be sure. But in the global village of MTV, CNN and *Terminator* videos, it's hard to imagine many places whose residents haven't seen dancing raisins — or, thanks to visiting tourists, a pair of designer jeans.

As a result, you shouldn't expect your hosts to look as though they stepped out of the pages of a tattered *National Geographic* — and if they do, recognize what the exchange is meant to achieve.

Robertson Collins, of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, cites the Trans-Niugini Tour in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, as an example of a tour that works both ways.

"There is an awareness on both sides that they are putting on a show," Collins says. "But, as it should be, there is a limit on our welcome; they show what they want to show."

"There may be blue jeans in the back of the house, but when (the villagers) are elaborately dressed, they are wearing the clothes they still wear for ceremonial events. Further, the money they all earn goes to buy a new outboard engine for their market-canoe."

■ **Travel in a low-key manner.** By their very nature — small groups, off-the-beaten-track locations — many tours that concentrate on indigenous cultures tend to be expensive. All the more reason for those often wealthy tourists to journey as unobtrusively and undemandingly as possible, says director Virginia Hadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism.

Laura Bly is travel editor of the Orange County Register. Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate. 1

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Delmo Craft

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BURRELLE'S

# Aborigines are becoming active in Aussie tourism

6675  
By STEVEN MORRIS  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In Australia's 600,000-square-mile Northern Territory, where only 175,000 people live, tourism has boomed in the last 20 years. The territory, much of which has been returned to Aboriginal ownership, is the site of some of the country's most dramatic scenery.

"But Aborigines were often the objects of the tourism rather than active participants," said Bill Baker, regional director, the Americas, for the Australian Tourist Commission.

Over the last decade, Aboriginal operators have slowly entered the tourism market. But they were excluded or confined to lower-level jobs.

Now, however, Australian Aborigines are starting to take a bigger piece of the \$50 million Aboriginal tourism industry. A group of them was in Chicago recently to make that point to the U.S. travel industry.

Aborigines, said Baker, "face many problems, not the least of which is a history of negative Aboriginal stereotyping by the broader Australian and international communities."

Ownership of Northern Territory land has helped encourage Aborigines to move into the tour market. Of the 50 so-called Aboriginal tours operated in the Northern Territory, 10 are run by Aborigines, according to the commission. An estimated 20 tourist-related companies are now operated by Aborigines.

"In the past, a lot of safaris have been owned by non-Aborigines but were calling themselves Aboriginal tours," said Brian Rooke, who, with his wife, Phyllis Wilson, owns and operates Umorrduk Safaris, based in Darwin. For \$220 a day plus air fare, Rooke takes tourists to the bush country of western Arnhem Land, a one-hour flight by light aircraft from Darwin, home of the Gummulkbun Aboriginal clan.

Rooke is among 17 representatives of Aboriginal tour companies who are traveling in the U.S. hoping to lure business.

Rooke, 42, is descended from Aborigines in Tasmania; and Wilson is a Gummulkbun. Until four years ago Rooke operated a gardening business in Darwin.

"I loved going into the bush," he said, "and I was looking for a way to earn a living there."

His business is "the only Aborigi-

nal-owned safari in Arnhem Land," he said. "We employ members of the community as guides, and the community gets a fee for the rights to operate tours there."

Harold Wilson, 25, town clerk of Peppimenarti, a community of 220 people, became the operator of his clan's tour business a year ago.

Peppimenarti was established in 1973 as a "cattle station," an Australian term for a ranch. "Now it's a community," said Wilson. "We set up the (tour) business three years ago as a means of self-determination. Aboriginal people want to be independent."

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"In our area, a source of income for the clan was from working in the program for testing cattle in the 1960s. When that finished, they needed to look around for an alternative," Rooke said.

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Harney, who was raised in a rock shelter and never attended a school, says the business lets him "share my culture with white people" when he guides them on a trip.

Manual Pamkal, 28, is a senior guide for Manyallaluk Tours, operated by the Manyallaluk clan, of which he is president.

The business, he said, "is good for the children's future. We don't want to lose our future. Also, it's good for our people. We can employ our people to work in our land."

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# When visiting indigenous cultures, tread softly

By LAURA BLY  
of Universal Press

At a recent international conference on the promises and pitfalls of indigenous tourism, Australian Chris Burchett told the story of an Alice Springs tour group that had signed up for an Aboriginal performance after reading a brochure that touted the "haunting strains of the didgeridoo."

The trouble was, the long, hollow musical instrument is carved from trees that

don't grow near Alice Springs. It isn't considered part of the local Aboriginal culture, and therefore wasn't included in the program.

"So, right in the middle of the dance, two busloads of tourists got up and walked out," recalled Burchett, director of cultural affairs for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission in Darwin, Australia.

"They came to hear a didgeridoo. And when they didn't, they said [the performance] was a sham."

## Center of attention

When the United Nations tagged 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, it focused new attention on the economic and cultural plight of more than 300 million indigenous and tribal people living in 70 countries.

At the same time, the U.N. declaration has spotlighted the often-troubled encounters between First World tourists and Third World native cultures.

"By and large, tourism has been devas-

tating to indigenous people," says Robert Leavitt, education director for Cultural Survival, a Cambridge, Mass.-based human rights organization that focuses on native culture.

"More and more people are looking for what they think is an 'authentic' cultural experience, but what we're seeing are facades put up to manufacture that authenticity," Leavitt adds. "It's been going on for decades in Hawaii and the Caribbe-

See BE, Page 8

# Be sensitive when visiting native people

From Page 1

an, and now it's global as well."

Getting past those facades is a difficult, sometimes treacherous passage both for native cultures and the tourists who come to admire and learn from them.

## Smooth the journey

Here are some suggestions for smoothing the journey:

- Don't let your own curiosity

vacy is as blatant as that at Janitzio. Sometimes, it's as seemingly innocent as asking questions about long-held, carefully guarded beliefs — and expecting answers that might better come from pre-trip research.

"Good tourism must create and protect pride and privacy," says Robertson Collins, a Singapore-based consultant with the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

■ Respect restrictions on photography and other visitor access. Many native cultures request visitors not to take photographs or

make sketches of sacred sites or celebrations — a request that, in some cases, may be backed up with confiscation of the offending camera.

Even if you're not taking photographs, be considerate of a site's spiritual or historical significance by tailoring your own behavior to that of your hosts.

In Australia's Northern Territory, for example, participants on some Aboriginal tours are separated

See VISIT, Page 9

# Visit, don't invade, native cultures

From Page 8

into men's and women's groups because the knowledge presented is sex-specific. On other Aboriginal programs, visitors are taken to areas of special significance but are requested not to photograph or even talk about what they've seen.

Find out who benefits from, and decides the nature of, your visit. Among the questions the San Anselmo, Calif.-based Center for Responsible Tourism recommends asking potential tour operators: What percentage of the trip cost stays in the community you visit? Does the tour's pacing allow time to create or accept opportunities to interact with local people? Is there a pre-trip orientation program? Most important, how much input and control does the local culture have over the conditions of your visit?

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Honorable sentiments, to be sure. But in the global village of MTV, CNN and "Terminator," it's hard to imagine many places whose residents haven't seen dancing rainforests — or, thanks to visiting tourists, a pair of designer jeans.

As a result, you shouldn't expect your hosts to look as though they stepped out of the pages of a National Geographic — and if they do, recognize what the exchange is meant to achieve.

Collins, of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, cites the Trans-Niugini Tour in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, as an example of a tour that works both ways.

"There is an awareness on both sides that they are putting on a show," Collins says. "But, as it should be, there is a limit on our welcome; they show what they want to show."

"There may be blue jeans in the back of the house, but when [the villagers] are elaborately dressed, they are wearing the clothes they still wear for ceremonial events," he adds. "Further, the money they all earn goes to buy a new outboard engine for their market-canoe."

Travel in a low-key manner. By their very nature — small groups, off-the-beaten-track locations — many tours that concentrate on indigenous cultures tend to be expensive. All the more reason for those often wealthy tourists, says director Virginia Hadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism, to journey as unobtrusively and unobtrusively as possible.

# Tourists' cultural baggage clashes with 'authentic experience'

6675

By Laura By

Universal Press Syndicate

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Getting past those facades is a difficult, sometimes treacherous passage both for native cultures and the tourists who come to admire and learn from them.

However, there are ways smooth the journey. Here are some of them:

■ Don't let your own curiosity become invasive. Each November thousands of tourists head for the small volcanic island of Jauitzio, near the colonial Mexican town of Patzcuaro. There Purepecha Indians celebrate the Days of the Dead with a poignant, all-night vigil that combines Catholicism with the pre-Hispanic beliefs of their ancestors. And there, those same tourists have turned vigil into carnival — trampling on graves, swigging beer and sticking camcorders into worshippers' faces.

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Please see Tourist, Page C15



Laura By  
Harnsey leads a tour to an Aboriginal painting in Australia's Northern Territory.

# Tourist

Continued from C12 F

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## Groups cash in on indigenous culture tours

By Laura Bly *6675*  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Getting to Capirona in the Ecuadoran jungle isn't easy.

Accessible only by foot, it requires a two- to four-hour slog through dense jungle — while wearing a backpack and knee-high rubber boots.

But the handful of hardy travelers who make the journey come away with more than sore feet. They're part of a new experiment in cultural exchange.

Capirona, a remote village of 24 Quichua Indian families, has created one of the world's few indigenously owned and operated tourism programs. Conceived as an alternative to oil, lumber and mining interests that have exploited the region, the 3-year-old project has attracted attention from other tribes.

Interest in native cultures is booming — and a growing number of mainstream travel companies are in on the trend.

In Alaska, representatives of the state's four largest native cultures formed an Alaska Native Tourism Council late last year to promote several tours.

Australia's Northern Territory provides a "Come Share Our Culture" brochure emphasizing Aboriginal programs and tours. (Information: 800-468-8222.)

And in the American Southwest, major tour companies such as Globus-Gateway (800-851-0728), Maupintour (800-255-4266) and Special Expeditions (800-762-0003) have launched programs focusing on Native Americans.

### Resources

► Center for Responsible Tourism (415-258-6594), a California nonprofit, is dedicated to improving awareness about Third World tourism. For free information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Box 827, San Anselmo, Calif. 94979.

► Cultural Survival, a human-rights organization, specializes in native cultures. 215 First St., Cambridge, Mass. 02142; 617-621-3818.

► "Handle With Care: A Guide to Responsible Travel in Developing Countries" by Scott Graham (Noble Press, \$8.95) addresses sticky issues such as traveling to countries with repressive governments.

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# Aborigines take active role in selling Australian tourism

By Steven Morris  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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In Australia's 600,000-square-mile Northern Territory, where only 175,000 people live, tourism has boomed in the last 20 years. The territory, much of which has been returned to Aboriginal ownership, is the site of some of the country's most dramatic scenery.

"But Aborigines were often the objects of the tourism rather than active participants," said Bill Baker, regional director, the Americas, for the Australian Tourist Commission.

Over the last decade, Aboriginal operators have slowly entered the tourism market. But they were excluded or confined to lower-level jobs.

Now, however, Australian Aborigines are starting to take a bigger piece of the \$50 million Aboriginal tourism industry. A group of them was in Chicago recently to make that point to the U.S. travel industry.

Aborigines, said Baker, "face many problems, not the least of which is a history of negative Aboriginal stereotyping by the broader Australian and international communities."

Ownership of Northern Territory land has helped encourage Aborigines to move into the tour market. Of the 50 so-called Aboriginal tours operated in the Northern Territory, 10 are run by Aborigines, according to the commission. An estimated 20 tourist-related companies are now operated by Aborigines.

"In the past, a lot of safaris have been owned by non-Aborigines but were calling themselves Aboriginal tours," said Brian Rooke, who, with his wife, Phyllis Wilson, owns and operates

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**"I loved going into the bush and I was looking for a way to earn a living there."**

**— Brian Rooke,  
travel business owner**

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Umorrduk Safaris, based in Darwin. For \$220 a day plus air fare, Rooke takes tourists to the bush country of western Arnhem Land, a one-hour flight by light aircraft from Darwin, home of the Gummulkbun Aboriginal clan.

Rooke is among 17 representatives of Aboriginal tour companies who are traveling in the U.S. hoping to lure business.

Rooke, 42, is descended from Aborigines in Tasmania, and Wilson is a Gummulkbun. Until four years ago Rooke operated a gardening business in Darwin.

"I loved going into the bush," he said, "and I was looking for a way to earn a living there."

His business is "the only Aboriginal-owned safari in Arnhem Land," he said. "We employ members of the community as guides, and the community gets a fee for the rights to operate tours there."

Harold Wilson, 25, town clerk of Peppimenarti, a community of 220 people, became the operator of his clan's tour business a year ago.

Peppimenarti was established in 1973 as a "cattle station," an Australian term for a ranch. "Now it's a community," said Wilson. "We set up the (tour) business three years ago as a means of self-determination. Aboriginal people want to be inde-

pendent."

The tours have been "pretty busy" the last year, Wilson said, but "it's going to have to take a while for it to really get going. It's like any new small business."

One impetus for the sprouting of Aboriginal tour businesses came from the cattle industry. Beef importers in the U.S. and other countries charged that some buffalo in Australia were infected with bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, which could spread to cattle.

"In our area, a source of income for the clan was from working in the program for testing cattle in the 1980s. When that finished, they needed to look around for an alternative," Rooke said.

Bill Harney, 62, who operates a business building fences for government installations and cattle ranches, started Jankangyina Tours in 1988, taking visitors on camping trips in what's called the Land of the Lightning Brothers, whose clashes, according to legend, established the seasonal cycles of storms and droughts.

Harney, who was raised in a rock shelter and never attended a school, says the business lets him "share my culture with white people" when he guides them on a trip.

Manual Pamkal, 28, is a senior guide for Manyallaluk Tours, operated by the Manyallaluk clan, of which he is president.

The business, he said, "is good for the children's future. We don't want to lose our future. Also, it's good for our people. We can employ our people to work in our land."

**CANADIAN  
PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS**



H 1024

# Australian natives put hopes in tourism

By Steven Morris  
Chicago Tribune

**I**N AUSTRALIA'S 1,554,000-square-kilometre Northern Territory, where only 175,000 people live, tourism has boomed in the last 20 years. The territory, much of which has been returned to Aboriginal ownership, is the site of some of the country's most dramatic scenery.

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## Negative images

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## Natives do traditional dance

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**I**N OUR area, a source of income for the clan was from working in the program for testing cattle in the 1980s. When that finished, they needed to look around for an alternative," Rooke said.

Some clans considered mining and tourism.

"Fortunately for everybody, they chose tourism," said Rooke.

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U.S.  
PHOTO / INFORMATION  
ASSISTANCE

# How to book an Australian cross-country train trip

By Terence Nolan  
New York Times Service

**Q:** I will be visiting Australia in October and I would like to know if there are any cross-country trains there and if tickets for them can be bought in the United States.

**A:** Australia is home to some of the most interesting train trips in the world, taking travelers through a continent of vast contrasts along thousands of miles of track.

Many long-distance trains offer first-class, deluxe and economy-class compartments, sleeping berths and reclining seats. Some have entertainment cars, in which a piano, video games and even slot machines are provided. And the Queensland, which goes from Brisbane to Cairns, even has a disco car called Club Loco offering dance music.

For Americans traveling to Australia there are a variety of multi-trip passes available, which must be bought in the United States. Tickets for single trips can be bought before leaving, too.

The Austrailpass gives unlimited first-class and economy travel anywhere on the Australian rail network, including electric metropolitan trains. Prices range from \$339 in economy for 14 days (\$565 in first class) to \$877 in economy for 90 days (\$1,377 in first class).

The Austrail Flexi-Pass is good for 8 days' rail travel within a period of 60 days for \$250 in economy and \$413 in first class or 15 days within 90 days for \$370 in economy and \$585 in first.

The Kangaroo Road n' Rail Pass is good for unlimited first-class and economy travel anywhere on the Australian rail network plus selected bus travel with Australian Coachlines (one class only). Passes run from \$511 in economy for 14 days (\$811 in first class) to \$897 in economy for 28 days (\$1,193 in first class).

All tickets can be ordered through Rail Australia, ATS Tours, 100 North First Street, Suite 301, Burbank, Calif. 91502; telephone (800) 423-2880 or (818) 841-1030. The agency can also arrange hotel packages.

These are some of the train trips you might want to consider:

The Indian Pacific from Sydney to Adelaide to Perth, a 65-hour journey that runs every Monday and Thursday (Tuesday and Friday in Adelaide) through most of the year.

The Ghan, from Adelaide to Alice Springs, is a 22-hour trip that runs every Thursday all year and every Monday from April to January. Named after Afghan traders whose camel trains were at one time the only link between Australia's interior and Adelaide, the 906-mile journey takes you straight to the



heart of the outback.

The Queensland goes every Sunday from Brisbane to Cairns in 32 hours, a 1,044-mile journey that stops after 19 hours at Persephone, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

**Q:** We are interested in renting a houseboat in the Florida Keys this winter. Can you give me any names and addresses of rental agencies and some idea of the cost?

**A:** Several companies in the Key Largo area would probably provide what you are looking for.

Coral Bay Houseboat Rentals, P. O. Box 1414, Islamorada, Fla. 33036, (305) 664-3111, is at mile marker 81.5 at the Coral Bay Marina on the bay side of Islamorada. Boats are restricted to a cruising radius of around 25 miles (Key Largo to the north and Long Key to the south). The

34-by-12-foot houseboats, which sleep six, have a dining booth with a couch and table that each convert into a double bed, a stateroom with a closet, a bathroom with a shower, and a hand-pumped toilet. A week's rental is \$850; three weekdays are \$450 and a three-day weekend (either Friday to Sunday or Saturday to Monday) is \$500. Rates apply all year.

Smilin' Island Houseboat Rentals, Post Office 3003, Key Largo, Fla. 33037, (305) 451-1930, is at mile marker 99.5 on the bay side at Key Largo. The boats come in two sizes, 42 feet and 52 feet. The 52 footer sleeps 10 and has central air-conditioning, television and a VCR, a microwave oven and an 11-foot Boston Whaler runabout. Rates from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15 are \$850 for a three-night weekend, \$950 for four nights at midweek and \$1,450 for seven nights. From Dec. 15 to May 15 rates go up by \$200. The rate for the 52 footer does not include fuel, which is about \$100 a week. The 52 footer can be docked only at its home marina or anchored in Florida Bay. Cruising is restricted to an area roughly within the southern boundary of the Everglades National Park.

SUNDAY PRESS-TELEGRAM

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ABOVE: A koala bear character is part of Australia Week.

RIGHT: Dennis Nona's "Ubrukubiri" — Crocodile — from the "New Tracks — Old Land" exhibit of original art at the Austral Gallery.

# G'Day To Australia Week

By Patricia Rice  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

bb75

**T**HE PEOPLE from Down Under are celebrating all over. Next Thursday, Sept. 30, marks the beginning of Australia Week with events from Potosi to Edwardsville.

This year's fifth annual celebration is the biggest one yet and, in fact, the largest in the United States, according to the Australian Consulate in New York. That's rather astounding, because the "mother" of the festival, gallery director Mary Reid Brunstrom, knows only 50 Australians living in the region. Half her committee of 15 are Americans, half are Australians.

from a cricket tournament to boomerang tossing to dances and songfests. Underlying those activities is a more serious purpose — organizers want to counter the American stereotype of Australians as bush country jackeroos and Crocodile Dundees.

"Many Australians still half believe that there is some of [Dundee] in them," said Brunstrom, who operates the Austral Gallery in Lafayette Square. "But increasing numbers of younger people, especially women, don't identify with that stereotype. The great majority of Australians live in big cities along [Australia's] east coast, we are one of the most urban countries in the world."

The first Australia week began with art exhibits, movies at Webster University and Australian music on KWMU-FM. The Australian government and Australian companies, including Quantas and XXXX The Classic Aussie Lager, back much of the event.

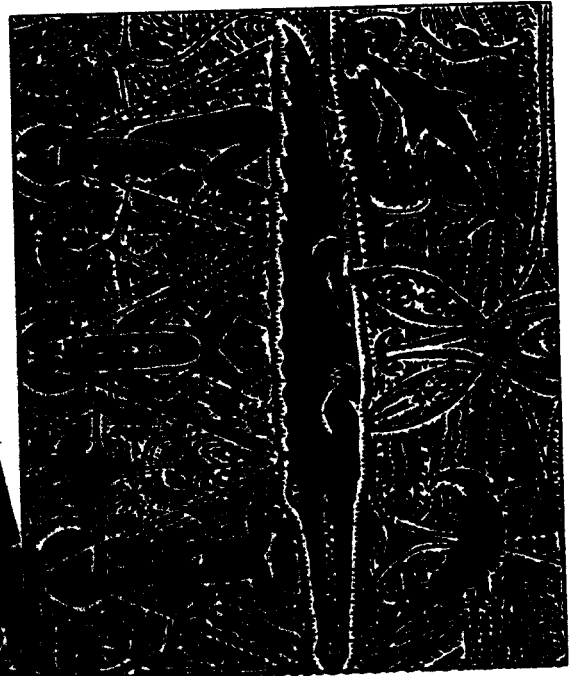
It all starts with a big G'Day next Thursday, and a talk by Australia's ambassador to the United States, Don Russell, over breakfast at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton.

On Oct. 10, a cricket tournament and picnic will be held in Forest Park. Anyone who's ever watched a cricket match knows it gets a bit weary after the first five hours or so.

Australian bush dance caller Lance Green will have people dancing on the sidelines of the cricket field at 2 p.m.

"Everyone can do the dances — our New England contra dancing and square dancing and Australian dances all derive from the same English sources," said Mary Neal, a local

See AUSTRALIA, Page 5



H

## AUSTRALIA WEEK

**Events for the fifth annual Australia Week include:**

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Friday-Saturday, Oct. 8-9:** Pub party with folk and pop music by the Traveling Wallabies and Australian meat pies, sausage rolls, fish and chips and lager. McNulty's Irish Pub and Grill, West Port Plaza, 4 p.m., with music beginning at 8 p.m. No cover charge.

**Sunday, Oct. 10:** Australian Sports Day and Picnic. Cricket teams competing for Australian Chamber of Manufacturers Cup; boomerang demonstrations and lessons; bush dancing (2-4 p.m.), vendors with Australian snacks, toy koala bears and T-shirts. Bring your own picnic. Forest Park cricket field just north of the Murny, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### MOVIES

**Continuing:** Third annual Australian film series, featuring Australian films as well as documentaries on indigenous Australians. Winifred Moore Auditorium, Webster University; \$5.

Sept. 24: "Hammers Over the Anvil," 7:30 p.m.; "Love in Limbo," 9:30

Sept. 25: "Father," 7:30 p.m.; "Death in Brunswick," 9:30

Sept. 28: "Strong Women," documentary, 8 p.m.

Sept. 30: "Global Villages," documentary, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 5:** Australia cruise travelog. Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, 7:30 p.m., free.

**Thursday, Oct. 7:** "Strictly Ballroom," 7:30 p.m. at Ridgway Center, Missouri Botanical Garden. General admission, \$3; Garden members, \$1.50.

### LECTURES

**Saturday, Oct. 2:** St. Louis engineer Daniel Talonn on rock paintings of the Wardaman people. Monsanto Lecture Theatre, Living World, St. Louis Zoo, 3 p.m. Free.

**Wednesday, Oct. 6:** Repeat of Talonn lecture. Trout Lodge, YMCA of the Ozarks, Potosi, 7:15 p.m. Free.

### EXHIBITS

**"The Seasons":** Tapestries by Australian John Coburn. University Center Gallery, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Through Oct. 15. Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Monday and Wednesday, 7-9 p.m.; Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Free.

**"A Heaven in a Wild Flower":** Australian botanical watercolors by Beryl Martin. Monsanto Hall, Missouri Botanical Garden. Through Oct. 24. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free with regular Garden admission.

**"New Tracks — Old Land":** Contemporary aborigi-

dler Greg Krone, will play with Thomas on Oct. 8 and 9 at McNulty's Irish Pub and Grill at West Port Plaza. Part of the fun will be listening for "Down Under" lyrics set to more familiar Irish airs, according to the pub's owner, Ireland native Joe Butler. Australian meat pies, sausage roles and fish and chips will be served.

**The festival** also will feature three wine tastings, a beer tasting, a screening of the Australian hit "Strictly Ballroom," a travelogue, a couple of lectures and six fine arts, photo and scientific exhibits and additional exhibits at every St. Louis County Library branch. A 13-film Australian festi-

nal prints. Austral Gallery, 2125 Park Avenue (Lafayette Square), Oct. 3-30. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. (opening reception Oct. 3, 1-3 p.m.) Free

**"Patterns of Connection":** Photography with music, works by Australian aboriginal artist King-Smith. Cecilie R. Hunt Gallery, Webster University. Through Oct. 22. Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (opening reception Oct. 1, 6-8 p.m.) Free.

**"Global Change: An American and Australian Perspective":** Exhibit on ozone layer organized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Australian Bureau of Meteorology. NOAA expert John Kermond and ABM expert Michael Koughlin will be available frequently for questions. Through Oct. 10. Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Free.

### WINE TASTINGS

**Sunday, Oct. 3:** Austral Gallery, 2115 Park Avenue. Call 822-WINE for reservations.

**Tuesday, Oct. 5:** The Wine Cellar, 8023 Clayton Avenue, 7-9 p.m. Call 863-9463.

**Friday, Oct. 6:** West End Wines, 309 Belt Avenue, 4 p.m. Call 367-3049.

val at Webster University continues through the week. Events are co-sponsored by the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Zoo, the Science Center and local universities and art galleries. Even the Dog Museum is getting into the act by featuring an Australian shepherd and an Australian terrier as Dogs of the Week.

There's even an official Australian Week T-shirt designed just for the event by aboriginal artist Ronnie Price of the town of Utopia. It can be purchased at the picnic and at other venues. □

For more information, call 342-1649.

# Australia H

### From page one

English Country dance teacher. Her husband, Bob Charity, is a native of Brisbane, Australia.

Boomerang demonstrations and a contest will be held during the picnic.

Another lively introduction this year is Australian folk music. Greg Thomas, an Australian singer and guitar player, leads the Traveling Wallabies. Two Irish lads, accordion Larry McNally and fid-

# New York Theater Season Schedule

*6675 law travel*

**Q.** We're going to New York this fall. What will be new on Broadway?

**A.** "Cyrano, The Musical" at the Neil Simon Theatre; "My Fair Lady" with Richard Chamberlain as Henry Higgins at the Virginia Theatre; "Mixed Emotions" with Katherine Helmond and Harold Gould at the Golden Theatre; "Madonna, the Girlie Show" on Oct. 14 and 15 only at Madison Square Garden. And, coming in February, "Carousel," at the Lincoln Center Theatre.

**Q.** Is a visa necessary to visit South Africa?

**A.** No longer. United States citizens with valid passports no longer need visas to visit South Africa on vacation or business or if they are passing through the country in transit.

**Q.** Are shots necessary to visit Russia?

**A.** Travelers to Russia should make sure their immunizations, especially against diphtheria and typhoid fever, are current before visiting. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, once nearly-eradicated diseases are emerging because of the breakdown of mass immunization programs.

**Q.** What should we expect to pay for a room for two in Galveston, Texas, in October?

**A.** About \$86 per night, including tax.

**Q.** Is there a roundtrip bargain airfare between Atlanta and Washington?

**A.** Yes. \$178 on TWA or Delta.

**Q.** How much does it cost to fly roundtrip between New York and Milan?

**A.** \$668 on Alitalia, TWA or Delta.

**Q.** What should we expect to spend for a 2-3 week African photo safari to Kenya and Tanzania?

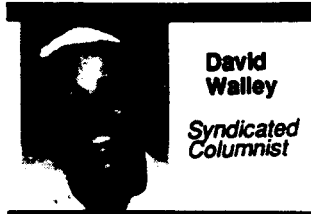
**A.** Rates, including air, hotels, sightseeing, etc., run about \$3,899 per person (double occupancy) from United Touring International (800) 223-6486 for an 18-plus day excursion.

**Q.** When is fall foliage best around LaCrosse, Wisc.?

**A.** The first two weeks of October in most years.

**Q.** Which airline has the lowest rate between New Orleans and New York?

**A.** Continental. The roundtrip fare is currently \$260.



David  
Walley

Syndicated  
Columnist

**Q.** Can we rent houseboats in the Florida Keys?

**A.** Yes. Two-day rentals begin about \$350. Weekly rates run upwards from \$860, depending on the size of the boat. Check the following firms: Houseboat Vacations of the Florida Keys (305) 664-4009 in Islamorada; Smilin' Island Houseboat Rentals (305) 451-1930 in Key Largo; and Coral Bay Houseboat Rentals (305) 664-3111 in Islamorada. Boats can sleep as many as 10-12 persons comfortably.

**Q.** What does it cost to fly between Jacksonville and Denver?

**A.** \$174 each way on Continental for adults. \$139 each way for kids.

**Q.** Does Australia have cross-country trains?

**A.** Yes. The Australlpass gives unlimited travel anywhere on the Australian rail network including electric metropolitan trains. Prices range from \$339 in economy for 14 days; \$565 in first class; or \$877 in economy

for 90 days and \$1,377 in first class. (800) 423-2880. Routes include the Indian Pacific from Sydney to Adelaide to Perth, a 65-hour journey; the Ghan from Adelaide to Alice Springs, a 22-hour trip; and the Queenslander from Brisbane to Cairns in 32 hours.

# The singular spirit of Sydney, Australia

**EDITORS NOTE:** At a meeting last month in Monte Carlo, the International Olympic Committee selected Sydney, Australia, to host the 2000 Summer Olympics. In the following essay, world-renowned travel writer Jan Morris (whose book, "Sydney," was published by Random House in 1992) reflects on the unique character of Australia's largest city, which was founded in 1788 as a British penal colony.

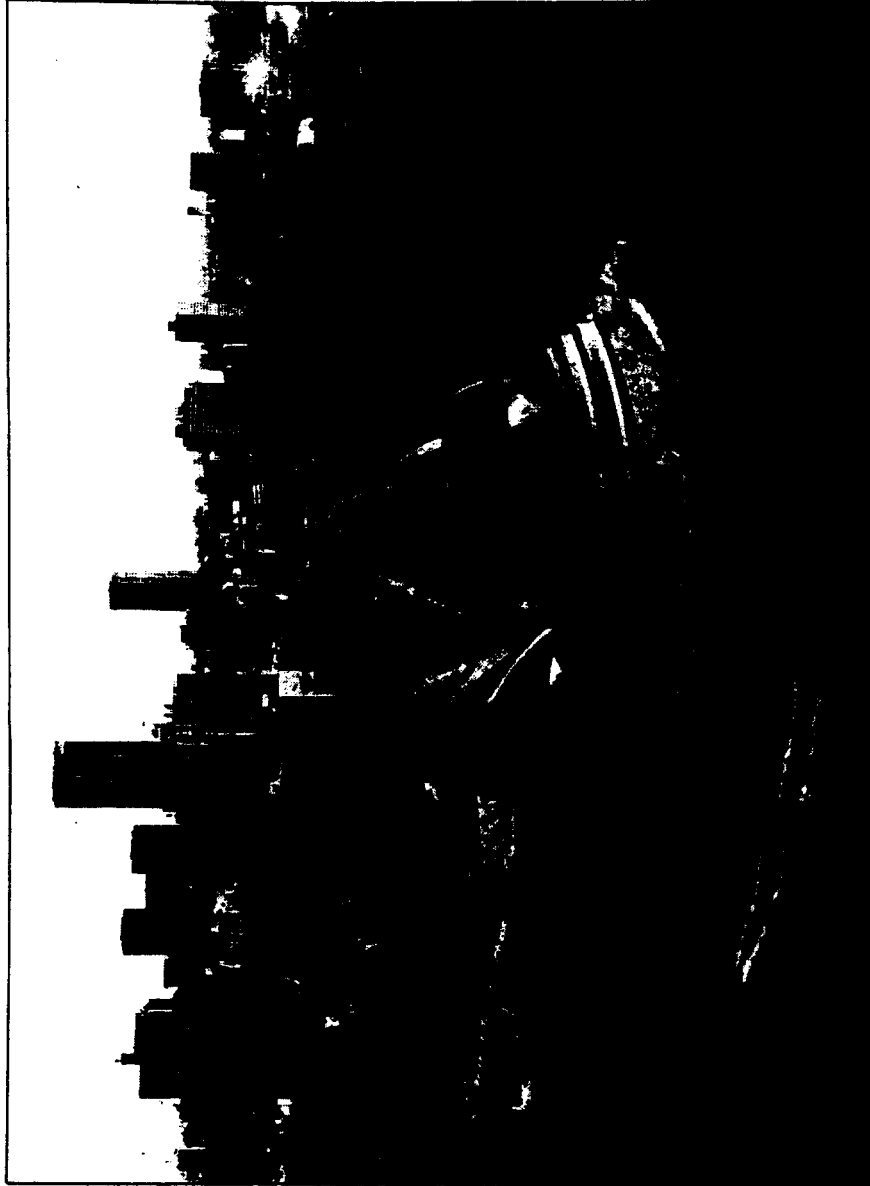
By Jan Morris  
SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

**S**YDNEY, New South Wales, Australia -- An acquaintance of mine down here, overhearing an exchange I was enjoying with one of the most formidable of the Sydney media bosses, said it reminded her of a confrontation between a Christian and a gladiator.

Which of us was the Christian she did not say, but I think I can guess. Sydney-siders can be a tough bunch, and some come much tougher than your high-powered, high-tech young business people -- well-traveled, highly educated, clever, rich -- whose steel so often glints a warning beneath a not very velvet glove. I tread warily in the presence of these people, suspecting that an argument with one of them might be only a step less perilous than actually being thrown to the lions.

Not that they are ever discourteous. They have no need to be. Their strength is one of the coiled kind, like a whip held in reserve; just when you think it is about to lash out, it is preempted by a smile of wolfish charm, deceiving nobody, but undeniably disarming. In fact, I know of no city whose people, even the most suspicious of them, are more exuberantly welcoming. They may despise your guita, but they seldom let it occur the panceache of their hospitality.

Foreigners often say that Sydney reminds them of an older America, before the innocence faded. I think this a misinterpretation. The lost American innocence was



"The Opera House standing there like a benediction above Sydney Harbour still promises settlers here the chance of a better and easier life."

founded upon a profoundly simple sense of rightness and permanence, supported by lofty ideals and by a conviction of power. The Sydney attitude, I think, reflects a national identity altogether more fragile, and a psyche much less sure of itself.

**A**LL THE MORE delightful that even in times of economic difficulty, Australia, which has so long liked to think of itself as the Lucky Country, still feels the happiest place of all. Every morning I leave the Re-

gent Hotel before breakfast and take my exercise in the Botanic Gardens, beyond the Opera House gleaming there in the early sun, along the edge of the harbor where the ferries are already foaming past Pinchgut Island to Manly. I speak to nearly everyone I meet. "What a marvelous day," I throw at them in passing, or more often, "What a marvelous country!"

And everyone seems to answer "Yes!" Not only the stalwart joggers sweating by, and the anglers at the waterfront with their tangles of lines and hucketa, and the occa-

sional eccentrics ambling around in comical hats or gumboots, and the man who practices his trumpet there before the day's work begins, but the very agents themselves, foraging spiritedly under the peculiar Antipodean foliage of the gardens. It is hard to find a Sydney-sider who is not fond of his city, and glad to be an Australian.

In this way it is like an older America. Far more convincingly nowadays than the Statue of Liberty, the Opera House standing there like a benediction above Sydney Harbour still promises settlers

here the chance of a better and easier life. Talk to almost any immigrant in New York nowadays, and he will be full of grievance, if not despair, working as he does nightmarish hours to keep his head above water, and plagued by all manner of dreadful hazard.

In Sydney, on the other hand, your newcomer generally seems enviously laid-back and optimistic, as though he has fallen among friends.

It is true that he may complain about reclaim among old-school Australians but he can usually

afford to ignore it, and may indeed indulge in a little racism himself, concerning "Abos" (Aborigines) or "Poms" (British). But the chances are that he has a thriving ethnic community of his own to support him, speaking his language, sharing his heritage and blustering in him the conviction that he has chosen the right place to come: no problems, take it easy, sit back and enjoy yourself, as Sydney taxi drivers sometimes say to me.

During my present stay I have employed taxis six times, and I have kept a record of my drivers. One was born in Beirut, and showed me with pride the long row of Lebanese restaurants we passed. One was a Welshman from Bangor. One defied me to identify his origins, and turned out to be from Ecuador. One I rightly guessed to be from Lebanon. One came out here on a 10-pound subsidized fare from England, and one was a Sydney-born financier, temporarily incommoded by the recession.

All were helpful, merry and inquisitive (this is a very inquisitive city), offering me no grumbles and not much caring whether I tipped them or not. The ex-financier, dropping me off for dinner at a private house, sent his kind regards to my hostess, an old acquaintance of his.

**I** SENSE a certain unreality about all this, as though Sydney from the very start has been able to ignore unpalatable truths about itself. Even the earliest settlers, dumped on this inconspicuously remote and awful shore in the most cheerless of circumstances, seem somehow to have been jolly enough, when they were not being flogged. Perhaps it is the cockney strain that makes the citizenry so incorrigibly blithe, or perhaps the inherent improbability of the whole situation -- the mere survival of this glittering city on the underside of the globe -- makes for a kind of illusory existentialism.

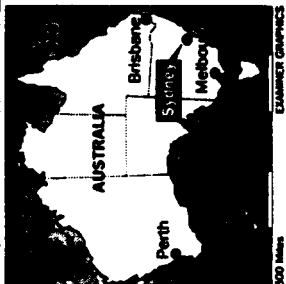
I find myself that after only a few days, I am perfectly used to Sydney's unlikely ambience: those

◆ SYDNEY from T-3

## On the singular spirit of Sydney

recondite birds pecking and squawking about the gardens, the big black fruit-bats that flap out at night, trees that seem to be growing upside-down, bits of wild bush-land that penetrate the genteel suburbs and are perfectly likely to have koalas and duck-billed platypuses in them. In no time everything seems perfectly normal, all coexisting easily with the life of a modern European city.

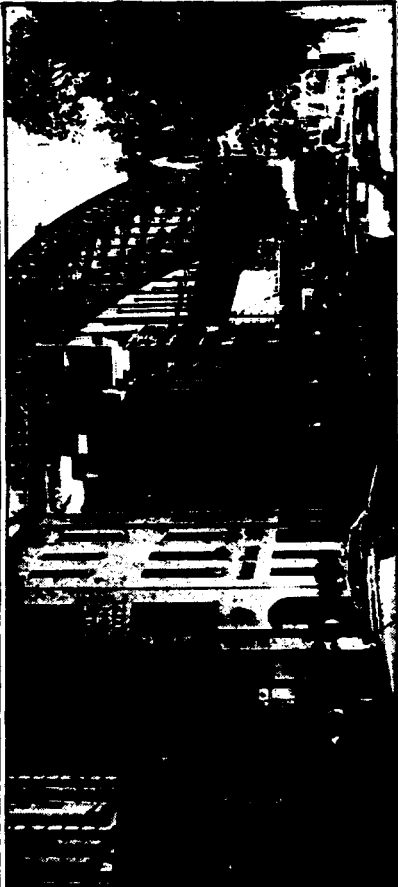
I say "European" advisedly, because the cosmopolitanism of contemporary Sydney is of a decidedly European kind. A century ago, James Bryce called Manhattan "a European city, but of no particular country," and the description now fits Sydney just as well. Of course its substructure is still British, and like all English-speaking cities, it has American overtones. More and more of its citizens are Asians. However, for the moment anyway, its superficial flavor seems to me vaguely Mediterranean, Italianate, Greekish, Portuguese, Lebanese-



like — cappuccino after its oysters, street cafes, the lights of fishing boats passing beneath the Harbour Bridge in the dark.

Tinged, though, with the Irishness that has been so potent a part of it since the beginning. Sydney never strikes me as a very religious city, but largely because of the Irish, Catholicism is resilient here, and now and then, on a day that might be in the Aegean, to a Neopolitan smell of coffee, over a Provencal kind of meal, one is suddenly jerked back to Dublin, or even to Knock.

I had such a moment only yesterday, crossing the harbor on the elderly ferry-launch that runs be-



The fleets, where Sydney began, was redeveloped during the '70s and '80s into a trendy shopping district.

tween Blues Point and circular Quay. A very Irish lady, sitting beside me as the boat chugged crablike across the water, told me sedly that her car had just been stolen and deliberately driven over a bluff. Never mind, I said, it was only a thing. "Only a thing?" Her eyes misted. "Only a thing! Sure, that's the way to look at it. Only a thing! I must look at it that way. God bless you, God bless you for that!"

"God bless you, too," I responded lamely, not knowing, as so often happens in discourse with the Irish, anything better to say.

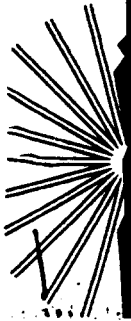
**B**UT THAT gladiatorial media executive offered me no blessings, nor did I want any from him. It was his hardness I relished, the touch of malevolence behind the charm. Nearly everybody likes modern Sydney, but no-

body could call it nice. It is no place for the loser, even now, and if I were a stranger in trouble, I would feel more sure of compassion in downtown Manhattan than I would in this fortunate city.

Gossip in Sydney is by no means forgiving, still less discreet. Sometimes making dinner conversation can be like riding a roller coaster, so dizzy are the revelations, and expressed with such

For information about travel to Australia, contact the Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles CA 90067; telephone (310) 552-1988.

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Chico Enterprise Record  
Oct. 17

# JOURNEY DOWN UNDER



Lifelines leading at Cairns,  
Australia

# ADVENTURES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

By Patricia Felthous  
Special to the E-R

From kangaroos and koalas in Australia to sailing and sheep-shearing in New Zealand, our recent adventures in the lands "down under" were a source of never-ending fascination.

Our first destination was Cairns (Cairns), Australia which introduced us to the tropical northern area of a continent slightly larger than the United States.

At first it was difficult to imagine that the farther south we went, the colder it would get. Eventually I had to buy some woolen gloves to keep my hands warm.

Since my husband, Paul, is an avid bird watcher, it was a real treat to watch approximately 60 multi-colored lorikeets feed on some tucker (food) provided by the hotel as well as see and hear a kookabura sitting and laughing in an old gum tree. This scenario inspired my first song about Australian birds.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage area is truly one of the wonders of the modern world. It is actually an enormous coral reef consisting of thousands of smaller reefs and host to more than 30,000 species of marine life.

A marine biologist showed slides and explained how the coral polyps grow as we traveled on a large catamaran to the Agincourt complex on the very edge of the continental shelf, where we anchored at an elaborate pontoon platform.

After a delicious buffet lunch, Paul and I viewed many diverse colored shapes of coral as well as a variety of tropical fish which swam around our semi-submersible boat. Many passengers snorkeled in order to get a first hand experience; however, I was happy to simply pose for my photo with a snorkel mask on since the water was cold and very choppy and I did not relish the idea of getting water in my nose.

When we visited the Rainforest Station on the crest of the Great Dividing Range, about 60 miles from Cairns toward the Atherton Tableland, we discovered Crocodile Dundee's double!

After piling into amphibious Army Ducks — the kind Paul used in World War II on Okinawa — Mick, our guide, explained the ecology, flora, and fauna of the area as we bumped along the backwoods road.

A must while visiting Kuranda, the Rainforest Village uniquely set in the mountains, is the world's largest butterfly sanctuary which contains the brilliantly colored Electric Blue Ulysses flying through man-made mine-forests and along specially constructed fern-fringed ponds.

Kuranda is also home to the only permanent Aboriginal theatre in Australia — the Tiapukai Dance Theatre. As the dijeridoo — a hollow wooden tube — was played, we watched their "creation" legend and became more aware of dignity and pride in the aborigines.

We wended our way back to the coast via 15 tunnels and over many gorges on the Kuranda Scenic Railway. This amazing engineering achievement was built from 1882-1885 with only dynamic and handtools by Irish and Italian navies for 80 cents

aged. There are large open areas where we could literally walk up to the kangaroos — one had a joey in her pouch — and I had my photo taken cuddling a kooia. Paul was in bird heaven with a lot of exotic birds in their natural environment.

Back in Sydney we decided to eat at Doyle's, a famous seafood restaurant on the wharf, where our panoramic view included the Sydney Opera House as well as the "coasthanger" Sydney bridge.

While we were lunching on scampi, a replica of Capt. Bligh's "Bounty", sailed by. No wonder the deck mutinied — there was hardly any room on the deck!

The "kiwi," or New Zealand, portion of our tour, started in Auckland, "the city of sails," and the world's second largest marina. The largest is Marina del Rey in California.

In Australia the greeting is "G'day mate" however, it's "Kia ora" (welcome to New Zealand) in the land of the long white cloud.

I find language usage in other countries intriguing, for instance: "panel beater" meant an auto body repair shop.

Our city tour started at Mount Eden, an extinct volcano, and included a visit to the Auckland Museum, which featured a fantastic Maori display with many Pou Whakairo (large curved wooden figures) representing tribal ancestors. These wood carvings were traditionally placed on the edge of a Maori village facing outward to defy the enemy.

Next stop was Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World for an amazing journey on a moving belt which took us between glass tanks where fish were even swimming above us. Pretty scary having a shark bearing down on you!

Lunch was served at sea on the Pride of Auckland sailing vessel, where I took a turn steering the wheel.

On our way to Rotorua we had a first-class expedition through Waitomo Cave where glowworms glisten from the top of the cavern and resemble a giant milky way. The glowworms live in threads feeding on insects which are attracted to their tail light. After the larvae changes into a pupae and an adult emerges two weeks later, the male and female only live 3-4 days — long enough to continue the life cycle.

As our bus rolled over the green hedgerowed fields covered with flocks of sheep, I was reminded of an English countryside. The Akona Kiwi Orchard provided a delicious barbecue venison lunch embellished with various kinds of kiwi accompaniments from wine to dessert. And, yes, they had heard of Gridley, the Kiwifruit capital of the United States.

When we arrived at our hotel in Rotorua, a center of Maori culture, we knew from the sulphuric smell and the rising steam that we were in a geothermal area. Not only were we greeted with "Kia ora" but we also pressed noses twice with our local guide.

On our morning foray to Whakarewarewa, the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute, we watched young men learn to carve in the traditional way and had a lesson in making a grass skirt.

As we continued our walk through the Thermal

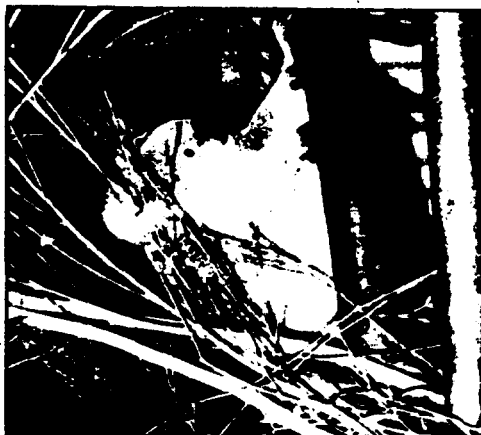


The world famous Sydney Opera House (top) with its unique "sailing ship" design. At left and above are a kooia and a kangaroo at the Australian Wild Animal Park near Sydney.

Sydney Opera House.

Speaking of the Opera House, this magnificent structure has become a major landmark in Sydney. It was built 20 years ago based on the idea of a sailing vessel with all masts set to sail. Perched on the edge of Sydney's harbor it offers a most imposing sight.

My biggest adventure took place in the Australian Wildlife Park outside Sydney, where interaction between people and animals is encour-



a day.

Sydney, 2,000 miles south of Cairns, is a very diverse city with many interesting things to do. Part of our tour package was a Sydney Pass, which allowed us unlimited use of the buses and ferries.

In addition to taking the ferry to Taronga Zoo — where a lovely docent took us on a special walk to observe Australian animals and birds — we also took a harbor cruise and saw several plays at the

# Adventures

From 1D

Reserve with its gushing geysers and natural bubbling caldrons, our guide explained how the Maori people still use steaming underground rivers to cook their food.

My favorite activity of the day was an introduction to 19 breeds of Champion rams — specimens of 65 million New Zealand sheep—from Merinos to Dorset Horns at the Agrodome. After the master of ceremonies introduced each ram and extolled the virtues of its wool and/or meat, a sheepshearer deftly applied his trade and removed the wool from a somewhat docile sheep.

It was especially interesting to see how some sheep dogs controlled the sheep with barking while others simply stared down the sheep in order to move them into a corral. Sheep dogs are also taught to run on the backs of sheep in order to reach the one sheep which is blocking the exit — a job they obviously enjoyed.

Since Kiwi birds are nocturnal, we saw our first live kiwi in a specially nightlit exhibit. These wingless birds lay one huge egg which the male incubates while the female runs around all night looking for food — mostly worms. Because it doesn't fly, it became easy prey for men and dogs; however, it is now respected as a national symbol and has government protection.

A visit to New Zealand would not be complete without a traditional Maori "Hangi," where food is cooked by steam. In Rotorua the restaurant simply harnessed natural steam to cook the venison, lamb, kumara and potatoes. Fruit and Pavlova (a double meringue dessert) plus a steamed pudding with custard finished the meal.

After this wonderful dinner we were entertained by a Maori cultural group who introduced us to some strenuous war dances, dances to the gods, and several "poi" dances where white balls on the ends of strings are rhythmically twirled around very skillfully. Some of the "hakas" (dance forms) depicted the dancers working themselves into a pitch of frenzy, distorting their faces and sticking their tongues out to appear as ugly as possible and thus frighten the enemy away. At other times the dancers fluttered their hands in sharing their Maori identity.

On our stopover in Fiji we were greeted with "Bula!" and draped with coral leis. Our resort was situated in the middle of a sugarcane plantation — not on the beach. The good news was that our tour package included a day trip to Mana Island where there was plenty of sand and beautiful sights everywhere I looked — palm trees, distant islands and different shades of blue in the ocean. Swimming in a salt water pool was definitely a different experience.

Even though the souvenir shops snagged some of our money, I have fond memories of the friendly people we met, the insight we gained on Aboriginal and Maori cultures and the many native birds and animals we observed.

1000 PAGES

Australian Wildlife  
Park outside Sydney,

where interaction  
between people and  
animals is encouraged.

There are large open  
areas where we could  
literally walk up to the  
kangaroos — one had a

joey in her pouch —  
and I had my photo  
taken cuddling a koala.

Paul was in bird heaven  
with a lot of exotic birds  
in their natural  
environment.

OCT 22 1993

BURRILL

# In search of a surfer's beach-town paradise

## Australia's Gold Coast beckons purists

Unless you know better, you may fly halfway around the world to a spot that sounds idyllic only to plunk yourself down in tourist hell. That's what I thought I had done.

I'm a Californian keenly aware of how the state has lost most of the beach culture that made us famous. I went to find it in the place I was told was most like California. I went to Queensland, Australia's Gold Coast.

But when I hit Surfers Paradise, I figured I had made a huge mistake. Sure, it sounds relaxing and low key with that name and all. Surfers Paradise sounds like it ought to come straight out of a 1960s surf

soap opera, all low-slung houses and beach fires and rattan. That's what I had come to see. There is a feel about beach towns that loosens the knots that keep most people wound up, and I missed that feeling. So I wanted a true beach town. But not just any town on a beach is a beach town. Los Angeles, for example, is not a beach town.

And neither is Surfers Paradise. This is paradise lost. Imagine Miami Beach built by the Japanese and you have Surfers. Sky-scraper hotels are jammed on zero lot lines in a concrete curtain so tall and so thick the afternoon sun disappears behind their facades, throwing the beach in shade until

breakers, scooping the wave sets pouring in from the South Pacific. That's where you'll find beaches filled with people vacationing because they like beaches and the ocean, not discos or concrete. In fact, that's where you'll find California circa 1963.

The occasional tower apartment complex or hotel gets in the way, like it bled down the coast from Surfers, but things are pretty much the way you'd imagine they were when Moonoggie and Sandra Dee and surf legends Mickey Dora, Phil Edwards and Hobbie Alter were making surfing popular.

For as long as there have been

## If you go

### Where to stay, what to do

▶ Getting there. Continental is the only U.S. carrier that flies into Brisbane, but it is also served by Qantas, Ansett, Air New Zealand and Australian Airlines. It is also possible to fly into Coolangatta on the southern tip of the Gold Coast, via Sydney.

A car is crucial when traveling to the Gold Coast. Major rental-car agencies have counters at Brisbane's airport. From Brisbane, take the Pacific Highway south. The trip from Brisbane to Surfers will take about an hour unless you happen to hit business traffic.

▶ Where to stay. Surfers is literally stuffed with hotels and apartment rentals. Rates typically range from \$100 to \$165 per night. Ramada, Travelodge and ANA all have properties here. Most hotels and apartments in Surfers and Broadbeach are booked through package tour operators or travel agents.

South of Broadbeach, lodgings mostly fall into the motel category and run from about \$30 to \$74 per night. Most are located on the main highway strip, the Gold Coast Highway.

In Currumbin Beach, The Hill

▶ What to see. The Gold Coast has more than its share of American-style attractions, like Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World and Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Try the Currumbin Sanctuary, an animal park operated by the National Trust. It's located right off the Gold Coast Highway and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 075-341264.

If you've had enough of the beach, you can drive inland about 50 miles to Lamington National Park, a rain forest preserve with headquarters near the town of Beecmont. For information on the park or more on the Gold Coast, contact the Australian Tourist Commission at 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90067; (310) 552-1988.

# Beach

Continued from Page D6

people in Australia, they've been coming to the Gold Coast. Ancient aborigines sometimes trekked a hundred miles from the interior rain forests of Queensland to reach the coast, where they feasted and no doubt played in the waves.

Later, white settlers came to the beaches, which offer breezy afternoons, for a little relief from the blistering tropical sun and humid air.

Now Australians and visitors from overseas arrive in large numbers to hit the beach, the craps tables, the discos and generally party as only an Australian in good standing can party.

The more northern portions of Queensland around Cairns and Townsville, attract divers searching for that mecca of scuba, the Great Barrier Reef or for the interior rain forests. But the folks coming to the Gold Coast want beach, sun and beer.

But at what pace? Surfers offers frenetic action, a permanent spring break. Just a couple of miles south of Surfers, things begin to slow down considerably.

In fact, just about two miles south of Surfers, past the adjacent community of Broadbeach where the Hotel Conrad and Jupiters Casino are located and the 22-story Pan Pacific Hotel sticks up out of the sand, you enter another world.

Starting at Mermaid Beach, the accommodations become a little less luxurious but all the more comfortable for that. Small motels run by families sit across the street from the beach. Six- and eight-unit apartment buildings that appear to be shared by as many



Surfers find ideal surfing and relaxing beach life in small towns along the coast of Australia.

surfers as can crowd into them are decked out with beach towels hung over the wooden balconies.

By the time you hit Burleigh Heads, you are in the real surfers paradise. Burleigh Heads is still a beach town in the old sense. Blond-haired kids run barefoot in and out of surf shops and ice cream stores. They pile into old cars keed running on hope and

look at the surf breaks to choose a spot.

The best is right in the center of town. It's a point break, the site of the annual Stubbies Surf Classic, one of the premier surf events in the world. But even when the surf tour has left, top Aussie pros still hone their local knowledge here along with young "grommets" and old amateurs.

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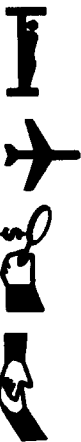
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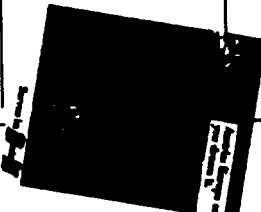
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# DOWN UNDE

Deregulation has rocked aviation in New Zealand, and air travel will nev



Cutting a deal: Top executives of Qantas and Australian Airlines celebrated their carriers' merger in September 1992—while deregulation sliced up their market.

# R U P E N D E D

H  
Australia and  
be the same.

By David Knibb



WHEN AN AIRCRAFT ROLLS down the runway for takeoff, it reaches a point at which the pilot must decide either to stop or to

keep accelerating. Past that point, which is known as V-1, there's no turning back.

Aviation in Australia is about to pass V-1. After five years of crawling toward full deregulation, the changes planned over the next twelve months guarantee that air service in Australia and New Zealand will never be the same. When Australia's prime minister unveiled new plans last year to merge the two nations' aviation markets, "an entire industry was turned on its head," says John Schaap, then managing director of Australian Airlines.

To begin with, the long-standing distinction between domestic and international carriers disappeared when Qantas (international) was allowed to buy Australian Airlines (domestic) in September 1992. Meanwhile, Ansett Airlines (domestic) has begun flying international routes. Air New Zealand now has a hub in Australia for flights to Asia, and will soon be permitted to carry domestic passengers within Australia.

Much has changed from the days of Australia's two-airline policy, when Ansett and Australian Airlines flights took off for the same cities within five minutes of each other. No other airline was allowed to compete with these two, and no Australian airline was allowed to challenge Qantas on international routes. Competition was stifled even more in New Zealand, where Air New Zealand, the government-owned carrier, monopolized air service.

The transition has been traumatic. In the past five years, both countries have deregulated aviation. Two new carriers, Compass I and Compass II, have started—and failed—in

Australia. A subsidiary of Ansett, Ansett New Zealand, launched five years ago, still flies around New Zealand, but at a perpetual financial loss. New Zealand's government privatized Air New Zealand in 1989, and Qantas now owns almost 20 percent of it. Canberra has sold a quarter of Qantas to British Airways and plans to privatize the rest.

For passengers, the most dramatic change so far has been Qantas's purchase of Australian Airlines. By the end of October, if all goes as scheduled, Australian Air's livery and name will have been replaced by the Qantas name, colors, and flying kangaroo on all aircraft. First- and business-class interiors will



be standardized. Qantas's drab uniforms will be redesigned, and the airline's motto, "The Spirit of Australia," will be changed to "The Australian Airline"—which doesn't suggest ghosts to Japanese customers.

John Schaap, who survived the merger to become Qantas's general manager, Australia, predicts that inflight services will start producing "a consistency of product." The challenge in merging his former airline with Qantas, he says, is to preserve both the efficiency of short domestic flights and the comfort of international long hauls.

But this merger involves more than rethinking logos, uniforms, and inflight service. For instance, Qantas has always had domestic legs on overseas flights—Los Angeles—Sydney—Melbourne, for instance. Now that the carrier also flies domestically, should that Sydney—Melbourne sector still be part of an international flight? "The key to domestic success," Schaap says, "is frequency and on-time performance," and it's hard to deliver these consistently on the end of an overseas flight. "You can't play games with frequent flyers," he says. The result is that sectors with mostly domestic traffic, such as Sydney—Melbourne, are being turned into domestic flights with smaller aircraft.

"Unfortunately," says John Ward, former chief executive of Qantas (who this August was succeeded, tellingly, by James Strong, former chief executive of Australian), "international terminals tend to be at one end of the runway and domestic at the other." Melbourne's two terminals are under one roof, but Perth's are miles apart. At Sydney, Australia's main gateway, the domestic and international terminals face each other across the main runway, and the landlocked airport lacks feasible sites for new terminals. A connecting tunnel has been suggested, but for now transfers require a fifteen-minute bus ride.

Bill Swingler, head of Australia's Federal Airports Corporation, predicts that "massive infrastructure changes" will be needed to fix this mess. A new terminal is under construction in Brisbane, for instance, which Qantas hopes to use for both local and overseas flights. Brisbane's "domestic" terminal will handle

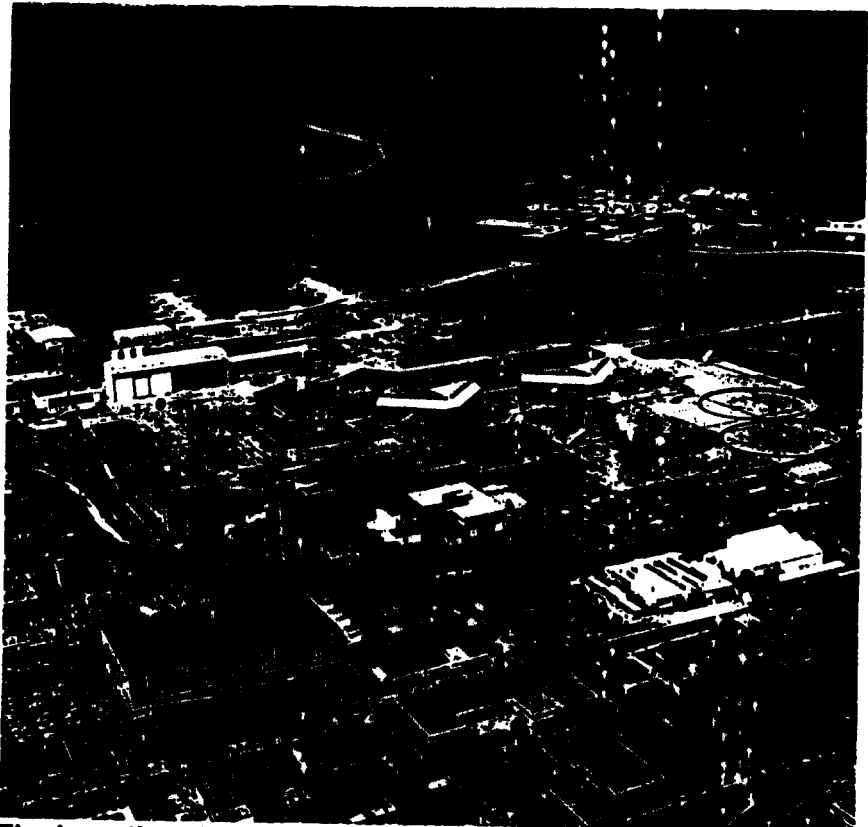
both local and overseas flights for all other carriers. Passengers traveling anywhere in Australia these days need to be crystal-clear about which terminals their flights will be using.

**T**he flip side of allowing Qantas to fly domestic routes is the end of its international monopoly. Canberra has given conditional approval to Australia Air International, a start-up scheduled to begin flying in September, for flights to China, and has granted several overseas routes to Ansett, beginning with Bali in September and Osaka next year.

To offset the combined strength of Qantas and Australian, Ansett is

are frequent flyer partners. Ansett had a similar deal with Northwest Airlines for six months, but switched to United partly because 130,000 Australians belong to United's MileagePlus plan. Ansett's alliance with United precludes similar deals with Northwest or Continental, but Ansett continues to interline baggage with those carriers and to prorate fares.

Anne Keating, United's Australia manager, thinks the United-Ansett partnership "makes us a good match" to Qantas/Australian. But Robert Cain, policy-planning director for BDW Aviation services in Sydney, says that simply being the feeder of choice for foreign carriers



**The domestic and international terminals at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport glare at each other across the main runway.**

becoming a feeder for most other carriers that fly to Australia. One of these alliances, formed earlier this year, is with United Airlines. United code shares with Ansett on flights from Sydney to most Australian cities, so they appear in computerized reservation systems as United flights. United wanted to lease Ansett planes on the busiest routes and operate them as United flights, but Ansett lacked spare aircraft.

United and Ansett give reciprocal access to their lounge members and

won't be enough to sustain Ansett. The airline has been losing money at a time when it needs cash to start new international routes, and it's openly looking for a partner. Two likely candidates are Singapore Airlines, which lost to British Airways in the bid for Qantas, and Air New Zealand. The smart money is on Air New Zealand because of the other big policy change now under way—the merging of Australia and New Zealand into one aviation market.

Imagine that the United States

H and Canada have become one market. Tariffs are phased out, taxes are equalized, and commerce is harmonized. Immigration is relaxed so that U.S. airlines flying to Canada can clear passengers through Canadian customs via a computer link at check-in. U.S. airlines are allowed to fly to Europe from Toronto carrying Canadians, and Canadian airlines can follow suit from New York. Finally, imagine that Air Canada,

headed. But New Zealanders fear, according to Col Hughes, Northwest's South Pacific manager, "dare I say it—the New Zealanders would hate this—that New Zealand may effectively become part of Australia."

Qantas already has the right to fly between America and Auckland, just as Air New Zealand can fly from the United States to Sydney. Neither one exercises its right, however, pre-

cial reportedly grouched, "There's little beyond New Zealand other than the South Pole."

**A** recent summit between Paul Keating, Australia's prime minister, and Jim Bolger, his New Zealand counterpart, cleared the way for Ansett to fly between domestic terminals in Australia and New Zealand. (Like most of Australia's major airports, many New Zealand facilities have separate domestic and international terminals.) Keating and Bolger also agreed to allow customs and immigration clearance during check-in. These procedures are set to start by the end of this year.

At the moment, Ansett has the authority to fly only the Melbourne–Auckland route, but authority for Sydney–Auckland is due in November. Because the latter route accounts for 31 percent of the two million passengers who fly between the two countries each year, Ansett will wait for the route to be available before beginning service to New Zealand. Flight length will be no problem, says Geoff Dixon, Ansett's marketing director. "New Zealand is closer than Perth."

The bravest step of all could come when carriers from each country can fly domestically within the other. So far, no Australian airline has any interest in flying New Zealand's domestic routes. As John Schaap of Qantas says, "Domestic New Zealand is already oversupplied." But Air New Zealand is scheduled to begin flying domestically in Australia in November 1994. At press time, officials were about to discuss whether to move that date up a year. In other words, Air New Zealand could have the right to fly within Australia as early as this November.

Many observers believe it would make more sense for Air New Zealand to buy a stake in Ansett than to buy a fleet of planes and try again where new entrants have already failed twice. "Overall," predicts Ansett's Dixon, "they'll find it very hard to compete against two established carriers with high standards."

Nonetheless, says Canberra's John Kerr, "the die is cast." Australia–New Zealand aviation is about to take off. It's just that no one is entirely sure where it's going. ■



**James Strong used to be head of Australian Airlines, a domestic carrier. Now he's head of Qantas, both domestic and international.**



**The staff of Compass Airlines, the first new carrier after deregulation, mourned its passing in 1991.**

like other domestic carriers, flies between Atlanta and Seattle, and that American Airlines plies the Vancouver–Montreal route.

Despite 1,800 miles of water between them, that's essentially where Australia and New Zealand are

ferring to code share with the other.

The rights recently granted Air New Zealand to fly beyond Australia to Asia represent the next step. Unfortunately for Qantas, New Zealand's geography makes reciprocity meaningless. As one Qantas offi-



# Five Years of Turbulence

Deregulation has brought strikes, start-ups, failures, and international disputes.

## 1988

New Zealand approves domestic deregulation. Ansett New Zealand challenges Air New Zealand as second domestic airline. Each begins a period of sustained losses.

## April 1989

Air New Zealand is privatized.

## August 1989

Pilots' strike cripples Australian aviation for six months.

## February 1990

American Airlines wins permission to fly from the United States to Australia and New Zealand.

## September 1990

Canberra decides to sell 49 percent of Qantas and 100 percent of Australian Airlines, both government-owned, and invites bids.

## November 1990

Australia approves domestic deregulation.

## December 1990

Compass I begins flying as first start-up under Australia's deregulation.

## December 1991

Compass I collapses.



Pilots on strike at the Melbourne airport in 1989.

### **February 1992**

Canberra proposes single Australia–New Zealand aviation market.

Canberra ends strict separation of international and domestic routes by allowing Qantas to buy stake in a domestic carrier and fly domestic routes. Canberra also decides to award international routes to domestic carriers.

### **March 1992**

American Airlines withdraws from U.S. route to Australia and New Zealand.

### **May 1992**

Compass II formed.

### **June 1992**

Lukewarm response to proposed 49 percent sale of Qantas prompts Prime Minister Keating to make surprise announcement that government will abandon policy of selling Qantas and Australian Airlines separately, and will instead allow Qantas to buy 100 percent of Australian Airlines and then sell off entire merged carrier, with a 35 percent lid on foreign ownership.

### **August 1992**

Australia and New Zealand sign memorandum of understanding to phase in single aviation market by November 1994. Canberra yields to Wellington demands that Air New Zealand be allowed to carry local passengers between Australia and Asia.

Northwest and Ansett enter marketing alliance.

### **September 1992**

Qantas buys Australian Airlines, ending division between domestic and international airlines. In response, Ansett Airlines announces marketing alliances with foreign carriers and first application for Asian routes.

Canberra reduces maximum foreign share of Qantas from 35 percent to 25 percent. British Airways outbids Singapore Airlines for stake in Qantas.

Compass II starts flying.

### **October 1992**

Under first phase of United-Ansett alliance, United and Ansett become frequent flyer partners and allow members reciprocal use of airport lounges.

### **November 1992**

Air New Zealand starts flights to Asia via Brisbane.

Qantas starts domestic flights.

Ansett is awarded first routes to New Zealand and Southeast Asia.

### **February 1993**

United-Ansett code sharing starts. Ansett ends alliance with Northwest.

### **March 1993**

Qantas and Australian Airlines integrate schedules.

Compass II collapses.

### **April 1993**

Qantas decides to drop Australian name on domestic flights and repaint all aircraft in Qantas livery.

### **May 1993**

Canberra threatens Northwest with sanctions on New York–Osaka–Sydney route for carrying too much local traffic. Washington retaliates with sanctions cutting Los Angeles–Sydney flights by Qantas. Northwest adds fuel to fire by asking Canberra for Detroit–Tokyo–Brisbane route.



Compass Airlines took off twice, and failed twice.

### **June 1993**

Australia and United States reach temporary settlement regarding Northwest flights. Sanctions are called off.

### **October 1993**

Phase-out of Australian Airlines name scheduled to be completed; all operations to be under Qantas name.

Continental Airlines plans withdrawal from Australia and New Zealand.

### **January 1994**

Probable start of Ansett flights between Australia and New Zealand.

### **November 1994**

Air New Zealand authorized to start flights within Australia (though date may be moved up), completing transition to single Australia–New Zealand aviation market. ■

# Getting There

The latest word on nonstops, lounges, luggage, customs, connections, and crowds.

**L**os Angeles-Sydney is almost certain to be Australia's fastest-growing route for the second year in a row. Qantas and United have nightly nonstops from Los Angeles, and Northwest has three flights a week. United also flies to Auckland from Los Angeles every evening; Air New Zealand makes that trip five times a week. All carriers operate 747-400s, which span the South Pacific in about fourteen hours.

Qantas also has three daytime nonsmoking flights each week, leaving Los Angeles in the early afternoon and arriving at Sydney at 9:00 P.M. The carrier aims to increase this schedule until it is offering two nonstops daily—one during the day and one overnight. The daytime flight is timed to leave late enough for passengers connecting from the East Coast, and early enough to beat Sydney's curfew.

Qantas and, until October 31, Continental fly daily one-stops from California to Australia through Hawaii; Air New Zealand and Continental offer the same service to Auckland. United has daily one-stops to Melbourne via Auckland, and Air New Zealand offers connections in Auckland to every major city in Australia. Qantas also flies to Sydney via Tahiti twice a week. At the end of October, Continental will pull



The view from Sydney's Kingsford Smith airport.

out of both Australia and New Zealand.

Flyers combining business with pleasure can visit several South Pacific islands while traveling from Los Angeles to Australia or New Zealand on Qantas, Air New Zealand, or Polynesian Airlines.

Baggage can be checked through from any point in the United States to its final Australian or New Zealand destination. Although passengers must claim their bags to clear customs at their point of entry,

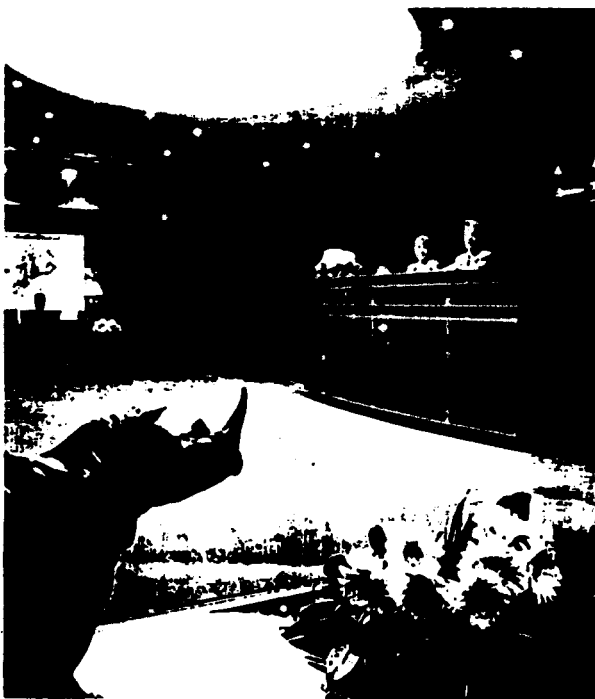
they can then put them back on the belt. Transfers between Sydney's international and domestic terminals require a fifteen-minute bus ride. At press time, Qantas was negotiating with airport authorities about a transfer system that would allow inbound passengers to connect with Qantas's domestic flights without going through security again in the domestic terminal. United passengers connecting to Ansett Airlines can pick up advance boarding passes and seat assignments at their first United check-in. By the



Sydney's crowded runways are Australia's chief international gateway.



**United Airlines' Red Carpet Club in Sydney's international terminal.**



**Ansett's Golden Wings lounge, also at Sydney.**

time this is published, Qantas passengers connecting to Qantas domestic flights should be able to do the same. In fact, on Qantas-American Airlines code-sharing flights within the United States, they should be able to pick up these documents when they first check in with American.

Within Australia, connecting international passengers receive better treatment than the locals. Seat assignments in economy class are normally not available within Australia until the date of the flight, and sometimes not until two hours before departure. Generally, seats are simply assigned; passengers are not asked their preference. All domestic Australian flights are nonsmoking.

Domestic check-in is required only thirty minutes

before departure—not the one-hour U.S. minimum. No-shows are uncommon, and many flights are full. Flights start general boarding within twenty minutes of departure, but not by row number: Passengers tend to crowd on all at once.

Movable dividers, not bulkheads, separate first class, business class, and economy on most Australian domestic flights. First-class seats are slightly larger than busi-

ness-class, but service is typically the same. Business-class seats are often the same width as economy, but they have wider armrests and the middle seat can be converted to a drink table. Qantas 767s have twenty-four business-class seats, and the first one or two rows may be designated as first-class on domestic flights. Ansett has reduced its first class to enlarge business class, using movable dividers.

Depending on the airline they fly, passengers leaving Australia may encounter one nuisance they missed coming in. If they fly into Sydney for an international connection, they may be required to claim baggage from their domestic flight, carry it with them on the shuttle to the other terminal, and recheck it for their international flight. The airlines cite security as the reason for this rule, but it doesn't apply to everyone: Qantas domestic passengers connecting to Qantas and Ansett passengers connecting to United are exempt.

All the transpacific carriers have lounges in Sydney's international terminal, and United planned to unveil a new lounge in Melbourne by October. Qantas business- and first-class passengers also have access to Qantas Captain's Club lounges and the former Australian Airlines Flight Deck lounges throughout Australia. Access by American Airlines' Admiral's Club members to these lounges is still under discussion. United Red Carpet members and other first-class United-Ansett passengers may use Ansett's Golden Wings lounges.

Members of frequent flyer plans offered by American Airlines, Alaska Air, and Canadian Air International earn miles and can redeem them on Qantas transpacific flights. Alaska also extends this to Qantas domestic flights.

United MileagePlus members earn miles and can redeem them on Ansett flights within Australia. It's doubtful, however, that this will extend to Ansett's new flights into Asia. ■

# HOT SPOTS

# Australia

With bodyboard under her arm and sun cream on her face, Anna Keetels, 14, stands ready for surf and sun at Kirra Beach in Queensland, Australia. The waves here are excellent, says Anna. She's an enthusiastic swimmer and water skier, too. Her island home, Australia, has thousands of miles of beaches. Numerous islands lie along the coast.

Anna loves all outdoor sports and animals. She's also serious about what she wants to do after finishing high school at Mount St. Michael's College in her hometown of Brisbane, Queensland. She plans to study medicine at the university.

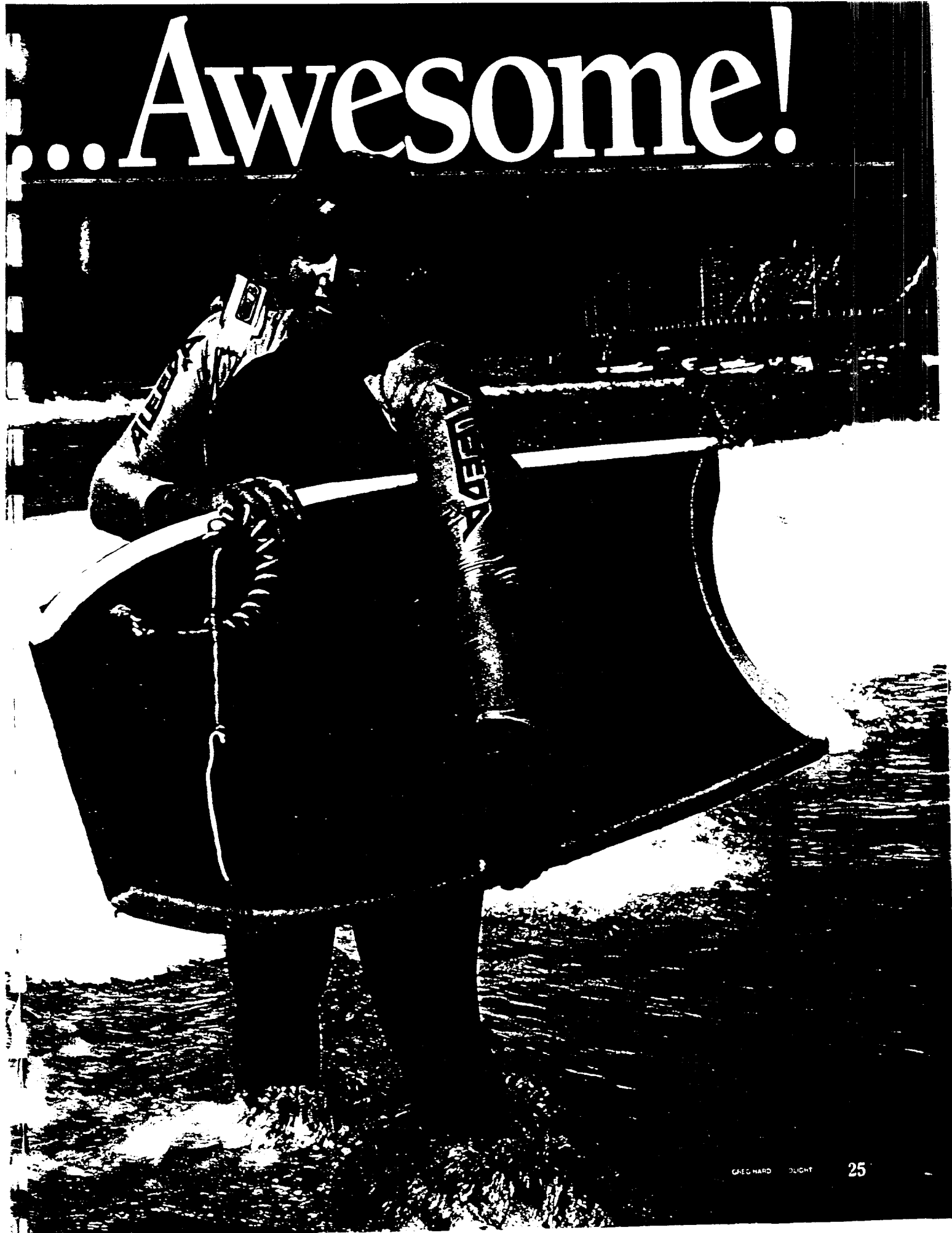
Newbie Anna's she takes you to points of interest around her country. Anna's Australia! □>

When we asked Junior Members to name their dream vacation destinations, many replied, "the land down under—Australia!" Let Aussie Junior Member Anna Keetels give you the inside scoop on places she'd like you to see if you could visit her country. Watch for more Hot Spots in future issues of WORLD.



TIMOTHY O'NEESE / BRUCE COLEMAN INC.

▲ HOTEL KOALA. *Eucalyptus* trees supply a koala with all it needs: two and a half pounds of leaves a day and treetop living accommodations. "You'll find koalas in wooded areas," says Anna. "Even in my backyard."



# ...Awesome!

**THE GREAT BARRIER REEF** "It's like nothing you've encountered before," says Anna, "the world's largest coral reef stretches 1,250 miles along Queensland's coasts. More than 2,500 reefs and many small islands make up the Great Barrier Reef. I went snorkeling among black and yellow corals surrounded by fish. It was absolutely stunning," remembers Anna.

**FRISER ISLAND** On the world's largest sand island Anna discovered wave-shaped rock formations, towering dunes, clear freshwater lakes, and fern-filled rain forests. Wild horses, called brumbies, and native dogs, called dingoes, roam the island. "One night dingoes broke into our cottage," Anna recalls. "We had to cook them out with food."

**PHILIP ISLAND** "We never seen a parade of penguins, but I hope to someday," says

Anna. "One summer, evenings I heard tall, thin penguins, the world's smallest,

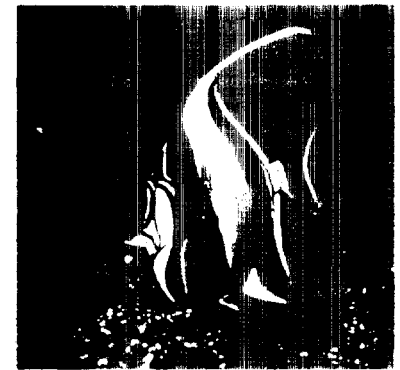
emerge from the ocean and waddle up the beach, waddling loudly to nesting mates and chicks. Koalas, seals, and a colony of 5,000 fur seals share the island.

At 3000 feet you have to cross several peaks to get to Vaux Rocks," says Anna. "This mountain rises 100 feet from the sea. It's a jagged, rocky mountain with the rugged interior surrounded by native Australians for Aboriginals call it Uluru. They believe it is the center of the world. Anna remarks, "I watched the mountain seem to change color from deep red to fiery orange, to stormy gray. One day I'll see it," says Anna.

**MONKEY MITA** Swimming with dolphins is like going on a bumpy water skis ride," Anna reports. "At Monkey Mitā dolphins frolic with humans in the shallow waters of Shark Bay. Remember not to wear sunscreen," warns Anna. "I can't imagine dolphins."

By **Walt D'Rose**  
Look on the next page for  
"More About Australia."

**HOMES**



◀ **LUNCH, ANYONE?**  
Hungry rainbow lorikeets flock to Anna at the Currumbin Sanctuary near Brisbane. Anna says these birds also live in the city's botanic garden, competing with pigeons for crumbs.

▲ **DOWN HIDE** The sea urchin is a coral fish that lives among corals in the Great Barrier Reef. Anna's favorite snorkeling spot.

▼ **PETITE PENGUINS** Tiny fairy penguins come to Australia's rocky shores each summer to raise young.



GREG HARGREAVES/WILDLIFE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNA VANIMAS



GREG HARM / WELLSIGHT

▲ **ANNA AND FOC.** Anna meets a tame kangaroo at a wildlife sanctuary. "I liked the little ones but when the six-footers hopped up to me, I got nervous," says Anna.

▼ **WORLD'S BIGGEST ROCK.** Climbers challenge the slopes of Ayers Rock. Cavers explore caverns containing Aboriginal wall paintings.



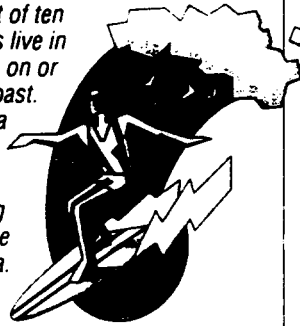
HOWARD GARRETT / DENIMSKY PHOTO

# MORE ABOUT Australia

Maybe you, like other Junior Members, dream of visiting Anna's homeland. You can do some exploring right now—at home—with the book, *Destination: Australia*. It's published by the Australian Tourist Board. For your free copy, call toll free: 1-800-333-0262.

## Just a Few Facts

- *Australia is the only country that is also a continent.*
- *Smallest of the seven continents, Australia's land area roughly equals that of the United States—without Hawaii or Alaska.*
- *Australia's vast interior is almost empty. Its harsh, dry climate discourages human settlement.*
- *Nine out of ten Australians live in large cities on or near the coast. Surfing is a popular sport.*
- *Amazing animals live in Australia. One is the platypus. Called "the bits-and-pieces mammal," it has webbed feet and a bill like a duck, fur like an otter, and a beaver-like tail. Perhaps strangest of all for a mammal, it lays eggs!*



MARIEF GOTTSCHALK / TOM STACK & ASSOCIATES

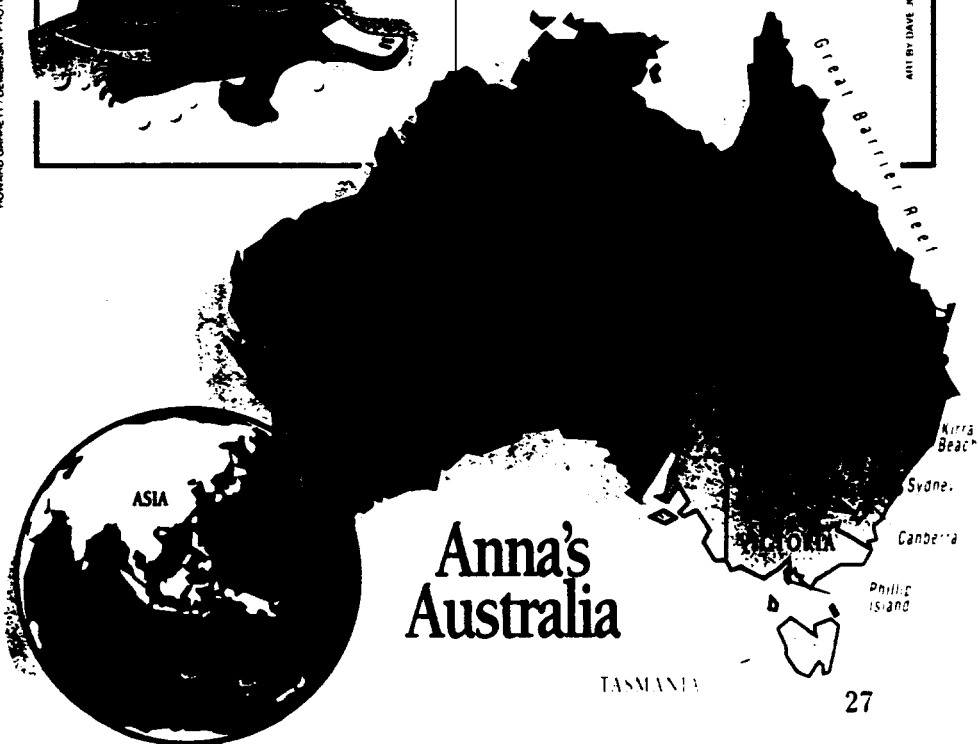
▲ **LIMESTONE PILLARS** outnumber people in Pinnacles Desert in Nambung National Park. The formations range in height from a few inches to 15 feet.



MARIEF GOTTSCHALK / TOM STACK & ASSOCIATES

▲ **"THE SHINING CITY"** is how Anna describes Sydney, Australia's largest city. Tall buildings and gleaming bridges dominate its skyline.

ART BY DAVE EDWARDS



MICHAEL RUSSELL © TOMMY STONE WOODWARD

On previous trips to Australia, I had been chased from the waters of the Great Barrier Reef by a shark, dragged across a cow pasture in the basket of a hot-air balloon and talked into taking an endless three-day train trek across a wasteland with a group of rummy-playing pensioners from Perth.

Point is, just about anything can happen in this memorable country. But unless you've got at least a month to spare — or figure on making this a regular stop on your vacation circuit — you need a plan.

Those with limited time and funds should consider Kangaroo Island, South Australia. It's a microcosm of the mainland, and especially appealing for ecotourists. As a mate in Adelaide told me: "It offers all of what people expect to see in Australia, in a small area."

That's assuming what you expect to see are those bizarre, Dr. Seussian creatures unique to this vast continent. Kangaroo Island offers the very best of the beasties, along with a hearty slug of Aussie culture and hospitality.

JOHN EDWARD YOUNG

The 90- by 40-mile island is just offshore from Adelaide, the capital city of South Australia. That's a short hop by plane or an hour by ferry. You're going to spend a lot of time getting down here, so there's no need to burn up precious days trying to cover ground with your own hit-and-run, Road Warrior itinerary. You can do a great deal on this island in a few days, and

lodgings are cheap, from campgrounds and motels to caravan parks and hostels.

Kangaroo Island beckons to bushwalkers, bird watchers, scuba divers and all nature-loving, binocular-toting blokes. About 4,200 people live here (mostly farmers and some fishermen), second in number to 1.2 million sheep. The rest of the population is made up of some 243 species of birds, along with wallabies, platypuses, spiny anteaters (also known as echidnas), brush-tail possums, sea lions, snakes, koalas and more.

And of course there are the 'roos. The island got its name in a grand gesture of gratitude after ravenous English explorer Captain Matthew Flinders and his crew dined on 31 of the unsuspecting marsupials after landing here in 1802.

A good home base is Wanderers Rest, a modest, comfortable accommodation tucked among the trees overlooking American

River (actually not a river at all, but an inland arm of the sea). Not only is Wanderers Rest in a prime location, but the

owner's son, Craig Wickham, is a certified naturalist and guide. Rooms run about \$60. The Penneshaw Youth Hostel offers a package rate (two nights and a tour) for \$100, with a \$10 charge for additional nights. Also try

# Where the Wild Things Are

No time to beat a dead kangaroo? Visit Australia's KANGAROO ISLAND.

BY

Author's name and contact information.

Ken Deane/Visage OZ



Seal Bay is home to a colony of about 500 sea lions.

When you get to Seal Bay, you'll see a large group of sea lions resting on the shore. The sea lions are the main attraction of the island. They are a mix of fur seals and elephant seals. The fur seals are the most common and are found in large numbers. The elephant seals are much larger and are found in smaller numbers. The sea lions are very friendly and will often approach people. They are also very curious and will often look at people. The sea lions are a great sight and are a must-see for anyone visiting the island.

You're apt to find animals just about anywhere along the roads here. Kangaroos, possums and spiny anteaters hop out of the bush and scurry along the road just about everywhere. Three-foot-long goannas — the local lizard and smaller cousin of Indonesia's Komodo dragon — are often seen basking in the sun. Kangaroos, who occasionally misjudge the speed of oncoming cars, become fodder for local eagles (check out the protective "roo bar" mounted cowcatcher-style on just about every motor vehicle). And "koala crossing" signs are placed along streets in populated areas, alerting motorists to slow down and be on the lookout for Australia's most endearing creatures.

Be certain to take a guided tour of the local nightlife (that's penguins, not dance clubs). Arm yourself with a flashlight, light jacket and sneakers and head for the nearest beach to meet a formally-attired party of fairy penguins, now called "little" penguins for politically correct reasons. No bigger than Quaker Oats boxes, these tiny creatures spend their day in the sea fishing and return at night with their bellies full of fish for their young.

At Flinders Chase National Park, the

Scenic walks on the island, you can see a wide range of wildlife. The island is home to a variety of native animals, including kangaroos, wallabies, emus, and koalas. The island is also home to a large colony of sea lions. The island is a great place to see wildlife in its natural habitat. The island is also a great place to see the local flora and fauna. The island is a beautiful and scenic place to visit.

Although wildlife is certainly the drawing card for the island, the magnificent beaches, quiet coves, clear bays and steep cliffs — some topped with a lighthouse and great patches of brilliant flora — are a surprise. Along with all of the abundant life on the island, two amazing geological formations must be seen. One, Admirals Arch at Flinders Chase, is a natural bridge that sweeps over the churning waves, granite boulders forming a magnificent frame. Perhaps even more spectacular are the unimaginatively (if aptly) named Remarkable Rocks. These land-locked, enormous chunks of stone look like gigantic wedges of old Swiss cheese.

Kangaroo Island is not a pat-the-platypus kind of place. The animals here are, for the most part, cooperative and unafraid, but wild nonetheless. You're seeing them on their territory and on their terms. You're not going to get to cuddle a koala. No boxing kangaroos here, or performing parrots and cockatoos. If you're looking for a zoo, Sydney has one of the best.

With its endless outback and coastline, Australia is a land tailored for the adventure traveler rather than the "tourist." It can be a long time between emus in the outback. Kangaroo Island solves that problem. It sifts through a lot of sand to give you some of the best of Australia's wondrous wildlife. ☉

## Getting There & Getting Around

For details about organized travel contact Tourism South Australia, 212 Adelaide of the Arts Centre, Adelaide, SA 5000, (010) 725-3151. Contact your Council for more information.

For more information about the office, please contact the office nearest you. The office is located in Adelaide, South Australia. The office is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. The office is also open on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The office is closed on Sundays and public holidays.

For more information about the office, please contact the office nearest you. The office is located in Adelaide, South Australia. The office is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. The office is also open on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The office is closed on Sundays and public holidays.

The island's climate is like that of Los Angeles — only in reverse months (the Southern Hemisphere). Summer in the U.S. is winter here, and winter in the U.S. is summer here. The island is a beautiful and scenic place to visit.

If you decide to strike out on your own, ask Council Travel about the Aussie Explorer Pass, a combination bus and youth hostel pass good for inexpensive transportation and lodging within Australia.

Another option for those seeking an organized sampler of Australia is to link up with Contiki Holidays, a company that runs an enormous range of tours for 18- to 35-year-olds exclusively, and has customized trips for every interest — from urban nightlife to outback wilderness. Their 19-day tropics tour, for example, runs \$65 per day (all inclusive) and gets you into such attractions as rain forest and reefs, bush and beach, casino and croc farm.



Don't miss the koalas, often found snoozing in gum trees.

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9-10-94  
**Arrivals Strong**

Asian travellers' love affair with Down Under continues to grow more intense if the latest Australian Tourism Commission numbers are anything to go by.

The nearly 2.79 million visitors overall in the first half of 1993 represented an 11 per cent improvement on the year-earlier influx. Japanese visitors accounted for 23 per cent of the total but there were significant gains from other markets.

Taiwanese visitors were up 69 per cent at 52,100, Indonesians up 52 per cent at 30,400, Singaporeans up 49 per cent at 66,100. (KP)

**SPECIAL PROMOTIONS  
PRINT MEDIA**

OCT 17 1993

BURRELLE'S

## Luxury at low prices, for now

61075  
By ROBERT BONE

**S**YDNEY, Australia — Australian tourism officials believe that well over 1 million additional tourists will visit over the next decade as a result of the hoopla over the 2000 Olympics to be held in this city.

The influx of visitors may eventually overcome the current glut of hotel rooms in the city. But right now it is a buyer's market for high-class accommodations here. Luxury hotels that were expected to fetch upward of \$200 a night are now going for about half that price.

Bill Baker, regional director of the Australian Tourist Commission, predicts that more than 1.32 million additional tourists are expected to arrive in Australia between 1994 and 2004 as a direct result of Olympic fever.

"This is a conservative estimate considering the enormous publicity the games will generate for Australia," Baker said. He estimated that by 2,000, Australia will be hosting 6.8 million visitors a year.

Meanwhile, Sydney hoteliers have been bemoaning a surplus of deluxe hotel rooms in the wake of a recent hotel

building boom. Rates have been falling in four-star and five-star categories throughout the city.

New luxury hotels that have opened in the past two years include the Marriott Sydney, the Park Lane, Metro Inn, Quay West, the Observatory and the ANA Hotel Sydney. Other top hotels in town include the Regent of Sydney, the Sydney Hilton, the InterContinental and the Park Hyatt. (Ask your travel agent for help with reservations.)

Australia has participated in every Olympics since the Games were re-established in 1896. The 2000 summer Olympics will be the second held in the Southern Hemisphere. The first were also in Australia — at Melbourne in 1956.

Melbourne tried and failed to capture the Olympics for 1996, a bid which went to Atlanta, Georgia, instead. Then-prime minister Bob Hawke wept publicly in 1990 when that decision was announced.

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**ROBERT W. BONE** is a travel writer based in Honolulu and the author of several guidebooks including "The Maverick Guide to Australia."

## CLIPPINGS

A. J. ... ..

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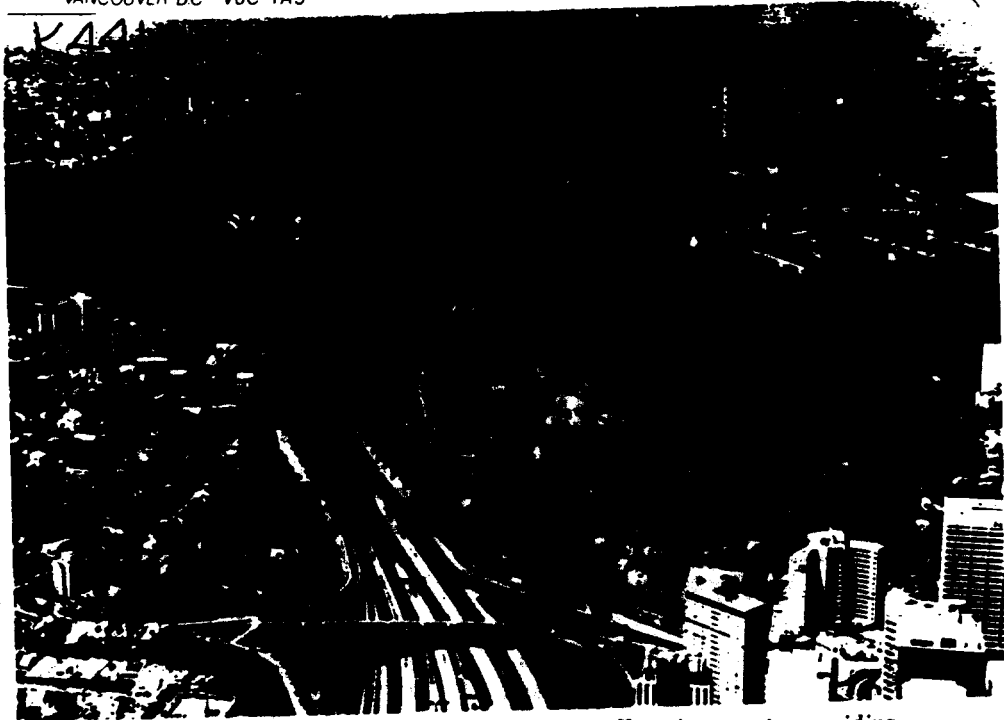
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Magazine

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*Sydney, Australia is gearing up to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000. With 190,000 hotel rooms already in place,*

*Sydney is well on its way to providing the massive infrastructure required to host the mega event.*

## ***Sydney pledges to hold line on prices***

Sydney, Australia, which was recently selected to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000, is going to do everything it can to prevent visitors from being gouged.

"During the bidding process," said Bill Baker, Los Angeles-based regional director, Americas for the ATC, "the hotel associations signed an agreement to put in place a pricing structure based on 1998 rates plus the CPI (consumer price index). Similar kinds of arrangements are expected from other sectors."

He goes on to say that the locals wouldn't have gouged Olympic visitors anyway, but the agreements help project the image of value to people planning to attend the games.

In related news, Black says Sydney is well ahead when it comes to infrastructure development for the games. Besides the Olympic Village, which will house all 15,000

athletes and their support staff, only two venues are required — the canoe / rowing course and the main stadium.

On the accommodation side, Sydney has more than enough hotel rooms already with 190,000, which is 30,000 more than the IOC required. What's more, the athletes' village will be within walking distance of 14 venues, with no participant more than 30 minutes away from their particular venue.

As far as tickets go, none are likely to appear prior to 1996, and 70% of those will be distributed in Australia, probably by ballot. International ticket arrangements have not been finalized, but Black says he expects many tickets will probably be made available as part of accommodation packages. Prices are likely to be as low as US\$10 for some events, with opening and closing ceremonies going for \$130-\$160.

OCT 10 1993

**BURRELLE'S**

# You can travel cheap if you can handle a little extra baggage

6675 / TRAV.  
By Laura Bly

Universal Press Syndicate

It was a phone call out of a foot-loose traveler's dream.

Ten minutes after calling IBC-Pacific, a Los Angeles courier service, I booked a Continental Airlines flight leaving a few days later for Sydney, Australia. Price: \$425 round-trip, less than half the cheapest advance-purchase fare.

All I had to do was bring a carry-on bag and show up at the airport two hours before my scheduled departure, when an IBC-Pacific representative would meet me at the Continental check-in counter and hand me my ticket.

I'd been thinking about a trip to Australia and was curious about the cultlike popularity of courier travel — which aficionados claim is the next-best thing to Aladdin's carpet.

Since it's more expensive and time-consuming to ship something overseas as freight than as checked baggage (which must be accompanied by a passenger), an estimated 50-60 U.S. companies use "free-lance couriers" on 25,000-35,000 international flights a year. Most courier shipments leave from New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami, but such cities as Chicago, Houston, Boston and Atlanta either have some courier flights or are scheduled to start within the next few months.

In return for giving up their baggage allowance, couriers fly at significant savings — often 50 percent or higher. Landing a free flight is rare but not unheard-of, particularly for past customers willing to travel at a few hours' notice.

The requirements for my own cheap trip to Sydney were simple: I had to be at least 21 years old and have a valid passport. I'd need a

## FOR INFORMATION

Kelly Monaghan's "The Insiders Guide to Air Courier Bargains" provides an excellent overview of how the courier business works, as well as a listing of agencies. It's available in bookstores or by calling (800) 358-9315; price is \$16.95, including shipping.

Another good source is the International Association of Air Travel Couriers (P.O. Box 1349, Lake Worth, Fla. 33460; phone (407) 582-8320). The \$35 annual fee includes updated listings of courier flights and a six-times-a-year newsletter called The Shoestring Traveler.

visa for Australia but could arrange that at short notice. I had to be traveling alone and must return two weeks later, on the date IBC-Pacific specified. I was told I could pay for the flight with a credit card but would have to post an additional security deposit of \$500 that would be forfeited if I broke the terms of my contract.

No long, anxious wait at the airport for a shifty-eyed messenger in a trench coat. My contact, dressed in snazzy shorts and a striped shirt, was standing where he was supposed to be, right on time. No drug-sniffing dogs or suspicious customs agents when I arrived. "My" checked bags, which I'd been told contained books and small machine parts, went direct and unseen to a courier facility at the Sydney airport.

See COURIER, Page 2

OCT 10 1993

BURRELLE'S

## COURIER

From Page 4F

^^ There was just the gleeful knowledge that I was saving a bundle — and the conviction that courier travel couldn't be this easy. Could it?

Not always.

It's all legal, and U.S. Customs Service spokesman Greg Doss says he's heard of very few cases in which a courier was trapped in the middle by a delivery company — or its clients — accompanying drugs or other contraband.

But the drawbacks to courier travel can be considerable.

Since most companies use just one courier per flight, couples and families are at a disadvantage. However, with enough notice, you might be able to fly as couriers on consecutive days. Generally, you'll need to make hotel reservations and other travel arrangements yourself or through a travel agent.

A few companies allow you to check one bag, and in some cases you might be able to check luggage by paying the airline an "excess baggage" fee of around \$100 per bag. But traveling light is a courier's modus operandi, and one piece of carry-on luggage is the rule.

As Toni Carpenter, overseas director of IBC-Pacific, put it, couriers are "buying a trip, not a ticket." Though passenger names are listed in the airline's reservation computer and on the ticket itself, couriers are typically locked into the delivery companies' schedules. IBC-Pacific, for example, allows exactly 14 days in Manila and either nine, 12, 14 or 15 days in Seoul, depending on the

day of departure from Los Angeles. If you don't fly back on the assigned day, you forfeit your return ticket and \$500 security deposit.

In most cases, couriers carry a pouch that contains shipment-related paperwork. As for the goods themselves, "most of the time, you never see them," said Kelly Monaghan, author of "The Insider's Guide to Air Courier Bargains." When you arrive at your destination and clear customs with your carry-on luggage, you hand over the pouch to a delivery service representative. Then, depending on whether the airport has its own courier facility, you either are free to go or must wait while the representative takes the checked bags through customs — generally, no more than 15 minutes.

But in a few airports, such as Seoul's, the procedure is more complicated. There, says Carpenter of IBC-Pacific, couriers might have to show up at the baggage-claim area, load anywhere from 10-15 bags on carts, and wait to clear customs — a process that could take an hour or more.

If you're partial to nose rings, pierced eyebrows and tattered cut-offs, forget about being a courier. Most contracts specify that couriers maintain a "professional" appearance; backpacks and unconventional hairstyles are discouraged.

Many companies that use couriers require payment, well in advance, by cash, money order or cashier's check.

Most travelers are put off by the

uncertainty of paying cash for a ticket they won't even see until they reach the airport, says Byron Lutz of the International Association of Air Travel Couriers.

"Most of the time it's hassle-free, but there's always that element of doubt," Lutz said. "You're always wondering if (the courier company) will really show up. People who worry a lot should never be couriers."

He recalls waiting for one courier representative to meet him at the Mexico City airport with a return ticket. The contact was stuck in one of Mexico City's legendary traffic jams and showed up just as Lutz's plane was taxiing to the runway. The upshot: Lutz spent an extra night in Mexico, at his own expense.

My own trip, meanwhile, was nearly glitch-free. At one point during the Thursday-night leg from Los Angeles, before popping a sleeping pill and adjusting my earplugs and eye mask, I chirpily confided to the woman next to me that I was flying as a courier for only \$425 round-trip.

Her eyes widened; her jaw dropped.

I didn't have the heart to ask how much she'd paid.

December 1993

**PUBLIC RELATIONS & PROMOTIONS**

- Total Advertising Equivalency \$5,102,789.00
- Number of Media Releases Issued 2  
Partnership Australia  
Adelaide Festival
- Number of Journalist Interviews Given 1
- Number of VJP Visits to Australia 5  
Michael Gray/Chronicle Examiner  
James Gaffney/ Mature Life Features  
Toby Saltzman/The Globe & The Financial Post  
David Wishart/Toronto Star, TravelAge West  
Charles Perry/Clear Water Big Fish

**News Bureau/Media Liaison**

- Distributed "Adelaide Festival" release to travel trade media, selected magazines and newspapers, the general distribution list and PR Newswire to U.S. and Canadian arts, entertainment and travel editors on December 23. Photos were made available to editors by calling Amy Shearer in Los Angeles.
- Distributed "Partnership Australia" release to selected travel trade media via fax and mailed to state offices.
- Updated "Cruising in Australia" release with industry queries. Continue to await further information from Australia.
- Wrote first draft of "Australia '94 Festivals" release.
- Fulfilled 35 additional requests for information or photography including:
  1. Doug, Canadian Traveller
  2. Carol Sottili, Washington Post
  3. Jane Southward, John Fairfax US Limited
  4. Mark Roberti, Tour & Travel News
  5. Caroline Seary, PATA Travel News
  6. Stephanie Sneddon, Islands Magazine
  7. Paul Heltzel, V Magazine

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8. Althea Miller, Traveling with Althea
9. Randy Keck, International Travel News
10. Angela Freeman, Bon Appetit
11. Griffin Miller, Corporate & Incentive Travel Magazine
12. Cheryl Miller, Hemispheres Magazine
13. Mitchell Sussman, Raven Productions
14. David Ghitelman, Meetings & Conventions
15. Brendon Weston, Canadian Inflight Magazine
16. Mary Beth O'Malley, Tri Travel
17. Miguel Moya, Vancouver Sun
18. Suzy Lavenas, Travel Weekly
19. Suzanne Angeo, Pacific Rim Information Network
20. Marcous Kounelakis, Freelancer
21. Anne Seidler, WRTV-Channel 6, Indianapolis, Indiana
22. Ingrid Perry, Spectrum Unlimited
23. Larry Wayne, International Exteriors
24. Carol Ozemoy, Recommend
25. Dinah Spritzer, Travel Weekly
26. Jim Ruggia, Travel Agent
27. Vanessa Cross, The Black Eagle Traveler Newsletter
28. Lisa Falk, Freelancer
29. Everett Potter, Smart Money
30. Taren Grom, Corp. & Incentive Travel
31. Carolyn Jackson, Freelancer
32. Donna Laporte, Toronto Sun
33. Daniel Dutka, Freelancer
34. Marilyn Prupas, Freelancer
35. Renee Karlin, Adventure Travel Society

## VJP

Worked with 29 journalists during the month, either to invite them to visit Australia or to coordinate their itineraries and plan their upcoming trips. Updated the VJP database with current articles and advertising equivalencies. There were five VJP visits to Australia in the month of December. Journalists worked with included:

1. Joe Scholnick, Capitol News Service
2. Valmai Howe & David Elkins, Doctor's Review
3. Sylvie Grandmaison, Freelancer
4. Ann Jones, Freelancer
5. Bobbie Zane, Freelancer
6. Peggy Person, Mature Outlook
7. Ken Hoffman, Houston Post
8. Jeff Book, Freelancer
9. Steve Payne, Toronto Sun
10. Debbie Selinsky, Freelancer
11. Charles Gianes, FYI

12. David Wishart
13. KTLA-TV
14. George Hobica, TAB
15. Jeff Miller & Susan Burdick, Freelancers
16. Mirabella Magazine
17. Keith Tuber
18. Toby Saltzman, Freelancer
19. Michael Gray & Amy Smith, Freelancer
20. James Gaffney, Freelancer
21. Stacy March, KOMO-TV, Seattle
22. Guy DeMarino, Freelancer, Canadian
23. Christopher Guly, Freelancer, Canadian
24. Jim Hutchison & Margo Pfeiff
25. Sylvie Grandmaison
26. Barbara Rosenburg, Freelancer
27. Sunday Edition
28. Joe Young, Nashville Network
29. Michael Justice, Freelancer

#### **VJP Other**

- Sent database information to Sydney for several journalists.
- Sent original publications of VJP articles to Amy for forwarding to Sydney.
- Provided Amy Shearer with charts for targeted journalists.
- Updated the VJP database with articles produced and received in November.

#### **Promotions & Special Activities**

##### Dreamtime '94/MC&I

- Discussed Dreamtime '94 post-touring options to determine interest.
- Advised Sydney of the editor's choices.
- Briefed Nigel Bramich on issues to cover in interview with Corporate & Incentive Travel Magazine. Participated in the interview.

##### Aboriginal and Environmental U.S. Tour

- Received an additional \$312,809 in advertising equivalency making the total ad equivalency \$1,008,689.

### Broadcast Assist Project

- Researched three broadcast assist concepts including CNN, Entertainment Tonight and the Nashville Network.
- Revised comprehensive broadcast assist proposal outlining key opportunities with CNN, Entertainment Tonight and the Nashville Network.
- Sent bound copy with video tape to Sydney for consideration.

### Special Interest Australia

- Provided project ideas for reaching target market audiences with the "Year of the Great Outdoors" information to Carol Holyoake.

### Media Christmas Cards & Gifts

- Developed list to send Christmas Cards and Gifts.
- Purchased 50 jars of Australian Honey to send to selected media.
- Purchased 50 boxes to ship gifts in.
- Distributed cards and gifts.

### List Requests/Miscellaneous

- Had first, all-ATC staff meeting with Amy Shearer, Ann Black, Chermerdene Jordan, Carol Martinez, Patricia Lee, Michelle Repose and Gina Pezzi to review account activity, priorities and operations.
- Bill Baker met with Irv Hamilton and Ann Black to review program activities and the proposed "Weekend to Weekend" Australia project.
- Provided Greg Wren with World Tourism Organization contact details.
- Sent Linda Zak, QTTC, cruising information.

### Feedback

- A condensed version of Discover It that played on all Canadian Airlines October lights prompted only 6 responses to the 800 number. However, excellent feedback was reported by Canadian.
- Didgeridoos: This company has found it to be expensive to launch a major promotion campaign for new Australian-themed coffee shops in the U.S. and Canada. They will contact the ATC early in 1994, however, about their first-quarter opening.

**PUBLICATIONS & INFORMATION**

**Newsletters**

**Meetings & Conventions Update**

- Coordinated production and client approval of the December issue.

*US Advertising Equivalency*

Press Releases / Interviews	\$ 540,440.00
Photo / Information Asst.	\$ 1,020,408.00
Visiting Journalists Program	\$ 2,835,360.00
U.S. Aboriginal Road Show	<u>\$ 312,809.00</u>

**TOTAL US AD EQUIVALENCY \$ 4,709,017.00**

*Canadian Advertising Equivalency*

Press Releases / Interviews	\$ 756.00
Photo / Information Asst.	\$ 190,672.00
Visiting Journalists Program	<u>\$ 167,620.00</u>

**TOTAL CANADIAN AD EQUIVALENCY \$ 359,048.00**

*Special Promotions (Sydney 2000)* \$ 34,724.00

**TOTAL NORTH AMERICAN  
ADVERTISING EQUIVALENCY \$ 5,102,789.00**

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AVISO INC.  
MARKETING COMMUNICATION

AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

CLIPS REPORT

DECEMBER 1993

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**AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION  
CLIPS REPORT  
DECEMBER 1993**

**U.S. VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM**

OCT 17	SPOKESMAN-REVIEW (SPOKANE, WA) (S-150,854) "Gala Celebration" by Elizabeth Hansen	<b>\$26,818.00</b>
OCT 31	SALT LAKE TRIBUNE (SALT LAKE CITY, UT) (S-140,977) "Sydney Opera House Turns 20" by Elizabeth Hansen	<b>\$14,594.00</b>
OCT 31	DETROIT NEWS AND FREE PRESS (DETROIT, MI) (S-1,189,937) "Tales from the Outback" by John Muncie	<b>\$221,267.00</b>
NOV 02	CAMBRIDGE TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-21,300) "Country Down Under"	<b>\$4,358.00</b>
	BOSTON TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-24,141) "Country Down Under"	<b>\$4,358.00</b>
	BROOKLINE TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-20,464) "The Country Down Under"	<b>\$4,090.00</b>
	NEWTON TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-23,730) "The Country Down Under"	<b>\$4,142.00</b>
	WELLESLEY TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-8,220) "Country Australia"	<b>\$2,728.00</b>
	ASHLAND TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,664) "Country Australia"	<b>\$1,924.00</b>
	SHERBORN TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-1,394) "Country Australia"	<b>\$1,765.00</b>
	SUDBURY TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-4,646) "Country Australia"	<b>\$2,464.00</b>
	FRAMINGHAM TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-25,593) "Country Australia"	<b>\$3,741.00</b>
	HOLLISTON TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,566) "Country Australia"	<b>\$1,924.00</b>
	DOVER TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-1,954) "Country Australia"	<b>\$1,765.00</b>
	WESTON TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,635) "Country Australia"	<b>\$1,055.00</b>
	WAYLAND TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,495) "Country Australia"	<b>\$2,464.00</b>
	NATICK TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-9,500) "Country Australia" by George Hobic	<b>\$1,322.00</b>

**U.S. VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM (CONTINUED)**

NOV 09	DOVER TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-1,954)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$2,041.00
	SUDBURY TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-4,646)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$2,849.00
	ASHLAND TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,664)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$2,224.00
	BROOKLINE TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-20,464)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$6,475.00
	NATICK TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-9,500)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$1,788.00
	FRAMINGHAM TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-25,593)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$2,689.00
	HOLLISTON TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,566)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$2,224.00
	CAMBRIDGE TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-21,300)	
	"A visit to Hayman Island"	\$4,631.00
	SHERBORN TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-1,394)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$2,041.00
	WELLESLEY TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-8,220)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$1,790.00
	WAYLAND TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,495)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$2,849.00
	WESTON TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-3,635)	
	"Hayman Island, Australia"	\$692.00
	by George Hobica	
NOV 11	PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN (PUEBLO, CO) (D-51,500)	
	"Hayman, the reef paradise"	
	by George Hobica	\$4,884.00
NOV 11	BULLETIN-JOURNAL (INDEPENDENCE, IA) (W-4,600)	
	"Australian caves: evidence of ancient interior decorating"	
	by john Muncie	\$974.00
NOV 13	WAVE (ROCKAWAY BEACH, NY) (W-10,500)	
	"Australia Beyond the Reef and The Rocks"	
	by George Hobica	\$1,495.00
NOV 13	ST. LOUIS JEWISH LIGHT (ST. LOUIS, MO) (W-16,200)	
	"More attractions in Australia beyond the Reef and the Rocks"	
	by George Hobica	\$1,680.00
NOV 14	THE SUNDAY DENVER POST (DENVER, CO) (S-428,253)	
	"Riding the Rails Down Under"	
	by Jeff Miller	\$87,487.00

**U.S. VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM (CONTINUED)**

NOV 14	SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS (SAN JOSE, CA) (S-330,847) "Adventure riding the rails:" by Zeke Wigglesworth	<b>\$2,779.00</b>
NOV 14	THE SUNDAY DENVER POST (DENVER, CO) (S-428,253) "Castlemaine's artistic spirit glitters with cultural gold" by Ellen Alperstein	<b>\$49,936.00</b>
NOV 17	SHOPPER (ELLSWORTH, WI) (W-26,315) "Australia Beyond the Reef and The Rocks" by George Hobic	<b>\$313.00</b>
NOV 17	GEORGETOWN NEWS-GRAPHIC (GEORGETOWN, KY) (2X-W-5,000) "Australia offers variety of activities for tourists" by George Hobic	<b>\$932.00</b>
NOV 18	WEST BEND DAILY NEWS (WEST BEND, WI) (D-10,433) "All about Australia" by George Hobic	<b>\$850.00</b>
NOV 18	MONTGOMERY INDEPENDENT (MONTGOMERY, AL) (W-4,200) "Australia Beyond the Reef and The Rocks" by George Hobic	<b>\$623.00</b>
NOV 21	DAILY BREEZE (TORRANCE, CA) (S-130,000) "On the Rocks" by Stanton Patty	<b>\$40,923.00</b>
NOV 21	NEWS-REVIEW (ROSENBERG, OR) (D&S-20,757) "Australia Beyond the Reef and The Rocks" by George Hobic	<b>\$1,361.00</b>
NOV 21	TULSA WORLD (TULSA, OK) (S-224,172) "Australia Beyond the Reef and The Rocks" by George Hobic	<b>\$6,720.00</b>
NOV 23	DOVER TAB (BOSTON, MA) (W-1,954) "Greetings from Cairns" by George Hobic	<b>\$165.00</b>
NOV 27	THE LONDON FREE PRESS (LONDON, ON) (D-115,000) "Australia - Closeup of a coral wonder" by Joe Scholnick	<b>\$37,479.00</b>

**U.S. VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM (CONTINUED)**

NOV 28	CONTRA COSTA TIMES (WALNUT CREEK, CA) (S-100,000) "Eloquence of Brindabella Station weaves lyrical magic" by Patricia Woeber	<b>\$5,571.00</b>
NOV 28	VALLEY TIMES (PLEASANTON, CA) (D&S-30,252) "Eloquence of Brindabella Station weaves lyrical magic" by Patricia Woeber	<b>\$5,608.00</b>
NOV 28	WEST COUNTY TIMES (RICHMOND, CA) (D&S-34,000) "Eloquence of Brindabella Station weaves lyrical magic" by Patricia Woeber	<b>\$5,608.00</b>
NOV 28	THE HOUSTON POST (HOUSTON, TX) (S-348,676) "Variety of Australian meals won't 'tucker' you out" by Kit Snedaker	<b>\$34,200.00</b>
NOV 28	CONTRA COSTA TIMES (WALNUT CREEK, CA) (S-100,000) "Strolling the Rocks" by Stanton Patty	<b>\$6,669.00</b>
NOV 28	WEST COUNTY TIMES (RICHMOND, CA) (D&S-34,000) "Strolling the Rocks" by Stanton Patty	<b>\$7,419.00</b>
NOV 28	VALLEY TIMES (PLEASANTON, CA) (D&S-30,252) "Strolling the Rocks" by Stanton Patty	<b>\$7,419.00</b>
DEC 93	TENNIS (TRUMBULL, CT) (MO-755,000) "Australian Fantasy - All the Wonder Down Under" by Roger Cox	<b>\$794,021.00</b>
DEC 93	RACQUET (NEW YORK, NY) (6X-YEAR-151,200) "The Marvelous Land of OZ" by Linda Mek Stewart	<b>\$63,418.00</b>
DEC 93	SPECIALTY TRAVEL INDEX "Tasmania: Australia's Other Outback" by Candyce Stapen	<b>\$8,978.00</b>
DEC 05	THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER (CINCINNATI, OH) (S-351,163) "Devil of a time in Tasmania" by Betsa Marsh	<b>\$33,576.00</b>

**US. VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM (BROADCAST)**

OCT 25	WHAT'S COOKING WITH BURT WOLF (CNN) "Australia's Seafood Market"	
NOV 12	"Vegetable Soup With Australian Prawns With Qantas Airways"	
NOV 22	"Herbed Tenderloin of Australian Lamb From The Observatory"	
DEC 10	"Rockpool Fish & Corncakes From Australia"	<b>\$81,600.00</b>
DEC 13	WHAT'S COOKING WITH BURT WOLF (CNN) "Australian Food Slang"	
DEC 27	"Australian Botanical Foods"	
JAN 03	"Australian Food Photos"	
JAN 21	"Observatory Hotel's Fudgey Chocolate Cake"	<b>\$81,600.00</b>
DEC 7, 14, 18, 23, 26	WHAT'S COOKING WITH BURT WOLF (THE TRAVEL CHANNEL) "A Taste For Travel In Sydney, Australia"	
DEC 9, 23, 25, 28		
JAN 1	"A Taste For Travel Down Under In Australia" by Burt Wolf	<b>\$1,128,000.00</b>

**CANADIAN VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM**

OCT 93	STRATEGIE VOYAGE "Destination L'Australie attire les Canadiens" by Sylvie Grandmaison	<b>\$N/A</b>
NOV 93	TOUR HEBDO "Info Australie" by Sylvie Grandmaison	<b>\$N/A</b>
NOV 01	TOURISME + (MONTREAL, PQ) (7,500) "Hamilton Island, au coeur de la huitieme merveille du monde" by Serge LaMarre	<b>\$17,800.00</b>
NOV 10	THE GLOBE AND MAIL (TORONTO, ON) (D-330,030) "If it moves, just eat it" by Margo Pfeiff and Jim Hutchison	<b>\$91,676.00</b>
DEC 04	THE GAZETTE (MONTREAL, PQ) (D-158,493) "Top End of Down under" by Jim Hutchison	<b>\$58,144.00</b>

**U.S. PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS**

SEP 93	ASTA AGENCY MANAGEMENT (WASHINGTON, DC) (MO-21,500) "Boning Up On Down Under" by Mindy Schneeberger	<b>\$4,536.00</b>
OCT 93	INCENTIVE (NEW YORK, NY) (MO-40,000) "Australia Closes Tourist Offices"	<b>\$7,624.00</b>
OCT 93	MEETING NEWS (NEW YORK, NY) (MO-75,000) "More U.S. Attendees are Making the Trek Down Under" by Betty MacDonald	<b>\$49,704.00</b>
OCT 10	SUNDAY AMERICAN (ODESSA, TX) (S-35,044) "Aborigines are becoming involved in Australia's tourism" by Steven Morris	<b>\$2,212.00</b>
OCT 10	NW FLORIDA DAILY NEWS (FT. WALTON BEACH, FL) (S-45,306) "Aborigines get involved in Australia's tourism" by Steven Morris	<b>\$2,172.00</b>
OCT 15	AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NEWS "US tastes the true Australian Outback" by Kerry Wren	<b>\$N/A</b>
OCT 17	ORLANDO SENTINEL (ORLANDO, FL) (S-387,997) "Step softly when visiting native cultures" by Laura Bly	<b>\$29,848.00</b>
OCT 17	THE SACRAMENTO BEE (SACRAMENTO, CA) (S-335,113) "When in the global village, tread softly" by Laura Bly	<b>\$13,236.00</b>
OCT 17	PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (PHILADELPHIA, PA) (S-964,475) "Aborigines take bigger slice of Australian tourism" by Steven Morris	<b>\$21,504.00</b>
OCT 24	BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE (BOSTON, MA) (S-812,021) "Meeting the people: the indigenous people, that is" by William Davis	<b>\$119,984.00</b>
NOV 93	MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS (DENVER, CO) (MO-80,279) "Destination Guide - Australia" by James Transue	<b>\$131,284.00</b>
NOV 04	TRAVEL WEEKLY (NEW YORK, NY) (2X-W - 21,198) "Gaining Momentum"	<b>\$60,028.00</b>

**U.S. PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS (CONTINUED)**

NOV 04	TRAVEL WEEKLY (NEW YORK, NY) (2X-W - 21,198) "In Training"	<b>\$24,788.00</b>
NOV 04	TRAVEL WEEKLY (NEW YORK, NY) (2X-W - 21,198) "What's New"	<b>\$6,684.00</b>
NOV 07	FLORIDA TIMES-UNION (JACKSONVILLE, FL) (S-250,765) "Tread softly through the global village" by Laur Bly	<b>\$16,872.00</b>
NOV 14	SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE (SOUTH BEND, IN) (S-125,657) "Cheapest airline fares worth slight hassle of being free-lance courier" by Laura Bly	<b>\$7,080.00</b>
NOV 14	HERALD-SUN (DURHAM, NC) (S-61,967) "Meet the People" by William Davis	<b>\$10,716.00</b>
NOV 14	COURIER TIMES-TELEGRAPH (TYLER, TX) (S-50,373) "Tread Softly on Global Visit" by Laura Bly	<b>\$1,784.00</b>
NOV 19	TRAVEL MANAGEMENT DAILY (NEW YORK, NY) (DAILY) "Tourism Victoria"	<b>\$1,028.00</b>
NOV 20	ST. LOUIS COUNTIAN (ST. LOUIS, MO) (D-1,485) "Destination Australia"	<b>\$40.00</b>
NOV 21	OSHKOSH NORTHWESTERN (OSHKOSH, WI) (S-27,841) "Tis the Silly Season Down Under"	<b>\$1,224.00</b>
NOV 21	LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL (LAS VEGAS, NV) (S-205,754) "Meeting the people: The indigenous people, that is" by William Davis	<b>\$9,720.00</b>
NOV 21	MODESTO BEE (MODESTO, CA) (S-95,000) "Aborigines claim bigger piece of Australia travel pie" by Steven Morris	<b>\$4,180.00</b>
NOV 21	FLINT JOURNAL (FLINT, MI) (S-119,610) "Cultures find ways to capitalize on curiosity" by Laura Bly	<b>\$356.00</b>
NOV 21	FLINT JOURNAL (FLINT, MI) (S-119,610) "Tread Softly" by Laura Bly	<b>\$15,100.00</b>

**U.S. PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS (CONTINUED)**

NOV 21	SALT LAKE TRIBUNE (SALT LAKE CITY, UT) (S-140,977) "You must be willing to hop an airplane at moment's notice" by Laura Bly	<b>\$7,172.00</b>
NOV 21	SUN-SENTINEL (FT. LAUDERDALE, FL) (S-345,849) "Aborigines active in bush tour visits" by Steven Morris	<b>\$20,572.00</b>
NOV 22	TRAVEL AGENT (NEW YORK, NY) (W-52,132) "In the Center of Down Under"	<b>\$31,572.00</b>
NOV 25	PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN (PUEBLO, CO) (D-51,500) "Destination Australia"	<b>\$148.00</b>
NOV 28	SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN (SPRINGFIELD, OH) (S-45,776) "Aborigines enter tourism" by Steven Morris	<b>\$9,612.00</b>
NOV 28	BUFFALO NEWS (BUFFALO, NY) (S-382,054) "Mass tourism has both pros and cons for native peoples" by William Davis	<b>\$22,713.00</b>
NOV 28	HERALD PALLADIUM (ST. JOSEPH, MI) (D&S-33,415) "Down Under - Christmas"	<b>\$284.00</b>
NOV 28	DESERT SUN (PALM SPRINGS, CA) (D&S-47,352) "Australian Christmas"	<b>\$1,636.00</b>
NOV 28	ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES (ASHEVILLE, NC) (S-79,302) "Australian Christmas"	<b>\$572.00</b>
NOV 28	ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS (DENVER, CO) (S-429,616) "Wing it" by Laura Bly	<b>\$76,464.00</b>
DEC 93	BON APPETIT (LOS ANGELES, CA) (MO-1,300,000) "Capital Celebrations - Sydney - Silly Season"	<b>\$127,624.00</b>
DEC 05	DAILY NEWS (LOS ANGELES, CA) (S-223,346) "Christmas in Australia"	<b>\$948.00</b>
DEC 06	TOUR & TRAVEL NEWS (MANHASSET, NY) (W-56,000) "A Home-Grown Tourism Initiative in North Australia" by Diane Merlino	<b>\$12,228.00</b>

**CANADIAN PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS**

NOV 08 TRAVELWEEK BULLETIN (TORONTO, ON) (W-7,500)  
"The Australian Tourist Commission has named three new managers"  
\$756.00

**U.S. PHOTO / INFORMATION ASSISTANCE**

SEP 93 WESTERN ASSOCIATION NEWS (LOS ANGELES, CA) (MO-12,000)  
"Destination: Meetings in the Pacific Rim Nations"  
by Peter McDonald \$2,004.00

SEP 06 TRAVEL WEEKLY (SECAUCUS, NJ) (BI-W-21,198)  
"Austravel offers special roundtrip air fare to Australia"  
photo - Sydney Opera House \$6,276.00

NOV 06 NORTHWEST HERALD (CRYSTAL LAKE, IL) (D-29,192)  
"Film series goes down under" \$1,732.00

NOV 07 MONROE EVENING NEWS (MONROE, MI) (D&S-23,129)  
"Strange birds, unusual wildlife rife in Australia"  
by Janet Celesta Lowe \$2,560.00

NOV 14 THE NEW YORK TIMES (NEW YORK, NY) (S-1,735,706)  
"Australia's Underwater Garden"  
by Blanche D'Alpuget \$690,800.00

NOV 14 COLUMBUS DISPATCH (COLUMBUS, OH) (S-399,500)  
"Surfers can find paradise on Australia's Gold Coast"  
by Brian Alexander \$25,964.00

NOV 14 MIAMI HERALD (MIAMI, FL) (S-527,851)  
"Australian Tourist Commission" \$1,168.00

NOV 14 THE SUNDAY DENVER POST (DENVER, CO) (S-428,253)  
"Slow trip on paddle wheeler recalls continent's discovery days"  
by John Masters \$38,232.00

NOV 14 THE SUNDAY DENVER POST (DENVER, CO) (S-428,253)  
"Narrow-gauge train half the fun on bargain run"  
by Kim McHugh \$50,384.00

NOV 28 CONTRA COSTA TIMES (WALNUT CREEK, CA) (S-100,000)  
"Say ahoy, mates, to traveling the countryside by train" \$1,116.00

NOV 28 BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES (WILLINGBORO, NJ) (S-47,800)  
"Courier travel: It's cheap, but it's not for everyone"  
by Laura Bly \$1,884.00

**U.S. PHOTO / INFORMATION ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)**

NOV 28	PRESS JOURNAL (VERO BEACH, FL) (S-33,000) "Australian Tourist Commission"	\$228.00
NOV 28	WEST COUNTY TIMES (RICHMOND, CA) (D&S-34,000) "Say ahoy, mates, to traveling the countryside by train"	\$1,016.00
NOV/ DEC 93	CONSUMERS DIGEST (CHICAGO, IL) (BI-MO-1,000,000) "Arthur Frommer's 20 Top Winter Travel Values"	\$7,236.00
DEC 93	HEMISPHERES "Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race"	\$13,640.00
DEC 93	SKIN DIVER (LOS ANGELES, CA) (MO-217,795) "Australia's Spoil" by Geri Murphy	\$176,168.00

**CANADIAN PHOTO / INFORMATION ASSISTANCE**

NOV 07	NORTH SHORE NEWS (NORTH VANCOUVER, BC) (D-60,380) "Coming to grips with the rock in rugged Australia" by John Moore	\$N/A
NOV 24	THE GLOBE AND MAIL (TORONTO, ON) (D-330,030) "Kangaroo Island - Hopping along in roo time" by Gerald Fitzpatrick	\$119,180.00
DEC 04	THE OTTAWA CITIZEN (OTTAWA, ON) (D-146,353) "Australia's Exotic Rain Forests" by Alexander Frater	\$71,492.00

**SPECIAL PROMOTIONS ( SYDNEY 2000)**

OCT 11	ADWEEK (WESTERN EDITION) (LOS ANGELES, CA) (W-83,000) "Why the Olympic Choice Was a Winner for Agencies, Too"	\$6,084.00
OCT 25	TOUR & TRAVEL NEWS (MANHASSET, NY) (W-56,000) "Sydney's 2000 Olympics: More 'Gold' For Agents?"	\$4,788.00
NOV 93	MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS (DENVER, CO) (MO-80,279) "Aussies Promise Fair Prices For Olympic Visitors"	\$16,856.00
NOV 07	THE VANCOUVER COURIER (VANCOUVER, BC) (65,000) "Aussies already gearing up for games"	\$N/A
DEC 93	JAX FAX TRAVEL MARKETING MAGAZINE (DARIEN, CT) (MO-28,000) "Sydney goes for the gold in the year 2000"	\$6,996.000

**U.S.  
VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM**

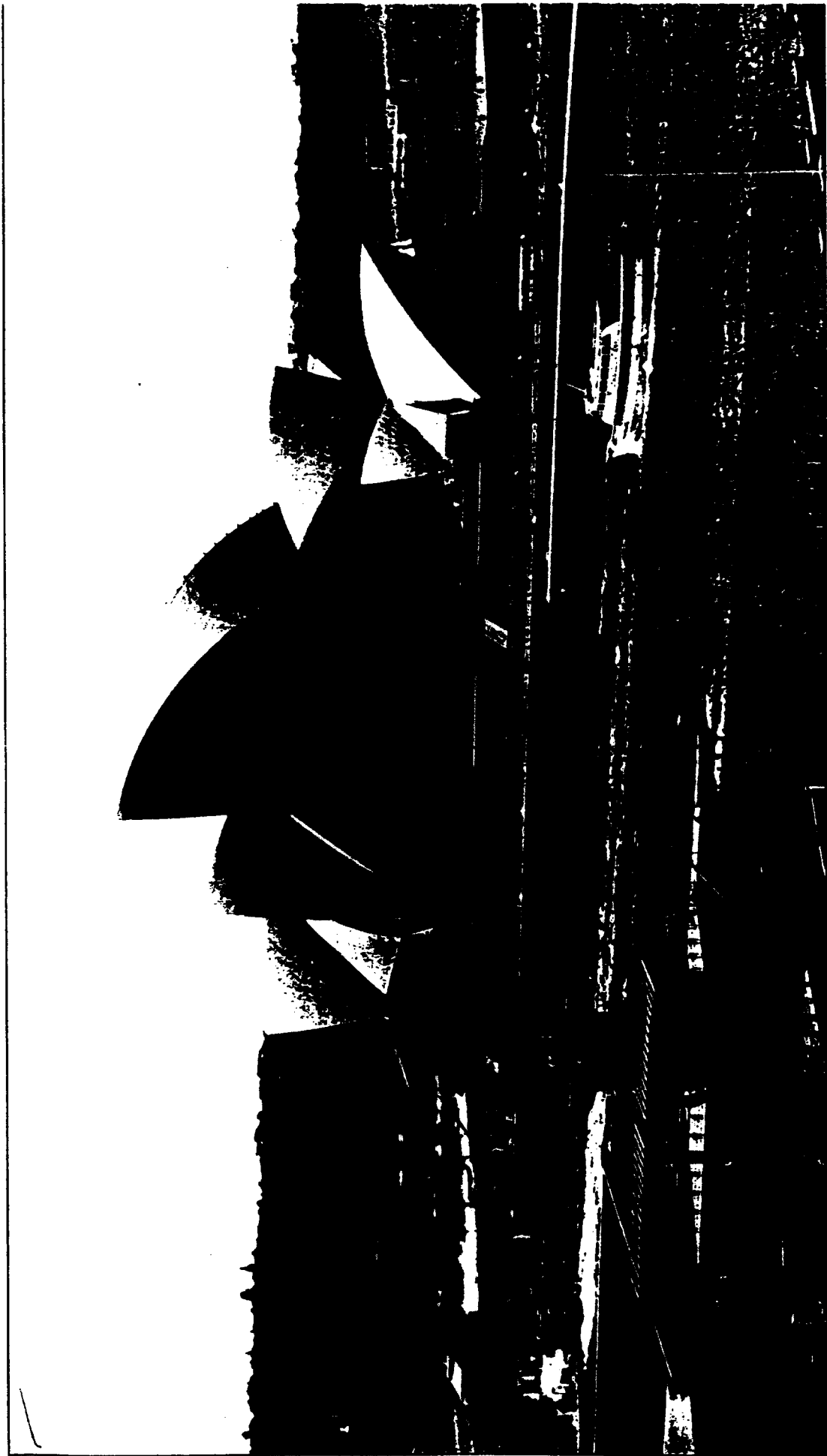
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**BURRELLE'S**

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The Sydney Opera House's distinctive multi-shell look has made it one of the world's most recognizable landmarks. Situated on Bennelong Point in Sydney Harbor, the opera house is actually a complex of 900 rooms.

Cl. 50

# Gala Celebration

It's time for a party. The Sydney Opera House's bravura 20-year run is something to cheer about.

By Elizabeth Hansen  
Special to Travel

**W**hen I first met her she was a sweet young thing — all gleaming white and nearly brand new. The year was 1975. I was a school teacher on summer vacation. She — the Sydney Opera House — was an architectural wonder on her way to becoming the most famous landmark in the Southern Hemisphere.

Less than two years earlier, on October 20, 1973, Queen Elizabeth II had presided over her official opening. That month, the Opera House appeared on magazine covers around the world.

Time called her "Australia's Own Taj Mahal" and ran a lengthy article about Jørn Utzon, the Danish architect who conceived the design and then was squeezed out of a job when his original cost estimate of 3

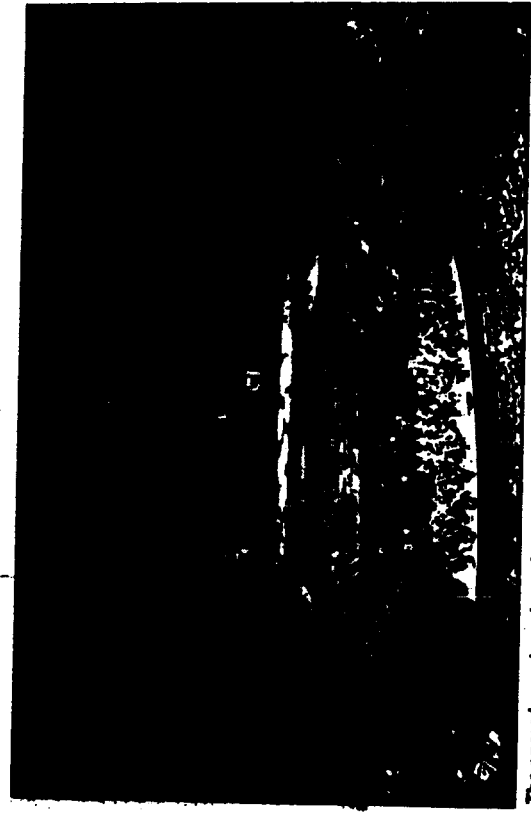
million Australian dollars began skyrocketing toward its eventual total of \$102 million (about \$66 million U.S.).

So when I visited Australia, a couple of years later, item one was a tour of the Opera House.

When I recall this occasion, of walking down Macquarie Street and looking up and seeing the House for the first time, I hear Roberta Flick's voice. I hear "The first time ever I saw your face ..."

I know it sounds corny, but I really was "knocked off my pins" as they say in Australia. The building itself, all gleaming white and looking like nothing I'd ever seen before, would have been impressive on its own, but in combination with its site, it took my breath away.

The Opera House occupies a finger of land which extends into Sydney Harbor. This extrusion, called Bennelong Point, is surrounded by water on three sides. Until



The opera house's main performance halls boast grand interiors and fine acoustics.

the Sydney Harbour Bridge was completed in 1932, this was the southern landing for a ferry which brought people and cars across the harbor from the northern suburbs. From 1902 until 1959, when the cornerstone of the Opera House was laid, a tram depot was located here.

A wonderful breeze blows across Bennelong Point, refreshing all who stand there to admire the passing parade of massive container ships, peripatetic ferries, and dutiful tugboats. The wind fills the sails of the white yachts which tack and jibe around the larger vessels. It is also the constant source of small waves on the surface of the water. The nearby Harbour Bridge, nicknamed the "coat hanger," is both an integral part of the scene and the picture's frame.

And the biggest surprise was yet to come: the Opera House isn't an opera house. It's a complex of more than 900 rooms, including four main performance halls, five restaurants, six theater bars, a reception hall, a library, archives and extensive foyer and lounge areas.

The largest theater is the 2,690-seat Concert Hall, in which acrylic rings are suspended from the ceiling, providing the room with excellent acoustics. The hall's white birch ceiling rises 80 feet above the floor, and the seats are covered with wool so that when they are empty they continue to contribute to the acoustics.

The Opera Theater seats 1,547; the Drama Theatre another 544; and the Playhouse holds 398. Another fact I learned on the tour: The Opera House didn't cost taxpayers a penny. It was paid for by funds raised in a lottery.

In its two decades, the House has had many high points. Certainly one of these was in 1974, when Joan Sutherland came home to sing in her country's new House for the first time. She also performed here in 1983 with Pavarotti and in 1985 with Marilyn Horne. Dame Joan gave the final performance of her career when she sang "Les Huguenots" at the Opera House in 1990.

Ella Fitzgerald, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Phil Collins, Billy Joel, Sherrill Milnes, Isaac Stern, Zubin Mehta, Bette Davis, Sir George Solti, and Wynton Marsalis are just a few of the other stars who have performed at the Sydney Opera House — and many more will perform at its 20th birthday festivities next Sunday.

Despite its fame, the Opera House has been the subject of much controversy. From the beginning, many people thought that Utzon's avant-garde design was unworkable — that the judges had made a major mistake in 1957 when they chose his plan from the 233 entered in the world-wide competition.

Even the architect himself struggled with the engineering required to support the shells which form the roof. He had not seen the site when he sketched his winning entry, only photos of Bennelong Point and the harbor dotted with boats. His shells mirrored the mainsails he saw in the picture — but building them was another matter.

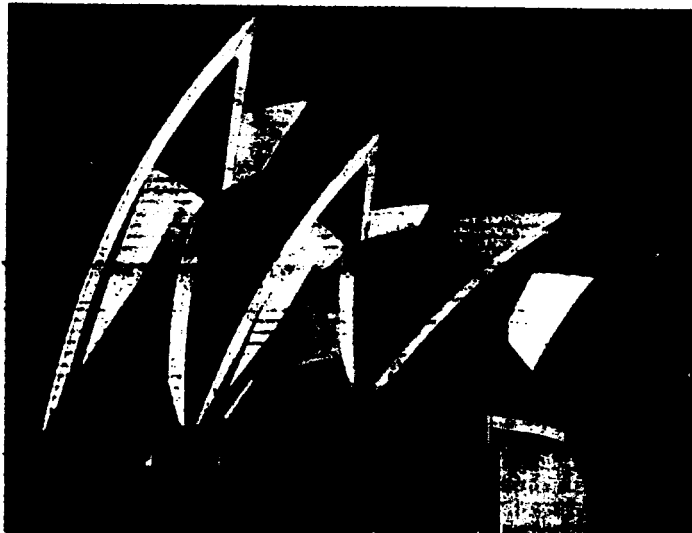
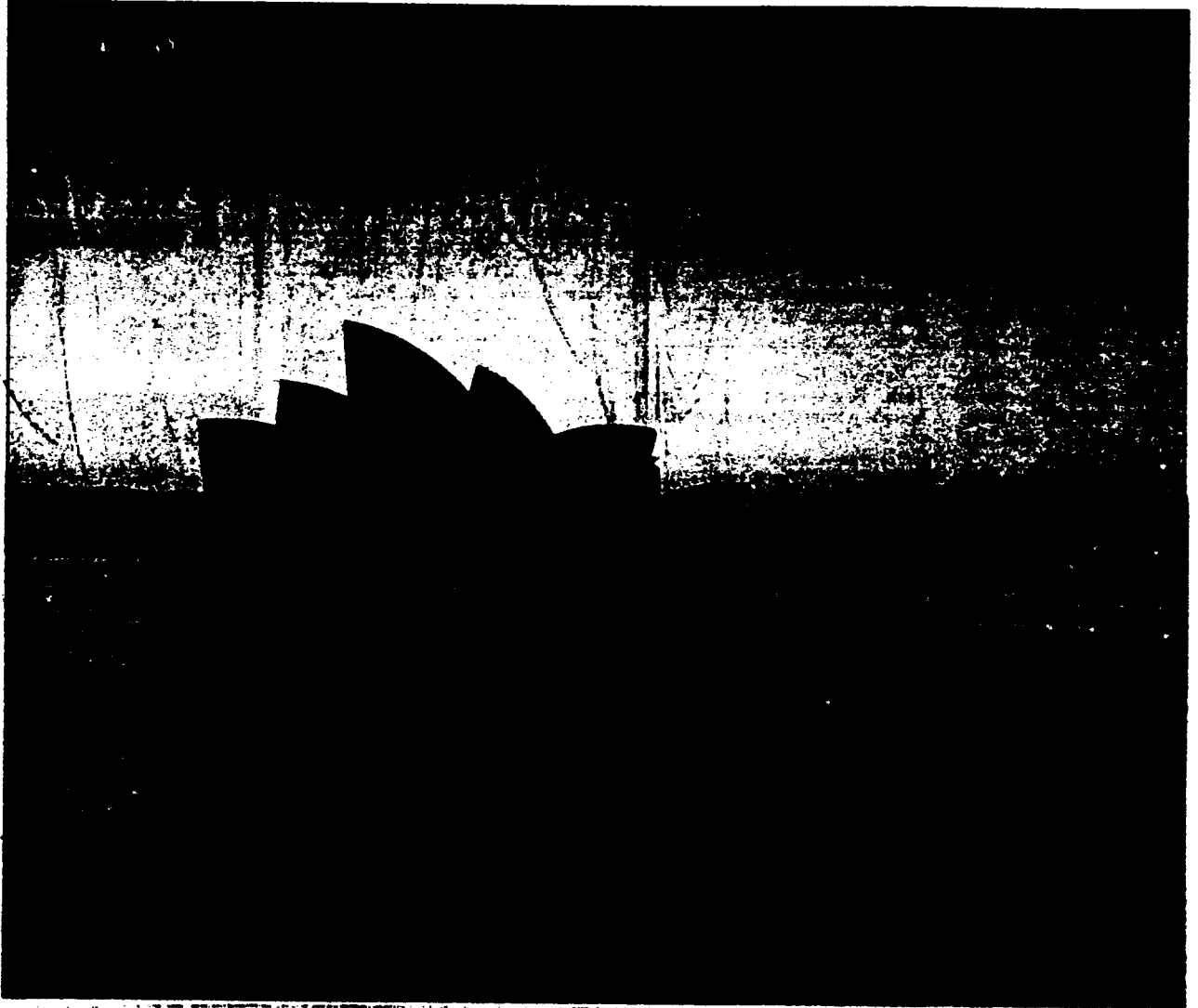
He eventually resolved this dilemma — some say by observing the way sections of an orange fit together — but other problems arose, and in 1966 the government accepted his resignation. The talented Dane left Australia, but continued to design — the Parliament House in Kuwait is one of his works. This past spring, his daughter, Lin Utzon, unveiled a plaque honoring her father in front of the House he built, but he stayed at home in Majorca. He's never seen the completed Opera House in person.

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*BURRELLE'S*

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Richard Adams

Sun rises on Sydney, Australia's Opera House, top. The building just celebrated its 20th anniversary. West side of Opera House is seen, with a Harbour Bridge pylon in the background, above.

# SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TURNS 20

By Elizabeth Hansen  
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

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When I first met her, she was a sweet young thing — all gleaming white and nearly brand new.

The year was 1975. I was a schoolteacher on summer vacation. She, the Sydney Opera House, was an architectural wonder, on her way to becoming the most famous landmark in the Southern Hemisphere.

Less than two years earlier, on Oct. 2, 1973, Queen Elizabeth II had presided over her official opening. That month the image of the Opera House had appeared on the

# Singing the praises of the Sydney Opera House

■ Continued from H-1

covers of magazines around the world. I didn't pay much attention as I assumed this was a building I would never see.

However, a friend of mine took the bait when the Australian government offered free air fare to American teachers who would agree to work "down under" for two years, and the letters he wrote from "Oz" piqued my interest.

Thus in August 1975, having taught summer school to pay for my ticket, I arrived in Australia — with an agenda from my travel agent in hand. Item One: a tour of the Sydney Opera House.

When I think of this occasion, of walking down Macquarie Street — actually dashing down Macquarie Street because I was late and I was afraid I'd miss the tour — and looking up and seeing the House for the first time, I remember how impressed I was. The white, multi-sail-shaped building really "knocked me off my pins" as they say in Australia.

The Opera House occupies Bennelong Point, a finger of land that extends into Sydney Harbor. A wonderful breeze blows here, refreshing all who pause to admire the passing parade of massive container ships, peripatetic ferries and dutiful tug boats. The Harbour Bridge, nicknamed the "coat hanger," is both an integral part of the scene and the picture's frame.

The biggest surprise on the tour was learning that the Opera House isn't an opera house. It's a complex of more than 900 rooms, including four main performance halls, five restaurants, six theater bars, a reception hall, a library, archives and extensive foyer and lounge areas. The largest theater is the Concert Hall, in which acrylic rings are suspended from the ceiling, the seats are covered in wool, and the white-birch ceiling rises 80 feet from the floor — all designed to provide the room with excellent acoustics. Another fact: The Opera House didn't cost the taxpayers a penny. It was paid for by funds raised in a lottery.

I was smitten. I spent the rest of my time in Sydney at the Opera House.

The Harbour Bridge was outlined in lights and their reflection sparkled on the water; a soft glow emanated from the ferries trudging back and forth on their way to and from Circular Quay; brightly lighted party boats cha-cha'd to and fro. I drank in the view, not champagne, but I felt giddy when I returned to my seat for the second act.

The Opera House made a last-

ing impression on me during that first trip. When I returned two years later, I discovered that in addition to being a performing arts center, the House is a community center.

Every Sunday, throngs of local people congregate on the patios along the back and sides of the building to enjoy impromptu performances of mime, dance and juggling or high school band concerts and string quartets. This open-air entertainment is free, a factor I much appreciated since my leave of absence was of the unpaid variety. I also attended the free lunchtime concerts offered almost daily in the northern foyer and came to understand that public access typifies the egalitarian Aussie attitude.

The Opera House has been the cause of the controversy. From the beginning, many people thought Danish architect Jorn Utzon's avant-garde design was unworkable, that the judges made a major mistake in 1957 when they chose his plan from the 233 entered in the worldwide competition. Even Utzon himself struggled with the engineering required to support the shells that form the roof. He had not seen the site when he sketched his winning entry, only photos of Bennelong Point and the harbor dotted with boats. His shells mirrored the mainsails he saw in the picture — building them was another matter.

He eventually resolved this dilemma — some say by observing the way sections of an orange fit together — but other problems arose, and in 1966 the government accepted his resignation.

Joan Sutherland came home to sing in her country's new house for the first time in 1974. She also gave the final performance of her career at the Opera House in 1990.

Mel Gibson, patron of the Birthday Celebrations, oversaw the 20th-birthday party Oct. 24. Festivities included free tours, outdoor activities, and a "Monster Piano Concert" featuring 17 pianos onstage at one time.

The House has received a face lift. Among other things, the 1,056,000 tiles on the roof have been re-grouted. Sydneysiders feel such affections for their House that no one complained about the more than \$100 million spent on this renovation. No one even seems to remember that this same amount was hotly contested 20 years ago when it was the cost of construction. Locals realize that the Opera House has brought the world to Sydney. To date, 36 million people have attended a performance or taken a tour.

In recent years when I've re-

turned to Sydney, I've tried to analyze what makes this building so special. What gives it the charisma, the magical quality that no other has? I'm sure it has something to do with the way sunlight and moonlight reflect off the tiles, making it seem almost alive.

When I first met her she was a sweet young thing — all gleaming white and nearly brand new. She's mellowed now and more beautiful than ever.

Happy birthday, House.

*Elizabeth Hansen lives in La Jolla, Calif.*

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## If You Go

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Guided tours of the Sydney Opera House take place daily (except Christmas and Good Friday) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: \$6 for adults, \$4 for children. Backstage tours are on Sundays only; cost is \$9. For information in Sydney, call 250-7111 (011-61-2/250-7111 from North America).

Tickets for performances can be obtained by contacting the Sydney Opera House Box Office, P.O. Box R239 Royal Exchange, N.S.W. 2000, Australia (tel. 011-61-2/250-7777; fax 011-61-2/251-3943) or Showbiz Bookings, c/o ATS Tours (tel. 800/423-2880 ext. 840, toll free in the U.S. and Canada).

For information on the free open-air entertainment on the patios around the Opera House every Sunday, look for the "Sunday Around the House" listing in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Hotels offering rooms with views of the Opera House include: The Stafford, 75 Harrington St., The Rocks (tel. 2/251-6711; All Seasons Harbour Rocks Hotel, 34-52 Harrington St., The Rocks (tel. 2/251-8944. Centra Hotel North Sydney, 17 Blue St., North Sydney (tel. 2/955-0499) The Regent, Sydney, 199 George St. (tel. 2/233-0000; Park Hyatt Sydney, 7 Hickson Rd., The Rocks (tel. 2/241-1234; fax: 2/255-1555; \$303-\$340 single or double).

Dining with an Opera House view? Try the MCA Cafe in the Museum of Contemporary Art, Bilson's (pricey, but great), Eliza Blue, Wolfie's Restaurant Grill, The Waterfront Restaurant, Italian Village or Imperial Peking Harbourside.

# TALES FROM THE OUTBACK

*The people and the paintings  
tell how Australia's aborigines lived*



DETROIT NEWS AND FREE  
PRESS

DETROIT, MI  
SUNDAY 11.169.937

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**BURRELLE'S**

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Above, the day begins on the trail to Ayers Rock, called Uluru by the aborigines. (See story, Page 3H.)

Left, an Earthwatch volunteer catalogs a painting of the Lightning Brothers "dreamtime" legend.



The rock painting above depicts the coming of the white man to Australia.

BY JOHN MUNCIE <sup>6275</sup>  
Free Press Special Writer

**I**t's picnic day at the water hole.

Across the Cokes and cantaloupe, we size up our guests with a scientific eye. The guests smile back. We can see what they're thinking: Oh, well, any excuse for a picnic.

For a week, 14 of us have been in Australia's outback recording ancient and beautiful folk paintings as part of an archaeological survey team.

Today we've invited the artists' descendants to lunch. The center of our attention is Tarpot Ngamumgarri, patriarch of the Raymond family. The nine Raymonds here today are members of the aboriginal Wardaman clan.

Tarpot is perhaps 75 years old. No one's sure, and that kind of chronology means nothing to him. He was about 5 years old when he saw his first outsider. As a boy he camped and hunted much as his fathers had camped and hunted since time began.

Tarpot sits on a folding chair; four of us sit by him on the ground, cross-legged.

Josephine Flood is our team's leader and one of Australia's leading anthropologist-archaeologists. But the main inquisitor today is her husband, Nigel Peacock.

White whiskers surround his face. One eye is nearly closed. Deep creases cross the bridge of his nose. There's a tin of chewing tobacco in his shirt pocket. A stockman's hat protects him from the sun.

He was a stockman once — a cowboy, a jackaroo. He began as a child helping tar the hooves of range cattle. The job turned into a nickname that stuck for life.

Tarpot is barefoot. His soles look as cracked and thick as elephant hide. Except for his work as a cowpuncher, he may never have worn shoes in his life.

He speaks the Wardaman dialect and a pidgin outback English. He understands most of our questions but his speech is difficult to understand, so his step-grandson, Oliver Raymond, translates.

"Were there always men who did the painting?"

# Paintings and stories preserve Outback's aborigine heritage

OUTBACK, from Page 1H

"Did women ever do the painting?"

"Some of the little drawings, were they done by children?"

Our survey team is sponsored by Earthwatch, a nonprofit organization that helps researchers worldwide get volunteers for work in the field.

This is the fifth year of Jo Flood's Lightning Brothers project. So far, she and her volunteers have cataloged thousands of works painted on the area's rocky outcrops. The Wardaman lands lie about 60 miles southwest of the town of Katherine, which is 60 miles from nowhere.

Flood also is recording the stories as remembered by Tarpot and others who grew up in the old ways.

## The Lightning Brothers fable

The Lightning Brothers story goes something like this:

There were once two brothers. The older was Jabarrnggi, the younger Yagagbula. One day when Jabarrnggi returned home from hunting, he discovered Yagagbula seducing his wife.

The two fought violently, creating lightning in the sky, which struck a rock cliff a few miles from our picnic spot and split it in two.

Eventually Yagagbula knocked off Jabarrnggi's head and with his boomerang and won the fight.

Paintings of the Lightning Brothers appear at various locations in Wardaman country, as do paintings of the Rainbow Serpent and other figures from the aboriginal "dreamtime," when the world was new and filled with

hero ancestors.

"The paintings are very important," says Flood, "because when you're in a culture which doesn't have a written language, then this is the way you keep your culture alive."

Some paintings are considered sacred — self-portraits of dreamtime beings repainted by men to keep them fresh. Some don't mean a thing.

By the end of our first week, we've recorded an encyclopedia of shapes and styles in red, yellow, black and white pigments. Paintings on top of paintings. Smiling kangaroos, whimsical spirits, loony snakes, graphic actual scenes.

Maybe the strangest of all, white men. White men with hats, pipes, pants, shoes and horses — and rifles.

After these images appeared, the art began to die.

## Rovers, Owls and Argonauts

"The spears that you made, did you harden the wood with fire?"

In his youth, Tarpot stalked this water hole many times using boomerangs, spears and woomeras, wooden gadgets that give a spear howitzer force.

His ancestors often camped at nearby rock shelters decorated with paintings and pictographs. Aborigines call the place Wymbarr.

Wymbarr has become our camp, too. We're set up about 300 yards from the picnic.

In the evenings, we circle chairs around the fire to discuss the day and

tell stories. Not so different from Tarpot's grandfathers.

Jo Flood has worked for years to save Australia's aboriginal artifacts. When the Wardaman, led by Oliver Raymond and his wife, Barbara, decided they wanted to document and preserve the traditional culture, they gave Flood access to themselves and their important sites.

They've even given her a clan name — "Nangari."

The most important thing as an archaeologist, Flood says, is to "work with the living people and to try to learn from them the sorts of things we could never learn from our stones and bones."

"However, there is plenty of stone and bone work for the volunteers.

We're divided into three groups, romantically dubbed Rovers, Owls and Argonauts.

The Rovers photograph and measure every site, sketch the major paintings on graph paper and draw site maps. Much of the time, rovers must scramble around narrow rock shelters fighting flies, kangaroo ticks and dust.

The Owls have an even more tedious job, cataloging thousands of ancient grooves cut into the stone at a place called Owl Dreaming.

Only the Argonauts get to play Indiana Jones. Their job is to explore the countryside, searching for lost sites and unrecorded paintings.

"How did you kill crocodiles?" I ask Tarpot.

Oliver translates the answer: "With

## IF YOU GO RESEARCHING

Several organizations can help you combine vacation with research field work. Experience is not usually required, though specific skills are sometimes needed. Note that costs are for expeditions only; travel costs are extra.

■ **Earthwatch**, 680 Mount Auburn St., PO Box 403D, Watertown, Mass. 02272; 1-800-776-0188, 8-6 weekdays.

Founded in 1972, Earthwatch is the largest organization sponsoring volunteers in field research. The organization says members of its "EarthCorps" have worked on 1,523 projects in 111 countries. This year they are involved in more than 150 projects.

Most volunteers sign on for two weeks, though many projects have longer seasons and require several teams.

Approximate costs: \$500-\$2,500 (most in the \$1,200-\$1,600 range).

Some projects: Counting humpback whales off Australia, recording folklore in Tanzania.

■ **Smithsonian Research Expeditions**, 490 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Suite 421, Washington, D.C. 20560; 1-202-287-3210 anytime.

The nation's museum sponsors study tours around the United States and the world. These travel classes are fairly luxurious and are led by experts in everything from Civil War history to Mayan culture.

However, Smithsonian also has some research trips each year that need volunteers. Most are one to two weeks; some involve working in

the Smithsonian itself; all involve Smithsonian scientists and researchers.

Approximate costs: \$890-\$3,650 (the median is around \$1,400).

Some projects: Tracking small mammals in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, recording dance rituals in Bali.

■ **University Research Expeditions Program**, University of California, 2223 Fulton St., Desk L02, Berkeley, Calif. 94720; 1-510-642-6586 anytime.

In its 17th year, Twenty projects worldwide this year, all connected with UC researchers. Expeditions are two to three weeks long.

Approximate costs: \$900-\$1,800.

Some projects: Studying petroglyphs in Hawaii, fossil hunting in northern Russia.

■ **Sierra Club**, Sierra Club Outing Dept., 730 Polk St., San Francisco, Calif. 94109; 1-415-923-5522 anytime.

Along with an enormous range of backpack, sailing and river-rafting adventures, the Sierra Club offers nearly 100 "service" outings in the United States. These involve trail building, restoration projects and some archaeological work. Most trips are seven to 10 days.

Approximate costs: \$200-\$400. Some projects: Site preservation in Chaco Canyon, N.M.; trail maintenance in White Mountain Forest, N.H.

By John Muncie