



How quick the time is passing.

Here we are again and another year has passed us by.

We have lost many friends during the passing but as always they are close to our hearts and always in our memories for we will never forget their sacrifices.

The Mice of Moresby were the defenders of Papua and New Guinea during World War 11.

The naming of the battalion:-

Tokyo Rose on Tokyo radio in 1942 called the “Mice of Moresby” after the time they spent in their funk holes just like their brothers the “Rats of Tobruk”.

“Pinto” in the Moresby Army News Sheet retorted:

Rats of old Tobruk, or merely Moresby mice

We’ve had our fill of fighting and of hardships once or twice.

We have hugged the earth for cover with the bombers overhead:

We have seen the bombs exploding heard the swish of falling lead.

We have dived into the trenches with our last remaining breath.

Just a fraction, of a second, ahead of fire, din and death

We have toiled and we have sweated in the humid, tropic heat;

and we’ve longed for many comforts and fresh food that we could eat

But we’ll gnaw our way to freedom and nibble at the scum till we drive them back to Nippon or the hell where they belong.

And when they’re learned their lesson

Then maybe, these foreign lice will remember “Rats of Tobruk” and Moresby’s Fighting Mice”.

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(Compiled by Bill Wannan)

**LEST WE FORGET**

## **OUR BRIEF HISTORY**

Before the arrival of European settlers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples inhabited most areas of the Australian continent.

They spoke one or more of hundreds of separate languages and dialects, and their lifestyles and cultural traditions differed from region to region.

Their complex social systems and highly developed traditions reflect a deep connection with the land.

### **European settlement: Our Ancestors**

The first recorded European contact with Australia was in March 1606, when Dutch explorer Willem Janszoon (1571–1638) charted the west coast of Cape York Peninsula in Queensland. Later that year, the Spanish explorer Luis Vaez de Torres sailed through the strait separating Australia and Papua New Guinea. Over the next two centuries, European explorers and traders continued to chart the coastline of Australia, then known as New Holland. In 1688, William Dampier became the first British explorer to land on the Australian northwest coast.

It was not until 1770 that another Englishman, Captain James Cook, aboard the Endeavour, extended a scientific voyage to the South Pacific in order to further chart the east coast of Australia and claim it for the British Crown. Britain decided to use its new outpost as a penal colony.

The First Fleet of 11 ships carried about 1500 people – half of them convicts. The fleet arrived in Sydney Harbour on 26 January 1788, and it is on this day every year that Australia Day is celebrated.

About 160 000 men and women were brought to Australia as convicts from 1788 until penal transportation ended in 1868.

At the beginning in the early 1790s the convicts were joined by free immigrants, The wool industry and the gold rushes of the 1850s provided an impetus for increasing numbers of free settlers to come to Australia.

### **A Nation is born**

The Commonwealth of Australia was formed in 1901 through the federation of six states under a single constitution. The non-Indigenous population at the time of Federation was 3.8 million, while the estimated Indigenous population was around 93,000.

Half of the people lived in cities, three-quarters were born in Australia, and the majority were of English, Scottish or Irish descent.

The founders of the new nation believed they were creating something new and were concerned to avoid the pitfalls of the old world. They wanted Australia to be harmonious, united and egalitarian, and had progressive ideas about human rights, the observance of democratic procedures and the value of a secret ballot.

One of the first acts of the new Commonwealth Parliament was to pass the Immigration Restriction Act 1901, which limited migration to people of primarily European origin. This was dismantled progressively after the Second World War. Today Australia has a global, non-discriminatory policy and is home to people from more than 200 countries.

## **The impact of war**

*In the end ANZAC [Australian and New Zealand Army Corps] stood and still stands for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance that will never admit defeat.*

*Charles Bean, official historian of the First World War*

The First World War had a devastating effect on Australia. In 1914 the male population of Australia was less than 3 million, yet almost 400 000 of them volunteered to fight in the war. An estimated 60 000 died and tens of thousands were wounded.

The period between the two world wars was marked by instability. Social and economic divisions widened during the Depression years when many Australian financial institutions failed.

During the Second World War, Australian forces made a significant contribution to the Allied victory in Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

The generation that fought in the war and survived came out of it with a sense of pride in Australia's capabilities.

## **NATIONAL SYMBOLS**

### **Flags**

When the Australian colonies federated to form the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901, the British flag had been the official flag for more than 100 years. The birth of a new nation created the opportunity to

develop an emblem that represented Australia alone. An official competition for a design attracted 32 823 entries. Five of these, which contained almost identical designs, were placed equal first. Apart from later changes in the sizes of the stars and the number of points, these joint winners had produced the present Australian flag.

The Australian national flag symbolises Australia's historical links with Britain (represented on the flag by the British flag, known most commonly by the nickname Union Jack) and Australia's location in the southern hemisphere (represented on the flag by stars of the Southern Cross). The larger seven-pointed star represents the six original states and the territories of the Commonwealth.

Other official flags of Australia include the Australian Aboriginal flag, the Torres Strait Islander flag and the respective flags of the states and territories.

### **National colours**

Green and gold were proclaimed Australia's National colours by the Governor-General on 19 April 1984. Before the proclamation Australia had no official colours, although three colour combinations traditionally had a claim to be Australia's national colours: red, white and blue; blue and gold; and green and gold.

The colours red, white and blue were featured in the first coat of arms of the Commonwealth in 1908 and are the colours of the Australian national flag. The colours blue and gold have heraldic significance, as they are the colours of the crest of the present Commonwealth coat of arms.

The colours green and gold were popularly used as the national colours even before the official proclamation. They have been used in Australian and international sporting events since the nineteenth century and have been associated with many great sporting achievements since.

### **Floral emblem**

The golden wattle was proclaimed the official national floral emblem in August 1988. It is a spreading shrub or small tree, which grows in the understorey of open forest, woodland and open scrub in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Since 1912, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, wattle has been included as the decoration surrounding the Commonwealth coat of arms and it has also been used in the design of Australian stamps and many awards in the Australian honours system.

## Coat of arms

The present Australian Coat of Arms was granted by King George V in 1912. It consists of a shield containing the badges of the six Australian states, enclosed by an ermine border. The shield is a symbol for the federation of the states, which took place in 1901.

The crest, which is the device above the shield and helmet, is a seven-pointed gold star on a blue and gold wreath. Six of the points represent each of the states of the Commonwealth; the seventh point represents the Australia's territories.

The supporters of the shield are native Australian animals: the red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*) and the Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*). Usually the coat of arms is depicted on a background of sprays of golden wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) with a scroll beneath it containing the word 'Australia'. The wattle and scroll, however, are not part of the armorial design and are not mentioned in the Royal Warrant of 1912.

The first official "Coat of Arms for Australia" was granted by a Royal Warrant of King Edward VII in 1908. This coat of arms was used on some Australian coins even after it was superseded in 1912, and last appeared on the sixpenny piece in 1966.

The Australian Government uses the coat of arms to authenticate documents and for other official purposes. Its uses range from embellishing the Australian passport to forming part of all Australian government departmental insignias. (See also the fact sheet on Australia's coat of arms.)

Australia has never adopted any official faunal or bird emblem, but, by popular tradition, the Kangaroo and Emu are widely accepted as such.

Australia has no official motto. For many years, the motto 'Advance Australia' appeared on unofficial coats of arms, even before the federation of the states in 1901. It was included in the 1908 arms, and was popularly accepted in association with the 19th century song 'Advance Australia Fair'. A revised version of this song became Australia's official national anthem in 1984 (see fact sheet on the Australian national anthem).

## TIMES IN HISTORY HOW MANY CAN YOU REMEMBER

- 1606 (March): The Dutch East India Company (VOC) ship *Duyfken*, under Captain Willem Janszoon, explores the western coast of Cape York Peninsula. This was the first recorded landfall by a European on Australian soil.
- 1770: English Lieutenant James Cook's expedition in HM Bark *Endeavour* charts the eastern coast, and claims it for the British Crown. Australia dubbed "terra nullius"<sup>[7]</sup> i.e., according to the European legal precepts of the era, it was "owned" by no-one.
- 1803: Matthew Flinders completes the first circumnavigation of the continent (still known as "New Holland")
- 1813: Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth cross the Blue Mountains.
- 1831: Sydney Herald (later to become The Sydney Morning Herald) first published.
- 1854: The Eureka Stockade
- 1858: New South Wales men achieve the right to vote.
- 1880: The bushranger Ned Kelly is hanged.
- 1894: South Australia becomes the first Australian colony, and the second place in the world, to grant women the right to vote, as well the first Parliament in the world to allow women to stand for office.
- 1895: *Waltzing Matilda* is first sung in public, in Winton, Queensland
- 1895: Banjo Paterson publishes *The Man from Snowy River*
- 1899: The decision is made to site the National Capitol City in New South Wales, but not within 100 miles of Sydney.
- 1901 – The Australian National Flag was flown for the first time
- 1911 – The Royal Australian Navy is founded
- 1911 – Australian Capital Territory proclaimed.
- 1914 – Australian soldiers are sent to the First World War. This was first time Australians had fought under the Australian flag, as opposed to that of Britain's.

- 1915 – Australian soldiers land at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey on 25 April
- 1917 - Australian 4th Light Horse Brigade launches last cavalry charge in modern warfare to capture Beersheba from the Ottoman Turks
- 1918 – First World War ends - 60,000 Australians dead
- 1920 – The airline Qantas is founded
- 1930 – Batsman Don Bradman scores a record 452 not out in one cricket innings
- 1930 – Phar Lap wins his first Melbourne Cup
- 1931 – Sir Douglas Mawson charts 4,000 miles of Antarctic coastline and claims 42% of the icy mass for Australia
- 1932 – The Sydney Harbour Bridge opens
- 1937 – The radio series *Dad and Dave* begins
- 1939 – September, Australia enters the Second World War following the German Invasion of Poland. The 2nd Australian Imperial Force is raised.<sup>[9]</sup>
- 1941 - Apr-Aug, Australian garrison (*Rats of Tobruk*) halt advance of Hitler's panzers for the first time during the Siege of Tobruk.
- 1942 - Feb, Fall of Singapore. 15,000 Australians become Prisoners of War of the Japanese
- 1942–43 – Japanese air raids - almost 100 attacks against sites in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland.
- 1942 - Battle of Kokoda Trail - Australian soldiers halt Japanese march on Port Moresby
- 1942 - Aug-Sep, Australian forces inflict the first defeat on the Imperial Japanese Army in the Battle of Milne Bay.<sup>[11]</sup>
- 1942 – National daylight saving is introduced as a war time measure.
- 1943 - 2,815 Australian Pows die constructing Japan's Burma-Thailand Railway<sup>[13]</sup>

- 1945 – Australia becomes a founding member of the United Nations
- 1949 – Construction of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme begins
- 1950-53 – Australian troops are sent to the Korean War to assist South Korea.
- 1956 - Television in Australia is launched.
- Melbourne holds the Olympics
- Performing artist Barry Humphries introduces Edna Everage to the Australian stage
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- 1957 - the song "Wild One" makes Johnny O'Keefe the first Australian rock'n'roller to reach the national charts.
- Slim Dusty's Australian country music hit *Pub With No Beer* becomes the first Australian song to attain international chart success.
- 1964 – The Beatles tour Australia; 82 sailors die when HMAS *Voyager* sinks after being rammed by HMAS *Melbourne*.
- PM Robert Menzies announces the reintroduction of compulsory military service for men aged from 18–25 years old;
- 1964 First troops sent to Vietnam War
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- 1966 – Decimalisation; on \*14 February the Australian currency is changed to dollars and cents, with the Australian Dollar replacing the Australian pound.
- 1967 – Prime Minister Holt drowns;
- Ronald Ryan becomes the last person legally executed in Australia.
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- 1968 – Australia signs the nuclear non-proliferation treaty;
- Aboriginal boxing champion Lionel Rose defeats Masahiko "Fighting" Harada in Japan to become the world bantamweight champion;
- Australia's first liver transplant operation is performed in Sydney;
- 1970 – More than 200,000 people participate in the largest demonstrations in Australian history, against the Vietnam War

- 1971 – Neville Bonner becomes the first Aborigine to become an Australian Member of Parliament
- 1971 – Daylight Saving is introduced to New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory.<sup>[15]</sup>
- 1973 – The Sydney Opera House is opened
- Vietnam War ends
- The federal voting age is dropped from 21 to 18
- 1974 – Darwin is devastated by Cyclone Tracy
- 1977 – *Advance Australia Fair* becomes Australia's official national anthem
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- 1980 – Baby Azaria Chamberlain disappears from a campsite at Uluru (Ayers Rock), reportedly taken by a dingo.
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- 1983 – Australia wins the America's Cup;
- 1990 – Royal Australian Navy deployed in preparation for the First Gulf War.
- 1999 – Australian soldiers are deployed to East Timor as part of the INTERFET peacekeeping force
- 2002 - 2002 Bali bombings, the deadliest act of terrorism in the history of Indonesia, killing 202 people, (including 88 Australians).<sup>[17]</sup>
- 2003 – Australian military deployed to Iraq War to oust the Saddam Hussein regime for serial non-compliance with the 1991 Gulf War Peace Treaty.
- 2006-7 – Australian Forces are again deployed to East Timor to help stabilize the country.
- 2008 - Quentin Bryce becomes first woman Governor General of Australia.
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- 2010 – Kevin Rudd resigned as Prime Minister
- 
- 2011 – Present First Lady Prime Minister Julia Gillard

### **Dear John Reply**

The soldier serving overseas and far from home was annoyed and upset when his girl wrote breaking off their engagement and asking for her photograph back.

A creative fellow, he went out and collected from his buddies all the unwanted photographs of women that he could find, bundled them all together and sent them to her with a note stating the following:

**"Dear Mary,**

I cannot remember which one is you ... please keep YOUR photo and return the others!"

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### **Changing Underwear**

The men of Charlie Company had been in the field for two weeks when the Sarge announces, I've got good news and bad news. First the good news. Today we're going to change our underwear. The troops start cheering wildly. Now the bad news, continues the Sarge. Smith, you change with Jones. Andrews, you change with Murphy . .

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### **Gulf War Remembered!**

Q. What do Baghdad and Hiroshima have in common ?

A. Nothing, yet.

Q: What does Saddam want for Thanksgiving ?

A: Turkey.

Q: What do Miss Muffet and Saddam Hussein have in common ?

A: They both have Kurds in their Whey.

Q: What do Saddam Hussein and General Custer have in common ?

A: They both want to know where the hell those Tomahawks are coming from !

Q: What is the best Iraqi job ?

A: Foreign Ambassador

Q: How many Iraqis does it take to screw in a light bulb ?

A: None. They can't turn them on anyway.

Q: How many Americans does it take to screw in a light bulb ?

A: Only one, but he does it from 30 miles away using laser targeting, and at a cost of US \$8,000,000.

Q: "How many members of the coalition does it take to screw in a light bulb?"

A: "We are not prepared to comment on specific numbers at this time."

Q: Did you hear that it is twice as easy to train Iraqi fighter pilots?

A: You only have to teach them to take off.

Q: How do you play Iraqi bingo ?

A: B-52...F-16...A-10

Q: What is Iraq's national bird ?

A: Duck

Q: What's the difference between Aeroflot and the Scud Missile ?

A: Aeroflot has killed more people.

Q: How is Saddam like Fred Flintstone ?

A: Both may look out their windows and see Rubble.

Q: Why does the Iraqi Navy have glass bottom boats ?

A: So they can see their Air Force.

Q: Did you hear that Saddam Hussein won the toss ?

A: He elected to receive.

Q: Why do all Iraqi soldiers carry a piece of sandpaper?

A: They need a map....

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**Not me Sarge!**

A drill sergeant had just chewed out one of his cadets, and as he was walking away, he turned to the cadet and said, "I guess when I die you'll come and dance on my grave."

The cadet replied, "Not me, Sarge...no sir!  
I promised myself that when I got out of the Army I'd never stand in another line!"

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## **Original Bread Pudding**

### **Ingredients**

8 oz stale bread  
2 oz grated suet or melted cooking fat  
1 oz sugar  
1 tablespoon marmalade  
2 oz dried fruit  
1 egg  
Milk for mixing  
Nutmeg to taste.

### **Method**

Put the bread into a basin, add cold water and leave for 15 min. Squeeze dry with your fingers. Return the bread to the basin and add all the other ingredients with enough milk to make a sticky consistency. Add spice last to ensure correct amount. Put into a greased Yorkshire pudding tin and bake in the centre of a slow oven for 1 1/2 hours or steam in a greased basin for 2 hours. Serve with mock whipped cream.

## **Aussie Rissoles**

### **Ingredients**

1 1/2lb prime minced steak  
1 large diced onion  
Teaspoon beef powder  
2 tablespoons tomato sauce  
Salt and pepper to taste  
2 eggs  
2 large cups fine broken dry bread

### **Method**

Thoroughly combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Mould by hand into medium size balls or patties and fry in hot, oil moistened frypan.

**Note-**The following one or more "leftovers" can be added to the mixture. Bacon bits, ham bits, handful of peas, boiled or fried rice, grated carrot, etc. For curry flavoured add two level tablespoons of quality curry powder to mix.