

## Additional information :

**Position**—Australia lies south of Asia, and is wholly in the southern hemisphere. The Tropic of Capricorn divides it into two nearly equal parts.

**Size**—Its greatest length from east to west is 2,400 miles, and its greatest breadth from north to south is 2,000 miles. Its area is about 3,000,000 square miles.

**Coast Features**—The coast line is generally regular. There are few large openings. It is 8,800 miles in length. There are a number of good harbors in the south-east.

**Peninsulas**—In the north are *Arnhem Land* and *Cape York Peninsula*; in the south *Yorke Peninsula*.

**Capes**—The most northerly point is *Cape York*; the most easterly, *Cape Byron*; the most southerly, *Cape Wilson*; and the most westerly, *Steep Point*.

**Seas**—In the north are *Arafura* and *Timor Seas*, and in the north-east *Coral Sea*.

**Gulfs**—In the north are the *Gulf of Carpentaria* and *Cambridge Gulf*; in the west, *Shark Bay*; in the south, the great *Australian Bight*, *Spencer Gulf* and *Port Philip*; in the east, *Botany Bay* and *Halifax Bay*.

**Straits**—*Torres Strait*, between Australia and New Guinea, *Bass Strait*, between Australia and Tasmania.

**Islands**—The islands are small and unimportant. The *Great Barrier Reef*, which extends along the north-eastern coast from Torres Strait south-eastward for nearly 1,200 miles. It is generally from 10 to 20 miles from the shore, but in some places 100 miles. It varies in width from a few miles to 100. Opposite the mouths of rivers are openings which permit access to the quiet waters between the barrier and the mainland.

**Surface**—The characteristic features of Australia are a narrow continuous plain round the whole coast; a vast low plateau about 1,000 feet high, mostly unwatered; and in the south-east the great river-basin of the *Murray-Darling*. The *Dividing Range* separates the low plain on the east and south-east from this basin.

**Mountains**—The mountains lie along the east side, between Wilson Point and Cape York. They are called by the general name the *Dividing Range*. They consist of a series of ranges separated by deep valleys, and are nowhere more than 150 miles from the coast. The *Australian Alps* is the highest range, and Mount Townsend, 7,350 feet, is the highest mountain.