



Our Queen.

A GREAT OCCASION

THE ROYAL VISIT

During the Royal tour, Sydney, the oldest city in the Commonwealth and the first Australian city to welcome the Queen, will be impressively dressed in decorations costing more than £1 million.

Her Sydney programme includes a visit to Bondi for the most spectacular surf carnival ever held in Australia, a gala concert featuring two all-Australian works—the ballet *Corroboree* and the opera *The Devil Take Her*, a garden party at Government House, a ball given by the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall, and a race meeting at Randwick. Although the Queen will be busy almost every day and night during her stay in Sydney, the most strenuous part of the N.S.W. tour may be visits to outback centres in sweltering summer heat.

The whole aim of Queen Elizabeth is to meet as many people as possible. She may even pause and speak to you, as she did to the 14-year-old girl who was watching her from the ground-floor window of a ward at Auckland Hospital, which wasn't scheduled for a visit, because she saw the rapt, freckled little face in the window.

The Minister in Charge of the Royal Tour of Australia, Mr. Eric J. Harrison, has assured the British Government that the Queen will not be subjected to undue strain.

However, one of the planners of the tour says, "The itinerary has been cut to the bone to avoid strain, but it would still stagger most of us, even a hardened commercial traveller."

In Australia the Queen will travel 2,000 miles by car in city engagements, 500 road miles on country trips, 8,000 miles by Royal train and 1,150 miles by ship along the Australian coast. She has agreed to do this in 57 days.

In N.S.W. the Queen will visit the country centres of Bathurst, Dubbo, Lithgow, Katoomba, Lismore, Casino, Wagga, Newcastle, Wollongong and Broken

Hill. When touring some country centres, she will travel in a station waggon which is not designed for comfort.

It will be made as comfortable as possible, but it will still be a station waggon—a vehicle popular with outback people for travelling over rugged country. The tour organisers realise how tiring car journeys can be and have ruled that the Queen will not be required to undertake a car journey lasting more than three hours.

One visit will be to the Flying Doctor base, five miles out of Broken Hill. For twenty minutes on March 18, this base, a shabby isolated bungalow, will be the centre of world attention. Between 2.30 p.m. and 3 p.m. the Queen will pick up a Flying Doctor microphone and will talk informally to some household in the lonely outback. What she says and the reply she receives will be broadcast to every Australian home with a radio and relayed around the world.

Other N.S.W. centres to see the Queen and the Duke are Bathurst, Dubbo, Lithgow, Katoomba, Lismore, Casino, Wagga, Newcastle and Wollongong.

