

Australia's Heritage

NATIONAL

TREASURES



TEACHERS

NOTES

- During the episode we hear about Martha Rendell, hanged in 1909, whose 'ghostly image' is said to appear in a window of the prison's chapel. Drawing from any aspect of these events, plan and write a fictional ghost story. Consider viewpoint, plot events, characters, time structures such as flashback sequences, and whether the story will be narrated in the present or past tense.
- The episode refers to a prison riot in 1988. Plan and write two letters expressing your views about the riot to the editor of a large daily newspaper. One should be written by supporters of the prison authorities, the other written by friends or relatives of a prisoner. Take care to consider the respective points of view and opinions of each writer.
- Create your own travel poster or information pamphlet promoting Fremantle Prison as a popular 21st century tourist precinct.

Wattie Creek



Synopsis

Wattie Creek entered Australian folklore as the birthplace of the Aboriginal land-rights movement when Prime Minister Gough Whitlam visited the Gurindji people to grant them deeds to their land. The Gurindji rose to national prominence in 1966 when, led by

stockman Vincent Lingiari, 200 Aboriginal employees quit slave-labour conditions at Wave Hill cattle station and walked the now National Heritage-listed Wave Hill Walk-off Route to set up a community at Wattie Creek, which they renamed Daguragu. The walk-off began a nine-year labour strike that ended with a win for Indigenous land rights.

Activities

- Based on the program and from further research, create a poster display of a timeline of important events in the history of Aboriginal land loss and land rights from the early decades of the 20th century to the present. Add illustrations and explanatory text as required.
- Draw a map of the Northern Territory showing the locations of Wave Hill, Daguragu and the water course of Wattie Creek, in relation to other places such as Katherine, Darwin, Alice Springs and Kakadu. Construct a second, small-scale map of the route of the walk-off from start to finish, adding the dates and locations of each section of the journey.
- In pairs carry out background research then create an illustrated two-page magazine spread about the Gurindji living and working conditions on land holdings owned in the Northern Territory by the Vestey business group, which led to the Wave Hill Walk-off. Prepare the items for a young teenage reading audience.
- Listen to the song, *From Little Things, Big Things Grow*, by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody. Write a short

commentary about the song, explaining its relationship to the Gurindji campaign in 1966–67 for improved working and living conditions in the Northern Territory cattle industry regions.

- Following from the previous activity, compose and edit your own short poem (or song) related to any of the events and issues surrounding the Wave Hill Walk-off and its aftermath.
- In pairs or small groups research and write a commentary on the development and progress of Gurindji land control and usage since the initial 1975 breakthrough land rights document was signed.

Naracoorte Fossil Mammal Site



Synopsis

The extraordinary build-up of fossils in South Australia's World and National Heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves spans at least 350,000 years and provides rare evidence of Australia's distinctive fauna and the way it has evolved. Discovered in 1969, the site covers 300

hectares and gives scientists a snapshot of Pleistocene life in south-east Australia. Only four per cent of the site has been excavated and already scientists have discovered 100 species, a quarter of them extinct, including the marsupial lion, a giant kangaroo and a wombat-like animal the size of a four-wheel drive.

Activities

- To place into a visual perspective, draw a map of south-east Australia indicating the location of the Naracoorte Caves fossil site. Mark onto the map the principal cities and towns of the region, and geographical features such as the Murray River.
- The remains found in the caves are from the Pleistocene, a geological epoch which forms one division of the Cenozoic era (65 million years ago to the present day). Carry out appropriate research then write a description of the main characteristics of this epoch in Australia. Refer to climate change and its impact on the types and range of animals found throughout this epoch. What role, if any, did human activities play in the extinction of the megafauna? You may wish to include a geological timeline indicating when the Pleistocene epoch occurred relative to other epochs of the Cenozoic. (Note that the terms 'epoch' and 'era' are specific, and ought not to be used interchangeably.)
- In pairs create an illustrated poster display of the types of megafauna, now extinct, found in the Naracoorte Caves. Include explanatory text as required, such as a definition of 'megafauna'.
- The initial discovery of the contents of the Naracoorte Caves in 1969 has popular appeal. From the episode

and from further research, work in pairs or small groups to devise, script and record a radio report as though the discovery had taken place recently. Include some background historical detail about the Caves' popularity as a century-old tourist site, and whether they are also of significance to the local Indigenous peoples. You may even wish to create a fictionalised on-the-spot interview with the participants in the discovery, and with scientific experts who offer their own commentaries on its significance.

- Plan and write a short fiction story set during the Pleistocene epoch, which may explain and dramatise how animals were fossilised in the Naracoorte Caves. For example, it may be a story about a smaller marsupial fleeing a predator or about a species of megafauna, narrated from an animal's own viewpoint. Consider aspects such as the effects of climate change on the landscape.

Royal Exhibition Building



Synopsis

During the 19th century, Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building was an architectural masterpiece which showcased Australia's arrival on the world stage as an economic powerhouse. It was 1888, the golden age of exhibitions, and Victoria,

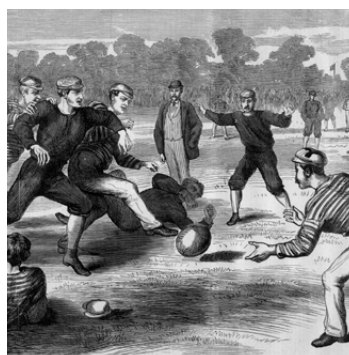
initially fuelled by the gold rush, boasted the largest exhibition building in the world with its annexes combining to cover 14 hectares. Some two million attended the centenary exhibition, nearly twice Victoria's population. The National and World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building was used for the opening of the first Australian Federal Parliament in 1901, and subsequently served as a hospital, an army training centre and a wrestling venue during the 1956 Olympics. It is the only exhibition building from that period remaining in the world.

Activities

- There were many 'palaces of industry' built elsewhere before the Royal Exhibition Building was constructed (and many afterwards). Research and write an article about the purpose of these exhibitions, concentrating on the 'Great Exhibition' of 1851 at the Crystal Palace in London. What was the fate of the Crystal Palace?
- Write an informative commentary about the effects on the city of Melbourne of the 1850s gold rushes and the subsequent creation of great wealth, which led, in part to the campaign, the reasons for, and the construction of the Royal Exhibition Building.
- Carry out relevant research, and in pairs design and create your own, original, large promotional poster, aimed at the local Victorian public, for either the 1880 or 1888 exhibition. Your poster should emulate the style of text, illustration and lettering of the late 19th century.

- Following from the previous activity, imagine you have just attended the exhibition of 1888 and seen some of the marvellous inventions and new technology for the first time, such as electric lighting, the phonograph and ice-making machines. Write a personal letter to a friend about your impressions and feelings. For example, do you think you are living in a wondrous new 'golden age', or are you fearful about what kind of future you are facing as a result of all these developments?
- The program informs us that during the 20th century the Royal Exhibition Building was used for many purposes. Carry out research then write a selection of related items about these purposes. Design them as a double-page spread for a popular history magazine. Format using desktop publishing software, and include illustrations and photographs as required.

Rules of AFL



Synopsis

Ten hand-written rules displayed in a museum in the heart of the National Heritage-listed Melbourne Cricket Ground hold the key to a great Australian sport. If Australian Rules football was a religion, these rules would be its bible. Driven by champion sportsman

and sporting administrator Tom Wills in 1859, the rules established a football code to help cricketers keep fit in the off-season. While several rules remain the same today, some such as allowing defenders to trip a man in possession of the ball have been scrapped. The Australian Football League is now a multi-million dollar business and one of the most popular sports in Australia.

Activities

- It wasn't until the second half of the 19th century that the rules and regulations of British-based football sports such as Association Football (generally referred to in Australia as soccer), rugby (Union and League) and, after its introduction in 1859, Australian Rules football, were codified – that is, written down in a point by point way. These rules have been altered and added to over the years for various reasons, and even today are still under scrutiny. Discuss in class the original purposes of codification of these sports.
- British winter sports such as rugby (before the split into Union and League) and soccer were already played in Melbourne when Australian Rules football was invented. Carry out research then write a commentary on why Australian Rules developed quickly during the later decades of the 19th century in Melbourne, whereas soccer and particularly rugby, which was popular in Sydney, did not develop. Include a commentary on the history of the type of ball used in Australian Rules in the 19th century, and the reasons for the decision to alter this.

(An 1860s illustration of an Australian Rules game depicts the ball as round rather than the spheroid shape common today; see website references.)

- Imagine you are a Melbourne newspaper reporter sent out to observe one of the first games of Australian Rules played in Melbourne, either at the MCG or at nearby Yarra Park. Write your report in 300–400 words. (Take into account that the MCG was a much different place to the stadium of today.)
- There has been debate as to how much influence an Aboriginal 'football' game known as Marngrook (or Marn Grook) had on the formation of Australian Rules in the 19th century. The class may wish to carry out further research about this and, individually or in small groups, prepare a written commentary on the current status of historical discussion about the subject.

Bonegilla Migrant Camp



Synopsis

More than 300,000 migrants had their first taste of Australian life at the Bonegilla Migrant Camp in Victoria before moving out to transform Australia socially and culturally. Established in 1947 to house post-war immigrants, the National

Heritage-listed property was a Spartan former army camp with the most basic facilities. Isolated and primitive, it was freezing in winter, hot in summer, had shared bathrooms and laundries, and pit latrines. Riots erupted in 1952 after the suicide of three young residents triggered widespread dissatisfaction with the standard of living. Conditions improved soon afterwards and the camp continued operating until 1971. Today, Block 19 is all that remains of 28 blocks.

Activities

- One of the basic reasons given for the sudden shift in Australian immigration policy after World War Two is conveyed by the catch-cry, 'populate or perish'. This also signalled a move away from generally only permitting British (and therefore mainly white Anglo-Saxon) people to settle in Australia since Federation in 1901. As a class research and discuss what was meant by 'populate or perish', and how the outcome of this affected the existing mainly Anglo-Australian population's view of their own world. (For example, were Australian citizens adequately prepared for an influx of 'foreigners'?)
- In pairs carry out research about the immigration program begun in 1947 under Australia's first Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell. Plan and create a two-page spread for a popular-style history magazine about the immigration program, particularly concentrating on the years Bonegilla camp operated. Include illustrations

as required, and also a graphical representation, in population figures, of the range of non-British nationalities who migrated to Australia in those years.

- After viewing the episode and noting the difference between migrants' views of life in the Bonegilla camp and the Government newsreel messages about camp life, write a letter of personal experience, opinion and feeling to a relative or friend at home from the viewpoint of a Bonegilla camp resident.
- Create your own 1940s–1950s illustrated advertising poster designed to attract non-British citizens to live in Australia. Plan and write a commentary in 500–600 words on the long-term effects on Australian society and culture since post-World War Two, of the huge non-British immigration program carried out by successive Australian governments over many decades.

Ned Kelly's Armour



Synopsis

From violent cop killer to a champion of the working class, bushranger Ned Kelly is a solid gold Australian icon and folk hero. By the time Kelly was captured in June 1880 after the famous siege at Glenrowan – a precinct included on the National Heritage List – the bearded

bushranger had won the hearts of Victorians. When he was sentenced to hang five months later for the murder of three policemen at Stringybark Creek, 30,000 people signed a petition demanding clemency. The iron armour that saved – or some might say cost him – his life is preserved as a national treasure in the State Library of Victoria.

Activities

- In pairs carry out research and write an informative history of the various relationships between the selectors (small, poor landowners), squatters (large and comparatively wealthy station owners) and the police in north-eastern Victoria, which led to the existence in the area of criminals such as the Kelly Gang. Include a response to the question as to whether these relationships worsened or improved after Kelly was executed.
- Plan and create an illustrated poster display titled *Hero or Villain?* about the life of Ned Kelly. Ensure you include relevant and appropriate text. The content of your poster should examine and suggest a historical appraisal as to whether Kelly was 'hero' or 'villain' – or both, or neither. (An alternative approach may be to construct your display as a web page.)
- Imagine that radio broadcasting had been invented by the time the Kelly Gang were operating. In small groups, research one of the incidents in which the gang was involved, then prepare, script, rehearse, produce, record and edit an eyewitness, on-the-spot news broadcast by a reporter with a microphone. You may need to include

interview 'grabs' with the police, onlookers, hostages and gang members, plus relevant sound effects.

- You are a settler living in north-eastern Victoria in 1880. Write a letter to the editor of a large Melbourne daily newspaper in which you argue for clemency in relation to the death sentence handed down on Ned Kelly by his courtroom judge, Sir Redmond Barry.
- *Another Night in the Museum*: Plan and write a short fiction story about the night Ned Kelly's armour comes alive in the State Library of Victoria.

Media Studies



- *Chaser* team member Chris Taylor is central to the entire *Australia's Heritage – National Treasures* series of 10 episodes, both as on-camera narrator and off-camera voice-over commentary. Discuss in class and write your own commentary on whether this is a distraction or an

enhancement to the viewing audience. Provide examples from various episodes to demonstrate your viewpoint.

- Write an analysis of the stylistic techniques of camera angles, movements and shots, and the use of sound (including choice of music background accompaniment), and the purposes they serve in the presentation of non-fiction short story designed for television, drawing attention to examples from at least two episodes.
- After viewing any of the episodes, did you think you had learnt something you didn't previously know, or that you were left wishing you would like to know more? Have you already, in fact, done further research into any of the topics presented in these episodes? Is each episode, looking at past historical items and events, of relevance to Australians today? Discuss in class, then write a short explanation.
- Examine the promotional cover image that accompanies this study guide. Discuss in class and write a short commentary on what the image depicts, and whether it captures a sense of the overall series.
- Following from the previous activity, create your own advertisement for the series, aiming it at school-aged audiences.
- As a practical media studies activity, with access to digital equipment the class may wish to form into groups to research, script, produce, film and edit their own three-minute versions of a *Local Treasures* program.
- In 200–300 words write a review of the program for a weekly newspaper TV liftout section. Will you place your emphasis on reviewing it as entertainment or as education?

References and Further Resources

Eureka Flag

Books:

- Raffaello Carboni, with introduction by Tom Keneally, *The Eureka Stockade*, Miegunyah Press, Carlton, 2004
- Justin Corfield et al, *The Eureka Encyclopaedia*, Ballarat Heritage Services, Ballarat, 2004
- Geoff Hocking, *Eureka Stockade: A Pictorial History: The Events Leading to the Attack in the Pre-Dawn of 3 December 1854*, Five Mile Press, Rowville, 2004
- John Molony, *Eureka*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton South, 2001
- Ian Turner, *Peter Lalor*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1974

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Francis De Groot's Sword

Books and films:

- Frank Cain, *Jack Lang and the Great Depression*, Australian Scholarly, Melbourne, 2005
- Richard Evans and Alex West, *Constructing Australia: A Companion to the ABC TV Series*, Miegunyah Press, Carlton, 2007
- Andrew Moore, *Francis De Groot: Irish Fascist Australian Legend*, Federation Press, Annandale, 2005
- Andrew Moore, *The Secret Army and the Premier: Conservative Paramilitary Organisations in New South Wales 1930–32*, New South Wales University Press, Kensington, 1989
- Bede Nairn, *The Big Fella: Jack Lang and the Australian Labor Party 1891–1949*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Vic, revised and updated 1995
- Simon Nasht (director), *Constructing Australia*, episode 1: *The Bridge*, Film Australia, 2007

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- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_de_Groot
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- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Guard

Batavia Shipwreck Ruins

Books:

Mike Dash, *Batavia's Graveyard: The True Story of the Mad Heretic Who Led History's Bloodiest Mutiny*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 2002
 Hugh Edwards, *Islands of Angry Ghosts: Murder, Mayhem and Mutiny: The Story of the Batavia*, HarperCollins, Pymble, 2000
 Nathan Richards, *Ships' Graveyards: Abandoned Watercraft and the Archaeological Site Formation Process*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 2008

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http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/The_Abrolhos_Tragedy

Fremantle Prison

Books:

Michal Bosworth, *Convict Fremantle: A Place of Promise and Punishment*, University of Western Australia Press, Crawley, 2004
 Alexandra Hasluck, *Unwilling Emigrants*, Fremantle Art Centre Press, Fremantle, 1991
 Robert Hughes, *The Fatal Shore: A History of the Transportation of Convicts to Australia, 1787-1868*, Collins/Harvill, London, 1987

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Wattie Creek

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 Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody, *From Little Things Big Things Grow*, One Day Hill, Camberwell East, 2008
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 Paul Willis and Abbie Thomas, *Digging Up Deep Time: Fossils, Dinosaurs and Megabeasts from Australia's Distant Past*, ABC Books, Sydney, 2005

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 David Dunstan et al, *Victorian Icon: The Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne*, Exhibition Trustees in association with Australian Scholarly Publishing, Kew, 1996
 Peter H Hoffenberg, *An Empire on Display: English, Indian and Australian Exhibitions from the Crystal Palace to the Great War*, University of California Press, Berkely, 2001
 Robert Wilson, *Great Exhibitions: The World Fairs 1851–1937*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2007

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<http://museumvictoria.com.au/marvellous>

Rules of AFL

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Geoffrey Blainey, *A Game of Our Own: The Origins of Australian Football*, Black Ink, Melbourne, 2003
 Greg De Moore, *Tom Wills: His Spectacular Rise and Tragic Fall*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, 2008
 Keith Dunstan, *The Paddock That Grew: The Story of the Melbourne Cricket Club*, Cassell Australia, Melbourne, third edition 1988
 John Harms, 'A meeting of minds that gave Aussie rules its rules', *The Sunday Age*, page 11, 17 May 2009
 Brian Matthews, *The Temple Down the Road*, Penguin, Camberwell, 2003

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Bonegilla Migrant Camp

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Merrilee Moss (ed), *Taking a Punt: First Stop Bonegilla: Stories by Darebin Residents*, City of Darebin, Preston, 1997

Eric Richards, *Destination Australia: Migration to Australia Since 1901*, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 2008

Glenda Sluga, *Bonegilla, 'A Place of No Hope'*, History Dept, University of Melbourne, Parkville, 1988

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Ned Kelly's Armour

Books and films:

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Graham Fricke, *Ned's Nemesis: Ned Kelly & Redmond Barry in a Clash of Cultures*, Arcadia, North Melbourne, 2007

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Australia's Heritage – National Treasures

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Writer/Director: **Matthew Thomason**

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