

Significant People

in AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY



Volume 3
1788–1850
Early Settlements

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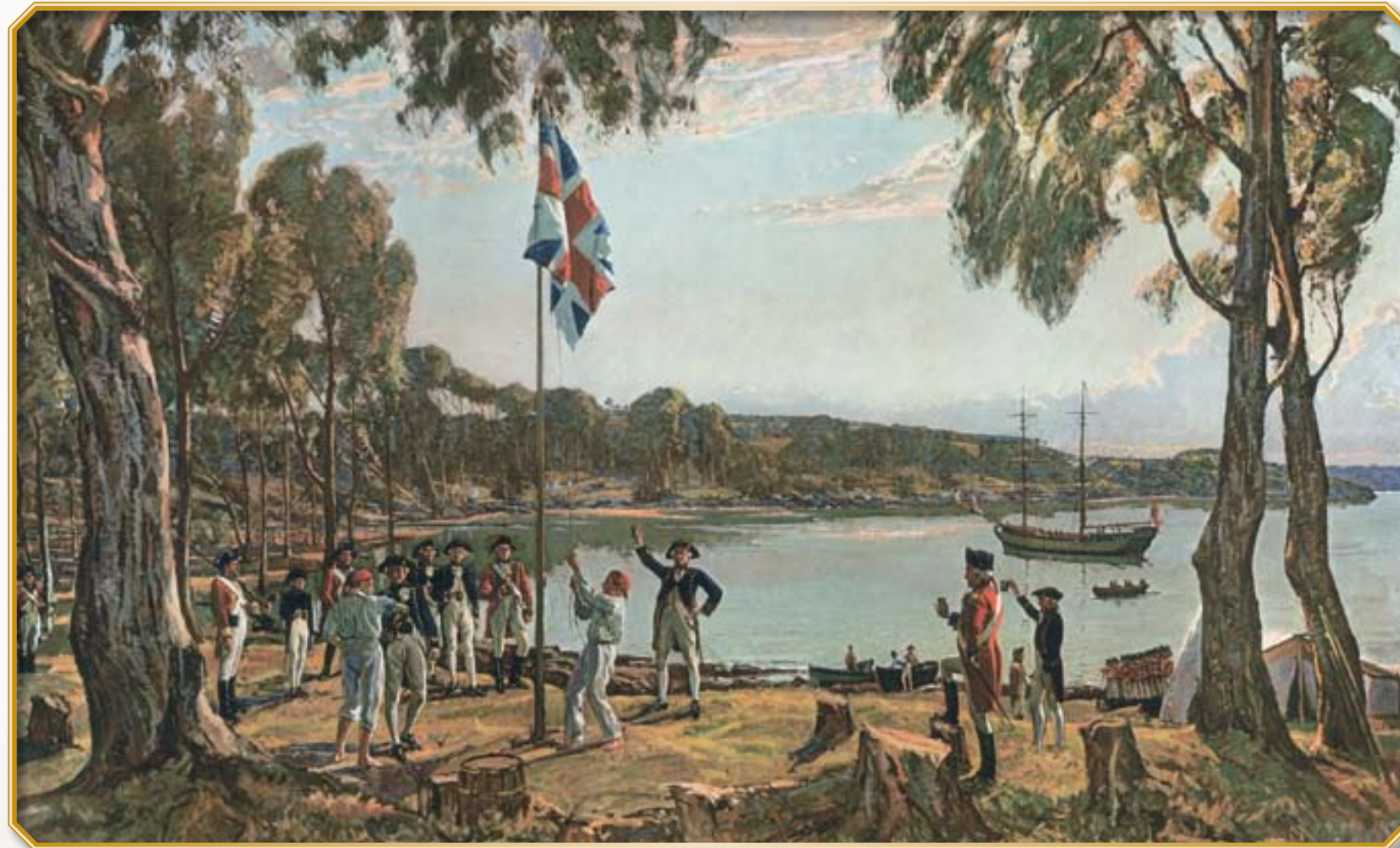
Glossary words

When a word is written in **bold**, click on it to find its meaning.

History makers

Significant People in Australia's History is about those men and women who have contributed remarkably to Australia's identity and **heritage**. They are significant because they were **pioneers** in their field or because their knowledge, actions or achievements brought about important events or changes in Australian society. They represent the wide range of people who have contributed to the story of Australia.

This series describes the history of Australia, from Indigenous beginnings to modern-day Australia, through the life stories of these significant people. Each volume consists of biographies of people from a particular period in Australia's history or descriptions of Indigenous Australian cultural groups.



Early settlements

Volume 3: Early Settlements 1788–1850 consists of biographies of the convicts and free settlers who brought European culture to Australia between 1788 and 1850, and the Indigenous Australians who were confronted with **colonisation**. These significant people include governors, religious leaders, explorers, **pastoralists** and resistance leaders.

The spread of the British colonies

By the 1780s, European nations had established colonies all over the world. Britain's prisons were over-crowded with convicts. The British decided to set up a **penal colony** and trading base at Botany Bay and colonise Australia before any other European nation did.

In 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip arrived with the First Fleet of convicts to build settlements at Botany Bay and Norfolk Island. He was instructed to be friendly towards the Indigenous peoples of Australia. British settlers soon established small settlements around the coastline of the continent. New settlements were started at Moreton Bay, Port Phillip Bay, the Swan River and in Van Diemen's Land. In 1850, more than 60 years after colonisation, Australia's population was over 400 000.

◀ *The raising of the British flag on 26 January 1788 was the beginning of a new society in Australia.*

A snapshot of history

1788–1850

Between 1788 and 1850, British colonies were established across the Australian continent. Free settlers and **emancipists** overcame hardships to build new settlements, farms and businesses. Explorers found grasslands as they moved inland, and the wool industry began. Ideas about **democracy** that were developing in Europe were brought to Australia. Male landowners were given the right to elect representatives to help govern the colonies.

Indigenous Australian peoples experienced many changes as their lands were invaded. Some tried to cooperate, but others resisted. British settlers disagreed about how to deal with this problem. Many Indigenous Australians died through disease and fighting, and their cultures were threatened with destruction.



▲ The First Fleet arrived in Port Jackson in 1788.

1788–1850

- 1788** First Fleet of convicts arrives at Botany Bay led by **Arthur Phillip**, who becomes the first Governor of New South Wales. He captures local Cammeraiagal man **Arabanoo** to learn about Indigenous Australian cultures.
- 1790** Indigenous peoples from the Sydney area resist colonisation. They attack the Governor's troops. Second Fleet of convicts from Britain arrives.
- 1791** Governor Phillip is speared by local Indigenous people. **Bennelong** returns to Sydney Cove to help improve relations between Indigenous Australian peoples and new settlers. Third Fleet of convicts from Britain arrives.
- 1792** Britain goes to war against France.
- 1793** First church opens in Australia, built by Anglican chaplain **Richard Johnson**.
- 1794** **Pemulwuy** leads an Indigenous resistance campaign in New South Wales.
- 1803** Settlement is established at Risdon Cove in Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania.

- 1805** **John and Elizabeth Macarthur** import merino sheep and start breeding them for wool.
- 1808** British troops overthrow Governor William Bligh during the **Rum Rebellion**.
- 1809** First colonial wool is sold to Britain by pastoralist **Samuel Marsden**.
- 1810** Emancipists outnumber free settlers for the first time. Governor **Lachlan Macquarie** insists that emancipists have the same rights as free settlers. Emancipists such as **Mary Reibey** become successful business leaders.
- 1815** Britain wins the Battle of Waterloo and the war against France. High unemployment among returned British soldiers results in more free settlers and more convicts arriving in the colonies.
- 1820s–30s** Indigenous Australians resist European settlement across the country. **Eumarrah** leads attacks on settlers in central Van Diemen's Land, and **Yagan** avenges the death of his people near the Swan River colony.

- 1824** Convict settlement starts at Moreton Bay, near modern-day Brisbane. First privately owned newspaper in New South Wales features articles by **William Wentworth** calling for **self-government** for the colonies.
- 1829** A settlement is established at the Swan River, in modern-day Western Australia, governed by **James Stirling**.
- 1830s** Explorers such as **Charles Sturt** and **Thomas Mitchell** start to move inland, following rivers and looking for an inland sea. Their **expeditions** uncover more grazing land for settlers.
- 1835** **George Robinson** establishes a settlement for Indigenous Australians on Flinders Island. He aims to strip them of their Indigenous culture and teach them European culture and values. **John Glover** exhibits his Australian paintings in London, England. **John Batman** claims to have signed a **treaty** with the Woiworong people 'buying' land in the Port Phillip Bay area, now Melbourne.

- 1836** Colony of South Australia is proclaimed. The convict-free colony was an idea that was promoted by **Edward Gibbon Wakefield**. The **Squatters Act** is introduced in New South Wales, making **squatting** legal.
- 1838** Twenty-eight Indigenous Australian men, women and children are murdered at Myall Creek, northern New South Wales. Seven settlers are found guilty of the massacre and hanged.
- 1840** British colonies in Canada are granted self-government. British Government stops transporting convicts to New South Wales.
- 1840s** Explorers such as **Friedrich Ludwig Leichhardt** and **Edward John Eyre** begin to make expeditions into the interior of Australia. **Edmund Kennedy** explores the inland rivers and northern Queensland.
- 1841–46** Activist **Caroline Chisholm** works for the rights of **immigrants** in the colonies.
- 1843** First free election is held in New South Wales.
- 1850** **John Dunmore Lang** proposes that the colonies form a united democratic nation, independent of Britain.

Arthur Phillip

Governor

Arthur Phillip commanded the First Fleet on its voyage to Australia. He was the first governor of the new settlement of New South Wales.

Life facts

- 11 October 1738** Born in England
- 1756–63** Fights in Seven Years' War
- 1778** Fights in American colonies
- 1786** Appointed first Governor of New South Wales
- 1787** Commands First Fleet to Botany Bay
- 1788** Leads first settlement at Sydney Cove
- 1792** Returns to England
- 31 August 1814** Dies in England

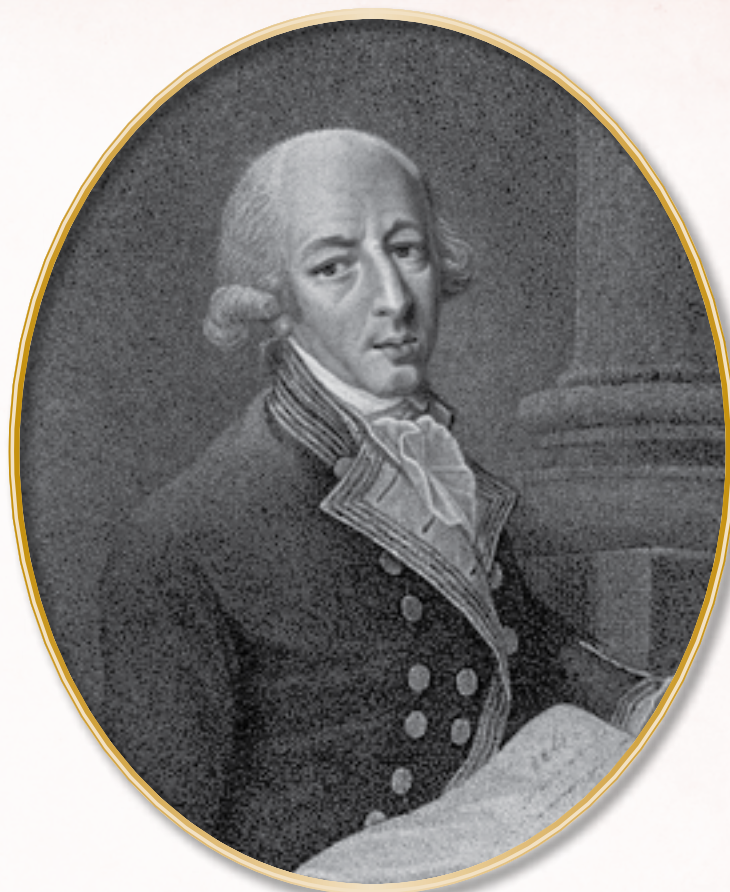
Phillip commanded the First Fleet from England to Australia in 1787–88. He had been ordered to build convict settlements at Botany Bay and Norfolk Island.

Phillip spent more than a year purchasing and loading supplies onto eleven ships. The fleet included:

- ☞ warships to protect the settlement
- ☞ cargo ships hired by the British Government to transport convicts
- ☞ cargo ships hired to transport equipment and food supplies.

In the ships were convicts, equipment, seed, livestock, food and water to last a year.

The First Fleet's voyage took 252 days and covered 24 000 kilometres. The Fleet reached Botany Bay between 18 and 20 January 1788. It had survived storms and gale-force winds, and those onboard had endured difficult conditions. Forty-eight people died on the voyage, but this was a small number for a voyage at that time. No ships were lost.



▲ Phillip was the leader of the new settlement in New South Wales from 1788 until 1792.

More about...

Colonising Botany Bay

It was a big decision to send convicts to build a new colony on the other side of the world. Two men who had sailed with Cook on the *Endeavour* helped convince the British Government that Botany Bay was ideal for a penal colony. Sir Joseph Banks described fertile land that would allow things to grow well, and indigenous peoples who were poorly armed and would cause no trouble. James Matra wrote about opportunities for trade. Resources such as timber for masts and flax plants for sails had been found on nearby Norfolk Island and New Zealand. The growing British navy wanted these resources.

Settling at Sydney Cove

Phillip was disappointed with Botany Bay. The soil, water supply and harbour were poor. He decided to look for a better site for settlement. He investigated nearby Port Jackson and found 'the finest harbour in the world'. Phillip called the site for the new settlement Sydney Cove, after his boss Lord Sydney.

By 26 January 1788, all the Fleet had been moved to Sydney Cove. The Union Jack was raised and the troops and convicts finally came ashore.

Leading the colony

Phillip had total power to make any decision required to run the colony. His control was greater than normal because of the colony's isolation. It was not practical to request further resources or instructions from Britain because it took 15 months for a ship to sail to England and return. The Second Fleet did not arrive for another two and a half years.

Lord Sydney had instructed Phillip to:

- ☞ make sure there was good behaviour and observance of religion in the colony
- ☞ bring any willing women from the Pacific Islands to Australia
- ☞ use the convicts to construct buildings and farm the land
- ☞ reward well-behaved convicts by granting them **emancipation** and land.

Governor Phillip led the new colony through five years of constant struggle. He explored the land around Sydney Cove and established a colony at Norfolk Island. He worked hard to avoid conflict with the Indigenous peoples of the area. Many times, the settlers faced starvation.

Some people believed the British experiment of a convict colony was doomed to fail, but Phillip remained positive. Phillip was a man who inspired goodwill and loyalty among the people he ruled. Most people considered him to be caring, and firm but fair. His popularity helped the small group of British colonists to survive the challenges they faced.

More about...

The First Settlers

Most of the first settlers were convicts. They were usually young, male and unskilled. Some had been transported for small crimes such as stealing a handkerchief. There were also many serial criminals.

Officials, marine officers and soldiers, and their families made up the rest of the first settlers. The marines had been promised land if they stayed in the colony for three years service.

On the First Fleet, there were:

- 14 officials and passengers
- 306 crew
- 245 marines
- 54 wives and children
- 543 convict men
- 189 convict women
- 22 convict children.

Overall, there were nearly six times as many men as women.

Arthur Phillip

Governor

Building relationships

Phillip wanted to build friendly relations with the Indigenous peoples of the area. Phillip attempted to capture 'natives' so he could learn more about them. Arabanoo and Bennelong were two men who were captured. Bennelong became Phillip's friend.

Phillip was worried that the settlers might harm the local Indigenous people. He ordered that 'Any Man who takes the life of a Native will be put on his Trial, the same as if he'd kill'd one of the soldiers.' He punished any person found stealing, whether Indigenous Australian or British.

In one incident between settlers and Indigenous Australians, Phillip was speared in the shoulder. He ordered his men not to **retaliate**. Through actions such as this, Phillip built goodwill with Indigenous Australians.

Feeding the settlers

There were problems growing food in the new colony. The soils were infertile and the equipment the British settlers used was not suited to the Australian environment. Axes and shovels broke easily.

More about ...

First encounters

When the First Fleet landed at Botany Bay, people appeared with spears. Phillip won their trust by going to them unarmed and giving gifts. When Phillip later landed at Sydney Cove, the Indigenous people shouted and made signs that the settlers were not welcome.

The Indigenous peoples who lived around Botany Bay were the Gweagal and Kameygal peoples, who were part of the Dharawal group. The people around Sydney Cove were the Cadigal people, who belonged to the Eora group.

The convicts had little experience or skill in farming. Many were unwilling workers. Not surprisingly, crime was a continual problem. Hangings occurred and floggings, or beatings, were commonplace. The marines refused to help grow food and the colony soon faced starvation.

Food was **rationed** for everyone, including the Governor. Phillip insisted that everyone be treated equally. He made sure the convicts received food. He sent ships to buy food from Cape Town, in Africa, and Batavia, in Indonesia.



Establishing law

Phillip realised that the new colony could not survive as a prison camp. He believed the convicts should not be treated as slaves. Law courts were established. Convicts were given legal rights that they had lost in Britain. In one case, two convicts successfully took legal action against a ship's captain who stole their belongings.

Phillip encouraged **enterprising** convicts. James Ruse was a convict with farming experience.

Within a year of clearing Experiment Farm near Parramatta, Ruse was successfully growing grain. In 1792, Phillip granted Ruse about 12 **hectares** of land.

In 1786, Phillip wrote:

'there can be no slavery in a free land, and consequently no slaves.'

Thirty-one years later, in March 1807, Britain became the first nation in the world to abolish slavery.

Return to England

By the end of 1791, Phillip was suffering severe pains in his side. He was affected by the stress of his job, poor diet and his living conditions. By the time Phillip left New South Wales for England in December 1792, Sydney had become a trading port. Phillip had laid the foundations for a new society.

After recovering his health, Phillip again served in the Royal Navy. He was an advisor on British Government decisions regarding New South Wales. He died in 1814.

◀ A marine from the First Fleet made this painting of Phillip meeting the Indigenous Australians of the Port Jackson area.

See also

Joseph Banks (Botany Bay), Volume 2
Arabanoo (relationship between Indigenous Australians and settlers), Volume 3
Bennelong (relationship between Indigenous Australians and settlers), Volume 3

Arabanoo

Indigenous leader

Arabanoo was a Cammeraigal man. He was the first captive Aboriginal Australian to teach Indigenous ways to the new settlers.

Life facts

About 1758 Born in eastern Australia
1788 Captured at Manly
18 May 1789 Dies in Sydney

Arabanoo was a Cammeraigal man born near Sydney Cove. He was captured at Manly Beach in December 1788 on Governor

Arthur Phillip's orders. Phillip wanted Arabanoo to teach Indigenous Australian ways to the settlers. He also wanted Arabanoo to go back and teach his people about British ways of life.

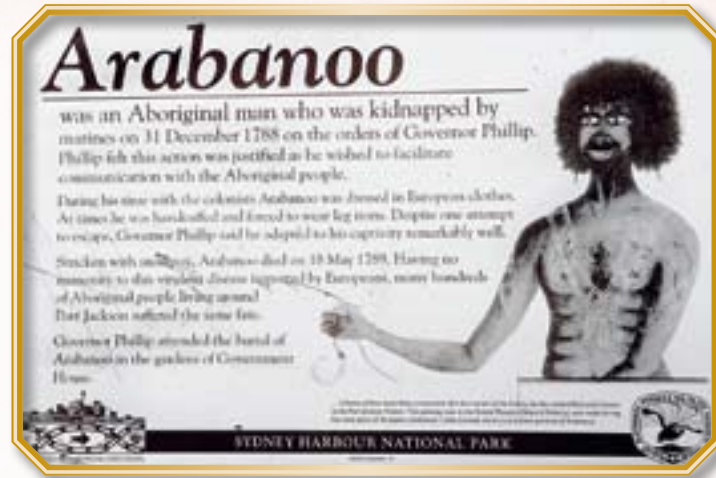
When he was captured, Arabanoo's people protested, throwing spears and stones. Arabanoo cried loudly as he was taken away. He was led to a hut near Governor Phillip's house.

Governor Phillip reported to Lord Sydney in London that Arabanoo:

'was clothed, a slight iron or manacle put upon his wrist, and a trusty convict appointed to take care of him ... he slept very well during the night not offering to make any attempt to get away.'

Cultural exchange

Arabanoo was given the name 'Manly' after he was captured. He was dressed in European clothes and learned English words quickly. He became friendly with the settlers and dined with the Governor. He gave Phillip valuable information about the language and customs of his people. Everyone in the colony came to see him.



▲ A monument to Arabanoo stands at Arabanoo Lookout in Sydney Harbour National Park.

Arabanoo got on well with his captors. He was allowed to move freely around the settlement at Sydney Cove. Arabanoo was horrified by the brutal punishment given to convicts. He was angry when he saw a public flogging.

Indigenous Australians had never been exposed to European diseases and they had no **immunity** against these diseases. Soon after the British arrived, a **smallpox epidemic** started among the Indigenous people. Arabanoo was saddened to see the bodies of many smallpox victims. He worked with smallpox victims in Sydney and nursed two Aboriginal children back to health.

Arabanoo caught smallpox, too. He died and was buried in the Governor's garden, as a mark of respect. Phillip attended his funeral.

See also

Impact of invasion, Volume 1
Arthur Phillip (Indigenous Australian captives), Volume 3

Woollarawarre Bennelong

Indigenous leader

Woollarawarre Bennelong was a Wangal man and Indigenous leader who cooperated with the British settlers. He tried to help improve relations between Indigenous Australians and new settlers.

Life facts

About 1764 Born in eastern Australia
1789 Captured by Governor Phillip
1790 Escapes and returns to his people
1791 Returns to help settlers
1792 Sails to England
1795 Returns to Sydney
3 January 1813 Dies in Sydney

Bennelong was captured in 1789 under the orders of Governor Arthur Phillip. At first Bennelong's people were angry, but later he helped build good relationships with the settlers. Bennelong cooperated with

Phillip and tried to teach him about Indigenous Australian cultures.



▲ Bennelong changed the way he dressed and behaved after living with Governor Phillip.

Phillip was impressed by Bennelong's ability to learn English. Bennelong started to wear European clothes. By trying to change to British ways, however, he was losing his own cultural identity. In 1790, Bennelong escaped and returned to his people.

In 1791, Phillip was speared by Aboriginal people at Manly. Bennelong became concerned. He decided to try again to teach the British settlers. He returned to live at Sydney Cove and Phillip built a hut for him at Bennelong Point, where the Sydney Opera House now stands. Bennelong gave Phillip the name 'Woollarawarre' as a mark of respect and to link them. Bennelong took on Phillip's title 'governor', too.

Voyage to England

In 1792, Bennelong and another Wangal man, Yemmerrawanyea, travelled to England with Phillip. English people had never seen Indigenous Australians before. The two men became famous, and they were presented to King George III. Yemmerrawanyea died of pneumonia in England and Bennelong returned to Sydney.

By this time, Bennelong was caught between British culture and his own culture. The Wangal people rejected him and he developed a problem with alcohol, leading a lonely life. Eventually he died after being wounded in a battle between Indigenous groups.

See also

Impact of invasion, Volume 1
Arthur Phillip (Indigenous Australian captives), Volume 3

Richard Johnson

Religious leader

Richard Johnson was an Anglican chaplain. He was the first minister in the British colony of New South Wales and he built the first church in Australia.

Life facts

- About 1753** Born in England
- 1786** Appointed First Chaplain
- 1788** Conducts first **Christian** service in New South Wales
- 1793** Finishes building first church
- 1800** Returns to England
- 1810** Becomes minister in England
- 13 March 1837** Dies in England

King George III appointed Johnson as 'chaplain to the settlement'. An evangelical society had recommended him for the job. In their opinion, the first settlement could only be successful if it was based on the Bible.

Johnson sailed with his wife on

the *Golden Grove*, one of the eleven ships in the First Fleet. He brought with him over 4000 religious books for the settlers. He held many religious services at sea.

A society of criminals

On 3 February 1788, Johnson conducted the first Christian service at Sydney Cove. There were no buildings so it was held in the open air, on a grassy hill under some trees.

Johnson had a very difficult job. He was the only religious leader in a society of convicts and soldiers. There were very few women. Many of the convicts were serial criminals. Convicts were often harshly punished by the soldiers. Most people were not interested in religion.



▲ Johnson was the first religious leader in the colony of New South Wales.

Governor Arthur Phillip believed people should treat each other with respect. He wanted Reverend Johnson to have a calming effect on the new settlers. Phillip believed that religion would encourage good behaviour.

More about...

Evangelicals

Evangelicals are Christians who believe that the Bible is the true word of God. They believe people's souls can only be saved if they follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Evangelical movement was important in Britain at the time the settlement at Botany Bay was being planned. Many of the early governors, such as Arthur Phillip and Lachlan Macquarie, followed evangelical beliefs.

Working with the community

Johnson worked very hard. He was the only person in the community to conduct church services, baptisms, marriages and funerals. He attended executions of criminals and he was also given the power to enforce the law. Converting convicts and Indigenous Australians to Christianity was another part of his work.

There were many deaths and much serious illness among the convicts of the Second Fleet, which arrived in 1790. Johnson ignored warnings and helped convicts in unhealthy conditions.

One of the convicts of the Second Fleet wrote:

'few of the sick would recover if it was not for the kindness of the Reverend Mr Johnson, whose assistance out of his own stores makes him the [doctor] both of soul and body.'

Building the first church

Building a church was not a top priority for Governor Phillip, so Johnson decided to build it himself. The church was a wattle and daub building. Johnson used convict labour to build a frame of wooden sticks, called 'wattle'. Mud was then patted onto the wooden frame. This was the 'daub'. Over 500 people could worship in the church, although only 40 people attended the first service in 1793.

Johnson was also a pioneer of education in the colony. He and his wife taught nearly 200 children. He worked to help orphaned children.

Johnson had farming experience in England and he soon became the best farmer in Sydney. He supplied grain, vegetables and meat for the starving colony. Johnson grew the first oranges and lemons in the colony from seeds collected at Rio de Janeiro in South America.

In 1798, Johnson's church was burned to the ground. Johnson started the building of a new stone church, called St Philip's. It took twelve years to complete. Johnson returned home to England in October 1800, before the church was finished. He died in 1837.

See also

Arthur Phillip (first settlement), Volume 3
Samuel Marsden (religion in the colony), Volume 3

Pemulwuy

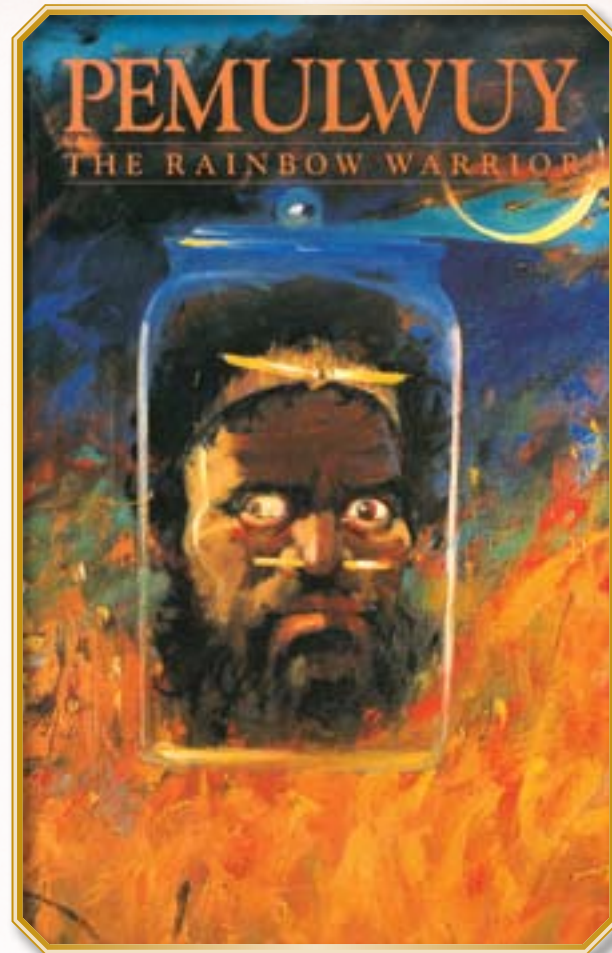
Resistance leader

Pemulwuy was a Bidjigal man and an Indigenous resistance leader who fought against British settlers in the Sydney area.

Life facts

- About 1750** Born in eastern Australia
- 1790** Leads resistance
- 1794** Wounded in raid on Parramatta
- 1795** Recovers and is rumoured to have special powers
- 1796** Leads attacks on Parramatta and Lane Cove
- 1797** Attacks Toongabbie and is wounded, but escapes
- 1801** Governor King offers reward for his capture
- 1802** Dies near Sydney

Pemulwuy was from the Botany Bay area. He was one of the first Indigenous Australians to try to drive the British away. The Indigenous peoples in the Sydney area had quickly realised that the British settlers were not going to leave. Their food supplies became scarce as their land and animals were taken by the settlers.



▲ Pemulwuy was also known as the Rainbow Warrior.

Pemulwuy's raids

Pemulwuy led raids on farms in the Botany Bay, Toongabbie and Parramatta areas. The raiders stole property and speared settlers. The raids were usually made to take food. Sometimes, they were payback for the kidnapping or killing of Pemulwuy's people.

In 1797, Pemulwuy was wounded and captured by the British. He managed to escape from the hospital. People started to say that he had special powers and that not even bullets could kill him.



▲ Pemulwuy led raids against British settlers in Bidjigal Country and other Country in the Sydney area.

Pemulwuy continued to raid the settlers. In 1801, Governor King, who was governor from 1800 until 1806, offered a reward for Pemulwuy's capture, whether dead or alive. King also gave an order that Aboriginal people in some areas could be shot on sight.

In 1802, Pemulwuy was shot and killed. His head was cut off and sent to England. Governor King reported that although Pemulwuy was 'a terrible pest to the colony, he was a brave and independent character'.

See also

- Country**, Volume 1
- Impact of invasion**, Volume 1
- Arthur Phillip** (relationship between Indigenous Australians and settlers), Volume 3
- Eumarrah** (resistance to colonisation), Volume 3
- Yagan** (resistance to colonisation), Volume 3

John and Elizabeth Macarthur

Sheep farmers

Husband and wife John and Elizabeth Macarthur bred merino sheep and pioneered the Australian wool industry. The wool industry made Britain see Australia as more than just a convict settlement.

Life facts

- 1766** Elizabeth born in England
- 1767** John born in England
- 1788** Married
- 1790** Arrive in Sydney
- 1793** Start Elizabeth Farm
- 1801** John sent to England for trial and Elizabeth manages farm for the four years he is away
- 1805** Start breeding merino sheep
- 1809** John goes to England for eight years and Elizabeth manages properties
- 1817** John returns to Sydney
- 1822** Win awards for quality and quantity of wool
- 1825** John made a member of the NSW Legislative Council
- 11 April 1834** John dies near Sydney
- 9 February 1850** Elizabeth dies in Sydney

John Macarthur and Elizabeth Veale married in 1788. The Macarthurs decided to seek their fortune in the colony of New South Wales. John joined the New South Wales Corps, and the Macarthurs sailed on a convict transport in the Second Fleet.

The voyage was difficult. John was easily angered and argued with many people. Elizabeth had to nurse him through a serious illness. Elizabeth gave birth to their second child onboard, but the child died soon after.



▲ Elizabeth Macarthur quickly became used to her new life in the colony.

More about...

The Second Fleet

The Second Fleet was made up of the convict ships *Neptune*, *Surprize* and *Scarborough*, and the storeship *Justinian*. The convict ships were privately run slave ships, contracted to carry 1006 convicts (928 men and 78 women). Contractors received payment per person, which was paid regardless of whether the "cargo" arrived alive or dead. The convicts lived in terrible conditions and the ships had the highest death rate in the history of transportation to Australia. More than one-quarter of the convicts (256 men and 11 women) died during the voyage. Of those who survived, two-thirds arrived sick and unfit for work. Governor Phillip was horrified.



▲ John Macarthur argued with every governor of the colony.

Settling into the colony

The Macarthurs arrived in Sydney in June 1791. Elizabeth quickly adapted to the new conditions. She was interested in everything around her, including the Indigenous Australian people. She became friends with an Indigenous Australian woman called Daringa and her new-born baby.

John was promoted to supervise the assignment of convict workers. He also managed the government farm near Parramatta. He learned about Australian farming conditions. With other officers, he began buying goods from ships and selling them to settlers.

Farming the land

The Macarthurs established Elizabeth Farm on 40 hectares of land granted to them. They grew much needed food supplies for Sydney.

John was the first in the colony to use a plough. He had problems growing wheat, but discovered that grapes and melons grew well. He hunted kangaroos and wild ducks for meat.

Elizabeth grew vegetables and chickens. She also ran a small dairy with a cow and calf.

By 1800, the Macarthurs had about 40 convicts working for them. They were the first to clear and farm 20 hectares and were rewarded with another 40-hectare grant. The Macarthurs were among the major landowners in the colony. They had 1400 sheep, which was the largest flock in the colony, but the wool was of poor quality.

Return to England

John argued with every governor, and he undermined them by complaining to their superiors in London, England. In 1801, he was sent back to London for fighting a duel with his commanding officer.

In England, John resigned from the New South Wales Corps. He convinced government officials that the colony could produce wool, which was badly needed in Britain. The British Government granted him 2000 hectares at Cow Pastures, which was the best grazing land in the colony. He bought seven rams and three ewes and returned to Sydney with them in 1805. The sheep were merinos, which was a breed of fine-woolled sheep, originally from Spain.

Continued on page 20 ►

John and Elizabeth Macarthur

Sheep farmers

A successful team

Elizabeth had managed Elizabeth Farm well while John was away. When John returned, he used the land grant at Cow Pastures to build a second farm called Camden Park. He was clever at selling his ideas in Britain. Elizabeth's talent was to put these ideas into practice. They made a successful team.

John's role in the Rum Rebellion in 1808, however, landed him in serious trouble again. It looked likely that he would be sent to gaol. He returned to England once more and was saved by his influential friends.

John stayed away for eight years. Elizabeth raised the family, and managed Elizabeth Farm and the merino breeding at Camden Park. She supervised the shearing, wool washing, baling and transport, and John sold the wool in England. He sent instructions to Elizabeth for improving the flock.

Elizabeth's merino breeding became the foundation of the Australian wool industry. At times, she found the pressure difficult to bear. Camden Park was on the colony's **frontier** and Aboriginal peoples were fighting back against the loss of their hunting grounds.

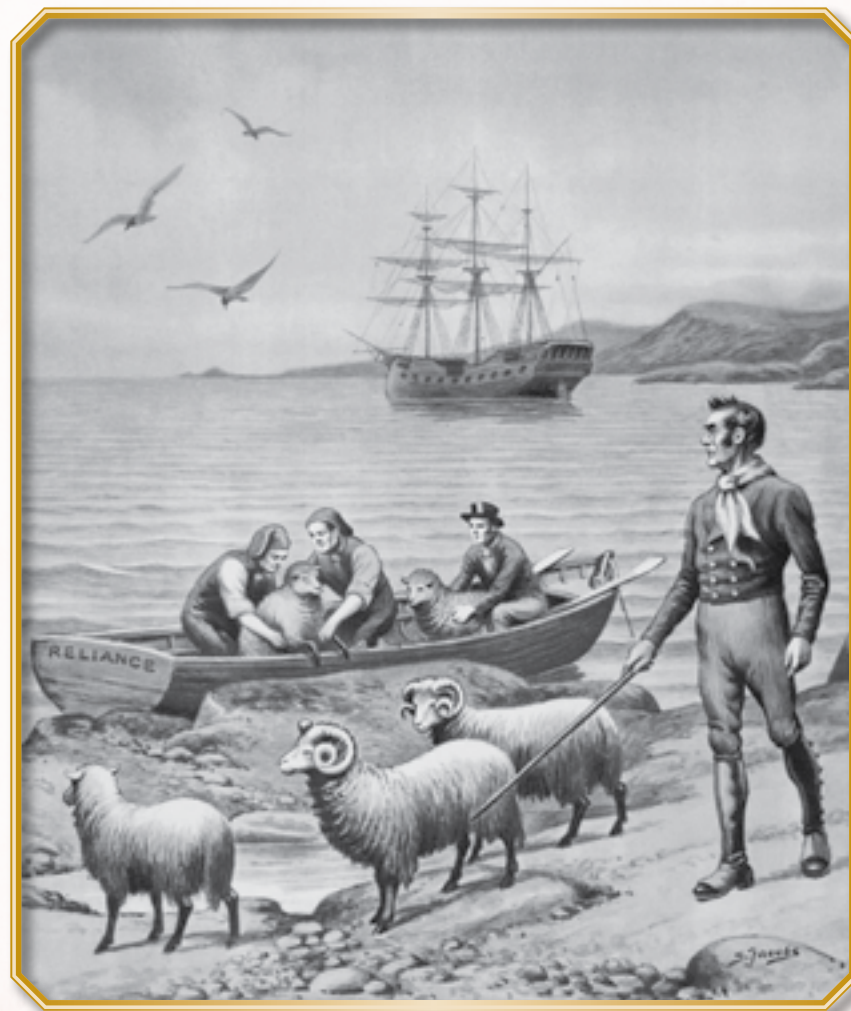
► *The merino sheep that John Macarthur brought to the colony became the foundation of the Australian wool industry.*

More about...

The Rum Rebellion

John Macarthur and the leaders of the New South Wales Corps controlled the supply of rum in the colony. Rum was being used instead of money. Governor William Bligh was instructed to stop the rum trade. He became very unpopular. Macarthur convinced the military leaders, including Major Johnston, that they needed to get rid of Bligh. With 300 troops, Johnston imprisoned Governor Bligh.

The Rum Rebellion is the only time in Australian history that the army has overthrown the government.



▲ Begun in 1793, Elizabeth Farm was the home of John and Elizabeth Macarthur.

Elizabeth Macarthur wrote in a letter in 1816:

'I am much oppressed with care on account of our stock establishments ... at the Cowpastures having been disturbed by the incursions of the natives. The savages have burnt and destroyed the shepherds' [huts] ...'

The Bigge Report

John returned to Sydney in September 1817. The town had progressed greatly under Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Governor Macquarie was a friend of Elizabeth's and admired her pioneering work.

John was the richest and most powerful man in the colony. Once more, though, he argued with the Governor and complained about him. The British Government sent Commissioner John Thomas Bigge to investigate John's complaints. The Commissioner's report, called the Bigge Report, supported Macarthur's ideas and criticised Macquarie. It recommended that the colony produce wool. Large land grants would be made to free men who had money to invest and convicts would provide labour

as shepherds. The Governor would be assisted in running the colony by a small **legislative** council. John became a member.

A growing wool industry

The Macarthurs continued improving their pure merino flocks and increasing wool production. They got good prices for their merino wool and John won awards for his work. Elizabeth's work was not recognised publicly because she was a woman.

The Macarthur's decision to seek their fortune in New South Wales had paid off. Their enterprise made them the wealthiest people in the colony. Wealth from wool encouraged more free settlers. Australia became the biggest wool producer in the world.

John died in 1834 and was buried at Camden Park. Elizabeth died in 1850 and was buried alongside him.

See also

Samuel Marsden (wool industry), Volume 3
Lachlan Macquarie (the Bigge Report), Volume 3

Samuel Marsden

Wool trader

*Samuel Marsden was a **Protestant** clergyman who became a wealthy landowner. He was a pioneer of the wool industry and sold the first Australian wool to Britain.*

Life facts

- 25 June 1764** Born in England
- 1794** Arrives in Sydney
- 1804** Escapes the Irish rebels from Castle Hill
- 1809** Sells wool to British mills
- 1814** Visits New Zealand for the first time
- 12 May 1838** Dies near Sydney

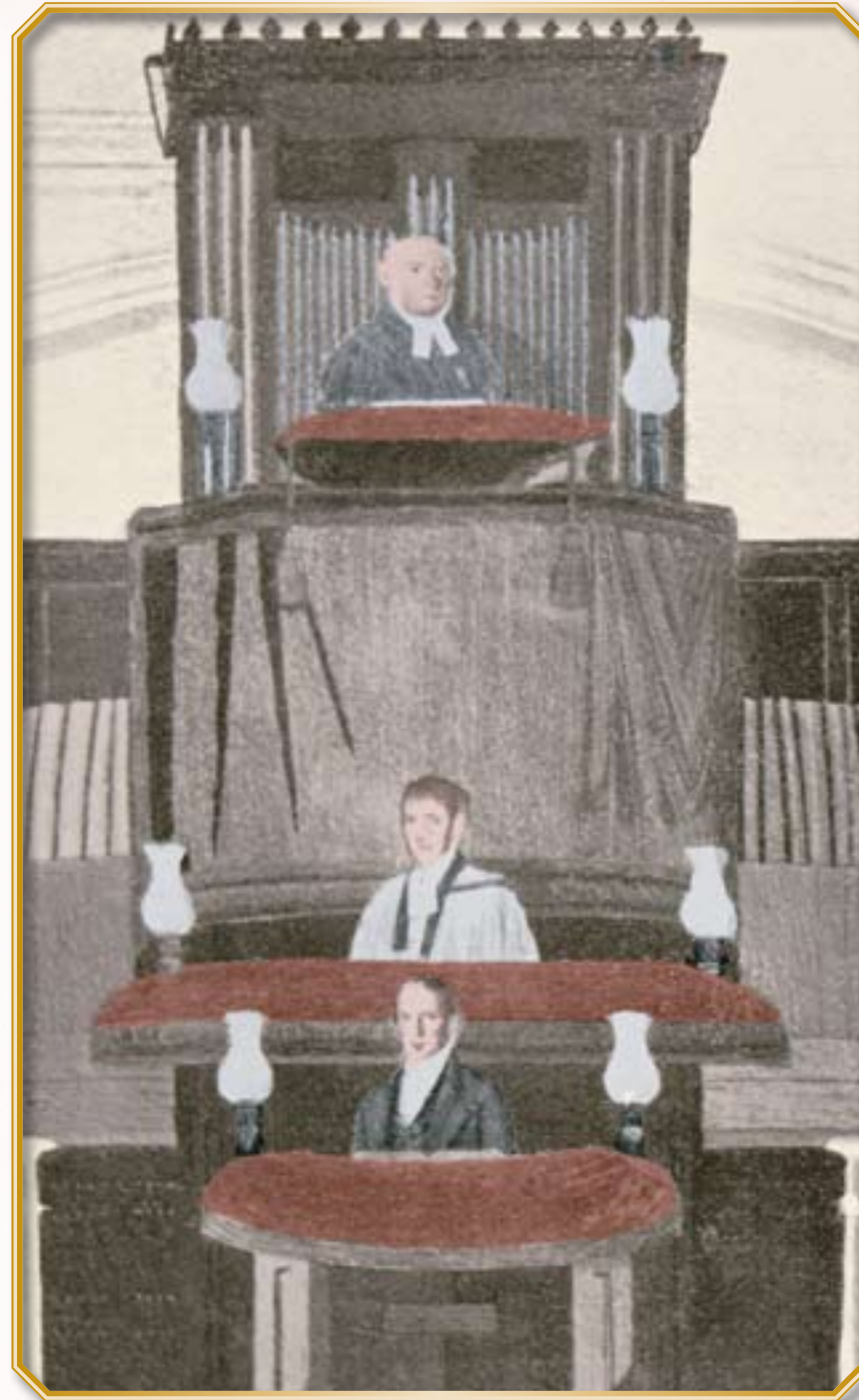
Marsden and his wife arrived in Sydney in March 1794. He was to help Richard Johnson make sure that religion was important in the colony. William Wilberforce, an evangelical leader

in England, recommended him for the job. Marsden became the chaplain for Parramatta.

Sheep farming

Marsden was also interested in obtaining land from the Governor. Although Marsden had no previous experience in farming, he was granted 81 hectares and bought another 97 hectares near Parramatta by 1802.

Marsden became a founder of the colony's wool industry. The Macarthurs bred the Australian merino sheep, and Marsden sold the first colonial wool to British mills in 1809.



▲ Marsden (top) preached in St John's Cathedral in Parramatta.

The 'Flogging Parson'

As well as being a church leader and landowner, Marsden was appointed as a judge. He quickly developed a reputation for severe punishments and became known as the 'Flogging Parson'. He had a reputation for not liking Irish **Catholics**. Many of his harshest judgements were against Irish convicts.

Marsden believed that convicts were lazy and wicked. He strongly opposed Governor Macquarie's attempts to encourage emancipists. Marsden and Macquarie became bitter enemies.

In March 1804, over 300 Irish convicts at Castle Hill escaped and marched on Parramatta. They planned to set fire to Elizabeth Farm. Elizabeth Macarthur was warned and escaped to Marsden's nearby farm. They escaped together to Sydney in the middle of the night.

The New South Wales Corps crushed the rebellion, killing 15 of the rebels. Marsden was involved in taking the prisoners to court. Nine were hanged, and seven received between 2 and 500 lashes.

Missionary work

Marsden was also involved in missionary work in Australia and New Zealand. He tried to convert Indigenous Australians to his religious beliefs. Eventually he gave up, saying that the Indigenous people were not interested in European ways.

Marsden found missionary work in New Zealand more rewarding. He respected the Maori and described them as 'a superior people'. He made seven voyages to spread the Gospel and introduce sheep to New Zealand.

More about...

Irish rebellion

The Irish rebelled against English rule in Ireland in 1798, and many Irish prisoners were transported to Sydney. Irish people were usually Roman Catholic, and English people were usually Protestants. Marsden was a Protestant minister and treated the Irish people harshly.

See also

Richard Johnson (evangelicals), Volume 3
John and Elizabeth Macarthur (merino breeding), Volume 3
Lachlan Macquarie (emancipists), Volume 3

Lachlan Macquarie

Governor

Lachlan Macquarie was the governor who restored order in New South Wales after the Rum Rebellion. He gave emancipists the same rights as free settlers and helped the colony change from a rundown prison to a lively free settlement.

Life facts

- 31 January 1762** Born in Scotland
- 1776** Joins British Army
- 1810** Becomes Governor of New South Wales
- 1815** Starts a school for Indigenous Australian children
- 1817** First uses the name 'Australia'
- 1821** Resigns and returns to England
- 1 July 1824** Dies in England

On 1 January 1810, Macquarie became the Governor of New South Wales. He was the first man from the British Army to be appointed to the position. Macquarie was instructed to sort out the mess that had resulted from the Rum Rebellion in 1808.

The New South Wales Corps was sent back to England.

Macquarie believed in stern discipline. He believed that Protestant religion and hard work gave everyone the opportunity to lead a good life. He ordered all convicts to attend church. He banned the drinking of alcohol and working on Sundays.



▲ *Macquarie was the first governor to come from the British Army.*

More about...

Famous emancipists

Many emancipists went on to hold important jobs in the colony, such as:

- Andrew Thompson, sentenced to 14 years transportation for theft of cloth worth 10 pound, who was later appointed as a magistrate
- William Redfern, transported for involvement in a mutiny, who was later appointed as Colonial Surgeon
- Francis Greenway, sentenced to 14 years transportation for forgery, who was later appointed Colonial Architect.

A growing colony

Macquarie made many changes that helped the colony grow and develop. He used convicts to build public works, such as buildings, roads and new towns. This created a lot of business and changed the appearance of the colony. Macquarie also introduced the first colonial coins in 1814. Four years later, the first bank opened. These changes provided better conditions for business and helped lower prices.

Macquarie encouraged exploration. In 1813, Gregory Blaxland, William Wentworth and William Lawson crossed the Blue Mountains by following the mountain ridges instead of the valleys. John Oxley, Surveyor-General, explored the north and made important discoveries, including the future site of Brisbane.

More about...

Population growth in the colonies

The Battle of Waterloo in 1815 marked the end of Britain's war with France. Unemployment and crime increased in England because most men employed in the army and navy were no longer needed. These changes in Britain resulted in more free migrants and convicts arriving in Sydney.

Some changing attitudes

Macquarie tried to change the British settlers' attitudes to Indigenous people and emancipists. He chose one elder of each local Indigenous group as a chief. One of these people was Bungaree, who circumnavigated Australia with Matthew Flinders.

Macquarie also started a school for Indigenous Australian children in 1815.

Each year, Macquarie invited Aboriginal people to meet with him. They had a special feast and were given blankets. Macquarie still, however, followed the strategy of previous governors of sending expeditions to punish Indigenous Australian leaders for attacks on settlers.

Emancipists outnumbered free settlers in 1810. Macquarie insisted they be treated as equals. Wealthy free settlers, such as John Macarthur, complained when emancipists were appointed to important positions and invited to Government House. These wealthy settlers were called **exclusives**.

The Bigge Report

Commissioner John Thomas Bigge was sent to investigate complaints about Macquarie's leadership. The Government was also worried about the cost of public works.

Bigge criticised Macquarie. Macquarie and his many supporters were angry about Macquarie's treatment, considering all the progress he had made in the colony. Macquarie resigned in 1821 and returned to Britain to defend himself.

Macquarie died in 1824. He had been the first to adopt Flinders' suggestion of calling the continent Australia, so his gravestone in Scotland bears the words 'Father of Australia'.

See also

Matthew Flinders, Volume 2

Bungaree, Volume 2

John and Elizabeth Macarthur (Rum Rebellion and the Bigge Report), Volume 3

William Wentworth (Blue Mountains), Volume 3

Mary Reibey

Emancipist

Mary Reibey was an emancipist who became a successful businesswoman.

Life facts

- 12 May 1777** Born Mary Haydock in England
- 1790** Steals a horse and is caught and tried
- 1792** Arrives in Sydney
- 1794** Marries Thomas Reibey and is emancipated
- 1811** Takes over business when Thomas dies
- 1812** Opens new warehouse in Sydney
- 1820** Visits England
- 1821** Returns to Sydney
- 13 May 1855** Dies in Sydney

Reibey was born in England in 1777. Her parents died when she was young, and she lived with her grandmother. She was luckier than most children because she went to school.

When her grandmother died, Mary was only 13 years old and she was forced to live

on the streets. She stole a horse and was caught trying to sell it. She was dressed as a boy when she was caught and used the name James Burrow. Horse stealing was a crime so serious it was punishable by death, but the judge was sympathetic and Mary was sentenced to seven years and transportation to New South Wales.

Transportation to the colonies

Reibey's life was tough onboard the convict ship. She expressed her determination to succeed. She was one of few convict women who could read and write. She was lucky to be assigned as a servant to Major Grose, commander of the New South Wales Corps.



▲ Reibey was a successful businesswoman for more than 40 years.

Reibey wrote to her aunt when she arrived in Sydney in 1792:

My Dear aunt

We arrived here on the 7th and I hope it will answer better than we expected for I write this on Board of ship but it looks a pleasant place – Enough we shall but have 4 pair of trowser to make a week and we shall have one pound of rice a week and 4 pound of pork besides Greens and other Vegetables the tell me I am for life wich The Governor told me I was but for 7 years wich Grives me very much to think of it but I will watch every oppertunity to get away in too or 3 years But I will make my self as happy as I Can In my Pressent and unhappy situation ...'

Farming by the Hawkesbury River

Mary married a free settler, Thomas Reibey, in 1794 and was emancipated. Thomas had a farm by the Hawkesbury River. He bought a ship in 1807 and expanded his family trading business. Mary helped him, as well as raising their large family. Thomas died in 1811, soon after Mary had their seventh child.

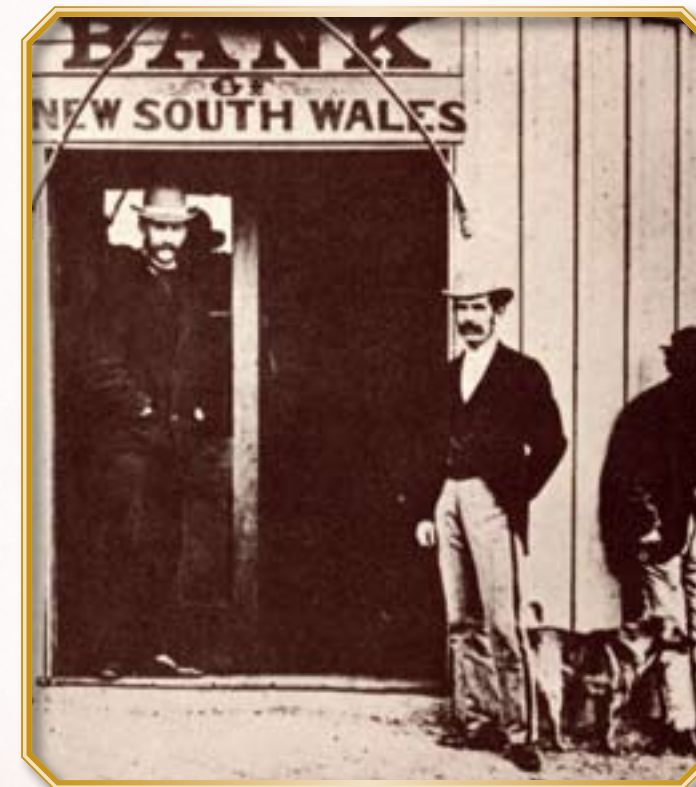
Success in business

Mary took over running the business. It was unusual for women to do this. She had to fight prejudice because she was female and because of her convict origins. Exclusives, or wealthy settlers, such as John Macarthur looked down on her because she was an emancipist, but Governor Macquarie supported emancipists and Reibey was determined to succeed.

Reibey continued to expand her fleet of trading ships, warehouses and farms. In 1817, the colony's first bank opened in a building owned by Reibey. She also owned land in the new colony of Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania.

When Reibey visited England in 1820, she was a very wealthy businesswoman. She owned 31 small farms and over 350 properties in the centre of Sydney.

Reibey was active with her family, business and farming for the rest of her life. She was also involved with the Church of England, education and charity work. Reibey achieved her success through hard work and determination. Through success stories such as Reibey's, Australia gained a reputation as a 'land of opportunity' for everyone.



◀ Reibey helped start the Bank of New South Wales, the first bank in the colony.

See also

Lachlan Macquarie (emancipists and exclusives), Volume 3

Eumarrah

Resistance leader

Eumarrah, a Tyerrernotepanner man, was a resistance leader and Indigenous Australian leader in Van Diemen's Land.

Life facts

- Around 1798** Born in Van Diemen's Land
- 1826–27** Fights European settlers
- 1828** Captured and imprisoned
- 1830–31** Helps George Robinson and Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur
- 24 March 1832** Dies near Launceston, Van Diemen's Land

Eumarrah (sometimes known as Umarra or Umarrah) was a leader of the Tyerrernotepanner people. He led attacks on European settlers in central Van Diemen's Land during 1826 and 1827. Eumarrah and his wife, Laoninlooerner,

were captured in 1828 by Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur. A Hobart newspaper reported that Eumarrah aimed to destroy the settlers because it was 'his patriotic duty'.

More about...

The 'Black War'

This time of fighting in Van Diemen's Land was called the 'Black War'. Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur tried different ways to stop the conflict. He nailed posters to trees that explained in pictures that anyone, whether Indigenous Australians or European, would be hanged if found guilty of killing. This did not stop the war. He hired George Robinson to peacefully 'round up' Indigenous Australians. He also organised a line of people to walk through the bush gathering Aboriginal people. This was called the 'Black Drive'. It did not work either.

Helping the settlers

When Eumarrah was released from gaol, Arthur tried to get Eumarrah to help him bring about peace between the settlers and the Indigenous peoples in Van Diemen's Land. Eumarrah was courageous and could persuade his people. Arthur thought it was better to have him as an ally than as an enemy.

Eumarrah began to help George Robinson. Arthur also asked him to help on the 'Black Drive'. Eumarrah left and returned to his Country many times. Finally, Eumarrah was taken to Flinders Island with other Indigenous Australians. He became ill with dysentery, a disease caused by germs in the stomach, and died in Launceston.



▲ Lieutenant-Governor Arthur used posters to try to stop the conflict between Indigenous Australians and settlers.

See also

- Impact of invasion**, Volume 1
- George Robinson** (Flinders Island), Volume 3
- Truganini** (Indigenous Tasmanians), Volume 4

James Stirling

Governor

James Stirling was a naval officer who promoted the establishment of a free colony on the Swan River.

Life facts

- 28 January 1791** Born in Scotland
- 1803** Enters Royal Navy
- 1805** Fights against French and Spanish
- 1826** Explores Swan River
- 1828** Convinces British Government to start free colony
- 1829–38** Governs the new colony at Swan River
- 1840** Becomes ship commander in Royal Navy
- 1854–56** Leads Royal Navy in East Asia
- 23 April 1865** Dies at Guildford, England

Stirling was born into a famous Scottish naval family. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of 12, and later fought in the Napoleonic wars against France.

Stirling was sent from England to Sydney to help Governor Ralph Darling. Stirling then sailed to New Holland to explore land around the mouth of the Swan River.

Claiming New Holland for Britain

Stirling was impressed with the fertile soils along the Swan River and returned to England with glowing reports. Stirling convinced the British Government to start the first free colony in Australia, without any convicts. Instead, land grants were made to settlers based on the amount of money they invested in the colony. A blaze of publicity, called 'Swan River Mania', attracted investors.

An advance party led by Captain Charles Fremantle took possession of New Holland for Britain on 2 May 1829. Stirling arrived soon after in the *Parmelia* and proclaimed the new colony of Western Australia.



▲ Captain Stirling was the first Governor of the Swan River Colony.

Within a year, reports of hardships ended Swan River Mania in England. Soils were poor and food was difficult to grow. Lack of convict labour was another major problem, and local Aboriginal peoples resisted the invasion of their country.

Stirling resigned as Governor in 1839. By 1850, the Swan River colonists swallowed their pride and requested that convicts be sent to provide cheap labour.

More about...

Avoiding French settlement

In 1826, the British Government was growing worried about possible French settlements in Australia. They established military posts in northern Australia at Melville Island and in the south-west at King George Sound, now Albany.

See also

- Yagan** (resistance to settlement), Volume 3

William Wentworth

Political leader

William Wentworth was a wealthy squatter who led the call for self-government for the Australian colonies.

Life facts

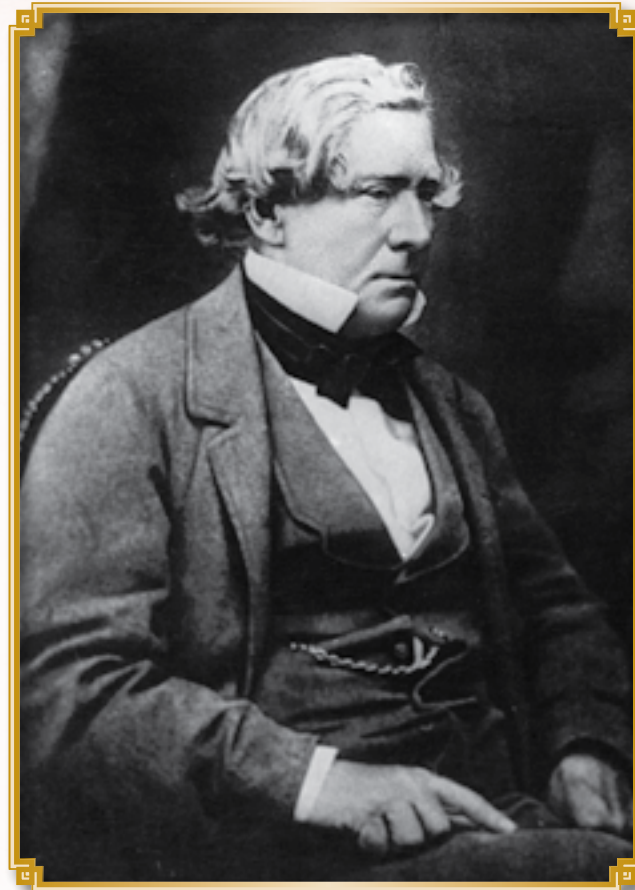
- 13 August 1790** Born near Norfolk Island
- 1796** Moves to Sydney
- 1803** Goes to school in England
- 1813** Crosses Blue Mountains
- 1817** Trains as a lawyer in England
- 1824** Starts the first privately owned newspaper
- 1827** Petitions British Parliament for voting rights for all and inherits father's land
- 1835** Pushes Britain for self-government for the colonies
- 1843** Elected to Legislative Council
- 1844** Leads squatters' opposition to new rules
- 20 March 1872** Dies in England

Wentworth was born onboard a convict ship, just off Norfolk Island. People who were born in the colonies were called currency lads and currency lasses. Wentworth's father, a doctor, came from a wealthy family in England. His mother was a convict, transported to the colony for stealing clothes. Through his parents, Wentworth was connected to both the exclusives, who were wealthy settlers, and the emancipists, who were freed

convicts. Wentworth was educated in England at a school for the children of wealthy families.

Explorer, lawyer and journalist

When Wentworth returned to Sydney in 1810, Governor Lachlan Macquarie appointed him a leader of the military police. Macquarie encouraged exploration. With Gregory Blaxland and William Lawson, Wentworth found a way across the Blue Mountains. This opened up land for sheep grazing.



▲ *Wentworth was a wealthy squatter who was also an explorer, lawyer, journalist and activist.*

Wentworth returned to England to train as a lawyer. While he was there, he wrote a book about the Australian colonies. It was the first book by a currency lad and it raised interest about Australia in England.

Back in Sydney, Wentworth started a newspaper called the *Australian* and got involved in politics. He sided with the emancipists, and he called the exclusives 'yellow snakes' because they had snubbed his father. He was famous in Sydney for his hard-hitting articles and speeches. He organised a **petition** to the British Parliament in 1827 calling for **suffrage** for everyone. He represented emancipists in court.

'Monster squatter'

Wentworth inherited his father's land in 1827. He became the political leader of the squatters. Squatters drove flocks of sheep onto 'unsettled' land and made it their own. They believed that nobody owned the land and they should not have to pay for it. Wentworth had so much land, people called him a 'monster squatter'.

More about...

Squatters and Indigenous Australians

Squatters were often in conflict with the Indigenous people whose land they took. If Indigenous people retaliated against the taking of their land, they were shot or frightened away. Conflict between Indigenous people and squatters became intense, especially after the Myall Creek massacre.

In 1838, at Myall Creek in northern New South Wales, British settlers killed, mutilated and burned 28 Indigenous men, women and children. The settlers argued it was in retaliation for other settlers being murdered. At first found not guilty, seven men were retried, found guilty and hanged.

Both the massacre and the men's punishments made many people very angry. Settlers were shocked because this was the first time white settlers were executed for killing Indigenous Australians.

Self-government

Wentworth did not like the Governor making all the laws. He wanted people to be treated fairly, but he now believed that people who owned land should be the only ones to vote.

Changes in Britain and self-government in Canada convinced Wentworth that democracy could be achieved in Australia's colonies. In 1842, the British Government accepted his proposal for an enlarged Legislative Assembly in New South Wales. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly in Australia's first free elections in 1843.

Wentworth also worked hard to develop the education system in the colony. In the late 1840s, he led the development of State primary schools and the University of Sydney in New South Wales. He believed that people needed to be educated for democracy to work.

More about...

The road to democracy

Changes in Britain and Canada helped Australia on the road to democracy. The *Reform Act 1832* in Britain brought about democratic reform and allowed more British people to vote. The British colony in Canada was granted self-government in 1840 when it became the United Province of Canada.

See also

Lachlan Macquarie (Blue Mountains exploration, and exclusives and emancipists), Volume 3

Yagan

Resistance leader

Yagan, a Wajuk man, was an Indigenous resistance leader. He fought against settlement around the Swan River colony.

Life facts

Around 1795 Born in south-western Australia

1831–32 Avenges deaths of his people

11 July 1833 Dies near Perth

When the Swan River colony was settled in 1829, Yagan at first tried to convince his people to learn to live with the British. His people and the new settlers exchanged gifts. Many settlers thought Yagan was a good man. When the settlers took the land, however, the Wajuk people could no longer hunt and gather the food they needed.



▲ A statue of Yagan stands on Heirisson Island on the Swan River in Perth.

Fighting back

Violent conflict began when Wajuk people were shot for taking food. Yagan was required by his people's laws to retaliate. Rewards were offered for Yagan's arrest when he killed a settler.

Yagan was captured. Robert Lyon, a British settler, convinced Governor Stirling to treat Yagan as a prisoner of war. Lyon went with Yagan to an island prison, where he hoped they could learn about each other's cultures. After a couple of months, Yagan escaped from prison.

Robert Lyon believed Yagan was a patriot who was defending his land and people from invaders. Lyon wrote:

'How hard is the fate of this people! They may stand to be slaughtered; but they must not throw a spear in their own defence, or attempt to bring their enemies to a sense of justice by the only means in their power – that of returning like for like. If they do ... they are outlawed; a reward is set upon their heads; and they are ordered to be shot, as if they were so many mad dogs!'

Yagan's death

Following Yagan's escape from prison, more Wajuk people were shot and more settlers were speared. Settlers lived in fear of attack. Another reward was offered for Yagan's capture.

Yagan still trusted some settlers. He met with two settlers, but while they ate together, he was shot from behind. His head was cut off and taken to England. Yagan's remains were only returned to Australia in 1997.

See also

The Dreaming and the Law, Volume 1

Impact of invasion, Volume 1

James Stirling (Swan River Colony), Volume 3

Charles Sturt

Explorer

Charles Sturt was an explorer who followed the south-eastern rivers, searching for an inland sea.

Life facts

28 April 1795 Born in India

1813 Joins British Army

1827 Escorts convicts to New South Wales

1828 Leads first expedition

1829 Leads second expedition

1839 Becomes Surveyor-General of South Australia

1844 Leads final expedition

16 June 1869 Dies in England

Sturt arrived in Sydney in 1827, escorting a group of convicts from England. He soon became interested in exploring inland Australia.

Following the rivers inland

Some people thought the rivers flowed into an

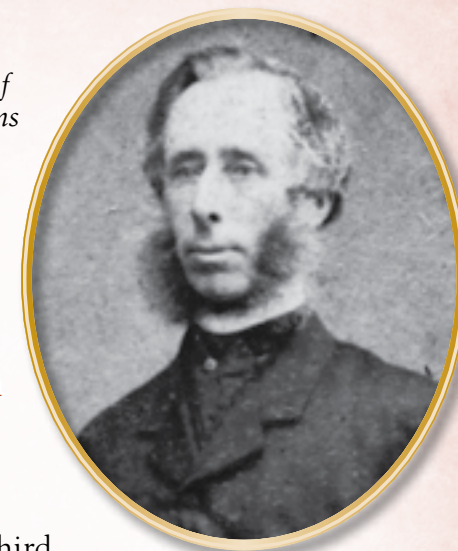
inland sea. In 1828, Sturt led a party of explorers to trace the rivers that flowed westwards. Sturt succeeded in following several rivers, including the Darling River.

Sturt set out again in 1829 to find where the rivers flowed. He sailed down the Murrumbidgee River. It joined with a larger river that he named the Murray. Many Indigenous people lived along the rivers. Several times the explorers nearly came into conflict with them.

Sturt followed the Murray to a lake, now called Lake Alexandrina, near the mouth of the river. He was disappointed to find sand across the river mouth, which meant ships could not sail between the river and the sea.

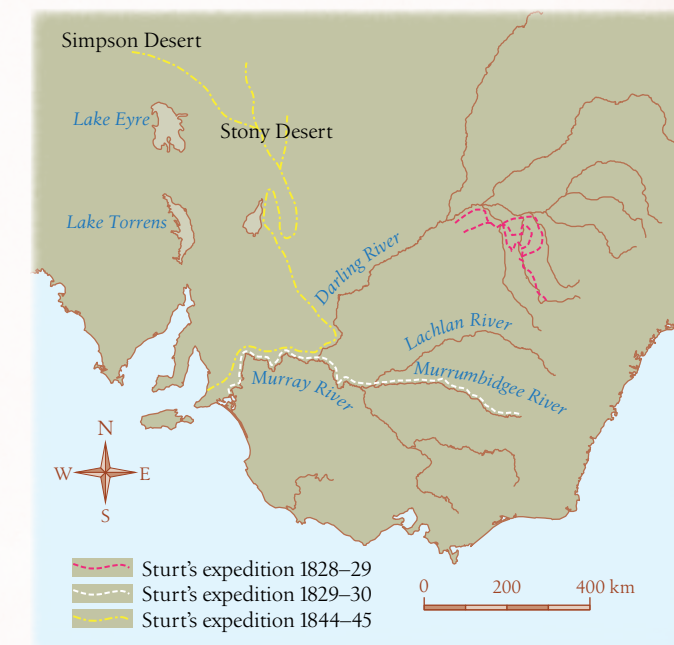
The return journey to Sydney was extremely difficult. Sturt became blind for several months afterwards. He published a book about his expeditions, which was very popular in England.

▶ Sturt was the leader of three major expeditions that looked for an inland sea.



Final expedition

After becoming Surveyor-General of South Australia, Sturt gained support for a third trip. He travelled up the Murray, and up the Darling, looking for an inland sea. There was no inland sea and he was trapped in harsh desert for six months. The expedition returned to Adelaide in 1846.



▲ Map of Sturt's three expeditions

See also

Thomas Mitchell (inland rivers), Volume 3

Edmund Kennedy (inland rivers), Volume 3

Thomas Mitchell

Explorer

Thomas Livingstone Mitchell explored south-eastern Australia. His explorations opened up large areas of grazing land for squatters.

Life facts

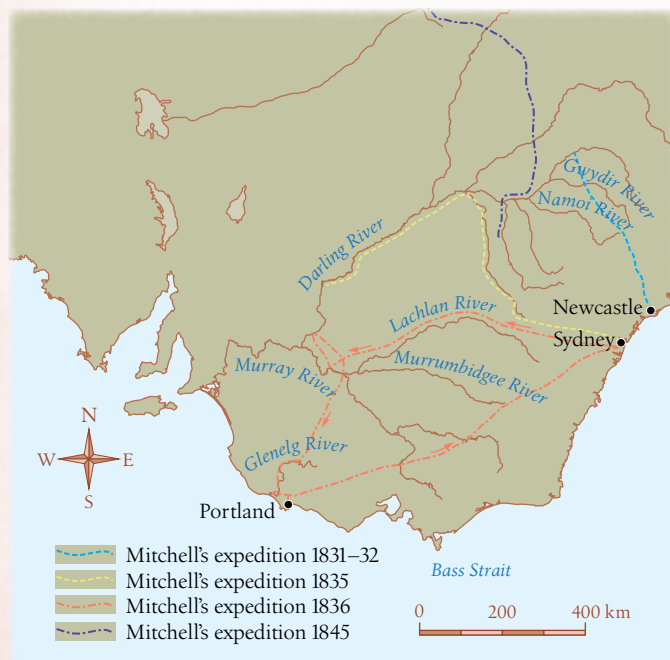
- 16 June 1792** Born in Scotland
- 1811** Joins British Army
- 1827** Becomes Surveyor-General of New South Wales
- 1831** Leads first expedition
- 1835** Leads second expedition
- 1836** Leads third expedition
- 1838** Publishes account of his journeys
- 1846** Leads fourth expedition
- 5 October 1855** Dies in Sydney

Mitchell became Surveyor-General of New South Wales in 1827. He **surveyed** major roads leading north and south from Sydney. He also explored the interior of the colony.

Exploring the inland rivers

Mitchell's first two expeditions explored the area around the Darling River and

the smaller rivers that flowed into it.



▶ Mitchell led four expeditions into Australia's inland.



At first, he believed that the Darling flowed to the sea. His explorations proved Charles Sturt right – the Darling flowed into the Murray River.

Fortunate Australia

On his third expedition, Mitchell explored the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee rivers and the area that is now western Victoria. He was so impressed by the country he called it *Australia Felix*, meaning 'fortunate Australia'.

After sailing down the Glenelg River, Mitchell was surprised to come across a settlement at Portland Bay. The Henty brothers had come from Van Diemen's Land and decided to squat there. They used their ship to catch whales.

After Mitchell returned to Sydney with the news of *Australia Felix*, a rush to settle the land began. Squatters poured into the rich grazing lands he had mapped. Indigenous Australians were forced off their land.

Mitchell's last expedition took him into central Queensland. Again, his maps opened up vast grazing lands to squatters.

◀ Map of Mitchell's expeditions

See also

- William Wentworth** (squatters), Volume 3
- Charles Sturt** (inland rivers), Volume 3
- Edmund Kennedy** (inland rivers), Volume 3

George Robinson

Religious leader

George Robinson was an evangelist who thought he could protect Indigenous Australians by rounding them up and teaching them to be British.

Life facts

- 22 March 1791** Born in England
- 1824** Migrates to Van Diemen's Land
- 1829** Appointed Protector of Aborigines
- 1835** Starts Indigenous Australian settlement on Flinders Island
- 1839** Becomes Protector of Aborigines at Port Phillip Bay
- 1852** Returns to England
- 18 October 1866** Dies in England

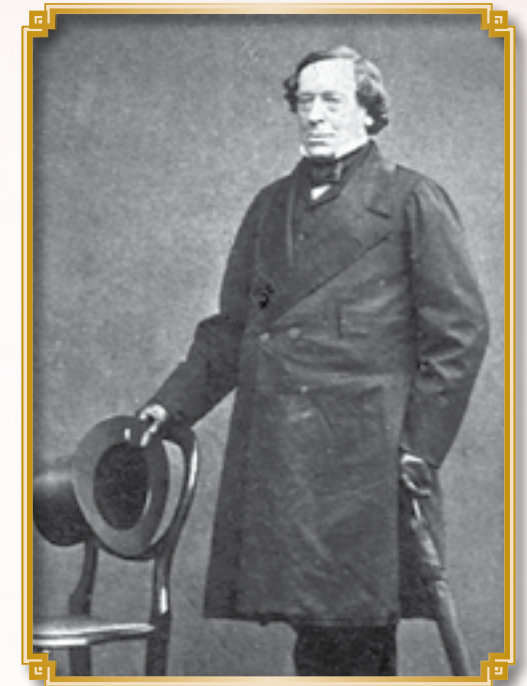
Robinson was a builder who arrived in Hobart in 1824. He was very religious and worked with the community in his spare time. Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur appointed him as Protector of Aborigines.

At that time, many Indigenous people and settlers were being killed in

violent conflict. Robinson believed he could stop the conflict by teaching British culture to Indigenous Australians.

Settlement on Flinders Island

Robinson made expeditions around Tasmania and began to 'round up' surviving Indigenous people. He learned about their cultures. He also found out about the cruel treatment they received from seal hunters, **bushrangers** and shepherds. Robinson convinced 150 Aboriginal Australians to come with him to a new settlement on Flinders Island. He gave them European names. He wanted them to learn about Christianity and act like Europeans. Robinson's methods did not work. Many of the people died from disease and homesickness.



▲ Robinson was a deeply religious man.

Even though few Indigenous Australians survived, Robinson became famous for his experiment. The new colony at Port Phillip Bay hired him to as Protector of Aborigines. He worked there until 1849.



▲ Map showing location of Flinders Island

See also

- Impact of invasion**, Volume 1
- Eumarrah** (Flinders Island), Volume 3
- Truganini** (Indigenous Tasmanians), Volume 4

John Glover

Artist

John Glover was an artist who painted Australian landscapes. He exhibited them successfully in London, England.

Life facts

- 18 February 1767** Born in England
- 1831** Migrates to Van Diemen's Land
- 1835** Exhibits paintings in London
- 9 December 1849** Dies near Launceston, Van Diemen's Land

Glover was a successful artist in England. In 1829, his three sons migrated to Van Diemen's Land. Glover and his wife decided to follow them. They settled on land in northern Tasmania.

Painting Australia

Australia looked very different from any landscape Glover had painted before. He thought the trees were 'peculiar'. The sunlight was also much brighter and clearer.



▲ Glover was a famous English artist who migrated to Van Diemen's Land.

Glover completed many paintings for exhibition in London. He captured the look of Australia better than any other artist at the time. He also painted parts of Indigenous Australian cultures, such as corroborees. Glover was 79 years old when he completed his last major work.

More about...

Australian landscapes

Early colonial artists found it difficult to paint the odd shapes of the trees and shrubs in the Australian bush. They could not capture the bright, clear light. Their landscapes looked English. Glover was the first artist to capture the look of the Australian landscape.

See also

- Henry Lawson** (being Australian), Volume 4
- Tom Roberts** (painting Australian life), Volume 3



▲ Glover painted Australian Landscape with Cattle on his property around 1835.

John Batman

Farmer

John Batman was a farmer who started a settlement on the site that became Melbourne.

Life facts

- 21 January 1801** Born in Sydney
- 1821** Moves to Van Diemen's Land
- 1824** Receives land grant
- 1826** Becomes famous for the capture of Matthew Brady
- 1835** Signs treaty with Woiworung leaders
- 1836** Builds house in village of Melbourne
- 6 May 1839** Dies in Melbourne

Born in Sydney, Batman sailed for the new colony of Van Diemen's Land in 1821. He received a land grant and started farming. He was an expert bushman and helped to capture the bushrangers Thomas Jefferies and Matthew Brady.

At this time the 'Black War' was raging in Van Diemen's Land. Even though he had previously had friendly relations with Aboriginal Australians, Batman joined the 'Black Drive'. This was an attempt to round up all surviving Indigenous Tasmanians and move them into a 'protection' area.

Exploring Port Phillip

Batman was eager to find more land for grazing. In 1835, he sailed across Bass Strait and led exploration around the Yarra River. Twice he made a treaty with the Woiworung people to rent land from them. He offered to make an annual payment of goods such as blankets, scissors and mirrors. Colonial authorities overturned the treaties as soon as they heard of them. They told Batman that Britain owned the land and the Woiworung had no right to rent it to him.

Place for a village

Others from Van Diemen's Land started to settle along the Yarra River. The city of Melbourne quickly grew on the site that Batman noted was the best 'place for a village'. Soon after starting the settlement, Batman died of disease, nursed by his Indigenous Australian companions.

More about...

Batman's 'treaty'

By today's standards, Batman's treaty was an extremely unfair arrangement. Batman was the first, however, to acknowledge that Indigenous Australians owned the land.

Some historians believe that Batman's treaty was a forgery. They believe that the 'signatures' made by the eight Woiworung leaders are identical to marks found in Batman's journal.

See also

- Eumarrah** ('Black War' and 'Black Drive'), Volume 3
- William Cooper** (land rights), Volume 6



▲ Batman made a treaty with the Woiworung people.

Edward Gibbon Wakefield

Political writer

The British Government used Edward Gibbon Wakefield's ideas about land and migration to help build a successful colony in South Australia.

Life facts

- 20 March 1796** Born in England
- 1826** Sent to Newgate Prison in England
- 1829** Writes *A Letter From Sydney*
- 1831** Helps with plan to colonise South Australia
- 1853** Migrates to New Zealand
- 16 May 1862** Dies in New Zealand

Wakefield's family was quite wealthy and he received a good education. A scandal resulted, however, when Wakefield abducted and married a 15-year-old girl. He was sent to prison. This affected his reputation for the rest of his life.

Solving Britain's problems

While in prison, Wakefield thought about the reasons behind Britain's high crime rate. He wrote several articles and books on British colonies. According to Wakefield, overcrowding of people was the cause of Britain's social problems. He thought that encouraging people to migrate to the colonies was the ideal solution. In *A Letter From Sydney*, he said that Sydney's problems resulted from giving away land for free, a shortage of workers and relying too much on convicts.

Wakefield convinced the British Government that land in the colonies should be sold at a price that was low enough for migrants to aim for but high enough to require them to work and save. The Government could use the money from land sales to help people migrate to the colonies.



▲ Wakefield poses with his dogs, around 1840.

Colony of South Australia

The British Government decided to put Wakefield's ideas into practice in the colony of South Australia, which started in 1836. By 1850, nearly 38 000 immigrants had settled in the new colony.

Wakefield never visited the colony founded on his ideas. He migrated to New Zealand in 1853. He became a member of parliament and influenced people's ideas on self-government.

More about...

Other settlements

Wakefield's ideas on the right way to settle new areas were also used:

- in the union of Upper Canada, controlled by the British, and Lower Canada, controlled by the French
- in the first British settlement in New Zealand.

See also

James Stirling (Swan River Colony), Volume 3

Friedrich Ludwig Leichhardt

Explorer

Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig Leichhardt was the first European to explore the interior of northern Australia.

Life facts

- 23 October 1813** Born in Prussia (now in Germany)
- 1842** Arrives in Sydney
- 1844** Leaves Darling Downs to explore the north
- 1845** Reaches Port Essington
- 1848** Sets out for western coast and disappears

Leichhardt was dedicated to science and learning. He travelled to Australia to explore its interior. He started by exploring the Hunter Valley area. Then he travelled from Newcastle

to Moreton Bay, near modern-day Brisbane, collecting plant and rock samples along the way.

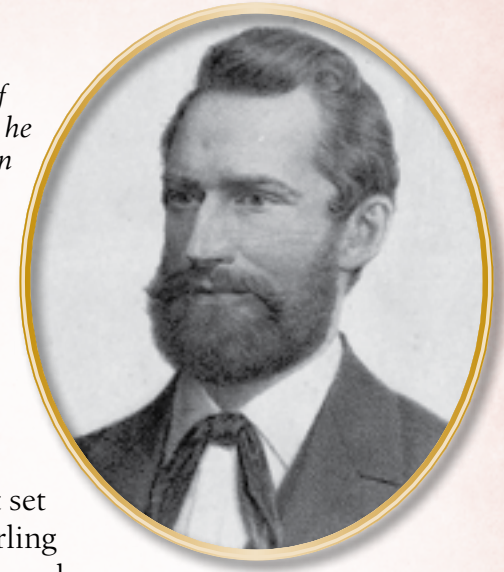
Crossing the north of Australia

In 1844, Leichhardt raised money to explore the north of Australia. He set out from the Darling Downs in the Moreton Bay district. Leichhardt was not a good bushman or leader and he made many mistakes. Aboriginal people killed one man in his group. More than a year after they started, the expedition reached Port Essington in northern Australia. They had completed a dangerous journey across nearly 5000 kilometres.

People thought the explorers had perished. When Leichhardt and his party arrived in Sydney, they were treated as heroes. Leichhardt was hailed 'Prince of Explorers' and given a reward. He published his journals describing the good pastoral country that he found.

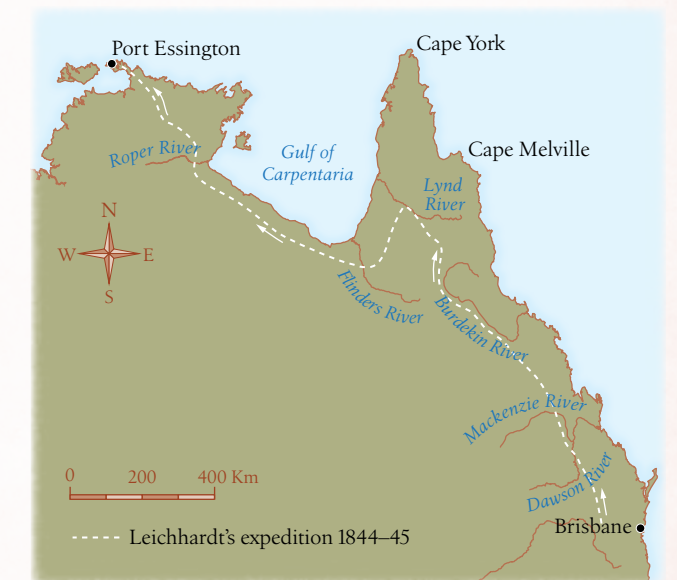
Leichhardt wanted to cross northern Australia from the eastern coast to the western coast, and then follow the coast to the Swan River Colony.

▶ Leichhardt was hailed 'Prince of Explorers' after he crossed northern Australia.



His first attempt failed. In April 1848, Leichhardt set out from the Darling Downs on his second attempt. He was never seen again.

Other explorers searched for traces of Leichhardt's expedition. In 2006, a brass plate with Leichhardt's name on it was found. This showed that the expedition had probably reached the Tanami Desert in central Australia.



▲ Map showing Leichhardt's expedition

See also

John Forrest (inland exploration), Volume 4

Edward John Eyre

Explorer

Edward John Eyre was the first explorer to cross Australia along its southern coast.

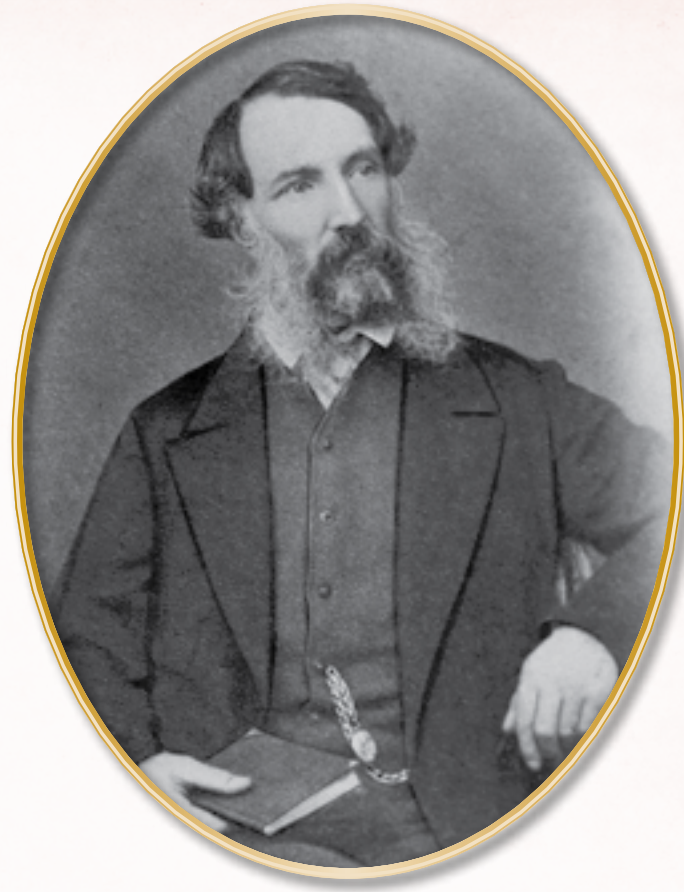
Life facts

- 5 August 1815** Born in England
- 1834–38** Works as a drover
- 1839** Explores from Adelaide to Lake Torrens
- 1840** Reaches Lake Eyre
- 1841** Crosses east to west along southern coast then, made Protector of Aborigines at Moorundie
- 1846** Appointed Lieutenant-Governor of New Zealand
- 1861** Appointed Governor of Jamaica, West Indies
- 30 November 1901** Dies in England

Eyre came to Sydney in 1833 seeking adventure and fortune. He started droving sheep and cattle between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. His bush skills developed and he became interested in exploration.

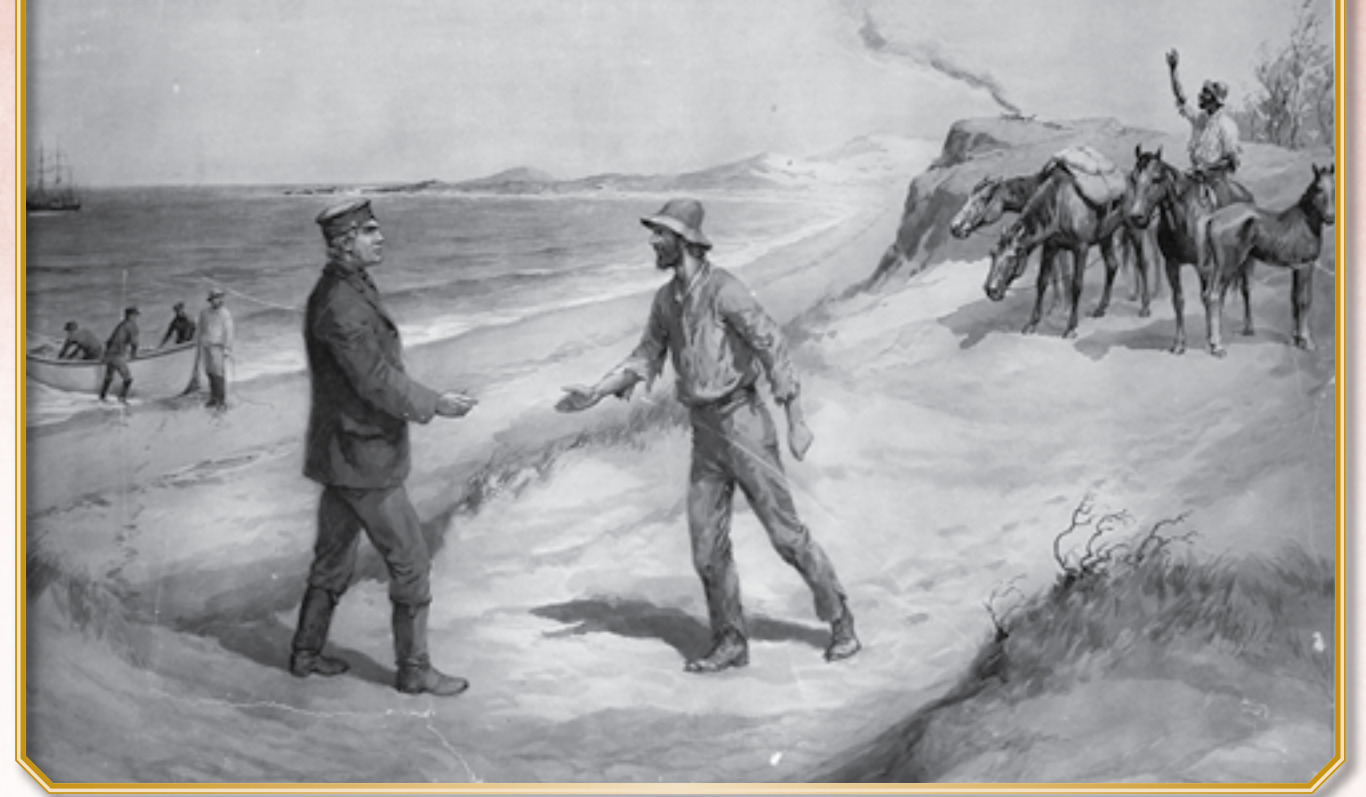
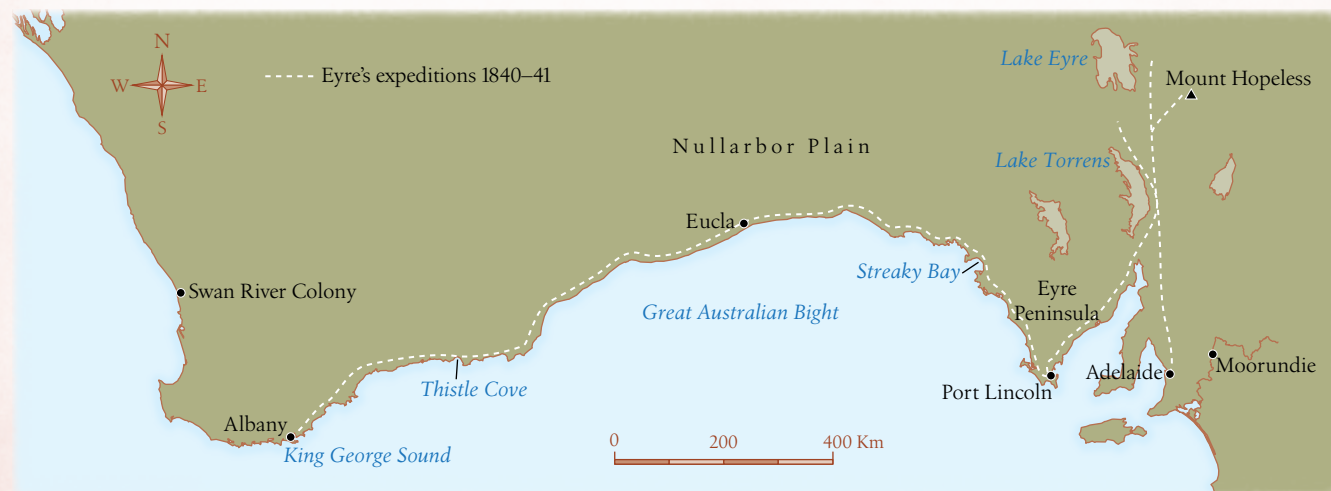
People wanted to know more about the interior of South Australia. Many people believed there was a vast inland

sea. In 1839, Eyre organised an expedition to find it. He travelled through the Flinders Ranges to the dry bed of Lake Torrens. It was mainly barren, salt-lake country.



▲ Eyre was the first European to cross the Nullarbor Plain.

▼ Map showing Eyre's journey across South Australia and Western Australia



▲ Eyre and Wylie were near death when they met French whalers at Thistle Cove.

Reaching the centre

The Governor of South Australia, George Gawler, hired Eyre to explore the interior of Australia. Eyre travelled north again with his assistant John Baxter, five other Europeans and two Indigenous Australians. They took 13 horses, 40 sheep and enough food to last them three months. When they reached Mount Hopeless and a large inland lakebed, later named Lake Eyre, the harsh conditions forced them back.

Crossing Australia

Eyre decided to cross from east to west along the southern coast, from Adelaide to King George Sound in Western Australia. Eyre set out with Baxter, an Aboriginal friend called Wylie, and two Aboriginal guides. They travelled in harsh conditions across the Nullarbor Plain. It was summer and the heat was intense. The only water they found was at a place now called Eucla.

One night, the two guides murdered Baxter and disappeared with most of the food and guns. Wylie remained with Eyre and was able to gather food and water as they pushed west. Without Wylie, Eyre may have died.

Both men were near death when they saw a French whaling ship, the *Mississippi*. The whalers fed them and gave them stores to complete their journey to King George Sound. Eyre became famous and Wylie was rewarded for their journey.

Protector of Aborigines

Eyre was made Protector of Aborigines and built a settlement at Moorundie, on the Murray River. There was a lot of conflict between Indigenous Australians and Europeans as drovers travelled along the Murray River. Eyre gave out rations of food to the Indigenous people. Eyre later wrote about the customs of Indigenous Australians. He treated them with respect but believed that they would have to eventually adopt British culture.

Later, Eyre was appointed to run the British colonies of New Zealand and Jamaica.

See also

William Wentworth (squatters and Indigenous Australians), Volume 3

Caroline Chisholm

Activist

Caroline Chisholm helped female immigrants and their families in the Colony of New South Wales. She sheltered them and found them employment.

Life facts

- 30 May 1808** Born in England
- 1832** Travels to India
- 1838** Moves to Sydney
- 1841** Starts work with female immigrants
- 1842** Publishes *Female Immigration*, the first Australian book by a woman
- 1846** Returns to England
- 1849** Starts Family Colonisation Loan Society
- 1854** Returns to Melbourne
- 25 March 1877** Dies in England

Caroline married Archibald Chisholm, a soldier in the British East India Company. She converted from her Protestant faith to become a Roman Catholic like him. He agreed to support her work helping others. They moved to India and started a family. She believed that family was the most important part of society.

Helping female immigrants

Chisholm and her family moved to Sydney in 1838. Chisholm was shocked when she saw 'bounty girls' living on Sydney's streets. Her religious beliefs inspired her to help them.

Governor George Gipps gave Chisholm a rundown building. She cleaned it and started a Female Immigrants Hostel. It sheltered up to 96 women, whom she also trained to become servants. Chisholm travelled to settlements in the bush, establishing employment agencies. By 1842, she had ten agencies. She organised volunteers with horses and carts to transport



▲ Chisholm dedicated her life to helping people in practical ways.

migrant women to the country, and then she escorted them to farms that needed servants. Her 'bush journeys' became famous. From 1841 to 1844, Chisholm helped over 14 000 people, 11 000 of whom were immigrants.

Often women were unfairly treated on the voyage to Sydney. Chisholm demanded a fair go for them, too. She shocked people when she took a ship's captain and doctor to court for mistreating a girl. People were even more shocked when she won.

More about...

Bounty girls

The British Government paid a **bounty** to encourage young married couples and single females to come to Australia. Little was done to help them once they arrived. Crime was commonplace, and there were three times as many men as women. 'Bounty girls' lived on the streets, relying on crime to survive.

Voluntary work in England

Chisholm's fame spread to Britain where she was known as 'the immigrants' friend'. When the family returned to England in 1846, Chisholm continued her voluntary work.

Caroline achieved many things, such as:

- government assistance for people to join their family in Australia
- housing and support for poor families waiting to migrate
- improvements to conditions on ships through the *Passenger Act*.

She protested against the transportation of convicts and organised businessmen to make loans to migrants through the Family Colonisation Loan Society. Chisholm published books and gave talks about migration to Australia. She helped design ships and started self-help migrant groups

Return to Australia

The Chisholms arrived in Melbourne in 1854 during the gold rush. Chisholm immediately started 'bush shelters' to help families on the harsh journey to the goldfields. Later, she supported miners when they made demands for 'unlocking the land'. Immigrants were frustrated that they could not buy land because squatters held large areas of it. Chisholm believed that smaller land holdings would benefit the Australian colonies. Large landowners such as Wentworth opposed her ideas.

Chisholm died a poor woman in England in 1877. She and Archibald had helped thousands of people. They did this because of their religious beliefs, not for money.

Chisholm's motto was:

*'I promise to know neither country nor **creed**, but to serve all justly and **impartially**.'*



◀ Chisholm helped design hostels to house new migrants.

See also

Ned Kelly (unlocking the land), Volume 4

John Dunmore Lang

Religious leader

John Dunmore Lang was a Presbyterian minister who influenced migration and political ideas in the colonies.

Life facts

- 17 August 1799** Born in Scotland
- 1823** Migrates to Sydney
- 1826** Opens first Presbyterian Church in Sydney
- 1835** Publishes *The Colonist* newspaper
- 1843** Elected to New South Wales Legislative Council
- 1850** Publishes *The United Provinces of Australia*
- 1851** Imprisoned for libel
- 1852** Publishes ideas for Australian democracy
- 1855** Imprisoned for libel
- 8 August 1878** Dies in Sydney

Lang was the first Presbyterian minister in the Colony of New South Wales. He was a Protestant Christian because he disagreed with the Catholic Church. As a Scotsman, he also opposed domination by England.

After he reached Sydney in 1823, Lang worked hard to make sure people who were not Catholic or Anglican were fairly

treated. He built the first Presbyterian Church. He also established church schools.

Encouraging migration

Migration of free settlers to Australia became very important after the 1820s. Lang set up schemes to encourage people to sail to Australia. In 1831, he encouraged skilled tradesmen to migrate to Sydney.

Lang wanted to influence the type of society that would grow in the young colony. He was against domination by the Anglican Church, and he was also opposed to Caroline Chisholm's work, because she was Catholic.



▲ Lang was a minister of Scots Church in Sydney.

Lang thought there were too many Irish Catholics migrating to the colony. He also wanted Britain to stop transporting convicts and he became a leader of the Anti-Transportation Movement.

Developing colonial governments

Lang argued that Australian colonies had a golden future if they were developed properly. He published his ideas to promote the Australian colonies in Britain. He argued for democracy and self-government. He believed that churches should not run the government.

Lang supported the development of the new colonies at Port Phillip Bay and Moreton Bay. He wanted the colonies to separate from New South Wales.

Publishing his ideas

In the 1830s, the colony was changing from a prison, run by the army, into a free society. There was more freedom to discuss different ideas. When Lang returned from a visit to Britain, he brought back a printing press. He used it to start *The Colonist* newspaper.

Lang wrote many articles and books throughout his life. He had a reputation for being fiery, selfish and controversial. Twice in the 1850s he was imprisoned for libel, which is writing something false that can damage a person's reputation.

▼ Lang was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council for many years.

Controversial politician

In 1843, Lang was elected to the New South Wales Legislative Council, representing Port Phillip. He was a good political thinker with far-reaching ideas. He refused to follow the rules, however, and verbally attacked people. He argued that the colonies should form a united democratic nation, independent from Britain. Lang wanted every adult to have the vote. With Henry Parkes, Lang formed the Australian League, which was the first Australian political party.

Lang's funeral

Lang's funeral in 1878 was the largest seen in Australia at that time. He had helped many migrant families start their new lives in the colonies, and five hundred Chinese immigrants led his mile-long funeral procession. The

funeral was watched by 70 000 people lining the streets.



See also

William Wentworth (self-government), Volume 3
Caroline Chisholm, Volume 3
Henry Parkes, Volume 4

Edmund Kennedy

Explorer

Edmund Kennedy explored inland rivers and the northernmost point of Australia, the Cape York Peninsula.

Life facts

5 September 1818 Born in the Channel Islands, England

1840 Arrives in Sydney

1845–47 Goes on first expedition

1847–48 Goes on second expedition

December 1848 Dies near Cape York, Queensland, on final expedition

Kennedy came to Sydney from England in 1840. He became Assistant Surveyor to Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell.

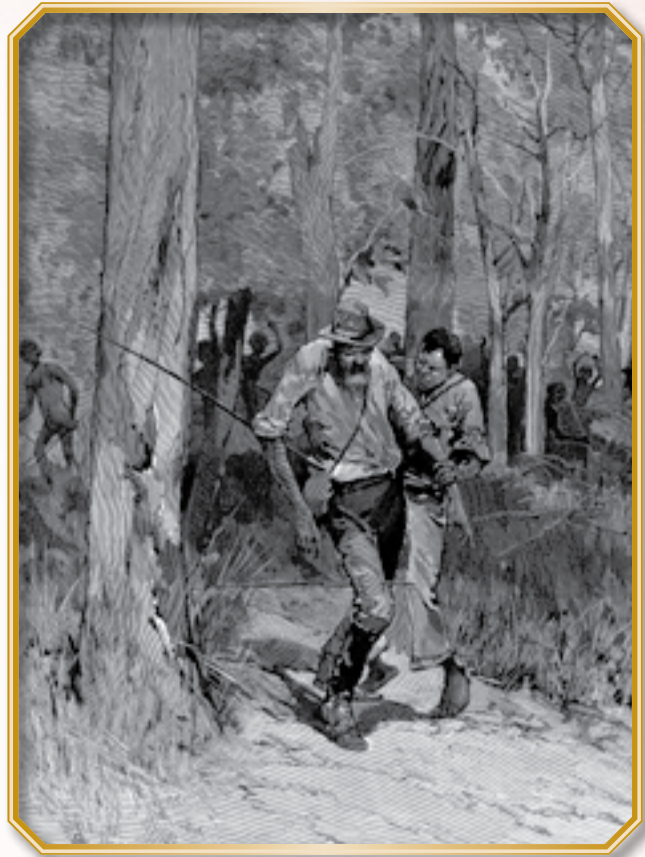
Kennedy set out on his first expedition with Mitchell. There was great interest in finding an overland route and

port site on the northern coast, in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Mitchell found the Victoria River, which flowed northwards towards the sea. The expedition rode back to Sydney with the exciting news. On his second expedition, Kennedy was disappointed to find that the Victoria River flowed inland and did not reach the sea. He renamed it Barcoo River.

Cape York expedition

In 1848, Kennedy was appointed leader of an expedition to Cape York. He planned to reach Cape York, meet a supply ship there, and travel down the western coast and then back to Sydney.

Things did not go according to plan. The biggest problem was crossing the rugged Great Dividing Range. The group of 14 men took two months to travel only 30 kilometres inland. Stores ran low.



▲ *Galmarra tried to save Kennedy after he was speared.*

Kennedy decided to leave twelve men behind and try to reach the supply ship himself. He took his guide Galmarra, also called Jacky Jacky, a Wonnarua man from the Hunter Valley.

Kennedy and Galmarra pushed through swamps and jungles. Near the Cape, they were trapped at the crocodile-infested Escape River. Kennedy was speared, probably by the Yadhagana people. Galmarra nursed him until he died, and then reached the supply ship alone.

See also

Charles Sturt (inland rivers), Volume 3

Thomas Mitchell (inland rivers), Volume 3

Glossary

activist someone who works to bring about political or social change

bounty payment given by the government to encourage people to do something

bushrangers people who break the law and hide in the bush

Catholics Christians who belong to the Roman Catholic Church

Christian belonging to the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ

colonisation settlement of a group of people in a place in order to take control of the land

creed belief or faith

democracy system of government in which all citizens vote

emancipation the freeing of convicts

emancipists convicts who have been given their freedom

enterprising resourceful

exclusives wealthy settlers who were against emancipation

expeditions journeys to explore other areas

frontier edge of settled land

hectares measure of land equal to 10 000 square metres

heritage traditions and objects that have been passed down from previous generations

immigrants people who have come to live in a new country

immunity resistance to viruses or diseases

impartially treating all people fairly

legislative making laws

pastoralists sheep or cattle farmers

patriotic having love and devotion for a country

penal colony settlement where convicts are sent to carry out their sentence

petition written request for government action that is signed by many people

pioneers people who lead the way forward for others

Protestant belonging to Western Christian churches, separate from the Roman Catholic Church

rationed given in fixed amounts to everyone

retaliate attack or fight back in return for a similar attack

Rum Rebellion uprising in 1808 in which the army overthrew Governor Bligh because he was trying to stop soldiers and settlers trading rum

self-government control of a place, such as a colony, by its own people

smallpox epidemic smallpox disease that is passed from person to person and has become widespread

squatting settling on land without the government's permission

suffrage right to vote in political elections

surveyed examined, measured and recorded the features of an area of land

treaty a formal agreement between two countries

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