

For Six Month Period Ending

Aug 31, 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

Ann Black

Vice President

Date Connection
Ended

7/15/94

Reef Madness

Hundreds of boats will take you out to dive or snorkel off the Great Barrier Reef, but our bet is Down Under Dives' year-old **Reeftrek**, a 34-meter, air-conditioned catamaran with sun deck, spa, lounge and luxury cabins for 48 passengers, complete with full-size bath and color TV. You move to a different reef site each day to keep the thrills fresh. Two-day outings start at \$320, five-day learn-to-dive courses at \$420. There's also a dive tie-in with Qantas' 10-day "Weekend-to-Weekend" package. Call your travel agent.



6675
AUSTRALIA: Qantas Vacations introduces Weekend to Weekend tours

Your clients with ten days vacation time can consider a full-fledged Australian holiday experience. Through 1994, Qantas Vacations is offering a new series of ten-day tours including round-trip air, hotels and the best of Australia's cities, natural attractions and exotic wildlife, priced from \$1,159 p.p.d.o.

The Weekend to Weekend itineraries are designed to provide travelers with a range of authentic Australian experiences and scenic diversity. They combine visits to Australia's favorite cities

with the charm and hospitality of a stay in the wine country or at a working sheep station; diving the marvels of the Great Barrier Reef with exploring the Daintree Rainforest; and experiencing Aboriginal culture and the Outback with four-wheel driving to Australia's remote tropical wetlands.

Weekend to Weekend tours include roundtrip economy class air transportation from Los Angeles to Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin or Cairns and all flights within Australia on Qantas Airways, Australia's award-winning na-

tional carrier. The itineraries also include all hotel accommodations, scheduled touring or a Hertz rental car for a portion of the trip, and some meals.

"The tours build in great value for first-time or repeat travelers to Australia," said J. Patrick Clark, *president of Qantas Vacations*.

Qantas offers add-on fares from major cities on the East Coast, Midwest, South and West, ranging from \$90 to \$330 roundtrip.

Itinerary selections include: Fly/Drive Australia to either Cairns, Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney, priced from \$1,159; Sydney and Wine Country Explorer to Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley wine country, priced from \$1,599; and Where the Rainforest Meets the Reef to Cairns for diving the Great Barrier Reef and exploring the beauties of the Daintree National Rainforest, priced from \$1,329.

Package prices will rise slightly beginning with departures in July. Single traveler rates are available and additional nights may be added to any of the packages. Tours may be combined with programs to other regions of Australia.

Qantas Vacations is operated by Jetabout, one of the world's largest tour operators. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Qantas Airways.

For more information, contact: QANTAS VACATIONS, 300 N Continental Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245; 310/322-6359, 800/523-5272; FAX 310/535-1057. □

ALAMEDA TIMES-STAR

JUNE 5, 1994

► The 1994-95 version of the Australian Tourist Commission's popular travel planner, Destination Australia, is available for free by calling (800) 333-0262.

ARGUS

JUNE 5, 1994

➤ The 1994-95 version of the Australian Tourist Commission's popular travel planner, Destination Australia, is available for free by calling (800) 333-0262.

The price of going Down Under is down

Daily News staff and wire services

Australia's tourmeisters face two big problems in attracting Americans: cost and distance. Sydney is a long way to go for a one-week vacation.

But Qantas has come up with an economical compromise: 10-day "weekend to weekend" tours priced from \$1,159, including economy air fare from Los Angeles, lodging, transfers, some meals and car rental or land tours. Among packages are "Fly/Drive Australia," "Sydney and Wine Country Explorer" and "Host Farm & B&B Getaway." For details, call Qantas Vacations at (800) 523-5272.

Italian connection: Through Oct. 31, Alitalia airlines has "Italy Loves You" touring and hotel packages. Some examples: "Roman

TRAVEL BARGAINS

Escapade," starting at \$295, includes five nights' lodging, breakfast, airport shuttle and sightseeing tour of Rome; and "Treasures of Sicily," a seven-night package from \$669. Air fare is not included. Phone: (800) 237-0517.

Ship-shape savings: The SSC Radisson Diamond has a discount of \$1,000 per person for Radisson Hotels guests in the United States and Canada who book a seven- or eight-night Mediterranean cruise within 30 days of check-in. The package is good through July 31 on sailings between Friday and Nov. 5.

Phone: (800) 333-3333.

Vermont lore: "Ride With Me to Smugglers' Notch" is a 90-minute audio cassette that you can play en route to the resort or other Vermont destinations to learn more about the Green Mountain State. Among the topics are Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys, where the rivers flow east, and which Vermont river flows west. Riders also get a chance to guess which famous actor skis at Smugglers'. For a free copy, call (800) 451-8752.

And speaking of Smugglers' Notch: Rum Runners' Hideaway is the name of the new 13-acre natural water playground for families at Smugglers' Notch. The hideaway opens this summer.

Eco-savings: Vacation Center Inc. of Monterey, Calif., has developed a number of "eco-sports" packages to the peninsula. A one-night package for two, priced at \$129 weekdays, \$159 on weekends, includes lodging, tickets to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and a choice of kayaking or an underwater trip in a semisubmersible submarine. A "Big Sur Prize" package includes horseback riding and a lecture at Ventana Wilderness Center (\$159 and \$189 for two). Other packages take participants hang gliding or race-car driving. Phone: (800) 466-6283.

DOINGS DOWN UNDER

Festivals the Australian way include the July 3 Darwin Beer Can Regatta, with races of boats made of beer cans. The fun at Darwin, Northern Territory, also will feature bottomless boats with crews jogging under the surf.

Then there's the Aug. 6-21 Whale Festival in Hervey Bay, Queensland, to watch mother whales bringing their newborn calves into calm waters of the bay before going on to the Antarctic.

Wildflower festivals in Western Australia go on from August to October.

For information call the Australian Tourist Commission at 1 (800) 333-0262.

Destined for Australia

3-275 ✓
The 1994-1995 version of the Australian Tourist Commission's popular travel planner, Destination Australia, is now available.

The complimentary 136-page, full-color magazine is a prospective traveler's guide to understanding where to go, what to do and how to get around Australia. New features in this year's edition are the "Traveler's Notebook" sections, a compen-



dium of recommendations on traveling in each state or territory in Australia; suggested itineraries for making the most of limited vacation time; and a series of photographic spreads of Australia's gateway cities and natural attractions.

With information ranging from hotels to campground, rail passes to car rentals, and restaurants to festivals, the guide gives a comprehensive look at the diversity of Australia travel options.

In addition, the planner includes details on year-round climate, travel tips, transportation, accommodations, cuisine, shopping and the necessary steps for obtaining a visa.

For more information about travel to Australia and a free copy of the 1994-1995 Destination Australia guide, contact your travel planner or call the Australian Tourist Commission toll-free at 800-333-0262.

SUNDAY REVIEW

JUNE 5, 1994

➤ The 1994-95 version of the Australian Tourist Commission's popular travel planner, Destination Australia, is available for free by calling (800) 333-0262.

TRI-VALLEY HERALD
JUNE 5, 1994

➤ The 1994-95 version of the Australian Tourist Commission's popular travel planner, Destination Australia, is available for free by calling (800) 333-0262.

JUNE 12, 1994

Traveling Down Under

Australia's tourmeisters face two big problems in attracting Americans: cost and distance. Sydney is a long way to go for a one-week vacation. But Qantas has come up with an economical compromise: 10-day "weekend to weekend" tours priced from \$1,159, including economy airfare from Los Angeles, lodging and transfers, and some meals and car rental or land tours. Among the packages are Fly/Drive Australia, Sydney and Wine Country Explorer and Host Farm & B&B Getaway. For details, call Qantas Vacations at 1-800-523-5272.

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Then there's the Aug. 6-21 Whale Festival in Hervey Bay, Queensland, to watch mother whales bringing their newborn calves into calm waters of the bay before going on to the Antarctic.

Wildflower festivals in Western Australia go on from August to October, a peak flowering period which fills this part of the country with color. The largest is the Kings Park Wildflower Festival in Perth, Sept. 23-Oct. 4.

For information call the Australian Tourist Commission at 1 (800) 333-0262.

TRAVELAGE EAST

JUNE 13, 1994

Agent Manual 6475

The second annual edition of the Australian Tourist Commission's "North American Travel Agent Manual" is available. The 128-page book includes a fold-out map, sample itineraries, sightseeing suggestions and a directory of 800 numbers for suppliers. Also featured are temperature and mileage charts, special events, accommodations, transportation and attractions. Contact 800-888-3002.

TRAVELAGE MID-AMERICA

JUNE 13, 1994

Agent Manual 6475

The second annual edition of the Australian Tourist Commission's "North American Travel Agent Manual" is available. The 128-page book includes a fold-out map, sample itineraries, sightseeing suggestions and a directory of 800 numbers for suppliers. Also featured are temperature and mileage charts, special events, accommodations, transportation and attractions. Contact 800-888-3002.

WASHINGTON SUNDAY TIME
JUNE 19, 1994

TO AUSTRALIA

Qantas Vacations is offering a new series of 10-day tours to Australia. The tours, which include round-trip air fare, hotels and the best of Australia's cities, natural attractions and exotic wildlife, are priced from \$1,159 per person, double occupancy. The rates are in effect throughout 1994.

These itineraries are designed to give travelers a range of authentic Australian experiences and scenic diversity. "The packages are a viable alternative to your clients' typical European summer vacation," says J. Patrick Clark Jr., president of Qantas Vacations.

For more information about Weekend to Weekend Australia, contact a travel agent or Qantas Vacations, 800/523-5272. ✓

TRAVELAGE WEST
JUNE 20, 1994

DOWN UNDER

The Australian Tourist Commission has published The Natural Holiday Guide, which highlights tours focusing on the continent's national parks, beaches, wildlife and aboriginal cultures. Also included is an extensive list of contacts for booking outdoor activities such as bushwalking, camel and horse treks, cycling, diving, fishing, rafting, skiing and other adventurous outings. Other resources in the guide include addresses for accommodations, attractions and marine activities. Contact 800-888-3175.

■

Options open up for heading Down Under

The Herald Traveler

A variety of new vacation packages and a favorable U.S.-Australian exchange rate make traveling to Australia this year viable for most travelers.

Qantas Vacations is offering a series of eight- to 10-day "Weekend to Weekend" packages from \$1,259 per person, based on double occupancy. The programs, available through Dec. 31, include round-trip air transportation from Los Angeles to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Cairns; accommodations; and the option of scheduled touring or a Hertz rental car for four days. Other packages are also available to Alice Springs and Darwin. Each package offers an array of experiences and diversity from cosmopolitan cities to charming country homesteads; tropical rain forests to the great Outback; distinctive wildlife to world class wines. Call any Qantas Vacations travel agent at (800) 523-5272.

Celebrating United's new non-stop service from San Francisco to Sydney, United Vacations is offering five-night packages at \$1,029 per person, double occupancy. The "G'Day Sydney" package includes round-trip airfare, five nights accommodations in Sydney, airport shuttles, airport and customs charges and a three-day "Sydney Explorer Pass." Packages are available through September. Call United Vacations at (800) 328-6877.

Austravel is also offering packages on United's new non-stop service between San Francisco and Sydney. Beginning at \$899 per person, double occupancy, the package includes round-trip airfare and three nights accommodations at the Waratah Hotel in Sydney. Three-night add-on trips to Melbourne, Brisbane or Cairns are available for \$300 per person, including lodging and airfare. The package runs through Aug. 31. Call Austravel at (800) 633-3404.

In conjunction with Marriott Resorts, Inta-Aussie Tours is offering an air/land vacation to Sydney and Queensland starting at \$1,390 per person, double occupancy. The package in-

cludes round-trip airfare, three nights in Sydney, a cruise on Sydney's famous harbor, four nights on the Gold Coast in Queensland, a visit to a sheep-shearing farm, a city tour of Brisbane and a stop at a wildlife sanctuary where visitors can pet kangaroos and cuddle koalas. The offer is good through Aug. 31. Call Inta-Aussie Tours at (800) 531-9222.

Australia & New Zealand Travel Headquarters, based in San Francisco, is offering non-stop flights from San Francisco to Sydney including five nights lodging, ranging from \$939 tourist class to \$1,269 luxury class. A "Great Barrier Reef and Rainforest" package including airfare and lodging for \$1,299 is also available. All packages can be modified and extended. Trips must be completed by Aug. 31. Call Australia & New Zealand Travel Headquarters at (800) 453-6636.

For those interested in cruises, the Golden Age Travelers Club is the price leader with its "Melbourne Cup," a 14-day excursion that includes round-trip airfare from Los Angeles or San Francisco, three nights lodging in Sydney and Cairns, and a seven-day cruise around Australia from \$1,999. Call (800) 258-8880.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
JUNE 26, 1954

Free for writing

For a copy of "Destination
Australia," contact: Austral-
ian Tourist Commission, 800,
333-0262.

From Tribune wires

SUNDAY WORLD HERALD
JUNE 26, 1994

Festivals the Australian way include the July 3 Darwin Beer Can Regatta, with races of boats made of beer cans. The fun in the Northern Territory also will include bottomless boats with crews jogging through the surf.

Then from Aug. 6 through 21, the Whale Festival takes place in Hervey Bay, Queensland, during which mother whales bring their newborn calves into the calm waters of the bay before going on to the Antarctic.

Wildflower festivals in Western Australia go on from August to October, a peak flowering period that fills this part of the country with color. The largest is the Kings Park Wildflower Festival in Perth, Sept. 23 through Oct. 4.

For information, call the Australian Tourist Commission at (800) 333-0262.

TRAVEL SMART

JULY 1994

h> **DESTINATION AUSTRALIA**, a free guide for making the
" most of limited time in this huge country. Covers hotels, camp-
" grounds, rail passes, car rentals, restaurants, festivals, climate,
" museums. Australian Tourist Commission, ☎ 800-333-0262.

> **"FARM VACATIONS"** and **"Visitor's Guide to Pennsylvania
Dutch Country,"** free by calling, ☎ 800-PA-DUTCH, ext 2335. /

TRAVEL WORLD NEWS
JULY 1994

AUSTRALIA: Tourist Commission releases '94 travel agent manual

The second annual edition of the Australian Tourist Commission's *North American Travel Agent Manual* has just been released.

The new, four-color, 128-page, easy-to-use manual is indexed to help agents quickly locate relevant facts on Australia, ranging from temperature and mileage charts, to details on special events, accommodations, transportation and attractions. For ease of itinerary planning, the guide includes a fold-out map, sample itineraries, sightseeing suggestions and a comprehensive 800 number directory of Australian product suppliers.

The manual also describes how agents can participate in the Aussie Specialist membership program. By completing a self-administered training program produced by the Australian Tourist Commission, agents can earn the designation of Certified Aussie Specialist. These agents are then given consumer leads for follow-up in their geographic areas.

For more information, contact: AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Ste. 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90067; 310/552-1988, ext 200, 800/888-3002 (manual), 800/433-AUSSIE (itinerary planning); FAX 310/552-1215. □

FLORIDA TODAY
JULY 3, 1994

Australia by Qantas

Qantas Vacations offers a series of 10-day Australian tours including round-trip airfare, hotels, sight-seeing and tours, priced from \$1,159 per person, double occupancy through the end of 1994.

Among the "Weekend to Weekend" itineraries are: "Fly/Drive Australia" to either Cairns, Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney, from \$1,159; "The Outback and the Reef," to Sydney, Ayers Rock, Outback territory and Cairns, from \$1,729; and "Where the Rainforest Meets the Reef," to Cairns for diving the Great Barrier Reef and exploring Daintree National Rainforest, from \$1,329. Call your travel agent or Qantas Vacations at 1-800-523-5272.

Travel Planner 6676

Planning a trip Down Under? Request a free copy of "Destination Australia," a new travel planner offered by the Australian Travel Commission.

The full-color, 136-page guide divides the country into eight regions and offers suggested itineraries, transportation tips and contact numbers of accommodations, dining and shopping. One section is devoted to outdoor activities, and there's a helpful chart on the country's many national parks. FYI: Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067; (800) 333-0262.

TRAVELAGE WEST
JULY 4, 1994

Qantas Vacations Creates Agent Sweepstakes

6675
LOS ANGELES — Agents can win up to \$10,000 through an incentive program launched by Qantas Vacations.

The sweepstakes, titled Weekend to Weekend Australia Incentive, allows agents to enter with each booking of one of the company's 11 new Weekend to Weekend Australia packages. The contest is open to any agent who becomes a Certified Aussie

Specialist by Oct. 31 through completion of the Australian Tourist Commission's training program.

Agents who currently are listed on Qantas Vacations Excel Marketing Team also may participate in the sweepstakes.

Awards include one \$10,000 grand prize; one \$7,000 first prize; one \$3,000 second prize; and 300 Weekend to Weekend

coffee mugs as third prizes.

The sweepstakes is valid for bookings made by Dec. 1, and entry forms must be received by Jan. 16, 1995, along with final payment for the package sold. The drawing will be held Jan. 31, 1995.

Qantas' 10-day Weekend to Weekend packages are priced from \$1,259 per person, double, including roundtrip air fare from

Los Angeles to Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin or Cairns; accommodations; and a selection of scheduled tours or a Hertz rental car for four days.

For information on how to become a Certified Aussie Specialist, contact 800-626-6615. For sweepstakes and package information, contact 800-523-5272 from the U.S.; 800-268-7525 from Canada.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JULY 7, 1994

Down Under Travel Planner.

⁶⁶⁷⁵
The 1994-'95 edition of Destination Australia, a free, 136-page full-color compendium of information and recommendations for travel in all the states and territories is now available. For a copy, call 1-800-333-0262.

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER
JULY 7, 1994

Down Under Travel Planner.

⁶⁶⁷⁵
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Australia, a free, 136-page full-color
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ommendations for travel in all the
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TRAVEL MANAGEMENT DAILY
JULY 11, 1994

THE AUSTRALIAN TOURIST Commission has named Robert Monfrini as manager of consumer marketing, based in Los Angeles. Monfrini most recently was vp, management supervisor for the GBF/Ayer advertising agency in Los Angeles.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER
JULY 11, 1994

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4675
AUSTRALIA IS CONCENTRATING on three areas for tourism promotion in North America, said Michael Lee, Australia's minister for tourism, at a Los Angeles press conference yesterday. In ecotourism, the focus will be on expanding and improving world heritage areas and national parks to minimize the impact of tourism on those sites. In addition, the government will help fund an accreditation system for tour operators in Australia who promote ecotourism. Another area will be rural tourism, Lee said, pointing out the increasing interest of North Americans in farm stays. The third area is backpackers (tm, July 5). Lee re-emphasized the Australian Tourist Commission's commitment to travel agents, saying they will be able to earn commissions from those areas, because many farm stay and backpacking vacations are offered through wholesalers. Tourism to Australia already has increased dramatically over the past decade, he said. Ten years ago, fewer than 1 million people worldwide visited the country. This year, more than 3 million are projected. The number of North Americans jumped 7% in 1993 over 1992, and in the first quarter of 1994, there was a 10% increase in North American visitors over the same period last year.

JULY 14, 1994

6675
AUSTRALIA IS CONCENTRATING on three areas for tourism promotion in North America, said Michael Lee, Australia's minister for tourism, at a Los Angeles press conference yesterday. In ecotourism, the focus will be on expanding and improving world heritage areas and national parks to minimize the impact of tourism on those sites. In addition, the government will help fund an accreditation system for tour operators in Australia who promote ecotourism. Another area will be rural tourism, Lee said, pointing out the increasing interest of North Americans in farm stays. The third area is backpackers (tm, July 5). Lee re-emphasized the Australian Tourist Commission's commitment to travel agents, saying they will be able to earn commissions from those areas, because many farm stay and backpacking vacations are offered through wholesalers. Tourism to Australia already has increased dramatically over the past decade, he said. Ten years ago, fewer than 1 million people worldwide visited the country. This year, more than 3 million are projected. The number of North Americans jumped 7% in 1993 over 1992, and in the first quarter of 1994, there was a 10% increase in North American visitors over the same period last year.

The **AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION** is emphasizing the hiking opportunities available within the country. Visiting bushwalkers (as hikers are known in Australia) have access to vast, diverse stretches of pristine wilderness—from beaches and islands to mountains and rainforests. Australia's temperate climate encourages year-round hiking. The tropical north is best from March through November, and the south has snow-covered mountains during the winter months of June through August, with foothills and coast beautiful year-round. Visitors can participate in weekend walks by contacting walking clubs that are located around the country. Australian Tourist Commission, 1150 Marina Village Parkway, Ste. 104, Alameda, CA 94501; (510) 865-5126.

**CANADIAN
PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS**

TOURISME PLUS
JUNE 13, 1994

^{L1024} Nouveau guide sur l'Australie

L'édition 1994-95
du guide Desti-
nation Austra-
lia de la Australian Tourist
Commission (ATC) est main-
tenant disponible.

Ce document de 136 pages est une version pour les consommateurs du Manuel des agents de voyages et est conçu de façon à capter l'intérêt du lecteur à l'aide de photographies de la nature australienne.

Outre des suggestions d'itinéraires, le guide comprend des suggestions d'itinéraires, des renseignements sur le climat, les hôtels, les terrains de camping, les passes de trains, les locations de voitures, les festivals, les restaurants, les modalités pour obtenir un visa, la cuisine et les transports.

Pour se procurer un guide, on communique au 1-800-888-3002.

Tours Down Under start at \$2,000

*Australian
jackaroo
(range rider),
with flock
of sheep,
pauses
in the shade
of a gum tree.*



Canadians are not as taken with Australia as our neighbours to the south, but they do have a thing about it. Whatever the reason — perhaps the *Thorn Birds* and *Crocodile Dundee* manias of a few years ago are to blame — there's a consistent craving to go Down Under, and this year Qantas is making it easy to take the cure.

Starting at about \$2,000, the airline is offering a new series of 10-day tours that include air fare and accommodation, plus the best of Australia's cities, natural attractions and exotic wildlife. Although Australia will long remain a faraway destination for a short holiday, Qantas is determined to describe the packages as "weekend-to-weekend" vacations and have lined up a combination of different Aussie experiences that range from visits to vineyards or a sheep station to scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef.

Tours include round-trip, economy-class air transportation to Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin or Cairns, and all flights within the country, plus all accommodations, sightseeing or a rental car, and a good many meals.

⌘ Packages may be varied to suit interests. Some are as follows: Fly-drive to either Cairns, Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney (\$2,114, Vancouver, \$2,269 Toronto); Sydney, the Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley wine country (\$2,354 Vancouver, \$2,509 Toronto); Farm stay and bed-and-breakfast visit to Melbourne, the wineries of the Morrongton Peninsula, and hotel in Sydney (\$2,374 Vancouver, \$2,529 Toronto); the Outback and Sydney, plus tropical Cairns (\$2,624 Vancouver, \$2,779 Toronto); Daintree rainforest, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef (\$1,974 Vancouver, \$2,129 Toronto).

For more information, contact any travel agent or call (800) 268-7525.

package travellers to its vast store of antiquities, medieval fortresses, castles, tribal culture and natural wonders.

Mountain Travel-Sobek of California, a company with a habit of being the first to visit places, is offering a series of 16-day programs led by an American who first arrived in Ethiopia in the 1960s as a Peace Corp volunteer. Now a resident of Kenya, Conrad Hirsch has lived in the region for 20 years.

Accompanied by porters who carry all gear, participants will trek five days through the Simien Mountains where hardy Amhara peasants live in simple villages. Trip members will have opportunities to see rare indigenous wildlife, including walia ibex, klipspringer, the Simien fox and the lion-maned gelada baboons that live on the sheer Simien cliffs. Also visited will be the historical Ethiopian Highlands, the castles and churches of Gondar, the island monasteries of Lake Tana, and the 12th-century subterranean churches of Lalibela.

Tours depart Nov. 24, Jan. 13 and Feb. 24. Land cost is \$2,950 (U.S.) and participation is limited to 15 travellers. Air fares are not included.

For information, contact Mountain Travel-Sobek 6420 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, Calif., 94530-3606, telephone (510) 527-8100, (800) 227-2384 or fax (510) 525-7710.

'World' for \$40 a day

TrekAmerica is a New Jersey-based camping tour company whose programs might appeal to young people whose summer still promises a glum and uneventful emptiness. This outfit specializes in getaways for young people from 18 and up who don't mind bumping about the highways and backroads of the continent in passenger vans, and are happy pitching tents and doing their own cooking.

Cheap charters

Regent Holidays is again listing charter flights between Toronto and 15 Canadian cities — both one-way and round-trip flights until December aboard Air Transat B727 and B757 aircraft, as well as Royal Airlines' B727 equipment. Round-trip fares start at \$253, with one-ways available from \$85.

There are 12 flights weekly between Toronto and Vancouver, eight to Calgary, three to Victoria, and twice weekly to Edmonton, Winnipeg, Halifax, Charlottetown, St. John's and Gander. Weekly flights are also offered to Regina, Saskatoon, St. John, Moncton, Fredericton and Stephenville.

Deposit is \$100 per person and passengers may fly into one city and return from another. Bookings may be made right up to the day of departure. Children aged 2 to 15 save \$20 on round-trip flights and infants under 2 fly free.

For more information, contact any travel agent.

Ethiopian backcountry

After years of civil war and drought

TRAVEL MONITOR



BY COLIN HASKIN

Ethiopia is again pursuing a peaceful existence on the Horn of Africa. Once again democratic (or as democratic as things get in that part of the world), Ethiopia is re-admitti

Itineraries are of varied duration and routes, some combining cities with the West, while others are confined, say, to the U.S. South.

Others go much farther afield, a good example of which is a 42-day run through Mexico to sample the cultures of the Maya, Aztec and Tarascan Indians, and to swim and surf in the Caribbean. The trip blends villages, cities, beaches, jungles and highlands, and promises to be something of a grind. The payoff for this endurance test is the cost: \$1,675. This works out to be about \$40 per day for food, accommodation and transportation — cheap by almost anyone's terms.

For more information, contact TrekAmerica, P.O. Box 470, Blairstown, N.J., 07825, telephone (908) 362-9198, fax (908) 362-9313.

Montreal in summer

The **Queen Elizabeth Hotel** in Montreal has packages for summer visitors that start at \$109. Located in the heart of the city, the hotel is a short walk to many of Montreal's attractions, sidewalk cafés, shopping areas, museums, the Old Port, the new casino and the botanical gardens. The rate is good until Oct. 31 and features a second room for children at half price.

For more information, contact the hotel at (514) 861-3511 or toll-free (800) 441-1414.

Dolphin watch

Virginia Beach has long been a sanctuary for Atlantic bottlenose dolphins which find their way in-shore to feed near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay.

Now, the **Virginia Marine Science Museum** is organizing boat trips so that visitors may see these mammals in their summer habitat, providing a close-up view of them performing acrobatic displays and an opportunity to see how they socialize with each other. The area has the largest congregation of bottlenose dolphins along the East Coast.

Trips will run weekdays, 9 to 11 a.m., and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. through Sept. 2. Groups of 50 or more can also arrange trips until Oct. 28, when the dolphins leave the area to mi-

grate south for the winter. Fees for the trips are \$12 (U.S.) for adults and \$10 for children 11 years of age and under.

Reservations may be made by contacting the museum at (804) 437-4949.

Shaw packages

Theatre-lovers visiting the **Niagara Region** have a choice of packages at the **Shaw Festival** in Niagara-on-the-Lake this year.

Typical is a shuttle services that include limousine (or coach) pickup and return at local hotels anywhere in the region, and tickets to a Shaw production for \$55 (available for two to 50 patrons). A little more stylish is an evening for between two to six people who fancy door-to-door limousine service, dinner at Queenston Heights Restaurant, and tickets to a production. Cost is \$99 per person.

New this year is a package for Toronto residents and visitors. This includes breakfast at the Delta Chelsea Inn (also the pick-up point), a guided sight-seeing tour of Niagara Falls, tickets and return to Toronto for only \$99.

For more information, phone (416) 595-1975.

U.S.
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ASSISTANCE

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the town of Hobart. The country's second oldest capital, it abounds in history. Walk around the Battery Point, a maze of uneven streets lined with quaint shops, cozy restaurants and historic homes. Next stop: Melbourne! A city boasting glass high rises, fashionable boutiques and art galleries.

The final destination is Sydney. It's absolutely essential to spend a few post-cruise days in this fascinating place. Even one day can provide a brilliant array of attractions.

Above all, Sydney is a water place - the vibrant harbor draws you like a magnet to the soul of the city. Twin fingers of land reach out on either side of a deep cove, creating a calm haven for the hundreds of water taxis, ferryboats, and ocean liners that zip, bounce, or glide across the waters every day.

Sydney's prominent landmarks dominate this scene. On the western peninsula is the famous Harbour Bridge with its fancy tiara. Across the bay to the east is the world renowned Opera House. From any vantage point this structure is dramatic. Set on Bennelong Point, the building covers 4 1/2 acres and is surrounded by water on three sides. At first sight it seems like a congregation of mammoth sails from some gargantuan fleet—a sight not out of keeping with its watery environment. A series of shell-like roofs, the highest jutting 221 feet into the sky, gives the building its distinctive shape. Made up of concrete sections weighing up to 15 tons each, the roofs are supported by 600 concrete columns and 217 miles of tensioned cable. Cream and white Swedish tiles cover them in a zigzag pattern, complementing the pink granite and the topaz glass walls that fill in the openings between the shells. To fully appreciate the inside of the complex, a guided tour, or better, yet, a performance, is in order. Don't be put off by the name: the Opera House is also a center for the performing arts with a concert hall and a drama theater.

If time permits, extend your visit to the "Land Down Under" with a trek to Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef. It's a mind-altering experience, like seeing the Pyramids or the Wailing Wall or Niagara Falls or the Giant Redwoods. As the world's largest living thing, the Reef is like an immense



submerged city, built by a masterful architect with a flair for the bizarre.

Take a ride on a sub-sea explorer, a vessel designed to allow riders a picture window on the Reef. It drifts over sandy pools where tall branches of staghorn coral resemble winter-bare trees in a snow drift. It passes between cliffs tinted blue, lilac, pink and gold and through schools of shimmering fish. Tiny clown fish dart among gaudy parrot fish; giant clams open their sapphire lips and a curious turtle might swim alongside to examine the intruder in its Reef world. The Great Barrier Reef is truly an experience of a lifetime!

The Crystal Harmony herself is unique. It's not one of a dozen ships in a fleet, but the only child of affectionate parents who have lavished all their attention on nourishing and enhancing her potential. It's not a behemoth weighing in at 70,000 tons, but of moderate size reminiscent of the days when ships were more intimate than shopping centers.

To see the splendor of Australia, call your AAA Travel Agency for a brochure on the voyage of the Crystal Harmony March 2-14, 1994 or for other opportunities to visit the South Pacific. See the list of locations on page 3.

TODAY
P. 2/2

*Opposite page: beach walkers along the shore north of Sydney, courtesy of the Australian Tourist Commission
Below: Sydney Opera House*

Aussie Glossary

Avro
Afternoon

Bewdy
Good, the best (also bewdy-bottler)

Billy Tea
Tea made in a tin bucket over an open fire

Brollly
Umbrella

Cozzie
Swimming costume
(also ... bathers, togs or swimmers)

Entree
The appetizer, not the main course

Footpath
Sidewalk, pavement

Sandshoes
Sneakers

Tinnie
Can of Beer



City Relies on GIS to Reduce Costs, Increase Productivity

By **Ginger M. Juhl**, a free-lance information technology writer specializing in GIS, wireless communications, multimedia and intelligent vehicle/highway systems. She is president of Juhl Communications, PO Box 5787, Snowmass Village, CO 81615, USA.

If you're interested in the effective implementation of GIS technology, the city of Canberra recently gave you a reason to travel down under. Canberra uses a common GIS land base to model the planning and infrastructure services for the nation's Capital Territory. Although Australia has many premier and mature projects in its showcase, Canberra's story is an excellent example of how an integrated approach to GIS can bring

new levels of productivity to government operations.

Automating Land Records

The basis of Canberra's GIS began in 1971, when the Commonwealth Government's Australian Survey Office, now called the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG), began developing the country's first Digital Cadastral Data Base (DCDB). Because GIS software was not commercially available at the time, the government elected to develop its own software to capture land base information. "We elected to put together our early data sets on the computer, rather than on paper," recalls Edwin Hyde, general manager of the Land Information Office and Australian Capital Territory (ACT) chief surveyor. "At that

Around the turn of the century, an American architect named Walter Burley Griffin designed Canberra based on radials and circles emanating from the location selected for the new federal parliament building on capital hill (above). The center of the building's famous flagpole is within 2 centimeters of the historic survey control mark from which early Canberra was established.

Photograph courtesy of the Australian Tourist Commission

time, it was difficult to justify automating land records, but our leaders had the foresight to go ahead and do it even though it was a somewhat unknown field of endeavor."

The resulting DCDB is based on survey-accurate coordinate calculations, rather than being digitized from paper maps. Survey coordinates are captured as each land parcel is approved. That means the DCDB is almost as current as the



A map of Canberra's extensive cycleway system is reproduced from ACTMAP every three years. In 1994, the system was published as a small book of 26 maps for ease of use.

- COMFIS — a textual database of community facilities

In addition, area water, power and telecommunication utilities developed their own land-related information system initiatives.

New Responsibilities

In 1989, the ACT was granted self-government. Prior to that, funding for its existence and support came from the federal budget. With the formation of the ACT government, however, came the financial imposition of self-support. That, in turn, created the need for new management methodologies and tools that could help the ACT become more productive and financially sound.

In 1991, control of the DCDB was transferred from the commonwealth government to the ACT government under the Department of the Environment, Land and Planning (DELP). The department's Land Information Office (LIO) has that responsibility. The creation of DELP brought all land-related management functions under the responsibility of a single agency for the first time in the history of Canberra.

With the transfer of the DCDB to LIO, the agency re-evaluated systems and opted to replace its self-developed system with newer technology as part of an initiative to improve productivity and fiscal responsiveness. In early 1992, LIO decided to combine the DCDB with the GEODIS planning and land use policy database into a single system. Thus, the government elected to migrate the DCDB to GDS software from Graphic Data Systems Corp., Maryland Heights, Mo., USA. Migration and implementation assistance was provided by ARC Systems Pty Ltd., a Sydney-based systems integrator.

The previously captured data and system functionality were

latest planning approval of each land parcel. Moreover, the cadastre for a new subdivision can be created and used much earlier in the land development cycle, making it easier to accurately and proactively coordinate the activities of all construction agencies and utilities throughout the development of a new subdivision. "Since 1971, every new block of land developed in the ACT was put into the database," says Don Purdy, manager of land information records. "And we've gone back and input the land developed prior to that as well. Therefore, all data concerning land boundaries and roads — from Canberra's inception — are captured to the millimeter." All of the city's land base information is in the system today, providing the tools necessary for maintaining and distributing all land boundaries in the city.

From Canberra's commencement in the early 1900s, surveyors have used a survey coordinate system to control construction. That was an ideal starting point when DCDB development began. The first survey control mark was on top of a hill that was removed to build the new Parliament House.

The center of the building's famous flagpole is within 2 centimeters of the historic survey control mark from which early Canberra was established.

Disparate Data Sets

Several years after the DCDB's development, other commonwealth (federal) government department entities within Canberra began developing separate land-related databases to meet their individual objectives. The databases included:

- LANDACT — a textual database on a mainframe providing the official register of land parcels
- Lease management system (LMS) — a textual database on a mainframe describing lease details for all land parcels
- Geographic Data Information System (GEODIS) — a VAX-based spatial database for assisting town planning
- Geographic Land Information System (GEOLIS) — a VAX-based textual database describing planning and land use policy for land parcels
- ECOLIS — a textual database covering economic land development

blocks is transferred directly and automatically from ACTMAP into PALM, for example. Conversely, when new street addresses are created using PALM, they are transferred directly into ACTMAP."

The PALM land data set is updated from ACTMAP each time cadastral changes are made as a consequence of subdivision activity. The data set maintains for each block of land its identifier, current status, centroid, parcel name, street address, map and plan information, land value, lease conditions and sales information.

To bring consistency and ease of integration to its operations, LIO elected to use GDS to manage spatial information and graphic

anyone who needs them. The objective was an information management solution through which each piece of information needed to be input only one time and then be available to whatever applications require it. As a result, ACTMAP has proven invaluable to government land management operations and to the various utilities, environmental agencies and private businesses that serve the ACT.

Communicating with Other Agencies

ACTMAP now serves as the base cadastre for numerous land-related management functions, providing spatial and aspatial links to a large

number of applications within and outside DELP, as well as the controlling and coordinating data sets for virtually all mapping systems within the ACT. Agencies needing frequent data access acquire them on-line, while those with infrequent needs prefer tape access. Many agencies require access to ACTMAP, including:

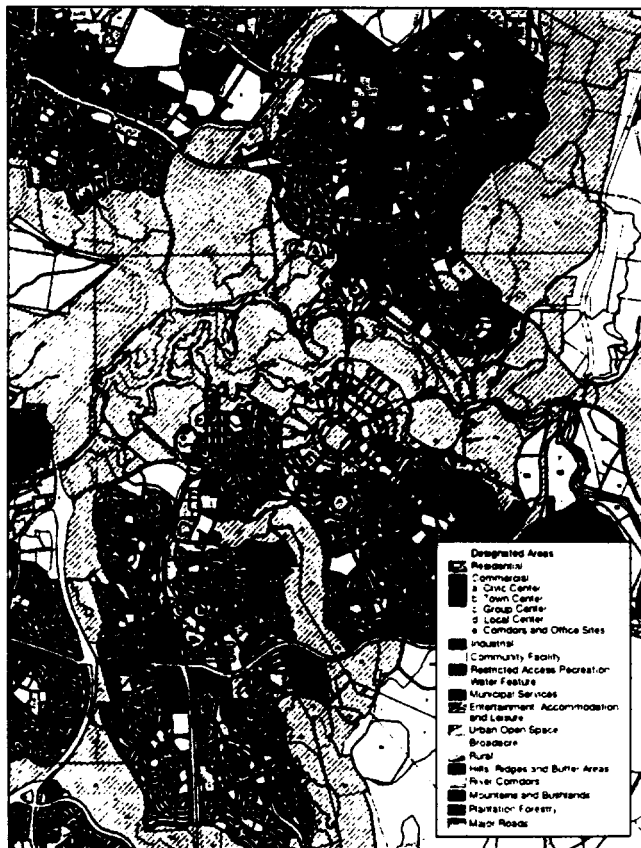
- ACT Planning Authority
- ACT Lease Administration
- ACT Land Development
- Environment, Culture and Sport
- ACT Electricity and Water Authority (electricity, water supply, sewerage)

- Department of Urban Services (stormwater management, traffic engineering and building maintenance)
- National Capital Planning Authority
- ACTION Buses
- Natural Gas Co.
- TELECOM Australia (telecommunications)
- OPTUS (telecommunications)

To better coordinate the multi-participant use of ACTMAP, a Committee for the Cooperative Geographical Information System (COGIS) for the ACT was created. The committee is composed of representative members from the various government agencies, utilities and other parties that use the ACTMAP land base and contribute information to it. For access to the LIO's ACTMAP database, outside agencies provide their data sets to the ACTMAP database. For example, the ACT Electricity and Water Authority uses the ACTMAP land base for power, sewerage and water distribution management. The Department of Urban Services (DUS) is implementing a stormwater management application that uses the ACTMAP land base. Data are provided routinely to the ACT and Commonwealth Government agencies, as well as to private enterprise, for example, local developers who use it to lay out subdivisions and who provide approved design information input to ACTMAP. Land developers who use computer-aided design (CAD) technology to plan subdivisions provide approved subdivision plans to LIO in the form of DXF files, which are translated into the master ACTMAP database and are available to system users within days.

LIO is discussing a wide range of possibilities with a number of agencies for further use of land-related data on ACTMAP. In particular, LIO is discussing the union of ACTMAP and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology with Police and Emergency Services, with hopes of developing an automatic real-time system of locating reported incidents and navigating vehicles to the site of the incident.

"In ACTMAP, we now have a single source of data for planners, engineers, people planning bus routes, educators planning schools and anyone else who needs it," says Hyde. "New land information is updated every night so data available to users is never more than 24 hours out of date. As a result, we've been able to minimize our staff and save a lot in terms of costs. We have been able to realize these benefits within DELP, and we've enabled other agencies to avoid duplicating effort, data and resources and to meet their objectives economically and easily."



A major planning document depicts the planned land use of each block of land in the ACT. The ACT Planning Authority manages the planning data, which are built on ACTMAP.

data and ORACLE to manage all textual information and attribute data. ORACLE holds all planning and lease information such as physical ownership, evaluation and land use details. LIO selected a commercially available RDBMS for attribute management to enable the creation of an open systems-based, distributed environment in which data could be freely accessed by

SOUTHEAST TRAVEL PROFESSION
MAY 1994

And in Brisbane, Australia,
12,000 "mature athletes" lace up their
shoes for the World Masters Games
(Sept. 26-Oct. 8), with the oldest
competitors in the 90-plus division,
proving that it's never too late . . .

WORD FROM DOWN UNDER

The Australian Newsletter

Chosen one rejects Sydney 2000 offer

SYDNEY: The man chosen to head the 2000 Olympics turned down the job at the last minute after his current employer made him a better offer, Games organizers said.

It is the second time in five months that a candidate for the chief executive job has declined to take the \$300,000-a-year position.

Gary Pemberton, president of the Sydney Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games, refused to name either man, but said both were Australians.

He said the latest candidate withdrew late Monday "in favor of an alternative offer from his current employer."

Pemberton admitted the salary offered for the high profile, six-year job had been one of several

factors which prompted both candidates to withdraw.

He said an equivalent position in the private sector would probably command "a seven-figure package." Because of public perceptions about the job, organizers have no plans to offer more money to future applicants.

Pemberton said the latest candidate was on a short list of four. None of the other three will be offered the position.

Instead a review of the selection process will be made with the aim of hiring someone by the end of the year. He said the person must have a proven track record in the corporate world combined with a sense of public spirit.

In the meantime, Pemberton, chairman of Australia's national airline, will remain as temporary chief executive.

"Sydney is generally ahead of schedule for the staging of the Games," Pemberton said. "It is

22 June 1994 Volume 2 Issue 11

important this setback does not affect our progress."

Aborigines return to Australia after racist incident

DARWIN: Alleged racist treatment of an Aboriginal dance troupe touring Germany continued to draw condemnation last week as the dancers flew back to Australia.

Northern Territory Aboriginal Development Minister Steve Hatton said the alleged conduct of a Berlin hotel in evicting the women because of their skin color was "an insult."

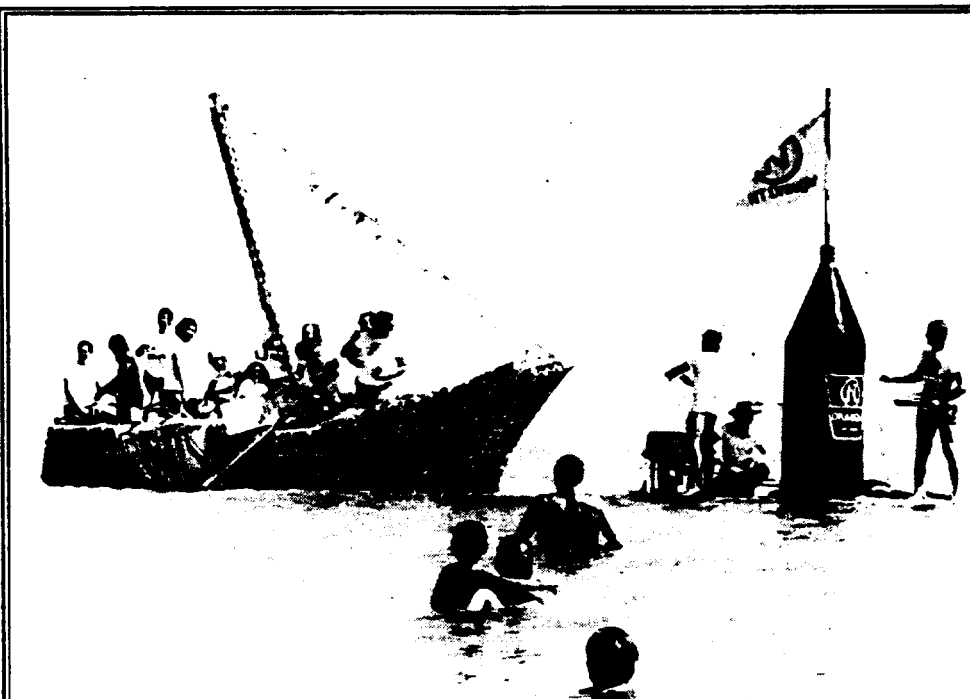
The Pension Heltzel asked the group Miny-maku Inma (Women's Dance and Song) to leave after the co-manager was quoted in a local newspaper as saying the women were "almost not human."

However, the Australian Foreign Affairs Department reiterated its position that the request for the women to leave was not racially motivated.

The hotel had not realized the special requirements of the women, such as painting their bodies for ceremonial dances, a spokesman said.

Tour organizer Violet Sheno, director of Melbourne's Contemporary Australian Visions, said she was disgusted by the incident but warned it should not be blown out of proportion.

"The people at the hotel acted wrongly, but the issue should not be taken to extremes," she said.



—Photo ATC

Braving the crocodiles on July 3 will be contestants and onlookers at the Darwin Beer Can Regatta. The beercans work best when empty so the real work goes into draining the construction materials in the leadup to the event. Boats must be at least 90 percent beercans. Some are bottomless, their crews jogging under the surf.

85,000 watch rugby league match at the MCG!

Truth is stranger than fiction! There are just 2,000 registered rugby league players in Victoria but the state went rugby league mad for the second State of Origin match between NSW and Queensland. Full story back page.

inside...

The first part of our exclusive Tom Keneally interview
The Big Backyard: promoting Australian music worldwide
Your comments—for and against—on WFDU

WORD FROM DOWN UNDER

The Australian Newsletter

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For change of address notification please enclose a mailing label from a recent issue (but notifications written with a thumbnail dipped in tar will be accepted if legible). Notify us two weeks in advance if you intend to move.

The contents of WORD FROM DOWN UNDER have been carefully gathered from sources we believe to be reliable. However, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of all information.

The opinions contained in WORD FROM DOWN UNDER are those of the particular contributor.

From time to time WORD FROM DOWN UNDER highlights companies listed on the Australian stock market. We do not accept any responsibility for the performance of highlighted companies.

By necessity WORD FROM DOWN UNDER is written using a mixture of North American and Australian spelling, measurement and style.

Editor and Publisher: Neil Brandom

Corrections

Last issue's story about the film *Lex and Rory* placed Albury in Victoria. Close but wrong. We received a couple of letters reminding us that, although on the border, Albury is still in NSW.

In the same issue, our interview with Nick Carroll lost the last line during typesetting. Here is the conclusion to the interview:

WFUD: Do you keep in touch with what's going on in Australia?

NC: I don't really want to know too much about what is going on at home right now. I just don't want to be pre-occupied with what is going on back in Australia. There is plenty to do here. Plenty of amazing stuff going on. I want to find out as much about living here as I can because I'm not going to be here forever.

Our apologies to Nick—and to all the residents (present and former) of Albury (and Wadonga).

Evans: Don't shut out the US

CANBERRA: Southeast Asian countries should not exclude the United States from a program to expand regional economic cooperation, Australia's foreign minister said last week.

Gareth Evans, who was speaking in Manila at the end of a tour of the Philippines, said aspects of a Malaysian proposal for an East Asian Economic Caucus that excludes America are dangerous. Malaysia fears economic domination by the United States.

His comment drew an immediate response from the Philippines' foreign minister, Roberto Romulo, who said the proposal would not damage the Australian-sponsored Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group, which Evans prefers. The United States is also a member of APEC. "I think it requires further dialogue with minister Evans to make sure that he fully understands what the EAEC (East Asia Economic Caucus) will be," Romulo said.

Evans warned that the Malaysian proposal could prove divisive. "The truth of the matter is that almost every east Asian economy has a major economic relationship with North America," Evans said. "And, if you are going to talk about economic cooperation, to exclude the North Americans from that is to not reflect the reality of present economic relationships," he said. "Moreover, I think it is very dangerous to the region to develop splits or fissures down the Pacific, as between the North American and the East Asian economies," he continued.

Evans said the multilateral trading environment would suffer serious damage if the world divided into three trading blocs, based on the German mark, the Japanese yen and the U.S. dollar. He said APEC is a counterweight to otherwise divisive tendencies.

Protester alleges knife threat

CANBERRA: The Indonesian Embassy acknowledged that several staffers "lost their cool" during a protest that led to the arrest of two men.

One of those arrested, Gareth Smith, has lodged a formal complaint with police alleging an embassy security guard threatened the pair with a knife during a protest last week against Indonesia's 1976 annexation of East Timor.

Smith urged the government to expel the guard from Australia.

"It got a bit emotional, several staff collected some rocks, but only to bluff them (the protesters)," an embassy spokesman said. He denied protesters were threatened with a knife.

The embassy spokesman, who did not provide

Continued after Tom Keneally...

AUSSIE SCRAWL

AustralASIA

South Australian premier Dean Brown was in Singapore last week looking for investors for a rail link between Adelaide and Darwin, providing a connection with booming places further north. His next stop was Malaysia for a chat with offsidiers of that country's "recalcitrant" prime minister.

Former PM Bob Hawke has been in China pushing horse racing and in Hong Kong streamlining relations with the Asian partner of the consortium that won the right to manage the new Sydney casino.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans is in the Philippines.

Trade Minister Bob McMullan is in Indonesia.

ASIS, Australia's beleaguered spy outfit, has been accused of greasing the palms of politicians in several Asian countries.

A Darwin soccer club is playing in an Asian competition.

An Australian youth was with Michael Fay the night he spray painted cars in Singapore and earned a red bottom.

Australian businesses were restarting operations in Vietnam and the rest of Indochina before those of any other western country.

Bali is overrun with Australians. Ozspeak is everywhere you turn in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Penang and Manila.

By the turn of the century one in five Australians will be of Asian ancestry.

Former Singapore PM Lee Kwan Yew recently reiterated his infamous remark that Australians risk becoming the "white trash" of Asia. The following week a Singapore business thinktank was looking for Australian joint venture partners.

Selling well in Southeast Asia is a book called *The White Tribe of Asia*, a book about Australia from an Asian perspective written by an Indonesian.

I am typing this editorial whilst sweating it out in Malaysia. There is more Australian news in the local paper here (Kota Kinabalu on the northern tip of Borneo) in one week than there is in the *LA Times* in one year.

Something is going on. Rather than deliberating whether we are going to become part of Asia, we are becoming part of Asia. And its happening faster than I, for one, ever envisaged.

Cheers,

Neil

Over here Thomas Keneally—Australia's "Greatest Living Author"

Steven Spielberg's acclaimed film *Schindler's List*, based on Thomas Keneally's Booker Prize (1982) and Los Angeles Times Prize for Fiction (1983) winning novel of the same name (*Schindler's Ark* in Britain and Australia) has heightened international interest in the work of Australia's "greatest living author".

Keneally has long been a distinguished member of the world literary community. He has been awarded the Order of Australia for Services to Literature, and offered the rank of Commander of the British Empire, which in true republican sentiment he declined. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, has been both chairman and president of the Book Council of Australia and inaugural chairman of the Australian Republican Movement. His government appointments include positions in the Australia-China Council and the Australian Constitution Commission.

Keneally came to the US in 1985 as a visiting writer in the Graduate Master of Fine Arts program at the University of California, Irvine. Two years ago he returned to the university as a distinguished professor. He and his wife, Judy, divide their time between the US and Australia. This interview is in two parts—in the next issue Keneally talks about *Schindler's List*.



Tom Keneally's parents are from Kempsey, NSW, home of the Acubra.

WFDU: You've been caught up in a whirlwind of promotion for *Schindler's List*, are you going to be able to find some time to write in the near future?

TK: Well the craziness is starting to diminish. I'm going back to Oz in about a month's time and I plan to write there. I've done some writing here but it's been sporadic. However, I have started a new book on Ireland of the 19th century and Australia and America. I have a great uncle who was an Irish political activist transported to Australia. Upon being pardoned he came to the US and was very active here. So I want to write about that.

WFDU: I read somewhere that you intended to retire as a professor in academia. Have your plans changed?

TK: I was going to have a nice time commuting between here and Sydney but that it getting more and more difficult. Last year it was the republican movement in Australia and this year it's *Schindler's* that's changed all that. And I may ultimately be leaving next year. I've found my life a bit sporadic—In my first 18 months here, beginning in late 1991, I went back about eight times ... And I go back in the summer anyhow and watch the rugby league.

WFDU: Who do you support by the way?

TK: I'm a Sea Eagles man. In fact, I've just had Des Hasler staying with me here. Des played for Hull (UK) for a year and was on his way back to Australia. The great Manly halfback stayed in my house! We've locked that room now and we burn incense.

WFDU: Whereabouts in Sydney are you from?

TK: I'm from Homebush—the Olympic city. We began in the bush and we came down to Homebush (in Sydney's west) when Homebush was a very despicable place—one of Strathfield's poor sisters. And now the great irony is that Homebush is being exalted by the Olympic committee.

WFDU: Can you envisage yourself up there on the podium in your hometown with Australia as a republic in 2000?

TK: I'll tell you one thing. I think it's going to depend on whether the Libs (Liberal Party) come across or not. There are a lot of closet republicans amongst them. And there are a huge number of "inevitables", they believe that for a variety of reasons that a republic is inevitable: the different ethnic balance in Australia; the fact that Britain is in the European community and we're not; the fact that we have to make our way in the Pacific Basin and in Southeast Asia. However, they still resist the republic. They seem to believe that Paul Keating has a secret agenda. This notion is difficult to sustain but it is one that appeals to the paranoia and anti-authoritarianism of Australians. However, if it were a matter of a sort of Cromwell replacing the Monarch then we (the ARM) just wouldn't be in it.

But one thing is certain, the Olympics will clearly put the question who should act as head of state of Australia. Should it be the monarch of great Britain or should it be an Australian. Or should it be the Monarch and an Australian holding hands!

WFDU: Sydney's choice seems to have coincided with an Australian economic recovery.

TK: Yes, it seems that the Olympics, for reasons rational and irrational is having an impact on that recovery, fragile though it may be.

WFDU: Fragile and fragmented.

TK: You are quite right about that. The countryside is a disaster. There are towns dying. The rural poverty is awful in places and it has been for some time. And a lot of it has to do with trade problems. Why should we maintain this connection with Britain which entails our taking oaths to the monarch when Britain very sensibly entered the European Community and some of the grief our rural sector is suffering is due to this very fact. When I was a kid, Britain took almost everything we could produce. Now they can't. Now we are oriented in a different direction entirely and the World is full of trade blocs.

WFDU: Do you think we can ever rise above being the "white trash" of Asia and find our own trading bloc there?

TK: Oh yes. I'm quite sure. I see becoming a republic as just part of coming to terms with the fact that we are part of Asia. I don't go along with Lee Kwan Yew's view of Australians. We are constructive and inventive. We have a base of research and development on which we can find a profitable place for ourselves in the world that is bearing down on us.

WFDU: When you go back would you think of taking over the chair of the republican movement again?

TK: When I go back next year? Yes sure, if it were available. I mean the basic feeling now is that a republic is going to happen some time this decade and we want as many people to have chaired the ARM as possible. But yes, I would happily take it over again. I'm not, however, a very good organizer. My main gifts, if I have any gifts, are speaking with people, making speeches and speaking to the press.

WFDU: What address could my readers write to if they are interested in the ARM?

TK: They can write to ARM, Box 5150, Sydney NSW 2001. There is also a phone number 61 2 234 4726.

Music: Australia's Backyard Goes Global

by John Burbidge

"Music in America is very formatted and manufactured for a particular genre," says Steven Hindes. "In Australia, there is no career path to superstardom. You play the kind of music you want to play. Funnily enough, that's the music people want to listen to."

Hindes, a young Sydney law graduate cum rock music entrepreneur, was speaking from experience. The last eight years have taken him from band musician to general manager of one of Australia's most successful and innovative export ventures, The Big Backyard (BBY).

The Big Backyard is a 30-minute radio program of Australian "new music" and music news distributed weekly on CDs to over 700 radio stations in nearly 100 countries—free of charge. The free part has been possible due to a \$60,000 annual grant from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

From Croatia to Columbia, Thailand to Tanzania, enthusiastic messages of support and affirmation pour into the Sydney BBY office every week.

According to Hindes, several stations carrying BBY in Europe have audiences in the tens of millions. The 185 stations in North America which carry the BBY reach an estimated three million listeners, many of them college students.

Australian music has been expensive and difficult to obtain in the US. Hindes discovered this when he first came to New York to attend the New Music Seminar in 1986. Along with leading Australian new music authority, Mark Dodshon, and his Kiwi counterpart, Laurence Boswell, Hindes decided to do something about it. They started with a 10-minute program that was sent out to the American college network via satellite from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Their breakthrough came when the Australian government approached the trio with an offer to go international.

In 1993 BBY released "Corroboree", ten half-hour episodes of music featuring many of Australia's young aboriginal groups. The series was hailed by *Billboard* magazine as "a rich and expansive sampling of music" with "a compelling spirit of history and place."

What of the future for the BBY? Securing private sponsorship is a major challenge, although Hindes is optimistic that the government will hang in there a while longer. He talks about commercial specials for more mainstream radio, doing compilation albums (one is already out), setting up a North American label and promoting Australian tourism.

Based in Seattle, John Burbidge is a freelance writer and publication's director for the western arm of the Institute of Cultural Affairs.



Boswell, Hindes and Dodshon photographed in their own backyard by *The Weekend Australian* magazine.

his name, said staff had always intended the police to handle the protest, which came during an embassy open day to raise funds for local charities.

But there was some confusion about police methods, and several staff became angry when the men were allowed to remain on top of a ceremonial statue in the embassy grounds for 20 minutes. The two unfurled a banner reading "Indonesian Police State" and shouted slogans in support of East Timorese independence. East Timor was a Portuguese colony until 1976.

Smith said that during the protest "a crowd of Indonesian Embassy staff verbally abused us. One staff member claiming to work for the Indonesian military drew a commando-style dagger and screamed he would kill us. He was restrained by his embarrassed colleagues but returned later with a pile of rocks to throw at us," Smith said. "He had to be restrained again. He continued to urge the police to shoot us."

Rising like a Phoenix?

TUCSON: She looked old and decrepit, propped out in the middle of the desert at the Pima Air & Space Museum. The once-beautiful Lockheed L1049 Super Constellation was destined for the graveyard. But 60 engineers from the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society in Australia are bringing the aircraft back to glory.

In March 1992, the Australians started traveling to Tucson in two-week shifts to rebuild the 80-passenger, long-range airliner, considered an important piece of Australian aviation history. About 15 crew members plan to fly the Super Constellation back to a museum in Sydney before Christmas Day. The trip will include a 35-hour flight over the ocean, cruising at a speed of 300 mph, said John Brooker, a member of the restoration program.

The aircraft was mothballed in 1977 at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and hasn't been flown since.

During their first trip to Tucson to restore the aircraft, the team discovered a bird sanctuary inside the aircraft. A window had been left uncov-

Stolen Lines

We are replenishing our library. Meanwhile, here are a few lines from *Nine Miles from Gundagai* by Jack Moses—the basis for *Along the Road to Gundagai*, Jack O'Hagen's 1922 theme song for the radio serial *Dad and Dave*.

*I've done my share of shearing sheep
Of droving and all that,
And bogged a bullock-team as well,
On a Murrumbidgee flat.
I've seen the bullock stretch and strain,
And blink his weary eye,
And the dog sit on the tucker box,
Nine miles from Gundagai.*

ered while the plane was in storage. "Our feet sank into ankle-deep bird droppings along the floor inside the aircraft," Brooker said. "There was not one single area that wasn't covered by bird droppings." The men spent days vacuuming, sweeping and wiping the aircraft with damp rags. Crew members rebuilt the cockpit instrument panel, which has been tested and recalibrated.

Bird nests and yet more droppings clogged the inside of the four Turbo Cyclone engines. The engines and propellers had to be overhauled and now comply with Federal Aviation Administration standards, Brooker said.

So far, the cost to renovate the airplane has reached \$600,000 and is expected to increase another \$200,000 by completion, Brooker said. The funds were raised by private donations in Australia. The fuel bill for the trip home will be funded by several major oil companies, Brooker said.

The most difficult part of the restoration was replacing parts, said Jim Thurstan, senior project engineer. "We searched and searched for many of the aircraft's parts that are no longer being made," he said. "It was like detective work, going from source to source, trying to find different parts throughout the U.S." It took months to find the tires for the aircraft's landing gear, which no longer are being manufactured, he said.

This aircraft was the last one left for restora-

It's trivial

Last issue we asked for the name of the Maroubra lad who swam the English Channel 19 times between 1970 and 1980. Subscribers Dawn Ratcliff, Jennifer Whalen, Val Pitcher and Elizabeth Smith promptly let us know that the swimmer was Des Renford—Born in 1927, eight of Renford's crossings were made after his 50th birthday!

The next category is **CARTOONS** ... can anyone name *both* of the two longest running Australian cartoon strips (one was made into a film in 1982)?

tion, Brooker said. All the others were cannibalized for parts. Two Super Constellations are flying in the United States, in Avra Valley and Kansas, and there is only one outside the country, he said.

The Super Constellation was introduced by Qantas Airways in 1954, heralding a new age for Australian aviation.

The luxury airliners—operating from Melbourne, Victoria—enabled Qantas to inaugurate its first transworld service, an event that signaled Australia's emergence as a competitive force in the international airline industry, Brooker said. The aircraft could carry 43 first-class passengers or 80 tourist-class passengers on long flights over water, with up to a dozen in-

flight crew members. It was also the last Super Constellation to serve with Qantas and finally was retired from airline operations in 1963.

The Super Constellation was a very important part of Australia, Brooker said. "It brought us closer to other continents. "We will take her home and fly it around Australia for people to see."

Concern over hostage

CANBERRA: Officials are worried about the health of an Australian woman who was abducted in Cambodia but insisted Thursday they won't pay \$150,000 in ransom demanded by the Khmer Rouge. Kelly Wilkinson, 24, and her two British companions were kidnapped April 11 at a roadblock south of the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh. She was taken with her boyfriend, Dominic Chappell, 25, and their friend, Tina Dominy, 23, after their taxi was forced to stop behind a truck 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of the port and resort of Sihanoukville, where Wilkinson and Chappell ran a restaurant.

"The wet season is about to start and we have some serious concerns about her safety and potential health problems that may arise," said a foreign affairs department spokeswoman. Recent reports from Cambodia that the trio may soon be released were unfounded, she said.

The Australian officials told reporters here the three hostages could be susceptible to malaria, dengue fever, dysentery or other tropical diseases.

The kidnappers are believed to be Khmer Rouge guerrillas commanded by veteran fighter General Bo. A department spokesman said the ransom demand, for \$50,000 (U.S.) each, was received May 14, and was followed by another similar demand in writing May 16. The demands set a deadline of May 26.

Although the deadline has passed, the officials said there had been an encouraging request from the captors for fresh clothing and towels for the group this week.

In Phnom Penh earlier last week, a Cambodian army spokesman, Brigadier-General Nhean Monor, said local villagers had reported Wilkinson was now ill. He said the Khmer Rouge was bringing the hostages to local villagers every week to show that they are still alive. The general said the hostages were being held in the village of Phnom Bak in Prey Nup district, in southern Kompong Som province and that local army units had been ordered to stay clear of the village to avoid jeopardizing the safety of the hostages.

Indonesian quake

PERTH: A tidal wave off Indonesia that killed at least 170 people caused a six-meter (20-foot) rise in the sea level off the northwest coast of Australia. The huge swells caught schools of

Readers write

We'd like to thank everyone who has either returned a questionnaire or sent us a letter. All subscriber input is greatly appreciated and contributes to a better newsletter. However, we are now faced with a few dilemmas! For example, many have written to say they want less sport. An almost equal number have asked for more. What can we do?

A common complaint about the newsletter has been that readers cannot find where sections or articles continue. We are trying to eliminate this problem.

Your contributions have been generally positive and criticisms constructive. Here are a few examples, both flattering and otherwise:

"I think WFDU is terrific."

—G.S.

"Try and be a bit more neutral. Don't assume that just because someone is interested in Australia that they automatically love everything about it."

—Bob M.

"We all need you. It's great to be kept in touch."

—Wilga R.

"I'd like to see info on Bert Newton."

—J.H.

"Keeps me in touch with things at home, like the footy and what that wanker Keating is up to."

—Ross T.

"Your publication has a low class tone and the jingoism that goes with that."

"Your taste in poetry could do with some refinement and development."

"Your use of terms like 'Aussie news' grate on me; it is not what I, or anyone I know, would say."

—All from Patrick M.

"WFDU doesn't come out often enough."

—Kathryn N.

"WFDU is witty, timely broad-based."

—R.G.

"Inside Oz seemed to have more stuff that interested me . . . I don't know why."

—Dave T.

"WFDU keeps me aware of who I am and my Aussie roots."

—Laura H.

"WFDU makes me homesick."

—Richard V.

"Keep up the good work - don't let this fold please."

—John M.

"As soon as I get WFDU I go straight to the dunny and read it cover to cover."

—Russell B.

"WFDU is just a little too serious."

—Helen W.

"Your whole approach is too flippant."

—James K.

More music

By Christina Hyde

Guitarist extraordinaire Tommy Emmanuel has been in the US to do some publicity including a live in-house promo at *The Wave* radio station in LA. He is scheduled to be back in the US to tour around September.

After the abrupt departure of Paul Hester during Crowded House's US tour, drummer Andy Kubiszewski from *The The* filled the gap. Crowded House have begun the European leg of this year's tour with Melbourne drummer Peter Jones as a temporary replacement.

Melbourne group Frente! have a return US tour scheduled for October.

Veteran rocker Jimmy Barnes has moved his family, lock, stock and Tin Lids to France to work on his career in Europe.

After an extended stay in Australia including a TV stint in an episode of the new Australian police series *Blue Heeler*, Colin Hay (Men at Work) is back, performing in LA at *Luna Park* and finishing off his new album.

New group Chocolate Starfish, who have been blitzing the Australian rock charts this year, did a promotional tour of the US last month and ended up signing with a European record label. Maybe their time in Europe will land them a US recording contract?

Brother, based in LA for the last two years, are releasing their eagerly awaited bagpipe album this month.

Who Weekly Australia (People Magazine USA) celebrated their first birthday at the newest and hottest LA club, House of Blues where Yothu Yindi were giving their final performance of their successful US tour. Many US based Australian celebrities were out in force, including Cameron Dado, who has just landed a part in the *Melrose Place* spin-off *Models Inc.*, his wife, model Alison Bray (some home tutoring perhaps) and film producers Kevin Dobson and Barry Pearce. Who Weekly have made considerable inroads into the Australian magazine market (although not without incident—see related story on page 7.)

Continued after In brief . . .

In brief

In a bid to stem its falling popularity, the Liberal Party has elected former Treasury spokesman Alexander Downer as its new leader. Downer, 42, ousted John Hewson by a 43-36 vote after Downer argued he would bring unity and generational change to the party, which lost five straight general elections since 1983.

The Prime Minister is under pressure from members of his cabinet and the Australian Republican movement (ARM) to scrap the idea of replacing the Australian flag. Senior ministers and Labor MPs believe that Mr. Keating has to recognize that the flag issue is politically damaging for himself, for the Government, and for the chances of getting community consensus on the republic. "The Queen is English, the flag is Australian . . . I haven't seen a flag I prefer to the existing Australian flag," said Michael Ward, executive director of the ARM.

Leading economic forecaster Syntec has predicted that the accelerated recovery in the world's major economies will drive commodity prices higher and send the Australian dollar to levels not seen in three years. This echoes a recent report by Bain and Company that stated the Aussie dollar might rise to US\$7c by late 1998.

Aboriginal groups and educators are incensed at changes to a primary school social studies syllabus made by the NSW Board of Studies. The word "invasion" has been eliminated and replaced by "settlement" and "arrival of British people". The president of a leading Aboriginal Education group, Linda Burney said, "All Australians must recognize the true history of this country."

Former Labor minister Graham "Richo" Richardson is alleged by the federal opposition to have had sex with Gold Coast prostitutes paid for by alleged criminals. The allegations were made under parliamentary privilege by Queensland National party backbencher Bob Katter. In the Senate, Liberal backbencher Grant Chapman was asking why federal police had not investi-

gated Richardson for breaches of the Crimes Act when taped phone calls between Richardson and "NSW crime figure" Lenny McPherson had been made available to them. Richardson, now a columnist for *The Bulletin*, stoutly denies all of the allegations.

The 1994-1995 version of the Australian Tourist Commission's 136-page travel planner, *Destination Australia*, is now available to travelers. For a free copy, contact ATC at (800) 333-0262.

The surviving airlines in the trans-Pacific air war have moved to dramatically expand capacity in what was only last year a market that was plagued by excess capacity and chronically low yields. Qantas and Air NZ have both announced new thrice-weekly services. The sole surviving US carrier, United, started its own thrice weekly non-stop Sydney to San Francisco service last week.

Tasmanian Upper House MP George Brookes criticized the UN Human Rights Committee at a rally in Burnie last week. Under the banner "Say No To Sodomy" Brookes rejected the UN's condemnation of Tasmania's anti-gay sex laws, stating that the gay lobby was intent on pedophiles having the right to have their way with children. Government polls have shown that 70 percent of Tasmanians do not want to change the current laws. Gay rights groups have called the laws a national embarrassment.

Sydney restaurateur, Margaret Shen, was one of nine foreigners who died in China's worst air disaster last Monday week. Ms Shen, 53, had been flying to Guangdong to join an Australian trade delegation headed by deputy prime minister Mr. Howe and NSW premier Mr. Fahey.

The federal Minister for Primary Industries Senator Collins, a former leader of the Northern Territory ALP said that the almost total rout of the ALP in the territory's recent election had "virtually emasculated" the party. With some postal votes still to be counted the ALP won seven seats against a minimum of 17 for the Country Liberal party government. Aboriginal leaders

were canvassing support for the formation of an aboriginal party separate from the ALP after the defeat.

Graziers have been told that they should forget wool and get in for their chop. In a report, Potential for Australia to export sheep meat to the People's Republic of China, produced by Sydney University, it is stated that the Chinese government is seeking quality sheep imports to bridge the mutton shortfall left by its own producers. The report predicts mutton sales of up to \$5 billion if the correct steps are taken. This would be approximately twice the current total export earnings for wool.

Queensland's legal system will face its biggest shakeup in history with Queens Counsels to be abolished, a limited no-win no-fee system introduced, and restrictions on advertising by the legal profession lifted. Furthermore, the Cabinet has given the state's 4,000 lawyers two years to come up with Australia's cheapest conveyancing prices or face competition from licensed conveyancers.

Many homes in Sydney and Melbourne will have the option of a multi-channel pay-TV service by the end of July. First cab off the rank is Cable Television Services (CTS) offering ten channels including CNN and MTV delivered through Telecom's emerging fiber optic network for a \$250 hookup and \$45 monthly fee. Other companies are starting to market pay-TV with satellite delivery.

Probably worth a mention on his CV—Defense Minister Senator Robert Ray was Prime Minister for three days last week. Although only fourth in the Prime Ministerial order of precedence, Ray landed the job while PM Keating, Deputy PM Howe, and Leader of the Senate Evans were all globetrotting.

In a national effort to lower the road toll, devices that lock a car's ignition if the driver has drunk too drive may be fitted to the vehicles of repeat drink-drivers by the beginning of next year in NSW. Legislation is also being considered to protect hotels and clubs from inaccurate readings from their coin operated breath testing machines. Many establishments had been reluctant to install the machines because of con-

cerns about legal action over false readings.

Several popular caves have high levels of Radon, an inert gas that can cause lung cancer. preliminary tests in the Jenolan, Yarrangobilly, Abercrombie and Wombeyan caves in NSW have shown levels of radon that could possibly be harmful to tour guides that spend considerable time underground.

The venerable Coogee Beach is emerging as one of the coolest places to be in Sydney. Beach Street has been partially converted to a promenade, the footpaths on Dolphin and Arden Streets have been widened to accommodate more outdoor cafes, and there has been extensive landscaping and tree planting. Much of the commercial area has been renovated, including the Beach Palace, site of the old Coogee Aquarium. It now houses two restaurants, a bar and a conference center.

Australia is buying two second-hand fast landing ships from the United States for \$50 million. USS Saginaw will be renamed HMAS Kanimbla and its sister ship, the USS Fairfax County, will be renamed HMAS Manoora.

West Coast Eagles captain John Worsfold has withdrawn from Western Australian Premier Richard Court's Constitutional Committee citing pressure from his other commitments. However, Worsfold probably has fewer problems than many of the former ministers and professors that serve with him . . . the Eagles are four points clear at the top of the AFL table.

For some a hospital stay can be hazardous. Victorian figures have revealed that more than 8,000 people a year are harmed as a result of treatment they receive in Victorian hospitals. A minority actually die, but the director of public health in Victoria, Dr. Chris Brook, was quick to point out that they probably would have died anyway.

A new housing estate in Blacktown, NSW is built around a lake. Australian Housing and Land thought it made sense to name the streets after other lakes in NSW—Wyangala Drive, Narran Crescent and so on. Urana Way was tabled, but wisely rejected.

fish and dumped them 300 meters inland at Exmouth, the most western point on the west Australian coastline, residents said last week.

The area is about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) southeast of the main Indonesian island of Java where six-meter (20-foot) waves caused by an earthquake crashed ashore on sleeping coastal villages early Friday.

"It looks like we've been hit by a king wave," Exmouth resident John Blinkhorn said. "I've never seen anything like it in my 20 years here." Blinkhorn said Exmouth was fringed by a coral reef, but it appeared the waves had surged through breaks, pushing the sea well above its normal level. "It would have been quite a sudden rise in tide," he said. "Had there been small boats out there there could have been real trouble."

The quake had a surface-wave magnitude of 7.2, according to the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo.

Meanwhile, an Australian doctor swept from his beachfront hut by a 20-foot (six-meter) wave in East Java says it was the most frightening experience of his life. Dr. Tom Mulholland was on a surfing vacation with two other doctors, David Ardem and South African Andrew Burns, when the wave hit the village in where they were staying—Grajagan Bay.

Mulholland said he woke about 2 a.m. to the sound of a roaring noise. He knew the surf was big and there was water lapping around the huts. "I thought that was unusual. Then I heard a noise like a 747 taking off. About a minute later I looked out the window to see 20 feet (six meters) of water heading towards me," he said.

Ardem, who was sharing the hut, woke when Mulholland screamed. "He said 'What is it?' I said 'It's a tidal wave' and smashed through the back of the hut. Then we were hit by the water and it pushed us into the jungle," Mulholland said. The pair, and Burns—who was sleeping in an adjacent hut—were swept along with hundreds of screaming residents. Mulholland man-

aged to grab a surfboard and put a leg rope on, holding on to it until his feet touched the ground. Eleven huts were swept away by the wave and the three doctors, who escaped with cuts and bruises, spent some time tending to injured people. They lost most of their possessions, but passports and money stored in a hotel safe were recovered.

No pictures of alleged backpacker murderer

SYDNEY: A court ordered a weekly news-magazine to withdraw its latest edition because it contains two photographs of the man charged with slaying seven backpackers.

The New South Wales Court of Appeal said the edition of *Who* magazine could be distributed if Ivan Milat's face was blacked out. Milat has been charged with murdering three German, two British and two Australian backpackers. Their remains have been found since 1992 in the Belanglo State Forest southwest of Sydney.

The state attorney-general sought the court order following publication of the magazine, which contained photographs of Milat on the cover and inside.

The magazine, published by Time Inc. Magazine Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Time Inc. of the United States, today announced it would use stickers to blot the suspect's face out of unsold copies.

Australia's laws favor a defendant's right to trial without extensive pre-trial publicity. There is no Australian equivalent of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing a free press. Michael Sexton of the New South Wales attorney-general's office said a summons would be issued charging the magazine's publishers with contempt.

ASIS replaces phone system

SYDNEY: Australia's main spy agency has replaced its telephone system after suspicions that it was bugged, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported last week.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organization is also cleaning out its computer system following fears that foreign agents had penetrated it, *The newspaper* reported.

Some Australian agents claimed the phone system at the organization's headquarters in the capital Canberra was old and needed to be replaced anyway. But others said they were so worried about bugs they often left the building to make calls on outside phones. The office of Attorney-General Michael Lavarch, who runs the agency, declined to comment.

The newspaper, which quoted unnamed intelligence sources, said the agency began worrying about bugs in late 1992 after it was tipped off

Down Under numbers

baby food 125g tin	\$0.50
laundry detergent 1kg	\$4.54
cooking oil 2ltr	\$5.00
mayonaise 370g	\$2.10
jam (jelly) Cottles 500g	\$2.43
Vegemite 455g	\$4.25
tinned asparagus 340g	\$3.95
pasta shells 500g	\$1.20
self-raising flour 1kg	\$1.50
cream biscuits 200g	\$2.00
coffee 150g	\$4.46
tea bags 100	\$2.99
Cornflakes 550g	\$3.26
milk 2ltr	\$2.08
orange juice 2ltr	\$3.95
butter 250g	\$0.90
margarine 500g	\$1.75
cheddar cheese 500g	\$2.95
ice cream 2ltr	\$4.55
bananas 1kg	\$1.65
granny smith apples 1kg	\$1.79
tomatoes 1kg	\$1.60
potatoes 2.5kg	\$1.79
lettuce	\$1.49
rump steak 1kg	\$11.50
forequarter pork 1kg	\$5.40
lamb loin chops 1kg	\$3.40
sausages 1kg	\$4.99
chicken No. 15	\$4.15
bacon 1kg	\$7.00

David Letterman sent his mother to Lillehammer to report on the Winter Olympics. The editor of WFDU sent his mother to Woolies to report on the prices of Aussie groceries! To get USD multiply prices by 0.74. Also 1kg equals 2.2 pounds; 500g equals 1.1 pounds. Or put very roughly: 250g=1/2pound; 500g=1pound; 1kg=2pounds; 1ltr=1quart! The prices are typical for main centers and country towns with a decent size supermarket. Many thanks to Pat Wood for doing the shopping! If any reader needs an Aussie price on a product drop us a line at WFDU.

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Indicators

US\$1.00 A\$1.37

A\$1.00 US\$0.73

Savings deposits 1.25%

1yr Term deposits 5.25%

90 day bnk bills 4.82%

Prime loan rate 8.5 to 9.75%

Personal loans 8.75 to 16.75%

All Ords ↔ 2075

Amcor \$9.40

BHP \$18.90

Foster's \$1.09

NAB \$11.02

Newscorp \$9.03

Pac Dunlop \$4.55

WMC \$8.44

by the CIA about alleged Russian spying in Australia.

A long-serving Australian agent was arrested last June and is now facing charges that he passed on secrets to the former Soviet Union.

The newspaper also claimed six Russian agents were expelled secretly from Australia in the last half of 1993.

NSW beats QLD in 2nd State of Origin game

MELBOURNE: Glenn Lazarus and Paul McGregor scored the tries as New South Wales defeated Queensland 14-0 Wednesday night to level the State-of-Origin rugby league series at 1-1. The match was watched by an Australian record rugby league crowd of 85,513 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Prop forward Lazarus scored after Queensland had dominated the opening eight minutes, and fullback Tim Brasher converted. Brasher also kicked a 21st-minute penalty, giving New South Wales an 8-0 halftime lead, and increased the advantage with another penalty in the 51st minute. Center McGregor clinched the victory with a try in the 69th minute after a superbly angled pass from scrum half Ricky Stuart. Brasher missed the conversion.

The third and deciding match of the series will be played at Lang Park in Brisbane on June 20. Queensland won the first match of the series 16-12 in Sydney on May 23.

Victorians were at a loss to explain the rugby league phenomenon. MCG chief executive, John Lill, tried gallantly, "Melbourne people are the greatest sports watchers in the world. And they'll go if there is a world class event. Obviously this one is and it was promoted very well" he said.

Newcastle whip St. George

SYDNEY: Newcastle put an almost certain end to St. George's chances of playing in the grand final for the third year in a row, beating the Dragons 24-14 in a Winfield Cup rugby league match Sunday. St. George's semifinal chances were not looking promising after 12

men struggled for 63 minutes at Newcastle. It was the sixth defeat in a row for St. George, which has lost to the Brisbane Broncos in the grand final for the past two years. Prop Paul Stevens was sent off in the 17th minute and St. George's position worsened when replacement prop Gordon Tallis was sent off 10 minutes later.

Also Sunday, Western Suburbs withstood a late charge by Balmain for a 32-28 victory. The Magpies led 16-6 at halftime and ran away to a 32-6 lead early in the second half after three tries in six minutes. But Balmain scored four tries in a 10-minute period in the second half to come within four points of the home side with nine minutes remaining.

The league played a split round on the weekend due to the State of Origin match.

On Saturday, Brad Fittler led Penrith to a 30-16 upset victory over Canberra at Penrith Stadium. The Panthers led 22-10 at halftime and outscored Canberra five tries to three.

On Friday, Brisbane scored a dramatic 12-10 victory over standings leader Canterbury-Bankstown. Forward Peter Ryan scored the winning try in the 79th minute after a rare scrum win against the feed after Brisbane screwed the scrum.

West Coast cement lead

MELBOURNE: The West Coast Eagles strengthened their position atop the Australian Football League ladder Sunday with a tougher-than-expected 11.12 (78) to 10.9 (69) victory over the Brisbane Bears. West Coast denied Brisbane, 11th on the ladder, a third consecutive victory in damp conditions at Perth's Subiaco Oval. After a tie at halftime, the Eagles kicked five goals to three in the final two quarters.

Also Sunday, Hawthorn's midfielders and champion full-forward Jason Dunstall both stepped up a gear after halftime to give the Hawks an easy 21.15 (141) to 13.5 (83) victory over the Sydney Swans. Dunstall kicked 11 goals, his third double-figure haul this season and his best performance against the Swans.

Melbourne suffered its fifth loss in six games, bowing 18.13 (121) to 13.16 (94) to Carlton on

Saturday. Melbourne had been undefeated in six rounds, but has fallen from top to seventh place on the ladder. Carlton captain Stephen Kernahan and Melbourne skipper Garry Lyon each scored four goals. Carlton won its third in a row.

In other matches Saturday, Geelong beat St. Kilda 17.11 (113) to 16.14 (110) and high-scoring North Melbourne belted Adelaide 21.23 (149) to 10.9 (69). Beaten by Brisbane last weekend, Geelong squandered a 33-point lead and trailed by 26 at the last change after St. Kilda piled on seven unanswered goals in the third term. But Geelong full forward Gary Ablett lifted the Cats, booting five of Geelong's seven final-quarter majors. North Melbourne produced its best football of the season to demoralize Adelaide by 80 points.

Also, Richmond 14.18 (102) def. Collingwood 4.12 (36) and Footscray 13.14 (92) def. Essendon 9.10 (64)

Sports shorts

Australia eclipsed Ireland 32-18 in the second Rugby test played in Sydney. The Wallabies played some classy football in the game following their lackluster performance in beating Ireland 33-13 in Brisbane.

Guard Kwame Evans hit for 23 points—including four three-pointers—as George Washington University beat the Australian National Basketball League club Sydney Kings 74-72 last week. The American collegians capitalized on the last-minute ejection of Sydney forward Tim Morrissey to clinch the victory.

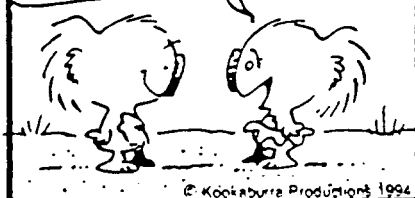
The United States women's basketball team went to the world championships in Australia full of confidence. They left a bit humbled, despite winning the bronze medal. The Americans rebounded from a surprise semifinal loss to Brazil to defeat Australia 100-95 in the bronze medal game.

Australia beat South Africa in two soccer internationals held in Sydney and Adelaide. The score in both games was 1-0.

The Australian Soccer Federation is launching an inquiry into alleged improprieties in the transfer of key Aussie players to Europe.

Beyond the Black Stump

WHEN I FIRST WENT OUT WITH YOU BRUCE I THOUGHT IT WAS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE...



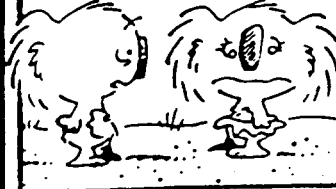
BUT WHEN YOU PROPOSED TO ME I REALIZED THAT WAS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE...



...THEN, ON OUR WEDDING DAY I KNEW THAT WAS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE



LET'S HOPE YOU'RE NOT WRONG AGAIN



By Leahy & Piper

Laid Back and Down Under

BY MICHELLE BOUBION

Australia is the kind of place where people walk around unhurried, spend a lot of time "chatting up" in pubs and lying on the beach. In a world of sun, sea and sand, the land Down Under is home to folks who pity those who aren't lucky enough to live in their wonderful country.

Just about every section of this gigantic country has something to offer its visitors, who come to play in the backyard of *all* backyards. However, it's Sydney and Melbourne that provide a genuine Aussie experience for travelers.

Situated perfectly between the sea and the mountains, Sydney is delicately sprinkled with the colors and fragrances of eucalyptus trees, frangipani and hibiscus. Beauty

aside, this town breeds a thriving and innovative cultural life that ranges from chamber music and symphony concerts to ballets and operas. And running neck and neck with the love of the arts is the enthusiasm for sports, which includes rugby, cricket, horse racing and sailing. The Sydney outlook on life is quite casual, and the people here dress accordingly. It's almost never too hot, and it seldom

gets cold; shorts and sandals are the protocol.

The Sydney Opera House on Bennelong Point caters to fans of the arts as well as those of architecture. In the summer Sydney Harbour draws skiers, sailors and other water-sports enthusiasts, and Chinatown, on the southern edge of the Central Business District, boasts some of the finest Chinese cuisine south of Hong Kong.

The Australian Museum holds a strong environmental theme. Its collections of natural history artifacts and displays of the continent's physical terrain, aboriginal links with the land, geographical areas and the evolution of humans are only a few of the samplings of this magnificent collaboration.

Of course, a visit to Sydney wouldn't be complete without a stop at one of the local beaches, the most famous being Bondi. Located southeast of the city, Bondi is immense but often crowded on weekends. Tamarama, on the other hand, is small and trendy—just perfect for people watching.

Serving as Australia's industrial, commercial and financial focal point, Melbourne stands as one of the best preserved Victorian cities in the world and also serves as a mecca for the fashion and film industries. In this fast-paced city visitors can find many treasures, both natural and man-made.

Melbourne's trams, reminiscent of San Francisco's cable cars, are part of a huge mass transit system

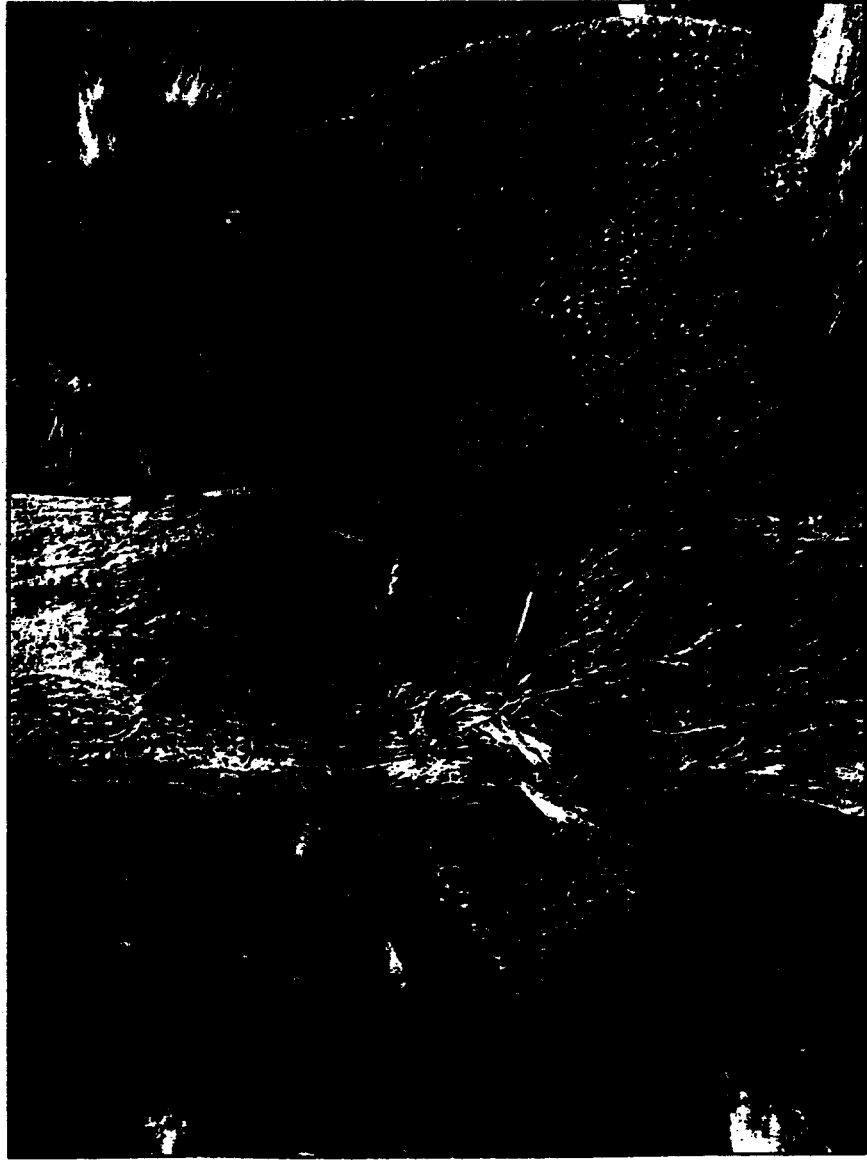
that lends to Melbourne's ambience of elegance and style. Beautifully refurbished pubs and exquisite restaurants adorn the streets, which add to the refined distinction of the chic, high-fashion boutiques and grand department stores.

Elegance does not stop here, however. The Victorian Arts Centre and National Gallery on the south bank of the Yarra houses Australia's most famous art collection and includes works from such artists as Picasso, Renoir, Degas and van Gogh.

If a return to nature is more your pace, a stop at the Royal Melbourne Zoo will delight you. Home of the world's largest butterfly collection, visitors can meander through the lush tropical jungle while vibrantly colored butterflies glide freely all around them. And at the Royal Botanical Gardens, an abundance of wildlife and more than 12,000 plant species flourish within the richness of this heralded arboretum.

Of course, the experience of Melbourne can be made complete by simply mixing in with the locals at any one of the pubs in town. However, since the city doesn't allow bars that don't offer food and accommodations, most of the pubs are referred to as hotels, which also host a large portion of the entertainment available in the city.

Take a trip to the Land Down Under where you can relax and enjoy the sun, sand and savvy of Sydney and Melbourne.



Wildlife flourishes within miles of the city, including the country's signature animal, the koala.

HILLSBOROUGH - BURLINGAME
BOUTIQUE & VILLAGE
JUNE 29, 1994

The Really Great Outdoors

6673

For travelers who love the great outdoors in the form of wide, open spaces, be it above or below the sea, Queensland provides a faultless combination of adventure, wildlife and breathtaking scenery. Called the "Sunshine State," this huge region of Australia draws more visitors than anywhere else, with the exception of Sydney. To no surprise, the Great Barrier Reef and the Outback are the main attractions in this part of the country.

The 1,200-mile-long chain of coral reefs that comprise the Great Barrier Reef parallels the Queensland coast, with most of the reef sitting below the water's surface except during the lowest of tides. Built by billions of tiny marine animals, each a mere few millimeters in size, the magnificence of this natural wonder has only

recently been opened up to human exploration.

Brilliant hues of oranges, reds, pinks and yellows paint the various shapes of coral in this underwater menagerie, while neon-colored fish dart in and out of the peculiar formations. Starting south of the Tropic of Capricorn and running north to just before Papua, New Guinea, the main reefs are located 150 miles off the coast of Rockhampton.

Underwater isn't the only place to experience the wonder and beauty of this awesome country, however. The Outback in the Northern Territory offers the quintessential Australian experience—credible expanses of desert, cattle country and rock outcroppings. Anyone who dares to venture beyond the indications of civilization should be equipped with the knowledge and expertise of traveling through such rough terrain.

In Eastern Queensland, the

Outback "begins" once you leave the lush coastal plain and cross over the Great Dividing Range. There are several major highways that serve the towns and cities of the Outback, but it is wise to heed the recommendations of traveling between the months of April and October to avoid the incredible summer heat. From these towns, the Outback stretches to the inner depths of Australia, attracting many hikers and campers who enjoy the solitude and unity with nature. Many of the interesting spots are accessible by car, but it can and does get quite hot and dusty out there.

Queensland eloquently represents the unrestrained beauty of nature with its many riches. From the remarkable underwater wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef to the varied and intriguing territory of the Outback Queensland is the perfect destination for travelers who want to break loose.



Australian Tourist Commission

Exploring the Great Barrier Reef is one of the most memorable experiences enjoyed by visitors to Queensland.

HILLSBOROUGH-BURLING
BOUTIQUE & MILLER
JUNE 29, 1994

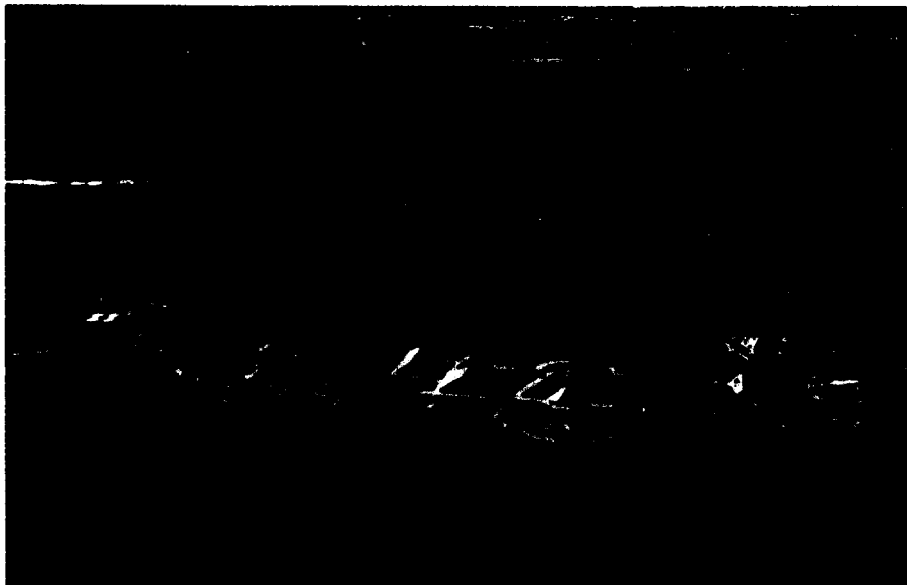
WINE ENTHUSIAST
JULY/AUGUST 1994
P. 114

5023

TRAVEL

by Natalie Berkowitz

CORKS & KANGAROOS IN AUSTRALIA'S HUNTER VALLEY



AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

A bird's eye view of Kirkton Park, one of the most luxurious places to stay when visiting the Hunter Valley.

WHAT MOVES ALONG by leaps and bounds in Australia? Answer: kangaroos and the wine industry. From a hesitant blip on the sales charts in the '60s, the wine industry increased its volume to \$15 million by 1986, to \$224 million in 1993, and the spike on the sales graph is expected to hop upwards to over \$700 million by the year 2000.

Many Americans' attitudes about Australia are often formed by fourth grade geography lessons and movies like *Crocodile Dundee*. Even wine lovers sophisticated about terroirs of France and California lump its wines as though Australia is a generic term. But cognoscenti know that wines from Down Under come from several viticultural areas, mainly along fertile areas close to the coasts rather than the inhospitable Outback.

Where else could Len Evans—"Mr. Australian Wine"—take his guest, Peter Sichel, the well-known American wine importer, for an afternoon of 'roo spotting in a neighboring vineyard? Where else do Wallabies (not the shoes, but tall kangaroos) shimmy under protective wire fences surrounding vineyards

charmingly called "grape paddocks" and flocks of gorgeous birds land on the road in a frenzy of pink and white feathers?

The Hunter Valley, an area of approximately 10,000 square miles, was discovered in the late 1700s by a royal Navy expedition commanded by Captain John Hunter, who in the usual manner of immodest explorers, named the area after himself. Farmers and rum-ravaged escaped convicts settled the area as an extension of the Sydney colony. Logic should have dictated that these early winemakers—faced with unreliable rainfall, sparse water, hail and rainstorms—look elsewhere to grow grapes. But persistence overcame nature's defaults. Vines, particularly Semillon, were first grown over a hundred years ago, a few still bearing fruit. Some of the original family dynasties are still prominent in the industry.

Because of their early isolation from the rest of the winemaking world, Australians think of themselves as NewWorld vintners, unfettered by hidebound laws and systems. Plantings from Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy and the United States are blended at the



Double the pleasure: Rothbury Estate, one of the Lower Hunter's star wineries, also features a popular café and picnic grounds.



"Cook-a-hoop" over Chardonnay: Philip Shaw, left, and Bob Oatley of Rosemount Estate in the Upper Hunter.

vintner's discretion. Varying ratios of Cabernets and Shiraz are married to make reds; whites frequently combine Semillon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. "Australians operate by the law of the jungle. If we can sell it, we can make it. We're not hamstrung like Europeans with rules and conventions," says Rosemount's owner, Bob Oatley.

The Hunter Valley's proximity to Sydney makes it a popular weekend destination where savvy Aussies mellow out. Visitors are enticed by its wineries and wildlife. It's more like a sojourn to low-key, fun-loving California wine regions than to staid France. At Rothbury Estate, collectors of French antique cars putt-putt to an annual outdoor picnic and wine-tasting, and wedding parties toast brides and grooms in the handsome Cask Room.

The Valley is divided between the Lower and Upper, each with a distinct topography and personality. (The designations have nothing to do with height or north/south—Lower is merely the part the visitor gets to first.) The tourist-friendly Lower Hunter is home to the majority of the valley's wineries. Almost every winery has tasting tours, and the path to Tyrrell's, Lindemans, Rothbury Estate, Drayton and Lake's Folly is well-beaten by buyers looking for red and white wines of good value.

By contrast, the Upper Hunter, hemmed in by two mountain ranges, has more dramatic terrain. The trip to its seven wineries is worth an extra hour's drive through small hamlets, grazing land and haunting scenery. Rosemount, the area's most prestigious winery, was originally settled as a homestead in 1885 by the Oatley family. Bob Oatley makes 750,000 cases of

award-winning whites. "We're very cook-a-hoop over our Chardonnay, which is the benchmark for our wines," Oatley says, looking out over a rose-covered slope to the mountains in the distance. Rosemount's stylish Shiraz and other varietals, like Traminer, are also favorites in the domestic market and abroad.

Many things in the Hunter Valley are named after the profusion of pepper trees which grow in abundance. Peppercorns dangle like wind chimes from their branches. Peter and Pam Ireland's Peppers Creek is a boutique winery and antique store filled with tasteful displays of jewelry, silver, china and furniture owned by original settlers.

WHEN TO GO, WHERE TO STAY

Even if you don't understand the scientific reasons why seasons are reversed Down Under (and it's hard to conceive of June, July and August as winter), the best times to visit are during the spring—September, October and November—when the vines are budding, or fall—March, April and May—during the harvest.

There are many top-of-the-line places to rest a wine-besotted and food-indulged body. The Convent at Pepper Tree was built in 1909 as a home for the Brigidine Order of Nuns. The landmark building was saved from demolition by a Sydney business consortium and moved 200 miles to the Lower Valley by a seven-truck convoy. Its 17 guest rooms and suites were painstakingly restored with original pressed metal ceilings and walls, fireplaces, wood paneling and etched-glass doors. Rooms are decorated in pastels and white wicker with a cheerful elegance its former occupants never contemplated. Nor would the Sisters have dreamed their haven would someday include a spa, swimming pool and tennis court.

Peppers Hunter Valley is a posh 47-room resort set up to take care of a guest's every need, from winery tours, ballooning and golf at nearby courses. Len Evans puts his guests up at The Carriages Guest House, knowing they will like their six suites with fireplaces, tennis court, pool, barbecue area and carriage rides through the Valley.

MORE THAN SHRIMP ON THE BARBIE

Once Australian cuisine was as mundane as English pap; but today, Valley chefs pride themselves on innovative recipes incorporating fish, beef, and pro-

duce from down the road and Sydney markets.

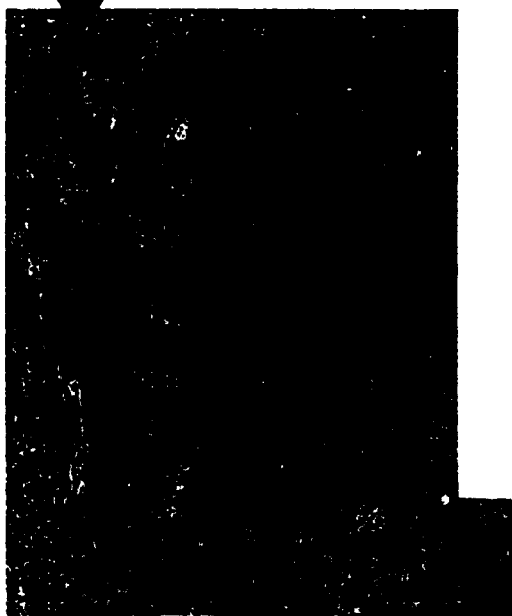
Robert's Restaurant is part of the same beautifully landscaped enclave as The Convent; the barn-like structure with beamed roof and antiques was built around rooms from the original Pepper Tree Cottage. Chef Robert Molinas uses his French/Italian background to prepare beautifully presented antipasto, game cooked to perfection in the wood-fired oven, osso bucco and obscenely delicious desserts.

Book ahead for lunch at the winery's Rothbury Cafe. Chef Brian Means offers sophisticated fare of fig and rabbit pie; mixed grill with a twist—customary steak, kidney, liver and chicken saté and homemade onion marmalade; prune and pecan cake; or poppy seed crêpe topped with bananas flambé. "We don't know what's typical Australian food anymore. The predictable Sunday roast and three vegetables have gone by the wayside," says Means. "We muck around with Asian, Italian, French and American recipes, and come up with our own style." w

South Pacific

DIVERSE DELIGHTS

etc 16



Australia

The "land down under" is a true wonderworld, where sky-high rain forests are carpeted with ferns that flourished when dinosaurs still trod the earth; and exotic animals include cuddly koalas and gigantic birds, called cassowaries, that

stand six feet tall. In the mountains of the Great Dividing Range, winter snowfields surpass those of Switzerland, while 900 miles away, blaze-blue oceans melt into untracked ivory beaches. No wonder Australians refer to their country as Oz—a tribute to its

(continued on page 68)



MODERN BRIDE
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1979
P. 112

AUSTRALIA

(continued from page 648)

spellbinding singularity. The world's largest island—and smallest continent—Australia has a population of about 17 million, spread out over a country the size of the United States. While Australia's sleek cities outshine, out-party and out-skyscape most other Western-world capitals, the country also vibrates with an edge-of-the-frontier spirit. Most cars in the Outback sport "roo bars" on their front grills—protection against jayhopping kangaroos, and bush hats seem to be standard-issue headgear outside of cities (meaning in most of the country).

If you love the outdoors, Australia offers enough treks, tracks, dives, climbs, rides and glides to occupy Crocodile Dundee himself full-time. Many of the best adventures—from white-water rafting to bungee jumping—are offered close to major cities, so it's easy to go exploring.

Sydney. If Australia is Oz, then its Emerald City is Sydney, a metropolis of nearly 3.7 million people built around a vast, blue harbor. Modern-day Australian history began here, when the First Fleet of immigrants settled on a neck of land they named Sydney Cove in 1788. Step back in time at the Rocks, a former bawdy red-light and warehouse district where restored buildings now house fashionable boutiques, restaurants and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

This is a city of contrasts—from the narrow lanes near Macquarie Place to leapfrogging office towers in the City Centre to the leafy paths through the Royal Botanic Gardens to the landmark sail-shaped Opera House, which presides over the harbor. For the best views of the waterfront, stroll across the Harbour Bridge or hop a ferry from Circular Quay. Terrific beaches are located just a quick bus ride from downtown. Try Bondi, a mélange of hot-shot surfers, joggers, tai chi practitioners and sunbathers.

Melbourne. The most cosmopolitan of Australia's cities, Melbourne's culture scene is especially lively, with concerts and theater productions at the Victorian Arts Centre, plus top-notch Australian art on display at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Above all, Melbourne is a city for walking, with wide boulevards and countless parks and gardens. Meander along the promenades by the Yarra River, shop along Toorak Road or visit the Royal Melbourne Zoo.

Melbourne is also a wonderful launching spot for excursions. Head to Phillip Island, where, at dusk, thousands of diminutive fairy penguins troop from the ocean to their nesting sites, waddling within inches of captivated spectators. Or visit Ballarat, setting for Australia's 1850's gold rush, with its Gold Museum and re-created mining town.

Queensland. Among Australia's most popular vacation destinations, this northeastern state offers vistas ranging from long, gilded beaches to tropical rain forests. (Remember, the farther north you go in Australia, the closer you are to the equator.)

Just off the coast lies the Great Barrier Reef, the largest on our planet, home to some 1,500 species of fish and 400 different types of coral. Despite its name, the reef isn't one solid obstacle but, instead, encompasses nearly 3,000 shoals and cays strung offshore like a necklace of opals. Several islets have been turned into luxurious, private resorts. Scuba diving and snorkeling are simply out of this

(continued on page 652)

AUSTRALIA

(continued from page 651)

world. You'll encounter giant clams nearly three feet across and huge potato cod that can weigh 500 pounds.

Brisbane, Queensland's capital, combines an upwardly mobile skyline with green, open spaces shaded by jacarandas and tulip trees. This is the sun-'n'-fun mecca of Australia, with beaches and resorts located along the Sunshine Coast to the north, and Gold Coast to the south.

Gateway to Australia's Far North is Cairns (pronounced cans), a siesta-paced, sun-washed city where everyone seems to dive or surf. From here, you can head off for a roiling rafting trip down the Barron River, or ride a 100-year-old narrow-gauge railway to the former mining town of Kuranda. Farther north lies the Greater Daintree area, where the world's oldest continuously surviving tropical rain forest extends almost to the edge of the sea.

The Outback. West of the Great Dividing Range, the dramatic, arid Outback stretches across the continent, accounting for over 70 percent of Australia's land, yet home to just 12 percent of its people. Its most awesome landmark is Ayers Rock—also known as Uluru, a rust-red monolith looming 1,100 feet up from the surrounding scrubby plain. Other Outback spots include Alice Springs and Kakadu National Park.

There's so much more...Perth and nearby Fremantle, host to the 1987 America's Cup sailing races...British-toned Adelaide's bed-and-breakfast inns and nearby vineyards...Tasmania, an island state known for its untramed wilderness traced by silvery rivers and temperate rain forest... You'll just have to come back to Australia.

—Risa R. Weinreb

GETTING THERE: Air New Zealand, Canadian Air, Northwest, Qantas and United all fly to Australia. It's a 14-hour flight from Los Angeles, California, to Sydney, Australia; longer if there's a stopover. For internal travel, Ansett and Qantas fly everywhere.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: See the "Booklets for the Two of You" section in this issue, contact the Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Ave. of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90067 (800)333-0262, or call the Aussie Helpline at (708)296-4900.

**CANADIAN
PHOTO / INFORMATION
ASSISTANCE**

HOSTELLING

... *dozen under*

THE LONDON FREE PRESS
JULY 9, 1994
P. 1/5

Photo by RAE SCOTT

Australia's Ayers Rock: 3.6 km long, 348 metres (1,140 feet) high. Color changes dramatically at sunrise and sunset.

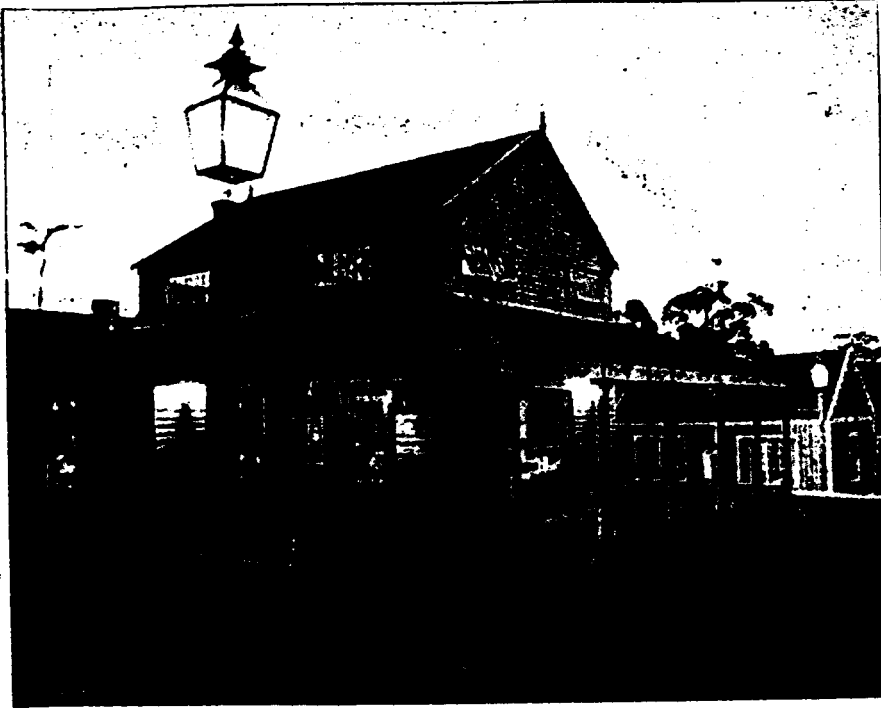


Photo courtesy Australian Tourist Commission

ABOVE: The Ballarat hostel, north of Melbourne, Australia, is part of a re-creation of an historic gold-mining township.



Photo courtesy Australian Tourist Commission

Travellers wait for a bus outside one of the two hostels in Cairns, Australia. Cairns is a popular jumping-off point for trips to the Great Barrier Reef.

"A good night's sleep in friendly surroundings at an affordable price." No, that's not a commercial for Day's Inns or Journey's End. It's how Hostelling International describes lodging in what could



be described as the world's largest accommodation chain – 5,000 hostels in more than 60 countries. Hostels are changing. For one thing, they are becoming more accessible: Once the preserve of young people, they have been discovered by seniors and families. For another, they are becoming more sophisticated: At some hostels you can reserve in advance, and pay by credit card. Rae Scott, a Calgary woman who admits to being in her 60s, tried hostels in Australia and New Zealand, and returned an enthusiastic fan.

By Rae Scott

Scott is a freelance writer in Calgary

How old are you? Five? Forty-three? Sixty-nine?

Do you love to travel? Itch to hold a koala, snap kangaroos, climb Ayers Rock, watch penguins, dive the Great Barrier reef?

Can't afford it? Nonsense! See New Zealand and Australia through the Youth Hostels Association (YHA). The trip of a lifetime awaits you.

If you think hostels are noisy, dirty, the preserve of youth, you're wrong. People of all ages can use them. But before leaving Canada, join Hostelling International-Canada. Membership will allow you to use hostels "down under" and around the world.

You'll also need the hostelling accommodation guide that covers Australia and New Zealand. It contains detailed information on every hostel, such as number and type of rooms, wheelchair accessibility, distance from train/bus/airport facilities, national

holidays and festivals. It also lists discounts and concessions. The book costs \$10.95 and is available from Hostelling International-Canada and at some bookstores.

The YHAs down under are well organized and streamlined, part of an international computer booking network that lets you make reservations before leaving home. Their hostels have more amenities than hotels, at a fraction of the price. They offer laundry facilities, storage for valuables, a message board, and local information. They sell food staples and useful items such as money belts, army knives, and sleep sacks. They also book accommodation, bus and side trips, cash travellers' cheques.

Hostelling enriches the travel experience. Hostels are places where you see new ways of preparing dinner, such as the Asian, travelling on a noodle, who produced a feast with little but potatoes, onions, oil, or the youth with a luscious king crab reclining like a massive pink daisy against a bed of sliced bread. Hostels are places where you cry with plea-

sure when old pals appear at new digs, or when a "broom closet" becomes "suite with cathedral view," or when the staff pops "free" caramel corn.

These hostels differ from Europe's. There are no curfews. You can stay during the daytime, and use "special entry" for late nights. Nor are there compulsory chores. That means some brats do leave dirty pots, but more tidy up afterward.

New Zealand YHAs are often in quaint, recycled buildings. The Australian ones are larger, pricier, have more competition in the area of budget lodgings. Staff is friendly and helpful. Hotel bed/bath may be better, but YHAs top them for travel information, advice, and price.

Still not convinced? Consider this: In an emergency, a Canadian traveller can be located within hours, free, by leaving messages at three Australian hostels.

Accommodation includes dormitory, twin, and family, all of which YHA will advance book for a few dollars. Partying is banned; snorers are not, so use earplugs.

Fresh fruit, vegetables, seafood, lamb, beef are plentiful in Australia and New Zealand, and there's usually a grocery store within blocks of a hostel. One way to cut costs is to think like a backpacker — small, few, light. When you are in planes and restaurants, scrounge things like packs of tea, coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, mustard, relish, and rolls. Snack on dried fruit and nuts. Skip mayonnaise and margarine. Carry a bag of oatmeal instead of bulky cereal.

Hostel kitchens contain microwave, stoves, boiling water tap, mugs, cutlery, and dishes, but no rubber scraper. Onward travellers often leave items on a "free" shelf.

PLANNING: Buy or borrow a well-padded, comfortable, waterproof pack with a top flap that will cover contents should it rain. Bring extra fittings. Add a Canadian flag. A top-bottom zippered pack permits easy retrieval from the end. No ironables please — rumped is in!

It's better to rent sheets at hostels than to take your own (they're free in New Zealand, sometimes \$2 a pair in Australia.). Blankets, duvets, and pillow slips are free. Make or buy a sleepsack;

Australian YHAs don't allow sleeping bags.

TAKE: Towel, cloth, soap, shampoo samples, insect repellent, moisturizer, sun glasses, hat and screen, camera, extra film, Band-aids, antiseptic, pins, travel scissors, tissue, army knife and/or paring knife, sturdy plastic accessories for ad-hoc meals, jogger's water bottle and holder (fits like a belt, saves money and time). Pack sheets of foil, wax paper, plastic wrap, paper towel, several J-clothes (they double as facecloths), sticky labels for name, etc., plus one big dry-food bag for the shelf and another for the fridge. Take a day pack.

CLOTHING: Think layers versus bulk, knit versus woven; liners versus panties. Take a windproof jacket, cardigan, neutral T-shirts (black is hot; white soils), a cool, long-sleeved shirt (for sun, insects), a shell, bathing suit, shorts, pants, breathable socks, quality shoes (runners and sturdy sandals). Omit heavy boots. To cover all, take a water-proof poncho.

TRANSPORTATION: Most hostels have limited parking space. Guests often use bus or train in New Zealand, planes in Australia. Rental cars in New Zealand permit flexibility, but we won't forget the North Island bus driver manoeuvring through flocks of sheep, and giving a commentary, while delivering mail, flowers, fried chicken, and school kids. Besides, it's difficult to drive/navigate/see the mountains on South Island. Trains are great for meeting the locals and watching scenery, but seats are hard.

Buy a Visit Australia air pass in Canada. Choose four- six- or eight-leg vouchers. Ansett offers good service; costs a bit over half the normal fare. Then rent a car or take excursions. I don't recommend Australian/Pacific tour bus vouchers; listed prices were a joke; large departure areas chaotic, and time was wasted due to passenger numbers.

IF YOU GO

Hostelling International-Canada: Membership costs \$25 plus GST for adults (19 and older), \$12 for those under 18; free for those 18 and under if they are travelling with an adult. Membership includes a hostelling guidebook for Canada and the U.S. Contact Hostelling International-Canada, 205 Catherine St., Suite 400, Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1C3, phone (800) 663-5777.

Climate: Opposite to Canada's; snow only at high elevations. New Zealand tends to be moderate, with formidable rains in coastal areas. Australia's interior is hot and dry. At Ayers Rock, in Australia, tiny, non-biting flies are a nuisance if it's hot and sunny. Buy hat-nets there.

Currency/costs: Take travellers' cheques in New Zealand and Australian dollars. They are easily cashed, and fully refundable. We found our costs in New Zealand were low despite a 12.5-per-cent sales tax. Australia's base costs were similar to ours. Credit cards are useful for pre-paying accommodation.

Eating/drinking: Two fine customs: little or no tipping, especially in New Zealand, and BYOB (bring your own bottle), for which the restaurant may assess a small surcharge. The hostels allow alcohol; smoking is restricted.

Sample hostel rates: Australia - Pt. Arthur, \$10 in a dormitory; Melbourne Queensberry Hill, \$16 in a dormitory (six or fewer beds). In New Zealand, children under 15 travelling with a parent stay free. Ask about Go As You Please cards, which provide the 13th night free, and two free nights after 20 nights.

Tips on getting around: In New Zealand, buy an Inter-City Travel-pass (bus/train/ferry). The YHA discount is 30 per cent. In Australia, the Austrailpass is fine for short distances. In both countries, rental cars have left-hand drive.

Additional information: New Zealand Tourism Office, P.O. Box 10071, Vancouver, B.C. V7Y 1B6, phone (800) 888-5494; Australian Tourist Commission, 1200-2121 Avenue Of The Stars, Los Angeles, CA, 90067, phone (310) 552-1988.

August 1994

PUBLIC RELATIONS & PROMOTIONS

- Total Advertising Equivalency \$3,504,031.00
- Number of Media Releases Issued 2
 - Walsh, Robinson, Flitton, Light Appointment Release
 - Lyndel Gray Appointment Release
- Number of Journalist Interviews Given TBA
- Number of VJP Visits to Australia 2
 - Lynn Ferrin, Motorland Magazine
 - Trey Combs, Freelancer - Saltwater Sportsman, Offshore Fishing

News Bureau/Media Liaison

- Wrote and distributed press release on the appointment of Gloria Walsh, Ruth Robinson, Vivien Flitton and Jackie Light. The release was sent with photos on August 19, 1994 to travel trade publications in the U.S. and Canada.
- Wrote and distributed press release on the appointment of Lyndel Gray, Regional Director, The Americas. The release was sent on August 29, 1994 to travel trade publications in the U.S. and Canada, the ATC's general distribution list and advertising/PR publications in the U.S. Photos were sent to selected publications.
- Wrote second Aussie Specialist Weekend release and submitted for client approval. Will distribute to travel trade publications once approved.
- Wrote first draft of Fall Festivals release and submitted to client for approval..
- Wrote Airline Spraying release in response to Dateline program. Distribution is on hold as per Lyndel Gray.
- Gathered information on special deals to Australia to include in a fall travel packages release.
- Researched upcoming editorial calendars of target newspapers in North America.
- Contacted Laura Bly with the Los Angeles Times to offer additional information and photography for upcoming Australia section.

- Contacted Cindy Babb with the Rocky Mountain News to offer additional information and photography for upcoming articles on Australia.
- Invited five journalists to attend the Aussie Specialist Weekend in October. Made flight arrangements for the two that have accepted to date.
- Drafted pitch letter for Entertainment Tonight and submitted for client approval.
- Drafted pitch letter for the David Letterman show and submitted to client for approval.
- Fact checked article for Endless Vacation magazine.
- Fact checked article for Conde Nast Traveler Magazine.
- Worked with 50 journalists to provide information and or photography including:
 1. Jane Healey, Reader's Digest
 2. Nancy Mills, Travelin' Woman
 3. Steve Coryell, Asian-Pacific Travel Facts
 4. Carolyn Potter, Sensations
 5. Yvonne Dunleavy, Freelancer
 6. Vivian Fancher, CEO Traveler
 7. Cerie Segal, Travel Talk
 8. Gordon Burrridge, Pacific Rim News Service
 9. Arnold Miller, The Chronicle-Telegram
 10. Mr. Jacobs, Motivation Show Daily
 11. Zeke Wigglesworth, San Jose Mercury News
 12. Steve & Caroline Lake, Freelancers
 13. Rick Cropp, The Inside Track Travel Group
 14. Linda Haner Bauer, Focus magazine
 15. Kermit Kapner, Casino Player
 16. Sherry Thompson, Travel Tip Hotline
 17. Sibby Christenson, Associated Press
 18. Robert Michael, Entertainment News Syndicate
 19. Sheldon Landwehr, New York Post
 20. Matthew Bennett, Media Multimedia, Inc.
 21. Marianne Tefft, Freelancer
 22. Paul Leeder, Independent Senior Newspaper
 23. John Dorrance, San Jose Mercury News
 24. Lucy Izon, Freelancer
 25. Mark Bryant, Outside
 26. Paul Petropoulos, Earth magazine
 27. Deanna Whitehouse, Adventure Cycling
 28. Laura Thomson, Weddings & Honeymooners
 29. Chris Roberts, Freelancer
 30. Tal Alead, Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous

31. Ken Roon, Travel On-Line
32. Molly Murray, Golf Digest
33. Charles Mandel, Golf USA
34. Steve Veale, Away magazine
35. Linda, Travel World News
36. Joanne Buteau, The Golden Traveler
37. Robert Jones, Recommend
38. Bobbie Zane, Freelancer
39. Jim Carper, Hotels Management
40. Charlette Sena, Progressive Marketing
41. Moira O'Brien, Anza Travel
42. Tony, Bon Appetit
43. Charolette Sena, Progressive Marketing
44. Judy Thompson, National Golf Foundation
45. Michelle Williams, Carp News, Canada
46. Phil Trup, Rodale's Scuba Diving
47. Mary Ellen Botter, Denver Post
48. Joe Wolfe, Freelancer
49. John Godwin, Australia on \$45 a day
50. Rosalie, Westways Magazine

Visiting Journalists Program

Worked with 43 print journalists, 1 radio station and 3 TV stations during the month, either to invite them to visit Australia or to coordinate their itineraries and plan their upcoming trips. There were 2 VJP visits to Australia in the month of August. Journalists worked with included:

1. Phil Bookman, Gannett News Service
2. Trey Combs, Saltwater Sportsman
3. Randy White & Debra White, Outside
4. Neil Chesanow, Modern Bride
5. Ramsey Pollard, Ramblin with Ramsey, Sun Radio Network
6. Heidi Waldrop, Freelancer, Incentive Magazine
7. Lyn Ferrin, Motorland
8. Roberta Graff, Freelancer, Jax Fax, South Shore Record
9. Maxine Cass, Freelancer, Travel Agent Magazine
10. Sherrie Strausfogel, Freelancer, TravelAge Publications & Travel Weekly
11. Julie Barton Tarasovic, Editor, Jax Fax Magazine
12. Donna Marino, Associate Editor, Tour & Travel News
13. Bruce Parkinson, Travel Editor, Canadian Travel Press
14. Leslie Fratkin, Freelancer
15. Charles Corn, Travel Holiday
16. Jim Gorant, Power & Motoryacht
17. Sandra Vukov, Freelancer, The Journal American
18. Pamela Young, Freelancer, Maclean's Magazine
19. Stacy March, Frontrunners, KOMO-TV

20. Jay Clarke, Miami Herald
21. David Hochman, US Magazine
22. Joe Robinson, Escape
23. Lucy Izon, Freelancer
24. Michael Justice, Freelancer, Copley News Service
25. Richard Christiansen, Chicago Tribune
26. Ian McMillian, Canadian Yachting
27. Jim Hutchison, Freelancer
28. Dana Kitaj, Performing Arts
29. Linda Daniels, Freelancer
30. John Darrance, San Jose Mercury News
31. Alison Gardner, Maturity
32. Bill Stoughton, Freelancer
33. Mira Friedlander, Freelancer
34. Martha Robinson, Freelancer
35. Deborah Milton, Leisureways
36. John Hoagland, Eco-Channel
37. Jonathan King, Sierra
38. Diane Merlino, Tour & Travel News
39. Kate Munick, Outdoor & Travel Photography
40. Jamie Hubbard, Financial Post
41. Jody Morgan, Equinox
42. Tim OKeefe, Freelancer
43. Jean Pierce, Odessey
44. Fred Gebhart, Freelancer
45. Larry Woods, Across America - CNN
46. Kerry Tessaro, Islands
47. Babs Suzanne Harrison, Freelancer

VJP Other

- Fact checked Peggy Person's article for Mature Outlook.
- Received VJP follow up questionnaires from Donna Marino, Michele Romine, Kristin Petrovich and Robert Visty. Sent two copies of each to ATC-Los Angeles. Also received questionnaires from Sherry Strausfogel, Maxine Cass and Lesley Taylor. Will forward copies to LA.
- Updated the VJP database with new trips, articles and ad equivalencies received.
- Provided ATC Sydney with individual breakdown of all VJP results received for the month of July.
- Developed new VJP checklist for AVISO's in-house use to better track the status of individual trips.

Special Promotions

Kennedy Center Festival Australia

- Sent letter to Festival Australia performers inviting them to participate with the ATC in public relations efforts while in the U.S.
- Compiled list of media to invite to Festival Australia.

Weekend to Weekend

- Continued coordination between KCRW radio, the ATC, Qantas Airways and Qantas Vacations for KCRW's 1994 membership drive.

ATE '94

- Made additional follow up phone calls to ATE '94 participants asking them to return questionnaires.

Meetings, Conventions & Incentives

- Wrote article on Australia's role at IT&ME and submitted to convention publications for possible inclusion.
- Wrote and submitted first draft copy of the MC&I newsletter.
- Contacted David Ghitelman to inquire about his Dreamtime article. Requested additional copies of his articles for Nigel Bramich. David is trying obtain and will forward as soon as possible.
- Discussed activities for upcoming IT&ME convention with Nigel Bramich.

Year of the Great Outdoors / YOGO

- Submitted proposal of promotional opportunities with Professional Association of Diving Instructors and American Horticulture Society of Associations interested in Australia presentations.

Air New Zealand Advertorial

- Developed two articles for advertorial in the Los Angeles Times.

Miscellaneous

- Updated current ATC Job List.
- Completed July Clips and Status Reports.
- Sorted and sent press clips for the August Clips Report to Burrelle's for newsclip analysis.
- Distributed copies of CNBC programs to Roberta DiVito at Qantas Vacations, Joan Boyd at Qantas Airways, Priscilla Felton at Australian Wine Importers Assoc., Tourism New South Wales, Queensland Tourist & Travel Corp. and Myriad Communications as a result of CNBC's Weekend to Weekend trip.
- Developed detailed program timeline and budget.
- Provided Lynette Marshall at the Australian Singles Connection a list of Australian-based freelance writers that the ATC occasionally works with for an upcoming trip that she's conducting.
- Provided information on Australian trains to SATO travel.
- Provided Globus/Cosmos Tourama with background information on Australian activities.
- AVISO staff met with Bill Baker in Alameda on August 16.
- Irv Hamilton attended ATC branding meeting in Los Angeles.
- Ashley Devery attended South Pacific Marketing Association meeting on Aug. 30.
- Researched the Internet, E-mail and commercial Online services. Made several attempts to contact Ken Jackson and Nick Kovari at ATC-Sydney to determine ATC-Sydneys system. Attempted to test E-Mail to ATC-Los Angeles through Internet via America Online. Attempt was successful.

ADVERTISING EQUIVALENCY INFORMATION

U.S. Advertising Equivalency

Visiting Journalists Program	\$ 352,152.00
Press Releases/Interviews	\$ 112,728.00
Photo/Information Assistance	<u>\$2,988,232.00</u>

TOTAL U.S. AD EQUIVALENCY **\$3,453,112.00**

Canadian Advertising Equivalency

Visiting Journalists Program	\$ 42,192.00
Press Releases/Interviews	\$ 8,727.00
Photo/Information Assistance	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

TOTAL CANADIAN AD EQUIVALENCY **\$ 50,919.00**

**TOTAL NORTH AMERICAN
AD EQUIVALENCY** **\$3,504,031.00**

A . V . I . S . O

AVISO INC.
MARKETING COMMUNICATION

AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

CLIPS REPORT

AUGUST 1994

RECEIVED
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
CRIMINAL DIVISION
96 FEB -5 P3:31
INTERNAL SECURITY /
SECTION
REGISTRATION UNIT

**AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION
CLIPS REPORT
August, 1994**

U.S. VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

APR	'94	GOLDEN WING "The Wild, Wild West" by Sherry Shahan	\$N/A
JUL	'94	MIRABELLA (NEW YORK, NY) (M-600,000) "Down Under, Up-and-Coming" by Stacy Morrison and Paul Sinclair	\$114,224.00
JUL	17	NEW HAMPSHIRE SUNDAY NEWS (MANCHESTER, NH) (S-95,598) "4-Wheel-Drive Opens Outback" by Jeff Miller	\$8,556.00
JUL	18	TOUR & TRAVEL NEWS (MANHASSETT, NY) (W-56,000) "Queensland Shines Spotlight On Off-Beat Attractions" by Donna Marino	\$23,888.00
JUL	31	THE HERALD SUN (DURHAM, NC) (S-65,045) "A Tale Of Two Olympic Cities" by Debbie Selinsky	\$9,344.00
AUG	'94	ASIAN-PACIFIC TRAVEL FACTS (BURLINGAME, CA) (Q-100,000) "Diving Around the 'World's Largest Living Thing'" by J. Siskin	\$N/A
AUG	'94	JAX FAX (DARIEN, CT) (M-28,000) "The 10th Annual 1994 Australian Tourism Exchange " by Julie Trarsovic	\$24,476.00
AUG- OCT	'94	MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS (SECAUCUS, NJ) (M-80,279) "All Aboard!" by David Ghitelman	\$86,944.00
AUG	01	TRAVELAGE WEST (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) (W-36,000) "Aussies Prepare to Meet Olympic Challenge" by Sherrie Strausfogel	\$10,992.00
AUG	07	DALLAS MORNING NEWS (DALLAS, TX) (S-809,188) "G'day, Mate - and Howdy" by Jeff Miller	\$56,820.00
AUG	07	SUNDAY TELEGRAM (WORCHESTER, MA) (S-139,306) "Tasmania" by Carolyn J. Yarbrough	\$16,908.00

CANADIAN VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

JUL	07	CANADIAN TRAVEL PRESS WEEKLY (TORONTO, ON) (W-13,000) "ATC Strategy Shift Is Working" by Bruce Parkinson	\$5,368.00
JUL	07	TRAVEL COURIER (TORONTO, ON) (M-5,000) "Australia On Rise" by Bruce Parkinson	\$2,724.00
AUG	13	WINNIPEG FREE PRESS (WINNIPEG, MB) (D-146,416) "Sea Marvel" by Jeff Miller	\$34,100.00

U.S. PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS

JUN	24	UNION (GRASS VALLEY, CA) (D-17,500) "Doings Down Under"	\$196.00
JUL	'94	JAX FAX (DARIEN, CT) (M-28,000) "Australian Tourism and the Americas Market: A Decade of Innovations"	\$5,828.00
JUL	'94	JAX FAX (DARIEN, CT) (M-28,000) "Tasmania to Host 1994 World Congress"	\$2,716.00
JUL	'94	SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS (NEW YORK, NY) (M-77,000) "Fabulous Festivals" by Ross Weiland	\$1,152.00
JUL	'94	TRAVEL WORLD NEWS (NORWALK, CT) (M-41,000) "Australia: Tourist Commission Releases '94 Travel Agent Manual"	\$1,940.00
JUL	'94	TRAVEL WORLD NEWS (NORWALK, CT) (M-41,000) "The Australian Tourist Commission is Offering <i>The Natural Holiday Guide</i> "	\$1,940.00
JUL- AUG	'94	HOME & AWAY (INDIANAPOLIS, IN) (BI-M-195,000) "1994 Destination Australia Travel Planner"	\$816.00
JUL- AUG	'94	HOME & AWAY (DES PLAINES, IL) (BI-M-353,793) "1994 Destination Australia Travel Planner"	\$1,492.00
JUL- AUG	'94	HOME & AWAY (LOUISVILLE, KY) (BI-M-163,578) "1994 Destination Australia Travel Planner"	\$684.00
JUL- AUG	'94	HOME & AWAY (BURNSVILLE, MN) (BI-M-222,430) "1994 Destination Australia Travel Planner"	\$912.00

U.S. PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS (CONTINUED)

JUL- AUG	'94	HOME & AWAY (OMAHA, NE) (BI-M-2,200,000) "1994 Destination Australia Travel Planner"	\$480.00
JUL	02	NEWS-SUN (WAUKEGAN, IL) (D-44,000) ""Down Under' Guide"	\$260.00
JUL	03	HERALD NEWS (JOLIET, IL) (S-48,413) ""Great Australian Train Tour' Takes You Into Outback" by Alison Ashton	\$1,344.00
JUL	03	DESERT SUN (PALM SPRINGS, CA) (D & S-47,322) "Train Tour"	\$788.00
JUL	03	RECORD SEARCHLIGHT (REDDING, CA) (D & S-41,000) "Whale Festival in Hervey Bay"	\$172.00
JUL	07	LORAIN COUNTY TIMES (LORAIN, OH) (W-6,000) "Arrivals in Australia From North America Are Up 9%"	\$156.00
JUL	07	WESTLAKER TIMES (LORIAN, OH) (W-3,000) "Arrivals in Australia From North America Are Up 9%"	\$156.00
JUL	10	SIOUX CITY SUNDAY JOURNAL (SIOUX CITY, IA) (S-49,865) "Travel Planner"	\$332.00
JUL	17	SUN-SENTINEL (FORT LAUDERDALE, FL) (S-345,849) "Australia Offers Vacation Planner"	\$1,956.00
JUL	18	TRAVELAGE EAST (NEW YORK, NY) (W-28,697) "Destination Specialist" by Theresa Norton Masek	\$19,056.00
JUL	18	TRAVELAGE MID-AMERICA (CHICAGO, IL) (W-21,000) "Destination Specialist" by Theresa Norton Masek	\$13,580.00
JUL	18	TRAVELAGE WEST (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) (W-36,000) "Destination Specialist" by Theresa Norton Masek	\$20,964.00
JUL	20	JACK O'DWYER'S NEWSLETTER (NEW YORK, NY) (W-30,000) "Robert Monfrini, VP, Management Supervisor"	\$N/A
JUL	25	TRAVELAGE MID-AMERICA (CHICAGO, IL) (W-21,000) "Australia Fine-Tunes Promotions"	\$1,328.00

U.S. PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS (CONTINUED)

JUL	25	TRAVEL AGENT (NEW YORK, NY) (W-52,132) "New South Wales Seek Olympic Profile" by James Ruggia	\$25,660.00
JUL	31	SUNDAY WORLD-HERALD (OMAHA, NE) (S-285,287) "Package Tours Focus on Australia"	\$1,212.00
JUL	31	SUNDAY POST-JOURNAL (JAMESTOWN, NY) (S-28,726) "Doings Down Under"	\$132.00
AUG- SEPT	'94	EXECUTIVE GOLFER (IRVINE, CA) (BI-M-125,000) "Blame the Kangaroos!"	\$6,964.00
AUG	16	TRAVEL MANAGEMENT DAILY (NEW YORK, NY) "The Australian Tourist Commission is Aiming for a 190% Increase in International Tourism"	\$512.00

CANADIAN PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS

JUL- SEPT	'94	HOLIDAY MAKER (VANCOUVER, BC) "Discover the Great Outdoors"	\$2,239.00
JUL	01	DOCTOR'S REVIEW (MONTREAL, PQ) (M-37,097) "A Week's Holiday Can Get You Australia"	\$2,408.00
JUL	07	TRAVEL COURIER (TORONTO, ON) (M-5,000) "A 'Dream Destination'"	\$452.00
JUL	30	THE EDMONTON JOURNAL (EDMONTON, AB) (D-172,000) "Whales Down Under"	\$56.00
JUL	30	THE GUELPH MERCURY (GUELPH, ON) (D-19,547) "Whales On Move"	\$124.00
JUL	30	STANDARD-FREEHOLDER (CORNWALL, ON) (D-18,048) "It's Whale-Watching Season Down Under"	\$124.00
AUG	05	FORT MCMURRAY TODAY (FORT MCMURRAY, AB) (D-8,085) "Year-Round Whale Watching"	\$N/A
AUG	06	THE CALGARY HERALD (CALGARY, AB) (D-140,907) "Whale Watching Season Winds Down in Canada"	\$44.00
AUG	06	GLENER (FREDERICTON, NE) (D-30,185) "Whales On Move"	\$140.00

CANADIAN PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS (CONTINUED)

AUG	06	THE GUARDIAN (CHARLOTTETOWN, PE) (D-21,247) "Whale-Watchers Head to Australia"	\$160.00
AUG	06	THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR (HAMILTON, ON) (D-139,728) "Moving Whales"	\$596.00
AUG	07	THE TORONTO SUN (TORONTO, ON) (D-260,000) "See Whales Down Under"	\$992.00
AUG	14	THE EDMONTON SUN (EDMONTON, AB) (D-88,000) "It's Whale-Watching Winds Down In Canada"	\$392.00

U. S. PHOTO / INFORMATION ASSISTANCE

JUL- AUG	'94	THE HARTFORD AUTOMOBILER (WEST HARTFOR, CT) (9X-YR-140,00) "Australia - The Land Down Under" by Marnie Gorman	\$81,688.00
JUL	'94	TOLEDO BUSINESS JOURNAL (TOLEDO, OH) (M-8,900) "Laid Back and Down Under" by Michelle Boubion	\$3,528.00
JUL	'94	TOLEDO BUSINESS JOURNAL (TOLEDO, OH) (M-8,900) "The Really Great Outdoors"	\$2,340.00
JUL	'94	TRAVEL & LEISURE (NEW YORK, NY) (M-1,100,000) "My Adelaide Adventure" by Tama Janowitz	\$2,824,568.00
JUL	03	NEW YORK TIMES (NEW YORK, NY) (S-1,593,100) "Art and Wildlife Tours in the South Pacific"	\$25,344.00
JUL	07	NEW CANAAN ADVERTISER (NEW CANAAN, CT) (W-6,420) "Laid Back and Down Under" by Michelle Boubion	\$1,360.00
JUL	11	TRAVEL WEEKLY (NEW YORK, NY) (BI-W-21,198) "International Profile"	\$10,652.00
JUL	14	PALISADIAN-POST (PACIFIC PALISADES, CA) (W-17,466) "Laid Back and Down Under" by Michelle Boubion	\$1,696.00
JUL	14	PALISADIAN-POST (PACIFIC PALISADES, CA) (W-17,466) "The Really Great Outdoors"	\$912.00

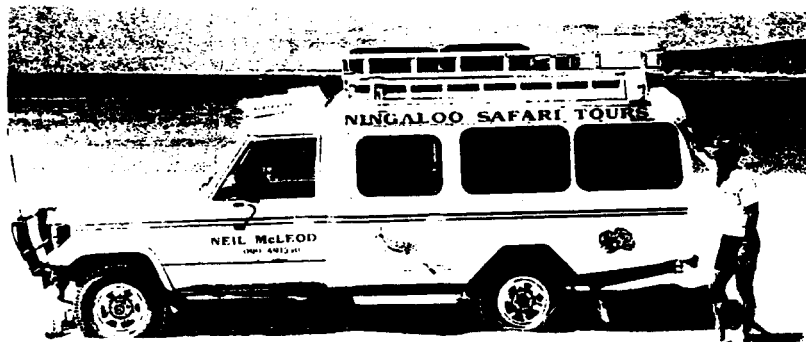
U. S. PHOTO / INFORMATION ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)

JUL	18	TRAVEL WEEKLY (NEW YORK, NY) (BI-W-21,198) "Queensland Expects Rise in Honeymooning, Diving Visitors" by Laura Del Rosso	\$30,168.00
JUL	31	MIAMI HERALD (MIAMI, FL) (S-527,851) "Tourist Offices"	\$1,220.00
AUG	'94	HEMISPHERE (GREENSBORO, NC) (M-500,000) "Tweed Banana Festival" by Lisa Fann	\$172.00
AUG	07	ASBURY PARK SUNDAY PRESS (ASBURY PARK, NJ) (S-229,056) "Great Trip to Australia a Phone Call Away"	\$2,676.00
AUG	07	FORT PIERCE TRIBUNE (FORT PIERCE, FL) (D & S-26,377) "Call For Tip on Australia"	\$688.00
AUG	07	MIAMI HERALD (MIAMI, FL) (S-527,851) "Tourist Offices of the Pacific"	\$1,220.00

**U.S.
VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM**

O. S. T. h e B

THE WILD, WILD WEST



Sherry Shahan visits 'Banjo' Paterson's 'dried-up bed of an inland sea' on the fringe of the continent

The most westerly protrusion of Australia has seen the faces and footsteps of Europeans longer than any other place on the continent. European vessels sailed east across the Indian Ocean to the west coast of this weathered land, then navigated north for the rich spices of the East Indies. Many a captain laid a rueful course too close to shore – only to become a mournful statistic on coral reefs and sandy shoals.

A corrugated road of red earth forms a bumpy route through Cape Range, declared a national park in 1964. The dramatic folds of this arid bushland remain an 'off the beaten track' destination: a jagged stone landscape that opens up to coastal plains and

windswept sand dunes. The road passes scores of termite hills, each mindful of an oversized, overturned ice-cream cone sprinkled with cardamom. Spiky spinifex and a coastal heath provide euros, the large grey-rust kangaroos of such climes, with abundant food. Emu and wild turkey share space with feral camels.

No one describes such a scene better than poet 'Banjo' Paterson:

*The shining plain that is said to be
The dried-up bed of an inland sea
Where the air so dry
And so clear and bright
Refracts the sun with a wondrous light.*

— O f f T h e B e a t e n T r a c k —

tales which offer a sense of pioneer history, of raw intimacy with the continent's unyielding vastness.

A stone's throw from Yardie Creek Gorge lies Ningaloo Marine Park, Western Australia's largest marine park, which teems with more than 500 species of fish and at least 220 species of corals. The park is closer to shore than any other coral reef in the world, and is more accessible than Queensland's Great Barrier Reef.

The four-wheel-drive pulls onto a stretch of blinding white sand at the base of windswept dunes.

The hour is rapidly approaching high tide – the time when green turtles lumber ashore to lay their eggs. We join another small group in search of turtle tracks, which resemble the scalloped marks left by tractors.

Before long, two turtles command



Left: Wild turkeys share the coastal plains with emus and feral camels.

centre stage, playing to an audience which groans empathetically as each sand-filled flipper is laboriously lifted. An hour passes before the egg chamber (a pit excavated with the hind flippers) is completed.

"Why is she crying?" someone asks. "Does it hurt to lay eggs?"

"Don't worry," those in the know reply. "It's just the salt solution that flushes her eyes when she's out of the water."

Turtles don't reach sexual maturity until they're 50 years old and

live to be 150. Clutches of eggs laid in cold sand at the beginning of the season take up to 12 weeks to incubate and produce male hatchlings. Those laid in warm sand take six weeks to incubate and produce female hatchlings.

Our last stop is Vlamingh Head Lighthouse, just outside the park. Located on the northernmost tip of the cape, it provides both a panoramic view and an insight into the harsh lifestyle of lighthouse keepers and their families.

Before returning to the familiar shelter of our air-conditioned accommodation, Neil pulls off the road for a moment. We stop, look and listen.

What do we hear? Nothing. That's the point.





If you go, it's advisable to spend a couple of days exploring the cape's limestone ranges and red rock canyons, which cover more than 50,000 hectares.

Those who'd rather not take their vehicle into the scrub should consider signing-up with Ningaloo Safari Tours, owned and operated by Crocodile Dundee look-alike Neil McLeod. The 10-hour 230km excursion is more informative than any geography lesson, and each tour consists of a maximum of 11 passengers.

At the start of our trip, a flock of sulphur-crested cockatoos accompanied the four-wheel-drive vehicle to Mangrove Bay, where a boardwalk pushes through exposed roots to reveal a bird hide.

Ornithologists have been known to spend hours in the wooden enclosure with binoculars fixed on birds of prey like osprey, kestrel and spotted harrier; and waders such as curlew, whimbrel and ruddy turnstone.

Not far from Mangrove Bay, the Milyering Bicentennial Visitor Centre offers a comprehensive overview of the region via videos, graphic displays and three-dimen-



sional models. The buildings themselves are interesting since architects and engineers have harnessed natural resources to build structures which have a minimal impact on the environment. There are no noisy generators, no smelly fumes, no unsightly tanks. No small feat!

Further along the unsealed track, Neil keeps a small outboard motorboat which he uses to explore Yardie Creek Gorge, a mini Grand Canyon of russet rock underlined by a course of saltwater. All agree

that their first visit to Yardie Creek is a rite of passage.

Wild figs send cable-like roots a dozen metres down to a waterline of fossilised oyster shells.

Striped rock wallabies peek out from behind rocks, osprey construct massive nests or 'stacks', so spectacular in their simple beauty that it's difficult to look elsewhere. Then something draws your attention even higher to a chorus of birds, each an instrument blending into a symphony. All the while, Neil tells

Main picture: A windswept dune at Ningaloo Marine Park. Green turtles come ashore near here to lay their eggs.

Far left, inset: Crocodile Dundee look-alike Neil McLeod operates Ningaloo Safari Tours.

Above: Ningaloo Marine Park is home to 500 species of fish.

Left: "The road passes scores of termite hills, each mindful of an oversized, overturned ice-cream cone sprinkled with cardamom."



675

Down Under, Up-and-Coming

*The luxury resort at the end of the universe . . .
and other Australian amazements.*

SEASCAPE Although many island getaways dot Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Hayman stands out for its unsurpassable splendor. The resort recently underwent a \$260-million renovation, the sole purpose of which, it seems, was to insure that no guest would ever have an unfulfilled longing: there are now six restaurants and seven bars; two and a half acres of freshwater and saltwater swimming pools; a golf range, health club, squash and tennis courts; and a gallery of boutiques carrying swimsuits to dinner jackets. Champagne—a taste of the pleasures to come—is served on the yacht that shuttles guests from the airport.

Despite the resort's grandeur, it takes up only a small corner of the island, so nature is close at hand. What attracts people in the first place is the Great Barrier Reef—a 1240-mile-long explosion of Technicolor corals that are home to innumerable fish, crustaceans and mollusks. The reef is a fifty-minute boat trip from the resort, which charters all-day excursions. Hayman itself is ringed with coral, so the surrounding waters are ripe for exploration: game fishing, snorkeling, diving, parasailing, windsurfing and waterskiing. For those who want to see the underwater topography without getting wet, a glass-bottomed boat makes local tours, and a yellow submarine regularly makes runs between Hayman and neighboring Hook Island.

Walking trails cut into Hayman's largely untouched terrain and lead to beaches on the

northern side and to vantage points in the hills. Guests can have the kitchen pack a picnic lunch, then take a short hike to Blue Pearl Bay and spend the day away from civilization.

CITYSCAPE Visitors return from Sydney gushing about its energy. Certainly, the location on a sparkling harbor doesn't hurt, but the overhaul of several down-at-the-heels neighborhoods (in preparation for the 2000 Olympics) has given the city new shine.

A few of Sydney's must-sees and must-dos: **The Harbor** A quick and pleasant way to acquaint oneself with the city is to take a ferry tour. Head for Watson's Bay. There you'll find "pub hotels" where you can eat fish and chips, drink beer and watch the sailboats. From the ferry you'll see the sweeping architecture of the Sydney Opera House, which resembles billowing white sails. This 1973 building is the city's most recognizable icon. **The Rocks** The site of Sydney's first colonial settlement. Although peppered with new restaurants and boutiques, it maintains a nineteenth-century feel.

The Observatory Hotel This medium-sized hotel, fashioned after a nineteenth-century manse, opened just last year. Already its restaurant is known for its Asian-influenced menu.

Paddington Markets People come here to mingle with Sydney's young and beautiful. On Saturday, open-air markets feature new designers' fashions (Morrissey Edmiston is a local favorite), ceramics and jewelry. On the weekends, take a taxi to avoid parking nightmares.

Back Door Cafe at L'Otél This restaurant in the Darlinghurst section is widely considered the city's only source of a decent margarita.

COUNTRY COUSIN Although Hollington House Hotel is in Woolton Hill, England, the hotel pays impressive homage to Down Under with a 1200-bottle cellar of Australian wines, including several venerable reds aged more than twenty years. Owners John and Penny Guy brought the wines back to England after ten years near Melbourne, where they had opened the continent's first luxury country-house hotel, Burnham Beeches.

Despite its wine list, Hollington House is pure English manor. The gardens, for example, were created by renowned landscape designer Gertrude Jekyll in 1908: lush wisteria climbs over much of the house and hundreds of specially imported rhododendrons grow along the drive and around the terrace. Each of the twenty guest rooms is spacious, with sitting areas and large bathrooms, some of which have sunken whirlpool tubs. Antiques, fabrics and carpets furnish the whole hotel, and the downstairs salons are marked by ornate woodwork and panelling. A trip to neighboring Highclere

Castle—which houses artifacts from Tutankhamen's tomb—paired with Hollington's tennis, biking, croquet, riding and hunting, is more than ample entertainment for a country weekend. 

Above, left: Hayman's vast pool complex; **above, right:** aerial view of the vibrant Great Barrier Reef; **left:** Hollington House Hotel, England.



JULY 17, 1994

P. 1/2

4-Wheel-Drive Opens Outback

By JEFF MILLER
Special to the Sunday News

CRAMBERG INTO the huge four-wheel-drive on the first day of our Australian self-drive desert exploration, we felt like characters in a Mel Gibson road warrior movie — nothing between us and the harsh Outback but our machine. With a turn of the key the diesel throbbed to life.

The vehicle would get five grunts on TV's "Home Improvement." Giant tractors have smaller tires, earthmovers have fewer levers. We were told the "bull bar" bolted to the front was in case we hit any water buffaloes.

We named it "Tonka" (said in two grunts).

Later — deep in the Outback — the jokes died as we grew to appreciate our substantial, hard-working friend. But on the dry, paved roads of Alice Springs, it was hard to imagine we'd ever need such an all-terrain monster.

In the Northern Territory near the center of the country, Alice Springs (population 25,000) was the perfect jumping off point. The only major town for 500 miles in any direction, Alice not only offered a good base for day trips but a major tourist attraction, Ayers Rock, within a day's drive.

While Ayers (Aboriginal name, Uluru) and its companion the Olgas (Kata Tjuta) lived up to their advertising, it was our "discovery" of three special places accessi-

ble only by 4WD — the lush and prehistoric Palm Valley, the peaceful and sacred Ewaninga Aboriginal rock carvings, and the astounding formations and dramatic cliffs of Kings Canyon — that made our trip memorable.

We started our four-wheel-drive at Alice's visitors center, a must for self-drivers, not just for detailed maps but to learn the current road conditions, which can change quickly and spell disaster for the uninformed.

Our initial foray into the Outback was a day trip to Palm Valley (100 miles southwest of Alice). Starting on pavement — Aussies call it bitumen (pronounced bitch-a-men) — we soon got the hang of driving on the left and shifting with the left hand.

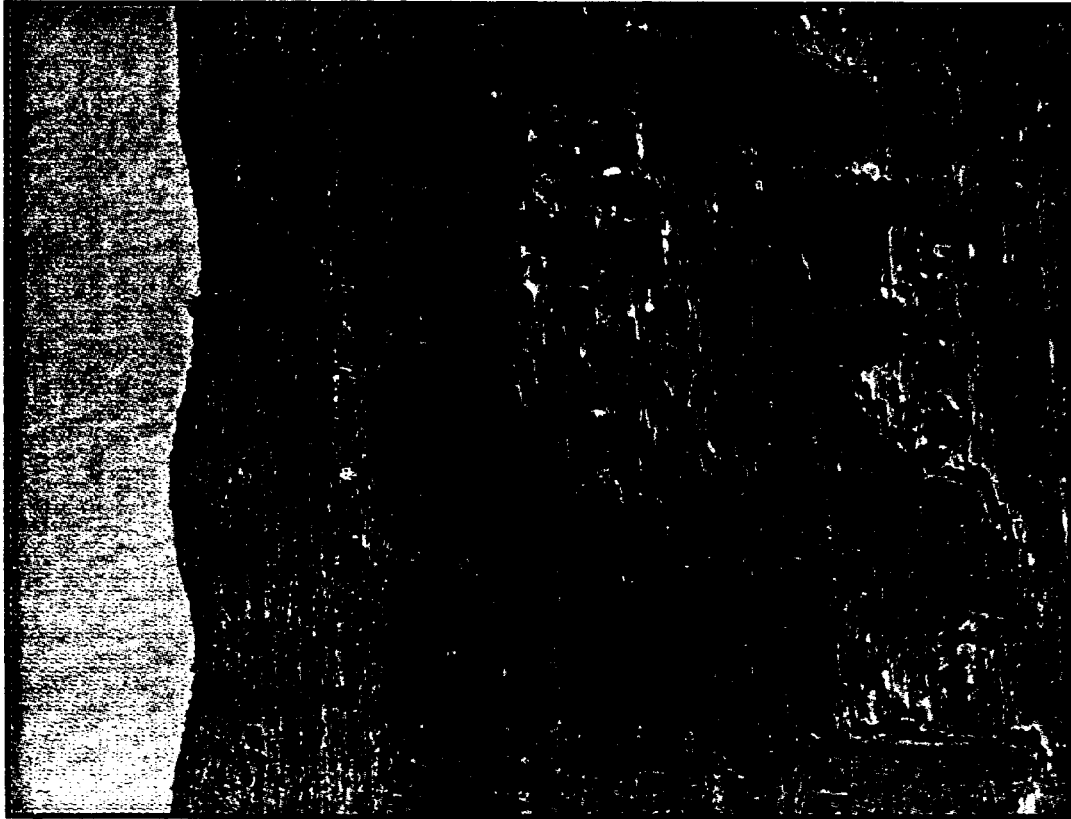
The countryside, with its scrub trees and bushes, distant buttes and multicolored mesas, reminded us of New Mexico and Arizona, but here the palette was a fiery red soil, forged in a landscape furnace that can reach 120 degrees.

Sixty miles from Alice the pavement faded to a wide, relatively smooth dirt road. At Hermannsburg — an Aboriginal community with traveler facilities — a sign warned "4WDs only." The road narrowed to what looked like an abandoned animal track and Tonka rarely got beyond second gear. As it clawed its way over boulders, we hung on rather helplessly, being tossed from side to side like balls in a fierce pinball game.

At one point we came to a narrow, fast-moving stream where a rock ledge sub-

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AUSTRALIA, Page 3G



SHEER CANYON wall in Australian Outback dwarfs travelers.

Desert Oasis Shelters Ancient Palms

AUSTRALIA

(Continued From Page 1G)

merged in knee-high water was the only way across. Deep water on both sides of this natural bridge made it a tightrope fording. As I slowly pulled onto the ledge, the water grabbed for the tires — one careless move and Tonka would be a houseboat. I laughed at the thought of the rental car company trying to bill my credit card \$50,000.

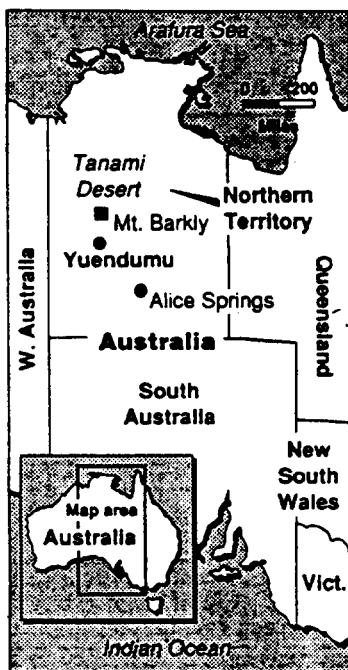
When we reached Palm Valley in Finke Gorge National Park, we found it startling — a tropical oasis in the heart of a desert. Permanent underground water and protecting cliffs have nurtured and sheltered remnants of a prehistoric rainforest — most notably the Red Cabbage Palm (the seedlings resemble cabbages) and the palm-like Cycad plant.

A trail with periodic interpretative signs led into the valley. Flat riverbed rock, worn smooth by eons of seasonal flooding, offered natural pathways past reflective pools and through thick stands of palms, ferns and wild grasses. We hiked until we were tired, had a picnic beside the stream, then drove leisurely back to Alice.

The next day we headed southeast on another 4WD-only track. This time there were no boulders to climb, no rivers to ford, just a wide dirt swath of washboard ruts and mud holes. Twenty-five miles down the line we found the Ewaninga rock carvings, one of the best surprises of the trip.

Here, the flat desert was broken by a ring of rock outcroppings looking like tired old giants hunched around a fire. Nearby a small pond in a "claypan" (a natural water preserver) has become a haven for life. Maroon and yellow wildflowers danced merrily around tufts of prickly spinifex grass. Blue mallee bushes and pine-like desert oaks shaded small rodents and lizards.

We were greeted by the chattering of swallows, wrens and mar-



tins and the throbbing of crickets. Imaginative listeners could have heard the light breeze whisper tales of 300 generations of nomadic Aborigines who had lived and died here. And wrapped around everything was a sense of ageless peace, as solid as the rocks, as ethereal as the clouds.

Scattered among the outcroppings were well-preserved works of ancient artists. Abstract rather than narrative, the carvings included concentric circles, wavy lines, and animal tracks. Thousands of years old, these haunting symbols, and their peaceful home, held us in their magic for nearly half a day.

Back in Alice we decided that now, as "experienced" 4WDers, it was time for a longer trip — a two-day journey to Uluru via Kings Canyon. While the driving over highway and dirt road wasn't as dramatic as the previous two days, Kings Canyon made up for it.

Only about four hours from Alice, the canyon is part of Watarrka National Park and takes at least a day to see. An easy, scenic hour's walk winds through the canyon, while a truly spectacular, but much harder, four-hour hike goes to the top and around the rim.

For the longer trek, we heeded numerous warning signs and took hats, sun block, food and water. The hike was difficult at times (it's not for the old at heart), but needs only average fitness and a relaxed pace. It helps that the rock is in layered formations, creating natural steps. The hardest going is at the beginning, when the trail snakes up a rugged, rubble-strewn hillside to the top of the canyon. This climb not only gave us great views of the surrounding desert, but constant reminders that we're 40 years old.

At the top we found the trail marked by unobtrusive blue arrows and enhanced with good interpretative signs. After catching our breath, we headed off into the eerie "Lost City," with its sandstone "buildings."

The trail then headed toward the cliff rim, where the canyon walls are so sheer they look like they've been sliced apart by a giant cleaver. With no guard rails and a playful breeze, most people lie on their stomachs and inch to the edge for a peer over. An added benefit to this method is that you're already prone if you faint from fright.

We could have spent an entire day wandering around the canyon's sandstone domes or just

sitting near the rim and scaring ourselves to death, but it was time to head to Uluru, a half-day's drive south in Uluru National Park.

A few days later, a four- to five-hour drive on bitumen brought us back to Alice Springs and a farewell to Tonka. We had grown fond of our muscular friend. Initially, he had been intimidating, but was actually easy to handle and a joy to drive. We knew that without such a big, tough "road warrior," we would have worried constantly. For such peace of mind, it seemed a small price to pay that for weeks after the trip we talked in manly grunts and dreamed about torque, rpms and gear ratios.

If You Go

Note: All prices in Australian dollars.

Getting There: Alice Springs has regular air service from any large city in Australia via the country's two major domestic carriers, Australian Airlines (now merged with Qantas) and Ansett Airlines.

Four-Wheel-Driving: The routes outlined in this article are off the beaten track enough that they will give you a real sense of adventure and solitude. If, however, your vehicle breaks down or gets stuck, the routes are well traveled enough that sooner or later someone will come by and offer a hand.

Further information: Australian Tourist Commission, Los Angeles, 1-800-333-0262.

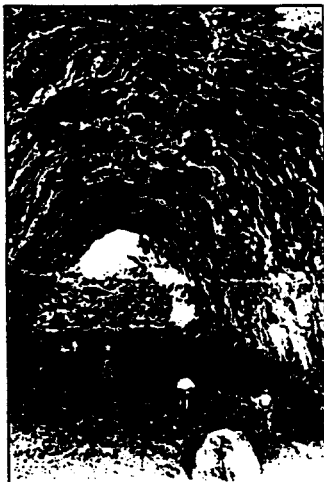
ON SITE REPORT: AUSTRALIA

Queensland Shines Spotlight On Off-Beat Attractions

BY DONNA MARINO

MOUNT SURPRISE. Queensland — At the Undara Lava Lodge, turn-of-the-century railway carriages sit nestled in the bush, looking as if they've just made a station stop. Two kangaroos appear in the gathering dusk, one with a joey in its pouch. They hop off quickly after noticing approaching visitors.

Under the tall shady gum trees in this northeastern part of Australia, these train carriages are not what they seem. That is, they're not carrying visitors to someplace else, but rather offering them respite for a few nights. The carriages are the accommodations, containing single and dou-



The lava tubes at Undara were created in ancient river beds.

ble beds within. Here at the Lava Lodge, one gets the feeling they're camping without actually having to sleep in a tent. If it's a tent that visitors want, however, the Swag's Tent Village, part of the lodge, offers large tent accommodations with electricity and full headroom.

Lava Tubes, Kangaroos And Magnetic Islands Among Diverse Offerings

The Lava Lodge, so named because of its proximity to underground lava tubes, is part of the itinerary of Pure Pleasure Tours, based in Townsville, Queensland. The tour company arranges tours that combine the Great Barrier Reef, with diverse offerings such as a visit to the lava tubes, a journey to an old gold-rush town called Charters Towers, and a stop at Magnetic Island, a beach resort off the coast of Townsville.

A visit to the lava tubes at Undara reveals underground caves, formed thousands of years ago when lava from the Undara crater flowed down into dry river beds. The flow hardened along the base and sides and then roofed over. During a recent trip, a Savannah guide explained the formation of the tubes, resembling craggy-walled circular caves. The caves are reachable through several openings where some of the ceilings caved in. It was only when the ceilings of some of these tubes gave in that the tubes were discovered underneath the earth.

"It's a fascinating area," said Robert Webber, a tour guide at Pure Pleasure Tours. "It's a different sort of attraction." And it's one that many U.S. visitors who've been to the more popular attractions of Queensland, may be interested in.

A three-night Undara tour from Cairns, with roundtrip motorcoach, all meals and guided tours costs \$518 (Australian) per person.

Far from the 1,250-mile Great Barrier Reef, which is one of the most well-known of Queens-

land's visitor sites, more off-beat attractions like Undara are being added to itineraries. About half of all travelers to Australia visit Queensland, and about 280,700 U.S. visitors came to Australia in 1993. A diverse range of attractions, as well as a concerted effort to diversify the product, is making this area of Australia even more appealing to visitors.

"We are putting into the marketplace an unprecedented amount of Queensland products," said Ken Rosebery, chief executive officer for the Queensland Tourist & Travel Corporation, during the recent Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) held in Sydney. "For the U.S. market we're looking for diversity and special interest products." Queensland debuted a new brochure guide at ATE, "101 Itineraries," which offers suggested itineraries for clients coming to all parts of Queensland.

The new brochure features itineraries focusing on adventure, heritage and culture, upscale and budget vacations. For instance, the North Queensland portion of the 60-page booklet features tourist association contacts for that area, transportation options and 30 separate suggested itineraries from one to eight days. The brochure is specifically designed for travel agents and tour operators developing itineraries for their clients.

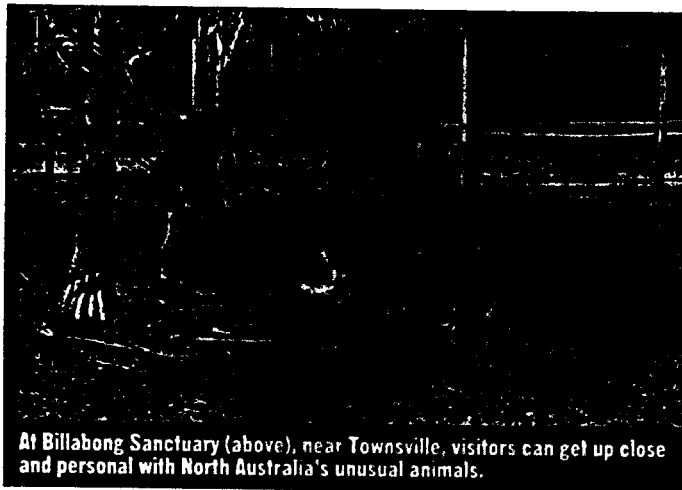
The U.S. is a mature market for Queensland, so specialized packages are important, according to Rosebery. U.S. tour operators serving Australia who attended ATE agreed that specialized

itineraries offering diverse attractions was something they wanted for Queensland. The Queensland Tourist & Travel Corporation produces diving, golfing and aboriginal culture brochures and also has its own in-house wholesale division called Sunlover Holidays. A trend Rosebery foresees regarding the U.S. market are more quality brochures and commercial publications that would be available for purchase by travelers. Queensland will spend about \$11 million on overseas marketing this year.

ISLAND LOCALES

An emerging destination of Queensland are the Whitsundays, a group of 74 islands off the east coast of Queensland. Many of these are national parks, others are deserted and others have fine beach resorts. The Whitsunday region is home to Australia's greatest concentration of island resorts, such as those at Hayman Island and Hamilton Island.

But other island resort areas abound in Queensland. One of these, the small Magnetic Island, off the coast of Townsville and reachable by a 20-minute catamaran ride, offers picturesque beaches and a laid-back feel. With 23 bays and beaches, miles of walking tracks, water sports and reef trips, the excursion to Magnetic Island is an easy addition to trips to the reef. Motoring around the island in a mini moke.



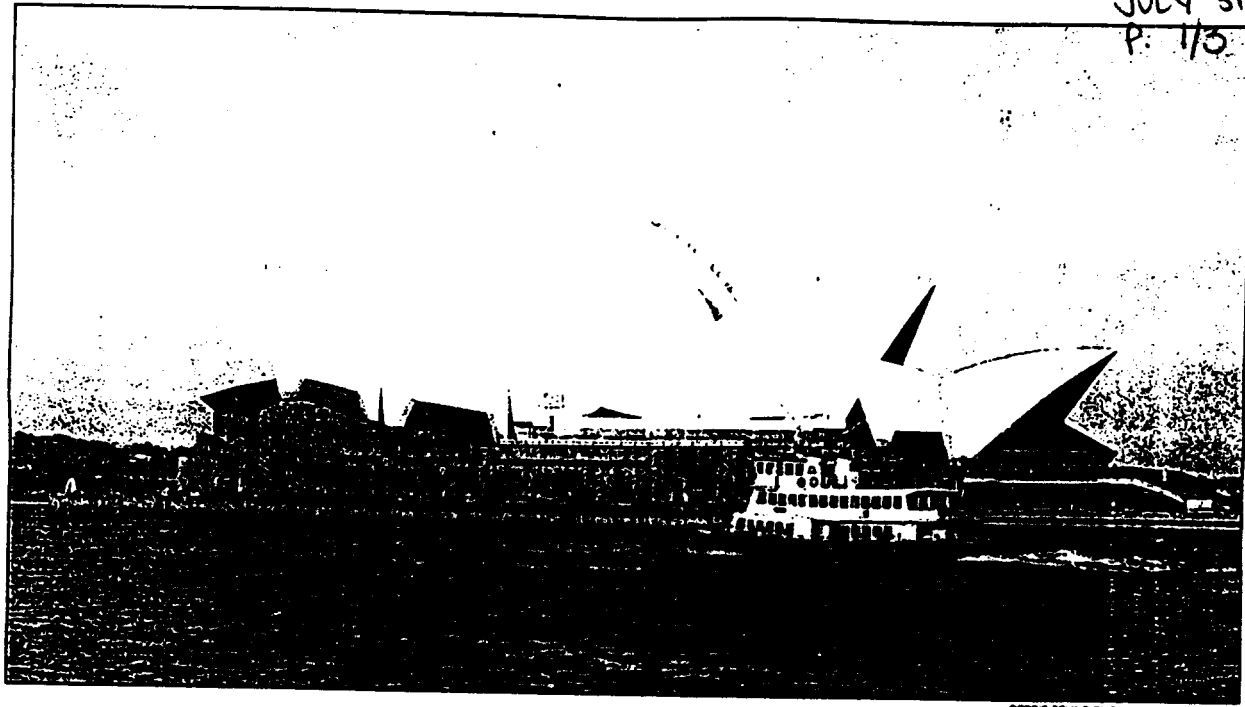
At Billabong Sanctuary (above), near Townsville, visitors can get up close and personal with North Australia's unusual animals.

or hopping on a Harley motorcycle, visitors can whisk their way completely around the island, stopping for incredible views from its higher points. The recently established Magnetic North Tourism Authority can furnish copies of an eight-page brochure about the island and its attractions as well as a six-page brochure on its accommodations and transportation.

At the one-year-old Magnetic Island Tropical Resort, chalet style accommodations offer a woodsy, rustic feel. The accommodations, starting at \$40 per night, include refrigerators, televisions and tea/coffee facilities, but the surrounding grounds are peaceful. In fact, the resort has a tucked-away feel a policy that makes sure guests have a peaceful, quiet stay.

Also a short drive from the downtown area of Townsville is the Billabong Sanctuary, which gives visitors a chance to see up close the fauna of Australia including koalas, kangaroos, wallaroos, bats and crocodiles. Here tour guides practically wrestle with crocodiles, allow visitors to pet a koala and hand-feed kangaroos and serve a barbecue lunch.

Next year, Queensland should receive a tourism boost with the first Great Barrier Reef Dive Festival. To be held Aug. 26 to Sept. 8, 1995, the festival is expected to be an annual event.



DEBBIE SELINSKY/Special to The Herald-Sun

OLYMPIC CITIES

Atlanta and Sydney: Different hemispheres, different seasons, different ways of preparing to put on the biggest show to hit their homes in a long while.

Story by Debbie Selinsky

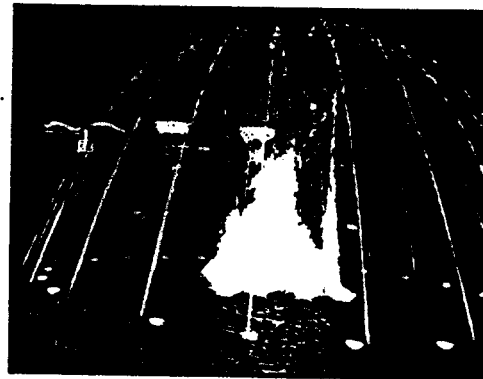
In two very different cities located continents apart, plans to host the world's premier amateur sporting event – the Olympic games – are in full swing.

Upon closer examination, massive summer game plans under way in Atlanta, Ga., and Sydney, Australia, are so intricate and so intense, it seems a little ironic to refer to the upcoming events as "games."

The mood is urgent and the talk is of construction deadlines in Atlanta, which in 1996 will become the first East Coast, U.S. city to host the games and only the fourth U.S. summer Olympic site selected over the 100 years of the modern Olympics.

In exotic Sydney, the pace seems to clip along a bit more calmly. The city's 4 million people will serve as hosts to the summer games in the year 2000.

And while these two cities – selected by the International Olympic Committee as host sites over other global applicants – are not in competition with each other, organizers often erupt in language well-suited to the spirit of competition.



WELCOME, SPORTS FANS: The Sydney Opera House (top) and the fountains at Underground Atlanta (above) beckon tourists in those moments between the Games.

"We want to have the best Olympics in the history of the games," said Dick Yarbrough, a native Southerner who is managing director of communications for the private, non-profit Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

Yarbrough said Atlanta has a good infrastructure already in place. "With enough hotels, an outstanding highway system, a large and busy international airport and good accessibility – half the people in the United States are two hours away from Atlanta," he said. "We have great facilities like the Georgia dome and the Omni, and we had a good trial run for a major event like this in hosting this year's Super Bowl ... Our plans are to involve just as many Georgia cities and communities as we can in the 1996 Centennial games. And, of course, our crowning glory is our Southern hospitality."

Thousands of miles and several time zones away, David Roberts, the youthful manager of venues for the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, is convinced the city of Sydney will make Olympic history when it plays host to the summer games in the year 2000.

"During the Sydney games, for the first time in Olympic history, all the athletes will stay in the same village," he said recently in an interview from the attractive Olympic 2000 offices in Sydney. "In addition, unlike Atlanta, the Sydney games will be compact and convenient because of the natural layout and resources of our city; we're lucky because we have 660 acres of government-owned land in the center of downtown

please see OLYMPIC/H2

Sydney and the harbor area. All sports venues will be located in metro Sydney and connected by freeway, which means they'll be no farther than 30 minutes apart."

Roberts said the Australian operation's major construction project, the Olympic Park, which will house the Olympic village and 14 sports, is ahead of schedule. (Also in preparation for the games, the government initiated and funded a new parallel runway at Sydney International Airport.)

"In Sydney, we don't have to pay to rebuild the city, like some have had to do, in order to have the Olympic games. Everything is already here," he said.

The climate, highly developed roads, rail and ferry transport systems, proximity to the ocean, and tourist attractions like Sydney Harbour and the Sydney Opera House make the city a "perfect" games site, he said.

In an interview earlier in the year, newly elected Mayor Bill Campbell said "the transformation of Atlanta will be so dramatic that visitors may not recognize the new city when they return in '96."

Central in that "transformation" will be the 80,000-seat Olympic stadium being constructed in downtown Atlanta next to the Atlanta Braves' home — Atlanta/Fulton County Stadium. The stadium will become the new home of the Braves after the Olympics. The old stadium then will be given to the Atlanta/Fulton County Recreation Authority, according to Yarbrough, to be used by city and county residents.

"The planning is behind us," Yarbrough said. "Now we're in a year of construction. And things are really starting to rock 'n' roll."

Among the host site bidders Atlanta beat out was the Australian city of Melbourne, while Sydney, after two previous unsuccessful bids by Melbourne and Brisbane, brought the games to Australia by grabbing them from a very strong Chinese bid.

The explanation for spreading out across Atlanta and much of the rest of Georgia is a simple one, Yarbrough said. It was a decision determined just as much by choice as by necessity.

"There will be a lot condensed into Atlanta — 15 sports will be held within the Olympic ring (an imaginary circle with a 1.5-mile radius)," Yarbrough said. "Most of the athletes will be housed on the Georgia Tech campus, which also is inside the ring. But we've put some of the venues outside Atlanta so that more of the people of Georgia can enjoy the games."

Most of those venue selections make sense, geographically speaking, since ocean and beaches are necessary to yachting and beach volleyball, respectively. Those sports will be held at historic Savannah, 250 miles southeast of Atlanta; soccer will be held in Athens, 65 miles northeast of Atlanta; the first-ever women's fast pitch softball competition will be held in Columbus, 100 miles southwest of Atlanta; and equestrian events will take place in Rockdale County, just east of Atlanta.

Changes are happening in Australia as well.

Roberts praised the quality of Australia's Qantas Airlines, the increase in tourism (cruise lines like Cunard are adding new Australian itineraries and sailings), Sydney's "peaceful" multicultural relationships and the city's low crime rate — a rate Atlanta unfortunately can't match. He's also eager to explain the people and community-friendly philosophies behind Olympic plans in Sydney.

"It's important to find the balance between meeting the requirements of the federation of games for two weeks and providing what will be useful to the people of Sydney for the next 500 years," he said. "We haven't done anything that won't well serve the people of Sydney after the games. We've also taken into account all the environmental considerations of our beautiful city; all our treasures will be protected or replaced."

For example, in the year 2000; 8,000 more seats will be added to the city's world-renowned aquatic center in preparation for Olympic swim meets. Those 8,000 seats are temporary, Roberts said, and will be removed after the games because they aren't needed for "normal life" in Sydney.

That must-be-useful-later philosophy also reigns in Atlanta. Mayor Campbell said he sees the

Olympics, as well as this year's Super Bowl, as "giving us great leverage to improve the city and the quality of life of the people in our city."

The new Olympic Park, he added, "will not only provide a great legacy for the Olympics but also will offer residential and commercial redevelopment possibilities. Neighborhoods around the Olympics sites will be revitalized."

Another aspect of the Atlanta Olympic committee's efforts to see the games benefit all the state's people has emerged in a new program designed to bring more athletes to Georgia — and other Southeastern states — before the games actually begin on July 19, 1996.

"We worked with Georgia cities to prepare a feasibility package on hosting training sites for Olympians when they get in," Yarbrough said. "We sent it to the International Olympic Committee and distributed it to Olympic committees across the globe. Offering training sites in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and other states in the region provides a wonderful opportunity for people to get to know each other as well as a good way for athletes to come in ahead of time and get acclimated to the time, climate and cultural differences. It's a real international outreach project."

Another coup by the Atlanta committee is a deal struck with the Georgia hotel industry to combat profiteering, Yarbrough said.

"We worked with people in the hotel industry and got them to agree to freeze rates, and since then, we've had a law to this effect passed in the legislature," he said. "In 1996, they'll charge 1994 room rates, plus cost of living. This way, we won't see the concerns about gouging that have come up at other games in the past. This is another nice example of how we've been able to work together with business and government." Yarbrough added that 60,000 hotel rooms are available for the Atlanta games.

Forecasters say Sydney will have 35,700 rooms by 2000 (one-third of those are 4- or 5-star class), and the Sydney Olympic committee has struck a similar deal with some of the city's hotels.

with plans to charge 1998 room rates, plus the CPI index, during the games in September 2000, Roberts said.

It's also been no small matter that the Sydney summer games — expected by economists to result in a \$6 million surplus — are completely underwritten by the government. Before submitting its bid to the IOC, the Sydney group completed negotiations for that underwriting — a step Roberts said that enabled Sydney to hit the ground running after it won the bid. Atlanta planners were forced to spend precious time in negotiating funding after the bid was awarded.

The budget for hosting the Sydney games is \$1.697 billion. The games will be funded primarily by the sale of broadcast rights, sponsorships, ticket sales and merchandise with incoming revenue estimated at \$1.703 billion.

A Peat Marwick economic impact study concluded the Olympics will add \$7.3 billion to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (1991-2004) by creating more than 150,000 full- and part-time jobs (unemployment currently hovers around 10 percent) and by bringing an extra 1.3 million visitors to Australia between 1994 and 2004.

The 1996 Olympic summer games in Atlanta are being privately financed without significant government funding, according to officials. A 1994 financial forecast shows a balanced budget for the games. Total revenue, which includes broadcast rights, corporate sponsorships, ticket sales and merchandising, is estimated at \$1.580 billion; while the cost of administrative, construction and operations budgets, including a \$60 million contingency fund, also comes in at \$1.580 billion.

An economic impact report by IRE Advisors, an Atlanta management consulting firm, and Jeffrey M. Humphreys of the Selig Center for Economic Growth, Terry School of Business at the University of Georgia, shows the 1996 games in Atlanta will have a \$5.1 billion impact on Georgia's economy from 1991 to 1997, with the most significant impact coming in 1995 and 1996.

Preparation for the Olympic

games has not been without dispute.

Yarbrough acknowledged there has been controversy in Atlanta about the relocation of some low-income housing to accommodate Olympic plans.

"We're working those things out — our city has problems like any other city, and our expectation is not that the Olympics is a big cure-all for all the problems a city has," he said. "We [the Atlanta committee] are about putting on games, but we're about putting on games in a highly political and special interest-filled environment — that's what you run into in a democracy."

Despite those problems, the people of Atlanta and the entire state of Georgia, in general, are enthusiastically behind the Olympics, Yarbrough said.

"The Olympic games are a great unifying force. People here understand that this is our chance to showcase our area of the country to the rest of the world," he said. "If I feel pressure, it's only to make this part of the world that I was born in, raised in and love so much look as good as it can to the rest of the world."

Praising the friendliness and efficiency of the volunteers at the recent winter games in Lillehammer, Norway, Yarbrough said Georgia residents will follow that model — and added that special something unique to the South. "We know how to treat people here. If there's anything we're good at, it's being friendly and helpful," he said.

Sydney can also claim its people and their charm as an asset, Roberts said. He added he believes Atlanta and Sydney won their bids for the same reason — the determination of the people to make it happen.

"We learned a lot from the Brisbane and Melbourne bids and from watching Atlanta," he said. "We'll be visiting there as often as we can between now and the games and many of us will assist at the 1996 games."

"In Sydney with a few weeks to go before the bid, we polled our country and 90 percent of the Australian population were in favor of the bid. And the day the bid announcement came, there

were more than 80,000 people waiting down at Circular Quay [just off Sydney Harbour] to celebrate."

Roberts agrees with Atlanta's mayor that more important than any financial benefits will be the games' boost to national pride. After all, that's the idea behind the Sydney 2000 theme, "Share the Spirit," he said.

"What's most important is the fact that we're all proud Australians," he said. "It has brought us a great feeling of optimism that we can compete against England, China and Germany — three of the most powerful nations in the world — and beat 'em fair and square ... And Australia has an Olympic tradition. We're a sports-made nation."

An obviously "sports-mad" Roberts enthusiastically predicted Australian athletes will make an outstanding showing in 2000 — and in 1996, too.

"We're particularly strong in swimming, cycling, rowing, canoeing and equestrian events," he said.

In what sports are the Americans most likely to shine in Atlanta?

"Oh, all of 'em," quipped a confident Yarbrough.

Diving Around the "World's Largest Living Thing..."

by J. Siskin

(Great Barrier Reef, Australia)--Australia ranks among the elite countries in the world as a dive destination, and the ranges of possibilities run the gamut from the incomparable coral formations of the Great Barrier Reef to ship and aircraft wrecks submerged deep beneath the waters off Australia's southern and northern coasts.

The Great Barrier Reef has long been at the top of the list of world-class dive sites. Commonly referred to as "the world's largest living thing," it extends over an estimated 100,000 square miles, running for 1250 miles along the Queensland coast from Bundaberg to Cape York and eastward practically all the way to New Guinea.

Washed by the temperate waters of Australia's Coral Sea, the Great Barrier Reef is made up of some 3,000 individual reefs and 600 separate islands. It would take more than several lifetimes to explore this vast aquatic treasure filled with more than 350 species of coral, 4,000 different types of mollusks, 10,000 species of sponge and 1,500 varieties of tropical fish.

The finest coral formations are typically found in deep water surrounding the outer reefs that lie between 25 and 225 miles off the Queensland coast. Here visibility is usually at its best as the water is much clearer than it is near the coast.

Designated a national Marine park in 1983, the Great Barrier Reef's underwater universe is home to such unusual creatures as giant gorgonians, crinoids and pelagic fish along with sting-rays and turtles. Due to the fragile nature of this one-of-a-kind coral ecosystem, some of the vulnerable sections of the reef are off limits to divers. Many of the coral islands have been declared national parks, and strict rules apply to the entire reef area. No matter where one dives, it is forbidden to remove any coral, living or dead, or to take any shells.

Among the Barrier Reef's most impressive diving areas is the Rock Arch, where the reef plunges more than 3,000 feet in a sheer wall of brilliant coral. The dive site known as the China Wall is home to large schools of fish including tuna, mackerel and wave runners.

Dive excursions to the Great Barrier Reef depart year-round from the cities of Cairns, Townsville and Port Douglas along the Queensland coast. Other underwater expeditions leave from Whitsunday Islands as well as Heron, Lady Elliott and Musgrave Islands.

(This is the first in an occasional series of reports on Diving in Australia from Chief Correspondent Jonathan Siskin.)

Welcome to Sydney 6675

The 10th Annual 1994 Australian Tourism Exchange welcomes delegates to participate in Australia's premier international travel trade show

The Australian Tourist Commission, Qantas Airways, and the State and Territory tourism bodies, organized this year's ATE in Sydney, June 13-17

By Julie Tarasovic

The Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), Australia's largest and most important travel trade show, held in the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Center, Darling Harbour, attracted a record amount of delegates this year.

The event attracted 739 overseas buyers who did business with 1037 Australian sellers during more than 37,000 scheduled appointments. Forty-seven countries were represented at this tourism venue, all interested in learning and getting involved in the vast array of Australian inbound travel products available and to launch new products onto the overseas markets.

Key people from the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC), tourism officials from each state and territory, and key players in the ever-changing Aussie aviation scene, were among the speakers during the week-long trade show event.

Sydney 2000

It's been ten months now since Sydney won the bid to host the summer 2000 Olympics, and spirits are still soaring. "The Sydney Olympics provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to broaden the appeal of New South Wales as Australia's most diverse and exciting destination, with every type of holiday experience visitors are seeking in an Australian holiday," said **Tony Thirwell**, chief executive of **Tourism New South Wales**, during a press conference at the site for the Sydney Olympic Park at **Homebush Bay**.

The evidence is clear that the Olympics boost is not just one for Sydney, but for all other areas of Australia as well. New South Wales alone was expected to earn more than \$400 million during the ATE with a frenzy of tourism product sales to the world's leading buyers who were gathered in Sydney for the travel show.

With the Olympic Games only five and a half years away, Australian tourism is reinforcing its commitment to forward planning, with tour operators quickly developing long range marketing and product delivery strategies. Australia is planning to maximize sales in the years before, and after, the Olympic torch lights up Australia's gateway city.

New Marketing Strategies

Following a decade of rapid infrastructure development and tourism growth Australia has matured as a des-

tinuation and tourism authorities now recognize the need to move visitors beyond the established attractions into regional areas with a lower international profile. Areas of outstanding natural beauty with suitable facilities to cater for the international traveler have been earmarked by state tourism authorities.

Partnership Australia. The key to effectively promoting these emerging destinations lies with Partnership Australia, a national cooperative marketing venture forged between the ATC and state and territory tourism organizations.



"1995 is Celebrate Australian Art and Culture year, Australia's third theme year in a five-year strategy. 1996 is Experience the Festivals of Oz and 1997 is Enjoy Good Living Down Under."

—Michael Lee, Federal Tourism and Arts Minister



Jon Hutchison (left), managing director, ATC, and **Tony Thirwell**, chief executive, Tourism New South Wales, on the track and field arena at Homebush Bay Development, Sydney's Olympic Park site.

Photos—ATC

AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXCHANGE (continued)

"Partnership Australia aims to present a broad view of Australia by creating an awareness of the many attractions, products and special interest programs available across the country which offer an alternative to the nation's well known icons, cities and resorts," explained **Jon Hutchison**, *managing director* of the ATC.

For the first time, Australia's international marketing efforts have been brought under one umbrella, eliminating unnecessary duplication, making more efficient use of marketing funds and improving Australia's overall competitiveness.

"Benefits of PA include implementation of advertising campaigns, promotional initiatives and information programs which have the entire weight of State and Federal Government expenditure behind them," said Hutchison.

"Targeted programs which will generate hot new sales leads for the

industry and the identification of a much broader product range for distribution to the international marketplace are just a few of the benefits of this innovative marketing strategy," added Hutchison.

There are many specific programs being offered by PA. One of the most successful was the establishment of a centralized information service in North America, with Aussie travel counselors handling telephone enquiries from travel agents and consumers. Stocks of information on travel to Australia can be dispatched to the person making the enquiry.

A pilot "Aussie Helpline" service set up by the ATC in North America in 1992, handles an average of 200 calls per day from travel agents. These agents are referred to appropriate booking contacts. Call the **Aussie Helpline** at (800) 433-2877.

Special Interest Campaign: Theme Years. Special interest and event-related travel represents a potentially lucrative market for tour operators. A special five-year ATC Special Interest campaign is succeeding in generating strong consumer and trade interest, and bookings.

Within months of launching the campaign in 1992, 45,000 North Americans had contacted the ATC for more information.

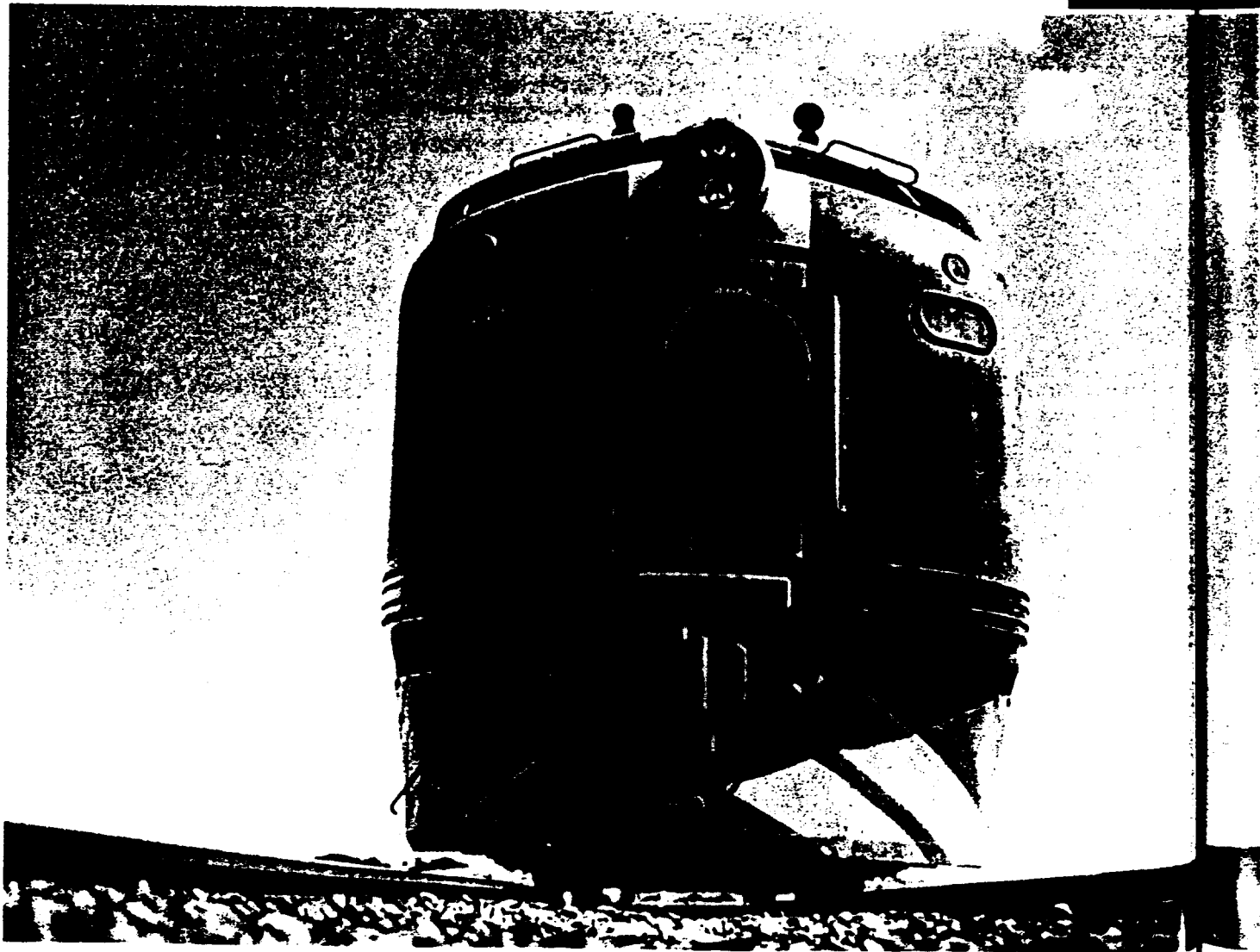
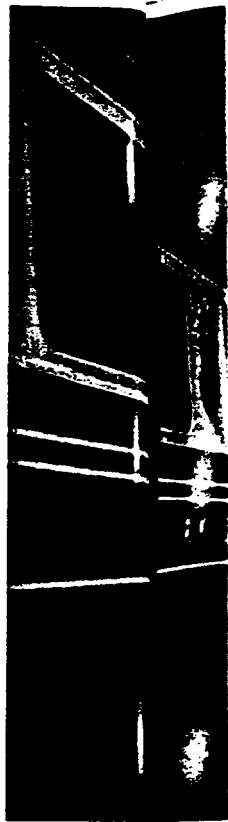
1994 is *Discover the Great Australian Outdoors* theme year with brochures, calendars of events and an innovative publication listing more than 300 ecotourism operators.

Federal Tourism and Arts Minister Michael Lee launched the 1995 theme year, *Celebrate Australian Art and Culture*. "The third theme year of the ATC's five-year strategy designed to increase the special interest tourism is 1995, *Celebrate Australian Art and Culture*," said Lee. "The international marketing program will promote Australian creative and performing arts, including opera, theatre, art galleries, and music festivals."

For more information, contact the ATC, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Ste. 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90067, tel. (310) 552-1988; in New York, call (212) 687-6300.

All Aboard!!

Luxury trains beckon conference and incentive groups





In this age of the jumbo jet and instant global communications, the passenger train is back in fashion. There are any number of possible explanations for this phenomenon. Maybe it's because people feel a need to slow down and actually watch the scenery as it rolls by. Maybe it's because people are looking to recapture the luxury — and leisure — of bygone times. And maybe it's just the innate allure that rail travel holds for so many. Whatever the reason, the trains are rolling again, and contented passengers are riding them to a host of destinations throughout the Asia/Pacific region.

For groups, up-scale rail travel has several attractions. It's a novel way to reward incentive winners or to make a small meeting particularly special. Social and business activities can occur in an unusually relaxed setting. And the three luxury trains profiled below take groups to some of the region's most intriguing destinations: the geological marvels of Australia's red centre; the major cities of Thailand and the Malaysian peninsula, and the maharajahs' palaces of northern India.

THE GHAN

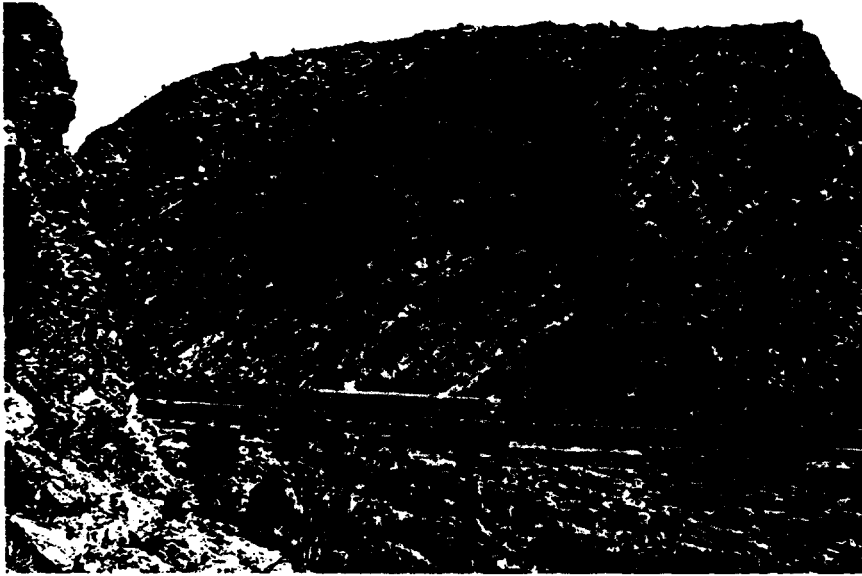
The rugged beauty of Central Australia, a region of red plains and mountain gorges, invariably enchants visitors. But what we find picturesque, mid-19th century Australians found singularly inhospitable, if not deadly. In 1861, an expedition led by Robert Burke and William Wills attempted to cross the continent from Melbourne north to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Nearly everyone involved perished on the ill-fated trek, including its two leaders. Perhaps its greatest legacy was the mode of transportation it introduced to this semi-arid region: the camel.

Imported from Afghanistan, then a British colony, along with their Afghani trainers, camels played an enormous role in opening up Australia's vast heartlands. In the early 1870s, camel trains carried supplies for the Overland Telegraph, which linked Darwin to the rest of the continent by way of a telegraph station in what is now the town of Alice Springs.

While there are still great herds of camels in Central Australia and camel treks — lasting from several minutes to several days — have become popular visitor activities, the era of the

En route to adventure: Australia's Ghan (left) and Southeast Asia's Eastern & Oriental Express (above).

ALL ABOARD!



The Ghan traverses the rugged landscape of Australia's desert-like red centre.

camel as a major source of transportation came to an end on August 6, 1929. That's when the first passenger train from the southern port city of Adelaide arrived in the Central Australian frontier town of Alice Springs. In honour of the Afghani cameleers it replaced, the train became known as the Afghan Express, a name that was soon shortened to the Ghan.

At first, the Ghan ran every two weeks. Then, it ran weekly. But sticking to the schedule was not one of the train's strong points. The 1,555 kilometre-journey could take anywhere between three days and three months.

Today's Ghan, fortunately, features a new service on a new track that was completed in 1980. Twice a week, it offers travellers a 22-hour, air-conditioned ride between Adelaide and Alice Springs. The train has two bar/lounges, one of which offers light snacks in addition to liquid refreshments. Full-course table d'hôte meals are available in the Ghan's Art Deco dining car, the Stuart Restaurant. Accommodations are available in singles and doubles. The number and composition of the cars can be adjusted to fit the size and needs of groups. For a large enough group, another restaurant car can be added.

Groups that want to meet en route can use the Ghan's conference car. This car has two meeting rooms, seating 18 and 12, and is equipped with a public address system, video recorders, projectors, microphones and photocopiers.

It's unlikely that any group would venture to Central Australia merely to ride the Ghan and then head home, especially since the train's two terminal points, Adelaide and Alice Springs, offer such an intriguing range of meeting and entertainment options. The southern terminal, Adelaide, is a quiet, elegant city of one million, the capital of the Australian state of South Australia. Set against the backdrop of the Adelaide Hills, the city offers green park lands, clean beaches, fine restaurants and friendly corner pubs.

Groups that may be planning to use the Ghan as a post-convention option should note that Adelaide has a modern, purpose-built convention centre, Australia's first. In the same complex as the centre, there is a large and yet pleasantly atmospheric casino, which occupies the Art Deco structure that originally housed the station for the city's commuter rail lines.

Also part of the complex is the Adelaide Festival Centre, which in even numbered years is home to the

Adelaide Festival of the Arts, an event that attracts major performers from around the world. In odd numbered years, a wine festival is held, focusing on the vintages produced in the three principal wine growing regions that are all within an hour's drive of the city.

At the other end of the Ghan lies the frontier town of Alice Springs. While the town itself may not be particularly impressive, an exciting range of outdoor activities are available in the vicinity, including hot air balloon rides over and camel treks through the surrounding countryside. Groups interested in cultural pursuits can have an Aboriginal *corroboree* staged for them, in which the descendants of the first Australians act out in song and dance traditional stories about the creation of the continent.

Groups that travel as far as Alice will be sorely tempted to visit Ayers Rock, and they would be well-advised not to resist. Located some 500 kilometres southwest of Alice Springs, and easily accessible by air, Ayers Rock, also known by its aboriginal name of Uluru, juts 350 metres above the red sand of the surrounding desert-like plain. Considered a sacred site by the local aborigines, who long ago decorated some of the rock's caves with their exquisite, highly stylized paintings, Ayers Rock is a spectacular natural wonder unlikely ever to be forgotten by anyone who sees it.

Contact:

Australian National
1 Richmond Road
Keswick, South Australia
Australia
Tel: (618) 217-4684
Fax: (618) 217-4682

EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS

Unlike the Ghan, which seeks to combine a romantic past with an efficient present, the Eastern & Oriental Express is the first train ever to transport passengers directly from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur to Bangkok. (While it was possible to travel by train from Singapore to Bangkok, Malaysia and Thailand maintained strictly separate rail systems, and passengers had to change trains at Butterworth, near Penang.)

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Aussies Prepare to Meet Olympic Challenge

By Sherrie Strausfogel

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA — Australia is gearing up for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, eyeing it as the biggest potential boon to its tourism industry since Paul Hogan created Crocodile Dundee in the late '80s.

"Hosting the largest event in the world is an enormous marketing challenge, as well as making its benefits last beyond the last day of the Olympics in 2000," said Jon Hutchison, managing director of the Australian Tourism Commission, during the Australian Tourism Exchange here in June.

The ATC wants to spread the Games' tourism benefits beyond Sydney. "We will be promoting Australia's diversity, enticing visitors to travel throughout the country, and beyond the cities to the rural areas," said Hutchison.

Largest Earner

In recent years, tourism has become the country's largest export earner, generating A\$9.3 billion in 1993 and accounting for 25% of all export growth. Hosted by the ATC, Qantas and the state and territory tourism organizations, this year's ATE drew 739 international buyers and 1,037 Australian inbound tourism suppliers.

Inspired by the 2000 Olympic Games, many suppliers at ATE said that they already are expanding their products to encourage visitors to extend their stays and travel around the country.

The games will be held during the last two weeks of September, which is usually the driest month of spring Down Under, and should insure comfortable conditions for viewers and competitors. All event venues will be in metropolitan Sydney, and for the first time in history, all athletes and officials will be able to stay in one Olympic Village.

Before and After

Tony Thirlwell, chief executive of Tourism New South Wales, said, "The main focus is not on the games themselves, but before and after. We have already created a master tourism plan leading up to 2010 to insure that we have a profitable and viable industry after the Olympics.

"We are looking closely at the



Homebush Bay, site of Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games.

number, quality and location of accommodations. We do not want to be stuck with a glut of accommodations after the games. Transportation poses another challenge: We will be moving up to 300,000 people on a peak day to the sites within Sydney as well as from the airport. This means a fresh and improved transportation infrastructure."

"The message is slowly and consistently getting through that the ATC is developing special-interest travel."

JON HUTCHISON, ATC
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Product development also is receiving a push. In 1993, the ATC created a five-year campaign of themed years to attract the growing FIT and special-interest markets.

"The message is slowly and consistently getting through that the ATC is developing special-interest travel," said Hutchison.

The ATC officially introduced its 1995 theme, Celebrate Australian Art and Culture, at the conference. Michael Lee, federal minister for tourism and minister for communications and the arts, said the theme was designed to combat the lack of awareness overseas of Australia's artistic and cultural attractions. "Each year, visitors spend A\$150 on entertainment in Australia," he

said. "We need to nourish this interest."

The '95 theme will promote Australia's creative and performing arts, including chamber orchestras, opera, theater, art galleries, and jazz and rock concerts.

New Publications

The ATC also published a 105-page *Celebrate Australian Art and Culture Guide*, a 68-page *Directory of Events and Contacts* and additional collateral material geared for distribution by travel agents.

In the U.S., attention will be focused on the Certified Aussie Specialist Program, designed to educate agents about selling Australia.

Agents are given comprehensive destination training, ongoing sales support and up-to-date product information. Upon completion of the self-training program, agents receive newsletters, information packets and exclusive promotional items.

In addition, consumers who respond to ATC advertising or call the Aussie Helpline are referred to three Aussie Specialists in their area.

Aussie Convention

More than 500 North American travel agents are expected to attend the first Certified Aussie Specialist Convention and Exhibition slated for Oct. 6-9 in Phoenix. The three-day event will feature product displays and business sessions covering customer service and developing group and incentive travel.

Contact the ATC's Travel Agent Helpline at 800-433-AUSSIE.

G'day, mate — and howdy

By Jeff Miller 6675
Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

TEXAS, Australia — What American state lays claim to territory in a foreign country?

Answer: Texas.
Texas!

Up. Way Down Under, in the land of kangaroos and koalas, a little bit of Texas lies 195 miles south-west of Brisbane. Every other year since 1986, during the last weekend in September, the tiny town of Texas, Australia, population 900, secedes from Australia to become part of Texas, U.S.A.

This year, the celebration — called Texas Round-Up — will be Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 24-25. It features a parade, horse race, car rally, camp draft (rodeo events), barbecue and a performance by Gina Jeffreys, one of Australia's leading female country-music singers.

The fun all started with Australian Marge Hallam, a travel agent living in Houston. She believed tourists who only saw Sydney, the Great Barrier Reef and Brisbane's Gold Coast weren't seeing the real Australia. She visited Texas, Australia, and asked if the town could handle Texas, U.S.A., visitors if she organized trips.

Town native Sally Ridgway and others quickly formed the Texas Visitors Association Inc. and said, "Come on down, y'all!"

Because it was 1986 and Texas' Sesquicentennial, Marge asked, "Why don't you secede from Australia and become part of the state of Texas?"

Sally remembers the town's response.

"We said, ah, well, it might be a good idea, but we better do it only for the weekend."

An ingenious P.R. gimmick was born.

In no time, the secession was the talk of Down Under, with radio and newspaper coverage continent-wide. Texas began planning a formal secession — a k a big celebration. Everyone got involved, includ-



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

► INFORMATION

Those who want to see Texas, Australia, need only contact Sally Ridgway, 40 High St., Texas, Queensland 4385, Australia. She's the town's greeter, as well as owner (with husband Ted) of a second-hand furniture store.

► LODGING

Sally's always happy to arrange accommodations either at the town's motel, hotel/motel, caravan park, or with an in-town family or on a station (ranch). And Sally and Ted have a spare bedroom that's always ready for company.

► GETTING THERE

Because there's no public transportation to Texas, the best way to get there is to drive from Brisbane. It's a scenic three-hour drive, but be prepared to stop for cattle being herded down the road.

► WHAT TO DO

Sally loves to give tours of the town, which includes the fire station, ambulance, hospital (if a nurse or doctor is around, you'll get an in-depth tour), old Texas



Special to The News: Jeff Miller

Aboriginal names are a sure sign you're not in Texas, U.S.A.

Station, the historical museum in the old police station, and Rachel's Cottage (built in 1890).

She'll even drive you right onto the town's unique 12-hole golf course to show you its sand greens (oil is added to the sand to make it firm enough to be a green). Visitors also can stop in at the Yellow Rose Guest House, grab some grub at the Wagon Wheel Cafe or browse through the Dallas Gift Shop.

ing the two-man police force, who went to the committee and stated, "If you're seceding, we want to be Lone Rangers."

The policemen sported authentic white Stetsons and Texas Deputy badges (compliments of Texas, U.S.A.), and were saying "Howdy, partner," rather than, "G'day, mate."

In September 1986, six Texans arrived for the celebration and quickly initiated the town into Texas per-

spectives. One of the group was a true Texan — born and reared in the Lone Star State. He discovered the person who was to read then-Texas Gov. Mark White's proclamation was born in Pennsylvania.

A Yankee reading a Texas proclamation? Never!

Gov. White's letter detailed the need for secession: "For years we have been getting your mail, packages, farm animals, you name it. Please see A LITTLE on Page 11G."



Special to The News: Jeff Miller

Visitors to Texas, Australia, can browse through the Dallas Gift Shop.

A little bit of Texas Down Under

Continued from Page 10G.

because it's addressed to Texas. ... To end this confusion, I hereby invite the citizens of Texas, Queensland, to become sovereign Texas territory during this, our Sesqui-centennial year."

The name confusion referred to by Gov. White started with the Australian McDougall brothers, who settled in the area in 1840. They abandoned the property in the 1850s for the Aussie goldfields, but later they returned to find someone living on their land. They ended up having to establish their prior claim. About this time, the Republic of Texas was at war with Mexico, fighting for their land. The McDougalls, feeling they had a similar dispute, called their property Texas Station — hence, Texas, Queensland, Australia.

The name isn't the only thing the state and town share. While the Down Under town's small main street might not look like an average Texas town, the surrounding countryside of rumped, dusty hills, herds of cattle and occasional to-

bacco fields, could make any Texan a little misty-eyed.

For the second celebration in 1988, which was Australia's bicentennial, Marge brought over 15 Texans and six pecan trees (Texas' state tree), which were planted in a small park. While Marge has since shifted her travel agency's emphasis, the town of Texas, Australia, has continued the celebration, making it a biannual Texas Roundup on the final weekend in September. The last one in 1992 drew between 2,000 and 3,000 folks.

The format includes a street parade on Saturday, entertainment on Saturday night at the local hall or show grounds, and Australian events on Sunday such as sheep-dog trials, a horse race and the popular Camp Draft, where stockmen compete for points by working cattle in a yard before cutting one and taking it through a course.

The entire town participates, from building floats for the parade to preparing food for the big barbecue. The arts council arranges entertainment, the jockey club puts

on the horse race, and the garden club stages a garden/crafts show in the local hall. Bands come from all around; recently the Royal Australian Air Force joined in, as well as a magnificent Light Horse brigade.

While a visit to Texas, Australia, is definitely worth it during the event, it's really worth a look anytime — for the town's incredible hospitality, if nothing else.

Jeff Miller, a free-lance writer in Denver, Colo., recently lived in Australia.

TASMANIA



BOB B. YARBROUGH

A bird's-eye view of the legendary Tasmanian devil.

By Carolyn J. Yarbrough
Special to the Telegram & Gazette



asmania is famous for a reputedly nasty-tempered little beast called the Tasmanian devil. Supposedly, the critter will lunge from its hiding place with sharp teeth bared and, if lucky enough to make contact, will hold onto its prey with tena-

cious zeal. I wouldn't want to meet a Tasmanian devil in the bush, but the ones we've seen in sanctuaries such as Healesville, near Melbourne, and Tasmanian Devil Park, near Port Arthur, looked like small, drowsy, black-and-white shoats who wouldn't hurt a fly. Nonetheless, I paid careful heed to signs on the cage and did not stick any fingers into the wire barrier.

Tasmania ought to be known for its other rare sights. After a brief visit there, my husband and I concluded Tasmania is not only a beautiful island, but its people are warm and friendly, and the ambiance is, maybe, some 30 to 40 years behind the rest of Australia.

In other words, Tasmania would be a pleasant place to live, despite its indigenous namesake devils.

'TASSIE'

"Tassie," as Australians fondly call it, is no larger than England, with a population of 450,000 generally spread throughout the state. This comparatively small land mass (plus some 14 major islands) is packed with diverse scenery and historic sites. We had a partial bird's-eye view the morning we booked a scenic flight on Par-Avion out of Cambridge Airport, which is near Hobart's international airport. We knew we wouldn't have time to see the whole island, so we opted for a three-to-four-hour high flying cruise over the southwest

Turn to TASMANIAN/Page F4