the semi-desert of the
4s and the rich, fertile
5s and forests of the South-
6nd craggy coastline and
7f of the Great Southern
8 to the fringes of the
9d northwards to the wide
10ess wheat fields of the
11 south coast with its
12, the Southern Ocean
13 which is cooler in
14h and distinctively
15 but long, warm summer
16ure of the region. The
17icularly between Albany
18 collection of rocky bays
19's and sandy beaches
20 and southern right
21 both close to the coast
22 trip out from King
23. Albany was established
24 years before Perth, as
25. Later its fine harbour
26 for a whaling port and
27 station for ships heading
28. This beautiful location
29 by Aborigines and
30 occupation can be
31 articularly at Oyster Bay.
32 off the coast and the
33 George Sound with its
34 and many sandy
35 surrounding landscape of
36 nce was first settled in
37 gold which established
38
39
40. The Great Southern has some
41 national parks, including
42 magnificent Cape Le Grande
43 with its tranquil beaches and
44 cliffs. The isolated
45 Cape Arid National Park
46 a favourite location for bush-
47 walkers and birdwatchers
48 of the many varieties of
49 to be seen, from flocks of
50 grey to frilled crested seals.
51 Fitzgerald River National Park
52 one of the state’s finest locations
53 wildflowers with more than
54 species of wild orchids
55 to this region. Honey
56, tammar wallabies and
57 endangered darters can be
58 here along with a wide
59 of other animals.
60 Further inland the Stirling
61 and Porongarp ranges, which are
62 carpeted in spring with more
63 than 500 varieties of wildflowers, enclose a
64 rich agricultural region. The Porongarp
65 Range is the oldest volcanic range in the
66 world with landscapes of green slopes,
67 granite outcrops and spectacular stands of
68. The Stirling Range with its own unique
69 wildflowers and stark granite peaks blending
70 grey to purple is, like the Porongarp
71, magical country for walkers and rock
72. The peaks of these ranges form the
73 one region of Western Australia which can
74 occasionally experience a dusting of snow in
75 winter months.
76 Travelling north, the rugged and fertile
77 Southern region gives way to the
78 curving landscapes and wheat fields of the
79 Wheatbelt. Vistas of golden wheat
80 and whispering in the wind,
81 prosperous farms, lively small towns,
82 and more of the state’s spectacular wildflowers
83 particularly the pink and white ever
84 lastings provide a great contrast with the
85 scenery of the Great Southern. Some
86 unusual rock formations can be found here
87 the most spectacular of these is Wave
88 Rock close to the small town of Hyden.
89 Formation of weathered granite
90 sandy yellow, through a pinky cream to
91 streaks of dark brown and steel grey — is
92 shaped like a towering wave rising more
93 metres above ground and stretching
94 full 100 metres.
95 Close to Perth the golden landscapes of the
96 wheat fields are replaced by the greenery
97 of the Avon Valley with its fertile pastures,
98 wooded hills and fast-flowing streams. In
99 winter the Avon attracts whitewater rafters
100 and canoeists, and in summer its gentle
101 helps to cool the green and shady
102. The Avon Valley was one of the
103 areas explored by Captain Stirling’s men
104 in the establishment of the Swan River Colony and many beautiful farms and
105 steads in the area date back to those first days of
106. Northam is the major town of the region — a thriving agricultural
107 and the home of the state’s only
108 swans, which have lived
109 since their introduction from
110 England nearly 100 years ago. Many of the beautiful houses
111 public buildings nearby, in the historic town of York, were
112 by convicts and have been
113 lovingly maintained and restored.
114 York is known for its many festi-
115 the most popular of these
116 the October Jazz Festival and
117 and Veteran Car Race.
118 On the fringes of the Avon
119 is New Norcia — a
120 and gracious cameo of
121 Spanish architecture in the green
122 and fields of wildflowers
123-east of Perth. This Spanish
124 mission was established in
125 and is still owned
126 occupied by the Benedictine
127. A rustic and beautiful abbey church
128 built from mud plaster, tree trunks and
129 stones houses the tomb of the founder, Dom
130, and the present-day
131 still make their exotic
delicious sourdough bread and other
culinary delicacies in the old bakehouse.
132 Easily accessible from Perth, the Avon
133 Valley, the Midlands and the Great Southern
134 a region of colour and v
135 sustained by agriculture, wheat, tourism,
136 and, in more recent years, a
growing industry in cultivated flowers.