

Australia - an untamed land

## The lost children of the Empire

The origins of the scheme go back to 1618, when England sent hundreds of children from London to Richmond, in Virginia, which is now a state of America .

After World War II, in England the popular migration slogan was “the children, the best immigrant.” The British government has snubbed them and did not care much about helping them.

Approximately 3,300 children were shipped to Australia. The children who were taken in England were generally between the age of three and fourteen. The children were sent to Australia with the expectation that they would never return to their country of origin. They were sent to populate a nation with

was called at the time “good white stock.” The parents weren’t told the truth. The children lost their real identities and were told they were orphans going on holiday to a place where the sun always shines. It was cheaper to send the children to Australia than care for them on British soils. Those who suffered the harshest the treatment were the boys who were sent to Bindoon. The

children were forced to do hard labour until they were 16 years old. Lots of children were sexually abused. The practice continued until 1967. It is a social worker, Magaret Humphrey who discovered the scandal and the scald of Britain's child migration. Twenty years ago, she created The Child Migrants Trust, a charity which helps families who have lost their children.



### The Prime Minister’s speech

In February 2010, the English prime minster, Gordon Brown, offered an official apology for the “shameful” child resettlement programme and announced a £6 million fund designed to compensate the families affected by the “misguided” programme .

The Child Migration trust has since then set up the Family Restoration Fund in order to use this money to help reunite former child migrants with their families as part of the British government’s package of support to former child migrants and their families .

Bous Léa



## Life in the Outback

Few people know that some people live in the Australian desert. These people live from their crops and their livestock. The inhabitants have to live with some constraints such as :

- mosquitoes
- lack of commerce, lack of water and lack of pastures for the livestock to graze.
- nutrient-poor soils or desert.

Many towns survive with irrigation for drinking and agricultural water. The children in the Outback have no school in their village but they have school on the net. There are school of the air programmes in all states except Tasmania. The first School of the Air lessons were officially broadcast from the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Adelaide on June 8th, 1951. School classes were conducted via shortwave radio from

1951 until 2003. This is supplemented by 3 or 4 annual gatherings where the children travel to the school to spend one week with their teacher and classmates.

These people have medical services with the Royal Flying Doctor Service . This company began with the dream of Rev John Flynn. His vision was to provide a “mantle of safety” for these people. On May 15th, 1928 his dream was fulfilled with the opening of the Australian Inland Mission. In 1950 the ser-

vice was acknowledged by Sir Robert Menzies as “perhaps the single greatest contribution to the effective settlement of the far distant country that we have witnessed in our time.” Today they own a fleet of 61 planes, their doctor and flight nurses are responsible for the care of over 270,000 patients. Their pilots annually fly the equivalent of 25 round trips to the moon .

Imane Farhi



## The Aboriginal

There are several hundreds of indigenous people in Australia. They existed before the British colonisation of Australia in 1788. The Aboriginal religion, like many other religions, is characterised by having a god or gods who created people. In Aboriginal life ceremonies play an important part. Small ceremonies or rituals are still practised in some parts of Australia in order to ensure or supply plants, animals or foods. These take the form of chants, singing , dancing or ritual actions to invoke the ancestral beings to ensure a good supply of food and rain. For a long time, Aborigines ate kangaroo meat, honey, seafood... They respected the land. Australian Aboriginal art has existed for thousands of years and ranges from ancient rock art to modern watercolour landscapes. Aboriginal music has developed a number of unique musical instruments. Contemporary

Australian aboriginal music is predominantly of the country music genre. Australian aboriginal art has a history spanning thousand of the years. Aboriginal artists continue these traditions using both modern and traditional materials in their artworks.

The most important ritual is the initiation of boys and girls into adulthood.

N'deye Tida Goudiaby

