

Significant People

in AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY



Volume 4

1851–1900

Colonial Life

Contents

History makers	4
Colonial life	5
A snapshot of history	6
Edward Hargraves , Prospector	8
Peter Lalor , Rebel leader	9
Tom Wills , Sportsperson	10
John McDouall Stuart , Explorer	11
Robert Burke and William Wills , Explorers	12
Mary MacKillop , Religious leader	14
Unaarrimin , Sportsperson	16
William Barak , Indigenous leader	17
George Goyder , Surveyor	18
Charles Todd , Engineer	19
Truganini , Resistance fighter	20
Ned Kelly , Bushranger	22
Adam Lindsay Gordon , Poet	24
Charles Rasp , Prospector	25
Patrick Durack , Pastoralist	26
Henry Lawson , Poet	27
Fred Cato , Entrepreneur	28
Mei Quong Tart , Entrepreneur	29
Mary Lee , Activist	30
Louisa Lawson , Activist	31
Henry Parkes , Politician	32
Banjo Paterson , Poet	34
Tom Roberts , Artist	36
Samuel Griffith , Politician	37
Charles Kingston , Politician	38
John Forrest , Politician	39
C. Y. O'Connor , Engineer	40
William Spence , Union leader	41
Jacky Howe , Shearer	42
Paddy Hannan , Prospector	43
Jandamarra , Resistance fighter	44
Ethel Turner , Writer	45
Catherine Spence , Activist	46
Glossary	47
Index	48

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.

▼ *People from all over the world rushed to the Australian colonies in search of gold, arriving at ports such as this one in Melbourne.*



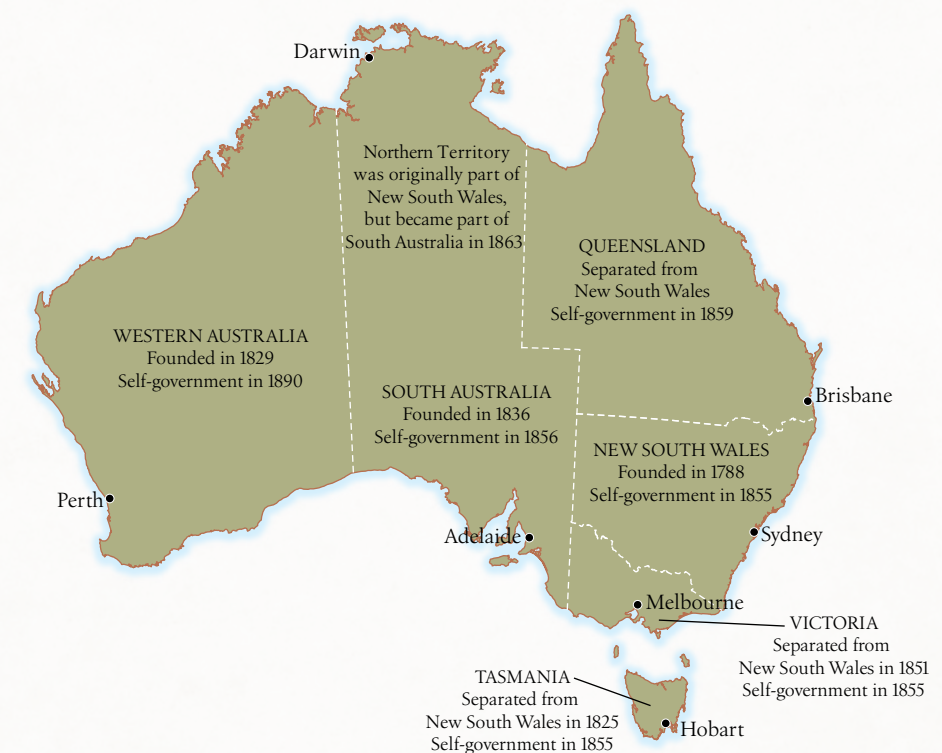
Colonial life

Volume 4: Colonial Life 1851–1900 consists of the biographies of **prospectors** who uncovered Australia's hidden mineral wealth, as well as the **patriots** who helped the six colonies develop separately, at the same time as they built a common Australian identity. These significant people include gold miners, explorers, **surveyors**, engineers, **entrepreneurs**, politicians, **activists**, writers and artists.

New wealth and identity

The discovery of gold in 1851 and the first of Australia's gold rushes brought **immigrants** from all over the world. These gold rushes brought wealth and the chance for **self-government**. The colonies began to establish their own **parliaments**.

Shared achievements in sport and exploration and new styles of writing and painting began to contribute to an Australian identity. By the end of this period, in 1900, about 4 million people lived in the colonies, and the majority had been born in Australia. They were ready to join together to form a new nation.



▲ *By 1890, there were six separate colonies and each had their own government.*

A snapshot of history

1851–1900

In 1851, the transportation of convicts ceased in the eastern colonies and started in the west. Gold was discovered and the population increased rapidly. Explorers opened up the inland to grazing and settlement, and transport and communication lines were built to link the colonies. Democracy grew as each colony gained self-government. Compulsory education was introduced.

Free settlers demanded opportunities to buy land but **squatters** strongly resisted. This struggle to 'unlock the land' resulted in the *Land Selection Acts*. Workers formed **trade unions** and a political party was started to represent the **working class**. Some colonies recognised the right of women to vote. Laws were made to move Indigenous Australians onto reserves and missions. A movement began that would eventually lead to Federation in 1901, when the colonies formed a new nation.



▲ Miners took part in a rebellion known as the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat, Victoria, in 1854.

1851–1900

- 1851** **Edward Hargraves** discovers gold at Bathurst, New South Wales, and immigrants from around the world rush to Australia. Convict transportation to the eastern colonies ends.
- 1852** First steamship arrives in Sydney from England, halving the voyage time.
- 1854** Gold miners in Ballarat, Victoria, rise in the Eureka Stockade **rebellion**, led by **Peter Lalor**. First electric **telegraph** is used in Sydney.
- 1859** The first Australian Rules football season starts. The game is the idea of **Tom Wills**. Queensland is made a separate colony.
- 1861** **Robert Burke and William Wills** die at Cooper Creek in Queensland, after becoming the first to cross Australia from south to north. NSW passes the *Land Selection Act* to 'unlock the land' for small farmers, called selectors.

- 1862** **John McDouall Stuart** successfully crosses from Adelaide to Australia's northern coast on an **expedition** for South Australia.
- 1867** **Mary MacKillop** starts the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph.
- 1868** The Native XI, an Aboriginal Australian cricket team, successfully tours England. One of its stars is **Unaarrimin**, also called Johnny Mullagh. **William Barak** argues for fair treatment of his people at Coranderrk mission station. The last convicts from Britain arrive in Western Australia.
- 1869** **George Goyder** surveys Darwin.
- 1870** **Adam Lindsay Gordon** publishes *Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes*.
- 1872** **Charles Todd** completes the Overland Telegraph Line. Victoria is the first colony to make education free and compulsory.
- 1873** Tasmanian Government claims **Truganini** is the last living Indigenous Tasmanian.

- 1880** A gang of **bushrangers**, led by **Ned Kelly**, is captured after a siege at Glenrowan, Victoria.
- 1885** **Charles Rasp** forms the Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP) to start a mine at Broken Hill, New South Wales.
- 1886** **Pastoralist Patrick Durack** starts Kimberley cattle stations. Victoria passes first *Aboriginal Protection Act*, moving Indigenous Australians to reserves as 'wards of the state'.
- 1880s–90s** **Henry Lawson** publishes poems that deal with life in the outback. **Frederick Cato** grows his grocery empire.
- 1887** **Mei Quong Tart** is honoured by the Chinese Emperor for services to Chinese people living in Australia.
- 1888** **Mary Lee** and **Louisa Lawson** call for women's **suffrage**.
- 1889** **Henry Parkes** delivers a speech at Tenterfield, New South Wales, calling for an independent and united Australia.

- 1890** **Banjo Paterson** publishes *The Man From Snowy River*. **Tom Roberts** exhibits *Shearing the Rams*.
- 1891** Politicians **Samuel Griffith** and **Charles Kingston** help draft a **constitution** for Australia. **John Forrest** leads development in Western Australia and employs **C. Y. O'Connor** as Chief Engineer. **William Spence** helps start the Labor Party. Australia enters a decade of economic **depression**.
- 1892** **Jacky Howe** sets a world record for shearing.
- 1893** **Paddy Hannon** discovers gold in the desert at Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.
- 1894** **Jandamarra** leads Punuba Resistance in Western Australia. **Ethel Turner** publishes *Seven Little Australians*. South Australia gives women the right to vote and stand for election to Parliament.
- 1897** **Catherine Spence** stands for election to South Australia's Federal Convention.

Edward Hargraves

Prospector

Edward Hargraves discovered gold at Bathurst, in New South Wales, and started the first gold rush in the Australian colonies.

Life facts

- 7 October 1816** Born in England
- 1832** Arrives in Sydney
- 1849** Searches for gold in California
- 1851** Discovers gold at Bathurst, New South Wales
- 29 October 1891** Dies in Sydney

Hargraves rushed to the United States to find his fortune in the California gold rush of 1849. Failing to strike it rich, he returned to Sydney to search for gold. The New South Wales Government offered a reward for the discovery of a large goldfield.

Gold at Bathurst

Hargraves and John Lister discovered gold near Bathurst in 1851. Their first find was not big enough to win the reward. Hargraves trained Lister and the Tom brothers to continue searching while he returned to Sydney. When his partners found more gold, Hargraves claimed the reward for himself. He boasted, 'I felt myself surrounded by gold ... At that instant, I felt myself to be a great man.'

Only part of the reward was paid to Hargraves before his angry partners argued with his claim. A Government inquiry concluded Hargraves deserved the reward. A later inquiry said that Lister and the Tom brothers deserved it.

The first gold rush

This first Australian gold rush brought people and wealth to the colonies. Within three months, 300 miners were digging in Bathurst.



▲ Hargraves was rewarded for finding Australia's first goldfield in 1851.

A Sydney newspaper complained that 'complete mental madness appears to have seized almost every member of the community'. The Bathurst rush did not last long. Angry miners blamed Hargraves for exaggerating the find. Much bigger finds were soon made in Victoria, where the Victorian Government had also offered a reward.

More about...

Gold in Australia

Indigenous Australians probably found gold nuggets over the many thousands of years they lived in Australia. Their cultures, however, had no use for gold. Discoveries of gold in New South Wales between 1823 and 1844 were kept secret. Governors feared that the convicts would riot, and squatters feared they would lose their workers.

See also

Peter Lalor (Victorian goldfields), Volume 4
Paddy Hannan (Western Australian goldfields), Volume 4

Peter Lalor

Rebel leader

Peter Lalor led gold miners in the Eureka Stockade rebellion on the Victorian goldfields. He later became a Member of Parliament.

Life facts

- 5 February 1827** Born in Ireland
- 1845–47** Survives the Great Potato Famine in Ireland
- 1852** Migrates to Victoria in the gold rush
- 1854** Moves to Ballarat goldfields and leads Eureka Stockade
- 1856** Elected to Victorian Parliament
- 9 February 1889** Dies in Melbourne

Attracted by the Victorian gold rush, Lalor migrated from Ireland in 1852. He joined 30 000 miners in Ballarat. The Victorian Government made every miner buy an expensive miner's licence, even though most miners, also called diggers, did not strike it rich.

Both the fee for the gold licence and regular licence checks angered the miners.

Stockade at Eureka Hotel

Tensions erupted between miners and the army after a miner was killed at the Eureka Hotel. Army reinforcements arrived in Ballarat and licence checks were made at gunpoint. Diggers burned licences in protest. They built a rough barricade, called a stockade, at the Eureka diggings and flew their own Southern Cross flag. Lalor was elected leader.

Early on 3 December 1854, police and soldiers stormed the digger's stockade. Twenty-two

Part of the diggers' oath as they prepared for rebellion at the Eureka Stockade was:

'We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties.'

▶ Lalor had his left arm removed after the Eureka Stockade and always wore a cape over his shoulder.



diggers and five soldiers were killed on the battlefield. Thirty others were wounded, including Lalor who had to have one of his arms removed. Over 100 diggers were arrested and marched to prison, but Lalor escaped. The Government offered a reward for his capture.

After the rebellion

Most people believed the diggers had acted in self-defence. The Government dropped their charges against the rebels and Lalor became a hero. Diggers could now vote and have a say in how they were governed. Lalor was later elected to Victorian Parliament and fought for changes to 'unlock the land' from the squatters' control.

More about...

The Eureka Stockade

The Eureka rebellion was not just about gold licences. Diggers demanded changes to the licence, but they were also worried about what would happen when the gold ran out. Many diggers wanted land to farm, but all the land was controlled by squatters. The diggers also wanted to vote and have a say in running the colony.

See also

Caroline Chisholm (unlocking the land), Volume 3
Edward Hargraves (gold in Australia), Volume 4
Paddy Hannan (Western Australian goldfields), Volume 4

Tom Wills

Sportsperson

Thomas Wills was a talented sportsperson who started Australian Rules football. He also coached the first Aboriginal Australian cricket team to tour England.

Life facts

- 19 August 1835** Born in Gundagai, New South Wales
- 1839** Moves to Victoria
- 1849** Goes to Rugby School, England
- 1857** Plays cricket for Victoria
- 1858** Writes ideas about Australian football
- 1859** First Australian football season
- 1868** Coaches Native XI English tour
- 3 May 1880** Dies in Melbourne

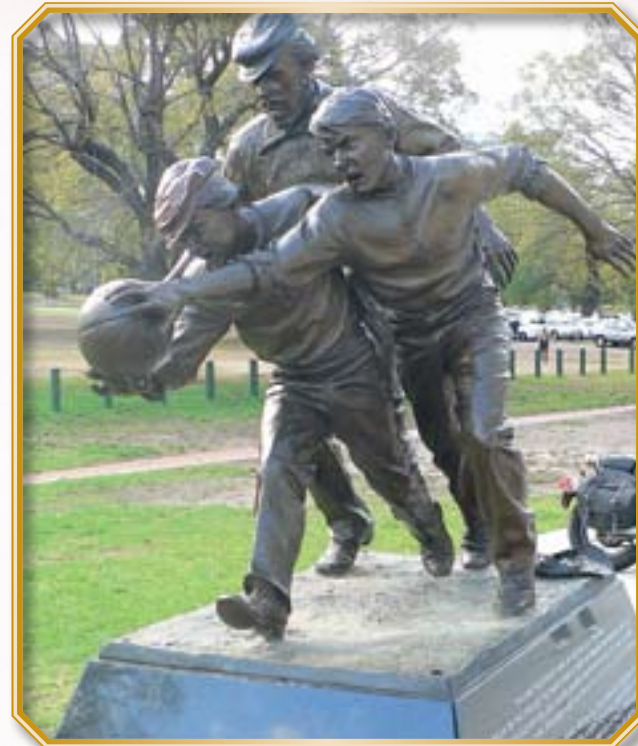
Wills grew up around Ararat in Victoria. He was the grandson of an **emancipist**. Wills played with local Indigenous Australian children when he was growing up, and learned to speak the language of the Tjapwurong people. When he was 14 years old, Wills was sent to Rugby

School in England. He captained the school cricket team and was also good at rugby.

Starting a new sport

After returning to Australia, Wills led the Victorian cricket team to its first victory over New South Wales. He wrote to a sports' newspaper encouraging cricketers to play football to keep fit in winter.

The football game that Wills promoted was an Australian invention. The earliest games were played without many rules, but Wills and his friends wrote down the rules in 1859. Wills helped start football clubs such as Geelong and Melbourne. They were the first clubs in what is now called the Australian Football League.



▲ A statue of Wills umpiring an early game of football stands in front of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Coaching cricket

Wills coached the Native XI, the Aboriginal Australian cricket team that successfully toured England in 1868. This was the first international tour by any Australian team.

More about...

The origins of Australian Rules football

Some people believe the rules for Australian football came from an Irish game called Gaelic football. Others believe Wills' invention came from *marngrook*, which was a ball game played by Indigenous Australians. High marking was a feature of *marngrook*.

See also

William Wentworth (emancipists), Volume 3
Unaarrimin (Native XI cricket team), Volume 4

John McDouall Stuart

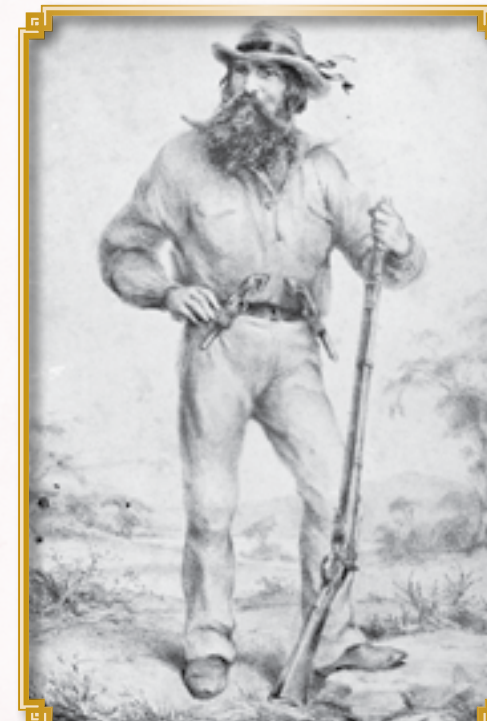
Explorer

John McDouall Stuart was an explorer who crossed from the south to the north of Australia.

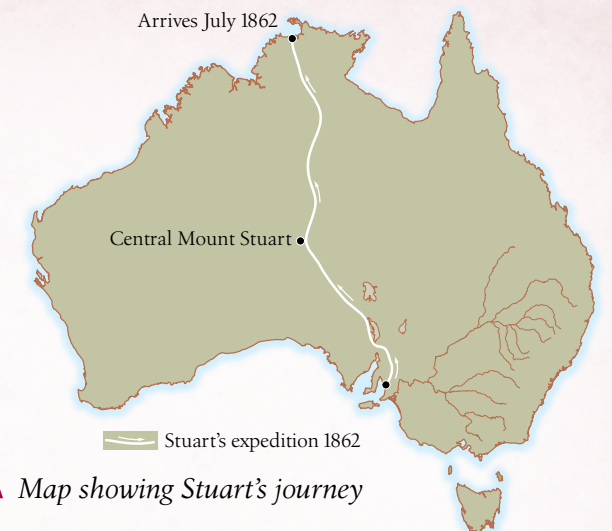
Life facts

- 7 September 1815** Born in Scotland
- 1838** Migrates to South Australia
- 1844** Becomes surveyor with Sturt's desert expedition
- 1860** Makes first attempt to reach northern coast
- 1861** Makes second attempt to reach northern coast
- 1862** Crosses Australia from south to north
- 5 June 1866** Dies in London, England

Stuart worked as a surveyor in the new colony of South Australia. In 1844, he was a member of Sturt's expedition into the Simpson Desert. He learned that it was essential to travel light, fast and between waterholes in the harsh desert environment.



▲ Stuart was a great explorer of inland Australia.



▲ Map showing Stuart's journey

Crossing Australia

Stuart explored and surveyed the inland parts of South Australia. He was hired by the South Australian Government to find a route for a telegraph line that would link the northern coast to Adelaide. He succeeded on his third attempt by following tracks of local Aboriginal people that led from one waterhole to the next.

Extreme heat, lack of water and starvation did not defeat Stuart. Through his good leadership, no one died on his expeditions. He had mostly friendly relations with the Indigenous Australians he encountered.

Unlike Robert Burke and William Wills, Stuart returned from his expedition across Australia. Exploring the harsh inland of Australia, however, had a bad effect on Stuart's physical and mental health. When he returned to England in 1864, he was hailed as a hero. Stuart published his journals and was presented to Queen Victoria.

See also

Charles Sturt (inland exploration), Volume 3
Robert Burke and William Wills (race to cross the country), Volume 4
Charles Todd (Overland Telegraph Line), Volume 4

Robert Burke and William Wills

Explorers

Robert Burke and William Wills were inland explorers who died tragically after being the first to cross Australia from south to north.

Burke was an Irish soldier and policeman, and Wills was an English surveyor. After immigrating to the Australian colonies, they were appointed to lead a Victorian expedition to the northern coastline. Burke was the commander and Wills was second-in-command.

Life facts

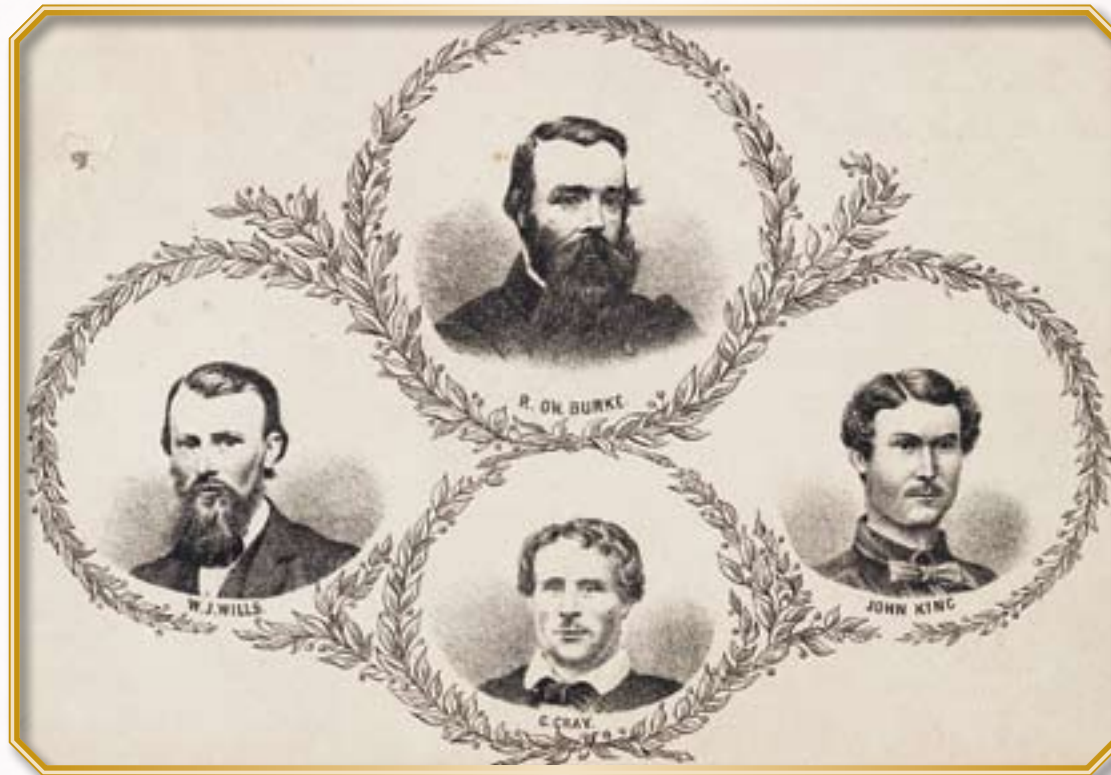
Robert Burke

February 1831 Born in Ireland
1853 Migrates to Victoria
1860 Leads expedition from Melbourne
1861 Crosses Australia from south to north
About 28 June 1861 Dies at Coopers Creek, Queensland

Life facts

William Wills

5 January 1834 Born in England
1852 Migrates to New South Wales
1860 Leaves Melbourne on expedition
1861 Crosses Australia from south to north
About 28 June 1861 Dies at Coopers Creek, Queensland



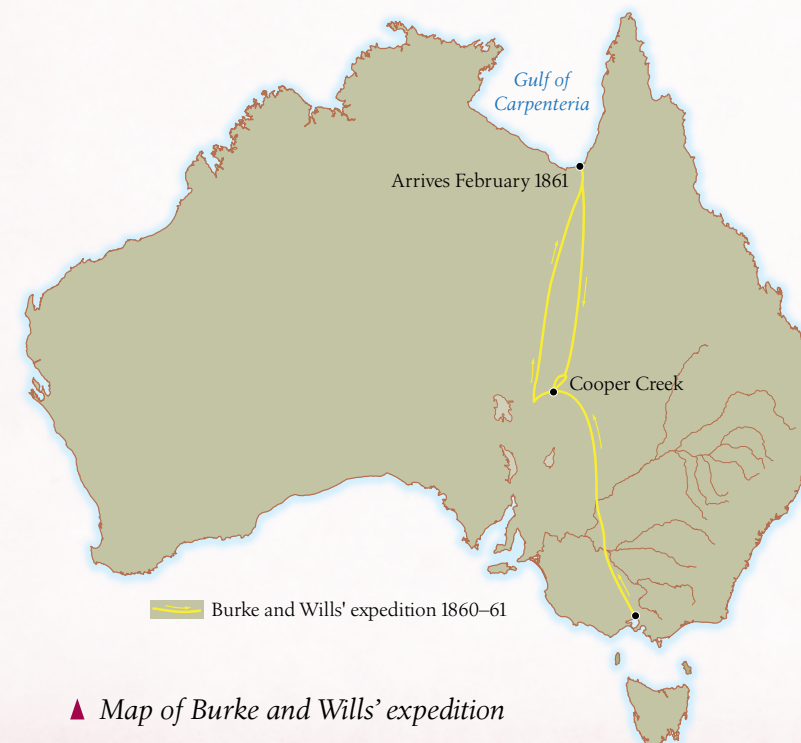
▲ Burke was the commander, Wills was second-in-command and Gray and King were members of the expedition to cross Australia.

The expedition

Burke and Wills left Melbourne on 20 August 1860 with 17 men, 27 camels and 23 horses. After setting up base camp at Cooper Creek, Queensland, Burke, Wills and two other men, Gray and King, made quickly for the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north. They reached the Gulf on 9 February 1861.

Floods slowed their return journey and Gray died of starvation. Exhausted, they finally reached their base camp only to find it abandoned. The rest of the expedition had left nine hours earlier.

The three men tried to move south. The local Indigenous Australians gave them food, but Burke and Wills died of starvation and exhaustion. King survived and spent over two months living with the local people before being found by a search party. A total of seven men died on the expedition.



▲ Map of Burke and Wills' expedition

Cooper Creek

Cooper Creek was an important meeting place for the Yawarawarka, Yandruwandha and Wangkumara peoples.

The funerals of Burke and Wills

Burke and Wills were given a State funeral in Melbourne on 21 January 1863. Over 100 000 people came to see their bodies in the two weeks before their funeral. On the same day as the funeral, the South Australian people celebrated as the explorer John McDouall Stuart led a procession through the streets of Adelaide.

More about...

Race to cross the country

Burke and Wills competed against other explorers to be the first to cross the continent from south to north. Their biggest competitor was John McDouall Stuart from South Australia. There was great rivalry between Victoria and South Australia. The race to cross the country was not just for glory. A south-north route would mean that the colony could build a telegraph line across the country and link it, in the north, to Asia's telegraph line and the rest of the world. Although Burke and Wills won the race, they died in the desert on their return journey. Stuart returned with details of a practical route, right through the heart of Australia. South Australia was victorious. Northern Australia became part of their colony, and they could build the telegraph line.

See also

John McDouall Stuart (crossing Australia), Volume 4
Charles Todd (Overland Telegraph Line), Volume 4

Mary MacKillop

Religious leader

Mary MacKillop was a Catholic nun who began the Order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. She dedicated her life to helping poor people in Australia and New Zealand.

Life facts

- 15 January 1842** Born in Melbourne
- 1860** Works as governess in Penola, South Australia
- 1866** Starts a school in Penola
- 1867** Starts Catholic religious order
- 1871** Banished from the Catholic Church
- 1872** Ban is lifted
- 1875** Travels to Europe
- 1902** Becomes paralysed
- 8 August 1909** Dies in Sydney

MacKillop was the eldest of eight children. Her family was poor so she worked to support them. She gave them all the money she earned. By the time she was 15 years old, she had decided she wanted to be a nun and help the poor.

Starting a Catholic school

In 1860, Mary moved to Penola, South Australia, to be a governess. She became friends with Father Woods, the Catholic parish priest. He was worried that Catholic education was not available for many people. He invited Mary to start a Catholic school.

The Sisters of St Joseph

Mary started the Order of the Sisters of St Joseph in 1867 to provide education for the poor. By the end of that year, ten more women had joined her as Sisters, called Josephites. Two years later, there were 70 Sisters of St Joseph and 21 schools in Adelaide and country areas.

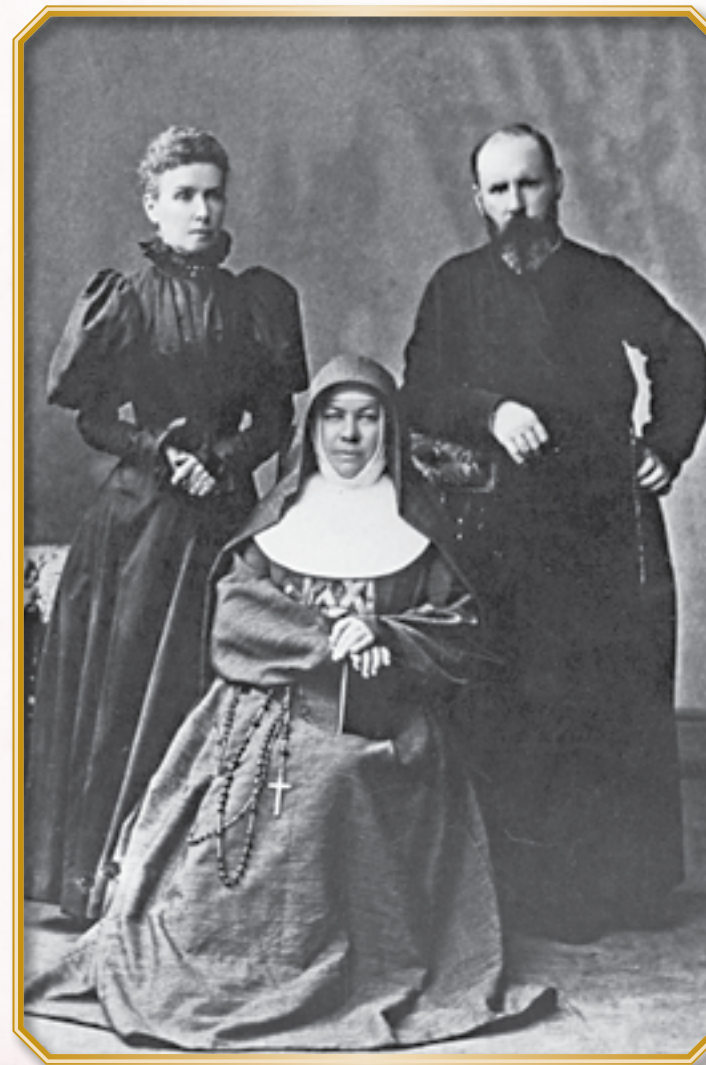


▲ MacKillop was also called Mother Mary of the Cross.

The Josephites ran schools, an orphanage and a home for the aged. They endured great hardships in small, isolated country schools in South Australia. MacKillop travelled to Brisbane to spread the Order there.

Banned from the Catholic Church

Bishop Sheil, a leader of the Catholic Church, disagreed with MacKillop's work. MacKillop was very independent and believed the Sisters should abide by the rules of the Josephite Order. Sheil wanted them to abide by his rules. In 1871, he excommunicated MacKillop from the Catholic Church, which meant that she could not participate in the Church at all. Sheil said she had persuaded the Josephites to be disobedient.



Sheil was wrong and a year later the ban was lifted. Later, MacKillop also had to deal with opposition from Bishop Reynolds. Despite these troubles, however, she continued to expand the Josephite Order.

Europe

In 1875, Mary travelled to Rome where she gained approval for the Rules of the Josephites from Pope Pius IX. She visited schools in several European countries. She returned with new ideas, resources, priests and 15 new Josephite Sisters. MacKillop continued to expand the Order through the Australian colonies and New Zealand. She was elected Mother Superior of the Josephites.

Road to sainthood

MacKillop continued to work hard despite health problems. In 1902, she became paralysed on her right side and spent the last seven years of her life in a wheelchair. After she died in 1909, many people believed she should be made a Catholic saint. In 1995, the Catholic Church took the first step to sainthood for Mother Mary MacKillop.

◀ MacKillop sits with her sister, Annie, and her brother, Father Donald.

See also

Caroline Chisholm (Catholic charity), Volume 3

Unaarrimin

Sportsperson

Unaarrimin, also known as Johnny Mullagh, was a famous cricketer. He was a Madi Madi man who demanded fair treatment for Indigenous Australians.

Life facts

- 13 August 1841** Born near Harrow, Victoria
- 1868** Stars on Native XI cricket tour of England
- 14 August 1891** Dies near Harrow, Victoria

Unaarrimin was born on Mullagh Station near Harrow, in Victoria. White people called him Johnny Mullagh. He became skilled at shearing sheep and breaking horses.

Native XI cricket team

In 1868, Unaarrimin toured England with an Indigenous Australian cricket team, called Native XI. The team played 45 matches on tour, and Unaarrimin scored 1698 runs, averaging nearly 24 runs per innings. He took 245 wickets.

Back in Victoria, Unaarrimin played for the Melbourne Cricket Club for a short time, but became homesick and returned to Mullagh Station.

Some people respected Unaarrimin because he was a talented sportsperson. He experienced racial discrimination from other people.

When Indigenous Australians were moved onto reserves, Unaarrimin demanded fair treatment for them. He refused to live on a reserve and made his own camp in the bush.



▲ Unaarrimin (circled) was a starring member of the 1868 Native XI cricket team.

More about...

Indigenous reserves

Reserves were areas of land set aside by governments on which Indigenous Australians were expected to live. These reserves were sometimes sheep or cattle stations or religious missions. Life on the reserves was controlled by government-run Protection Boards. There were more than 200 reserves across Australia.

See also

Tom Wills (Native XI cricket team), Volume 4

William Barak

Indigenous leader

William Barak, born Beruk, was a Woiworung man. He was a leader who fought for Indigenous rights.

Life facts

- About 1824** Born in southern Victoria
- 1835** Sees 'signing' of Batman treaty
- 1844** Joins Native Mounted Police
- 1868** Builds understanding at Coranderrk mission station, Victoria
- 1875** Becomes Indigenous leader, called *ngurungaeta*
- 15 August 1903** Dies at Coranderrk

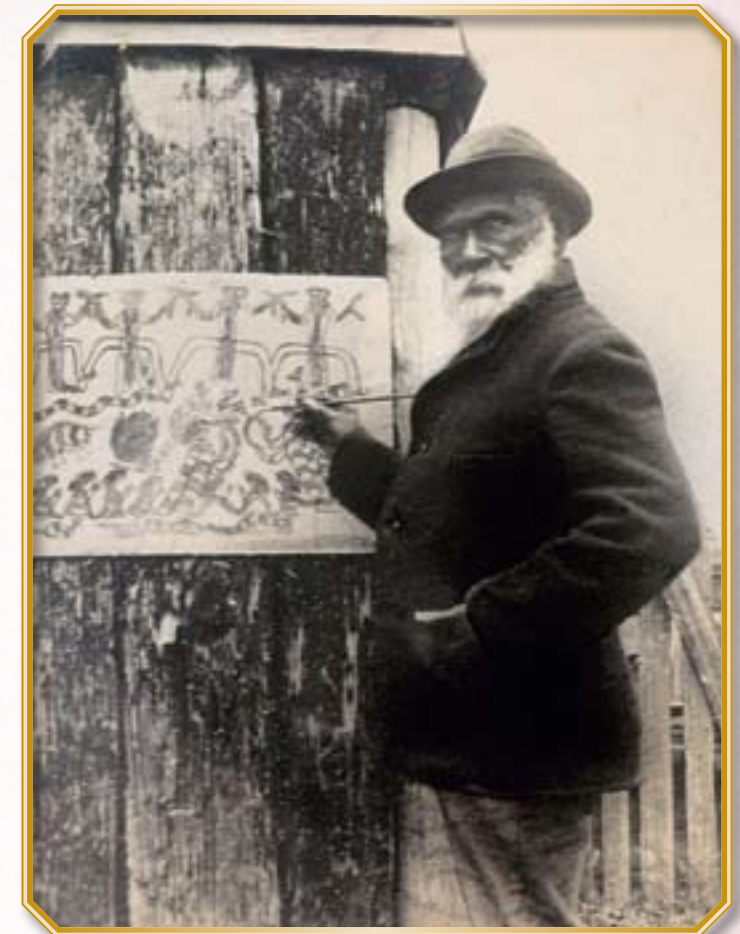
As a child, Barak witnessed the meeting between John Batman and Indigenous elders, in which Batman claimed to have purchased the land where Melbourne was built. In 1844, Barak joined the Native Mounted Police as a tracker.

Coranderrk mission station

In 1863, Barak helped start a mission station called Coranderrk. People from five Indigenous Australian groups around Port Phillip Bay settled and grew crops there. By 1865, 105 people lived on the station.

Barak was a wise and highly respected leader who worked tirelessly to build understanding between Indigenous people and the authorities. He also became famous for his art. He was a devout **Christian**, and he argued for the fair treatment of Indigenous Australians.

In 1874, when Barak heard of plans to close Coranderrk, he organised a **petition**. He wrote to Queen Victoria, pleading that his people be given land rights. His efforts did not succeed.



▲ Barak paints a picture against the wall of a slab hut around 1898.

Barak wanted the people of Coranderrk to govern themselves. He petitioned the government and said:

'Give us this ground and let us manage here ourselves ... and no one over us ... we will show the country we can work it and make it pay and I know it will ...'

See also

Traditional custodians (Woiworung), Volume 1
John Batman (Batman treaty), Volume 3
Unaarrimin (Indigenous reserves), Volume 4
William Cooper (land rights), Volume 6

George Goyder

Surveyor

George Goyder surveyed South Australia and helped settlers decide where to farm and graze animals. He also surveyed the north and chose where to build the city that became Darwin.

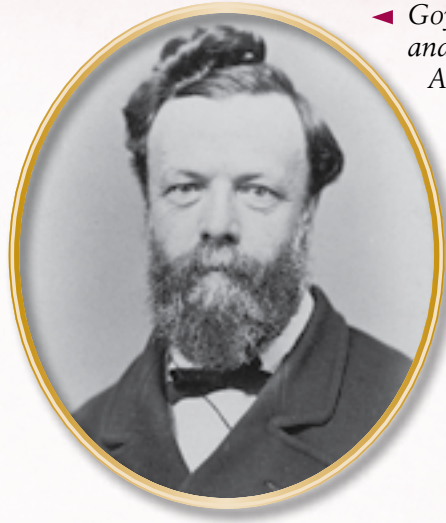
Life facts

- 24 June 1826** Born in London, England
- 1848** Migrates to New South Wales
- 1851** Becomes public servant in South Australia
- 1857** Explores South Australia
- 1861** Becomes Surveyor-General of South Australia
- 1865** Draws boundary of safe farming land
- 1869** Surveys Darwin
- 1894** Retires
- 2 November 1898** Dies in Adelaide

Surveyor-General

As Surveyor-General from 1861 to 1894, Goyder was in charge of all surveys for farms and grazing lands. Mines were also surveyed and people were encouraged to save water and plant more trees. Goyder was a pioneer in showing people the importance of managing natural resources, which are the things already provided by nature, such as water and forests.

In 1863, the British Government gave the land that is now the Northern Territory to South Australia. Goyder and his team surveyed large areas. He selected the best place to build the trading port and main town, called Palmerston.



◀ Goyder explored and surveyed South Australia and the land that is now the Northern Territory.

Palmerston was the first successful settlement on the northern coast of Australia. Its name was later changed to Darwin.

Goyder's Line

After years of good rains, farmers spread northwards, clearing land and planting more crops. When drought came, the farmers lost money and the land was damaged. After investigating, Goyder drew a boundary for safe farming, called Goyder's Line. North of the line, he said, the rainfall was unreliable and the land should never be cleared and ploughed. Some people thought Goyder's Line was ridiculous but over time Goyder was proven correct.

More about...

Settlement on the northern coast

From 1824 onwards, there had been several attempts to start trading ports on the northern coast of Australia. These first attempts failed because of difficulties with the climate and resistance from Indigenous Australians.

See also

John McDouall Stuart (exploration), Volume 4

Charles Todd

Engineer

Charles Todd led the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line, which connected the Australian colonies with the rest of the world.

Life facts

- 7 July 1826** Born in London, England
- 1855** Migrates to South Australia
- 1856** Establishes weather stations linked by telegraph
- 1870** Starts building Overland Telegraph Line
- 1872** Opens the Overland Telegraph Line
- 1906** Retires
- 29 January 1910** Dies in Adelaide

In England, Todd worked as an astronomer. He migrated to South Australia to become Superintendent of Telegraphs, responsible for building telegraph lines.

Telegraph line across Australia

In 1859, Todd proposed building an overland telegraph line from Adelaide to the northern coast. Three years later, John McDouall Stuart's expedition to the north made this idea possible. Construction of the line along Stuart's route started in 1870 and was completed two years later. Todd led this project, which was the greatest engineering project in the Australian colonies at the time.

The Overland Telegraph Line finished at Port Darwin, where it was joined to an undersea cable from Singapore. Eleven repeater stations were built along the overland route. One of them was called Alice Springs, after Todd's wife, Alice. A person at a repeater station would receive a message, write it down and then send the message to the next station.

For the opening of the line in 1872, Todd went to Central Mount Stuart in central Australia.



▲ Todd (second from right) stands with workers on the Overland Telegraph Line in 1872.

He sent a message saying the line was open. Messages of congratulations came back from the colonies. Later, when the line was connected to the undersea cable, Todd declared 'the Australian colonies were connected with the grand electric chain which unites all the nations of the earth'.

More about...

The telegraph

The telegraph was invented in England in 1837. It could transmit messages over large distances by sending electric pulses along a wire. The colonies of Australia were linked to each other by telegraph. They were not linked to the rest of the world until the Overland Telegraph Line was built. Then, it became possible to link Australia with England through overland telegraph lines and undersea cables through Asia. It had taken more than a year for the first settlers to exchange messages with England by boat. Using the telegraph line, this could be done in one day.

See also

John McDouall Stuart (telegraph line), Volume 4
Robert Burke and William Wills (race to cross the country), Volume 4

Truganini

Resistance fighter

Truganini, also known as Trugananner, was a Nuenonne woman who sometimes worked with European settlers and sometimes resisted their rule. The Tasmanian Government claimed she was the last Indigenous Tasmanian.

Life facts

- About 1812** Born near Bruny Island, Van Diemen's Land
- 1829** Marries Wooraddy
- 1835** Moves to Flinders Island
- 1839** Goes to Port Phillip with George Robinson
- 1841** Takes part in raids in western Victoria
- 1842** Returns to Flinders Island
- 1848** Moves to Oyster Cove convict station
- 1873** Government claims Truganini is last Indigenous Tasmanian
- 8 May 1876** Dies in Hobart

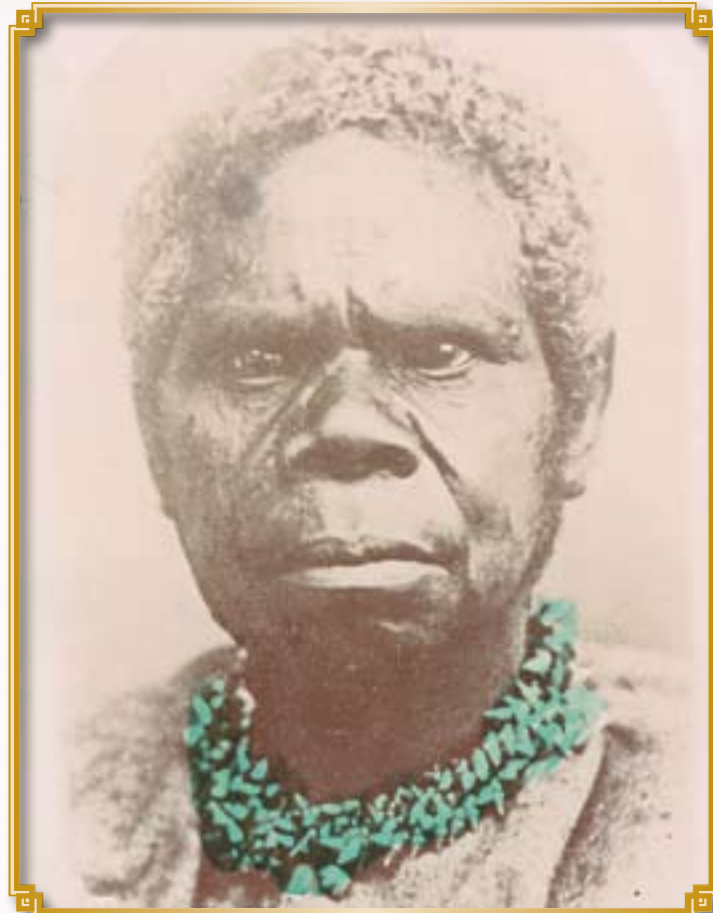
Truganini was a member of the Nuenonne people. Her clan lived on Bruny Island, south of Hobart. The Nuenonne led very peaceful lives. Women dived for shellfish and crayfish and were skilled swimmers. Men hunted animals on land and did not swim at all.

The first Europeans

encountered were seal hunters and whalers. By the time she was 17 years old, Europeans had killed her mother and uncle and kidnapped two of her sisters. Truganini was kidnapped and convicts killed the man she was to marry as he tried to rescue her.

Bruny Island Mission

Truganini was taken to George Robinson's mission on Bruny Island. She married Wooraddy there in 1829. They joined Robinson on an expedition around Tasmania.



▲ Truganini is pictured wearing a traditional shell necklace.

They believed he could protect Indigenous Tasmanians. Their job was to meet people and convince them to leave their Country. In one incident, Truganini saved Robinson's life.

Flinders Island Mission

More than 200 Indigenous Australians, including Truganini, were taken to Flinders Island. They were homesick for their Country, and many died from European diseases. Truganini told Robinson that his 'protection' was not working, but he took no notice.

Rebelling against Robinson

Robinson forced Truganini and several others to go with him to the Port Phillip area and round up Indigenous Australians. Desperate to return to her home, Truganini rebelled. With five others, she was involved in a violent incident near Portland Bay, Victoria. Two whalers were killed.

Truganini and her friends were hunted for six weeks. They raided farmhouses and started fires. After they were captured, the two men in the group were hanged. Truganini was returned to Flinders Island.

Return to Tasmania

By 1843, only about 50 people from the original 200 people on Flinders Island survived. The Tasmanian Government moved all the surviving Indigenous Tasmanians to Oyster Cove, an old convict station. It was near Truganini's Country on Bruny Island so she was happier.

In 1873, the Tasmanian Government called Truganini the 'last Tasmanian Aboriginal'. Truganini pleaded that her body be treated with respect after she died. Her skeleton, however, was dug up and displayed in the Tasmanian Museum from 1904 to 1947. In 1976, Truganini's ashes were finally scattered in D'Entrecasteaux Channel off Bruny Island.



▲ Truganini (right) is photographed with William Lanney and two other women.

More about...

Indigenous Tasmanians

After William Lanney, also known as King Billy, died in 1873, the Tasmanian Government called Truganini the 'last Tasmanian Aboriginal'. There were, however, many other Indigenous Australians of mixed descent living in Tasmania.

See also

- Country**, Volume 1
- Nuenonne people**, Volume 1
- Eumarrah** (the 'Black War'), Volume 3
- George Robinson** (Indigenous Tasmanians), Volume 3
- Unaarrimin** (Indigenous reserves), Volume 4

Ned Kelly

Bushranger

Edward Kelly, known as Ned, was a bushranger who became a hero to the common people and whose story became a legend.

Life facts

- 1855** Born in Melbourne
- 1866** Leaves school
- 1871** Imprisoned for horse stealing
- 1874** Discharged from prison
- 1878** Shoots dead three policemen at Stringybark Creek and robs bank at Euroa
- 1879** Robs bank at Jerilderie
- 1880** Under siege at Glenrowan
- November 1880** Dies in Melbourne

Kelly was the eldest son of an Irishman who had been transported to Van Diemen's Land. When his father died, Kelly was eleven years old. He left school to support his family. They became selectors and started a small farm near Greta in northern Victoria where they lived in poverty.

Greta mob

Kelly became leader of a gang called the Greta mob. The mob stole cattle and horses and they were excellent horsemen. Kelly was arrested for assaulting a man and again for aiding a bushranger. Each time, the charges were dropped and Kelly claimed police bullying. He was imprisoned for horse stealing in 1871 and released three years later.



▲ Kelly was caught and hanged when he was 25 years old.

Charge of attempted murder

Local policeman Constable Fitzpatrick claimed the Kellys tried to murder him when he went to their house. Ned claimed he had not been there, and he went into hiding with a gang in the Wombat Ranges near Mansfield. Rewards were offered for the capture of the gang. Years later, Fitzpatrick was found to be a **corrupt** policeman.

More about...

Selectors

In 1861, New South Wales passed the *Land Selection Act*, which 'unlocked' the land for small farmers, called selectors. In the past, squatters had taken large areas of land for free. The squatters were eventually made to lease or buy the land, but they still occupied most of the land. Selectors were people with little money who 'selected' small areas of land to buy. The new law meant that they could buy land that was previously leased by squatters. Selectors, who despised the wealthy squatters, believed that police wanted to bully them and force them off the land so that squatters could take the land back. Kelly became a hero to the selectors.

Murder at Stringybark Creek

After Kelly's mother was imprisoned for the attempted murder of Fitzpatrick, Kelly killed three policemen in a gun battle at Stringybark Creek. Rewards for the capture of the mob, now called the Kelly Gang, increased. The gang then robbed a bank at Euroa, Victoria.

The Kelly Gang dressed as policemen and robbed the bank at Jerilderie, New South Wales. They burned papers that showed how much money local selectors owed the bank.

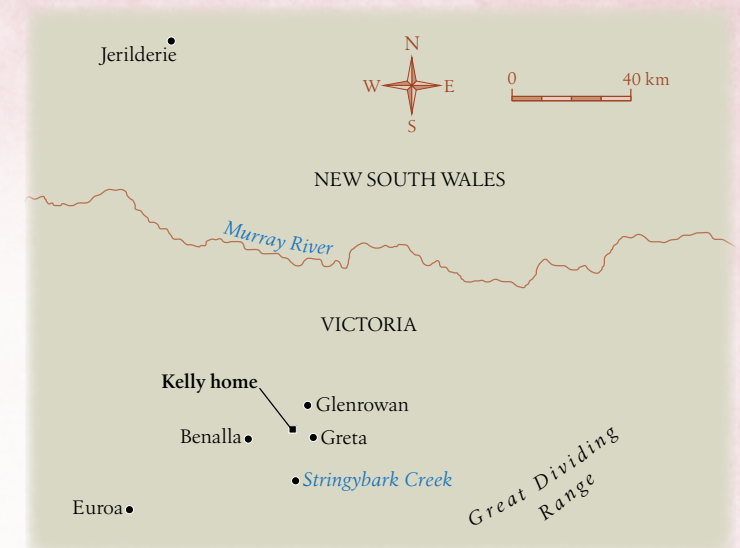


▲ Kelly is pictured in his protective suit of armour.

Kelly left a 56-page letter with the bank teller. In it, he tried to set the record straight about police corruption and he declared war on police for their bullying of poor people. Police kept the letter secret, fearing it would spark rebellion.

In the 'Jerilderie letter', Kelly justified his crimes by claiming police corruption:

'... those men certainly made my blood boil as I dont think there is a man born could have the patience to suffer it as long as I did or ever allow his blood to get cold while such insults as these were unavenged ...'



▲ The Kelly Gang roamed northern Victoria and southern New South Wales.

Glenrowan

The Kelly Gang took 70 people hostage at Glenrowan Hotel. Kelly knew a train carrying police would be sent and he planned to ambush it. For protection, the bushrangers wore suits of armour that had been made out of iron ploughs. The police were warned of the ambush, however, and they changed their plans and surrounded the hotel. After hours of shooting, four hostages and three bushrangers lay dead. Kelly was wounded and captured. Over 32 000 people signed a petition for his release but he was found guilty and hanged at Melbourne Gaol on 11 November 1880.

More about...

Criminal or hero?

Some people thought Ned Kelly was a bloodthirsty criminal who murdered innocent people. To others, he was leader of a rebellion against bad treatment by wealthy landowners and corrupt police. For many Australians, 'as game as Ned Kelly' meant having great courage, boldness and standing up against unfair treatment.

See also

Caroline Chisholm (unlocking the land), Volume 3
Peter Lalor (unlocking the land), Volume 4

Adam Lindsay Gordon

Poet

Adam Lindsay Gordon was a famous Australian poet and horseman.

Life facts

- 19 October 1833** Born in the Azores islands, Atlantic Ocean
- 1853** Arrives in Adelaide and joins mounted police
- 1855** Works at breaking horses and rides in steeplechase races
- 1864** Publishes first poem
- 1865** Elected to South Australian Parliament
- 1866** Resigns from Parliament and moves to Western Australia
- 1867** Publishes poetry books and moves to Victoria
- 1870** Publishes *Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes*
- 24 June 1870** Dies in Melbourne

Gordon went to school in England. He was a good sportsperson and loved horse riding. His father arranged a job for him in the mounted police in South Australia. After two years, he resigned to train and ride horses. He soon developed a reputation as the best steeplechase rider in the colony.

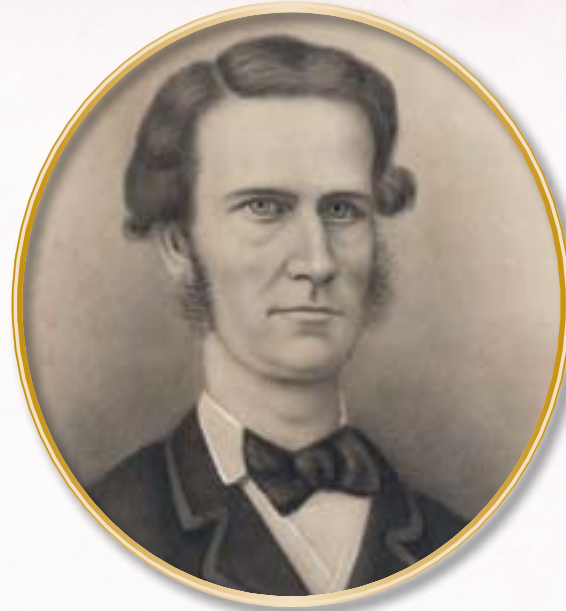
Politician and sheep farmer

People asked

Gordon to stand for South Australian Parliament. He was elected, but being a politician did not suit him and he resigned after one year. Gordon invested in Western Australian property and had a farm at Bunbury with 5000 sheep. Within one year, one-third of the sheep died. He moved back to South Australia and then to Ballarat, Victoria.

First truly Australian poet

In 1864, Gordon had a poem published for the first time. Three years later, two books of his poetry were published. His fans believed Gordon was the first poet to write with a truly Australian style.



▲ Gordon was the first famous Australian poet.

In the late 1860s, things went badly for Gordon. He sunk into debt and he had a riding accident and serious head injury. The day after *Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes* was published, Gordon took his own life. Gordon is the only Australian poet to be honoured with a memorial in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey, London, England.

Gordon's poem *Visions in the Smoke* was written in 1866. Part of it reads:

*'The bell has rung. With their riders up
At the starting post they muster,
The racers stripp'd for the 'Melbourne Cup',
All gloss and polish and lustre;
And the course is seen, with its emerald sheen,
By the bright spring-tide renew'd,
Like a ribbon of green, stretched out between
The ranks of the multitude.'*

See also

Henry Lawson (poet), Volume 4
Banjo Paterson (poet), Volume 4

Charles Rasp

Prospector

Charles Rasp discovered a rich ore body at Broken Hill, New South Wales, and started the company BHP.

Life facts

- 7 October 1846** Born in Germany
- 1869** Arrives in Melbourne
- 1883** Prospects at Broken Hill
- 1885** Starts BHP and finds rich silver ore deposits
- 22 May 1907** Dies in Adelaide

Rasp said that he migrated from Germany to improve his health. His real name, however, was Hieronymous Salvator Lopez von Pereira and he was escaping from service in the army.

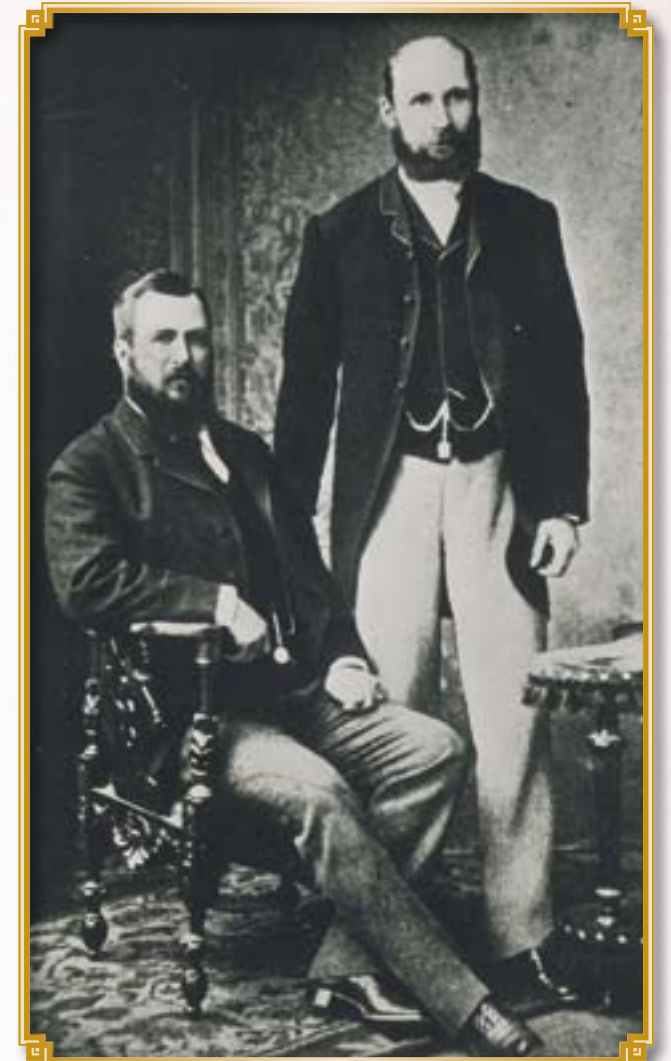
After arriving in Melbourne, Rasp worked on vineyards before trying his luck in the goldfields. He worked as a boundary rider on Mount Gipps Station in western New South Wales. There were 220 000 hectares of farmland and 71 000 sheep.

Prospector

Rasp prospected in his spare time. He dug a shaft on a rocky outcrop called Broken Hill, and he sent ore samples to Adelaide for testing. He thought he had found tin. Rasp joined with six other prospectors to stake claims along the ore body. In 1885, the ore was found to contain silver, lead and zinc.

BHP

The prospectors formed Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP). The company raised money through people buying shares in the company on the stock exchange. The money was used to buy equipment and build a mine.



▲ Rasp (standing) started a mining company after he found silver, lead and zinc in New South Wales.

The ore body was very rich and within five years Rasp was a wealthy man. He moved to Adelaide, married and bought a mansion.

See also

Edward Hargraves (gold prospector), Volume 4
Peter Lalor (gold prospector), Volume 4
Paddy Hannan (gold prospector), Volume 4
Essington Lewis (BHP), Volume 7

Patrick Durack

Pastoralist

Patrick Durack pioneered the beef cattle industry in northern Australia. He started his own cattle stations in south-western Queensland and the Kimberley.

Life facts

- About March 1834** Born in Ireland
- 1853** Arrives in Sydney
- 1863** Drove cattle to Queensland
- 1868** Starts Thylungra Station in Queensland
- 1886** Starts Kimberley cattle stations
- 1887** Mines in Kimberley goldfields
- 1894** Ships beef to Perth from Wyndham
- 1896** Visits Ireland
- 20 January 1898** Dies in Perth

Cattle stations

Durack returned to Queensland and started Thylungra Station. By 1877, his original 100 cattle had grown to 30 000. He sold some of the

4 400 000 hectares of land he and his partner had claimed. He established businesses in several towns around Quilpie that were on coach routes.



◀ Durack (back left) poses for a portrait with his family.



▲ Map showing the route taken by Durack and his family

The businesses became very successful after opal mining started and the routes became busy.

Explorer Alexander Forrest reported good grazing lands in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Durack organised his sons to drive 7250 cattle and 300 horses nearly 5000 kilometres from Thylungra to Argyle Station in the Kimberley. The journey took over two years. Nearly half the cattle and several drovers died.

Gold rushes

When gold was discovered at nearby Halls Creek, Durack sold beef for gold and later went mining himself. Durack expanded his 'cattle empire' by shipping beef from Wyndham to Perth.

More about...

Durack and the Bunthamarra people

The Bunthamarra were the Indigenous people who lived in the area where Durack started Thylungra Station, in western Queensland. A Bunthamarra man called Pumpkin became Durack's friend. He joined the family at Argyle Station and was a leader of the Indigenous Australian stockmen there.

See also

Paddy Hannan (gold in Kalgoorlie), Volume 4

Henry Lawson

Poet

Henry Lawson was known as 'the people's poet'. His writing captured the way Australians saw themselves.

Life facts

- 17 June 1867** Born in Grenfell, New South Wales
- 1883** Moves to Sydney
- 1887** Publishes the poem *Song of Australia*
- 1892** Publishes the poem *The Drover's Wife*
- 1896** Publishes the poetry collection *While the Billy Boils*
- 1902** Publishes the poetry collection *Children of the Bush*
- 2 September 1922** Dies in Sydney

Lawson was the first child of a Norwegian sailor who joined the Victorian gold rushes. His mother, Louisa Lawson, was a famous suffragette. They struggled to make a living on a small selection near Mudgee, New South Wales.

Lawson had hearing difficulties when he was young and he became deaf when

he was 14 years old. Reading was an important way of learning for him.

Writing about Australia

When his parents separated, Lawson went to live with his mother in Sydney. He started writing about his experience living in the bush. *The Bulletin* published Lawson's first poem, *Song of Australia*.



◀ Lawson wrote poems and stories about living in the bush.

Many other poems and stories about the bush followed. Lawson's writing promoted ideas about independence from England and the importance of the new trade unions.

More about...

Being Australian

There was no single nation called Australia during the 1800s, but people in all six colonies had a lot in common. Many identified with the Australian bush. It was different from anywhere else in the world. Bush people had to be resourceful, tough and independent, and mateship was important because people depended on each other. *The Bulletin* was a magazine that aimed to describe what it was like to be Australian. It promoted many new Australian writers.

Later years

Despite his success, Lawson was not happy. He separated from his wife and children and drank heavily. His alcoholism led to poverty, begging on the streets and time in gaol. He died a sad and lonely man. His fame resulted in a State funeral attended by many people.

Lawson's *The Drover's Wife* is the story of a lonely woman raising her children on a small selection while her husband is away droving:

'One of her children died while she was here alone. She rode 19 miles for assistance, carrying the dead child ... She seems contented with her lot. She loves her children, but has no time to show it. She seems harsh to them. Her surroundings are not favourable to the development of the 'womanly' or sentimental side of nature.'

See also

Peter Lalor (Victorian gold rush), Volume 4
Louisa Lawson (family), Volume 4
Banjo Paterson (the 'Bush Battle'), Volume 4

Fred Cato

Entrepreneur

*Frederick Cato was an entrepreneur who built a grocery empire. He was a leader in business, **industrial relations** and the church.*

Life facts

- 15 May 1858** Born in Stawell, Victoria
- 1881** Starts grocery business in Melbourne
- 1895** Leads Rosella Preserving Company
- 1909** Leads Methodist Church Missionary movement
- 1912** Runs 79 shops from Sydney to Hobart
- 1931** Runs 162 shops and Rosella with over 1700 employees
- 4 June 1935** Dies in Melbourne

Born in a tent on the Victorian goldfields, Cato's first career was as a teacher. After teaching for five years, Cato decided to run a grocery store with his cousin Edwin Moran.

Building a grocery empire

Cato's business, called Moran and Cato, grew to become a household name in Victoria. After Moran died, Cato expanded the business. It was the first national chain of stores.

Competition between grocery stores was tough. Because Cato had many shops, he could buy large quantities of goods at cheaper prices and pass the cheaper prices on to his customers. By 1931, there were 162 Moran and Cato stores, from Hobart to Sydney. Cato also became Chairman of Rosella, a new food-preserving company.

Cato believed that people work best when they are treated well. He:

- ☞ reduced the six-day working week by giving workers Wednesday afternoon as a holiday
- ☞ started six o'clock closing in 1893
- ☞ shared his profits by giving bonuses to workers
- ☞ funded community projects, such as sporting teams
- ☞ organised annual picnics for staff and families.

Charity work

Cato was a deeply religious man and a leader in the Methodist Church. He shared his wealth through charity work. His donations helped establish missions overseas and also at Yirrkala, Northern Territory.

See also

Peter Lalor (Victorian gold rush), Volume 4,

Mei Quong Tart

Entrepreneur

Mei Quong Tart was a successful business and community leader in New South Wales.

Life facts

- 1850** Born in China
- 1859** Arrives in Sydney
- 1864** Buys shares in mining claims
- 1871** Granted British citizenship
- 1881** Visits family in China, then opens first tea and silk store
- 1883** Leads anti-opium movement
- 1887** Honoured by Chinese Emperor
- 1898** Opens dining hall in Sydney
- 26 July 1903** Dies in Sydney

Quong Tart was nine when he travelled with his uncle to the Braidwood goldfields, New South Wales. Working in a store, he learned to speak English with a Scottish accent. By the time he was 18 years old, he was wealthy from his investments in mining companies. He was good at sport and popular in the community.

Entrepreneurial business

Quong Tart started a Sydney tea and silk store that was very successful. He expanded his business to a chain of tearooms. Later, he opened a restaurant and then a dining hall in the new Queen Victoria Markets. It became the social centre of Sydney.

Community leader

Community work was also important to Quong Tart. He helped people living in poverty and **campaigned** against opium, a harmful drug. Although Quong Tart dressed and spoke like a European, he retained his Chinese identity. He was a leader of Sydney's Chinese community.



▲ Quong Tart was an entrepreneur and business leader.

He was also honoured by the Chinese Emperor for his services to Chinese people living in Australia.

Quong Tart married an Englishwoman, despite opposition from her family, and they raised six children. He was brutally beaten and robbed in 1902. He never fully recovered and died the following year.

See also

Edward Hargraves (New South Wales gold rush), Volume 4



▲ An old Moran and Cato building still stands in Melbourne.

Mary Lee

Activist

Mary Lee led the campaign that won women the right to vote in South Australia.

Life facts

- 14 February 1821** Born in Ireland
- 1844** Marries and raises seven children
- 1879** Travels to South Australia
- 1888** Starts South Australian Women's Suffrage League
- 1894** Celebrates vote for women in South Australia
- 18 September 1909** Dies in Adelaide

Lee was 58 years old when she travelled to South Australia from Ireland. She was deeply religious and guided by her Christian values. In the late 1880s and early 1890s, there was great hardship and misery across Australia. Drought and depression combined to make many businesses fail.

Men lost their jobs. Lee helped people living in poverty in the community.

Lee was also very concerned about the poor treatment received by some women. This was a time when many people regarded women as the 'property' of their husbands.

▶ Lee spoke publicly at a time when most people believed this was not a woman's role.

Votes for women

Lee started the Women's Suffrage League of South Australia in 1888. She strongly believed that winning the right to vote would change the way women were treated. Lee was insulted and ridiculed, but she was a passionate, determined and outspoken leader.

Lee organised a petition signed by more than 11 600 people. In August 1894, the South Australian Parliament was presented with this document, which was 101 metres long. Finally, in December 1894, adult women in South Australia were given the right to vote and stand for election. This was a world-first. On 25 April 1896, all South Australian women over 21 years old voted for the first time at the general election.

See also

Louisa Lawson (suffrage), Volume 4



More about...

Suffrage in Australia

Different people were given the right to vote at different times in different places in Australia. Although Indigenous Australian men were considered British subjects and had the right to vote in most States during the 1800s, they were not encouraged to vote or play a role in **democracy**.

Reform introduced	NSW	TAS	WA	SA	VIC	QLD	Commonwealth of Australia (Federal elections)	Britain
Votes for all adult non-Indigenous men	1858	1896	1893	1856	1857	1872	1901	1884
Votes for all adult non-Indigenous women	1902	1903	1899	1894	1908	1905	1902	1928
Votes for all adult Indigenous men and women	1858	1896	1962	1856 for men and 1894 for women	1857 for men and 1908 for women	1965	1962	—

Louisa Lawson

Activist

Louisa Lawson published the first Australian women's journal in 1888, called The Dawn. She was the leader of the women's suffrage movement in New South Wales.

Life facts

- 17 February 1848** Born near Mudgee, New South Wales
- 1866** Marries and raises family
- 1883** Moves to Sydney
- 1888** Publishes *The Dawn*
- 1889** Founds the Dawn Club
- 1894** Celebrates vote for women in South Australia
- 1902** Celebrates vote for women in New South Wales
- 12 August 1920** Dies in Sydney

Lawson grew up in a poor farming family in Mudgee, New South Wales. She had five children, including Henry, who became a famous Australian writer. Her marriage ended when she moved to Sydney. Lawson was a deeply religious, independent and resourceful woman.



▲ Lawson led the movement in New South Wales that fought for women's right to vote.

Women's journal

In 1888, Lawson started a journal called *The Dawn*. Its articles were about issues that were important to women, such as the right to vote. It included household hints, dress patterns and literature, and it published some of Henry Lawson's writing. It sold around Australia and in other parts of the world. It ran for 17 years.

Women were employed to run the printing presses. The Printers' Union would not allow female members, and the Union tried to run Lawson out of business because she was employing non-union workers.

Winning the vote for women

The Dawn Club was formed in 1889. It promoted women's suffrage and educated women on issues related to life and work. Women could also gain experience in public speaking at the Dawn Club.

New South Wales Parliament passed the law giving women the right to vote and stand for office in 1902. Lawson was introduced to Members of Parliament as 'the Mother of Suffrage in New South Wales'.

See also

Henry Lawson (family), Volume 4
Mary Lee (suffrage in Australia), Volume 4

Henry Parkes

Politician

Henry Parkes was an important political leader who was called 'the father of Federation'. He was an excellent writer and public speaker.

Life facts

- 27 May 1815** Born in England
- 1839** Migrates to Sydney
- 1850** Starts *Empire* newspaper
- 1854** Elected to NSW Legislative Council
- 1857** Resigns and sells *Empire*
- 1872** Appointed NSW Premier for first time
- 1889** Delivers Tenterfield Oration
- 1891** Leads First Constitutional Convention and completes fifth term as Premier
- 27 April 1896** Dies in Sydney

Parkes came from a poor farming family in England. He was self-educated and learned to read in his spare time. He was interested in politics and attended Chartist meetings.

Parkes and his wife Clarinda migrated to Sydney to seek better opportunities. Parkes was horrified by the crime and he set out to make things better.

More about...

Chartists

The Chartists were a political group in Britain around 1839 to 1848. They demanded better working conditions and democracy. The *People's Charter* was written in 1838, demanding one vote for every man. Petitions presented to British Parliament in 1839, 1842 and 1848 were signed by up to 2 million people. Chartist ideas influenced Australia's history through people such as Parkes and events such as the Eureka Stockade.

Political action

After working for the government, Parkes started a business importing toys. About this time, wealthy landowners wanted the British Government to start transporting convicts again. New immigrants such as Parkes disagreed. Radicals and Chartists started to meet in his shop, and Parkes organised a successful campaign against transportation.

Parkes started a newspaper, called *Empire*, to spread his ideas. He was a good writer and worked very long hours. Soon he was elected to the New South Wales Parliament. He nearly went bankrupt three years later when he could not repay money he owed. He had to resign from Parliament and sell *Empire*.

Parkes was in and out of Parliament many times over the next 40 years. He became a leading politician. Convincing people to agree with his ideas was his strength. He worked hard with others to make many changes to help people.

◀ Parkes sits at his desk in 1891.



▲ Parkes (centre) attended the first conference, or meeting, on Federation in Melbourne in 1890.

Controversial Premier

Between 1872 and 1891, Parkes became Premier of New South Wales on five separate occasions. He led changes to schools, hospitals, orphanages, prisons, buildings, roads and railways.

Parkes was involved in many controversial changes. He supported:

- ✎ *Land Selection Acts*, which allowed people, called selectors, to buy small farms from squatters' properties
- ✎ *Education Acts* that made State schools non-religious and available for everyone
- ✎ restrictions on migration from Asia
- ✎ **free trade** to encourage competition.

Calling for Federation

In 1867, Parkes started supporting the idea of the colonies uniting to become one nation. This was called federation. The idea grew as writers and artists promoted pride in being Australian. Parkes took the lead in 1889 and at Tenterfield, New South Wales, he gave a speech, called the Tenterfield Oration, urging the colonies to unite.

Parkes led the first meeting to draw up the rules by which the new nation would be governed, called the Constitution. He proposed the new nation be called the Commonwealth of Australia.

More about...

Moving towards Federation

Parkes thought it might take a year to achieve federation. The colonies struggled to agree on the details, however, and it took a lot longer. Many questions had to be answered:

- What would be the structure of the Federal Parliament?
- How would it be elected?
- What would the Federal Government be responsible for?
- How would the smaller colonies be protected?

On 24 October 1889, at Tenterfield, Parkes said:

'Australia now has a population of three and a half millions, and the American people numbered only between three and four millions when they formed the great commonwealth of the United States ... surely what the Americans had done by war, the Australians could bring about in peace without breaking our ties to the mother country ... we ought to set about creating this great national government for all Australia.'

See also

- Peter Lalor** (Eureka Stockade), Volume 4
- Ned Kelly** (selectors and squatters), Volume 4
- Edmund Barton** (Federation), Volume 5

Banjo Paterson

Poet

Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Paterson was an author whose poems reflected a growing national spirit. His bush ballads told of the adventures and courage of stockmen and their horses.

Life facts

- 17 February 1864** Born in Orange, New South Wales
- 1880** Begins work as a lawyer in Sydney
- 1890** Publishes *The Man From Snowy River*
- 1892** Joins the 'Bush Battle' with Lawson
- 1895** Writes words for *Waltzing Matilda*, and publishes first book of poems
- 1899** Fights in Boer War in South Africa
- 1903** Edits *Evening News*
- 1914** Serves as an ambulance driver and horse trainer in World War I
- 1919** Returns to writing and journalism in Sydney
- 5 February 1941** Dies in Sydney

Paterson grew up on sheep stations in New South Wales. One station was on the track that linked Sydney and Melbourne. He loved watching the passing bullock wagons, Cobb and Co coaches, shearers and people walking to the goldfields. His imagination was excited by stories of horsemen in the nearby High Country.

Horses were a big part of Paterson's life. He rode to school each day. Bush racecourses

provided adventure and colourful stories. 'The Banjo' was the name of his favourite horse. When he started writing, Banjo became his nickname.

First poems

After completing school in Sydney, Paterson trained to be a lawyer. Writing was a hobby.



▲ Paterson was a lawyer, poet and journalist in his lifetime.

In 1889, Paterson wrote a pamphlet called 'Australia for Australians'. Few people took much notice so he tried writing ballads, which are poems that tell stories. Paterson wrote about his first love, life in Australia's bush. He sent his poems to *The Bulletin*.

The Man From Snowy River was published in April 1890. It was an overnight success. People liked the hero. His dangerous ride to capture a runaway colt involved great skill and courage, yet he was an ordinary bushman who rode a 'small and weedy beast'.

In 'The Man from Snowy River', Paterson wrote:

*'But the man from Snowy River
let the pony have his head,
And he swung his stockwhip
round and gave a cheer,
And he raced him down the
mountain like a torrent down
its bed,
While the others stood and
watched in very fear.'*



▲ Paterson (right) is pictured on a camping trip near Jindabyne, New South Wales, about 1910.

The Bush Battle

Henry Lawson was also writing for *The Bulletin*. He agreed with Paterson that the bush made people proud to be Australian, but Lawson wrote about the poverty, loneliness and sadness of life in the bush. Paterson wrote about heroic, charming and humorous people and adventures in the bush. Lawson challenged 'The Banjo' to a friendly competition writing bush ballads. The competition was called the 'Bush Battle' and was very popular.

More about...

The Bulletin

The Bulletin magazine started in 1880. Its motto was 'Australia for Australians'. It published stories, poems and articles about Australia and what Australia stood for. Its main ideas were:

- Australian colonies needed to join together and break away from Britain
- Australian workers needed to form unions to make sure they were treated fairly
- the Australian way of life needed to be protected from cheap overseas goods and workers
- Australians needed to support each other.

Waltzing Matilda

In 1895, Paterson heard a catchy tune while he was on holiday at Dagworth Station near Winton, outback Queensland. He wrote a ballad to go with the tune. *Waltzing Matilda* told the story of a swagman stealing a sheep, then drowning himself to escape the police. It was sung at the Winton races and soon became a hit.

That year, a book of Paterson's bush ballads was published. It immediately sold out and the identity of 'The Banjo' was revealed.

Journalist and soldier

Following the success of his bush ballads, Paterson led an adventurous life as a writer and journalist. He served in the Boer War and World War I and wrote about the experiences of Australians fighting in the wars. He also wrote many more poems and stories.

See also

Henry Lawson (the 'Bush Battle'), Volume 4

Tom Roberts

Artist

Tom Roberts was an important artist who painted ordinary Australian people and scenes.

Life facts

- 9 March 1856** Born in England
- 1869** Migrates with family to Australia
- 1873** Studies art in Melbourne
- 1881** Studies art in England
- 1890** Exhibits *Shearing of the Rams*
- 1915** Enlists as World War I hospital orderly in London, England
- 14 September 1931** Dies in Melbourne

Roberts immigrated to Australia after his father died. He studied at art school in Melbourne and was the first Australian selected to study at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, England. After returning to Melbourne, Roberts joined with other artists to form a group called the Heidelberg School.

Painting Australian life

Roberts chose scenes that recorded the way of life and hard work of Australian pioneers. Some critics said it was not proper art. The public disagreed.



▲ Roberts paints *The Big Picture*.



▲ Roberts' painting *The Big Picture* records the opening of the first Federal Parliament in Melbourne in 1901.

Shearing the Rams became Roberts' most famous work. Roberts visited a shearing shed in southern New South Wales over three years to paint the work.

Roberts painted portraits of famous Australians and he also painted Indigenous Australians in Queensland. Roberts was asked to paint the opening of the new Federal Parliament in Melbourne in 1901, including all 250 guests. He called the painting *The Big Picture*.

More about...

The Heidelberg School

The Heidelberg School was a group of artists who started a new style of Australian painting in the 1880s. It included Arthur Streeton, Charles Conder and Frederick McCubbin. In the past, painters had concentrated on famous people and famous scenes. The Heidelberg School chose ordinary people and local scenes. Their paintings represented the growing feeling of Australian patriotism.

See also

John Glover (Australian landscapes), Volume 3
Henry Lawson (being Australian), Volume 4

Samuel Griffith

Politician

Samuel Griffith was a lawyer who became Premier of Queensland and led the writing of the Australian Constitution.

Life facts

- 21 June 1845** Born in Wales
- 1853** Migrates to Queensland
- 1867** Becomes a lawyer
- 1872** Elected to Queensland Parliament
- 1883** Becomes Premier
- 1891** Leads drafting of Australian Constitution
- 1903** Leads High Court of Australia
- 9 August 1920** Dies in Brisbane

Griffith was top of his school and very good at debating. He became a lawyer and was elected to Queensland Parliament. Wealthy landowners dominated politics. Griffith opposed their power. He believed ordinary people should have their say. He also wanted to make it easier to own land.

Popular Premier

Griffith opposed landowners who imported Pacific Islanders as cheap workers. This made him popular with working people. He became 'champion of the workers' and leader of the Queensland Opposition.

Griffith's popularity increased after he exposed corruption in Premier Thomas McIllwraith's Government. He became Premier. One of his main achievements was the *State Education Act 1875*. It laid the foundations for the government school system. Griffith also led Queensland on the path to Federation.

Drafting the Constitution

Griffith led the drafting of the Australian Constitution. People were impressed by Griffith's attention to detail and his skill in drafting new laws. Protecting smaller colonies through equal representation in the **Senate**

was one of his ideas. In 1903, Griffith became the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. This meant he was leader of the judges on the High Court. The High Court settles any disputes about the meaning of the Constitution.

◀ Griffith (centre) was the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.



See also

Charles Kingston (drafting the Constitution), Volume 4

Charles Kingston

Politician

Charles Kingston was a lawyer who became Premier of South Australia and a Minister in the first Commonwealth Government.

Life facts

- 22 June 1850** Born in Adelaide
- 1873** Becomes a lawyer
- 1881** Elected to South Australian Parliament
- 1891** Helps draft Australian Constitution
- 1893** Becomes Premier of South Australia
- 1894** Introduces law giving the vote to women
- 1899** Resigns as Premier
- 1901** Becomes Commonwealth Minister
- 11 May 1908** Dies in Adelaide

Kingston was a talented lawyer. He was elected to South Australian Parliament in 1877. People called him a radical because he opposed the power of wealthy landowners in governing the colony. He became Premier of South Australia in 1891.

As Premier, Kingston introduced the law that gave South Australian women the right to vote and stand for election.

Forming a new government

Kingston was a leader in the Federation movement. He helped Samuel Griffith draft the Constitution in 1891.

In 1900, Kingston went to London, England, with Edmund Barton and Alfred Deakin. They helped British Parliament make the law that created the Commonwealth of Australia. Kingston resigned as Premier and was elected to the first Federal Parliament, becoming Minister for Trade and Customs. He was a Protectionist and he set up a system of high taxes, called tariffs, on goods imported from overseas.

◀ Kingston (seated, centre) was a leader of the Federation movement in South Australia.

See also

Samuel Griffith (drafting the Constitution), Volume 4
Edmund Barton (Federation, and Protectionists and Free Traders), Volume 5
Alfred Deakin (Federation), Volume 5



John Forrest

Politician

John Forrest was an explorer and politician who led Western Australia's development in the 1890s. He enabled the colony to join the new Commonwealth.

Life facts

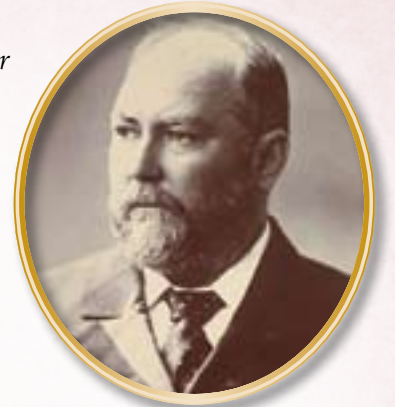
- 22 August 1847** Born in Bunbury, Western Australia
- 1869** Explores inland searching for Leichhardt
- 1870** Arrives in Adelaide after crossing Nullarbor Plain
- 1874** Explores from Geraldton to Overland Telegraph Station
- 1890** Becomes first Premier of Western Australia
- 1901** Becomes Minister in new Commonwealth Government
- 1917** Rides on the Trans-Australian Railway
- 2 September 1918** Dies at sea, off western Africa

After Forrest left school, he trained as a surveyor. He completed three explorations of inland Western Australia, proving that it was largely desert. Aboriginal trackers helped Forrest explore the deserts. Tommy Windich, a Kokar man, helped Forrest on his three expeditions. The expeditions made Forrest famous in the colonies and in Britain.

First Premier of Western Australia

Forrest was elected the first Premier of Western Australia in 1890. He used wealth from gold to construct buildings, railways, harbours and dams. He employed C. Y. O'Connor as Chief Engineer. They became friends and together they developed the colony. Before 1890, Western Australia was not considered equal to the other colonies. Forrest skilfully led Western Australia into the Commonwealth of Australia as an equal State.

▶ Forrest was a leader of the Federation movement in Western Australia.



More about...

The colony of Western Australia

Western Australia lagged behind the other colonies. It was separated from the rest of Australia by vast areas of desert. Poor soils slowed its development, too. British people were not prepared to invest money in the colony and a lack of immigrants meant a shortage of workers. Discovery of gold in the 1880s changed Western Australia. Most Western Australians opposed Federation. Many people from the other side of Australia, however, flooded into the colony to find gold. They were called 't'othersiders' and they wanted Federation.

Trans-Australian Railway

Forrest became a Minister in the new Federal Government and was Treasurer for many years. He fought hard for his State, ensuring that a Trans-Australian Railway was built across the Nullarbor Plain. The railway was a massive investment for the new nation. When it opened in 1917, it was vital to ending the isolation of Western Australia.

See also

James Stirling (Swan River Colony), Volume 3
C. Y. O'Connor (map of Western Australian exploration), Volume 4
Paddy Hannan (Western Australia goldfields), Volume 4
Andrew Fisher (Trans-Australian Railway), Volume 5

C. Y. O'Connor

Engineer

Charles Yelverton O'Connor designed and built railways, new harbours and a water pipeline to the goldfields in Western Australia.

Life facts

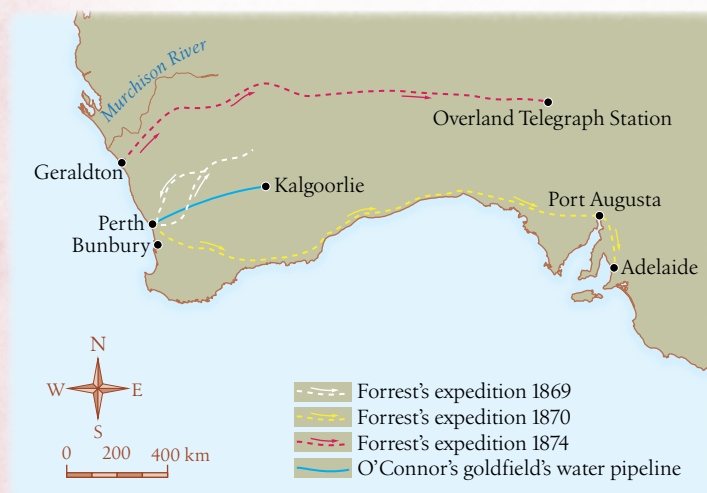
- 11 January 1843** Born in Ireland
- 1864** Migrates to New Zealand
- 1891** Becomes Chief Engineer in Western Australia
- 1897** Fremantle Harbour opens
- 10 March 1902** Dies in Perth

O'Connor was an engineer in New Zealand when he was hired by Western Australia's Premier Forrest to build 'railways, harbours, everything'. The Western Australian gold rushes had created

opportunities to catch up with other colonies.

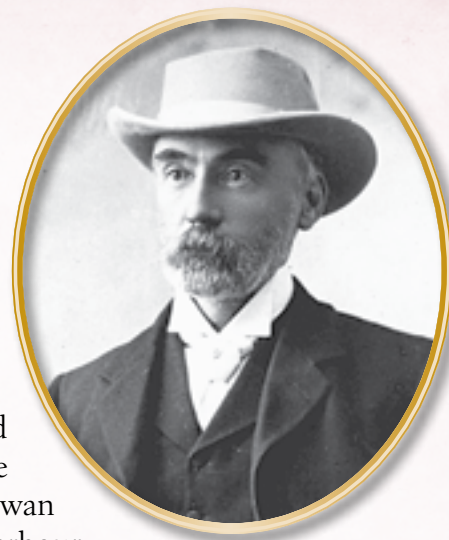
Building Western Australia

Railways were rundown when O'Connor arrived in Western Australia. Under his leadership, the goldfields railway line was constructed. A line to South Australia was also surveyed.



▲ Western Australian exploration and development

▶ O'Connor was responsible for constructing a water pipeline between Perth and Kalgoorlie.



O'Connor planned to blast and dredge the mouth of the Swan River to create a harbour. People disagreed with his plan and experts said it could not be done. O'Connor proved them wrong. In 1897, the first steamship docked at the new Fremantle Harbour, now one of Australia's great ports.

Goldfields pipeline

Water shortage was a major problem for the goldfields, which were all inland. O'Connor planned a major dam near Perth that would collect water to be pumped inland.

The new dam and eight pumping stations were built. Six hundred kilometres of pipeline were laid. The project created world news.

By 1902, constant criticism about the project had damaged O'Connor's mental health. He killed himself. One year later, the pipeline opened and water flowed at Kalgoorlie. At the Opening Ceremony, Forrest praised O'Connor as 'the great builder of this work'.

See also

- John Forrest** (developing Western Australia), Volume 4
- Paddy Hannan** (Western Australia goldfields), Volume 4

William Spence

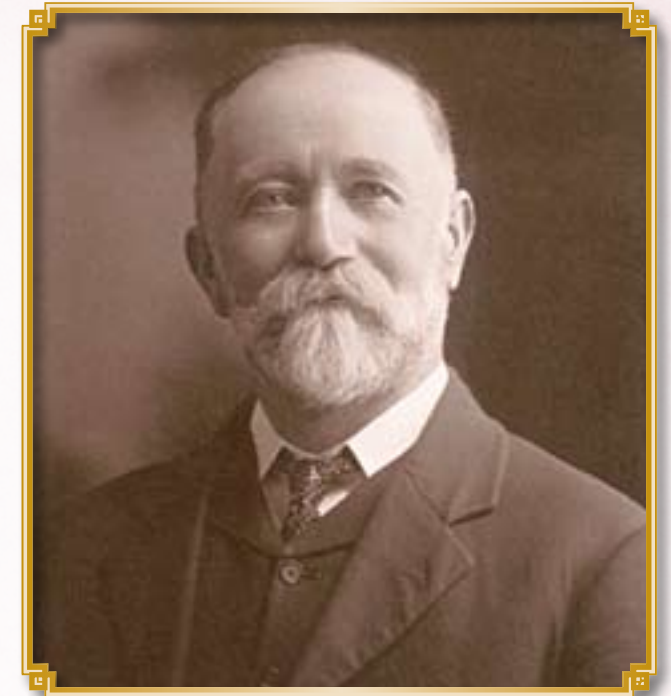
Union leader

William Spence was a leader in the formation of trade unions and the Labor Party in Australia.

Life facts

- 7 August 1846** Born in Scotland
- 1852** Migrates to Victoria
- 1878** Leads start of Amalgamated Miners' Union
- 1886** Becomes President of Shearers' Union
- 1891** Helps start Labor Party
- 1894** Leads start of Australian Workers' Union
- 1898** Becomes Member of Parliament for New South Wales
- 13 December 1926** Dies in Terang, Victoria

Spence immigrated to Victoria with his family. As a boy, he witnessed the Eureka Stockade. For the rest of his life, he fought for the working class. Spence was a self-educated man. He worked as a shepherd, butcher's boy and shearer before becoming a miner.



▲ Spence fought for the working class and workers' rights.

Leading the unions

Spence was a devoted Christian and leader in the Presbyterian Church. He believed that the teachings of Jesus supported workers joining together to bargain with employers. Spence preferred to bargain with bosses than to go on strike, which meant refusing to work until their demands were met.

Spence led the formation of the Amalgamated Miners' Union in Victoria. He led the miners' union for nine years. He was also appointed President of the Shearers' Union. In 1894, he convinced miners, shearers and other workers to unite and form the Australian Workers' Union. This became the largest and most powerful union in Australia.

Starting the Labor Party

In the 1890s, economic depression resulted in falling prices of wool and other goods. Owners of farms, mines and factories reduced workers' wages. This resulted in large strikes, and maritime workers and shearers clashed with police. When these strikes failed, Spence urged workers to form a political party so they could elect representatives in Parliament to make laws.

In 1891, the Australian Labor Party was formed and won several seats in the New South Wales' elections. In 1898, Spence was elected Member for Cobar. Later, he was elected to the first Federal Parliament.

See also

- Peter Lalor** (Eureka Stockade), Volume 4
- Chris Watson** (first Labor Prime Minister), Volume 5

Jacky Howe

Shearer

John Rowe, known as Jacky Howe, was a shearer who set world records that have never been broken.

Life facts

- About 1861** Born in Killarney, Queensland
- 1892** Sets world records for shearing
- 1900** Buys hotel in Blackall
- 1902** Moves to Barcoo Hotel
- 1919** Buys Sumnervale Station
- 21 July 1920** Dies in Blackall, Queensland

Howe was born and raised in outback Queensland. He began shearing in the late 1870s. He was a big and powerful man and his hands were said to be the size of small tennis racquets. He was involved in the

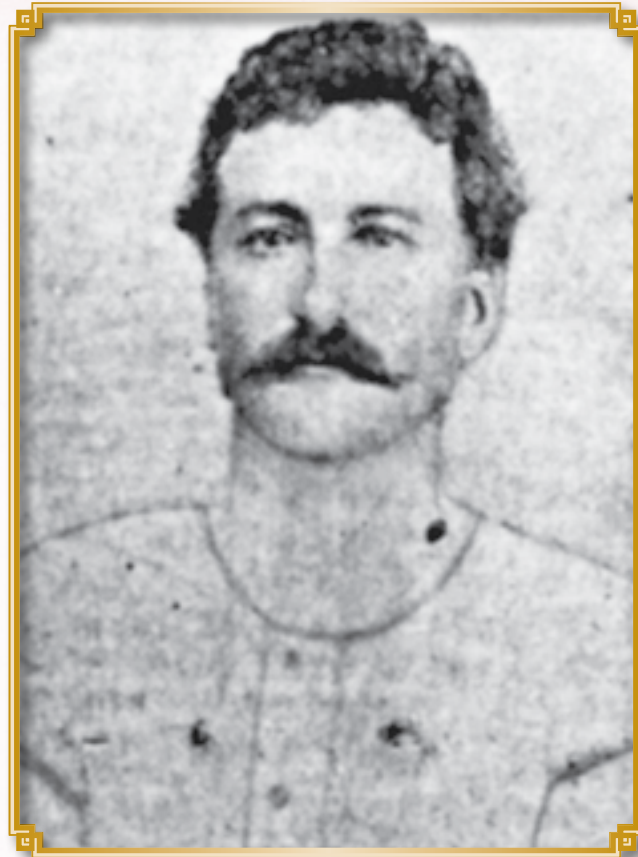
Great Shearers' Strikes of 1891 and 1894. He was a committed trade unionist and became a member of the Australian Labor Party.

Breaking records and creating a legend

In 1892, Howe became famous in the Australian colonies for shearing 1437 sheep in 44 hours and 30 minutes. This is a world record that has never been broken. The next week at Alice Downs Station in Queensland, he set a new daily record, shearing 321 sheep in 7 hours and 40 minutes. Excellent shearers usually sheared 200 sheep in one day.

Two gold medals were awarded to Howe in recognition of his achievements using hand shears. Later, he used machine shears.

Howe became a legendary folk hero. The sleeveless shirt Howe wore when he broke the records was part of the legend. Shearers still wear shirts like that and some still call them a 'Jacky Howe'.



▲ Howe was seen as a legend and hero in the colonies.

Howe bought a hotel in Blackall, Queensland, with the money he saved from his work. He ran hotels for the next 19 years. When he retired, he bought a sheep station, but died soon after.

See also

William Spence (Labor Party), Volume 4

Paddy Hannan

Prospector

Patrick Hannan, known as Paddy Hannan, was an Irish immigrant who found gold at Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Life facts

- 1840** Born in Ireland
- 1862** Arrives in Melbourne
- 1868** Prospects for gold in New Zealand
- 1892** Prospects at Coolgardie
- 1893** Discovers gold at Kalgoorlie
- 4 November 1925** Dies in Melbourne

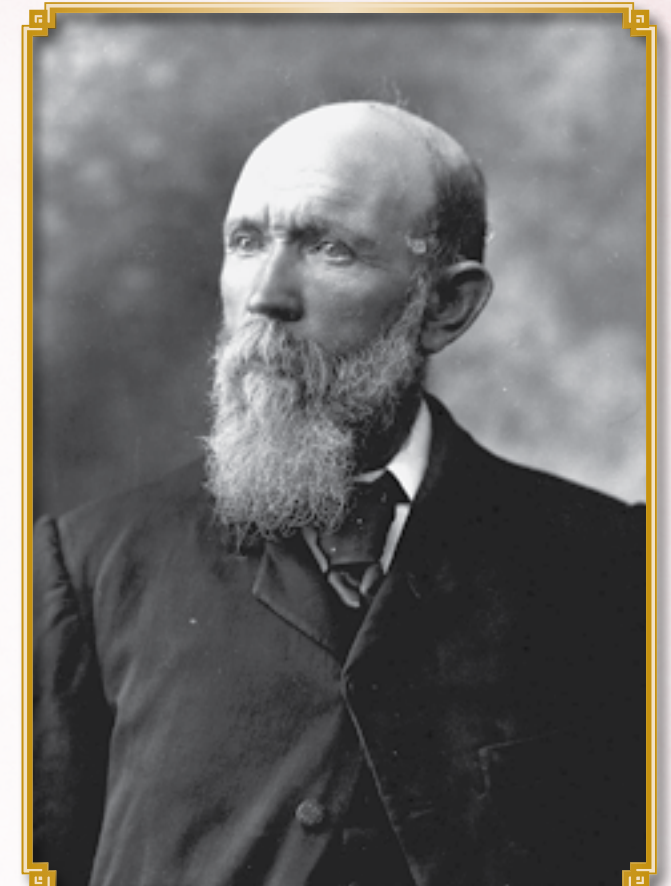
Hannan survived the Great Potato Famine in Ireland. After his arrival in Melbourne, he worked in underground mines in Ballarat. He prospected for gold for six years in New Zealand before searching for gold in

Australia's deserts. He learned how to travel light and find water in dry areas.

Gold at Kalgoorlie

Western Australia's first gold rush took place in the Kimberley, Western Australia, in the 1880s. Other goldfields were soon discovered further south. Hannan went to the Yilgarn goldfields at Southern Cross. One day he saw a prospector named Bayley talking to the Mining Warden. He was registering a claim for a find at Fly Flat, nearly 200 kilometres to the east. Hannan joined the many prospectors who rushed there.

After some success, Hannan joined with two Irishmen, Flanagan and O'Shea, to search further east. On 10 June 1893, they discovered gold in the desert. One week later, Hannan rode back to Coolgardie with more than three kilograms of gold. Within a week, there were 700 men prospecting around his claim. The town that grew around the gold find was at first called Hannan's, then Kalgoorlie.



▲ Hannan struck gold at Kalgoorlie when he was in his 50s.

The Government rewarded Hannan for his discovery. Gold discoveries at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie quickly changed the struggling colony of Western Australia.

See also

Edward Hargraves (gold in Australia), Volume 4
Peter Lalor (Victorian goldfields), Volume 4
C. Y. O'Connor (goldfields pipeline), Volume 4

Jandamarra

Resistance leader

Jandamarra was a Punuba man who led armed Indigenous resistance in the Kimberley.

Life facts

About 1873 Born in the Kimberley, Western Australia
Early 1890s Works as a police tracker
1894 Leads Punuba Resistance
1 April 1897 Dies at Tunnel Creek, Western Australia

Jandamarra was a Punuba man who grew up in the Kimberley when cattlemen first occupied the area. He became very skilful at riding horses and shooting rifles.

Becoming an outlaw

The police hired Jandamarra as a tracker. When Jandamarra was forced to capture some of his own people, he became angry. He shot a policeman, freed his people and took several guns. He became an outlaw and he led an attack on five cattle drovers, killing two of them.



Settlers in Broome and Derby were outraged. A group of police and settlers attacked Jandamarra at Windjana Gorge. He was wounded but escaped. Police attacked camps around Fitzroy Crossing. Many Aboriginal Australians were killed because they were suspected of helping Jandamarra.

The Punuba Resistance

For three years, Jandamarra led armed resistance against the settlers. His ambushes and raids were called guerilla warfare. His 'vanishing tricks' became legendary. People said he had magical powers. Once he was followed to his hideout near Tunnel Creek. Just as the police were set to capture him, he mysteriously disappeared through a river tunnel.

The police hired an Aboriginal tracker they called Micki. He tracked Jandamarra, and shot and killed him at Tunnel Creek. Police cut off Jandamarra's head to prove he was dead and it was sent to England as a trophy. The Punuba Resistance ended. To some people, Jandamarra was a killer, but to others he was a hero.

◀ When Jandamarra disappeared into his hideout at Tunnel Creek, people thought he did it using magical powers.

See also

Yagan (resistance around the Swan River colony), Volume 3

Ethel Turner

Writer

*Ethel Turner was a famous writer of children's books. She wrote **Seven Little Australians**, the story of seven children growing up in Sydney.*

Life facts

24 January 1870 Born in England
1879 Migrates to Sydney with family
1893 Publishes first story in *The Bulletin*
1894 Publishes *Seven Little Australians*
1914 Starts work for the Australian war effort
8 April 1958 Dies in Sydney

Turner migrated to Australia with her family after her stepfather died. She went to school in Sydney where she showed talent for writing. At a young age, Turner and her sister published a monthly magazine. In 1893, Turner had

a story published in *The Bulletin*. She also edited the children's pages in several newspapers.

Seven Little Australians

Turner's first novel was the children's book *Seven Little Australians*. It tells the story of a family of seven children growing up in Sydney. Their experiences and environment were distinctly Australian. The book reflected people's growing pride in being Australian. It was so popular, it was reprinted many times and translated into many different languages. It is the first Australian children's book to be continuously in print for more than 100 years. It has also been made into a television series that has been seen in more than 30 countries around the world.

Over her whole career, Turner wrote more than 40 books, but *Seven Little Australians* was her most famous work.



◀ Turner and her children sit in the garden of her home.

See also

Henry Lawson (being Australian), Volume 4
Banjo Paterson (*The Bulletin*), Volume 4

Catherine Spence

Activist

*Catherine Spence was a famous activist, writer and speaker. She was the first woman to stand for democratic election to **public office**.*

Life facts

- 31 October 1825** Born in Scotland
- 1839** Migrates to South Australia
- 1846** Starts a school
- 1878** Gives first sermon and becomes a journalist
- 1890** Speaks at Australian Conference on Charity
- 1893** Speaks in the United States and Britain
- 1897** Stands for public office
- 3 April 1910** Dies in Adelaide

After leaving school, Spence's ambition was to be 'a teacher first and a great writer afterwards'. She immigrated to South Australia with her family. She started her own school and then became a writer.

Campaigning

Spence believed everyone was

essentially good and just needed opportunities to show it. She also believed education was the key to helping people. She campaigned for:

- the foster care, called boarding out, of orphaned children
- government schools, free child care and kindergartens
- a system of voting that would represent everyone fairly
- the right for women to vote and stand for Parliament.

◀ Spence fought for the rights of women and children.

A long career

Spence achieved many things in her long career. She was:

- the first woman to publish a novel about Australian life
- the first woman appointed to a school board in Australia
- the first female professional journalist in Australia
- the first woman in the world to stand for democratic election to public office.

Spence also gave more than one hundred sermons in her church.

In 1897, Spence stood for public office. She was one of the candidates when South Australians elected ten representatives to the Federal Convention in Adelaide. She was unsuccessful, but she continued working for a fairer society until she died.

In her autobiography, Spence wrote:

'I was the first woman in Australia to seek election in a political contest. ... in the list of the "10 best men" selected by a Liberal organisation my name appeared. When the list was taken to the printer he objected to the heading of the "10 best men", as one of them was a woman. He suggested that my name should be dropped, and a man's put in its place. "Not say she's one of the '10 best men'?" the Liberal organiser objected, "Why she's the best man of the lot".'

See also

Mary Lee (suffrage in Australia), Volume 4

Louisa Lawson (suffrage), Volume 4

Edith Cowan (first female Member of Parliament), Volume 6



Glossary

activists people who work to bring about political or social change

bushrangers people who break the law and hide in the bush

campaigned worked in an organised way to achieve a goal

Catholic Christian who belongs to the Roman Catholic Church

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

constitution document stating the rules for government

corrupt acting dishonestly for money

democracy system of government in which all citizens vote

depression time when many businesses fail and people lose employment

emancipist convict who has been given freedom

entrepreneurs people who organise and operate new businesses

expedition journey to explore another area

free trade selling of goods between nations without taxes

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

industrial relations relations between managers and workers

legend story that becomes famous

ore body large area of land from which metals or other valuable minerals can be taken

parliaments bodies of elected representatives that make laws

pastoralist sheep or cattle farmer

patriots people who love and are devoted to their country

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

pioneers people who lead the way forward for others

prospectors people who search for mineral deposits or gold

public office position of authority in a government

rebellion violent resistance

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

Senate upper house in Federal Parliament, made up of State representatives

squatters people who settle on land without the government's permission

suffrage right to vote in political elections

surveyors people who examine, measure and record the features of areas of land

telegraph system of transporting a message over great distances, along a wire

trade unions organisations formed by workers to bargain with employers

working class group of people in society who work for wages, especially in factories or doing manual work

Index

A

activists 5
 Lee, Mary 30
 Lawson, Louisa 27, 31
 Spence, Catherine 46
 artists 5
 Heidelberg School 36
 Roberts, Tom 36
 Australian Constitution 33, 37, 38
 Australian Rules football 10

B

BHP mining company 25
Bulletin, The 27, 34, 35, 45
 bushrangers
 Kelly, Ned 22–3

C

Chartists 32
 Chinese community 29

E

engineers 5
 O'Connor, C. Y. 39, 40
 Todd, Charles 19
 entrepreneurs 5
 Cato, Fred 28
 Quong Tart, Mei 29
 Eureka Stockade 9, 32, 41
 explorers 5, 6
 Burke, Robert 11, 12–13
 Stuart, John McDouall 11, 12, 13, 19
 Wills, William 11, 12–13

F

Federation 32, 33, 37, 38, 39
 free trade 33

G

gold rushes 6, 8, 9, 26, 40
 Goyder's Line 18

H

Heidelberg School 36

I

Indigenous Australian groups
 Bunthamara 26
 Madi Madi 16
 Nuenonne 13
 Punuba 44
 Tjapwurong 10
 Wangkumara 13
 Woiworung 17
 Yandruwandha 13
 Yawarawarka 13
 Indigenous Australian leaders
 Barak, William 17
 Indigenous reserves 6, 16
 Bruny Island Mission 20
 Coranderk mission station 17
 Flinders Island Mission 21
 Indigenous Tasmanians 20, 21

L

Labor Party 41, 42
Land Selections Act 18, 33

N

Native XI cricket team 10, 16
 New South Wales' goldfields 8

O

Overland Telegraph Line 19

P

pastoralists
 Durack, Patrick 26
 poets
 Gordon, Adam Lindsay 24
 Lawson, Henry 27, 31, 35
 Paterson, Banjo 34–5
 politicians 5
 Forrest, John 39
 Gordon, Adam Lindsay 24
 Griffith, Samuel 37, 38
 Kingston, Charles 38
 Parkes, Henry 32–3
 Spence, William 41
 prospectors 5
 Hargraves, Edward 8
 Hannan, Paddy 43
 Lalor, Peter 9
 Rasp, Charles 25

R

rebel leaders
 Lalor, Peter 9
 religious leaders
 MacKillop, Mary 14–15
 resistance fighters
 Jandamarra 44
 Truganini 20–1

S

selectors 18
 shearers
 Howe, Jacky 42
 Sisters of St Joseph 14
 sportspeople
 Unaarrimin 16
 Wills, Tom 10
 squatters 6, 8, 9, 18, 33
 suffrage 30, 31
 surveyors 5
 Forrest, John 39
 Goyder, George Surveyor 18
 Stuart, John McDouall 11, 12, 13, 19
 Wills, William 11, 12–13

T

telegraph 11, 12, 19
 Trans-Australian Railway 39

U

union leaders
 Spence, William 41
 unions 6, 27, 31, 35, 41, 42

V

Victorian goldfields 9

W

Western Australian goldfields 43
 writers 5, 27
 Turner, Ethel 45
 Lawson, Henry 27, 31, 35
 Parkes, Henry 32–3
 Paterson, Banjo 34–5