

THE WILD COLONIAL BOYS

AUSTRALIA'S MOST NOTORIOUS BUSHRANGERS

By Paula Hunt

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Wild Colonial Boys explores the three eras of Australian bushrangers. Detailed biographies provide information on the crimes and motives of these men and their accomplices. The book covers topics such as white settlement, punishment, convict life, Aboriginal and white relations, the gold rush, the Eureka Stockade, depression in the 1800s and Federation. The text raises important discussion questions about the social impact of a harsh justice system. Engaging content coupled with an accessible format make this text appropriate for upper primary and lower secondary students.

CONTENTS

Introduction

Map of Australia

The Bolters

John 'Black' Caesar

Michael Howe

Musquito

Alexander Pearce

Matthew Brady

'Bold' Jack Donohoe

William 'Jackey-Jackey' Westwood

Martin Cash

Local Outlaws

John Peisley

Frank 'Darkie' Gardiner

Ben Hall

Daniel 'Mad Dan' Morgan

Thomas and John Clarke

Fred Ward 'Captain Thunderbolt'

The Last Stand

Andrew Scott 'Captain Moonlight'

Ned Kelly

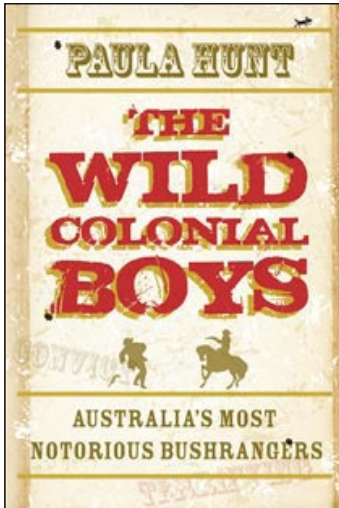
Jimmy Governor

References

Acknowledgements

Glossary

Index



CURRICULUM TOPICS

Eighteenth century Britain
Eighteenth century Ireland
The First Fleet
Early colonial life
Crime and Punishment
Convict life
Bushrangers
Women in the colonies
The gold rush
The Eureka Stockade
Indigenous Australians (Blacktrackers, The Black War, the impact of white settlement)
Early communication and transport systems
Depression (1890)
John Batman and Port Phillip settlement
Melbourne in the 1870s
Sydney in the 1870s

HUMANITIES

CONVICT DIARY

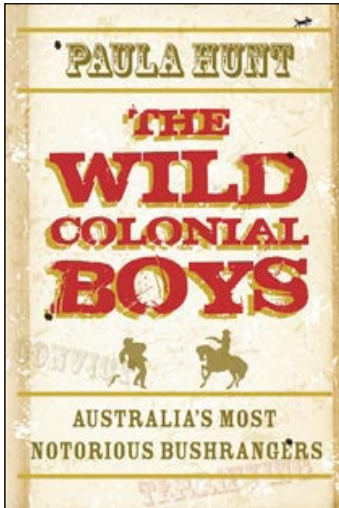
Imagine that you are a convict who has been sent to Australia on the First Fleet.

- Create the diary of this convict. Record entries when directed to in the activities.
- Remember to write in the first person. Pretend that you are the convict!
- At the completion of these activities you will have a record of your experiences in a new land.

Use the information in *The Wild Colonial Boys* and on the 'First Fleet' website (<http://firstfleet.uow.edu.au>) to complete a character chart of your convict.

Convict Character Chart

Name :
Age :
Gender :
Crime(s) :
Punishment :
Family Members :



CONVICT DIARY ENTRY ONE

Write a paragraph outlining some basic biographical details of your life in England.

BRITAIN

On page 4 we learn that in 1788 Britain's prisons were overflowing.

- Research city life in England at this time. Give three reasons for the high crime rate.
- Research British prisons in 1788. Give three facts about conditions for prisoners.
- What were prison hulks? What were the living conditions like in these places?

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY TWO

Write a paragraph describing your crime, capture and arrest.

THE FIRST FLEET

The first eleven ships sent to Australia from England are known as the First Fleet.

- Name the ships in this fleet.
- On what date did the First Fleet leave England?
- What were the conditions like aboard the ships?
- What problems might these conditions have caused?
- What stops did the First Fleet make on the way to Australia?
- On what date did the First Fleet stop at Botany Bay?
- The First Fleet did not stop permanently in Botany Bay. Why not?

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY THREE

Write a paragraph describing your first night aboard ship.

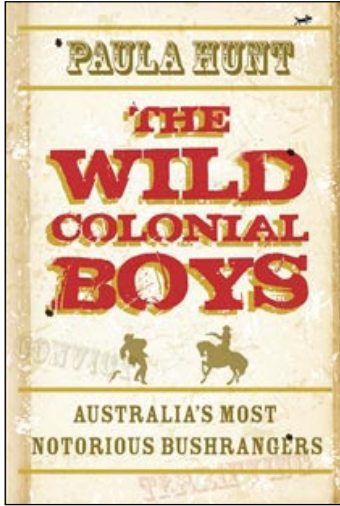
PENAL SETTLEMENTS

Convicted criminals were sent to Australia's penal colonies.

- Draw a map of Australia. Mark in the states, territories and capital cities.
- Include a border, title, northing, key and scale on your map.
- Mark in the penal settlements on your map.

Use the text to complete the table on Australia's penal colonies.

NAME	LOCATION	CONDITIONS
Cockatoo Island		
Port Arthur		
Macquarie Harbour		
Norfolk Island		



PUNISHMENTS

Prisoners were given very harsh punishments. Some of these are mentioned on pages 8 and 9 of the text.

- Make a list of these punishments.
- Read the description of Norfolk Island by Bishop Ullathorne on page 8. As a class, discuss why his comments are surprising.
- Read 'The Convicts Rum Song' on page 9. Why was rum so highly valued by the convicts?
- As a class, discuss reasons why the punishments were so severe.
- In Australia today, one of the purposes of punishing people is to rehabilitate them.

What does this mean?

- What was the purpose of punishment at the time of settlement?

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY FOUR

Write a paragraph describing a time when you were punished. (Remember to write from the point-of-view of your convict!)

UNPAID SERVANTS

Not all convicts lived in penal settlements. Some were given to settlers as unpaid servants.

- Make a list of tasks that convicts performed.

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY FIVE

Write a paragraph describing your living and working conditions.

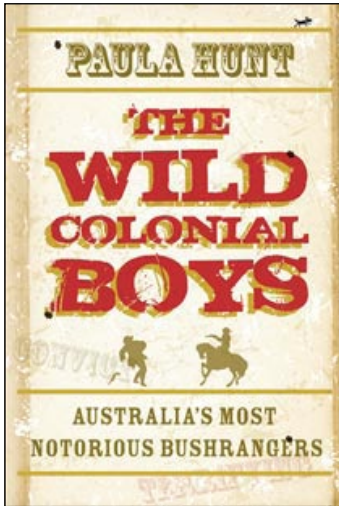
BUSHRANGERS - REBELS OR CRIMINALS?

On page 5 of the text we read that many bushrangers were rebelling against unfair and unjust authorities, some were larrikins and some were depraved criminals.

Use the text to complete the table below.

Bushranger	Era of Bushranging	Crimes	Reasons for Crimes	Capture

- As a class discuss ways other than severe punishment that may have lessened the number of bushrangers.



CONVICT DIARY ENTRY SIX

Write a paragraph describing one bushranger in the era of 'The Bolters'.

DIET

On page 11 the weekly rations for a man in 1788 are outlined.

- What health problems would have arisen for the men and women in the colonies?

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY SEVEN

Outline a daily menu plan. (You might add in some foods that you have stolen!)

TICKET-OF-LEAVE

- Use the text's glossary to give a definition of a 'ticket-of-leave'.

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY EIGHT

Imagine that you have received a ticket-of-leave. Write a paragraph describing why this was given to you.

THE GOLD RUSH

Many people came to Australia looking for gold.

- Mark three goldfields on your map of Australia
- Find two pictures to illustrate daily life on the goldfields.
- Describe two problems that the miners faced.

THE EUREKA STOCKADE

Research the Eureka Stockade and answer the questions below.

- Why was there tension between the police and the diggers?
- What is the significance of the Eureka flag?
- Go to 'The Eureka Centre' website at <http://www.eurekaballarat.com/> Take the quiz to test your knowledge of this rebellion.

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY NINE

Write a paragraph describing the Eureka Stockade.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

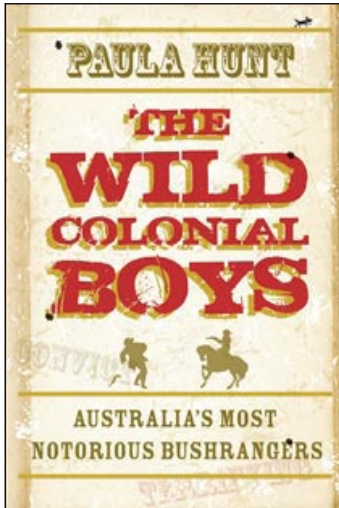
Bushrangers Musquito and Black Jack were active during a time known as the Black War in Van Diemen's Land.

- Create a timeline to mark the important events of this war. Present it in the same format as the one in the text.

NED KELLY

Ned Kelly is one of Australia's most famous bushrangers.

- Use the text and at least one other source to create a biography of Ned Kelly.
- Discuss as a class reasons why Ned Kelly has become such a famous bushranger.



CONVICT DIARY ENTRY TEN

Write a newspaper article about the siege at Glenrowan. Paste this into your convict diary.

JOHN BATMAN

On page 19 we learn that John Batman is one of the founders of Melbourne.

- Create a timeline of this man's life.

SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE IN THE 1870S

On page 42 we learn about Melbourne and Sydney in the 1870s. Choose one of these cities and find out some facts about life in this time. Create a power point presentation of your findings. Some possible areas for research could include:

- Sport
- Entertainment
- Fashion
- Economy
- Communication and travel

SCIENCE

NATIVE ANIMALS

On page 8 we read that the Australian bush wasn't like the green pastures of England.

- Research one animal that is native to Australia.
- Take notes on appearance, breeding habits, diet and habitat.

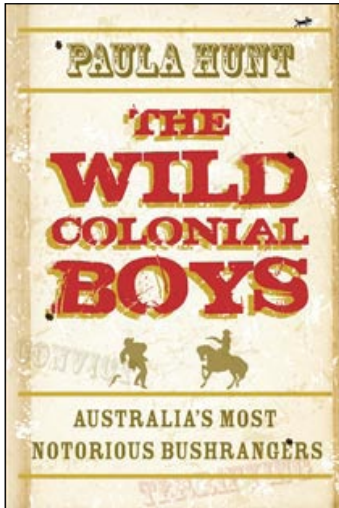
NATIVE PLANTS

Research one plant that is native to Australia.

- Find out the areas where it is found in Australia, how it is propagated, and the conditions it needs to grow.

CONVICT DIARY ENTRY ELEVEN

Draw a picture of your chosen animal and plant into your convict diary. Write a paragraph contrasting the Australian landscape with England's countryside.



ENGLISH

READING AND WRITING

Choose one bushranger from the book.

- Write a letter explaining his reasons for breaking the law.
- Remember to use some words from the glossary to make your piece sound authentic.

In 1870 Martin Cash wrote his life story.

- Create the table of contents for his book, listing chapter headings that summarise his life.
- Write the blurb of his book and design a front cover.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

On page 21 we learn about 'Bold' Jack Donohoe, also known as Jack Doolan.

- Listen to the song The Wild Colonial Boy.
- As a class, discuss things that you have learnt about Australia and Jack Donohoe.

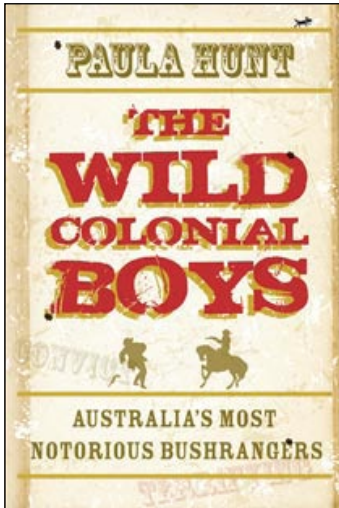
Read The Drover's Wife by Henry Lawson.

- Discuss what you learn about life for women in the Australian bush in the 1800s.

BOOK FEATURES AND FORMAT

The Wild Colonial Boys has many features that are important in factual texts:

- Table of Contents (note the headings and subheadings)
 - Photographs, illustrations and maps
 - Break-out boxes (information inside a box)
 - Timelines
 - Page numbers
 - References (Select Bibliography, Internet Resources and Picture Sources)
 - Glossary
 - Index
1. Locate each of the above features in the book.
 2. What sort of information is included in the break-out boxes?
 3. Why use boxes to highlight this information?
 4. List some features of this book's index that make it clear and well organised.



VISUAL LITERACY

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Choose one photograph and list three things you have learnt from it.
- What is your favourite photograph? Explain your choice.

CREATIVE ARTS

The Wild Colonial Boys contains many paintings of life in Australia at the time of settlement.

- Go to the 'Art Gallery of NSW' website at <http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/ed/myvirtualgallery>
- Create your own virtual gallery of paintings created during the eras covered in the text.

On page 18 we read that Governor Arthur posted a reward for the bushranger Matthew Brady.

- Draw the reward poster.

CONVICT DIARY FINAL ENTRY

Write one final entry into your convict diary reflecting on your time in Australia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paula Hunt is author of *Shirtfront*: a short and amazing history of Aussie Rules and co-authored *Mongrel Punts* and *Hard Ball Gets*: an A-Z of footy speak with Glenn Manton. As 'Jezza Bella' she writes a weekly column about the Carlton Footy Club in *The Melbourne Times* and during the week she works at the home of Aussie Rules football, the MCG, where she can sometimes be seen running her fingers through the hallowed turf.