

FIFTH LETTER FROM THE GROUP  
STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

By A. C. Vines

VOCATIONAL WEEK

This Vocational Week is the one most of us have looked forward to, a chance to study the particular vocation which we, as individual team members, are interested in.

The week started in the usual way, with an exchange of team members at a place called Waterfall, a place about like New Caney. Each of the members went his own way for the rest of the day.

As far as Rotary meetings this week, we each attended different rotary meetings because we were so separated. Jim was given the title of "lover boy" at the Ashfield Rotary Club. Jim can't understand this, just because he gets 10 letters and a package from a girl in Brisbane and rides with a young lady from Kiama to Sydney.

Gregg and Ron spent the week with Dr. Cameron and said their week was very rewarding.

Jim and Acey spent the week visiting schools, both private and public.

Rich got to see how the accountants in Australia worked along with playing a little golf. In his opinion, golf is an important part in any profession.

Bob had the opportunity to visit many building projects, including a tour of the opera house. He said the building was fantastic and nothing in the world would compare to the construction used in this facility.

The climactic event of the week was to be able to see the Grand Final of Rugby League on Saturday.

CONCLUDING LETTER FROM THE GROUP  
STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

By G. C. Waddill

The time has come to write the final chapter to the 1971 Group Study Exchange Team's visit to Australia. People, experiences, and the rush of activities run together in a mosaic blur. It is still too early to sort it all out. But, from our study of Australia, its customs, business and professional life, and its people have come a greater understanding and lasting friendships. The Farewell Dinner helped to bring things together.

One instance in that evening stands out in my mind. Peter Short, David Hatton, and Frank Bladwell, members of the Australian team, were present. Although we had very little contact with the Aussie team during our visit, I had met them in Houston on several occasions during their visit to Texas. Their presence at that dinner suddenly seemed to bring Houston much closer to Sydney, to bridge the impersonality of the distance that separates our two countries.

Ours has been a very personal experience. Countless families opened their homes and hearts to us. We shared with them the ritual of daily living and, for all too brief a time, were participants in that ritual. One could not ask for a greater opportunity or be afforded a greater honor.

Travel is always an educational experience. I feel that one learns not only about another people and their culture, but more about himself and his own country. We were able to take up residence in someone else's point of view. When the noise subsides and the dust settles, it is the people that are important. I hope that others will have the opportunity for a similar experience. To Rotary International and all those people whose hard work made our experience possible, thank you.

After the cold trip on the boat, we were ready for warmer places. The team was taken to the Narooma Bowling Club where they were presented Club Pins. Between the drinks that were served and the warm hospitality displayed by the club members to the Texans, the team finally thawed out.

Following a very busy day, the team looked forward to a free evening to be spent with their respective hosts.

#### Saturday, September 4, 1971

Even though Saturday was designated as a free day on the schedule, the team members were up early preparing for a deep-sea fishing excursion. At 7:30 the team boarded a boat and headed for an island that Captain Cook named Montague. After searching with the Sonar, the captain discovered a school of King Fish. The excitement began! After a few hours of fishing, one team member, Acey Vines, became sea sick and remained that way during the excursion. The other Texans continued to pull in King Fish, averaging 20 lbs. each. Totally exhausted the crew headed inland. Reaching an obstacle - the sand bar, at low tide, the boat could not get into the harbour, so the captain turned the boat around and headed back to sea, to wait for the tide to go in. After hours, which were spent by the crew taking a siesta, the tide started rising, and the captain took the boat full of tired Texans in. Each member took a fish home to his host.

Returning to their respective hosts' homes, the team members attempted to get the smell of fish washed off. It was Saturday night - time for a party! The Exchange Team were the guests to an eight-dish Chinese meal at the Narooma Golf Club. After the delicious meal and several drinks, the team went into the social room for dancing. The band recognized the team and played "The Yellow Rose of Texas" and "Deep In the Heart of Texas". After much dancing and a lot of warm fellowship, the team called it a night.

#### Sunday, September 5, 1971

The author of this newsletter was up early the next morning and was taken to the Wallago Lake Aboriginal Settlement by his host, John Taylor. Time was spent talking with the Aborigines and the author bought a shield made by the settlements' chief. After leaving the settlement, the author was taken to Dromedary Mountain, which was the first land mark Captain Cook sighted on his voyage to New South Wales. The author spent some time here collecting specimens of rocks.

The author and his host returned home to clean up. The team members and their hosts and families drove to Moruya - a town located approximately 50 miles north of Narooma, for a farewell picnic at the Moruya Aerodrome. The Rotarians of four Rotary Clubs were present: Moruya Club, Milton-Ulladulla Club, Batesman Bay Club, and Narooma Club. After delicious charcoaled steaks, the team members were taken on a scenic flight over the coast-line. Team member Ron Hill piloted one plane - no crashes reported. Ha! The team members were overwhelmed with the warm hospitality these clubs showed them.

Again, it was a sad moment to say "good-bye" to all of the many Aussies the team members had met during their stay in Narooma and the surrounding area.

The team members returned home with their respective hosts to pack and spend the evening visiting with the families.

*Sincerely yours  
Jim Balligan*