

We are Australian

Australia's identity has developed over time. People, historical events and the natural environment have contributed to the unique characteristics of this nation.

'I am Australian' is a song that symbolises Australia and its people. Its lyrics describe a nation whose people, history, culture and landscape are deeply connected. It is a **patriotic** song that is sung to celebrate both Australia's **diversity** and its unity.

'I am Australian' is often sung on Australia Day other days of national celebration



aussie fact

The lyrics of 'I am Australian' were written in 1987 by Bruce Woodley, from a famous Australian band called the Seekers, and Dobe Newton, from an Australian bush band called the Bushwackers. Bruce Woodley also wrote the music.

Storytellers, artists and legends

Storytellers and artists help record Australia's history and stories. Their stories and artworks combine to help form Australia's cultural identity. Many types of people, such as the bushranger and the swagman, have become legends and an important part of Australia's story, too.

Australian storytelling began with Indigenous Australians. They pass down stories from one generation to the next. Australian stories range from Dreaming stories to bush tales to modern novels, plays, poems and songs.

The lyrics of verse 4 of 'I am Australian' describe the Australians who tell stories, paint pictures, sing songs and pass down **folklore** through the generations. These Australians help demonstrate the Australian identity and character.

I'm a teller of stories

I'm a singer of songs

I am Albert Namatjira

I paint ghostly gums

I am Clancy on his horse

I'm Ned Kelly on the run

I'm the one who waltzed Matilda

I am Australian.'

'I am Australian', verse 4



aussie fact

A group of Australians from various backgrounds was asked, 'What does it mean to be an Australian?'. Some of the common ideas in their answers were:

- being willing to help others
- respecting other cultures
- loving Australia and having pride in the country
- being friendly and easygoing
- valuing mateship, having strong friendships and being loyal to friends and family.

Sydney Nolan's paintings have helped build the legend of the bushranger Ned Kelly.