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# A Brief History of Australia

Dear Family and Friends!

This month marks another milestone in my journey from Papua New Guinea to Australia. I have been officially approved to work long term with Mission to the World and have been cleared to begin full-time support raising. I am currently at about 30% of my support goal and once 100% has been pledged, I can move to Perth. The goal is early November 2013 but in the meantime I am working hard and continuing to learn about Australia. Here is a very brief history of Australia compiled from online sources and a couple of books.

The first Australians arrived at least 50,000 years ago, they came in small boats or by foot. Since the sea level was as much as 400 feet lower, it would have been possible for some people to have walked from New Guinea to Australia.

The aboriginal people lived in communion with the land and when the sea levels rose they found themselves in isolation on the vast continent. 250 people groups, each with their own language, lived across Australia in climates varying from harsh desert to lush tropical forests only connected by their concept of Dreamtime (their pattern for life and spirituality). Europeans were exploring the coast but the aboriginal people were left relatively undisturbed until 1788.

These first European arrivals to settle in Australia were convicts and their guards. Because the American's declared their independence, the British now needed a new place to ship their criminals. Over the next 100 years 160,000 convicts found their way to their new home, Australia.

Other non-convict settlers began coming to Australia as well, but the climate was harsh and the men highly outnumbered the women. However in 1851, just two years after California, Australia had it's own gold rush. Gold and wool made Sydney and Melbourne into wealthy, modern cities.

On New Years Day in 1901 Australia's 6 states joined together to become a nation. Not long after, World War I and World War II provided formative times for this new country. And the post-war boom kept attracting people from all over the world.

But the shift from 'white' Australia wasn't quick or easy. Aboriginals did not receive recognition as citizens until 1967. Now Australia is a multicultural nation with citizens from around 200 different nationalities. Aussie's love their sport, their beer, they work hard and they play hard.

**Contact Joy!**

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I am looking forward to sharing more about Aussie history, life and culture with you.

*Joy Candee:-)*