

A Book for English Students and the English Classroom



It's Time for Real English

英语口语与文化

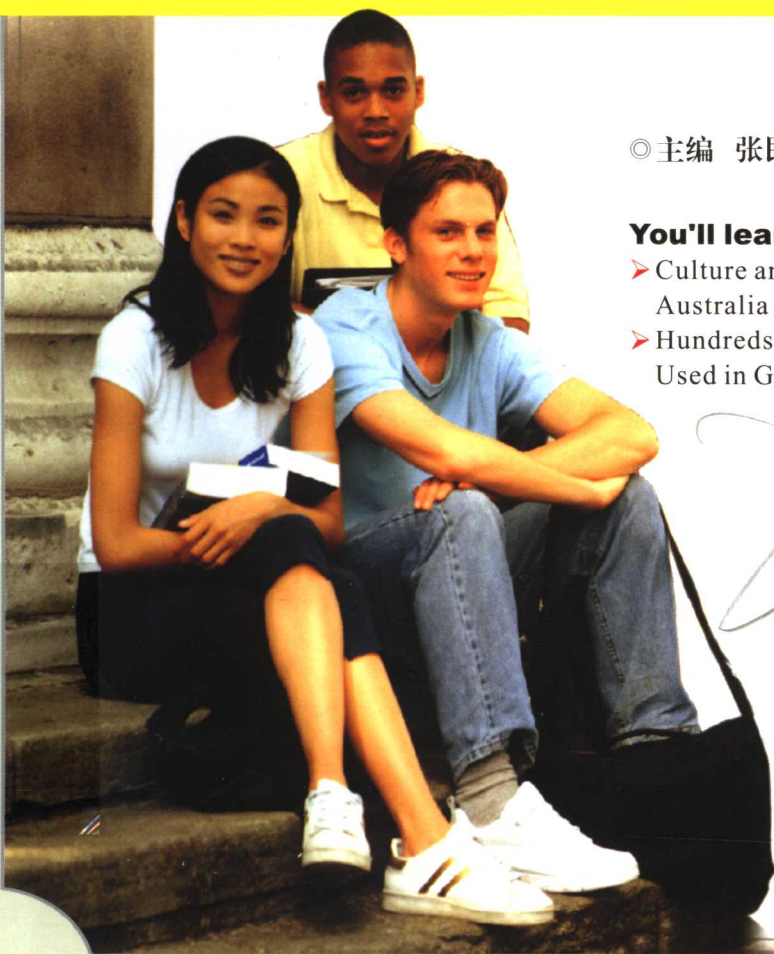
Commonwealth of Nations

• 英澳新爱篇 •

◎主编 张民和

You'll learn about

- Culture and Language in Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand through Interesting Readings
- Hundreds of Modern Slang and Idioms Commonly Used in Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand



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CHINA MACHINE PRESS



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本书是作者在经过慎重而周密的考虑后,结合目前国内各大院校总体的英语水平和英语教学的实际情况而决定开设的一门独特且富有趣味的课程。

本书以介绍英国、爱尔兰、澳大利亚及新西兰文化为主,内容丰富,体例生动。本书不仅是一本形式活泼的教材,更是广大英语学习者在培养英语听说能力、了解英联邦国家文化的一本极佳的参考书。

本书另配一张 mp3 光盘,由美籍专家全文朗诵。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语口语与文化.英 奥 新 爱篇/张民和主编.

—北京:机械工业出版社,2005.4

ISBN 7-111-16479-2

I. 英... II. 张... III. ①英证—口语②英语—文化语言学 IV. H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2005)第 036525 号

机械工业出版社(北京市百万庄大街 22 号 邮政编码 100037)

责任编辑:余 红 封面设计:潘 峰

责任印制:杨 曦

北京机工印刷厂印刷·新华书店北京发行所发行

2005 年 5 月第 1 版 第 1 次印刷

880mm×1230mm A4·13 印张·359 千字

0 001—6 000 册

定价:50.00 元

凡购本书,如有缺页、倒页、脱页,由本社发行部调换

本社购书热线电话(010)68326294

封面防伪标均为盗版

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序

《庄子·秋水》里有这样一个故事：战国时代，有个燕国人来到了赵国都城邯郸。他看到那里的人走路的姿势很优美，就跟着人家学。跟着一个人学了一阵以后，他发现另一个人的姿势更美，于是便又跟着另一个人学。结果，学来学去，不但别人的走法一个没学会，反而连自己原来的走法也给忘掉了。最后，只好爬了回去。这个故事本来旨在讽刺那些缺乏自信，一味模仿他人的人，不但模仿不成，反而把自己本来的东西都丧失了。今天，用这个故事来形容我国英语教育的现状，的确再合适不过了。

谈及我国的英语教育，其投入、其制度、其手段、其过程，虽则不足为世界之最，但均足以位列前茅。论投入，无论是中央政府还是地方财政，无论是教育管理部门还是各类院校，无论是学生家长还是学生自己，每年都在英语教育、教学、学习方面花费大量的财力、物力、时间和精力。从整洁优雅的校园到装备先进的教室，无一不标示着政府和全社会对英语教育的密切关注和慷慨解囊；从校门前潮水般家长焦灼期待的目光到荧光灯下学子们疲惫的神色，无一不折射出家庭和学生对英语学习的巨大付出。论制度，TOEFL、EPT、GRE、雅思、中考、高考、考研、晋职、公务员，以及英语专业四、六级和非英语专业四、六级考试等，门类齐全，规则森严。每种考试参加人数之多、动用机构之广、所花费用之大、对考生影响之深，都是史无前例的。论手段，教育主管部门及广大教师殚精竭虑、煞费苦心，从传统的语法、词汇教学到交际法，从功能教学法到新课标，几乎季季有新法，年年用新书，教师不堪其烦，家长不堪其忧，学生不堪其累。论过程，从小学到中学，从英语专业到非英语专业，从硕士生教育到博士生教育，教师苦口婆心地教，学生不厌其烦地学，一次次地循环，一遍遍地往复，但英语的迷宫总是那样渊深，那样令人无奈。我们虽然对英语如此不惜热情、不计成本、不乏聪敏、不少睿智，但英语却并未因此对我们稍多眷顾，它依然神秘遥远、陌生，这个中原因究竟是什么？

原因有三。其一，东西方文化不同，母体语言背景不同使得英语教学很容易产生功利主义思想，从而会导致教育目标和教学过程的失衡。其二，本末倒置的教学评价观念。任何一个有教育常识的人都知道：英语教育的目的是培养学生用英语进行交际的基本技巧，无论是讲授英语语言知识，还是进行各种交际技能的训练，都是实现教育目的的手段。然而，国内的各种测试，诸如：中考、高考、四（六）级考试、专业四（八）级考试、研究生考试、职称考试、公务员考试等无一不是任意抽取的一组英语语言知识作为最终评价标准。这样的评价理念必然反过来影响到教学的实现过程。其结果，英语教育在很大程度上演变成成为测试训练过程，而英语教育的真正目的则被边缘化。其三，英语

学习过程被简单化。我国英语教学长期以来一直沿袭祖国语言的传统教授模式——识字教学。这种教法忽视了两个基本事实：第一，汉语的识字教学是在学生的语言思维已发育成熟、语言交际能力已基本形成的前提下才开始的，而我国学习英语的学生根本不具备这两个先决条件。第二，英语是一门外国语，维系并支持其运行的是英国及其他英语国家的文化、传统、习俗、生活方式、思维方式等，脱离了后者，英语便失去了其赖以存在的文化本体，变成毫无意义的空壳。因此，片面传授英语语言知识，势必把英语变成僵死的教条，教者苦，学者更苦。而且，这千苦万苦换来的还不是正果，而是令人难以下咽的苦果。

近年来，随着英语教学研究的深入发展，英语教育界进行了极富有成果的探索，达成了前所未有的共识：首先，语言是文化的产物，也是文化的载体。因此，脱离文化而单纯学习语言的路子是走不通的。再之，语言交际能力的培养是一个由生理到心理、由心理到思维、由思维到行为、由个体到群体、再由群体到全社会的系统工程，所以，单纯学习语言知识是无法启动这个系统工程进入工作状态的。正因为有以上共识，教育部于数年前出台了中学英语教学新大纲，明确提出了要教“真正的英语”（Real English）的号召。这是一个划时代的号召，一个正本清源、重整旗鼓的行动。新大纲颁布以来，英语教育界同仁进行了，并继续进行着富有建设性的探讨。广大英语教师在英语教法方面的大胆实践和摸索也令人称道。然而，到目前为止，什么是“真正的英语”？怎样才能不走样地让学生学会“真正的英语”？仍然是一片亟待开发的处女地。

张民和等编著的系列英语学习丛书《英语口语与文化》（It's Time for Real English）在这块处女地上竖起了第一面拓荒的大旗。该系列丛书介绍美国、加拿大、英国、澳大利亚、新西兰及爱尔兰等英语国家的日常生活文化及年轻人所关注的日常话题，并通过灵活多样、生动活泼的操作方式，把学习者融入到生活的实际情景之中，使其在逼真的生活实践中，体味英语的真实用途，借以激活学习者记忆中的俚语、语法，把学习者变成使用者。通过这种方式，不仅可以丰富学习者的英语文化知识，更重要的是，它补上了语言知识转化为语言交际能力过程中一度缺失的链条，使学习者在近似生活实际的学习和使用英语的过程中，养成习惯，培植行为，最终可以用“真正的英语”进行流利的交流和交往，成为一个名副其实的英语使用者。

此外，本书取材新颖、语言时尚、内容丰富，每课均介绍一定数量国外新近流行的词语，且附有标准发音光盘。实为英语教师和英语学习者一本难得的好书。

我和张民和先生素有交往，受其之邀，谨奉以上之言，是为序。

陕西师范大学
侯玉海 教授
2005年4月

Introduction

This book was specially designed to help Chinese students learn English, to learn about culture and what young people enjoy and concern in the countries of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. Most Chinese students have trouble speaking, listening, and being comfortable with native English speakers, their culture and what young people enjoy and concern. This book can help with the problems that Chinese students have by providing simplified stories and articles, mostly related to culture issues of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. Our idea for this book was to encourage students to activate the words they have already memorized in their minds and to use them in everyday English. Students are also encouraged to use simple words to explain for complicated meanings. In this way, we have to create a new way for Chinese students to use English as a real tool of international communication.

These chapters are geared towards both individual learning as well as classroom lesson planning. The questions and activities at the end of each lesson will be useful to promote oral English practice. Within the thirty-one lessons in this book, there are stories and articles which will provide a lot of information such as student life, history, what young people enjoy and are concerned with, festivals, dances, music, western education, introductions to famous cities, universities and tourist attractions, famous stories and famous people of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. These materials will greatly interest any student looking for western cultural knowledge. The sections contain many modern idioms and slang expressions that are used on everyday basis. To aid in the comprehension of each story, many pictures are used as well as a vocabulary section is included on each page. The questions and activities are designed to encourage thinking and reasoning, thus improving speaking.

The authors of this book are a Chinese English teacher Mr. Zhang Minhe; four American teachers Jason Evesett, Cassand'a Miller, Will Kastner and Kay Huang; three British teachers Andy Janz, Marshall Watson and Jonathan Crowe; one Canadian teacher Rheanne Anderson; one Australian teacher Joan Rena Martinuzzi and a teacher Colleen Mary Lavery from New Zealand. All of the authors are experienced in teaching English and promoting student thinking and speaking. We are all very excited to help the students around China to learn to speak real English. We hope that this book is of value to everyone interested in learning English and information about Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland.

Finally, we encourage everyone to have fun reading the lessons and practicing their English.

Chief Compiler: Zhang Minhe

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Lesson 1

My Home in Victoria (short story) Intermediate Reading



My Home in Victoria

What should I do with this?

- Read the article
- Answer the questions
- Do the activities

What will I learn?

- Vocabulary
- Accuracy skills
- Countable and uncountable nouns

Willaura is a town in the Western **District**. The Western District is the main sheep and wheat-growing region of the state of Victoria. My parents owned the Willaura Hotel and as a child it was the place I called home. The **main** street (also known as Main St.) was very wide even though in those days there were not as many cars as there are today. Nearly everyone and everything traveled by train, including the sheep.

Willaura **boomed** in the late 1880's; its record **grain yields** and **proximity** to the Mafeking goldfields made the railway station one of Victoria's busiest. The Hotel was **straight** across the road from the railway station and was the **focal point** of the **community**. Everyone met there including the town councilors, the fire brigade and the local football team. The hotel's dining room was always full. The tables were set with **starched** white table linen and polished **silver service**. Mealtimes meant sitting down to a full three-course meal.



Although Willaura was a small town, the Western District was **vast**. Thousands of people lived and worked on the large sheep and wheat **properties** surrounding the town.

During the **shearing** season and the wheat harvest the town's **population** swelled with shearing **gangs** and wool **graders** and buyers.

But the Western District periodically has a low **rainfall** and **droughts** are a **significant** feature of the area. Everyone **dreaded** the **dry spells**. The sheep, mad for water, were shot not shorn. Golden fields of **ripening** wheat turned to dust. And worst of all the dry spells created a high fire **risk**. I remember one year when fires **scoured** the land. The hot dry winds (brickfielders) blowing from Australia's central arid region fanned the fires into raging infernos. Bushfires usually travel at one to three km/h with flames 100-150+ metres high and thick. But the Black Friday fires, as they came to be known, were fanned by the westerly winds and reached speeds of 140km/h and the flames reached heights of 250m+. The devastation reeked by those fires was a time of great mourning. So many people in our community lost their lives, or their loved ones, their homes and

VOCABULARY

District – part of a country or town having a particular quality

main – most important

boom – suddenly increase

grain yields – amount of seed in a harvest

proximity – nearness in space or time

straight – without a bend or curve; direct

focal point – of or at a focus

community – people living in one place, district or town

starched – stiffened with a substance

silver service – articles made of silver

vast – very large in area, size, quantity or degree; immense

properties – lands owned, possessed

shearing – cutting the wool off sheep

everything they owned. That year we mourned, grieved for our losses, and supporting each other, began again.



In a good summer my parents took us swimming to Lake Bolac. Mum packed a picnic into an esky and after a long swim we gobbled down meat and salad sandwiches and juicy summer fruits. Such days seemed endless. However toward the end of summer the new school year began.

Until I was in grade three I attended the local state school.

Then I left my home in the bush to attend a girl's boarding school in Ballarat. Ballarat was one of the main centres of education for the State of Victoria. It was the Boarding school capital. Many of my co-boarders were from the Western District. It was common practice in those days for children as young as five to be sent to boarding school. Life at boarding school was a difficult adjustment for a bush kid. I was achingly homesick for the land and to this day whenever I think of home I close my eyes and see the vast open spaces under an infinite blue sky. I hear the magpies caroling, the kookaburras laughing. I smell the sharp astringency of eucalyptus, the greasy lanoline of wool. And I remember the privilege of growing up in a bush community, which, in spite of individual differences, pulled together in the tough times and played together in the good times.

population – people who live in a given area or country

gangs – group of people who associate together

graders – people who assess the standard or quality of wool

rainfall – total amount of rain falling in a given area in a given time

drought – period of continuous dry weather when there's not enough water for people, livestock and crops

significant – full of meaning

dreaded – greatly feared

dry spell – a period of time without rain

ripening – becoming ripe; maturing

risk – possibility of danger or harm

scourge – a thing that causes suffering



QUESTIONS

1. Where is the Western District?
2. What are the two major industries of the Western District?
3. Why is the Willaura Hotel important to this story?
4. What is the name of the dry winds blowing from the interior of Australia?
5. What were the “Black Friday” fires?
6. What is an “esky” ?
7. Where is the boarding school capital of the state of Victoria?
8. Where is the state of Victoria located in Australia?
9. What is a “kookaburra” ?
10. Do you think that boarding schools are good for the development of young children?



ACTIVITIES

1. Imagine you live in the town of Willaura and tell your classmates how you will live there.
2. Imagine you are a traveler to the town of Willaura and tell your classmates how you will tour there.



Lesson 2

Sydney—The Harbor City (article) Advanced Reading

This is an article about the city of Sydney, Australia. In it you will learn about the city's history and about the many fascinating things to see and do in and around Sydney.



Sydney

What should I do with this?

- Read the article
- Answer the questions
- Do the activities

What will I learn?

- Fun facts about Sydney, Australia
- New vocabulary

Welcome to Sydney, Australia's oldest and largest city (4 million population), the economic powerhouse of the nation and the country's capital in everything but name. Located in New South Wales (one of Australia's 6 states), it's a city blessed with long stretches of heavenly beaches, a pleasant climate that sees over 300 sunny days a year, delicious and daring restaurants, superb shopping and friendly *folk*.

Sydney's Past and Present

Sydney was first visited by the British in 1770 when Captain James Cook and Joseph Banks sailed the ship *Endeavour* into Botany Bay. The British First Fleet, which landed at Botany Bay in January 1788 on the recommendation of Captain Cook, carried 730 male and female *convicts* from Britain's overcrowded jails as well as an assortment of military personnel under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip. The settlers eventually established themselves at Sydney Cove (named after the British Secretary of State, Viscount Sydney) north of the bay, and this is where the city of Sydney grew.

Over the next few years the second and third fleets showed up, despite the fact that the colonists were utilizing patchy European farming methods and therefore found themselves on the brink of starvation. In the last decade of the 18th century there was a huge *influx* of military settlers, the "Rum Corps". *Rum* became Sydney's main currency and the military, after overthrowing Sydney's Governor, William Bligh, in 1808, ran the *joint*. This was known as the Rum Rebellion.

By 1840 the colony's population was made up of mainly free *immigrants* and transportation ended in 1842. By 1847 the convict population of Sydney accounted for only 3.2 percent of the total population. When gold was discovered in Victoria and to Sydney's west in the 1850s, settlers poured out of the town in search of wealth and Sydney's importance diminished dramatically.

Australian Federation occurred in 1901 and the Commonwealth of Australia was declared in a ceremony in Centennial Park. New South Wales became a state of Australia, and Sydney became NSW's capital. Australia went to war in support of Britain in 1914, and the economy boomed until the late 1920s. When the *Great Depression* hit in 1930, over a third of *Sydney siders* became unemployed. But in 1932 wool prices rose, the city's building industry took off and Sydney once more became the most special city in Australia.

VOCABULARY

folk – people

convicts – people serving prison sentences; criminals

influx – a mass arrival or incoming

Rum – an alcohol made from sugar cane

joint – a place

immigrant – a person who leaves one country to live permanently in a different country

Great Depression – the worldwide economic crisis beginning in 1929 and continuing through the 1930s

Sydney siders – people who live in Sydney



Australia's **bicentennial** celebrations in 1988, the massive Darling Harbor redevelopment project, and winning the bid to host the 2000 Olympic games all proved **beneficial** to the city's **morale**. Today Sydney is one of the most cosmopolitan, culturally diverse and **aesthetically** beautiful cities in the world. The harbor is only rivaled by that of Hong Kong and with its 20 or so beautiful swimming beaches and pleasant climate Sydney has become an extremely popular tourist destination attracting almost 3 million visitors annually.

Sydney wasn't a planned city and its layout is further complicated by its hills and the numerous **inlets** of the harbor: Sydney's **focal point**. The center of Sydney is on the south shore of the harbor. Skyscrapers in the Central Business District (CBD) **vie** for dominance with harbor views, but the city's relentlessness is softened by shady Hyde Park and the Domain parkland to the east, Darling Harbor to the west and the main harbor to the north. The Sydney Harbor Bridge and the harbor tunnel link the city center with the **satellite** CBD of North Sydney and the suburbs of the North Shore.

Sydney's Attractions

Sydney Opera House

In 1957 architect Joern Utzon won a competition to design the Sydney Opera House. An extraordinary site on Sydney Harbor at Bennelong Point, an ambitious state Premier (Joseph J. Cahill), a visiting American architect (Eero Saarinen), who took over for Utzon after he quit in 1966, and Utzon's original sketches were the key factors which generated one of the world's most important modern buildings.



The Opera House, which opened in 1973, **embodies** timeless popular **metaphors**. The building's organic shape and lack of surface decoration have made it both timeless and ageless. Moreover, it demonstrates how buildings can add to environmental experience rather than detract from it - something of spiritual value independent of function.

Sydney Harbor Bridge

Sydney Harbor Bridge, known locally as the "Coat Hanger," was opened in 1932. There was quite a **kerfuffle** at the opening of the bridge, when a sword-wielding **chappie** by the name of de Groot

bicentennial – the celebration of an event that happened 200 years ago

beneficial – good for; providing advantages

morale – how a group of people feel

aesthetically – in good taste; pleasing to the eye; beautifully

inlet – a stream or bay leading inland, as from the ocean

focal point – a center of interest or activity

vie – to compete for something; engage in a contest

satellite – a suburban community located near a big city

embody – to incorporate; represent

metaphor – one thing representing another different thing

stole the **limelight** from NSW(New South Wales) premier Jack Lang by slashing the opening ribbon before the premier could give it the official chop.

The social impact of the bridge, its construction areas, and its connecting highways involving the demolition of 800 houses, would be **inconceivable** today. Built between the first and second World Wars, the project reduced the unemployment created by the Great Depression. However, families living in its path were displaced without being given anything in return. Taxpayers living in the Australian countryside saw “the vampire city, of which the bridge is so complete a symbol...sucking the life blood of the suffering country.” The mythology of the bridge being a “symbol not only for the city, but for the **aspirations** of the nation” blinded most people to the injustices.



Sydney Harbor

The harbor is the defining characteristic of the city. Criss-crossed by ferries and carpeted with **yachts** on weekends, it is both the city playground and a major port. Its multiple sandstone **headlands**, dramatic cliffs, rocky islands and stunning bays and beaches make it one of the most beautiful stretches of water in the world, and the area offers a close-up of Australian beach culture at its best. The most **scenic area** is on the ocean side of the bridge. The Sydney Harbor National Park protects the scattered pockets of **bushland** around the harbor and offers good walking tracks. The best way to experience the harbor is to go sailing, though if you'd rather not, try swimming at Nielsen Park, walking from Manly to Spit Bridge, having a drink at Watsons Bay, or dining with a view at Circular **Quay**.

Mrs Macquaire's Chair

Mrs Macquaire's Chair, aka Lady Macquarie's Chair, provides one of the best viewing points in Sydney. The historic chair was carved out of a rock ledge for Governor Lachlan Macquarie's wife, Elizabeth, as she was known to visit the area and sit enjoying the **panoramic** views of the harbor. Mrs Macquarie's Point, directly east of the Opera House on the eastern edge of the Royal Botanic Gardens, provides excellent views west across the harbor to the Bridge and the Mountains in the far distance.

kerfuffle – disruption; disorder; commotion

chappie – British slang term for “a man”

limelight – the focus of public attention

inconceivable – impossible to imagine

aspirations – ambitions; strong desires

yacht – a small sailing or motor-driven boat

headland – a point of land, usually high and with a steep drop, extending out into a body of water

scenic area – a spot with beautiful natural scenery

bushland – the remote countryside of Australia and New Zealand

Quay – a place where ships are loaded or unloaded of their cargo

aka – also known as

panoramic – an unbroken view of an entire surrounding area



Harbour Vista From Mrs Macquarie's Chair

Chinese Garden of Friendship

The Chinese Garden of Friendship was designed by Sydney's Chinese sister city, Guangzhou. The gardens were developed on a site in Darling Harbor near Sydney's Chinatown. The gardens were officially opened in 1988 as part of Sydney's bicentennial celebrations and they were named the Garden of Friendship symbolizing the bond established between China and Australia. It is one of the largest of its type outside Asia, with pavilions, lakes, waterfalls and a Chinese teahouse. One of the interesting features of the gardens is that you cannot see the whole garden from any point within them.



The gardens present visitors with a green and peaceful **sanctuary** in the **midst** of a major **bustling** city and an ideal escape from the concrete surrounds of Darling Harbor. If you want an hour or two of solitude, this is the place to be. Running water, towering willow trees, cool **lagoons** with lotus plants and large colorful fish all make this an **idyllic** spot to read a book or **recharge your batteries**.

The Rocks

Shortly after Captain Arthur Phillip brought his fleet to anchor in the small bay that was to become known as Sydney Cove, he sent ashore working parties of convicts to clear an area for the tents and shelters that would house the settlers. Much of the settlement was established on the western shore of Sydney Cove and this district eventually became known as The Rocks.

The Rocks is the oldest area of Sydney and has recently undergone an amazing **metamorphosis**. This once historic **shantytown** has been transformed into a vibrant pocket of cafes and restaurants and interesting tourist shops and stalls. However, the Rocks is Sydney's oldest preserved colonial district so the main emphasis is still on the historical importance of the area.

Its narrow **cobbled** streets and fine colonial buildings are still **evocative** and if you ignore the **kitsch**, a stroll around The Rocks can be delightful.

The ideal time to visit would be in autumn when the weather is simply delightful, especially around March

sanctuary – a safe place

midst – the condition of being surrounded by something; among; amid

bustling – busy

lagoon – a shallow body of water

idyllic – ideal for a particular purpose

recharge your batteries – to relax and regain your energy after a hard day

metamorphosis – a change in appearance, character, condition, or function

shantytown – a city district inhabited by people living in huts; an extremely poor section of a city

cobbled – streets paved with stones

evocative – tending to recall or suggest something in the past

kitsch – a display that is in bad taste