

The Magical Australian History Tour

MAIN CHARACTERS

Mr Woland

Megan

Mark

Olivia

HISTORICAL FIGURES

Bennelong

Alfred Deakin

Peter Lalor

Julia Gillard

Henry Parkes

Paul Keating

SETTINGS

Different places in Australia over more than 60 000 years

Megan: I can't believe we have to go to Australian History now.

Mark: It's so boring!

Olivia: New Zealand is so much more interesting.

Mr Woland: Do you really think Australian History is boring?

Mark: Where did you come from?

Megan: You must be our fill-in teacher for today. They said Ms Driscoll was sick. And yes. Australian History is boring. My dad says Australia doesn't even have a history.

Mr Woland: I am. I'm your teacher for today, Mr Woland. So there's nothing at all exciting in Australian history, eh?

Mark and Megan and Olivia: No!

Mr Woland: Well, what do you call that then?

Mark: WHAT IS THAT?

Megan: It looks like a giant wombat!

Mr Woland: That's just what it is. We've gone back in time to a bit over 60 000 years ago. What you're looking at is

diprotodon. He is the ancestor of today's wombat and the largest marsupial ever known. He's about the same size as a rhinoceros today.

Mark: How did we get here?

Olivia: Will he eat us?

Mr Woland: No, he only eats plants. But if you listen closely you can probably hear something coming up behind him. That's the marsupial lion. He might have different ideas.

Megan: Oh no! Run! Wait, they're gone. Where are we now?

Mr Woland: Now we've moved forward a long time. But we are still in the past. The giant Australian animals you saw, which we call the megafauna, are all dead and gone.

Megan: I can see people. Aboriginal people!

Mr Woland: Aboriginal people have lived in Australia for at least 60 000 years. We know now that they lived at the same time as some of the megafauna. No one really knows for sure how long they have been here. What we do know is that this makes them the largest continuing culture on the planet.