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Person to Person in Australia

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Person to Person in Australia

The laid back lifestyle of the Australian is what makes them unique, as well as a lot of fun to be around. They are outstandingly social, especially with a beer in one hand. They are all pretty friendly, and willing to lend a helping hand. This is, however, something that you find a lot of in the states as well. I think it depends a lot on the area and the attitude of the people living in that area. Each state in Australia has its own stereotype about what the people are like, much like in the states. Queenslanders are known to be very laid back and casual, while people from the Northern Territory are considered to be rather rugged, mainly because of the barrenness of the territory and the heaps of crocodiles, kangaroos, and wild pigs that live there. They are much like the Australians that one from the states might expect, such as in the movie Crocodile Dundee. Victoria and New South Whales are considered very modern and Americanized. And of the Australians I have met here, they generally follow these stereotypes. My friend from the Northern Territory told me stories about pig hunting, and wrestling the pigs to the ground. He also kills kangaroos for fun, which to me sounds terrible, but they are a real pest where he is from.

Something that really sticks out to me in Australia is their environmental consciousness. Water can be a real scarcity here, and to overcome this, they have TV ads advising conscious use of water, and the toilet flushers have the option to

use more or less water. Their view on politics seems to be much more relaxed as well. Sure, there are disagreements and political parties, but there seems to be more of a focus on what is good for the country, than a war between political parties like back in the states. They approach it in a rational way, and instead of criticizing the other side to no end, they seem to simply stand up for what they believe without extra nonsense. An example of this is the carbon tax that has been put on Australia. There is much disagreement on this, and to protest there are several ads on the TV, calmly saying why it shouldn't be, by people of all professions and ages. When asked what Australians think about American politics, they just laugh and talk about how dramatic we are, and how we should just stay out of other countries' business. I guess it is easier for them to say, without borders and rarely involved in any sort of conflict, however they do make a good point.

The interview that I conducted has really changed my views on how I view the world as a whole. I now believe that the care of the environment is just as important as the economy, and how to balance the two is a touchy subject, but can and should be done. I have seen the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest, and I have gained a new appreciation for environmental conservation, realizing that much more of the world could be as beautiful as this without so much resource depletion. I also have gained a new appreciation for culture and variety, seeing that much of Australia has been Americanized, it is a big treat to run across a very cultured Aussie.