



21 August 1857 Residents of Watson's Bay discover bodies washed up at the Gap, South Head. They were casualties from the *Dunbar*, wrecked the night before while attempting to enter Sydney Harbour. Watercolour by Edmund Thomas, 1857.

DIXSON GALLERIES

2 August Telegraphic communications were established in Tas with the opening of the Hobart-to-Launceston line.

10 August The streets of Melbourne were lit by gas for the first time.

12 August Francis McCallum, alias Capt Francis Melville, was found strangled in his cell. Melville had been transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1838, arrived in Vic in October 1851 and turned bushranger, claiming leadership of the Mt Macedon gang and waylaying travellers to and from the goldfields. He was captured on 3 February 1852 and sentenced to twelve years' hard labour.

20 August The *Dunbar* was wrecked in bad weather on cliffs outside Sydney Heads with the loss of 121 lives. One person survived.

27 October Members of the Jiman 'tribe' killed eleven Europeans at Martha Fraser's Hornet Bank station on the Dawson River, central Qld. Local squatters and native police later carried out reprisals.

1857 The construction of a fort on Pinchgut Island in Sydney Harbour — Fort Denison — was completed in response to concern over the colony's defences during the Crimean War.

1858

1 January The £600 000 Yan Yean water supply was opened in Melbourne.

18 January Twelve stonemasons formed one of Qld's earliest trade unions.

27 January The Torrens Real Property Act was granted royal assent and in July the Torrens title system came into operation in SA. This reform, which became widely accepted in other colonies and overseas, simplified the registration and transfer of land titles. The Torrens system became law in Qld in 1861, in NSW, Vic and Tas in 1862 and in WA in 1874.

1 February Australia's first successful flight in a hot-air balloon took place when William Dean ascended in the *Australasian* from Cremorne Gardens, Melbourne.

25 February The Waste Lands Acts in Tas divided the colony into 'settled' and 'unsettled' districts. Although this legislation allowed for alienation of land on liberal terms, settlement proceeded slowly because of lack of roads and difficulties with cultivation in the mountainous areas.

27 February The University of Sydney was granted a Royal Charter formally placing graduates on an equal footing with those of British universities. The University of Melbourne gained similar recognition the following year.

24 March At the Dawson River in the far north of Qld, the explorer Augustus Charles Gregory set out on his last expedition. Directed by the NSW government, Gregory proceeded to search for Ludwig Leichhardt, who had gone missing in 1848 during an attempt to cross the continent from east to west. The search party reached Adelaide later in the year, having found few clues as to Leichhardt's fate.

26 March Sponsored by settlers, Francis Thomas Gregory left Perth with a small expedition to explore

the Murchison and Gascoyne districts of WA. Gregory later reported the discovery of 'thousands of acres' of land suitable for agricultural purposes around the headwaters of the Gascoyne, Lyons and Murchison rivers.

14 May John McDouall Stuart led an expedition, financed by the pastoralist William Finke, to the area west of Lake Torrens in SA. The party reached Streaky Bay in August suffering from starvation, having penetrated as far northwest as the present site of Coober Pedy. In response to rewards offered by the SA government and with the assistance of landowners, in 1859 Stuart again explored large tracts in the north of the colony. On the journey he undertook in April 1859, he opened up a permanent 800-kilometre trail to the north.

28 June The first secondary school in WA, known as the Bishop's School after its founder, Bishop Hale, opened in Perth.

June One of Australia's largest gold nuggets, the 'Welcome', was found by Cornish miners near Ballarat in Vic. It weighed 62.85 kilograms.

June The Mining Companies Act in Vic facilitated the formation of public mining companies, hastening a transition from independent digging to large leaseholdings on both quartz and alluvial deposits.

10 July One of the earliest fatal railway accidents in Australia occurred near Lidcombe west of Sydney. Two people were killed and thirteen injured.

12 July In Adelaide a daily newspaper, the *South Australian Advertiser*, commenced publication.

July The announcement of the discovery of gold at Canoona and the Fitzroy River created a rush to northern Qld. Although gold soon petered out, the area was opened up and the first sales of Rockhampton land were held in Sydney on 17 and 18 November 1859.

7 August The football match between Scotch College and Melbourne Grammar School was one of the earliest organised matches in the colonies. In this year the Melbourne Football Club was formed and the cricketer Thomas Wentworth Wills and others drew up rules for a game that later became known as Victorian or Australian rules.

28 August In NSW, publication of the liberal newspaper, the *Empire*, was suspended after it had fallen into financial difficulties the previous year. The paper's founder, Henry Parkes, was forced to file for a petition of insolvency on 30 August.

August A public meeting in Adelaide resulted in the formation of the Aborigines' Friends Association, whose object was to promote the physical, moral and spiritual welfare of the Aborigines.

4 October The National Bank of Australasia Ltd opened in Melbourne.

29 October Telegraphic links were completed between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. In 1861 Brisbane was added to the network, and Perth in 1877.

28 November South American alpacas were introduced into NSW by Charles Ledger. The experiment later proved a failure.

November The elected Perth City Council met for the first time.

9 December The report of the Vic Royal Commission into the Defences of the Colony called for the organisation of an enlarged colonial militia force and a detachment of artillery.

1858 The non-Aboriginal population of Australia reached 1 000 000.

1858 *Words for women; a plea for certain sufferers*, published anonymously in Hobart, alleged that there were 350 prostitutes in the city.

1859

27 January Francis Cadell, one of the founders of steam navigation on the Murray River, embarked on a pioneering trip 800 kilometres up the Darling River in the steamer *Albury*. By 24 February, William Randell, a rival of Cadell, had reached Brewarrina in the *Gemini*, more than 1600 kilometres from the Darling junction. The opening up of the rivers for transportation of supplies, produce and services was significant for the pastoral development of western NSW.

January The Tariff League of Vic was founded and attracted the support of manufacturers and artisans. It



1859 *The horses line up for the first official Australasian champion sweepstakes in Melbourne on 1 October 1859. The race was run over a distance of 3 miles (4.8 kilometres). W.C. Yuille's horse, Flying Buck, won the event. Watercolour by Herbert Palmer, 1859.*

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argued for the introduction of import duties on all commodities competing with colonial production.

March Vic legislation reduced the residence tax which had been imposed on Chinese in 1857 from £6 to £4 but added more stringent provisions for its collection. To prevent an increase in the number of Chinese coming overland to the goldfields, a £4 entry tax over the Murray border was also to be imposed. By May the Chinese on several fields were protesting against this act, with demonstrations of various kinds. In 1859 more than four thousand Chinese were fined and about two thousand were imprisoned for evading the taxes.

May Rev George Taplin established the Point McLeay mission in SA for the Aborigines' Friends Association. Situated on tribal ground, the area was also known as Raukkan or the Ancient Way. Many of the Ngarrindjeri people moved to the mission.

May The Melbourne Trades Hall and Literary Institute was opened.

14 June Edward Tufnell was consecrated first Anglican bishop of Qld.

18 July The Great Hall of Sydney University was opened, followed by a six-day festival. The architect of the Great Hall was Edmund Blacket, who designed many colonial buildings.

July A £2000 reward was offered by the SA parliament for the first expedition to cross the continent from south to north.

6 August On a journey from Port Adelaide to Melbourne, the SS *Admella* struck a reef near Cape Northumberland, SA. The shipwreck cost 83 lives.

26 August Charles Jardine Don, a stonemason and former Chartist, won the seat of Collingwood in the Vic legislative assembly. Don claimed to be the first working-class representative in any legislature within the British Empire.

August George Dalrymple set out to explore the unsettled areas north of Rockhampton in Qld for private interests. Dalrymple later returned with reports of good lands suitable for pastoral and agricultural purposes.

7 September Brisbane was incorporated; the first municipal elections took place on 10 October.

27 October Unable to secure support for his education bill, Charles Cowper resigned as premier of NSW, to be replaced by the Forster ministry, which lasted only four months.

27 October In Vic, the Nicholson ministry succeeded O'Shanassy's after a loss of support in the recent election. The battle over land legislation continued in parliament and Nicholson's land bill intro-



20 August 1860 With considerable ceremony and over two dozen camels, the Burke and Wills expedition departs from Melbourne on its ill-fated journey north. Watercolour by S. T. Gill.

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duced in November was not passed until September 1860, after over 250 amendments had been made to it.

October New premises for the Melbourne Club were completed and opened in Collins St.

10 December The Moreton Bay settlement was separated from NSW and the colony of Qld was proclaimed north of 29° latitude with the border at the coastal end following the crest of ranges to the sea at Point Danger. The western border was at 141°E longitude. The inaugural governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, was sworn in and Robert George Wyndham Herbert was commissioned as colonial secretary two days later.

December In SA rich copper ore was mined by Walter Hughes at his sheep station on the eastern side of Spencer Gulf. These mines became known as Wallaroo, and were worked until 1923, together with the Moonta lode, discovered in 1860.

December The small number of wild-bred rabbits imported and released by the Austin family of Barwon Park near Geelong, Vic, multiplied rapidly and within twenty years had spread to NSW and SA. These rabbits proved more noxious than the domesticated rabbits which had been introduced previously.

1859 James Beaney's work *Original contributions to the practice of conservative surgery* was released. It was one of the first medical books published in Australia. Henry Kingsley's first novel, *The recollections of Geoffrey Hamlyn*, was published in England. The book, set in Australia, became very popular and influenced later Australian fiction.

1860

16 January An expedition led by Capt John Mackay left Armidale, NSW, in search of suitable grazing lands in the far north of Qld. His explorations helped open up the area between the Burdekin and the watershed of the Isaacs River, which became known as the Mackay district.

January The news of gold discoveries in the Snowy Mountains region of NSW started a rush to the area and soon thousands of diggers were searching for gold at Kiandra.

2 March An expedition led by John McDouall Stuart left Chambers Creek, SA, to cross the continent from south to north. Although the main objective was not achieved on this journey, the party reached the geographic centre of Australia on 22 April and a short time later Stuart raised the Union Jack on Central Mount Sturt (later renamed Central Mount Stuart). For his endeavours, Stuart received the Patron's Gold Medal, the highest honour awarded by the London Royal Geographical Society.

9 March After the fall of the Forster ministry in NSW and the entry of Charles Cowper to the legislative council, John Robertson became premier and formed a cabinet based on the earlier Cowper administration.

In government, Robertson gave priority to securing land reforms.

March The Vic economy reached a low point with the collapse of the mining company boom, a long, continuing commercial depression and widespread unemployment.

24 April British troops stationed in Australia sailed in the colonial war steamer *Victoria* to take part in the wars between the Maoris and Europeans in New Zealand. By 1863, regiments of colonial volunteers from Australia were also serving in New Zealand.

27 April Elections were held in Qld and the colony's first parliament under responsible government assembled on 22 May with Robert George Herbert as premier. Herbert's land reform policy was embodied in the Alienation of Crown Lands Act passed in this year. Land was to be made available by auction at a minimum price of £1 per acre and by selection of blocks in agricultural reserves.

24 May The Hunter River Coalminers' Mutual Protective Association was formed in NSW. This union attempted to bring the miners in the pits of the Newcastle region into a single organisation. The association successfully resisted a reduction in rates and the employment of non-union labour at the Minmi mine with a two-month strike later in the year.

May The trustees of the Melbourne Public Library authorised a sum of £2000 to be spent in England on the formation of a visual arts collection. In 1861 the governor of the colony, Sir Henry Barkly, opened the Museum of Art and this early public art exhibition became the basis of the National Gallery of Victoria.

7 June The Central Board to Watch over the Interests of the Aborigines in the Colony of Victoria met for the first time. A report of the board in 1861 recommended that Aborigines should be confined to reserves 'for their better management and control'.

July An education act in Qld withdrew government financial support from denominational schools.



June 1861 Robert O'Hara Burke dies of starvation and exhaustion at Cooper Creek. Watercolour by S. T. Gill.

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July John Fairfax and Sons founded the weekly *Sydney Mail*.

20 August Sponsored by private subscription and the Vic government, an expedition led by Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills left Melbourne to find a route to the northern coast. Burke, Wills and two other men, Charles Gray and John King, reached the Gulf of Carpentaria in February 1861. By June, however, Burke, Wills and Gray had perished on the return journey. King, the lone survivor of the party, was kept alive by Aborigines until September when a rescue team found him at Cooper Creek.

August Public meetings gathered in Melbourne to protest against the rejection of William Nicholson's land bill in the parliament. Crowds demanding 'a vote, a rifle, and a farm' marched on Parliament House where police intervened.

August Gold was discovered at Lambing Flat near Young in NSW. This field attracted large numbers of people, including many Chinese.

September Nicholson's land act finally became law in Vic. Although thousands of hectares were sold to settlers, conditions of the land act prevented selection before survey and promoted competition for blocks. Squatters were able to retain control of large areas through 'dummying' — a method by which land was obtained through relatives and friends. Further land acts in the colony in 1862, 1865 and 1869 attempted to provide safeguards against the inequities of the system and promoted selection on a wider scale.

September The Primary Education Act of Qld set up a system of 'vested' or government schools, with existing denominational schools being granted 'non-vested' status and allowed financial support. No provision was made for additional church schools and the Anglican and Catholic bishops of the colony strongly opposed the act.

March In Melbourne a group of sharebrokers formalised a set of rules that led to Australia's first stock exchange.

10 May James Quinn arrived from Dublin as the first Catholic bishop of Qld.

11 May Henry Parkes and William Bede Dalley were offered positions as commissioners for immigration. They later toured Great Britain lecturing on the advantages of emigration to NSW.

May Sir John Young, the governor of NSW, agreed to a request by the premier, Charles Cowper, to appoint 21 new members of the legislative council to pass John Robertson's land bills. To avoid this 'swamping', the president and nineteen other members of the council resigned, so depriving it of a quorum and obtaining an adjournment.

May In WA, Francis Thomas Gregory explored the territory in the northwest of the colony after proposals had been made to establish a new colony in the area. The crew of Gregory's support ship *Dolphin* collected pearls at Nickol Bay, thus initiating the pearling industry of the northwest.

May After public criticisms of its operations, the native police force of Qld was investigated by a select committee of the legislative assembly, which also enquired into the condition of the colony's Aboriginal population.

24 June During a brief return to Sydney from England, William Charles Wentworth became president of the NSW legislative council. He resisted moves to make the council an elected body.

June A supreme court was established in WA.

July In NSW several Chinese reacted to the violence of the Lambing Flat riots by petitioning the legislative assembly for compensation. In September 80 clergymen signed a protest against the wrongs inflicted on the Chinese in the colony.

1861

10 January With John Robertson's retirement from the premiership of NSW, Charles Cowper again formed a ministry. The Robertson-Cowper governments from 1860 to 1863 secured continuity of policy and stability.

February Troops were despatched to Burrangong (near Lambing Flat, NSW) to quell the unrest that had developed out of the miners' resentment and persecution of the Chinese diggers. Riots erupted in June and July, in which the Chinese and police were attacked by angry mobs.

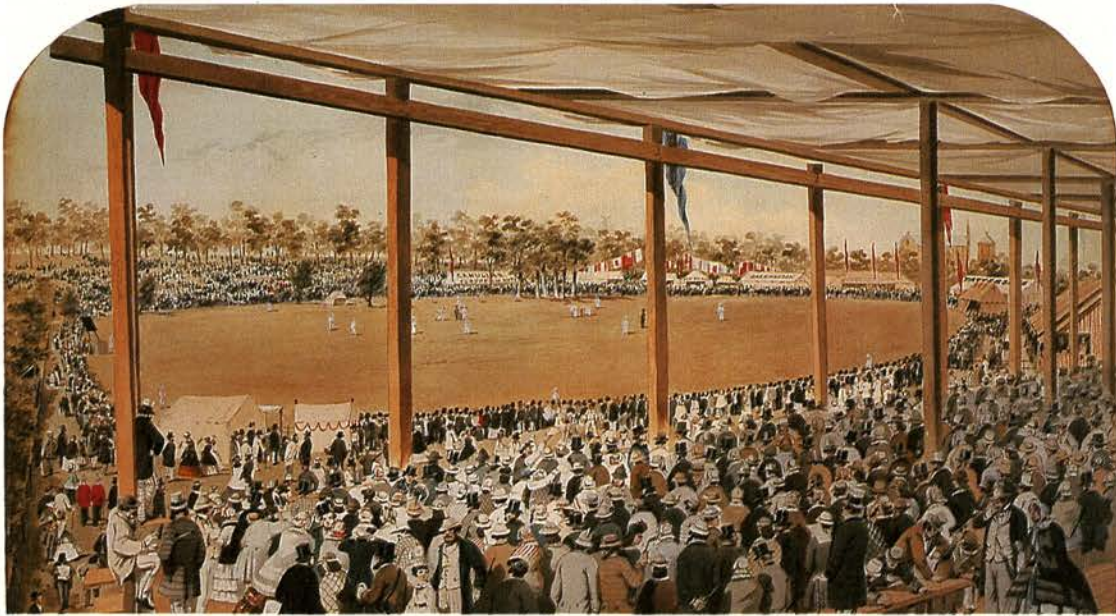
22 March Sir John Young succeeded Sir William Denison as governor of NSW. He was soon caught up in a political crisis between the two houses of parliament.

25 March William Lyster's opera company opened at the Theatre Royal in Melbourne with *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Maritana* and *Lurline*.



30 June 1861 A crowd of about a thousand men armed with bludgeons and pick handles attacked Chinese on the diggings at Lambing Flat (now Young), New South Wales. Their standard was the 'Roll-Up/No Chinese' flag, made from a tent fly. Postcard of an original flag in the possession of the Young Historical Society.

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29 January–1 February 1862 *The first all-England eleven to visit Australia play their second match in the country against New South Wales in the outer Domain, Sydney.*
Watercolour attributed to S.T. Gill.

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14 August A search party for Burke and Wills led by William Landsborough left Brisbane by sea. Despite shipwreck, the expedition reached the Gulf of Carpentaria in October. On the overland southwesterly trek along the Gregory River, Landsborough noted the prospects for pastoral occupation of the region. He also named the Barkly Tableland. The explorer was criticised on his return for his apparent greater interest in the region's commercial possibilities than in the fate of Burke and Wills.

16 August Another search party for Burke and Wills left Adelaide under the leadership of John McKinlay. In the north McKinlay discovered the floodplains of the Diamantina River, which he named Muellers Creek. Frederick Walker's search party left Rockhampton in September and explored large tracts in the north which were later opened up for settlement.

15 September Near Cooper Creek, a rescue team under Alfred Howitt found John King, the lone survivor of the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition. In December 1862 Howitt recovered the remains of Burke and Wills from Cooper Creek and transported them back to Melbourne.

17 October George Waterhouse succeeded Thomas Reynolds as premier in SA. Throughout the year, the colony was faced with major conflicts and constitutional difficulties engendered by a judge of the supreme court, Benjamin Boothby.

17 October Nineteen white settlers were killed in an attack by Aborigines at Horatio Wills's Cullinlarino station in Qld. Within two months, it was reported

that more than 170 Aborigines had been killed in retaliation for the deaths.

18 October John Robertson's Crown Lands Alienation Act and Crown Lands Occupation Act were forced through the NSW parliament. The first provided for free selection within certain areas, a low initial payment and residence on the land. The second allowed squatters to retain a limited right of pre-emptive purchase.

26 October An expedition under John McDouall Stuart left Adelaide and opened up a route through to the northern coast. Stuart reached the mouth of the Adelaide River on 24 July 1862, having pioneered a trail to a point near the present site of Darwin. In December the explorer arrived back in Adelaide, exhausted and almost blind.

7 November The first Melbourne Cup was run at the Flemington course in Vic.

27 November The NSW government passed the Chinese Immigration Act and the Gold Fields Act, by which the entry of Chinese into the colony was regulated by a heavy tax of £10 per head and Chinese were to be excluded from certain goldfields.

23 December Under sponsorship of a private company, the first English cricket team to visit Australia arrived in Melbourne.

December The first horse-drawn tram operated in Sydney, running from Circular Quay along Pitt Street to Central railway station. In 1879 steam trams were introduced and the first electric tramway opened in 1893.

1862

4 January The visit of the Russian ship *Svetlana* aroused widespread local interest in Melbourne. However, a row broke out in the Vic parliament over the omission of a battery salute to the Russians, which some saw as indicating weakness in the colony's port defences. Another Russian vessel, the *Bogatyr*, arrived in Melbourne in March 1863, and once again questions were raised about colonial security.

February In Sydney the first all-England eleven cricket team to tour Australia played a team representing both Vic and NSW. The home team won.

4 March Sir Dominick Daly took up his appointment as governor of SA. Daly, an Irish Catholic, was able to overcome early prejudice against him, and his political impartiality won respect and support in the colony. He died in office on 19 February 1868.

30 April Miners in Newcastle, NSW, were locked out at the Australian Agricultural Co colliery after they had refused to accept a reduced tonnage rate. Although the employers brought in strikebreakers to work the mines, unionists held out for seven months. When miners eventually returned to their jobs they were accepted on condition that they renounced union affiliation. The outcome of this conflict was a blow to the Hunter River Coalminers' District Co-operative; however, unionism did continue to exist within individual mines.

May In WA the Working Men's Association was founded to 'raise the moral and intellectual tone of the working class'. The Working Men's Institute, financed by the government, was built in Perth in 1864. The organisation was run by a committee of colonial officials and clergymen.

11 June A preliminary meeting was called to establish the non-denominational Sydney City Mission. The work of this institution started in October when four missionaries began evangelistic and charitable visits to residents in the city.

15 June Bushrangers led by Francis (Frank) Gardiner, held up a gold escort at Eugowra Rocks in NSW and escaped with £14 000 worth of bullion and notes. Gardiner was arrested in 1864 and sentenced to 32 years' hard labour for highway robbery but was released and exiled in 1874 after a plea for mercy to the governor.

June The Common Schools Act of Vic brought state and denominational schools under a single administration with church schools given 'non-vested' status. This legislation established a board of education, which allocated grants to efficient schools and to approved teachers.

June The Duffy Land Act opened up large areas in Vic for selection. However, like its forerunner, the Nicholson Land Act of 1860, the provisions of this legislation were circumvented by squatters, and abuses such as dummying restricted land allotment.

17 July A select committee of the British House of Commons recommended that coins struck at the Syd-

ney branch of the Royal Mint should be legal tender in all parts of the British Empire. Permanent colonial provision was made for the Sydney mint after April 1865.

24 July The SA Great Northern Exploring Expedition, under the command of John McDouall Stuart, reached the Indian Ocean at Chambers Bay after a successful crossing from Adelaide.

July The Vic coach line Cobb and Co extended its services into NSW. By the end of 1862, the firm had started a coachbuilding factory at its main depot in Bathurst.

14 September Alexander Barnard Davis, a Jewish minister from England, was appointed to the York St Synagogue in Sydney. Davis established the Jewish Sabbath School in 1863 and later became well known for his services to the Jewish community and to religious education in the colony.

20 December The Coal Fields Regulation Act of NSW provided for the appointment of colliery superintendents and policing to ensure proper ventilation, and set a minimum working age for miners of thirteen years.

December Edward Stringer found alluvial gold in the Gippsland mountains. Stringer's site later became the gold-boom township of Walhalla, and the nearby Long Tunnel mine proved to be the richest in Vic.

1862 To encourage the cultivation of cotton in the colony, the NSW government offered grants of land to prospective growers.

1862 An early historical study of Australia, Roderick Flanagan's *History of New South Wales: with an account of Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, Port Phillip, Moreton Bay and other Australian settlements*, was published in England.

1862 The distinctive Australian poetry of Henry Kendall appeared in his first volume of verse titled *Poems and songs*.

1862 The University of Melbourne established the first medical school in Australia; lectures commenced the following year. Although women were admitted to other faculties in 1881, the medical school remained closed to them until 1887.

1862 The Vic Acclimatization Society, which had been formed the previous year, released 8 sparrows, 18 canaries, 2 quail, 18 blackbirds, 2 partridges, 24 thrushes and 6 skylarks at the botanic gardens.

1863

21 January After having been conveyed to Melbourne from Cooper Creek in SA, the remains of the explorers Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills were given a state funeral in the capital.

12 March The Tas government offered a reward of £5000 for the discovery of a profitable goldfield in the colony.

March Representatives from NSW, Vic, SA and Tas attended an intercolonial conference in Melbourne. The main topics discussed at the conference included the tariff issue, intercolonial customs duties and the end of transportation. The arguments over the tariff and free trade or protection policies were to divide political groups and colonies until Federation. Border customs duties in relation to the carriage of goods and produce on the Murray River remained a controversial issue between NSW, Vic and SA.

May The merchant Robert Towns despatched the schooner *Don Juan* to transport Melanesian labourers to Qld for work on his cotton plantation. In August the first shipload of 73 'kanakas' arrived in the colony. The abuses connected with the trade attracted legislation to protect the interests of Melanesians after 1868.

22 June Adelaide was provided with gas lighting.

1 July The first post office savings bank opened in Perth.

6 July The NT was separated from NSW and placed under the administration of SA. The first government resident of the NT was Boyle Travers Finniss.

21 July Public grants for religion were abolished in NSW.

22 July The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act was passed in WA. This legislation provided for the protection of a woman's private property after desertion or legal separation and payment of alimony by a

husband once a decree had been granted. Grounds on which a wife could petition for divorce varied significantly from those for a husband.

July The bushrangers John Gilbert and John O'Meally held up the bank at Carcoar in NSW. They later joined Ben Hall, and the gang was active in the colony until 1865. On several of their raids, gang members killed police officers. O'Meally was killed in a raid on Goimbla station in 1864 and Gilbert was shot dead by police in May 1865.

11 September Sir Charles Darling was installed as governor of Vic. During his term of office, Darling became personally involved in colonial politics and his position as the viceregal representative was questioned on several occasions. His handling of the constitutional crisis between the council and the assembly in 1865 brought about his recall to London in 1866 and later his resignation. Darling was reinstated to the colonial service in May 1868; in 1870 he died.

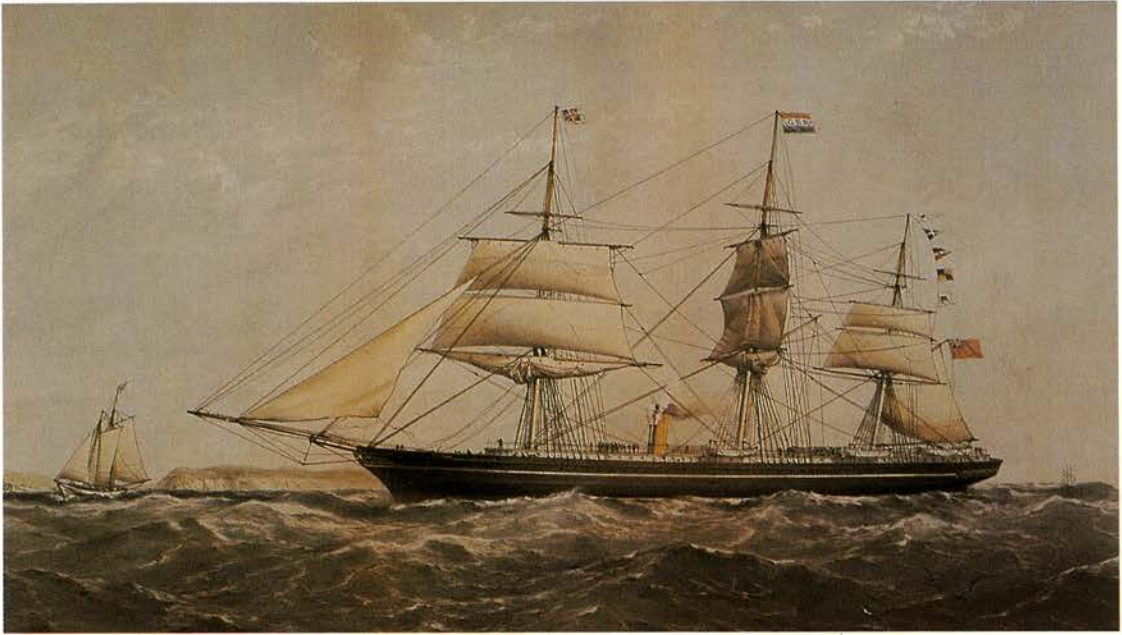
21 September The Qld Police Act brought the police forces of the colony under a single administration. The act also provided for the appointment of a commissioner with authority over all branches, including the native police.

October Early in the month, the bushranger Ben Hall and his accomplices raided the township of Bathurst, NSW. On 12 October, the outlaws captured the small settlement of Canowindra and held it under their control for three days; they engaged the



1863 Melbourne citizens celebrate the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra of Denmark in March 1863. Drawn by Nicholas Chevalier and engraved by Frederick Grosse, in the *Illustrated Melbourne Post*, 18 July 1863.

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1864 *The passenger steamship Great Britain, designed by I.K. Brunel, waiting for a pilot off Port Phillip Heads. This ship first carried passengers from England to Australia in 1852, the year that steam communication between the two countries began, and made frequent visits until the 1880s. Coloured lithograph by Thomas G. Dutton, 1864.*

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locals in festivities. On 24 October, Hall and his men attacked the homestead of the gold commissioner Henry Keightley at Dunn's Plains. The bushranger Mick Burke was killed in the gun battle and later Keightley's life was ransomed by payment of £500 to the bushrangers.

11 November Elizabeth Scott was hanged in Vic for the murder of her husband. She was the first woman to be executed in the colony.

25 November In Brisbane several Presbyterian congregations united to form the Presbyterian Church of Qld. Rev Samuel Wilson was appointed the first moderator of the synod.

1864

1 January In Qld the far northern pastoral districts of Burke in the Gulf Country and Cook on Cape York were opened for settlement.

January A reward of £500 was offered in NSW for the apprehension of the bushranger Dan Morgan. Throughout 1863 Morgan had robbed travellers and settlers around the districts of Gundagai and Narrandera.

2 February The NSW Free Trade Association declared that there should be a decrease in the number of articles subject to customs duties and argued that laws that restricted commerce were 'wrong in principle and injurious to the interest of the community'.

25 February Construction of the first railway line in Qld began at Ipswich and the people of the town were granted a public holiday in honour of the occasion. To save money a narrow gauge had been recommended for the colony.

March Offices opened in London and Adelaide for the sale of land in the NT.

April 100 000 salmon eggs and 3000 trout eggs arrived in Hobart from England on the *Victoria*, which had been fitted out with a cooling room, and were placed in Tasmanian hatcheries. This was the first successful transfer of such eggs to Australia. By 1871 there were enough trout in Tas waters to permit fly-fishing. Although fish were taken to the mainland in 1870, the venture was not successful.

14 May The Jardine brothers, Francis and Alexander, left Rockhampton, Qld, with a party of four Europeans and four Aborigines to drive a herd of cattle and horses overland to Somerset on Cape York. The journey lasted ten months and during that time the expedition covered almost 2000 kilometres of rugged country. On 13 December they were attacked by Aborigines at the Mitchell River. They reached Somerset in March 1865 with only a small number of horses and cattle left. Shortly after, both brothers were elected fellows of the Royal Geographical Society.

2 June The Neglected and Criminal Children Act was passed in Vic. Under this legislation, industrial and reformatory schools were to be opened for the care of 'destitute' as well as 'convicted' children.

18 June Edward Hargraves, the self-styled discoverer of gold in NSW in 1851, arrived in Adelaide to report on his geological survey for the SA government. Although Hargraves had found evidence of gold during his explorations of the colony, he informed parliament in July that the quantities would not support a 'rush' to the districts.

June The government resident of the NT, Boyle Travers Finniss, established a settlement at Escape Cliffs at Adam Bay, despite advice about the unsuitability of this locality for a capital. The site was abandoned in 1867. After bitter criticism by members of his administration, Finniss was recalled and censured by a royal commission in 1866.

21 August A foundation ceremony was conducted for a settlement at Somerset on the tip of Cape York Peninsula, Qld. John Jardine had been appointed government resident and police magistrate the previous year, after the Qld and British governments had decided on the site as a base for the protection of the access route through the Torres Strait. The settlement was moved to Thursday Island in 1877.



1865 The four Faithfull brothers were awarded a gold medal for bravery by the colony of New South Wales after having defended themselves from an attack by the bushrangers Ben Hall, John Gilbert and John Dunn at their home, Springfield station, near Goulburn on 6 February. Gold medal made by Hardy Bros, London.

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30 August Adam Lindsay Gordon's first published poem, 'The feud', appeared.

17 September The Vic railway line reached Echuca, a river town on the NSW-Vic border. The centre became an important inland port for the passenger and produce trade of the Murray valley and Riverina agricultural districts.

27 September In Qld, a special land regulation made land available for the production of coffee and sugar.

September Louis Hope produced the first commercial quantity of sugar on his property at Ormiston, Qld. Hope was to play a major part in establishing the colony's sugar industry. Cultivation of this crop increased rapidly after 1865, with the assistance of imported Melanesian labour.

1 October In Vic the *Argus* began publication of the *Australasian* as a country weekly.

9 December The SA government passed a preservation order to protect several species of imported and native birds and animals.

1864 Townsville was founded near the Ross River in north Qld by John Melton Black, a manager employed by the trader and pastoralist Robert Towns.

1865

1 January James Johnstone Barnet was appointed colonial architect of NSW, a position he occupied until 1890. His work included the General Post Office and International Exhibition building in Sydney.

25 January The warship *Shenandoah*, representing the Confederate States of America, entered Port Phillip. The captain, James Waddell, organised supplies and repairs for his ship; claims were also made that he recruited seamen.

27 January At Collector, south of Goulburn, NSW, the bushrangers Ben Hall, John Gilbert and John Dunn held up Kimberley's Inn. During the raid John Dunn shot and killed the local police officer, Const Nelson. In 1866 Dunn was hanged in Sydney.

January In Vic James McCulloch's government, which was pledged to an economic policy of protection for colonial industry, passed the new tariff provisions through the assembly. By July, however, the legislative council had demonstrated its opposition to the measures and 'laid aside' the annual appropriation bill to which the tariff had been tacked. A constitutional crisis and bitter divisions followed when the governor, Sir Charles Darling, approved the government's continued collection of the new customs duties. The council rejected a separate tariff bill in November, and as the assembly would not pass any appropriation bill until the tariff had been passed in the upper house, Darling granted the government a dissolution of parliament. The elections of January 1866 returned the McCulloch government with a large majority.

16 February A NSW police inspector, Sir Frederick Pottinger, known as 'Blind Freddy', was dismissed from the police force for disobeying regulations by having ridden in the Wowingragong races in January. The outlaws Hall, Gilbert and Dunn had also attended the race meeting without being captured. Pottinger died on 9 April from an accidental, self-inflicted gunshot wound.

February Abram-Louis Buvelot, a Swiss artist, arrived in Melbourne. His paintings were first exhibited at the Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition in 1866 and he soon became the colony's leading landscape artist.

28 March A land act proposed by James Grant, the commissioner of lands, was passed in Vic. Grant made alienation a condition of occupation and a selector was required to reside on the land for three years and make certain improvements.

7 April The Colonial Naval Defence Act passed by the British parliament allowed the Australian colonies to raise their own seamen and provide for their own warships.

8 April The NSW Felons Apprehension Act made it an offence, punishable by fifteen years imprisonment, to provide aid for bushrangers. Known bushrangers were proclaimed outlaws and could be shot by anyone if they failed to surrender.

9 April At the Peechelba homestead, Vic, the bushranger 'Mad' Dan Morgan was surrounded by police and fatally wounded by a station hand while attempting to escape.

5 May Ben Hall was ambushed and killed by police near Goobang Creek on the Lachlan Plain. On 13 May, John Gilbert was shot dead near Binalong, NSW.

1 June A section of the Vic Savings Bank Act made a woman's deposits available to her spouse after marriage. In 1866 post office legislation empowered the postmaster general to pay a woman's savings directly to her husband.

29 June The British parliament passed the Colonial Laws Validity Act, confirming that colonial laws were valid unless they were found to conflict with relevant British legislation.

29 June St Mary's, the 40-year-old Catholic cathedral in Sydney, was completely destroyed by fire. In December 1869 Archbishop Polding laid the foundation stone for a new building.

31 July The first railway in Qld, the Southern and Western Railway, was officially opened from Ipswich to Bigge's Camp (Grandchester), a distance of 34 kilometres. By April 1867 it had reached Toowoomba.

2 September The *Australian journal*, a weekly record of amusing and instructive literature, science and the arts, was first published in Melbourne. This magazine achieved widespread popularity and authors such as Rolf Boldrewood and Marcus Clarke contributed articles.

November George Goyder, surveyor-general of SA, was directed to devise a map indicating a demarcation

line that would differentiate the areas affected by drought from agricultural districts with adequate rainfall levels. After extensive surveys the map, featuring Goyder's Line, was published in 1866.

1865 Oil was first recovered from shale at Mt Kembla, south of Sydney. Production continued at the Pioneer Works until 1975.

1865 The biscuit manufacturer William Arnott established what became a successful bakery business in Hunter St, Newcastle, NSW.

1865 Catherine Helen Spence published *Mr Hogarth's will* under her own name. Spence, the first woman to write a novel about Australia, had published *Clara Morison: a tale of South Australia during the gold fever* anonymously in 1854.

1865 Arthur Orton, alias Thomas Castro, from Wagga Wagga, NSW, responded to advertisements seeking the whereabouts of Roger Tichborne, heir to estates in England. Although Tichborne had been presumed lost at sea, the missing man's mother, Lady Tichborne, had refused to accept her son's disappearance and initiated enquiries worldwide. Castro travelled to Britain in 1866 and was apparently accepted by Lady Tichborne as her son. After lengthy trials, Castro was charged with perjury and, in 1874, was sentenced to fourteen years' gaol.

1866

25 January John McKinlay led an expedition from Escape Cliffs, NT, under instructions to search for a more suitable site for a settlement on the northern coast. During a five-month journey the party explored the districts between the Adelaide and East Alligator rivers, overcoming the hazards of flooded rivers, starvation and crocodile attacks. McKinlay was impressed with the area around Port Darwin, which he later recommended as a suitable site.

19 March At Penola, SA, Mary Helen MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods founded the Catholic religious order the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Sister Mary became the superior of the order, which was dedicated to the education of poor children and the care of the destitute.

April A special squad of police was sent to the Braidwood district, NSW, in an attempt to apprehend the bushranging gang led by Thomas Clarke. From October 1865, Clarke and some of his relatives had been suspected of horse-stealing, robberies and several murders. Thomas and his brother John were captured and hanged in Sydney in 1867.

April The constitutional deadlock in Vic ended with the recall of Sir Charles Darling by the British authorities and an agreement between the two houses to pass a revised tariff bill. However, by May further difficulties arose after the legislative assembly voted a grant of £20000 to Darling's wife. The conflict widened as the secretary of state disapproved of the gift and McCulloch's ministry was unsuccessful in having the



26 December 1866 *Aboriginal cricketers from the western district of Victoria pose uncertainly for a photograph at the Melbourne Cricket Ground with their coach, T. W. Wills. They played several matches in Melbourne and Sydney and some were present on the all-Aboriginal tour of England in 1868, the first by an Australian team. Photograph by Charles Hewitt.*

MITCHELL LIBRARY

appropriation bill passed by the council. This dispute was not resolved until July 1868, when Darling agreed to withdraw a claim to the grant.

April The Vic government introduced a protectionist tariff for the colony. New customs rates included a 10 per cent *ad valorem* duty on watches, jewellery and other imports with a reduced levy being placed on tea, sugar and opium.

12 July Sixty-three people died when the paddle-steamer *Cawarra* sank while trying to enter Newcastle harbour during a gale.

24 July The Bank of Qld suspended payments.

July Arthur Macalister's new ministry in Qld confronted a financial crisis brought about by the failure of Agra and Masterman, the government's bankers. Macalister and his treasurer, Joshua Bell, attempted to introduce a bill that would have allowed the issuing of unsecured government notes or 'greenbacks', but the governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, refused assent to the proposal and the premier resigned. Bowen then recalled Herbert to lead the government and on Herbert's subsequent advice, Macalister was invited to form a new ministry which took office on 7 August.

July–August During an economic and political crisis in Brisbane there were 156 bankruptcies.

11 September Railway navvies led a riot among unemployed people in Brisbane.

24 September The Philosophical Society of NSW received a royal charter. In December, the association changed its name to the Royal Society of NSW and broadened its objectives to include the scientific study of subjects related to the development of the resources of Australia and the country's natural history.

9 October Lutheran missionaries, commissioned to take the gospel to the Aborigines, left Tanunda, SA, for the interior. In the following year Moravian Brethren and the Lutherans established mission stations at Kopperamanna and Killalphaninna.

24 October A public holiday was observed in Melbourne for the opening of the Intercolonial Exhibition.

22 December The NSW Public Schools Act, sponsored by Henry Parkes, was passed. It established a council of education with power to establish and maintain public schools, train and manage teachers,

and disburse public money to both government and denominational schools. Government financial aid was to be granted on strict conditions to existing church schools, but not generally to new church schools, a proviso strongly opposed by Anglican and Catholic clergy. Denominational schools receiving government aid had to permit inspection and could not exclude pupils on religious grounds.

26 December Aboriginal cricketers played a match against the Melbourne Cricket Club at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Early in the new year, two members of the Aboriginal team, Bullocky and Cuzens, were chosen to represent Vic in a match against Tas.

1866 The studies of Australian writing, *Literature in New South Wales* and *Poets and prose writers of New South Wales*, written and edited by George Burnett Barton, were published in Sydney.

1867

7 January Chinese property was destroyed in riots at the Crocodile Creek goldfield, Qld, and Chinese diggers were driven from the area.

8 January The Qld government offered a reward of £3000 for the discovery of a goldfield able to support a rush of at least 3000 people.

12 January In Melbourne representatives of NSW and Vic agreed to abolish for five years the border collection of the customs levy for goods and livestock transported between the two colonies.

4 March All colonies except WA attended a postal conference in Melbourne. The meeting proposed

improvements in international postal communications to and from Australia.

5 April Francis Cadell sailed from Newcastle, NSW, with the *Eagle* and the *Firefly* to explore the coastline of Arnhem Land. This expedition had been commissioned by the SA government to search for suitable sites for a capital and further settlements in the NT. Cadell discovered the mouth of the Roper River in the Gulf of Carpentaria. His recommendations regarding sites for settlement were not adopted.

4 May A penal settlement was established on the island of St Helena in Moreton Bay.

6 May The ship *Vernon*, later named *Sobraon*, moored in Sydney Harbour, was proclaimed a reformatory for neglected and delinquent boys.

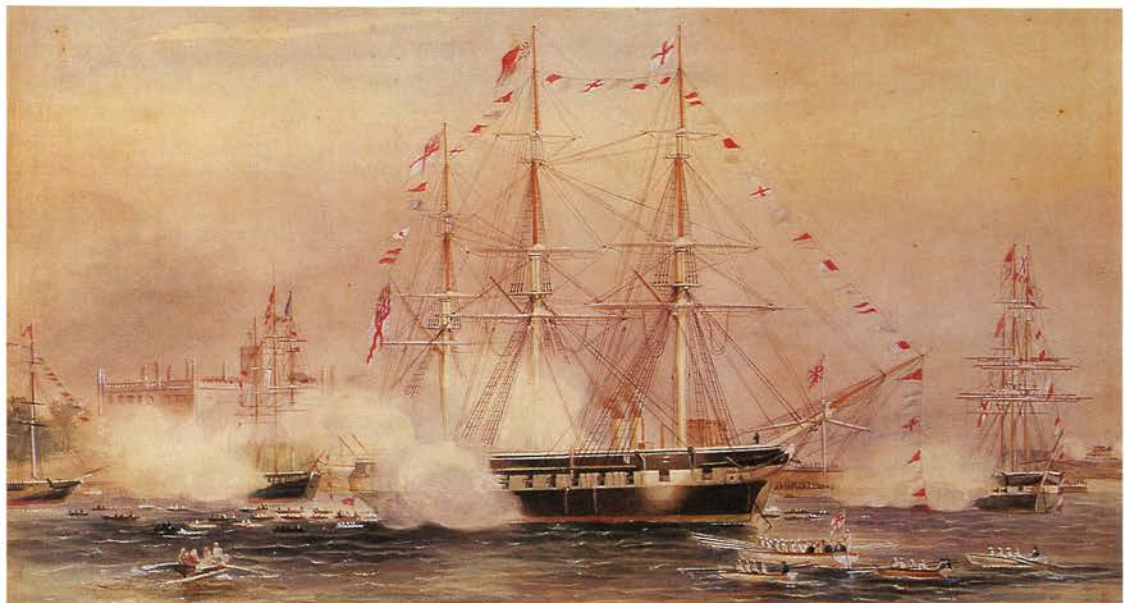
May Ernest Henry discovered large copper deposits at Cloncurry in northwestern Qld and soon opened his Great Australia mine which was worked intermittently until 1881. Between 1910 and 1920 the Cloncurry field was Australia's greatest copper producer.

June Sydney experienced severe storms and heavy rain. Flooding at Windsor was claimed to be the worst since 1788.

29 July At the request of the SA parliament, Benjamin Boothby was dismissed from his position as a judge of the supreme court.

29 July Samuel Bennett released the first penny paper published in NSW, the *Evening News*. The new paper's circulation increased rapidly.

September The WA legislative council was granted permission by the Colonial Office to increase its elected component by two members.



21 January 1868 *Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, arrives in Sydney on HMS Galatea on his tour of the Australian colonies.*
Watercolour by Frederick Garling, c1868.

DIXSON GALLERIES

October James Nash discovered gold at Gympie, Qld. The subsequent rush to the area and the establishment of successful mining enterprises boosted the Qld economy, which had been financially depressed.

20 November NSW repealed its Chinese Immigration Act of 1861.

23 December A NSW act prohibited the supply or sale of liquor to Aborigines.

28 December Assent was given to a new Qld constitution. On its creation in 1859 as a new colony, Qld had been given a constitution similar to that of NSW.

1867 In NSW the western railway reached Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains. With the cost of tunnelling prohibitive at the time, the steep Lapstone Hill was traversed by a zigzag line. The longer Lithgow Zigzag was opened in 1869.

1868

10 January The last convicts to be transported to Australia arrived at Fremantle, WA, on the ship *Hougoumont*. Among the transportees were 60 Fenians (or members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood) who were political prisoners destined for maximum security and hard labour.

15 January Construction commenced on the first Tas steam railway. The line, from Launceston to Deloraine, was opened for traffic in February 1871.

1 February In NSW the burning of live oysters to produce lime from the shells was banned. Regulations for the cultivation of oysters were formulated to prevent the overworking of the beds.

8 February An Aboriginal cricket team left Sydney for England, where it played a total of 47 matches, winning 14, losing 14 and drawing 19.

15 February Violent gales took a toll of shipping in waters off NSW. The barque *General Wood* left Sydney and was never heard of again. The schooner *Barwon* was wrecked with all hands lost. The brig *Gratia* and all crew were lost off Cape Hawke. Ten people drowned when the *Esperanza* was wrecked near Bird Island on 16 February.

28 February Qld's Crown Lands Alienation Act provided for further agricultural expansion. Sections of pastoral leases could be taken over for free selection on easy terms. Although graziers were granted generous lease conditions and pre-emptive rights of purchase, the squatting interests retained control of much of the land through manipulation such as dummying.

4 March The Qld government passed the Polynesian Labourers Act after strong opposition had come from missionaries and the imperial authorities over the treatment of South Sea island labourers brought to the colony to work in the sugar industry. Of particular concern to abolitionists was the system of 'blackbirding' or kidnapping the islanders which had been practised since 1847. The legislation guaranteed their return after three years of work, provided for inspection of the trade, and regulated shipping arrangements.

5 March Lucy Osburn, a nursing sister trained by Florence Nightingale, arrived in Sydney with five nurses. Osburn was brought out by Henry Parkes to superintend the nursing staff at the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary. She soon set up a nurse training program based on the Nightingale system and also fought to have conditions at the hospital improved.

12 March During a royal tour of the Australian colonies, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, was shot by Henry O'Farrell at Clontarf near Sydney. The attempted assassination caused an uproar in the community and raised sectarian feelings, especially after O'Farrell claimed that he had acted on behalf of the Fenian Brotherhood. The mentally unstable O'Farrell was found guilty of attempted murder and hanged on 21 April.

19 March Alleging a Fenian conspiracy, the NSW government passed the Treason Felony Act. This legislation contained savage penalties and provisions to suppress 'seditious practices'. New offences under this act included the use of language disrespectful to the Queen.

4 June In Qld it was reported that members of the native police force had attacked and shot 30 Aborigines in a retaliatory raid after some stock had been killed.

1 July The Sydney City Night Refuge amalgamated with the soup kitchen and opened premises in Kent St. The organisation distributed food and provided shelter for the destitute of the city.

24 August Speaking to a political meeting at Kiama, NSW, Henry Parkes raised once again the spectre of a wider conspiracy connected with the attempted assassination. The speech reinforced opposition to Parkes's alleged anti-Catholic sentiments.

17 September In Tas the Public Schools Act introduced compulsory education in the colony. A board of education set up under this act later established a broader curriculum for schools. State aid to churches was abolished in this parliamentary session.

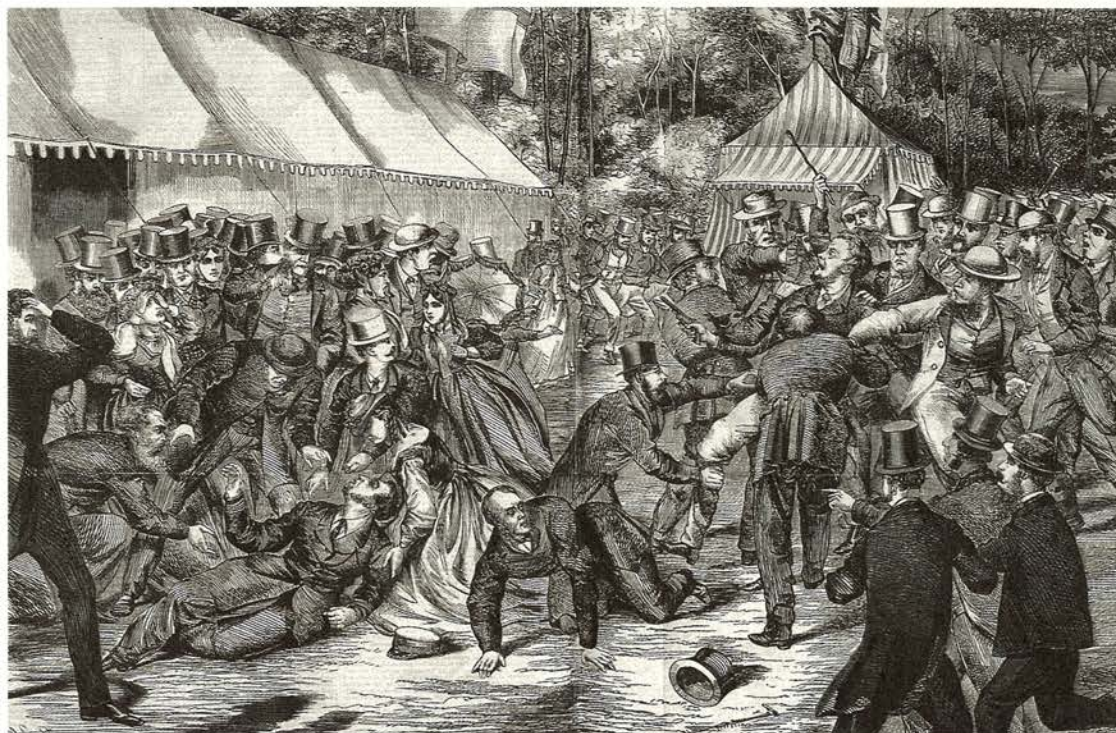
17 September In NSW Henry Parkes resigned from the ministry over an affair that had involved the dismissal of his friend, William Augustine Duncan, from the customs department. Duncan had been charged by Geoffrey Eagar, the treasurer, with insubordination. Deprived of Parkes's support, James Martin's government collapsed and John Robertson was commissioned as premier on 27 October.

30 November St Andrew's Church of England cathedral in Sydney was consecrated and opened for services.

December Members of the Catholic teaching order the Christian Brothers arrived in Melbourne from Ireland.

1868 In Sydney, Maria Ann Smith cultivated seedlings that became a new strain of apple known as the 'Granny Smith'. The seeds she had used were of Tas origin.

1868 The 'Great Melbourne Telescope' was constructed. It featured a 122 centimetre reflector and was



12 March 1868 *Wounded, Prince Alfred falls to the ground after being shot while attending a picnic at Clontarf, New South Wales. The man responsible, Henry O'Farrell, an Irish nationalist, is stripped and battered by onlookers. Engraving by an unknown artist, from the Illustrated Sydney News, 25 March 1868.*

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

believed to be the largest in the world. The instrument soon proved a failure owing to several design faults.

1868 The biggest gold nugget ever found in Qld was discovered by George Curtis near Gympie. The Curtis nugget weighed more than 30 kilograms gross. Payable fields were discovered at Townsville and Ravenswood in the far north.

1869

30 January Land reform legislation sponsored by Henry Strangways was passed in SA. The Strangways Act provided for the development of agricultural areas by extending easy terms of purchase to small settlers.

13 February This was proclaimed a day of humiliation and prayer in NSW as people offered prayers for an end to the prolonged drought.

February The 'Welcome Stranger', the largest gold nugget ever found in Australia, was discovered near Dunolly, Vic. Its gross weight was nearly 80 kilograms.

February George Woodroffe Goyder, the surveyor-general of SA, arrived at Port Darwin to survey a site for a capital for the NT. Goyder laid out the township of Palmerston and by September had surveyed over

200 000 hectares of NT land for agricultural and pastoral leases. Palmerston's name was changed to Darwin in 1911.

20 April A party of six men, led by John Forrest, left Toodyay on the Swan River, WA, to search for Ludwig Leichhardt. After exploring the northeastern part of the colony, Forrest returned in August, reporting that the expedition had been unsuccessful.

4 May The first Sydney exhibition of the Agricultural Society of NSW was opened by the governor, the Earl of Belmore, at Prince Alfred Park. The 'show' ran for four days and was claimed to be an outstanding success.

May The NSW railways were extended south from Sydney as far as Goulburn and northwest from Newcastle to Muswellbrook.

22 June The Wesleyan Prince Alfred College opened in Adelaide.

June Capt Daggett arrived in Sydney aboard the *Daphne* with a cargo of 100 Pacific Islanders. The master of the vessel was tried for contravening laws relating to the recruitment (or kidnapping) and transportation of Islanders for labour on Australian sugar and cotton plantations. No conviction was recorded against Daggett, although some believed him guilty of running a 'slave' ship. The case revealed the inadequacy of Qld legislation designed to control 'blackbirding'.

June The first telegraph line established in WA opened between Perth and Fremantle.

30 September In Sydney the Australian Library and Literary Institution reopened as the Free Public Library. Robert Walker was appointed the first librarian on 1 October.

September George Robertson published Thomas (Henry) Kendall's book of verse, *Leaves from Australian forests*, which included his famous poem 'Bellbirds'.

11 November The Vic government passed legislation to provide for the protection and management of Aborigines. A protection board was established and 'guardians' were to be appointed to regulate the affairs of Aborigines.

29 December In Vic James Grant's Land Act provided for free selection before survey on enlarged lots at 20s per acre over ten years. This legislation reduced the incidence of evasion and scandals; within nine years almost 11 million acres (4.45 million hectares) had been selected.

December Qld became the first Australian colony to introduce free elementary education when the government approved the abolition of school fees.

1869 Johann Krefft's *The snakes of Australia* appeared.

1869 Thomas William Roberts arrived in Melbourne from England. He became one of Australia's most famous and popular painters.

1869 During the year Australia exported 900 000 kilograms of canned meat to the United Kingdom.

1869 Tas and Vic were linked by telegraph cable. A previous attempt in 1859 to establish telegraphic communication between Tas and the mainland had failed.

1870

8 January In Sydney Samuel Bennett, proprietor of the *Evening News*, published the *Town and country journal*. This weekly publication became popular in the colony and continued until 1919.

9 February Fire destroyed the Blackwell wool stores at Circular Quay, Sydney, together with £50 000 worth of wool bales. At this time Sydney was served by several volunteer brigades as well as the Insurance Companies' Fire Brigade.

26 March A mail-steamer service commenced between Sydney and San Francisco.

30 March John and Alexander Forrest left Perth with a party of four and travelled via Esperance Bay and Eucla to Adelaide. Reaching Adelaide at the end of August, the expedition became the first to travel overland from west to east. No important new discoveries were made on this journey as the Forrests had followed much the same route as Edward John Eyre in 1841, although in the opposite direction.

March The Catherine Hayes Hospital for Destitute Children was opened at Randwick in Sydney. The

hospital had been built with the proceeds of a concert given by the visiting soprano Catherine Hayes.

25 May Frederick Ward, 'Captain Thunderbolt', was shot and killed while fleeing from his pursuers near Uralla, NSW. An escapee of the Cockatoo Island prison in 1863, he was the best-known bushranger in northern NSW.

1 June WA was granted a legislative council in which the proportion of elected members was increased to two-thirds. Of eighteen members, six were to be nominated and twelve elected.

June An intercolonial conference assembled in Melbourne. Representatives from NSW, Tas, SA and Vic considered the establishment of a customs union, intercolonial free trade and a uniform tariff. Disagreements occurred between NSW and Vic because of their opposed fiscal and tariff policies.

12 July The astronomer Henry Chamberlain Russell was appointed government astronomer at the Sydney observatory. His research and innovations contributed greatly to scientific knowledge.

30 August An intercolonial exhibition opened in Sydney to celebrate the centenary of Capt James Cook's landing in Australia. The construction of a monument at Kurnell, Botany Bay, was begun in this year.

6 September With the withdrawal of the last British troops from Sydney, responsibility for the colonies' defence rested with the colonial governments.

15 September The first pole of the overland telegraph line from Darwin to Adelaide was ceremonially placed in position. Construction had begun earlier in the year in the NT. When completed the line spanned almost 3000 kilometres across the continent.

14 October Henry Parkes resigned his parliamentary seat of Kiama, NSW, after bankruptcy proceedings had been instituted against him. Parkes was re-elected at the following by-election but he resigned the seat again in December after criticisms were made about insolvents accepting public office.

18 October Tas legislation was passed regulating building practices to help reduce the incidence of fires. Controls were also devised to prevent the spread of a noxious weed, the Californian thistle, in the colony.

29 December Vic passed legislation for the payment of members in both houses of parliament, the first Australian colony to do so.

29 December Death duties were introduced in Vic. They were to be levied at the rate of 1 per cent on estates worth less than £1000, increasing to 5 per cent on estates valued over £20 000.

1870 Copper was discovered around Cobar, NSW, by Charles Campbell and Thomas Hartman. The Great Cobar copper mine was worked until 1919.

1870 Eugène von Guérard was appointed head of the painting school at Melbourne's National School of Art. His students included Tom Roberts and Frederick McCubbin.



1870 On 30 August, an Intercolonial Exhibition, primarily designed to stimulate trade, opened in Prince Alfred Park, Sydney, where a large exhibition building had been constructed. The building remained in use until 1954, when it was demolished.

NSW GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1871

7 January In Sydney Thomas Gale and John Allen ascended about 4000 metres in a balloon, staying aloft for two hours.

January Perth was proclaimed WA's first city.

February Acting under pressure from the imperial government, the Qld government issued regulations for the appointment of agents to travel on vessels recruiting Pacific Islanders for work in Qld. The agents were meant to supervise recruiting, but they proved ineffective in preventing abuses.

7 March The Adelaide Synagogue was consecrated.

7 April Her Majesty's Victorian Ship, *Cerberus*, with an ironclad turret with four 18-tonne muzzle-loading guns, arrived at Melbourne for use in the defence of Port Phillip Bay. In 1926 it was sunk to form a breakwater at Half-Moon Bay, Black Rock, Vic.

24 April A public meeting of native-born Victorians was called in Melbourne to form a society for the protection of the interests and welfare of Australians and

to stimulate patriotism in the native born. The Australian Natives' Association, named in 1872, became a leading force in the move towards federation.

25 May The Sydney Trades and Labour Council began meeting.

June A Free Trade League formed in WA convened a public meeting to protest against duties on the import of flour.

June William Saurin Lyster's opera company performed Italian opera in Sydney. One of his singers was the Australian contralto Lucy Chambers. At the same time the Italian opera company of August Cagli and Giovanni Pompei performed in Melbourne. In Adelaide grand opera was performed regularly from 1871.

July The English novelist Anthony Trollope arrived in Melbourne. He spent a year travelling in Australia and two months in New Zealand. In 1873 his book *Australia and New Zealand* appeared.

August With the enactment of elementary education legislation in WA, a central board of education was set

up to supervise both public and church schools, each type being subsidised. At the same time primary education was made compulsory.

September A movement began in Adelaide to erect residences for respectable aged poor. It resulted in the establishment, by Cottage Homes Incorporated, of Australia's first almshouses, in Stanley St, North Adelaide.

September At the intercolonial conference held in Melbourne, the Vic premier Charles Gavan Duffy clashed with the NSW premier James Martin over border tariffs. NSW and Vic representatives accepted the principle of reciprocal trade agreements but could not agree on the wording of a joint statement to the Colonial Office; the 1867 border duties agreement was not renewed.

7 October The Catholic bishop of Adelaide, Lawrence Shiell, disbanded for six months the congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, a local order of nuns educating poor children. He also excommunicated some of the nuns, including the order's founder, Sister Mary MacKillop, for alleged insubordination. Her excommunication was withdrawn following an appeal to Rome, and after 1970 she became a favoured candidate for canonisation.

16 November The submarine cable between Darwin and Banjuwangi in Java was completed. The first cablegram from overseas came through to Darwin on 20 November.

21 November The Vic parliament passed a railways extension act, opening the way for rapid expansion of the colony's rail network.

23 November A 'no liability' act in Vic made it possible to set up mining companies in which investors could lose only their original investment. This led to greater investment in mining but also encouraged the formation of high-risk speculative companies.

December Tin was discovered at Mt Bischoff, Tas. The deposit proved one of the world's richest. Earlier in the year alluvial tin had been discovered at Inverell, Glen Innes and Tenterfield, NSW, and the following year it was found at Stanthorpe, Qld. Further deposits were soon discovered at Emmaville and Tingha, NSW, and another at Herberton, Qld, in 1879. Australia led world tin production between 1873 and 1882.

1871 The first institution for technical education in Vic, the Ballarat School of Mines, was opened.

1871 The Sydney Stock Exchange, an association of ten stockbrokers, was formally constituted.

1871 On the withdrawal of the British garrisons from each colony, contingents of locally recruited troops replaced British units.

1871 The Holyman family's transport business began with the purchase of a paddle-wheeled steamer by William Holyman in Devonport, Tas. The business expanded into Bass Strait shipping and later into aerial services that developed into Australian National Airways, subsequently absorbed into Ansett Transport Industries.

1871 Cotton production in Qld approached 312 million kilograms in response to high world prices following the disruption of US production as a result of the civil war. The prosperity of the local industry proved shortlived, Australian production falling off rapidly as US production was restored.

1871 Dr King released several foxes near Ballarat, Vic, and later Thomas Chirnside released several at Point Cook, Vic. From these, Australia's foxes are thought to have originated.

1872

1 January A 'Grand Temperance Demonstration' attracted a large crowd at the Melbourne Exhibition Building.

20 January An expedition of 72 goldseekers organised by the New Guinea Prospecting Association left Sydney aboard the *Maria*. The ship was wrecked on Bramble Reef two days short of New Guinea, and 21 men drowned. The survivors reached the Qld coast, where Aborigines killed fourteen more. The rest were rescued on 12 March.

January An Aboriginal boy discovered a nugget of gold at Charters Towers, Qld, starting a rush.

15 February The NSW Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind was opened.

19 March The Theatre Royal in Melbourne was destroyed by fire. A new Theatre Royal was built on the site and opened on 5 November.

20 March William Charles Wentworth, aged over 80, died in England, where he had spent the last ten years of his life. His remains were brought back to Sydney for a state funeral.

20 March Roeburne, WA, was destroyed in a cyclone, all buildings in the town being levelled within half an hour.

6 May The General Post Office in Adelaide was opened. The GPO in Brisbane was opened on 28 September.

14 May Henry Parkes became premier of NSW. He held office until February 1875 and had three later terms as premier, the last of which ended in 1889.

12 June A branch of the Royal Mint opened in Melbourne. After Federation it became the Australian Mint. The first issue, of 40 000 sovereigns, took place on 2 July.

June–July Six weeks' continuous rains caused heavy flooding of the Avon and Swan rivers in WA.

2 August The overland telegraph line between Port Augusta and Port Darwin was completed at a cost of £370 000 (£250 000 more than the original estimate), when the southern and northern ends were joined at Frew's Ponds. Reception and transmission of overseas cablegrams via the line were delayed while a fault in the Darwin–Java submarine cable was being repaired. The first cablegram from Britain was transmitted down the line on 21 October. On the same

day, Tas was linked to the mainland telegraphic network by the recently completed submarine cable across Bass Strait.

8 August Rev John Dunmore Lang was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of NSW, reunited since 1864. Four months later on 17 December, a large public tea meeting in Sydney's Masonic Hall celebrated the golden jubilee of his ministry in Australia.

1 October The *Brisbane Telegraph* was founded as a daily newspaper.

3 October A general synod of the Church of England in Australia was founded in Sydney.

19 October The largest mass of gold ever discovered, 235 kilograms gross, was unearthed at Hill End, NSW. It was named after one of its finders, Bernard Holtermann, a pioneer of photography.

9 November Four people were killed when the boilers of the Murray River steamer *Providence* burst and the ship was blown to pieces.

21 November A day of humiliation and prayer was suggested for SA's locust plague. Meanwhile, the Riverina district of NSW experienced a plague of grasshoppers.

21 December Adelaide's Deaf and Blind Asylum was founded.

10 December The Vic parliament passed the Education Act of the Francis government. This established the principle of free, compulsory and secular education provided by the government. The act came into force in 1873, and a department of public instruction was created to build and maintain a system of government education. The other colonies took similar steps between 1875 and 1893. The Vic government continued to give state aid to denominational schools until 1875.

1872 The Catholic teaching order of the Marist Brothers installed itself in Sydney.

1872 The cattle tick arrived in northern Australia on cattle imported from Java and began to spread throughout the continent. The last shipment of cattle infected with foot-and-mouth disease was imported the same year: the cattle were slaughtered on arrival.

1872 The Northern Coal Sales Association was formed by the five main coalmining companies of northern NSW to fix prices and handle labour problems. When a strike by miners on the northern coalfields was settled, the parties agreed that conferences and arbitration should be used in settling future disputes.

1872 As a means of controlling the Pacific Islands labour trade to Qld and elsewhere, the British parliament enacted legislation to prevent and punish out-



1872 The overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin was completed on 2 August. The construction party, photographed at Roper River, Northern Territory, are (from left to right) J.A.G. Little, R.C. Paterson, Charles Todd and A.J. Mitchell. Photograph by Captain S.W. Sweet, 1872.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

rages. To see that it was carried out, the imperial government stationed five naval vessels in the region.

1872 Frederick Yorke Wolseley devised the first working model of a shearing machine.

1873

4 March Laws permitting divorce were passed in NSW after parliament had rejected similar legislation on six previous occasions.

1 April A banquet was held in Ballarat to mark the completion of the first Australian-made locomotive.

15 April The explorer Peter Egerton Warburton and his party left Alice Springs on a journey to the western coast of Australia. They reached Roebourne, WA, on 26 January 1874, having endured extreme temperatures and shortage of water. Warburton was emaciated and blind in one eye when he arrived.

23 April A SA government exploration expedition led by the surveyor William Christie Gosse discovered and named Ayers Rock.

24 April Capt John Moresby of the HMS *Basilisk* hoisted the flag on Hayter Island in China Strait at the eastern tip of New Guinea, claiming the main land mass and surrounding islands for Britain. Australians applauded his action but the imperial government repudiated it. In February he had entered and named Fairfax Harbour, where the town that took his name later developed.

June Gold was discovered on the Palmer River, north Qld. A rush began, attracting 15 000 European and 20 000 Chinese diggers over the next 3 years. Cooktown was established as the port for the Palmer goldfields.

4 August The explorer Ernest Giles left Macumba, near Oodnadatta, SA, to attempt an east-west crossing of central Australia south of Lake Amadeus, but was forced back by lack of water in the Gibson Desert after crossing into WA.

19 August In SA a bill was introduced into the house of assembly to enable a fourth judge to be appointed to the supreme court, to sit exclusively in the NT. The legislative council rejected the bill, saying its proposal was extravagant.

1 September The SA government introduced the eight-hour day for its own workers. In NSW the Amalgamated Society of Engineers won the eight-hour day.

1 October The Metropolitan Lunatic Asylum at Kew, Vic, was opened.

6 November Don Juan won the Melbourne Cup before a crowd of 70 000, the largest yet seen on an Australian racecourse.

11 November A Vic bill to regulate the employment of women in factories became law. It laid down a maximum working day of eight hours for female factory workers, set standards for ventilation, sanitation

and number of workers per room, and made defaulting employers liable to a £2 fine.

21 November 1873 The railway northeast from Melbourne reached Wodonga on the border opposite Albury in NSW. The connection with Albury was not made for another ten years.

1873 Rioting broke out at Clunes, Vic, when Chinese strikebreakers were brought in during a miners' strike.

1873 Brown coal was found on the Morwell River, Vic, later the hub of the Latrobe valley brown coal development.

1873 The SA government developed Australia's first reforestation policy, agreeing to pay £2 an acre for forest planted.

1873 Commercial refrigeration for storage and transport of dairy products began.

1873 SA replaced Cornwall as the British Empire's biggest copper producer.

1873 Britain gave the Australian colonies power to grant intercolonial tariff preferences.

1874

24–27 January A cricket match was played in Sydney between the English eleven captained by W.G. Grace and a NSW team of eighteen. The home side won by eight wickets.

5 February Hobart's Church of England cathedral, St David's, was consecrated.

24 February Aborigines attacked the Barrow Creek telegraph station, NT.

27 March Six 'communists' who had escaped from the French penal colony on New Caledonia reached Newcastle, NSW.

March The explorer John Forrest left Geraldton, WA, on the first crossing from the west coast to the centre. After exploring the land northwest of the Murchison River headwaters, his party pushed on across the Gibson Desert into SA, reaching the Peake station of the overland telegraph on 3 November.

4 May Melbourne was declared a Catholic archdiocese, and Rt Rev James Alipius Goold, bishop of Melbourne since 1847, became the first archbishop.

17 May Brisbane's Catholic cathedral, St Stephen's, was opened.

23 May The *British Admiral*, an iron sailing ship of 1800 tonnes, was wrecked at King Island with the loss of 79 lives. Only nine people survived.

25 July Blondin, the acrobat who in 1859 had made the first crossing of the Niagara Falls on a tightrope, began performing in Brisbane.

1 September A new General Post Office building was opened in Sydney.

27 October A statue of Captain Cook by Walter McGill was unveiled at Randwick, NSW.