

Insight into History:

Australia Focus



Welcome to our first edition of the Lymm High School Insight into History magazine 2022! Our topic this month is Australia. Specifically, you will find articles on the history of the Aborigines in addition to more modern topics such as the management of Covid in Australia. To finish off, we have a crossword from our games editor- Verena- with some Haribo's on the line (more details on page 11)

Australia is a fascinating country and member of the commonwealth, with a diverse history yet highly developed infrastructure and interesting political landscape- we are sure you will learn something new.

A huge thank you to the history magazine team and Mr McNally for putting this magazine together.

-Atticus Burnett, Editor in Chief

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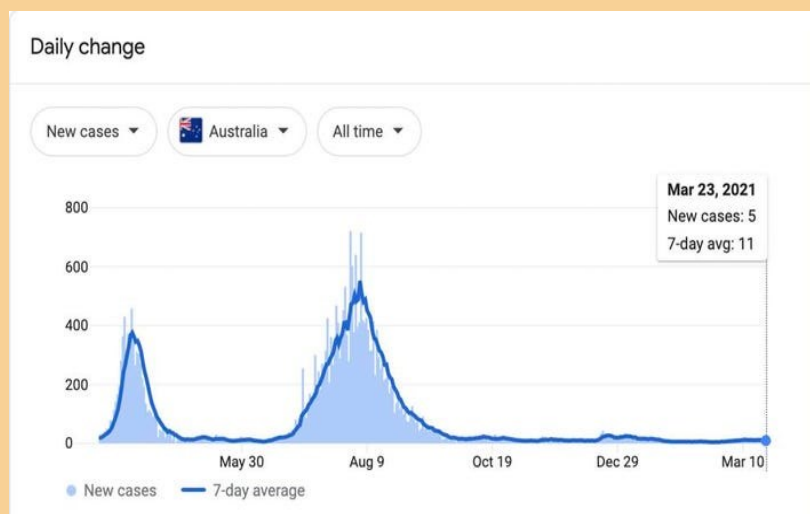
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Thanks again to all of those who helped to create this issue of Insight into History: Anya, Sophie, Lena, Grace, Verena, Atticus, Anna and Mr McNally for restarting the magazine for 2022.

Australia's versus UK'S response to Covid 19

Australia's reaction to the Covid -19 pandemic could be described as 'impulsive but necessary'. Their two main waves of the disease were seemingly due to international transmission and breaches of hotel quarantine which perpetuated an internal outbreak. When 700 cases were being reported daily, it took less than 3 months to eliminate community transmission and firmly grasp ascending rates. Early 2021 distinguished Australian success when under 1000 deaths were recorded by the end of January. Their use of- what could be criticised as rash- lockdowns in early months proved effective when they were one of the first countries to be revelling in the 'normality' the rest of the world only dreamt of. For example, clubs were open with people restoring the economy and enjoying life on the other side of Covid.



The UK had a more controversial, lagged approach. While Australia took action immediately as the virus globalised, the UK had a reaction that many interpret to be delayed – some have even argued that it was this sluggish reaction that had a lasting detriment on the continent's oppressive relationship with the virus. To highlight the difference in approach more palpably: the UK passed 100,000 deaths by the end of January, a dwarfing figure 100 times greater than our Australian counterparts. To this day, the Australian Government sees past

the stigma of intervention that arguably limits British governmental action. It is unknown as to whether it is possible for persons in power of influential countries such as the UK to observe and consider the successful actions of other dominant areas of global society, but we can only wait to see whether our high officials act with learnt efficiency rather than reluctant acts.

- Sophie Smith, Year 12 pupil



People lining up to get vaccinated in Australia

Political background in Australia

Australia: LGBTQIA+ rights are widely embraced, abortions are decriminalised and many diverse communities coexist in bustling cities like Melbourne. Friendly, funny and always sunny. Yet behind the progressive persona we associate with Australia in the present, a seriously horrifying history lies behind this façade.

This can be mainly attributed to its colonial roots: since the beginning of British colonization in 1788, aboriginal Australians have been systematically stripped of their own country. Slavery, massacres, mass incarcerations and kidnappings; indigenous people in Australia lost their right to a free life at the hands of a British Endeavour. Between 1788-1930, there were an estimated 304 frontier massacres of indigenous Australians. Aside from the flagrant instances of violence, indigenous lives are diminished on a societal level too as they are likely to be of a lower socioeconomic level due to institutional racism. Shockingly, male Australian aboriginals have a life expectancy 8.6 years shorter than their non-aboriginal counterparts. Despite the importance of recognising this treachery, it is also paramount to celebrate the upliftment of the aboriginal people.

Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of this is how hope is transferred within fights for liberty, evident in the 'Australian Black Panthers Party'. In the minds of many, the Black Panthers were limited solely to the USA and the fight for African American civil rights- provoking iconic images of raised, defiant fists and proudly adopted afros.

However, the influence of the Panthers was not received only in America, but 'down under' too when, in 1972, Denis Walker founded the Australian Black Panthers Party. The son of a prominent indigenous poet, Walker hoped to create a vessel

by which aboriginal people could play a role in rectifying ongoing injustices by the white-majority power; they emulated the American Panthers by donning dark glasses, berets, leather jackets and, most importantly, an infallible pride in their race.



Amongst the party's aims were improved education, housing and - controversially- a United Nations sponsored plebiscite for indigenous people to decide whether to remain a part of Australia. It is easy to see why indigenous people felt so disconnected from the nation: the 1936 Aborigines Act Amendment Act licensed Western Australians to eliminate the aboriginal race by a process of assimilation, whereby Aboriginal 'children' (all aborigines under the age of 21) could be removed from their families, homes and work. The question as to why any aboriginal would need to 'assimilate' in a country that was rightfully theirs finds an answer only in racism. Hospitals, school buses, pools and even cemeteries were all segregated as late as the 20th century. Tragically, this is not a novel tale and is almost a transcript of the infamous maltreatment of African Americans in the USA.

This transferability of experiences demonstrates the prevalence of injustice faced by many minorities globally, but also highlights the truly wondrous ability of the oppressed to find not only hope, but strength in other's battles – a strength that would've been pushed to the edge of human limit in the face of such malicious discrimination and hatred. That is why I find such beauty in the Australian Black Panthers. Regardless of race at a time when it meant so much, the passion and conviction of a far-away group in America helped to re-empower Aboriginal Australians and cultivate a true reverence for their own identity. Despite there only being ten members of the party, their tremendous efforts resulted in the development of a free medical and legal service for aboriginals, housing projects and a National Black Theatre for political activism in 1972 – inspired by a black theatre in Harlem. Government initiatives like the Aboriginal Medical Service included variations of the Panther's schemes such as 'Feed the People' and 'Free Breakfast for Children'. These Panthers galvanized a new generation of indigenous Australians, aggressive and unflinching in their demands for the liberation of their own people as well as ameliorating the lives of indigenous people at the time.

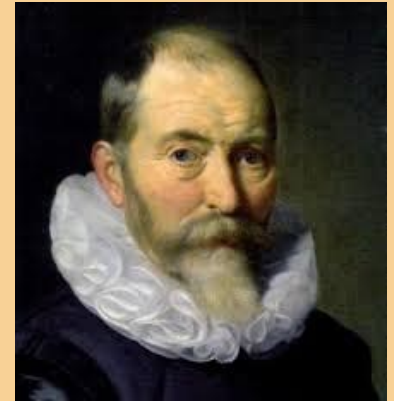
Denis Walker aimed for the Australian Black Panthers to be 'the vanguard for all depressed people, and in Australia the Aboriginals are the most depressed of all'.

This statement still holds a poignant significance today, and so we must ask ourselves: who still continues to battle injustice daily? And has this changed so much from the time of the Panthers?

-Year 12 student and political editor, Anya Grieve

The Tale of Willem Janszoon

Willem Janszoon (pictured below) was a Dutch explorer and governor who became the first European to have seen the coast of Australia.



Willem was first employed as a mate aboard a trading ship that was dispatched by the Dutch and sailed between the Dutch East Indies. As he grew through the ranks, he was soon asked to explore for other trade routes in 'the great land of New Guinea and other East and Southlands'.

Willem first sailed to New Guinea, which had already been discovered, before continuing on into a piece of ocean called the Torres Strait.

In 1606, Willem landed on the Western shore of Cape York, Queensland. At first, he believed he had simply found more of New Guinea and proceeded to chart 200 miles of the coastline. However, Willem found the land to be swampy and the people- Aborigines- to be inhospitable after 10 of his men were killed. He decided to return back to South of Albatross Bay and when he arrived back at Bantam, he named the land he had discovered 'Nieu Zeelandt' after a Dutch province.

The Dutch continued to produce a false map of the land for many years as Willem still claimed that the land he had discovered was joined to New Guinea. Over 10 years later, Willem returned to the area where he landed of the Western Australian Coast and declared it an Island without fully circumnavigating it



Basically Black review

“Good morning, I am a human being” is the beginning of a satirical political comedy in which they address the racism indigenous Aboriginal people face. This ‘series’ was an all Aboriginal cast and aired in 1973. It was highly censored and the political commentary was watered down from the original sketches. The show was popular although not enough to justify a whole series and it ended up being a single half hour programme.

One of the first lines of the show is “I am a human being”, after which the director promptly yells cut. This cutting beginning sets the tone for the show as being merciless- especially on white people's attitudes towards Aboriginal people. White people, during this half hour, are represented only by a white mask and their racist remarks. The first appearance of the white attitudes follows this line with the directors saying that Aboriginal people had been through a lot and needed a break. This alone gives an insight into white people believing that they had changed things for Aboriginal people, when in reality, they had done nothing.

The introduction of the Aboriginal superhero does nothing to relieve the political commentary. He goes into a hotel to fight the racism in it and finds that he is not allowed in. These only highlights how useless fighting for equal rights was for Aboriginal people and how helpless they must have felt.

One sketch involves a soldier crashing his plane on a beach and two Aboriginal people discovering him. The soldier attempts to end his life but they take him in and offer him new job opportunities. The soldier asked them what they did during the war and they mentioned building golf courses for the officers. This makes the soldier take his life with a poisonous pill when he sees what his life could be.

1000 Aboriginal people fought during WW1, and 4000 in WW2. However, it is greatly disregarded by white leaders. The descriptions of jobs the two men gave the soldier could be a perception of what white people believed aboriginal people committed themselves to during the fighting.



During another sketch a white police officer tells an Aboriginal person how to properly act with contempt to authority just so he can take him to prison. This clearly shows the false sense of security Aboriginal people are given by white authority.

Overall, this one episode- despite being heavily censored- makes a joke about the hardships of Aboriginal people while making it clear that white people are the ones that enforce these hardships. The all-Aboriginal cast and directing team make sure that is as accurate as possible for the Aboriginal point of view.

The episode was a brave opposition to racist attitudes that would have been apparent especially when it aired in 1973.

- Lena Devaney and Grace Main, TV/ Film editors



TV/Film recommendations

Tv shows/mini-series

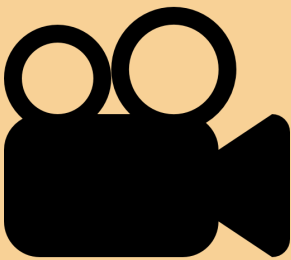
"basically black" - Australian satire comedy

My place - tv series about 26 kids who have all lived in this one house dating back to 1888

Seven little Australians - 7 kids growing up in 1890's Australia

the last outlaw - miniseries about Australian folk hero Ned Kelly. (Australian bushranger, outlaw, gang leader and convicted police-murderer.) around 1850's

Wild boys - Australia 1860s, Wild Boys follows a gang of bushrangers as they stage hold-ups determined to keep ahead of the troopers or wind up at the end of a noose.



Documentary series

First Australians - explores history of Australia beginning in Sydney in 1788 with the arrival of the first fleet and ending in 1993 with Eddie Mabo's legal challenge.

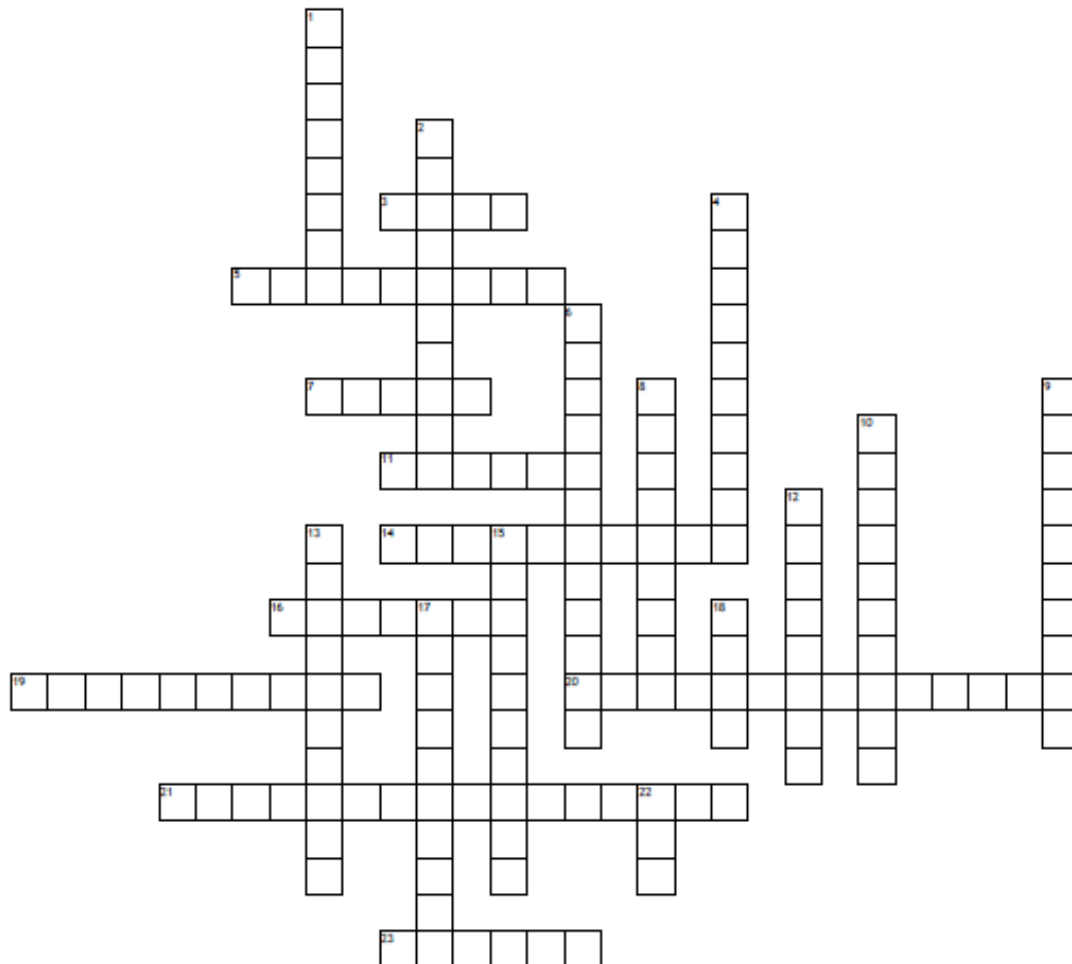
Film/documentary

The back of beyond - A documentary film which follows a mailman as he

Happy Watching!

Hand in your completed crossword with your name and form to Mr McNally in A204 to be in with a chance to win a packet of Haribo's!

AUSTRALIA



Across

3. A baby kangaroo is called a
 5. The only country that spans an entire continent.
 7. A huge red rock which rises out of the Australian desert. It is the largest rock in the world and it is sacred to the native people living in the area. It has two names. One is Ayers Rock and the other name is _____
 11. Australian term for barbecue
 14. Pouched mammals, young are born at an immature stage and grow inside the mother's pouch.
 16. These animals are sometimes called spiny anteaters, and with their unique muscle under their skin, they can move individual spines.
 19. Common mammals. Young are born at an advanced stage of development.

20. An animal that when it gets upset or excited, it will stamp its feet and show teeth, and their ears will turn red and they let out screams.

21. The largest coral reef system in the world.

23. They live in burrows and can run very fast, up to 25 miles per hour.

Down

1. The _____ more compact legs are built for agility in forested areas, whereas the kangaroos legs are built for speed.
 2. Bird featured in a famous Australian song
 4. Egg-laying mammals.
 6. Like humans, koalas have
 8. A group of _____ is called a mob, court or troop.

9. Most female _____ have a pouch for carrying babies.
 10. The first people to live in Australia.
 12. A bird that has tail feathers that look like a musical instrument.
 13. The plant that koalas like to eat,
 15. "ankle biter"
 17. Aboriginal wind instrument
 18. Koalas, Tasmanian devils and wombats have pouches that open toward the _____.
 22. Second largest bird in the world