

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

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
CRIMINAL DIVISION
96 FEB -5 AMO:33
INTERNAL SECURITY
SECTION
REGISTRATION UNIT

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 9,500

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,635

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,495

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

329
NOV 0

PF

332
NOV 0

PF

413
NOV 0

PF

WELLESLEY TAB

HOLLISTON TAB

DOVER TAB

SUDBURY TAB

SHERBORN TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 8,220

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,566

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 1,954

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 4,446

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 1,100

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

328
NOV 0

PF

411
NOV 0

PF

410
NOV 0

PF

409

PF

412
NOV 0

FRANKINGHAM TAB

ASHLAND TAB

BOSTON TAB

CAMBRIDGE TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 25,593

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,444

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 24,141

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 21,300

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

NOV 2 1993

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

BURRELLE'S

321
NOV 0

PF

414
NOV 0

PF

272
NOV 0

PF



Country Australia

6675
By George Hobica
TAB Travel Editor

Goanna Safari, Westward Downs Station via Broken Hill,
NSW 2880 Australia, tel. 011-61-80-912518;
fax 011-61-80-912514.

Most first-time visitors down under do the Rock, the Reef, and the Rocks-Ayers Rock, the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney, whose rocks section is the city's oldest. That's all well and good. But do yourself a favor: instead, or in addition, spend a few days in the outback on a sheep station, and meet a real Aussie farm family. Spending some time on a genuine Australian farm is an experience most Australians never have, but it's very accessible and worthwhile.

In general, staying in someone's home is a great way to meet people, make native friends and really experience what a country is about. Recently, I spent several days getting to know three different Australian farm-stay experiences. Here's what I found out.

One of the most pleasant and certainly the most unique experiences is from a very small farm called Goanna Safari. Named after the proprietor's favorite lizard, it's run by the thoroughly charming Catherine Mould, a 26-year-old whose family farm, Westward Downs Station, comprises a half-million acres of sheep, kangaroo, emus, exotic parrots, and other wildlife deep in the outback.

A three-day, two-night safari begins as you travel from Broken Hill, itself in the middle of nowhere, to Westward. Once unpacked, you might start out by catching a few "yabbies" — tender fresh-water crayfish — then settle in around the family table for a home-cooked meal. Later that night, you might take a dip in the farmer's natural hot spa: an artesian well that bubbles up from deep within the earth. The scene is illuminated by burning a natural gas jet that accompanies the hot water as it makes its way to the surface.

The next morning, there's a tour of the wool shed (if the timing's right, try your hand at shearing), and a drive to a fresh water lake, during

which you're bound to see dozens of kangaroos bounding along and in front of your Land Cruiser. At the lake, feast on a traditional camp-oven dinner and settle in for the night snug in your swag, an Australian sleeping bag, gazing up at the Southern Cross and other stars you don't see back home.

The bird call you hear as the sun sets won't be familiar, either, nor will the animals that come to graze by the water. The next day, there's a beautiful outback sunrise, a camp breakfast, and a ride to Silverton, a historic outback ghost town, whose pub is the scene for countless Aussie beer commercials. What's perhaps most amazing about the experience is how unpopulated this land is — a half-million acres and you won't see any sign of man. Per-person price for the package is approximately \$180, including transfers, meals and lodging.

Brindabella Station Homestead, Brindabella Valley 2611, Australia, tel. 011-61-6-236-2121; fax 011-61-6-236-2128.

Another country option is a place called Brindabella Station Homestead. Located in the Brindabella Mountain Ranges above Canberra, Australia's capital, this is essentially a B&B farm.

The surrounding terrain will remind you of Vermont, minus the people. The nearby mountains soar to 5,000 feet, kangaroo roam the 2,000-acre property, and one night we went out in the Land Cruiser to catch wombats running around in the wild.

Brindabella's first residents in the early 1860s were the Franklin family, whose most famous progeny, Miles Franklin, is perhaps best known for *My Brilliant Career*, but her *Childhood at Brindabella* is also worth reading. Your host, Brian and

Guillermina Barlin, are as welcoming as the inspiring countryside. Accommodation includes twin or double rooms, most of which are in the main house, although there is a separate two-bedroom cottage; and three excellent meals, prepared by Guillermina, who is a superb cook and hostess. She serves breakfast in her country-style kitchen, while lunch and tea are taken in the gazebo overlooking the river or on the porches.

Frequent diners include the wild white parrots and gray-pink galahs that come to feast at Mrs. Barlin's kitchen window. Dinner is a more formal affair taken in the dining room. This is a working farm, with free range cattle and merino sheep. You're welcome to help out if you wish, but few guests do. Rates are \$115 per person per night, including all meals.

BROOKLINE TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 20,464

NOV 2 1993

BURRELLE'S

273
KOE . 0

PF
03

NEWTON TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 23,730

NOV 2 1993

BURRELLE'S

280
KOE . 0

PF
03

Travel

The country down under

6675 in travel

By George Hobica

TAB Travel Editor

Goanna Safari, Westward Downs Station via
Broken Hill, NSW 2880 Australia, tel.
011-61-80-912518; fax 011-61-80-912514.

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BROOKLINE TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 20,464

DOVER TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 1,954

SUDBURY TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 4,646

HOLLISTON TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,566

ASHLAND TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,664

NOV 9 1993

BURRELLE'S

NOV 9 1993

BURRELLE'S

NOV 9 1993

BURRELLE'S

NOV 9 1993

BURRELLE'S

NOV 9 1993

Home for the Holidays

Hayman Island, Australia

Where natural wonders meet man-made ones

By George Hobica

TAB Travel Editor

A lot of travel experiences can make even the most travel-jaded person stand up and take notice. Flying on the Concord, staying at the Cipriani in Venice, sailing aboard the Seabourn Pride or Spirit. Add Hayman to that very short list.

An island in the Whit Sunday chain near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, five-star Hayman is home to a luxury resort by the same name, the brainchild of entrepreneur Sir Reggie Ansett, who also started an airline.

Except for the resort, the 30,000-plus acre island is devoid of civilization. In fact, the surrounding islands are similarly blessed — looking around from any point, all you see is unbroken green. As you sail Hayman-ward you notice that there are no villas dotting the hillside of these islands, as would be the case in the Caribbean or Hawaii. There's been a resort on this island since 1950, the year that Ansett first opened the original Hayman, which was a more rustic affair than the current model.

The Hayman experience begins at the airport on Hamilton Island, a more southerly and developed island. From there, one boards a luxurious launch that whisks guests to the resort.

TRAVEL Champagne is served on the hour-long cruise, during which registration also takes place. Upon docking, you're met and escorted to your room. Most accommodations face the pools — there are three acres of them — or the ocean. All are decorated with marble floors and floor-to-ceiling windows, with sliding louvered shutters and retractable awnings. Balconies and decks are also marble-floored. The bathrooms are similarly clad in marble, floor and walls. There's a separate shower, terry robes, a magnifying mirror — every conceivable amenity. Coffee- and tea-making facilities and minibars are in each room, and cable TV with a VCR are standard.

The grounds are similarly impressive, lavishly landscaped

with flowers, palms, waterfalls and ponds. Swans and ducks roam the walkways and waterways.

So far, it could be like any five-star resort in Hawaii or the Caribbean. But there are distinguishing features — the seclusion, the service and the location on the Great Barrier Reef. Service is truly five-star.

"Our staff have achieved an elusive but highly sought-after combination of warm Australian character and polished skills," Thomas Klein, the German-born general manager boasts. He's right.

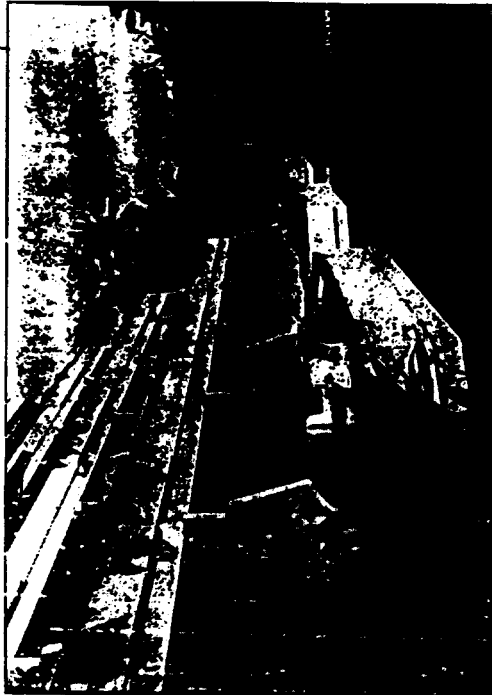
Sheer numbers tell part of the story. There's one employee for each of the 430 or so guests. If you make a request of a staff member, it stays with that person, even if it isn't his or her assigned responsibility. One guest from Wisconsin summed it up when he said to me: "This is one of the few places that's actually better in real life than in the brochure." Considering how lavish Hayman's brochures are, that's a ringing endorsement.

Reef is main draw

The fact that there are six restaurants on Hayman also distinguishes it from other resorts of this size, each specializing in a particular cuisine, such as Italian, French, Oriental, or Australian (the Aussie eatery features emu, crocodile and, disturbing to some, kangaroo).

Despite the glories of the resort and restaurants, the star attraction here is the reef itself. Like the rest of Australia, with its strange plants, animals, birds, seasons and even stars, it's different from anything you've experienced elsewhere. The coral and fish are unique to these waters and are abundant and colorful.

Hayman offers many ways to see the reef, including a



All rooms at Australia's Hayman Resort face the beach or the pool.

short hour-and-a-half snorkel around the Inner Reef and a full-day sail to the Outer Reef aboard the 65-foot Reef Goddess. There are snorkeling and diving lessons and — for the more adventurous — helicopter and seaplane rides to the outer reef. Windsurfers and catamarans are available free of charge, and you can be dropped off on your own private deserted beach with a picnic lunch, towels and beach umbrellas.

If you're land-based, take a hike around the island. Chances are you won't meet another soul in the four hours it takes to circumnavigate Hayman (you're asked to notify the concierge when you set out). There are tennis courts and a fully-equipped gym (\$6.50 charge per day).

Leaving Hayman is as effortless as getting there. Your luggage is picked up and checked through to your final destination. Check-in for your departing flight takes place on board the vessel, and once again champagne is offered. The hardest part of the trip is leaving.

If you go

Ansett Airlines flies direct to Hamilton Island from Sydney and Cairns. Rates at Hayman begin at \$230 per night for double occupancy, including breakfast (refreshingly, there are no service charges or taxes added on). There are several room types, with prices to match. Some are garden view; others are directly on the sand. Room 464 is a good room to request, since it's at the very end of the East Wing directly on the beach and offers more privacy than most. The East Wing has larger rooms than the West, although the latter is closer to the restaurants and the marina.

If you request a garden-view (the least expensive) room during busy times and they're all taken, you'll be upgraded automatically to a better room, so it may be worth taking a chance (you can always upgrade later if space is available). To book toll-free in the United States, call 1-800-366-1300.

In addition to individual bookings, a package offered by Swain Australia Tours (1-800-22SWAIN) includes three nights at Hayman, three nights at the five-star Park Lane Hotel in Sydney, Sydney-Hayman air on Ansett and LA-Sydney round trip flights, for \$3,988 per couple based on double occupancy. Whether or not this is a good buy depends on how cheaply you can buy the pieces separately and what kind of accommodations you end up with. □

Home for the Holidays

Hayman Island, Australia

By George Hobica
TAB Travel Editor

MAILLICK TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 9,500

NOV 9 1993

329 BURRELLE'S PF
KOE . 0

FRANKINGHAM TAB

BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 25,593

NOV 9 1993

321 BURRELLE'S PF
KOE . 0

A few travel experiences can make even the most travel-jaded person stand up and take notice. Flying on the Concorde, staying at the Cipriani in Venice, sailing aboard the Seabourn Pride or Spirit. Add Hayman to that very short list.

An island in the Whitsunday chain near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, five-star Hayman is home to a luxury resort by the same name, the brainchild of entrepreneur Sir Reggie Ansett, who also started an airline.

Except for the resort, the 30,000-plus acre island is devoid of civilization. In fact, the surrounding islands are similarly blessed — looking around from any point, all you see is unbroken green. As you sail Hayman-ward you notice that there are no villas dotting the hillsides of these islands, as would be the case in the Caribbean or Hawaii. There's been a resort on this island since 1950, the year that Ansett first opened the original Hayman, which was a more rustic affair than the current model.

The Hayman experience begins at the airport on Hamilton Island, a more southerly and developed island. From there, one boards a luxurious launch that whisks guests to the resort.

Champagne is served on the hour-long cruise, during which registration also takes place. Upon docking, you're met and escorted to your room. Most accommodations face the pools — there are three acres of them — or the ocean. All are decorated with marble floors and floor-to-ceiling windows, with sliding louvered shutters and retractable awnings. Balconies and decks are also marble-floored. The bathrooms are similarly clad in marble, floor and walls. There's a separate shower, terry robes, a magnifying mirror — every conceivable amenity. Coffee- and tea-making facilities and minibars are in each room, and cable TV with a VCR are standard.

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So far, it could be like any five-star resort in Hawaii or the Caribbean. But there are distinguishing features — the seclusion, the service and the location on the Great Barrier Reef. Service is truly five-star.

"Our staff have achieved an elusive but highly sought-after combination of warm Australian character and polished skills," Thomas Klein, the German-born general manager boasts. He's right.

Sheer numbers tell part of the story. There's one employee for each of the 430 or so guests. If you make a request of a staff member, it stays with that person, even if it isn't his or her assigned responsibility. One guest from Wisconsin summed it up when he said to me, "This is one of the few places that's actually better in real life than in the brochure." Considering how lavish Hayman's brochures are, that's a ringing endorsement.

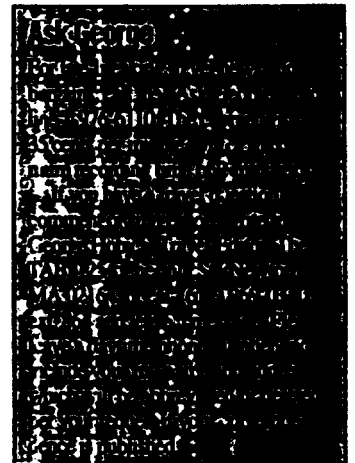
TRAVEL TIPS

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WELLESLEY TAB
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WEEKLY 8,220

WESTON TAB
BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,635

NOV 9 1993

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328 BURRELLE'S PF
KOE . 0 . 03 .

332 BURRELLE'S PF
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WYLAND TAB
BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 3,495

SHERBORN TAB
BOSTON, MA
WEEKLY 1,394

NOV 9 1993

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413 BURRELLE'S PF
XOE . O . . 03 . .

412 BURRELLE'S PF
XOE . O . . 03 . .

Travel Tips

Hayman Island, Australia

By George Hobica
TAB Travel Editor

6675

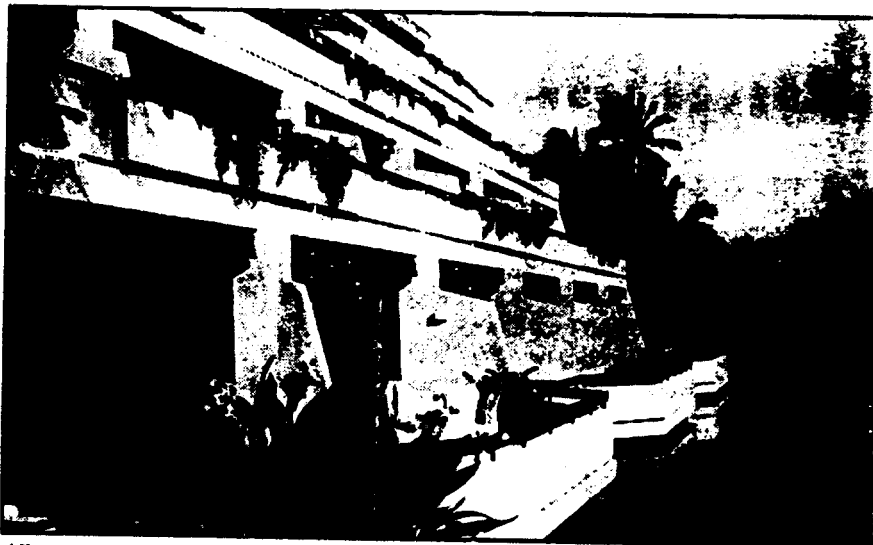
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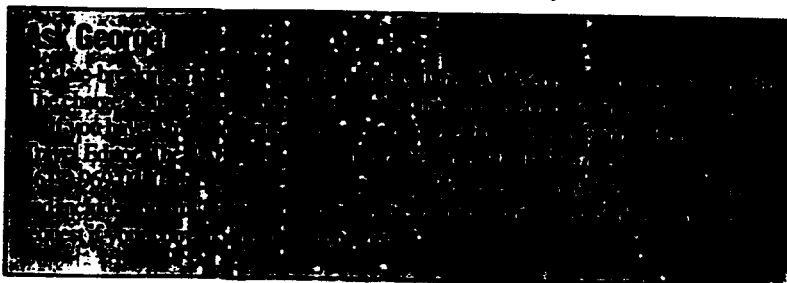
Leaving Hayman is as effortless as getting there. Your luggage is picked up and checked through to your final destination. Check-in for your departing flight takes place on board the vessel, and once again champagne is offered. The hardest part of the trip is leaving.

If you go

Ansett Airlines flies direct to Hamilton Island from Sydney and Cairns. Rates at Hayman begin at \$230 per night for double occupancy, including breakfast (refreshingly, there are no service charges or taxes added on). There are several room types, with prices to match. Some are garden view; others are directly on the sand. Room 464 is a good room to request, since it's at the very end of the East Wing directly on the beach and offers more privacy than most. The East Wing has larger rooms than the West, although the latter is closer to the restaurants and the marina.

If you request a garden-view (the least expensive) room during busy times and they're all taken, you'll be upgraded automatically to a better room, so it may be worth taking a chance (you can always upgrade later if space is available). To book toll-free in the United States, call 1-800-366-1300.

In addition to individual bookings, a package offered by Swain Australia Tours (1-800-225WAIN) includes three nights at Hayman, three nights at the five-star Park Lane Hotel in Sydney, Sydney-Hayman air on Ansett and LA-Sydney round trip flights, for \$3,988 per couple based on double occupancy. Whether or not this is a good buy depends on how cheaply you can buy the pieces separately and what kind of accommodations you end up with.



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A visit to Hayman Island

Natural wonders meet man-made ones

By George Hobica
TAB Travel Editor

A few travel experiences can make even the most travel-jaded person stand up and take notice. Flying on the Concorde, staying at the Cipriani in Venice, sailing aboard the Seabourn Pride or Spirit. Add Hayman to that very short list. ✓

An island in the Whitsunday chain near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, five-star Hayman is home to a luxury resort by the same name, the brainchild of entrepreneur Sir Reggie Ansett, who also started an airline.

Except for the resort, the 30,000-plus acre island is devoid of civilization. In fact, the surrounding islands are similarly blessed — looking around from any point, all you see is unbroken green. As you sail Hayman-ward you notice that there are no villas dotting the hillsides of these islands, as would be the case in the Caribbean or Hawaii. There's been a resort on this island since 1950, the year that Ansett first opened the original Hayman, which was a more rustic affair than the current model.

The Hayman experience begins at the airport on Hamilton Island, a more southerly and developed island. From there, one boards a luxurious launch that whisks guests to the resort.

Champagne is served on the hour-long cruise, during which registration also takes place. Upon docking, you're met and escorted to your room. Most accommodations face the pools — there are three acres of them — or the ocean. All are decorated with marble floors and floor-to-ceiling windows, with sliding louvered shutters and retractable awnings. Balconies and decks are also marble-floored. The bathrooms are similarly clad in marble, floor and walls. There's a separate shower, terry robes, a magnifying mirror — every conceivable amenity. Coffee- and tea-making facilities and minibars are in each room, and cable TV with a VCR are standard.

The grounds are similarly impressive, lavishly landscaped with flowers, palms, waterfalls and ponds. Swans and ducks roam the walkways and waterways.

So far, it could be like any five-star resort in Hawaii or the Caribbean. But there are distinguishing features — the seclusion, the service and the location on the Great Barrier Reef. Service is truly five-star.

"Our staff have achieved an elusive but highly sought-after combination of warm Australian character and polished skills," Thomas Klein, the German-born general manager boasts. He's right.

Sheer numbers tell part of the story. There's one employee for each of the 430 or so guests. If you make a request of a staff member, it stays with that person, even if it isn't his or her assigned responsibility. One guest from Wisconsin summed it up when he said to me, "This is one of the few places that's actually better in real life than in the brochure." Considering how lavish Hayman's brochures are, that's a ringing endorsement.

The fact that there are six restaurants on Hayman also distinguishes it from

other resorts of this size, each specializing in a particular cuisine, such as Italian, French, Oriental, or Australian (the Aussie entry features emu, crocodile and, disturbing to some, kangaroo).

Despite the glories of the resort and restaurants, the star attraction here is the reef itself. Like the rest of Australia, with its strange plants, animals, birds, seasons and even stars, it's different from anything you've experienced elsewhere. The coral and fish are unique to these waters and are abundant and colorful.

Hayman offers many ways to see the reef, including a short hour-and-a-half snorkel around the Inner Reef and a full-day sail to the Outer Reef aboard the 65-foot Reef Goddess. There are snorkeling and diving lessons and — for the more adventurous — helicopter and seaplane rides to the outer reef. Windsurfers and catamarans are available free of charge, and you can be dropped off on your own private deserted beach with a picnic lunch, towels and beach umbrellas.

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All rooms at Australia's Hayman Resort face the beach or the pool.

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Down under destinations

Most first-time visitors to Australia do the Rock, the Rocks, and the Reef-Ayers Rock, Sydney (whose Rocks section is the city's oldest), and the Great Barrier Reef. In addition, consider spending a few days in the Outback on a sheep station and meeting a real Aussie farm family. It's an experience that's very accessible and worthwhile. In general, staying in someone's home is a great way to meet people, make native friends, and experience what a country is really about. Here are three options:

● **Goanna Safari.** Named after the proprietor's favorite lizard, this small firm is run by the thoroughly charming Catherine Mould, a 26-year old whose family farm, Westward Downs Station, comprises a half-million acres of sheep, kangaroo, emu, exotic parrots, and other wildlife deep in the outback.

A three-day, two-night Safari begins with transfers from Broken Hill, a mining town in the middle of nowhere, to the station. On arrival, you might take a dip in the farm's natural hot spa, an artesian well that bubbles up from deep within the earth. There's also camping on a fresh water lake. Per person price for the package is approximately \$180, including transfers, meals, and lodging.

● **Another country option** is a place called Brindabella Station Homestead, former home of Miles Franklin, author of the Australian classic "My Brilliant Career." Located in the Brindabella Mountain Range above Canberra, Australia's capital, this B & B farm's terrain will remind you of Vermont, minus the people. The nearby

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Koala kaper

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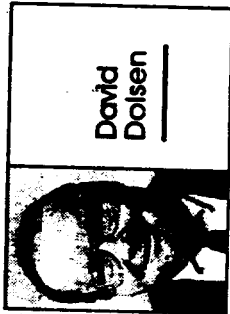
Seeing wonders down under Getting from the airport to your hotel is easy: Taxis cost between \$10-\$15, but a cheaper alternative is the Kingsford Smith Hotel bus (telephone 667-0663) at \$3.30 each way, which will drop you off right at your downtown hotel. The State Transit Authority runs a public bus to a few points in downtown Sydney for \$5 roundtrip. The ride takes about 20 minutes and is included in the SydneyPass three-day unlimited transit pass (\$33).

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lia is almost the size of the mainland U.S. but has only 17 million people. Non-stop flight time from Los Angeles is 14 hours, but you lose a day when crossing the international dateline (don't worry, you get it back when you return).

David Dolson is the owner of a local travel agency.



David Dolson

TRAVEL TALK

mountains soar to 5,000 feet, wild kangaroo roam the 2,000-acre property, and you'll probably be invited to go out one night to watch wombats running around the fields. Rates are \$115 per person per night, including all meals, wine, and activities, and airport transfers.

● The third option isn't quite as exotic as the others, but it's just as much fun. Kynella is a working sheep and cattle ranch set in acres of undulating hills near Adaminaby, in the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales. (Yes, there is snow here; you can even ski in winter, which is our summer). The accommodations are more Spartan than in the two previous properties, but the food is as good or better. Rates: approximately \$90 per person per night, including riding and meals. All three homesteads can be booked through your travel agent.

Hayman, the reef paradise

An island in the Whit Sunday chain near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Hayman is home to a five-star luxury resort by the same

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Australian caves: evidence

By ^{JOETS} John Muncie

Copley News Service

It's picnic day at the water hole.

The hosts have brought sandwiches and a scientific attitude. The

guests have brought themselves.

The sandwiches are courtesy of an archaeological survey team. For a week, 14 of us have been in the bush country of Australia's Northern

Territory, recording ancient and beautiful folk paintings. The survey team is sponsored by Earthwatch, a non-profit organization that helps researchers get volunteer help for work in the field.

Across melon and Cokes, we size up our guests. They smile back. You can see what they're thinking: Oh well, any excuse for a picnic.

The center of our attention is Tarpot Ngamunugarri, patriarch of the Raymond family. The nine Raymonds here today are members of the aboriginal Wardaman clan.

Tarpot is maybe 75 years old. No one is sure, and that kind of European chronology means little to him. He was about 5 when he saw his first white man. As a boy, he camped and hunted much as his forefathers had done 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.

Tarpot isn't comfortable talking about his culture to a woman, especially a white woman. That isn't the Wardaman way.

White whiskers surround his dark face. One eye is nearly closed. Deep creases crisscross 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. As a child he helped tar the hooves of range cattle. The job turned into a nickname that stuck for life. He was employed by



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rock painting

One of the legendary "Lightning Brothers" is painted on the wall of a rock shelter in Australia's Wardaman country.

of ancient interior decorating

cattlemen who, around the turn of the century, carved the Northern Territory into huge "stations." They didn't ask permission of the Wardaman or any other clan.

Tarpot is barefoot. His soles look as cracked and thick as elephant hide. Except 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 stepgrandson, Oliver Raymond, translates.

The Raymond kids splash each other and play bumper boats in the water hole. The sky is the color of a faded blue work shirt. The tape recorders are running. Nigel begins:

"Did women ever do the painting?" (Yes.)

"Some of the little drawings, were they done by children?" (Yes.)

Miles from nowhere

In any year, dozens of Earthwatch projects are staffed by folks, mostly amateurs like me, who would rather spend their vacations counting wildebeests in Kenya than lying around a Club Med.

This is the fifth year of Jo Flood's "Lightning Brothers" project. So far, she has cataloged thousands of works painted on the area's rocky outcrops. The traditional Wardaman lands lie about 60 miles southwest of the town of Katherine, which is 50 miles from nowhere.

Jo also is recording the stories behind the paintings as remembered by Tarpot and others who grew up in the old ways.

The Lightning Brothers story goes something like this:

There were once two brothers. The older was Jabirringgi and the younger, Yagjagbula. Jabirringgi was married. One day when he returned home from hunting, he discovered Yagjagbula seducing his wife.

The two fought violently, creating lightning in the sky, which struck a rock cliff a few miles from our picnic and split it in two.

Eventually Yagjagbula knocked off Jabirringgi's headdress 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," Jo said, "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 self-portraits of dreamtime beings. In the ages that followed, the Wardaman and other clans simply retouched them, keeping the colors and the stories fresh.

Then again, much of it doesn't mean a thing.

"They just wanted to decorate their living rooms," Jo said.

By the end of the 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 sexual scenes.

And, maybe 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. Today, few paint or repaint the rocks of Wardaman country.

Although there is evidence of an aboriginal culture in Australia for at least 40,000 years, paintings are hard to date.

"We think that the paintings we are seeing on the walls probably all belong to the last 1,000 years," said Jo, "many of them to the last 200 years."

Telling stories

"The spears that you made, did you harden the wood with fire?" (They didn't.)

Going Places

Continued From Page 26 C

land is devoid of civilization. In fact, the surrounding islands are similarly blessed looking around from any point all you see is unbroken green. Most accommodations face the pools - there are three acres of them - or the ocean. All are decorated with marble floors and floor to ceiling windows, which are equipped with sliding louvered shutters and retractable awnings. So far, it could be like any five star resort in Hawaii or the Caribbean. What distinguishes this version: the seclusion, the service, and the location on the Great Barrier Reef. Service is truly five star with only one employee for each of the 430 or so guests. Rates begin at \$230 per night double, including breakfast (there are no service charges or taxes added on). Call your travel agent to book.

KOALA KAPER
If you're looking to travel to Australia and want the most value for your dollar, check into some of ATS' Tours' packages. With more than 20 years in the tour business, ATS Tours offers the widest selection of itineraries and includes its ever popular "Super Value Tour" options. Its 16 day Koala Kaper has been a favorite of many tourists. Stops include sighting in Australia's beautiful cities of Cairns and Sydney; Sydney's Waratah Park where you can hand feed koalas, kangaroos, and other wildlife; a spectacular railroad journey to Kuranda to browse through local markets and enjoy local Aboriginals performing at the Tjapukai Dance Theatre and an excursion by boat to Green Island to explore spectacular reef systems via snorkeling or a ride on a glass bottom boat. Not

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AUSTRALIA'S PARADISE REEF
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TIPS FOR SEEING

THE WONDERS DOWN UNDER
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GOING PLACES

By Brian Chapman

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AUSTRALIA BEYOND THE REEF AND THE ROCKS

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C (See Going Places Page 46)

More attractions in Australia beyond the Reef and the Rocks

By Maria M. Seldel
Carlson Travel Network/
Mid Rivers Travel, Inc.

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THE SUNDAY DENVER POST

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AUSTRALIA & new zealand

Special report

Culture of Maoris

invites a closer look

By Reed Glenn
Special to The Denver Post

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — I first met the Maoris at Auckland's War Memorial Museum. Not living, breathing Maoris, but evidence of them. Before me stood a marae or traditional Maori meeting house in its entirety.

Beautiful swirling, intricate woodcarvings and fiber weavings covered the walls and ceilings, seeming to suggest all of creation and its interwovenness. Fearsome carved figures with translucent shell eyes stared out from posts like gargoyles, giving the marae the presence and atmosphere of a cathedral, but on a smaller, more human scale. Such was my introduction to a culture with links throughout the Pacific.

The Maoris, the first inhabitants of New Zealand, called it "Aotearoa."

Photo courtesy Australian Tourist Commission

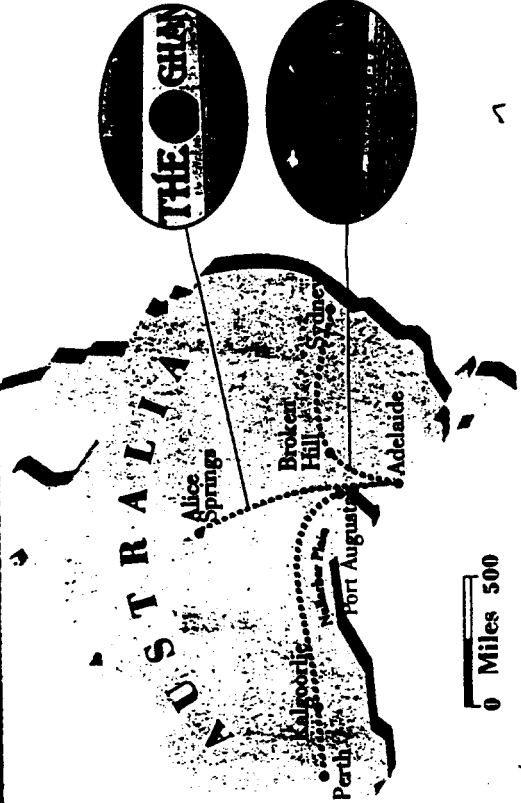


Special to The Denver Post / Jeff Miller

OUTBACK: The Indian-Pacific, left, races across southern Australia. In some areas, the characteristic red desert soil is softened by wild grasses and small shrubs, above.

RIDING *the* RAILS down under

Australia's two premier trains, the Indian-Pacific and the Outback-crossing Ghan, traverse some of the world's most striking landscapes.



roa," which means "The Land of the Long, White Cloud." Descendants of a voyaging culture from Southeast Asia, they came from the legendary Hawaiki, believed to be located in the central Pacific. Although the name sounds like "Hawaii," anthropologists believe it was an island near Tahiti and that emigrants from Hawaiki landed on present day Hawaii, naming it after their ancestral home.

According to legend, 10 great canoes sailed to New Zealand in the 14th century but historians now think it may have been as early as the 10th century. The names of the canoes and their landing points are still known, and modern Maoris still trace their lineage back to a particular canoe.

Today, they refer to themselves as Tangata Whenua or "people of the land."

Also known as the "moa hunters," the Maoris hunted this native, 9-foot-tall, flightless bird to extinction some 100 years ago. New Zealand has no native mammals other than a bat, so the moa — along with the human flesh of enemies — was one of the few sources of protein.

The Maori language is related to such other Polynesian languages as Tahitian and Hawaiian and has some similarities to Indonesian dialects.

Most of New Zealand's marae are on the North Island near small towns and rural communities. Marae, however, also can be found on the South Island.

North Island areas of strong Maori influence are Rotorua (the unofficial Maori capital), Taupo, Waikato, Northland, East Cape, Taranaki and Wanganui.

Waitangi on the North Island near the Bay of Islands is considered to

Please see MAORIS on 4T

Maoris keep ancient tradition alive through weaving, dancing

MAORIS from Page 1T

be one of the most important sites because it was there that the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 by Maori chiefs and the British colony making New Zealand a British colony and granting rights and protection to the Maori. A marae there displays carvings of many different tribes along with a hand-hewn 120-foot, 150-man war canoe carved from a single log.

Contemporary Maoris are integrated into New Zealand's culture and society but value their traditions, which they keep alive in small communities along with dancing and other cultural traditions.

"Kia ora" the traditional Maori greeting (pronounced kee-ora) means "good luck, good health." When visiting a Maori community, one is welcomed not only by the people, but also the house.

"The house speaks to you," says Patrick Tamati, who lives in a Maori settlement in Rotorua.

"Each carved figure represents ancestors who knew your own ancestors. So in one way or another we're all connected together."

Tamati further explained that a marae is like a living organism and represents an entire Maori clan and its ancestors. "The walls are the arms outstretched. The windows are the eyes, the door is the mouth." The exposed beam of the roof is the backbone or spine. Tamati continued, and the rafters are the ribs. The spine holds 12 symbolic baskets of knowledge. Whatever you say in the marae goes back up and fills the basket, making the marae a repository of collective knowledge. The most important part of the structure is the heart, which is the main vertical supporting post, lavishly adorned with carved figures.

Like an umbilical cord, this pole brings together the two ancestors: the sky father and earth mother.

Walking into a marae is like en-



CRAFTSMAN: Jade carver Hepi Marweil displays amulet he made at Maori Arts & Crafts Institute. Reed Glenn

tering the belly of a great anthropomorphic whale.

The marae is the focal point of the community and also is used as a hotel and a funeral home, Tamati explained. For a Maori, he said, visiting a marae is an emotional experience.

Rotorua, a lakeside city of 65,000 residents, is a three-hour drive or 45-minute flight from Auckland. It is home to the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute, where Tamati guided me through the workshops and grounds and explained the Maori culture and religion.

There, young Maori men and women learn and practice the arts of woodcarving, weaving and other traditional skills. Displayed in a small museum are excellent examples of Maori traditional woodcarving, for which this culture is known, as well as beautiful amu-

Visitors to Rotorua also have an



FIERCE: Maori at Rotorua Institute demonstrates pose of defiance

the fern, it means they have come in peace. If the guest ignores the fern — or worse, casts it aside — this means war!

Though a popular tourist attraction, the hangi still is regarded with seriousness and respect. It is quite moving when visitors from

around the world rise to thank the Maori people for sharing their traditions, then walk to the front of the marae and rub noses — "changing the breath of life" — with their Maori hosts.

Reed Glenn is freelance writer living in Boulder.

66-75
By Jeff Miller

Special to The Denver Post

COOK, Australia — "Climb aboard, mate," the locomotive driver called down and I quickly clambered up into the cab of the Indian-Pacific, Australia's great transcontinental train. In the unadorned space, far from the luxury of the first-class carriages, L.D. and his co-driver, John, sat staring at the approaching freight train that had temporarily sidelined us in the middle of the bleak and flat desert of the Nullarbor Plain.

I took the jump seat behind them, still winded from the jog along the tracks from the passenger cars. I was surprised, before I thought about it, that there was no steering wheel. In its place was a small speed-throttle, looking far too simple to run such a giant engine.

L.D. seemed to read my thoughts. "Most people think anyone can drive a train. I say, 'Bloody right . . . but we're the only ones who can stop it!'"

On train trips — any train trip — it's always the people you meet and the scenery you see that makes the journey special, makes the getting there more important than the final destination.

Nowhere is the marriage between making new friends and seeing dramatic scenery better than in Australia — especially when traveling on the country's two premier trains: the Indian-Pacific and the Outback-crossing Ghan. They both traverse some of the world's most striking landscapes and offer the chance to meet "fair dinkum" (genuine) Aussies.

The Indian-Pacific crosses the southern part of Australia in an epic journey that eats up 2,400 miles in three days, connecting Sydney on the east coast to Perth on the west coast. The Ghan is a 22-hour, 965-mile ride from Alice Springs in the Red Center through the Simpson Desert to Adelaide on the southern coast. All of the Ghan's cars are new or refurbished and have correspondingly good service. The Indian-Pacific is currently undergoing its own

Please see AUSSIES on 3T

Ghan pampers its passengers, keeping heat at bay outside



Jeff Miller

SUN SPOT: Passengers relax in warm light beaming into the Ghan's first-class Oseles lounge car.

AUSSIES from Page 11
 multimillion-dollar refurbishment and upgraded-service plan due for completion in 1995.

Back in the cab of the Indian-Pacific, the two drivers swapped tales and joked easily. To them the flat, featureless countryside is filled with life. They see — and sometimes hit — emus, kangaroos and even wild camels. They both grimaced. "I hate hitting camels," L.D. said.

John pointed out a few eagle nests in the telephone poles running beside the tracks. A majestic eagle in flight is part of the train's logo, but plans call for removing the poles and burying the lines. With not a tree or shrub in sight, John asked sadly, "Where will they nest then?"

Back in the lounge car, people are reading, knitting or staring out the window. Everyone appears ready to talk, to share the train experience. And each seems to get something different from the scenery, as if seeing with their memories.

Sister Mary, without her habit, is a bubbly Perth woman in her 60s who talks in time with her clattering knitting needles. In the little tufts of desert grass and shrubs struggling to survive, she sees God's proclamation of life's glory.

Ann from Adelaide, traveling with her grown daughter, is on the Indian-Pacific as a kind of memorial to her late husband.

"We always thought we'd have time for this," she says quietly.

She seems to see him and their lost years scattered among the rocks and old railway ties that lie abandoned beside the tracks.

Excited about new life
 At dinner, people are jovial as they're tossed together at tables of four. The food is surprisingly good and conversations light up the dining car like fireworks. Tasmanian-born Mark and his Malaysian wife, with their 1-year-old daughter, are excited about a new life they're going to, with no thought for his lost job in Sydney.

"We wanted to see what the country was really like," he says. "It's beautiful."

To Anna, a German woman in her 70s who fled from the Russians as they swept across East Germany in 1945, the scenery takes on a

IF YOU RIDE THE RAILS IN AUSTRALIA

departs Adelaide Thursday and Monday, arriving in Alice Springs Friday and Tuesday, departs Alice Springs Friday and Tuesday and arrives Adelaide Saturday and Wednesday.

Accommodations: The first-class twinnette sleeper is a nice sized lounge during the day and a lower single berth at night. Each room has a three-seater lounge, shower, toilet and sink. The first-class roomette sleepers have a toilet and wash basin and a one-seat lounge chair that converts to a single sleeping berth, with showers at the end of the hall. A hokley-class twinnette sleeper is the same size as the first-class roomette but with two facing lounge chairs, a toilet and basin, with shower down the hall.

Prices: First-class tickets include all meals (flavor not included); hokley class does not include meals. Prices vary — all accommodations can be quoted by your travel agent — but an example of a one-way fare, per-person is: Indian-Pacific, first class, about \$600; hokley class, about \$300; hokley class, about \$155.

Those interested in more train travel should look into a 14-day or 21-day Austrapass. These passes must be purchased outside Australia and are for coach accommodations, but can be upgraded to first class where available.

Further information: Australian Tourist Commission, Los Angeles, 1-310-552-1988. — Jeff Miller

Getting there: Several international carriers fly into Sydney. From there to Alice Springs or Adelaide (the Ghan's end points) or Perth and Adelaide (the Indian-Pacific's major stops), visitors can fly on either of two domestic carriers, Ansett Airlines or Australian Airlines (now merged with Qantas).

Weather: The seasons are reversed Down Under, their summer is our winter. For the Indian-Pacific, which traverses the southern portion of Australia, summer (December, January and February) has the best weather, although there can be a few days of 100-degree-plus temperatures. Winter in southern Australia, however, is generally mild, with temperatures rarely dipping below the 50s during the day.

Alice Springs, the terminus for the Ghan, is part of the Northern Territory, which has two distinct seasons: wet and dry. The Wet is from November to April, when temperatures can soar above 100 and heavy rains can cause trouble. The best time to visit is the dry season (between May and October), when the maximum temperatures are in the 70s and 80s — although nights can dip below freezing in July and August.

Train schedules: The Indian-Pacific departs Sydney Monday and Thursday, arriving in Adelaide Tuesday and Friday, and in Perth Thursday and Sunday; departs Perth on Monday and Friday arriving in Adelaide Wednesday and Sunday, and in Sydney Thursday and Monday. The Ghan

through the sweltering heat, with all its windows and doors open — letting in the wind as well as the powder-fine red dust, which stuck to everything.

Today, that's all changed as the Ghan strives only to pamper its passengers. All the cars have been renovated in a 1970s, art deco motif that uses desert browns, reds, greens and purples with stunning results.

This steel-wheeled caravan, stretching for nearly a third of a mile, is impressive — two mighty engines, sporting the distinctive green and gold livery of Australian National, pull 30-plus cars, many of them shiny, aluminum-sided passenger cars displaying the Ghan's picturesque camel emblem. In addition to numerous

primary goal of the early Ghan. Its main job was to link the red center with the rest of Australia, carrying life-giving supplies to bush outposts. And before the train, camels walked the route, their slow, swaying gait reflecting incredible endurance in temperatures that can soar above 120 degrees during the day and plummet to nearly freezing at night. Brought to Australia in the 1840s for the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition, camels flourished like desert grass. (The 1860 expedition from Melbourne was an attempt to make a north-south crossing of the continent. The explorers succeeded, but on the way back missed the supply depot group and ultimately perished.)

The camels and their Afghan handlers helped build the railway and, indirectly, name the train. Reportedly, in 1923, when the train ran only from Adelaide to Oodnadatta (70 miles short of Alice), a sleeper car was added and many smaller stops were dropped. On this first "express," an Afghan was the only passenger, so it was jokingly dubbed the "Afghan Express." The name, in shortened form, stuck.

When the line was finally finished to Alice Springs on Aug. 6, 1929, passenger comfort still was not a great concern. Before air conditioning, the Ghan roared

such a grand itinerary, it still boasts some of the best Outback scenery. What many people remember most about their trip on the Ghan is the ever-present red desert dust. It's true the rustling soil dominates the landscape, giving visual expression to the tremendous heat, but there are surprising number of gum trees, desert oaks, large shrubs and clumps of spallie grass that make it much more than a desert. In places, mesas, buttes and distant mountain ranges evoke parts of Arizona and New Mexico. Elsewhere, gigantic shallow pools of water shimmer to the horizon — remnants of recent flooding during the short but intense wet season.

Termites ate ties
 Defiantly racing through such country — and rarely bothered by the land's extremes — is today's regular-gauge "new" (1980) Ghan. The narrow-gauge "old" Ghan (east of the present tracks) wasn't so lucky — it was reliably unreliable. Termites ate the wooden ties (called "sleepers"), while floods washed away the line or trapped the train in inland seas. Summer heat curled the tracks like a slithering snake. Delays could last a month. In one case, an engineer shot goats to feed passengers.

Comfort, though, was never the

coach and first-class sleeper cars, the train has a first-class dining car, a coach buffet car and two lounge cars.

At night, both the Ghan and the Indian-Pacific rush through a darkened landscape that melds in along at 110 kilometers an hour (68 mph), the trains can take nearly a mile to stop, while the headlights illuminate only a few hundred yards ahead. As L.D., the Indian-Pacific driver, explains, "That's when you live by your memory."

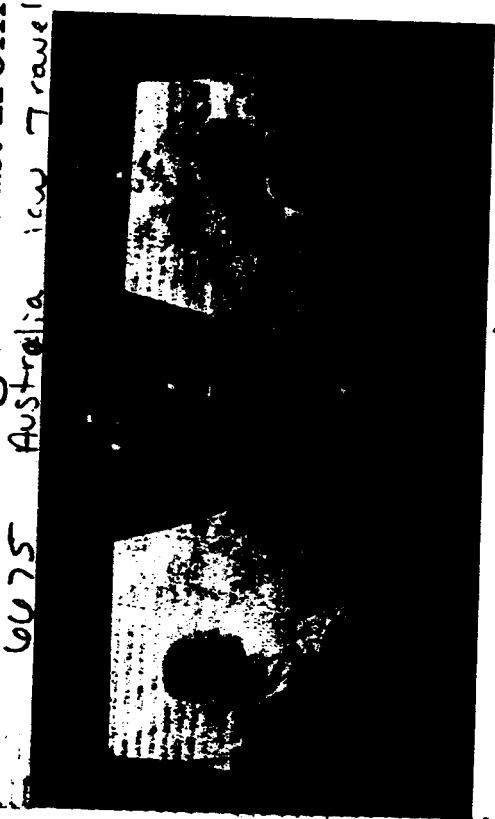
After traveling on either train, most people will have enough memories to last a lifetime.

Jeff Miller is a Denver freelance writer living for a year in Australia.

NOV 14 1993

BURRELLE'S

Adventure riding the rails: from the Trans-Siberian to the Flying Scot



Mr. and Mrs. David Foley of Pasadena relax aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express train from Singapore to Bangkok.

AFTER a successful return from the Mysterious East — avoiding rogue elephants, king cobras, gluttonous tigers, jungle rot and the old Singapore Sling — it suddenly dawned that the High Pooh-bahs who run this place have caused me to spend an inordinate amount of time on trains.

To be sure, the last little jaunt was less rugged than most — a ride up the Malay Peninsula aboard the excessively spiffy Eastern & Oriental Express — but it was, nonetheless, part of an almost-annual custom I have been forced to endure for years. Seems like every time I turn around, I'm staring out a train window.

As it turns out, actually, some of the more interesting experiences I've had traveling



ZEKE WIGGLESWORTH
Travel Editor

a small jar of pickles that have gray stuff growing on them. I tell the guy I am suffering from mal de train and I'll pass on his kind of-fering. I get off at the next big city, find a hotel and pig out on my secret stash of Spam.

The Trans-Siberian is probably not a trip for the meek: lousy toilets, ghastly food, dirt,

around the world have been on trains.

Since you asked:

TRANS-SIBERIAN TRAVELS: I was just recovering from my first exposure to the toilets on a second-class sleeper car on the Trans-Siberian Express when the guy I'm sharing a compartment with offers me half his lunch. What it is is a chunk of pork fat — no meat, just fat — a hunk of day-old Russian bread and

growing on them. I tell the guy I am suffering from mal de train and I'll pass on his kind of-fering. I get off at the next big city, find a hotel and pig out on my secret stash of Spam.

The Trans-Siberian is probably not a trip for the meek: lousy toilets, ghastly food, dirt,

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Seeing the world from the comfort (or discomfort) of a train

■ WIGGLESWORTH

from Page 16

filthy bedding, drunks, noise, confusion. But for the adventurous, it's a great way to meet the former Red Peril up close and personal, and riding that far through the forests of Siberia and the plains of the Urals rates a merit badge of some sort. If you do, stash some freeze-dried trail food for emergencies. Learn to drink vodka warm. Take nose plugs.

For the really adventurous, take the Trans-Siberian to Ulan Ude, the capital of Russian Mongolia, then hop the Trans-Mongolian to Ulan Bator. Or if you're truly mad, keep on going to Beijing.

I believe I'll pass on that one, thanks. Chinese trains can be truly ugly, and Chinese train food is an open invitation to intestinal disaster.

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MAKING TRACKS SOUTH: There's a train from Cuzco to Machu Picchu in Peru. It zigzags and sags backward to get out of town, then runs along the high ridges of the Andes beside the roaring Urubamba River and finally stops at Lost City of the Incas. From time to time, the Sentosa Lumino (a Marxist terrorist group) shows up the track or the train, but when things are tranquil, it's an absolutely gorgeous trip. So another fun train ride Down South is along the Panama Canal between Colon and Panama City. Does anyone you a warm feeling knowing us Yankis did all that Big Mach stuff just by conquering a few countries, blowing up a few mountains and digging up a few million tons of dirt. Great scenery along the tracks, lousy humidity. The air conditioning, but at least the windows open.

□

DOWN UNDER: We Americans



ZENE WIGGLESWORTH — MERCURY NEWS

Service is exemplary aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express, the luxury train that travels up the Malay Peninsula.

Just seemed longer going through eastern Russia on the Trans-Siberian.

Anyway, Australians, you will note, like beer, and they like it icy cold. There is a tale they tell out along the Nullarbor about the fateful day the Indian-Pacific train ran out of beer. The engineer, the chief brakeman, two conductors and the entire bar staff were tossed out of the train by thirsty and irate Aussies and forced to walk 500 miles through the furnace-heat of the desert to safety.

Naw, it was probably only about 200 miles. Nobody gets that mad over beer.

The Ghan

The most famous train in Australia, even more so than the Indian-Pacific, is the Ghan, which runs from Adelaide north to Alice Springs, about 900 miles (22 hours). The train, named after the Afghan camel drivers who used to run supplies up to Alice

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Springs, was recently refurbished, and the first-class sleepers, bar cars and dining cars are all top-rate. It's a great trip, one I'd always recommend for anybody going to Australia.

TransAlpine Express

Next door (about 1,000 miles or so) is the TransAlpine Express, a lovely trip that runs from Christchurch to the west coast of the South Island in New Zealand. The trip takes a long day and runs from the flat farmlands near Christchurch up through the New Zealand Alps — fiords, alpine scenery, rugged peaks, tunnels, curves and Kiwi courtesy. If you ever go to New Zealand, make this one of your priorities.

□

WESTERN SERIES: One of the reasons I end up on so many trains is probably genetic. My great-grandpa was a railroad man, starting in Kentucky before the Civil War. In the 1890s, he moved to Colorado and started building railroads all over the Four Corners area, including the famous Durango-Silverton train. I stopped in Durango a while back and told the train folks about Great-Grandpa and about how they should let me have a free ride. But they just tossed my scrawny carcass off the platform, having not one whit of decency. Back in 1981, they were going to call it the Wigglesworth & Silverton, but they figured nobody could pronounce the name. Silverton, that is.

Anyway, it's still a great ride, an engineering marvel and one of the most photographed trains in the world. It has starred in at least two dozen movies. Best time to go is in the fall just as the aspens and cottonwoods start to change color.

□

THE FLYING SCOT: You can take a high road or a low road to Scot-

land, but the best way is still the overnight Flying Scot. You leave Waterloo Station in London about midnight and arrive in Edinburgh in the wee hours. Being civilized, they park the train on a siding until around 7, stuff you full of tea and toast and send you propping the land of Bobby Burns.

Some of the best train scenery in the world is in Scotland. Take a train from Edinburgh to Fort William, then around Loch Ness (forget Nessie — she's a figment of the Scottish Tourist Board's fevered imagination), check out the Kyle of Lochalsh, wander down past the huge distilleries near Aberdeen, then head through Dundee back to Edinburgh. The views are wonderful — except when it's raining, which in Scotland is every day but the third Sunday after the Festival of St. Hortense the Bald.

□

CRUISE-CRUISE TO CARTHAGE: Any way you figure it, either Yasser Arafat or Habib Bourguiba owes me six bucks. The Bride and I hopped the old Tunis-Carthage Roman baths and checked out a new French restaurant everybody was raving about. Tunisia has excellent rail service, and the hop to Carthage takes less than an hour. When we got on, I handed the guy a 1,000-dinar note (about 10 bucks) for the \$4 fare and away we go. He says he's out of change and will catch me later. Somewhere along the way, he gets off and a replacement conductor gets on. So we ask the new guy for the change and he just shrugs.

So what'dya do now? Raise hell and be an Ugly Tourist, or just chalk the \$6 loss up to stupidity? We raised hell. Six bucks is six bucks. I told the guy he couldn't move the train until Yasser Arafat himself came and coughed up the dinars. A small discussion

took place, the guy gave me a receipt for 600 dinars, told me to go to the Ministry of Transportation and somebody there would reimburse us.

The ruins were grand, the French food was exquisite, the Ministry of Transportation told us to hop the next boat for Italy before they got upset with us. Which we did.

And ended up in a second-class sleeper headed for Brindisi, soaked from a hellacious storm. Wet, tired, hungry. A Bride and four Italian guys, w snored. Paper sheets, paper pillows, no hot water, no towels, facilities down the hall.

Was she irked? Lordy, she's volcanic. Divorce followed immediately and she vowed never to get on another train, anywhere. Three days later, on the train from Athens to Corinth, this incredibly handsome Greek guy came along with a bottle of oil and . . .

Yeah, there are still lots of trains left to ride, and if the t el gods keep being beneficent, check a few more out. Shucks beats walking.

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

If it moves, just eat it

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

UNTIL 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 Riberries, 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 unceremoniously 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

eggroll, they were delightful.

Bruneteau opened Riberries 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 panfried stingray; seared roo rump; flathead fillet. For desert, there is Riberries (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 Gagudju 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 Australia

lian 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 pics, 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

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

Freshly barbecued witchetty grubs
roasted 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 Cherkoff, owner of the small Wattle Seed Deli near Sydney's Chinatown. On my last day in Sydney I dropped in to see Cherkoff 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, Cherkoff 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 Cherkoff. "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 Putjamirra 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 Pitjanjatjara desert people to collect and prepare bush foods and join in traditional songs and dances.

Vic Cherkoff 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 Cherkoff, Bush Tucker Tours, P.O. Box B 303, Boronia Park, New South Wales 2111, Australia. Phone: (02) 816-3381.

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) 79-2888.

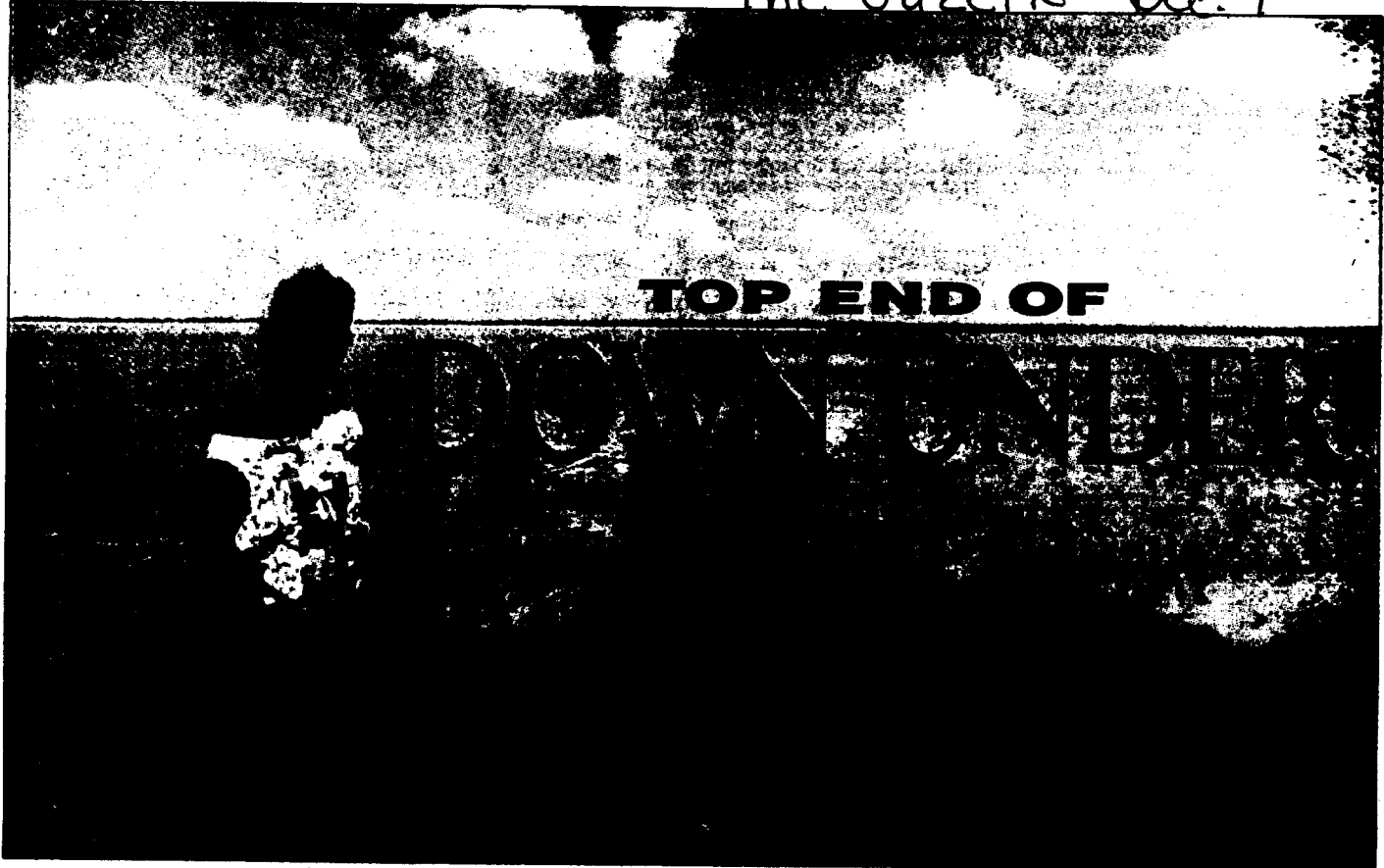
Bradshaw Room, Melia Alice Springs Hotel, Barrett Drive, Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Phone: (089) 528-000.

Pheasant Farm Restaurant, Near Nuriootpa, Barroosa Valley, South Australia. Phone: (085) 621-286.

Rumpole's Restaurant, North Quay, Brisbane, Queensland. Phone: (07) 236-2877.

Riberries, 411 Bourke Street, Darlinghurst, New South Wales. Phone: (02) 361-4829.

Wattle Seed Deli, 37 Ultimo Rd., Ultimo, New South Wales. Phone: (02) 281-9532



TOP END OF

AUSTRALIA

Aborigines who live on the islands along the coast of northern Australia cling tenaciously to their traditional way of life.

JIM HUTCHISON

JIM HUTCHISON
Special to The Gazette

DARWIN, Australia - The sky was blushing morning pink as our boatload of amateur ornithologists - binoculars and bird guides handy - set off across Yellow Waters Lagoon in the heart of Kakadu National Park.

"Azure kingfisher at three o'clock!" someone hissed jubilantly. I searched a full minute before catching sight of the thumb-sized, vivid-blue bird perched in a paperbark tree. He was hard to spot among the lotus birds hopscotching over giant lily pads, stately Jabiru storks strutting their stuff and sea eagles swooping low on early-morning fish-finding missions.

Canoes are welcome on Yellow Waters Lagoon in Kakadu National Park.

No aviary was ever stocked like this. Two sand monitor lizards, each more than three feet long, flicked out their tongues on the far shore and as I swung my camera in their direction, a partly submerged log drifted past. Suddenly, everyone was jolted wide awake when it

slithered on to the bank an arm's length away as a 12-foot-long saltwater crocodile.

"Never trust a log with bow waves," chuckled our skipper.

Twice the size of Texas, the wide-open Northern Territory is Australia's last frontier. While the southern part of the state stretches towards the sunburnt outback around Alice Springs, it is the intriguing and less well-known northern half - the Top End - that is one of my favorite parts of Australia. Its history is full of adventure and tales of pearl-divers, buffalo-shooters and crocodile-hunters. It's still hard-living country where cowboys ride the range, aborigines live traditional lifestyles and where a "stubbie" of beer holds two litres.

When I flew into Darwin, the state capital on the north tip of the continent, the low-rise city of 70,000 was half buried in a blaze of red flame trees and neon-pink bougainvillea.

When I stepped off the plane I recognized almost nothing. Since my last visit, the Darwin I knew had been literally blown off the map by Cyclone Tracy, which hit on Christmas Eve 1974 and levelled 90 per cent of the buildings.

It wasn't the first time Darwinites had to rebuild their city from scratch. During World War II the Japanese flattened the town in a series of 64 bombing raids that were kept secret from the rest of the country.

Even today, steel girders in the small international air terminal are riddled with bullet holes from the Zeros' .50-calibre machine guns.

One of the few buildings to survive both calamities with its Somerset



Maugham character intact is the old Hotel Darwin, where I went at midday to lounge in a wicker chair with a cold drink while a ceiling fan ruffled the potted plants and drove away the heat.

Outside, on the Esplanade park overlooking the sea, a Top End-style office meeting was under way with a circle of

Mindil Beach Market reflects Darwin's multicultural society.



PLEASE SEE AUSTRALIA'S, PAGE 43



xx 1024

Australia's Top End, is land of two seasons

Most visitors come during the 'dry,' a period of warm, sunny days and prodigious beer consumption

CONTINUED FROM PAGE W1

businessmen sitting on the lawn in shorts and long socks - the contents of their briefcases spread in the shade of a tree.

The Top End has basically two seasons, the "wet," a season of torrential rains that lasts from November until April, and the "dry," from May until September.

Dry is the best time to go. The days are warm and sunny, but, in one sense at least, not entirely dry. Darwinites are beer-drinkers. Their annual consumption is one of the highest in the world, and it's during the dry they drink most of the 250 litres of beer they each consume every year.

Every August the city pays homage to the amber nectar with the Beer Can Regatta, a wacky race of craft made from discarded beer "tinnies." There have been Spanish galleons and replicas of the Bounty, and one year the military entered an aircraft carrier complete with little mock fighter planes on the deck.

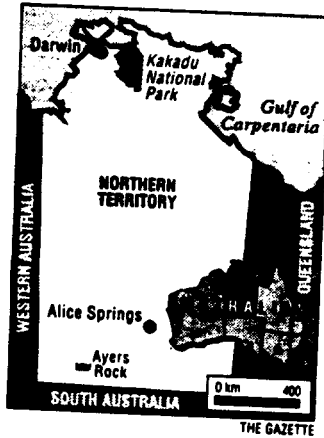
Darwin has always been a city quite apart from other Australian capitals. Facing the Timor Sea, it is closer to Jakarta and Singapore than to Melbourne or Sydney and not just in distance and climate.

There are Chinese clubs, a Timorese soccer team, and community newspapers published in dozens of languages including Thai, Laotian and Vietnamese. It would be tough to find better Asian restaurants in any other Australian city.

Multicultural market

Every Thursday evening at the Mindil Beach Sunset Market, Darwin's cosmopolitan and quirky character emerges beneath strings of lights on the beachfront at Fannie Bay. "Japanese jumbo shrimp," "Green paw-paw salad" the vendors chanted as I browsed food stalls trying to decide between Malaysian laksa soup and Indonesian satays or Aussie barbecued chops.

The city's mellow atmosphere attracts many "southerners" - as anyone from the rest of Australia is called - seeking an al-



THE GAZETTE

ternative to big-city life. Their artistic efforts fill the "crafties" section of the market. Macrame, tie-dye and handmade clothes are big sellers and it's the best place in town to have your tarot cards read or feet massaged.

For the size of the city, Darwin has an extraordinary number of small galleries. It also has an excellent museum with one of Australia's best exhibits of aboriginal artifacts. Not surprising, since the Northern Territory also has the highest percentage of aborigines in Australia. They make up almost a quarter of the population.

One morning I boarded a small plane for the 20-minute flight north to Bathurst Island to spend the day with Tiwi Islanders, a group of aborigines who have managed to maintain their culture and commercially develop their artistic skills.

The pilot circled twice over the village of Nguiu, and a few minutes later my guide, Michael, arrived at the runway in his four-wheel-drive.

Bumping over potholed roads, Michael took me to Tiwi Designs, a silkscreening

IF YOU GO

There are several different expeditions to Bathurst and Melville islands - mucking in the mangroves is not on the regular itinerary, however - to spend a day or longer in a traditional aboriginal community. For more information, write to the Australian Tourist Commission at 2 Bloor St. W., No. 1730, Toronto, Ont., M4W 3E2, telephone (416) 925-9575. Or, call the Northern Territory Tourist Commission toll-free at (800) 661-6882.

There is all manner of accommodation available in Darwin. The Frontier Top End Hotel's rates in Darwin start at about \$70 for a double room. In Kakadu National Park, the Four Seasons Kakadu (no relation to the North American chain) is a crocodile-shaped hotel with room rates starting at \$130; the Four Seasons Cooina near Yellow Waters Lagoon starts at \$120, but there are also facilities for camping at various locations throughout the park.

Territory Rent a Car has several packages for travellers who want to explore the region by road.



Food stall in Mindil Beach Market.



JIM HUTCHISON

Termite mounds in Kakadu National Park can be 7 metres high.

operation run by island men who reproduce brightly colored, traditional Tiwi patterns on fabric. The result is sought after by Australian fashion houses.

Not far away is the Keeping House, a meeting place where local carvers bring their work for sale. The style and colors of the carved birds and masks are simple, almost contemporary, and bring high prices in the galleries of Sydney and Melbourne.

Though it was a treat to see the carvers at work, it was obvious that the better pieces had already flown south.

Jumping back into the truck we stopped at the homes of Kerri-Anne and Mary-Margaret, a couple of older aboriginal women who were to take me into the wilderness foraging for "bush tucker," traditional food, in which I have a special interest. By this time the group had grown to include several other relatives with time on their hands and a couple of children, all keen to be off for a bush picnic.

We went by boat to tiny, uninhabited Buchanan Island and walked about a kilometre across the white-sand beach to reach the mangrove forest. From the excited chatter of my companions, you would never have known that sinking knee deep into sulphurous-smelling mud while sandflies and mosquitos took chunks out of you in the sweltering heat was the least bit unpleasant. To them the mangroves were a larder stocked with goodies.

Mary-Margaret shattered fallen tree trunks with an axe and everyone scrambled for the slippery whitish mangrove worms and gobbled them up raw.

Munching mud crabs

When we arrived beneath the broad canopy of a shade tree, Kerri-Anne had already stoked a campfire. We quickly boiled the mud crabs we had dug out of watery holes. They were delicious, similar to Florida's stone crabs.

"Long bums," conical shells the children gathered from the swamp floor, were pulled hot from their shells with a bent twig after a roasting in the ashes. Similar to escargots, they would have been sensational with garlic butter and a fresh baguette.

The mangrove worms, once I got past their slimy appearance, were a big surprise. Fresh and slightly salty, they tasted pleasantly like raw oysters.

Back in Darwin I went south in a rented

car on the Stuart Highway, the main route linking the capital with the next closest city of Alice Springs, almost 1,500 km to the south, and farther on to Adelaide in South Australia. To locals the blacktop lifeline is simply "the track," and "Headin' up or down?" is the standard greeting along the way.

Just out of Darwin I sidetracked 200 km east to Kakadu National Park, a 19,500-square-km preserve where water buffalo wandered among 7-metre-high termite mounds.

An aboriginal-owned park as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kakadu is to Australia what the wild-animal parks are to Africa. The park's vast wetlands support about one-third of all Australian species of birds. During the dry season, they are crowded with wildlife awaiting the reviving rains of the wet.

For more than 20,000 years the aborigines have lived within Kakadu and some of Australia's most spectacular rock-art sites are just a short hike into the wilderness. There are literally thousands of natural galleries beneath the shelter of rocky outcrops. The easiest to reach are Ubirr and Nourlangie Rocks. Haunting images of kangaroos, turtles, fish and simple hand patterns are layered one era upon another, a visual history in ochre stretching back at least 22,000 years.

In this part of the world it is difficult to get away from crocodiles. After a cruise on the South Alligator River where dozens of the reptiles emerged from the swirling mud-thickened waters, I checked into the park's Four Seasons Hotel. It's built in the shape of a croc, with slatted yellow eyes that disguise the ventilation shafts and a shaded swimming pool in the central courtyard for a heart. This was not the brainstorm of some overwrought marketing director, but a building condition specified by the local Gagudju people, the traditional owners of Kakadu whose spirit ancestor is the crocodile.

Croc was even on the menu at dinner as it also was at the Darwin Crocodile Farm where I turned the tables on the notorious man-eaters by biting into croc burgers. They tasted like veal.

Another Top End specialty is "buff and barra," a kind of antipodean surf-and-turf combining the beef-like meat of water buffalo with barramundi, one of Australia's best eating fish.

Although northern Australia is trimmed

in a lush tropical fringe, it takes just a few hours' drive inland to reach the arid outback, a vast region covering most of the continent's 7.8 million square km.

I rejoined the Stuart Highway and soon find myself amid scrubby dry bushland. The noonday sun was darkened to a dull copper from the smoke of bushfires that sweep through the brush during the dry season. Black kites swooped along the fire front, pouncing on fleeing prey.

Strung along the track are dozens of tiny towns, some no bigger than a pub with a gas pump out front. Pubs have always been the social centres of the outback and were traditionally the first building to go up with the rest of the town growing up them. I pulled up at the Daly Waters Hotel, the oldest pub in the Northern Territory, a classic wooden cottage with a big shady porch to keep the heat and flies outside. Sipping a frosty NT Lager, I browsed through an interior cluttered with bush memorabilia from blacksmith tools to an old pedal radio. One corner of the pub doubles as the post office for the 20 villagers.

Sheer-walled gorges

Near the outback town of Katherine I took to a canoe and paddled through Katherine Gorge National Park's series of 13 sheer-walled gorges. Since it was the dry season, I portaged a short stretch between the gorges, having been assured by park staff that only harmless, freshwater crocodiles made their home in the pools.

Late in the afternoon I drove 100 km south to Mataranka, a small oasis in the desert that I remembered well from my last trip. Surrounded by palms, it is a cluster of natural thermal pools alongside the Roper River. The pools' warm waters bubble from a sandy bottom and are so clear the tiny fish appear to be suspended in mid-air. At twilight hundreds of noisy sulphur-crested cockatoos and pink-and-gray galah parrots flew in, gathering overhead in the treetops.

That evening I finished up my Top End trip at the historic old Springvale Homestead near Katherine. Members of the Jäwoyn aboriginal tribe, adorned in ochre and white paint, lit campfires with traditional firesticks and performed their lively tribal dances beneath a canopy of brilliant outback stars.

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

ASTA
Sept.

Agency Management

Still No CTC

Although the various certification programs can enhance an agent's image, they are no substitute for such established programs as the Institute of Certified Travel Agents' certified travel counselor designation, Hammond says. "If an individual is serious about the professionalism in the industry, the CTC is still what they're going to strive for, because it's more than just a seminar on a destination or geography. It's a lot more in terms of the core of the business, whether it be on the management side or the selling side."

By the same token, she says, the CTC designation doesn't exempt agents from pursuing further knowledge. She has her CTC, but she says that doesn't make her an expert on any destination or product. To truly generate a sense of professionalism within the industry, she says, all agents have to seek further education whenever and wherever they can find it.

Lauri Stiles, ICTA's national manager of membership development, agrees with Hammond. "I would say any education that somebody can get themselves involved in is a bonus and a benefit," she says. "Agents can no longer get away with just knowing the basics."

In this vein, ICTA developed its destination specialist programs, which provide agents with general information about a variety of destinations. ICTA already issues DS certifications for four areas, and it is developing a fifth. "Agents need to stay on top of this," Stiles says. "Imagine being across the desk from a client, counseling him, and referring to countries that don't exist anymore or sending them to a country that's under siege or something."

Consumers probably won't be all that impressed by titles—even after 25 years they still don't know what "CTC" stands for—but they *will* be impressed by an agent who can answer their questions. "If anything, people may take the industry more seriously and look for higher education versus a supplier-supported designation," Stiles says.

Knowledge On The Fast Track

Not that all suppliers have turned their product seminars into diploma mills. One of the seminars Hammond and her staff have found most valuable is a session offered by the government of France. It's a one-day session that she and her agents have attended over the years. "There's no certificate, and they don't call you a specialist on France,

because you can't become one in a day," Hammond says.

The value of fast-track certifications is debatable, say agents. They also say that awarding a diploma or bestowing the supposedly prestigious title of "specialist" on agents by dint of their having attended a few seminars is misleading. "Sometimes there is a misconception on the part of the agents that they are going to become a specialist after a one-day seminar, which is not really the case," Hammond says. "In three hours, can somebody really

'Sometimes there is a misconception on the part of the agents that they are going to become a specialist after a one-day seminar, which is not really the case,' says Jan Hammond.

become a specialist? I think not. It's great to have these programs offered, because we all must gain as much knowledge as possible. However, calling someone a specialist after a few hours and perhaps a short visit is very misleading."

Often these fast-track programs consist of no more than a brief overview of the product. "It is somewhat misleading," agrees Shirley Simmons, former education committee chairman of International Travel Associates Inc., "You can take any course and get your certification or whatever the title is and still not be as knowledgeable as somebody who has not participated in any program."

Consumers won't be impressed by a certificate hanging on an agent's wall or the fact that the agent was able to pin a title behind his or her name, according to Ed Perkins, editor of *Consumer Reports Travel Letter*. "This is a business where smart consumers are aware that there aren't any obvious public standards," he says.

Perkins says the value of a certification program isn't in the agent's title as much as it lies in the agent's being perceived by consumers to be a trained professional. Consumers will not bother to wade through the industry's version of alphabet soup to figure out what all the initials and titles mean.

Suppliers who refer consumers to certified agents are helping the retail industry, says Sammartino of Gordon Travel Service, a member of ASTA's Education Committee. Such referrals lend credibility to those agents. Consumers don't know how much time and effort an agent puts into earning any particular designation, but they value a referral to an agent who is reputed to be knowledgeable about a product.

Boning Up On Down Under

Many suppliers do reward agents who participate in their programs by sending new clients their way. James LaValle, acting marketing manager for trade for the Australian Tourist Commission, says that consumer demand for information about Australia led to the development of the Aussie Specialist certification program. The commission fills 500,000 consumer requests for brochures annually, he says, but only about half that many tourists actually visit the country.

"The general goal of the program is to convert consumer interest in Australia into bookings," he says. "That's what we're trying to capitalize on—not only giving them the information, but giving them a contact who's going to make it easier."

The program consists of a self-training module that costs \$24.95 and comes with three workbooks and two videos. Agents view the tapes, complete the workbooks at their own pace, then take a 100-question test and return it to the commission. Those who achieve scores of 90 percent or better become "Aussie Specialists."

Successful completion of the program earns agents a certificate and a sticker to put on their agency's window, and they receive newsletters and information on upcoming promotions. "But the real benefit of the program, the real reason we know the education project is going to stick, is the consumer referral service," LaValle says. When consumers call the commission to request information about Australia, they are sent both a brochure and a letter advising them to ask a travel agent to book the trip. The letter also pro-

TRENDS IN TRAVEL

vides a list of the three closest Aussie Specialists.

Since the program started last September, more than 900 agents have received the specialist designation, and LaValle keeps tabs on them to determine whether the referral service is generating sales. "The feedback has been entirely positive. Well over 90 percent have booked business for clients that were referred to them through this program," he says. "I think it's really building a loyalty among agents because we're not just asking them for something; we're giving something back in return."

Matriculating With Mickey

Officials at Walt Disney Attractions say that a similar mind-set led to the development of their College of Disney Knowledge, an educational program that began in February and has met with such success that the company is now expanding it. "We felt we needed this umbrella over travel agents because so many of them say that over the years Disney kind of sold itself," says Bill Kaufman, director of travel agency sales. "They were just order takers."

Brian Walton, senior marketing representative for travel industry marketing, says that officials developed the college idea after consulting with the company's advisory council. "The agents really wanted to have knowledge so they would come across as professionals to their clients," he says.

The free correspondence program, which reached agents both through a travel-trade publication and a direct-mail campaign, consists of six lessons about specific resorts and attractions and about booking Disney vacations. The final exam includes 50 questions and three case studies.

Walton says he expects about 9,000 agents to graduate from the first round of the program. They will get Disney Specialist diplomas, newsletters and first crack at familiarization trips to Disney attractions. But there's a catch: They're required to maintain their certification by taking update lessons and tests.

To gauge the usefulness of the program, Walton is contacting both graduates and dropouts. "Agents really are learning from this, and they're feeling better about selling Disney and feeling more professional with their clients," he says.

Disney made a concentrated effort not to be too promotional in its train-

ing program, Kaufman says. The company tried to focus on sales techniques in general, not just those specifically aimed at marketing the Disney properties. "We're serious about educating agents," he says. "Any way we can help them, we're not only helping ourselves, but helping the industry."

Seaworthy Seminars

Bob Kwortnik, director of training for the Cruise Lines International Association, echoes those sentiments. He says

'Imagine being across the desk from a client, counseling him, and referring to countries that don't exist anymore or sending them to a country that's under siege or something,' says ICTA's Lauri Stiles.

that the organization's Accredited Cruise Counsellor and Master Cruise Counsellor certification programs evolved from CLIA's desire to help agents become better salespeople. "Our sales approach is very generic," he says. "Obviously, we concentrate on selling the cruise experience itself, but agents can apply the principles of sales training to sales both inside and outside the cruise industry."

He says that CLIA's support materials are intended to help consumers appreciate the extra training an agent undergoes to attain certification. "In all of our consumer promotions, we direct consumers to see an agency who has on its staff an Accredited Cruise Counsellor or Master Cruise Counsellor," Kwortnik says.

He emphasizes that agents who take the CLIA courses do in fact become experts, of a sort. For the ACC designation, agents are required to complete three core classroom programs and pass exams on the topics; complete one more classroom training

program and exam; watch a CLIA video or attend a CLIA-sponsored or -endorsed cruise conference; and inspect at least 10 ships and cruise on two others. So there is product familiarization and classroom work in the program, he says. The numbers double for the MCC certification, and candidates must submit three case studies in which they solve real-life problems or graduate from the CLIA Management Institute to be certified.

Since the certification program began in January, about 6,000 agents have enrolled, and CLIA expects 11,000 agents to be in or to have completed the ACC accreditation by the end of the year. Though the program is heavily classroom-oriented and the seminars are valuable, CLIA has allowed a large number of agents to be "grandfathered" in as ACCs, receiving credit for seminars or cruise-industry functions they attended before the program even existed. As a result, after the first six months of the program, there were already about 500 ACCs and 50 MCCs.

While many agents have embraced CLIA's education efforts, some veteran agents like Carol Napper of Fairview Travel Service in Downers Grove, Illinois, feel like they shouldn't have to jump through hoops to receive an ACC. But even she recently sent off the paperwork to claim credit toward an ACC for CLIA seminars she has attended in the past, because "I don't want to be left off any list of certified cruise counselors CLIA might send out."

Napper says she was reluctant to participate in the program at first because it seemed like a waste of time. "Why should I have to take a test and pay good money if I've taken all of CLIA's seminars and have been selling cruises for 15 years?" she asks.

Others wonder whether this practice devalues the ACC and MCC by creating a class of instant certified counselors. A perusal of the list of ACC recipients reveals a preponderance of cruise-only agencies, and phone calls to ACCs reveals a high percentage of outside salespeople and agents who are not active in or have actually retired from the business.

And that leads to the ultimate question about certification programs and specialist designations: How can the travel industry expect programs that certify retirees or people who attend one-day seminars to have meaning for agents, let alone consumers? ■

DENVER

NOV. 14, 1993

Castlemaine's artistic spirit glitters with cultural gold

By Ellen Alperstein
Special to The Denver Post 6675

CASTLEMAINE, Victoria, Australia — Berek Segan wanted a sawmill. Nearly 20 years ago, the globe-trotting entrepreneur traveled 80 miles northwest of Melbourne to purchase one. After that, he bought into an artistic vision.

Segan was charmed by several hamlets in the heart of Victoria — Harcourt, Maldon and Malmsbury — but he was truly smitten by Castlemaine.

"I've been fortunate to travel the world for my timber and wine businesses, and I've always observed the arts wherever I go," he says. "I was struck by Castlemaine for its galleries and churches."

Tucked into the hills that snuggle against the Midland Highway, Castlemaine is a 19th-century village whose tin-roofed pubs, iron-lacquered verandas and clock-popping spires were built on the back of the gold boom. Its proximity to Melbourne, its sense of remove and sheer beauty have always fed the creative spirit. Today, 7,000 lucky souls call it home.

Artists have thrived here almost since gold first glittered in the 1850s. At the turn of the century, the population had soared to 60,000, and in 1913, mobilized by the cry "No art, no culture. No



ARTFUL CASTLEMAINE: Artists Gary Stirling, left, and Saul Roche, are among participants in biennial arts festival. *Special to The Denver Post / Ellen Alperstein*

culture, no nation," a group made up mostly of women artists established the Castlemaine Art Gallery in the post office.

These art aficionados found a way to support their habit even during the Great Depression when the present gallery was constructed. Intended as a cultural link to the rest of the country, the Castlemaine gallery was the only one in Australia with a stated policy to collect only the work of Australian artists. Now officially called the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum, it is the largest of 16 regional galleries in the state of Victoria.

An accomplished violinist and major patron of the arts, Segan knew fertile cultural territory when he saw it. Enlisting the support of Victoria's premier (who, fortuitously, also served as the state's minister for the arts) in the mid-1970s, he inaugurated the first Castlemaine State Festival of the Arts, which played to rave reviews in 1976.

Now a biennial 10-day event occurring in the spring (late October/early November) of even-numbered years (1994 will be the next), the festival is an international affair that draws 100,000 lovers of music, theater, dance and art, and is probably Australia's premier regional arts festival. World-class per-

Please see CASTLEMAINE on 6T

Everyone's an artist at Castlemaine fest

CASTLEMAINE from Page 17

formers play to intimate audiences in churches, Town Hall, the library and the 150-year-old Theatre Royal, as well as outdoors in the willow-dressed botanical gardens.

Says Segan, "You can't 'build' atmosphere, and the acoustics in many of Castlemaine's historical buildings are ideal."

The visual arts also claim their share of attention at the festival, with juried competitions and major exhibitions wherever there's space to hang a frame. And, festival or no, the painters, sculptors, graphic artists and ceramists are who compose Castlemaine's singular identity.

"Artists work when they know there's a large audience coming in to the area," says Peter Perry, director of the gallery/museum. "They exhibit outside Castlemaine during the year, but they also work hard to lift their own profile within the community."

A Melbourne native, Perry insists, "You won't get me going back." His story is familiar. When the festival was conceived, Castlemaine was experiencing a quiet artistic renaissance. Working artists were bailing out of Melbourne where urban prosperity was boosting their marketability but also their rent. Many bought affordable land in Castlemaine and, as artist and gallery owner Peter Wallace notes, "good artists tend to attract other good artists."

Wallace, a painter, also works in bronze and leather. From one angle his striking masks are sensual and alluring; from another, eerie, almost haunting. The figures in his boldly hued paintings seem to laugh at themselves as well as at you.

The Wallace Bros. Gallery (Peter's brother, David, also works in leather and teaches art) leans to local and contemporary artists.

"A lot of galleries wouldn't carry some of this work," Wallace says, "because it's not obviously commercial. That's not my priority. I don't really care if we just sell a lot — I'm happy to have their work."

Probably the most widely known artist in town is modernist Dawn Sime. Her hilltop home and studio gaze across a grove of eucalyptus trees. Her abstract paintings feel like nature woke up on the wrong side of the bed, moody and unpredictable. Represented in the National Gallery of Victoria, Sime does not show in Castlemaine, although her work is part of the permanent collection of the State Gallery in Melbourne.

Working in oil, watercolor and acrylic, Sime originally came to Castlemaine for allergy relief. With her was her husband, Eric Westbrook, also an artist of considerable renown, who was formerly director of the National Gallery of Victoria as well as the state's minister of arts. His pointillistic work can be as warm as his wife's can be dark.

"As an art community," Westbrook says, "Castlemaine is ideally located. It's a good size, not just for tourism but as a working town. The grocer delivers."

If he, who is deemed a national treasure by the venerable Age

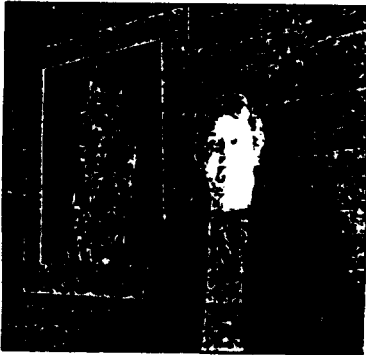
newspaper, concurs.

"During the festival, everyone is an artist. Not every sensibility is equally developed," she says diplomatically, "but the attempt is made. The supermarket hung 100 drawings by children. At the opening of the festival, people marched through the rain with drums. I burst into tears by the concept of a small town with no class distinctions being involved in such a high level of art. It reminded me of a sign I saw in Spain: 'The world's at peace when everyone's an artist.' In Castlemaine, we have that lack of self-consciousness."

Maybe that's why so many Castlemaine artists indulge their visitors' curiosity. Artists and craftsmen including Irish expatriate Saul Roche and Gary Stirling are almost as happy schmoozing as they are creating. Roche makes chairs, rakes and Irish drums, callad bodhrans, from timber, goat-skin and rushes he harvests locally. Woodworker Stirling creates winsome furniture featured in tony interior design magazines.

Like Sime's appreciation of children's art in the supermarket, Stirling revels in "that quality of understanding. It's totally unpretentious; it indicates people who are at ease with who they are. I really enjoy that."

Stirling came to Castlemaine a couple of years ago, but ceramist Ann Geroe is practically a lifer. From her studio set in the middle of an impossibly green lawn ribbed with flowers, she creates achingly tactile urns, bowls and



MODERNIST: Dawn Sime works in oil, watercolor and acrylic.

bottles that wear distinctive glazes.

Geroe was not born to the arts but developed an affinity for clay in middle age. Like Roche, Geroe seeks raw materials locally. She's partial to the fine texture of Maldon clay and the soft black slate from a former Castlemaine quarry.

Melissa Harwood, whose clothing/jewelry ensembles are funky and fun, appreciates Castlemaine for "its sense of age and history as well as community. That's probably why I use secondhand things to make my art," she says. "And also, probably why I like Roz," referring to her friend and colleague Roz Arent, also a textile artist.

The two are enjoying a cup of tea at Tog's, a trendy cafe that originally featured the work of local artists on its whitewashed walls to avoid the cost of decorating. It now books regular exhibits.

"The sort of people I knew in Melbourne took 32 years to meet," Harwood continues. "I've done the same here in a year and a half. People who live here are interesting, creative people, even if they don't show or sell art."

Denver native Ellen Alperstein is a freelance writer based in Santa Monica, Calif.



Ellen Alperstein

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Travel Tips

By Debbie Gaard-Nahorniak
Carlson Travel Network, Suntime Travel

This week's column is devoted entirely to Australia.

AUSTRALIA BEYOND THE REEF AND THE ROCKS

Most first-time visitors to Australia do the Rock, the Rocks, and the Reef—Ayers Rock, Sydney (whose Rocks section is the city's oldest), and the Great Barrier Reef. In addition, consider spending a few days in the Outback on a sheep station, and meeting a real Aussie farm family. It's an experience that's very accessible and worthwhile. In general, staying in someone's home is a great way to meet people, make native friends, and experience what a country is really about. Here are three options:

• **Goanna Safari.** Named after the proprietor's favorite lizard, this small firm is run by the thoroughly charming Catherine Mould, a 26-year-old whose family farm, Westward Downs Station, comprises a half-million acres of sheep, kangaroo, emus, exotic parrots, and other wildlife deep in the outback. A three-day, two-night Safari begins with transfers from Broken Hill, a mining town in the middle of nowhere, to the Station. On arrival, you might take a dip in the farm's natural hot spa, an artesian well that bubbles up from deep within the earth. There's also camping on a fresh water lake. Per person price for the package is approximately \$180, including transfers, meals, and lodging.

• Another country option is a place called Brindabella Station Homestead, former home of Miles Franklin, author of the Australian classic *My Brilliant Career*. Located in the Brindabella Mountain Range above Canberra, Australia's capital, this B&B farm's terrain will remind you of Vermont, minus the people. The nearby mountains soar to 5,000 feet, wild kangaroo roam the 2,000-acre property, and you'll probably be invited to go out one night to watch wombats running around the fields. Rates are \$115 per person per night, including all meals, wine, and activities, and airport transfers.

• The third option isn't quite as exotic as the rest, but it's just as much fun. *Reynella* is a working sheep and cattle ranch set in acres of undulating hills near Adaminaby, in the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales (yes, there is snow here; you can even ski in winter, i.e., our summer). The accommodations are more Spartan than in the two previous properties, but the food is as good or better. Rates: approximately \$90 per person per night, including riding and meals. All three homesteads can be booked through your travel agent.

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KOALA KAPER

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Australia offers variety of activities for tourists

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At your leisure

All about Australia

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The Land Down Under, or the Commonwealth of Australia, its official name, has become a favorite travel destination for North Americans in the past decade. After you've "done" Britain, Central Europe, Scandinavia, the Caribbean, and a few other hot spots, you begin to think of that interesting far-away land.

Australia, roughly the size of the United States, has a population of about 17 and one-half million. And when you know that Sydney, Australia's best-known city on the east coast, has a population of almost 4 million, it gives you an idea of how sparsely populated the rest of the continent is.

Captain James Cook reached the southeast coast in 1770 and claimed the land for England, naming it New South Wales. But England didn't think much about this new land until 1787, when England dispatched the first prisoners to this penal colony. The fleet, full of convicts, landed in Sydney harbor at The Rocks, the first settlement in Australia. Today, The Rocks has been restored and well worth a visit when you go to Sydney.

THE ROCK

The second most popular tourist site on the continent is in the middle at Ayers Rock. You can combine a visit to Ayers Rock with a visit to Alice Springs (populations about 25,000). Alice sits in the middle of the country, and from here you can take excursions into the red-colored desert, which would include a 4 1/2 hour drive to Ayers Rock. This Rock is located in a National Park, and is the world's largest monolith sticking up from positively nowhere. When there, spend a night, because you have to see the Rock at sunrise, during the middle of the day, and sunset for its magnificent colors. Those in good health and with great physical endurance can actually climb the Rock. It takes about 2 1/2 hours. (If you have a heart condition, high blood pressure, or other things wrong with you, don't try it!) And only do it in their winter (April to November) as the summer heat is really excessive.

THE REEF

The third most popular destination in Australia is the Reef, or the Great Barrier Reef. It extends about 1,300

Travel tips

Helen A. Hillman
Carlson Travel Network



miles along the north and east coast. Cairns is the city in this area that everyone visits, and you can take day trips to some of the islands along the reef.

There's so much to see and talk about in Australia, it's really difficult to know when to stop. There's Canberra, the nation's capital city; there's Melbourne, often called the San Francisco of the Southern Hemisphere and the financial center of the country; there's Adelaide on the Southern coast where German immigrants settled in the 1830s with the vineyards, fine wines, small inns, and good restaurants.

WHEN TO GO

The seasons are just the opposite of ours in this hemisphere — when it's summer here, it's winter there. But the winters there are fairly mild. Our favorite month to visit there October and November, when the daffodils and tulips and fruit trees are in bloom, or in April, when the temperatures are in the 70s. The hottest months are December and January. Flying time from California to Sydney is about 14 hours. From Honolulu, about 10 hours non-stop.

TIPS

The Australian dollar is worth about 33 percent less than the greenback, so Australia is a real bargain now. Thanks to overbuilding and the favorable exchange rate, you can easily get a five-star hotel room for about \$100 a night if you shop around.

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The Australian are VERY friendly. A tour package, including popular itineraries, accommodations and transportation may be your best buy. However, for the more independent traveler, popular "Fly and Drive" options are quite affordable. For a brochure, and more about Australia, contact your travel agent.

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WEEKLY TRAVEL NEWS**AUSTRALIA BEYOND THE REEF AND THE ROCKS**

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For Further Information On These and Other Travel Needs, Please Call Odyssey Travel at 271-3388.



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Lorance, Ca
Nov 21, 1993
Sunday 130,000

On the rocks

Story and photos by
Stanton H. Patty
From Sydney, Australia

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hey serve history
"on the Rocks" here. Mighty smooth.

The Rocks is the lively neighborhood in the heart of downtown Sydney where Australia was born.

It was here in Sydney Cove, on a January evening in 1788, that a fleet of convict ships from England delivered a cargo of human misery.

Aboard were 757 prisoners — ordered "transported for life" to a far-away penal colony that would be called Australia.

Before darkness, the convicts were clearing ground for shelters on the sandstone bluffs that gave The Rocks its name.

Logs of the 11 ships carefully listed the rest of the contingent: a military escort of 200 guards, plus 28 women, 14 children, 4 cattle, 6 horses, 44 sheep and sundry fowl and pigs.

And thus a nation was founded.

Today, many of Australia's famous families trace their beginnings to that grim event.

"And with a great deal of pride," says Joanna McDonald, a Rocks walking-tour guide.

"Oh, by the way, Yanks," McDonald adds with a grin, "your American Revolution had a part in making all this happen."

"How's that?"

It seems that when King George III lost the war to the "colonies," England had to find a new dumping ground for criminals and political agitators. Australia — 15,000 sea miles and eight months by sail from Britain — was the choice.

Another slice of irony: Capt. William Bligh, who lost the *Bounty* to a band of mutineers, was one of the early governors of the new colony.

Bligh's run of bad luck followed him to The Rocks in 1805. Rum-swilling soldiers defied his strong-discipline methods and got him fired.

"Actually, Capt. Bligh was a much-maligned person," McDonald says. "He's very much a part of our history."

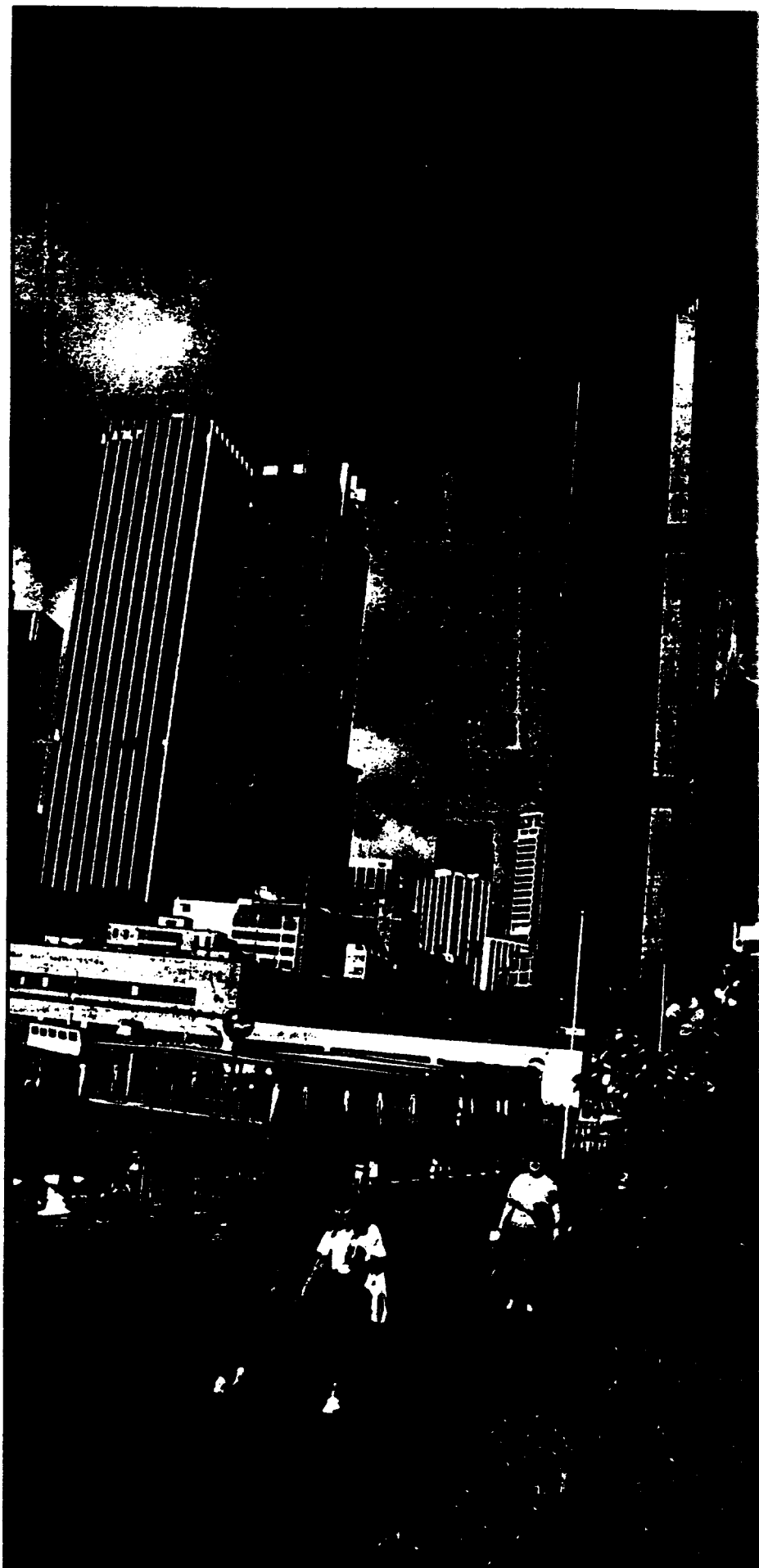
Now, hard by Bligh's scowling statue on the green by Sydney Cove, tourists board a full-scale replica of the *Bounty* for cruises around one of the world's most beautiful harbors.

The fare is \$20 (Australian) a pop, mate.

Maybe Bill Bligh should have considered a career as a sightseeing skipper.

Today's Rocks district is a place for strolling, with a charming mix of galleries, craft centers, restaurants and pubs along tangles of meandering streets decked with dozens of original buildings.

Visitors have no trouble getting their bearings. The Rocks is squeezed between two of the city's best-known landmarks — the Sydney Opera House, with its dramatic roofline of ceramic sails, and the 440-foot-high sweep of the Harbour Bridge.



Skyscrapers tower over Sydney harbor as visitors stroll a promenade honoring writers who painted portraits

Every Saturday and Sunday (from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) the area turns into The Rocks Market, with more than 100 vendors offering items from antiques to kitchen gadgets.

And in the evening The Rocks rocks to the beat of Freshly Squeezed Fanatics, Home Rule, the Murrumbidgee Rattles and other groups. This is where Sydney's heart beats fastest.

"But we almost lost it all," says Joanna McDonald.

What happened was that as Sydney boomed, The Rocks fell into decay. By the 1960s, the historic district was a seedy and rowdy slum

SYDNEY/D2

Australia traces its

birth to a lively

Sydney

neighborhood



Joanna McDonald, a guide in The Rocks, displays an early-day photograph of the historical district. From the sandstone bluffs grew the nation of Australia as we know it today.

Sydney

FROM PAGE D1

area with few permanent residents.

A redevelopment panel formed by the New South Wales state government in 1970 proposed that The Rocks be razed for high rises.

Sydney folk would be eager, proponents said, to replace an ugly collection of worn-out buildings with skyscrapers by the water's edge.

Wrong.

"No — you can't do this!" howled history-minded citizens.

Sympathetic members of the Building Workers Union called a strike to prevent any new construction in The Rocks. The bureaucrats went back to their drawing boards.

A new plan evolved, a restoration project designed by the Sydney Cove Authority that was to turn The Rocks into an appealing place to work and play.

Historic warehouses and cottages became specialty stores and restaurants. Cells in the old Rocks police station were converted to craft shops. Secluded courtyards became settings for tea time. And some of the dingy row houses — once occupied by laborers' families — now are cozy homes for longtime residents of The Rocks.

Leases from buildings and land controlled by the authority provide enough income to keep The Rocks from being a burden on taxpayers.

"It hasn't been easy," McDonald says.

"There has been heartache, even hatred, along the way. But now things are blossoming, and we are very, very grateful.

There are new high rises, too, but only as a backdrop on the uphill edge of The Rocks. The lofty additions include two of the city's luxury hotels, the ANA Hotel Sydney and the Re-

gent of Sydney.

The 573-room ANA (financed with Japanese capital) is the most expensive hotel ever built in Australia. The cost was \$932,000 per room.

Commuter trains run under the hotel, but on rubber cushions so soft that the ballroom's \$1.8 million Venetian-glass chandelier doesn't even wiggle.

It wasn't far from where the fancy hotels stand that the early colony's gallows did their terrible work.

One record of the time notes that there were facilities "from which seven can be turned off at one time — six comfortably."

But most of the convicts transported to Australia were petty criminals. And many had skills that helped forge the new nation-in-waiting.

One of the talented prisoners was Francis Greenway, who designed some of Australia's most beautiful buildings — including St. James Church, still a Sydney gem. Greenway was sent here for forgery. Now his face is on Australia's \$10 bill.

Then there was Mary Reiby, accused of stealing a horse back in England at age 13. She became a prominent businesswoman here and won acclaim for her work in the causes of charity and education.

And how about Capt. John Pifer? He was posted to Sydney

to collect customs duties. Pifer also collected for himself, doing so well that soon he had a string of race horses and more than 100 servants.

Charged with corrupt practices, the disgraced officer tried to drown himself in Sydney harbor as his piper played a lament. He didn't try hard enough, so retired to his estate damp and in disgrace.

Such was life in The Rocks.

There's still a lot of life here, thanks to a city that cares about its history.

Travelers can ramble through The Rocks on their own by calling at The Rocks Visitors Centre, 199 George St., and buying a self-guiding map for 50 cents.

Or join Joanna McDonald, owner of The Rocks Walking Tours (39 Argyle St.), for a rollicking tour of this historic district priced at \$12.

"I tell people that I've been walking the streets here for 16 years," McDonald says with a laugh. "That does get a rise at dinner parties when people ask what I do for a living.

■ *Stanton H. Patty, a Vancouver, Wash., free-lance writer and photographer, is the retired assistant travel editor of The Seattle Times.*

NEWS-REVIEW
ROSEBURG, OR
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SUNDAY
NOV 21, 1993

BURRELLE'S

Australian tours have fun for everybody

By JACQIE JONES
Fly Away Travel

This week's column is devoted entirely to Australia.

• **Australia beyond the reef and the rocks**

Most first-time visitors to Australia do the Rock, the Rocks, and the Reef - Ayers Rock, Sydney (whose Rocks section is the city's oldest), and the Great Barrier Reef. In addition, consider spending a few days in the Outback on a sheep station and meeting a real Aussie farm family. In general, staying in someone's home is a great way to meet people, make native friends and experience what a country is really about. Here are three options:

Goanna Safari. Named after the proprietor's favorite lizard, this small firm is run by the thoroughly charming Catherine Mould, a 26-year-old whose family farm, Westward Downs Station, comprises a half-million acres of sheep, kangaroo, emus, exotic parrots and other wildlife deep in the outback. A three-day, two-night safari begins with transfers from Broken Hill, a mining town in the middle of nowhere, to the Station. On arrival, you might take a dip in the farm's natural hot spa, an artesian well that bubbles up from deep within the earth. There's also camping on a fresh-water lake. Per person price for the package is approximately \$180, including transfers, meals, and lodging.

Another country option is a place called Brindabella Station Homestead, former home of Miles Franklin, author of the Australian classic "My Brilliant Career." Located in the Brindabella Mountain Range above Canberra, Australia's capital, this B&B farm's terrain will remind you of Vermont, minus the people. The nearby mountains soar to 5,000 feet, wild kangaroo roam the 2,000-acre property, and you'll be invited to go out one night to watch wombats running around the



fields. Rates are \$115 per person per night, including all meals, wine and activities and airport transfers.

The third option isn't quite as exotic as the rest, but it's just as much fun. Reynella is a working sheep and cattle ranch set in acres of undulating hills near Adaminaby, in the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales (yes, there is snow here; you can even ski in winter, which is our summer). The accommodations are more spartan than in the two previous properties, but the food is as good or better. Rates: approximately \$90 per person per night, including riding and meals. All three homesteads can be booked through your travel agent.

• **Hayman, Australia's reef paradise**

An island in the Whitsunday chain near Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Hayman is home to a five-star luxury resort by the same name. Except for the resort, the 30,000-plus acre island is devoid of civilization. In fact, the surrounding islands are similarly blessed - looking around from any point all you see is unbroken green. Most accommodations face the pools - there are three acres of them - or the ocean. All are decorated with marble floors and floor-to-ceiling windows.

So far, it could be like any five-star resort in Hawaii or the Caribbean. What distinguishes this version: the seclusion, the service, and the location on the Great Barrier Reef. Service is truly five-star with only one employee for each of

the 430 or so guests. Rates begin at \$230 per night double, including breakfast (there are no service charges or taxes added on). Call your travel agent to book.

• **Koala Kaper**

If you're looking to travel to Australia and want the most value for your dollar, check into some of ATS Tours' packages. ATS Tours offers the widest selection of itineraries and includes its ever-popular "Super Value Tour" options. Its 16-day Koala Kaper has been a favorite of many tourists. Stops include sightseeing in Australia's beautiful cities of Cairns and Sydney; Sydney's Waratah Park where you can hand feed koalas, kangaroos and other wildlife; a spectacular railroad journey to Kuranda to browse through local markets and enjoy local Aborigines performing at the Tjapukai Dance Theatre; and an excursion by boat to Green Island to explore spectacular reef scenes via snorkeling or a ride on a glass-bottom boat.

Not sure how long you will want to stay "down under"? ATS Tours range in length from seven days to more than 30 days and include airfare, escorted motorcoach tours, hotel, accommodations and the majority of your meals. For the more independent traveler, ATS' popular "Fly and Drive" options are quite affordable.

• **Tips for seeing the wonders Down Under**

Getting from the airport to your

hotel is easy: taxis cost between \$10-\$15, but a cheaper alternative is the Kingsford Smith Hotel bus (telephone: 667-0663) at \$3.30 each way, which will drop you off right at your downtown hotel. The State Transit Authority runs a public bus to a few points in downtown Sydney for \$5 roundtrip. The ride takes about 20 minutes and is included in the Sydney Pass three-day unlimited transit pass (\$33).

If these prices seem low, thank the strong U.S. dollar. The Australian dollar is worth about 33 percent less than the greenback, so Australia is a real bargain right now. Thanks to overbuilding and the favorable exchange rate, you can easily get a five-star hotel room for around \$100 a night if you shop around.

Also, don't forget that you need a visa to visit Australia - as with England, voltage is 240 and you drive on the left. Australia is almost the size of the mainland U.S. but has only 17 million people. Non-stop flight time from Los Angeles is 14 hours, but you lose a day when crossing the international dateline (don't worry, you get it back when you return).

Going Places appears each Sunday in The News-Review. Columns are supplied on a rotating basis by Fly Away Travel, UNIGLOBE Red Baron Travel, Gateway Travel and Lewis Travel Service.

NOV 21 1993

BURRELLE'S**TRAVEL NOTES****AUSTRALIA BEYOND THE REEF AND THE ROCKS**

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Courtesy Spears Travel Network/Carlson Travel

Go to China without it

The sixth and latest edition of *The China Handbook* by Frederic Kaplan et al. is in its 15th year. The world's no. 1 bestseller for 1995, of the world, this is a comprehensive and well-organized volume — the one you'll need. Available for \$19.95 in paperback from the Folio Society, 111 River Street, Cambridge, MA 02142.

Gifts of travel

For the holidays approach, a reminder makes a great gift that's easy to customize. It's not a good idea to give someone with a non-refundable ticket, unless you're sure they're not going to travel (otherwise you'll incur a charge ranging from \$25-\$50). Some airlines offer gift coupons in smaller denominations, such as \$25 or \$50, as do hotels. Southwest Airlines is giving away a travel neck pillow to anyone who purchases a certificate. Your travel agent can help you on how to package a great

Good news

Because of Representatives recently passed a bill to exempt frequent flyer tickets from the 10% airport facility charges, which would save up to \$12 to the price of an air ticket. The Senate is expected to pass the bill.

Australia



Queensland Tourist & Travel Corp
Sunset on Orpheus Island.

IF YOU GO

► Day trips to the Great Barrier Reef from various cities along the Queensland coast range in price from about \$17 to about \$9 and more, depending on length of the trip, amenities and other factors.

► Accommodations at the island hotels along the Great Barrier Reef are available in a wide range of prices, depending on type and amenities. At the three deluxe island resorts, daily prices, which include all meals, are higher: at Lizard Island a double ranges from \$358 to \$410 per person; a double on Orpheus Island ranges from \$215 to \$360 per person, while on Bedarra Island, which includes all alcoholic beverages as well as meals, prices for a double are \$437 per person. For information about Lizard and Bedarra Islands, dial toll-free 1-800-448-9400.

► Captain Cook cruises aboard the M/V Reef Escape leave Cairns every Saturday and Wednesday afternoon. Prices for the seven-day cruise, including all meals and use of water-sports gear and glass-bottom-boat rides, range from about \$1,545 to \$1,860 per person, double occupancy. For information, see your travel agency or contact Captain Cook Cruises, No. 6 Circular Quay, Sydney, Australia, 2000; phone (02) 247-4548; fax: (02) 251-4725. Information and brochures about the Great Barrier Reef and other attractions of Queensland are available from the Queensland Tourism & Travel Corp.; dial toll-free 1-800-333-6050.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Prices have been converted to Canadian dollars and are subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

Closeup of a coral wonder

Hotels, boats – access of every kind has put the Great Barrier Reef at the fingertips of tourists.

By Joe Scholnick
Scholnick is a freelance writer in California

CAIRNS, Australia – The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest structure of living coral, extends some 2,000 kilometres along the northeastern coast of the down-under continent, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

Despite popular belief, it's not really a solid rampart of coral, but 2,100 individual reefs, each with its own unique character and style – and, quite often, color. In some places, the shoals are clustered in fairly shallow water; in others, they rise like miniature mountains from the ocean floor below.

It's a remarkable sight. For scuba divers sucking life-giving air from a small rubber tube, it's the closest thing to heaven on Earth. For those who would rather not don scuba gear, it offers a marvellous snorkel experience. And for those who don't even want to get wet, glass-bottom boats reveal a view unparalleled anywhere on the planet.

Scientists believe the reef had begun forming two million years ago, when the sea level was far below its current height. As the sea rose, perhaps because of melting ice caps or land subsidence, it flooded rocky shorelines, offering a surface on which coral could take root and grow.

SKELETONS: The basic structure of the reef is the skeletons of millions of tiny sea animals we call corals. Corals consist of a mouth and stomach surrounded by a ring of stinging tentacles, called a polyp, encased in a limestone cup which the animals produce. During the daylight hours, and when threatened by predators, the tentacles are withdrawn into the limestone cup. At night, corals feed, for the most part, on tiny algae plants called zooxanthellae that grow among the limestone structures. The plants are fertilized by coral waste, but since the algae require sunlight to convert food into energy, coral reefs rarely are found more than 27 metres (90 feet) below the surface, the limit of sunlight penetration.

Seeing the Great Barrier Reef close up has become much easier in recent years.

Along the length of the Great Barrier Reef, there are 300 islands, some little more than coral outcroppings on which bird guano has created a base on

which trees and foliage can live.

Visits to many of these islands, for a day of scuba diving, snorkelling or sunbathing, are available by a flotilla of boats in dozens of shoreline cities along the Queensland coast, from Bundaberg to Cairns.

On 24 of the larger islands, the government of Australia has permitted the construction of hotel and camping facilities for overnight visits. The reef, since 1976, is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and government permission is required for hotel construction.

Three of those islands are located atop the Reef: Green Island is a 12-hectare (30-acre) coral cay with accommodations for 80 guests.



Queensland Tourist & Travel Corp

Reef fish are accustomed to human visitors.

Heron Island is 16 hectares (40 acres) with facilities for 220 guests; and Lady Elliot Island is 44 hectares (110 acres) with cabins and tents for 136 guests.

Three other islands within easy launch range of the Reef operate as exclusive resorts. Lizard Island, the Reef's northernmost resort island, is a favorite with British royalty and with black marlin fishermen who flock there for the annual October fishing classic. Accommodations for a maximum of 64 guests, in private suites, include all meals, water sports, and tennis courts on the 1,000-hectare (2,500-acre) island, reached by daily flights from Cairns.

Bedarra Island offers 16 air conditioned suits. Accommodations include gourmet food and wines and other beverages, as well as all facilities for water sports and other activities. Orpheus Island has accommodations for 50 guests in individual villas, and includes diving, snorkelling and other water sports. All three are adult-only resorts, without television or telephones. This exclusive remoteness is probably the prime

attraction.

Another way to view the Great Barrier Reef is to cruise the length of the northern portion in comfort and style aboard the M/V Reef Escape, a small, quite elegant cruise ship operated by Captain Cook Cruises. It sails from Cairns on a twice-weekly schedule.

The ship carries 156 passengers but usually sails with far fewer. Accommodations, even in rather small cabins, are excellent. Since the longest cruise leg is only four days, all the food is fresh, and deli-

ciously prepared. Instructions and gear are offered for snorkelling and scuba diving, and the service, by a young, enthusiastic crew, is impeccable. A lively bar and on-board entertainment is part of the mix.

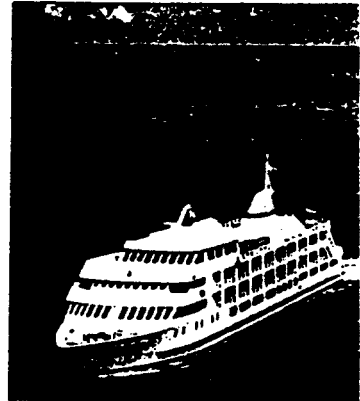
Cairns, the gateway to the northern Great Barrier Reef, is a small and rather nondescript town of about 90,000 with a good harbor and a small, modern international airport. It came into prominence when it was chosen, in the late 1800s as the port terminus for the 12.6-kilometre Kuranda railway, connecting the city with tin mines and lumber areas.

Today, the railroad continues to operate as a tourist attraction. However, it's a crowded, bumpy, boring one-and-a-half hour train ride of little scenic value.

The major attraction in Kuranda, termed the Village in the Rainforest, is the Tjapukai Dance Theatre, a 300-seat air conditioned facility in which a one-hour Aboriginal music and dance performance is presented twice daily. Also worth visiting is the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary, which claims to be the world's largest butterfly aviary, with about 2,500 specimens in free-flight



Scuba divers explore Australia's most-visited natural attraction.



The M/V Reef Escape, a small boat, is the northern part of the reef out of Cairns.



Snorkellers peer down at spectacular coral.

Bus tour tickles edge of Outback

There are historic stops, friendly stops and a stop at a pet cemetery.

By Jay J. Stemmer
Stemmer is a California freelance writer

First stop is York, a quiet picturesque town of only 1,100. It became a settlement in 1830 and grew to support a farm-based community but the population soon levelled off and the town now gives a sense of being fixed in the late 1800s.

Colonial buildings are carefully preserved. The Settler's House with accommodations for "respectable" couples, the Old York Police station made of brick and stone; the Castle Hotel built in 1853 with its white veranda overlooking the quiet street, a holdover from the coaching days. The mustard-colored Town Hall across from the Imperial Inn with a red frame British phone booth marking the corner. Most of the people from the tour went to Grandmas Kitchen for country

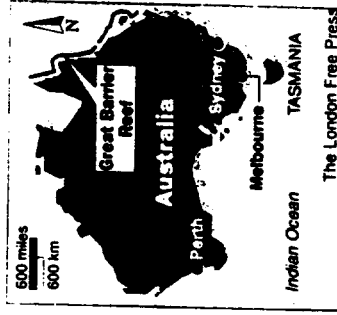
fare at its best. Morning tea actually. The bus started inland from Perth at eight sharp after collecting passengers from around town. This, like most Australian touring buses, was air conditioned, high off the ground and spacious inside with comfortable seats. More room than one gets on most airplanes.

Morning tea and biscuits actually means cakes, pastry, rolls, butter, jam or whatever your diet can withstand. A brief walk around town brings you back to a more tranquil time. Soon, it's back on the road to the flat plains and a sparsity of livestock that attests to the difficult living conditions on the edge of the Outback. Just when the monotony of the landscape turns your head to a magazine, the bus stops alongside the pet cemetery. In the middle of nowhere, without a house in sight, is a dirt cross road with concrete tombstones and flowers. For Shep,

Joshua, Kelly and others. A small line of trees and brush protects the graves from the wind.

WAVE ROCK: Two tours arrive at the rock at the same time and alternate between the rock and the restaurant adjacent the park. At one o'clock, the rock is in half shade, curled at the top like a wave about to crash. It's a granite cliff, 29 metres (49 feet) high and 216 metres (361 feet) long formed by weathering and water erosion that undercut the base and left the smooth overhang. The dark vertical lines are formed by spring water that seeps through from above. People walk up the curved face until gravity forces them back. The rock has been dated to be 2,700 million years old. It was here long before people could walk up its side. At the far end are steps to the top and a view of the flat expanse of the land surrounding Hyden, the closest town. Small depressions in the granite are water holes and rugged Australian brush has taken hold. A small dam

See BUS TOUR page F2 ▶



Weathering has done strange things to this granite rock, called Wave Rock, near Perth. Jay J. Stemmer

Eloquence of Brindabella Station weaves lyrical magic

Australian locale enchants visitors with its splendor and simple lifestyle

By PATRICIA WOEBER

With Brian Barlin at the wheel, we went off in search of wombats one night at Brindabella Station and Homestead near Canberra

Barlin bumped through grass in his four-wheel drive near a billabong (lake), to look for the animals, one of Australia's exotic creatures. He mistakingly ploughed into the entrance of a wombat's burrow -- a hole with a two-foot-wide entrance. We thought we were stuck. After a few tries, he managed to reverse out. Shandy, his shepherd dog, whined to get out of the car so Barlin opened the door. Shandy jumped out and furiously dug at the hole and knuckled me down.

"Wombat burrows can be very dangerous to dogs," Barlin said. "A wombat can easily kill a dog by getting underneath it. The wombat arches its back and suffocates the dog by pressing it up against the top of the burrow."

Burrowing critters

We jumped out of the car and sneaked to save Shandy from suffocation, but Barlin calmly said not to worry. The dog knew what he was doing and never went into the holes. It was all a bluff. Barlin got him back into the car and drove to another field. This one had burrows all over.

Suddenly, we saw a wombat caught in the glare of the car lights. The hairy creature had a broad flat head and a vestigial tail. Like a small bear, it shuffled off and disappeared down its burrow. Wombats are nocturnal grass-eating foragers, with powerful jaws to aid them in burrowing. They are marsupials, and the baby lives in a reverse-facing pouch to prevent sand and dirt from entering. They make affectionate pets until they're 1 year-old. Barlin said, "Then they get difficult and will try to burrow through the floor of the house. My friends in Tumbaramba had their house demolished by a pet wombat. Once I tried to save a baby during a flood, but the mum jumped on me



GUILLERMINA BARLIN makes home-baked bread for guests at Brindabella Station



PATRICIA WOEBER reports to the Times

BRINDABELLA STATION and Homestead is the setting that inspired Miles Franklin, author of the semi-autobiographical "My Brilliant Career," to write vividly about her surroundings

couldn't resist snacking on the coconut-ice candy

The following morning, we woke before dawn to walk down the valley. Shandy accompanied us, charging off from time to time after rabbits, only to reappear ahead of us, tail wagging, to make sure that we were still following. We walked passed paddocks with different animals: goats, cows, bulls, donkeys, horses and sheep. Brindabella is still a working station, with Murray Grey cattle and fine wool sheep.

Later, in open grassy fields, we saw many kangaroos, leaping away as soon as they saw us. We looked for other animals that inhabit the area, such as the wallaby, the platypus, the echidnas, but they weren't visible. We passed more grassy fields, clumps of trees and a couple more farms. If we'd continued for a few more miles, we'd have reached Kinkusko National Park.

Horse history

One afternoon, Brian Barlin arranged for us to ride horses with two fellows who lived on a nearby

farm. The horses reminded us of the movie, "The Man from Snowy River," the legend of a man who galloped after the wild bush horses that lived in the Snowy River Mountains.

The story was adapted from Banjo Paterson's poem of the same title. He also wrote the folk song "Waltzing Matilda," Australia's unofficial national anthem. He lived downstream from the Goodradigbee River.

Horses from this area in New South Wales were known for loyalty, endurance and surefootedness -- except when they stepped in those wombat holes. They were taken by the British for use in the Boer Rebellion in China, the Boer War in South Africa and World War I. We trotted along the road on the ridges, the sun flickered, spotlighting the forested slopes. Outlines of trees were etched by the shadows.

All is still, with a mighty far-reaching stillness which can be felt. Now the curlews are beginning their wild mingling cry. From the

Feast for the senses

Moving on downstream, we spied a couple of cockatoos sitting in an "old gum" (eucalyptus) tree. The river was full of trout -- a fisherman's dream. The little things made it memorable: the murmur of the river, the splash of paddles, the reflections of the willows, the sweet balmy country smells of grass and gum trees, and the warmth of the hot sun on our arms and legs.

Franklin's lines from "My Brilliant Career" best described the evening: "The sun has sunk behind the gum trees, and the blue evening mist is hanging lazily in the hollows of the hills."

For dinner, Guillermina Barlin served us a hearty country meal of home-baked bread, roast lamb, home-grown potatoes, carrots and beans, and a dessert of homemade ice cream and cake. Later, we

Variety of Australian meals won't 'tucker' you out

THE HOUSTON POST
11-28-93

BY KIT SHEDAKER
COMLEY NEWS SERVICE (2)

EATING IN Australia is an exercise in contradiction. On the one hand, there's the bush tucker (Aussie slang for food) Australian aborigines have lived on for centuries. On the other, there are meals as French as anything served in Paris. In between are dishes as British as fish and chips, as new as a tarragon tea appetizer, as surprising as saffron-lemon ice cream.

It made a bewildering mix that wasn't straightened out until much later. Over the best food I've had in a long time, Australian restaurant reviewer Stephen Downes explained what Australian food is all about. With the exception of bush food, I thought it sounded a lot like dishes in my native California.

Even bush food has recognizable parts. Vic Cherikof, a specialist in bush stills and owner of Riberron, a bush restaurant, spread a picnic out on a piece of burlap in Sydney's Botanical Garden. I had just stepped off a comfortable 15-hour Qantas flight from the West Coast. At first glance, nothing except macadamia nuts and slices of dark, dense bread peppered with black seeds looked familiar.

Cherikof began with the nuts. Macadamias originated and were named here by an early member of the Botanical Garden's staff. The little dried berries next to them were bush tomatoes; the bread was made with wattle seeds, which also are used for ice cream. Bright-red slices of smoked kangaroo and emu tasted more of salt and smoke than game. Hard to tell them apart. Black Kadada plum, called black apples, reminded me of persimmons.

Then Cherikof uncovered a container of potatoes (a New World import) spiced with native pepper and finished the spread with a parfait of pureed wattle seed and tahini. Anise tea floating local lilyplily berries (faintly sweet) washed everything down.

I won't say I went back for seconds, but the picnic was a bold introduction to Australia.

By contrast, a few hours later I sat in Le Trianon and faced an exquisitely French meal. Chef/owner Peter Doyle described his cooking as "French-based modern, more in line with what they're doing in France now." Entrees are a little confusing. Here they mean starters, as they do in England and Europe. Main courses are called just that.

Le Trianon's smoked Tasmanian salmon with Sevraga caviar would have played anywhere. Mushroom and chives floated in a delicate quail-and-chicken-wing consommé. Unusual ground pig's trotters wrapped in caviar fat, a crepinette, were scented with spice, tender, mouth-filling. Doyle admitted it wasn't a best seller.

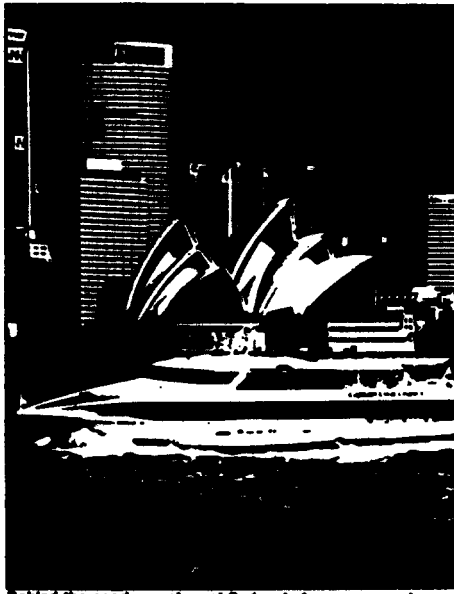
Gamey squab, mercifully boned, needed its deep base of roasted garlic and the texture of a crisp fried potato circle.

An unexciting Feuillantine of strawberries had layers of puff pastry separating creme patissiere edged with fresh strawberries.

The most exciting dessert I found in the country, lemon ice cream with saffron, came from the Sydney kitchen of Kirsty McKenna, a friend and an outstanding Australian food writer. "I warmed a few threads of saffron in milk," she said, "used it to dilute lemon curd and froze the mixture."

Kirsty's grilled lamb chops and big green salad tasted like home.

Australians eat as much salad as Californians. Libby Bubrich lugged an enormous salad, smoked trout, smoked salmon, wine and cookies along for a bush walk around Sydney Harbor. She does these professionally for



Behind the soaring arches of Sydney's famous opera house, the streets of the major city are lined with restaurants serving uniquely Australian cuisine.

groups of two to 15.

A national park, the leafy shoreline is still bushland, much as it was when England dumped her convicts here. Lizards Australians call "goannas" sunned in the park; kookaburras, the national bird, laughed wildly from the limb of a giant blue gum tree.

Just across the harbor, behind Sydney's much-photographed landmark, the Opera House, Australia's largest city is resolutely nostalgic and urban.

The rocks' "be are re-created every night at the Last Aussie Fish Cafe (pronounced "caff"). John Downes opened the first one in Melbourne, in remembrance Australian fish-and-chips shops from that decade. He serves damper or bush bread, once baked in a Dutch oven over coals, oysters from the George River, grilled octopus and squid, crab and spicy fish cakes that owe nothing to Baltimore.

It sounds like a genuine Australian dining experience. Sound is the buzzword here. Between the jukebox, conversation and screams of delight from patrons, the decibel count is painful.

I did notice that the chips (french fries) were superb. Once a thick, tasteless beer batter was peeled away, the fish (shark) inside turned out to be tender, moist and full of flavor. A chardonnay was served so cold I couldn't tell what it tasted like until the end of the meal.

Australians make such good wine it gives Northern California a run for the money. Even though Aussies insist on icing them, their chardonnays are crisp and fresh. They reminded me of wicker. At the top of the rods, for my money, stands Australian shiraz, as soft as merlot but with more spirit.

I had both a chardonnay and a shiraz at that illuminating dinner at Brown's, in Melbourne, with restaurant reviewer Stephen Downes.

"Australian food," he said, "is a mix of unfamiliar, raw and cooked, roasted and grilled. Plating (presentation) is important. Seafood is important."

This is a cuisine with French grammar and an Asian/Oriental/English vocabulary.

"A challenge of ingredients," Downes called it. He reviews restaurants all over Australia for the daily Financial Review, the Sunday edition of The Age and monthly for Australian Gourmet Traveler.

Pressed for examples of Aus-

tralian dishes, Downes included — chargrilled anything, octopus salad, Atlantic salmon filets sauteed with red peppers, kangaroo fillet with a green sauce and exotic tropical fruits, such as jack fruit from Darwin just south of Indonesia.

Australian owner/chef Greg Brown, who looks too young to be up late on a school night, gave us a Degustation meal, meaning little nibbles of his best stuff.

Tiny cups of tarragon tea led off. Strong, bracing, it left me wanting more. Australian oysters perfectly poached in champagne supported a dollop of caviar. Ravioli stuffed with tiny bay scallops had topknots of shredded deep-fried julienne of leek. Scallop shells had been steeped in oil to make an infusion that gave the whole dish a subtle scallop flavor.

Baby (38 days old) lamb, one chop of a single tender, rare bite, appeared on — what else? — lamb's lettuce. Its sweetbread, barely sauteed, was another bite. We were working into important mains now: Squab, rare and assertively gamey, posed on braised cabbage.

Black cherries with ice cream, a brisk, fruity late-harvest dessert wine, cookies and coffee end of the meal with stars. Even Downes, who is a tough reviewer, was satisfied.

He believes Sydney has more Australian food and is more California-style than Melbourne. Melbourne provides more and better French food. It's the restaurant capital. On a recent trip to California, he liked Cafe Zuni in San Francisco, and California plant asirs, he believes, are superb.

Still sorting out Australian rules, I stopped at d'Berthol (say "dee BORT-foll") winery in the Yarra Valley outside of Melbourne for a tasting and lunch.

The surroundings here were more authentic than the food: straight-backed chairs, Italian products sprawled on a plain table. I could have been in Tuscany. The innagan, however, was soapy. Lightly sugared strawberries in balsamic vinegar, as Italian as Venice, were a happy surprise at the end.

At Buraham Beaches, the whole meal was a surprise. Just named in Retains of Chateaux, this small art deco hotel sits like a beached ocean liner in the middle of Sherbrooke Forest, at the foot of the Dandenong Hills north of Melbourne.

Chief Stephen Goodlad pulled out all the stops at dinner.

But before we could even seriously consider the '89 Seattle Estate chardonnay, scrambled eggs with caviar and vodka cream arrived in a brown eggshell. A big cocktail glass held cold beef consommé floating a soft quenelle.

Each serving of mushroom soup was ladled out of individual hot copper pans at the table. It needed an '88 cabernet/merlot from Western Estate to hold it down. Round salmon filets — superbly flavored, cooked just tender — anchored the whole meal. Aromatic sorbets came as punctuation.

For farewell and finale, typically Australian, Chinote on Melbourne's Toorak Road set up an East-meets-West meal that should have reminded me of California. It didn't. Besides a version of Peking duck, pancakes with three dipping sauces and marinated ocean crab and musashi, there was honey-coated lamb. Four chops of two bites each arrived with a crackling crisp skin, sambal and noodles. Crusty bread and butter peddling in a creme patissiere with tamarillo (tree tomatoes) wound up a meal that said Australia, even Melbourne.

VALLEY TIMES

11-28-93

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

11-28-93

WEST COUNTY
TIMES

11-28-93



Strolling the Rocks

*Sydney's penal colony
has been chiseled into
a charming tourist district
that's perfect to explore on foot*

By STANTON H. PATTY *6675*
Correspondent

hey serve history on the Rocks here and it goes down mighty smooth.

The Rocks is the lively neighborhood in the heart of downtown Sydney where Australia was born.

With its charming mix of galleries, craft centers, restaurants and pubs along tangles of meandering streets decked with dozens of original buildings, the Rocks is perfect

for strolling.

But, how things have changed. It was here in Sydney Cove, on a January evening in 1788, that a fleet of convict ships from England delivered a cargo of human misery.

Aboard were 757 prisoners who had been sent away for life to a far-away penal colony that would be called Australia.

Before dark, the convicts were clearing ground for shelters on the sandstone bluffs that gave the Rocks its name.

Logs of the 11 ships carefully listed the rest of the contingent: a military escort of 200 guards, plus 28 women, 14 children, four cattle, six horses, 44 sheep and sundry fowl and pigs.

Thus a nation was founded.

Today, many of Australia's famous families trace their beginnings to that grim event. "And with a great deal of pride," says Joanna McDonald, a Rocks walking-tour guide.

"Oh, by the way, Yanks," McDonald adds with a grin, "your American Revolution had a part in making all this happen."

It seems that when King George III lost the war to the Colonies, England had to find a new dumping ground for criminals and political agitators. Australia — 15,000 sea miles and eight months by sail from Britain — was the choice.

Another slice of irony: Capt. William Bligh, who lost the Bounty to a band of mutineers, was one of the early governors of the new colony.

Bligh's run of bad luck followed him to the Rocks in 1805. Rum-swilling soldiers defied his strong-discipline methods and got him fired.

"Actually, Capt. Bligh was a much-maligned person," McDonald says. "He's very much a part of our history."

Now, near Bligh's scowling statue on the green by Sydney Cove, tourists board a full-scale replica of the Bounty for cruises around one of the world's most beautiful harbors.

The fare is \$20 (Australian) a pop, mate.

Maybe Bligh should have considered a career as a sight-seeing skipper.

Visitors have no trouble getting their bearings. The Rocks is squeezed between two of the city's best-known landmarks — the Sydney Opera House, with its dramatic roofline of ceramic sails, and the 440-foot-high sweep of the



STANTON H. PATTY/Special to the Times

SKYSCRAPERS tower over Sydney's harbor where visitors stroll Authors' Walk, honoring those who wrote about the former convict colony turned into a nation.

Harbour Bridge.

Every Saturday and Sunday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) the area turns into the Rocks Market, with more than 100 vendors offering items from antiques to kitchen gadgets. And in the evening the Rocks rocks to the beat of Freshly Squeezed Fanatics, Home Rule, the Murrumbidgee Rattlers and other groups.

This is where Sydney's heart beats fastest. "But we almost lost it all," says McDonald.

What happened was that as Sydney boomed, the Rocks fell into decay. By the 1960s, the historic district was a seedy and rowdy slum area with few permanent residents.

Please see SYDNEY, Page 2



INSIDE

- ▶ Life on a cattle station 3
- ▶ Ride the train down under 3

✓
A FERRY cruises past the Sydney Opera House, the Australian city's best-known landmark.

Sydney

FROM PAGE 1

A redevelopment panel formed by the New South Wales state government in 1970 proposed that the Rocks be razed for high-rises.

Sydney folk would be eager, proponents said, to replace an ugly collection of worn-out buildings with skyscrapers by the water's edge. Wrong.

"No! You can't do this!" howled history-minded citizens.

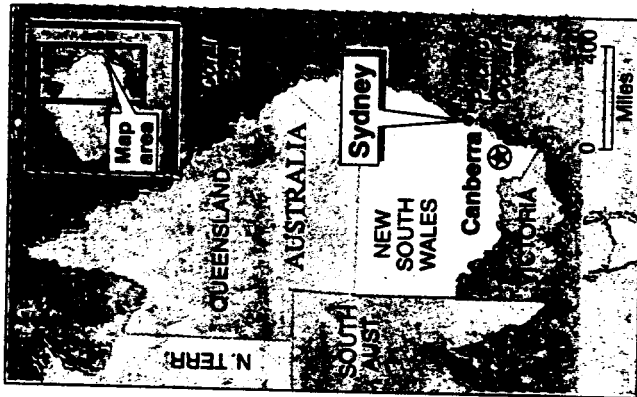
Sympathetic members of the Building Workers Union called a strike to prevent any new construction in the Rocks. The bureaucrats went back to their drawing boards.

A new plan evolved, a restoration project designed by the Sydney Cove Authority that was to turn the Rocks into an appealing place to work and play.

Historic warehouses and cottages became specialty stores and restaurants. Cells in the old Rocks police station were converted to craft shops. Secluded courtyards became settings for teatime. And some of the dingy row houses — once occupied by laborers' families — now are cozy homes for longtime residents of the Rocks.

Leases from buildings and land controlled by the authority provide enough income to keep the Rocks from being a burden on taxpayers.

"It hasn't been easy," McDonald says. "There has been heartache, even hatred, along the way. But now things are blossoming, and we are very, very grateful."



There are new high-rises, too, but only as a backdrop on the uphill edge of the Rocks. The lofty additions include two of the city's luxury hotels, the ANA Hotel Sydney and the Regent of Sydney.

The 573-room ANA (financed with Japanese capital) is the most expensive hotel ever built in Australia. The cost was \$32,000 per room. Commuter trains run under the hotel, but on rubber cushions so soft that the ballroom's \$1.8 million Venetian-glass chandelier doesn't even wiggle.

It wasn't far from where the fancy hotels stand that the early colony's gallows did their terrible work. One record of the time noted that there were facilities "from which

Actually, Capt. Bligh was a much-maligned person. He's very much a part of our history.

— Joanna McDonald, Rocks walking-tour guide

seven can be turned off at one time — six comfortably."

But most of the convicts transported to Australia were petty criminals: And many had skills that helped forge the new nation-in-waiting.

One of the talented prisoners was Francis Greenway, who designed some of Australia's most beautiful buildings, including St. James Church, still a Sydney gem. Greenway was sent here for forgery. Now his face is on Australia's \$10 bill.

Then there was Mary Reiby, accused of stealing a horse back in England at age 13. She became a prominent businesswoman here and won acclaim for her work in the causes of charity and education.

And how about Capt. John Pifer? He was posted to Sydney to collect customs duties. Pifer also collected for himself, doing so well that soon he had a string of race horses and more than 100 servants.

Charged with corrupt practices, the disgraced officer tried to drown himself in the Sydney harbor as his

pipe played a lament. He didn't try hard enough, so he retired to his estate damp in disgrace.

Such was life in the Rocks.

If you go

■ **Getting there:** Sydney is served by Qantas and major U.S. airlines.

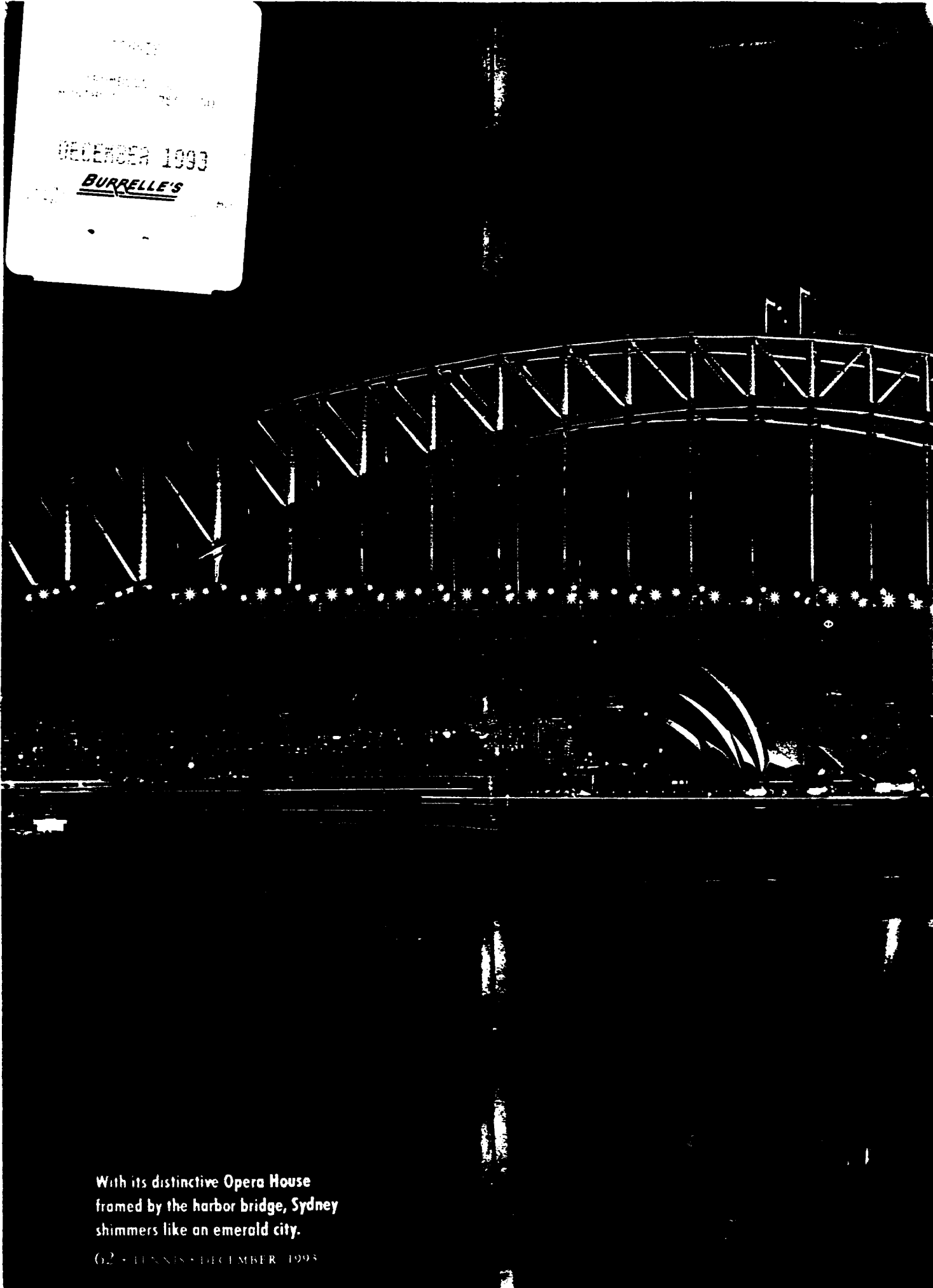
■ **Walking tours:** Travelers can ramble through the Rocks on their own by calling at the Rocks Visitors Centre (199 George St.) and buying a self-guiding map for 50 cents. McDonald, owner of the Rocks Walking Tours (39 Argyle St.), gives a rollicking tour of the historic district for \$12.

■ **More information:** Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90067; 1-310-552-1988. For the commission's free guide, "Destination Australia," call 1-800-333-0262.

New South Wales Tourism Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1230, Los Angeles, CA 90067; 1-310-552-9566.

DECEMBER 1993

BURRELLE'S



With its distinctive Opera House framed by the harbor bridge, Sydney shimmers like an emerald city.

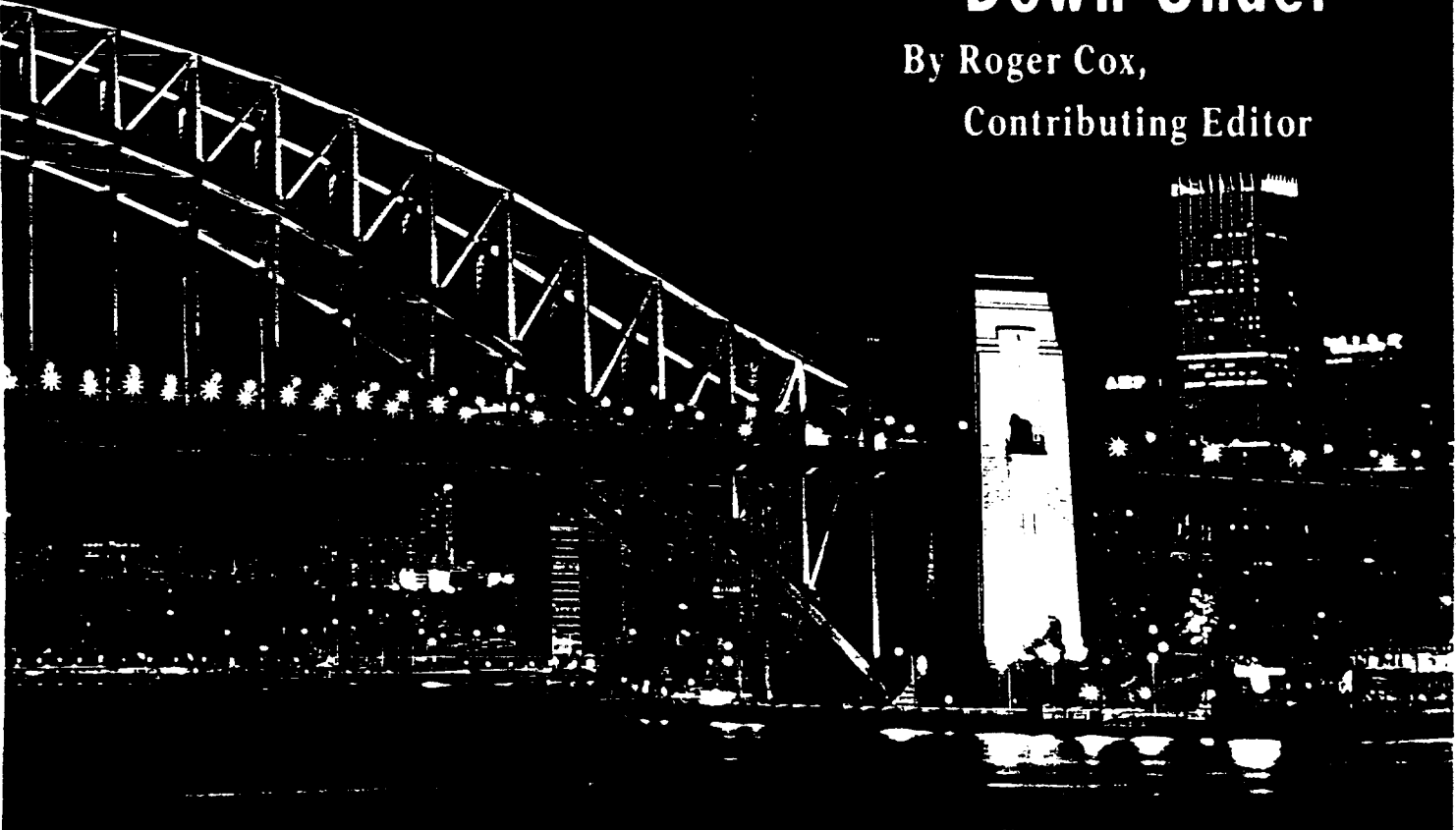
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Travel

Australian *fantasy*

All the Wonder Down Under

By Roger Cox,
Contributing Editor



I AM PERCHED ATOP THE 1,100-FOOT dome of Ayers Rock, scanning the desert of Australia's Red Centre for signs of life, intelligent or otherwise. In the twilight just before sunrise, there isn't a kangaroo, camel or tourist to be seen, just mile after mile of rust-colored sand tufted with clumps of grass-like spinifex. Still, a strange, even forbidding, quality permeates this desolate heart of the Australian continent, and for the moment I seem to have it all to myself.

Long before such movies as "My Brilliant Career," "The Last Wave" and the apocalyptic Mad Max series, I had wanted to visit Austra-

Australia



LEO DE WYS INC./LEO DE WYS

Ayers Rock (top) and aboriginal art.

Planning your trip to Australia

Tourist information. The Australian Tourism Commission's Comprehensive Destination Australia guide is an invaluable resource for anyone planning to travel Down Under. It provides an overview of the major cities and regions (including all types of accommodations, from farmhouse stays to five-star hotels), background on Australian natural wonders, arts, history and culture, and answers to the basic questions about vacationing in Australia. You can get a free copy by calling (800) 633-1262 or visiting or writing to the offices at 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067 or 189 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

When to go. The seasons in Aus-

tralia are reversed. With its summer coming during our winter, even so, the climate varies dramatically from city to city, and even from day to day. In Sydney, January high temperatures average 78 degrees, while in Alice Springs they approach 100. Melbourne, meanwhile, is notorious for experiencing four seasons in a day. Thus it can be cold enough to require a sweatshirt and umbrella on one day of the Australian Open and then soar past the century mark on the next.

Visa. Everyone except holders of Australian and New Zealand passports must have a visa to visit Australia. (See the "Destination Australia" guide for details about obtaining one.)

lia. The island continent seemed at once familiar and exotic, an alluring destination that encompassed both outback deserts and marine wonderlands, cosmopolitan cities and not-to-be-found-elsewhere wildlife. What's more, it had a summer climate in the dead of the Northern Hemisphere winter, a favorable exchange rate and the most spectator-friendly of all the Grand Slam tournaments (see "No Worries, Mate: Your Ticket to

the Australian Open" on page 68). A vacation Down Under seemed to hold out the rare promise of exotic adventure without the obstacles of severe cultural disorientation and a completely foreign language.

Australia begins in Sydney. Instantly recognizable by the billowed-sail architecture of its Opera House, Down Under's largest city sprawls along both sides of a many-splendored harbor. Founded in 1788 as a British pen-

LEO DE WYS/FRIEDMAR DAMM

Sydney's Rocks section (foreground) tries to retain an old-world feel.

Traveling Down Under

How to get there. Eight airlines currently offer service between Los Angeles (the principal U.S. gateway) and Sydney: Air France, Air New Zealand, All Nippon Airways, Canadian Airlines, Northwest, Polynesian, Qantas and United. January fares on a 21-day advance booking begin at \$958 round trip from Los Angeles.

How to get around. Given the distances within Australia, it usually makes sense to fly from city to city (although if you have more time, check out the rail and bus passes, which permit unlimited travel for extended periods at a fixed price). Some international airlines offer multistop fares, which let you visit more than one city in Australia and/or such places as Hawaii, Fiji, Tahiti and New Zealand en route. In addition, Australia's domestic airlines offer international visitors special discounted fares and passes, many of which must be purchased before you leave the U.S. The "How to Plan Your Aussie Vacation" section of the "Destination Australia" guide lays out the basics.



nal colony, Sydney nonetheless resembles California in its modern architecture, unpretentious lifestyle and unabashed sensuality. Only the historic Rocks section, the site of the original settlement, retains the feel of "old" Sydney, though its restored 19th-century sandstone buildings now house pubs, trendy restaurants and shops rather than transported criminals. On any fine day locals flock to famous Pacific surfing beaches like Manly and Bondi or join tourists at outdoor cafés in the Rocks or newly developed Darling Harbour.

A kind of youthful insouciance makes Sydney instantly appealing, something that cannot be said for its archrival Melbourne. The most European of the cities Down Under, the capital of Victoria dresses sensibly in turn-of-the-century architecture, carefully accessorized with parks and broad boulevards.

Yet this financial and cultural capital turns out not to be at all the stodgy metropolis it first appears. The same 3 million residents who support Melbourne's art galleries, theater and opera also go bonkers over tennis, cricket, horse racing and that organized mayhem known as Australian rules football. Its silty Yarra River lacks the charm of the Seine, yet Melbourne shares with Paris an enthusiasm for fashion and fine food. Ethnic

LEO DE WYS/STEVE VIDLER

Australia

restaurants abound. Each of Melbourne's neighborhoods has individual character, from trendy South Yarra to the café society of Brunswick Street. A superb and very inexpensive system of trams and buses links all of this together, including Flinders Park, the site of the Australian Open, immediately outside the central business district.

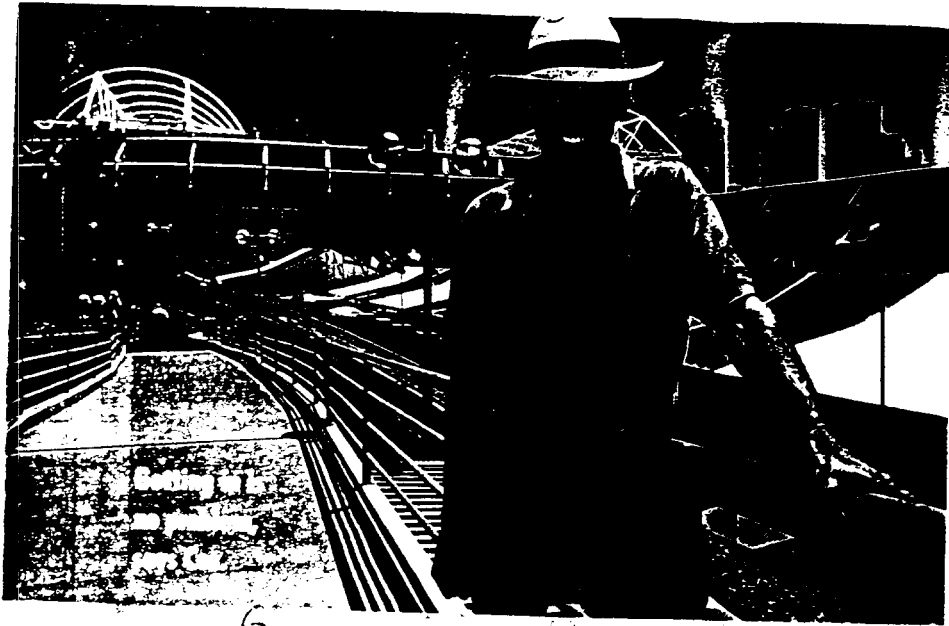
To travel from Sydney or Melbourne to the outback or Great Barrier Reef seems less like a trip into another part of the country than a journey between worlds. The Australian interior is a place of astonishing emptiness. As vast as all of the U.S. west of the Mississippi, it embraces not only the famous landmark of Ayers Rock but also the rounded hills called the Bungle Bungles in the Kimberley Region on the northwest coast and the Nullabor Plain—so flat and featureless you can see the curvature of the Earth.

The Great Barrier Reef, meanwhile, is a wilderness of an entirely different order. This natural wonder extends for 1,250 miles off Australia's east coast—or roughly the distance from New York City to Miami. Altogether it comprises a seemingly limitless natural aquarium where an abundance of strange and exotic creatures traffics through luxuriant coral gardens. Much of its most colorful reef life occurs in relatively shallow water, where it is accessible not only to scuba divers but also to snorkelers.

The Great Barrier Reef and the outback, Sydney and Melbourne initially drew me to Australia. But I later found ways to get back, to revisit favorite places and explore new ones, from the Barossa Valley wine district outside Adelaide to the rain forest behind Brisbane and the bush outside Alice Springs. And yet, even after half a dozen trips, I've managed only an introduction to Tasmania and have yet to visit Perth.

So much seems undone, even if I have had Ayers Rock all to myself at sunrise.

Australia



Your Ticket to the Australian Open

Last January I stopped by the Australian Open ticket office in Flinders Park on the first day of the tournament. On that Monday, tickets still were available for every session except the men's final. The same was true on Monday of the second week. In addition to regular tickets, there also were grounds passes entitling you to access to all but the Centre Court. At that time, prices for the early rounds ranged from about \$9 U.S. for grounds

passes to \$14 for day tickets. A ticket to the men's final was about \$53 U.S.

Prices for seats at Centre Court are the same whether the seat is in the first row or the last. Since all have good views, many people actually prefer the uppermost rows during the day since they are under the shade of the overhang. In any case, until the last few days of the tournament no one checks that you're sitting in the seat you paid for. Spectators can move

down; the only rule is to give up the seat politely if the rightful ticketholder appears. It's all very civilized.

Besides Centre Court, there are two small show courts and 15 field courts. All let you get close to the action, though it often is difficult to find out who is competing on the field courts without actually going by. Moreover, on the first two days when attendance is at its peak, the narrow corridors between courts get very congested.

Still, there aren't the scalpers that infest the other Grand Slams. Right before the final between Jim Courier and Stefan Edberg, I went looking for tickets. The only people selling any were fans with extras because someone couldn't make it. They were willing to sell for face value.

In 1994, the Australian Open runs from January 17 to 30. Tickets are available at Bass outlets in Australia (phone the Melbourne office at 61-3-115000; have a credit card ready) and, once the tourney begins, at the Flinders Park ticket office. Package tours that include airfare, accommodations and tickets also are an option; one source is Denver-based Grand Slam Tennis Tours Inc. (phone 303-321-1760 or 800-289-3333).—R.C. ●

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NEW YORK, NY
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DECEMBER 1993

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The marvelous land

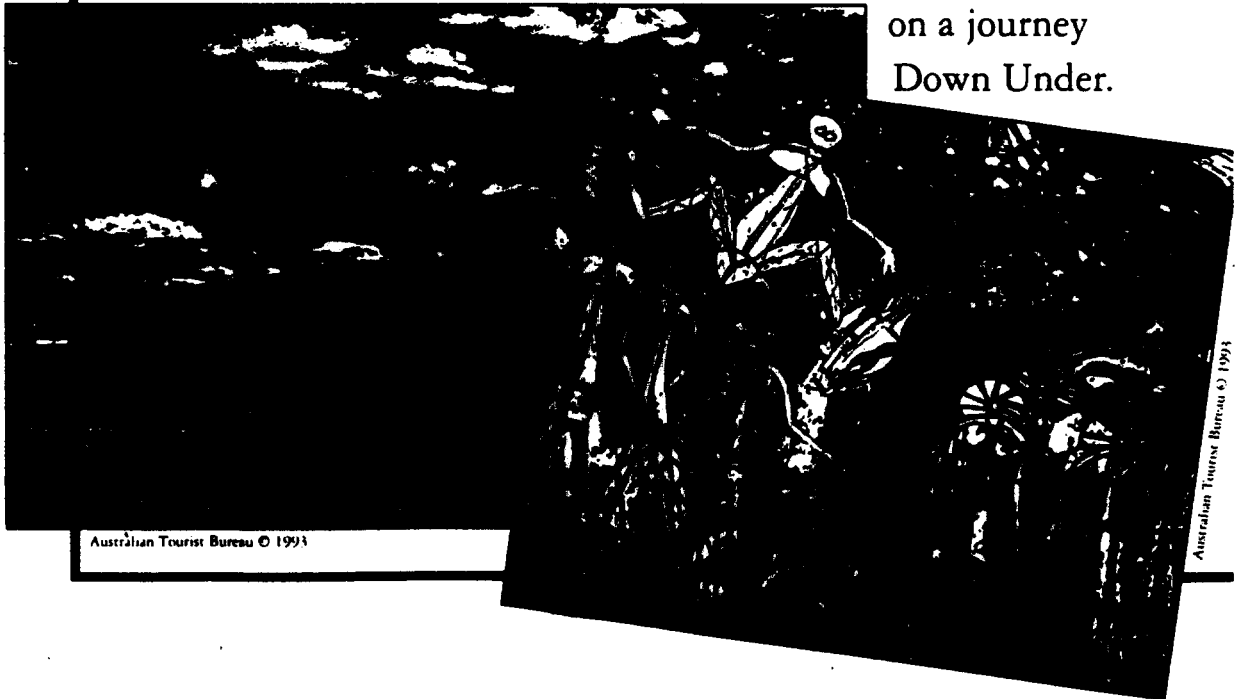
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OZ

of

Beyond the gates of Flinders Park, an entire continent awaits, wild and original, untamed by the 20th century. Here are a few of the indigenous joys to be found

on a journey
Down Under.



Australian Tourist Bureau © 1993

Australian Tourist Bureau © 1993

In Australia, the wildlife is **truly wild**. Koala bears, kangaroos, kookaburras, wallabies, wombats and platypi—the Outback offers a billion-acre bestiary that never fails to astound.

There are many fine Australian vineyards and breweries, but few can deliver the **Down Under taste** like Carlton Brewery, home to **Victoria Bitters** and the native curiosity known as Vegemite.

Forget the Kentucky Derby. When the **Melbourne Cup** is on, an entire country shuts down and indulges in **its all-consuming obsession**: the sight of thoroughbreds in a dead heat.

For **the flash of finery**, nothing beats it. Visitors to Phillip Island can set their clocks by the **Penguin Parade**, when the birds come ashore by the thousands—dressed in their Sunday best.

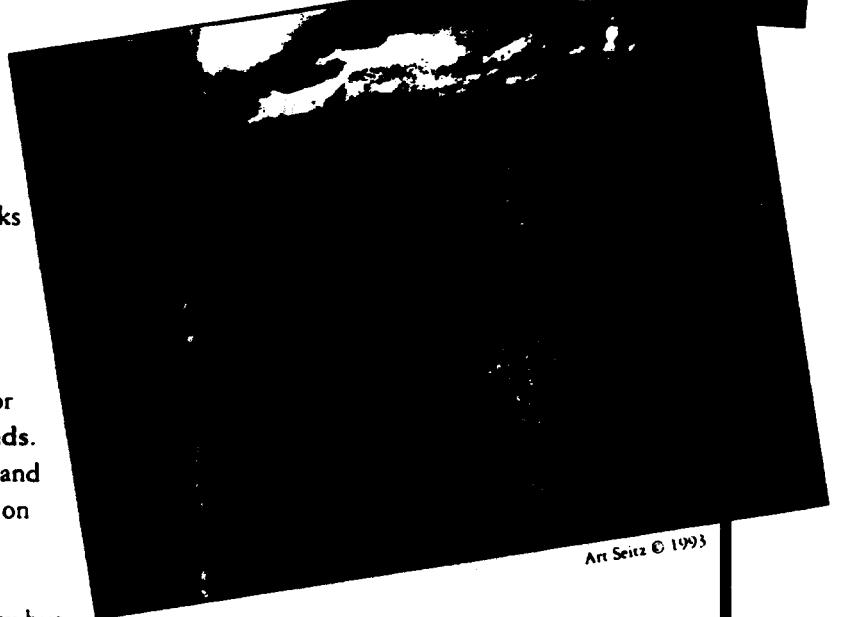
After traveling the seven seas, many a sailor will settle down in the **Whitsunday Islands**. The winds are perfect, the waters tranquil and **an island paradise** is always beckoning on the starboard side.

Real style grows not from flights of fancy but from the land itself. For classic flair with a decidedly practical edge, **Dryz-a-Bone coats** cut an image of Australian pioneering—elegant, dashing and rugged.

It's been photographed, scaled, measured, written up and seen. But when sunrise touches **the silent grandeur** of Ayers Rock, the dawn of creation still seems to rise for the very first time.

Aboriginal culture lives on throughout Australia, in rock paintings, in the didgeridoo, in stories retold for 10,000 years. Step out of the 20th century and into **the marvel of the Dreamtime**.

Australian Tourist Bureau © 1993



Art Seitz © 1993

Just below the surface of the clear blue sea lies an underground kingdom. **The Great Barrier Reef**, unsurpassed in its **coral splendor**, is available to anyone with scuba gear and guts.

In spring, Melbourne is transformed from a city of gray into a lush metropolis. Not only do the **Melbourne Botanical Gardens** **come to life**—every nook and cranny erupts with greenery.

The ferries on **Sydney Harbor** extend the city out toward the ocean itself. Take one to Bondi Beach for some sun or just sit back and enjoy a view of the Sydney Opera House **in all its glory**.

TASMANIA: AUSTRALIA'S OTHER OUTBACK

By Candyce H. Stapen

Tasmania offers Australia's other outback, a rolling countryside of centuries-old woods, waterfalls, swift rivers, and craggy mountains that present an appealing but very different landscape from the red rocks and crocodiles of northern Australia. This island state, located off the southern tip of the mainland just an hour's flight from Melbourne, yields up a host of pastoral pleasures to renew even the most burned-out of city dwellers.

Northwest Tasmania features acres of ancient rain forest, moorlands, and lakes, all part of a large Wilderness World Heritage area that has been internationally designated to preserve the natural and cultural beauty of the earth. Here wild wallabies thump through the tall grass toward your side, and pristine lakes reflect the towering mountain peaks.

In the southeast, the surrounding countryside yields up sheep meadows, well-tended fields, wildlife parks, along with a respected



Feeding a pair of wallabies. Photo: C.H. Stapen

winery. The capital city, Hobart, charms visitors with its harbor, inns, and good shopping. With good airfares available, and Australia's warm summer weather starting in November, now is the time to plan to travel across Tasmania.

Visit Cradle Mountain in the northwest first. Part of a 3.5-million-acre Wilderness World Heritage area, the

utes, these friendly jumpers gently eat apples from your hand (don't ever feed bread which causes them to suffer with a disease known as "lumpy jaw").

Drawing only 160,000 visitors a year, Cradle Mountain is never crowded. Here the forest, thick with tall myrtle, pine, and eucalyptus trees, evokes a primeval power. As you hike, the light plays upon the leaves, creating more shades of green than you ever imagined. After the frequent rain showers, the rush of waterfalls lures you along the paths laced with ribbons of moss, the woods fill with an ancient aroma of mint, and a fine mist creates an inviting aura of mystery.

While enchanting, this forest is accessible. There are walks for every ability, including day-long challenging hikes up steep mountain ridges, half-day treks through moors and hillsides, as well as easy half-hour meanders along a boardwalk built through a waterfall-laden thicket. This is perfect for disabled visitors, and parents pushing

signs here urge you to "Take only photographs, leave only footprints." You will lose your heart to the wallabies. Looking to the uninitiated just like kangaroos, wallabies are slightly smaller. Go bushwalking (Australian for hiking) along the slopes dense with wheat-colored buttongrass, and bunches of these bouncing beauties hop along after you. Within min-

strollers.

Lake Dove, whose waters mirror the dolerite mountain peaks at its shores, offers several good rambles, as well as being a peaceful place for contemplation and watching the birds. This is also a good spot for a picnic lunch. For information about the area, call the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre, 011-61-04-92-1133.

Cradle Mountain Lodge, in the heart of this wilderness, offers country-comfortable lodging as well as guided walks, mountain climbing, canoeing, and abseiling (Australian for rappelling). Each day, you sign up for the complimentary 1 1/2 hour to 3 1/2 hour hikes led by staff, or you grab a map and take off on your own.

Operated by P&O Resorts, the lodge offers 76 appropriately rustic-looking cabins with wood stoves, full kitchens, and combination living and sleeping areas outfitted with pine beds. But some cabins also boast mountain views and Jacuzzis. Served family style, the food at Cradle Mountain Lodge is as hearty as the landscape, and the full meal plan at around US\$ 37 daily is a bargain. To start there's always a fresh home-baked bread followed by ample entrees which include such specialties as Cradle Mountain pie (beef and vegetables in pastry), and rainbow trout, all served with generous helpings of potatoes.

At 9:00 p.m., the manager puts out carrots and apples for the possums who literally hang out on the porch. As you watch them munch these snacks, you can pet their soft thick grayish fur, and then listen as these ring-eyed wonders go bump into the night.

During school holidays and Australian summer, Cradle Mountain Lodge hosts special activities for

children, including wombat hunts, rain-forest walks, games, and kids' dinners. You will be charmed by this moderately priced retreat. (Cradle Mountain Lodge: tel. 011-61-04-92-1303 or 408-685-8902 for U.S. reservations).

It's a full day's drive, about six hours, from Cradle Mountain Lodge in the northwest to Hobart in the southeast. A good place to stop for the night is in Launceston at The Old Bakery Inn, a cleverly converted 1870 bakery (011-61-03-31-7900). The pleasant rooms feature floral wallpaper, chintz bedspreads, iron and brass beds (some are antiques), along with such comforts as refrigerators, coffee pots, and private baths. Nearby, Shrimps, at 72 George St., offers generous portions of fresh seafood.

From here to Hobart, sheep meadows, rolling pastureland, and rivers separate the small towns. The village of Ross, proud of its picturesque 1836 stone bridge and its 19th century cottages, features a wool center with some pricey sweaters, and also an interesting exhibit about wool gathering and grading.

On the way to Hobart, don't miss the Bonorong Park Wildlife Centre, about 20 miles north of Hobart, where kangaroos as well as wallabies range free. Buy some pellets at the gift shop to enjoy hand-feeding these friendly animals. At about 1:30 p.m. the koalas, who sleep more than 20 hours a day, lazily uncurl their heads from their tree posts to munch at the eucalyptus leaves offered by the rangers. This small, but interesting park also features such other Aussie natural wonders as wombats, emus, echidnas, and Tasmanian . . . continued p. 173

. . . Tasmania, from p. 169

Devils, a cat-size, pot-bellied animal with a pink-tinged muzzle and fierce teeth. (011-61-02-68-1184).

Linger for lunch and a glass of wine at the Moorilla Estate, about six miles north of Hobart.

Hobart curls around its picturesque harbor along the Derwent River. The sandstone buildings date from the whaling days of the 1830's. On Saturday mornings, Salamanca Place, near the waterfront, comes to life as . . . continued p. 176

**... Tasmania,
from p. 173**

an open-air market. Rows of vendors sell flowers, sweaters, pottery, leather crafts, and an array of other goods. For more souvenirs, browse the bookstores, and sweater shops that line the harbor.

About 25 minutes from town, and 15 minutes from the airport, Prospect House, in the village of Richmond, offers welcoming lodging and good food in an historic home. This hilltop manor, built in 1830 by convict labor, was converted to an inn by Michael Buscombe, great-great grandson of the original owner. Tastefully decorated with oriental rugs and marble fireplaces, the inn features 11 rooms created from a converted hayloft and outbuildings. These ring a courtyard replete with weeping willows and a grape arbor. Stroll the 23 acres, play tennis, or simply enjoy the peacefulness. Prospect House serves lunch and dinner. Specialties include fettucine with mushrooms, pan-fried trout, and homemade blueberry tart.

Romantic and relaxing,

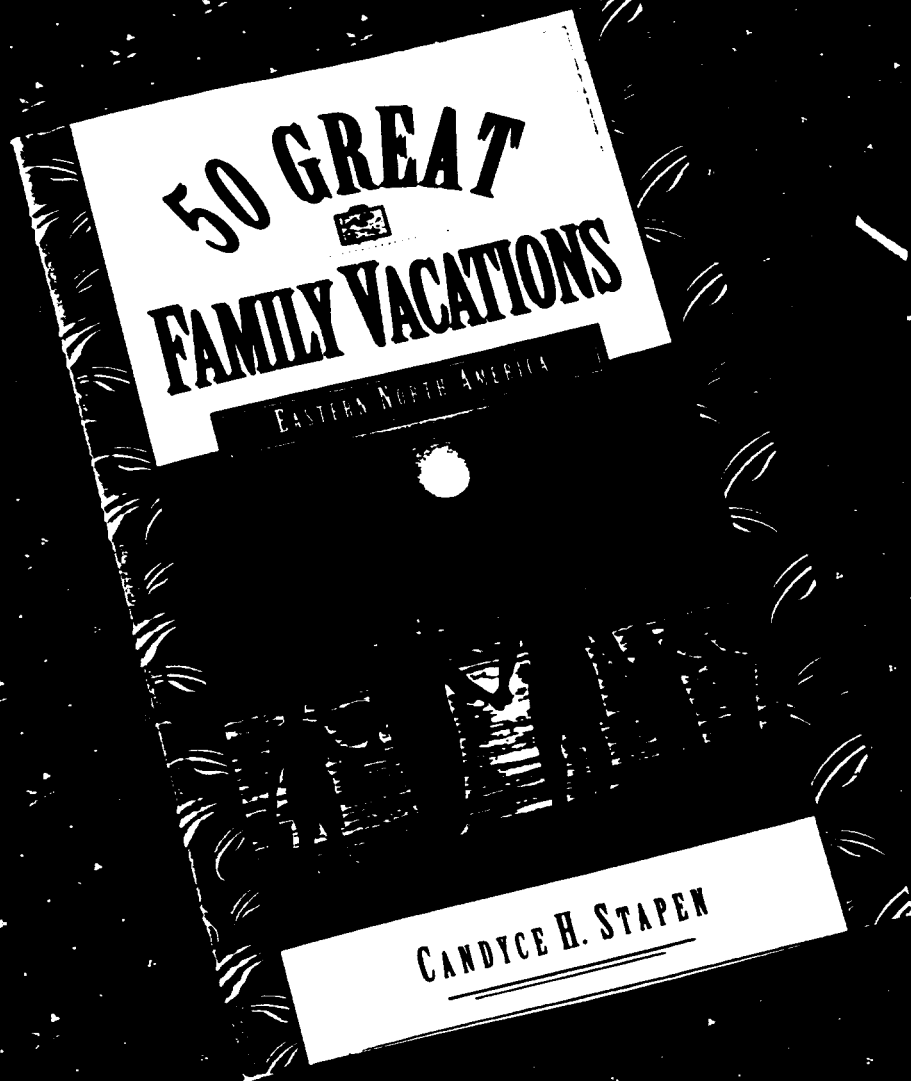
Prospect House also welcomes families. The family suite offers plenty of room with a parlor, three beds for kids, plus a master bedroom, and private bath. (Rates: about US\$130-\$150 double; about US\$160 for five in the family suite. phone: 011-61-02-62-2207).

You will long remember Tasmania. Here the other outback unfurls its pleasing countryside, a pastiche of wild forests, rugged mountains, rivers, and farmlands.

Several tour operators offer guided trips: **Marketing through Tasmania** (800-2-TASMANIA) features a wide range of programs in Tasmania. **American Wilderness Experience**, 800-444-0099, has a trek through Tasmania, a bicycle tour, and a combination walking and cycling tour.

For information about additional programs and tour operators, see the Geographical Index under "Tasmania."

For more information about Australia, contact the Australian Tourist Commission, 800-333-0262.



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Devil of a time in Tasmania

Antique bike race pedals old-time fun

BY BETSA MARSH

The Cincinnati Enquirer

EVANDALE, Tasmania — The riders blitzed by in the obligatory neon blur, chartreuse helmets, fuchsia spandex and electric blue running shoes. But at 7 feet above the course, it's clear these were no Tour de France commandos hugging aerodynamic handlebars, but rather hobby cyclists with a well-rounded sense of adventure.

The gliding giants were the stars of the National Penny Farthing Championships in the tiny village of Evandale in Tasmania, the vest-pocket island off the southern tip of Australia. Their bikes, which had their heyday in the 1880s, were dubbed penny farthings for their wheel ratio: a 19th-century penny was about four times the size of a farthing coin. Brits call them bone-shakers, and the French, velocipedes. The uninitiated call them impossible.

The Australian national championship, now rolling into its 12th year, is the centerpiece of the Evandale Village Fair in February. The schedule is full of children's, slalom and slow races, in which the last, skillful rider wins. Now, it's time for the charity run.

Strapping young men and women from every church youth group, agricultural association and school team up for a foot race on the triangular course through town.

They jump on the bone-shakers and tear off for a few laps, then drop the bikes, pick up wheelbarrows of wheat and, finally, ditch the wheelbarrows and run on foot with the overstuffed bags. It's great, silly fun, and soon, even visitors from as far away as Europe and the United States are cheering on their adopted teams.

All the way from Findlay

Each year, the nostalgic pull of the unlikely looking penny farthing draws Americans both as spectators and as riders. This year, three Yanks, including two in the veteran riders group, brought their bone-shakers to Tassie (islanders' name for Tasmania).

"This is the first time I've ever raced a bike," said Bob Balcomb, national commander of the 12,500-member Wheelmen association, a high-wheeling group dedicated to preserving America's bicycling



Betsa Marsh for The Cincinnati Enquirer
Bob Balcomb brought his penny farthing from Findlay, Ohio, for the Evandale festivities and the week-long Great Tasmania Bike Rider afterward.

heritage.

The retired graphics arts manager flew all the way from Findlay, Ohio, for the friendly competition in Evandale, followed by the week-long Great Tasmania Bike Ride.

While not a racer, Balcomb has clocked thousands of miles, both on a modern bike and a reproduction penny farthing.

"I was in the relay, and our team came in fifth out of seven," says Balcomb, governor-appointed chairman of the Ohio Bicycle Advisory Council. "We did pretty well for three old geezers."

Balcomb struggled up Tasmania's brutal terrain during the Great Tasmania Bike Ride — it's not called Bust Me Gall Hill for nothing.

Like many of the American cyclists who dismantled and shipped their handmade bikes to Tasmania, Balcomb sold his to a new Aussie pal at the end of his holiday.

"Lowell Kennedy of Defiance, Ohio, makes these, and I've had mine about six years," Balcomb said. "New, it cost me about \$2,800." He will sell it at cost to one of the riders.

"If they ordered one and had it

shipped over, the cost would be absolutely prohibitive for them." Balcomb said.

Although there's a mix of reproduction and antique bikes, most of the racers were authentic replicas. "Or," coordinator Di Sullivan said of the original bone-shakers now racing, "they've had quite a bit of restoration. It's really safer, at the speeds they go."

They're off

When it was time for the one-mile Devon Hills National Penny Farthing Championship, eight racers lined up, gulped a breath, and prepared for that first big hop onto that tiny, unforgiving seat.

Leaning into the bales of hay that line the course, the spectators waited for Ian Armstrong to raise his elegant sleeve and drop the starting flag. They're off!

"I've been a rider all my life, and now, at age 50, I see a graceful retirement to being a starter and auctioneer," Armstrong said. "I'll leave the sprints to the 20-year-olds."

Known as Mr. Penny Farthing, Armstrong is constantly picking up the phone to be told, "I have one of those bikes in my attic." With more than 80 penny farthings in his collection, he's ready to ride in any parade or festival at the drop of an invitation.

"The penny farthing has a one-to-one ratio, so that one turn of the pedal equals one turn of the wheel," he said. "So, by making the wheel bigger, they got more distance. They're really quite well-engineered, and it's a pleasure to ride them. Like a well-tuned car."

That pleasure was increased



Betsa Marsh for The Cincinnati Enquirer

Penny farthing cyclists roar through Evandale, Tasmania, on a triangular course past the village pub.

when the first rider crossing under Armstrong's checkered flag was local butcher Phil Tuck. The crowd in Evandale put some extra gusto into the cheers.

Evandale may be the perfect spot on earth for this race. A tiny hamlet of 2,200, the town was settled in 1836, and most villagers get into the pioneer spirit — and costume — for the party.

The Evandale Village Fair feels like an English country fete. There are pony rides, bagpipe bands, Highland dancers, antique cars and a chugging steam thresher.

In between races, you can wander among the craft and bake sale booths, or stop for a sausage filled with cheese, chutney and bacon, served with potato cake and fried onion on bread — all for \$2.80.

It's a magical day out of time, spinning wheels within wheels of fresh fun from our great-grandparents' old toys.

If you go

To stay with the old-fashioned racing theme, some travelers to the National Penny Farthing Championships book an 1840s room at the restored Racecourse Private Hotel in nearby Longford.

"In Australia, it's very rare for anyone to get inside a home this old, and certainly rare for anyone to stay in one," innkeeper Mary Rutledge says. "It gives me pleasure to watch other people taking pleasure in it. This building is quite a treasure."

The historic brick hotel, almost barricaded at the front door with a mighty hawthorn hedge and a fecund peach tree, was a popular stopover when the Longford race track held a full calendar of meets. Now, New Year's Day is the only race, and people come from all over Tasmania to rent a room, pack a

picnic and head to the course in the bright summer sunshine.

Bed and breakfast, including bacon and eggs, fresh orange juice, homemade jam, and fruit from the Rutledge garden, is \$90 for a double.

The Racecourse Private Hotel, 114 Marlborough St., Longford, Tasmania 7301. Local phone 003-91-2352.

The 12th annual National Penny Farthing Championship is Feb. 26, 1994, in Evandale. Qantas Airways flies to Melbourne from Los Angeles, 800-227-4500.

For a free *Destination: Australia* book, call the Australian Tourist Board at 800-333-0262. Contact a local travel agent for additional information.

— Betsa Marsh

**CANADIAN
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C'est à partir du 2 octobre que Northwest Airlines proposera trois vols par jour pour Boston au départ de Dorval: 9 h, 14 h et 19 h 45 pour l'aller; 7 h, midi et 17 h pour le retour. Tarif de lancement: 89 \$ l'aller. Les tarifs-excursions pour les destinations du réseau américain sont réduits de 30 %.

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La nouvelle édition de Travel Trade Manual, publié par l'Office de tourisme de l'Irlande du Nord, est maintenant disponible au Canada. On y trouve aussi bien des renseignements sur les transports aérien et ferroviaire, que sur le golf, la pêche, la généalogie. Tél.: (416) 925-6328. Téléc.: (416) 961-2175.

Restours, le système informatique dont est équipé Vacances Air Transat, offre un nouveau produit appelé Leisurlink. On peut y faire des réservations, consulter la disponibilité, lire les renseignements sur les propriétés de Vacances Air Transat, prendre connaissance des spéciaux et des nouveautés du voyageur. Un maximum de deux heures est requis pour la formation. Tél.: (514) 987-1616. Téléc.: (514) 987-1618.

Destination L'Australie attire les Canadiens

Depuis les dix dernières années, le nombre de visiteurs en Australie a triplé. En 1992, près de 50 000 Canadiens s'y sont rendus. La Commission touristique australienne aimerait bien que, d'ici l'an 2000, un peu plus de 130 000 visas soient émis à des Canadiens chaque année. C'est ce qui ressort de la foire touristique qui a eu lieu dernièrement à Sydney. Lors de cette rencontre internationale, la Commission touristique australienne a fourni un rapport statistique qui se lit comme suit: 55 % des Canadiens vont en Australie pour des vacances et aiment y aller pour de longues périodes, en moyenne pour 48 jours. Les 45 % restant y vont ensuite, par ordre de priorité, pour visiter familles et amis, pour affaires ou d'autres raisons: événements sportifs ou artistiques. En ce moment, le pays des kangourous est beaucoup visité pour son écotourisme: la brousse dans les territoires du nord, le désert au centre du pays ou les forêts tropicales et la barrière de corail dans l'est. L'écotourisme est un atout qui attire les Canadiens. En 1994, l'année touristique aura pour thème «À la décou-



Britain for Walkers: une carte qui marche.

vertes» en Australie. Ce thème des visites à faire en vacances convient bien à ceux qui ont un budget au 60s. Un peu plus de 17 % des Canadiens qui se rendent dans ce pays voyagent ainsi. On a donc aménagé des endroits peu chers pour se loger. Des moyens de transport à des coûts accessibles ont aussi été mis en place pour permettre aux voyageurs d'explorer facilement les grands espaces. Le logement à la ferme ou sous forme de *bed & breakfast* est d'ailleurs de plus en plus populaire en dehors des grands centres. Dans son rapport, la Commission touristique australienne s'est penchée sur les sources d'information des voyageurs. Pour 30 % des Canadiens, la première source est leur agent de voyages. Viennent ensuite, à 26 %, les livres ou guides sur le pays. Depuis un an, la Commission touristique australienne n'a plus de bureau au Canada. Par contre, il est possible d'entrer en communication sans frais avec le bureau de tourisme situé à Los Angeles, qui répond aussi bien aux questions des professionnels qu'à celles des éventuels visiteurs. Tél.: 1-800-727-5165. Pour les demandes concernant les visas: tél.: (613) 236-0841; téléc.: (613) 236-4376.

Destination Grande- Bretagne à pied

Cet été, la Grande-Bretagne a reçu un grand nombre de visiteurs. La dévaluation de la livre sterling est une des grandes raisons de cet engouement pour la destination, la rendant plus accessible à toutes les bourses. Du Canada, de nombreux vols nolisés ont aussi aidé à la découverte de la Grande-Bretagne. Ce pays attire de plus en plus de Québécois. La formule *bed & breakfast* semble répondre à leurs critères financiers tout en les conduisant à la découverte de la vie locale. Pour les transports, il semble encore que le train l'emporte sur la location de voitures, la peur de la conduite à gauche y étant pour beaucoup. On note un intérêt croissant sur les différentes régions (Sud-Ouest, pays de Galles, Lake District, Écosse). Londres restant →



INFO AUSTRALIE

EN ATTENDANT L'AN 2000

SYDNEY, VILLE MODERNE

Sydney est tout a fait indiquée pour faire entrer le monde dans le deuxième millénaire. Une ville jeune de deux cents ans, moderne, au coeur d'un pays sensible à la protection de son écologie. Le Comité International Olympique l'a compris en lui confiant la responsabilité de recevoir le monde entier en son sein pour les jeux olympiques de l'an 2000.



Près de 3 000 délégués étaient invités aux frais de l'association touristique. Tous ces gens se répartissaient dans les hôtels les plus luxueux de la ville, étaient reçus dans les restaurants les plus chics et animés lors de soirées de galas imposantes. La ville démontrait son savoir-faire.

Partout dans Sydney les constructions sont commencées. Le village des athlètes logera 15 000

personnes. Depuis plusieurs années le projet se préparait. L'été dernier lors de la foire touristique australienne, on avait tout mis en oeuvre à Sydney pour montrer la force de l'organisation, l'efficacité des gens de ce pays et le chaleureux accueil du peuple.

On aménage la rivière Paramatta qui servira aux compétitions ainsi qu'au transport des gens et la cérémonie d'ouverture s'y déroulera, puisque l'eau symbolise cette ville faite de rivières et de canaux sans fin. Dans la ville on a beaucoup misé sur les jeux. Au mois de juin dernier, à chaque lampadaire pendait un drapeau qui rappelait à tous que Sydney était en lice pour les Jeux de l'an 2000. Aujourd'hui ces drapeaux rappellent à chacun qu'ils auront bel et bien lieu dans cette ville.

VILLE DIVERSIFIÉE

Sydney se compare à Montréal par sa taille et sa modernité. Une centre-ville de gratte-ciel tout près du quartier "The Rocks" situé au bord, où le dimanche les familles s'y rendent pour écouter les musiciens de la rue, les amuseurs publics ou prendre leur petit-déjeuner dans un des nombreux restaurants.

Si on en a assez du centre-ville et qu'on a le goût de la plage, on n'a qu'à se rendre à Bondi ou Bronte Beach regarder le



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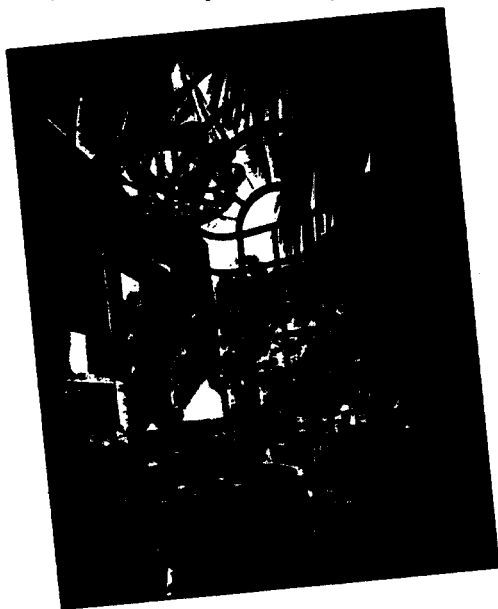
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INFO AUSTRALIE

spectacle des surfeurs ou s'y baigner. Prendre le temps d'apprécier la banlieue où il fait bon vivre avec la mer qui lui donne cet air de vacances continues. Par les autobus de la ville on s'y rend en 30 minutes.

Sydney a beaucoup à offrir, je vous laisse trois bonnes adresses; un hôtel, un restaurant et un jardin zoologique.



PARK LANE HOTEL

Après 20 heures de vol, j'avais hâte de me reposer. L'Association touristique de l'Australie m'avait réservée un bien bel accueil au Park Lane Hotel. L'hôtel est situé en plein centre-ville de Sydney à 10 minutes de marche du quartier "The Rocks", de ma chambre j'avais une vue sur le parc Hyde, le port de Sydney et la

fin de semaine je pouvais admirer les centaines de voiliers qui venaient s'y faire voir: un oasis de nature en pleine ville. L'architecte a conçu l'hôtel pour qu'on sente toujours la présence de la verdure du parc. Assise au salon de thé, j'avais l'impression d'être dans un grand jardin sans fin.

Les chambres sont luxueusement décorées. On a ajouté une touche pour plaire aux asiatiques, sur chaque lit, une couette sert de couverture. Les salles de bain sont de marbre noir, immenses et somptueuses.

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Le restaurant The Bather's Pavillon est situé en banlieue de Sydney, à Balmoral. On s'y rend facilement en bateau. Il loge sur le bord de mer. C'est l'endroit préféré des banlieusards pour flâner le dimanche matin ou encore y prendre des dîners romantiques avec le bruit des vagues comme fond sonore.

J'y ai dégusté une salade de tomates chaudes et du cerf aux raisins. Pendant que mes voisins savouraient des poissons frais, de la pieuvre et de délicieuses crevettes, qu'on retrouve en abondance partout dans ce pays.

On mange très bien en Australie, une cuisine assez près de la nôtre, faite de produits frais à l'année longue.

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE PARK

À 45 minutes de Sydney, on peut se rendre au Australian Wildlife Park, où on a tenté de recréer l'habitat naturel des animaux. Les kangourous sautent la clôture pour venir se chercher une caresse pendant que les koalas acceptent de se faire prendre en photo. L'année dernière 10 koalas naissaient au parc. Ce qui rend ses propriétaires très fiers.

Mais, attention au crocodile mangeur d'hommes qui reste hypocritement à l'affût en souhaitant attraper une proie vivante pour se faire les dents. ☹

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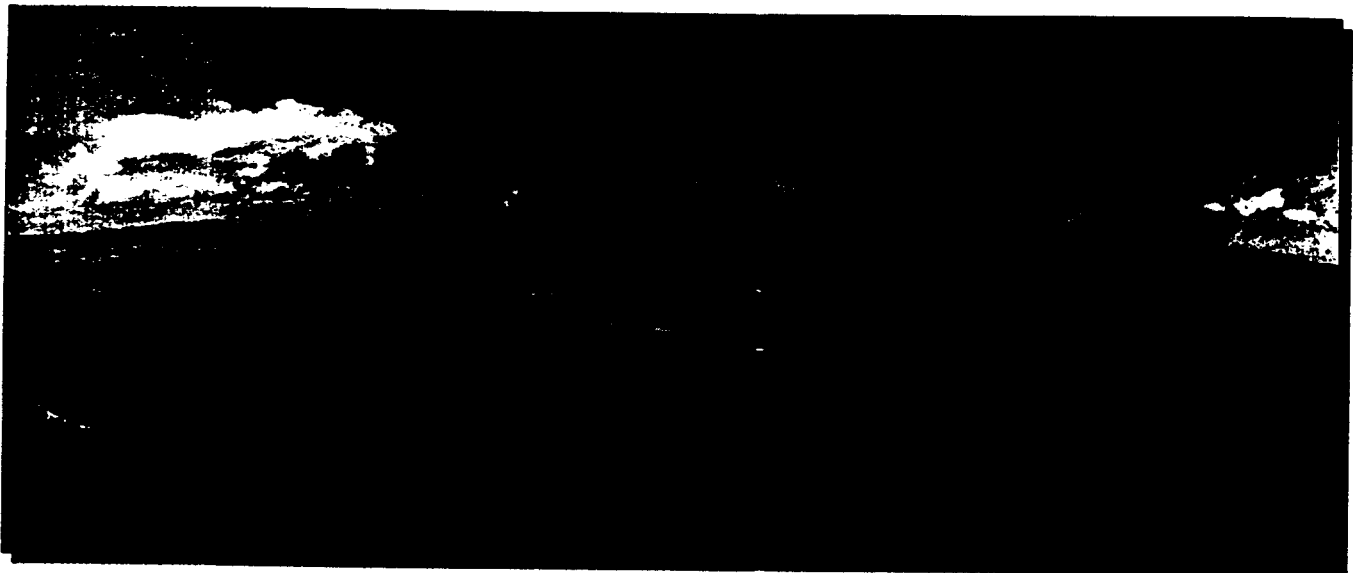
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Hamilton Island, au coeur de la huitième merveille du monde



Serge LAMARRE

On fait souvent allusion à la Grande Barrière de corail d'Australie comme étant la huitième merveille du monde. On comprend mieux ce vocable quand on survole les 2 000 kilomètres de cet immense banc de corail, en route vers Hamilton Island, un centre de villégiature monté de toutes pièces

et en opération depuis le mois de décembre 1984 seulement.

Il y a 10 ans, le développement de cette île était encore le rêve d'un seul homme: Keith Williams, un entrepreneur du Queensland en Australie. M. Williams, réalisant l'importance d'un accès facile des grandes villes d'Australie, dans un premier temps et du Japon, d'Europe et de la Nouvelle-Zélande éventuellement (d'où des vols

charters arrivent maintenant régulièrement), a fait construire un aéroport de catégorie internationale, qui accueille maintenant les appareils de tout acabit. Durant l'hiver australien (notre été), cette île du Pacifique Sud, qui se trouve à la même latitude tropicale que Honolulu dans l'hémisphère nord et que celle de l'île Maurice dans l'hémisphère sud, reçoit 60 % d'Australiens et 40 % d'étrangers.

Hamilton Island, une de 74 îles formant l'archipel Whitsunday, est située en plein coeur de la Grande Barrière de corail d'Australie, à seulement deux heures de vol de Sydney et deux heures et quarante minutes de Melbourne et à une heure de Brisbane et Cairns.

On a construit pour les années 2 000, en érigeant la Tour Hamilton en juillet 1990, un édifice moderne de 21 étages, qui propose probablement les chambres (387) les plus grandes du monde à 65 mètres carrés. Pour les familles, des

appartements d'une à trois chambres à coucher sont également disponibles, ainsi que des suites luxueuses à la Tour Whitsunday. Ces bâtiments de ciment blanc surplombe également une série de villas de style polynésien, pour ceux qui ne veulent pas vivre leurs vacances comme dans les grandes villes.

Toutes les chambres sont climatisées et arborent un ventilateur au-dessus des lits, qui sont toujours de grands lits (Queen ou King Size), ainsi que d'immenses balcons donnant sur la plage Catseye et la Mer de Corail.

75 ÉTABLISSEMENTS COMMERCIAUX PLUS UNE DIZAINE DE RESTAURANTS ET SEPT BARS

On ne se déplace pas du Canada strictement pour des vacances à Hamilton Island, à moins qu'on soit un plongeur expert qui tente de vivre l'expérience des plus grands bancs

de corail au monde. D'ailleurs, Hamilton Island Resort est propriétaire de son propre ponton de plongée, dans un des secteurs les plus spectaculaires de la Grande Barrière de corail, à Hardy Lagoon, à peine à 65 kilomètres de l'île.

Des voiliers, comme le Banjo Paterson, ainsi que des embarcations motorisées équipées pour la pratique de la plongée, sont aussi disponibles à la location. La marina mérite également une visite, question de se rincer l'oeil de tous ses yachts luxueux qui dorment au soleil. On peut également se rendre au ponton en "Helijet".

Une gamme complète d'activités sont disponibles, que ce soit sur les plages de sable fin ou autour d'une des huit piscines. Tous les équipements de sport nautique sont également accessibles, de même que les courts de tennis ou de squash, un terrain de golf et un gymnase.

Le parc faunique d'Hamilton Island offre également l'occasion de voir les fameux kangourous pour lesquels l'Australie est reconnue, de même que les émeux, les koalis, les wallabys et les crocodiles.

Complètement autonome, il va sans dire, l'île compte 75 établissements commerciaux (tous des concessions), en plus d'une dizaine de restaurants et sept bars, variant du "snack" aux restaurants plus sophistiqués qui servent la cuisine italienne, chinoise ou française et du simple bar de plage aux élégants James Cook ou Compass. Chez Dirty Nellies, on retrouve même une discothèque et un piano bar.

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**Australia
Closes
Tourist Offices**

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■ As of this month, most of Australia's U.S.-based state and territory tourist offices—those representing South Australia, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Victoria—will have closed due to budget restraints.

But this won't hurt incentive business, says Bill Baker, the Australia Tourism Commission's (ATC) newly appointed regional director for the Americas. "If anything, business has increased, although I can't share the actual figures just yet," Baker says.

Neither is the ATC greatly reducing its staff. "We're actually hiring more people; we've set up a special tele-marketing center to answer



questions from travel agents, and we're staffing it with Australians," says Baker. Incentive planners should work through the ATC's New York office at 489 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10017; (212) 687-6300. Their main contacts will be Nigel Bramish, director of meetings, conventions and incentives, and incentive manager Andrea Williams, just hired from the New York office of the British Tourist Authority.

Baker says the ATC will continue to promote travel to all of Australia and is negotiating with all states and territories to finance Partnership Australia, a cooperative marketing program.

—Judy Quinn

Going The Distance

More U.S. attendees are making the trek Down Under

BY BETTY MACDONALD

AS A PENAL COLONY 200 YEARS ago, Australia was the last place anyone wanted to go. Today, more Americans want to visit "Oz" than any other international destination, and travel is the country's second largest industry.

"Australia holds a certain mystique for North Americans who perceive its location on the other side of the world as exotic," explained Nola Conway, president of Leisure Marketing Services, which represents the Melbourne Tourism Authority in the United States. "At the same time," she added, "they enjoy the independence of being in a foreign country with no language barrier."

According to figures from the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC), 6,500 people from the United States attended meetings Down Under in 1990. That's almost double the number of attendees 10 years ago.

The Pacific Rim is the major growth market of the '90s, according to James LaValle, manager, trade liaison for the ATC. Aussies have responded to the influx by enhancing meeting infrastructure to accommodate larger groups and by packaging attractive incentives.

One lure to groups from the United



AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

States is year-round, round-trip airfares, now below US\$1,000. While more expensive than a ticket to Europe, this cost is offset by attractive ground operating costs and the strength of the U.S. dollar compared to the Australian dollar (\$1.33 to \$1.50 at current exchange rates).

Hotels are offering incentive groups a guaranteed five-star deluxe harbor-view room for \$150 a night in Sydney, Australia's most expensive city. "In London, Paris and Tokyo you can be paying up to \$300 a night for a five-star incentive," LaValle said. "Over a seven-night period you more than make up your airfare in accommodation savings alone."

SYDNEY

Over 62,000 conference delegates are expected to visit Sydney before the year 2000, according to John Rowe, executive director of the Sydney Convention & Visitors Bureau. That includes four major international medical conventions that will be staged in the city in 1997, attracting a projected 26,000 delegates.

The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre is a hub for many of these large programs. The facility, which can seat up to 3,500 theater style, offers an exhibition hall of more than 250,000 square feet. It is set in the 124-acre Darling Harbour Complex, which includes parks, gardens, museums, shopping malls and entertainment areas.

An expanding hotel market has kept room occupancy rates low, giving planners the upper hand in negotiations. Fourteen thousand of Sydney's 34,000 hotel rooms have meeting facilities and are in the four- to five-star category. Three hotels were recently added to this roster: the 573-room ANA Hotel in the historic Rocks district; the five-star 100-room Observatory Hotel; and the Park Lane with 560 rooms. An additional 5,800 rooms are expected to open before

the year 2000.

At press time, Sydney appeared to be the front-runner in its quest to host the XXVII Olympiad. If the city got a thumbs-up from the selection committee at the end of last month, Sydney will proceed with plans to build an 80,000-seat Olympic stadium.

MELBOURNE

In 1992, more than 114,000 delegates attended 403 meetings in the state of Victoria and its capital city Melbourne. This is an increase of nearly 11 percent in the number of meetings held and a 38 percent increase in delegate attendance over the previous year. Eighty-five international meetings are confirmed for the next six years in the region.

To protect its 25 percent of the Australian market, Melbourne plans to establish a new international exhibition center to replace existing outdated facilities.

Sydney, where the Opera House is situated on the edge of the Bay, offers planners low rates for four- and five-star hotels.

The new center will be opposite the World Trade Centre and linked to the World Congress Centre. A 1995 completion date is expected.

Dreamtime '94, a major industry event, sponsored by the ATC, is designed to increase Australia's estimated AUS. \$1 billion market share of incentive business. Seventy percent of the delegates will be from North America and Europe.

QUEENSLAND

April 1995 is the target date for the completion of several projects in Queensland, Australia's fastest growing state. According to Lindsey Binney, manager for meetings and incentives for North America for the Queensland Tourist & Travel Corp., "With the opening of new convention facilities, we will attract larger corporate meetings and some smaller associations, particularly those that have a history of meeting off shore."

In Brisbane, the capital city, the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, slated to open in April 1995, will seat up to 10,000 and feature a grand ballroom, 17 breakout rooms and four exhibition halls. The center has already attracted more than 180 bookings in a preliminary marketing campaign, according to Queensland Premier Wayne Goss. The Queensland Government has proposed development of a 200-room hotel adjacent to the center that would open concurrently.

A 1995 opening is also planned for a convention center and casino in Cairns, in tropical far north Queensland. ■

THE NETWORK

Planning a meeting in Australia?

These two planners would be happy to share their experiences Down Under with you.

1. Michael Thomson, president, Thomson & Thomson Travel Co., Hartford, Conn.

Thomson planned a Sydney incentive for 150 people from Webster Industries in April 1993. They stayed five nights at the ANA Hotel.

Planned events included a Sydney Harbour dinner cruise, an evening at the Argyle Tavern and a visit to Melvly's Wharf.

Fax: (203) 236-9958

2. Lisa Schwartz, meeting coordinator, Ear Partners, Woodland Hills, Calif.

In April 1993, Schwartz took 170 insurance agents and their spouses to Australia, where they explored Sydney, Ayers Rock and Port Douglas. An outback party was held at a sugarcane plantation where attendees were entertained by the Tjapukai, an Aboriginal dance company.

Fax: (818) 594-5063

Inside TRACK

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS

■ Australian Tourist Commission

488 Fifth Ave., 31st floor
New York, NY 10017
(212) 687-6300
Fax: (212) 681-3340

Contact: Sandra Chipchase, director of marketing

■ Queensland Tourist & Travel Corp.

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New York, NY 10017
(212) 687-7810
Fax: (212) 687-7844

Contact: Lindsey Binney, manager, meetings & incentives, North America

■ Melbourne Tourism Authority Representative:

Leisure Marketing Services

200 N. Robertson Blvd.
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(800) 753-8226

Fax: (310) 859-4719

Contact: Nola Conway, president

■ Sydney Convention & Visitors Bureau Representative:

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2113 S St., NW
Washington, DC 20008

(202) 797-1222

Fax: (202) 265-8930

Contact: Pat Flech, president

■ Adelaide Convention Center

Representative:
Marketing Challenges International
10 East 21st St.,
Suite 800

New York, NY 10010

(212) 529-8484

Fax: (212) 480-8287

Contact: Michel Couturier, president

Sunday American
Oct. 10, 1993

Aborigines are becoming involved in Australia's tourism

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."

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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.

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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 Umorruk 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

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. "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.

Manual Pamkal, 28, is a senior guide for Manyalluk Tours, operated by the Manyalluk 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."

Northwest Florida Daily News

Oct. 10, 1993

Aborigines get involved in Australia's tourism

By STEVEN MORRIS
Chicago Tribune

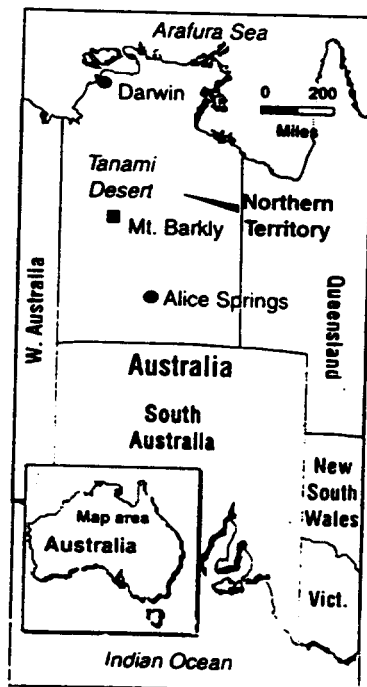
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Knight-Ridder Tribune / DAVID JAHNTZ

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From Sydney to the bush...

In the wake of the Sydney Olympic bid victory, there's been a wave of patriotism throughout Australia that can only be good for business. But a survey carried out before the win shows more Australian consumers than ever before believe locally made goods are better in quality than imports and are prepared to pay higher prices for them. The nationwide survey was carried out for the Coles supermarket chain and showed that 89 per cent of shoppers polled in Coles wanted to buy locally made products, an increase of three per cent on the previous year.

While Telecom and Optus continue to battle it out for the privilege of providing the nation's telephone services, another airborne battle has begun. When British Airways bought a 25 per cent share of Qantas and then linked up with USAir to give it a round-the-world service, other airlines began to think along similar lines. Now Ansett, which is looking more and more to provision of international services, has heard the welcome news that United Airlines and Lufthansa have joined forces. Ansett has already established links with both airlines, giving it entry into a powerful global network. It has also won the rights to fly to South Korea, completing a regional international network which includes Bali and other Indonesian services, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.

There's been a great deal of debate in Australia about republicanism which has led to the release of a major report by the Republic Advisory Committee, "An Australian Republic - the Options". Newspaper editorials have commended the report which canvasses a number of options. The Prime Minister, Mr Paul Keating, says the Government does not have a timetable for a republic but hopes to see the structure in place by the turn of the century.

Meanwhile, there's change afoot in other traditional areas such as the legal profession. A Trade Practices Commission report has recommended allowing non-lawyers to handle simple civil litigation, ending bans on advertising, abolishing fee scales and stopping the appointment of Queen's Counsels, thus eliminating one source of higher fees. The chairman of the Commission, Professor Allan Fels, said the recommendations were not as severe as they might seem and would only bring the law into line with other professions.

One small piece of good news this week was the drop in unemployment figures, albeit from 11.1 per cent to 10.9 per cent. There was also an increase in the work participation rate, those already in jobs plus those looking. The Government has noted that there are now indications across the board of uniform improvement in the economy.

Tony Miller, Consul,
Public Affairs, New York

US tastes the true Australian Outback

By Kerry Wren

NEW YORK: Tourism in Australia's Outback is set for a boost from US visitors as a result of a marketing drive by Aboriginal tour groups.

American travel agents and incentive organizers had a taste of traditional Aboriginal culture when Australia's top Aboriginal environmental tour operators presented a series of seminars on

the attractions of the Outback across the US in September and October taking in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Palm Beach and other major cities.

According to the Australian Tourist Commission, Aborigines are taking an increasingly active role in presenting their culture to tourists.

"In 1980, there were just 23 Aboriginal tours available. Today, there are more than 50 tours with 20 privately owned and operated by Aborigines, offering travelers the opportunity to experience diverse aspects of the many different tribes of the region," said Lyndel Gray, ATC area manager for Eastern US.

Recent studies have shown a growing trend among Americans and international travelers to vacation for the purpose of learning about ancient peoples and their traditions, she added.

"In a recent 'Travel Styles' survey of 2563 international pleasure travelers by the Menlo Travel Consulting Group, more than 88 per cent indicated they were interested in experiencing

a distinct culture during their travels."

Joining their Aboriginal colleagues on the US tour



Studies show that Americans want to experience distinct cultures such as Aborigines when they travel

were members of Australia's leading Outback environmental tourism industry including experts trained in anthropology, geology, biology, wildlife and botany, who gave audiences an insight into life and culture of the Australian Outback.

ANA flies to Sydney

TOKYO: All Nippon Airways, Japan's largest airline, which serves New York, Los Angeles and Washington DC, has introduced a new route from the US to Sydney, including a free stopover in Japan.

ANA operates 14 flights per week to Tokyo from its three US gateways, and from Tokyo, serves Sydney non-stop six days per week.

The fares begin at \$998 (\$1308 from the East Coast), matching fares from the US to Australia via the US West Coast, according to ANA.

Orlando Sentinel Oct. 17, 1993

Step softly when visiting native cultures

Tourists want an 'authentic' experience. Here are some suggestions for smoothing the journey.

By Laura Bly

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

W675

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.

"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., 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 says. "It's been going on for decades in Hawaii and the Caribbean, and now it's global as well."

Please see CULTURES, H-6

Cultural facades aren't easy to tread

CULTURES from E-1

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 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 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 graves, swigging beer and sticking cameras 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.

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

■ **Respect restrictions on photography and other visitor access.** Many native cultures request that visitors refrain from taking photographs or sketching

sacred sites or celebrations — a request that, in some cases, may be backed up with confiscation of a camera or other equipment.

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 talk about what they've seen.

■ **Find out who benefits from — and decides the nature of — your visit.** Among the questions the Center for Responsible Tourism in San Anselmo, Calif., recommends asking potential tour operators: What percentage of the trip cost stays in the community visited? 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 importantly, 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 rains 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 rains — 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.

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 to journey as unobtrusively and unobtrusively as possible, says director Virginia Hadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism.

Sacramento Bee

Oct. 17, 1993

When in the global village, tread softly

By Laura Bly
Universal Press Syndicate

A t 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."

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✓ Please see VILLAGE, page 6

Village: How to be a responsible traveler

Continued from page 1
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PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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Aborigines take bigger slice of Australian tourism

By Steven Morris
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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Boston Sunday Globe
Oct. 24, 1993

Meeting the people — the indigenous people, that is



Aboriginal art found on rock faces dates to ancient times.

PHOTO / AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

Meeting the people: the indigenous people, that is

16675 *Australian Tourist Commission*
By William A. Davis
GLOBE STAFF

was walking along a beach in Fiji one time, absorbed in the glorious Technicolor spectacle of a South Pacific sunset. Suddenly, from behind a palm tree, a muscular young man carrying a long spear and dressed only in a *sulu*, the abbreviated Fijian sarong, came charging toward me.



Aboriginal art can be striking.

PHOTO / AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

Startled - well, terrified to tell the truth - I froze in place, expecting to be skewered like some sort of Melanesian shish kebab. Instead, the spear carrier stopped in front of me and lowered his lance, which I could now see was a two-pronged fish spear. "Hope I didn't alarm you, sir," he said, with an engaging grin. "I'm going fishing with my mates tonight; I'm late and they're waiting for me."

And he took me down the beach and introduced me to his friends, as amiable and hospitable bunch of guys as you could ask for. They taught me a lot about Fiji and a bit about spearfishing, a practical recreational activity that is one of the ways modern Fijians preserve the traditions - and cuisine - of their ancestors. As with those of most indigenous peoples, the traditions and cuisine largely revolve around the rhythms and bounty of the natural world.

I left Fiji having learned an important lesson of the road: The peoples who have lived long and deeply in a place are every bit as memorable and rewarding as the scenery they inhabit. But you often have to look hard to get a glimpse of them being themselves - and it usually helps to have a knowledgeable local guide.

The United Nations has declared this to be International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples. But compared to the political hoopla surrounding other such events - such as last year's the Year of the Woman, for example - not much has happened at the government level to make the world more aware of the problems and potential of its indigenous citizens.

Main reason for the lack of interest in indigenous peoples is that they are scattered very thinly around the planet and are a cloutless minority almost every-

B5 INDIGENTUS, Page B18



PHOTO / AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

Showmanship can enter into the picture.

55
■ INDIGENOUS

Continued from Page B1

where. While roughly half the world's 5.5 billion inhabitants are women, there are an estimated 300 million indigenous, tribal or aboriginal peoples left and they inhabit some 70 countries. Many live deep in jungles in remote corners of Indonesia, Ecuador, Brazil and New Guinea but they also are found in not-so-remote parts of the United States, Canada and Australia.

Because of their scarcity value, indigenous peoples are becoming tourist attractions, just like endangered fauna such as the mountain gorilla or black rhino - ecotourist attractions, that is.

Given the harm mass tourism development has done to the ecology in places such as the Costa del Sol, Waikiki Beach and the Everglades, there is understandable concern that unbridled ecotourism - that is pleasure travel - to rain forests and other exotic but endangered environments may only compound the damage already done to most indigenous peoples by the white man's liquor, diseases and diet.

Exposure to tourism can quickly make a sham out of old customs and turn once self-sufficient tribal people into show business performers living off tips and handouts.

Visitors to the Yagua Indians in Peru's Amazonian basin, for instance, are told by tour guides to blow on a conch shell before entering a village so the Indians will know they are friends and won't throw spears or shoot arrows at them. Actually, it's to warn the Yaguas that the tourists are coming and give them time to take off their T-shirts and running shoes and hop into grass skirts and feathered head-dresses.

However, indigenous people themselves frequently see ecotourism as a way to both alleviate their often abysmal poverty and enlist new allies in the struggle to protect ancestral homelands from exploitation and

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expropriation.

Recently, for instance, a band of Australian aborigines passed through Boston on an updated version of a "walkabout," the traditional nomadic journey of their people. They come from Australia's vast but barren and thinly populated Northern Territories where ancient aboriginal tribal traditions - derived from the "Dream Time" when the world was made - are still preserved and vital. This, however, was very much a dream quest of the 1990s and these aborigines were trying to drum up some business. Literally.

All tour operators, professional guides or representatives of sports lodges and other tourist-related tribal businesses, they were touring the United States to invite Americans to come see Down Under from the point of view of the people who have inhabited it for some 60,000 years. To dramatize their sales pitch, they traveled with a native dance troupe: the Gikul Wilderness Dancers of Arnhem Land, home of the mythical Rainbow Serpent whose bite made water gush from the desert. On the steps of Faneuil Hall - which has never seen a sight quite like it - the Gikul Dancers stomped, sang, drummed and played the didjeridu, the eeriest-sounding of all aboriginal instruments.

Didjeridu lessons are among the

Continued on next page
B5

A resort run by the Apaches

Continued from preceding page

good things provided tourists who go on tour with Manyallaluk Tours, based in the town of Katherine in the Northern Territories. "We take the people out and show them how we really live," said Manuel Pankal, senior guide for the tribal-owned tour company and president of the Manyallaluk Community Council. Other aboriginal arts that visitors get to try include bark painting and, boomerang throwing, Pankal said.

"Aborigines are taking an increasingly active role in presenting their culture to tourists," says Bill Baker, regional director for the Americas for the Australian Tourist Commission. "In 1983 there were just 23 aboriginal tours available. Today, there are more than 50 tours, with 20 owned and operated by aborigines." Aboriginal tourism, including the sale to tourists of bark paintings and other art objects, generates an estimated \$60 million annually, according to Baker, about 45 percent of which goes to the local communities.

In Australia's Northern Territory, much of which is either national park or protected tribal land, fears

Ski Apache aids both the ecology and the Indian economy.

of the impact of ecotourism are unfounded, says to Brian Rooke, who operates Umorrduk Safaris. "The country I work in covers about 250,000 acres," said Rooke, "but I'm only allowed to bring in 16 people at a time."

Some American Indian tribes have developed tourism projects that are both ecologically friendly and economically beneficial. One of the most successful is Ski Apache, a ski resort in New Mexico run by the Mescalero Apaches. Under war chiefs such as Cochise and Victorio, the tough and fearsome Mescaleros terrorized the Southwest in the last century. In the case of the Mescaleros, however, yesterday's ferocious warrior is today's hot shot entrepreneur.

The resort includes a gondola that runs to the top of 12,000-foot-high Sierra Blanca and a deluxe 250-room four-season hotel - one of the largest and poshest in New Mexico - called "The Inn of the Mountain Gods." Among the amenities are a restaurant with a spectacular view and a menu that includes "Apacheburgers" (fried bread topped with hamburger and hot peppers), an 18-hole golf course, a man-made lake stocked with trout, riding stables (even the US Cavalry had trouble

keeping up with the Apaches) and the largest private elk herd in the country.

The tribe also operates a museum with artifacts, photos and displays of the Cochise era. The Mescalero view of the Indian wars, needless to say, in no way resembles that of a John Wayne movie. There is also a stadium where powwows and other traditional ceremonies open to the public are held.

The ski resort is only one of a number of successful Mescalero-run businesses that in the last 30 years have lifted the tribe from poverty to prosperity. Some 2,500 Apaches live on the 400,000-acre reservation, and virtually all the adults are employed

- and in the kind of work traditional for Apaches.

Like Cochise and Geronimo, their grandsons and great-grandsons prefer dangerous outdoor work to the relatively easy indoor kind. They like heavy lifting and hard riding. Virtually all the workers in the tribe's ranching and timbering operations, the cowboys and lumberjacks, are Mescaleros. For the really fun jobs - such as driving large grooming machines down steep ski trails at night during snowstorms - there is usually a long waiting list.

Ecotourism certainly represents a real threat to some fragile tribal peoples. But I wouldn't worry much about the Mescalero Apaches.



PHOTO / AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

Traditional bark painting is done with careful attention to detail.

DESTINATION GUIDE

MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS

DENVER, CO
MONTHLY \$0,279

NOVEMBER 1993

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AUSTRALIA



0675
BY JAMES TRANSUE

Nobody ever accused Australians of not knowing how to throw a party.

At 1:30 a.m. on Sept. 24, the grand ballroom of The Regent in Sydney opened its doors disguised as a French Riviera casino, complete with entertainment, food and drinks, but without baccarat and other gaming diversions.

The hotel and its guests, however, were gambling on something bigger than the next spin of a roulette wheel. At 4:20 a.m., the International Olympic Committee meeting in Monaco — hence the party's Riviera casino theme — was scheduled to announce its choice for the site of the games of the

XXVII Olympiad, which will be held in 2000. The short list for the event was Beijing, Berlin, Istanbul, Manchester and Sydney.

The Sydney revelers were not denied their champagne toast. As everyone no doubt knows already, their city was chosen to host the 2000 Olympics — a piece of news that has put the entire Australian hospitality community into a celebratory mood. Bill Baker, regional director of the Americas for the Australian Tourist Commission, says that Australia will seek to emphasize more than just the Games and will try to market the event in conjunction with tours throughout the country.

Getting Americans to

Ayers Rock, one of the nation's most enduring symbols, has been scaled in as little as 12 minutes.

WHAT'S NEW

■ A major luxury hotel, the ANA Hotel Sydney, recently opened with 573 rooms — all overlooking Sydney Harbour — and extensive meeting facilities. The property adjoins Sydney's famed historic district, The Rocks. Also recently opened in The Rocks area is the Observatory Hotel, with 75 rooms, 11 junior suites, 12 executive suites and one presidential suite. The hotel, which has conference facilities, is one of the 12 members of the luxury Orient-Express group.

■ A new convention center is to open next to Brisbane's historic Treasury Building in March 1995. A casino is being built inside the Treasury Building itself. Both are part of the South Bank Redevelopment project in the center of the city.

■ The 8-year-old Sheraton Brisbane Hotel & Towers has completed a large-scale refurbishing, including considerable reworking of the grand ballroom and surrounding meeting rooms.

■ A new international terminal at Brisbane's airport is expected to open in January 1996.

■ A convention center is being built in Cairns in northern Queensland, the major gateway to the northern half of the Great Barrier Reef, and is scheduled to open in about two years.



I WAS THERE

"The Sydney Opera House gets all the attention, but I found the most beautiful and progressive performing arts center anywhere in Melbourne."

CANDICE BURROUGHS
PRESIDENT
KUSTOM INCENTIVE CONCEPTS
SAN JUAN, CALIF.

see more of Australia has been a long-standing ATC priority. At present, few U.S. meeting and incentive groups venture much beyond Sydney and the Great Barrier Reef. There is, however, a growing interest among some more highly sophisticated incentive winners to see the spectacular scenery of the Australian Outback and learn more about the culture and lifestyle of the nation's aborigines.

Meanwhile, competition has lowered international air fares in the South Pacific and domestic air fares within Australia. This makes Australia competitive with Europe, since the U.S. dollar has strengthened against the Australian dollar, but not against European currencies.

But Australia is more than just another bargain destination. "There is great pent-up demand for Australia, particularly among incentive winners, who may have already done Europe, Hawaii, perhaps even Asia," says John Broughan, president of Universal Meetings and Incentives in Alexandria, Va. "It is one of the last frontiers."

NEW SOUTH WALES

The southeastern state of New South Wales is home to Sydney, population 3.5 million, the country's largest and most international city. "I have been visiting Sydney off and on for 20 years," says Broughan, "and it has been not only growing but getting better and better. You notice something about its people. They like living there and they like their lifestyle. They know they are lucky."

Sydney has a wealth of attractions and places to convene. The famed Opera House has some 90 rooms ranging from small meeting or recital halls to the 2,700-seat concert hall. With its billowing, sail-like roof, the building has joined the koala, the kangaroo and the 70-year-old Sydney Harbour Bridge, the world's largest single-span bridge, as symbols of the nation.

The symbol of Australia during its first half century of European colonization would probably be the convict, not a cultural institution. In 1788, the first colonial governor, Capt. Arthur Philip, landed at Sydney Cove with 1,000 convicts from Britain. The western promontory of the cove is known by the name given it by the convicts, The Rocks, and today the area is an irresistible mix of antique stores, shops, galleries and restaurants.

Within walking distance is Darling Harbour, which has become one of the world's great urban places, a melange of restaurants, museums, shops and other attractions. Darling Harbour also includes Sydney's major meeting facility, the Darling Harbour Convention Centre and Exhibition Centre complex, directly on the waterfront. The convention center, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, accommodates 3,500.

Sydney boasts one of the world's largest harbors, with about 180 miles of shoreline. Harbor cruises — with or without breakfast, lunch or dinner — are a popular group activity, and such vessels as catamarans, tall ships and even America's Cup challengers are available to groups. The city has miles of beautiful beaches (several a surprisingly short trip from downtown), as well as an ample supply of golf courses, tennis courts and parks.

The city's hotel plant ranks with the best in the world, and over the past year, available rooms increased by nearly 18 percent, continuing an expansion that began in the early 1980s. This expansion is driven largely by the city's increasing popularity as a convention and incentive destination. There are now 70 four- and five-star properties in the Sydney area.

Beyond Sydney are the Blue Mountains, a land of caves, waterfalls, gorges and remarkable rock formations. The scenery can be admired from two unusual vantage points — the Scenic Skyway gondola suspended on a cable high over Jamieson Valley, and the Scenic Railway, one of the steepest rail inclines in the world.

THE CAPITAL TERRITORY

When Australia achieved nationhood in 1901, both Sydney and Melbourne fiercely wanted to be declared the capital. The rivalry was so intense that it was decided to create the planned city of Canberra as a compromise. Located about 150 miles southwest of Sydney and 300 miles northeast of Melbourne, Canberra is essentially a company town, with the government as the company. The striking Parliament Building, which contains art from around Australia,

WEATHER REPORT

SYDNEY

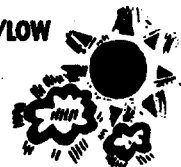
AVERAGE DAILY HIGH/LOW

JAN.: 78/65

APR.: 73/55

JULY: 59/45

OCT.: 72/52



MELBOURNE

AVERAGE DAILY HIGH/LOW

JAN.: 78/57

APR.: 68/51

JULY: 56/42

OCT.: 67/49

CAIRNS AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

AVERAGE DAILY HIGH/LOW

JAN.: 89/74

APR.: 84/71

JULY: 77/62

OCT.: 85/69

FYI

AUSTRALIA

FLIGHT TIMES: 14 hours from Los Angeles to Sydney, 21 hours from New York to Sydney.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: Passport and visitor's visa.

LANGUAGE: English, with a few dozen terms of Australian origin.

CURRENCY: The Australian dollar. As of Oct. 1, \$1 U.S. was worth \$1.55 Australian.

ELECTRICITY: 240/250 volts, AC 50 Hz. The Australian three-pin outlet is different from those in some countries, so visitors will need an adaptor socket. They also will need a voltage converter if their appliances are 110V but have no 110/240V switch.

Leading hotels usually have universal outlets for 240V or 110V shavers.

INFORMATION:

Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars #1200

Los Angeles, Calif. 90067 (310) 552-1988

Fax: (310) 552-1215

Offices also in New York, Chicago and Toronto

Circle #174 on Free Information Card

was dedicated in 1988. Other notable attractions in this city of handsome buildings include the National Science and Technology Centre with its hands-on exhibits, and the Australian War Memorial and Museum.

The city is popular with government and scientific conferences and offers many grand venues for meetings, the largest of which is the National Exhibition Centre.

VICTORIA

Just south of New South Wales, Victoria hugs the southeastern corner of the Australian continent. Its principal city, Melbourne, is Australia's second-largest, with a population of just under 3 million. A center of fashion, music, film and all-around elegance, Melbourne is the most European of Australian cities.

But beneath its graceful facade, Melbourne has a passionate attachment to two of life's earthier pleasures: sport and food. The city is the

birthplace of Australian Rules Football, a form of burly mayhem in which two 18-player teams attempt to throw, dribble and kick a 19-inch-long oval football down a 550-foot field. Melbourne is also home to the Melbourne Cup, a three-minute horse race that brings this busy city to a halt the first Tuesday of November.

Melbourne's lively restaurant scene is largely a product of the city's having welcomed a wide range of immigrants since 1945, first southern Europeans, and more recently southern Asians. So now, in addition to traditional French haute cuisine and superb Australian seafood, cuisines such as Chinese, Greek, Indian, Indonesian, Italian, Malaysian, Middle Eastern, Thai and Vietnamese are widely available.

Melbourne's principal meeting facility is the World Congress Centre, part of the World Trade Centre. Opened in 1990, it has nearly 100,000 square feet of exhibit space, with 58,000 square feet in the largest hall. It is linked to the deluxe, 385-room Eden on the Yarra.

The Victorian-era town of Ballarat, about 70 miles northwest of Melbourne, is the site of Australia's most famous gold rush. The circa-1850s lifestyle is preserved here at Sovereign Hill, a 23-year-old living history park modeled after Virginia's Colonial Williamsburg. Theme parties and other group events can be staged here.

TASMANIA

This island, located some 200 miles south of Victoria, is a lovely combination of English countryside and Australian wilderness. Hobart, a city of about 130,000, is an easygoing place with notable Georgian buildings and the largest harbor in Australia after Sydney.

The city is a good staging point for groups that want to explore either the island's spectacular landscape (and its world-class trout fishing) or the scenes of some of the darkest episodes in Australian history. Port Arthur, 62 miles southeast of Hobart, is the site of an infamous penal colony, founded in 1830. Many of the original buildings have been preserved or restored.

FYI

SYDNEY (NEW SOUTH WALES)

CONVENTION CENTER: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, with 250,000 square feet of exhibit space.

AIRPORT: Kingsford Smith International, 15 minutes from downtown.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO DOWNTOWN: By taxi, \$A20.

MELBOURNE (VICTORIA)

CONVENTION CENTER: World Congress Centre, with 72,000 square feet of exhibit space.

AIRPORT: Melbourne Airport, 35 minutes from downtown.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO DOWNTOWN: By taxi, \$A24.

ADELAIDE (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

CONVENTION CENTER: Adelaide Convention Centre, with 32,280 square feet of exhibit space.

AIRPORT: Adelaide Airport, 25 minutes from downtown.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO DOWNTOWN: By taxi, \$A12.

PERTH (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)

CONVENTION CENTER: None

AIRPORT: Perth Airport, 30 minutes from downtown.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO DOWNTOWN: By taxi, \$A18.

BRISBANE (QUEENSLAND)

CONVENTION CENTER: None

AIRPORT: Brisbane Airport, 25 minutes from downtown.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO DOWNTOWN: By taxi, \$A17.

CAIRNS (QUEENSLAND)

CONVENTION CENTER: None

AIRPORT: Cairns Airport, 15 minutes from downtown.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO DOWNTOWN: By taxi, \$A10.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia, due west of Victoria, is home to the charming city of Adelaide and Australia's principal wine regions.

Adelaide, with a population of 1 million, is known as Festival City, and one of the world's great performing and fine arts festivals is the Adelaide Arts Festival, held in March of even-numbered years. Much of the festival takes place at the Adelaide Festival Centre, located on the banks of the Torrens River. The building — available for groups when it is not featuring performing artists — is part of a complex that also contains the Adelaide Convention Centre and a charming casino, which occupies the building that formerly held the city's train station.

In odd-numbered years, Australia's most celebrated wine region, the Barossa Valley, hosts an autumn Vintage Festival. The valley is located 55 miles north of Adelaide.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Australia's largest state is four times the size of Texas and occupies the entire western third of the continent. Most of its 1.5 million residents live in the capital, Perth, and in nearby Fremantle, a picturesque and historic port that was refurbished to host Australia's unsuccessful 1987 defense of its America's Cup trophy. Australia's west coast may be harder for Americans to reach, but the price of a luxury hotel room is about half that on the nation's east coast.

"In Perth, I felt I was back in Southern California in 1975," says Candice Burroughs, president of Kustom Incentive Concepts in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. "The coloring, the topography, all remind me of that, though Perth just has hills, not mountains."

Perth has several resorts which have opened in recent years and are destinations in themselves. Prominent among them is the 417-room Burswood Island Resort, part of a complex that includes a 21,680-seat indoor sports stadium, a convention center and a casino.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory is a state of spectacular national parks. Darwin, on the north coast, is the capital and largest city with a population of about 75,000. It serves as the northern gateway for the region's attractions. Kakadu National Park is Crocodile Dundee country. Located 120 miles east of Darwin, the 7,500-square-mile park contains rain forests, waterfalls, rock formations, exotic wildlife and a great collection of aboriginal rock paintings.

The state's most famous attraction is Ayers Rock, a red monolith six miles in circumference that rises 1,000 feet from the desert floor. Also

for those who can tear themselves away from the seashore, the interior landscape is no less spectacular, with its rain forests, mountains and deserts.

Brisbane, Queensland's capital, is the fastest-growing city in Australia. A decade ago the city was thought of as an overgrown boondock. Now there's a dramatic cluster of tall buildings in its center, and the once-neglected riverfront gleams with restaurants, shops and museums. The city demonstrated to just about everyone's satisfaction that it had come of age with the staging of World Expo '88.

And it's not done yet. A new convention center, airport development and casino are in the works; the convention center is to open in March 1995 and the airport extension in January 1996. The Brisbane airport already has a modern domestic terminal; a new international terminal is to be built nearby.

About an hour's drive south of Brisbane is the Gold Coast, a glittering resort area with miles of beaches, luxury hotels, restaurants, nightspots, marinas, golf courses, theme parks, a flourishing movie-making industry and some of the best shopping in Australia. The Gold Coast is also home to Australia's largest hotel-meeting facility, the Hotel Conrad, which also has one of the country's largest casinos, Jupiter's.

Queensland's most famous feature, of course, is the Great Barrier Reef, which extends for about 1,240 miles along the coast and beyond, almost to Papua New Guinea. Between the coast and the reef are several noncoral islands that have well-developed resorts. Some have excellent conference facilities, including those at Brampton, Dunk, Hamilton and Hayman islands.

In northern Queensland, sandwiched between the Great Barrier Reef and exotic wilderness regions, is Cairns, a major gateway to the reef. A license for a new casino in Cairns was issued in June, and Queensland will have the licensee and its financiers fund construction of a convention center, which is scheduled to open in 1995. ■

By the end of 1995, convention centers are scheduled to open in both Brisbane and Cairns.

known by its aboriginal name, Uluru, it has many caves containing examples of aboriginal rock paintings. Uluru National Park also includes the \$20 million US Yulara Resort, 12 miles from the rock, a self-contained resort with a Sheraton, a Four Seasons and a campground.

Alice Springs, about a five-hour drive or 45-minute flight from Ayers Rock, is a compact frontier town in the heart of Australia's red desert. Attractions include stations of both the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air, the Pitchi Richi bird sanctuary and Emily Gap Camel Farm. Alice Springs' meeting venues include the Sheraton Alice Springs Hotel, the Yulara Resort Auditorium and the Araluen Centre, which has an art gallery featuring aboriginal art.

QUEENSLAND

Located in the northeastern part of the country, Queensland is the nation's second-largest state. With its miles of superb beaches, the area around Brisbane is Australia's playground. Farther north is the Great Barrier Reef, the natural feature that attracts many American groups. And

MARKETPLACE

Gaining Momentum

6625

South Pacific nations look to the future as they improve on the past

Tourism interests throughout the South Pacific are looking toward the future with an extra dose of optimism following the announcement earlier this fall that Sydney will host the Olympics in the year 2000.

"This creates a very good environment, not only for Australia but for all the South Pacific," said Bill Baker, regional director of the Americas for the Australian Tourist Commission in Los Angeles. "We are going to go through another one of those hot periods."

New Zealand also is looking forward to the year 2000, as its small town of Gisborne is one of the first places the sun's rays will strike the earth in the new millenium. Already an organization is working to generate interest in traveling to the South Pacific nation to witness the first dawn of 2000.

But optimism among players in the South Pacific's tourism industry is hardly reserved for events still seven years away. Throughout the region, arrivals from the U.S. were up in the first half of 1993 over 1992, rising 5.9% to Australia, 9.4% to New Zealand, 11% to French Polynesia (Tahiti) and 14.4% to Fiji (January through April).

Neighboring Papua New Guinea also is enjoying increased business from North America, judging by returns for Air Niugini, the country's national airline. By early fall, the carrier's 1993 revenues from North America were up 18.5% over the previous year, according to Kerry A. Byrd, regional manager, the Americas,

who noted that the airline has not raised fares in three years.

For the South Pacific, such numbers signal a much-needed change in fortune. "We turned the destination around in 1992 for the first time in five years," said Al Keahi, managing director of the Tahiti Tourism Board in El Segundo, Calif. "And 1993 seems to be doing very well."

trend for these South Pacific destinations. Not the least of them are favorable currency exchange rates and low air fares, both vital factors in the region's drive to reach a greater number of U.S. travelers.

"The challenge in the U.S. market remains poor perception of issues like distance and the cost of the Australian experience," the ATC's Baker said.

also big value for money in terms of the standards in New Zealand," she said.

Travelers' concerns about costliness have long been a thorn in the side of Tahiti's tourism promoters. "There is this feeling that Tahiti's expensive," said Keahi. "I think the reason for that is that we don't have any fast-food restaurants. It is very European there, and

the lunches are the biggest meals, so you see expensive prices for lunches."

But Keahi is quick to point out that food prices have come down, thanks in part to reductions in import tariffs. And the cost of a meal is further reduced because tipping is not the custom in Tahiti. "You can get a bottle of beer for \$3 at a resort and a mai tai for \$4. And we do have meal plans with tour operators that give them affordability. People are beginning to see that Tahiti is good value," he said.

Moreover, Keahi noted, the price of air transportation to French Polynesia has stayed relatively low. "Fares are still at \$696 off the West Coast."

For Fiji, competitive air fares also have been a boon, according to Sitiveni Yaqona, U.S. regional director for the Fiji Visitors Board in Los Angeles. He cited air fares as one of several factors that pushed U.S. visitor arrivals past the 40,000 mark in 1993, a considerable increase over the 34,802 who visited Fiji in 1992. Yaqona also noted an increase in the number of tour operators who include Fiji in their programs and the "growing awareness by potential travelers of the desirability of using Fiji as an excellent



The 12 Apostles, a natural rock formation in Victoria, Australia.

For New Zealand too, the numbers represent a positive reversal after a five-year drop. "U.S. visitors to New Zealand definitely had been on a decline. That's why we're so excited about the change," said Kathy Ward, vice president for the Americas for the New Zealand Tourism Board in Santa Monica, Calif.

More for the Money

A variety of forces have come together to fuel the positive

"But there's product for under \$1,000, including air and accommodations. Plus, in Australia, every time an American puts down one U.S. dollar, he picks up one-and-a-half Australian dollars."

New Zealand's "value for money" finally is being recognized by the U.S. market, according to Ward. "Value is a difficult thing to communicate. You get two New Zealand dollars for one U.S. dollar, but it's difficult to know what that means until you get there. Dinner might be four courses for four people; it costs \$60, and the quality of the food and wine is excellent. It would be double that in the U.S. Hotel prices are

stopover destination on their way to or from Australia and New Zealand."

Even with the help of reasonable air fares and the growth of tour operator programs, the South Pacific nations face the ongoing challenge of communicating the message that they are not as far away as they seem. "Flying from the West Coast of the U.S. to Sydney is very often quicker than to many places in western Europe," Baker said. "People from the West Coast would think nothing of going to Paris for five days. It is the same flying time to Sydney. That is part of the transition that we need to make."

Spreading the Word

Of all the South Pacific nations, Australia has the most ample means to broadcast its message. The Australian Tourist Commission spends \$15.6 million annually on its U.S. marketing effort. Baker said his office will be using that money to reach new segments of the market.

"What we are seeing is new kinds of people starting to experience Australia, people who go down and only go to one or two locations. While there is a market for the grand tour of Australia, that is only one part of the market. We will be mov-



Overwater bungalows at The Bora Bora Lagoon Resort in Tahiti.

ing more and more to capture the market that may only have two weeks," he said. Those travelers are younger than the country's traditional U.S. market.

"The Olympic Games help us move toward more niche marketing and special interests," Baker added. "We're looking to develop the cruise market, honeymoons, meetings and incentives." As for reaching travelers with special interests, he said, "some spe-

cial interests, from hot-air ballooning, to golf or cooking, must be promoted differently from the generic Australian product. Special interests react to different communication messages. We see ourselves making greater use of that new kind of product."

For its part, New Zealand already is working hard to reach such specialized markets, said Ward, who credits 18 months of joint efforts between

the tourism board and wholesalers for recent growth in New Zealand arrivals. "We've got more marketing available, including programs with a number of wholesalers that are very carefully targeted to special market segments, such as skiing, golfing and trekking, as well as broader markets, such as motorcoach, FTIs and fly-drives.

"We've got an awful lot of product out there contributing to the growth in arrivals," Ward said. "What we're trying

to do in the next 12 months is to say, 'How can we strategically use the joint venture fund to sustain the growth over a longer period of time?'"

One way New Zealand hopes to do that is by cultivating repeat visits. "As a destination, we're extremely fortunate that travelers to New Zealand have a positive response almost 100% of the time. And about 40% of our business is based on positive referrals that people have given to friends and relatives," Ward said. "We're going to launch a return visitor promotional campaign. There's definitely a market out there for repeat travel, but we have not capitalized on it yet."

Australia already enjoys a high incidence of repeat traffic, about 30%, according to Baker. "When they go there, people realize there is such incredible depth to this country that it's not just a once-in-a-lifetime trip. Australia is a vacation destination that people can go to time and again."

A Different Challenge

For the smaller and less-visited South Pacific nations of French Polynesia and Fiji, the challenges of reaching the U.S. market are somewhat different.

In Tahiti, for example, after
Continued on Page 13

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Australia

The Australian Tourist Commission now maintains two offices in North America. In California: 2121 Ave. of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles 90067, (310) 552-1988; fax: (310) 552-1215. In New York: 489 Fifth Ave., 31st Floor, New York 10017; (212) 687-6300; fax: (212) 661-3340. The Australian Tourist Commission's travel agents' helpline is (800) 433-AUSSIE. The ATC's travel agents' manual can be obtained by calling (800) 888-3002.

The following Australian states and territories maintain U.S. offices or have representatives in the U.S.

New South Wales Tourism Commission: (310) 552-9566; fax: (310) 277-2263.

Northern Territory Tourist Commission (c/o Myriad Communications): (310) 645-9875; fax: (310) 645-9876.

Queensland Tourist & Travel Corp.: (310) 788-0997; fax: (310) 788-0128.

Tourism South Australia (c/o Australian Travel Headquarters): (714) 852-2270; fax: (714) 852-2277.

New Zealand

New Zealand Tourism Board: 501 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 300, Santa Monica, Calif. 90401; (310) 395-7480, (800) 388-

5494; fax: (310) 395-5453. In Canada, 888 Dunsmuir St., Suite 1200, Vancouver V6C3K4, (604) 684-2117, (800) 888-5494; fax: (604) 684-1265.

Tahiti/French Polynesia

Tahiti Tourism Board: 300 N. Continental Blvd., Suite 180, El Segundo, Calif. 90245; (310) 414-8484; fax: (310) 414-8490.

Fiji

Fiji Visitors Bureau: 5777 West Century Blvd., Suite 220, Los Angeles 90045; (310) 568-1616, (800) YEA-FIJI/932-3454; fax: (310) 670-2318.

Papua New Guinea

Air Niugini (National Tourist Office): 5000 Birch St., Suite 3000, Newport Beach, Calif. 92660; (714) 752-5440; fax: (714) 476-3741.

The Cook Islands

Cook Islands Tourist Authority: 6033 W. Century Blvd., Suite 690, Los Angeles 90045; (310) 216-2872, (800) 624-6250; fax: (310) 216-2868. ■

Momentum

Continued from Page 5

research indicated that its U.S. visitors desire travel experiences that differ significantly from the familiar comforts of home, the Tahiti Tourism Board decided to focus its efforts on five primary markets: general leisure, incentive, bareboat yachts and cruises, scuba diving and honeymooners, Keahi said.

He added, "We're trying to position clients before they go over not to expect this huge glitter of brass and glass. We know what we can provide and what we can't. We're not a Waikiki. We're not a Mexico. We are 'Islands Beyond the Ordinary,'" he said, quoting Tahiti's marketing slogan.

At the same time, Tahiti is upgrading its offering. "We still have a lot of work to do back home. We're working on the infrastructure, and the hotels have spent a tremendous amount of money upgrading. We're educating the children about tourism. We're keeping the area clean. People are beginning to focus on the fact that tourism is important," Keahi said.

At the Fiji Visitors Bureau, Yaqona said the nation's U.S. marketing plans will focus in part on the honeymoon market in 1994. "We will be extolling the beauty, charm and romance of our islands as not only a honeymoon but also as a wedding destination. Our message will be carried in at least two bridal publications in 1994."

While Fiji also continues to capitalize on its growing presence in the dive market, the nation's tourism interests are gearing up to go after another growth market. "Ecotourism is a market that we have been studying and could provide another growth area in the mid-term," Yaqona said. "Much planning and organization has to be conducted in Fiji to prepare the necessary infrastructure for this market, but we have a wealth of natural assets."

The greatest challenge is ensuring that airline capacity keeps pace with visitor growth, particularly at a time when the

carriers serving the islands from the U.S. may have other scheduling and capacity priorities, Yaqona said.

A Unique Destination

Like Fiji, Papua New Guinea has benefited from increased awareness in the dive market of the country's spectacular underwater sights. "We're listed among the top diving destinations in the world, equal to the Red Sea and Micronesia," said Byrd of Air Niugini. He cited the diversity of dive sites, noting the presence of some 500 World War II wrecks off

shore and an abundance of colorful marine life.

Even without such attractions, Papua New Guinea holds a singular position in the market, thanks to its distinctive offering. "It's the most unusual and unique destination left in the world," Byrd said. "People are looking for something environmentally protected. They're looking for something where there's culture. They're looking for the real thing."

For travel agents, Papua New Guinea has become easier to book, according to Byrd. "Now we have through fares, so when

people pull them up on the computer it's much easier. We have fares with Delta and Cathay Pacific through Hong Kong, fares with Qantas through Cairns and with Northwest through Sydney. That makes it so much easier to sell."

Although "We're the first to admit Papua New Guinea is an expensive destination, mainly because of the infrastructure," Byrd said, most travelers find it well worth the price. "We don't get complaints, when they come back," Byrd said. "It's an expeditionary-type infrastructure, but it's five-star." ■

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AGENT PROGRAMS

In Training

Destinations offer product education

South Pacific tourism promoters are highlighting the importance of helping travel agents to provide their customers with accurate, up-to-date and detailed assistance.

A number of South Pacific destinations are now bending over backwards to educate the trade on their products, hoping to create partnerships with agents that will help tourism offices convert inquiries to sales.

Leading the way is Australia, which introduced its Aussie Specialist program, an agent education and certification plan, in 1992. Retailers who purchase an Aussie Specialist Training Kit for \$24.95 are provided with a self-training video course, a reference manual, a consumer video and a quiz. Agents who correctly answer 90% of the questions on the quiz become Aussie Specialists, entitling them to receive marketing assistance, including regular updates on products and destinations, marketing tips, invitations to special events and, most importantly, consumer referrals.

As of July, about 1,200 agents had completed the program, far exceeding expectations. The Australian Tourist Commission now is looking to refine the program. "Simply because someone has a designation as an Aussie Specialist doesn't mean they have it forever," explained Bill Baker, the ATC's regional director for the Americas. "We'll be putting in place performance and other criteria and setting up an advisory board. We wish to develop business partnerships and to help agents become a very important part of our distribution system."

Open to all U.S. travel agents is the ATC's agents-only helpline — (800) 433-AUSSIE — which is staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time. In Janu-



A resident of Pitcairn Island poses by mutineer John Adams' grave.

ary 1993, the ATC also began issuing a Travel Agents Manual to complement its consumer guide, "Destination Australia." The agent manual, updated annually, is available by calling (800) 888-3002.

Not far behind Australia is the New Zealand Tourism Board, which is developing its own agent program. "We find we have a tremendous number of consumers who call us for information but have not made reservations yet," said Kathy Ward, vice president, the Americas, for the board. "We're not in a position to convert that interest into a sale. Travel agents are an important link in the conversion process, and New Zealand is a good vacation opportunity for them to sell. We want to make it easier for them."

New Zealand expects to introduce their agent program by

early spring. "We're working on a strategy with the trade to develop a selected group of agents who are extremely well-trained on New Zealand so we can refer consumers to them," Ward said.

Another initiative that Ward said will help agents booking clients to New Zealand is a hotel classification and grading system that should be in place by November 1994. "If a travel agent isn't completely familiar with a destination, they need to have some reference point so they can recommend accommodations," Ward said.

At the Tahiti Tourism Board, managing director Al Keahi said that though his organization is not prepared yet to designate agents as Tahiti specialists. "We are working hard to get our travel agents better educated. We are coming up with workshops and other programs that people can attend. The key is that we want to begin to send these agents the names of people who are interested in going to Tahiti so we can work together to convert that sale. We want agents to feel comfortable so they can book Tahiti."

To that end, the tourism board offered agent workshops in five West Coast locations this fall. Additional programs are planned for the East Coast in early 1994, according to Keahi.

Fiji also plans to introduce an agent education program, probably by February or March of 1994, according to Sitiveni Yaqona, U.S. regional director for the Fiji Visitors Bureau. "We will be launching our own Fiji Specialist kit, which will offer in-depth training for targeted retail agents on the Fiji product and how to sell it successfully in the U.S.," Yaqona said. "The kit is similar to the ATC kit, with videos and a detailed booklet on the destination and how it could be promoted and sold."

The Fiji Visitors Bureau also will continue to offer its Fiji Showcase seminars to travel agents. The bureau has reached 1,600 agents nationwide since it began the presentations in 1991. Next year, it will offer the semi-

nars only in California, given the high proportion of its North American visitors who come from that state. The seminars include an overview of Fiji by the visitors bureau and presentations by Fijian hotels, tour operators and the region's three major airlines, Qantas, Air New Zealand and Air Pacific.

Agents who contact the Fiji Visitors Bureau for information will receive its travel guide, a consumer fact sheet and posters. Videos are available for \$6.95 and hotel brochures are available on request. The bureau also has created a data base, available on computer diskette, with complete information on the country.

For agents with clients interested in traveling to Papua New Guinea, Air Niugini is the main source of information. The carrier, which serves as the national tourism office for Papua New Guinea in North America, offers a number of resources to agents. New this year is a tour book for retailers, available free, listing all of the country's destinations. It includes complete information on lodges, cruises, dive operations, surfing and adventure packages.

A video on the country, available in English and Spanish, is \$10. Other sales aids include posters, shell folders, maps, a general information book and diving brochures.

One resource for agents that covers not only the region's main destinations but several smaller ones, including the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia, is the two-year-old South Pacific Promotion Group. Made up of many of the area's national tourism offices and airlines, the promotion group is planning agent training sessions for 1994.

"We're trying to use the organization as an educational facility, providing collateral materials, product information and seminars for travel agents so they can be as familiar with the South Pacific as they are with Europe or the Caribbean," said Ward, who also is deputy chairman of the group. ■

PRODUCT NEWS

What's New

6975

Attractions and facilities update

A great deal of tourism-related activity has taken place in the South Pacific this past year. Among the new and improved attractions and infrastructure are the following, listed by country.

Australia

• Orient-Express Hotels opened the deluxe 100-room Observatory Hotel in Sydney's Rocks district in February. Designed and furnished in the style of a 1900s Australian country home, the property has two restaurants, a health and fitness facility with steam room,

float tank and sauna, CD players in all guest rooms and fax machines in each of its 22 suites. Opening at the end of a hotel building boom in Sydney, it is expected to be the last first class hotel to open in the city this century.

• In 1992, the following hotels opened in Sydney: the 573-room ANA Hotel Sydney; the 149-room Quay West Sydney; the 241-room Sydney Marriott; the 560-room Park Lane Sydney; the 318-room Sheraton Sydney Airport Hotel, and the 266-room Metro Inn Hotel.

• Elsewhere, properties that opened in 1992 included the 384-room Centra Melbourne

Hotel; the 388-room Sheraton Towers Southgate Melbourne; the 323-room Novotel Melbourne on Collins; the 83-room Perth Townhouse Travelodge; the 330-room Marriott Surfers Paradise Resort (Queensland); the 250-room Club Med Lindeman Island; the 202-unit Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village (Fraser Island), and the 102-unit Laguna Quays Resort.

• A number of airport improvements are in the works, including a major upgrade and expansion of international terminal facilities at the Tullamarine airport in Melbourne, construction of an additional runway at the Sydney airport by 1995 and a new international terminal at Brisbane's airport by early 1995.

A new airport slated to open in 1994, southwest of Sydney at Badgery's Creek, is scheduled to be developed into Sydney's second largest domestic/inter-

national airport by 2010. Major expansions and improvements at Sydney airport's international terminal were completed in December 1992.

• Interest in tourism that focuses on aboriginal people and culture is on the rise, according to the Australian Tourist Commission and U.S. tour operators. There are now more than 50 Australian-based tours that explore the country's many aboriginal tribes; 20 of the programs are privately owned and operated by aborigines.

Fiji

• The 30-villa Sheraton Vomo Resort was scheduled to open on Oct. 30 on Vomo Island, off the northwest coast of Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. The deluxe oceanfront property is located on 225 acres and includes several restaurants and bars. A daily activities program is provided, and there are facili-

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BURRELLE'S

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Tread softly through the global village

By Laura Bly

Universal Press Syndicate

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.

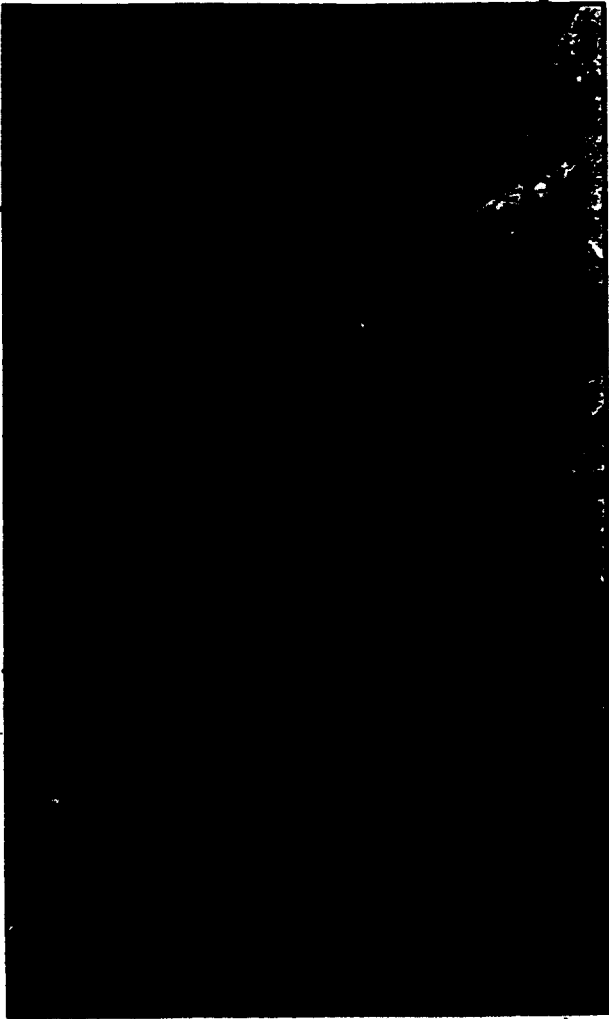
"So, right in the middle of the dance, two busloads of tourists got up and walked out," recalled Burchett, director of cultural affairs for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission in Darwin.

"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," said



Tour leader Bill Harney stands in front of an aboriginal rock painting in Australia.
— Laura Bly/Universal Press Syndicate

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 added. "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:

(See TOURISTS, Page E-4)

Tourists should respect pride, privacy of native culture

(From Page E-1)

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 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.

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.

"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 actions. Many native cultures request visitors not to take photographs or make sketches of sacred sites or celebrations — a request that, in some cases, might 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.' You shouldn't expect your hosts to look as though they stepped out of the pages of a *Lattered National Geographic* — and if they do, recognize what the exchange is meant to achieve.

Collins, of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, cited 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 said. "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 added.

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, said director Virginia Hadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism, to journey as unobtrusively and unobtrusively as possible.

Getting to Capitrona 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. (If the water is high enough, the return trip is via canoe.)

But the handful of hardy travelers who make the journey to this remote Ecuadorian village come away with more than sore feet and local knowledge about the flora and fauna of the Amazon rain forest.

They're part of a new experiment in cultural exchange and survival.

Capitrona, a village of 24 Quichua Indian families in Ecuador's Napo province, has created one of the world's few indigenously owned and operated tourism programs. Conceived three years ago as an alternative to oil, lumber and mining interests that have exploited the region, the low-key project has attracted the attention of other Amazonian tribes — and prompted cautious optimism among its Quichua hosts.

Though not every traveler has the ability or inclination to visit Capitrona, interest in native cultures is booming — and a growing number of mainstream travel companies and tourist offices are capitalizing on the trend.

In Alaska, representatives of the state's four largest native cultures — Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan Indian and Tlingit — formed an Alaska Native Tourism Council late last year to promote everything from three- or four-hour tours designed for cruise passengers to overnight stays in remote villages.

Australia's Northern Territory provides a "Come Share Our Culture" brochure emphasizing Aboriginal programs and tours. Several focus on the region's prolific rock paintings, which range from recent depictions of contact with outside societies to designs that experts estimate could be anywhere from 20,000 to 65,000 years old. (Information: 1-800-4-OUTBACK.)

Overseas Adventure Travel, a Cambridge, Mass.-based adventure-tour operator, this summer offers 11 Canadian itineraries that focus

on Inuit culture in a region that by the turn of the century will become part of a new Inuit-controlled territory called Nunavut.

In the American Southwest, major tour companies such as Globus-Gateway, Maupintour and Special Expeditions have launched new programs focusing on American Indians.

Here's a sampling of other sources that focus on indigenous cultures and tourism:

Center for Responsible Tourism: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Box 827, San Anselmo, CA 94978. This non-profit organization is dedicated to improving awareness about Third World tourism and the importance of responsible interaction with other cultures. The group publishes a *Code of Ethics for Responsible Travelers* and a quarterly newsletter.

Cultural Survival, 215 First St.,

Cambridge, MA 02142. This human rights organization, which specializes in native cultures, produces a quarterly magazine.

Handle With Care: A Guide to Responsible Travel in Developing Countries (Noble Press; \$8.95, by Scott Graham). Addresses sticky issues such as begging, haggling at markets and the ethics of traveling to countries with repressive governments.

Cheapest airline fares worth slight hassle of being free-lance courier

By LAURA BLY

Universal Press Syndicate

It was a phone call out of a footloose 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 with 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.

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 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 with a credit card but would have to post a security deposit of \$500 that

M
See COURIER/Page E13

COURIER

From Page E12 M

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 airport."

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.

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 carry-on 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.

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.

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 cutoffs, forget about being a courier. Most contracts specify that couriers maintain a "professional" appearance.

Many companies that use couriers require payment, well in advance, by cash, money order or cashier's check. And they might hold the return portion of the ticket at your destination, to ensure that you show up.

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, which supplies listings of courier flights.

"Most of the time it's hassle-free, but there's always that element of doubt," Lutz said.

My own trip, meanwhile, was nearly glitch-free. At one point during the Thursday-night leg from Los Angeles, 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.