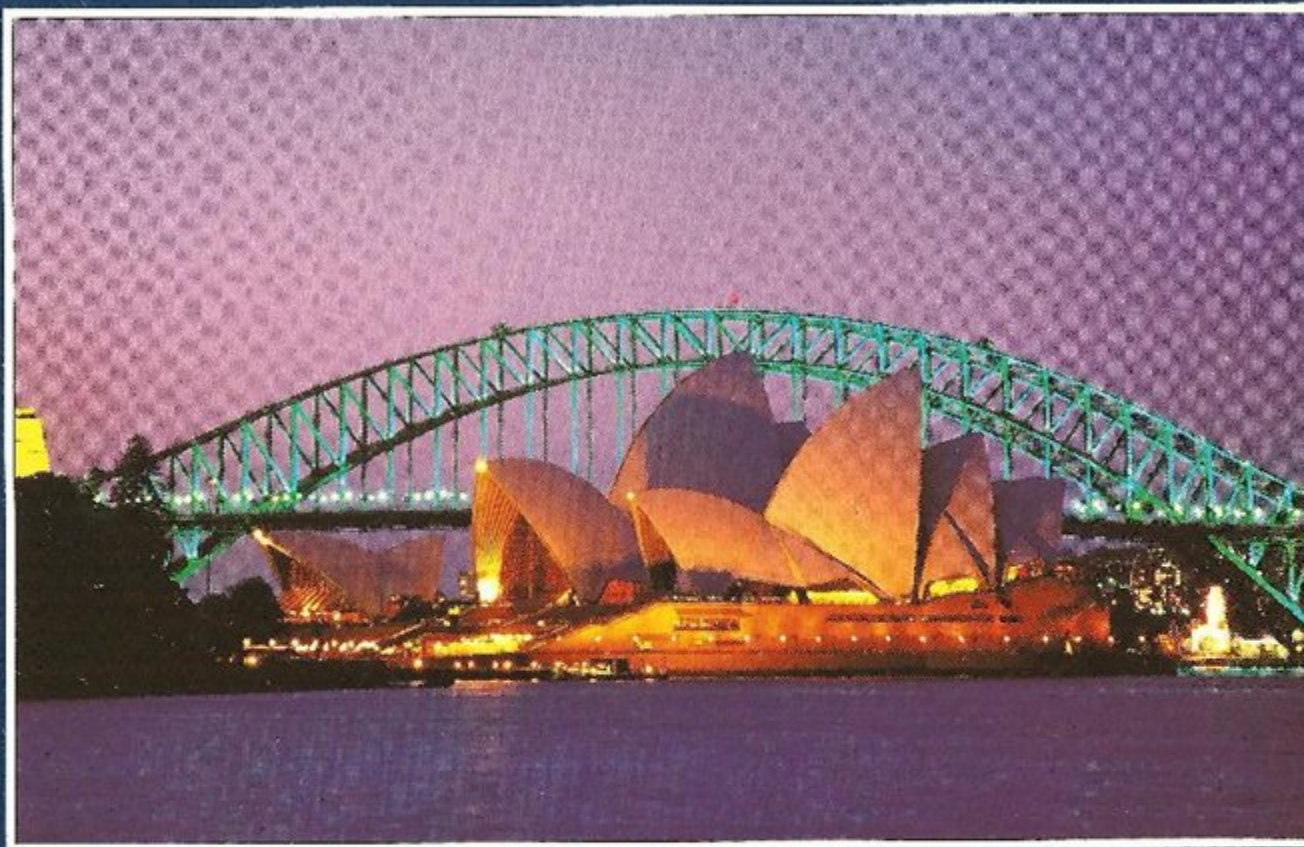


Factfiles



Australia and New Zealand

Christine Lindop

OXFORD BOOKWORMS 3

1 Australia



Firstly, Australia is big – 7,686,848 square kilometres, the biggest island in the world. In fact, only five countries in the world are

larger than Australia. One part of Australia, Western Australia, is four times as big as Texas, or eleven times as big as Great Britain. The journey from Perth in the west to Sydney in the east takes four to five hours by plane; that is longer than the journey from Madrid to Moscow.

Australia is also low and flat; only five per cent of the land is above 600 metres.

It is hot and dry too; in the west and the centre the temperature is often 35° in the summer months. In some parts of Australia it sometimes does not rain for years.

And a lot of it is empty. This enormous country has only seventeen million people, and most of them live in the south and south-east parts of the country.

But Australia is much more than all this. Let's find out about it.

Uluru



2 Australia's past

The first people in Australia were the Aborigines, who came more than 40,000 years ago. Chinese sailors visited 2,500 years ago, and much later Dutch sailors came – William Jansz in 1606, and Abel Tasman in 1642. Then in 1770 the British sailor Captain James Cook landed on the east coast, and said Australia now belonged to Britain. Of course, nobody asked the Aborigines about this – it was the beginning of a terrible time for them.

Britain soon began to send convicts to the new country. In May 1787, eleven ships left England for Australia carrying 772 convicts. They reached Port Jackson – now Sydney – in January 1788. Life was very difficult, and the convicts had to work very hard, making roads, buildings and farms.

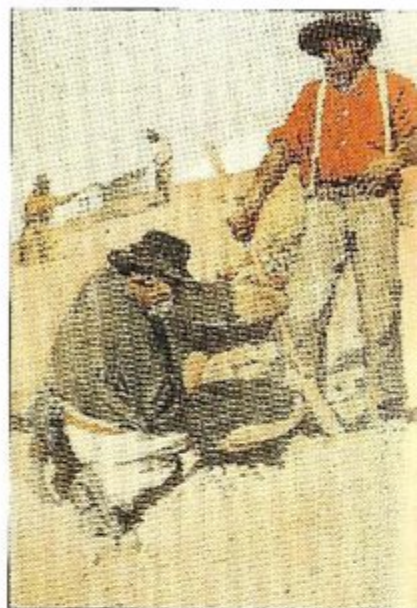
In 1851 gold was found in New South Wales and Victoria. Thousands of people went looking for gold – first Australians, then people from North America, Britain, New Zealand and China. In 10 years the population grew from 400,000 to 1,200,000. With the gold came

new roads and railways and growing cities.

On 1 January 1901 the six Australian states became one country. Britain was still very important to Australia; many people left Britain for a new life in Australia, but they called Britain 'home'.

But after 1945 people from other European countries, like Italy, Greece, Germany and Holland, began coming to Australia. Since 1945 more than three million people have moved there, and recently people from countries like Vietnam and Kampuchea have moved there too.

Now Australia sees its future with countries of the east and the Pacific – Japan, the United States, and New Zealand for example – instead of Britain.



Looking for gold

3 The land

Two-thirds of Australia, mostly in the centre and the west, is desert. There are hills and big dry salt lakes, and it is very difficult to grow anything. Not many people live there.

In the north, half the year is 'wet', and half is 'dry'. From November to April heavy rain fills the rivers and makes enormous lakes where thousands of birds come for the summer. From May to October it is often sunny and dry for weeks, and it is a popular place for winter holidays in the sun.

The only place where snow falls in Australia is in the south-east and

Tasmania. The highest mountain, Mount Kosciusko, in the Great Dividing Range, near the eastern coast, is 2,228 metres high. Most of Australia's population lives in the south and east of the country, where the summers are warm and the winters not too cold. Australia's longest river is here too – the Murray–Darling, which is 2,700 kilometres long.

Tasmania is cooler and wetter than the rest of Australia, with high mountains, thick forests, and some of the world's oldest trees.



4 Australian cities

In each of Australia's six states, there is a large city which is near a river and near the sea. Sixty per cent of all Australians live in these six cities – and many others live near to them. In fact, most people live only a few kilometres from the sea.

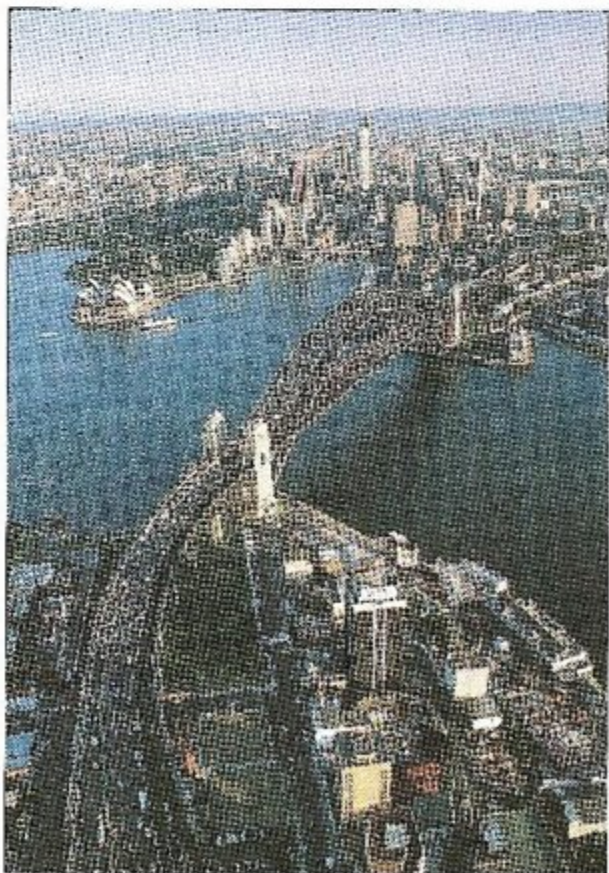
Sydney is the oldest and biggest city, with 3.7 million people. It is a busy, modern city and its high-rise buildings are the centre for much of Australian business. It is also an international city where you can eat

food from all over the world, or just visit some of the thirty wonderful beaches!

When they think of Sydney, many people think of the Sydney Opera House. The roof of this beautiful building looks like sails on Sydney Harbour. It was opened in 1973 for music, theatre and dance. Near the Opera House is one of the longest bridges in the world – the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Melbourne, the second biggest city, was the capital of Australia from 1901 to 1927. It has wide streets, some lovely old buildings, and large parks. Melbourne's theatres and pubs are famous. It is also an important place for sport.

Sydney



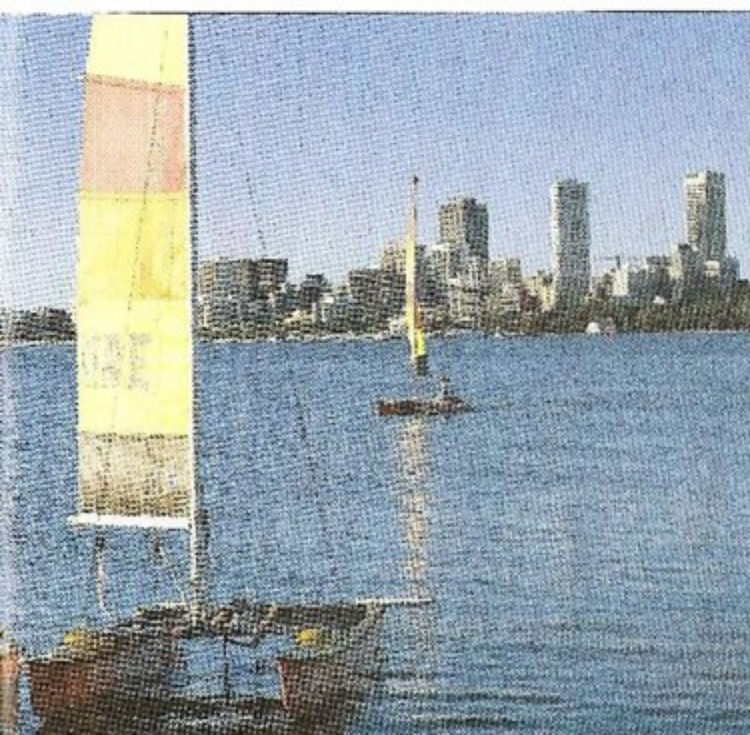
A Brisbane stilt house



Australians have their own kind of football, called Australian Rules. On the day of the final match, in September each year, everything stops in Melbourne!

Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth are all large modern cities. In Brisbane you can still find stilt houses – wooden houses on tall posts which let cool air underneath the house. Adelaide has a famous festival of music, theatre and film every two years. And in Perth about one-third of the families own a boat. Hobart is a smaller, quieter city. It began in 1803 with 433 people – 281 of them convicts. Now it has about 170,000 people.

Perth



Finally there are Darwin and Canberra. Darwin, in the north of Australia, has no tall buildings, only long low ones, because during the summer storms the winds are sometimes very strong. In 1974 a storm called Cyclone Tracy killed sixty-seven people and destroyed nearly all the buildings in Darwin.

Canberra – an Aboriginal word meaning ‘meeting place’ – is the newest city of all. It is also different from the other cities because it is a long way – 120 kilometres – from the sea. It was designed by an American, Walter Burley Griffin, in 1912, and became the capital of Australia in 1927. This beautiful city has thousands of trees, and a big lake in its centre.

Darwin after Cyclone Tracy



5 The Aborigines



Aboriginal rock painting

When British people came to Australia in 1788, they gave the name 'Aborigine' to the people they found there. The 300,000 Aborigines who lived in Australia at that time belonged to more than three hundred different groups and each group had its land and language. They

travelled to different parts of their land during the year to find food and water; they ate plants and fruits and caught animals and fish. They did not own many things, and their only buildings were houses made from branches and leaves. This way of life did not damage or destroy the land where they lived.

They believed that a long time ago the world was made

by animals, plants and humans together. This time was called 'Dreamtime', and there are many songs, stories and pictures about it.

At special times Aborigines came together in big groups. They painted their bodies and sang, danced and made music.

After 1788 their life suddenly began to change. Thousands of Aborigines died from fighting the British or from the diseases that they brought to Australia. The new Australians took a lot of Aboriginal land, too. Tasmania is a terrible example. In 1804 there were about 7,000 Aborigines there. In 1831 there were 190. By 1876 there were none.

Aborigines today



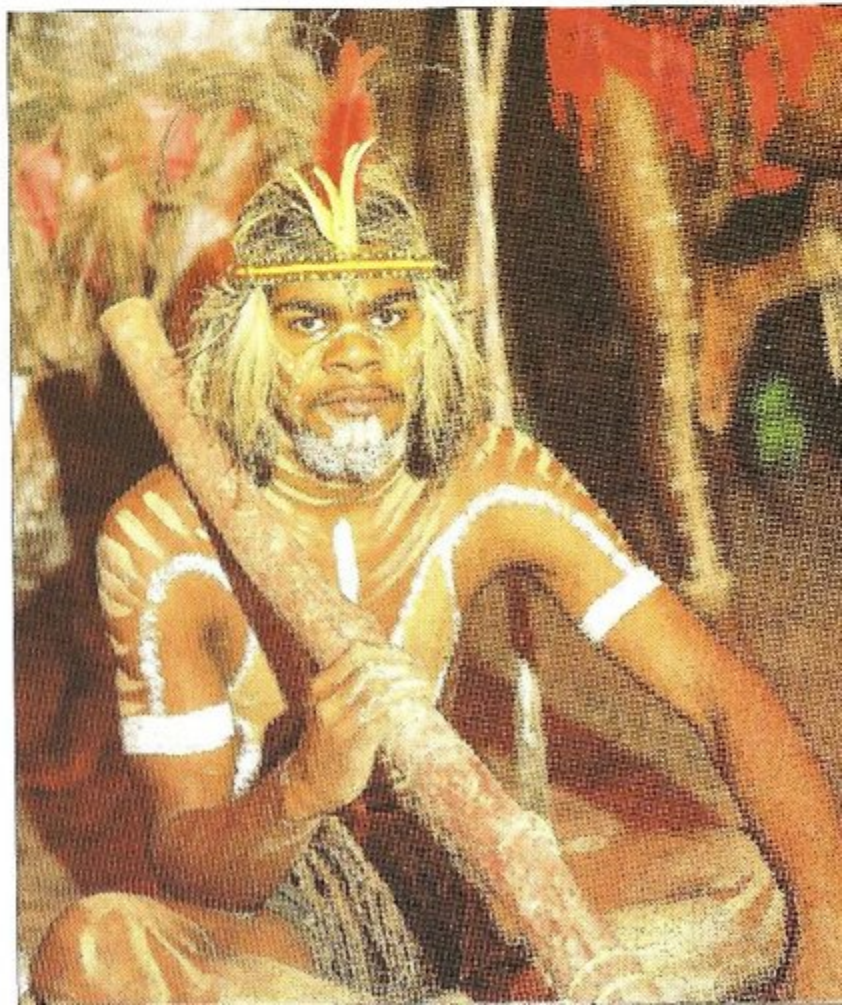
Between 1900 and 1930 special places were made where the Aborigines had to live, far away from other Australians. Life was very difficult for the Aborigines: they could not own land, they could not get jobs very easily, and their children could not go to school with white children. Nobody counted the Aborigines in the Australian population. Some people thought that there was no hope for the Aboriginal people, and many of their languages disappeared.

In fact, after about 1940 the number of Aborigines began to grow again, and now there are about 160,000 in Australia. In some ways life is better; for example, some of the land that the British took now belongs to the Aborigines again. By 1983, the Aborigines owned twenty-eight per cent of the Northern Territory.

But for lots of Aborigines life is still difficult. Most now live in cities and towns, away from the land. Although some have been

successful, many feel that they belong neither to Aboriginal Australia nor to white Australia. At last now in some cities Aborigines are helping each other to learn about the Aboriginal way of life; young people are taken to the country, where older Aborigines teach them the songs, dances, and way of living of the Aborigines of the past. And perhaps white Australians also are beginning to realize that they can learn a lot about their country from the Aborigines.

Aboriginal musician



6 Animals, birds and plants

If you want to see extraordinary animals, birds and plants, Australia is a good place to go.

The kangaroo is one Australian animal that everybody knows. The biggest of the fifty different kinds is the red kangaroo. They have big strong back legs and tails, and an adult can measure 2.4 metres high. They can jump more than four metres and travel at seventy kilometres an hour. Kangaroos eat grass and leaves and live in groups of about twelve.

Everyone loves the sleepy grey koalas. Like kangaroos, they have a pouch (a kind of pocket) on their fronts for their babies; after six months here, baby koalas ride on their mother's back. They live in eucalyptus trees, sleeping for eighteen hours, and eating one kilo of leaves, each day. They drink almost nothing; the word koala means 'no water'.

In the seas and rivers of northern Australia you can find crocodiles that are five or six metres long. They eat fish, animals, kangaroos – and sometimes people.

Finally, two very strange animals – the echidna and the platypus. Their babies are born from eggs but drink milk from their mothers; no other animals in the world do this. The echidna eats ants, which it catches with its long fast tongue. The platypus has a wide bill like a duck's and a wide flat tail. It swims well, but it can only stay under water for a few minutes, and it shuts its eyes and ears first.

There are more than eight hundred kinds of bird in Australia. The emu, which is two metres tall, is the second largest bird in the world. It cannot fly at all, but it can run at fifty kilometres an hour. Then there is the kookaburra, whose cry sounds like someone laughing, and the budgerigar, a little blue or yellow bird that people keep in their homes all over the world.

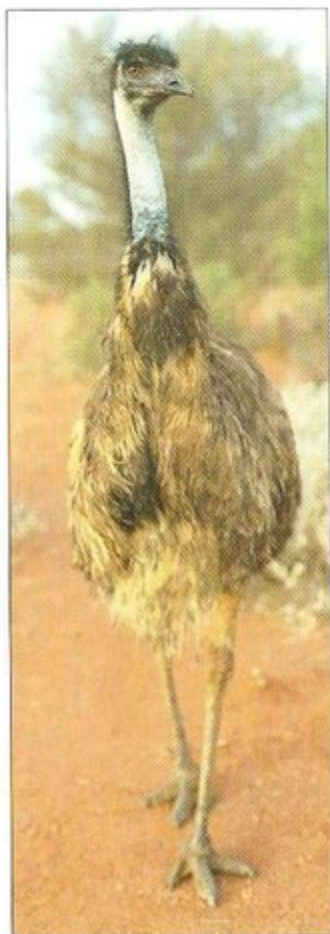
Eucalyptus trees are found everywhere in Australia, and one kind, the great mountain ash, can grow to 120 metres. These strong trees do not die when there are forest fires. Australia has many other kinds of tree, and thousands of kinds of wild flowers too. Animals, birds and plants – Australia has everything.



A red kangaroo



A koala



An emu



A platypus



An echidna

A crocodile



7 The outback

The flat, hot centre of Australia is called the 'outback'. The outback is more than two-thirds of Australia, but its population is less than 100,000. Many people live on sheep or cattle stations, which are enormous farms; there are a few cattle stations in Australia which are each as large as the country of England. The nearest neighbour is perhaps a hundred kilometres away, the nearest city 1,500 kilometres away.

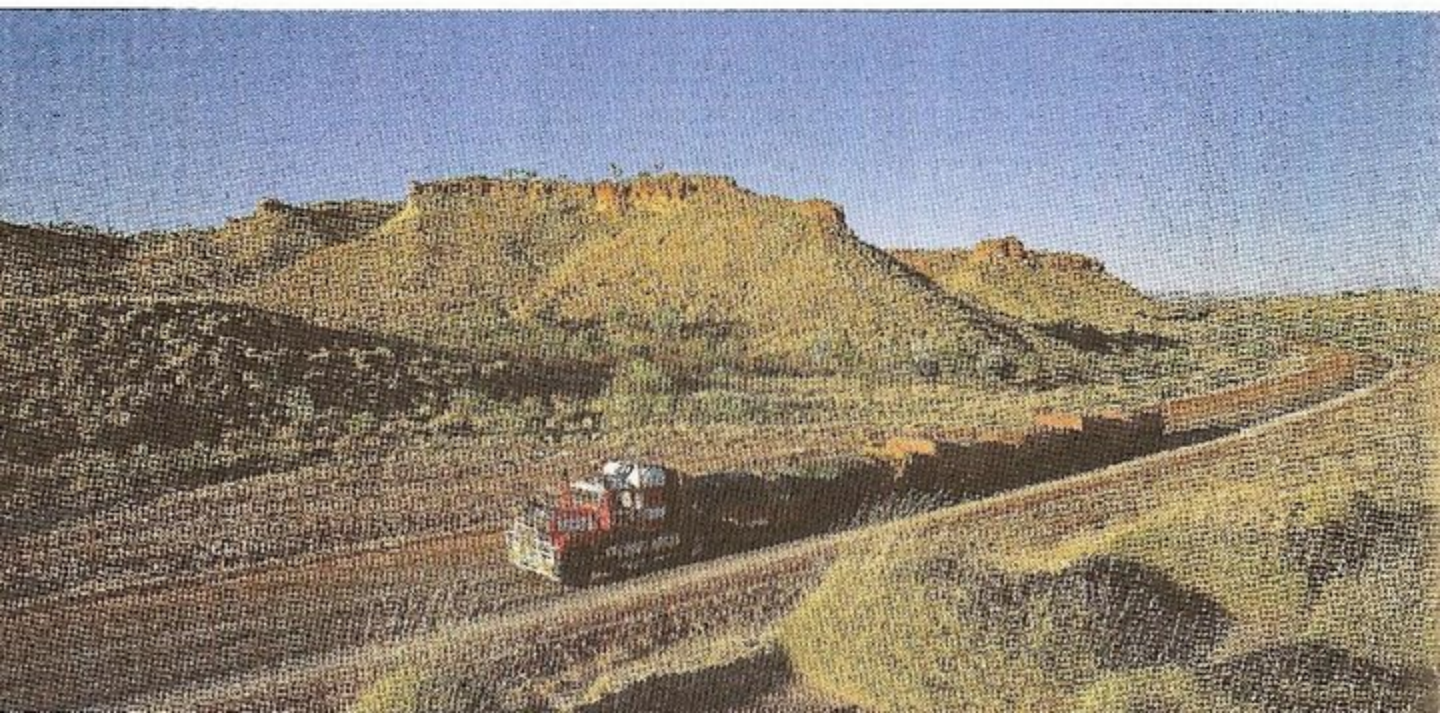
People travel by road or by air. On the roads you can often see 'road trains', carrying cattle from the cattle stations. Small acroplanes are used

to take people, food, post and machines to places that are far away from the towns.

Acroplanes are also necessary for the Flying Doctors. At special times each day, people in the outback can speak to a doctor by radio and get help. Each station or house keeps a box of medicine, so the doctor can say, for example, 'Take two of medicine Number 6.' If things are more serious, a plane will bring a sick person to hospital, or take a doctor to see them.

About 20,000 children in the outback use the Schools of the Air. Their teachers speak to them by

A road train



*Alice Springs*

radio, and they send them their work by post. Once a year all the children spend a week together; the younger children go to Alice Springs, and the older children go to a big city, like Sydney or Adelaide. This gives them the chance to spend time with children of their own age.

Alice Springs is the largest outback town, with a population of 25,000. For about a hundred years it was just a small group of houses and shops, but recently the population has grown because it has become an important tourist centre.

The first white people who came to the outback used camels to carry themselves and their luggage. Now there are wild camels living in the desert, and there are farms with camels for tourists who want to try a journey by camel into the outback.

With radio, television and acroplanes, people in the outback feel less lonely than they used to. But the outback is still a hard place to live. Every few years tourists die when they drive into the outback without enough water to drink.

The School of the Air*Camels*

8 Strange and wonderful

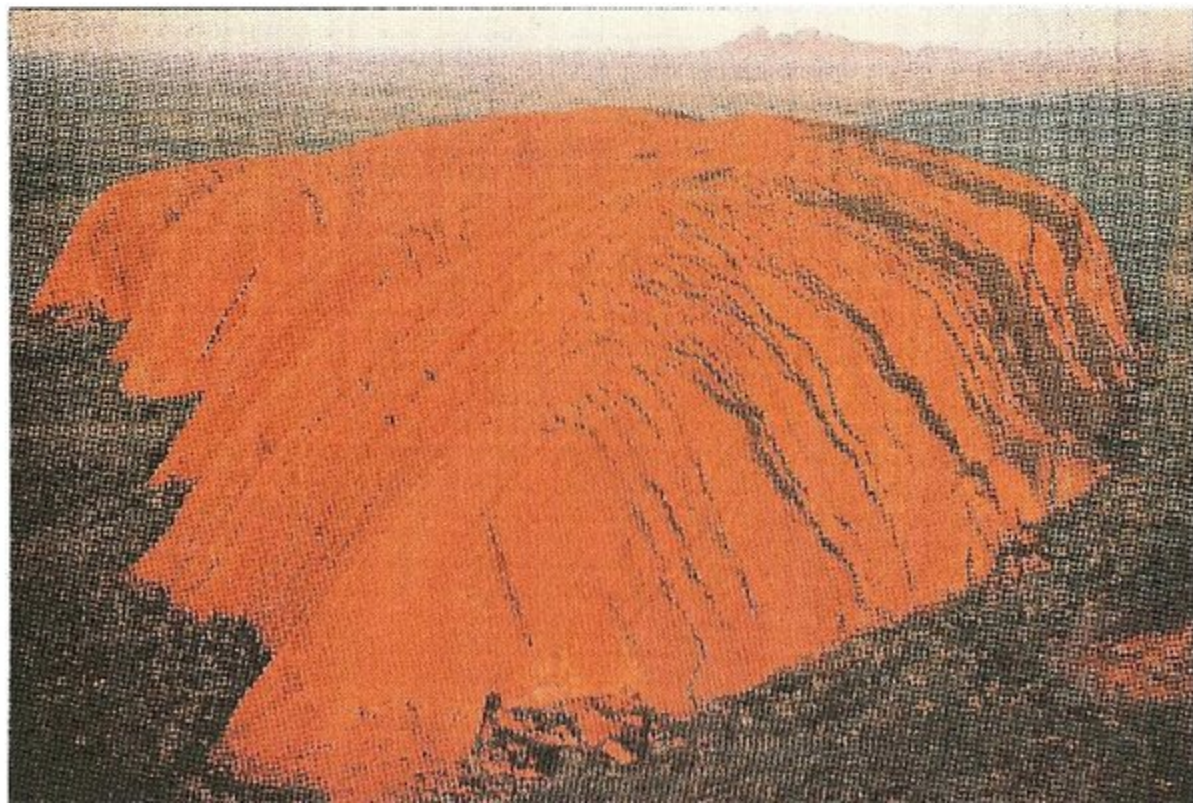
One of the most beautiful things you can see in Australia is Uluru, also called Ayers Rock. It is an enormous rock, alone in the middle of the desert south-west of Alice Springs. It is three kilometres long and 348 metres high, but there are another 2,100 metres under the ground. Uluru is 600 million years old, and it is the largest rock of its kind in the world. Thousands of tourists come each year to walk round it and look at it. The best time to see it is at the end of the day, when its colour changes from yellow to gold, red and

then purple. Uluru is a special place for Aborigines, and it belongs to the Aboriginal Pitjantjatjara people.

Then there is the world's longest coral reef, the 2,000 kilometre long Great Barrier Reef. Parts of the reef are 15,000 years old, and 1,500 different kinds of fish live there. It is very popular with tourists, who come to visit the islands and beaches, swim in the clear warm water, and take boat rides to see the fish and the coral.

Coober Pedy, which is about 960 kilometres north-west of Adelaide, is

Uluru



a really extraordinary place. Opals were first found here in 1915, and now ninety per cent of the world's opals come from here. But it is very dry and hot – 40° or 50° for days at a time. So most people live under the ground in houses which are dug out of the rock. Here they can stay cool, and if they want a bigger house, they just dig another room! The Aboriginal name 'Coober Pedy' actually means 'man who lives in a hole.'

Lakes are usually cool and wet – but not in Australia. The big lakes of the desert are dry most of the time.

Enormous Lake Eyre, which is 70 kilometres wide and 130 kilometres long, was dry for a hundred years until 1950, and Lake Mungo in New South Wales has had no water for 16,000 years.

Finally there is the Alice Springs boat race, which happens every year on the Todd River. The river is nearly always dry, so special boats are built for the race. These boats have sides but no bottom; the 'boatsmen' stand inside them and carry the boats as they run along the dry river bed. Hundreds of people come to see this crazy race.

The Great Barrier Reef



Coober Pedy



The Alice Springs boat race



9 Sheep, cattle, minerals and wheat

Australia is a rich country, and life there is good. Where does its money come from? Sheep, cattle, minerals, wheat, fruit and wine are some of the answers.

Sheep have been important since the earliest days. Most Australian sheep are Spanish merinos, which were first brought there in 1797. Merinos are strong animals and live happily in warm dry places. Now

twenty per cent of the world's sheep live in Australia, mainly in New South Wales and Victoria, and twenty-five per cent of the world's wool comes from there.

Cattle are found mostly in the drier parts of the north and centre, and cattle stations cover one-quarter of Australia. The meat from Australian cattle is sold to countries all over the world.

Sheep



Gold made Australia rich in the nineteenth century. Since then, oil, silver and other minerals from the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Western Australia have made millions of dollars for Australia. Not everyone is happy about this, however. Digging for minerals often destroys the land, and there can also be problems when minerals are found on Aboriginal land.

Western Australia and New South Wales grow a lot of wheat, which is

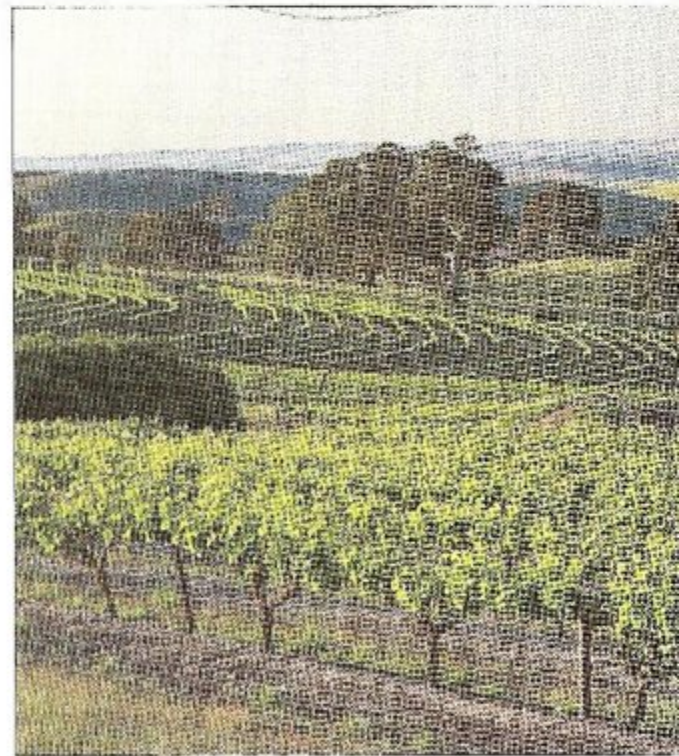
sold to the USA, China and Japan. Australia grows other kinds of food, too. In Queensland they grow bananas; further south, where it is less hot, apples are grown. And in recent years Australia has been making very good wine too.

But Australia is like many other modern countries, because now most of its workers do not work in factories or on farms; two-thirds of them work in shops, offices, banks or schools.

Gold mining at Kalgoorlie



Wheat ...



... and very good wine

10 Famous Australians



Ned Kelly

Ned Kelly ... together with his brother and two other men, Kelly robbed banks in the 1870s. Kelly and his friends wore armour which they made themselves, and they soon became famous all over Australia. Kelly was

finally caught and killed in 1880, when he was just twenty-five. A famous group of paintings, by the Australian artist Sir Sidney Nolan, shows Ned Kelly and his men.

Rod Laver ... international tennis star who won at Wimbledon four times. Pat Cash won at Wimbledon once, and Margaret Court won three times. Evonne Goolagong won at Wimbledon in 1971, and then again in 1980, and was perhaps the first Aboriginal to be famous through sport.

Kerry Packer ... a businessman who owns newspapers and television stations and is possibly the richest person in Australia. International businessman Rupert Murdoch started *The Australian*, the first daily

newspaper for all Australia, in 1964, and now has businesses in Australia, the USA, Great Britain and Hong Kong.

Patrick White ... wrote *The Tree of Man* and *Voss*, and won the Nobel Prize in 1973. Thomas Keneally's book *Schindler's Ark* later became the popular film *Schindler's List*.

Dame Nellie Melba ... was an international opera star at the end of the nineteenth century. Dame Joan Sutherland was also famous as an opera singer between 1960 and 1990.

Mel Gibson ... film star famous for the *Mad Max* films and later for *Braveheart*. Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan have had success first through television and then as singers and actors.

Edna Everage ... this international television star, with her extraordinary clothes and fantastic sunglasses, could only come from Australia. (In fact, Dame Edna is really a man called Barry Humphries.)

Edna Everage



11 New Zealand

What kind of country is New Zealand? First, it is a long way from everywhere – three hours by plane from Australia, and about twenty-six hours by plane from London. It is a country of islands; the North Island and the South Island are the main ones, and there are many smaller ones.

It is a long, narrow country; nowhere in New Zealand is more than 125 kilometres from the sea. It is a little larger than Great Britain, but Great Britain has a population of 57 million, and New Zealand has just 3.4 million people. It is an exciting and surprising land; as well as mountains, forests, lakes, deserts and rivers, there are places where hot water and steam explode out of the ground.

And it is a young country. The first Maori people landed there about a thousand years ago, and the first British people came to live there around 1840.

The oldest tree in New Zealand is more than 1,200 years old, but you will not find many buildings that are more than about 150 years old. And in New Zealand today more than half the people are under thirty years old.



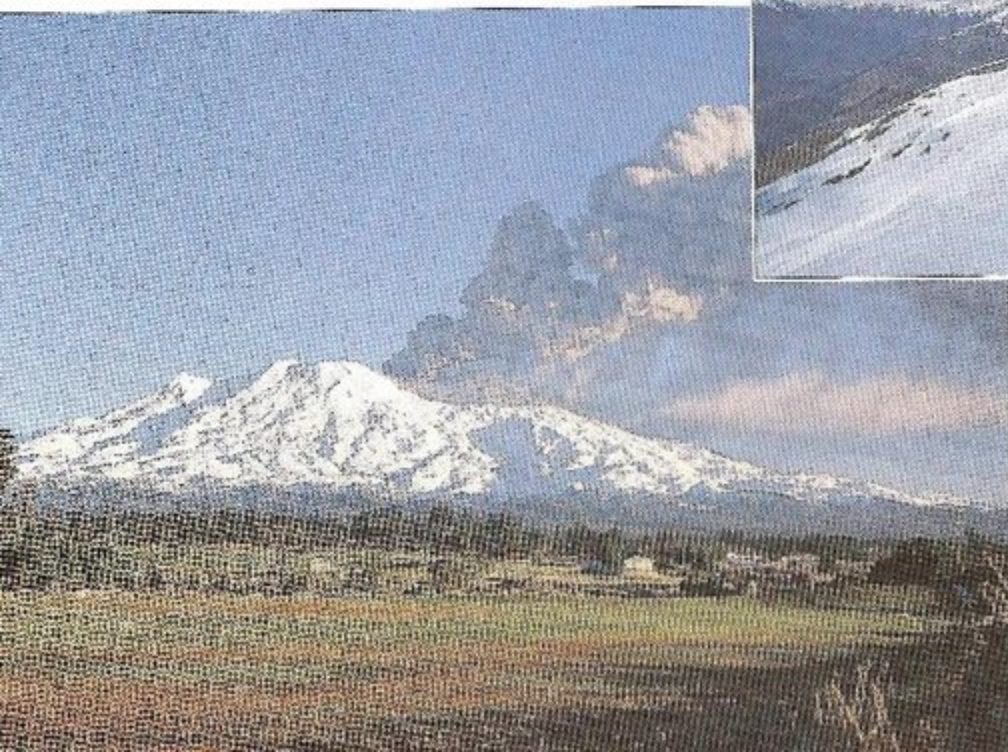
12 The land

If you travel from the top of the North Island to the bottom of the South Island you will see a lot of different kinds of country. In the north it is warm enough to grow oranges. In the centre of the North Island is a group of three high volcanoes, Ruapehu (2,797 metres) Ngauruhoe and Tongariro; sometimes you can see steam and smoke coming from them. The North Island's main rivers, the Waikato, Wanganui, Rangitikei and Rangitaiki, all begin near the centre of the island; water from the river Waikato, which is 425 kilometres

long, makes electricity for New Zealand.

In the South Island the mountains called the Southern Alps go almost from one end of the island to the other. Near the centre is New Zealand's highest mountain, Mount Cook, which is 3,764 metres high. There are many lakes and rivers here too, and it is a very popular place for sport – skiing in the winter, and water sports in the summer. East of the mountains are the Canterbury Plains – wide flat land used mainly for farming.

Ruapehu



*Skiing near
Mount Cook*

13 The past

About one thousand years ago the first Maori came to New Zealand. They travelled from islands in the Pacific Ocean to the country they called Aotearoa – the land of the long white cloud. At first they lived in both islands, but later they lived mainly on the coasts and rivers of the North Island.

In 1642 the Dutch sailor Abel Tasman visited New Zealand and gave it its name; Zeeland ('Sea land') is a part of Holland. Captain James Cook visited the islands four times between 1769 and 1777, sailed all the way round them and made the first map of the country. In 1840 some British and some Maori people met and agreed that New Zealand now belonged to Britain. But when more and more British people came

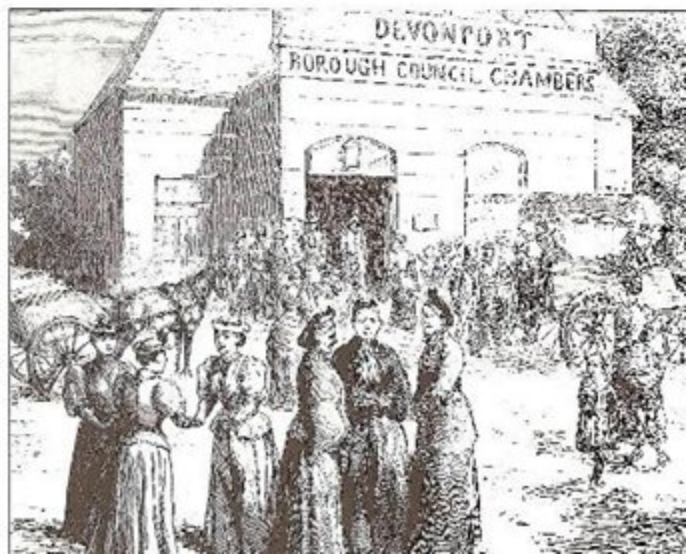
to live in New Zealand, fighting about the land began between the Maori and the British. The fighting finally ended in about 1870.

In 1863 gold was found in the South Island, and thousands of people hurried to New Zealand to look for gold. In 1893, New Zealand was the first country in the world to let women vote. Since that time, things have changed a lot in New Zealand. At the beginning of this century, New Zealand was a child, and Britain was its parent. Now the child is growing, and deciding what to do by itself. In the next century, New Zealand will probably do more business with Australia, Japan, the United States, and the many islands of the Pacific, than with Britain.

The Land Wars between the Maori and the British



Women voting in 1893



14 The Maori people

The Maori have lived in New Zealand for more than a thousand years. When Captain Cook and his men landed here, they found a tall, strong people with brown skin and black hair. The Maori of those times lived in wooden houses and had wooden boats, and they often cut beautiful shapes into the wood which they worked with. They caught birds and fish and grew sweet potatoes for food. They were also excellent singers and dancers. At this time the Maori population was between 100,000 and 150,000.

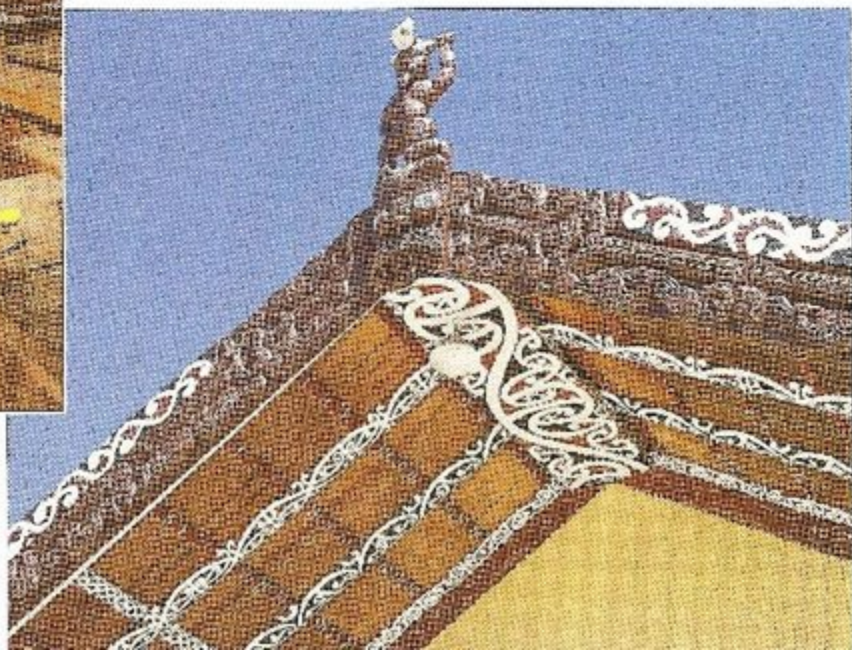
When the British came it was, in some ways, not a good thing for the Maori. Many people, both Maori

and Pakeha (the Maori name for white people) died in the battles over land. People still argue today about the land and who owns it, and many people feel very strongly about it. The Pakeha also brought guns, strong drinks and cigarettes with them, and diseases which were new to the Maori. All of these things brought terrible trouble to the Maori, and many of them died. By 1900 the future seemed hopeless, but after a while the population slowly began to grow again.

In the twentieth century many Maori began to live more like the Pakeha. Some became successful New Zealanders, like Sir Apirana



Maori woodcarving



A Maori wooden house

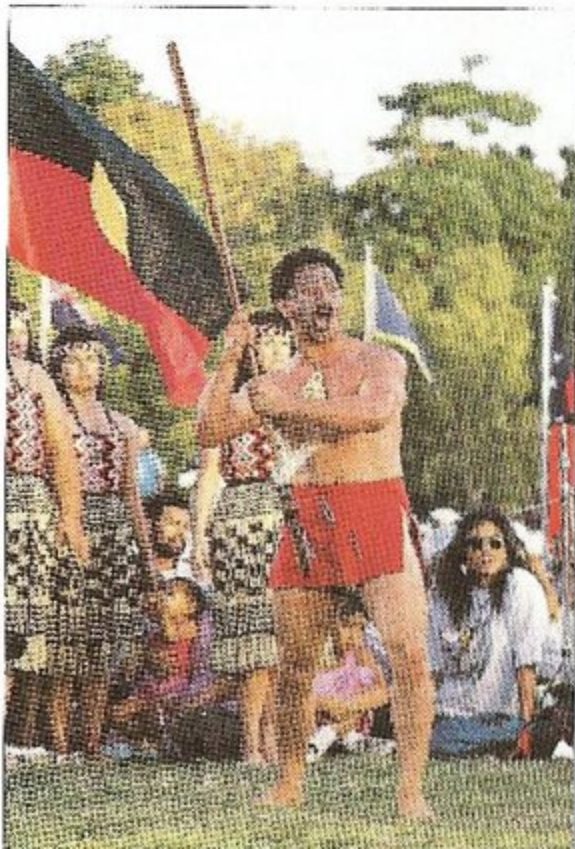
Ngata, who studied the stories and songs of his people. But there was a price for this success; Maori children had to speak English, not Maori, at school, and many Maori families left their old homes and moved to the cities. The old Maori way of life was dying, and the Maori language was dying with it.

But in the 1960s and 1970s many Maori, especially young ones, began to think seriously about the future. They began to learn the Maori language, and to learn more about the Maori way of life. When the South Africans refused to let Maori

play football in their country, many New Zealanders – Maori and Pakcha – became angry. People were realizing that the Maori were an important part of New Zealand, and things began to change. Now Maori is taught in schools, and most young people learn it.

Today there are about 400,000 Maori people in New Zealand – that is about twelve per cent of the population. Maori is an official language, like English. Some Maori are internationally famous in sport or music, like the singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. Although the Maori nearly disappeared a hundred years ago, today their voice is becoming stronger again. Maori and Pakcha will make New Zealand's future together.

Maori dancer



Kiri Te Kanawa



15 Strange and wonderful

Let's begin in Auckland. Visitors to the city often do not realize that Auckland's hills are volcanoes – all forty-eight of them. The youngest one is Rangitoto, which came up out of the sea only 600 years ago. But there is no danger from these volcanoes now; they have been quiet for years.

Rotorua



The strangest place in New Zealand is surely Rotorua, a city in the northern part of the North Island. Here the air smells like eggs, and steam and hot water explode out of the hot ground. You can walk beside lakes of hot water in extraordinary colours, and there are pools of natural hot water where you can swim. Near Rotorua, steam is used to make electricity.

About 170 kilometres south of Rotorua are the Waitomo Caves. These enormous caves were made by a river. The best part of a visit is a journey along the river in a boat; you travel silently through the darkness until suddenly you see thousands of little stars above you. In fact these stars are lights; they belong to very small animals, like flies, which live on the roof of the caves.

In the south-west of the South Island is Fiordland, where land and sea meet in deep valleys. Many visitors like to walk along the Milford Track to reach the sea at Milford Sound. After four days walking through beautiful

mountains, they reach Milford Sound to see the water of the Sutherland Falls fall 580 metres to the sea.

If you know a New Zealand bird, it is probably the kiwi. The kiwi's wings have become very small, so it cannot fly any more. It cannot see very well either – but it can smell, and not many birds can do that. Many people recognize this strange bird now, and New Zealanders are often called Kiwis.

New Zealand is also the home of the tuatara, one of the oldest types of animal in the world. They are about sixty centimetres long and have a third 'eye' on the top of their

heads; tuataras sleep during the winter, and they use the third eye to wake themselves up in spring.

Finally, New Zealand has many beautiful trees. The pohutukawa has red flowers at Christmas time, and people call it 'the New Zealand Christmas tree'. But the greatest of them all is the kauri. Kauris are tall, straight trees, and their wood is excellent for making boats and houses. Today you cannot cut down kauri trees, but you can visit the kauri forests to see these wonderful trees. The tallest kauri in New Zealand is Tane Mahuta; it is fifty-two metres tall, and more than 1,200 years old.

A kauri tree



A tuatara



A kiwi

16 New Zealand's cities

Auckland, the most northern of New Zealand's four main cities, has the biggest population; almost one million people live there. It is the biggest city too; to get from one end of Auckland to the other you need to travel fifty kilometres. Auckland has two harbours, the Manukau in the west and the Waitemata in the east; at the narrowest part it is only 1.5 kilometres from one to the other.

Auckland is a modern business centre with many high-rise buildings. One-third of Auckland's population come from islands in the Pacific, so Auckland has the biggest group of these people of any city in the world.

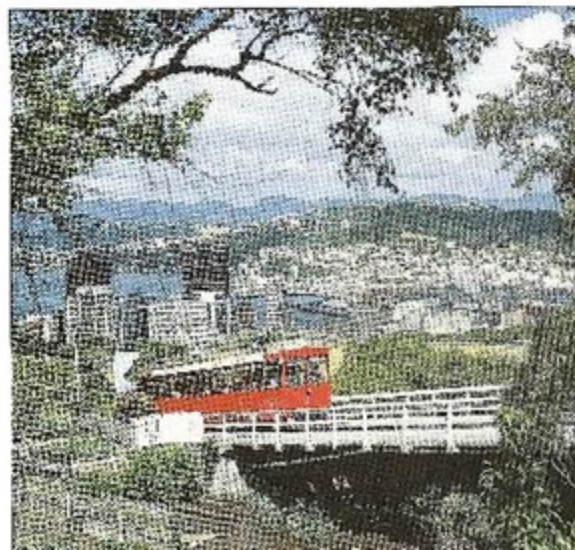
Windy Wellington at the southern end of the North Island is the capital of New Zealand and has a

population of 325,000. Wellington is built on high hills around a lovely harbour, and has lots of good shops, restaurants and theatres.

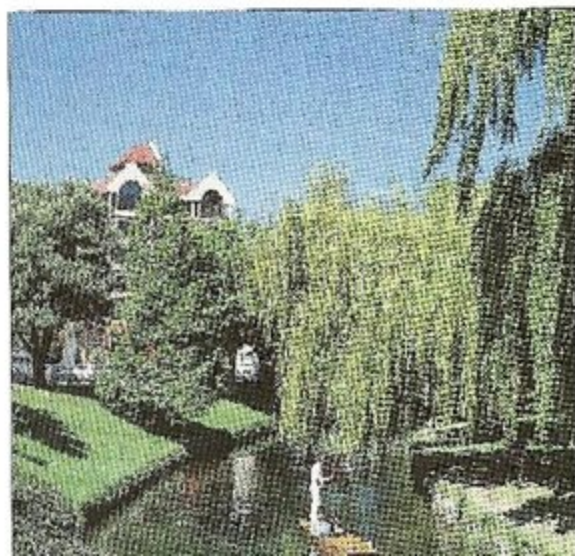
Christchurch is the South Island's largest city with 300,000 people. It is a flat, green place; one-third of the city is parks and gardens. To many people Christchurch is 'the most English city outside England'; it was designed in England, and its river is called the Avon.

New Zealand's fourth city has the old name for Edinburgh – Dunedin. In the nineteenth century it was the centre of New Zealand's business and its largest city. Many of Dunedin's most beautiful buildings were built at this time. It also has New Zealand's oldest university.

Wellington



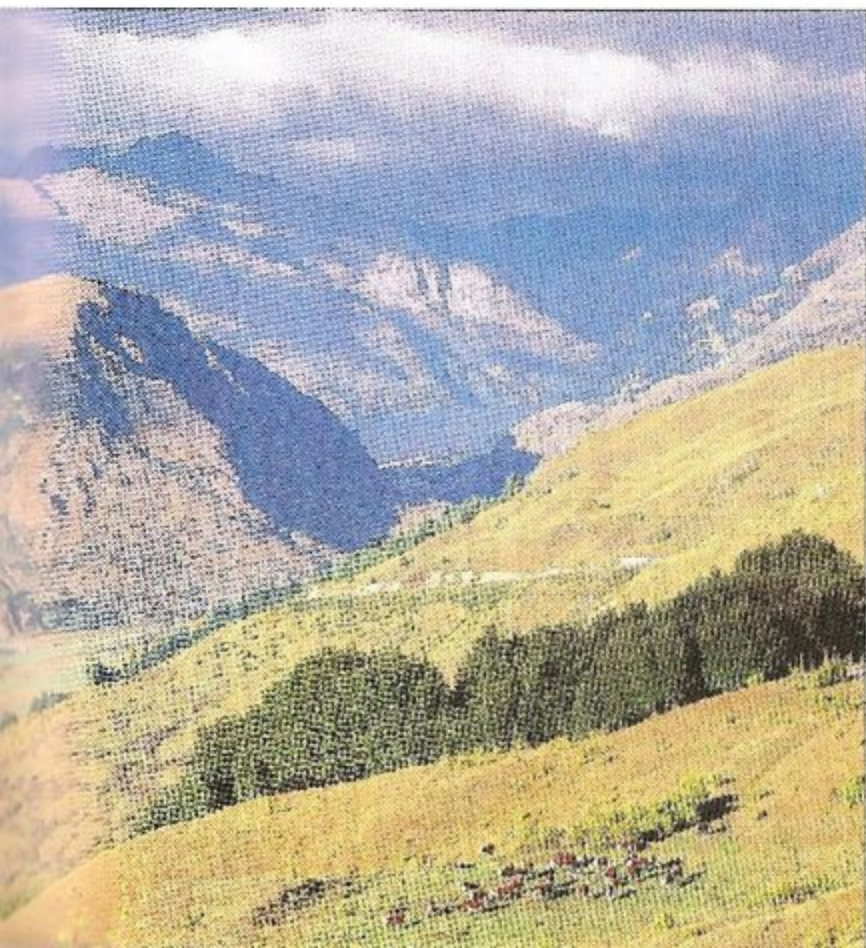
Christchurch



17 Twenty sheep and three cows

With warm temperatures and a lot of rain, New Zealand is a great place for farms of all kinds. There are sixty-six million sheep and nine million cows; in other words, for every person living in New Zealand there are twenty sheep and three cows. That is why New Zealand sells more meat from these animals, and more butter, than any other country, and also a lot of wool. Sheep and cows are found on farms in both the

Farming in the South Island



North and South Islands; the oldest farms began in the middle of the nineteenth century.

A lot of fruit is grown too – apples, for example, and more recently kiwifruit. Thirty years ago not many people knew kiwifruit



A kiwifruit

except New Zealanders; now they are sent all over the world from farms in the North Island. In the centre of the North Island there are large forests; wood and paper from these trees is used in New Zealand and sold to other countries too. In the last twenty years wine has become important; it is made near Auckland, Hamilton, Napier and Nelson. Finally, New Zealand also sells a lot of fish to other countries.

18 Life in Australia and New Zealand

In both Australia and New Zealand, the weather is warm and the cities are not crowded, so naturally people spend a lot of time outside. Although there are flats in cities, most people like to live in a house of their own with a garden. Families spend hours in their gardens, growing flowers and vegetables, playing and having meals, and – in ten per cent of Australian gardens – swimming.

Playing (and watching) sport is a very important part of life in both countries. Water sports are especially popular; in Australia seventy-five per cent of the population lives not more than eighty kilometres from the coast, and in New Zealand nowhere

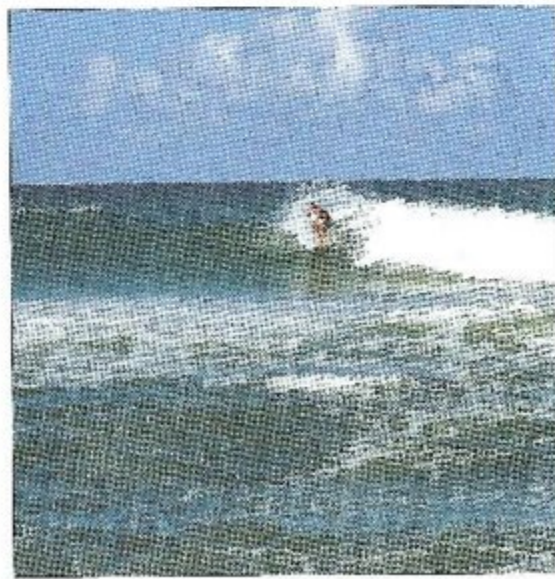
is more than 125 kilometres from the sea. So almost everyone learns to swim, and surfing and sailing are also popular. Australia has had several top tennis players, and both countries have had international success in many other sports.

In both countries you can find English and Maori or Aboriginal things together, and this often seems funny or surprising to visitors. English is the main language in both countries, although in New Zealand, Maori is an official language too. In Australia you can find very English place names like Melbourne, Brighton and Liverpool next to Aboriginal place names like

A back garden barbecue



Surfing



Mullumbimby, Wagga Wagga and Goondiwindi; in New Zealand English names like Palmerston North and Hamilton are found with Maori names like Ngaruawahia and Wanganui. Some older people still talk about 'home' and mean Britain, and you can still find things that really belong to Britain more than Australia or New Zealand. At Christmas, for example, you can buy and send Christmas cards with pictures of snow and wood fires, although the temperature may be 25° and people are going to spend Christmas Day at the beach!

But things are slowly changing. Young Australians and New Zealanders today are often more interested in their own country and its neighbours than in the old ways of Britain on the other side of the world. The future of Aboriginal people in Australia and of Maori in New Zealand is going to be another important question for both countries. In the twenty-first century, will Australia and New Zealand still remember Britain? Or will it be just another foreign country? Only time will answer the question.

Christmas on the beach



Exercises

A Checking your understanding

Pages 1–5 *Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?*

- 1 Most Australians live in the centre of the country.
- 2 The first British convicts landed in Australia in 1788.
- 3 Melbourne used to be the capital of Australia.
- 4 Darwin has a lot of high-rise buildings.

Pages 6–11 *How much can you remember? Check your answers.*

- 1 How many different groups of Aborigines lived in Australia when the British first came there?
- 2 How fast can a kangaroo travel?
- 3 What is strange about the echidna and the platypus?
- 4 What do people do in the outback when someone is hurt or ill?

Pages 12–16 *Write answers to these questions.*

- 1 Why do people like to visit the Great Barrier Reef?
- 2 Why do people live under the ground in Coober Pedy?
- 3 Can you name three different kind of food that are grown in Australia?
- 4 Why is Evonne Goolagong famous?

Pages 17–21 *Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?*

- 1 New Zealand has more land and fewer people than Great Britain.
- 2 New Zealand has only three mountains.
- 3 Women have been able to vote in New Zealand for more than a hundred years.
- 4 Today children cannot speak Maori at school.

Pages 22–27 *How much can you remember? Check your answers.*

- 1 How old is Auckland's newest volcano?
- 2 Which was New Zealand's largest city in the nineteenth century?
- 3 Can you name three sports that are popular in Australia and New Zealand?
- 4 How many official languages are there in New Zealand?

B Working with language

- 1 *Put these sentences into the right order. Then check your order on page 2.*
- 1 Gold was found in New South Wales and Victoria.
 - 2 Captain James Cook said that Australia belonged to Britain.
 - 3 The six Australian states joined together to make one country.
 - 4 The Aborigines came to Australia.
 - 5 People from European countries like Italy and Greece came to Australia.
 - 6 The Dutch sailors William Jansz and Abel Tasman came to Australia.
 - 7 The first British convicts landed in Port Jackson.
- 2 *Put together these beginnings and endings of sentences.*
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Rotura has swimming-pools ... | 6 ... are lights from small insects. |
| 2 The stars in the Waitomo Caves ... | 7 ... helps it to wake up in spring. |
| 3 The kiwi cannot fly ... | 8 ... of natural hot water. |
| 4 The tuatara's third eye ... | 9 ... makes good boats and houses. |
| 5 The wood from the kauri tree ... | 10 ... but it can smell. |

C Activities

- 1 You have won a two week holiday in Australia or New Zealand. Where will you go? What will you do? What will you see? Write about your plans.
- 2 Choose an animal, bird, plant or place in Australia or New Zealand that interests you. Find out about it and write about it.
- 3 Can you find anything that joins your country with Australia and New Zealand? Does your country buy their food or play sport with them? Did people leave your country to live there? Ask some questions like these, and write down the answers you find.

D Project work

Choose a famous Australian (perhaps from page 16), or choose a famous New Zealander (perhaps Ernest Rutherford, Edmund Hillary, or Kiri Te Kanawa). Find out about them, and write something to show to your class.

Glossary

ant a very small animal, often black or red, that lives in large groups under the ground

cattle large animals that give us milk or meat

cave a hole in the side of a hill or under the ground

convict a criminal who has been sent to prison

desert a hot, dry place without water or trees

electricity the power that travels through wires and can make heat and light and drive machines

enormous very, very big

festival a time when a lot of events, e.g. music, films or sports, are organized in one place

flat without hills or mountains

harbour a place where ships can stop safely next to the land

mineral something that we can take from under the ground; oil, silver and gold are all minerals

opal a beautiful, valuable stone, often blue or green

paint to make a picture with colours

ski to move over snow on long pieces of wood

state a part of a large country which has its own government

steam water changes to steam at 100° Celsius

vote to choose someone in an election by marking a piece of paper

wheat a plant which is used to make bread

wine an alcoholic drink made from grapes

wool the hair of sheep



AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Where would you go to see a platypus? What is Uluru? Who was Ned Kelly? And where can you find a city built on forty-eight volcanoes? The answers to all these questions, and many more, are here. This book looks at life in modern Australia and New Zealand, at the geography and history of these two fascinating countries, and at their growing importance in the world of the future.

OXFORD BOOKWORMS FACTFILES give important and interesting information to the reader, moving enjoyably towards real reading in English. Each book has been carefully graded to help the learner.

*Cover photograph by Hulton Getty/
S & N Geary*

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS



ISBN 0-19-422809-6



9 780194 228091



STAGE **3** 1000 HEADWORDS