

The Sydney International Law Institute
Of
Widener University School of Law

A Manual for Preparing for and Living in Australia
June – July 2004

Please Read this Manual Carefully
and Bring it with you to Sydney.

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I. Introduction

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Sydney International Law Institute! We expect this summer to be an outstanding academic experience for you, full of excitement, opportunities, and a period of personal growth and enrichment. Both in and out of the classroom, you will have the chance to meet new people, learn about Australia's past and present, explore places of unrivaled beauty, and more. We hope that you will come to appreciate the range of cultures and perspectives that are a product of history and experience. Australians tend to be incredibly friendly, helpful, and fun to be with; the typical response to any kind of request is, "no worries." Their attitude is infectious!

Australia is a fascinating and diverse nation. Its original inhabitants, Aborigines, are said to have arrived between 40,000 and 80,000 years ago and constituted approximately 500 distinct language groups (tribes). Aboriginal culture is still thriving in many parts of Australia, particularly in the Northern Territories and Western Australia. During your stay in Sydney you will see many aspects of how the Aboriginal culture influences daily life. A substantial component of the Comparative Constitutional Law course will be devoted to Aboriginal culture, history, and current political concerns.

In 1770, explorer James Cook landed in Botany Bay, just south of Sydney. When the first Europeans came to explore, they were struck by how "backwards" everything seemed from the European perspectives: the seasons seemed backward, the trees were backward (leaves of the Eucalyptus trees remain on while the bark peels off), the birds (emus) didn't fly, the sky looked different, the marsupials defied European classifications, and even the swans were black instead of white.

Although it was a "backward" continent the British thought it was a fine place for a penal colony, and one-way transportation to Australia soon began. From that initial ill-conceived plan grew a strong nation which still maintains strong ties to Britain with the most obvious sign being its continued allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty's likeness remains on Australian money.

Recent years have seen an influx of immigrants from the Pacific Rim countries including Vietnam, Thailand, China, and Japan. For most tourists, their influence is most likely to be tasted. While there are numerous Asian restaurants many high-end Australian chefs have integrated Asian and European styles.

Like the United States, Australia is a constitutional, federal democracy. Australia is comprised of six states: New South Wales (Sydney, Canberra the national capital), Queensland to the North (Great Barrier Reef and tropical rain forests), Victoria ("microcosm of Australia," home of Melbourne), South Australia (driest state and home of Kangaroo Island and Adelaide), Western Australia (encompassing approximately a third of the continent's land mass), and Tasmania (the island to the south).

Australian English is almost a language unto itself. It is sometimes called "Strine," which is a way the word "Australian" sounds with a thick Australian accent. It is often full of wonderful colloquialisms; shortening words is a favorite. For instance Australians often start the day with "brekkie" while later they may use a "Barbie" to grill prawns. After a brief stay, you should be able to amaze your mates with your mastery of this unique tongue. Enjoy the tucker and be careful around the billabongs!

A. References

There are literally dozens of guidebooks and web sites available to assist you in planning for your Australian adventure. Most of the books have extensive sections of the history of Australia and useful general information about Australian travel. The following is just a sample of each:

1. Guidebooks

- BERLITZ: Discover Australia
- EYEWITNESS TRAVEL GUIDES – good background information concerning places you might visit while in Sydney.
- FODOR'S EXPLORING AUSTRALIA
- FROMMER'S AUSTRALIA FROM \$50 A DAY – useful, practical information about getting around Australia, etc.
- INSIGHT GUIDE (AUSTRALIA) – historical, political, social and cultural information with fabulous photographs.
- LONELY PLANET AUSTRALIA and LONELY PLANET NEW SOUTH WALES – generally reliable and useful for budget traveling.
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC – perhaps the best all-around guide, with characteristic mouthwatering photographs, as well as in-depth descriptions.
- THE ROUGH GUIDE: AUSTRALIA – for the budget traveler.
- TIME OUT: SYDNEY – an entertainment guide to dining, music, pubs, etc.

2. Websites

- www.australia.com – great site; reviews items/industries specific to Australia, foods.
- www.austemb.org – good for information concerning travel requirements to Australia.
- www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au – official site for the City of Sydney; provides enormous information concerning activities and places to visit while in Sydney.
- www.studyabroad.com – general web site for people who are studying abroad.
- www.sydney.com.au – offers a wealth of practical information about Sydney.

3. Australian Legal Information

If you visit any of the official government sites, you may be struck immediately by the image of the national seal; it shows an emu and a kangaroo on either side of the crest. It has been told that these animals were chosen not just because of their uniqueness to Australia but because they are incapable of walking backward.

Australians, apparently, like progress.

- www.aph.gov.au – Australian Parliament
- www.hcourt.gov.au – Australian's High Court
- www.auslii.edu.au – Australian Legal Information Institute providing links to the Australian High Court as well as other state and federal sites.
- www.nla.gov.au/oz/gov - provides detailed information about the various government entities.
- www.law.widener.edu – provides more information about Widener University and the Sydney International Law Institute

II. Before You Go

A. Planning your Trip

1. Passport and Visas

All U.S. citizens must have a valid passport to enter Australia. A passport should be obtained immediately if you do not already have one. Applications are available in any U.S. passport agency, and at many post offices and court houses. Contact your local post office to inquire about appropriate forms to complete. It is highly recommended that a separate copy of the data page (application and birth certificate) be kept with you in the event that your passport is misplaced.

All non-Australian visitors **must** have an ETA to enter the country. An ETA is Australia's visa for entry into the country; however, the traveler must have a valid passport prior to applying for an ETA. ETA's can be obtained at a modest cost through one of two avenues:

- a) airline booking agent (easiest route), or
- b) Australian Embassy in Washington, D.C.
 - (1) (202) 797-3000, or
 - (2) www.austemb.org

2. Air Travel

When booking your travel to Australia remember that you will be flying across the International Date Line and need to make appropriate accommodations. Orientation begins on Friday therefore you will have to leave by at least Tuesday of that week, if flying directly to Australia.

The major airlines flying to Sydney are United, Qantas, and Air New Zealand. Prior to purchasing your ticket, consider adding an additional vacation either at the beginning or end of the trip. Often airlines will include a free stopover, for instance in Cairns, Melbourne, Auckland, Fiji, or Honolulu, without an increase in cost or at a minimal cost. This is one reason that the earlier the tickets are purchased the more likely it is that you will obtain the travel arrangements desired at a reasonable cost.

There are two primary choices for discount airfares. We are providing these sources for informational purposes only. Again, the earlier you book your reservations the better.

- (a) Austravel – large national discount travel agency specializing in Australian and South Pacific travel. Austravel may be reached at
 - (1) 1-800-633-3404, or
 - (2) (212) 972-6880 (New York office), or
 - (3) www.austravel.net
- (b) STA Travel – an Australian student travel agency with several offices in the United States. Air fares through this agency are usually the least expensive however they require and sell, for a modest fee, the International Student Identification (STA) card. STA can be reached at
 - (1) 1-800-777-0112, or
 - (2) (215) 222-6772 (Philadelphia), or
 - (3) (212) 627-3111 (New York), or
 - (4) www.statravel.com

It is best to shop around and compare fares. There are several variables to keep in mind, including the number of stopover and length of stay. The more stopovers you want or the longer the ticket is valid, the more expensive the ticket. Begin making your reservations as soon as possible as the seats fill and prices may increase. **Please remember to arrive in Sydney in time for Orientation On June 18.**

3. Intra-continental Travel

If you plan to do extensive traveling in Australia, you might consider purchasing a Boomerang Pass. The pass is a great way to travel with a friend as you have to buy at least two tickets. They must be purchased in the United States but you may be able to change dates, times, and locations after arriving in Sydney. The Boomerang Pass can be purchased through Qantas Airlines. In Australia, arrangements can be accomplished by phoning or visiting the Qantas Office in downtown Sydney.

- a) 800-227-4500, or
- b) www.qantasusa.com

B. Housing

Students must make their own housing arrangements. There are dozens of accommodations listed on the internet from hostels to bed-and-breakfasts. An easy way to get information on the web is to find the “recreation” or “lodging” listings by country on Yahoo.com or some other search engine. The address of the UTS campus is 1 Quay Street, adjacent to the Haymarket and Chinatown areas of Sydney, near Sydney Harbour. Below is a list of companies that manage a variety of apartments throughout the Sydney area. A list is also located on the TWEN website at www.lawschool.westlaw.com.

- John P. Bennetts Apartments: www.johnpbennetts.com.au
- Southern Cross: www.sthrncross.com
- Pacific International Apartments: www.pacificinthotels.com.au
- Hyde Park Plaza: www.mirvachotels.com.au
- Medina Serviced Apartments: www.medinaapartments.com.au
- Saville Park Suites: www.savillesuites.com.au

If you need to contact the UTS Housing Service they may be reached at

- 1) housing.service@uts.ed.au (email), or
- 2) www.housing.uts.edu.au

When considering where to stay, students from previous years have indicated the cost for meals during the weekday was \$10-15 AU/day. On the weekends an average of \$20-30 AU/day was spend. Keep in mind that tipping is not practiced in Australia. Interestingly, students report that eating out in Sydney is cheaper than buying food and preparing it yourself.

C. Packing

When determining what to pack for this adventure, remember that Australia is in the Southern Hemisphere, thus making the seasons opposite of those in North America. The months of June and July are the heart of the Australian winter. Average temperatures during this time are 50° F at night to 65° F during the day in Sydney. If traveling inland

to such places as Uluru the temperatures will be cooler especially in the evening. However, like any other country Australia can have either a cold spell or an unusual heat wave. The average rainfall during the winter in Sydney is approximately 5” in June and 4” in July.

With this information in mind, in addition to the casual clothes and personal items that you will use for every day, you should make sure to pack some items for recreation, such as a bathing suit and walking/hiking shoes especially if you plan to go to the Blue Mountains. On two occasions during the program, we ask that you dress in professional attire: Orientation Day and the trip to Canberra. When determining what professional attire you will be bringing, be aware that Canberra can get particularly cool although we do not spend much time outside. Other than the above two trips you are welcome to wear what you would normally wear to class.

Remember to pack for whatever traveling you will do before, during, or after the program. Of course, if you travel to the North (Cairns, the Barrier Reef, Fiji, Hawaii) it will probably be warm. In Darwin and the Outback (Alice Springs, Uluru) it can get very hot during the day and very cool during the evening. If you travel to the South (Tasmania, New Zealand, Adelaide), however, it can get quite cool and you will need warmer clothes. Of course, clothes can easily be purchased to fit any need while in Australia.

III. The Sydney International Law Institute – Information and Policies

A. General Information

This is the ninth year of Widener University’s Sydney International Law Institute. We are very proud of our outstanding, international faculty and of the range of courses and activities that we offer. The site of the Institute is the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), located in the heart of downtown Sydney. As further explained in the Manual, UTS is centrally located to major attractions (Opera House, Darling Harbour, Chinatown, Circular Quay) and convenient to all public transportation – ferries, trains, buses, and even the monorail. UTS offers modern classroom facilities, and access to all information technology services including legal databases and the internet.

The program begins with an Orientation on Friday, June 18, 2004. On that day, you will be able to register for your classes, obtain your Internet access password, meet your fellow students and the faculty, and learn your way around UTS. There will be a tour of the school, a lunch, and a special event in the afternoon.

Classes begin on Monday, June 21, 2004 and the last day of classes is Tuesday, July 20, 2004. Wednesday, July 21, 2004 will be a reading day and the final exam period will be the last two days of the program, July 22 and July 23, 2004. Classes will be offered Monday through Friday for the first and fourth weeks. You will have Friday off on the second and third weeks, giving you two consecutive three-day weekends. This schedule offers the student two chances to relax around Sydney or to travel a bit further afield.

We are also arranging for a day trip to visit Canberra. In the past, we have had the opportunity to visit Parliament House and actually witness “question time” in both the House and the Senate. This is a very lively and interesting event unique to parliamentary systems, in which the opposing party “questions” or “grills” the Prime Minister or members of his or her cabinet. We have also had the privilege of personally guided tours of the High Court (Australia’s highest court) and have even been able to visit Court

Chambers by special arrangement. This summer's trip promises to be equally educational and enjoyable. Business is being conducted at Parliament and the High Court, so it is important to dress professionally. (**Remember**, you are visiting as prospective lawyers studying in Australia, not as tourists.)

There will also be a number of social events during the course of the program which you are welcome to attend. These may include: walking tours of Sydney, a day trip to the fabulous Blue Mountains National Park, visits to local restaurants, and more.

B. Courses

This year we are offering three excellent courses, each of which integrates the Australian experience in a different way. These are intensive courses, but do not assume any prior knowledge of the subject matter is needed. Information concerning course material will be available on the TWEN site shortly.

1. Comparative Constitutional Law (Professor Keyzer)

Patrick Keyzer, a Senior Lecturer on the UTS Law Faculty, and former Executive Associate to Sir Gerard Brennan, Chief Justice of Australia, is an international authority on media law in Australia, the United States and in parts of Asia.

This course will compare the different constitutional systems of the United States and Australia. Structural issues such as the different operation of federalism and separation of powers, as well as the two countries' different approaches to individual rights in the context of freedom of speech and the rights of indigenous peoples will be considered. In both of these areas the Australian High Court has been particularly active in recent years, so when studying freedom of speech and the rights of indigenous people, you are truly watching history in the making. (3 credits)

2. Justice and Gender Violence: Issues in Comparative Criminal and Family Law (Professor McDermott, co-director)

Christine McDermott, has a long history of defending the victim in both the areas of criminal law and family law. Under two Delaware Governors, she worked to improve victim services and improvements in law enforcement. Currently she oversees the Delaware Civil Clinic assisting students in representation of victims of domestic violence in protection from abuse, divorce and custody cases.

This course will explore the Australian and United States civil and criminal justice systems' response to gender violence with a focus on Family Law civil protection (restraining) orders and custody litigation and on Criminal Law defenses in homicides of intimates. (3 credits)

3. Comparative Products Liability (Professor Raeker-Jordan, co-director)

Professor Raeker-Jordan is well versed in the area of products liability and Torts. She has written numerous articles in the area of products liability preemption issues, and most recently contributed an entry of a United States Supreme Court preemption case for the Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court.

This course will compare United States and Australian approaches to the liability of product sellers for physical harm caused by defective products. We will focus on strict liability in tort and alternatives to that measure of liability. We will also examine the responses of the United Kingdom and the European Union to the problem of product-caused injuries, since the Australian experience has to some extent been shaped by UK and EU law. (3 credits)

C. Program Calendar

Activities in italics are optional. The dates are tentative, depending on student interest, weather, and other variables. These activities are included in the cost of the program. Additional activities may also be planned.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				June 18 Orientation	June 19 <i>Activity: Evening Harbour Cruise</i>	June 20
June 21 First day of Classes	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26 <i>Activity: Tentative Hunter Valley Wine Tour</i>	June 27
June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2, 3, 4 3 day weekend		
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9, 10, 11 3 day weekend		
July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16 End of Semester Party	July 17, 18	
July 19	July 20 Last Day of Classes	July 21 Reading Day	July 22 Final Exam 1	July 23 Final Exam 2	July 24, 25	

D. Orientation Activities

1. Professional Attire Required

Orientation will begin at UTS in the Law Building, which is on Quay (pronounce Key) street in the Haymarket area of the City, just south of Darling Harbour. We will meet at **9:00 am in the UTS law school foyer**. In the morning, you will tour the campus, register for courses, and receive your internet PINs. Coffee and pastries will be provided in the morning; lunch will be cafeteria style and not included.

After becoming familiar with UTS we may have the opportunity to visit the Australian High Court to hear petitions. This opportunity was graciously provided by the High Court last year and we are seeking to arrange it again this year. Last year's students found this experience an excellent start to their studies in Sydney. We can eat lunch at the courtroom building and tour the buildings. By mid-afternoon, the Orientation is over and you are free to explore Sydney on your own or just relax and get used to the dramatic time change.

2. Supplemental Event

On Saturday, June 19, 2004, we will have a Sunset Cruise of Sydney Harbour. We will meet at approximately 5:30 pm (tentative) at the No. 6 Jetty at Circular Quay. Once on board we will embark on a cruise of the extraordinary Sydney Harbour. This is an opportunity to learn a bit about what Sydney has to offer, meet informally, and get to know your fellow students. In the event that the visit to the High Court is not possible on Friday, we will take the cruise on Friday afternoon after the luncheon. This is **not** a required activity.

E. Getting to Know UTS (University of Technology, Sydney)

UTS's city campus is located in the heart of downtown Sydney, in a lively part of Sydney's educational and cultural area. It is within easy walking distance to shops, restaurants, cafes, entertainment venues, accommodations, and close to Central Railway Station. The city campus has two main areas at Broadway and Haymarket. The Haymarket building houses the law school and the university library. It is adjacent to Chinatown, the Entertainment Center, and Darling Harbour. In addition to the many classroom buildings and library, there is a student union, which has many useful services.

1. Accessibility

The facilities of UTS and the Sydney International Law Institute are accessible to the disabled. Students with particular needs or questions may contact Professor Christine McDermott at cmm0002@mail.widener.edu or (302) 477-2161.

2. Sports Facilities

If you are interested in using UTS's sports facilities during your stay contact the Sports Centre at www.utsunion.uts.edu.au. This will provide the information concerning hours of operation, cost, and any other useful information. Any costs should be as a non-member.

F. Administration Contacts

Professor Christine McDermott is the Co-director of the institute overseeing any student issues while Professor Raeker-Jordan, co-director, will be responsible for all

administrative duties. Professor McDermott will arrive in Sydney by the morning of Thursday June 17, 2004. She will have an office in the Law Building and can be contacted through that office. At orientation, you will receive the office number and home phone number for the duration of the program. Before meeting in Sydney, any questions can be directed to Professor McDermott via e-mail to cmm0002@mail.widener.edu or by telephone at (302) 477-2161.

The administrator of the Institute at UTS is Mr. George Marsh. His office number is Building 5, B228, and his phone number is 9949-5145. You may speak with him if you arrive in Sydney before Professor McDermott and have questions.

1. Program Policies

The student Honor Code and course requirements for the Institute are the same as those for the Widener University School of Law. Students with questions should refer to the Widener University School of Law Student Handbook. Student from other institutions may contact the Director, Professor McDermott, with questions.

2. Course Selection

Course selection will normally be done through the mail prior to arrival at the Sydney Law Institute. Students should make every effort to finalize their course plans immediately. Students will, however, be allowed to add or drop courses before the second day of class. Be aware that changing the number of credits for which you are enrolled may affect your financial aid package. If you are unsure, check with your school's Financial Aid department before departing. Students withdrawing from a course after the end of the day on Monday, June 21, 2004, will receive a "W" indicating withdraw on the transcript to be sent to their home institution. **Students withdrawing from any course(s) are subject to the following refund schedule:**

Present – 06/21/04: 100%
06/22/04 – 06/24/04: 90%
06/25/04 – 06/27/04: 80%
06/28/04 – 06/30/04: 70%
07/01/04 – 07/03/04: 60%
07/04/04 – 07/06/04: 50%
07/07/04 – 07/09/04: 40%

There will be **no refunds** for withdraws after July 9, 2004.

3. Class Attendance

Classes are held Monday through Thursday or Friday each week. Classes will start on time and attendance will be taken. The ABA requires "regular and punctual class attendance." Widener's standard for "regular attendance" is that a student must attend at least 80% of class hours. **Any student not attending at least 80% of the meetings for each class will not be permitted to sit for the final examination and will receive a "W" in the course. There is no refund for poor attendance and no credit will be given for the course.**

4. Examinations

Exams may be either in-class or take-home. Either way, all exams will be administered the last two days of the term. Students will be given 3 hours for completion of in-class exams. If you have more than one in-class exam, you will be able to choose which exam you will take on Thursday and which you will take on Friday. Rooms and times for the exams will be announced during the summer semester. If you need an accommodation, you must notify the Director during the first week of the program to assure that arrangements can be made.

The Honor Code applies to all examinations. Discussing an exam, looking at another's paper, or any attempt to gain unfair advantage will result in an "F" and a report to your home law school will be sent.

The institute has anonymous grading. Each student will be given a sticker with an anonymous number on it. That number must be written on each of the blue books and on the exam. You should not share this number with anyone. Notify the Director immediately if you lose your number.

5. Grading

Course instructors will use the Widener University School of Law grading system. Courses will be graded on an A-F basis with pluses and minuses. These grades will be reported to your respective law school. Each law school determines whether to accept the letter grade or to change it into a pass or fail. While home institutions may change grades into pass/fail, students may not, on their own, take courses at the Widener University Sydney Law Institute on a pass/fail basis. The courses are just as demanding and rewarding as they would be if taken in the United States.

Because the Sydney program is accredited by the American Bar Association, the courses taken may be credited toward your law degree at an ABA – approved institution or if your law school accepts credits from summer programs. A transcript of grades will be sent to each student and to their respective law school. Acceptance of any credit or grade for any course is subject to determination by the student's home school. It is unlikely that participation in a foreign summer program may be used to accelerate graduation. Consult with your law school's registrar.

6. Student Honor Code

Students are responsible for ascertaining and obeying all laws regarding drugs and alcohol in the countries in which they are residing or traveling during the length of the Institute. Any infraction of such laws will also be considered an infraction of the Widener University Substance Abuse Policy. Students are responsible for adhering to the Widener University Sexual Harassment Policy. Any student who violated the Student Code may be disciplined, suspended, or expelled. **No refunds will be granted if so disciplined.**

IV. Getting To Know Sydney

A. Arriving in Sydney

Sydney's airport is a large, modern complex with a simple floor plan easily marked for the weary traveler. After departing from the plane you will be direct to your baggage,

followed by a trip through customs. Should any of your luggage get misplaced, there will be people to assist you in finding or reporting the loss. In the unfortunate instance your luggage was misdirected, in most cases, the airline will deliver it to your residence once it arrives at the airport. Once you have made it through customs you enter the main part of the airport. Here you will find all of the comforts of home: an information booth, an ATM, shops, and transportation booths.

As there are banks and ATM's at the airport, you really do not need to have much, if any, Australian currency before arriving. However, you may feel more comfortable and find it useful to have some prior to arrival.

The Airport is located in Botany Bay, several miles south of the City. The simplest way to get into the City is by taxi. In the past few years, Sydney has dramatically improved its urban highway system so that it is relatively inexpensive and quick to take a cab into the City. The cab cost around AU \$30. Another means of transport into the City is the Airport Bus. The cost is very reasonable and it takes you right to the Central Train Station. The Central Train Station is near UTS and probably to any of the housing you selected. For more information about the bus go to www.sydneybuses.nsw.gov.au/sb.express.html.

B. Transportation Around Sydney

1. Buses

The bus is the easiest way to get around Sydney and the surrounding area. Buses are convenient and inexpensive. All bus routes begin/end their route at the Queen Victoria Building (QVB) downtown. The QVB is one of the most famous landmarks in Sydney. Bus schedules are available throughout Sydney.

If you think you will frequently be traveling by bus, consider purchasing a weekly pass. The most economical way to travel by bus is by purchasing a zone pass. A zone pass allows a certain number of trips per ticket. You can also always pay as you go. There are kiosks at Circular Key and the QVB offering additional information about the bus pass. A few words of warning about the buses: make sure to check when the last bus (train or ferry) is scheduled. The front two seats on the bus are usually reserved for handicapped or elderly riders, so be prepared to move.

2. Trains

The next best mode of travel in and around Sydney is the train. Most trains begin/end in the Circular Quay. Schedules are available there and throughout Sydney.

3. Monorail

Constructed mainly for the 2000 Olympics, the monorail cycles around the Darling Harbour area; stopping at major points of interest. The Monorail is a good way of getting to the Aquarium, the Casino, the Powerhouse Museum among other places, and for getting a bird's eye view of the eastern part of downtown. Not a source of regional transportation, the Monorail is worth using on a day trip to the Harbour. There is a monorail stop steps away from the UTS Law School.

4. Water Travel

Sydney's most unique form of travel is by Jetcat and ferry; the former is much faster and slightly more expensive. Jetcats and ferries can be picked up at Circular Quay. Both travel to major waterside destinations around Sydney, including Manly and the Taronga Zoo. The ferry system in Sydney has become increasingly popular and was an effective way to deal with the influx of visitors during the 2000 Olympics. Again, remember if you choose to use this type of transportation in the evening, find out when the last boat of the night departs and/or returns to Circular Quay.

5. Taxi

Taxi cabs are abundant in downtown Sydney. Some words of caution about the cab system: you are charged by time, not distance. For every five seconds the fare jumps ahead. Nonetheless, given the current strength of the U.S. dollar, taxis are surprisingly affordable. Be prepared for an extra charge if you have several pieces of luggage or are crossing any bridges.

C. Sightseeing and Travel

Following is a short list of activities that student in previous years found to be great diversions from the academic regime. The following list is by no means exhaustive. You will, of course, find lots of other exciting activities to do in and around Sydney!

1. Sydney

- a. Opera House – magnificent architectural building on the harbour. Tours are available daily. The complex offers a variety of theatrical experiences, from high opera to experimental theater. Frequently, the Opera House offers free concerts. Right next to it are the fabulous Royal Botanical Gardens.
- b. Powerhouse Museum – a perfect way to spend a rainy day. The museum is enormous and houses a cornucopia of items, specializing in Australian innovations in science and technology. It is well worth seeing.
- c. Markets – best left for the weekend. The open markets in Darlinghurst, Paddington, and at “The Rocks” are particularly good places to get souvenirs.
- d. Taronga Zoo – a must see. Besides having the breathtaking Sydney Harbour as backdrop, the zoo houses an extraordinary number of animals, many of which are native to Australia. You can get to the zoo most easily by ferry from the Circular Quay, or by bus. See if you can catch a glimpse of the elusive platypus or the sleepy quokka!
- e. The Tower – a revolving restaurant in downtown Sydney. The restaurant is located on top of the tower. Eating here is a great way to get a terrific view of Sydney and the surrounding area and a good meal. Meals are served buffet style; the buffet contains a variety of foods, including kangaroo and came. Reservations are needed, especially for a large group.
- f. Royal Observatory – If you're interested in stars and constellations in the Southern Hemisphere, the Sydney offers an informative lecture and opportunity to use their telescopes for a closer look. Advance reservations are a must. If there is enough interest, we could do a group tour one evening.
- g. Kings Cross – a lively area. While it has a great nightlife, you may not want to go through King's Cross at night by yourself.

2. Around Sydney

- a. Rugby – Australia’s national sport. Watching a national, state or hometown team play a game is a great way to spend an afternoon or evening. Australia’s football, it is a local favorite, and one of the most exciting spectator sport you’ll ever see.
- b. Scuba Diving – there are many shops in Sydney and the surrounding areas that offer classes. Many also have weekend trips for anyone who is certified and wants a refresher course. The diving in Australia is outstanding. Surfing lessons are also available at Manly and Bondi Beaches.
- c. Manly and Bondi Beaches – the shorelines are gorgeous; you can take walks right along the water from one beach town to the next. The walk can be tricky as it moves from paved path to rocky outcropping, but the views are unparalleled.
- d. Homebush Bay – site of the 2000 Olympic Games
- e. National Parks – there are several in close proximity to Sydney that are easily accessible by car, bus, or train.
 - Kuring-ai Chase National Park – wonderful walking trails, and several sites with aboriginal artwork of historical and cultural significance.
 - Royal National Park – South of Sydney (near Botany Bay), it is home to a large selection of native birds, including cockatoos and kookaburras. This park also has biking and canoe rentals.
 - Wildlife parks – several near Sydney where you can see and sometimes touch/hold indigenous animals such as koalas or wallabies.

3. Outside of Sydney

- a. Blue Mountains – Named for the blue hue given off by the Eucalyptus tree, they are magnificent. Tours can be taken and most originate from the left side of Circular Quay. It is best to call ahead once you have arrived in Sydney to reserve spots on the tour. You may also take a train there. Note that although we are planning to visit the Blue Mountains as a group, you may want to go twice, since our trip will only be for the day.
- b. Nelson Bay – teems with marine mammals and bird life. It is about a 2-3 hours train ride north of Sydney.
- c. Pebbly Beach – home of one of the largest resident populations of kangaroos in Australia. It has lots to offer and is about 2-3 hours drive south of Sydney.
- d. Hunter Valley – the premiere wine region in New South Wales. It produces much of the Australian wine that is available in America. You can go on your own or with a tour. As in the American “wine country,” the Hunter Valley offers bicycle tours and wine tasting. It’s Napa with eucalyptus trees.
- e. Cairns (pronounce “cans”) – jumping off point for the Great Barrier Reef. There are numerous groups offering snorkeling and scuba on the reef (and even skydiving). It is best to shop around and find a tour that offers what you want. If you want to learn more about the reef before you go out, there is a class in Cairns called “Reef Teach” that is offered various nights a week. Information about it can be obtained at any dive shop in the Cairns area. Cairns is also a jumping off point for the Kuranda and Daintree rain forests, Cape York Peninsula, and the beautiful Atherton Tablelands. To tour any of these areas you might try Uncle Brian’s Rainforest Tour or the Adventure Company. The Adventure Company’s phone number in the United States is 1-800-388-7333. All most everything can be

booked while in Australia, but if there is something you really want to do, book early.

- f. Uluru (Ayers Rock) – a must see. Although the hotels are expensive, the hostel offers a more affordable option. Because of limited availability, you should call the hostel early to book your reservation. This is an amazing place where you can walk around the only natural object that can be seen from space, the largest rock in the world. And you can learn a lot about aboriginal history and aboriginal/Australian relations. The interesting town of Alice Springs can be used as a springboard for the trip to Uluru.
- g. Darwin – has a wonderful winter climate with an enormous amount of aboriginal cultural art influences. Darwin is also a great staging point for visits to the Kakadu World Heritage Site, Katherine Gorge, Litchfield and the Tiwi Islands. These are extraordinary and unique places, both physically and culturally; your experiences there will truly be unforgettable.
- h. New Zealand – in a short weekend you can visit Maori villages, drive around the country side, see Auckland, go to a spa or visit the Fjords in the Southern Island.
- i. Tasmania – island to the South of Australia. You can easily drive around the island during the long weekend, and even take in some skiing! Tasmania is very wild and very lush, with an extraordinary history.

D. Miscellaneous

1. Health

Health and hygiene standards are extremely high throughout Australia. There is a ready supply of good, inexpensive doctors and hospitals. No vaccination shots are required for Australia. If you plan to visit other countries before or after the program, however, you should investigate the requirements for each country.

If you plan to spend time in the sun, be sure to use sun screen; the sun is deceptively strong. You may also need strong insect repellent if you go out in the “bush.” Of course, it is easy to buy anything you might need once you are there.

2. Money

Australian currency is the Australian dollar. As of February 2004, one U.S. dollar was worth about 1.31 Australian Dollars (AUD), or to translate back, AUD \$1.00 = U.S. \$0.76. So, if your bill at a Sydney restaurant comes to AUD \$20, it would only cost you about \$15.24 in American money. Australians don’t use single cents anymore, so prices are always rounded up or down to the nearest 5¢ value. To receive an up-to-date exchange rate, check with your bank or on the Internet. (www.xe.com has an easy-to-use currency converter.)

In Sydney and throughout most of Australia, ATM machines are ubiquitous and most American bank cards will work in Australian machines. IF you want to make sure that your ATM card works, please check with your bank. The exchange rate is usually fair. Most Australian businesses also accept major credit cards. IF you charge an AU \$20 meal, it will show up on your credit card as U.S. \$15.24. Some credit card companies charge a percentage premium for foreign conversion.

Because it is so easy to use money in Australia, you probably don’t need to worry about travelers’ checks or bringing a lot of Australian cash with you. You may want to bring some Australian currency with you just to be comfortable upon arrival in

Sydney. In America, you can get Australian money at Thomas Cook, American Express or, sometimes, through a local bank.

3. Phones

When dialing Australia from the U.S., first dial the international code 011, the country code 61, and then the city code (for Sydney it is 6). Most phone numbers in the Sydney area have 8 digits, beginning with 9. For example, to contact the Program Administrator, George Marsh, from the U.S., dial 011-61-2-99495154.

When dialing the U.S. from Australia it is best to use your American international phone card. Before you leave the United States, you should obtain an international phone card and be familiar with its use. If you do not purchase a phone card prior to leaving for Australia, many students in the past have found the "Hello Sydney" card to be useful and inexpensive for calling home.

4. Mail and e-mail

Each student will be given an e-mail address and a library card. The library card allows you to have access to UTS's computer terminals to do work, research, or correspondence. Students can also receive letters while in Australia at the following address:

Student's name
Widener Law Institute
c/o Faculty of Law
UTS
Level 3, Building 5, Haymarket Campus
1 Quay Street Haymarket
P.O. Box 123, Haymarket NSW 2007 Australia.

A place for mail pick-up will be arranged. At the determined mail pick-up area, students will be able to leave messages/notes for other program participants.

5. Electricity

Electricity is 240-250 volt, 50 cycle AC. The electrical plugs are three-pronged, and have been described as resembling a bird's footprint. If necessary, you can buy adapters when in Australia.

V. Learning More About Australia Through Fiction and Film

Any good bookstore or video rental store will have a number of books or films about Australia. These books and or films will help you to learn more about the country before traveling there. The following is a small sampling of books and films.

A. Books

1. Robert Hughes' The Fatal Shore

An exhaustive and oftentimes gruesome history of the European settlement of Australia

2. Jill Ker Conway's *The Road From Coorain*
A memoir of growing up in New South Wales.
3. Bruce Chatwin's *Songlines*
A classic of travel writing which tells about Aboriginal culture.
4. *Travelers' Tales Guides: Australia* (ed. Larry Habegger)
A collection of stories about traveling through Australia.
5. Tim Winston's *Cloud Street*
Recently stages as a play in Sydney, is an epic depiction of two strange families living in Perth, on Australia's West Coast.
6. Bill Bryson's *A Sunburned Country*
A humorous, yet accurate, narrative of one American's travels through Australia.

B. Movies

1. *Rabbit-Proof Fence*
An extraordinary film about the treatment of aboriginals under the White Australia police. We highly recommend this incredible film. It will provide great background for your understanding of the situation in Australia today.
2. *The Dish*
A recent film about Australia's untold role in the first moon landing. Never have problems with television transmission been so dramatically rendered.
3. *The Castle*
This is a hilarious recent film about an unlikely hero challenging the government's attempted taking of his property; Australian humor and legal education, all in one. It is perhaps the only Australian film in which the Australian High Court is portrayed.
4. *Strictly Ballroom*
There's debate about whether this one is silly or sublime or both.
5. *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*
This celebration of drag culture manages to be wacky and sad, sometimes in the very same scene. It transcends genre, and is a classic of sorts.
6. *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *The Last Wave* or anything else by Peter Weir
7. *The Man From Snowy River* and *Return to Snowy River*
8. *A Town Called Alice*
Don't avoid Alice Springs simply because of its depiction in this film; its improved since then.

9. Gallipoli

One of Mel Gibson's first films which tells the story of the slaughter of Australian forces in a pivotal battle of World War I. This event still resonates historically and emotionally with many Australians.

10. Walkabout

An older film that vividly evokes part of the aboriginal experience.

Please check the TWEN site located at www.law.widener.edu periodically for updated information.