

Friday 20 April 2007

# tour information



## Tour 1

### Science Down Under

#### DAIRY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE

Witness a wallaby being milked and discover how milking these marsupials – as well as echidnas and seals – is assisting the Australian dairy industry. The Dairy CRC's research provides dairy farmers, processors and manufacturers with access to advanced technologies and products, helps make milk more competitive in the market place and expands the choice of health-giving milk products.

#### CSIRO CLAYTON HUB

Visit the largest site of Australia's national science agency where a diversity of research takes place. Play with plastic solar panels and a magnesium alloy car engine that weighs just 14kg. Find out about the latest developments in energy storage and how maths helped animate the Titanic. Discover the secret life of termites and how the mining industry is going back to future for sustainable steel production. Learn how petroleum scientists are applying their methods to understanding volcanic evolution and eruption.

#### AUSTRALIAN SYNCHROTRON

Opening this year, the Australian Synchrotron will help scientists make major breakthroughs across a wide range of scientific and industrial applications. Throughout the world, synchrotrons have been used in a diversity of areas, including making better, smoother chocolate and faster, more efficient jet engines; solving crimes; producing finely detailed x-ray images for medical and industrial purposes; and manufacturing tiny microcomponents. This is an opportunity to walk on the technical floor, meet key scientists and find out how the facility will assist researchers.

## Tour 2

### Australian flora and fauna

#### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS CRANBOURNE

Experience one of Victoria's most precious areas of native bushland, which is home to thriving animal life, including several rare and endangered species. Immerse yourself in the new Australia Garden – 2006 winner of the Australian Tourism Awards. Landscape design, native bush plants and art forms are used to celebrate the diversity of Australia – our land, our culture and our stories. Transformed from a former sand mine, the Australian garden, conserves and celebrates Australian flora in an innovative setting.

#### PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARK

Each night at sunset, the world's smallest penguins – the Little Penguins – emerge from the sea after a hard day's fishing and waddle ashore to their sand dune burrows. You will enjoy this natural spectacle from elevated boardwalks and viewing stands that allow you to enjoy all the action without disturbing the penguins or their burrow homes. Hear from a researcher about their world-leading penguin research programs and how they contribute to the management and ongoing survival of this and other precious species. Please note that admission to the Park is included in this tour, however participants must cover their own meal costs (about \$30 for dinner at the Park).

## Tour 3

### Healthy mind and healthy planet

#### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE

Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens is home to more than 10,000 species and 50,000 individual plants in the 38-hectare gardens, including some of great cultural value. Many of these plants are irreplaceable, endangered or even extinct in the wild. The Gardens have been a treasured icon of Melbourne life for the past 159 years. With their stunning vistas, tranquil lakes and diverse plant collections, the Gardens are a place of continual discovery. The Gardens also house the National Herbarium of Victoria.

#### HOWARD FLOREY INSTITUTE

Visit Australia's largest brain research institute and meet scientists working on a variety of brain disorders including Parkinson's disease, addiction, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and Huntington's disease. Learn about the Florey's ambitious plans to become one of the world's top 10 neuroscience institutes.

#### CSIRO MARINE & ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Visit the heart of the national research agency's expertise in modelling, monitoring and predicting changes in the atmospheric environment and climate system. Check out the unique Cape Grim air archive – which provides CSIRO and international researchers with priceless air samples dating back decades – the ice and gas analysis labs and the wind tunnel.



A range of tours in and around Melbourne are on offer to delegates for Friday 20 April. These tours are included in the registration fee. The tours will incorporate science and tourism sites and lunch (except the penguin tour). Tours will depart and return from the conference venue, the Grand Hyatt between 9.00am and 10.00am. Tours will vary in length. For bookings and further details, please visit the registration desk.

#### Tour 4

### From biocontainment to the beach

#### CSIRO AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY (AAHL)

AAHL is a national centre of excellence in disease diagnosis, research and policy advice in animal health. AAHL plays a vital role in maintaining the health of Australia's livestock, aquaculture species and wildlife, while sustaining Australia's capability to quickly diagnose exotic (foreign) and emerging animal diseases.

Find out about AAHL's ongoing research programs to develop the most sensitive, accurate and timely diagnostic tests, which are critical to the success of any eradication campaign in the event of a disease outbreak.

#### SURF WORLD TORQUAY

Australia – land of sun and surf. Immerse yourself in the history of a favourite Aussie pastime at the largest surfing/beach culture museum in the world. Marvel at the surfboards on display, dating back to 1919 and chuckle at the swimming costumes, wetsuits and photographs from 1900 onwards. Check out the wave tank as it generates swell breaking on a beach, or test your skills at surfing a ball across the mechanical wave. Then feel the sand beneath your feet at the legendary Bells Beach.

#### Tour 5

### Fire and water

#### BUSHFIRE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE

Visit Anakie and the Brisbane Ranges National Park, which were badly burnt by bushfire early in 2006. Walk amongst Australian bushland with scientists talking about research into prevention and suppression of bushfire, preparation of home owners and regeneration of the bushland post-fire. Climate change, drought, conservation priorities, land management, urban growth, community emergency education, animals and insects will also be discussed in relation to this.

#### MELBOURNE WATER'S WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT

Experience the innovative side of what can otherwise be a messy business. Melbourne Water uses biogas to generate electricity, produces Class A recycled water for the local agribusinesses and harnesses a lagoon system to treat 52% of Melbourne's sewage at the 11,000 hectare site in Werribee. This system includes Lake Borrie – part of a Ramsar Convention Wetland of International Importance – which hosts migratory birds from Alaska, Siberia, China and Japan; and is considered one of the top 10 birdwatching areas in Australia. With water storages across Australia at all-time lows during our record drought, Melbourne Water is developing ways to squeeze value out of every last drop.

#### Tour 6

### Culture, cures and creatures

#### NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

The National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is known internationally for its conservation work in paintings, textiles, objects, drawings, photographs, frames and furniture, exhibitions and other visual arts media. The work – often in partnership with CSIRO – involves such processes as x-radiography, infrared imaging and portable x-ray fluorescence non-destructive analysis, as well as light microscopy. Important discoveries have been made about many of the NGV's greatest works through application of various examination and analytical techniques. Conservators will discuss conservation examination, analysis, restoration and preservation at the NGV.

#### THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

WEHI is one of the world's leading medical research centres. Its work covers cancer, genetics, malaria, autoimmune diseases, medicinal chemistry, drug discovery and translational research – taking scientific discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic.

#### HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY

Meet some of Australia's unique creatures – from the well-known koalas and kangaroos to the mysterious and misunderstood platypus. Come on a behind-the-scenes tour of the sanctuary's conservation breeding programs, including special opportunities to see Victoria's six most endangered species: orange-bellied parrot (Victoria's State Bird Emblem), helmeted honeyeater, brush-tailed rock wallaby, easter-barred bandicoot, mountain pygmy possum and spotted tree frog. Take a close-up look at the interactive veterinary hospital – the Australian Wildlife Health Centre – and our breeding program for Tasmanian devils.