



“G’Day, Mate”

Australia is a wonderful country with a great deal to see. However, it’s important to remember that Australia is a very large country. Although the total population is only 20,000,000 (as compared to over 300,000,000 in the U.S.), the land mass is approximately the same size as the continental United States.

Therefore, you need to consider the amount of time it will take to travel to such places as The Great Barrier Reef or The Outback.

There are some places close to Sydney that are wonderful day trips and activities:

- Visit the unique **Taronga Zoo**—Take the ferry through the Harbor to the zoo. Then take the tram up the mountain to top and walk back down through all of the exhibits. The zoo houses over 2,600 animals from all over the world. Plus, you will have the opportunity to sail the Harbor and see a spectacular view of the city from the cable car.
- Take the train to the **Blue Mountains**—The Blue Mountains are actually **BLUE**. . . And there’s lots to do there. Go horseback riding, visit the Botanic Garden on Mount Tomah, see the Three Sisters, tour the Grand Canyon, or ride the new Scenic Railway in Katoomba (really a sky tram) . . . And that’s just a few of the possibilities. (You might want more than one day.)
- Go to the **Hunter Valley** and taste some fabulous wines.
- Climb the **Sydney Harbour Bridge**, otherwise known as “the Coat Hanger.” This 3.5 hour tour is quite safe. You will be provided with a bridge-suit, communications equipment, and a bridge harness that is linked to a static line, and led by a professional Climb Leader. The 360° view from the top of the Bridge is unparalleled.
- Take a backstage tour of the magnificent **Sydney Opera House**.
- Fly in a **Sydney Seaplane** to the award winning **Cottage Point Restaurant**, situated in the Ku-Ring-Gai National Park.



Zones 28-29 Northland Event “Saturday Night Live in Sydney”

Don’t forget to register for the **BEST party ever—
“Saturday Night Live in Sydney!”**



Go to <http://www.directory-online.com/Rotary/SecLogin.cfm> and sign in; or, if you are not in the database, go to <http://www.zones28-29.org/sydney-ri-convention-information/> print a form, fill it out and mail it in.

Space is limited. Register today!

Issue 4

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Important Dates

June 1-4, 2014 —Rotary Sydney Convention

Dec. 16, 2013-Increase in registration price

Nov. 3, 2013—Group Housing forms due

Useful Links

Host Committee -

www.rotary2014.com.au

Tourism—www.australia.com

Facebook —

www.facebook.com/ricon14

Registration Info—

www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en/pdf/c14_registration_form_en.pdf

Zone Website Info -

www.zones28-29.org/sydney-ri-convention-information/

Travel Tips

Check these links for travel ideas and pre- or post-tours:

<http://globalconnection.com.au/>
Global Connections (HOC Official Travel Partner)

www.anzqs.com - Australia New Zealand Group Services

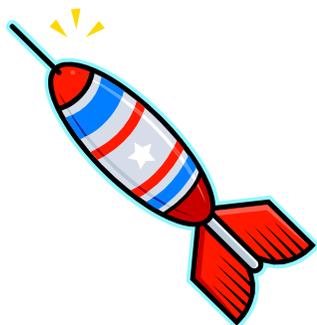
<http://www.howardtours.net/2014-sydney-convention.html>—

Howard Tours

D-6250 trip with DGE Dave Warren—contact Shel Hansen shel.hansen@travellersgo.com



Projects, Fundraising & Fellowship Ideas from “Down Under”



The Rotaract Club of the University of Wollongong, New South Wales raised more than \$1,300 through a “Humans vs. Zombies” tag game played with foam darts.

Taking their youthful passion and enthusiasm for community development to the court, the Rotary Club of Kent Town put together an indoor netball team that plays weekly. Members say that the weekly games provide the perfect platform for spreading the message of Rotary and strengthening teamwork skills through fun, fitness and fellowship.



Australian Animal Facts

Kookaburra

These large birds (11 to 17 inches) are best known for their unmistakable call which sounds uncannily like loud, echoing human laughter—ranging from good natured but hysterical to maniacal.



The kookaburra are terrestrial kingfishers native to Australia and New Guinea. Not closely associated with water, they can be found in a variety of habitats including suburban or residential areas with tall trees where they can easily search for food.

SPEAK AUSSIE

“Big Smoke” — A BIG city

- especially **SYDNEY**

Hotels or Private Housing?

If you are considering alternative to the usual hotels, try visiting one of the websites that specialize in rentals of apartments. This is an excellent alternative for a family or 2-3 couples. Be sure to read guest reviews and examine the photos before booking. Always pay by credit; scammers prefer cash. If the owner asks for cash or a wire transfer, walk away. Here are some websites to check out:

- airbnb.com
- homeaway.com
- vrbo.com

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Breaking News

Registration for the **Concert at the Sydney Opera House** on Monday evening, June 2nd will be available at the HOC website soon. The cost is \$70 AUS plus a small fee. There are only 2,500 tickets and they will sell fast. Don't wait if you are interested in this special event. You must be registered for the Convention to purchase tickets.