

Rusty & Wendy -- Australia and New Zealand Trip January/February 2013

January 26: Arrived in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Rockford Darling Harbour Hotel. Orientation to the city.

January 27: Intro to Australia and Sydney's pre colonial and colonial past. Tour of Sydney Opera House. Strolling the city.

January 28: Sydney's Eastern suburbs coach tour, Bondi Beach, The Gap. Sydney Harbour cruise. Lunch at Scarlett's in The Rocks. Strolling again in the rain!

January 29: Sydney. Opal Discovery Center. Taronga Park Zoo. Circular Quay. Opera House for evening performance.

January 30: Sydney Domestic Airport for flight to Melbourne, Victoria. Royal Botanic Gardens for lunch. Shrine of Remembrance. Eureka 88 SkyDeck for views of city. Swanston Hotel Grand Mercure in CBD.

January 31: Melbourne. Presentations on Australia's economy and health care. Tram to Queen Victoria Market for lunch. Coach to Phillip Island, supper at pub, viewing parade of little penguins.

February 1: Melbourne. National Gallery of Victoria. Met family friends for Colonial Tram Restaurant lunch and tour of State Library. Tram to supper in Fitzroy district.

February 2: Flight to Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Chifley Alice Springs Resort. School of the Air; Royal Flying Doctor Service. BBQ at Olive Pink Botanical Gardens.

February 3: Alice Springs Desert Park. Western MacDonnell Ranges, Simpsons Gap. Aboriginal culture center. Aboriginal bush foods supper.

February 4: Coach to Uluru with camel ride and scones along the way. Lunch Ininti Cafe, Uluru- Kata Tjuta National Park Cultural Center. Two hikes at base of Uluru. Sunset viewing of Uluru. Outback Pioneer Lodge overnight.

February 5: Hike into Kata Tjuta. Flight to Cairns from Ayers Rock Domestic Airport. Orientation to Cairns. Cairns Oasis Resort overnight.

February 6: Cairns. Cruise to Great Barrier Reef, Michaelmas Cay. Snorkeling!

February 7: Cairns. Coach to rainforest village of Kuranda. Skyrail trip to Caravonica via Rainforest Interpretive Station. Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park. Farewell dinner for Road Scholar trippers.

February 8: Marilyn and Chris Lee met us at our hotel. Car trip up onto Tablelands, heading toward Townsville. Visited Herberton Village and chocolate factory. Malanda Inn overnight.

February 9: Continued drive through wet tropics toward Townsville. Curtain Fig Tree, war memorial.

February 10-12: in Townsville visiting the Lees.

February 13: Return by car north along the coast to Cairns.

February 14: Flight from Cairns via Brisbane to Wellington, New Zealand.

February 15: Day in Wellington.

February 16: Ferry from Wellington (North Island) to Picton (South Island). Train from Picton to Christchurch.

February 17: Coach from Christchurch to Queenstown; Mt. Cook. Overnight in Queenstown.

February 18: Trip to Doubtful Sounds, fjords. Overnight in Queenstown.

February 19: Coach north to Fox Glacier. Overnight at Distinctive Hotel, Fox Glacier.

February 20: To Greymouth on Intercity Coach, then TranzAlpine train to Christchurch.
February 21: Fly to Sydney from Christchurch. Overnight at airport hotel.
February 22: Flight to Los Angeles, then to our respective Philly and Boston!