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Contents

Part One Australia

I. Geography and People 3

1.1	General	Introduction	3
1 . 1	Ochicial	muduction	2

- 1.2 Geographical Feature 5
 - 1.2.1 The Great Western Plateau 5
 - 1.2.2 The Central Lowlands 7
 - 1.2.3 The Eastern Highlands 8
 - 1.3 Rivers and Lakes 10
 - 1.4 Climate 12
 - 1.5 Plants and Animals 13
 - 1.6 Population 15

1.7 States and Territories 16 New South Wales 17 1.7.1 1.7.2 Victoria 17 1.7.3 Queensland 18 1.7.4 South Australia 19 1.7.5 Western Australia 19 1.7.6 Tasmania 20 1.7.7 The Northern Territory 20 1.7.8 Australian Capital Territory 21 II. History 22 First Human Habitation 22 2.1 European Discovery 24 2.2 Convict Settlement 27 2.3 2.4 The Gold Rush and the Eureka Stockade Rebellion 30 The Formation of the Federation 34 2.5 Australia and the World Wars 36 2.6 2.7 Australia since 1945 42

III. Government, Parliament and the Law System 48

3.2	The F	Parliament 51 and and an amount of the second of the secon	
	3.2.1	The Queen and the Governor-General 52	
	3.2.2	The House of Representatives 53	
	3.2.3	The Senate 54	
	3.2.4	Functions and Privileges 57	
3.3	Gove	Government 57	
	3.3.1	Prime Minister 57	

IV. National Economy 60

3.3.2 Ministers 583.3.3 The Cabinet 59

- 4.1 Industry 61
- 4.2 Agriculture 64
- 4.3 Service Industry 67
- 4.4 Resources and Energy 68
- 4.5 Trade and Investment 71
- 4.6 Taxation 73

V. Australian Society 75

- 5.1 Australian Lifestyles 75
- 5.2 Social Values in Australia 78
- 5.3 Aborigines and Australian Society 80

5.4 Religions in Australia 84

VI. Australian Culture and Literature 89

- 6.1 Australia: A Multicultural Society 89
- 6.2 Australian Literature: An Outline 90
- 6.3 The Aboriginal Literature 94

VII. Education 96

- 7.1 Primary and Secondary Education 97
- 7.2 Higher Education 99
- 7.3 Group of Eight 101
- 7.4 Indigenous Education and Training 102

VIII. Characteristics of Australian English 104

- 8.1 Variation and Changes 105
- 8.2 Phonology 107
- 8.3 Vocabulary 108
- 8.4 Influence of Australian Aboriginal Languages 110
- 8.5 Spelling 111
- 8.6 Colloquialisms 112

IX. Australian Folklores and Holidays 114

- 9.1 Australian Folklore Traditions 114
- 9.2 Democratic Heroes 115
- 9.3 A Drover's Life and Drovers' Wives 117
- 9.4 Outback Women and Aborigines 119
- 9.5 The "Bush" and Bush Searches 120
- 9.6 Animals and Creatures 121
- 9.7 Places 122
- 9.8 Public Holidays 125
 - 9.8.1 Australia Day 126
 - 9.8.2 Labour Day 129 bank and a said
 - 9.8.3 Anzac Day 129
 - 9.8.4 Queen's Birthday 131

Part Two New Zealand

I. Geography and People 137

- 1.1 Geography of New Zealand 137
- 1.2 Geology 140
- 1.3 Climate and Weather 141
- 1.4 Population in New Zealand 143
- 1.5 Regions in New Zealand 145
- 1.6 Major Cities in New Zealand 147
 - 1.6.1 Wellington 147
 - 1.6.2 Auckland 149
 - 1.6.3 Dunedin 151
 - 1.6.4 Christchurch 152

II. History 155

- 2.1 Polynesian Foundation 156
- 2.2 The European Discoveries 157
- 2.3 European Settlement 160
- 2.4 Treaty of Waitangi 162
- 2.5 Colonial Period 164
- 2.6 Independence of New Zealand 168
- 2.7 New Zealand during the First World War 169

- 2.8 Depression in New Zealand 170
- 2.9 Second World War 172
- 2.10 New Zealand in Post-war Period 174
- 2.11 New Zealand Today 176

III. Government, Parliament and the Law System 179

- 3.1 Constitution 179
 - 3.1.1 Sovereign 180
 - 3.1.2 Monarchy 181
 - 3.1.3 GovernorGeneral 181
 - 3.1.4 Executive 182
 - 3.1.5 Legislature 182
- 3.2 Government 183
- 3.3 New Zealand Judiciary 185
- 3.4 Parliament in New Zealand 188
- 3.5 Political Parties in New Zealand 190
- 3.6 Electoral System 191

IV. Economy of New Zealand 195

4.1 Brief Introduction 195

- 4.2 Agriculture in New Zealand 199
 - 4.2.1 Pastoral Farming 199
 - 4.2.2 Forestry 201
 - 4.2.3 Fruit 202
 - 4.2.4 Grains 203
 - 4.2.5 Vegetables 203
- 4.3 Resources in New Zealand 204
- 4.4 New Zealand Trade and Finance 205
- 4.5 Transportation 209
- 4.6 Administration of the Economy 210

V. Society and Culture in New Zealand 212

- 5.1 Social Life in New Zealand 212
- 5.2 Religion 214
 - 5.2.1 Christianity 215
 - 5.2.2 Other Religions 216
- 5.3 Languages 219
- 5.4 Culture in New Zealand 220
- 5.5 Media in New Zealand 221
- 5.6 Sport 225
- 5.7 Literature 226
- 5.8 Maori Culture 228
- 5.9 Kapa Haka 229

- Pasifika Festival and Auckland Lantern Festival 231 5.10 Auckland International Cultural Festival 232 5.11 5.12 Hangi 233 VI. Education in New Zealand 235 Early Childhood Education 236 6.1 Primary and Secondary Education 237 6.2 6.3 Tertiary Education 239 Universities 240 6.3.1 Polytechnics 242 6.3.2 6.3.3 Wananga 243 6.4 Private Training Establishments 244 6.5 Funding for Education 245 For Primary and Secondary Education 245 6.5.1 6.5.2 For Tertiary Education 245 6.5.3 For Students 246 6.5.4 Student Allowances 246 6.5.5 Student Loans 247
- VII. New Zealand English 249
 - 7.1 Dictionaries of New Zealand English . 250
 - 7.2 Pronunciation 251

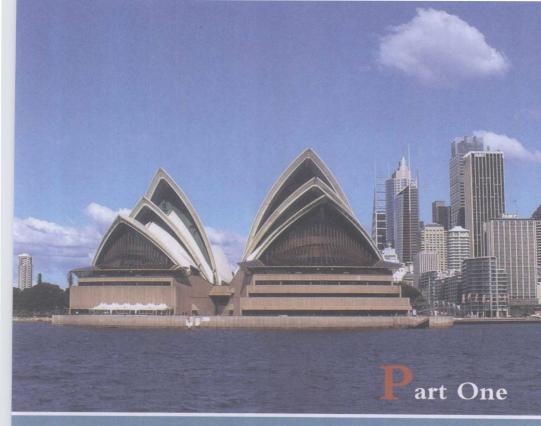
- 1st As
 - 7.2.1 Vowels 251
 - 7.2.2 Consonants 252
 - 7.3 New Zealand English Vocabulary 254
 - 7.4 Maori Influence on New Zealand English 257
 - 7.4.1 Plant and Animals 257
 - 7.4.2 Other Terms 257
- 7.5 Dialects within New Zealand English 258
- 7.6 Spelling 259

VIII. Folklores and Holidays in New Zealand 260

- 8.1 Maori Mythology and Political Ritual 260
- 8.2 Holidays in New Zealand 266
- 8.4 Anzac Day 270
- 8.5 Queen's Birthday 272

References 276

Postscript 278



Australia



I. Geography and People

1.1 General Introduction

Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere between the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific Ocean, mainly on an island continent that has been called "the Oldest Continent". To the Europeans it is at the other end of the world. That is why Australia is also popularly known in the West as "the Land Down Under".

Australia stretches from 10° south to 44° south of latitude and 113° east to 154° east of longitude. It is the world's smallest continent with an area of 7.7 million square kilometers. However, Australia is the world's sixth largest country after Russia, Canada, China, Brazil and the USA.

Australia is the only continent that contains one country. It



extends for about 4,000 km from east to west and for about 3,700 km from north to south. It is surrounded by Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean to the east, by Indian Ocean to the west, by Southern Indian Ocean and Great Australian Bight to the south, with its coastline some 25,760 km. It claims an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone of 8,148,250 km². This Exclusive Economic Zone does not include the Australian Antarctic Territory. Australia has the largest area of ocean jurisdiction of any country on earth. It has no land borders.

With a geological history of more than 3 billion years Australia is one of the oldest land masses in the world. It is the flattest and