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EP. 12. MONDAY, 1st May, 1995

JIM BROWN VISITS MARYSVILLE

One thing about living in Australia, is that occasionally, close to the heart of our larger cities you can find wonderful little hide-aways, like the mountain village of Marysville in Victoria.

Located just 95 kms from Melbourne, Marysville's long history began as a base for cattle grazing and timber felling. From the turn of the century the obvious beauty of the area made it a popular and relaxing mountain tourist destination. To this day the rustic charm, permeated by the feel of a by-gone era - is Marysville's main appeal. One of the most popular features of the area are Stevensons Falls which have a vertical drop of 83 metres with the cool alpine waters cascading through beautiful rain forest. The waterfall for extra effect, is even illuminated at night by hydro electricity generated downstream.



Based at Marysville, you can enjoy several easy-day trips. The Lady Talbot Drive is one of the prettiest in the country and takes you to some exquisite mountain environments, like one of the last untouched stands of Native Beech forest in the world. Allow yourself a couple of hours for a delightful walk that you'll never forget.

Another trip less than an hour from Marysville is the Cumberland Reserve. Here the aptly named "Valley of the Giants" features huge Ash trees (second only in size to the ancient American Sequoias). Jim was treated to a moving recital by two harpists from the trio - "The Moving Harps" in the shadows of these majestic giants. Harpist David Rackham had his harp constructed from Marysville Ash, King Billy Pine from Tasmania and Jarrah from Western Australia - making it a truly indigenous instrument.

This is mountain country and the weather is changeable, but that's part of its attraction. Early risers will enjoy to misty landscapes, even in summer.

Marysville offers a variety of friendly and comfortable accommodation. There is Bob McNamara's cute 'Dalrymple's Guest Cottages' and Dieter Jurgens 'Maryton Park' which has cabins with mountain views and a lake where the fish literally jump out of the water.

If you have a four wheel drive and want to rough it a little, then its worth making the trek over some testing roads to Kellett's hut. Here you can get a feel of history from the days when cattle men grazed their stock around these mountains.

However, if you want to go "up market" and spoil yourself, you can't do better than Mathilde's. Run by Joseph Barake, you won't find a better bed & breakfast in the bush than this. Mathilde's has a genteel atmosphere in which you will be pampered by Joseph and his love of classical music.

Marysville has much more to offer. There is horse-riding, bush walking - along historic tracks and fishing. Marysville is also the gateway to the nearby slopes of Lake-Mountain, which offers superb cross-country skiing and tobogganing in winter. The area in and around Marysville is known as the Mystic Mountains and its charm is mystic to those who have answered the call to live here.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Marysville Tourist Information Centre: Tel. (059) 633 333
Fax. (059) 633 430

Tourism Victoria:

VIC - RACV for information
For Bookings

Tel: 03 790 3333
Tel: 03 790 2121 or 008 337 743

Moving Harps.

Bookings and Management
David Rackham
PO BOX 2223
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Dalrymples Guest Cottages

Bob & Dianne McNamara
18 Falls Road, Marysville
Victoria, 3779
Reservations (059) 633 416
Bed & Breakfast

Mathilde's of Marysville

Joseph M. Barake
19 Red Hill Road, Marysville
Victoria, 3779
Reservations (059) 633 697
Fax (059) 633 797

Maryton Park

Dieter Juergen
Box 9, Marysville
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