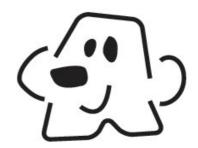
## GIGGLEIT PROJECT



## Short/Tall Story

Country: Australia

Title: Tie me kangaroo down

A **city slicker**, four wheel drive enthusiast decides to try out his vehicle and **goes bush** way out to **outback** Australia, into the Northern Territory and towards **Uluru**. He **bush-bashes** his way to the **Red Centre** where he runs out of **petrol**. He is way out in the central desert country of Australia, far from the main roads and civilization. Realizing he is not going to last very long where he is, he leaves his vehicle and starts walking to Alice Springs. However, he soon runs out of water.

As the cruel Australian sun burns down upon him, he collapses from heat exhaustion and just manages to crawl to the top of a ridge of sand dunes. Suddenly, on the horizon, he sees a man riding a kangaroo towards the dune. He waves his arms frantically and the man on the kangaroo stops. Believing he is saved, he asks the man for some water and a lift to the next town.

The man replies, "**Nope**. Don't have any water, but do you want to buy a tie?" Mystified the city slicker now begs for water and help to civilization.

"Crikey mate, I don't want a tie. I need water! Help me please!"

When he doesn't make a sale, the man on the kangaroo shakes his head at the city slicker's stupidity and bounds off into the bush.

The city slicker believes he is **done for**, when suddenly a second man on a kangaroo bounds up to him and asks if he wants to buy a tie.

"No, no, please," the city slicker begs, "just give me some water! Help me!"

"Nope. Only got ties," replies the second man on the kangaroo and he bounds off over the sand dunes.

The poor city slicker says his prayers and as the sun sets, prepares for the end. With his last ounce of energy, he crawls over several more sand dunes when he hears, very faintly, the sounds of country and western music. In the distance he sees the glow of neon lights. He painfully climbs the last sand dune, rolls down the other side and there, not too far way on a patch of flat desert plain, is a club, bursting with life, cars, people, food drink ... and water.

"At last! I'm saved! I'm saved!," he cries and scuttles down to the club on his hands and knees. "Please I beg of you, water, water!"

The doorman looks down on him, "Sorry mate. Can't let you in," he says pointing to a sign by the door. "You're not wearing a tie."

Word count: 438, including title



Author: Rhonda Cooney, Teacher Librarian, Rochedale State School QLD AUSTRALIA

## **Explanatory note**

Most clubs and hotels in Australia have a dress code or standard. This dress standard usually includes wearing shoes, a shirt and sometimes a tie. Patrons may not enter the hotel or club if they aren't dressed appropriately. Dress standards may also be found in hotels in remote locations in Australia, where you least expect to find them!

The humour in the story is about the city slicker who doesn't expect to find a dress standard in the remote outback of Australia. It is also a subtle comment on the city slicker's poor knowledge and lack of respect for the Australian outback, which can be a very unforgiving place if you are lost and stranded with no water.

Glossary of terms	
bush bashes	drives carelessly
city slicker	some one who lives in the city
crikey mate	meaning – for goodness' sake/good grief friend
done for	no hope, sure to die
going bush	going out into the country
nope	no
outback	remote areas in the middle of Australia
petrol	gas, gasoline – to run a car
red centre	middle of Australia, red desert country
Uluru	Aboriginal name for Ayer's Rock in central Australia

