

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition

Stuart Macintyre

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE CONCISE HISTORIES

*A Concise History of Australia*

FOURTH EDITION

Australia is the last continent to be settled by Europeans, but it also sustains a people and a culture tens of thousands of years old. For much of the past 225 years the newcomers have sought to replace the old with the new. This book tells how they imposed themselves on the land, and describes how they brought technology, institutions and ideas to make it their own. It relates the advance from a penal colony to a prosperous free country and illustrates how, in a nation created by waves of newcomers, the search for binding traditions has long been accompanied by the feeling of rootlessness.

The fourth edition incorporates the far-reaching effects of an export and investment boom in the early years of the twenty-first century that lifted Australia to unprecedented prosperity. The sale of minerals and energy enabled the economy to withstand the global financial crisis of 2007–08 but there was no agreement on how the wealth was to be managed and its benefits distributed. The book describes a continuing search for solutions to climate change, the unauthorised arrival of refugees, Indigenous disadvantage and generational change.

**Stuart Macintyre** is an Emeritus Laureate Professor of the University of Melbourne. From 1999 to 2006 he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and he has served as president of the Australian Historical Association and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. His books include *The Oxford History of Australia, Volume 4* (1986), *The History Wars* (2003) and, most recently, *Australia's Boldest Experiment: War and Reconstruction in the 1940s* (2015). With Alison Bashford he edited the *Cambridge History of Australia* (2013).

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition

Stuart Macintyre

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## CAMBRIDGE CONCISE HISTORIES

This is a series of illustrated 'concise histories' of selected individual countries, intended both as university and college textbooks and as general historical introductions for general readers, travellers and members of the business community.

*For a list of titles in the series, see end of book.*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition

Stuart Macintyre

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# *A Concise History of Australia*

*Fourth Edition*

STUART MACINTYRE



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition  
 Stuart Macintyre  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107562431](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107562431)

© Stuart Macintyre 2016

This publication is copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1999  
 Second edition 2004  
 Third edition 2009  
 Reprinted 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015  
 Fourth edition 2016

Cover designed by Adrian Saunders  
 Typeset by Integra Software Services Pvt. Ltd.  
 Printed in Singapore by Markono Print Media Pte Ltd

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*A Cataloguing-in-Publication entry is available from the catalogue of the National Library of Australia at [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)*

ISBN 978-1-107-56243-1 Paperback

### Reproduction and communication for educational purposes

The Australian *Copyright Act 1968* (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or 10% of the pages of this work, whichever is the greater, to be reproduced and/or communicated by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution (or the body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.

For details of the CAL licence for educational institutions contact:

Copyright Agency Limited  
 Level 15, 233 Castlereagh Street  
 Sydney NSW 2000  
 Telephone: (02) 9394 7600  
 Facsimile: (02) 9394 7601  
 E-mail: [info@copyright.com.au](mailto:info@copyright.com.au)

### Reproduction and communication for other purposes

Except as permitted under the Act (for example a fair dealing for the purposes of study, research, criticism or review) no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, communicated or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All inquiries should be made to the publisher at the address above.

---

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

---

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respectfully advised that images of deceased persons appear in this book and may cause distress.*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition

Stuart Macintyre

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*For my daughters  
MARY AND JESSIE  
this is also their history*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition

Stuart Macintyre

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
1 Beginnings	1
2 Newcomers, c. 1600–1792	17
3 Coercion, 1793–1821	37
4 Conquest, 1822–1850	56
5 Progress, 1851–1888	89
6 Reconstruction, 1889–1913	125
7 Sacrifice, 1914–1945	160
8 Golden age, 1946–1975	204
9 Rectification, 1976–1996	248
10 Outcomes, 1997–2015	283
<i>Sources of quotations</i>	323
<i>Guide to further reading</i>	343
<i>Index</i>	357

## ILLUSTRATIONS

2.1	Aborigines in canoes	<i>page</i> 26
2.2	An Aboriginal woman	26
2.3	The ascension of Captain Cook	27
3.1	Two Aboriginal warriors	43
3.2	Rum Rebellion	49
3.3	Bungaree	53
4.1	Violence on the frontier	65
4.2	Governor Arthur's Proclamation to the Aborigines	66
4.3	George Robinson's Conciliation of the Aborigines of Van Diemen's Land	68
4.4	Aborigines in Sydney, 1839	71
4.5	Colonial redemption	78
4.6	Colonial arcady	79
5.1	A group of diggers	91
5.2	Aboriginal ceremony	110
5.3	Shearers	113
5.4	News from home	116
5.5	The Exhibition building, Melbourne, 1880	122
6.1	The Maritime Strike	127
6.2	Henry Lawson	130
6.3	Edmund Barton and Alfred Deakin	140
6.4	Native symbols	152
7.1	Billy Hughes	170
7.2	An improvised dwelling in the Depression	184
7.3	Aboriginal Day of Mourning, 1938	191



Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition

Stuart Macintyre

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*List of illustrations*

ix

7.4	Douglas MacArthur and John Curtin	197
7.5	Kokoda Track	199
8.1	Bonegilla migrant reception centre, 1949	208
8.2	Ben Chifley, Clement Attlee and H. V. Evatt	210
8.3	Robert Menzies pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth	217
8.4	Evdokia Petrova in Soviet custody, 1954	222
8.5	The triumph of the supermarket	226
8.6	Sydney teenagers, 1956	229
8.7	Aboriginal children, Northern Territory	232
8.8	The surf lifesaver	234
8.9	Lyndon Baines Johnson and Harold Holt	236
9.1	Malcolm Fraser	249
9.2	Bob Hawke	265
9.3	Paul Keating	271
9.4	Save the Franklin River	274
9.5	Qantas in Aboriginal livery	276
10.1	The maritime dispute	287
10.2	Children overboard	297
10.3	John Howard	299
10.4	Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard	309
10.5	Sunrise Dam Gold Mine	311
10.6	Tony Abbott	315
10.7	The city of Wyndham	320

## MAPS

1.1	Australia: the main rivers, cities and towns	xii
1.2	Sunda and Sahul	8
1.3	Aboriginal Australia, showing location of groups	14
2.1	Australia and the region	23
4.1	Land exploration	59
5.1	Boundaries of states and territories	99

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is part of a series of national histories published for an international readership, and successive editions have been translated into a number of foreign languages. The opportunity to explain Australia and its history to non-Australians was compelling, though when the book first appeared I became aware of the contrasting expectations of Australian readers. They look for familiar events and actors for both orientation and reassurance that this is indeed an account of their past. The overseas reader, on the other hand, has little familiarity with such local lore, and a narrative composed of it is unlikely to assist those who do not hold any prior knowledge. In subsequent revisions I have therefore provided more of these signposts while endeavouring to paint a broadbrush picture in which the detail is subordinated to the distinctive features.

A similar quandary arises from the different uses of this book. Those using it as textbook to teach Australian history expect it to encompass the principal fields of research, while other readers who feel strongly about particular causes take the amount of attention accorded them as an index of sympathies. Such weighing of proportions is inevitable, and I am aware that my emphases are indeed indicative of my own understanding and inclinations. My purpose, however, has been to present a narrative that explains why its component parts have a place in the national story and how they continue to generate discussion. I have tried to set Australian history in the context of global and regional history and to draw out comparisons with other parts of the world. This approach is

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-56243-1 - A Concise History of Australia: Fourth Edition

Stuart Macintyre

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgements*

xi

intended to serve the overseas reader who perhaps has a mental image of the Australian landscape, its flora and fauna, but is dependent on a media coverage that sheds little light on the patterns of national life. I also have in mind the visitor who encounters the local practices but finds their logic difficult to follow. I hope the book assists these readers to understand what they see and hear by providing an account of how it came to be.

My predecessor as professor of history at the University of Melbourne wrote 100 years ago in his *Short History of Australia* that 'historical events, like mountain ranges, can best be surveyed as a whole by an observer who is placed at a good distance from them'. In preparing this edition I have taken the opportunity to look again at events that have now receded from the foreground and bring more clarity into the account of contemporary developments.

A concise history is necessarily dependent on a very large body of historical scholarship, and in earlier editions I acknowledged the assistance of many friends and colleagues. I have now accumulated so many layers of guidance that it would be invidious to attempt to list all my obligations. In preparing to write this edition I benefited particularly from working with Alison Bashford on the *Cambridge History of Australia* and the nearly seventy scholars who contributed chapters to it. As before, I have learned from the undergraduates I teach and the postgraduates with whom I work, not least for sharing the questions that exercise them and the approaches to Australian history that catch their imagination.

I dedicated the first edition of the book to my two daughters Mary and Jessie, born in England, raised in Australia, who too often had their father play the pedagogue and all along were instructing him in their interests and concerns. They now live in Vancouver and Melbourne, and their children, Xuan and Tai, Rory and Hamish, in turn give me additional insights into the interplay of then and now. My wife Martha always helps me gain a better understanding of these exchanges, as well as subjects beyond Australian history.

Stuart Macintyre

February 2015



Map 1.1 Australia: the main rivers, cities and towns