



Australia

Founder member of the Commonwealth 1931 - visited by the Queen in 2011



Australia is a large island nation laying between the Indian and Pacific Oceans

Pop: (2013) 23,343,000 Capital: Canberra Area: 7,682,395 sq km

Australia was a founder member of the Commonwealth in 1931. It is a developed and prosperous country known for its minerals, farming and tourism. Tropical rainforest is found in the north but the east and south-east enjoy a more temperate climate. However, most of the interior suffers from desertification with soil erosion and bush fires on-going concerns. Many animal species are unique to Australia such as the kangaroo and the fearsome cassowary. The Great Barrier Reef, the largest in the world at over 2,000 km in length, is gradually being eroded by shipping and tourism. Despite this, it has been voted one of the seven wonders of the natural world.

The rights of the indigenous population, the Aborigines, are now far more respected today.

Uluru, a sacred Aboriginal site in the Northern Territory, is a World Heritage Site

