

COLONIALISM IN AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA FOREVER CHANGED

PROPOSAL FOR THE MUSEUM OF GLOBAL HISTORY

CREATED BY TIARRA BELL

AUSTRALIA FOREVER CHANGED: THE EXHIBIT

MAIN GOAL:

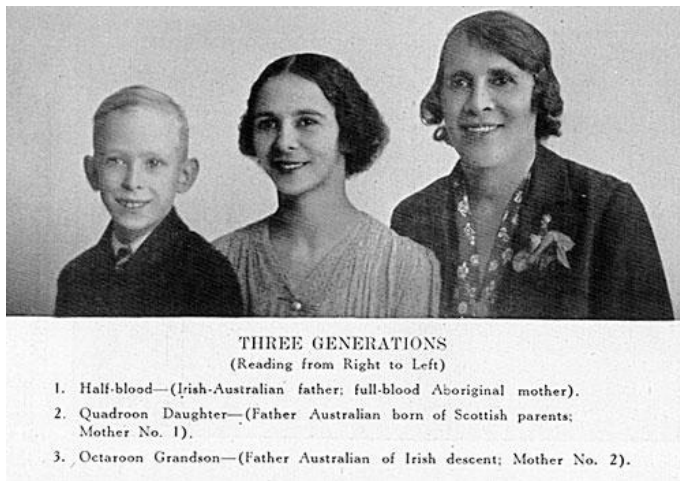
AUSTRALIA FOREVER CHANGED IS AN EXHIBIT THAT USES ARTIFACTS TO TELL HOW THE LIVES OF THE NATIVE AUSTRALIANS OR THE ABORIGINES HAS CHANGED FOREVER EVER SINCE THE COMING OF THE EUROPEANS.

INTRODUCTION:

SINCE WE ARE THE THE INVADERS OF AUSTRALIA AND AREN'T NATIVES, WE'LL BEING ENTERING THE EXHIBIT AS THE CONVICTS SAILING OVER FROM ENGLAND TO AUSTRALIA TO SERVE OUT A SENTENCE. THE ENTRANCE INTO THE EXHIBIT WILL BE LEAVING THE DARK AND MIDSY ENGLAND. VISITORS WILL CLIMB INTO A SHIP THATS ON ONE SIDE OF A WALL, THE ROOM THAT THEY ARE IN IS VERY DARK WITH TALL MASONRY BUILDINGS IN ENGLAND. THE BOAT ALONG WITH THE WALL WILL TURN 180° DEGREES TO ANOTHER ROOM (OF COURSE THERE WILL BE SOUND EFFECTS OF CRASHING WATER AND OTHER NATURE SOUNDS OF THE SEA). THE ROOM WILL BE BRIGHT AND VIBRATE BECAUSE IT HAS REACHED AUSTRALIA. THE CONVICTS (VISITORS) WILL GET OFF THE SHIP AND WALK AROUND IN THIS MASSIVE SPACE FULL OF LAND CROPS, PLANTS, TREES & ETC. THROUGH THE ARRIVAL, THEY APPROACH THE NATIVES THE ABORIGINE. THIS NOW CHANGES AUSTRALIA FOREVER...

ARTIFACTS:

THIS ILLUSTRATION FROM *AUSTRALIA'S COLOURED MINORITY* (1947) HIGHLIGHTS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MEMBER A. O. NEVILLE'S BELIEF THAT 'ABORIGINAL BLOOD' COULD BE BRED OUT THROUGH MISCEGENATION.



THIS ILLUSTRATION DESCRIBES THE GENERATIONS OF *QUADROONS* AND THE WORDS SIMILAR TO IT. WORDS SUCH AS *QUADROONS*, *QUARTERON*, *OCTOROON* AND *QUINTROON* ARE HISTORICAL TERMS THAT WERE USED TO DEFINE THE ANCESTRY OF PEOPLE OF MIXED-RACE, MOSTLY OF AFRICAN AND CAUCASIAN ANCESTRY. THIS REFERS TO AUSTRALIA, TO THOSE OF ABORIGINAL AND CAUCASIAN ANCESTRY.

THESE WORDS WERE USED IN LAWS AND GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW DISCRIMINATION AND THE DETERMINATION OF RIGHTS TOWARD THESE PEOPLE. THESE WORDS WERE ALSO USED TO ASSIGN CHILDREN OF MIXED UNION TO THE ETHNIC GROUP WHICH IS LOOKED UPON BY THE DOMINANT GROUP AS BEING SUBORDINATE. THIS

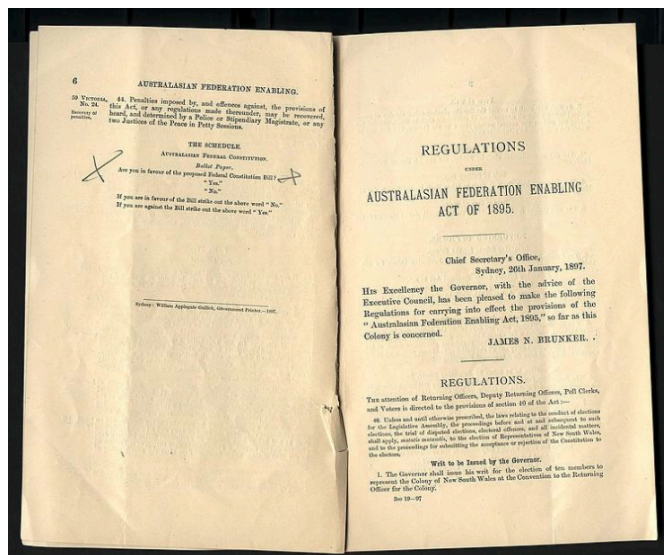
REFERS TO THE NUMBER OF FULL-BLOODED AFRICAN ANCESTORS, RELATED WITH QUADROON RECOGNIZING THAT A PERSON HAS ONE-QUARTER BLACK ANCESTRY, ETC.

ABORIGINAL RESERVES:



THE ENGLISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SET ASIDE ASIDE AREAS OF LAND FOR THE NATIVE ABORIGINAL TO LIVE ON. THE LAND ARE CALLED RESERVES. THE RESERVES PROVIDED RATIONS, EDUCATION AND HOUSING, WHILE UNMANAGED RESERVES PROVIDED ONLY RATIONS. RESERVES TOOK US AWAY FROM THE COUNTRY, THE SOURCES OF FOOD, THE SACRED SITES AND THE FAMILIES. IN THE EXHIBIT THERE WILL BE ACTUAL RESERVES THAT THE ABORIGINAL LIVED IN.

THE CONSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIA:



IN IT'S ORIGINAL FORM AS OF 1901 THE CONSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIA, SECTION 51(xxvi) GAVE THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT POWER TO LEGISLATE TO "THE PEOPLE OF ANY RACE" THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH, EXCEPT FOR "THE ABORIGINAL RACE". THE REASONING OF THIS WAS TO GIVE THE COMMONWEALTH POWER TO CONTROL NON-WHITE IMMIGRANT WORKERS, WHO WOULD FOLLOW WORK OPPORTUNITIES INTERSTATE. IN SECTION 127, IT STATES THAT "ABORIGINAL NATIVES SHALL NOT BE COUNTED" IN RECKONING THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OR ANY PART OF IT.

AFTER BOTH OF THESE REFERENCES WERE REMOVED IN 1967, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY REFERENCE TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION. SINCE THAT TIME, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO SPECIFICALLY MENTION INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS.

ALCOHOL (BOTTLES/CANS):



ABORIGINAL ALCOHOL USE WAS INTRODUCED AFTER ENGLAND INVADED AUSTRALIA. WITHIN WEEKS OF THE ARRIVAL, THE FIRST PUBS OPENED, AND THIS WOULD SHAPE THE WAY AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY DEVELOPED OVER THE NEXT FEW DECADES.

ABORIGINAL LABOURERS WERE PAID IN ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO. IN THE 1800S, A FAVOURITE SPORT OF THE ENGLISH WAS TO PLAY WITH THE ABORIGINAL MEN WITH ALCOHOL AND MAKE THEM TO FIGHT EACH OTHER, SOMETIMES TO THE DEATH.

ENGLISH SETTLERS ALSO GAVE ALCOHOL TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AS PAYMENT FOR SEX. ALCOHOL-INDUCED PROSTITUTION HAD A HARMFUL EFFECT ON CHILD REARING AND ACCELERATED THE BIRTH RATE OF MIXED DESCENT CHILDREN, USUALLY REJECTED BY THEIR EUROPEAN FATHERS.

PEARLS:



FROM 1862-68, ABORIGINES WORKED 'DRY SHELLING', COLLECTING OYSTERS IN THE SHALLOW WATERS OF SHARK BAY. IN THREE YEARS, THE SUPPLY WERE LOW THAT LARGER BOATS WERE SENT OUT OFF SHORE TO COLLECT OYSTERS IN DEEP WATER. SIX TO EIGHT ABORIGINAL MEN AND WOMEN IN A BOAT WOULD 'NAKED DIVE' FOR SHELL, MEANING THEY HAD TO DIVE DOWN DEEP WITH NO OXYGEN, NO SNORKEL AND NO MASK.

THE INVENTION OF DIVING SUITS REVOLUTIONISED THE PEARLING INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA. DIVERS COULD GO DEEPER THAN EVER BEFORE, THEY COULD ALSO STAY UNDERWATER LONGER AND COLLECT MORE SHELL AND PEARLS. DIVERS WORE VULCANISED CANVAS SUITS AND MASSIVE BRONZE HELMETS WHEN SPENDING HOURS UNDERWATER.

DIVERS WERE PAID BY THE AMOUNT OF SHELL THEY COLLECTED AND BECAUSE OF THE DANGERS INVOLVED, VERY FEW OF THESE DIVERS EVER MANAGED TO WORK OFF THEIR DEBT.

PEARL DIVERS WERE THREATENED OF SHARK ATTACKS EVERY TIME THEY DIVE. MORTALITY DEATH RATE FOR DIVERS WAS 50%. WHOLE FLEETS WERE SHIPWRECKED IN SINGLE CYCLONES. BETWEEN 1908 AND 1935, FOUR CYCLONES HIT THE PEARLING FLEET AT SEA. AROUND 100 BOATS WERE DESTROYED AND 300 MEN WERE KILLED.

GOLD:



BEFORE 1851 GOLD HAD BEEN FOUND BY CONVICTS, SHEPHERDS, A CLERGYMAN AND A POLISH EXPLORER.

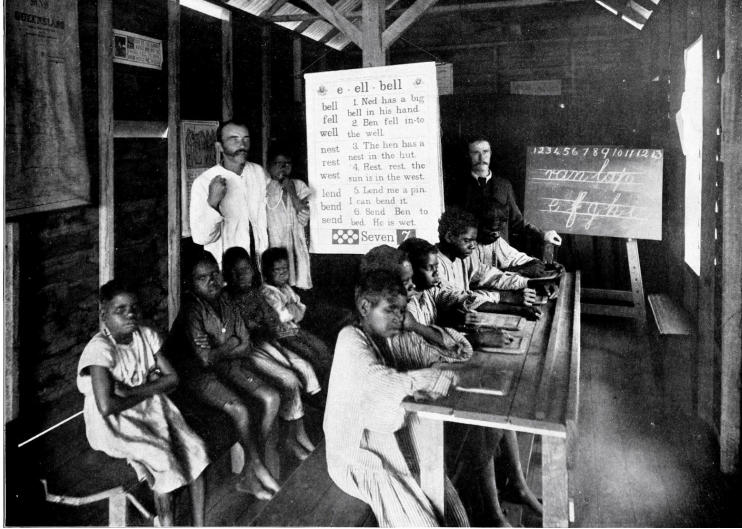
GOLD WAS FIRST DISCOVERED BY JAMES MCBRIEN, A GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR, IN 1823 IN THE FISH RIVER NEAR

BATHURST. AFTER A LONG TREK ON FOOT OR HORSEBACK BY COACH OR DRAY FROM SYDNEY OR MELBOURNE, NEW MINERS WERE THANKFUL AND EXCITED WHEN THEY REACHED THE GOLDFIELDS.

ON THE LARGER FIELDS THEY SAW HUNDREDS OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF TENTS CLUSTERED AROUND CREEKS OR NEAR THE SITE OF EARLIER DISCOVERIES. THERE WERE HORSES AND BULLOCKS, WAGONS AND CARTS AND EVERYWHERE PEOPLE BUSTLING AROUND, DIGGING, PANNING, WASHING GRAVEL, MOVING MOUNDS OF DIRT OR GENTLY ROCKING THEIR CRADLES FROM SIDE TO SIDE. DURING THE 1850s, GOLD WAS FOUND IN SOUTH-EASTERN AUSTRALIA.

MANY WHITE PASTORAL WORKERS LEFT THEIR STOCK FARMS OR RANCHES TO SEARCH FOR GOLD. MANY ABORIGINAL MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE HIRED TO WORK IN CATTLE STATIONS AND IN OTHER LESS POPULAR INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS DIVING FOR PEARLS. INSTEAD OF BEING PAID, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE RECEIVED FOOD, CLOTHING AND OTHER BASIC NECESSITIES.

SCHOOL BOOKS:



WHEN MACQUARIE BECAME GOVERNOR IN 1810, THE CLASHES BETWEEN THE SETTLERS AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLE INCREASED. GOVERNOR MACQUARIE BELIEVED THAT THE BEST WAY TO TREAT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WAS TO 'CIVILISE' THEM. THAT MEANT REPLACING THE TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL WAY OF LIFE WITH EUROPEAN WAYS.

MACQUARIE TRIED TO SEND ABORIGINAL CHILDREN TO SCHOOL BUT MANY LEFT OR RETURNED TO THEIR TRIBES AFTER A SHORT TIME. MACQUARIE TRIED TO CREATE A SETTLEMENT FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE BY TEACHING THEM FARMING AND BUILDING TECHNIQUES. HIS ATTEMPTS FAILED BECAUSE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE DID NOT WANT TO BECOME FARMERS. AFTER ALL HIS FAILURES, MACQUARIE THEN MADE LAWS TO PLACE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE UNDER BRITISH CONTROL. UNDER THESE LAWS IT WAS PERMITTED TO SHOOT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IF THEY RESISTED.

THE ABORIGINAL TENT EMBASSY PROTESTERS (PHOTO)



THE ABORIGINAL TENT EMBASSY PROTESTERS PUT FORWARD A NUMBER OF KEY DEMANDS, INCLUDING CALLING FOR ABORIGINAL LEGAL TITLE TO AND CONTROL OF MINING RIGHTS ON EXISTING RESERVE LANDS AND SETTLEMENTS THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA; THE PRESERVATION OF ALL SACRED SITES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA; COMPENSATION MONIES FOR LAND NOT RETURNABLE, IN THE FORM OF A DOWN PAYMENT OF \$6 BILLION AND AN ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF GROSS NATIONAL INCOME.

THE FIGURE OF \$6 BILLION WAS CHOSEN AS THE COMPENSATION FIGURE, PRIMARILY TO ESTABLISH IN THE MINDS OF THE WHITES AND THE GOVERNMENT THAT NOT ONLY DID ABORIGINAL PEOPLE HAVE PRIOR OCCUPATION OF THE LANDS FROM WHICH THEY HAD BEEN DISPOSSESSED AND THEREFORE A RIGHT TO SUBSTANTIAL COMPENSATION.

THE EMBASSY FORMED ALLIANCES WITH ANYONE — BLACK OR WHITE — WHO SUPPORTED THE CALL FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS.

IT WAS THE TENT EMBASSY'S RELIANCE ON ABORIGINAL SELF-ORGANISATION AND DIRECT PUBLIC PROTEST ACTION THAT MARKED THE BIRTH OF A POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT ABORIGINAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

COLONIALISM IN AUSTRALIA FOREVER CHANGED THE NATIVES, THESE CHANGES CAN'T BE FIXED. THEY LEFT A SCAR ON THE PEOPLE THAT WILL CONTINUE TO THE END OF THEIR EXIST. WHAT ENGLAND DID WILL CARRY ON THEIR BACKS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

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