

## **AUSTRALIA – “The Land Down Under”**

- Australia is located in the southern hemisphere (below equator), and lies between the Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- Its **capital city** is **Canberra** and it is the smallest of the seven continents.
- **Population** – about 22.6 million people; Australia's area is 7,692,000 square kilometers.
- **Climate** – tropical, it is usually hot summers and mild winters, like The Bahamas. Southeastern area- has snow.
- **Currency** – **Australian dollar** (the Aud.).
- **Tropic of Capricorn** runs through Australia (similar to Bahamas where Tropic of Cancer runs through it).
- Several of the older persons of Australia migrated there from: the United Kingdom, Italy, Greece, Germany, the Netherlands and other European countries, (most recent immigrants came from south-east Asia).
- **Aborigines** – people who lived in Australia 30,000 years ago, before the Europeans arrived. Aborigines didn't form land or keep animals, but moved from place to place to gather food. Few Aborigines remain today, their fate was similar to the Lucayans of The Bahamas.
- **The OUTBACK** – it is a large area of dry land, where large sheep farms (**sheep stations**) can be found. Some people live and work on the sheep stations.

They have houses, sheds, a tool repair workshop, shearing sheds, a power generator, and vegetable garden. Water is pumped from underground by a wind pump. Due to the sheep stations being so large, people communicate through radios (used for chatting or emergencies).

- A team of flying **doctors** travel huge distances every year to care for their patients who live in the Outback.
- **School of the Air** – it is a special **radio school**, where the students get lessons by mail and radio in the Outback. Students talk to their teachers by radio and receive homework assignments, once the work is mailed, it is then graded.

