

## Changing Australian Values Over Time and Defence Recruitment

At the start of WW1, the Australian population was predominately Anglo-Saxon (British descent) and Anglo-Celtic (Irish descent). The people were mainly Christian (Anglican or Roman Catholic) and over half of the population would attend Mass or the Eucharist every Sunday.

The Immigration Restriction Act (White Australia Policy) was in full force fuelled by the misguided belief that non-white races were inferior.

Aboriginal people had been herded into 'missions' and from 1905 Aboriginal children were forcibly removed from their parents. Aboriginal people were excluded from the vote, pensions, employment in post offices, enlistment in armed forces and maternity allowance. Although, by 1917 with the declining numbers of men enlisting Aboriginal people were 'allowed' to enlist.

Australia was still developing an identity as a country, having only been federated for 14 years. A **bush identity** was strong related to the gold rushes and bushrangers

The bush was something uniquely Australian and very different to the European landscapes familiar to most Australians. The bush was revered as a source of national ideals by the likes of Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson. Romanticising the bush in this way was a big step forward for Australians in their steps towards self-identity.

The bush identity extended from the goldfield legend as the characters of the bush were imbued with the same qualities that the diggers on the goldfields possessed – tough, strong, hardworking, optimistic, a lack of regard for authority, determined, independent, community minded with strong connection to mates.

The bush was a symbol for a national life and yet, by 1910, most Australians were urban. The bush myth has endured as novelists, poets, and artists continue to use it for inspiration. Elements of bush culture have been absorbed into mainstream Australian life through music, pop songs, clothing, slang, arts and architecture.

At the start of WW1 people felt a strong connection and loyalty to the British empire as it was at the core of their identity, therefore, few questioned the Australian government's commitment to the war effort.



## Australia today

### What is the Australian population like today?

Census data has reveals that over a quarter 29.7 per cent of Australia's population was born overseas (first generation). When we add on those Australians with one or both parents born overseas (second generation) nearly half the Australian population 49% are first- or second-generation Australians

1. What signs are around us that Australia is multicultural?

2. What is Australia like now compared to during WW1?

3. As you watch the advertising clips what are the key ideas and values being promoted to try and PERSUADE people to consider joining the military? How is the defence force presented?

4. How patriotic are Australians today compared to during WW1?

5. If Australia was to enter a large-scale war requiring recruitment in vast numbers. What values do you think would work to persuade men and women to join up?

