

HK Schools Newsletter

Newsletter July 2009
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Our Trip to Perth

Trip review – Kings Park

On the third day of our trip, we went to Kings Park. The Park is nice and better than I thought. At first, we got off the bus. We walked near a fire. The fire is used to remind us of the dead soldiers in the war. I thought it is a meaningful fire for all Australians. When the visitors see the fire, they must remember the war that happened a long time ago. Then, we walked further. We saw a wonderful view of the river. It may be better than the view at night in Hong Kong. After we took some photos, we started our tour in the park. The plants in the park are nice and some of them I have never seen in Hong Kong. The teacher told us that the plants in the park are divided into different groups, such as different regions of Western Australia and even South Africa. The flowers in the park are also colourful and attractive. However, we did not have time to go to the souvenir shop for a look. I think this is the only thing that I miss in this trip. In conclusion, this is a great park and I like it very much.

Bruce Chan

Trip Review - Whiteman Park

On 13 July, we went to Whiteman Park. We saw a lot of Australian animals. Such as koalas, red kangaroos, galahs, wombats, wallabys and more.

We also fed the joeys, they were very cute and pretty. It was quite fun but our hands got wet! They didn't bite us but they were always dribbling saliva. It was a wonderful opportunity and I would like to go there once more if I can.

In the afternoon, we went to watch a Farm Show. The trainer showed us how to shear the sheep. The sheep's ear was cut and bloodied by the clippers. We were worried about the poor sheep. Then there was still heaps of work to do for us. The show was great!

We thought this great day was totally awesome!

By William

Koalas by Joyce

Koalas are found in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Koalas live in societies, just like humans, so they need to be able to come into contact with other koalas.

In Australia there are over 600 types of eucalypts, but koalas will only eat 40-50 varieties with only about 10 being preferred. Within a particular area, as few as one, and generally no more than two or three species of eucalypt will be regularly browsed while a variety of other species, including some non-eucalypts, appear to be browsed occasionally or used for just sitting or sleeping in.



Kangaroos by Joyce

Kangaroos need to eat a lot of plants. Most sleep in the morning and feed at night but some are active in the early morning and late afternoon. Different kangaroos like to choose to live in a variety they make nests while tree-kangaroos live above ground in trees

Kangaroos of all sizes have one thing in common: powerful back legs with long feet. Most kangaroos live on the ground and are marked from other animals by the way they hop on their strong back legs. A kangaroo's tail is used to balance while hopping

All female kangaroos have front-opening pouches that contain four teats. This is where the young kangaroo, is raised until it can survive outside the pouch.



*"they hop on their
strong back legs"*

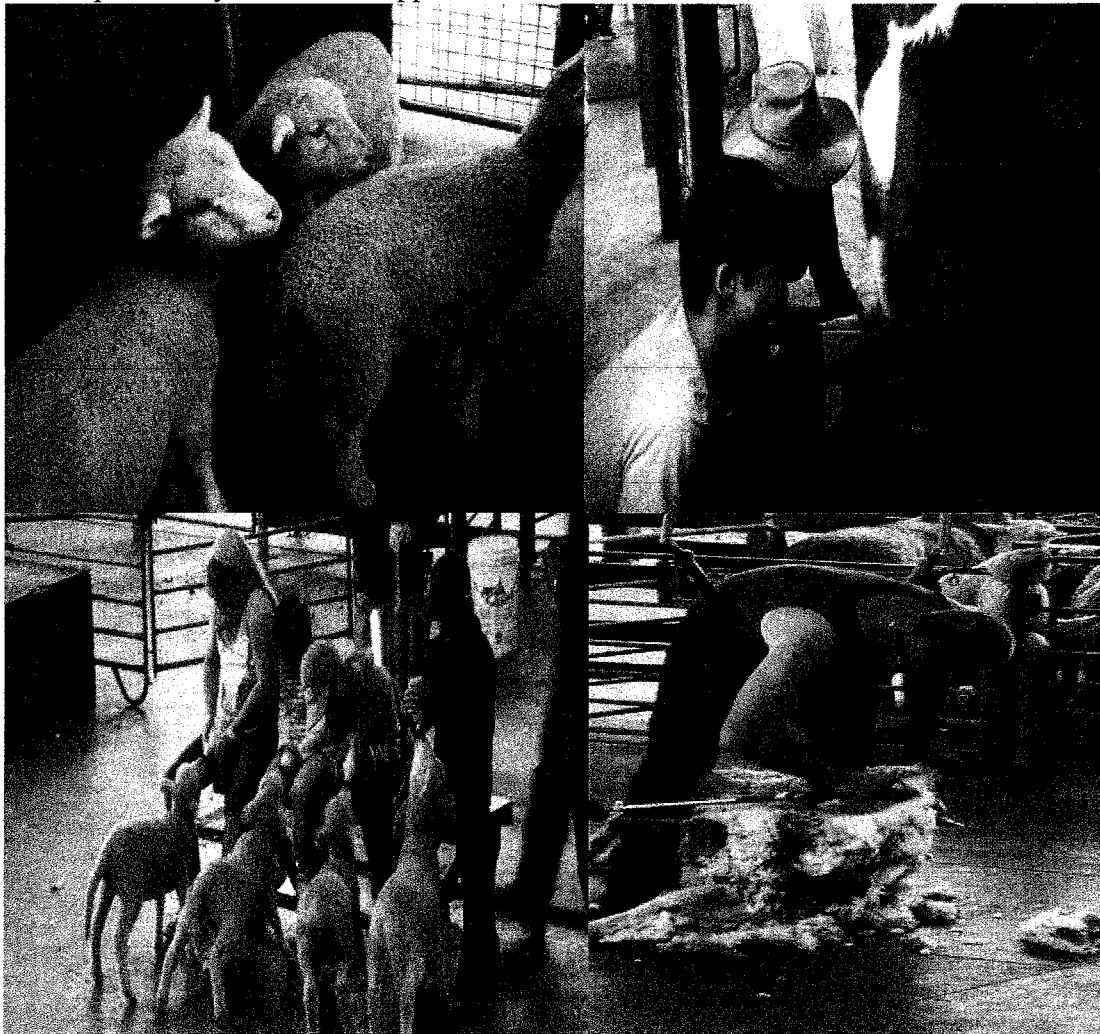
Farm Show by Allen

In Whiteman Park, everybody can feed the Kangaroos, stroke the wombats and touch a lizard. It is a really good experience if you have never tried it.

However, many people feel strange that the animals that impressed us the most were some common ordinary animals, such as cows, lambs and sheep. It must be because of the farm show.

During the farm show, some kids were able to feed the lambs, they are really cute. In another part of the program, a man demonstrated using the clippers and shearing the sheep. Sometimes the sheep would get hurt, due to struggling and struggling, until a small cut would result in heaps of blood on the sheep's ears.

Furthermore, there was an opportunity to milk the cow; we all had a try at getting some milk from the cow. At the same time, we could take a photo with that big cow. If we were unlucky the cow would try to lick our faces when we stood next to it to take a photo. So, it was quite funny when that happened.



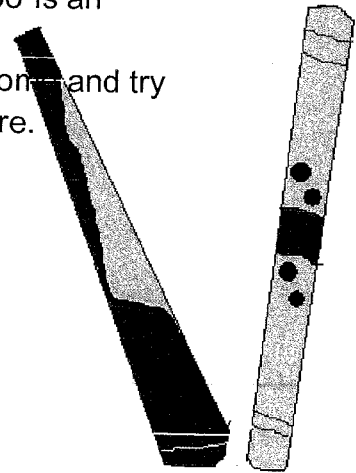
There are no reliable sources stating the didgeridoo's exact age, though it is commonly claimed to be the world's oldest wind instrument. Archaeological studies of rock art in Northern Australia suggests that the Aboriginal people of the Kakadu region of the Northern Territory have been using the didgeridoo for about 1500 years, based on the dating of paintings on cave walls and shelters from this period. A clear rock painting in Ginga Wardelirrhmeng from the freshwater period (1500 years ago until the present) shows a didgeridoo player and two song men.

"Didgeridoo" is considered to be a word of Western invention that is like its sound. It has also been suggested that it may be derived from the Irish words *dúdaire* or *dúidire*, meaning variously 'trumpeter; constant smoker, puffer; long-necked person, eavesdropper; hummer, crooner' and *dubh*, meaning "black" (or *duth*, meaning "native"). However, this theory is not widely accepted.

You can find the didgeridoo in all souvenir shops and I think the price is reasonable. The sound is sweet and the fascinating thing is that "didgeridoo" is an onomatopoeic word like the word "meow".

This is a good media to learn and understand the culture of Australia, so come and try didgeridoo, an instrument with which you can discover the Australian culture.

DRAWN BY SONIA



Boxing Kangaroos by Danny

Recently, an animal appeared in Perth. It attacked people in North Bridge and Whiteman Park which are very famous places in Perth. Everyone in Perth was afraid of it.

The Perth Police discovered that it was a kangaroo.

In fact, it was not a normal kangaroo. It was a BOXING KANGAROO.

It can fight people. It escaped from the Perth Zoo. It is going back to the zoo.

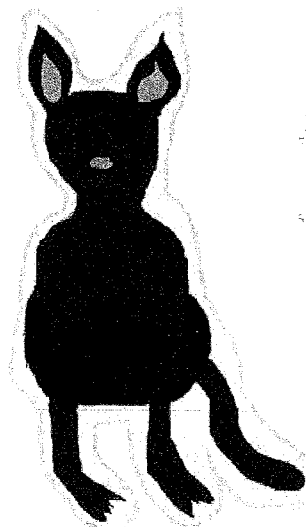
Do you want to know more about kangaroos? Now, I am going to tell you.

First, kangaroos have pouches that a lot of animals don't have.

Their pouches can carry their joeys and protect them.

Secondly, we only can see them in Australia. It is like pandas. Pandas only live in China.

To conclude, kangaroos are lovely animals. Let us go to Australia now.



DRAWN BY SONIA

SPORT



There are a few famous Australian sports and I would like to introduce the most popular one, and it is **Australian football**. Australia has a league called Australian Football League (AFL). The Australian Football League (AFL) is the professional Australian national competition in the sport of Australian football.

The league comprises 16 teams which play 22 home and away rounds between late March and late August or early September. This is followed by a four-week finals series which culminates in two teams playing off for the Premiership, in the Grand Final.

The organisation which became the Australian Football League, but more commonly known as the AFL was formed in 1897 when eight teams from the Victorian Football Association (VFA, established 1877) broke away to begin the Victorian Football League (VFL). By 1925 the league had expanded to twelve teams (all based in Victoria), with no change until 1982 when the league commenced its expansion to a national competition by relocating South Melbourne to Sydney, New South Wales. Since then five other non-Victorian clubs have been added: two each from Western Australia and South Australia and one from Queensland with an existing Victorian club (Fitzroy) merging with this Queensland based club at the end of the 1996 season.

The league was officially renamed the Australian Football League in 1990 to reflect the new national perspective.

The AFL has gained considerable media and financial strength. Through the AFL Commission it gained control over the game at most levels and controls the Laws of the Game through the AFL Rules Committee (consisting of members from the AFL Players Association). The Commission pushes for all affiliated leagues and bodies to co-brand with the league (although some state and local associations have sternly resisted). Additionally the Commission has pushed for the sport to be co-branded, requesting affiliated leagues and the media refer to Australian Football as "AFL", also encouraging participants to "Play AFL".

The AFL is the most attended sporting league in Australia; it is also the most popular sport competition in terms of TV ratings in the nation. The AFL is currently the fourth-most attended professional sports league in the world in terms of attendance per match, with an average attendance of over 38,000.

In national terms, however, Australian football in Australia is not a popular sport in all areas. In recent decades, the AFL has increasingly focused on regions behind the Barassi Line, particularly in metropolitan areas (its "developing markets") where the league and sport has traditionally struggled. The league has granted concessions to teams based in these regions and invested large amounts of development funding. As a result, participation (according to the AFL) is increasing in New South Wales and Queensland. Last year champion was Hawthorn Football Club.

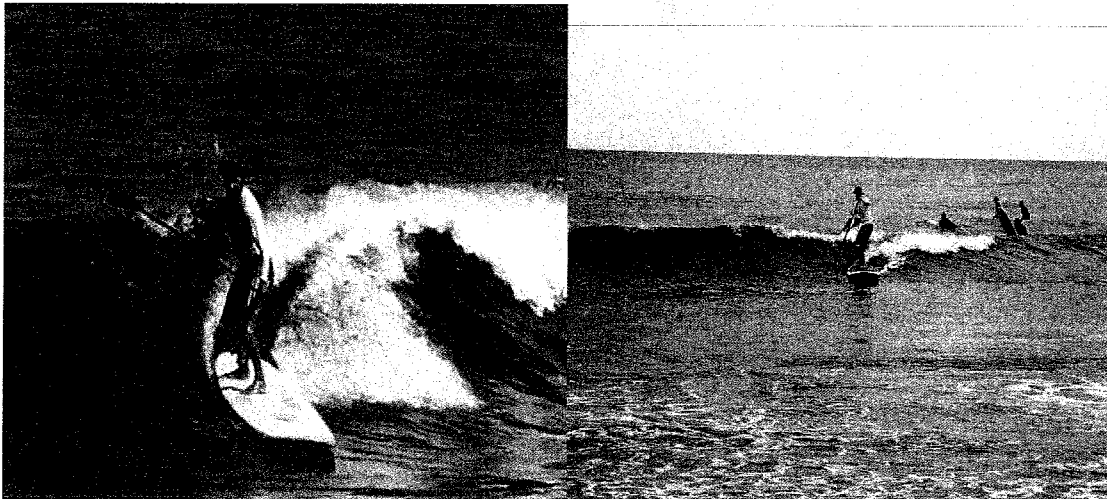
Water Surfing

by Vincent

Surfing is the act of a person (or a boat) riding down a breaking wave, gathering speed from the downward and forward movement. Most commonly, the term is used for surface water sports in which the person surfing moves along the face of breaking ocean waves. However, surfing is not restricted to saltwater, but can sometimes take place on rivers, using a standing wave.

The main use of the word "surfing" is for riding waves using a board on which the surfer stands. This is sometimes called "stand-up surfing", to distinguish it from bodyboarding, in which the individual riding the wave only partly raises his upper body from the board surface, and from bodysurfing, where no board at all is used.

The first surfers caught waves standing on a wooden log. The surfer caught the wave with the help of a wooden paddle. Modern stand-up paddleboarding is shown below.



Margaret River, Western Australia

Cottesloe, Perth, WA

Aussie Slang

by Fiona

ARVO	=	afternoon
SICK	=	really good
EXY	=	expensive
MATE	=	friend
HEAPS	=	a lot
MOZZIE	=	mosquito
G'DAY	=	good day
OZ	=	Australia
BARBIE	=	BBQ
PREZZIE	=	present
SANGER	=	sandwich
SNAGGER	=	sausage
DUNNIE	=	toilet
FOOTY	=	football
SUNNIES	=	sun glasses
LINGO	=	language
BREKKIE	=	breakfast
'ROO	=	kangaroo

An Aussie story

Yesterday was a holiday, I got up at 10:00 a.m.
and had my BREKKIE. I had a SANGER for BREKKIE.
It was a SICK meal.

In the ARVO, I went to a BARBIE with my
MATE.

We all had a WHALE OF A TIME there. I ate HEAPS of
SNAGGERS at the BARBIE. After that, we played
FOOTY. We also saw some 'ROOS too. We all played
very well.

It was a really COOL DAY!

Bye!
Fiona

Where can we find Aussie animals?

By Eddie

We can find Aussie animals in the zoo and the parks in Perth or other cities in Australia. There are many parks in Perth, for example the Whiteman park and the Caversham Wildlife park. We can also find Aussie animals in the Perth Zoo.



Dingoes have pricked ears, bushy tails and a distinctive trotting gait. Their coats are typically ginger but some are sandy-yellow, red-yellow or occasionally black and tan. Most have white markings on their feet, tail tip and chest.

Dingoes don't bark, they howl. They have 3 different types of howls: moans, howls and snuffs. Howling is used for long distance communications to attract pack members. Dingoes are often seen alone.

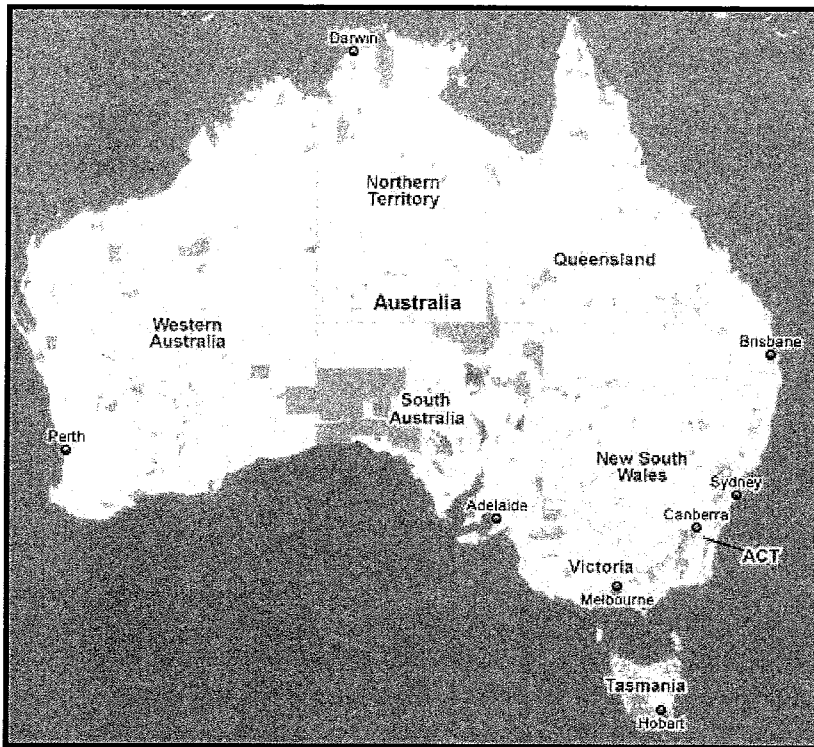
Dingoes hunt in the desert and sleep in rocky places.

Dingoes eat a diverse range of prey items such as insects, rabbits, rodents, lizards and red kangaroos. Dingoes can grow up to 60 cm high and 15kg.

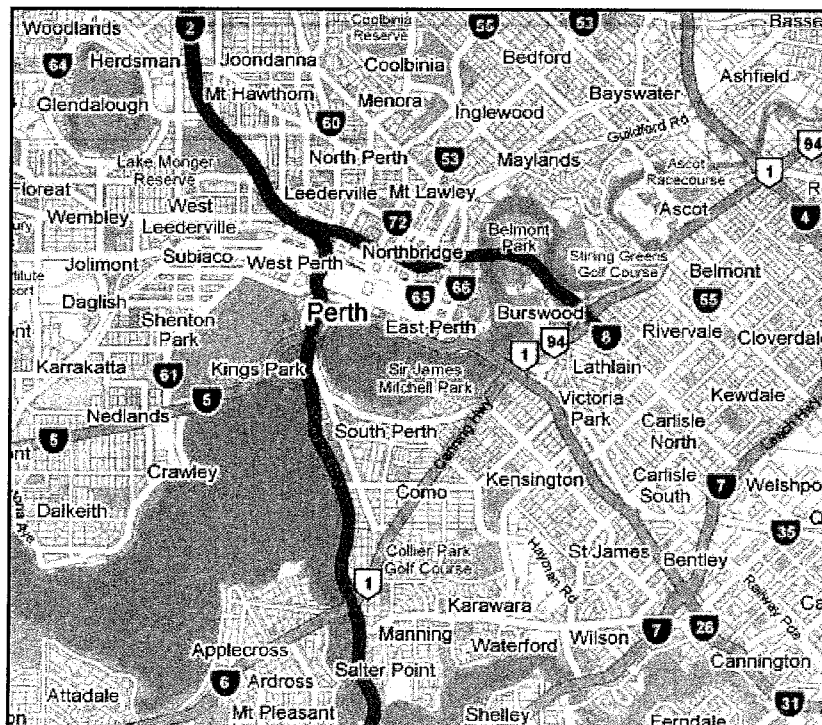
Dingoes shelter in dens. This might be a hollow log, a cave or an enlarged rabbit warren.

Dingoes arrived in Australia about 4000-6000 years ago, and were probably introduced through trading between Aboriginal people and Indonesian fishermen.

MAPS by Lisa



This is the map of Australia.



This is the map of Perth.

PERTH

The capital city of Western Australian and the fourth – largest city in Australia.

The **Western Australian mining industry** is the largest and most diversified resource industry in Australia. The state encompasses about one-third of the Australian continent and includes rich mineral resources including iron ore, nickel, diamonds, bauxite, uranium, gold, coal and mineral sands.

Iron Ore

95% of Australia's iron ore occurs in Western Australia, and Australia is the world's largest exporter of the mineral. Brazil and Australia supply about 60% of the world's production.

Nickel

About 99% of Australia's nickel is produced in Western Australia which supplies about 13% of the world's nickel production.

Diamonds

Alluvial diamonds had been found occasionally for many years by prospectors searching for gold. A systematic search for the source began in 1969, and on October 2, 1979, the Argyle pipe was discovered.

Australia Animals

by
Brian

Kangaroo

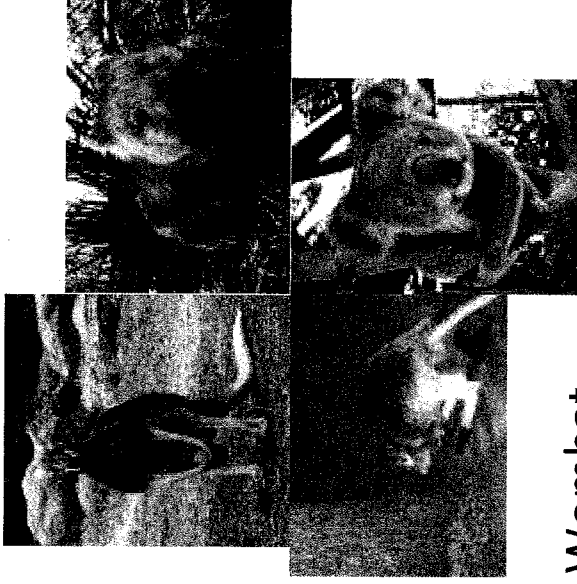
- A common legend about the kangaroo's English name is that 'kangaroo' was a Guugu Yimidjirr phrase for "I don't understand you."
- The kangaroo is important to both Australian culture and the national image
- There are four species of kangaroo: The Red Kangaroo, The Eastern Grey Kangaroo, The Western Grey Kangaroo and The Antilopine
- Different species of kangaroos have different diets
- The smaller species of kangaroos eat fungi
- The Eastern Grey Kangaroo is a grazer, & eats a wide variety of grasses

Behaviour

- Many species are nocturnal and crepuscular
- The only large animals to use hopping as a means of locomotion
- Because of its long feet, it cannot walk correctly

Baby Kangaroo Joey

- It has an extremely short gestation period about 4–5 weeks
- It will not re-emerge for several months
- If danger threatens it will seek refuge in its mother's pouch for safety



Wombat

- They are found in forested, mountainous
- heath land areas of south-eastern Australia and Tasmania
- There are two species wombat : Common Wombat , Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat and Southern Hairy-nosed. Wombat Diet
- They are grazers and their diet consists of grasses
- Tend to prefer young tender grass
- The Northern Hairy-nosed wombat's favourite grasses are spear grass, tussock grass, and poa grass.

Behaviour

- They can dig in the hardest of soil
- The only things that stop them dig are solid rock or loose sand
- They are good swimmers
- They are active at dawn and dusk

Koala

The word *koala* comes from the Dharuk *gula*

- The koala is similar in appearance to the wombat but has a thicker coat, much larger ears, and longer limbs
- Like wombats and sloths , the koala has a very low metabolic rate for a mammal Diet
- Spend about three of their five active hours eating
- Manna Gum , Blue Gum and Swamp Gum are favoured in the south
- Grey Gum and Tallowwood and River Red Gum are important in the north
- The koala lives almost on eucalypt leaves
- Rests motionless for about 16 to 18 hours a day, sleeping most of that time
- Feeding occurs at any time of day, but usually at night

FOLK SONGS OF AUSTRALIA

by Ken

There are lots of folk songs in Australia. Such as Drover's Dream, Catalpa, Lazy Harry's and so on.

But my favourite song is 'Drover's Dream'. I love the lyrics very much. It is talking about a dream. Here is an excerpt of the lyrics:

*One night when travelling sheep, my companions lay asleep
There was not a star to illuminate the sky
I was dreaming, I suppose, for my eyes were nearly closed
When a very strange procession passed me by
First there came a kangaroo, with his swag of blankets blue
A dingo ran beside him for a mate
They were travelling mighty fast, and they shouted as they passed
"We'll have to jog along, it's getting late"*

I love this song because its words are beautiful. It describes when a drover is traveling sheep, his partner falls asleep. The drover sleeps too. He dreams of many strange things. Such as a kangaroo carrying a blanket. The melody is great too. It's a kind of traditional music. After I listen to it, I feel very comfortable.

Australian wild animals are the best

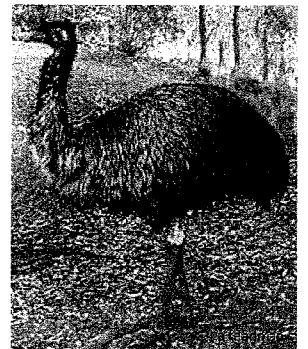
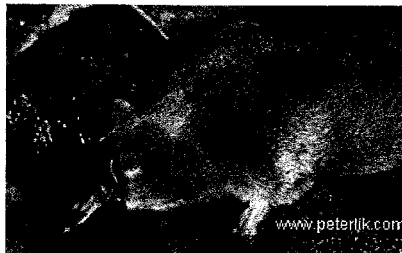
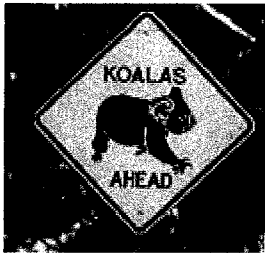
The whole world had to vote to find which country has the most interesting and special wild animals. After this vote , Australia won this competition.

Let's just see why. Australia has different kinds of wild animals. In Western Australia, there are quokkas , and crocodiles which can be found easily. In all of Australia, there are many well-known wild animals, such as kangaroos, koalas, emus, dingos, & platypus. They are all very unusual and famous in the world. Besides these, there are also many animals but not too well-known, like the bottlenose dolphins, tree kangaroos, & kookaburras. These animals are specific to Australia.

In any Australian zoo, we can find these wild animals. They are both very friendly and dangerous to you. Also the Australian government places a lot of importance on taking care of the wild animals. So the animals there are friendly. But there are some animals which are dangerous and may hurt you. So visitors should be alert.

I think those are the most important points that make Australian wild animals the best.

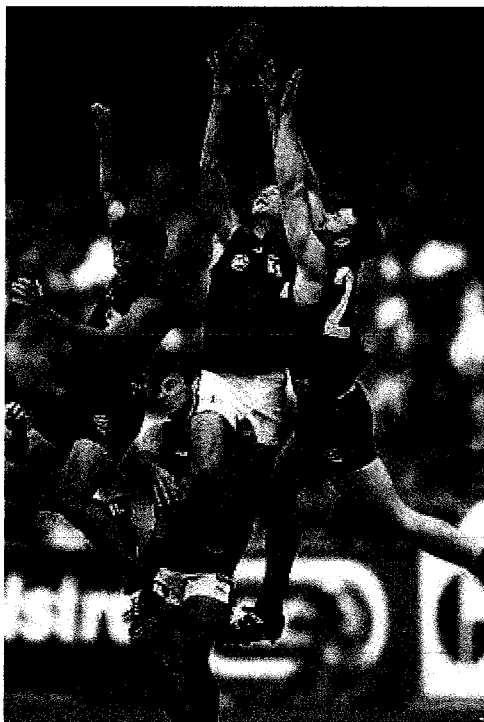
By Michael, Chan Ki Choi



<http://www.peterlik.com/http://www.peterlik.com/>

Fishing & Australian Rules Football by Felix

I am going to talk about two sports, fishing and Australian football. First I am going to talk about Australian football then Fishing. Ozzie people have a lot of Australian football matches, because in winter, it is the Australian football season. Their ball looks like a rugby ball, but they kick the ball rather than throw it. Aussie rules footy does allow the players to pass the ball by hand. Unlike English soccer, they can catch the ball (called marking the ball) with their hands. They score goals & points (6 points makes one goal).



Fishing is very popular in Australia, almost every Sunday or Saturday, they go fishing.

