



Bringing the  
learning *home*

# Stereotypes



A *resource* for studying abroad  
Australian Learning & Teaching Council

Produced by Greg Downey,  
Tonia Gray & Jan Gothard

2012  
**Resources**



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Support for the production of this publication has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.



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## Instructions

The resources in this document are intended to accompany the Instructor's Guide provided for the module, Stereotypes. These materials should be easier to photocopy for students to support the re-entry workshop outlined in that guide.

The documents should be distributed prior to the meeting for the workshop.



# Resources

# Trying a stereotype on: How do they fit?

## **Have you heard the one about the dumb Australian?**

Josh Gordon, *The Age*.

23 August 2009

**Humour is being used to undermine Australia's reputation in the region.**

YOU know you are in real trouble when you become the butt of jokes on the internet.

Take this one doing the rounds in India: A Muslim was seated next to an Australian on a flight from London to Melbourne and when drink orders were taken, the Aussie asked for a rum and Coke, which was placed before him.

The attendant then asked the Muslim if he would like a drink. He replied in disgust, 'I'd rather be savagely raped by a dozen whores than let liquor touch my lips.'

The Aussie handed back his drink and said: 'Me too. I didn't know we had a choice.'

I did chuckle momentarily before considering what such jokes say about us. There are many, and a common theme is that Australians (often Melburnians) are stupid and morally vacuous. And we drink too much.

There is nothing particularly new or unusual about the use of cultural stereotypes in humour. But it does say something interesting about the way Australia is perceived in the region.

Readers' comments on the websites of English-language newspapers such as *The Times of India* also make for depressing reading. A common set of assertions is that Australians are crass, poorly educated and genetically predisposed to be stupid, racist and dishonest because of our convict heritage.

According to one reader, only ex-convicts from Indian jails should be sent here to study.

North of the Himalaya, comments posted on the website of the state-controlled *China Daily* are equally vitriolic....

Australia has a serious PR problem....

In the case of both India and China, there is much at stake. Last year, Australia exported \$37.2 billion worth of goods and services to China and \$16.5 billion worth to India.

## Australia world's 'dumb blonde'

Dan Harrison, *The Age*.

14 October 2010

AUSTRALIA is viewed as the 'dumb blonde' of the world, attractive but shallow and unintelligent, according to a visiting British branding expert.

Simon Anholt, who has advised the governments of more than 40 countries on national identity and reputation, said Australia's one-dimensional image meant that events such as attacks on Indian students could do greater damage here than in countries with which people were more familiar.

'A well-rounded national reputation is an insurance policy against that kind of thing,' Mr Anholt told *The Age*. ...

Australia's international education industry, which is worth more than \$18 billion annually, is facing a significant decline in enrolments as a result of a number of factors, including the strong Australian dollar, changes to migration rules and the fallout from several attacks on Indian students. ...

'The damage to Australia's reputation in India is quite severe,' Mr Anholt said.

In 2008, the Indian panel of respondents ranked Australia seventh in the world for promoting equality within society. In 2010, Australia's rank on this measure dropped to 34th.

Overall, the survey of 39,000 people in 26 countries ranked Australia the ninth-most admired country in the world.

Mr Anholt said Australia was ranked best in the world for natural beauty and as a place to visit if money was no object. But he said the success of Australia's tourism promotion campaigns had produced an 'unbalanced' view of the country.

'What you have is an image of a country that is considered to be very decorative, but not very useful,' he said.

...

Mr Anholt said Australia was unusual among developed nations in not having an organisation devoted to the promotion of culture, such as Germany's Goethe Institute or France's Alliance Francaise.

Mr Anholt said the US did not have such an organisation, but arguably did not need one because of the global reach of its entertainment industry. 'But Australia has Les Patterson, and I don't think that's enough.' ...

## The original introduction to “Growing Up Asian in Australia”

In 1770, Captain Cook stuck his flag up next to a pile of rocks, conveniently forgetting about the indigenous population, and claimed the land for the British Empire. This early act of property theft was depicted with much triumph in many of the illustrated history books I read in primary school. Usually, the Aboriginal population was drawn as a small and bewildered huddle, eclipsed by the shadow of the great ships. Similarly, history has not been too kind to our ethnic entrepreneurs and Polynesian coolies, who arrived in Australia less than a century after Cook.



‘Havaianas 2012 Australia Day Thong Challenge’ by Eva Rinaldi.

Used under Creative Commons licence. Original downloaded from <http://www.flickr.com/photos/evarinaldiphotography/6763844915/>.

History books tell us that Australia’s sense of national identity began in 1901 with Federation; that was also the year the Restrictive Immigration Act came into force, giving legal effect to the White Australia Policy. The joining up of all our states to form a Commonwealth was a cause for much rejoicing – but mainly for white, male landowners, because that wealth was rarely common or shared with indigenous Australians or ethnic minorities. Slogans such as ‘Australia for the White Man’ (part of the *Bulletin* magazine’s masthead until 1961) reflected collective racist sentiment against the ‘Yellow Peril,’ the newly arrived Chinese who hoped to strike it

lucky on the goldfields.

So what was it like for a yellow or brown person growing up in a country where ‘Advance Australia Fair’ was taken literally to mean ‘advance, pale-faced patriots,’ while those of a different colour should be effaced? In secondary school, the only representations I saw of our early Asian settlers – people with faces like my relatives – were in illustrations as pigtailed caricatured demons or hanging dead from trees in the goldfields; even though the early pre-mining-boom Chinese were known to be carpenters, merchants and free-settler farmers.

From Alice Pung, 2009. Peril: Asian-Australian Arts and Culture weblog

<http://www.peril.com.au/2008-2009/edition8/the-original-introduction-to-growing-up-asian-in-australia/>

Accessed on 15 June 2012.



# Australia Gets Drunk, Wakes Up in North Atlantic

SatireWire.com

May 5, 2009

## Tired of Being Isolated and Ignored, Continent Isn't Bloody Moving

Sydney, 800 miles S. of Nova Scotia (SatireWire.com) – After what witnesses described as an all night blinder during which it kept droning on about how it was always being bloody ignored by the whole bloody world and would bloody well stand to do something about it, Australia this morning woke up to find itself in the middle of the North Atlantic.

“Good Lord, that was a booze up,” said a bleary-eyed Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, speaking from his residence at Kirribilli House, approximately 600 nautical miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

According to Australians and residents of several countries destroyed or lewdly insulted during the continent's nearly 7,000-mile saltwater stagger, the binge began just after noon yesterday at a pub in Brisbane, where several patrons were discussing Australia Day and the nation's general lack of respect from abroad.

“It started off same as always; coupla fossils saying how our Banjo Patterson was a better poet than Walt Whitman, how Con the Fruiterer is funnier than Seinfeld, only they're Aussies so no one knows about 'em,” recalled witness Kevin Porter. “Then this bloke Martin pipes up and says Australia's main problem is that it's stuck in Australia, and everybody says ‘Too right!’”

“Well, it made sense at the time,” Porter added.

By 2 a.m., powered by national pride and alcohol, the 3-million-square-mile land mass was barging eastward through the Coral Sea and crossing into the central Pacific, leaving a trail of beer cans and Chinese take-away in its wake.

When dawn broke over the Northern Hemisphere, the continent suddenly found itself, not only upside down, but smack in the middle of the Atlantic, and according to most of its 19 million inhabitants, that's the way it's going to stay.



"We sent troops to Afghanistan. You never hear about it. We have huge government scandals. You never hear about it. It's all 'America did this,' and 'Europe says that,'" exclaimed Perth resident Paul Watson. "Well, we're right in the thick of things now, so let's just see if you can ignore us."

Officials on both sides of the Atlantic conceded that would be difficult. "They broke Florida," said U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. "And most of Latin America is missing."

Meanwhile, victims of what's already been dubbed the "Australian Crawl" are still shaking off the event.

"Australia bumped into us at about midnight local time," said Hawaii governor Ben Cayetano. "They were very friendly – they always seem friendly – but they refused to go around unless we answered their questions. But the questions were impossible. 'Who is Ian Thorpe? Do you have any Tim Tams? What day is Australia Day?'"

"Fortunately, somebody here had an Unimportant World Dates calendar and we aced the last one," Cayetano added.

Panama, however, was not so lucky.

"Australia came through here screaming curses at us to let them through," said Ernesto Carnal, who guards the locks at the entrance to the Panama Canal. "We said they would not fit, so they demanded to speak with a manager. When I go to find Mr. Caballos, they sneak the whole continent through."

When Caballos shouted to the fleeing country that it had not paid, Australia "accidentally" backed up and took out every nation in the region, as well as the northern third of Venezuela. They then made up a cheery song about it.

By late morning today, however, not everyone in Australia was quite so blithe. "We've still got part of Jamaica stuck to Queensland," said Australian army commander Lt. Gen. Peter Cosgrove. "I think we might have declared war on it. I don't bloody remember. Maybe it's time to go home."

Cosgrove, however, is not in the majority, and at press time, U.S., African, and European leaders were still desperately trying to negotiate for Australia's withdrawal. ... In a two-hour meeting at midday, Australian representatives listed their demands: immediate inclusion in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a permanent CNN presence in all 6 Australian states, a worldwide ban on hiring Paul Hogan, a primetime U.S. television contract for Australian Rules Football, and a 4,500-mile-long bridge between Sydney and Los Angeles.

U.S. negotiators immediately walked out, calling the Australian Rules Football request "absurd."

Excerpted from: <http://www.satirewire.com/content1/?p=173>

Accessed on 16 June 2012



# AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP TEST

G'DAY clobber, had a gutful of the hullabaloo over the new citizenship test? Here's a dinky-di quiz for all prospective Aussies. It's bloody tops.

1. Do you understand the meaning, but are unable to explain the origin of, the term 'died in the arse'?
2. What is a 'bloody little beauty'?
3. Are these terms related: chuck a sickie; chuck a spaz; chuck a U-ey?
4. Explain the following passage: 'In the arvo last Chrissy the rels rocked up for a barbie, some bevvies and a few snags. After a bit of a Bex and a lie down we opened the pressies, scoffed all the chockies, bickies and lollies. Then we drained a few tinnies and Mum did her block after Dad and Steve had a barney and a bit of biffio.'
5. Macca, Chooka and Wanger are driving to Surfers in their Torana. If they are travelling at 100 km/h while listening to Barnsey, Farnsey and Acca Dacca, how many slabs will each person on average consume between flashing a brown eye and having a slash?
6. Complete the following sentences:
  - a) 'If the van's rockin' don't bother ?
  - b) You're going home in the back of a ?
  - c) Fair crack of the ?
7. 'I've had a gutful, and I can't be fagged.' Discuss
8. Have you ever been on the giving or receiving end of a wedgie?
9. Do you have a friend or relative who has a car in their front yard 'up on blocks'? Is his name Bruce and does he have a wife called Cheryl?
10. Does your family regularly eat a dish involving mincemeat, cabbage, curry powder and a packet of chicken noodle soup called either 'chow mein', 'chop suey' or 'kai see ming'?
11. What are the ingredients in a rissole?
12. Demonstrate the correct procedure for eating a Tim Tam.
13. Do you have an Auntie Irene who smokes 30 cigarettes a day and sounds like a bloke?
14. In any two-hour period have you ever eaten three-bean salad, a chop and two serves of pav washed down with someone else's beer that has been flogged from a bath full of ice?



15. When you go to a bring- your-own-meat barbie, can you eat other people's meat, or are you only allowed to eat your own?
16. What purple root vegetable beginning with the letter 'b' is required by law to be included in a hamburger with the lot?
17. Do you own or have you ever owned a lawn mower, a pair of thongs, an Esky or Ugg boots?
18. Is it possible to 'prang a car' while doing 'circle work'?
19. Who would you like to crack on to?
20. Who is the most Australian: Kevin 'Bloody' Wilson, John 'True Blue' Williamson, Kylie Minogue or Warchie?
21. Is there someone you are only mates with because they own a trailer or have a pool?
22. What does 'sinkin piss at a mates joint' and 'getten para' mean?
23. How far would you wear your mockies?

Inside only?

Back yard only?

To the letter box?

To the milk bar for a packed of winni blues?

To the movies?

To shoppo? (large shopping centre)

To the pub?

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[ozstudentsabroad.com](http://ozstudentsabroad.com)

<http://www.tlc.murdoch.edu.au/project/btlh/>



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