

AMAZING AUSTRALIA

Australia is more than just Sydney and Melbourne. In addition to taking in Australia's two world-class cities, visitors should consider adding to their itineraries Brisbane and Cairns (gateway to the Great Barrier Reef) in Queensland, Ayers Rock and perhaps Alice Springs and Darwin in Northern Territory, scenic Perth in Western Australia, the national capital of Canberra, Adelaide in South Australia, and Hobart in Tasmania

by Ted Cookson

Sydney Opera House, which has grown to become one of Australia's pre-eminent national symbols since its opening in 1973, is best viewed from a ferry while en

The state capital of Melbourne doesn't offer Sydney's same intense energy level. But what picturesque and clean Melbourne lacks in energy it makes up for in charm. Straddling the Yarra

Koala Sanctuary, the country's first. There one can have his photograph taken while holding a koala. In addition, the suburban park features emus, wombats and kangaroos as well as platypus. Lone Pine is especially popular with families.

Cairns (pronounced "Cans"), the capital of Queensland's Far North, is closer to Papua New Guinea than it is to much of Australia. Boats speedily transport visitors from Cairns out to the coral islands of the Great Barrier Reef, said to be the world's largest living organism. At over 2,000 km in length and up to 80 km in width and running parallel to the coast of Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef, one of the richest marine resources on



Holding a koala at Lone Pine



Wildlife diorama at Museum of Victoria

route to Taronga Park Zoo on the north side of Darling Harbor. This zoo contains a large collection of Australian wildlife, and its koala enclosure is especially popular. Completed in 1932, nearby Sydney Harbor Bridge is now known for a sky walk tour that provides a spectacular view of the opera house and the city. The Australia Museum, with its sections on natural history and Aboriginal cultural, and the Powerhouse Museum featuring applied arts and sciences will round out a visit to Sydney.

River, restored historical buildings are interspersed with skyscrapers in modern but stately Melbourne. The interesting Museum of Victoria is housed in a building constructed in 1853. The museum's dioramas of marsupials are perhaps the best in Australia.

In 1823 escaped convicts first visited the area where Brisbane now lies. Yet, in contrast to Melbourne and Sydney, few historical buildings now remain in Australia's third-largest city. One of Brisbane's premier attractions is Lone Pine

earth, offers remarkable opportunities for diving and snorkelling.

One will never forget a visit to striking, red Ayers Rock, the world's largest



Brisbane skyline