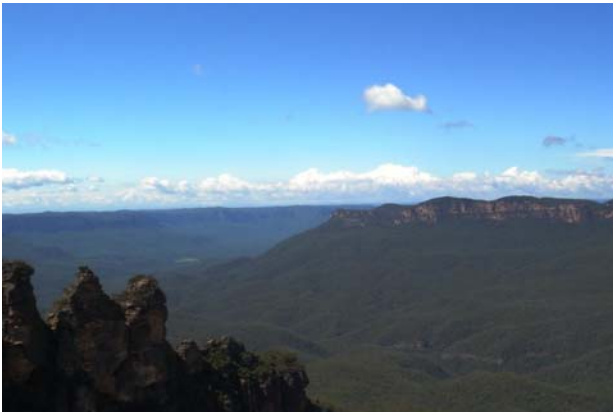


THE CHENRY CHRONICLE

By Christopher and Heather Henry

The Blue Mountains

We drove all the way to the Blue Mountains from Canberra in the rain, a drive that was supposed to take us 4 hours but actually took us 7. We stopped at one of the tourist information centers in Glenbrook (in the pouring rain) to find out what to see and where to stay. The volunteer told us about a Bed and Breakfast and all the good lookout points in the mountains. We stopped at the Wentworth Falls but we couldn't see anything but clouds. You could sure hear the water raging though. We had to go through 8" of water to get back to the main highway. We drove on to Katoomba where we found the Bed and Breakfast and stayed the night. We ate at French Restaurant called the Rooster which was very good, and reminded us both of our honeymoon in France.



The Three Sisters and Echos point, famous sites in the Katoomba, NSW at the Blue Mountains.

The next day the fog lingered around until 11 am. We saw Echo point and the "Three Sisters" rock formations which are the result of millions of years of erosion. There were 4 sisters but with all the erosion there are only three now. We hiked down to the "Three Sisters: to one of the lookout points. These formations have significance in Aboriginal folklore. We viewed the Katoomba falls and

went on to the Scenic World; the big tourist location with many buses. We rode the skyway down the mountain, walked around the



We took a hiking path down some very steep stairs to get to the Three Sisters. Three sisters just behind Chris's right shoulder.

rainforest for an hour, and rode the railway train up the mountain. It is the steepest ride in the world at an angle of 52 degrees.



The Wentworth Falls is the background, which doesn't do it justice.

On our way to Sydney was stopped at the Wentworth Falls. We took a little hike which was many steps down to view the falls. There was still rain on the stairs from the day before.

The weather changes very quickly in the mountains, storms roll in and roll out.

Sydney

The Opera House

It took 16 years to build the opera house. The Danish architect Jorn Utzon ended up leaving the project before it was finished and has never returned to see his work. The opera house operating budget is subsidized from the federal government (30%). For those of you who have never been, the outside of the opera house is actually made up of 6" glazed ivory ceramic tiles, matte and glossy finish. The superstructure is steel and non-reinforced concrete, as the elements of the roof are always in compression. Jorn chose the tiles and grout exterior so that the building would be low maintenance. In fact the building never has to be washed, the rain takes care of keeping the building clean. The concept of the building is remarkably simple, it is a series of slices from a half hemisphere, with one large slice, and three smaller slices, lines up from large to small, and was the inspiration for the structure.



Apparently Jorn was skillful with a band saw and was cutting up some old wood when the shape took his attention. The Aussies had an international competition, and this design was by far the most daring. The development of downtown had caused the loss of their public use stadium, the opera house was to replace this, and it has not just become a Sydney icon, but an Australian icon, and is the most recognized building in the world.



The ceramic tiles were fabricated on the ground in the chevron shaped modules and then installed on the structure.

We took a guided tour of the different theatres at the opera house. It is very plain inside the theatres and no photographs are allowed. With the tour you can get a free non alcoholic drink of your choice. They had real lemonade, for the tourists, with fresh squeezed lemons; we haven't seen that since we left Nebraska in November. The Australians have lemonade but it is really a carbonated drink similar to Sprite.

Thursday evening Chris and I dressed up to go to dinner at the East Bank restaurant in the Circular Quays. (pronounced Keys) Chris and I went to an opera called "Tosca" in the opera theatre that evening. It was in Italian but the subtitles in English were projected on the top of the stage. It was a very good opera and we were glad we spent the \$240 to see it.

"Tosca" is about the misconceptions and the conclusions we make on our own, when we are not fully informed about our environment. The story is about a prominent artist who is engaged to a young up and coming actress. The artist's brother has recently escaped from prison and asks his brother to hide him from the authorities. The artist must lie to his fiancé (Tosca) to maintain his brother's secret, and eventually the sheriff convinces Tosca to divulge what she knows. Tosca mistakes the deception of her lover, the artist for a suspected affair. Tosca slips to the sheriff that he is at his house in the country, thinking that the sheriff will expose the affair. Tosca give the sheriff

the whereabouts of her lover. While in custody enough to arrest the artist and find his brother after an intense investigation where he again uses Tosca's uncertainty against her. Eventually both are condemned to death, Tosca tries to foil the execution, only to find out that her deception has caused the death of her lover, she commits suicide in the end, as there is nothing worth living for. Well that is the jest of the story.



The wood veneer toilet stalls inside the opera house are quite unusual with the wavy design.

Rocks Tour

The "Rocks" which is the oldest suburb in Sydney is called this because the shore of Sydney is steep and rocky. The new settlers faced a real battle in establishing the city, roads, sewers, docks, because of the large rocks that are typical of this area. It was a hard life; convicts were essentially "dumped" here and left to fend for themselves after a 4-6 month ship ride. With a majority of the population being male, and a coed penal colony, one can only imagine what the women experienced upon arrival. After Sydney grew to a large city, the "Rocks" became the slums of Sydney, in fact it has only been recently that they have begun to revitalize it, renovating buildings and turning it into a tourist attraction. If not for a young tree hugger and concerned citizen, it would have become a mega-mall/hotel district.

The Walking Rocks tour is a must see while in Australia. It is a 90 minute tour that gives the history of the early settlers and the convicts from England who came to Australia in 1788. The convicts built the buildings and many were



The first houses built in the Rocks. They were packed in like sardines.

freed after working for a year. If you married a free person you in turn were freed. The rats made their way from England during the last years of the plague and made a home which caused disease. Since the rats were taking over, the government offered a substantial bounty for the rats. This turned out to be a very successful extermination strategy.

Unfortunately they created another problem in the process; since the rat catchers made so much money doing this they started breeding the rats to increase their wages.



This is what Sydney Harbour would have first looked like when the first settlers came to Australia.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge

We decided to take a ferry to the other side of the bridge and walk back across the Harbour Bridge at no charge instead of paying \$180 AU to walk over the arch of the bridge. It takes two - three hours to do the famous Harbour Bridge walk. A guy with an idea who wouldn't take "no" for an answer, now grosses over \$50 million a year, with very little overhead.



The view of the bridge from the Opera House.

You pre-book and pay your money to walk on the arch of the bridge. You wear a suit over your clothes and are attached by a clip to the cable on bridge. No cameras are allowed or anything else that you could drop. Your sunglasses are also attached to a strap around your neck. You get a picture of yourself at the top that they take.(included in the \$180).



Walking across the Harbour Bridge (street level).

The Darling Harbour

We walked to the Darling Harbour, a bustling tourist trap. There is an aboriginal center where we sat and observed a native playing the didgeridoo. He showed us how to play one. A didgeridoo is a long eucalyptus branch that has been hollowed by the termites. The didgeridoo is played during ceremonies and burned afterwards. The people don't usually decorate them like you see in the stores; they only do this for the tourists. The long ones are the ones that sound the best. They cost around \$350-400 AUD and up. We haven't purchased a didgeridoo yet.

Paddy's market

We experienced the Paddy's market and we were there on Thursday when the market was open (Thursday – Sunday) with many bargain items, anything from t-shirts to fresh fruits and veggies. The upper floors of this market are like a mall with many permanent stores.

Sydney Aquarium & Naval Museum

The Navy Museum is a free entry. In the museum is a bell from the only American ship, to bear the name of an Australian city. George Bush presented the bell to the Prime Minister a few years ago.

We went to the Sydney Aquarium and saw lots of sharks in the walk through tunnel. They have freshwater and saltwater crocodiles. The seals exhibition was closed due to the construction renovation. We were a little disappointed with the Aquarium.



A white tip shark at the Sydney aquarium walk through tank.

Port Macquarie

We drove 8 hours to reach Port Macquarie and decided to stay in Port Macquarie for the night. We ate fresh seafood for dinner at a restaurant downtown called ACE. On our way out of town the next day we purchased fresh rock oysters and mud crabs at a shop on the side of the road. We made Kilpatrick oysters and ate crab when we got home. Kilpatrick oysters are made by mixing Worcestershire sauce and bacon with the oyster and cooking them in their shells in the oven. Most Aussies eat the oysters rare and uncooked.

The Technical Corner

I have finalized an adapted plan; I am focused on 4 objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the regulatory differences and design strategies of the Australian confined livestock industry. Compare the differences between the US and AU.
2. Study the difference between the setback distance tools and odor modeling approaches used to determine separation distances.
3. Develop an understanding of and contribute towards the on-going development of an odor emission model for feedlots and holding ponds for the development of new odor guidelines for feedlots in Australia.
4. Develop an understanding of Ausplume and the back-calculation methods for calculating emissions. Compare and contrast 3 different models.

I spend at least a day a week at a consulting firm's office working on objective 3. It has been very interesting, and the environment is allowing me to gain a different perspective on regulatory requirements. Seems that they wrestle with many of the same issues and emergencies that my US consulting colleagues and myself sometimes face. They have been very patient with me as I learn their way of doing things, and I think the experience has been enlightening for both groups.

I have spent some time interviewing regulatory inspectors and industry reps. I arranged a meeting with Australian Pork Limited, the equivalent of the National Pork Board in the US, while in Canberra. I met with their environmental officer, who is dedicated to helping the industry address environmental concerns. They recently published National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries, a collection of the state of the art in production practices and research. APL is also leading an effort to develop a National Environment Management System (EMS) to bring piggeries

up to ISO 14001 standards. Seems that many things are the same, just different, and has really demonstrated to me how these two countries are both independently working towards similar goals.

I have been working with colleagues at FSA developing an understanding of their new feedlot odour emission model. The model estimates hourly emissions for holding ponds, feedlot pads, manure storage areas, and sediment basins for use in atmospheric modeling. I am contributing to a project that will help establish new odor criteria for Australian feedlots.

I spend about half of my time addressing concerns with my extension program, working on sniffer data from NE experiments, and keeping email at bay. The rest of my days are spent working on the above objectives. I have been able to communicate with colleagues back home by conference call. Long distance is very cheap for international calls, it cost \$0.45 to connect and \$0.01 per minute for a call to the US, so it has been very easy for me to maintain contact with Jason, Dennis, Rick, the LPES small farms group, and family members.

Recently I gave two seminars, the first on ambient odor assessment using human receptors, and the other on the performance and application of vegetative systems for open lots. I have been invited to speak at a workshop, next month, about the US perspective on odor modeling at the Clean Air Society of Australian and New Zealand Air Annual meeting in Hobart, Tasmania.

Australian Vocabulary

Anzac biscuits = cookies with coconut

Bugger = colorful adjective

Bloody = colorful adjective

Brekky = breakfast

Bushwalk = hiking

BYO = bring your own wine to the unlicensed restaurant

Capsicum = red or green bellpepper

Dodgy = Questionable

Fair dinkum = true, genuine