

"AUSTRALIA - VISIT"  
1986-87.

BY

**Er. S.S.SASTRY,** B.E., F.I.E.,

Superintending Engineer (R & B) Retd.,  
Kanakadurga Officers' Colony,  
VIJAYAWADA - 520 008. (A.P.)  
INDIA.

# CONTENTS

1. Geography and Climate.
2. Political Scene.
3. Language, Dress, Social life, Social Security.
4. Health and Medicine.
5. Engineering Education.
6. Engineering:     (a) Buildings.  
                     (b) Roads.  
                     (c) Irrigation Projects.  
                     (d) Water Supply.  
                     (e) Sanitation.  
                     (f) Industries     and     Industrial  
  Atmosphere.
7. Traffic and Transport.
8. Markets and Business.
9. Honesty and Corruption.
10. Entertainment and Amusement.

# 1. Geography and Climate:

Australia is the smallest continent and biggest island of the world. It lies wholly in the Southern Hemisphere i.e. to the South of the equator with Indian ocean and Pacific ocean on either side. Tropic of Capricorn crosses it about the middle. Tasmania and Newzealand are the two big islands nearby in the South of Australia.

Area is 8,000,000 Sq.M.

Coast Line is 20,000 Kms.

Population is below two crores or its population is equal to the annual births in India or the Australian population is equal to that of the passengers transported each day on the Indian Railways network in India as a whole.

State	Capital	Climate
(a) Western Australia	Perth	Hot and Dry with deserts.
(b) South Australia	Adelaide	Hot and Dry Summers & cool and rainy Winters.
(c) Victoria	Melbourne	- do -
(d) Tasmania	Hobart	- do -
(e) New South Wales	Sydney	- do -
(f) Queensland	Brisbane	Tropical and better rains
(g) Northern Territory	Darwin	Summer rains.
(h) Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	Canberra	Hot and Cold extremes.

Newzealand:- Auckland capital, till recently is part of Australia but got the separate country status. There are no passport or travel restrictions between the two countries.

The first settlement in Australia was in 1788. 1988 was celebrated as bi-centenary year.

Australia, a vast continent of contrasting landscapes and unique wild life, the abundance and variety of natural life astounded the early European explorers who visited the great south land.

Australia challenges its inhabitants and visitors to further exploration and discovery with the promise of boundless natural beauty.

Melbourne, where I stayed long, has latitude  $37^{\circ}-19'$  and longitude  $111^{\circ}-59'$ .

Eastern and Southern coastline is only occupied and Central and Northern Territory are scarcely populated. Less than one quarter of Australia is suitable for cultivation.

The country has largely mineral wealth which is mostly unexplored. The country's rainfall is much less and therefore they have mainly two seasons i.e. Summer and Winter. Summer is from September to February and Winter from March to September. Therefor their Christmas falls in Summer unlike Europe, U.K. & U.S.A. Thus Australian climate is just opposite to our climate.

Their National animal is Kangaroo and the National bird is Emu. Their National day is January 26th.

Canberra has got the wide Temperature variation while Melbourne is very peculiar climate. In a particular day it has three climates. Morning it will be raining with breeze, afternoon it will be warm and in the nights it will be quite cool and use heaters and woollen clothing.

## 2. Political Scene:

Australia was discovered by Thomas Cook, a British explorer in the year 1769 and he first sighted Newzealand and in the year 1770 New South Wales i.e. Sydney. Prior to this British settlement there were aboriginals. They are black in colour and probably nomads till recently. The aboriginals belong to China, Japan and nearby islands of Australia and including Indians. Still the aboriginals are there and there is that colour hatred and there are frequent demonstrations fighting for their rights by aboriginals. Now the Australian Government is extending many facilities, just like in India, to bring them to the main stream of Australian life. Thomas Cook was killed by the aboriginals.

Australia is a British settlement. First it started with sending prisoners from England when all their prisons were full with the offenders. Later on the settlers came slowly and these prisoners with good behaviour were released and taken as farm labour, domestic servants and other menial jobs, where hardcore prisoners were used for hard-jobs.

Just like in India, Australia suffered great damage during second world war, lost thousands of men and lot of property at the hands of Japanese. Australians attach lot of respect for war heroes and war memorials.

On 1st January 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia became a Federation of states functioning under a written constitution. It is almost like Indian Constitution with a Commonwealth or Central Government with six State Governments. Still the Queen of England is the Head of the country represented by the Governor General and the Senate i.e. Upper House and the House of Representatives.

Indian migration to Australia started since about 20 years and therefore we find quite few migrants to Australia compared to other countries like U.S.A., U.K., Canada and Arab countries because of the long distance and very stringent emigration Visa, even now. As more families are going, naturally the sponsorship starts with kith and kin.

Just like in India, Commonwealth looks after Defence, Immigration, External Affairs, Currency, Trade and Commerce, Postal Services and Social Services.

The House of Representatives has 125 members. Voting by adults is compulsory and there is a fine of \$50/- if one does not vote. The Ministry is formed in the House of Representatives if necessary taking some members from the Senate or the Upper House.

The Senate comprises of 64 members i.e. 10 from each state and two from Northern Territory and ACT and they are elected for a period of six years. Senators elect one of their own members as their President and Deputy President.

The functions of the Senate are:

1. To provide checks and balances on the Federal System of Govt. to safe guard the interests of the states.
2. To act as a house of review.
3. To initiate non- financial legislation.
4. To protect personal rights and liberties.

The bill passes through Senate three stages:

- 1st reading:- Formal introduction.  
2nd reading:- Debate on the bill.  
3rd reading:- The final passage of the bill.

There are mainly four political parties in Australia:

- (a) Australian Democrats
- (b) Australian Labour Party
- (c) Australian Liberal Party
- (d) National Party of Australia.

At present Labour Party is in power and its Prime Minister is Bob Hawke. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened Parliament in Australia on 3 occasions. It is the Governor General who gives the opening speech of both Houses held at Senate prepared by the Government just like in India.

I saw the Senate and Parliament and it is a treat to the eye. But not satisfied with the present houses, they are constructing a new Parliament Building at Canberra. A guide will daily conduct tour to show the both Houses and explain.

### 3. Languages, Dress, Social Life and Social Security:

The language spoken in Australia is English and with a different accent which will not be difficult to follow it in a couple of months. Every English speaking country has a different accent. More than half the world speaks English. It is more so in England. It seems once a lady called a taxi in London and the taximan said I can take you to your street by virtue of her accent. So accent of English varies from street to street. The Australians feel that we speak English very fast. Our English is more grammatical, and therefore they call our English as queens language i.e. pure English.

The Australians dress is very informal. Mostly men and women wear pants and shirts and sometimes it is difficult to distinguish. Mostly it is a cold country and so they use lot of woollens. Even their blankets are heated by electric coils besides heaters in the rooms.

Australians are mostly peace loving nation, and their way of life is to their family - wife and children. They do not call on the relatives as their familytree is so varied and in some cases they do not know their brothers and sisters. They do not much care their parents. Parents live separately and secludedly because they have a house, some money and old age pension. But if they become too old they join the old homes where all the facilities are available. Food there is almost free, medicine is excellent. There are old homes to take care of very well for handicapped and mentally retarded. These invalid people are taken to the sight seeing entertainment. They enjoy the concessions in admission fees. There will be invariably even the separate toilets to invalid people wherever there are toilets.

There is allowance of \$25/- for each child irrespective of the parents income till the child attains majority. After attaining the majority if one is not employed they get the unemployment allowance sufficient for a person to live. At this stage they become independent and leave the parents. At the fag end they get the old age pension till their end of life. The social security allowances are paid promptly through bank cheques and the scrutiny and sanction is very quick without any harassment. The Central Government looks after it and spends half their budget in Social Security.

Mostly ladies are all employed as the jobs are very easy to get and the other facilities like child care homes, creches, conveyance either a bus, tram or train are convenient and not crowded. There is again preference for ladies in employment in certain categories like typists, stenographers, teachers, sales girls etc.. There is an Equal Opportunity Board to see that equality for women in pay, status, special facilities like maternity leave and any sort of injustice and employment itself. Maternity leave is given for seven years continuously if they want without pay. With pay it is about four months. If any complaint is made to the Board, the Board will take up the case promptly, findings are given quickly, and they are mandatory and to be implemented.

#### 4. Health and Medicare:

Australians are mostly of British origin and they are very robust and healthy. Again by virtue of the good climate, very healthy and unadulterated food and unpolluted air, the Australians keep very good health. In fact when I went to Australia I have very much improved my health. People look very healthy and their longevity of life is more than eighty. At the age of eighty they drive their car, go to market and do all their household work.

The Government takes complete health care of their citizens. The Government collects 1% of the salary from each and everyone whether in Government employment or private employment towards the health care. The hospitals are very big, neat and clean, of course the admissions and operations by appointment except the emergency cases. A patient can approach even a recognised private doctor and his consultation fees is paid by the Government. There is again a private "Medicare Insurance Organisation" and with some premium, the insurance company will reimburse the entire private hospitalisation, medicines, consultation etc.

There is insurance for Ambulance. The insurance company takes some annual premium of just \$15/- and whenever the Ambulance is needed for the medical purpose they provide for first 100kms. and beyond it is some 50c per km. like that. But if a non-insurance private Ambulance is required it costs 1 1/2 \$. So almost everyone goes for Ambulance Insurance and again their service is extremely fast. By telephoning within minutes they provide the Ambulance. Moreover there are telephones on Freeways at every 3kms. to report in case of accident or car repairs. Thus one has to walk a maximum one km. to get at the telephone. Coupled with this Police Department is very prompt.

#### 5. Engineering education:

The engineering education in Australia is not very progressive comparatively. They also lack the engineering professionals. There are 146 engineers per million population while U.S.S.R. is having 1174 and Japan 620, Germany 292, U.S.A. 291, China 195 and India perhaps 10 or 15.

In Australia their statistics show that they educate more Scientists than engineers whereas the opposite applies to other developed countries. In Japan there are five engineers to one scientist where as in Australia three scientists to one engineer. This imbalance is due to poorly funding and at R&D level it is worse besides relying much on overseas expertise. Australia imports lot of Computer engineers and other disciplines also. As you might be aware that assimilation of scientific results to technology and implementation by engineers will take 20 years. It means to say that even if scientific research is stopped now it will 20 years to implement the research results and that is to say that scientific research is ahead by 20 years all over the world.

In Australia they have professional body of engineers i.e. The Institution of Engineers. According to the statistics there are only 290 female engineers out of total membership of 36,000 thus representing only 0.8% of professional female engineers. it is said in U.S.S.R. each third engineer is a woman. That is to say it is not matter of social justice but as an efficient use of human resources to the engineering profession which only can achieve prosperity to any country with self reliance. In India we can compare our woman engineers to a 0.001%. Now there is better trend in spite of lot of constraints.

The education up to X standard is free and compulsory. After X class the students apply for the professional courses. They have to apply for about five alternative courses of choice in Medicine or Engineering or science subjects, social sciences, law education in the order of preference. Then with reference to the marks a candidate obtained in X class, it is all computerised in a particular state and the subject is finalised and place of study also finalised by the computer system. The candidate just joins and does not grumble, nor bring any political pressures or local pressures. I saw an engineering college and it is highly surprising that there are always seats kept vacant. Perhaps even 50% of the seats are not filled. Students do not grumble to study the subject allotted because whatever subject they study jobs are available.

Even at university there is no tuition fees thus the entire education is free. There are five Universities in Melbourne and each University has a barter system of taking students from other countries including India and sending out equal number of Australian students to other countries. I saw the Latrobe University in Melbourne.

## 6. Engineering:

### a) Buildings:

We will find several multi-storeyed buildings of more than 30 storeyed in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and other cities. Apart from these multi-storeyed buildings there are other engineering structures like famous Telecommunications Towers. The Telecom Tower at Sydney is the marvellous piece of engineering structure.



It is about 400' height above which there is steel mast. The Opera House at Sydney on the sea shore is again a marvel and it is a show piece of Australia. It is a double shell type and their luxurious carpets, lounges, spic spac toilets. The famous Capital buildings like High court, War memorials, Museums etc. We find the American, Canadian and British European expertise in the massive structures. The Australians will always have a look about their prosperity in view whenever they take up any construction. They leave lot of open spaces, lot of car parking areas and even the monuments they preserve for prosperity.

When we talk about the ordinary domestic houses they are mostly constructed with timber. When the Gold rush and agriculture in the initial stages was in full swing about 100 years back, they imported lot of labourers from U.K., China Japan in hundreds and they have to be provided with houses in large numbers in a short span of time. So they hurriedly constructed temporary houses for workmen with available local materials like wood, tiles etc. and in course of time this type of constructions have become vogue throughout the country including city dwellings. Now with this type of house construction below 2000 sq.ft. plinth area costs about \$80,000/- i.e. about 6 to 7 lakhs of Indian Rupees. Brick and cement construction houses are very few and that is rich man's construction.

The ordinary type of construction of a building will be with about 2' depth of foundation over which the wooden grill with 2" thick scantlings is given at the basement level and flooring completed with wooden planks and below this basement is all open cellar. Wooden posts are taken from basement to the roof level again. Small wooden collar trusses at 2'-6' interval is placed and glazed tiles are spread over the sloped roof. Inside false ceiling is given with a thermocool for insulation. Inside partitions are given with 2' thick paneling. The wooden flooring is covered with woollen carpets. Inside, wall panels are decorated with wall paper or paints. Outside the building is given brick lining to give insulation to the buildings and also gives an impression of total construction of the building with brickwork. If unfortunately any white ants or wood attacking pests grow, the building will be finished within months. The buildings are not safe against accidents. But fire service organisation is extremely prompt and so even if a building caught fire, they see it does not spread to other buildings. In Northern Territory capital Darwin there was a severe cyclone about five years ago when all these types of houses in hundreds have collapsed.

#### b) Roads:

The most striking thing in Australia is their beautiful roads. they are wide with perfect geometrical feature, such as easy vertical curves, horizontal curves, super elevations etc. All the roads are Bitumen roads and very few cement roads. I saw a stretch of cement road of about 10 kms. Perhaps the soils are poor there or the area is subject to inundation and nowhere else I came across the cement roads in my total travel of about two thousand miles. But their Bitumen roads are comparatively rough textured which of course gives better grip and renders skid resistance and thus avoid

accidents particularly rainy season, but at the expense of the tyre life i.e. tyres get damaged. I find the tyres used are wider than our Indian car tyres. Wider tyres give better grip on roads mainly at the curves and during rains. In Australia they do not have problem of snow in the winter.

For their speeds of 110 KMPH this type of rough textured wider roads are safe. Their maximum speed is 110KMPH on Freeways. Their roads are classified as (a) Roads, (b) divided roads, (c) Highways and (d) Freeways.

Ordinary roads are two lane and this is minimum and never a single lane unlike in our country. That is to say that their ordinary roads are like our National Highways with clear demarcation of the lane. They give separately the overtaking lanes. One stretch for one side and another stretch of about 1 km for opposite traffic and it is so beautifully planned in such a way that overtaking smoothly avoiding accident prone blind corners etc. It means to say lot of traffic engineering has gone into their roads, their laying, determining lanes, signals etc. and very frequently they measure the volume of traffic for signalling purpose to allot the time for each lane.

in Melbourne city for a road travel of about 45 minutes there are 58 traffic signals. In fact these traffic signals are so perfectly computerised in such a way that if you follow the correct speeds indicated, you will not be much obstructed by the traffic signals. But erratic driving only results in several stoppages due to traffic signals.

Then comes Highways, and here the speed is 75 KMPH and on highways there will be more than one lane one lane on each side.

Next comes the divided road. These roads are generally between towns where the two ways of roads completely isolated and there is sometimes 100 meters land width between ways. Generally two or three lanes on each side.

Next are Freeways, they are like trunk roads say between Melbourne and Canberra, a distance of 800kms. The maximum speed is 110 KMPH and people try to cross speed and get caught by Police. Police intelligently catch the speedy vehicles. they hold the electronic speedometers one kilometre ahead and if the speed is more, the Police stop the vehicle and book the case. Generally cases of the traffic offences are not contested in courts and the offence is admitted and pay the fine, and the fine is certainly salutary. For a traffic the minimum fine is \$80/- (Rs650/-) besides the cancellation of driving licenses if the offences are persistent and dangerous nature.

In 1987 Australia performed their Bi-centenary year celebrations i.e. completion of 200 years of colonial occupation of Australia. The Government has programmed several costly bicentenary road projects of forming new roads, widening the existing roads, adding extra lanes etc. on a mammoth scale. I think they rightly the utmost importance to their roads in Bi-centenary year of celebrations. Their history book is only 200 years old where as Indian history starts before Christ i.e. more than 2000 years.

(c) Irrigation Projects:

In Australia rain fall is very low as such there are few rivers of small size like our main canals and there is large catchment areas and number of small dams constructed over it. That is to say the entire rain water is impounded. I think major portion of this impounded water is for drinking water purposes only and for irrigation it is much less. That is the reason that Australia's major Agricultural occupation is grazing the sheep for wool and meat and cows for Dairy Development. Wheat and sugarcane are grown in Eastern Australia where rain fall is comparatively higher - Brisbane area. No doubt lot of vegetables are grown mostly depending on ground water rather on rain water. Therefore we do not come across big dams and the Hydro Electric generation is also not much and however I should say I could not contact Irrigation and Electrical Engineers to gather much more information excepting my personal observations.

(d) Water Supply:

Australia has got good drinking water supply system. During my stay of four months in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney, I did not come across even a day's failure of water supply. Water supply is plenty and metered and charged for every connection which is within the common reach of charges. Australians are very fond of gardening. Many use garden water sprinklers to maintain the lawns day and night and they spent quite a long time of their leisure period in gardening work as a hobby doing all things themselves, such as digging, mowing, cutting, removing debris etc..

(e) Sanitation:

Australians are extremely about sanitation. Every city is fully covered up with underground drainage and it is compulsory that every house constructed to have connection to the public sewerage system otherwise sanitary certificate for the house will not be issued. They adopt the Western style of garbage disposal system. Every house should keep their garbage either in disposable type of garbage bags or the plastic type garbage bins provided by the Council i.e. Municipality. Every area is allotted a particular day of the week for the collection of these garbage bags. The Council garbage truck comes on the particular day just with a driver and two helpers and collects these bags. If bins are provided, they will be unloaded into the trucks, and the bins are returned to the house owner. For street cleaning there are mechanical vacuum suckers which suck the garbages on the roads and public places. These garbage trucks unload the garbage at the tips, i.e. a specified area for putting garbage in each council. If a particular owner has got more garbage to dispose off he can take it in trailer and unload in the tip such as garden scrap etc.. Sometimes the Council will keep a truck at a place and all unwieldy and big items can be thrown into the truck and later on this truck will taken to the tip. Each tip that is garbage area will serve about ten years and then they allot some other area. This garbage may be used as manure in course of time. Sometimes in these tips costly things

like cots, beds, clothes, utensils, steel and other articles are thrown and surprisingly we find people to take them at the tips waiting in the cars.

Now coming to the public toilets, it must be specially mentioned about the provision and maintenance. The toilets provided are many with bathrooms, urinals, washbasins, hot air provision to dry up hands which are automatic, wash towels, disposal cubits etc. for gents, ladies and invalids separately be it either a cinema hall, an exhibition hall or an office or a hotel or a public place and along all Highways at every 20 or 30 kms.. In fact they teach us the sense of sanitation. Plenty of water, lighting, fumigation are all provided in an excellent way. Every where disposal bins are kept and they are periodically emptied too. In Australia they impose a fine of \$50/- for littering the roads and public places. Such is the magnificent way in which sanitation is observed in Australia and it is a model to be copied by the Developing countries like India. Recently we read in Newspapers that A.P. Government wants to introduce garbage bag collection system by the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation in the old city of Hyderabad and it is good beginning for improving the sanitation.

#### (f) Industries and Industrial atmosphere:

Australia is a nascent country in Industries. It is a country which freely allows the imports of Industrial goods too and they have an attitude to adopt the latest technology from any country. Now they have realised the necessity of establishing major industries to show employment, use their own mineral resources instead of dependency on imports. particularly taking the automobiles, all are imported cars mostly from Japan. Now Australia is encouraging establishment of factories in Australia by multi-national based industries and slowly it is picking up. Australia is very rich in mineral resources. In fact much of their central country is not tapped at all for rich mineral resources. They have large deposits of Copper, Gold, Iron etc. and their exploration of their ores is in a slow progress. Seeing Australia's great potential for minerals, several multi-national companies are establishing industries in Australia. It is therefore yet to develop its own industries on large scale.

The Government's encouragement in Australia for industries is worth mentioning and several exemptions are given for industries for developing the Research and Development (R&D) wing of the industries.

No doubt we come across the industrial atmosphere in the country but limited to medium scale and small scale industries. They have the industrial areas such as Industrial estates. Their industries have good machinery, whether imported or local, skilled workers, and good quality of work with modernised testing laboratories, computers etc. Their industries are therefore of high standard mainly due to their labour putting in good and quality work giving better outturn and standard quality.

## 7. Traffic and Transport:

The main internal transport in Australia is road transport. They have rail transport both for passengers and goods. Electric trams are still running in Melbourne and Sydney cities. Sydney is the biggest International Airport. Domestic Air travel is there but not very popular.

Mostly people prefer travel by road on own cars the reasons being first of its low cost, next the conveyance is always at your disposal, the speed due several freeways and good roads and facilities such as motels, toilets, petrol bunks etc.. Almost every family owns a car if not two if wife is also employed but it is all self driving. A driver is a very costly affair. The minimum wages is \$16,000/- per year and in our Indian currency he costs Rs.10,000/- a month. Either private or Government for top Executives car is provided but not the driver. Perhaps only Ministers, Secretary level are provided with car drivers. The maximum speed in Australia is 110kmph. on freeways and the freeway width will be three lanes on either side. Thus there is never a head-on collision. Mostly the accidents are on narrow roads and due to vehicle failure or drunken driving.

The train traffic is not at all preferred. It looks as though they laid the railway system for prosperity. In cities there are several local routes. All are electric trains and the moffasil trains are all diesel locomotives except in peak hours that is in the morning 7AM to 9AM and evening 3PM to 6PM we just find 4 or 5 travellers in each compartment of the train and hardly ten people get down or ten people get in each station. The trains are extremely neat and fast. Unless the doors are closed the train does not start. The closing and opening of doors controlled from driver's cabin. There are double ducker trains in Sydney. The country capital Canberra has no railway station.

There are long distance buses and they are mostly air conditioned. Even for thousand miles the buses run and they are fast. The train and bus journeys are very costly and almost as much as that of air travel.

Again the trams are very neat and with no congestion. The ticketing system is you enter the tram, there is a conductor sitting and he issues ticket and you take the seat. But the conductor does not go around. The opening and closing of the doors are again controlled by the driver. Ticket evasion is almost nil. Many travel with passes.

In Melbourne they sell the day tickets for \$4-70c. With this day ticket, one can travel till midnight anywhere in Melbourne by train, bus or tram. Although the bus service is private, they have an understanding for these combined tickets.

There are private Automobile Insurance Companies and for Melbourne its name is R.A.C.V., Royal Automobile Corporation of Victoria. They are very prompt in service. The RACV vehicles will be moving around with a telephone in cars. They get the message and attend either it is breakdown, small repairs and even the loss of keys. Once when we went to Phillip island for Penguin parade, it was

raining, wipers stopped functioning and RACV has come and repaired within an hour.

## 8. Markets and Business:

Australia imports quality goods both industrial and consumable from almost every country. Australia is a potential market for quality goods. It amounts to they do not manufacture many of their requirements. Now, of late, they realised the importance of self reliance and Government is taking steps to boost their industries on a large scale. Australia is a vast country and more than 70% of the land is unexplored for their great mineral wealth.

As regards the consumer goods and their sales there are big shopping centres which are like Superbazars. They sell almost everything under one roof. We do not find street hawkers like vegetable vendors, milk distributors, pavement shopping. Even for a packet of salt you have to go to the shopping centre.

Shopping centre is a very big complex and as much as the covered shopping centre, they have to provide even more area for car parking, since every family own cars. If the car parking area is less and consequently if one has to search and wait for parking place, that shopping centre cannot attract the customers. The biggest centre in Australia is located in Melbourne and called the "South Land" shopping centre. It is of three floors with number of escalators to go up the floors and come down. It is a vast area and can accommodate more than 2000 customers at a time, and four times the marketing area is provided for car parking that is to say to accommodate more than 2000 cars at a time. It will take easily about 15 to 20 mts. to get the parking bay after reaching the place.

While entering the shopping centre wide gates get opened automatically as if welcoming the customers. The shopping centres are all air conditioned. There will be small shops inside the shopping centres like snack shop, photo studio but the main shopping area is all the self-service type. There will be trolleys to pick the items and finally come to the counter for billing. there will be about 10 counters of which couple of them will be for purchases below \$50/- and one for quick service and other counters will mostly with queue of customers. The rates of the product is computerised with markings and if passes through counter automatically it is demagnetised and rate is recorded. If the item does not pass through the counter i.e. if it is shoplifted i.e. theft at the gate there will be a small siren indicating some item is not billed and shop lifted. Shop lifting is there but it is such a big crime and Police will arrest the shop lifters and next day they are exposed in T.V. No respective person therefore resorts to shoplifting. After paying the bill either cash or credit card you will come out with the trolley up to your car and leave the trolley there. They will be collected back by the workers of the shop. The trolley has arrangement to take the small child in it. Children will be joyfully watching the shopping centre, visitors, displays, lighting etc. and children really like the visit to the shopping centre. The pushers are also allowed inside the shopping centres.

In entire Australia whether it is Government or private the salaries are paid weekly whether it is industrial workers or white collared jobs. The salaries are paid on Thursday. The shopping centres are kept open up to 9PM on Thursdays. That means soon after receiving salary on Thursday they make the weekly purchases and on Friday at 5PM they come out from factories and offices and go for outing to a distant place with family and return back by Sunday evening and be ready for Monday work. Saturday the shops are kept open up to 1PM and Sunday complete holiday and on other days the shops are kept open from 9AM to 5PM. Saturday and Sunday they will be completely in relaxed mood from Managing Director to the lowest employee.

## 9. Honesty and Corruption:

The sense of honesty and confidence with people is very high in Australia. This is the glaring difference between India and Australia regarding the way of their life. In every walk of life there is honesty and straight forwardness. There are very negligible thefts in Australia. Whatever is kept outside, generally is not stolen. All the houses are with only full glass windows without grills. Petty thefts are nil. But there are thefts and the thieves come in cars and they mostly aim at TVs, tape recorders, cameras etc. Generally they do not keep much cash and gold in their houses. These type of thefts are also very few.

Generally wife and husband go in for jobs and they leave the house by 8AM along with children too and leave the children in schools or creches i.e. baby care centres and all of them reach back home by 6PM and meanwhile any repairs are to be done to the house, they leave the house key in the post-box. In Australia it is compulsory that every house or flat should have the post-box, this is to facilitate the post-man to make quick postal deliveries. Supposing in a house, carpet flooring is to be done. It is a work of 2 or 3 days. They leave all carpet materials in the house and leave the key in the post-box. The carpet labour contractor comes with the assistants by 9AM and takes the keys from the post-box and carries out the job for the day and leaves back the keys in the post-box by 5PM and goes away. The owner and family returns back from work and takes the keys from the post-box and enters the house and everything in the house will be intact and no article will be disturbed or lost. Such is the level of honesty and confidence which is of very high order.

Another example is: In Melbourne "Cup day" of the horse races is a very big event in the entire country. Horses take part from all over the world. The rare holiday is declared on the Cup day. One event will be the main event of the day. The whole world comes to stand still to watch the main event on the T.V. The "Cup day" is also an occasion for fashion parade for ladies. They come to races in most fashionable dresses which are planned months ahead. For these horse races one can bet on telephone with bookies. Just telephone and say you bet on such and such horse \$50/- say, if the horse wins, according to the dividends, the bookies company will send you the cheque to your address for the winning amount. If the horse you bet is lost, one sends the money without any default.

Once I received an intimation from post-office that there is a registered packet from Brisbane from our relatives sent a Christmas gift pack. The registered packet will not be door delivered and one has to collect from post office showing the intimation letter sent by the by the post office. I went to the post office with the letter. The post master took the letter and gave me the packet. No signature, identity harassments etc. That is the fast way of dealing with things with all confidence.

There are some four thefts. Couple youngsters join and in the stolen car (because most of the parked on the roads or in the open area before the houses as there will not be compound walls to the houses as there are no thefts nor stray cattle to damage the domestic gardens) go around the city for few hours for fun sake and leave the car somewhere over the outskirts of the city.

There are no bribes, mamools in Australia but there are very costly Christmas and Birthday gifts only. Normal civic life goes on smoothly. One need not bother about small things like admissions of the children in the schools and colleges, recommendations for the jobs (as the jobs are more than the people eligible) and for promotions, as all the promotions are on merit and seniority. As such the recommendations by politicians is unheard of. Therefore the common man is not harassed by any government official to get the work done in any Government Office. Most of the affairs are done on the telephones only. If a citizen writes a letter it is believed and rarely questioned. That is how they develop speed in their dealings. Trade is also very straight forward. There is no black market or rates exploitation etc. The citizen's forum there is very strong and they will be extremely watchful. The TV is a very strong media and exposes the fraud, shop lifts, thefts, deceits within hours and it is acting as a great deterrent to crimes.

But there may stray incidents of corruption at the Ministerial and high levels and the press and TV media somehow expose them and see to it that the culprits resign from their high positions. Once a Governor General himself resigned due to such exposure by Press media in connection with a scandal.

## 10. Entertainment and Amusements:

1. The fantastic attraction in Australia near Melbourne is "Penguin Parade" at Phillip islands. It is 100kms. from Melbourne city. After sunset about 2,000 penguins come in batches of 50, 100 or 200 walking from sea to the shore in a stylish manner. These Penguins stay at the shore dervs in the night and in the early morning from 4AM they go to the sea for food. They eat small fish, sea insects etc. Penguin is not bird but an animal species and are harmless. Everyday visitors come in hundreds to witness this parade. On the day we went it heavily rained and even then there are 2 to 3,000 visitors attended.
2. There is Thomas Cook cottage in Melbourne. Thomas Cook was the first British explorer of Australia. It is a small cottage with all the furniture used by Thomas Cook two hundred years



back. Large number of tourists visit this place everyday. There are conducted tours with buses. I find everywhere more Japanese coming as tourists compared to any other country. They are well dressed with everyone possessing cameras and few videos and they arrange themselves with group lunches which is very costly affair in Australia.

3. Sovereign Hill in Victoria 160kms. from Melbourne. There are two important gold mines in Australia one is Ballart and another one is in Bendigo. In Ballart which is also called the Sovereign Hill, mining operations are in full swing hundred years back. The gold is obtained in big nuggets or big lumps of pure 24 carats. Hundred square meters around this Sovereign Hill gold used to be just found on the surface of the earth. There were rumours all around the world that pure gold nuggets are found in Australian streets. So mainly British business men rushed to Australia. At one time 300 Chinese came in ships. People came from Japan and almost from all the islands nearby. Mining operations were done privately and people used to fight with each other and civil war broke out. The Government took over gold mining operations and later on the entire mining operations were stopped and now being taken up systematically.

There is an excellent gold museum in a fine building, exhibiting of all the big nuggets found, the gold history of all over the world and even Indian gold coins were kept in the exhibition. It is a magnificent display of the rare and ancient gold coins. The security arrangements with TV network and alarms to give ring if any touches lifts the exhibits and the way spotlighting is very exemplary. Then in the gold map of Australia comes Bendigo town which was once famous place for gold just like Ballart and once again Australians want to revive the gold mining with modern mining equipment.

4. Tulip Festival: It is a Dutch Tulip flower festival conducted in Melbourne suburbs in the month of October for four days. Tulip is a Dutch flower brought to Australia. It is a vast flower show and an exhibition covering an area about 600 acres. The various colours, the types of flowers, the manner in which they are exhibited is extremely interesting and it is a treat to the eye. How they protect? They have big 100' long rectangular polythene tents to protect the plants mainly from rain and snow and sometimes heat of the sun. They use automatic water sprinklers rotating type. The exhibition includes the various stages of the plants growth from planting tom flower stages, the garden tools they use, the manner they use are all interesting. They dug wells for water and used the famous Dutch windmills popular in Denmark. They sell the plants, seeds, manures, tools, mementoes etc. in the exhibition.

5. Healesville Sanctuary: This is a big and beautiful bird sanctuary in Melbourne at Healesville suburb. This is covered in an area of about 200 acres of land. The sanctuary is open from 9AM to 5PM every day of the year, of course everything is closed including the petrol pumps only on Christmas every year. But petrol pumps are kept open on other holidays. The

other holidays are Jan.26- their National Holiday, Melbourne Cup day i.e. horse races a very fashionable parade of ladies, Easter days. Only these are paid holidays in an year. Everywhere picnic facilities are provided i.e. electric or wooden fire places or barbeques, wooden seats and tables, drinking water, hot water, lawns for playing and very big and neat toilets. There will be gift shops for purchasing gifts pertaining to the exhibition or palaces of interest. There is a bush land of 140 hectares where Eucalyptus trees are grown. The peculiarity of this sanctuary is how they keep the birds, they use water sprinklers for the birds if the climate is warm. At about 14' height the whole enclosure of each category of birds has been enclosed on the top with mesh so that the birds will not fly away. The enclosure for each category of birds is so big that the birds feel natural surroundings to a large extent. We saw the black swan a rare bird, Koalas, Reptiles enclosure and various birds of mostly cold climate.

In Canberra, the capital city of Australia, we saw the magnificent construction of High Court buildings. In Australia the named highest court as High Court and is equivalent to Supreme Court. There are State High Courts called Supreme Courts, just the opposite nomenclature in India. The High Court building on the banks of Lake Burley Griffith is one of Canberra's National Buildings constructed in an area of 6.2 hectares. Sir Burley Griffith has designed the entire Capital city of Canberra about 100 years back. The capital of Australia was first at Melbourne and then shifted to Canberra. There is a very big foyer underneath the building for car parking, as car park is very important as almost employee owns a car. Even the shopping centres perhaps provide more area of parking place than their actual show-room and godowns put together otherwise it can not attract the customers. The ceiling of the High Court is 24 meters high supported by columns. The floor tiles are of Italian and the only item imported in the entire construction.

There are only three court rooms in the High Court which shows the less volume of litigation. Number 1 court is big and all ceremonial occasions and on all major cases where a full bench of the seven Judges of the court is sitting. It has a public gallery with sophisticated sound reproduction system and facilities to provide constant closed circuit TV coverage of court proceedings. Number 2 court is mostly used in cases where a full court of less than seven Judges are sitting. Number 3 court room is designed for cases which will be dealt with by a single Justice. It is the smallest of the court rooms. Top floor is kept for Justices dining and lounge facilities with a roof garden. Lounge, dining, retiring rooms are provided for practitioners i.e. lawyers with work rooms and with an extensive library facilities. Court timings are: 10=15AM to 12=45PM and 2=15PM to 4=15PM.

Canberra telephone tower is a show piece of the city. In Australia telephones run by private organisations and not the Government. The telephone directory is a big volume and given free. Similarly Yellow pages book with all types of advertisements in alphabetical order is given in it. It weighs about 3kgs. and given free to every house. The Canberra telephone tower was opened on 15-5-1980. Total height of the tower is 195 meters. Working platform level - 132 meters. Height of steel tower is 63meters.

In Canberra we saw the beautiful green cottage. It is a mini township with all dolls etc. and it is very interesting. There is a steam engine with coaches to a scale of about 1/4 of the usual steam engine it runs with firewood with locomotive boiler.

Coming to Sydney, it is the largest in Australia and biggest commercial centre. The most beautiful constructions are again Telecom tower and the Opera House. It is just a theatre to accommodate about 2000 people but the open areas, lounges, toilets car parking are so big and it will be four times the actual theatre area. There is a city explorer in Sydney to take around the important places. Another very interesting tourist attraction is Katoomba. There is a scenic railway- first laid for the purposes of coal conveyance from the ore. It is the steepest incline in the world - 52°. Length of incline - 1350', vertical drop - 750' and length of natural tunnel - 240'.

There is a sky way also of 460meters span and 305meters above the valley and there is a rotary hotel. The whole platform moves with tables and chairs with a diameter of 50' and rotates around the shops of tea, snacks, cigarettes, books etc. and the hotel is air conditioned. From this rotating hotel we can watch the sceneries of Katoomba Hills.

\*\*\*\*