

Australian Government

Australian Citizenship

Our Common Bond

NON-TESTABLE SECTION



The non-testable section has important information to help you understand the history and culture of Australia. You will not be tested on this information.

Part 5—Australia today

Part 6—Our Australian story

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Contents

Non-testable section

Part 5: Australia today 48

Part 6: Our Australian story 63

Glossary of non-testable section 84

For more information

Acknowledgments



PART FIVE

Australia today

Australia today

In this section, you will learn about Australia's culture, innovators and national identity. Australia is a dynamic business and trade partner and a respected global citizen. Australians value the contribution of new migrants to the country's constant growth and renewal.

The land

Australia is one of the world's oldest land masses. It is the sixth largest country in the world and the largest island nation. It is also the flattest and the driest inhabited land mass. Much of Australia has poor soil and low rainfall, making it hard to farm. The dry inland areas are called 'the outback', and are particularly remote and harsh environments. In Australia, water is a very precious resource.

Being such a large country, Australia has regions with quite different climates. There are tropical regions in the north of Australia and deserts in the centre. In the south, the temperatures can change from cool winters with mountain snow, to dry heatwaves in summer.

In addition to the six states and two mainland territories, the Australian Government also administers the following territories:

- Ashmore and Cartier Islands
- Christmas Island
- the Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Jervis Bay Territory
- the Coral Sea Islands
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands in the Australian Antarctic Territory
- Norfolk Island.

World Heritage sites

The following Australian sites are listed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

Cultural

- Australian Convict Sites
- Budj Bim Cultural Landscape
- Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens in Melbourne
- Sydney Opera House.



Sydney Opera House

Natural

- Australian Fossil Mammal Sites in South Australia and Queensland (Riversleigh/Naracoorte)
- K'gari (formerly Fraser Island)
- Gondwana Rainforests in Australia
- Great Barrier Reef
- Greater Blue Mountains Area
- Heard and McDonald Islands
- Lord Howe Island Group
- Macquarie Island
- Ningaloo Coast
- Purnululu National Park
- Shark Bay, Western Australia
- Wet Tropics of Queensland.

Mixed

- Kakadu National Park
- Tasmanian Wilderness
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
- Willandra Lakes Region.



Wave shaped rock formation at base of Ayers Rock in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

In addition to the western iconography and natural wonders listed above, there are thousands of sacred sites across the country that are of significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These sites are an important part of Australia's cultural fabric and are important to all Australians. Sacred sites are usually linked to stories of ancestral beings and their role in creating the vast landscape, embedding cultural values, kinship relationships and social order.

A vast country

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship with the land. They have always valued contact with their neighbours and travel large distances to meet. The 'song-lines' of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are stories that link traditional law, history and culture with geography, stretching across different cultural and language groups right across Australia. They have been maintained and practised for thousands of years.

In many parts of Australia, people have limited access to services, such as schools, health services and shops, that other Australians take for granted. We work together to support people living in remote communities. Notable Australians have helped solve problems of remoteness through ingenuity and innovation.



Tasmanian Wilderness



The pedal radio

In 1929, Alfred Traegar, from Adelaide, designed the first pedal-powered radio. Users could keep a two-way radio going by pushing the pedals with their feet. Lonely homesteads, remote mission stations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities all benefited from this invention. The pedal radio helped to establish two great Australian institutions, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service

Reverend John Flynn lived and worked with people in remote communities. He had an idea to bring doctors by air to patients in the outback as quickly as possible. To make this happen, he received help from the government, the airline Qantas and charitable donations. The Royal Flying Doctor Service began in 1928, but there were still people in remote places who could not call the service. The introduction of the pedal radio ensured that people in more isolated communities could call for a doctor as soon as possible.

The School of the Air

Until the 1950s, children living in isolated places had to attend boarding school or complete their lessons by mail (picured above). Adelaide Miethke, Vice-President of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in South Australia, realised that the Flying Doctor radio service could also help children at home talk with their teachers. The Alice Springs service began to air two-way lessons in 1948. The School of the Air was formally established a few years later. Australia's experience has helped many other countries to set up their own similar programs.

The old pedal radio was replaced with high-frequency radio receivers and is now replaced by the internet. The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia and the School of the Air continue to serve and benefit the people in Australia's remote communities.

Australia's identity

Australia's identity has been shaped by many factors, including our Indigenous heritage and cultures, our British foundations, the diversity of our people, our history, the values that guide everyday life, our lifestyles and the Australians we admire.

Part 6, Our Australian story looks at our history. It highlights issues relating to Australia's colonial past, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' recent and present day circumstances. The story also includes the origins and nature of Australia's diverse, multicultural society, and the challenges, such as wars, that we have faced together as a nation.

The remainder of this chapter looks at some of the lifestyles we follow and people we admire.

Sport and recreation

Many Australians love sport and Australian sportspeople have achieved impressive results at an international level.

Throughout our history, sport has both characterised and united the Australian people. From early settlement, sport provided an escape from the realities of a harsh existence. Even during wartime, members of the Australian Defence Force organised sporting competitions to help relieve the stress of the battleground.

Sport also provides a common ground that allows both players and spectators to feel included and a part of something that is important to Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and migrant Australians are among the country's most successful sportspeople.

Many Australians participate in team sports such as cricket, basketball, netball and hockey. The football codes of soccer, rugby league, rugby union and the uniquely Australian game of Australian Rules Football ('Aussie Rules') are very popular sports in Australia to play and watch. Swimming, tennis, athletics, golf, cycling, bushwalking, surfing and skiing are also popular recreational activities.

Australia is especially proud of its international success in the game of cricket. Australian and English cricket teams have been intense rivals since the late 19th century.

The Melbourne Cup, 'the race that stops the nation', is one of the biggest horse races in the world. The first Melbourne Cup was held in 1861. The Melbourne Cup is held on the first Tuesday in November, and has been a public holiday in Victoria since 1877.

Sir Donald Bradman (1908–2001)

Sir Donald Bradman, the greatest cricket batsmen of all-time, is an Australian sporting legend. He was raised in Bowral, New South Wales, and played his first game of cricket for the Australian team in 1928.

He was amazingly quick on his feet. On his first tour of England in 1930, he broke nearly all the batting records. By the age of 21, he was already an Australian legend. On his final tour in 1948, his team became known as 'The Invincibles', as they did not lose a single match they played against England.



The arts

Australia has a vibrant arts scene that includes the nation's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultural traditions. Australian visual and performing artists, including in film, art, theatre, music and dance, are widely acclaimed both in Australia and overseas.

Literature

Australia has a strong tradition in literature. This started with the storytelling of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and continued with the oral stories of the convicts arriving in the late 18th century.

Much of Australia's early writing is about the bush and the difficulties of life in such a harsh environment. Writers such as Henry Lawson and Miles Franklin wrote poems and stories about the bush and the Australian way of life.

An Australian novelist, Patrick White, received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1973. Other popular Australian authors include Peter Carey, Colleen McCullough, Sally Morgan, Tim Winton, Tom Keneally and Bryce Courtenay.

Judith Wright (1915–2000)

Judith Wright was an outstanding poet, conservationist and campaigner for the rights of Aboriginal peoples. She expressed her love for Australia and its people in her poetry. She was awarded many prizes, including the Encyclopaedia Britannica Prize for literature and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. She was also a member of the Australian Conservation Committee and the Aboriginal Treaty Committee.

Judith Wright is remembered for her skill as a poet and for advancing Australian literature and social and environmental reform.



Theatre and film

Australian plays, films and filmmakers are recognised in Australia and overseas. Australian actors such as Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman and filmmakers such as Peter Weir and Baz Luhrmann have won many international awards for their excellence in film.

Visual art

The most recognised Australian works of visual art are the iconic Indigenous paintings and the 19th century bush scenes of painters such as Tom Roberts, Frederick McCubbin and Arthur Streeton. In the mid-20th century, artists Russell Drysdale and Sidney Nolan depicted the harshness of the outback in bold colour. More recently, Brett Whiteley gained international acclaim for his unique and vivid style. Indigenous art, including by Albert Namatjira, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Gloria Petyarre, Rover Thomas and Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, is increasingly sought after in Australia and overseas.

Music and dance

The most immediately recognised Australian musical sound is that of the didgeridoo, the ancient Indigenous instrument.

Australians have embraced and excelled in all areas of music and are internationally recognised for their contributions to classical, country and rock music.

Well-recognised Australian musicians include Kylie Minogue, Jimmy Barnes, Paul Kelly, Olivia Newton-John, John Farnham, Nick Cave, and Indigenous artists Archie Roach, Gurrumul and Jessica Mauboy. Australian bands such as AC/DC and INXS have gained followers around the world.

Australian dance has flourished due to the efforts of great dancers and choreographers such as Sir Robert Helpmann, Meryl Tankard, Stephen Page, and Li Cunxin. Bangarra is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance company, widely acclaimed nationally and around the world for its distinctive style in dance, soundscapes, music and design.

Scientific achievement and invention

Australians have a strong record of scientific achievements in the fields of medicine, technology, agriculture, mining and manufacturing.

A number of Australians have been awarded the Nobel Prize for scientific and medical discoveries.

Scientific achievers have also received Australian of the Year Awards. In 2005, the award went to Professor Fiona Wood, who developed a spray-on skin for burns victims. In 2006, the award went to Professor Ian Frazer, who developed the cervical cancer vaccine. In 2007, Professor Tim Flannery, a leading environmental scientist, received the award.

Professor Wood and Professor Frazer both migrated to Australia from Britain. Professor Frazer's co-inventor was the late Dr Jian Zhou, who migrated from China and also became an Australian citizen.

Dr Fiona Wood AM (born 1958)

Dr Wood is one of Australia's most innovative and respected surgeons and researchers. A highly skilled plastic and reconstructive surgeon and world leading burns specialist, she has pioneered research and technology development in burns medicine.

Following her work with victims of the 2002 Bali bombings, Dr Wood was named a Member of the Order of Australia in 2003. Her contribution to burns care was recognised when she was named Australian of the Year in 2005.



Professor Fred Hollows (1929–1993)

Professor Fred Hollows was a passionate ophthalmologist (eye doctor) who helped restore eyesight to more than one million people in Australia and developing countries. Fred Hollows was born in New Zealand. In 1965, he moved to Australia and later became the head of an eye department at a Sydney hospital.

He believed strongly in equality for all people and helped set up the first Aboriginal Medical Service, of which there are now many around Australia.

By 1980, Fred Hollows was travelling all over the world to help set up eye health programs in developing countries. In April 1989, he became an Australian citizen.

Professor Hollows' good work continues through The Fred Hollows Foundation.



Australian of the Year

Since 1960, the Australian of the Year Awards have celebrated the achievement and contribution of leading Australians. Anyone can nominate an Australian from any walk of life for an award.

Australians of the Year are people who have excelled in their work and served the nation. They inspire and challenge us to make our own contribution to creating a better Australia.

The awards include Young Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Hero.

A list of the current and former recipients is available at www.australianoftheyear.org.au.

Dr James Muecke AM

Eye surgeon and blindness prevention pioneer
2020 Australian of the Year

Dr Muecke is a co-founder of Sight For All, a charity that aims to eliminate blindness through research, education, infrastructure and the training of colleagues in partner countries.

Dr Muecke believes blindness is a human rights issue and is working to create a world where everyone can see.



Professor Michelle Simmons (born 1967)

Professor in quantum physics
2018 Australian of the Year

Professor Simmons is a pioneer in atomic electronics and quantum computing. At the forefront of what she calls the "space race of the computing era", Professor Simmons aims to build a quantum computer able to solve problems in minutes that would otherwise take thousands of years. Such a discovery has the potential to revolutionise drug design, weather forecasting, self-driving vehicles, artificial intelligence and more.

In 2018, Professor Simmons was named as the Australian of the Year for her work and dedication to quantum information science. In 2019, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of her "distinguished service to science education as a leader in quantum and atomic electronics and as a role model".



Australian currency

The illustrations on our currency depict people and symbols that are important to Australia.

The people chosen to appear on our currency are people who have shown initiative and great talent in the areas of social reform, science, politics, military accomplishment and the arts.

Queen Elizabeth II (1926–2022)

Queen Elizabeth II was Australia's Head of State. She was the Queen of Australia and the United Kingdom. She was a strong, stable presence throughout her long and popular reign.



Parliament House and the Forecourt Mosaic

The schematic plan of Parliament House was based on the Design Development Landscape Plan, which was provided by the Parliament House Construction Authority. The Forecourt Mosaic is based on a Central Desert dot-style painting by Michael Nelson Jagamara titled 'Possum and Wallaby Dreaming'.



Dame Mary Gilmore (1865–1962)

Dame Mary Gilmore was an author, journalist, poet and campaigner for social reform. She is remembered for her writing and for speaking out on behalf of women, poor people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



AB 'Banjo' Paterson (1864–1941)

Andrew Barton Paterson was a poet, songwriter and journalist. He wrote under the name 'Banjo' Paterson and is remembered in particular for writing the words of 'Waltzing Matilda', the most famous folk song in Australia.



Reverend John Flynn (1880–1951)

Reverend John Flynn began the world's first airborne medical service, the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia. He is remembered for saving many lives by bringing health services to remote areas of Australia.



Mary Reibey (1777–1855)

Mary Reibey was a pioneer businesswoman in the colony of New South Wales. After arriving in Australia as a teenage convict settler, she became a respected leader in the community.



Edith Cowan (1861–1932)

Edith Cowan was a social worker, politician and feminist. She was the first woman elected to any Australian parliament.



David Unaipon (1872–1967)

David Unaipon was a writer, public speaker and inventor. He is remembered for his contributions to science and literature, and for improving the conditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Sir John Monash (1865–1931)

Sir John Monash was an engineer, administrator and one of Australia's greatest military commanders. He is remembered for his leadership, intelligence and eloquence.



Dame Nellie Melba (1861–1931)

Dame Nellie Melba was a world famous soprano. Known around the world as the 'Queen of Song', she was the first Australian singer to become internationally renowned.



National days and celebrations

Australia's national holidays reflect the celebrations and milestones of our history since European settlement.

Fixed dates

- **New Year's Day on 1 January** celebrates the start of the new year.
- **Australia Day on 26 January** is a time to reflect on what it means to be Australian, to celebrate contemporary Australia and to acknowledge our shared history. The date marks the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove in 1788.
- **Anzac Day on 25 April** marks the anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at Gallipoli during World War I. It is a solemn day when we remember the sacrifice of all Australians who served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. We also honour the courage and commitment of all servicemen and women, and reflect on the many different meanings of war.
- **Christmas Day on 25 December** is a gift-giving day based on the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- **Boxing Day on 26 December** is part of the Christmas celebration.

Variable dates

- **Labour Day or Eight Hour Day** celebrates Australian workers' achievement of the eight-hour work day —a world first.
- **Easter** commemorates the Christian account of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **King's Birthday** celebrates the birth of Australia's head of state, King Charles III. This celebration is held on the second Monday in June in every state and territory except Western Australia and Queensland.

Other public holidays

Other public holidays are held in different states, territories and cities. For example, the Australian Capital Territory has Canberra Day, South Australia has Volunteers Day, and Western Australia has Foundation Day.

Other important dates (not public holidays)

- **Harmony Week** is held in the week including 21 March and is a celebration of our cultural diversity.
- **Australian Citizenship Day on 17 September** is a day on which we celebrate the common bond represented by Australian citizenship and reflect on the role we play in shaping our country's future.
- **National Reconciliation Week on 27 May to 3 June** is a week in which we strive towards a more just, equal nation by championing unity and mutual respect.

Australian people

Australia is one of the most diverse societies in the world. Approximately three per cent of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. More than one quarter of Australia's residents were born overseas, having migrated from more than 200 countries. The diversity of the population provides Australia with a rich variety of languages, beliefs, traditions and cultures.

As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Australia still has close ties with the United Kingdom.

Australian people take pride in Australian citizenship, which is an important unifying bond in our diverse society. Australian Citizenship Day is celebrated on 17 September each year. It is a day for all Australian citizens to reflect on the role we play in building our nation and shaping our country's future.

Australia's economy

Australia has a stable and competitive economy, and values its vibrant and skilled workforce. The quality of life enjoyed by people in Australia is one of the highest in the world.

Dick Smith (born 1944)

Dick Smith is an Australian businessman, adventurer and philanthropist. He made his fortune in his electronics business and has used his wealth to advance Australia. He started an Australian-only food company and has invested millions of dollars to help keep companies Australian-owned.

He was named Australian of the Year in 1986 and has won an award for technical advancement and environmental preservation. He was the first person to cross Australia and the Tasman Sea in a hot air balloon. He is known for his adventurous spirit, his success in business and his patriotism.



The market

Australia's stable modern financial institutions and tax and trading regulations give certainty to business activity. Service industries, including tourism, education and financial services, generate a significant amount of Australia's gross domestic product.

Australia's economic stability makes it an appealing destination for investment. Australia's stock market is one of the largest in the Asia-Pacific region.

Trade

Australia's largest trading partners are China, Japan, the United States, South Korea, Singapore, India, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Australia's main exports are coal, iron ore, natural gas, and education and tourism services. The economy is open and trade has always been a vital contributor to Australia's economic prosperity.

Mining

Australia is rich in natural resources such as coal, copper, liquefied natural gas and mineral sands. They are in high demand around the world.

Australia as a global citizen

Australia is proud of its role as a good global citizen. Australians show this by helping those less fortunate around the world.

International aid and humanitarian efforts

The Australian Government's international aid program supports developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. This support is provided in the region and around the world through assisting people and governments.

Australians show enormous generosity when disasters occur in our country or overseas. We also donate regularly to countries that experience ongoing suffering through personal donations and Australia's aid program.

In 2018, Dr Richard Harris and Dr Craig Challen were awarded the second-highest Australian bravery decoration, the Star of Courage, along with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), for their efforts in the rescue of 12 teenagers and their soccer coach from a flooded cave system in Thailand.

Active participation in international forums

Australia has been an active member of the United Nations (UN) from its beginning in 1945. Australia provides protection for people who have been identified as refugees under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention. It also contributes to UN peacekeeping efforts and humanitarian and emergency responses for developing countries, and has a strong involvement in the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

In 1971, Australia became a full member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD aims to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world while expanding world trade.

Australia strongly supports closer cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. It is an active member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the East Asia Summit, and the Pacific Islands Forum. It is an Association of Southeast Asian Nations dialogue partner and participates in its Regional Forum.

Dr Catherine Hamlin AC (born 1924–2020)

Dr Catherine Hamlin was a gynaecologist, renowned for saving young Ethiopian women from a life of suffering. Since 1959, Dr Hamlin worked in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia helping women with the childbirth injury known as 'obstetric fistula'. Women with this internal injury cannot control their bodily functions and are left humiliated and made outcasts from their communities.

Dr Hamlin and her husband established the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. Their efforts have meant thousands of women are able to return home to lead full, healthy lives.

In 1995, Dr Hamlin was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, the highest Australian award.



Australian Nobel Laureates

Australia is renowned for scientific and medical research. The following Australians have won a Nobel Prize in these fields.

- Professor William Bragg (1862–1942) and Lawrence Bragg (1890–1971), physicists
  William Bragg (father) and Lawrence Bragg (son) were joint winners of the Nobel Prize in Physics 1915, 'for their services in the analysis of crystal structure by means of X-rays'.
- Sir Howard Walter Florey (1898–1968), pathologist
  Born in Adelaide, South Australia, Howard Florey received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1945 (jointly) 'for the discovery of penicillin and its curative effect in various infectious diseases'.
- Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet (1899–1985), medical scientist and biologist
  Born in Victoria, Frank Burnet was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1960 (jointly) 'for discovery of acquired immunological tolerance'.
- Sir John Carew Eccles (1903–97), physiologist
  John Eccles was born in Melbourne and received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1963 (jointly) 'for discoveries concerning the ionic mechanisms involved in excitation and inhibition in the peripheral and central portions of the nerve cell membrane'.
- Sir Bernard Katz (1911–2003), physician and biophysicist
  Born in Germany, Bernard Katz became an Australian citizen in 1941. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1970 for 'discoveries concerning the humoral transmitters in the nerve terminals and the mechanism for their storage, release and inactivation'.
- Professor John Warcup Cornforth (1917–2007), chemist
  John Cornforth was born in Sydney and received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1975 (jointly) 'for his work on the stereochemistry of enzyme-catalysed reactions'.
- Professor Peter Doherty (born 1940), immunologist
  Peter Doherty was born in Queensland and received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1996 (jointly) 'for discoveries concerning the specificity of the cell mediated immune defence'.
- Professor Barry Marshall (born 1951), gastroenterologist, and Doctor Robin Warren (born 1937), pathologist
  Barry Marshall and Robin Warren were joint winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2005 for their discovery of 'the bacterium Helicobacter pylori and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease'.
- Professor Elizabeth Helen Blackburn (born 1948), biologist
  Elizabeth Blackburn was born in Hobart and received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2009 (jointly) 'for the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase'.
- Professor Brian P. Schmidt (born 1967), astronomer
  Brian P. Schmidt received the Nobel Prize in Physics 2011 (jointly) 'for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the universe through observations of distant supernovae'.

The following Australian has received the Nobel Prize in Literature.

- Patrick White (1912–90), novelist and playwright
  Born in London to Australian parents, Patrick White was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1973 'for an epic and psychological narrative art which has introduced a new continent into literature'.



PART SIX

Our Australian story

Our Australian story

Australia's story has been shaped by many people and events.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Australia's first inhabitants are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have the oldest continuous cultures and traditions in the world.

The archaeological record indicates that Aboriginal peoples arrived in Australia between 65,000 and 40,000 years ago; however, the Aboriginal peoples believe they are central to the creation stories of this land, and their creation stories commence with the beginning of time.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have age-old beliefs and traditions that still guide them today. They have a deep connection with the land that is expressed in their stories, art and dance.

Languages

Before British settlement, more than 700 languages and dialects were used in Australia by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. More than 100 of these languages are still used today, although less than twenty are still being passed on to children. The oral histories of the Indigenous cultures are extremely important because they tell the story of the people and the land.

The Dreaming

The Dreaming is a western term often used to describe the system of knowledge, faith and practice that guides the life of Aboriginal peoples.

The stories of the Dreaming are told to children by their parents and elders. These stories teach the children how their land came to be shaped and inhabited. The stories also give the children valuable practical lessons, such as where to find food in the bush.

Stories of the Dreaming are told using music, song and dance. When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples sing and dance, they feel a very deep connection to their ancestors.

The original forms of Indigenous art were rock carvings or paintings and ground designs. People from Central Australia typically created visual art representations using dots, circles and specific cultural symbols to represent the land or stories from the Dreaming, while those in the northern parts of Australia painted figures of humans, animals, symbols and spirits.

The Dreaming continues to be important to Aboriginal peoples today.



Kakadu Aboriginal art

The first Europeans in Australia

Early European exploration

In the 17th century, European explorers discovered parts of what they called 'Terra Australis Incognita'—the unknown land of the south. In 1606, a Dutchman, Willem Janszoon, charted the western side of Cape York Peninsula at the northern tip of Australia. Around this time, a Spanish ship captained by Luís Vaez de Torres sailed through the strait to the north of Australia.

Later in the 1600s, Dutch sailors explored the coast of Western Australia, and called this land 'New Holland'.

In 1642, Abel Tasman discovered the coast of a new land that he named 'Van Diemen's Land' (now Tasmania). He also charted thousands of miles of Australian coast. His incomplete map of New Holland shows that he believed the land was joined to Papua New Guinea in the north.

William Dampier was the first English person to set foot on Australian soil. In 1684, he landed on the north-west coast. Given how dry and dusty the land was, he did not consider it useful for trade or settlement.



Abel Tasman's map of New Holland, 1644

Captain James Cook

Until Englishman James Cook reached the east coast of Australia in 1770, it had not been explored by Europeans. Cook had been sent by the British Government on a voyage of discovery to the South Pacific. He charted the east coast and landed his ship, the Endeavour, at Botany Bay, just south of modern Sydney. James Cook called this land 'New South Wales', and claimed it for King George III.

Convict transportation

Australia is unique, in that most of its first European settlers were convicts. After the United States of America achieved independence, Great Britain could no longer send its convicts there and British prisons became very crowded. In 1786, Great Britain decided to transport some of the convicts to the new colony of New South Wales.

The first colony

The first Governor of the colony of New South Wales was Captain Arthur Phillip. He brought 11 ships safely from Britain to the other side of the world, leading the 'First Fleet' into Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788. It is on the anniversary of this day that we mark Australia Day each year.

The early years of settlement

The early years of colonial settlement were very hard. To make sure that people didn't starve, Governor Phillip put everyone on the same rations, including himself and his officers. His common sense and determination helped the colony survive those first difficult years.

Convicts worked hard in the early settlement. Those who completed their sentences became free men and women and moved into the community to work and raise families.


The First Fleet sailed from Britain, arriving in Sydney Cove in 1788

New opportunities

Australia's early European population was made up largely of English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish people. The Scottish, Welsh and Irish had often been at war with the English, but in Australia, the four groups lived and worked closely together.

Convicts and ex-convicts began to find new opportunities in the colony. Some ex-convicts set up businesses on their own as merchants. Others did well as farmers, tradesmen, shopkeepers and publicans.

Caroline Chisholm (1808–77)

Caroline Chisholm was a leading social reformer who improved the situation of single women in the early colonies. She came to Australia with her army officer husband and five children in 1838. She helped the migrant women who were living on the streets of Sydney. Within a few years, she set up 16 migrant women's hostels around the colony.

Caroline worked hard to improve life on the ships for the people travelling to the colonies. She also arranged a loan plan for destitute people to help break the cycle of dependence and poverty.

Today, many of Australia's schools are named after Caroline Chisholm. She was known as 'the migrant's friend' and is remembered for her tireless efforts to help people to start a new life.



Governor Macquarie

Along with Governor Phillip, Governor Lachlan Macquarie holds an important place in our early history. He governed the colony of New South Wales between 1810 and 1821, developing it as a free settlement, not a convict colony. He improved farming practices, built new roads and public facilities, and encouraged the exploration of Australia.

Governor Macquarie also put money into education and respected the rights of former convicts. He gave some former convicts jobs as judges and public servants.

Governor Macquarie is honoured in history for the positive changes he made to the colony. Macquarie University in New South Wales is named after him.

Convict heritage

It was thought that the Governor's position was too powerful for one man, so in 1823, the New South Wales Legislative Council was formed to advise the next Governor and reform the colony.

Great Britain stopped sending convicts to New South Wales in 1840, to Tasmania in 1852 and to Western Australia in 1868. In total, more than 160,000 convicts were transported to Australia. The divisions between ex-convicts and the settlers gradually disappeared. From the 1850s, the colonists were governing themselves and wanted to build respectable societies. Many Australians have come to be proud of their convict heritage.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples after European settlement

In 1788, at the start of European settlement, it is estimated that there were between 750,000 and 1.4 million Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. This included about 250 individual nations and more than 700 language groups.

When setting up its colonies in Australia, the British Government did not make a treaty with the Aboriginal people. The British authorities believed they were legally entitled to occupy the land.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had their own economies and an ancient and enduring connection to the land. Where they had once lived under their own rule, they were now forced to accept the laws of the newcomers. The newcomers had not been invited and they were generally not welcomed.

The lives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were profoundly changed by the arrival of British colonists. Lives were lost and land taken as the colonisers attempted to impose new social, economic and religious orders. New animals, plants and diseases were introduced.

The early governors were told not to harm the Aboriginal people, but the British settlers moved onto their land and many Aboriginal people were killed. Settlers were usually not punished for committing such crimes.

Some Aboriginal people and European settlers were able to live peacefully together. Some settlers employed Aboriginal people on sheep and cattle farms. Governor Macquarie offered Aboriginal people their own land for farming and set up a school for Aboriginal children. However, very few Aboriginal people wanted to live the way the settlers lived, as they did not want to lose their cultural traditions.

Many Aboriginal people were killed in the battles over land. While the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of Aboriginal people died. An even greater number of Aboriginal people died from the diseases that the Europeans brought to the country. The loss of Aboriginal life was catastrophic.

Historical milestones

Inland exploration

In New South Wales, the early colonists faced extreme hardship. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had learned to manage and live in this dry environment, although they too suffered in times of drought.

The Blue Mountains (approximately 50 kilometres to the west of Sydney) posed a great challenge to Sydney's early inland explorers. In 1813, three men, Gregory Blaxland, William Charles Wentworth and William Lawson, finally managed to cross this mountain range. Today, the road and railway across the Blue Mountains still follows the route they took.

On the other side of these mountains, the explorers discovered open country that was good for raising sheep and cattle. Further inland they came across dry, desert country.

European explorers had trouble finding water and carrying enough food to survive. The German-born explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt, disappeared while trying to cross the continent from east to west in 1848.

In 1860, Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills set out from Melbourne to cross Australia from south to north. They led a large expedition, but their crossing was very difficult. Burke and Wills were not experienced bushmen. They received expert help from the Aboriginal Yandruwandha people, but both explorers died on their way back. Although they failed to complete their expedition, their story is remembered in art and literature. It is a tragic example of the harshness of our land.



Settlers and pioneers

Even when the settlers had good land, life was still hard. After periods of flood or drought, settlers could lose their livelihood and farmers would often need to start again. However, people picked themselves up and battled on. The term 'Aussie battler' represents the Australian fighting spirit and resilience. Pioneers are honoured for their courage during these hard times. Women often had to keep the business or farm going when the men were away or had died.

It was during these harsh early years that Australia's spirit of mateship began. It was strong among the men who travelled through the outback, shearing and droving. Settlers also helped each other out during difficult times. This tradition is still very much a part of Australian life.

The gold rush

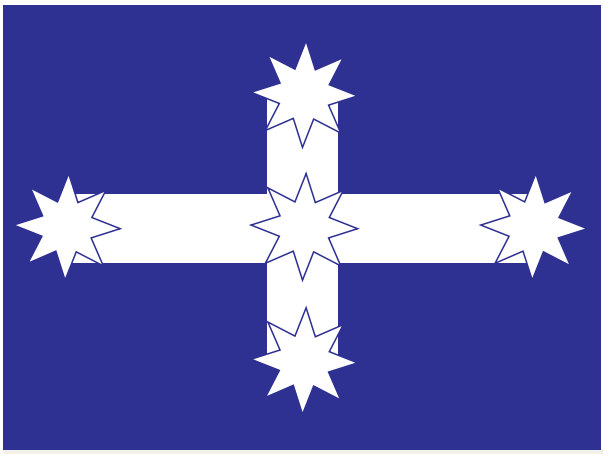
The discovery of gold in New South Wales in early 1851 has been described as the 'discovery that changed a nation'. Shortly after, gold was also found in the newly-independent colony of Victoria.

By the end of 1852, approximately 90,000 people had travelled to Victoria from all parts of Australia and around the world to search for gold.

The Eureka rebellion is remembered as a great democratic moment in Australia's history. Government troops could be very rough with the gold diggers when collecting licence fees to dig for gold. On 11 November 1854, approximately 10,000 people gathered at Bakery Hill, Ballarat, to adopt a charter of basic democratic rights, including the removal of expensive gold licences, and the ability to vote for representatives to the Victorian Parliament.

Following this, the 'Eureka Stockade' was built at the Eureka diggings. It was here that the diggers swore by a rebel flag (featuring the Southern Cross) to stand by each other and fight to defend their rights and liberties. On the morning of 3 December 1854, government officials sent soldiers to attack the stockade. Following a short battle, the gold diggers were overpowered and about 30 were killed.

The rebel leaders were put on trial for high treason, but no jury would convict them. A Royal Commission found the government was at fault and many of the miners' demands were met, including their wish for political representation. Within a year, Peter Lalor, the leader of the rebels, became a member of the Victorian Parliament.



Eureka flag

Over the years, the Eureka rebellion has become a symbol of protest and belief in a 'fair go'.

The gold rush changed Australia in many ways. During the gold rush years, the non-Indigenous population of Australia increased from approximately 430,000 in 1851 to 1.7 million in 1871. The first railways and telegraphs were built in the 1850s to link the growing populations.

Large gold deposits were found in all colonies except South Australia. The economy was flourishing and gold overtook wool as Australia's most valuable export. By around 1890, Australia had one of the highest standards of living in the world.

The squatters and the farmers

In the early days of the colonies, people known as 'squatters' took over vast areas of land to farm. Although they had not paid for this land, the squatters considered it their own. After the first gold rushes were over, the government struggled to take this land back from the squatters.

In the 1860s, the government wanted to sell the squatters' land to working men and their families to farm. But the squatters tried to keep as much land as possible for themselves.

Until the railways were built, the new farmers whose farms were far from the markets faced a difficult environment. The opportunity to earn high wages in the cities made life on the land and working for little reward unappealing.

The Australian tradition of inventing machinery to make farming easier began in South Australia. For example, the stump-jump plough (1870s) allowed rough land to be easily cleared for crop farming.

Migration in the 1800s

In the early 1800s, the main groups in the colonies were of English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish heritage. Many of Australia's pastimes, cultural activities and religious practices reflected those of Great Britain. There were also small groups of migrants from Europe and Asia. European arrivals in the 1800s included Italians, Greeks, Poles, Maltese, and Russians, as well as French settlers working in the wine industry. They were mostly young men seeking work and fortune, or seamen who had deserted their ships.

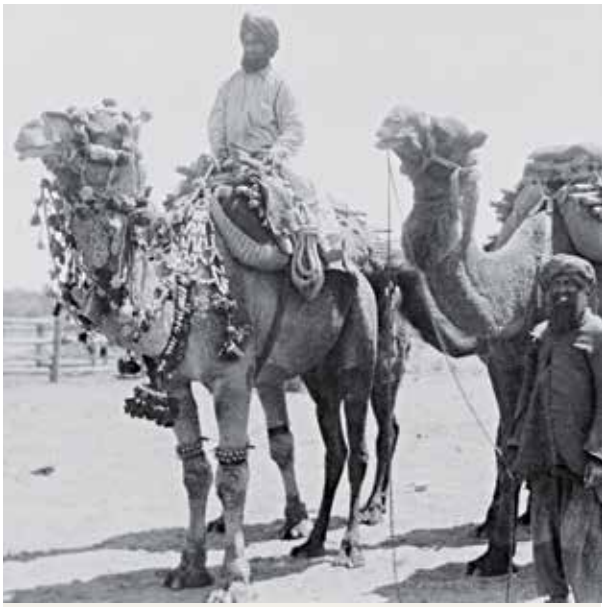
After 1842, Chinese migrants began arriving in Australia, and their numbers grew after the discovery of gold. There were racial tensions on the goldfields, which sometimes led to riots against the Chinese, such as those in Bendigo in 1854. These racial tensions resulted in the first restrictions on immigration in Victoria in 1855 and New South Wales in 1861.

After the gold rushes of the 1850s, many Chinese returned home. Among those who stayed were the market gardeners who supplied much needed fresh fruit and vegetables in areas where water was scarce.

From the 1860s, people from Iran, Egypt and Türkiye came to operate camel 'trains' through outback Australia. Along with the Indian cameleers, they were loosely referred to as 'Afghans', largely because of their similar dress and common Islamic religious beliefs. These cameleers were regarded as 'pioneers of the inland'.

There were also Indians and Pacific Islanders who worked in the sugar and banana industries in Queensland, often for very low wages and in poor conditions.

From the 1880s, workers from Lebanon arrived in Australia. Many were involved in the fabric and clothing industries, and Lebanese families came to own most of the draperies in country Australia.



'Afghan' cameleers in outback Australia

Aboriginal reserves

After the early battles over land between the Aboriginal people and settlers, the Aboriginal peoples were made to live on the edges of society. Some worked on outback sheep and cattle stations for very low wages, which in many cases were never paid. The colonial governments set up reserves where Aboriginal people could live, but these areas did not allow them to live their traditional lives. For example, they were not free to hunt and gather as they wished.

In the late 1800s, the colonial governments took away Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights. They controlled where Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders could live and who they could marry. They took many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children away from their parents, sending them to 'white' families or government orphanages. Such policies persisted until the mid-20th century. The issue of these 'stolen generations' remains a cause of deep sadness for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and other Australians, and was the subject of a national apology in the Australian Parliament in 2008.

Suffrage

'Suffragettes' was the term used around the world for women who campaigned for the right to vote in elections. During the 1880s and 1890s, every colony had at least one suffrage society. Suffragettes collected thousands of signatures on petitions to present to their colonial parliaments.

In 1895, women in South Australia won the right to vote and seek election to Parliament. In 1899, women in Western Australia won the right to vote.

In 1902, Australia was the first country to give women both the right to vote and the right to be elected to Parliament. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were not granted the right to vote until 1962.

In 1923, Edith Cowan became the first female parliamentarian when she was elected to the Western Australian Parliament. In 1943, Enid Lyons was the first woman elected to the Australian Parliament.

Catherine Spence (1825–1910)

Catherine Spence was a writer, preacher, feminist and suffragette. She migrated to Australia from Scotland and wrote school books and prize-winning novels about Australian life.

She helped set up an organisation to help homeless children, and supported new kindergartens and government secondary schools for girls.

She was the first woman to stand for parliament. Although she received many votes, she did not win the seat. In 1891, she became the Vice-President of the Women's Suffrage League of South Australia.

Catherine Spence is a symbol of what a woman can achieve, even in restrictive times.



Federation

Although the colonies had developed separately, by the late 19th century, a common sense of national belonging had developed.

Towards the end of the 19th century, two attempts were made to bring the colonies together. In 1889, Sir Henry Parkes called for the formation of a strong new nation. The Australasian Federation Conference was held in 1890 to discuss the idea of an Australian federation.

In 1893, the move towards federation gathered speed after some delays. Electors chose the members of the next constitutional convention. Electors voted in two rounds of referendums to accept a new Australian Constitution.

The British Government agreed that Australia could govern itself. On 1 January 1901, Edmund Barton, who had led the movement for federation in New South Wales, became Australia's first Prime Minister. His government was sworn in before a huge crowd in Sydney's Centennial Park.

Australia was now a nation within the British Empire. It did not acquire full powers over defence and foreign affairs until 1931. Until the 1948 Australian Citizenship Act, Australians were still British subjects rather than Australian citizens. Although national feeling had grown, the sense of being British was still strong.



Federation Day in Brisbane, 1901

Edith Cowan (1861–1932)

Edith Cowan was the first woman elected into an Australian Parliament and is featured on Australia's fifty-dollar note.

Edith was prominent in the women's suffrage movement, and was a leading advocate for public education and the rights of children. Edith was made a magistrate in 1915 and a justice of the peace in 1920. In 1921, Edith was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia as a member of the Nationalist Party.



The birth of political parties

By the 1880s, workers in Australia had built up strong trade unions. In times of economic depression and drought, these unions held strikes to protect wages and working conditions.

In 1891, these workers created a political party, the Labor Party. Its main focus was to improve workers' wages and conditions. Middle-class people lived more comfortably than the workers but they understood the workers' situation. Official boards were created to set wages and to prevent strikes. In 1907, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration determined a minimum wage at a level at which a working man, his wife and three children could live in simple comfort.

In 1910, the first version of a Liberal Party was formed. This party had many names over the years, including the Nationalist Party and the United Australia Party. In 1944, the Liberal Party as we know it today was founded by Robert Menzies, who went on to become Australia's longest serving Prime Minister.

After World War I, the Country Party was formed to advance the cause of farmers. It is now known as the National Party, and usually acts in coalition with the Liberal Party.

The 1901 Immigration Restrictions Act

A 'White Australia' policy became law when the Immigration Restrictions Act was passed in December 1901. It restricted immigrants from working in Australia and restricted the immigration of 'non- white' people.

People with a non-European background had to sit a dictation test of 50 words in a European language. Members of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the barrister William Ah Ket and leading Chinese businessmen made public protests, but this did not succeed in changing this law.

Migrants from Europe were prominent in the newly federated Australia. However, the cultural contributions of Chinese, Indians, Pacific Islanders and peoples from the Middle East were already part of Australia's social identity.

Dorothea Mackellar (1885–1968)

Dorothea Mackellar is a poet who is best known for her poem *My Country*, first published in 1908, which immortalised the line 'I love a sunburnt country'. Her poetry is regarded as quintessential bush poetry, inspired by her experience on her brothers' farms near Gunnedah, North-West New South Wales.

In 1968, Dorothea was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for her contribution to Australian literature.



World War I (1914–18)

Apart from conflict between settlers and the Aboriginal people, Australia has had a remarkably peaceful history. There have been no civil wars or revolutions.

Generations of Australians remained very loyal to the British Empire.

As a European outpost close to Asia, Australia historically felt vulnerable, especially after Japan became a great power. We relied on the British Empire and its naval strength to defend Australia. Australia fought in both world wars to keep the British Empire strong and to protect Australia.

Australia entered World War I in August 1914, and in 1915 took part in an attack on Germany's ally, Türkiye.. The men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzacs) were given their own part of the Gallipoli Peninsula to attack.

They had to climb steep cliffs while being shot at by Turkish troops. Somehow, they got up the cliffs and dug in, although many young men died. Australians at home took tremendous pride in the spirit of the Anzacs.

After Gallipoli, the Australian forces fought on the Western Front in France and Belgium. It was here that they got the name 'diggers' because they spent so much time digging and fixing trenches. Led by their commander, Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, the Australian diggers won great victories in the last battles against Germany and won the enduring gratitude of the French, whom they were helping.

Australian servicemen and women also served in the Middle East, participating in the defence of the Suez Canal, and the Allied conquest of the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine.

Simpson and his donkey—John Simpson Kirkpatrick (1892–1915)

Private John Simpson served at Gallipoli in the ambulance medical corps as a stretcher bearer. It was difficult to carry stretchers through the hills and the valleys. Against army orders, he used a donkey, named Duffy, to help transport the wounded soldiers back to safety.

Day and night, hour after hour, Simpson and his donkey would risk their lives travelling between the fighting and the beach camp.

Private John Simpson had arrived at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He was killed just four weeks later by enemy machine guns. Servicemen at the beach camp watched in silent sadness as Duffy, still carrying an injured soldier, trotted towards the beach without his young master by his side. John Simpson Kirkpatrick is an Australian legend.





The Anzac legend

The Anzac tradition was forged on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Türkiye.

The landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 marked the start of a campaign that lasted eight months and resulted in more than 26,000 Australian casualties, including more than 8000 who were killed or died of disease. The bravery and spirit of those who served on the Gallipoli Peninsula shaped a legend, and the term 'Anzac' became part of the Australian and New Zealand language.

On 25 April 1916, Australia, New Zealand, England and troops in Egypt observed the first anniversary of this landing. From then onwards, 25 April was known as Anzac Day.

By the 1920s, Anzac Day ceremonies were held throughout Australia and the states had designated Anzac Day as a public holiday.

Major war memorials were built in the capital cities, and monuments in cities and towns across the nation are tributes to the young men and women killed in that and later conflicts.

Anzac Day is a day on which to honour all those who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, and their mateship, endurance in the face of adversity and sacrifices made for our future. It is also a day for reflecting on the many different meanings of war.

Today, Anzac Day is commemorated in Australia and around the world. Returned Australian servicemen and women, peacekeepers and veterans from other countries, all march proudly in Anzac Day parades.

The Great Depression (1929–32)

The Great Depression was a time of extreme hardship for the Australian people. It started at the same time as the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange in October 1929. Other factors that contributed to the Depression in Australia included falls in the prices of Australian commodities and industrial unrest as employers cut jobs and wages. By the middle of 1932, almost 32 per cent of Australians were out of work.

The Depression's impact on Australian society was devastating. Without work and a steady income, many people lost their homes. They were forced to live in makeshift shelters with no heating or sanitation. Some fathers deserted their families or turned to alcohol. Many working-class children left school at 13 or 14 years of age. Many women worked in basic jobs as well as looking after their children and homes on their own.

At the time leading up to the Depression, the government did not have a central unemployment program. Apart from charities and some private organisations, poor people had to rely on public works and employment projects. The economy started to improve in 1932, but in many cases, the damage to families could not be repaired.

During the Great Depression, the vital role of Australian charities and volunteers was emphasised.



A soup kitchen during the Great Depression

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith (1897–1935)

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith was an early Australian aviator. In World War I, he fought at Gallipoli and flew with Britain's Royal Flying Corps.

His greatest achievement was making the first crossing over the Pacific Ocean from California to Queensland in 1928. His plane, the Southern Cross, arrived in Australia to 25,000 adoring people cheering for their hero 'Smithy'. In 1932, he was knighted for his services to aviation.

In 1935, he tragically went down with his plane on a flight from England to Australia and was never found.

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith has been called the world's greatest aviator and is remembered for giving the people, in the midst of the Depression, a true Australian hero to look up to.

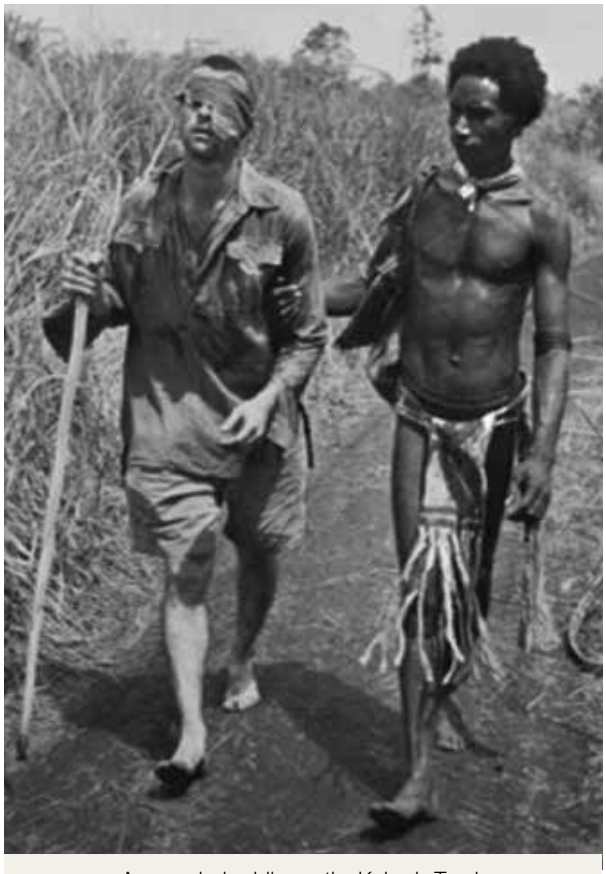


World War II (1939–45)

In World War II, Australians fought with the Allies against Germany in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa. They also fought against Japan in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

In the deserts of North Africa, Australian troops resisted a long siege by the Germans and Italians in the town of Tobruk, the last defence against the Germans' march on Egypt. For eight long months, these men (mostly Australians) withstood fierce attacks and harsh conditions, living in caves and crevasses. Their determination, bravery and humour, combined with the aggressive tactics of their commanders, became a source of inspiration during some of the war's darkest days. In doing so, they achieved lasting fame as the 'Rats of Tobruk'.

In 1941, Japan launched its war in the Pacific. Australian servicemen and women went to defend Papua New Guinea. This task was handed to regular soldiers and young conscript soldiers who were poorly-trained. They fought the enemy in the jungle, along a steep, muddy trail known as the Kokoda Track. The Australian troops stopped the Japanese advance. Like Anzac Cove at Gallipoli, the Kokoda Track has become a place of pilgrimage for some Australians.



A wounded soldier on the Kokoda Track helped by a Papuan carrier

In 1942, the Japanese took the British base in Singapore. Approximately 15,000 Australian troops were among those who were captured and taken to work on the Thai-Burma Railway. During its construction, many Australian troops were subjected to cruel treatment by the Japanese. Although Australian prisoners of war did their best to look after each other, it was here that more than 2700 Australian prisoners of war died.

Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop (1907–93)

Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop was a brave and caring surgeon and an Australian war hero. During World War II he was captured by the Japanese and taken to Burma to work on the Thai-Burma Railway. This was very hard work.

As a commander, Weary spoke up for his men, and as their surgeon, he spent long hours healing them. He was tortured in the camp but defiantly continued to serve.

In 1969, he was knighted for his contribution to medicine. When he died, more than 10,000 people lined the streets of Melbourne for the state funeral of the hero they called 'The Surgeon of the Railway'.



Other conflicts

Soon after World War II, from 1950 to 1953, Australian armed forces were sent as part of a United Nations multinational force to defend South Korea from communist forces of the north.

Not long after, Australia joined the United States of America in supporting the South Vietnamese government against Vietnamese communist forces seeking to reunite the country. The Vietnam War remains Australia's largest armed force commitment since World War II. Lasting from 1962 until 1973, it was also, at that time, the longest war in which Australia had fought. It was a controversial involvement, with many Australians taking to the streets to demonstrate their opposition to the cause and, in particular, the conscription of young Australian men into the war.

The Australian Defence Force has also been engaged in conflicts in East Timor, Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan and has taken part in United Nations' peacekeeping operations in many parts of the world, including Africa, the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region.

Remembrance Day

As well as on Anzac Day, Australians reflect on those who have served and died in war on Remembrance Day. At 11am on 11 November (the 11th month) each year, Australians pause to remember the sacrifice of the men and women who died or suffered in wars and conflicts, as well as all those who have served. We wear a red poppy on this day.

Migration in the early 1900s

In the period between World Wars I and II, restrictive conditions for entry into Australia remained. However, there was a growth in the migration of people, especially men, from southern Europe. They brought with them many skills, education and their own cultural values. They helped develop Australia's rural industries, and built roads and railways. Skilled Italian stonemasons made a significant contribution to the construction of public buildings and residences.

At the end of the 1930s, Jewish refugees began to arrive from Europe. They were escaping from the threat of Nazi Germany. They came from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland. Many were highly educated and they contributed greatly to Australia's economy and cultural life.



A European migrant arriving in Australia

Approximately 18,000 Italian soldiers captured in the Second World War were held in prisoner of war camps in Australia. They only stayed a short time in the camps, but they were treated fairly and many learned something about the land and the people. After the war, many returned to Australia as immigrants.

Post-war refugees

After the war, Australia encouraged migration from other European countries to increase the population. Millions of people had fled Nazi Germany or were unable to return to their homelands now occupied by Soviet Russia. Approximately 170,000 of these displaced persons were accepted into Australia to begin a new life.

There was also an acute shortage of labour in Australia. The government at the time believed that population growth was essential for the country's future. Healthy adult migrants under the age of 45 years could travel to Australia for £10 and their children could travel for free. Migrants were, however, still restricted to those of British or European nationalities.



The Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme

In 1949, the government started work on a bold scheme to catch the waters of the Snowy River before they flowed to the sea in eastern Victoria. These waters were diverted to flow inland for irrigation and to be used to generate electric power. It was a massive project that took 25 years to complete.

It is the largest engineering project in Australia. It is also one of the largest hydro-electric schemes in the world and is recognised as one of the modern civil engineering wonders of the world.

The Snowy Mountains Scheme is situated in Kosciusko National Park, New South Wales. It consists of 16 major dams, seven power stations, a pumping station and 225 kilometres of tunnels, pipelines and aqueducts. Most of it is underground.

The scheme supplies vital water to the farms of inland New South Wales and Victoria. Its power stations also produce up to 10 per cent of New South Wales' electricity.

Work on the scheme began in 1949 and was finished in 1974. More than 100,000 people from more than 30 countries worked on the project. Seventy per cent of these workers were migrants. After the project was completed, most of the European workers remained in Australia, continuing their valuable contribution to Australia's multicultural society.

The Snowy Mountains Scheme is an important symbol of Australia's identity as an independent, multicultural and resourceful country.

Treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

In the 1940s and 1950s, the government's policy towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was one of assimilation. This meant that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were told to live in the same way as the non-Indigenous population. This did not work because they did not want to lose their traditional cultures.

In the 1960s, the policy changed to one of integration. Most men in Australia gained the right to vote in the 1850s, but Commonwealth voting rights were not extended to all Aboriginal peoples until 1962. As part of this integration, Aboriginal peoples were given civil liberties but they were still expected to adapt to non-Indigenous Australian culture.

In 1967, more than 90 per cent of Australians voted 'Yes' in a historic referendum that allowed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be counted in Australia's five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. This showed that, at the time, the vast majority of Australians thought Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be given the same rights as everyone else.

This broadening of society's values and strong Aboriginal protest led to the introduction of self-determination as a key guiding principle for policy-making in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The government recognised the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples having a say in their own political, economic, social and cultural development.

Protests over land rights gained public attention in the 1960s with the Gurindji Strike at Wave Hill in the Northern Territory. Aboriginal stockmen, led by Vincent Lingiari, walked off the job at the cattle station in protest of pay and working conditions. Their actions led the way for Eddie Mabo and others to fight for land rights.

Under the 1976 Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act, Aboriginal peoples were granted areas of land in outback Australia. In the early 1990s, the High Court's Mabo decision and the *Native Title Act 1993* recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had a claim to land based on their own traditional laws and customs.

A growing proportion of Australia is covered by native title determinations. In these areas, aspects of traditional society continue.

In May 1997, the 'Bringing them home' report was presented to the Australian Parliament. The report was the result of an inquiry into the removal of large numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. These children came to be known as the 'Stolen Generations'. As a result of the report, thousands of Australians showed support for their Indigenous fellow Australians by marching together on the first national 'Sorry Day' in 1998.

The National Apology to the Stolen Generations (2008)

On 13 February 2008, the Australian Prime Minister made a national apology to the Stolen Generations in the Australian Parliament, speaking on behalf of all Australians. The Prime Minister said sorry for the way Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had been treated in the past, and especially for the way that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children had been taken from their parents.

The speech was aired on television and radio stations. Thousands of Australians gathered together in public places and in their workplaces to listen to the 'Sorry' speech. The speech officially listed and apologised for past injustices. This was an important step towards the healing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to ensure that these injustices would never happen again. The 'Sorry' speech was an important step forward for all Australians.



Skywriter writes 'Sorry' over Sydney

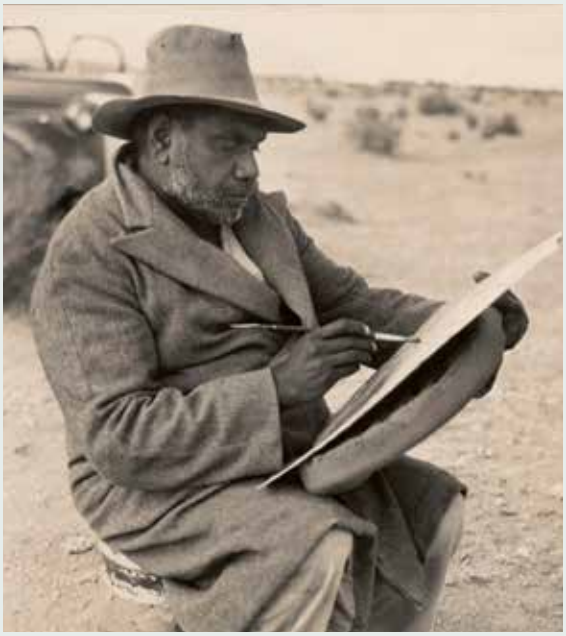
Today, the invaluable contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Australian identity is recognised and celebrated widely. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold leading positions across Australian society, including in the justice system, politics, the arts and sports.

Albert Namatjira (1902–59)

Albert Namatjira was a great Australian artist who pioneered a whole new way of painting Australian landscapes. As a young Arrernte man, Albert showed a natural gift for painting. He had very limited formal training, but his watercolour paintings of the Australian country were very popular and sold very quickly.

He and his wife were the first Aboriginal people in Australia allowed to become citizens. This meant they could vote, enter a hotel and build a house wherever they liked. Albert's Australian citizenship highlighted the fact that other Indigenous Australians did not have these rights.

His life showed non-Indigenous Australians the injustice of racist laws and contributed to changes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Eddie Mabo (1936–92)

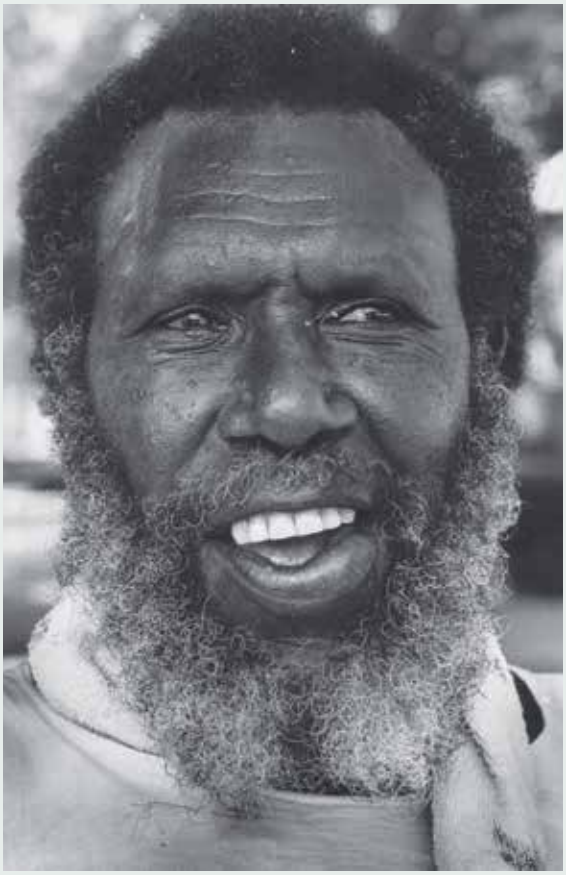
Eddie Koiki Mabo was an activist and spokesperson on Indigenous land rights. He was born on Murray Island, on the traditional land of the Meriam people of the Torres Strait.

From an early age, he was taught exactly which trees and rocks marked the boundaries of his family's land.

It was not until many years later that Eddie learnt that his homeland was considered Crown land under Australian law and did not belong to his family. He turned his anger into action and took his case to court on behalf of the people of Murray Island.

In 1992, after many years, Eddie's case was won in the High Court. The Mabo decision ruled that if Aboriginal people could prove that they had a historic and ongoing traditional connection to their land, they could claim ownership of that land if it was otherwise unclaimed. This decision has seen the return of large areas of land to their original owners.

Eddie Mabo is remembered for his courage and for gaining land rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Multicultural migration

In the 1950s and 1960s, a growing movement including many Asian, church and other groups, sought to end the 'White Australia' policy.

In 1958, the government removed the dictation test and in 1966, Australia began selective non-European and skilled Asian migration. Eventually, Australians everywhere recognised the value of including all nations in Australia's migration program.

In 1973, the 'White Australia' policy ended, and Australia was on the path to multiculturalism. From this time, the government removed all racial criteria for immigration. In 1975, after the Vietnam War, Australia accepted record numbers of Asian refugees and migrants, mostly from Vietnam, China and India.

Since 1945, millions of people have come to live in Australia, including many refugees from war-torn countries. Today, Australia's migrants come from all over the world.

Australia has an active policy of inclusion, where every person of every race, ethnicity or culture can feel part of our society. This policy runs through all aspects of Australian society, including government policies. It is reflected in our educational curriculum from early childhood through to university, and is practised in every workplace.

The right of every individual to be treated equally and without discrimination is defended by the Australian Human Rights Commission and government anti-discrimination agencies in every state and territory. Racial discrimination is publicly condemned and is a crime under the law.

Australia has become a multicultural society of harmony and acceptance. It is a country where migrants, Indigenous Australians and everyone born in Australia can feel free to pursue their goals in peace.

Dr Victor Chang (1936–91)

Dr Victor Chang was one of Australia's best heart surgeons. Victor Peter Chang Yam Him was born in China in 1936 and came to Australia when he was 15 years old.

He worked at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and in 1984 he set up the first centre in Australia specialising in heart transplants. In 1986, Victor was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Victor became concerned about a shortage of donors so he started designing an artificial heart, which was almost finished when he was tragically killed in 1991.

A new research centre has been set up in his memory. He is remembered for his expertise, optimism and innovation.



In conclusion

These pages have given you just a glimpse into our Australian story. We welcome you to Australian citizenship and invite your full participation in our peaceful democratic country.

As a citizen, you will share all the same responsibilities and privileges as other Australian citizens, and take your place as a full member of the Australian community. You will share the responsibility for helping to shape Australia's future and we look forward to your active participation in that national project.

Glossary of non-testable section

ambassador
a person who represents or promotes a country or an activity

board
a group of people chosen to make decisions, for example about how a company should be run

boarding school
a school where students live at the school and do not return home for the whole school term

bush
the Australian countryside still in its natural state

cattle station
a large farm where cattle are raised

charter
a formal written statement of rights and responsibilities

common ground
a shared area of interest

conscript soldier
a soldier who did not choose to join the defence force, but had to join in a time of war

Crown land
land belonging to the government

curriculum
the subjects and topics within a course of study

destitute
not having money or a way of getting money

didgeridoo
a musical instrument of the Aboriginal Australian peoples made from a long hollow branch

fair play
following the rules and not having an unfair advantage; fair and honest treatment of people

fallen servicemen and women
servicemen and women killed in war or battle

forge
to build or create

gross domestic product (GDP)
the value of all goods and services made within a country in a year

heatwave
very hot weather that lasts for more than two days in a row

high treason
a serious criminal offence that involves an attempt to overthrow the government

icon
a well-known and representative image

iconic Indigenous paintings
art that is unique to and representative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Indigenous
the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia

land mass
a large area of land

milestone
an important event in history

native title
the traditional rights that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to land and waters, decided within the Australian legal system

oral history
people's spoken memories of what happened in the past

pioneer
one of the first settlers, an achiever in the early days of colonial settlement

political representation
being represented by a politician in the parliament

sentence
the punishment decided by a judge, such as a length of time in jail, for someone found guilty of a crime

set wages
to decide on how much employees must be paid for their work

social reform
making improvements to society gradually, rather than by revolution

state funeral
a funeral paid for by the government to honour a citizen who has made an important contribution to the nation

stockade
a defensive enclosure made with wooden posts and stakes

stockmen
men employed to look after cattle

strike
when employees stop working, for example, to protest against their pay or work conditions

suffrage
the right to vote in public elections

sworn in
to be accepted into public office in a formal ceremony

walk of life
social class or background, job, position

For more information

Australian citizenship

For more information about how to become an Australian citizen, visit www.citizenship.gov.au.

Australia

You can obtain more information about Australia at your local library. The following websites may also have useful information:

- About Australia www.australia.gov.au
- Australia in Brief www.dfat.gov.au

Australian Government programs and services

For more information about Australian Government programs and services visit www.australia.gov.au

Federal MP or Senator

Your local federal MP or a Senator for your state or territory has a range of information about Australian Government programs and services.

A list of MPs and senators is at www.aph.gov.au.

Australian Government organisations

For more information about Australian Government organisations referred to in the resource book visit the following websites:

- Australian Defence Force www.defence.gov.au
- Australian Electoral Commission www.aec.gov.au
- Australian Federal Police www.afp.gov.au
- Australian Human Rights Commission www.humanrights.gov.au
- Australian Sports Commission www.sportaus.gov.au
- Australian Taxation Office www.ato.gov.au
- Australian War Memorial www.awm.gov.au
- Reserve Bank of Australia www.rba.gov.au

Non-government organisations

For more information about non-government organisations referred to in the resource book visit the following websites:

- Bradman Foundation Australia www.bradman.com.au
- Hamlin Fistula www.hamlinfistula.org
- Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia www.flyingdoctor.org.au
- School of the Air www.schoolair-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
- Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority www.snowyhydro.com.au
- The Fred Hollows Foundation www.hollows.org
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre whc.unesco.org
- United Nations www.un.org
- Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute www.victorchang.edu.au
- Volunteering Australia www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Other

Search the following websites for more information on the following topics:

- Australian Constitution www.aph.gov.au
- Australian of the Year Awards www.australianoftheyear.org.au
- 'Bringing them home' report www.humanrights.gov.au
- Commonwealth parks and reserves www.environment.gov.au
- Cyber safety www.esafety.gov.au
- Domestic and family violence support www.respect.gov.au, www.1800respect.org.au, www.dss.gov.au/women/help-is-here-campaign
- Famous Australians: The Australian Dictionary of Biography adb.anu.edu.au
- List of Bills currently before parliament www.aph.gov.au
- Parliament of Australia www.aph.gov.au
- Parliamentary Education Office www.peo.gov.au
- Public Holidays www.australia.gov.au
- Racism humanrights.gov.au
- Apology to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples www.australia.gov.au

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Archives of Australia:

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