

# Introduction: Sydney the Kookaburra

## MISS FUNNY FEATHERS

**Sydney:** G'day, everyone! Welcome to Kookaburra Coast! I'm Sydney, and I'm sure happy to be here. I hope you are too! *(Looks around at the audience.)* Hmm, not happy enough, it seems. I can tell from the looks on your faces that you folks need to hear a good joke! Like this one: How do bees get to school? *(Pauses.)* They take the school *buzz*! *(Laughs uncontrollably as a school bus appears.)* Oh, that's a classic!

All right, maybe we should try another one. How 'bout this one: Why do hummingbirds hum? *(Brief pause as a hummingbird appears.)* Because they don't know the words! *(Laughs uncontrollably.)*

I love jokes because I love to laugh! People call birds like me "laughing kookaburras" because of the sound we make. Some birds chirp; some birds tweet; and some birds go "caw, caw." But we laughing kookaburras make a noise that sounds like laughter. We're one of the most common birds here in Australia.

In fact, there are animals and sights in Australia that you won't find anywhere else in the world. You'll see God's amazing glory in a special way. And wait till you see what incredible adventures we have for you here at Kookaburra Coast! You won't want to miss any of it.

Most of all, you won't want to miss any of my jokes. I crack myself up! *(Chuckles.)*

I hope you have a great time here at Kookaburra Coast! *(Exits.)*

# INTRODUCTION

## TOUR TIME!

*Ian enters quickly, looking around.*

- Ian:** G'day, mates! What a beautiful day it is! Another day to experience all of God's amazing glory! (*Looks at his wristwatch.*) I've still got plenty to do to get ready for our special visitors today. They'll be here any minute.
- Sydney:** (*Enters quickly.*) Hey, Ian, what has a long tail—
- Ian:** (*Interrupting.*) Oh, Sydney, I don't have time for any of your jokes right now.
- Sydney:** Come on, Ian. Where's your sense of fun?
- Ian:** Sheila is on her way here with two special guests from across the ocean. I need to make sure everything's ready!
- Sydney:** It'll just take a moment.
- Ian:** Oh, all right.
- Sydney:** Okay—what has a long tail and pointy ears and wakes everybody up at five in the morning?
- Ian:** (*Puzzled.*) What has a long tail . . . and pointy ears . . . and wakes everybody up at five in the morning? I have no idea.
- Sydney:** A kangaroo-ster! (*Laughs as a "kangaroo-ster" appears.*) Get it? Kangaroo-ster! Oh, that one's a classic.
- Ian:** Sydney, you're the craziest kookaburra I know.
- Sydney:** Thank you very much.
- Ian:** Now then, Sheila is going to be here anytime with our special guests, so—
- Sydney:** Special guests? What sort of special guests?
- Ian:** Two kids who live *way* over there (*motions*) on the other side of the ocean. This is the first time they're visiting Australia. They've decided to spend their visit helping with our tour groups here at Kookaburra Coast.
- Sydney:** Oh, that sounds exciting! And they won't have heard any of my jokes before. They'll be a brand-new audience for me to try out all my material on.
- Ian:** Now, Sydney, I don't want you pestering them with jokes all the time. They're here to help and learn about all the glorious things in the Land Down Under.

**Sydney:** Don't worry, Ian. I won't tell them too many jokes. Just a couple hundred.

**Ian:** (*Shocked.*) A couple hundred!

*Sheila, Gwen, and Joey enter.*

**Sheila:** A couple hundred what, Ian? Is that how many kangaroos you spotted out in the bush today?

**Ian:** No, I was just telling Sydney to take it easy on the jokes with our guests here. (*Motions to Gwen and Joey.*)

**Gwen:** Kangaroos? Are there kangaroos nearby? How amazing!

**Joey:** I can't wait to see some for myself.

**Ian:** There are plenty of roos in this area. You'll get many chances to see them later on.

**Sheila:** (*Introducing the kids.*) Everyone, this is Gwen.

**Gwen:** (*Matter-of-factly.*) I reported on Australia for my school project. I got an A and extra credit too!

**Sydney:** What was the extra credit for?

**Joey:** She wore a koala costume for the presentation.

**Gwen:** The costume was itchy, but the extra credit made it worth it!

**Sheila:** And this gentleman here is Joey.

**Sydney:** (*Puzzled.*) Joey? He doesn't look like a joey to me.

**Joey:** What do you mean? What's a joey supposed to look like?

**Sydney:** Well, most joeys I've seen have tails and fur and ride around in their mother's pouch.

**Sheila:** (*Jumping in.*) What Sydney forgot to tell you is that "joey" is what we call a baby kangaroo. So we don't say "momma kangaroo and her baby"; we call them "a momma and her joey." (*Kangaroo and joey appear.*)

**Joey:** Well, I'm obviously not a baby kangaroo, but I am a good jumper. Watch! (*Joey jumps up and down.*)

**Sydney:** Speaking of jumping, do you know why the cantaloupe jumped into the pool? Because it wanted to be a *water-melon*! (*Laughs.*)

**Ian:** (*Shakes head.*) Oh, Sydney. That joke was just—

**Sydney:** Hilarious! I know!

**Ian:** Um, not exactly.

**Sheila:** Don't mind Sydney. She's a laughing kookaburra, so she's always telling jokes.

**Gwen:** (*Looking around.*) So, what exactly do you folks do here at Kookaburra Coast?

**Ian:** (*Excited.*) I'm glad you asked! We run Kookaburra Coast Tour Company. (*Motions to the cutout jeep if it is onstage.*) We give tours to show people all the beautiful examples of God's glory here in Australia.

**Sheila:** This land is full of amazing things. (*A picture appears of Australia's natural wonder.*) Some of the plants and animals in Australia aren't found anywhere else in the world!

**Ian:** And all of them were created by God. They show how great His glory is.

**Joey:** Glory? What's that mean?

**Gwen:** "Glory" means something is honored or magnificent. (*Pauses.*) So Australian plants and animals show that? I mean, they show how great God's magnificence is?

**Sheila:** That's right, Gwen! And God's creation gives Him honor because it shows us just how good and great He is.

**Sydney:** Wow! Gwen is pretty smart!

**Gwen:** I read most of the dictionary when I was in second grade.

**Joey:** (*With mild sarcasm.*) Well, good for you. I think I'll just wait to see that epic dictionary movie they're working on.

*Everyone except Sydney laughs.*

**Ian:** See there, Sydney? Now *that* was funny.

**Sydney:** It was? I don't get it.

**Sheila:** Well, we'd better show you two to your rooms so you can unpack and get some rest. You must be tired after that long flight.

**Sydney:** What long flight? (*Motions to Joey and Gwen.*) Gwen and Joey don't have wings.

**Sheila:** Oh, Sydney, don't be silly. Come on, you two.

*Everyone starts to exit.*

**Sydney:** Hey, Joey and Gwen, do you know what has a long tail and pointy ears and wakes everybody up at five in the morning?

**Ian:** Sydney, what did I say about too many jokes?

**Sydney:** (*Pleading as the voices trail off.*) It's just one joke . . . for now . . .