

News from Nan

TRAVEL

AUSTRALIA 2003

OCTOBER 30, 2003 | ANNA



Kata Tjuta

In the fall of 2003 we took a three-week Elderhostel (now Road Scholar) trip “Down Under,” spending about half the time in Australia and half in New Zealand. The two images below show the places we saw and our group of about 25. Below those are photos and information about Australia.

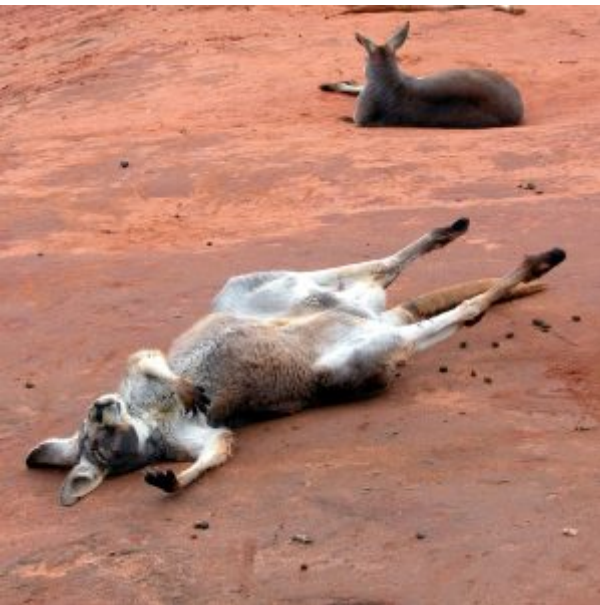




In Sydney we toured the city and the harbor, saw an opera (Midsummer Night's Dream, with music by Benjamin Britten, which nobody in the group liked much, but being in the Sydney Opera House was a thrill) and visited a wildlife animal park.



Sydney Opera House



Kangaroo in Wildlife Park



Koala in Wildlife Park



Anna with snake

Alice Springs is located in the middle of Australia. There we visited an eco-park, and then drove by bus to Uluru (Ayers Rick) and Kata Tjuta, which are sacred sites for many aboriginal communities.



Gum trees near Alice Springs



Stuarts Well

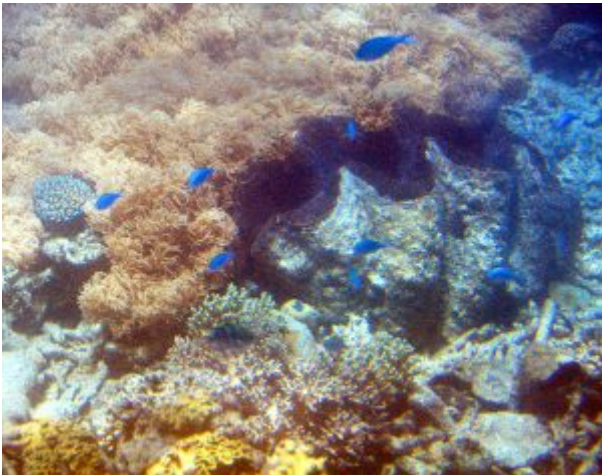


Uluru

We continued by plane to Cairns on the Northeast Coast, where we visited a rainforest, a wildlife park, and an aboriginal cultural park, and snorkeled on the Great Barrier Reef.



Michaelmas Cay



Great Barrier Reef

Anna was sick and mostly asleep on the last day. It was a respiratory illness that almost the entire group got, starting the day we arrived in Auckland (our first stop). Other group mishaps on the trip were a sprained wrist (suffered from stepping out of a high-claw-foot bathtub) and an injured foot (suffered from being hit by an errant boomerang!).