

高等学校语言与文化阅读教材



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大学英语立体化网络化系列教材·拓展课程教材

澳大利亚社会与文化

Introducing Australian Society and Culture

张 华 ◎编著

David Carter ◎审阅



北京大学出版社
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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序

北京大学澳大利亚研究中心自 1996 年成立以来,一直将为全校本科生开设有关澳大利亚介绍的课程作为主要目标之一。

所设课程最初为“澳大利亚概况”。授课者除英语系所聘的澳大利亚专家外,有校内外教师和科研人员多人。如 2002 年秋季学期,有澳大利亚使馆的政务参赞和文化参赞,北京大学有英语系的胡壮麟教授、刘树森教授、周金福副教授、苏勇副教授和国际政治系的贾庆国教授,中国社科院的韩锋研究员,人民大学的张勇先教授等。使用的是专家编写的内部发行教材《澳大利亚概况》。

经过多年的摸索,2009 年春,北京大学教务部批准开设了“澳大利亚社会与文化”(Introducing Australian Society and Culture)全校性英语专题课。授课教师为英语系的张华副教授。关于开设这门课程的目的、内容和效果,张华老师在前言中有专门介绍,这里不再重复。我想说的是为开设上述课程,张华老师克服种种困难编写了本教材《澳大利亚社会与文化》,由北京大学出版社正式出版。这标志着我们在澳大利亚课程建设和教材建设上的一个重大突破。

张华老师在 2000 至 2003 年曾担任北京大学澳大利亚研究中心的秘书,帮助我做了不少管理、联络和组织工作。我永远难忘我们两人曾经为中心经费匮乏和任务繁多而苦恼的那些岁月。尽管如此,张华老师在工作中的业绩是突出的。2002 年 11 月,她曾组织和带领学生参加由澳大利亚使馆和人民大学主持的第二届澳大利亚知识竞赛,为学校获得一等奖。她本人重视科学研究,2000 年 10 月 29 日—11 月 2 日在西安外国语学院主持召开的第七届中国澳大利亚研究国际研讨会上,她宣读了论文“Analysis on the Failure of Australian Republic Referendum 1999”,此论文选入会议论文集《中澳合作的新篇章》(A New Chapter of Sino-Australian Cooperation)(杜瑞清主编,西安交通大学出版社,2005 年 8 月)。最令人感动的是,北京大学澳大利亚研究中心有多次机会推选教师和学生去澳大利亚考察和进修,她总是把机会让给他人,没有向中心提出特殊要求。正因为如此,中心在讨论 2009—2010 年澳中理事会研究基金的申报时,坚决推荐她去澳大利亚昆士兰大学实地考察,收集材料,进行学术交流。2010 年 8 月 12 日—26 日她去昆士兰大学的英语、媒体研究和艺术史等学院访问,特别是在基金负责人 David Carter 教授的亲自指导下讨论了本书的编写提纲,使本书得以更好地完成。

作为中心主任,我感谢澳中理事会(Australia-China Council)对张华老师的考察提供经费支持,也为本教材的出版提供了2009—2010年度研究基金的支持。

最后,感谢北京大学出版社在2010年8月通过了此课程教材的出版计划。

北京大学澳大利亚中心主任

胡壮麟

2011年1月15日

前言

《澳大利亚社会与文化》(Introducing Australian Society and Culture)是中国高等院校非英语专业大学生在完成国家教委规定的大学英语四级学习后的一本英语拓展课程教材。它比较全面地从澳大利亚土著人历史、澳大利亚国家的建立、本国的地理、政治、经济、文化、文学、传媒、电影工业以及体育等领域来介绍这个由多元文化建构起来的国家。澳大利亚位于亚洲—太平洋地区,它的地理位置决定了它在未来世界政治、经济和外交等方面的重要作用。因此,认识澳大利亚这样一个国家,是构建21世纪青年学生跨学科知识框架中不可缺少的一部分。深层次地了解澳大利亚的文化、政治和经济,可以帮助学生学习和分享澳大利亚的多元文化成果,为日后从事跨学科研究积累知识和经验。

2009年春,北京大学教务部批准开设了“澳大利亚社会与文化”全校性英语专题课。在开课的两年中,学生们通过“澳大利亚社会与文化”这个窗口,了解了当代澳大利亚多元的社会文化形态,拓宽了文化视野并在此基础上建构了对澳大利亚多元文化的认同,对这个国家的兴趣和理解延伸了。

罗劼,05级光华管理学院的学生,课上曾为同学们做了澳大利亚高等教育管理模式的口头报告。出于对澳大利亚高等教育的认识,她放弃了去美国大学发展的计划,把自己研究生的学习方向转向澳大利亚的大学。2009年秋季她成为昆士兰大学商学院亚洲地区唯一一位全额奖学金获得者。由于她在昆大的优异表现,2010年5月被布里斯班市政厅(Brisbane City Council)授予“布里斯班国际学生大使”称号。马麟,07级环境学院的学生,课上为同学们做了他研究课题的口头报告《两种生物间的寄生关系在控制澳大利亚过度繁殖仙人掌中的应用》。在他专业教授的推荐下,他荣获了2009—2010学年度北京大学校长研究基金。董颖,08级城市与环境学院学生,参加了2009—2010年跨学科挑战杯“北京大学留学生跨文化适应问题研究——以澳大利亚留学生为例”,从人文地理学和社会心理学的双重视角,分析了澳大利亚留学生的语言适应、学业适应、人际互动适应、心理适应、社会生活环境适应等多个方面的状况及其影响因素,为高校留学生教育和管理提供科学依据。该挑战杯获得年度跨学科竞赛二等奖。

对澳大利亚生态环境的学习在课程教学安排中持续两周。在这两周中学生们自发组织成研究小组,对澳大利亚生物多样性、有袋动物进化的滞后、政府环保措施的周密性、考拉州际保护法规的差异性、澳大利亚人的环保理念、中小学环境教学分析等等问题搜集资料,在课上汇报研究成果。在2009年8月第三届国际生态文学与环境教育:亚

洲跨文化论坛上,编者将学生们对澳大利亚生态环境的讨论做了一个总结发言,受到与会生态学者的高度赞扬和广泛好评。他们认为北京大学学生的视野跨出了自己国界,已经关注到别的国家生态环境,而且对生态文化有着深刻、独到的思考。

2010年5月,2009—2010学年第二学期选课的学生与北京大学影视协会联合策划组织了“第一届北京大学澳大利亚电影展映周”。电影周7部影片向青年学子们展示了澳大利亚社会历史文化的发展和变迁。2009年9月“澳大利亚社会与文化”课荣获北京大学第二届网络课程大赛三等奖。此课程开课的两年间,在深入研究澳大利亚社会与文化方面获得了可喜的社会效益。在全球化的语境背景下,此课程已经帮助学生认识到了21世纪的澳大利亚在世界和亚太地区发展的潜力。

2010年8月北京大学出版社通过了此课程的教材出版计划。同年,教材的出版得到了澳中理事会(Australia-China Council)2009—2010年度研究基金的支持。

《澳大利亚社会与文化》共分八章,每章展示一个主题,分别为地理与生态环境、土著人与澳大利亚历史、政治与经济、教育与澳大利亚高等教育国际化、传媒与电影工业、多元文化、文学、娱乐与体育。每章由三个部分组成:对主题的介绍、反映这一主题的阅读选文、选文注释以及练习。本教材有以下几个特点。第一,选文新颖,客观。侧重评论分析,而不是一般性的知识介绍。第二,选文体现语言深度和难度,为学生日后做专业阅读打下基础。第三,选文在本书出版前作为学生课上的阅读教材,使用过四次且反应很好。第四,选文注释细致,具有知识的普及性。第五,练习紧扣选文并附有参考答案,以帮助读者在阅读原文后,为检查自己理解准确性提供了方便。第六,教材的每个主题介绍和选文后面都配有详细的词汇表,有助于读者更容易在阅读过程中查找单词和了解词义。

《澳大利亚社会与文化》共选了九篇文章作为学生了解澳大利亚社会和历史文化的阅读材料。九篇选文得到作者以及原出版商的认可。许多作者主动提供了大量的参考背景资料,他们希望有更多的中国读者充分了解和认识澳大利亚。澳中理事会主任 David Carter 教授阅读全书,提出了宝贵的建议。澳中理事会工作人员 Marilyn Barton 为编者在昆士兰大学(The University of Queensland)搜集资料提供了技术帮助。在教材编写过程中昆士兰大学文学院 Richard Fotheringham 教授, Patricia Robinson 教授, Olga Chaourova 教授以及陈平教授都给予了极大的关注。澳籍资深语言教师 Sally Lewis 参与了教材的选文、练习编写并做了大量的校对工作。北京大学外国语学院澳大利亚研究中心主任胡壮麟教授学术缠身之余亲自为教材作序。北京大学出版社黄瑞明老师在整个教材的编写过程中,耐心、细致和严谨的治学态度保证了教材出版的质量。编者在此一一表示诚挚的感谢。

编者

2010年12月30日

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Chapter 1

Geography and ecological environment

1.1 Overview: An old continent and a unique environment

Australia is a continent situated on the Indo-Australian Plate. The geology of Australia includes virtually all known rock types. All geological time periods span over 3.8 billion years of the Earth's history. The evolution of Australian continent provides rich mineral resources, wonder landscapes, and unique ecological diversity.

1.1.1 Geographical features

Australia is located in Oceania, lying between the Indian and Pacific oceans, southeast of Asia. On the North, it is adjoined by the Timor Sea, the Arafura Sea, and the Torres Strait. The Coral Sea and the Tasman Sea border on the East. On the South it touches the Bass Strait and the Indian Ocean. On the West it is by the Indian Ocean. Neighboring countries include Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea to the north, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the French dependency of New Caledonia to the northeast, and New Zealand to the southeast.

In area, Australia is the 6th largest nation after Russia, Canada, China, the United States and Brazil. It is the only nation that occupies an entire continent. Mainland Australia is the Earth's largest island but smallest continent. At the same time, it is one of the oldest landmasses and the flattest of the continents. The Australian landscape is distinctive and varied. It comprises three major structures: the Western Plateau, the Central Lowlands and the Eastern Highlands.

The Western Plateau is characterized by a series of plateaux, which also take up nearly two-thirds of Australia. In fact the plateaux have an average elevation between 300 and 600 meters, with ranges, basins, and rocks below. Much of the

Western Plateau is relatively flat. Uluru (formerly known as Ayers Rock) is probably the best known.

The Central Lowlands consist mainly of great sedimentary basins lying to the east of the Western Plateau. Most of this area is flat and low-lying. Much of the Central Lowlands is occupied by the Great Artesian Basin, which is made up of sedimentary rocks. It is full of water that drains into the wetter Eastern Highlands.

The Eastern Highlands are shaped by a steep escarpment over much of their length on the coastal side. This escarpment is a series of high plateaus with more gentle slopes towards the interior. The coastal escarpment is more prominent along much of the New South Wales and southern Queensland coast, and along the more isolated ranges further north, such as those around Cairns. Australia's highest waterfalls occur where rivers flow over this escarpment. A coastal strip between the escarpment and the coast is flat but quite hilly in many places (Zhang Xianping, 2007: 4—6).

The Great Dividing Range, or Eastern Australian mountain range is Australia's most substantial mountain range and the 4th longest in the world. The Great Dividing Range separates rivers flowing to central Australia or the Murray-Darling Basin from those flowing to the Pacific Ocean or Bass Strait, and so it is one of the few areas of high land in Australia, which is otherwise dry, barren, flat, and sparsely populated. Because of the dry conditions of the central parts, Australia has one of the most urbanized and coast-dwelling populations in the world. More than 80 per cent of Australians live the coast.

1.1.2 Rivers and lakes

Australia's rivers form three groups: the coastal systems, the Murray Darling System and the internal drainage of central Australia. Many of the coastal rivers have long estuaries where the rising sea-level has penetrated far into the land. The Murray and Darling rivers are the two longest river systems and they form the Murray-Darling Basin, which covers more than one million square kilometers—14 per cent of the mainland. The Murray-Darling river system is 3370 kilometres long, about half the length of the world's longest river, the Nile. The central plains region known as the Channel Country is interlaced by a network of rivers. During the rainy season these rivers flood the low-lying countryside, but in dry months they become a series of water holes.

There are many lake types in Australia. The largest are salt lakes which are drainage sumps of internal rivers. For most of the time these lakes are beds of

salt and dry mud. Lake Eyre is the largest of these lakes. It is famous for being the saltiest lake in Australia. Lake Eyre is on the border of South Australia. The lake protects an important desert wilderness. Some Australian animals drink the salty water without being harmed.

1.1.3 The climate

The climate of Australia, in general, is warm and dry. Winters are mild and summers warm to hot. Seasons are the reverse of those in the Northern Hemisphere. The island continent features a wide range of climate zones, from the tropical regions of the north, through the arid expanses of the interior, to the temperate regions of the south. Australia is the world's second-driest continent after Antarctica. In most parts of the country summers are hot. Winters are warm in the north and cooler in the south. Temperature differences between winter and summer vary the least in tropical Australia. All regions in Australia enjoy warm summers and relatively mild winters.

1.1.4 States and territories

Australia consists of six states and two territories.

Table 1 States and Territories

State/Territory	Abbreviation	Capital
New South Wales	NSW	Sydney
Victoria	VIC	Melbourne
Queensland	QLD	Brisbane
South Australia	SA	Adelaide
West Australia	WA	Perth
Tasmania	TAS	Hobart
the Northern Territory	NT	Darwin
the Australian Capital Territory	ACT	Canberra

Australia also administers Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, the Cocos (or Keeling) Islands, the Coral Sea Islands, Heard and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island and the Australian Antarctic Territory as external territories (Wang Zhijin, 2004: 10).

1.1.5 Ecological environment

Australia's geological history has made for a wide range of landscapes, climate, plants and animals found on earth and Australia contains the world's most bio-diverse ecosystems. A richly diverse geology provides a wide range of

minerals such as bauxite, coal, iron, ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, natural gas, and petroleum. These natural resources are what the economic development depends on.

1.1.5.1 Plants

Australia has been isolated for thousands of years and plants have been able to develop independently to suit the harsh and arid natural conditions. There are four types of vegetation in Australia: open and closed forests; woodland and grassland; scrub, and deserts as well. Evergreen, vegetation ranges from the dense bushland and eucalyptus forests of the coast to the mulga and mallee scrub and saltbush of the inland plains. In general, the plants can be divided into two types: one is the unique flora as the result of long period of isolation and the other is the tropical plants originating in Asia which arrived in the continent via land bridges. The native flora of Australia is the most diverse and varied in the world, growing in tropical, rainforest, stony inland deserts, and sandy heath lands. Golden wattles are Australian's national flowers.

1.1.5.2 Animals

Forty million years of isolation from other major landmasses have given Australia a collection of flora and fauna that is unique to the rest of the world. The diverse conditions of the region have contributed to the evolution of creatures and mammals with rare characteristics. Australia has rich types of animals.

The native groups include marsupials and monotremes. There are more than 140 species of marsupials, such as kangaroo and the koala. Kangaroos are the typical of the marsupials, for most of them are herbivorous. The koala is a tree-dwelling marsupial. It spends most of its life in trees. The monotremes are egg-laying mammals. The most distinctive is the platypus and echidna. They inhabit Australia's eastern watercourses where they can find food in the water and mud.

Exotic groups were introduced to Australia by British people for game purposes and for curiosity's sake, for example, rabbits. Now some of new animals have created new industries, like sheep, and others came to live in the rural country.

In Australia, more than 700 birds including endemic and exotic ones are known. Besides, reptiles, amphibians and insects are rich and unique in this country.

1.1.5.3 Heritages

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australian government, there are 17 Australian properties on the World Heritage List,

which is administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

The ten properties for their outstanding natural universal values are as follows:

- (1) The Great Barrier Reef,
- (2) The Lord Howe Island Group,
- (3) Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia,
- (4) The Wet Tropics of Queensland,
- (5) Shark Bay,
- (6) Fraser Island,
- (7) The Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh/Naracoorte),
- (8) Macquarie Island,
- (9) The Greater Blue Mountains Area,
- (10) Heard and McDonald Islands.

The two following properties are known for their cultural values:

- (1) The Royal Exhibition Building,
- (2) The Sydney Opera House.

The five following properties are famous for both outstanding cultural and natural universal values:

- (1) Kakadu National Park,
 - (2) The Willandra Lakes Region,
 - (3) The Tasmanian Wilderness,
 - (4) Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park,
 - (5) Purnululu National Park.
- (World heritage properties, May 2008)

Australia ensures high quality management of its World Heritage areas through national legislation to protect these values involving strict environmental assessment process and a very high level of community and Indigenous involvement in management.

1.1.5.4 Environmental challenges

Australia is the driest continent and this presents a major challenge to its fragile environment and directly impacts on its biodiversity. The following issues are regarded as environmental challenges which Australia is facing.

First, climate change poses a particular threat to specific areas-such as Australia's mountain regions, the Great Barrier Reef, tropical rainforests, and wetland systems. Australia's economy and environment are highly susceptible to the impact of climate change. Australia's approach to climate change is based on reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the climate

change that we cannot avoid.

Secondly, Australia's soils are among the most nutrient-poor and unproductive in the world. Only around 6 percent of the Australian landmass is considered arable. Australian soils are highly dependent on vegetation cover to generate nutrients and provide stability. Water extraction and poor soil conservation are all causes of a decline in the quality of Australia's soils.

Lastly, introduced plants as biological invasion cause substantial damage to native vegetation and habitats. For one thing, cactus was introduced to Australia as an ornamental plant and was maintained in gardens for some time. Then it escaped cultivation and became established in the wild, where it found ideal physical conditions for its growth and reproduction. That formed a big headache to Australians. For another, in the past 200 years about 17 different Australian mammals have become extinct. Some Australian animals depend on a specific food or habitat, and if these disappear, the animals will not survive. Other introduced animals such as cattle, rabbits and deer eat the food needed by native animals and this has also reduced the numbers (*Australian Endangered Animals*, 1999).

In spite of facing these difficulties, the unique environment in Australia has shown something that Australians are proud of. Meanwhile, the government is trying every possible means to resolve environmental problems.

Australia is one of the world's oldest landmasses and has been populated by human beings for an estimated 60,000 years. This old continent contains the world's most ancient flowering plants and is among the world's most bio-diverse ecosystems. The importance of the natural environment tells people how the spirit of the land has infused the national character of Australian people (Xiao Yuehe & Li Youwen, 2008: 3).

New words

geology	n.	地质学	steep	a.	陡峭的
span	v.	横跨	escarpment	n.	悬崖
Oceania	n.	大洋洲	slope	n.	斜坡
adjoin	v.	邻接	waterfall	n.	瀑布
border	v.	接近	strip	n.	条,带
landmass	n.	大陆	substantial	a.	坚固的
plateau	n.	高原	barren	a.	贫瘠的
basin	n.	盆地	sparsely	ad.	稀少地
sedimentary	a.	沉积的	urbanized	a.	都市化的

estuary	<i>n.</i>	河口	rainforest	<i>n.</i>	雨林
penetrate	<i>v.</i>	渗透	fauna	<i>n.</i>	动物群
the Nile	<i>n.</i>	尼罗河	mammal	<i>n.</i>	哺乳动物
interlace	<i>v.</i>	交错	marsupial	<i>n.</i>	有袋动物
reverse	<i>a.</i>	相反的	monotreme	<i>n.</i>	单孔类动物
tropical	<i>a.</i>	热带的	kangaroo	<i>n.</i>	袋鼠
arid	<i>a.</i>	干旱的	koala	<i>n.</i>	树熊
expanse	<i>n.</i>	宽阔的地区	herbivorous	<i>a.</i>	食草的
temperate	<i>a.</i>	气候温和的	platypus	<i>n.</i>	鸭嘴兽
territory	<i>n.</i>	行政区,地域	echidna	<i>n.</i>	针鼹
ecosystem	<i>n.</i>	生态系统	watercourse	<i>n.</i>	水道
bauxite	<i>n.</i>	矾土	exotic	<i>a.</i>	外来的
ore	<i>n.</i>	矿石	endemic	<i>a.</i>	地方的
copper	<i>n.</i>	铜	reptile	<i>n.</i>	爬虫,爬行动物
tin	<i>n.</i>	锡	amphibian	<i>n.</i>	两栖动物
uranium	<i>n.</i>	铀	property	<i>n.</i>	财产
nickel	<i>n.</i>	镍	assessment	<i>n.</i>	评估
tungsten	<i>n.</i>	钨	fragile	<i>a.</i>	脆弱的
zinc	<i>n.</i>	锌	biodiversity	<i>n.</i>	生物多样性
harsh	<i>a.</i>	粗糙的	pose	<i>v.</i>	造成
vegetation	<i>n.</i>	植被	susceptible	<i>a.</i>	易受影响的
scrub	<i>n.</i>	灌木丛	emission	<i>n.</i>	散发
dense	<i>a.</i>	密集的	arable	<i>a.</i>	可耕种的
eucalyptus	<i>n.</i>	桉树	extraction	<i>n.</i>	抽出
mallee	<i>n.</i>	(澳大利亚南部生长的)小桉树	habitat	<i>n.</i>	栖息地
plain	<i>n.</i>	平原	cactus	<i>n.</i>	仙人掌
flora	<i>n.</i>	植物群	ornamental	<i>a.</i>	观赏性的
heath	<i>n.</i>	石南树	reproduction	<i>n.</i>	繁殖
wattle	<i>n.</i>	(澳大利亚)金合欢树	extinct	<i>a.</i>	灭绝的
			infuse	<i>v.</i>	灌输

Exercises

1. Explain terms.

(1) Uluru (Ayers Rock)

(2) the Great Dividing Ranging

(3) the Great Barrier Reef

(5) Lake Eyre

(4) the Murray-Darling Basin

(6) Kangaroo

2. Answer questions.

(1) What is the geographical structure of Australia?

(2) What kind of climate does Australia have?

(3) What are the most common native plants and animals in Australia?

(4) What environment challenges Australia is facing now?

3. Questions for further consideration.

(1) What are the factors and causes that affect Australia's climate?

(2) Why do Australian people prefer to live in a coastal city or town?

(3) What aspects of Australia's location, landforms and climate have aided the development of tourism in Australia?

(4) How is the natural environment of Australia different from that of Asian countries?

1.2 Reading passage: Australian lungfish, *Neocreatodus Forsteri*, threatened by a new dam

By Angela Arthington^①

(^① Angela Arthington: Professor of Australian Rivers Institute, Faculty of Environmental Science, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. "Australian lungfish, *Neocreatodus Forsteri*, threatened by a new dam" by Angela Arthington. 2009. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* [J]. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. pp. 84: 211—221.)

Introduction

Neoceratodus forsteri ^[1], commonly called the Australian or Queensland lungfish, has attracted tremendous scientific interest. Fossil records indicate that the range of *N. forsteri* extended to the centre of the Australian continent prior to the Pleistocene ^[2] but today the Australian lungfish occurs naturally only in the Burnett and Mary Rivers ^[3] in south-east Queensland, and as several self-sustaining populations descended from translocations of Burnett and Mary River stocks in the 1890s. Rivers supporting the lungfish have been modified and degraded by land clearing, forestry, grazing, agriculture, horticulture, loss and fragmentation of riparian corridors, bank erosion, gravel and sand extraction, channelization, urbanization, spread of alien plants and fish, and by river impoundment and regulation of river flows. Consequently *N. forsteri* is considered to be threatened