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Words that are printed in bold are explained in the Glossary on page 31.

Introduction

Australia is a nation that has been built on migration. Migration is the movement of people from one nation, place or location to another. Since 1788, people from many nations and cultures have come to Australia to make this land their home. But, many thousands of years before 1788, another wave of people came to Australia. These people are Australia's first inhabitants—the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Why People Migrate

People migrate for different reasons. Some people are forced to migrate because a natural disaster has destroyed their home and their community. When people in this situation migrate, they are doing so for environmental reasons. Some people are forced to leave their country because of war or because they are **persecuted** for their political or religious beliefs. These people are moving for political or religious reasons.

Many people move to another country for a better life or to be near family members who have moved. These people are moving for social reasons. Finally, other people move to a different country because they or their employer believes there are better career opportunities for them in that country. These people are moving for economic reasons.

Migration

Migration is either permanent or temporary—that is, people leave their home forever or for only a certain period of time. When a person leaves a country, he or she is said to be *emigrating*. When a person arrives in a country, he or she is said to be *immigrating*.

About This Book

This book explores migration to Australia during the 19th century. At the start of the century, convicts made up the majority of the population of New South Wales. But **free settlers** were migrating from Britain in increasing numbers. Agriculture was an important and growing industry in Australia, and the British government's offer of free convict labour attracted many British migrants.

The population grew steadily, and by the end of the 1860s, there were six separate Australian colonies: New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Each colony had its own government, but they were still part of the British Empire. Many British immigrants thought of themselves as British people living in another country. As the 19th century progressed, people from different countries began migrating to Australia. Australia began to develop its own culture, and there was a gradual push towards independence from Britain, which led to Federation in 1901.

A view of Sydney painted in 1810 shows the growing infrastructure across the land.

In 1790, Elizabeth Macarthur arrived in Sydney Cove with her husband Captain John Macarthur.

Population of New South Wales

By 1800, only 12 years after European settlement in 1788, one in six European people was born in the colony. A **census** was taken in 1805 that gave the governor of New South Wales and the British government important information about how many people lived in the colony.

The 1805 Census

The 1805 census showed that there were approximately 7000 people living in the colony of New South Wales. There were 4000 men, 1300 women and 1700 children, of whom 2000 were convicts and 600 were officials. The census also showed that there were approximately 20 000 sheep and Captain John Macarthur owned one quarter of them.

The population of New South Wales grew steadily, but there was an increasing lack of free labour. The colony needed more workers to make the land **prosper**. By 1806, there were 610 **free settlers**. So far, the colony was huddled along the coast, but people were beginning to wonder what lay inland and further along the coastal regions.

Convicts

Many convicts transported to New South Wales before 1800 had been granted a **ticket of leave**, which meant they could work for themselves and own property. Governor Arthur Phillip had introduced the ticket of leave. For the many convicts who received one, this was a wonderful opportunity. It offered a better life than would have been possible in England. There, life was still difficult for poor people. Some could hardly afford to feed or clothe themselves or their families, and there was no government assistance. Even though the early years in the colony had been challenging, with food shortages and **rations**, life was better in the colony than back home.

New Governor

Philip Gidley King arrived with the First Fleet in 1788. After his term as Lieutenant Governor of Norfolk Island, King was appointed governor of New South Wales in 1800. Governor King had two children with a convict named Ann Inett whom he had met on Norfolk Island.

The colony prospered under King's leadership. Governor King treated the Aboriginal peoples with some compassion. But even though King thought of them as the true owners of the land, he still gave away large **land grants** to new settlers. King tried to protect the Aboriginals from diseases by introducing vaccinations, but it was too late for most of them. Many Aboriginal peoples were already sick with or had died from the diseases.

New South Wales Corps

A large number of the officers and men, who made up the New South Wales Corps under Captain John Macarthur, chose to settle in the colony when they were **discharged**. They were given land grants and the use of convicts to work their land.

The Aboriginal peoples were pushed further away from their land and were not included in the census.

Wine Industry

In 1800, the British government sent two French prisoners to the colony of New South Wales for three years to establish a wine industry and teach others how to produce wine. The men were paid for their work. They planted 12 000 vines at Parramatta. The new environment was challenging and they only produced 40 gallons of wine by 1804. In 1814, Governor Lachlan Macquarie instructed Doctor William Redfern to investigate convict deaths on transport ships. Doctor Redfern recommended a pint of wine each day to prevent malnutrition. This gave the colony a good reason to grow grapes, and the wine industry gradually took off.

Governor Philip Gidley King contributed greatly to the early years of the colony.

New Settlements and Emancipists

Governor King was a naval officer and encouraged exploration by sea. After Matthew Flinders and George Bass discovered in 1799 that Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) was separated from the mainland by Bass Strait, King set his sights on occupying the island. King and the British government were worried that the French would settle Van Diemen's Land before they did. King was also keen to relocate some of Sydney's convicts to somewhere else.

Van Diemen's Land

A settlement in Van Diemen's Land was founded in September 1803. At first, peaceful relations were established with the Aboriginal peoples. By 1810, there were approximately 12 000 people living on the island and a few small schools had been established. The new colony received its first convicts in 1812. After Norfolk Island was abandoned in 1814, its inhabitants were transferred to Van Diemen's Land.

Governor Bligh

William Bligh arrived in New South Wales in August 1806 to replace Governor King. As governor, Bligh tried to reform the colony by stopping the **lucrative** rum trade that was controlled by the officers of the New South Wales Corps. Lieutenant George Johnston, with the help of John Macarthur and other powerful people in the colony, overthrew Governor Bligh because they did not like his reforms. Bligh was a threat to the power the corps held in the colony.

Governor Macquarie

Lachlan Macquarie, a Scottish soldier, became governor of New South Wales in January 1810. Macquarie brought his own regiment of 700 soldiers to replace the **corrupt** New South Wales Corps.

Macquarie provided stability for the colonies. He built roads, schools, barracks, a hospital and other permanent public buildings. Macquarie established new townships around Sydney and encouraged exploration of the land. The country was filling up with settlers between the coast and the Blue Mountains.

Macquarie thought that emancipated convicts deserved the same rights as other **free settlers**. Not everyone agreed with this view, and there was social division between ex-convicts and the free settlers. Many free settlers did not want to mix or associate with newly freed convicts.

Grateful Emancipists

According to Governor Macquarie, the best settlers were the **emancipists** because they appreciated their opportunities. They worked hard and **cultivated** the land they were given. Macquarie told the British government that the free settlers were ungrateful and expected handouts from the government. The free settlers seemed to think the government owed them favours just because they had migrated to Australia.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie chose Matthew Flinders' proposal of "Australia" as the continent's name. Macquarie was then known as "The Father of Australia".