

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

SUMMER TOUR 2000

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

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Directors Note Ed Austin

Dear best friends—dancers, musicians, tech, and leaders,

I have had two especially strong impressions about this year's experience in New Zealand and Australia.

The first regards the type of impact we have had as a group on the members of the Church and their communities. We have had wonderful hosts and sponsors while in these two countries, and it has become apparent that they as members, (especially in Australia) feel: that they are extremely isolated from the rest of Church membership; that they experience the challenges resulting from being first generation members of the Church with little or no support and/or interest from family or friends. Many of these Church members are truly pioneers in every sense of the word.

Having our group of students visit these members was a strengthening experience for everyone involved. The saints we associated with caught a larger vision of their Church membership and of the programs of the Church. They also experienced a righteous pride in their discipleship, and were moved by the fellowship and comradery of their *yankee* counterparts. Many of the small wards and branches were "raised out of obscurity" in their local communities, as they were recognized in their communities as a major sponsor of a "famous performing group with world-wide recognition"—a group willing to travel thousands of miles to support local charities. In addition, local church members collaborated with the important leaders of their communities opening windows for recognition, support, and future partnerships. The local saints are now viewed as a church membership which truly cares about their community.

Each of us have also reaped many blessings from having associated with these wonderful brothers and sisters. We have had our testimonies strengthened as we have learned what many saints have to sacrifice to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ.

Here are some of the comments which have been made along our way.

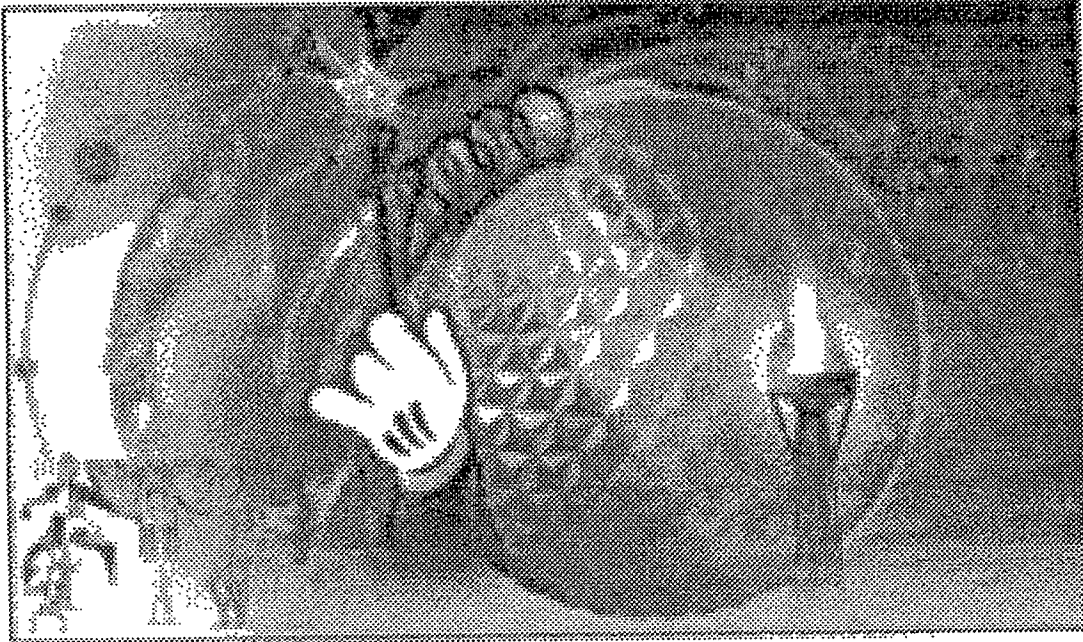
"This ensemble would be without peer. I felt the Holy Spirit as I watched these young people—If your church can keep this up, you are going to change the world!" Kim Beazley, Sr., Former Minister for Education & Family Values Award recipient, Perth, Australia, July 22, 2000

"I have traveled the world and I have never seen such a vibrant performance! You mentioned in your introduction that all of these young men and some of the girls were returned missionaries and you have 67,000 more of these? Wow!" State Government Opposition Whip, Ted Cunningham, Perth, Australia, July 22, 2000.

“Thank you ever so much for your talented students who performed at Melbourne last week. It was a wonderful experience to witness not only beautiful dance and colorful costumes but a performance which outclassed any that I have ever seen before, characterized mainly by the sheer cohesion and dedication of the ensemble. I was really spiritually moved to see these wonderful young performers in action, and judging by the enthusiasm of the audience I believe I may wholeheartedly represent their feelings also.” Mike Webb, Melbourne, Australia, August 5, 2000

I am so thankful to be a part of this group and for its dedication to the values and goals of Brigham Young University and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Congratulations to each performer and leader for your hard work and dedication. You have touched many lives—including mine. -Ed

Walt Disney *****



Walt Disney World,

Millennium Celebration

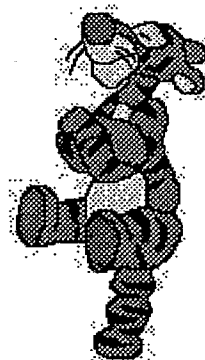
WALT DISNEY WORLD
EPCOT CENTER

2000

Sunday, April 30, 2000
Paul Springer

Magic Kingdom...here we come!!!!

Finally after months of preparation... a torturous week of finals, we are ready to go. We were scheduled to meet at the Richards Building at 2:00 pm to leave for the airport. We didn't leave for the airport until around 2:30go figure!!! However, this time we weren't waiting for the bus. We all know who we were waiting for?! (I won't mention any names.)



The rest of the trip went smoothly... Thanks to Lisa T's mom we all gorged ourselves with M&M's, Blow Pop's and Jolly Ranchers. We love Lisa T's mom. Even the airline food was OK..(At least it was better than we had hoped.) Josh was craving steak, and as luck had it that is what they served us, He must be living right. Unfortunately, the steak was no bigger than my index finger. It made for a good light snack. Those who didn't get steak opted for the second option of pasta.

Some people had a more relaxed trip than others. Most of the team slept during the flight, or watched the exciting movie of an old man riding his tractor across America...it was a real thriller. Meanwhile, when everyone was relaxing, Paul and Ed planned the next year's club activities. (It sure was fun!)

We arrived in Orlando around 11:00 pm (their time) and met Hunt (our Disney representative) at our terminal. Hunt made sure that we got on the right bus, that we had our hotel keys and rooms, and that we knew how to get to Epcot. We were all given our room assignments and then crashed for the night. Morning will come early as we need to be at Epcot by 8:00 am so we can tech our two shows. That means we'll only get about 4 hours of sleep... Something tells me that these two weeks will not only be fun but hectic!

We are looking forward to these two weeks... to not only play, but to share our love of the Savior through dance. If this trip will be anything like mid-semester tour then we are in for a treat.

Monday, May 1, 2000
Melanie Carter

What an incredible day! It was only our first day in Florida but we tried to squeeze everything we could think of in one day.

We started out with an 8:30 tech/dress rehearsal in the Millenium Village at Epcot. The Millenium Village is an exhibit which was set up last year and will be here for one year more to celebrate the start of a new millennium. It focuses on the many diverse cultures throughout our planet Earth. Our practices continued right up until our shows began. We had a run through of each show and then performed show 1, show 2 and show 1 a second time.

My first reaction to the place where we performed was that the room seemed too small to fit a very big audience in. Going into our first show, we just assumed there wouldn't be many people there. Well, we have definitely been blown away by the incredible number of people which come to our shows. We have surpassed both our expectations and those of the Epcot directors by consistently bringing in a full house and then some for our shows.

The audiences are great to perform for here and they have really made us feel welcome. Performing in these shows has given us the chance to meet people from all over the world. I've talked to people from Jerusalem, Ireland, Germany, Syria, North and South Africa, Haiti, Jamaica, England, Cuba, and certainly many more besides.

Their comments are always positive and many times they come back again to see our other show. The spirit of unity between countries is very strong in the Millennium Village and being a part of that has been a wonderful experience.

After the performances we had our first experience at the cafeteria which turned out to be a nice surprise. (so many options!!) There is a salad bar, sandwich bar, entrée bar where cuisine changes daily as well as a grill with pizza, burgers, and other greasy essentials. All this and still tons of choices for desserts and side dishes. Every meal we get to have a main entrée, side dish, dessert and fountain drink. We are definitely pleased with the food accommodations.

Following lunch half of us went to the Magic Kingdom on the Monorail. The other half opted to bask in the remainder of the daylight sun while relaxing by the hotel pool. The half who went to the Magic Kingdom went to the Tiki Room first where Pat favored us all with a Gloria Estefan lip sync.

Since it was Jon Gibson's first time to Disneyland or DisneyWorld, we took him on everything from Pirates of the Caribbean, Jungle Cruise, and Thunder Mountain, to It's a Small World and Alien Encounters.

Alien Encounters was a first for all of us and I thought it was awful. Everyone else seemed to enjoy it though. You sit in a room in chairs that have a shoulder harness that comes down over you and then you watch as this alien monster thing supposedly escapes and attacks you in the dark. The effects are pretty cool – you can feel it breathing in your ear and rain/blood dripping on you from above. At one point they pretend to teleport somebody out and the random light selected the man next to Maria. The man got a little over-excited and thought he actually had acquired a real responsibility in the ensuing performance. Anyway, it was very fun. However, I would never like to take kids there.

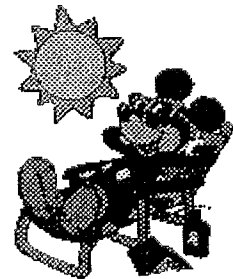
We finally had to leave to catch the last shuttle that would take us to our temporary home. Once we got back to our hotel, we ordered Papa John's Pizza and had it delivered to our room. We ended the day with a swim in the pool and a nice, relaxing soak in the hot tub.

It was a great day!

Tuesday, May 2, 2000
Shane Wright

In order to prepare for his wedding, Craig stayed at the hotel to (1) tan his pastie white body and (2) to exercise to become a lean, mean machine.

A lot of us ventured off to the Epcot Center to explore the vast expansion of Science, Innovation and cheap thrill rides. We started at about 10:00 am and went in the first non-busy ride we found called "Body Wars." Being that, at times, I have a "touch" of motion sickness, I've been trying out a motion sickness band that pushes in a pressure point on your wrist. Well, we got in the Body Wars ride, which is essentially a seat that bounces and turns to a movie. The movie was so jumbled and bouncy a lot of us got sick (Just a bit) – actually I started to sweat. That nice sweat you get when you are sick and are about to lose breakfast. But we all survived in the end.



After the ride we further explored the area and found out that a male's pupils dilate by 30% when they see a beautiful woman. No wonder we can't help but stare. We actually don't stare, we're looking in that general direction and we're amazed at the sudden increase in vision – it just looks like we are staring. Yea, that's it (hey, no comment Pat – he! he!)

We then went to a calm ride explaining the importance of "The Land." It took us through a green house where they show you the latest agricultural engineering techniques. It was really amazing. There was a plant that has it's roots exposed and they spray nutrients on them all above the ground. – no soil needed.

Later we went to "Food Rocks", a rock concert starring robotic fruits, veggies, and a place setting. The music was great, although the robotics were geared for little children. Pat loved it, of course, and sang and danced through the whole show.

Then we watched a cool "Circle of Life" movie showing a lot of African animals, which explained the need to preserve our land.

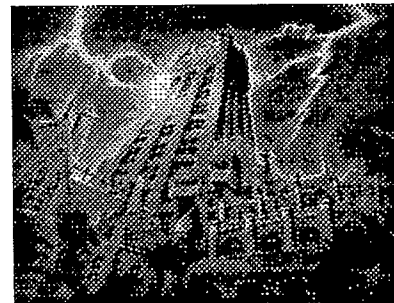
By this time, it was time for our delicious lunch! Fried foods, a Powerade, and a yogurt (sweet!) then to get ready for the shows.... Or while the women get ready a lot of guys layed on hard benches and slept.

We had four performances today – all of them, by the end of our show, had packed the theater and had people looking through the windows. Yes, you could say we were stars!!! We also met a Folk Dance groupie. His name is Bill. He came to every performance and he was our biggest fan – always sitting on the front row! He was always clapping, screaming, yelling, and starting the standing ovations! Boy, he is great! After the show while Craig was talking with him he said, "I feel so good watching you guys. You (all of us) have such a good spirit. I will be here until you leave."

After the shows we ate and then went to Magic Kingdom hoping to get in because we had been told that those with a cast pass or those who stayed at the hotel could get in and play until 11:00pm. Well, after getting there we found out this information was false – although Josh sure tried hard to get us in, his persuasive rhetoric was no match for Mickey's well-trained, iron-fisted employees. So we took a ferry boat to the parking area where we met our bus. Most of us were tired so we slept a lot of the way. This was also the night I started losing my voice. Yes, I was squeaking like a pre-pubescent boy and I didn't like it. If I had only known that I would lose it totally tomorrow I would have been very alarmed, but no I continued to be happy Joe Shmoe.

Wednesday, May 3, 2000
Katie Strong

Today was another jam packed day. We decided to wake up early and catch the 8 am shuttle rather than sleep in and miss time at the parks. We decided to go to MGM and begin our adventures there. We were about 18 in number and excited to tear through another theme park. We headed straight to the Tower of Terror where we waited only 10 minutes to enter the "Twilight Zone".



We ran from there to the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster Ride where we waited another 10 minutes . I don't think any of us knew really what to expect from this ride. We sat in the car and waited for it to start and then within 3 seconds we went from 0-60 mph and blasted off going upside down, in corkscrews, and all kinds of stuff while Aerosmith music blasted in our ears! It was awesome!

We slowed the pace a bit with the Great Movie Ride where we witnessed the amazing acting skills of a villainous bank robber! I am sure we entertained the other guests as we quoted movie lines and sang songs throughout the ride.

We ran from there to meet Melanie and Amber (Melanie accidentally forgot her pass) and headed to Beauty and the Beast. Good thing we got there early enough to catch the pre-show. We were yet again impressed by the talent of the Disney performers "Snap-Crackle-Pop was a real crowd pleaser, followed by the singers tugging at the heart strings with their "Disney is a completely fake, money sucking industry that will leave

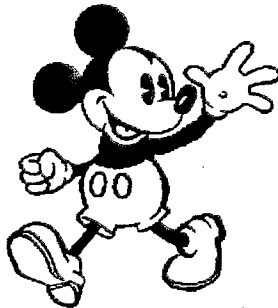
you with memories and warm fuzzies for the rest of your life” act. As if the pre-show wasn’t enough – we had to sit through Beauty and the Beast. We tried to feel the happy Disney flow but it just wasn’t there. If it hadn’t been for the highly technically trained Gargoyle dancers and the compassionate stares of the Beast towards Belle, it would have been a complete waste.

We ended our morning at MGM with the Backlot Tour – a fun ride that explored the behind-the-scenes of movie making and special effects. We went from MGM to Epcot for lunch and then headed off to get ready for the shows. How lucky are we to just hop from park to park at our own free will!

Anyway – the shows went well. Our audiences are getting bigger and we have noticed a few returning audience members. How fun to have support like that. We are going to be able to go out in the audience now. We are all pretty excited about that because we love talking with our audiences and getting to know people. It’s great to share things about our university and our program and even the church as we talk with people!

After the shows we grabbed a quick bite to eat and then headed off to different parks for the evening. We met back for devotional at 11:00. Lisa T. gave a great thought about sharing the gospel by touching one person and then having them share and tell someone else and it spreading like wildfire. She shared a beautiful testimony and gave us some good things to think about. I doubt it will take long for anyone to fall asleep tonight! By the way, it was a quiet day – anything to do with Shane losing his voice? ☺

Thursday, May 4, 2000
Jeffrey Dunster



Today was the day that I stayed in the hotel all morning and slept. There were a few of us that stayed while the other part of the group left on the seven o’clock shuttle to the Animal Kingdom. Those of us that stayed at the hotel relaxed, swam and recuperated.

The Animal Kingdom group ran straight to the first car of the Animal Kingdom Safari then they split up and went to A Bug’s Life, and the Rapids ride. The main crowds of the park were over at the safari ride to see active animals early in the morning so the rapids ride was empty. The operators let the group continue through the ride four times. The ride is a soaker so when they finally left the ride, everyone was sopping wet except for two of them. Somehow they managed to miss every major wave.

After the show, most of us went to Magic Kingdom. We kept running into Lindsay and Spencer Folkman with their families. Spencer, his parents and Lindsay’s brother, Shane Lewis, are here for a few days. During the first show, several of us began noticing Spencer and that was the first familiar face we had seen in the crowd. Lindsay knew they were coming so it wasn’t a surprise to her.

After the last show today, the group met Diane Rinkes. She is the organizer of the Millennial celebrations here at EPCOT and she is the one responsible for bringing us here. There are a lot of personnel associated with our performances. There are several shifts of techies and they all do a great job. Scotty is amazed at how quickly they learn our cues and pick up the work load.

After the show, we ate dinner at our cast cafeteria then we all split up again to play. There is a lot to see and do in the four parks we have access to.

Craig missed the main bus. In the evening, as a large group of us were returning on the 9:25 shuttle from EPCOT, the bus began to pull away when we saw Josh and Brent dashing for the bus. The driver stopped in the middle of the road to let them on and they asked him to wait for Craig who was somewhere in the vast parking lot, but the driver couldn’t wait. Josh explained that Craig’s foot hurt and so he couldn’t run much. Josh and Brent left him to find the bus and tell it to wait. So much for that plan. Ironically, Craig found the

second shuttle at 9:30, but thought Josh and Brent were still lost so he let it go to wait for them. Craig got to the hotel pretty late and more than a little annoyed. Sorry Craig.

Friday, May 5, 2000
Rachel Brems (Sneddon)

Today began with a morning of relaxation by the pool for almost everyone. A few people took a dip in the pool but most of us sat on the lounge chairs reading or falling asleep. We did get a shock though, when one of the hotel guests decided the poolside was her changing chamber. Let's just say we saw more than we bargained for.

It was also Jeanette's first full day with us. She and a few others plus Lindsay's family went to MGM in the morning and had a great time. Fortunately, Jeannette and Lindsay's father-in-law survived the Tower of Terror!! She met us at EPCOT to watch our three shows. – where Katie's family was in the audience.

After our shows, we all made the quick transformation back to normal civilians and made our way over to the cafeteria for dinner. About five people went to see Davie Jones perform. He sang "Day Dream Believer" and a few other Monkee's favorites. Arden and Craig went to see the Chinese acrobat show and also the patriotic American Experience exhibit in EPCOT. The rest of us took Disney transportation to over to MGM to see Fantasmic. Lindsay's family saved seats for more than 20 people as we slowly arrived over a two-hour span. But the Disney preshow kept us busy for over an hour. Mike won a Star Wars T-Shirt for his Wookiee (Chewbacca) impression during Star Wars trivia.

Fantasmic began. WOW! .. What a show!! Disney characters and animation came to life on the Fantasmic stage. The stage was a huge mountain and the show was full of pyro-technics and multiple battles where Mickey's imagination prevailed. Movies were projected onto walls of water – that made us all a bit wet. This show was actually the first time many of us had seen Mickey Mouse and we had been at DisneyWorld for almost a week.

As we got home from MGM, we all met for a quick devotional and then most of the boys sprinted to their rooms to catch the end of the Jazz game. It ended with Stockton hitting a couple of clutch free throws and some good clock draining passing to avoid being fouled. (the Jazz won!!)

Saturday, May 6, 2000
Jon Gibson

WASABE!

Whoa, I'm tired. A bunch got up this morning to see the Animal Kingdom (on the 7:00 am bus) while the animals were still out. The safari was incredible! The hippos were the best. We got to their area just in time to see one hippo go #2, while a second hippo seemed to enjoy his breakfast. Jon and Joseph got lost before we saw the Lion King show. The 3-D bug show was seen then we went on the water ride. It was short but we all got drenched.

The shows were Fantasmic! Get it, Fantasmic. For the first time lines were lining up to see us in our show. It was really exciting. We found out our friend Bill is an Episcopalian Priest and is doing missionary work or promo work for our show. The Orlando Mission President showed up and liked the show. He encouraged us to talk with the workers of Disney since they don't get many referrals from here.

During one of the shows an excited Syrian guy sat on the front row clapping. During girl's Turkish he started shimmying. Afterwards Lisa Thurston seemed to be on drugs because she was laughing so very



hard. The Syrian man also waved to Whitney during Croatian which caught her off guard and she couldn't help but laugh either. Josh in French Canadian, during the weave, hit Joseph on the shoulder. Joseph thought he was in the wrong place or too far over when Josh planted his shoulder again. It was pretty funny.

After the show we saw the Chinese Acrobats. Awesome with a capital A- baby. These young girls did tons of sweet moves and stuff that made Spring Flowers look Fantasmic. Some of us came home early while others stayed in the parks. Rachel started a linked train of people to get home quickly by squeezing by people and the unsuspecting people didn't know there were another 10 people connected to her.

At the devotional another lengthy discussion took place. But it was all good. Ed told us about how the lighting guy wants his whole family to see our show. Employees on their day off come to see our show also. Jeanette, Karen and Scotty gave us some parting thoughts. Jeanette told us about how amazing it is how people get drawn to our show. Karen told us that she went on the Roller Coaster and the Tower of Terror! It was nice for those who have never met her to get to know her. Scotty said he hates to say it this way but, "We had the spirit - as usual." He, too, was impressed by the way we share the spirit on the stage, and the way we act on rides, in the cafeteria, in the hotel, and basically everywhere. Brent finished by giving us the actual devotional on remembering Christ and to beware of pride (Alma 5.) Some of us finished the night with a game of Phase 10. Ed lost, of course.

Sunday, May 7, 2000
Pat Greathouse

(Actually written on May 27, 2000)

Right now I'm actually sitting and drinking my strawberry daquiri at Anne and Craig's reception. I thought this would be the perfect time to write my long awaited tour history. It's looking like I'm continuing to hold the title of "tour history procrastinator."

Okay... I'll get to the point. Sunday was an awesome day. It was nice to be able to relax somewhat from being on our feet 24 hours a day. Everyone kind of did their own thing in the morning until we met for church at 11:00. We ended up having our own meetings in the hotel. We first split up into Relief Society and Elders Quorum and then met together for Sacrament meeting. We then were free (and encouraged) to spend some time by ourselves to read, think, relax or do whatever. I think everyone at that point needed and wanted that time. It was a good time to rejuvenate and refocus ourselves for the week. We then had to meet at 3:30 for the shuttle to EPCOT. Once we got there we were on the hunt for picture locations. In our wandering we actually ran into Bill at 'America.' He said how lucky he was to be able to see us that day. I think we were all just as excited to see him. He's such an amazing person. ☺ We, also, were able to take pictures with Mickey, Minnie, Pluto and other characters. We then headed back to the cafeteria to eat dinner. Since most of us had been fasting that day, we were all ready to pass out. We actually thought Rachel wasn't going to make it. We were wondering if we were going to have to carry her. Ed ended up buying her a sno-cone to give her some nourishment before dinner. Rachel (along with the rest of us) made it to dinner. After dinner we all kind of did our own thing till the shuttle at 7:30 went back to the hotel. One group went to the Millennial Village and Kiki, from Indonesia, recognized that they were from BYU. Mike was able to talk to him about our show in Indonesia. He also mentioned there were a few of us that were at Disneyworld that performed there. Kiki actually worked at the hotel that we were "stranded" at in Bogor. Now he was working at the Millennial Village in the Indonesia booth. It was awesome that we were able to be there the same time he was and make friends with him. At 7:30 the shuttle then took us back to the hotel. Everyone did their own thing the rest of the night. (I'M DONE WITH TOUR HISTORY - oh yeah!!!!)

Monday, May 8, 2000
Arden Anderson

There seemed to be three distinct groups that formed this morning. Those that got up early and took the 7:00am bus to Animal Kingdom, those that got up early but not-that-early and took the 8:00am bus over to MGM and finally those that stayed at the hotel and went to the pool at their own leisure. For those of us who went to MGM Studios, our first bit of excitement was wondering if Pat was going to make it to the bus. The bus driver caught on to the fact that Pat was on her way down, so he slowly started inching away from the bus stop, still staying in sight. Suddenly we all saw Pat rush out the door and run the hundred yards to the departing bus in about ten seconds flat. She made it. The bus driver was amused.

Today was also the first day that many of us met the Kuwaiti musicians and dancers that will be performing in the Millenium Village for the next little while. Our first interactions were somewhat noteworthy. They had brought with them a bunch of luggage for props and instruments and had conveniently placed the luggage in the narrow hallway which we use as a run-behind and changing area. Apparently some of the girls were really concerned about their space in that area but we got everything cleaned up and out of the way. A big portion of the Kuwaiti group was near the changing rooms when Katie came into the guys changing room to grab her costumes. One of them walked up to her and said "Hi there!" Startled, the only thing Katie said was a high-pitched, "Hello." They must have liked that response because for the next two minutes there were 20 Kuwaitis mimicking Katie's high-pitched "hello."

The shows went well today. One incident in particular is worth recounting. During Calus, Shane looked out into the audience and spotted a cute little old lady in a wheelchair. He thought to himself: "Wouldn't it be awful if one of the Calus sticks flew out and knocked her?" Seconds later, as he was jumping, his stick caught his feet and was shot out onto the floor and off the stage, right in the little old lady's direction. It missed her though, luckily. And the man next to her suffered only a minor concussion.....No, he was OK, but he had no idea what to do with the stick that had hit him, so he timidly laid it back on stage near Shane.

This evening about 8 of us treated ourselves to tickets to the Cirque de Soleil: La Nouba. On our way to the show, we got our first glimpse of Downtown Disney, a fun place indeed, with a ton of shops, restaurants, theaters, and clubs. Basically, another place that is ready and willing to take your money....It's really cool there. Many of us want to go back. Joseph, Brent and Craig went with us to Downtown Disney but didn't go to Cirque de Soleil. They enjoyed the evening visiting comedy clubs and watching the "hot" boy band on the main stage. We all decided Thursday would be a great day to go back.

Cirque de Soleil was spectacular. Very French, bizarre at times, busy (tons of things going on on stage at the same time) and possibly somewhat threatening to a homophobe, but absolutely spectacular.

Today also seemed to be a day of CD's. Several people bought CD's from Disney stores including music from the Epcot Millenium Celebration, the official Walt Disney World Music CD, MouseHouse (Disney Song Dance Mixes) and the music to Cirque de Soleil. As for me and CD's, going to the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster inspired me to want to buy the Aerosmith Greatest Hits CD!

Tuesday, May 9, 2000
Lisa Thurston

Today was a sleep in day for most of us. The usual pool junkies (a.k.a. Craig, Ed and the Tuckers) were happily surrounded by other dancers until the 12:15 bus arrived. In typical Probert style, Josh was the last to board the bus, around 12:30, but ya know, who really cares about hair brushes anyway, right Probert? Those who didn't sleep in spent the morning at Epcot. It is rumored that Shane got to meet Superman himself (Christopher Reeves is in DisneyWorld with the "Millenium Dreamers.") .

Up until showtime today it seemed like a deja-vous day. I set out my costumes expecting everything to run like clockwork, but my clock must have been set on China time because lots of funny things happened. During 6-hand I tripped and almost fell on my face, grabbing Katie as I lunged forward. She thought I was

directing her into line. Needless to say, giggles were aplenty backstage after that. Turkish had some interesting "hub-hub" calls too but that is nothing new. Jeff danced half of clog with his zipper down – wow, what a show! As we entered the third show the weather outside changed from hot sun to buckets of rain. We had to wait awhile at the theatre for the storm to clear before we could venture back to our dressing rooms.

Due to rain many of us went back early to the hotel and had a cozy evening. The rest headed for Magic Kingdom, hoping bad weather would spell short lines. Ed led them across the park from tree to tree to escape the rain. Craig and Joseph had ventured out on their own and went to the Tiki Room show, Pirates of the Caribbean, Buzz Lightyear Space Ranger Ride and finally a ride on Space Mountain. Feeling fulfilled with their packed evening they asked Ed and the gang what they had done. They found the response pretty amusing: After a lot of indecision about what to ride, they ended up at the Country Bear Jamboree. Also noteworthy was Joseph's humiliating defeat on the Buzz Lightyear Ride: Craig – 104,700...Joseph – 1,100. (Joseph blames a conveniently broken gun....Keep telling yourself that Joseph!)



Wednesday, May 10, 2000
Jacob Davis

Today we all had a very pleasant morning. Most of the group either went swimming or walked around EPCOT. It was our last 3-show day. After our last performance, we went to see the Kuwaiti performers on stage. It was their last day here and they were very appreciative of us coming to see them. They asked Tony to come back to their show after dinner because it made them happy to see familiar faces in the audience. We also went to see our Off Kilter fellow performers. They were very energetic and fun to watch. They even told everyone to come see our show! All together the day was very calm and peaceful so I'll tell you the fun stories from today!

Melanie and Amber had a crush on their tour guide---or at least he thought so. Josh got so frightened on the Tower of Terror that he lost his sunglasses.© Lisa Malan had feet problems---four painful encounters: with Shane, a costume rack, her own foot, and an electric wheelchair. Ed had one of his dreams come true today; he saw the Winnie the Pooh and Eeyore characters without their heads on---but don't worry, no pictures were taken.

Finally, I'll finish off with a story Bill shared with Craig today and something Diane said to us. Diane is our contact to Disney and she said every time she sees us perform, she is so proud of us that she just wants to cry. She feels like the mother hen and we are all of her little chickens. I think Bill feels much the same way about us. Today Bill shared a story with Craig about how God helps people in mysterious ways. Bill said there was a group here from Jordan who didn't have much for themselves. Their last day here, Bill went with them to MGM and bought them all a Mickey dollar as a souvenir and five Mickey dollars to spend. The next day as they were leaving, one of the leaders thanked Bill for helping them out. Some members of the group would not have been able to eat that day if Bill hadn't given them the Mickey dollars! You never know when you're touching the life of someone else.

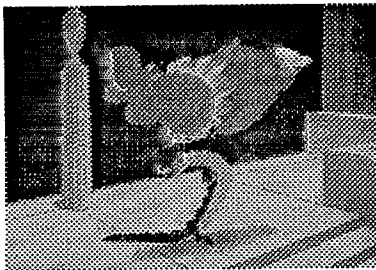
Thursday, May 11, 2000
Lisa Malan

To start off the day Ed and his family (and those crazy enough to get up with him) ventured off to MGM. There they took a screaming and kicking Vickie on the Tower of Terror and the Rock 'n' Rollercoaster. Another group, including myself, met the happy family on their way to the Magic Kingdom. There we went on Alien Encounter accompanied by countless little children who proceeded to scream and cry throughout the entire ride, it was all quite amusing. Shane Wright cried a little too, although he'll never

admit it. After riding a few more and getting soaked by the stagnant, moldy waters of Splash Mountain we ventured back to our lovely cafeteria and the Odyssey in Epcot.

Thursday was also the start of our marathon weekend of three four show days. Our line-up today was 1, 1, 2, 1. Melanie rejoined the showdown in show 2 wearing Alicia's clog shoes after hers broke for the hundredth time ~ Sorry Mel, ☹ We also paraded around Epcot in our Hopak costumes to take some pictures in them before dinner. We just cross our fingers that we will ever get to see copies of those pictures.

Another incident worthy of mentioning occurred after all the shows were finished. We were all waiting to head downtown to Pleasure Island, when Lisa Thurston and Josh Probert decided they would do the tango or some other exotic dance around our large and spacious trailer. While doing so they managed to bump into Tony who was eating his dinner. His dinner then fell all over the floor, now I say all over because it literally was all over. It was diced carrots, peas and beans ~ not the easiest to clean up, but it did get cleaned up and we went on our merry way to Downtown Disney and Pleasure Island.



At Downtown Disney some did a little shopping. Josh found a great Christmas gift for his parents...ask him about it! We all did a little dancing, especially our dancing queen Pat who was a little bummed when we went to the comedy show instead of dancing more. The night ended well nevertheless! We ventured home by taxi to find that Delynne had arrived with all the gossip about SPAC to share! Two more days of the easy life, this is great!

Friday, May 12, 2000
Greg Tucker

I want to hurry and get this done before I get any consideration for the not-so-coveted "Pat" award; given for tour reports turned in late.

Today was a special day as we draw this tour to a close. Each day, about six to ten people stay and lounge at the hotel while the rest race around the parks. Due to a late night for several at Downtown Disney's Pleasure Island, and an even later night when some of our girls got upset when a good-looking girl caught some of our guys' eyes & the guys had to sooth their feelings (so I heard), we had everyone at the pool except for the Blacks & Davis'. Ed & his family were also about trying to see everything before Sunday's departure.

Today was the hottest day so far. It hit 94 (about) & plenty of us got a great tan. Jon Gibson almost looked like a beet he was so red. But the pool felt so great. We got ready to go to EPCOT & it was so hot. After lunch at our favorite cafeteria, we had some extra time to wander as our four show days start at 3:30 PM. Most of us tried to walk to get our food moving through our stomachs. Eventually, we made it to the trailer where the girls got ready, & the guys slept and read books.

For the most part, we weren't too tired in spite of doing four shows yesterday & four more today. We would do shows 1, 2, 1, 2. Two #2 shows meant it would take a lot of energy. Plus we were all excited to show Delynne our shows!

As for show highlights: Arden's heel came off in Irish---he says this proves he clicks his heels---Craig biffed it after his first solo with Shane in Hopak, Tony told everyone Rosie O'Donnell was in the audience, and the Rapper Star held up (that's been a worry).

After our third show, we headed to dinner in Irish costumes. Thankfully we didn't have to stop for a picture! But everyone wondered if "Lord of the Dance" was back in town.

We also sang "Go Ye Now in Peace" to Diane (the one who brought us here), to Bill and to our techies. Thank you so much! Paul (our head tech) said Goodbye over the backstage speaker. It's been great here.

One funny note from dinner, Melannie was so excited to get pecan pie. After taking a bite, she said (in all seriousness), "I love these walnuts!" Upon further questioning she said she also liked how the pecans were in the jelly filling in the middle. It was a confusing dinner.

After a good and very tiring show, half of us came home, half stayed for Illuminations---the fireworks. And we all agreed it was better the second time!

Devotional gave us the note that the audience could smell the girls as they ran by on Hopak! And of course more notes for our ever-note-taking dancer Jacob; not so much fog. Most of us in Calus will appreciate being able to see the front of the stage!

Only one more day and I can't wait to hit the pool!

Saturday, May 13, 2000

Amber Wood

Well, today was our last official play day in Disney World, and so everyone spent the day seeing the things they loved the most, visiting places they hadn't seen yet, or just hanging around our beautiful pool at the hotel (lazy, lazy).

One group started out the day by taking Delynne on her first trip to see MGM. This was a sad morning because it was our last chance to hear Norman (our bus driver) tell us about the TOWER of TERROR. I was privileged to be a part of this group, and I was present when Delynne took her first trips on the Rockin Rollercoaster and the Tower of Terror. (This was also Kerry and Tony's first trips on these rides, and they made it through okay). Mike got to see Chewie from Star Wars, and made his famous award-winning Chewbacca sound for him. Though we were excited to be at MGM, most of us were tired after 2 weeks of performing. In fact, Mike was so tired he went and slept outside MGM on a park bench for most of the morning. This proved to be a bad idea because he was awakened from his beauty rest by a bird leaving its mark all over his neck...YUCK!

Meanwhile, back at the hotel, Ed's family and others were relaxing around our beautiful, waterfall laden pool at the Caribe Royal Hotel. No doubt Craig was perfecting his hard-earned tan, Jon got a nasty nasty sunburn, and everyone else spent the morning relaxing and enjoying our last day in paradise.

Did I say relaxing? That was far from what Delynne, Lindsay, and Melanie were doing all day. These three decided to cover ALL FOUR parks in one day. So, they began at MGM with us, then went all the way back to Animal Kingdom just so Lindsay could get a keychain, then on to EPCOT to do the shows, and finally finished the day at Magic Kingdom. Marathon day!

Well, enough of the travel log. Let's see...what happened with the shows on the last day? Well, the first three shows went really well. After the third show, we stayed on stage and said goodbye to the tech crew and Diane (the woman who organized for us to come to Disney). The crew gave us a plaque for the team and pins for each of us that said "Millennium Village." We were told that these pins are very special and are only given to performers that perform on that very stage. We sang "Go Ye Now in Peace" again for the crew, and it was nice to sing again. I think a lot of us have missed singing since Midsemester tour.

Then we all went to the employee cafeteria for the last time and ate our favorite meals, and even took some to go. (I don't think any of us have ever been so well fed...thank you Disney). When we arrived back at the stage, we thought we could hear the Rapper Sword music playing. We looked up on the stage and three of our tech crew guys had taken the swords, put on the music, and were trying to do Rapper Sword!!! We encouraged them to continue trying to learn, but just to stay away from the Hungarian bottles!

Funny how we made it through 40 shows without any real problems, but on our last show, Lisa's Hopak headpiece broke and Whitney couldn't find one of her Hopak boots. Katie saved the show by jumping in Lisa's spot, and Whitney grabbed Lisa's boots and made a late entrance. We were already giggly because Ed and all the tech crew guys were waving lights and lightsabers during Croatian to the beat of the music. So, we were all smiles during the last show.

After the last show, we all rushed to the trailer to pack our costumes so that we could make it to Magic Kingdom to see the Electric Parade at 11:00. With all of us packing in a panicked rush, the trailer looked like a tornado had hit.

The new group of Philippine dancers had just arrived, and they sat and watched us pack....They must have thought we were crazy!

Well, we said goodbye to Elsa, Bill, Wael, and other friends that we had made in our 2 week stay. I will never forget seeing Elsa cry as she hugged and hugged everyone, especially Melanie. It is amazing that we can touch lives so deeply in so short a time.

As we got on the bus, Craig passed out notes to each of us from Bill. He had written us a letter to thank us for bringing him such joy and happiness through our performances. He also included a 2000 gold one dollar coin for each of us. I am sure that none of us will forget Bill and his big smiles as he sat in the audience every show.

Well, we couldn't end our trip to Disney without one more adventure. Our bus driver couldn't get us through the parking gates at Magic Kingdom. So, when an ambulance went through the gates, he decided to floor it and follow the ambulance through before the gates closed. Pretty gutsy, don't ya think?

Once we all got inside Magic Kingdom, we all split up and disappeared into the mobs of people gathering for the Parade. Some people went on rides (ask Arden and Brent about riding Peter Pan together!), some shopped, and others watched the magical Electric Parade of Disney characters. Afterwards, we all caught the bus at lane 25, well....all of us except Melanie and Jon. They arrived dead last, and got the treatment of us all singing "why are we waiting" at the top of our lungs. Hmm....wonder what Mel and Jon were doing in Magic Kingdom?

Overall, I think we all had a fantastic last day of our Disney World tour experience. It was so much fun to get to know everyone better, and I think everyone is even more excited now for our adventures in New Zealand and Australia. So...see ya all then!

Oh, and by the way....SHOKRAN!!! What does it mean? THANK YOU!!!

Sunday, May 14, 2000
Brent Wallwork

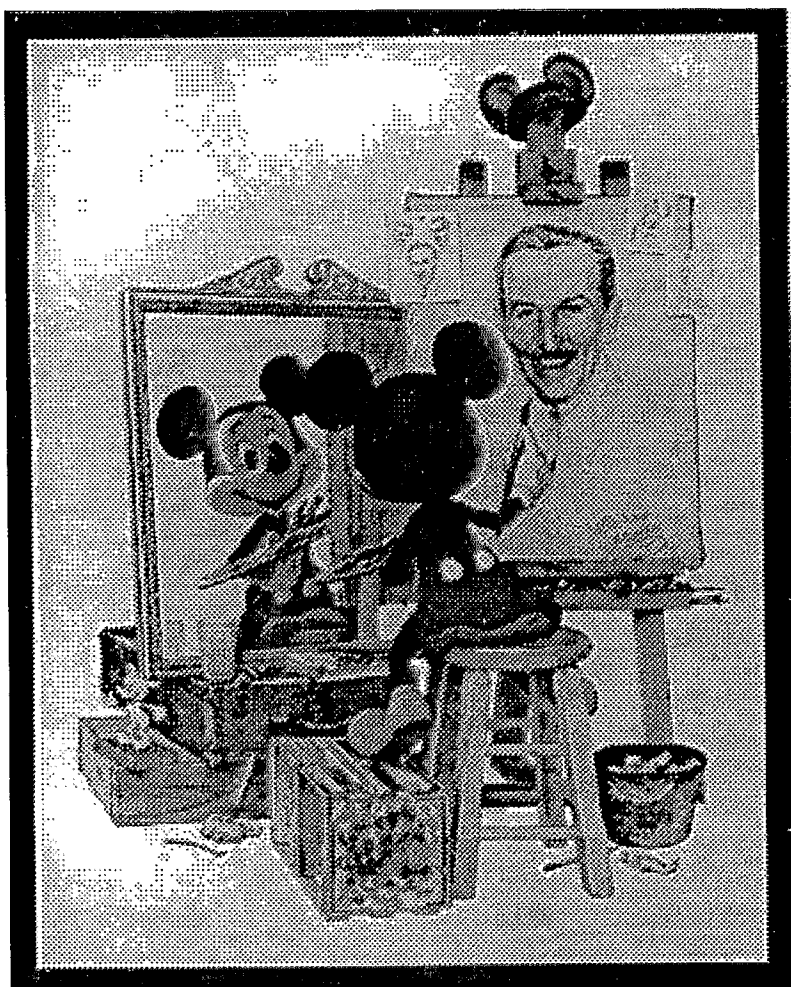
After only a few hours sleep the group awoke early for their departure from Orlando. We met our bus at 5 am, quickly loaded our bags and props, and said goodbye to the Caribe Royale Resort. The drive to the airport was unusually quiet for a group as sociable as the Folk Dancers. It was just too early for talking. We were more interested in getting our night's rest.



The people at the Delta Airlines Check-In proved to be very helpful. Without much concern for the size and number of items we had to check onboard, the woman at the counter checked us all in as one group. Our prayers regarding Jon Gibson's missing airline ticket were answered as she let him board without his ticket and without extra cost.

We offered to help load our cumbersome baggage onto the conveyor belt, but the gentleman behind the counter, an older fellow, declined and said he could handle it fine himself. After loading all our personal bags and costume bags himself he was noticeably tired. He wiped his brow and commented to his coworker, "I don't think sweating is in my job description."

At the terminal we said goodbye to Craig Anderson, who flew home to Vermont, and then boarded the plane for our flight home to Salt Lake City. Several hours later we found ourselves back in Utah. We split up our different ways, some meeting family at the airport, some taking the bus back to Provo, some driving home themselves. The Austin's were welcomed home with a flat tire on the car they'd left waiting for them at airport parking.





AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND

2000

Wednesday, July 5, 2000
Whitney Debenham

Although we haven't left Provo yet our Summer Tour 2000 began this morning at 7:30 am. The day began mostly meeting at the RB to gather our costumes and head to the church for a full day of rehearsals. There were happy reunions as we found out what everyone has been up to the last 6 weeks since Epcot.

We gathered at the church and set up for rehearsals. (The normal laying marley and setting up the sound – fun!) Once everything was set up we had our first of many mini-meetings telling us the plan for the day. We started out with sectionals for Mexican, Scottish, 10-Hand and Ceilidh. These were the dances that had some new people them so it was a good review before we went through the whole show. We broke for lunch around noon and had a nice hour and a half break!! When we came back together this afternoon we had a full run of the show in full costume. To most of our surprise, and Ed's too, the show went rather well. We finished around 5:30 pm and had a couple of hours to shower and come back together at Ed's for a BBQ. Cecile and her husband were there from Denmark so it was fun for many in our group to see her and many other folk dance alumni.

Around 9 pm we politely excused ourselves from the party for yet another meeting. Yeah! This was where we got our packing list and all the info we would need to prepare to leave on Monday. Brother and Sister Eggington were there and gave us some tips on what to bring and what the weather might be like. Brother Eggington asked if people would have an interest in an Aussie Rules Football match in Melbourne. It seemed to be a popular idea. We will have to see if it all works out. Lynn Elliot was there and gave us some good advice about how to make this a good touring experience. He also pounded in our heads what we could and couldn't bring and how much our luggage was allowed to weigh. Everyone is very excited to go and anxious to see what new experiences lie ahead in a place we've never been.

When the meeting was over, many stayed and socialized and watched the new promotional video we were involved in filming. The rest went home and hit the sack. It had been a long day. One more day of rehearsals and then 2 shows before we leave. Welcome to Summer Tour 2000!

Thursday, July 6, 2000
Tony Black

Morning came at 9:00. By 9:30 we were warming up and gettin' pumped for the full run-through, thanks to Whitney and her jammin' music. Apparently Ed was fairly impressed with our run-through because by 1:00 we were at the tail end of wrapping things up and going home for the evening. However, we couldn't escape without one of Ed's famous warm downs. Joseph (the birthday boy) and Tony got caught with their pants down and ended up doing the warm down in the buff. Well, Tony had his Hopak "basic" on while Joseph was pretty much in his folk dance birthday suit.

Later on we had fireside rehearsal. Even that went pretty well considering nobody know the difference between "work" and "works" much less any of the other words as Sarah can witness to. Still, we all feel pretty good about the future of the tour and are excited about the two shows we have on Friday and Saturday as well as the big trip to Australia/New Zealand. There is a definite excitement in the air.

Friday, July 7, 2000
Joseph Gowen

Tonight was "The Night of the Grumpy Techs." We performed at the Dee Events Center in Ogden. Our bus driver claimed the bus was air conditioned, but we felt no proof of that statement on the ride up or back. A nice surprise was having the tech stuff all setup before we arrived, so we just walked in like superstars and laid out our costumes. The stage was greased plastic, so we blocked Irish and clog for a couple of minutes, just to get us accustomed to the slickitude. It didn't help: Arden fell down in Festival Clog, and Craig did a cool unplanned breakdance move in Cry of the Celts.

There was a group of young girls who danced Irish for us while we ate at the Stake Center. They cheered loudly for us during the show.

The tech problems started with Mexican. We all walked out in our manly line for La Culebra, and the music didn't start...and didn't start... and it didn't start. Shane and Joseph yelled a couple of Gritos into the deafening silence. The same thing happened to the girls at the beginning of Scottish. They looked beautiful standing on the stage for 30 seconds while Scotty and Ed figured out the CD problems. As if that weren't enough, the lights went out half way through the second half, in the middle of Chinese. Those talented girls kept on dancing in the dark until Karen Horman had the idea to use both spotlights to illuminate the stage. Those spots saved the show, and kept us in the light for the rest of the show.

Saturday, July 8, 2000
S. Craig Anderson

Today was our second of our two pre-tour shows. If I remember correctly we met at the RB at 1:30 to head up to Sandy. I was a short ride up there and right as we drove in, a torrential downpour began. No big deal right? Wrong! The theatre was an outdoor one. It proved to be OK though because the rain stopped soon thereafter and cleared up nicely before the show. The theater was actually very unique. The stage itself was big and had a lot of room for costume changes etc. The stage was all covered but the audience was open. There were 500 built in seats and room for another 1000 up on the grass sitting in chairs and on blankets. Our show was sold out again. It is always fun to perform for such a large audience and it was special today for a lot of people because there was so much family in the audience. I think Amber Wood especially had a lot of family. Lindsay, Craig and Rachel all had their spouses there as well, though.

Anyway, before the show we had a wonderful spaghetti dinner including salad, rolls and meat sauce. The only problem with a wonderful dinner like that is that it hasn't left your tummy by the time you start dancing. I think you all know what I am talking about. Our sponsors were wonderful hosts and they even had plenty of bottled water off stage for us during the show. (After dinner we had another marathon meeting where we repeated a lot of things that are yet to be repeated again before leaving for New Zealand.)

The show went great too. The only real hitch was that during Uveges the handkerchiefs blew away just as Amber bent to pick them up. Pretty amusing. I must say there are some definite advantages to performing outside. Namely the breeze that blows during the show. After the show there was a small ex-folkdancer reunion backstage and Anne, Craig and Josh all got ice cream from Dairy Queen. I think we got home just past 11:00 pm.

After the show we were all feeling pretty good about our show for tour and kudos to the tech crew for a virtually flawless performance!

Sunday, July 9, 2000
Jared Peterson

Well, today has definitely been an exciting day. After our thrilling performance yesterday, we were given the Sabbath Day to spend as we wanted.

Tonight we congregated at the home of Edwin G. Austin and his lovely wife Vickie. Rumor has it that Vickie's famous taco salad was a roaring success among the dancers. Some of us were unable to attend the feast, as we were still journeying from afar to assemble with the members of the IFDE. That's okay though, I'm sure Mike and Pat ate our portions for us.

After dinner we made our way across the street to meet for our fireside. But before we went in, we gathered beneath the shade of a small tree to have the first of many group pictures. It would have looked good had we all been in the proper tour attire. Unfortunately, some of us did not take heed of the request to wear tour clothing. Instead, many were sporting clothes of the latest fashions and styles. Anyway, the picture was taken, but not before all the men had suffered and sweated enough from crouching and kneeling abnormally close to each other. Shane didn't seem to mind at all.

The fireside, as usual, was excellent. Among those who spoke were S. Craig, Jessie Blaser, Paul Springer and Whitney Debenham. Mike and Katie shared their testimonies with us. Scotty spoke on the importance of being one and gave us our "mission calls" to Australia. We also got a bag and tech assignment for the trip.

After that, we all went our own way. Off into the night we went, each to our own destination, to prepare for the trip Down Under.

Monday, July 10, 2000
Greg Tucker

Today is the first day of our summer tour, and yet I do not think it has hit any of us that we actually are going. The morning was spent doing some of the last minute things that we all must have been doing (ie. Candy, laundry, etc.) and we were supposed to meet at 1:30 pm at the RB. We were all there and ready by 1:20 but the directors spent the better part of an hour running around and we actually didn't leave until 2:30 and then we were told of the enormous hurry that we would be in at the airport. Such is hopefully not a foreshadowing of the upcoming tour!

We arrived at the airport with no detail and most of us chatting about all the fun we were going to have. The bus order had been established (couples in front, Shane, band and the rest of the loud ones who never listen to Ed in the back☺) However, upon arriving at the airport, Scotty already had the airport staff checking all our tech and costume bags, and we were just left to check our personal luggage and get our boarding passes. It was really an easy airport check-in and we boarded our first of ten flights – Delta to LAX. It was a normal flight with us mostly together and the flight attendant asking why we were all dressed alike.

LAX was an experience of hurry up and wait. – sounds like a festival itinerary. We crossed the entire airport leaving the Delta terminal and walking across the middle parking area into the Air New Zealand terminal. That was under the direction of our fearless tour leader Lynn Elliot! That was actually a great idea as we would have had a hard time getting a bus for all of us across the airport. We checked in and they gave us our boarding passes and it wasn't until they had gone through half of us before they realized that they needed to give us each a visa. So the half of us that needed to get one (I was one) got back in line and then some man came and grabbed all the passports and then took off. He luckily came back and we all made a mad dash for the desk! Then it was just a nice wait for the plane.

There weren't too many shops to look in and we all ended up eating at Burger King, except for those who wandered out to another terminal. We sat waiting for the plane and the band began to sing. I got to talk to a man who was flying to Japan to join the military about the Church, and the rest of us read and slept. Finally we heard the call to board the massive 747-400. For some people, it was their first time boarding a wide body aircraft, and for others, it was just a normal flight. We hurriedly checked the movies and wondered how we were going to endure 13 hours in the air!

It seemed like we sat on the armac forever, actually an hour and then on to New Zealand. Most of us were situated in rows with other passengers and struck up conversations with them, and then the first movie began. Our first movie on the plane was "the Hurricane", a story about a boxer who is wrongfully imprisoned and his life's story about finally getting found not guilty. It was a great movie and a wonderful story, but not all true. Go read Sports Illustrated's article on the actual facts of the story. Then we had dinner, and another movie, which I slept through, and breakfast. The food was pretty good, but with all the

sitting, lots of us were just trying to digest whatever we could without getting all plugged up if you know what I mean! The third movie was "Return to Me", a wonderful movie about losing your spouse and then finding love and it struck us all about how precious our loved ones are. All of us spoke about how wonderful the movie was. Then as soon as the movie was over, we landed! Just like that and we had taken off Monday, June 10th, and landed Wednesday, June 12th! Here we go!

Tuesday, July 11, 2000
Alicia Davis

Um...?
We're still on the airplane.

(This short two-hour day was lost somewhere in the crossing of the Pacific Ocean and the International Date Line.)

Wednesday, July 12, 2000
Arden Anderson

It's kind of hard to tell exactly when our July 12th began. It was sometime while we were on the plane, flying through time zones and crossing the international date line. Our flight left Los Angeles on the evening of the 10th and we arrived in Auckland, New Zealand in the morning of the 12th. The 11th pretty much got swallowed up as we crossed the date line. It is a good thing none of us were celebrating a birthday on the 11th, they would have only had an hour or two to enjoy it...

After landing, gathering our luggage and going through customs, we went out to the parking lot, where we loaded up the truck, got on the bus and met Tai, our bus driver, for the first time. Tai is Maori, a member of the church and a very fun guy. He knows the area well and cracks jokes all the time. The first place we went was a Marae. It's a Maori ceremonial building, where we were given a traditional Maori welcome. Next door was a shop where they sold Maori carvings and jewelry carved by one of the workers' husbands. After the welcome, we all went to the shop and bought. Everything there was so intricate and beautiful, we almost bought the whole place out. Breakfast was served right afterwards in a hall next to the Marae, and we had one of our first introductions to New Zealand food, including Milo, cream and Wheat-bix. After breakfast, we got back on the bus to go downtown. As I was on the bus, I was excited to see the sun move right to left, or counter-clockwise, for the first time in my life, instead of the other way around, as we see it in the northern hemisphere.

Over the next couple of hours, we saw the city, spending time on Queen Street, at the harbor, over at Victoria Street Market and on Mount Eden. The whole time, our spending continued and some of us were surprised at how much money we let go of during that time. Not that things are too expensive, it's just that there are so many cool things to buy. Greenstone, patches, sheepskins, gloves, socks, fish and chips, we found plenty of ways to spend money. Once while getting on the bus, Tai looked at me and said: "Hi yeh gaowin', pial?" I stopped and stood there for a couple of seconds trying to figure out what he just asked me. Finally it clicked, "I'm doin' fine thanks. What do you usually answer to that around here?" His reply was "Wah-tiveh."

Up on Mt. Eden (It took us two minutes to drive to the top.....don't be too fooled by the name.) we could see all around the city for miles. It was georgeous. Mt. Eden is a formerly active volcano. Some of us climbed down into the crater and inspected some of the lava rocks at the bottom. Our legs felt like Jello after climbing back out though. It wasn't until afterwards that Tai told us about some tourist that fell and broke his neck trying to go down into the crater....

In the evening we were brought to the stake center. There we were joined by our host families for the pot luck dinner. There was tons of food there and good food at that. We enjoyed the food and meeting the members.

After dinner, we were put together with our host families and an option to stay for a fireside, or go home and sleep. About half of us decided to get some rest immediately. As for the fireside, it was wonderful. It centered around testimony and conversion, including talks by Ed, Lisa Thurston, Josh, Catherine, and Ben and musical numbers by the members of the stake. By the time we went home, most of us were extremely tired, but it had been a wonderful day. We had seen so much and were all so excited to be in New Zealand.

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Lisa Malan

Our second day in New Zealand yet our fourth day since we left the states. It was technically our first day to shower in 4 days (counting the one we lost coming over the international date line.) After a morning of figuring out the plugs and adapters (for the girls) the team met at Auckland Girls Grammar School to set up for the first show of our New Zealand/Australia Tour. Setting up wasn't too bad. I had a little trouble with the ant infestation of the cafeteria where we were changing our clothes. After finding a pile of ants on my briefs and trails of them all around my clothes I had to fight with a vengeance. Karen helped me kill them with a little bathroom cleaner and paper towels! After the set was up and costumes were out, most of the team lounged in the sun reading or writing on the balcony and in the cafeteria.

I also had another mishap. When I found a long line of make-up right on the back of my khaki pants. I never knew Chinese pants looked so good for my everyday wear until they were the only pants available!

After our lounge time the team went to Mission Bay Beach where many people took their shoes off, rolled up their pants, and frolicked in the waves. The water was freezing but we couldn't pass up the chance to play at the New Zealand beach. Some people picked up seashells while others, like Arden, tried to get seagulls to eat out of their mouths? Whatever!

The Auckland museum was next on our list. The museum had a lot of neat things but to be honest it was a little confusing! It is true that there are no snakes in New Zealand. I know this because the one snake that came in 1995 is on display in a jar in the museum! Of special interest was the ANZAC display which commemorated the Kiwi and Aussie soldiers who fought so valiantly in WWII.

We went back to the school for a weird dinner. We didn't have any plates or utensils! We had to beg the directors for cups and something to drink. I think they are trying to kill us off slowly!

Today was also Jeff Dunster's birthday. He turned a whoppin' 26! He got the "short" birthday song sung to him about 30 times thanks to a few overzealous mates in the group!

We then had our first performance of our tour. Unfortunately we could tell it was the first because of a few crazy mishaps. Lovely Katie Strong had a rough night what with wrapping her Mexican skirt around a microphone stand and her 10-hand dress ripping open. The bottle dance was a little rocky. You could tell by the look on Melanie's face ☺ My star in Chinese, once again didn't go up. But despite all that the audience loved our show. They went crazy at the end! This is going to be a great tour! Today was a great day – see ya later!

Love, Lisa Malan

Friday, July 14, 2000
Mike Brown

Auckland, NZ

As jet lag usually enjoys tormenting its victims for at least a few days, the idea of a free morning was easily welcomed by each member of the group. We were given the option to meet the bus in the morning for more shopping downtown, or to spend the morning with our billets and meet at noon. Those who wanted to shop were taken to St. Lukes Mall and back to Queen Street where we were yesterday. Many took the opportunity to sleep in and others were taken out to see the city. Sarah, Whitney, Pat and Hillary went to the top of the Auckland Sky Tower for a look at the "City of Sails."

Jon and Mike woke up early and went on a ferry out to Waiheke Island, where their billets own a cabin. It was a beautiful island, and on the way to it they passed by Ringototo, an old volcano island, now a popular camping spot. On the way back, they had an incredible view of Auckland from the bay as well as Mission Bay where we were yesterday. They actually went back to Mission Bay for lunch. The seafood chowder, huge raspberry muffins, and Milo were delicious!

Everyone met back at the Auckland Girls Grammar School to get ready for a matinee performance. The show ran smoothly until Katie asked Mike to zip up her dress just before their Ceilidh entrance and it wouldn't zip up! Suddenly realizing she had put on somebody else's dress she frantically ran back to find her own while the dance went on without her. We managed alright until the turns when everyone comes on stage. The groups of two and three hadn't thought of letting Mike join them so he ended up spinning by himself with hands on hips. As we formed the two circles we were all laughing. Ceilidh is a fun dance to laugh in.

We stayed at the school for dinner and had the same food as last night – chicken and corn nuggets, mini-meat pies, asparagus sandwiches, meatballs, pears and oranges. We all rushed at the cartons of Just Juice and emptied them very quickly. Sister Eggington and Sister Elliott entertained us with the Chinese stars after dinner as they were learning how to twirl them. Some of us spent time out on the deck reading and writing in journals with a perfect view of the Sky Tower in front of us. It is beautiful at night, lit up in green lights.

After our evening performance, we stayed on stage, sweating while a few people came up to make announcements and presentations. Ed received a gift, Katie received flowers on behalf of the women in the group, and Mike received a gift on behalf of the men – Cadbury chocolates which were passed out on the bus the next day.

After packing up the show, we returned to our billets' homes hoping for a good nights sleep. Although Mike and Jon enjoyed talking with their "host parents" again, when they got to the house it took all the strength and determination they had just to keep their billets from having two heads each. Eventually they could no longer hide their crossed eyes and drooping eyelids so their host mom excused them to go to bed.

Saturday, July 15, 2000
Melanie Carter

Happy Birthday Lisa Malan!!!

On Saturday, July 15th, Heidi and I woke up to Saturday morning cartoons with our 3 little girls. It was a hard morning because we had to say goodbye to our wonderful Auckland families.

At the church we hugged our families goodbye and sang "Go Ye Now in Peace" & "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again." It was a special moment for all of us as we stood together and sang. The gospel had tied us all together. I know I will never forget how welcome I felt in Auckland, New Zealand.

On the coach, Tai was his usual witty self as we traveled to Hamilton. I gave the devotional today and shared a scripture from Alma 26:37 that says God is mindful of every people, whatsoever land they may be in. I've really noticed the love God has for all his children as I've observed the people here.

We made one little stop at a store where some of us tried new ice cream flavors (Kiwi, Deep Dark Chocolate, Boysenberry, Walnut, Hokey Pokey, Orange Chocolate Chip, Gold Rush, or just a lick of each like Catherine) and a couple of people bought wool blankets.

We quickly unpacked our costumes at the Founder's Theater for the show and then headed for the Hamilton Temple! What a beautiful feeling it was to be at the temple again. The group split in two with half doing endowment sessions and the other visiting the Visitor's Center (the baptistry was already full so we couldn't go.)

The missionaries in the Center taught us about the gospel coming to the Maori people and how readily it has been accepted due to revelations from early ancestors. One chief told the people they would know the true church by 3 signs: the preachers would come in two's, they would speak the native language of the people, and they would raise their hand to the square. It was wonderful to feel the spirit so strongly again as we walked around the temple grounds.

From there we went to dinner at the local church and ate pumpkin soup, sloppy joes, salad, rolls and juice.

Our show that night went very well. The audience really got into it and I felt happy with the results. We kept our Hopak costumes on and went back to the Visitor's Center to meet our billets. (The press never came for pictures.)

Rachel, Lisa T., Lindsay and I all became roomies and shared a dorm room on the Church College Campus.

One last thing I wanted to mention was that I talked to Tai about what the people in the Marae had said about being descendants of Hagoth. In Alma 63:5-8 the scriptures say people sailed forth and were heard of no more. Tai had me speak to a man in Wellington who used to be a Stake President and this man told me that President Spencer W. Kimball came to Hamilton, New Zealand while he was prophet (probably in the 1970's) and said to the Maori people – "Know this, that you are the descendants of the people of Hagoth." The man said it really meant a lot to his people to know they were the people from the Book of Mormon. That meant they could learn of their ancestors through the scriptures. I thought that was really neat and added a little insight to my Book of Mormon reading.

Sunday, July 16, 2000

Brother and Sister Eggington

Hamilton, New Zealand

The group went to Church with their families in Temple View just outside of Hamilton. Temple View is almost all LDS. The New Zealand Temple and Church College of New Zealand are there. Late on Saturday night, New Zealand played Australia in Rugby Union and New Zealand won. People were saying it was the best rugby game ever. Many in the tour group watched the game on television. At church the next morning, leaders even mentioned New Zealand's victory from the pulpit. Tai, our bus-driver, asked for one-minute of silence on behalf of the Eggingtons. We all enjoyed church and the fellowship of the members. That evening, the group gave a fireside that was very well attended. Hillary bore her testimony about being a child of God, Paul talked about the atonement, Jacob discussed the importance of knowing that our Savior lives, and Rachael talked about coming to know our Savior. Unfortunately, during the fireside, someone stole Catherine's and Sarah's wallets and cameras from the room where we had stored our belongings in the chapel. After the fireside, we returned to our host families. The weather was very cold and windy.

Jacob and Alicia attended a baptism Sunday afternoon where a relative of their host family was baptized.

Monday, July 17, 2000
Jonathan Gray

Welcome to our last day in beautiful Hamilton. Why don't we perform for the mayor for the city? Who cares if he leaves the show early? No worries. We'll just pack up and head out to Wellington.

Who feels like going on an eight hour drive? Well, get in the coach. You are going anyway....

Tai let us do a bit of sightseeing at the beautiful Huka Falls. The water was fantastically blue and deep. Though the falls weren't very tall, they, along with the beautiful surrounding hills combined for a breathtaking scene. A couple of minutes up the road it's time to stop for more photos at Lake Tapou. Another beautiful scene in New Zealand right in the center of the North Island.

Back on the bus. Everyone starts becoming restless because the drive is so long. They start to sing this evil "Back Up and Push" song. After about 20 rounds of that it's time for the ever so needed toilet stop. All went as planned except the absence of soap in the men's room caused a bit of confusion in the Ladies room when all the brethren came in to wash their hands... At least they washed their hands.

Well, back on the bus for more "Back Up and Push along". Fortunately the strains were tuned to the love songs of John Denver. So here's a coach, in New Zealand, driving in the dark to Wellington, full of John Denver singing folk dancers. I love the folk dancers.

8:30 pm.... Welcome to Wellington. I hopes it warms up tomorrow...

Tuesday, July 18, 2000
Rachel Sneddon

This morning we did a short a show at St. Patrick's college which happened to be an all-boys high school of about 500 boys. They really liked the boys slapping Hungarian dances – but when the bottle dance girls walked onto the stage, the room was definitely pure testosterone. During the entire show, whenever the girls came onto the stage, a roar from the audience was heard. They were a great audience. Then, the principal of the school thanked us for coming and requested that all the boys do the Haka for us – the Native New Zealand dance. It was incredible and so effective! Just imagine an entire army doing that right before a battle! After that, we went to Nash Stadium and did another short show for about 1200 elementary school children. They also loved our show and we enjoyed dancing for them – although it was really cold. After we were all picked up, Tai took us to a mall to spend some free time and walk around for a few hours. We then went to a Marae for the evening. We were welcomed into the Marae, listened to the people there speak Maori and speak to us. We then sang to them. When we went through to meet all the people at the Marae, we did what is called a Hongi. This is where you touch ends of noses two times – it recognizes the divinity in you and me. We then had a really good dinner and sang "Go Ye Now In Peace" for the cooks. After that we went back to the Marae and explanations were made about what all the patterns and other symbols meant. We got back onto the bus and drove home to meet our billets. It was an eventful cultural day.

Wednesday, July 19, 2000
Joseph Andersen

9:22 Good Morning!! The band and the folk dancers met the bus at 9 o'clock. The crisp morning air was broken by the rumbling rhythms of the Haka – performed by Jonathan Gray and the Haka-master himself, Joseph Andersen. During the morning announcements Ed introduced the group to a fun new vocabulary word. He said, "I would just like to re-Edify the schedule today." Most likely he meant reiterate. I think he just likes to use words with Ed in them.

12:00 On arriving at the performance site, we were pleased to discover that we would be performing at the mini-tabernacle, complete with the organ pipes and view obstructing support columns. Josh asserted that the architecture was French, not Art-Deco.

As we boarded the bus for lunch we noted that the ever-obnoxious, I mean adventurous, band babes hadn't made it back in time. We pushed ahead without them and enjoyed a veritable feast of the finest in New Zealand finger foods. Afterwards Ed commented on the Edceptional Ediquette of certain folk dancers, namely Katie and Melanie who sniffed and caressed the food.

Following lunch we returned to the mini-tabernacle and put on a dazzling show for a google of screaming New Zealand kids. The highlight was the pre-game show provided by Murray the truck-driver. After being sent to fetch Ed's bones, he made an attempt at the Cossack trick step across center stage. The applause received was second only to that received by Joseph Gowen when he fell on his can while clogging. The chicken dance was also a hit.

The band and the folk dancers were then let out on the town to purchase gifts for their loved ones. After the shopping spree, sponsored by Mr. VISA, we went to the Institute and got stuffed with an Edcellent dinner. After dinner, many dancers were amazed by our marvelous band's rendition of "Stir It Up." The evening performance was a smashing success as was the mayoral reception. As if things couldn't get any better, this day also happened to be S. Craig and Katie's special day. Who could ask for more than that?

Thursday, July 20, 2000
Sarah Bateman

Jessie's Birthday

"Boy, this bed is nice and warm and cozy. Mmmm.... Blessed, blessed sleep..." thought Mike and Brent as they dreamt of sugar plums dancing in their heads. "Wait, was there something we had to do today? What was it hmmm..." All of a sudden, panic struck them both and they shot straight out of bed! "We were supposed to meet at 3:30 (a.m.!)!" That's right folks, while 42 people sat on the bus, with host families waiting outside in the cold dark of the middle of the night... well, you get the picture.

We said goodbye to our hosts and to New Zealand that early morning. Leaving Mike and Brent to fend for themselves, we drove to the airport. We unloaded and said our farewells to Tai and Murray, most likely never to again hear those corny jokes. No matter how much he denies it, he'll miss us.

After checking in, we were all off to the Simply New Zealand store where the store owner made a killing. We walked out with our treasures and headed for the gate. Two airplane flights lay ahead of us.

A 3 ½ hour flight, breakfast, movie, and wretched "rest" later, we landed in Sydney. Too bad our first impression of Australia was an image of terror. Dragging our tired bodies through customs and quarantine check, we struggled to hurry to our next flight. Some people in the group (Joseph G. and Shane) got detained because of a quarantine violation. But, we made it onto the plane to Perth. Unfortunately we had to leave the Hormans in Sydney to find a plane for the overweight speakers.

More of the same on the way to Perth, although this time add lots of bumps during the ride. We watched the same movie, ate a meal that got mixed reviews, and again walked off the plane looking like we'd gotten caught in the middle of an All Blacks-Wallaby rugby match.

We loaded the 2 buses and the 2 trailers (this minor detail is the focus of a later, shall we say.. "incident.") We drove around, looking at the city, the sights, the performance location and then stopped at a bank to exchange money. The transactions were tricky and took quite a while to complete. We had been stopped for approximately ½ an hour when Mike came in the bank wanting to exchange money. Where had he been?! That's right – locked in the trailer with all the luggage! (Mike was having a rough day to say the

least.) He had pounded and yelled and shaken the trailer and finally the bus driver picked up on it and unlocked the back. Poor Mike but, he's a good sport.

Once that was all settled we were off to the Indian Ocean. Boy, did we frolick and play like there was no tomorrow! Among some of the activities were: splashing in the waves, playing Frisbee, playing soccer, taking numerous photos, collecting sea shells, swimming (Craig and Joseph G.), and playing in the sand. It was the perfect time of evening with the sun on its way down and the breeze and the crash of the waves feeding the soul.

We brushed our feet off, unrolled our pants and secured our "sea finds." It was off to the Methodist Ladies College for unloading and setting up.

We got most of it done and then headed to dinner at the church which was right next door to the lot where they're building the new temple. They were all ready for us with the tables set up nicely. Warm soup, Cottage (Shepherd's) pie, salad, and fruit were on the menu, followed by yummy Pavlova for dessert. We met our billets and then home we went after a very long, long day. G'night.

Friday, July 21, 2000
Ben Blaser

Today has been a great day. The morning started off with us meeting at separate churches. From there we got on the neat little white buses. We can call them buses and not coaches cause that's what they are. We had two buses and two groups, so we met at two different churches and then we converged on one church. The church we all converged on was beside the temple. The temple is just being started and isn't too far yet.

From the church we all drove to the docks so we could board our cruise vessel. The ship was red and white with a dual hull. Large windows lined the sides so people could sit at the tables and look out. Some of us went out on the front of the boat to sit, some remained in the main cabin area and others sat on the back near the engines. The captain pointed out sites of interest as we went along. Some of the sites included multi-million dollar homes and the mansion in the movie "Gone With The Wind." A lot of people fell asleep to the gentle hum of the motors. One more interesting item that we saw was a huge tanker that was multi-level and held over 80,000 sheep.

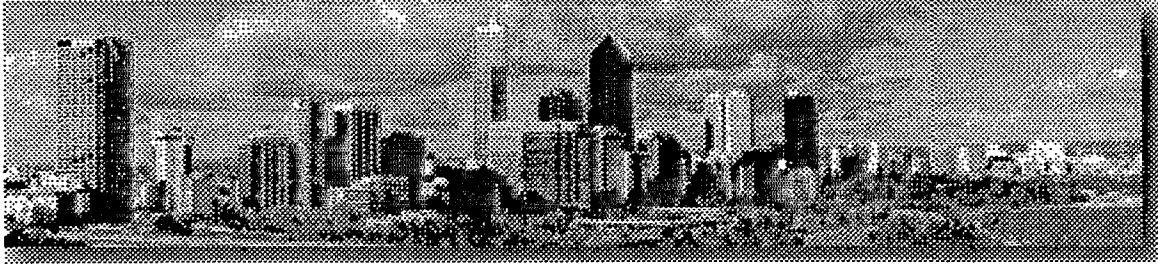
After the boat tour we stopped in Fremantle for some "feesh and cheeps." They were good and greasy just like we like'em. A lot of us went to the market and some just walked the streets. We pretty much invaded every tourist shop possible. A total of about 16 boomerangs were purchased by various members of the troop. (Since I'm thinking of it, Josh needs to stop yawning during "Go Ye Now in Peace", - That's what Scotty says.) Some even bought Didjeridu's. Fremantle is beautiful. All of the buildings have been refurbished and re-painted so everything has a very cheerful feeling.

From there we had a matinee show that went very well considering that the tech crew had a real crunch with the equipment. Quite a few people came to the show. Some traveled great lengths. One woman from Ukraine was very disappointed because the matinee was only 45 min.

Between the matinee and the evening show tech was madly working to get everything done so the evening show could be polished. Before the evening show Josh, Craig, Joseph G. and Jon Gibson had an interesting run in with Sister Wilma Willis while wearing just their spandex and a sombrero.

Before that evening show we were told that Aussies don't give standing ovations. They must have forgotten that rule because the crowd stood instantly once the show was over. The show went off without a hitch. The only thing that could have been a bit more polished was the two different speeds that "Go Ye Now.." was started in.

-Ben Blaser



Saturday, July 22, 2000

Lindsay Folkman

Saturday in Perth

As Josh would begin his journal entry..."Dear Ed: You are awesome: so today we woke up..." We started out the day at the Dianella Stake Center for a small devotional. Bro. Eggington shared a beautiful story about the connection among the Aboriginal sacred sites, and their belief and love in Jesus Christ. It was a very touching story that helped us throughout the day. We also got an extensive lecture about preventing illnesses, and how to stay clean. As we were loading the bus Joseph Andersen gave us a very needed addition: "After you use the restroom, don't lick the toilet seat. It's not very sanitary." Thanks Joseph.

For our afternoon adventures we shopped downtown for about two hours. Most shops were located on Hyde St. and King St., and the most popular shop was "Creative Native." Some people bought more boomerangs, and some bought Aboriginal art. (How many did you buy again Pat?) And we were all still very impressed with the beauty of this city, even downtown.

We had to move our "Sausage Sizzle" from Kings Park to a nearby chapel because of the threatening rain clouds. But the weather was fine for the short time we were sightseeing at Kings Park. We got a group picture at the war memorial, then we gathered around a big tree and took a numerous amount of other pictures. After climbing the tree some people walked away with a numerous amount of ants!

Our sausage sizzle with the youth from Perth was pretty cool. They were all very friendly and helped us feel welcome. The highlight of the sizzle was the little show the band put on. And I don't care what the band says, "Orange Blossom Special" is the best!

Tonight's show was great; it was probably our hardest night, however. Our 5:00 show was a full show rather than a 45 minute matinee. Then we had to muster up energy for an 8:00 show after only a one hour break. Considering these circumstances, I think we all tried our hardest, did our best, and put on some great shows. And since Craig is in charge if these tour histories I know he'll add something, so I'll be the bigger man and admit it myself. Yes, I missed my entrance for Croatian. Shut up, Craig. (Editor's Note: Sweet, sweet missed stage entrances!)

Before our 8:00 show, Perth gave us an official Australian welcome. An Aborigine man played a didgeridoo, and another wiped a medicine plant on Maria, Greg and Ed. I'm not sure what it all meant, but I'm sure it was a friendly welcome.

I believe all of us were very impressed with the great crowds we had, and the nice comments that came from the people we talked to. Not one person just said, "It's all right."

All in all, we were extremely tired by the end of the day, but it was a great and memorable one.

Sunday, July 23, 2000
Brother and Sister Austin

Today is Sunday, and I know everyone is looking forward to a change of pace, a day with the families we have been staying with, and of course, being able to worship and enjoy the Sabbath.

Last night was a wonderful performance, and the audience was packed and responded so enthusiastically giving the students a rousing standing ovation at its conclusion. The audiences have been captivated by our concert and the local saints have done a wonderful job of using this opportunity for opening doors for the church into the community. We have been really impressed in the way local dignitaries have hosted at our shows.

As far as we can tell, everyone in our group was able to rest and “catch up” on their rest. Sister Austin and I have been staying with the Morganti family. He is a member of one of the stake presidencies. They have been somewhat typical of what we were told about Australian families (and this is true for most Europeans also). They seemed a bit cautious and formal in the beginning. But by today they had really warmed up and we spent the day getting to know them much better. It is interesting how the gospel can tie people very closely together.

Tonight we had some new experiences at our fireside which will make Perth stand out in our minds for some time. At the Saturday performance, a leader of the Aboriginal people in this area, Terry (Koodah) Cornwall, welcomed us to the area with a formal, traditional welcome. He was so taken with the spirit which he felt at the performance that he returned Sunday to our fireside and presented gifts to the entire group which included: Firesticks made from the grass tree, also known as the black boy; tapping sticks used for making music; an axe made from a special glue (resin from the blackboy mixed with charcoal and kangaroo “do”); and a message stick which encourages the whites and the aboriginal peoples to meet in the center, with the center being Jesus Christ. I did not know that Christ played such an important part in aboriginal tradition—but I am learning that it does. All of these precious gifts were presented to us in a Kooda, which is a bag made out of kangaroo skin.

It was a great honor for us to receive these gifts of friendship which bear a strong hope for brotherhood centered upon Christ among our races. We were all very touched and will remember his message of peace.

Also tonight, at the end of our fireside, a small trio came to the podium and led the entire congregation which must have numbered between 700-800 people in *We Are Australian*. It was quite emotional and I saw more than one teary eye. Here is the verse:

We are one, but we are many
And from all the lands on earth we come
We share a dream, and sing with one voice
I am, You are, We are Australian

All in all, we have been greatly blessed by the people we have come to know in Perth. Their spirits have touched our own. And we have been reminded by the Aussies that D&C 122:1-2 refers to them:

The ends of the earth shall inquire after they name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee; While the pure in heart, and the wise, and the noble, and the virtuous, shall seek council, and authority, and blessings constantly from under thy hand.

Perth, Australia is certainly at one of the “ends of the earth”! What a great blessing to have brothers and sisters in the gospel all over the world.

Monday, July 24, 2000
Brent Walkwork

The group had another early morning in order to make the 5:45 flight to Adelaide. Upon arrival we toted our various costume bags, tech equipment, and personal luggage through the crowded baggage claim and out to the buses. Once again we are traveling in two smaller buses which have just enough seats to accommodate our large group, as long as people crowd together on the back bench.

We first traveled to Fort Largs Police Academy where we'll be staying the next few days. Unlike previous living quarters, we're sharing a dormitory where we each have our own bedroom. We're enjoying such amenities as a heated swimming pool, weight room, and close proximity to the beach.

Next we traveled to the Westminster School, a local college, to set up for the evening's performance. The Murray Center, the venue where we will be performing, wasn't heated when we arrived. So the first challenge was to keep everyone warm and comfortable, particularly important with a number of us in the group sick with sore throats and colds.

The local news took an interest in our performance. A news crew arrived and videotaped our rehearsal of Cry of the Celts, as the reporter gave her monologue. Following the taping Ed let us take a one hour nap, realizing that we needed our rest to perform after such a long day.

For dinner, we enjoyed some Italian Cuisine at a restaurant called Fasta Pasta. We were pressed for time and confusion resulted as the waiters tried to serve our loud group. For some reason, we couldn't seem to understand the difference between a main dish and an entrée.

We performed a good show considering how tired everyone was. It wasn't without the usual bloopers. The men started the Scottish entrance eight counts early when Jon Gibson found it necessary to replace the recorded music with his own vocalized version of the bagpipes. As the first half of the show ended we stood in our ending position of Cry of the Celts for what seemed like 5 minutes as Bill Eggington tried to figure out how to get the curtains to closed. The girls had a serious case of the giggles during our Croatian number. Finally, after the Chinese number Kerry and Amber got lost in the curtains as they tried to exit the stage. The curtains could be seen rustling around until halfway through the next narration when they both emerged with a look of panic on their face.

Tuesday, July 25, 2000
Maria Tucker

Today started with the knowledge that everyone had a free morning to sleep in and wouldn't have to be ready until noon. Well, to those of us who took it seriously and slept in, we were rudely awakened at 9 a.m. by the pounding and yelling of Ed, telling us to be showered and ready in 30 minutes. Most of the girls hurried in a frenzy to the showers, only to make the line longer. I don't know how the guys did it, but they seemed to be ready in that short span of time. Bro. Eggington even mentioned what a pleasure it was to shower at the same time as Joseph Andersen. He supposedly sings and tells jokes, and basically puts on a great variety show in the shower.

For breakfast, we had cold cereal and pancakes...it was great. I think a lot of us are enjoying the freedom of staying in the police academy, and being able to eat what we want, instead of having to satisfy a host mom who loves to cook!

We had our morning devotional, which ended up being 45 minutes long, and our original "free time" before noon ended up being about 30 minutes. But isn't it always that way?!

From there we went to lunch at a local church, and the food was wonderful, especially the desserts! They honestly kept bringing out more and more desserts, until they wouldn't fit on the table anymore. It was obvious they had put a lot of preparation into our lunch.

After lunch came the big decision – whether people wanted to go back and sleep, or go shopping at Glenelg. I happened to be sitting by Arden when he wailed “I don’t want to go!” as a woman from the local ward picked up his plate with a bewildered look. Poor Arden, we all know he’s sick and feeling awful, but it was still funny to watch him try to backpedal and get himself out of that mess.

Eventually we split into even groups, one bus for each group. I was in the group wanting to go back, and our story must have changed three different times. To make the story as short as possible, we drove to a Target mall to stop for 10 minutes so people could change money and get stamps. That 10 minutes turned into about 35 by the time we left, and then our bus driver decided to stop by his house for his ear muffs, and then proceeded to take us on a drive by the coast. We finally got the idea to him that we wanted to GO HOME, and our short trip home from the church ended up taking almost 2 hours.

Of course, when we got to the academy, we didn’t have a key to get in, since Lynn never gave it to any of us! Well, we finally got in, and I’m guessing everyone crashed. We were all a little frustrated.

I heard the other group had an interesting time, too. Most of them got caught in a huge rainstorm out on the pier and got soaked.

For dinner we got leftovers from lunch...not so appetizing the second time around. We ate fast and started the show.

There were only a few problems I heard of in the show. A few entrances were missed – Craig in Festival Clog, Josh in Mexican, and Jeff in Hopak. Other than that, things went pretty well. The band was extra speedy tonight, but that’s probably a result of them having no monitors for the first few numbers (or a sugar buzz from those desserts!)

We then packed everything up as quickly as possible, only to find that there was no truck to pack! Somehow we shoved everything onto a trailer with a tarp over it, and we’re all praying it makes it back without any problems.

In all, it’s been a different day with a lot of problems, but I suppose we have to have those sometimes!

Wednesday, July 26, 2000
Shane Wright

Today started with breakfast at 9 am this morning, although many people didn’t go because of the late pizza last night. Instead of going to breakfast, many people either slept, walked on the beach for sea shells, or went for a swim or a workout at the gym.



We left for Ulimbirra at 10 am. It was a two hour drive so many of us slept and read. When we got there we were given kangaroo food and as we immediately walked out we all began to feed wallabys. But, it didn’t last long, because we were excited to see the s. One guy was quite a poser and was nice enough to take a lot of pictures with all of us. We all saw and took a lot of pictures with kangaroos and Emus. We also got to see a dingo but it didn’t eat any babies (Seinfeld).

After a few hours at the park and a lot of cold and rain, we went to Victoria Bay. Most of us ate at McDonalds, while others ventured off with their Australian \$7. We drove the 2 hours back to change into our fireside clothes, pick up Arden (who has been sick) and go to dinner at the chapel. We had steaks, lamb chops, hot dogs, and hamburgers. A lot of the girls just ate vegetables because they were still full from lunch.

We then went to see the temple. It was so beautiful – It was just a drive by for Ed’s bus, while all of us on Lynn’s bus took pictures. We then were off to the fireside. Joseph Gowen, Tony Black, Jessie Blaser and

Jon Gibson spoke. Lisa Thurston got to read the scripture and Maria got to say a surprise testimony. She was still shaking in the intro to "E'en so Lord Jesus." They all did a wonderful job and really brought the spirit to the meeting.

After the fireside and talking to members – the buses went back to the temple where the temple President told us about his call and some of the history behind the temple. After devotional we all sang to Karen and ate cake to celebrate her birthday – oh, her 21st birthday "again." She hasn't aged a bit.

Mike, Josh, and I, after the fireside, went on a little tour of the city with my mom's best friend's brother – We got to see the beautiful downtown area of the city from a view (kind of – there was a bit of fog.) But it was fun getting Brother Scraggs' views on Australia, the city history, and insights on the temple – he was on the dedication committee for the temple.

Well, after a few jokes, a bite to eat, and a Milo, a lot of us were off to bed for a good nights rest! Sweet dreams.

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Brother and Sister Elliott (with a little help from our friends)

Once upon a time there was a group that took a tour down under. Although they saw many great and fantastic things, the most incredible things were seen on a particular trip from Adelaide to Melbourne. The Sheilas did their lippie, after eating Milo and WeetBix, grabbed their cardies and headed for the coach. The fellas put away their togs and piled on as well. There were heaps of sweets and lollies, just what we needed for an exciting trip. John the driver wanted some choons, but Cat was sleeping (all day?). The drive through Adelaide was a thrilling 45 minute experience (everything in Adelaide is about 45 minutes away) with our driver telling us all kinds of useful information over the microphone, like that Adelaide has about a million people or approximately as many as live in the greater Salt Lake valley, and that Adelaide covers about 402,434 squares miles or an area approximately the size of Wyoming. The homes were all built about 1850, on tiny sections with thatch fences.. They used sandstone blocks because there wasn't much timber (the termites ate it all). Tin is the material of choice for roofs and lattice work because it was easy ballast for the ships. We were absolutely gobsmacked!

Moving along.....ZZZZZZZZZZ.....it was time to order tea from the roadhouse. Katie carefully tabulated everyone's wishes, the driver rang ahead.....surprise!....there wasn't enough fish and chips. We grabbed serviettes for our greasy fingers because there wasn't any water in town. Lisa Thurston had the best hamburger ever, but only by a hair. Dinner was dear; Lynn had barely enough notes to cover the charge. After our feed we set off again, full of petrol and tucker. Ed and Vickie passed around more lollies, and heaps of Anzac bickies.

We had a chance to view an incredible mammal, one that would never survive in the wild. Right. First there were white kangaroos, followed by Jessie's trip down a footpath to a pink lake, and wonder of wonders....the world's largest koala. But most exciting of all was the stop for the toilet. No grisling or domestics, everyone waited their chance to take advantage of the "self-adjusting dryer which worked according to various levels of humidity and temperature to most efficiently reach the maximum drying power." Back on board, we flew down the highway, zipping round the roundabouts, over taking lorries and Holdens on the right (never the left).

At some point our coach driver, John, sensed that we needed to be entertained. So he gave a very interesting, in-depth exposition on rice farming in Australia which began with something about lasers being used to level fields and proceeded to storage units which could hold millions of tons of rice and continued to a discussion of rice plants drowning in the water at which point it was clear to us all that he was not going to stop until he had told us everything there was to know about rice, including, no doubt, how one makes Rice Bubbles from ordinary rice grains. In desperation we convinced him to put in "The Man from Snowy River" which solved the problem of the talking driver. But this also led to a Ben and Jessie problem, who together knew more about "The Man From Snowy River" than our driver knew about rice.

As the bus pattered along the highway we found ourselves stuffing our faces with three day old meat pies watching the Australian scenery flow past, and listening to Ben and Jessie quote long portions of the “Man from Snowy River” whenever the VCR’s tracking slipped.

Melbourne eventually rose from the deepening darkness and soon we were in the midst of towering buildings. In spite of what you may think, it was neat to learn about all the buildings in Melbourne as we drove through, especially those which had suffered from spectacular accidents some time in the past (how does John know all about these?) Don’t forget, blue lights keep the birds away.

So this was this day. All that is left is the bit about meeting host families, driving home with total strangers, entertaining kids of various temperaments (and degrees of beastliness) and sleeping in some strange bed. And thus it was, even so, Amen.

Aussie/Kiwi terms:

Absolutely gobsmacked - totally overwhelmed, it blew them away.

All’blikis – New Zealand’s national rugby team. Spelled All Blacks.

Aussies - people from Australia. Those brave, individuals who rode out and conquered an entire continent from ranging bands of kangaroos and then came home to a nice Waltz with Matilda and a warm cup of Milo. The most wonderful, civilized, open hearted race on earth – according to the Eggingtons. Or a bunch of limp wristed pansies – according to Tai.

Billets - pronounced as buhlets, but not the kind you shoot, just the kind that take you home.

Biscuits/ Bickies - cookies, usually the shortbread type.

Block - a house lot in Australia. I don’t know why they call them blocks, they are lots smaller than a block at home.

Bloke - another word for a man.

“Bohmmas” - means “Go Bombers!”

Bonnet - the car’s hood.

Boot - the car’s trunk.

Brilliant - exceptionally great.

Cardie - short for cardigan, the most essential piece of the tour uniform because the girls had to wear their’s everyday or freeze.

Cheeky - a student with an attitude.

Chemist - the store we spend all of our money at because we are too cheap to go to the doctor.

Choons - an Aussie term for tunes.

Coach - If you want to offend your driver, just call this a bus.

Cut lunch - not necessarily a lunch that is bleeding, but possibly a box lunch where the sandwich is cut into lots of little pieces and then restacked so it looks really pretty. We liked these . . . the first eight times.

Cynic - not a person with a dreary outlook on life but a nice place to look outside (a.k.a. Scenic.)

Dear - this just means something is too expensive to buy.

“Doggie, Doggie, Doggie” - shouted over and over very loud, translates as “Go Bulldogs!”

Domestic - a disagreement of large proportions between family members.

Feed - an extremely HUGE meal where everyone eats more than they should and is sorry later.

Fella - just your average guy.

Fish and chips - battered, deep fried fish accompanied by greasy, fat french fries and served in yesterday’s newspaper.

Fizzy - really bubbly soda sweetened with cane sugar not corn syrup.

Flatmate - what you get when your spouse forgets to look right as they cross the street in Australia (US) or a room mate (New Zealand).

Footpath - a sidewalk, not a dirt trail.

Footy – an Australian game which consists of 18 grown men trying to beat the brains out of another 18 men in a valiant attempt convince themselves that the game really isn’t as whimpy as the name implies. It also has something to do with the big football and some goals but this part isn’t all that important. A

proper footy game can only be appreciated when one is wearing several shirts, hats, scarves and a heavy coat, regardless of the weather.

Fringe - some people call them bangs, but few dancers actually wear them.

Give Way - yield the right of way when the oncoming vehicle is bigger than you.

Good on yuh - basically, it means good for you. I think.

Grisling - Amber Jensen's billet uses it to describe kids who are crying.

Heaps - lots and lots and lots and lots of something.

How yuh goin' - people say this as a form of greeting instead of "Hello."

Iron - not the atom type, but the large heavy hot thing used to press one's clothes. (Try asking for one of these at your local store and see if they know what you are talking about.) Pronounced in American English as iron.

Jersey - a turtleneck, don't you wish you'd brought one.

Kiwi - an Aussie want-to-be -- according to the Eggingtons. Perhaps the wisest, most gentle and intelligent group of people on the entire earth -- according to Tai.

Layby - lay away. You don't really need to know this either, you won't be here long enough to use it.

Lemonade - it doesn't actually have any lemons in it, just lemon flavor and lots of fizzy water, like overly sweet 7-UP.

Lippie - lipstick.

Lolly - candy, sometimes made into lolly leis (but only in New Zealand.)

Lovely - very nice.

Marry - the New Zealand way of pronouncing Maori.

Mate - a all around great-guy, good friend. This is really important if you come from the Snowy River region and are trying to impress the gang.

Nappies - diapers. You don't really need to know this, but some of you may possibly wind up marrying a native and find it impossible to leave. Then you'll need to know what they are.

No worries - what this really means is that you just asked someone to bend over backwards for you, but somehow they'll figure out how to make it work out anyway.

Note - a paper bill, but don't worry about this either, you haven't got any left.

Pardon - the correct term for "WHAAT?"

Petrol - a fancy name for gas sold by the liter instead of the gallon. It makes it more expensive.

Pram - a baby stroller.

Pusher - another name for a baby stroller, of course.

Rice Bubbles - Australian Rice Krispies.

Ring someone up - Really, they should just say call on the phone!

Root, Hog or Die - a song you should NEVER sing in Australia.

Roundabout - a faster way to go through an intersection than a stoplight, unless you are on a bus.

Rubbish - just trash.

Rubbish bin - something you don't find in obvious places, and always a very small receptacle for trash. (See above.)

Sacked - you get fired.

Sausage rolls - the fatty version of pigs in a blanket. Also good....the first eight times or so.

Section - a house lot in New Zealand.

Serviette - a fancy name for a napkin. Please use them.

Shops - a place we go to buy stuff, and lots of it.

Speeacial - this isn't a new word, I just think the pronunciation is really funny.

Speed humps - not camel racing wear but those bumps in the road that slow traffic.

Spewing - absolutely fuming, (possibly ranting and raving.)

Supper - a late snack, usually after you've missed dinner.

Take away - another way of saying you can't eat the food where it was cooked. It's supposed to be fast.

Tea - dinner, or any excuse to take a break for food.

The Mrs. - a very "formal" way of referring to someone's wife.

Togs - Aussie Cozies (sometimes called a thong), but its actually what Craig calls swim trunks.

Toilet - do NOT confuse this with the restroom or no one will know what you are asking for until it is too late.

Trolley - a shopping cart.

Tucker - food (but only in Australia)
Vegemite - pureed termites. And you thought it was only fermented vegetable matter.
Vest - a sweater, or just a vest.
Waltzing Matilda – the song we’ve got to learn before we go on tour.
Whinging Pom - a whining Brit.
Whipper snipper - weed whacker.
Woolies - warm clothes
Woolly Jumper - anything that keeps you warm that you can put over your head. (Sweatshirts, sweaters, fleece, etc.) They use this term for warm kids clothes a lot.
Yous - second person plural pronoun; equivalent in the US to “you all” or “you guys.” Example: Yous use ewes to make sheepskins.
Zed - how one says the last letter in the alphabet.

Tour statistics:

Sheepskins- 36
Didjeridus - 4
Maori statues - 69
Boomerangs -69
Types of sandwiches (including sausage rolls) - about 25-30 (we lost count).
Rugby Shirts/sports items - 25
Kilos of Chocolate - 70 (equals 154 pounds)
Bush hats - 9
Glass kangaroos - 54
Glass koalas - 20
Roo Scrotums - 63
Platypuses – 3

Friday, July 28, 2000
Lisa Thurston

Today we met the bus at 7:00 am (!) Which meant a rather short night’s sleep for most of us. We drove into downtown Melbourne, a beautiful city with lots of parks and artistic venues. We did a 45 min. show at the Performing Arts College, a top notch academy for teenage artists. The theatre was quite small – it held about 80-100 – but the closeness of it was actually quite fun. Our audience consisted of dance students around 15 years old, who are studying classical and contemporary dance at the college. As we danced we could tell they were really watching our feet as true dancers do. Shane and Brent went out 8 counts early in Appalachian, and Greg and Josh did another quick clog show switch when Greg’s tap fell off, but other than that the show went really well. The band sounded a little naked without Hillary, but they did a good job. By the end the kids were cheering and clapping along to “Cry of the Celts”. It was really fun to talk with them afterwards – they were all really friendly and nice.

After packing up, most of the team had free time until dinner, so a lot of people walked through the city and visited the Art Museum. Josh’s favorite part of the Museum was the taxidermied body of Phar Lap, a famous race horse from the 1930’s. Those who opted to stay with the bus were either sick or involved in a dance workshop at the Methodist Ladies College. So while Katie, Shane, Pat, Jon, Mike and Sarah taught rec. dances to hyper 12 year old girls, many slept soundly on the bus. By about 4 o’clock most everybody had arrived at the Victoria Market for a little bit of shopping before dinner. The most popular items to buy were scarves and beanies for the footie game later that night.

We ate – or should I say, had a “feed”, - at La Porchetta, an Italian Restaurant across the street from the market. I’m rather embarrassed to report that between 45 people we inhaled 27 pizzas at 8 slices a pizza! I think my table consumed the most of the 3 tables because we had both Pat and Mike, each of whom ate around 10 slices. Other contenders for the biggest pig were Brent, Jacob, and Jared.

After dinner we killed time at the Diamuru Mall where a giant clock drops down from the ceiling. Joseph Andersen must have had a ball at that mall because he was the last on the bus – 15 minutes late! Once our count-off was 100% successful we headed for the much anticipated Aussie Rules “Footie” game. The undefeated Essenden Bombers were up against the Western Melbourne Bulldogs. Aussie rules football is a cross between football, soccer, rugby, and basketball. It was a blast! We’re all down on American football now – especially in comparison to Aussie footie uniforms! Pat loved the short shorts! Amber is now going to be known as “Ambeer” since she got doused in beer at the end of the game. Andrea, Katie, Rachel and Pat thought the Bombers player #1 was a Cameron Sneddon twin, while #18 looked like Craig. But I think everybody’s favorite part of the game was the scorekeeper guy in the end zone who did fancy flag and finger tricks every time a goal was scored. The last 2 minutes of the game were really intense as the Bulldogs gained a final lead over the Bombers.

On the way back to the bus Katie and Arden got lost from the group but Bro Eggington and Con, the bus driver, finally found them. I fell asleep almost immediately on the bus, so I’m not sure if anything else exciting happened, but since we didn’t arrive back at the stake center until 12 am, I have a feeling everyone had sweet dreams once in bed.

Saturday, July 29, 2000
Jacob Davis

Happy Birthday Arden!

Shopping, shopping, shopping! A few of the day’s activities included shopping at the Victoria Street Market where we found a lot of good deals. After lunch, we slept on the bus out to the Frankston Cultural Center where the fun began.

What a wonderful dinner- one of the best we have had all tour. Lots of people are sick but with the combined efforts of soup and salad for dinner and Sis. Eggington's garlic pills, we were all feeling a lot better; ask Craig. This, of course, was all served to us after a rousing game of follow-the-leader (Craig) around the theater and an attempt by most of us to keep up with Pat's hip-hop movements. Needless to say, we were ready and warmed up for the show 3 hours ahead of time.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped with dishes and who helped carry all of the plates and crockpots, etc... out to the cars. Our hosts appreciated our help. I think we all agreed that the dinner was one of the best we have had thus far. The theater was also one of the best we have had thus far as well.

A big thank you also goes out to Scotty's elbow for bumping the CD player so the team could practice their shortened version of Cry of the Celts on stage. ☺ Nice cover everybody. I don't think the audience ever knew the difference. I know Melanie was glad the CD skipped because she was losing her hair. Overall, the show was great and we had a very restful day!

Sunday, July 30, 2000
Hillary Duncan

After all good-byes were sung and we got our billets crying, we loaded the bus in Melbourne. Everyone was sad to leave but Pat was comforted by the jar of complimentary vegemite they gave us and Uncle Bill loved the “My Country” poem we each received. The rest of us were calmed by Joseph Gowen’s soothing rain-stick in the back of the bus.

Walking into sacrament meeting late, like true Cougars, we were asked to be part of Joel’s farewell program where we rendered an extraordinary performance of “Come Unto Him”. “We were touched that the women held off at the beginning of the song, sacrificing their own pride, and let the men do the oo’s first,” said S. Craig and Ben Blaser.

After pictures by the temple next door we drove to the airport for a two hour wait before the flight to Tasmania. Some people used the extra time to eat (fat fat Shane) some hacked in the computer (Jeff) and others called home. Josh Probert was heard telling his mom his hopes for a tour romance were still high. Still others (Amber Wood and I) just tried to stay away from all the sick people. Waiting at the airport, after our short 1 hour flight, were our billets and Dr. Mic(not to be confused with Doogie Houser.) After Lynn embarrassed us all by saying we came to a strange land with strange people, the deathly sick were ordered by Auntie Pam to see the deacon with a stethoscope.

Names of the deathly sick:

Catherine Larsen
Amber Jensen
Lisa Malan
Heidi Pincock
Paul Springer
Andrea Ivey
Maria Tucker
Arden Anderson

Off to our host families homes for tea. Sarah noted, "If you look closely you can faintly see the dog's breath." Others including Joe Andersen were blessed with sweet, sweet down comforters. Later that evening we had yet another excellent fireside. Andrea Ivey spoke about how Heavenly Father is aware of his children and how the members here are pioneers. Melanie Carter spoke on coming to know our Savior through studying the scriptures. Jeff Dunster talked about aligning our will with the Lord's and Jared Murdock Peterson, who is the great, great, great grandson of John Murdock, the first missionary in Australia, talked about the sacrifices of the saints around the world. Witnesses caught Jared with a tear in his eye. Whether it was because he felt the spirit or just that Lisa Malan didn't make it to the fireside is debatable. But with Lisa sick in bed, Shane covered both of their parts in their duet piece wonderfully.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the night. Even those who drove 2 hours from Davenport were satisfied with the program. Returning home most people stayed up and talked with their hosts about life and all the important stuff. Katie said at the Stake President's house "we talked about our love lives, or lack of them." Amber Jensen like other sick ones went straight to bed. As for me, I was blessed to spend the evening with a professional massesse in the ward with her happy table and magic oils. It was Heavenly!©

Monday, July 31, 2000

Brother and Sister Horman

Hobart, Tasmania.

Today was a day of challenges and triumphs. The challenges came in the form of two rather interesting performance sites and a suspected visit from a Tasmanian Devil. The triumph came as we had great shows and enthusiastic audiences.

We first found ourselves on a small stage in the theater at the Royal Derwent School, which just happened to be a mental hospital. May I point out, as a side note, that by this time in the tour, that seemed to have been rather appropriate. We arrived at 9 am to be ready for the 10 am show. They bussed school children in from the surrounding area and we did 10 am and 11:30 am short shows for them. It was so cold in there that it hurt the men's hands to do the slapping in Hungarian.

After the shows, we were off for a delicious all-American meal at where else, McDonalds. We then had a chance to go up on Mt. Nelson which, in the early days, was a semafore signaling station.

Then it was back to work as we arrived at the Burbury Theater at the University of Tasmania. The challenge here was how to deal with a large lecture hall with no wings, no run behind, no access to stage left, and only one entrance on stage right. But everybody did a great job of adapting and the performance

went off wonderfully. We had a 'standing room only' house and one of our most enthusiastic audiences. Two VIP's, one a Senator, were the ones who led a standing ovation.

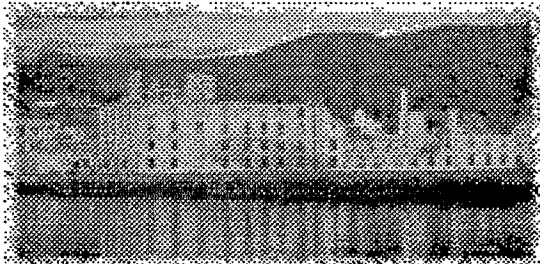
Now, you may be wondering about the suspected visit by a Tasmanian Devil. It seems that between the American section and the Celtic section this suspected Devil attacked the band setup. By the time he finished with his mischeif, Joseph was using Hillary's mic, Hillary was using Andrea's mic, and Amber was using Jared's mic (or something like that.) Just as Heidi got it all figured out, they started switching their mics back around. For Heidi, it was like trying to keep a bunch of cats in a bucket.

The magic and triumph of the day came in the smile and joy in the eyes of our audiences.

Tuesday, August 1, 2000

Jon Gibson

I betta start this out with a rhyme -
We had to be at the bus on time
The Eggington's were late.
The chocolate factory was our date.
We all laughed when the men count off with a grunt.
We were then so anxious for the sweet, sweet chocolate hunt.
We all got sweet hats, excuse the pun,
Although no beards or cameras we still had fun.
Loomp Pa, Doomp Pa, Loompidy Doo --
The tour guide said - Here's some chocolate for you, Foo.
All the machines and shafts were sweet as,
After, some slept, others bought more at the posh Cadbury chocolate factory in Tas.
At the airport da boys loaded all our stuff.
The bus driver was given a CD for being so tough.
The ride to Port Arthur proved a little rough
But we all made it - Aren't we buff?!



This was a jail town for guys who stole things,
It was bad - They got like life for stealing like rings.
Little time, green beauty, tour guide,
Don't cross the lawn or watch birds attack you at your sides.
After arriving to our hosts a little late
We shoveled some food down and freshened up for our little date.
With all the young adults from the local stake
The ferry ride after a while started to bake.
Laughter, talking, mingling and fun.
We all be dancin', pump the volume up, son!
So as the music started pumpin', the place got pumpin', and jumpin', and stuff.
A mean game of Rook started rockin! Everybody's talking and walkin' to get a free drink with their pass.
Sweet sassy molassy, it was a blast!
Those who stayed late and talked were - uh - last.
We all made it home by about ten,
Talking with our host and room buddy-
And going to bed late is usually the trend.

- Boo ya! Jon G.

Wednesday, August 2, 2000
Andrea Ivey

The morning started for most people around 4:30 a.m. in order to catch our 6:55 a.m. flight to Sydney. The flight was pretty uneventful; Most people slept or watched T.V. After we loaded up on our coach, we headed off toward downtown Sydney and the DeVere Hotel. Everyone was anxious to get unloaded at the hotel because we had a “free day” ahead.

Today was our day to do and see all we could within an eight hour window, yeah! So we quickly unloaded our bags at the hotel and took off on the bus for our Group Photo. Our photo had the Sydney Opera House in the background. (I noticed several Asians snapping shots of our group too!! ☺) The bus then drove us over the Sydney Harbor Bridge. This particular bridge was built in 1930. It connects the two peninsulas of Sydney. On the Northern peninsula, we stopped and had yet another photo op of the Sydney Opera House and Bennelong Point. By this time, the troops were restless and ready to be set free to explore Sydney. The bus driver, Dez, dropped us off at Circular Quay (pronounced ‘key’) and everyone quickly scattered.

By this time it was about 12:00 and everyone was famished. Most people ate, some took off for the Rocks, some to climb the majestic Sydney Harbor Bridge. There were several points of interest in which to visit; for instance, The Rocks, Sydney Observatory, Sydney Harbor Bridge, Sydney Opera House, Sydney Visitors Center, Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Royal Botanical Gardens. Plenty to do in our time slot, but yet there was still more to see and do. In the Darling Harbor area, was the IMAX theater, China town, National Maritime Museum, the Sydney Aquarium, Motor Museum, as well as the Powerhouse Museum. How could we do it all?! Several people were even lucky enough as to visit the ANZAC War Memorial and go up in the Sydney Tower. (Although the Sydney Tower proved to be a disappointment and a heartache to Shane, Lindsay, Paul, Katie, Pat, Mike, Jon Gibson, and Whitney.)

For dinner or ‘tea’, several chose to eat at the Hard Rock Café, (a folkdance tradition!) Others chose the more cultural route.... Cheaper McDonalds. Whatever was chosen for dinner didn’t matter because we all got to choose ourselves. By about 8:00 most people were worndown, weary from walking, illnesses, and a general lack of sleep. Several groups returned to the hotel in order to catch a little rest and relaxation.

Our eventful day, which was endowed with warm weather, blue skies, and sunshine drew to close with our 10:30 devotional. Ben Blaser shared a moving personal experience with gratitude. All were touched and humbled. Truly, we are all blessed individuals to have the opportunity to share in this great work.

Thursday, August 3, 2000
Paul Springer

It’s amazing how early morning comes! After running around Sydney yesterday we were all pretty tired and worn out, and the thought of doing it again was pretty overwhelming... and today was no disappointment.

Most everyone was up and around by 8:30 a.m. to catch our free “Continental Breakfast.” We were all excited that we could eat something other than triangular sandwiches with eggs and curry. Breakfast consisted of scrambled eggs, ham/bacon, an interesting noodle concoction, fried tomatoes, kiwi, toast and juice. The best part was we could eat all we want. Most people decided to get a little creative and economical as they secretly made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which they smuggled out of the breakfast hall. (Hey, money is running a little short at the end of the trip..anything to save a few dollars.) In the meantime Auntie Pam was on Nazi Medicine Duty, as she worked her way around every table handing out drugs like it was candy. Most people got a shot of some nasty decongestant and other drugs that you can’t pronounce. Needless to say, we love Auntie Pam and all she does for us, even if we complain. (You gotta love the garlic pills!)

At 9:15 the usual large group consisting of Shane and Katie’s followers were arguing over where to go and what to see. Jared and Lisa snuck away along with some other people. After 30 minutes of heated debate

we all decided to go to the New South Wales Museum. Most people enjoyed the Art, especially Jon Gibson. He looked like a kid on Christmas Morning... something only artists can understand; I think he loved it most of all. An hour later the group met together again and couldn't decide what to do. One group decided to stay, another group went to the Sidney Opera House for a tour and the group I went with went to the botanical gardens. The gardens were beautiful, but the highlight of the walk was the giant fox bats we saw. They were huge bats with a wing span if about 3-4 feet. They were flying around and so, of course, we had to take some pictures.

When we arrived at the Opera House we tried to use our Student ID's to buy entrance tickets but the ticket lady was less than agreeable. She told us that we were probably lying to her about being students and that we were trying to rip them off. She began yelling at one of the other tellers telling him that we are cheats, just loud enough so everyone buying tickets could hear. Needless to say people still bought tickets except Katie and myself. I was a little upset and decided I didn't want to help support a Mean Lady. Even sweet, quiet, angel, Amber got mad and went back to talk to the lady to tell her how disappointed she was with the customer service.. Go Amber! Well, to conclude the story, the group didn't even get to see the recital hall because they were doing some recording... I guess the people in the ticket office failed to tell them that. Shane and Jonathan were not happy campers.

We all met at 2:00 p.m. to head for the Sydney Temple to take pictures and pick up Amber Jensen who was spending time with her parents and grandparents. Unfortunately, we were running late and only had about 3 minutes to take pictures and run back on the bus. Some of us who were on SPAC '99 saw one of their fellow folk dancers serving his mission in Sydney at the temple, and had a good time talking with him (Andrew Wheelwright.)

The rest of the day went pretty uneventfully. We spent the next 3 ½ hours on the bus on our way to Newcastle. People slept and Craig got after people who hadn't turned in their tour history.....JARED and MIKE!! We arrived around 6:00-6:30 at the church and then met our billets. Most of us were ready for a good meal and a good nights rest.... For tomorrow will be even more hectic than today. You gotta love tour!

Friday, August 4, 2000
Amber Wood

This morning we all arose quite refreshed. Well, everyone except those of us who spent last night at the beach with the Young Single Adults. They all wanted to show us the Newcastle beaches and so we got home a bit late. It was worth it! ☺

The plan this morning was for everyone to meet at the Newcastle Civic Theater at 8:00 a.m. I am proud to say that Lisa T. and I were the first ones there (in case the last tour history person didn't say, this theatre was NICE.) We performed a 45 min show at 10:00 and the kids really seemed to love it. I met a teacher who said she had spent some time teaching her students some Polish folk dances. She was so happy and told me how much she had loved the show. She told me to tell the group that she wishes us, "God bless you always." The kids were all so cute, and I think we are glad we do these "SPAC" shows.

After the show, Ed conducted a dance workshop for the kids. There were about 100-200 children there. To quote Ed, "There was an overabundance of kids that flooded the stage, but Ed handled it brilliantly." (or so he says.) No, really, the workshop went very well. Ed taught them a lesno oro and Krici Krici. I was still in full Irish costume with slippery hard shoes on, and Ed decided to demonstrated the two-some part of Krici Krici with me. Somehow I hung on for dear life and managed to keep my feet under me!

After the workshop, we all went to a VIP luncheon/reception with the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries. Some of us stayed in costume and others dressed in tour clothes. The luncheon was nice. President Hill and his wife (Newcastle Stake President) were there and he did a great job of explaining the church values and ideals to the dignitaries. We sang 'Go Ye Now In Peace' to the group and then made our exit. It really

is good to meet some of the prominent people in the communities. It lets them know that the church really is good news.

For the afternoon, we were taken on a bit of a tour of Newcastle. The weather was beautiful today and we could see tons of people on the beaches. The beaches are amazing... long stretches of sand, and the water is a deep turquoise color. As we drove past the beaches, Pat and Shane were so ready to jump in the water that I thought they might try to dive out of the bus windows. The air is very warm... near 70 F and it was a good day to play in the ocean.

Well, we went first to the Blackbutt Animal Park where we could see more koalas, wallabies and kangaroos. The park was really nice...lots of paths and open spaces for the animals. Brother Eggington told us it reminded him of home...all the trees and animals around. We were able to meet Suzie, one of the koalas in the park. They brought her out for us to pet and take pictures with. She was very patient and let us all come and ooh! and aah! over her.

Well, after the animal park we headed straight for the Mereweather Beach. It was late afternoon and so the sun was shining across the Pacific Ocean and it looked so pretty. A few members of the team decided to put their swimsuits on and head for the surf. For their courage they deserve to have their names recorded. It was Katie, Craig (obviously), Shane, Jessi, Lindsay, Pat, Brent, Paul, Jacob and Alicia. They seemed to have a really fun time and were glad they got in. Some of the rest of us went for walks along the beach, played frisbee, and just enjoyed how soothing it is to be at the beach.

Well, we all had to walk back to the theater and so we washed off our feet with the hose and walked the 15 minute trip back to the theater. On the way back, Melanie bought some fresh bread from a cute little old man who barely spoke English. It was yummy! We made it back just in time for dinner at the restaurant next to the theater. They had prepared triangle sandwiches for us (yeah!), fruit and orange juice. It was simply wonderful, just what we all needed. Just to be nice, Lynn brought us all Tim Tam's into our dressing rooms. We all LOVE Tim Tam's. They are the Australian "biscuit."

I have to put a funny story in here that Arden shared with Paul and me. During our matinee, Arden was hurrying to get dressed and on stage for Scottish. There was a full length mirror in the dressing room right next to the door. Arden went running towards the door and saw someone in his way. He tried to tell the person to get out of his way but the person just kept coming towards him. Arden ended up smacking full on into the mirror...the person in his way was himself and he didn't realize it was a mirror. He had Paul and I laughing for a while. Goodonya, Arden!

The evening show started at 8:00 and went really well until the Ukrainian section. Here's the story... Katie was getting dressed for Poltovsky Duet during Mehkereki when she and Pat realized they had grabbed each other's costumes. So, Pat sends Whitney in just her Hopak basic and boots to run to the other side and tell Katie. Somehow, they switched skirts and vests but they still have on the wrong basics. So, Katie went out for the duet with a mini-skirt type basic. The funny part was that Katie sent Whitney back over to the other side of the stage to tell Scotty to hold the lights at the end of Mehkereki because Katie wasn't ready. So, at the end of Mek, all the guys were just standing in the light, not really sure why. So, after the duet, the two girls furiously ripped off their costumes and switched basics just in time for Hopak. Nice job Katie and Pat and little message girl Whitney.

Well, the audience really seemed to love the show. Before the show at devotional, Lynn read us a special letter he had received. It was from the sweet Polish teacher I had met earlier. She wrote to thank us for our morning show and to let us know that our show had touched her heart. She wished "God Bless You" to all of us and cheered us for our efforts. She was there again tonight and loved the show so much.

Eventually we got the stage cleaned and finished striking the set. We all went home and enjoyed our last night with our host families. I finally successfully completed the "Tim Tam Slam" with 10 pairs of eyes watching me, YIKES! We watched a movie called "The Castle", which is kind of a spoof on Australian life. Apparently most everyone had a relaxing evening. Well, except for Josh and Jared. Their story is as follows:

(written by Josh Probert)

.....After our show Jared and Josh's host dude pulled up after dropping somebody off. He was driving his suped-up Mazda. We took off and in this good brother's middle-life crisis style, he floored it and then braked hard at every light, trying to show off his car. Soon thereafter, a car pulls up and the competitive testosterone was piqued. The race was on. The light goes green and the tires squeal. The competing car, a white Holden Commodore, beats us easily. While our host dude is trying to catch up, another car pulls up along side us. The driver and passenger look like they're part of the drag race scene as well - until the driver turns on hidden cop lights and yells at host dude to pull over. Host dude pulls over and the policemen start grilling him. They can't believe he was driving like that with a wife and baby in the car, along with two valuable, valuable, BYU performers (including the principal dancer). Host dude comes back to the car and relays the information that the police department is going to confiscate the car for three months on the spot. Josh introduces himself to the driver of the other car. Jared makes fun of him (Josh) for doing so. The driver was a young guy - college age - who was pretty upset about it all. He called his girlfriend to come and get him. Host dude is not happy and host dude's wife is crying. The baby is screaming and there Jared and Josh sit in the middle of them all. Aaagh! So host dude's mom comes to the scene. While transferring some stuff out of the yello Mazda into the trunk of the mom's trunk, host-dude does something to the small fire-extinguisher in the trunk. It is hissing. He can't figure out what is wrong with it. So he takes it over to the police officers to look at. While fiddling with it, he accidentally shoots it off. A jet of powder hits the police officer square in the chest, causing a cloud to encircle all of us. Wow - it is hard to look cool when that happens. Josh was laughing out loud.....

Newcastle has been really great. It has been great to have a chance to talk to all the Young Single Adults. They are so strong and really withstand so much hardship to stay active in the gospel. It is a privilege to be here with them. As far as the show goes – Goodonyer, Everyone! Thanks for a great day!

P.S. – Oops...I forgot to mention one of the most interesting stories from today. This is the story of Joe the Ghost who haunts the Newcastle Civic Theater.

Apparently the theater used to be a movie theater many years ago. A young man named Joe had agreed to meet a young lady there. But she stood him up. In his disappointment he killed himself.

So now he haunts the theater and the stage workers say that they can often feel a “presence” in the theater.

Regarding Joe, Frank Rigby (one of our contacts in Newcastle) told us this story. A few years ago the city had a dream to restore the theater. However, in order to do so, Frank was going to have to raise or find \$8 million. He used to come and sit in the theater by himself and think about the problem. During those times, Joe would come and talk to him. He would tell him that it would be OK and he would find a way.

Well, eventually an earthquake hit the city and a broken pipe caused a leak into the orchestra pit of the theater. No one could understand just why that one pipe would leak. The insurance covered the reconstruction of the-pit and enough money was collected to restore the theater. So, Joe was right. Everything was OK.

Anyway, this is the ghost story. Is it really haunted? I guess I will let you all decide for yourselves.

Saturday, August 5, 2000
Josh Probert

Today was a long one. Our four hour bus ride from Newcastle to Tamworth turned into an all-day tour of ... well, the countryside. The professionally guided tour of Gunnedah, was among the “highlights” of the day. We saw houses, roads, the hospital, high school, a field, and most exciting—a silo. A statue of an Australian poet, Dorothy McKellar was cool though.

A rabid magpie clocked Shane on the back of his head as well as attacked others while at the Gunnedah Visitor’s Center. Some went into the water tower museum while others played in the park and watched a koala lounge in the branches of a eucalyptus tree.

We were heartily welcomed by the saints of Tamworth upon our arrival. The gym was decorated for dinner and dancing. We had our choice of potato, minestrone, chicken, or pumpkin soups with buttered bread. For dessert, there were many choices. It was a nice reward for a day endured.

A small band (two bohrans, a guitar, and an accordion provided music for dancing.) The members of the team mixed with the locals in reel and waltzes. It turned out really well.

One note of hospitality: The bishop offered to move sacrament to a later hour to let us sleep in. A first.

Oh yeah, we had triangle sandwiches for lunch. A few snapped; Andrea derailed.

Sunday, August 6, 2000
Jessi Blaser

Today has been a challenge for everyone on tour. Any bystander watching the team would be led to think that we all carry some foreign epidemic, which spreads like wildfire to those around. But despite the many illnesses I am so very grateful for the hand of the Lord, he is lifting our burden here in Tamworth.

The people here are wonderful. They have opened their arms and homes. At 9:00 in the Tamworth ward we were truly spiritually fed. The strength of testimony of the gospel was felt during the sacrament meeting. As many were getting up to share their love for the Savior and the gospel of Jesus Christ I saw a humorous account.

Brother Pepper of the Tamworth congregation was billeting Jonathan Gray and Paul Springer. Brother Pepper, a very jubilant man who is full of personality, leaned over to Jonathan, nudging him to go up to the stand and bear his testimony. Jonathan returned with a smile saying, “I’ll go if you go!”, and with that Brother Pepper jumped up leaving Jonathan shocked and amazed. Needless to say, they both gave wonderful testimonies. The team has been edified and truly blessed to be here in Tamworth.

During Sunday School there were a few of the girls who really were feeling sick. Without any question or hesitation they were cared for. The Lord knows each of us, and through the gift of the priesthood all of the girls received comfort and reassurance through a blessing. I am grateful for worthy young men who honor their priesthood gift.

After church we all went home with our lovely families. Many of us took naps while others went driving around the city, each of us being given a well cooked meal made by the hands of our loving hosts. That evening we were able to perform a lovely fireside. Prior to singing we practiced a few of our songs. The women’s voices were not as strong as usual and after a number there was a ripple of coughs. It was rather comical. Ed cautioned us to try to stagger our coughing so as to not let on that almost the whole team was sick.

The fireside was wonderful. Amber Wood, Lindsay Folkman, Tony Black, Brent Wallwork and Kerry Black shared wonderful testimonies. There were many in the congregation who had traveled two hours or

more to be in attendance. One woman stated that it was her first fireside experience (she had only been a member six months). We could feel their love and support as we looked in their eyes and sang. They joined us in the closing song – God be with you till we meet again. The bishop’s remarks were simple and full of love.

After the meeting we gathered to the cultural hall for a little “tucker” and chatted with the members and some non-members of the Tamworth ward. The love we have felt here in this small town is incredible. They give to us freely and they have worked hard for us to be here. We are very grateful for their kindness and examples, and can’t wait to perform for them tomorrow! It is amazing how the gospel blesses the lives of those who are in it. We are all family.

Monday, August 7, 2000

Jeff Dunster

Only four days left. To quote Joseph Anderson, "Only four days to sweet sweet love." Both of us have timed our laundry to last until we get home. Our laundry has become the immutable clock, counting down to the end of our last tour:

Washing laundry on this tour has been very convenient. Our culture class prepared us for the worst; minuscule loads in weak washers and then stiff, slow line-drying. Brother Eggington mentioned that some places in New Zealand and Southern Australia would be cold and humid enough that our clothes wouldn't dry during our short stays with each host. But my experience has been much better. Our hosts here in Tamworth are the first ones to dry my laundry on a clothes line. All others have used electric dryers.

Another undue worry from culture class was the hot water situation for showers. Most families were supposedly on an electric billing system that only heated water at night which is an off-peak time. If everyone used the hot water in the morning for showers there wasn't anymore hot water for the rest of the day. I have only stayed with one family on that system and they didn't have a problem with two more showers a day. Debunking these and other misconceptions about New Zealand and Australia has made this tour even better than I expected. Our host families are wonderful. The land is beautiful and not as cold as I expected. Our performing venues are usually adequate and my health has remained strong. This tour has been comfortable, but still very memorable.

Today we began with a matinee show for the local schools, followed by a workshop for all the grades (split into four groups). For lunch we met at the government offices and ate out on a rooftop patio. The sun was warm and intense and we were able to look out across the city and see just how small Tamworth really was. The sun felt so intense that I began wondering how far the ozone hole reaches into Australia. Later, our host mom said the hole extends over Tamworth quite frequently, so they just avoid direct sunlight as a habit.

After lunch we wandered around the town, wrote in journals, slept and read until 4:00 when our hosts came to pick us up for "tea". My host family had to rush dinner because we had to return to the theater around 6:00 to prepare for a 7:00 show.

The show was fantastic. We have already spent two days here so the families know us well and they were very anxious to see the show. Everything went pretty well, despite the raked stage. Jacob and I entered for the dog pile by crawling out a trap door at the audience's level. We hushed the front row and crept up to the stage in time to leap onto the opening dog pile. Jacob and I have had some unique entrances for that number. Only three more performances and then I will be free of that risky "dance". I have a new bruise after every show because of the dog pile.

Today was a great day. I like this small town atmosphere and I think we are making more of an impression here on the community and the members than anywhere else on tour.

Tuesday, August 8, 2000
Whitney Debenham

This morning was yet another time to say goodbye to host families. You would think that by this time we would be pretty good at saying goodbye but there were still a few teary eyes as we had to leave our new found friends here in Tamworth. The church and community truly opened their hearts and homes to us. We were supposed to meet the bus at 7:45 a.m. (which really meant that everyone was there by 8:15 a.m.). As has become tradition we sang "Go Ye Now In Peace" before saying our final goodbyes and boarding the bus. About ½ hour out of Tamworth we picked up Amber J., Rachel, Jonathan Gray and Paul. Their host families lived in the direction we were heading so instead of a 45 minute ride in the direction we were headed, they got to sleep in a little longer.

Today was the last long bus ride! This was a welcome thought for us all. Ed had threatened that if we did not leave on time we would not get any stops but we all knew he couldn't really do that to us. It was close enough though. We stopped for lunch in a little town called Tenterfield and had about an hour to walk around and find some lunch. The first thing people headed for was the toilet, though, since most of us had been trying to hold it for the last hour. The trip to the toilets created a discussion about toilet paper. Somehow they take the word toilet "paper" way too seriously. Sarah and Lisa came to the conclusion that soft, two-ply toilet paper is not too much to ask for. If you are going to spend money get the real thing!

There seemed to be a lot of indecision and difficulty finding something for lunch. We don't have much room to complain because at least it was not triangle sandwiches! Everyone ate at little cafes along the main road they dropped us off on. Many agreed that they had the best chips (french fries) they have had this trip.

When we got back on the bus after lunch, Lynn read the tour shopping statistics. As a whole we have been quite the shoppers. "Spend, spend, spend!" is many people's motto. From sheepskins to kangaroo pouches we must have done something to help the economy in Australia and New Zealand! The second half of the bus ride was somewhat more quiet. The back of the bus even quieted down long enough for most people to take a nap. We watched a news clip from Tamworth covering the show last night and then they put in "Prince of Egypt".

As we got closer to Brisbane the scenery changed. It was obvious we were in a warmer climate than we have been in. For most of us the sight of palm trees and sunshine was a welcome sight. We arrived at the university and took the long route finding the theater. When we finally arrived we did the normal unload the truck and start to set up for a show tonight. Everyone was pretty tired but we all went about claiming our territory for the next day and a half. Not long after we started the set-up, Ed called us all on stage to talk. As everyone gathered Ed informed us that Amber Jensen had just gone to call her father because her mother was critically ill in the hospital in Sydney. Ed told us that she had Toxic Shock Syndrome. Lynn had come to Amber earlier in the day and told her that her parents would not make it to the show in Brisbane because her mom was not feeling well. It was obvious how much we all care for Amber as the mood quickly changed as we thought about the situation she was faced with. We held a special prayer for Amber and her family before going to dinner.

Sister Eggington and Karen were in the theater foyer with Amber as she called her dad. She learned that the illness was more serious than she had expected and felt it necessary that she leave immediately to be with her dad in Sydney. While Amber was on the phone, Sister Eggington came asking for change so that she could stay on the phone. Although Amber only needed a small amount of change, more than \$30 was collected from what people had left in their pockets. Amber got off the phone and Sister Eggington immediately started making arrangements to get her to Sydney. At such a time of crisis in Amber's life, she was concerned with how we would do the show without her. That was the least of all of our worries as we were thinking about Amber and her family. The band quickly got together and tried to arrange the music for the evening without Amber. Hillary said she was sick to her stomach at the thought of doing it all by herself. She wondered why everyone seemed so calm. Did we not all realize what she had to do? We all had full faith that in her. In the meantime, Sister Eggington went with Amber to fly with her to Sydney.

Despite the sad circumstances, as they say in show business, "The show must go on!" Tonight was a combined show and fireside for the Young Men and Young Women. It was our regular 45 minute show minus Ceidilh and Scottish. Everyone in Scottish was elated to find out we did not have to do it! We had 500 screaming teenage girls in the audience tonight. This was quite obvious since the entire show sounded like a Beatles concert. Still dripping with sweat we filed back on stage with chairs for a mini-fireside. Jonathan Gray surprised us all by beginning his testimony announcing that he was engaged to someone who was in the audience. We all sat there dumbfounded until he laughed and announced, "Just kidding!" Thanks Jonathan for keeping us all on our toes. Alicia and Craig also had the opportunity to bear their testimonies tonight.

We met our billets after the show. The favorite comment of the night had to come from one of the billets. As Katie was announcing the names Ed kept interrupting with his regular commentary of, "Oh, I'm sorry!" and other sarcastic remarks. With one of the comments a man asked, "Why does this man keep butting in?" We all immediately laughed and applauded someone being brave enough to say what many of us have thought at one time or another.

Wednesday, August 9, 2000
Heidi Pincock

Our first and only full day in Brisbane was bittersweet. I'd have to say that every person had different feelings and reflections so I can't capture the day appropriately on my own. I'll merely list key words that I observed throughout the day and let you all remember the memories and emotions that you felt individually.

Sunny, warm beautiful day
Kangaroo Point
Queen's Street mall
The bus
Sandwiches
Amber and her Mom
Band Check
Putting make-up on
Sarah's devotional on stage
Pam's Family
Matinee
Sudden feeling of exhaust and weariness
Meeting the Audience
The meeting on the stage in a circle of chairs
Cat and Katie's song for the Eggingtons
Ed, Pam and Bill's special day
Tears
Dinner
Reading
Pacing
Rubbing feet
Playing the piano
Ed reading on stage
Paul's Bazooka bass
Braiding
Waiting
Devotional
Scott thanking his awesome tech crew
Lynn's words of advice: replaceable, irreplaceable, dating and marriage at this time in our lives
Josh's devotional

Go Ye Now in Peace
Ed reminding and shouting that the show starts in 5 minutes
Katie's Spring Flower apron falling off
End of the band's new musical number
The fire lighting during Hungarian
Hopak
Hugs
Talking with the audience
Strike
Host families
Lack of Sleep

It was a good tour, I love you all!

Thursday, August 10, 2000
Kerry Black

We have finally come to an end of our wonderful experience in the "land down under". Since this last day is going to be a very long flight home, I thought it would be nice for everyone to reflect upon their favorite memories of the past four weeks. There are different parts of a trip like this that leave lasting impressions on everyone's minds. What a better way to experience our trip all over again than to remember it through everyone else's eyes. The end of a tour like this is also a parting of ways for many people. It is nice to be able to see what everyone's plans are for the next little while. We have been so used to being around each other, and having the same plans, that this way we can still keep track of each other's paths. Hopefully these memories will help us not only remember Australia and New Zealand, but they will also help us remember each other.

Sarah Bateman:

When the band played "Waltzing Matilda" at the last show. It made me cry

Plans to find a job maybe go to more school in the future and get a teaching credential. She will stay in Provo for a while then move to Japan. Who knows?

Arden Anderson:

Most interesting food combination on tour: Spaghetti, corn and baked beans all on toast. Completely new to me but quite good.

Plans to work in the research lab in the engineering dept., go to Arizona, folk dance next year, graduate in April with Masters in Electrical Engineering. Then find a wife.

S. Craig Anderson:

He's going to hang out with Anne non-stop, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, while going to school. Has one year left in Electrical Engineering.

Melanie Carter:

So many memories come to mind when I think back on our tour. My favorites...

Feeding kangaroos and petting koalas

Watching 500 guys do the Haka for us at our show at St. Patricks. (Also, the incredible cheers for the bottle dance)

Eating with Sarah in Perth. We ate 14 egg yolks for breakfast without knowing it. Also, our midnight dinner at Fast Eddy's that quickly went downhill when we discovered our hosts were "taking us to dinner" as in driving us there not paying for us. Financial ruin!!

Brother Eggington's special experience with the aboriginals when they told him their sacred sites were the places Christ had visited the people.

Hobart icicle show: we huddled in our jackets and shawls on the stage and took pictures.

Melbourne host family told Pat and I we had brought sunshine into their home and had really made a difference in their lives. They served us in every way possible: seeing to all our needs. Sis Drury washed and ironed all my clothes - including my underwear, and Brother Drury picked up a hair dryer and dried Pat's hair while she ate breakfast so she wouldn't get sick.

Harry Potter books

Crying in our last show as we sang for the last time "Go ye now in Peace". That was a special day I'll always remember

Adelaide temple - I'll never forget the overwhelming spirit that was in the temple. I knew that God loved the saints of Adelaide and was pouring out his spirit upon them. I felt privileged to be there.

Plans to go back to school. Audition for graduate school in Arizona, New York, or Michigan. Graduate in April. In the future she would love to go back east somewhere with her husband. Ultimately she wants to teach at oboe at home and have clogging kids in her basement

Joseph Andersen:

Liked the Andersen(on) row on the airplane.

Plans to go home and get married, go to 1 ½ years of school go to law school and then take over the world.

Jessie Blaser:

Loved the family she stayed with in Tasmania because they gave her a foot massage, liked the roundabouts. Liked riding shot-gun on the left side of the car. Liked the sick bay (bus). And drunken spotlights.

Going home to Boise for Brandi's wedding then back to school. Will graduate in December then do an internship in Provo, Boise or Jackson then go to graduate school and eventually wants to have her own horse ranch with sheep and teach kids to ride.

Kerry Black:

I loved being able to see all of the temples and to feel how strong the spirit is among the members of the church there. It also really touched me to see how much of an impact our team made on our host families. It amazed me to see them all crying when we would leave them. It seemed strange to me that we could touch their hearts and make them love us in just a few short days. Those are memories I won't forget. It proved to me how the spirit works, and how important what we do is. --I also loved the animals--of course!

Going to Idaho for a family reunion, workshop, and then school! Nothing else too exciting. Will be graduating in Marriage, Family, and Human Development with a Folk Dance minor in April. Then who knows what? Just life with Tony.

Tony Black:

My favorite part of this tour was seeing the temples or temple sights in Australia and New Zealand. I loved seeing how excited the saints are about the progress of the church and the miracles that are occurring because of temple work.

Go to Idaho and go camping. Find a new job and finish school then get into graduate school and end up buying my own property where I don't have neighbors like Shane within one square mile of me.

Whitney Debenham:

Most impressed with the people she stayed with in Tamworth and getting their conversion story. Also likes her leather jacket from the Victoria Markets in Melbourne. The scary Emu's in Adelaide (yuck!). And the cute Joeys in the pouches.

Plans to graduate in April and figure out what comes next. Maybe law school or grad school of some kind. Get a date during fall semester and have lots of parties at her house. FFDF!

Ben Blaser:

Favorite memory was the saying: "It went off like a frog in a sock." He laughed with Joseph Gowen and his host family for an hour while they were trying to explain it.

Plans to go home to Boise for Brandi's wedding. Then be done with school in December graduating in business. Then he will go back to Boise and stir up some trouble.

Hillary Duncan:

The best thing about my tour was how willing my Heavenly Father was to let me be an instrument in his hands. My first experience with it on tour was when I prayed for a missionary experience. Immediately I was called on to give one of the talks in the first fireside. After, the sisters introduced me to Helen who was touched by what I had said and wanted to meet me. The sisters then announced she had just decided to be baptized. I was so excited for her and felt blessed to have helped in allowing her to feel the Holy Ghost. After that experience I prayed for many more specific things and was immediately blessed with opportunities to serve.

Has two years of school left in Anthropology. Then she wants to go to Jerusalem or live in South America.

Mike Brown:

Going to the footie match, going to the temple in N.Z. as a team, aboriginal family they stayed with in Perth, the family in Brisbane who joined the church as a family ten months ago (October of 1999), the Tasmanian spirit and beauty, hanging out with his best friends and performing.

Plans to finish school and work full time, then apply to chiropractic school in Iowa, Texas, or California. Wife!

Lindsay Folkman:

Petting koalas, feeding the kangaroos, seeing kookaburra in the wild, flying foxes (bats). In Tamworth the host daughter, Janie Kelly, who is six years old, when she first met Lindsay she asked if she had seen "charms". She told her it is a TV show and she said "you look just like a girl on it". She tried to describe something about her hair but told Lindsay she had a different hair color. Lindsay said "I haven't seen her, is she cute?" Janie made a face, shook her head and said, "not really".

Plans to dance another year, finish school in April go to Disneyland for her third anniversary on November 7th and train Tybie (Welsh Corgi) to "come".

Jeff Dunster:

I have been given a few parting gifts from host families, but none of them have come close to the gift from the Belbin family. Parting gifts are usually of little consequence to me; it's the thought behind them that I value. However, on our last night in Auckland, the Belbin family signed the backs of two beautiful sheep skins and placed them on our beds. We had only spent a few days with them and they gave us each a thick, white sheepskin worth \$40 a piece! This was a gift I would use for years and be continually reminded of their kindness and love for us. Each member of the family had taken time to write a personal message in indelible ink on the underside. I never thought an inanimate object could hold so much meaning. This will be my most cherished item from my folk dance tours.

Plans to get married....someday, own his own internet business, graduate in December and do study abroad in Jerusalem during winter semester.

Pat Greathouse:
California, school, then...?

Jacob Davis:
Amazed that we were up above the clouds in a piece of metal and machinery that carries 20 tons in cargo, 216,000 liter of fuel, and 392 passengers.

Plans to do his second year of law school, work at a law firm in Provo, Folk Dance, etc. Hopefully some frisbee.

Alicia Davis:
Favorite word was "CHOICE!" The H-o-n-g-i. Soup with bread for dinner in Melbourne and Tamworth.
Home! School! Folk Dance, work at the MTC mailroom, Jacob, blah, blah, blah, the usual.

Jon Gibson:
One of the most memorable experiences would be our aboriginal host families. They were converts and the spirit in their humble home was sublime. Their kids instantly opened up to us and on our departure we were given their most precious possessions - a family portrait done with their hands in th aboriginal style. I was speechless at their great love and kindness which I will never forget.

Get a job, two years left of school in oil painting, folk dance, graduate and make millions of dollars.

Andrea Ivey:
The spirit of Tasmania

Start teaching Mandolin and voice lessons and a few classes in the folk ensemble. One year of school left in History-Secondary Education. Marriage in future? Not sure about lots of stuff.

Joseph Gowen:
Counting off on the bus. The '25-35' stuff didn't happen which caused Ed to snap. As a result, no more counting off....EVER!

Applying for optometry school for fall 2001. Working in Provo in the meantime.

Catherine Larsen:
Kiwis and playing "Waltzing Matilda"

Go home, replenish wallet: drivers licence, student I.D., social security card, phone card, credit cards, a house, find car. Graduates in April then go to law school. Move to NZ to teach at CCNZ.

Jonathan Gray:
Brisbane!

Two years of school. Go to dental school. Work.

Lisa Malan:
"It's not what experiences you have, but what you do with them" Learning from this quote with the trials, billets, etc.

Figure out what to do with school and life.

Jared Peterson:
Street racing.

Go back to work. Get ready to start two years of business school.

Heidi Pincock:

Getting to be with the team everyday. It was nice to be with the families, but nicer when the team would meet together again. Especially the firesides! Also the "Wrong way go back" signs.

Getting married in SLC on Aug. 18, and then she still has 2 years of school left in History-Secondary Education.

Josh Probert:

Having his host dudes car impounded in Newcastle, and watching him spray the cop with the fire extinguisher; Tasmania; my buds; the back of the bus rocks!

Folk dance, school another year, publish some church history articles, write his Honor's thesis, and TA.

Rachel Sneddon:

The Footy match.

Graduate school in Dance at BYU and married life

Paul Springer:

Being with everyone--like a family. Getting to know everyone made the trip special.

One year left of school, folk dance club president, GRE ,apply to grad school at BYU, Kansas State, Connecticut, Syracuse, Wisconsin, Kentucky. President of Kappa OmniCron Nu--Busy!!!

Katie Strong:

It's really hard to sum up a tour in a few thoughts. So many great things happen each day that strengthen friendships and strengthen testimonies. I was really able to see the hand of the Lord among our group. With all of the sickness that was spreading--I was amazed that we were all able to dance and play each night. The Lord sustained us and lifted us so that we could perform. I am amazed at what the Lord will do for His children all over the world. I saw stones moved and I saw seeds planted. Sometimes that's all we see, but it is so fulfilling. With this being my last year I really tried to focus on the joy that I have felt by being a part of this team. Along with the joy I feel in sharing the gospel, I love dancing. I feel so happy when I dance. I love being on stage and looking at the faces of all my closest friends... everyone is so happy and their eyes shine! The Folk Dance team and Music Ensemble are made up of some of the greatest people I know. Choice people that I will always hold in the highest regard. This has been a great tour. The past three years have been a highlight in my life. I'm sad to see it end, but completely satisfied with the friends and memories I've made. You are all my best buds and remember-- "The back of the bus Rocks!"

Go home and find another job, finish last year of graduate school, work on thesis, make money.

Greg Tucker:

Thought the Adelaide temple was the most beautiful temple ever, and he was there with Maria.

Has three semesters left of school in Mechanical Engineering, and going to the National Clogging Championships in Kentucky in November with Maria.

Maria Tucker:

The Footie match.

Two years of school left in elementary education, moving their clogging studio to their new home, and also going to Kentucky in November with Greg for the National Clogging Championships.

Lisa Thurston:

Meeting a lady whose sons were baptized by Sam Brown on his mission in Tasmania, and Brent popping open his Croatian vest before we went on stage!

Find a new apartment, and find a job?

Brent Wallwork:

Sydney Harbor Bridge climb, and when a little five year old boy named Samuel gave him a hug after our show in Tamworth. He realized there was more to our show than just dancing.

Internship during Fall semester, doesn't know where, and then grad school in Civil Engineering, he doesn't know where, but he thinks he'll be married in 2001.

Amber Wood:

Senator Harradine starting our standing ovation in Hobart.

Workshop, folk dance, 1 ½ years of school left in MFHD. Spend the rest of her summer doing the books for club history, and she is going to Cancun with her family for Christmas!

Shane Wright:

The temples and future sites, the families, beautiful New Zealand, the Marae's, the Haka, Rugby--Aussies vs. All Blacks, the footie match--Doggies vs. Bombers, conversion stories, shopping, boat rides, triangle sandwiches (yummy in all varieties), Fish 'n' Chips, Sydney customer service, the people, Folk dancing in the country capitol of Australia, beautiful Tasmania, tropical Brisbane, feeding Kangaroos, petting Koalas, and fearing the Emu's, being attacked by a killer magpie, the cold beaches, the members, the Haka at the all boys school, The back of the bus, the back of the bus songs, breaking my bed when I sat on it in Sydney, breaking the prop box in Brisbane-- going anorexic soon after, and wishing that Josh would lose some of that, how should I say it--uh... fleshy...shall I say...Mass!!

Working as a Management Consultant/Performance Auditor for the Utah Legislative Auditor General's Office. Living in Provo!

Ed and Vickie Austin:

Ed was impressed that BYU would support us in such a way that we could perform without a charge to sponsors. This allowed the church to work with local charities, to build partnerships with local organizations and businesses in order to raise funds. The church has really been seen as a viable association in the communities and has proven it cares about the people. We were living the gospel and not just sharing the gospel.

Plans to go to Jackson Hole and plan the next year then start back to school. Will spend a lot of time with his family.

Scott Hormon:

Ode to a Sanga

Australia has many a wonder
She has the roo
She has the emu
She even has the koala
Oh, what a wonder she is

But of all the wondas
There is one wonda
About which I really wonda.
It is not the hopping kanga
But t'is the triangle sanga

Oh, but I really must wonda
How many ways can there be
To make an Aussie sanga?
But it doesn't matter what's in 'em
They all end up really quite triangula

And so of all the wondas
Of this great land down unda
I must really wonda in big Australia
Why a sanga is such a small little thinga.

-Scott Hormon

Plans to finish the house for Karen. Will be busy with conferences, education week, etc. Is going to put the sprinkling system back together, then he owes Karen a trip.

Karen Hormon:

Go back to reality, grandbabies, have Scott finish addition to home, start tutoring and get ready for school to start.

Eggingtons:

Brisbane and Olympics until Oct!

Elliots:

Most memorable part of tour was watching the expressions of awe on the faces of the audience in Tamworth.

Now that we are home Lynn plans to begin planning next year's tour in earnest.

APPENDIX

Recipes:

ANZAC Cookies

Make these as large or as small as you like. They will keep in an airtight container for at least a week or will freeze for two months. ***Recipe unsuitable to microwave.***

1 ¼ cup of rolled oats

1 ¼ cup of plain flour

1 ¼ cup of brown sugar, firmly packed

2/3 cup of coconut

4 oz butter

¼ cup of golden syrup (maple/pancake syrup, or honey)

3 teaspoons of water

½ teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda

1. Combine oats, sifted flour, sugar and coconut in a large bowl. Combine butter, syrup and water in a small saucepan, stir constantly over a medium heat until butter is melted; (or combine butter, syrup and water in a microwave-proof jug, cook on HIGH for about a minute or until butter is melted.) Stir in soda. Stir mixture into dry ingredients.
2. Place rounded teaspoons of mixture 2 inches apart onto lightly greased oven trays; bake in moderately slow oven for about 20 minutes or until cookies feel slightly firm. Use spatula to loosen cookies from oven trays and cool on the trays.

Crazy Cake

2 cups plain flour

1 ¼ cups white or raw sugar

½ teaspoon bicarb soda

3 teaspoons cocoa

Mix all the above ingredients in a bowl, then make tree wells (hollows) in the mix.

Put **1 teaspoon of vanilla** into one well, **3 teaspoons of white vinegar** into the second well, and **½ cup of melted of butter** into the third well.

Pour **1 cup of water** onto top of mixture, and mix only enough with a fork until the ingredients are combined.

Pout into cake pan and make in a moderate oven (325 degree Fahr) for 30-35 minutes.

This cake can be mixed in the tin you are going to bake in if desired.

Australian Poetry:

The Man from Snowy River

There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around
That the colt from old Regret had got away,
And had joined the wild bush horses -- he was worth a thousand pound,
So all the cracks had gathered to the fray.
All the tried and noted riders from the stations near and far
Had mustered at the homestead overnight,
For the bushmen love hard riding where the wild bush horses are,
And the stock-horse snuffs the battle with delight.

There was Harrison, who made his pile when Pardon won the cup,
The old man with his hair as white as snow;
But few could ride beside him when his blood was fairly up --
He would go wherever horse and man could go.
And Clancy of the Overflow came down to lend a hand,
No better horseman ever held the reins;
For never horse could throw him while the saddle-girths would stand,
He learnt to ride while droving on the plains.

And one was there, a stripling on a small and weedy beast,
He was something like a racehorse undersized,
With a touch of Timor pony -- three parts thoroughbred at least --
And such as are by mountain horsemen prized.
He was hard and tough and wiry -- just the sort that won't say die --
There was courage in his quick impatient tread;
And he bore the badge of gameness in his bright and fiery eye,
And the proud and lofty carriage of his head.

But still so slight and weedy, one would doubt his power to stay,
And the old man said, "That horse will never do
For a long and tiring gallop -- lad, you'd better stop away,
Those hills are far too rough for such as you."
So he waited sad and wistful -- only Clancy stood his friend --
"I think we ought to let him come," he said;
"I warrant he'll be with us when he's wanted at the end,

For both his horse and he are mountain bred."

"He hails from Snowy River, up by Kosciusko's side,
Where the hills are twice as steep and twice as rough,
Where a horse's hoofs strike firelight from the flint stones every stride,
The man that holds his own is good enough.
And the Snowy River riders on the mountains make their home,
Where the river runs those giant hills between;
I have seen full many horsemen since I first commenced to roam,
But nowhere yet such horsemen have I seen."

So he went -- they found the horses by the big mimosa clump --
They raced away towards the mountain's brow,
And the old man gave his orders, "Boys, go at them from the jump,
No use to try for fancy riding now.
And, Clancy, you must wheel them, try and wheel them to the right.
Ride boldly, lad, and never fear the spills,
For never yet was rider that could keep the mob in sight,
If once they gain the shelter of those hills."

So Clancy rode to wheel them -- he was racing on the wing
Where the best and boldest riders take their place,
And he raced his stock-horse past them, and he made the ranges ring
With the stockwhip, as he met them face to face.
Then they halted for a moment, while he swung the dreaded lash,
But they saw their well-loved mountain full in view,
And they charged beneath the stockwhip with a sharp and sudden dash,
And off into the mountain scrub they flew.

Then fast the horsemen followed, where the gorges deep and black
Resounded to the thunder of their tread,
And the stockwhips woke the echoes, and they fiercely answered back
From cliffs and crags that beetled overhead.
And upward, ever upward, the wild horses held their way,
Where mountain ash and kurrajong grew wide;
And the old man muttered fiercely, "We may bid the mob good day,
No man can hold them down the other side."

When they reached the mountain's summit, even Clancy took a pull,

It well might make the boldest hold their breath,
The wild hop scrub grew thickly, and the hidden ground was full
Of wombat holes, and any slip was death.
But the man from Snowy River let the pony have his head,
And he swung his stockwhip round and gave a cheer,
And he raced him down the mountain like a torrent down its bed,
While the others stood and watched in very fear.

He sent the flint stones flying, but the pony kept his feet,
He cleared the fallen timber in his stride,
And the man from Snowy River never shifted in his seat --
It was grand to see that mountain horseman ride.
Through the stringy barks and saplings, on the rough and broken ground,
Down the hillside at a racing pace he went;
And he never drew the bridle till he landed safe and sound,
At the bottom of that terrible descent.

He was right among the horses as they climbed the further hill,
And the watchers on the mountain standing mute,
Saw him ply the stockwhip fiercely, he was right among them still,
As he raced across the clearing in pursuit.
Then they lost him for a moment, where two mountain gullies met
In the ranges, but a final glimpse reveals
On a dim and distant hillside the wild horses racing yet,
With the man from Snowy River at their heels.

And he ran them single-handed till their sides were white with foam.
He followed like a bloodhound on their track,
Till they halted cowed and beaten, then he turned their heads for home,
And alone and unassisted brought them back.
But his hardy mountain pony he could scarcely raise a trot,
He was blood from hip to shoulder from the spur,
But his pluck was still undaunted, and his courage fiery hot,
For never yet was mountain horse a cur.

And down by Kosciusko, where the pine-clad ridges raise
Their torn and rugged battlements on high,
Where the air is clear as crystal, and the white stars fairly blaze
At midnight in the cold and frosty sky,

And where around the Overflow the reedbeds sweep and sway
To the breezes, and the rolling plains are wide,
The man from Snowy River is a household word to-day,
And the stockmen tell the story of his ride.

-- Banjo Patterson

Waltzing Matilda

Oh there once was a swagman camped in a billabong
Under the shade of a coolibah tree
And he sang as he looked at his old billy boiling
Who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me

Chorus

Who'll come a waltzing Matilda my darling
Who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me
Waltzing Matilda and leading a water bag
Who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me

Down came a jumbuck to drink at the water hole
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee
And he sang as he stowed him away in his tucker bag
You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me

Down came the squatter a riding on his thoroughbred
Down came the troopers one two three
Whose is that jumbuck you've got in the tucker bag
You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me
But the swagman he up and he jumped into the water hole
Drowning himself by the coolibah tree
And his ghost may be heard as it sings in the billabong
Who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me

-- Banjo Patterson

My Country

The love of field and coppice
Of green and shaded lanes
Of ordered woods and gardens
Is running through your veins
Strong love of grey-blue distance
Brown streams and soft dim skies
I know, but cannot share it
My love is otherwise

I love a sunburnt country
A land of sweeping plains
Of ragged mountain ranges
Of droughts and flooding rains
I love her far horizons
I love her jewel sea
Her beauty and her terror
The wide brown land for me

The stark white ring barked forests
All tragic to the moon
The sapphire misted mountains
The hot gold hush of noon
Green tangle of the brushes
Where lithe lianas coil
And orchids deck the tree tops
And ferns the warm dark soil

Core of my heart, my country
Her pitiless blue sky
When sick at heart around us
We see the cattle die
But then the grey clouds gather
And we can bless again
The drumming of the army
The steady soaking rain

Core of my heart, my country
Land of the rainbow gold
For flood and fire and famine
She pays us back threefold
Over the thirsty paddocks
Watch, after many days
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze

An opal hearted country
A wilful, lavish land
All you who have not loved her
You will not understand
Though earth holds many splendours
Wherever I may die
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

-- Dorothea Mackellar

Mail/E-Mail Sent to the BYU Folk Dance Ensemble:

Vanessa Crawford
Brisbane, Australia

Hi. This message is for all the group if you wouldn't mind passing it on for me.

How are you all feeling now that you're back home? I just wanted to drop you a quick line and say thank you for providing such a wonderful experience for all of us here in Brisbane.

I had my mother, her brother, his wife and their two little children plus a friend from work come to the Wednesday evening show. All of them enjoyed the performance immensely.

I had great difficulty believing my cousins' reaction. They are both very active little boys and they sat very still and watched the whole performance without complaint.

I also enjoyed being able to attend the Tuesday evening fireside. It was a great opportunity to get to know a little more about some of the people I served gravy to at dinner.

I wish everyone great success in their futures and hope to one day be able to see at least some of you again. I would say all but I understand some people need to graduate from school eventually. I may even have the opportunity to one day give up working and go back to classes myself.

Once again thank you for a wonderful couple of days.

Vanessa Crawford
ruids4@hotmail.com

Kerry Hodson-Thomas
Perth, Australia

Hi there. Just like to let you know, this evening my wife and I were guests to see your folk dance troupe, here in Perth, Western Australia. What a show. Your students did an amazing job. As I looked about at the other folks watching, everyone had a smile on their face. It was fantastic. Keep up the good work. And if possible pass on our best wishes to those talented young people, I was fortunate to meet Tony & Kerry Black. We have the same christian name, she and I, lovely young couple.

God bless you all
Kerry & Katie Hodson-Thomas
kezzo@kerrysmail.com

Tony McKenna
Hamilton, New Zealand

Lynn, once again, thank you for the performance. I have received several letters of thanks from the community groups from the Monday concert and the Mayor wanted me to convey his personal gratitude to the group. Can you advise at this early stage what groups may be touring NZ in the next few years?

agmckenna@hotmail.com

Mike Webb
Melbourne, Australia

To the Artistic Director and staff @ B.Y.U. I say, "BRAVO and a job WELL done ..."

Thank you ever so much for your talented students who performed at Melbourne last week . It was a wonderful experience to witness not only beautiful dance and colorful costumes but a performance which outclassed any that I have ever seen before, characterised mainly by the sheer cohesion and dedication of the ensemble.

I was REALLY spiritually MOVED to see these wonderful young performers in action and judging by the enthusiasm of the audience I believe I may whole heartedly represent their feelings also.

PLEEEEEZE keep up the great works ...

Sincerely

MIKE WEBB
mwebb@netlink.net.au

Brodie Daley
New Norfolk, Australia

Dear dancers

Thank you for performing for us at the Royal Derwent Theatre in New Norfolk on the 31st of July 2000.

You are all very talented.

My favourite dance was the sword dance.

Yours faithfully,
Brodie Daley
fairviewb3@tasmail.com

Fairview Primary School
New Norfolk

Letter Sent from Phil Baker to BYU and Australian Stakes Public Affairs Leaders:

..We have just put the (world acclaimed) BYU Folk Dancer on a plane to Adelaide. In all my years in the Church, I have never seen a more professional, vibrant, entertaining group or performers ! (and we have successfully hosted several great BYU groups over the years)

Let me share just one comment from one of our guests , Mr Kim Beazley snr. (former Federal Minister for Education, Family Values Award recipient and devout Anglican)

"Mr Baker, this ensemble would be without peer. I felt the Holy Spirit as I watched these young people - if your Church can keep this up, you are going to change the world!"

We held it at the Methodist Ladies College who had a modern 750 seat theatre style auditorium. Elder Grincerri invited the Moderator of the Uniting Church of WA to co-host a pre-performance reception to which we had about 38 VIP's attend. (this activity is one of several during the year strategically planned as we move towards our Temple Open House early next 2001)

The school matinee was poorly attended, about 200, due to school holidays ending 3 days prior to the first performance. The other matinee and two performances were full houses.

I must admit to not being a "folk dance" fan - it turned out that my pre-conceived understanding about this type of entertainment was quite wrong ! Perhaps I am like many Australians - our cultural backgrounds are perhaps generally "less than broad" and in my case a little ignorant.

The performance "blew our socks off" - nearly 2 hours of solid, continuous entertainment from a group of 36 performers who are a credit to not only themselves but to BYU & the Church! I sat next to a prominent Aboriginal indigenous leader in one of the matinees, he slapped his thighs, yahoo'd, said "awesome" about 20 times and brought his entire family to the following evening performance . He then brought them to the fireside and presented the group with aboriginal made gifts - the same spirit affected everyone who attended.

State Government Opposition Whip, Ted Cunningham MP said to me *"Phil, I have travelled the world and I have never seen such a vibrant performance! You mentioned in your introduction that all of the young men and some of the girls were returned missionaries, and you have 67,000 more of these - wow !!! "*

Our 38 VIP guests consisted of several politicians, the US Consul General, several past FVA recipients, several interfaith & community leaders and their partners.

We had the Australian National Chairman of the Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Congress, Rev. Sealin Gartlett, give the group a formal welcome (in Noogyar language) from the indigenous peoples of this area. It was a touching ceremony immediately before the performance started.

Some (visionary) Bishopricks, after being encouraged by (visionary) priesthood leaders, could make this activity into a ward activity - the BYU visit promoted by the Ward Council, youth perhaps having a car wash to raise some funds for tickets (\$30 per family, 2 adults, plus any number of children included) specifically for those families who maybe couldn't afford the \$30 - what a delightful ward activity, with inactives and friends enjoying a great night together !

The supporting staff were sooo co-operative and easy to organise. The fireside was just outstanding, they sing as well as they dance ! If you want to see some delightful, genuine role models, make sure you youth attend at least the fireside . We envy all of you who are hosting them - we have been very blessed as a community to have them .

May the Lord bless us all as we use these visits to strengthen the Kingdom of God.

Best wishes to all of you.

PHIL BAKER

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST **RECEIVED**
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

AUG 17 2000

Nikki Ah Wong
Media Specialist
Wellington Region

6 Kereru Grove
Stokes Valley
Lower Hutt

UPPER HUTT NEW ZEALAND STAKE

31 July 2000

T Lynn Elliott
BYU International Folk Ensemble
Oliver House

Dear Mr Elliott

Thank you so much for bringing the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble to New Zealand. We were thrilled with the great things that happened as a result of this visit.

The show itself was wonderful. The skill, energy and enthusiasm of the performers was delightful and much admired. The dancers had such wonderful personalities even non-members could see their special spirit. As one of the clips I have enclosed shows, the local newspaper reviewer was impressed also.

Your students were wonderful ambassadors for the Church. They were always polite and helpful and carried themselves honourably. They are wonderful role models for the younger members. Our people really enjoyed having them in their homes and many commented that they wish they had been able to spend more time visiting. Please let them know how much we enjoyed having them visit.

We had a great time organising everything at this end. We learned a lot and made many new friends in the community. We estimate that almost half of the audience were not members of the Church.

At the show and reception we visited with five local mayors (or their representative), several members of parliament and representatives from other churches. It was very good for our Public Affairs efforts as the Church is a very minor player here in New Zealand. We are only 1-2% of the population and there are many misunderstandings. We have only recently developed a relationship with Mayors and their councils.

At the reception after the concert the deputy mayor of Wellington commented on the energy, vigour and excitement of the performers. He said that Wellington prides itself on its culture. He said our audiences are very discerning and they loved the show. He also thanked the group for their work with the schools. The two school concerts catered for nearly three thousand children and they all seemed to have a good time. The children came out of the shows with smiles and declaring it "cool". The highest compliment.

It was exciting developing your video into a TV ad and the CD's into radio ads. We made many new friends in radio, television and print media and many people who saw the group on TV were impressed.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved for bringing this wonderful show to Wellington.

Come back any time.

Yours Sincerely

Nikki Ah Wong
(Organising Committee)

p.s. I thought some of the students might like tickets for their journals.

Mrs Suzanna Biniecki
82 Martins Wharf Road
Millers Forest. 2324.
Phone / Fax (02) 49831319
Mob: 0415-448830
weddingband@netexcel.net.au

To the Brigham Young University
Folkloric Ensemble

Dear Young people,

Let me introduce myself. I am a currently practicing Australian Special Education Teacher, and Semi-Professional Musician, of Polish – Russian Descent. I was present at this morning's 10 a.m. concert. At first I sat with tears in my eyes in such an emotional state. I was spellbound as I gazed upon the stage at such a wonderful, beautiful, talented, clean, well-groomed, smiling, professional, fantastic, perfect group of young adults. As a younger woman I was involved with the Polish community in Newcastle for 20 years, having been the musical director of the Polish Group "KUJAWY – Song and Dance Ensemble" which was similar to yours. You bought back many fantastic, heartwarming memories to me from my own youth.

You young people travel the world and inspire others. Today, I took the chance of taking along my small class of 12 intellectually disabled children, whom I teach Polish dancing as part of building up their own personal self esteem. After your concert, whilst we were kindly invited to partake in the dance workshop, one of my children who were not on the stage, left the hall and ran away. Subsequently, I had to suddenly leave your company to take up a search for the missing child with the Police Units and Rescue Squad. Eventually we found out that the child had boarded a train out of the city, but thank the Lord that he had street sense and managed to get home safely, be it some 35 kilometres away.(about 60 miles away)

Anyhow, I just wanted to thank you all. Musicians, Dancers, Technicians and announcers. The little children in my class were left with an indelible life-long image of wonderful role-models that they can aspire to be like. They all went home talking about which one of you they want to be like the most when they grow up. Just know that you are all doing a great job. I asked Amber to pass on a message to you all, but I just wanted to make sure that you all are told just how wonderful you are. God's Blessing upon all of you. Carry on because I think that God wants the young people of the world to be like you. Keep doing your work, keep inspiring others as you go. You are making our world so much better by showing other young people another alternative of how they can be (like you) You are all setting such a fine example.

I wonder if at some time you may be able to correspond with us by e;mail so that my class and my own children and in fact myself, can follow your progress around the world. You have some very steadfast fans from Woodberry Public School N.S.W. Australia. as you may be able to tell from this letter.

Thank you, thank you so much. And I certainly am bringing my family (mother, father and own children) back to see you again tonight at your 8 pm performance.
Once again, I will pray that you influence more of the worlds youngsters to follow your example of excellence. God bless you all and may Our Lord walk with you all wherever you go.

Mrs Suzanna Biniecki
Diploma in Teaching (Primary);
Graduate Diploma Special Education



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
HAMILTON

Hamilton City Council
Garden Place
Hamilton
New Zealand

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Telephone (07) 838 6976
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25 July 2000

Performing Arts Management
Oliver House – PO Box 28500
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602
USA

Dear All

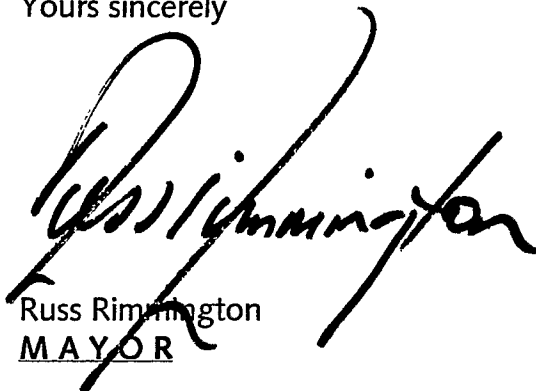
Greetings from the City of Hamilton!

May I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the members of the Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble and their support crew for the amazing matinee concert which was so generously performed free of charge in Hamilton, New Zealand on Monday, 17 July 2000.

I invited several hundred volunteer groups, whose work often goes without recognition, to enjoy this internationally acclaimed performance group. It was a rare and much appreciated opportunity to say thanks to the individuals who make up these organisations for the on-going contributions they make to our great city in so many different ways.

I commend your performers and crew for a superbly professional show, and one that was so well received and enjoyed by all in attendance.

Yours sincerely



Russ Rimmington
MAYOR

editor: Catherine Brown
e-mail: catherine@du2.byu.edu
phone: 378-7036

Folk team makes mark in Orlando

By Christine Jackman
christine@newsroom.byu.edu
NewsNet Staff Writer

The Epcot Center got a touch of BYU the past two weeks with 43 shows from the BYU International Folk Ensemble.

Ed Austin, the team's artistic director, said BYU was invited to perform at the Epcot Center's World Showplace Theatre.

The theater is to be used only for the year 2000 in celebration of different countries, he said.

"We were one of the only groups from the United States they asked to perform in the theater," Austin said.

The team members practiced for one year in preparation for Orlando. Most of the dancers are with the folk dance teams a minimum of three years before they make it on this top touring team, he said.

Sarah Bateman, a recent BYU graduate from Alameda, Calif., is one of the team members that has been doing BYU folk dance for four years. Bateman said that while they were in Orlando, they acquired some fans that often attended their shows.

Among their fans was a Christian preacher who missed only two of their 43 performances, she said.

Bateman said that the preacher saw the spirit they emulated and just kept coming back. He wasn't the only one who noticed something special about



Photo courtesy of BYU International Folk Ensemble

Members of the BYU International Folk Ensemble gather around Goofy at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. The folk team performed 43 times at the Epcot Center's World Showplace Theatre during their two-week trip.

this group from Provo.

Bateman said people would comment on the happiness that they felt as they watched the performances.

Austin said he feels one of the reasons these shows were so successful is because the team carries a special talent.

Among the talents the group exhibits is a Turkish dance that even tourists from Turkey approved of, Bateman said.

"We don't just do one kind of dancing so we have to learn the subtleties of each country," Bateman said.

When they weren't performing, the group enjoyed touring the Epcot Center.

"Good wholesome things are happening at the Epcot Center. We felt honored to be a part of that organization," Austin said.

Bateman said that the team even left copies of the Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ with some of the employees who worked at Epcot Center.

Jeffrey Dunster, a senior from Savannah Mo., majoring in English, said he would describe the tour as a missionary experience.

People noticed something more in the dancing; they noticed that the team members were happy people, he said.

"The audience would see the goodness and joy in the eyes of the students so they kept coming back," Austin said.

Dances with a dozen beats

DANCE from around the world will be celebrated by Brigham Young University's International Folk Dance Ensemble at the weekend.

The 43-member troupe from the Mormon university at Provo, Utah, will perform dances from more than a dozen cultures at Methodist Ladies College in Claremont at 5pm and 8pm on Friday and Saturday.

There will also be a special performance for schools on Friday.

The concert features Cossack dancing from Ukraine, Riverdance style Irish dancing, American clog dances, the slapping dances of Hungary and many other ethnic styles of dance.

"People will be familiar with some of the folk styles, such as the Irish hardshoe dancing," artistic director Edwin Austin said. "But they may be surprised at some of the ethnic styles."

The dancers will be accompanied by folk music ensemble Mountain Strings, whose members are also students of Brigham Young University.

Each production is a result of hundreds of hours of research, rehearsal and attention to choreographic detail.

Folk art specialists are often invited to teach their skills to the dancers, assuring the integrity of each cultural region portrayed in dance.

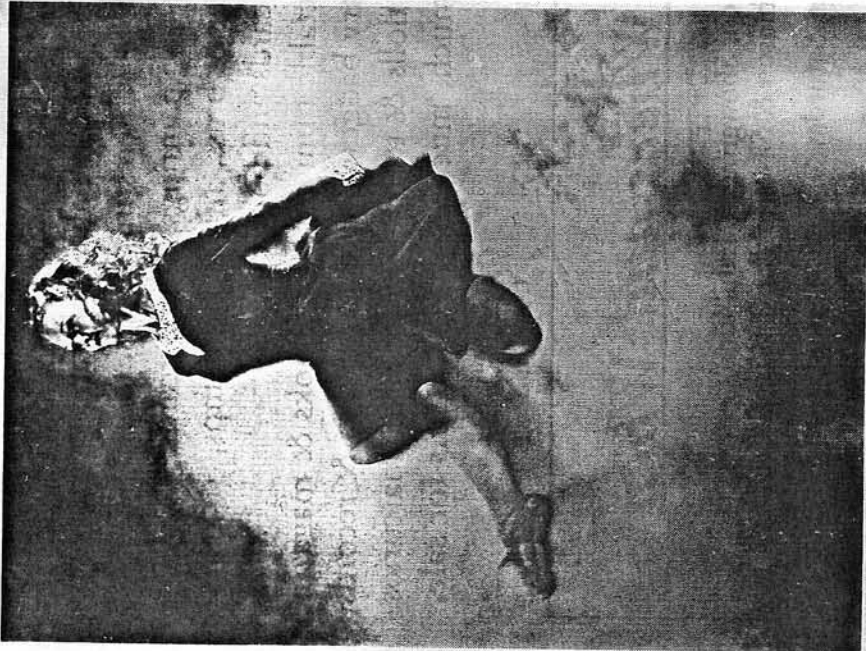
The International Folk Dance Ensemble has been touring the world since 1964 as an ambassador of folk dance.

Its repertoire also includes many of artistic director Austin's choreographic works.

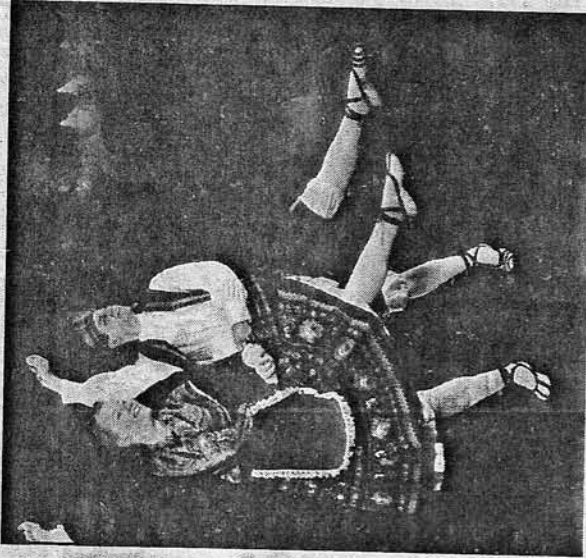
The dancers' current tour takes them to all Australian capital cities and New Zealand.

The ensemble is run from the department of dance in the College of Health and Human Performance at Brigham Young University's Provo campus. Brigham Young is one of America's biggest private universities with an enrolment of more than 30,000 students from the US and at least 100 foreign countries.

Tickets at \$15 adults, children \$10 or family \$30 are available from BOCS. Inquiries to Perth coordinator Wilma Willis on 9341 6733.



Johanna Edlinger in Cry of the Celts, by the Brigham Young University's International Folk Dance Ensemble.



Dancers from the Brigham Young Folk Ensemble who perform at Hutt schools this week.

Folk dances from afar

More than 1000 children at six Hutt Valley primary schools will this week get to see authentic folk dances performed by one of the world's foremost dance groups of its kind.

The Brigham Young University International Folk Dance Ensemble has performed in more than 30 countries and often represents the USA at international festivals. Formed in the 1950s, this is the first visit of the dancers to New Zealand.

Pupils will get to see dances from more than a dozen ethnic cultures, including the Ukraine, Ireland, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America. They may be familiar with the *River Dance* style of Irish hard shoe, American clogging and Cossack energy but other dances and costumes are likely to be completely new to them.

The 43 dancers and musicians from Utah will give one public show, tomorrow (Wed) in Wellington Town Hall. Book at Ticketek, 384-3840.

The performers travel at their own expense. All money raised by the school and public shows will go to World Vision.

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----|--|
| BYU FOLK DANCE | ADELAIDE ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE | | | BYU FOLK DANCE |
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THE BYU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

Sir Stanley Burbury Centre University of Tasmania Sandy Bay

Monday 31st July 2000 Commencing 8.00pm

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| 22JUL 00 | BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY |
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International

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*An International Celebration of
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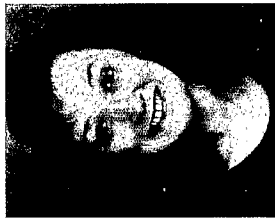
B R I G H A M Y O U N G U N I V E R S I T Y

B I O G R A P H I E S

EDWIN G. AUSTIN, JR., has been associated with Brigham Young University since 1985 as artistic director of the BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble. His extensive experience, however, began more than 20 years ago when his love for folk dancing and music led him to study with experts from throughout the world. Since then he has traveled around the globe performing, adjudicating folklore groups, teaching workshops, and directing the ensemble in television and live performances. He has served as president of the National Folk Organization of the United States (NFO), 1995-97, and is a board member for Le Conseil International Des Organisations De Festivals De Folklore et D'arts Traditionnels (CIOFF), American Sector. He and his wife, Vickie, have three sons.

DELYNNE PEAY became a folk dance enthusiast while performing as a student at BYU and has been a part of the directing team since 1975. As associate director of the ensemble, her choreography, costuming, and teaching skills have contributed greatly to the group's excellence. Her costumes have literally been seen throughout the world. A member of Dance Educators of America and the National Folk Organization, she has directed the Spring Performing Arts Company and produced folk dance presentations for elementary schools throughout the state of Utah. She and her husband, Garth, have three daughters and one son.

SCOTT HORMAN has worked as technical director for BYU's International Folk Dance Ensemble since 1987. Pursuing an interest in technical theatre developed in high school, he graduated from the University of Utah in 1968 in speech and drama education. He taught high school for nine years, designing and staging numerous productions before coming to BYU in 1978 as production manager for its motion picture studio. He is currently projects manager for BYU Media Services and belongs to the United States Institute of Technical Theatre. He and his wife, Karen, have two sons and one daughter.



WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE:

Robert K. Conles, *Dean—College of Health and Human Performance*

Lec Wakefield,
Chair—Department of Dance

Mark Geslison, *Director—Mountain Strings (Folk Music Ensemble)*

Jeanette Geslison—*Folk Dance Faculty*
Colleen Anderson—*Costuming*



For information on booking BYU Performing Ensembles, contact Performing Arts Management, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602-8500. Telephone: (801) 378-3576. E-mail: perform@byu.edu, <http://pam.byu.edu>.

Live musical accompaniments and special musical numbers are performed by Mountain Strings, our folk music ensemble originating from the School of Music, Brynchan Young University.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Handpatin' or Hambone is a dance of African origin. Often called "patting Jubba," it was distinguished by stamping and clapping, interspersed with snapping the arms, chest, and thighs. We know this form of accompaniment was also known in the Appalachian Mountains because of Cecil Sharp's description at Pine Mountain: "the air seemed literally to pulsate with the rhythm of the patters." The piece begins with the music of Mountain Strings and a bit of step dancing known as "flatfootin'."
 CHOREOGRAHY: Edwin G. Austin
 MUSIC PERFORMED BY Mountain Strings

Festival Clog was choreographed especially for international folk dance festivals. The mountain gathering begins with two dancers matching their rhythms to that of the banjo and washboard. The ensemble then performs some precision team clogging, and members challenge one another in a little step competition. Appalachian clogging is a free form of dance, with European roots. In the United States clogging was greatly influenced by the dance steps of Native Americans and black slaves.
 CHOREOGRAHY: Edwin G. Austin, Maria and Greg Tucker
 SOLOISTS: Maria and Greg Tucker
 MUSIC PERFORMED BY Mountain Strings

MEXICO

Falderin de Jalisco splashes the stage with a kaleidoscope of colors, rhythms, and excitement that vividly depict the state of Jalisco. Land of Charros and Chinas, this fiesta combines two popular dances, La Culebra and La Negra.

CHOREOGRAHY: Peggy Sue Wright
 ADAPTATION: Jeanette Geslison

BRITISH ISLES

Spiri Calha features music and dance from throughout the British Isles in a joyful gathering known as a Cèilidh.

Calahonian Salute couples the Scottish Lili, a national dance featuring smooth and graceful movements, with Troy's Wedding, a festive dance set to a lively jig tempo conveying the joyous spirit of a Scottish wedding celebration.

CHOREOGRAHY: Renal Zielke

Tina's Reel is a reel creatively adapted for 10 dancers instead of the traditional 12.

The reel tunes were first introduced to Ireland from Scotland in the 1800s, and it is believed that the dance steps soon followed. During that time reel music was known as "dance" music because it was only played for dancing—never merely listened to.
 CHOREOGRAHY: Tina Edlinger Shelley
 MUSIC PERFORMED BY Mountain Strings

The *Rapier Sword* dance of northern England descends from ancient sword dances during which human sacrifices were once offered. Look for spinning planets, eternal revolutions, and the annual return of the sun. (Performed July 8–August 10.)
 CHOREOGRAHY: London Folk Society, England
 MUSIC PERFORMED BY Amber Jensen

Dawns 'n' Glaciers, a light-hearted clog dance, was collected by Edwin G. Austin in 1987. Men often danced on tables in taverns to produce livelier sounds than could be made from the earthen floors. Gypsies kept this one form of dancing alive when, during the Methodist Revival of the middle 19th century, music and dance were forbidden in Wales. (Performed March 10–April 25.)
 ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAHY: Owen H. Rober
 ADAPTATION: Edwin G. Austin

Cry of the Celts is an electrifying production, choreographed in the style of *Riverdance*, featuring both traditional soft-shoe and hard-shoe dancing. It is preceded by the musical talent of Mountain Strings.

CHOREOGRAHY: Johanna Edlinger Lambert
 SOLOIST: Rachel Brems

INTERMISSION

YUGOSLAVIA

Plavci Baditi i Barnackih Hrvana ("dances from Backa and Banat") contrasts the dance styles of Croats from Vojvodina, Yugoslavia. (Yugoslavia now consists of the former republics of Serbia and Montenegro.) Despite external influences, the people have preserved their cultural heritage through songs, dances, and Croatia's most popular instrument, the tambura.

CHOREOGRAHY: Zeljko Jergan

CANADA (QUÉBEC)

Une Visite a Charlevoix presents the dance steps and figures of Charlevoix, a town on the northern shore of the St. Lawrence River east of Quebec. The *valse d'ogive* ("waltz clog") and the jig combine with various musical elements to produce delightful sounds unique to French Canada. The scene begins with a distinctly French Canadian vocalization known as *turibite*.

Turbute arrangement adapted from Turbute des 33 voleurs by Michael Faubert
 CHOREOGRAHY: René Fréchet
 MUSIC PERFORMED BY Mountain Strings

CHINA

Spring Flower, a dance of the Hun minority, is performed for the Chinese New Year and other special occasions. The first flower of spring represents the awakening of the earth, new life, and rebirth after a long, cold winter.

CHOREOGRAHY: Jiamin Huang

HUNGARY

The Hungarian Suite celebrates dance styles from three separate regions of Hungary.

Lagymis ("rad's dance") is a gathering of men improvising steps from the region of Kalotaszeg.

CHOREOGRAHY: Edwin G. Austin, Joseph Kroupa

Mezőföldi Urogers ("bottle dance from Mezőföld") presents a charming tradition where dancers balance wine bottles atop their heads.

CHOREOGRAHY: Caroline St. Martin, Arnold Boz
 ADAPTATION: Edwin G. Austin, Jeanette Geslison, Delyne Peay

Szalmár Táncok contains three movements: a men's verbunk, the *fegyveres*, and the friss ("fast") *csárdás* from Szalmár, which culminates in exhilarating turns and vibrant dance rhythms.

CHOREOGRAHY: Steven Kotanisky; adapted from the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble

UKRAINE

Pelivukyi Duet is a character dance illustrating the frustrations and antics of a taller woman who very much wants to succeed in dancing with a gentleman who is far too short!

CHOREOGRAHY: Richard Wacko
 SOLOISTS: Katie Strong and Arden Anderson

Hopak, the spirited national dance of Ukraine, was originally performed by men during the famous Cossack period.

CHOREOGRAHY: Colleen West, Edwin G. Austin

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

2000



Arden Anderson

Arden Anderson



Craig Anderson

Craig Anderson



Sarah Bateman

Sarah Bateman



Kerry Black

Kerry Black



Tony Black

Tony Black



Mike Brown

Mike Brown



Melanie Carter

Melanie Carter



Alicia Davis

Alicia Davis



Jacob Davis

Jacob Davis



Whitney Debenham

Whitney Debenham



Jeff Foster

Jeff Foster



Lindsay Folkman

Lindsay Folkman



Jon Gibson

Jon Gibson



Joseph Gowen

Joseph Gowen



Patricia Greathouse

Patricia Greathouse



Lisa Malan

Lisa Malan



Josh Probert

Josh Probert



Rachel Snedden

Rachel Snedden



Paul Springer

Paul Springer



Katie Strong

Katie Strong



Lisa Thurston

Lisa Thurston



Greg Tucker

Greg Tucker



Maria Tucker

Maria Tucker



Brent Wallwork

Brent Wallwork



Amber Wood

Amber Wood



Shane Wright

Shane Wright

Shane Wright

Joseph Anderson



Joseph Anderson
(Musician)

Joseph Anderson



Hillary Duncan
(Musician)

Hillary Duncan



John Gray
(Musician)



Andrea Ivey
(Musician)

Andrea Ivey



Amber Jensen
(Musician)

Amber Jensen



Catharine Larsen
(Musician)

Catharine Larsen



Jared Peterson
(Musician)

Jared Peterson



Ben Blaser
(Technician)

Ben Blaser



Jessica Blaser
(Technician)

Jessica Blaser



Heidi Fincock
(Technician)

Heidi Fincock

The International Folk Dance Ensemble has been touring abroad since 1964. The past three years alone have seen the group in Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Switzerland, France, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and China, as well as throughout North America. As an emissary of the United States and American folklore, the ensemble has performed with the finest dance companies at the world's most prestigious folk dance festivals.

The troupe boasts 36 musicians, singers, and dancers, who combine to form one of the most unique groups of performing artists in the United States. Mountain Strings, a folk music ensemble featured throughout the concert, adds the magic of live music. The performers are all students of Brigham Young University and come from throughout the United States.

The International Folk Dance Ensemble originates in the Department of Dance of the College of Health and Human Performance at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Intensive learning in a stimulating setting—nurturing the mind, body, and spirit—is central to the mission of Brigham Young University. Cradled between the breathtaking Rocky Mountains and Utah Lake, BYU was founded in 1875 in Provo, Utah, by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is one of the United States' largest private universities.

Of the more than 30,000 full-time students who attend BYU, about 70 percent come from outside Utah, representing all 50 states and more than 100 foreign countries. All major races and religions are represented on campus. Capitalizing on the multicultural backgrounds of the student body, BYU regularly offers instruction in 25 languages and optionally in 15 more.

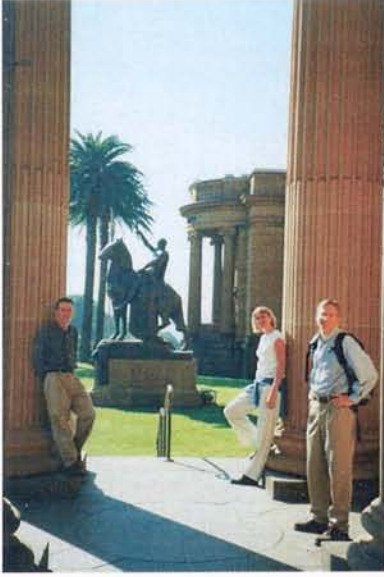
In addition to the spacious campus facilities in Provo, Utah, and Laie, Hawaii (with a student body of 2,200), BYU's international programs now include on-site learning experiences in locations throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa. BYU's athletic teams continue to achieve national rankings, and each year student performing groups, such as the Folk Dance Ensemble, typically perform worldwide in more than 20 countries.



EPCOT CENTER 2000



**AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
2000**



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