



## Australia Tour

March 11 to 26 or 28, 2018



The following is an outline of the itinerary (some stops are still being confirmed):

Day 1, 2 – Sunday March 11, Monday March 12 - depart from Toronto on Air Canada flight 33 at 8:15 p.m. arrive Vancouver 10:13 p.m. take a stretch or stay on the plane and depart 11:45 p.m. We cross the international dateline over the Pacific and arrive in Sydney, Tuesday March 13 at 9:25 a.m. (total flight time is 22 hours 10 minutes).

Day 3 – Tuesday March 13, - We begin our day with a **Sydney city tour**. Travelling from the airport we pass through Centennial Park and the popular beachside suburbs of Coogee and Bronte before arriving at Australia's most famous Bondi Beach. After a stroll on the promenade we enjoy a "get acquainted" lunch at the North Bondi RSL with magnificent views of Bondi Beach. After lunch we continue to Watson Bay for a view of Sydney across the harbour, and The Gap, an ocean cliff with views to Manly at North Head and the Pacific Ocean. Next, we travel through Sydney Eastern Suburbs home to the rich and famous and head towards the city. A stop at the Botanical Gardens offers spectacular views of the Opera House and



Harbour Bridge. Lastly, we travel through the Rocks precinct, the historic centre of the city before checking in at 4:00 p.m. for two nights at the downtown harbourfront **Hyatt Regency Hotel**, 161 Sussex Street, Sydney, Australia, 2000, Tel: +61 2 8099 1234. Since some will suffer jetlag while others feel a need to explore, dinner is on our own and you are free to explore the area. Many of the sites such as the bridge and Opera House are within easy reach with public transit so if you are an energetic person, you should plan for some independent sightseeing. A downtown map and information about sights will be included in the tour information package, but this would also be a good subject for independent research.

Day 4 – Wednesday March 14 – We get an early start today, departing at 6:30 a.m. heading south to **Grant and Jane Sherborne** at Burragang, who operate a typical Australian dairy for this region with excellent management. Grant and Jane are both on industry boards so can introduce us to what dairying in Australia is all about. They also have a very good succession process taking place with their daughter and son. Next, we visit **Sydney University "Future Dairy Research Farm"** for a lunch and lecture with Dr. Nico Lyons on robotic milking down under and Dr. Sabrina Lomax on virtual fencing, followed by a tour of the research station. Their pastured research herd is milked voluntarily with a DeLaval AMR automatic rotary parlor. Our third stop is **Leppington Pastoral Company** at Bringelly. This 2000 cow US style dairy is part of a new milk export consortium producing A2 beta casein milk. Tonight, we enjoy a **dinner cruise of Sydney harbour**.



Day 5 – Thursday March 15 – We begin our day at **Featherdale Wildlife Park** which offers Kangaroos, Koalas, crocodiles, echidnas and penguins. Then we continue west to the BLUE MOUNTAINS, stopping at Echo Point and the Three Sisters Lookout and a lunch stop on your own in Leura. Tonight, we enjoy a **winery tour, group dinner**

and overnight stay at **Turner's Vineyard** in Orange, New South Wales. Dinner tonight is sponsored by **GEA**, **Conestogo Agrisystems Inc**, **Dairy Lane Systems Ltd.** and **Performance Dairy**.



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Day 6 – Friday March 16 – Today, we visit **Moxey Dairy** the largest dairy farm in Australia with over 6000 cows, and part of the Leppington consortium. After a group lunch, we stop at **T.A. Fields, Benangaroo Sheep Station** at Jugiong. The Fields family is one of the biggest wool producers in Australia. In addition to a tour of the station, there will be a **sheep shearing demonstration** here. We end the day in Canberra, Australia's Capital, at the **Hotel Kurrajong**, 8 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600, Australia, Phone: +61 2 6234 4444.



Day 7 – Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> – We begin with a **Canberra city tour**, including the parliamentary triangle and the Australian War Memorial. Then we drive to the **Snowy Mountain Hydro Discovery Center**, which showcases the amazing story of the Snowy Mountains water diversion scheme that diverts coastal rivers into the interior through tunnels bored through the mountains. Lunch today is a group meal in Cooma, the gateway to the ski slopes of New South Wales. We continue to Jindabyne, with a spectacular backdrop of Australia's highest peaks.

Here we stop at the **Wild Brumby Distillery** to learn about schnapps and enjoy afternoon tea. We end our day at the **Thredbo Alpine Resort**, Friday Dr, Thredbo NSW 2625, Australia, Phone: +61 2 6459 4200, at the foot of Mount Kosciuszko, Australia's highest peak.

Day 8 – Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> – Enjoy a free morning with time to ride the **Kosciuszko Express Chairlift** followed by lunch on your own. We depart at noon and head for Tumbarumba to take in the "**Boggy Creek Show**" where we experience the ranching traditions of this area. Tonight, we stay in the **Atura Hotel**, 648 Dean St, Albury NSW 2640, Australia Phone: +61 2 6021 5366.

Day 9 – Monday March 19 – It's a working day so back to farm visits, first at **Crosthwaite Dairy**, a 600 cow pasture based farm with a 54 stall Waikato rotary with automation, then on to **Neville and Ruth Kydd**, milking 1260 cows, all spring calving. Our third stop today will be the brand new **Falkiner Beef and Sheep feedlot**, with facilities for finishing 500 cattle and 15,000 sheep. We end the day at the **Mercure Moama**, in Echuca where we check in for 2 nights. Tonight, we enjoy a **group dinner sponsored by Trioliet**.



Day 10 – Tuesday March 20 – Today we visit **Kyvalley Dairy**. They milk 1300 cows and when the Australian dairy industry was deregulated a decade ago they added



a processing plant. We are visiting both before we lunch at **The Camel Milk Company**, where they milk 150 camels. Our last stop is **Shane Felmingham's** 500 cow dairy with a 50 stall DeLaval rotary and a goal to find dairy futures for all 5 of his sons. We return to the Mercure for a second night stay and dinner on your own.



Day 11 – Wednesday March 21 – Today we move on to Melbourne where we enjoy lunch and a **city tour of Melbourne** before checking in at the Four Points by Sheraton, Melbourne Docklands, 443 Docklands Drive, Docklands, Melbourne VIC 3008, Australia, Phone: +61 3 8578 0000, conveniently located on the harbour and close to downtown.

Day 12 - Thursday March 22 – We enjoy a free morning and lunch on our own before departing to visit dairies in Gippsland east of Melbourne. First stop is **Daryl and Trudy Hammond** with 3-way grazing and 6 Lely robots, followed by **Simon and Lauren Finger**, an Australian Dairy Producer of the



year winner who has found greatest profitability in milking just once a day. We will dine at



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**Phillips Island Nature Park** and enjoy the “penguin parade as these unique creatures return from the day’s fishing trip to their nesting area. **Dinner and the penguin parade are sponsored by Lely.** For spouses who have seen enough cows for a while, we offer a “stay in Melbourne and shop” option that includes free

time in the city and a late afternoon van ride to rejoin the group at dinner on Phillips Island.



Day 13 – Friday March 23 – Following a very early check out we fly to Launceston, Tasmania in time to enjoy a full day of activities on this unique island. At **Wings Wild Life Park**, we will enjoy lunch, koala cuddling and a “**Tasmanian devil feeding frenzy**”. Then we visit **Gary and Bev Carpenter** who are developing new land for dairy and milk with 7 Lely A4 robots in 2 sheds. Tonight, we check in for two nights at the Peppers Seaport Hotel, 28 Seaport Blvd, Launceston TAS 7250, Australia, Phone: +61 1300 987 600.

Day 14 – Our stops today include **Gala Farms**, the first commercial pasture based

DeLaval AMR automatic rotary, followed by **Ashgrove**

**Cheese**, an award winning on-farm cheese processor. Lunch is at the **Christmas Hill Raspberry Farm**, and includes host farm commentary on the marketing story of this unique farming enterprise. After lunch we visit **Brian and Michelle Lawrence**, Australian Dairy Farmers of the year in 2015, milking 930 crossbreds. Our final farm stop is **Richies Plains Dairy** at Western Creek, a well managed dairy with 3 DeLaval VMS.

Our “farewell to Australian dairy farms” **dinner tonight is sponsored by Norwell Dairy.**



Day 15 – Sunday March 25 – We fly to Sydney arriving at 1:00 p.m. Those who have opted for the short program check in to the Sydney hotel and enjoy free time to explore the city before returning to Toronto Monday March 26, departing Sydney at 11:10 a.m. and arriving in Toronto 4:22 p.m.

Those who have opted for the longer tour fly on to Cairns arriving at 4:25 p.m. to travel to the Thala Beach Resort and Nature Reserve in Port Douglas, 5078 Captain Cook Hwy, Oak Beach QLD 4877, Australia, Phone: +61 7 4098 5700, where we stay for three nights. This unique eco resort includes 145 acres of rainforest and 2 km of private, unspoiled coastline.

Day 16 – Monday March 26 – Today we spend the day on the Quicksilver Cruiser and pontoon on Agincourt Reef, at the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef. Adjacent to the Coral Sea trench, the “ribbon reefs” found here offer the most pristine eco-systems, with clear water, rich coral growth and spectacular marine life. For many, the breathtaking colour and majesty, of the reef is quite simply, the memory of a lifetime. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be on-board the cruiser and all snorkelling gear is included. Dinner at the resort is included as well.



Day 17 – Tuesday March 27 – Today we explore the magnificent and untouched World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest, the oldest living rainforest in the world at 160 million years. Enjoy a walk at Mossman Gorge, Cape Tribulation, a secluded lunch site with an opportunity to swim in a fresh rainforest creek and an estuarine crocodile and wildlife river cruise exploring the Cooper Creek waterway. Tonight we bring our program to a close with a special BBQ on the beach.

Day 18 – Wednesday March 28 – following a very early check out we fly from Cairns (5:10 a.m.) to Sydney and

Sydney to Toronto arriving at 4:22 p.m.