

**RABBIT-PROOF FENCING** Twenty years after the release of rabbits in Victoria in 1859, the governments of several colonies had become aware of the threat to agriculture posed by rapidly increasing numbers of rabbits. They hastily began constructing thousands of kilometres of fencing in an attempt to prevent their further spread.

The main fences built were between colonial boundaries. In 1880 a fence was constructed across north-western Vic and in 1887 another between Vic and SA. During 1886–89, 560 kilometres were built along the NSW–SA border and 350 kilometres along the NSW–Qld border. In 1907 WA completed a 1830-kilometre north–south fence from Hopetoun to near Port Hedland.

The fences were usually 90cm high and 15cm in the ground. The ideal mesh width was 3.2cm, but earlier

mesh was often too wide. The barrier fences failed to stem the advance of the rabbit. They were expensive to construct, difficult to maintain and were often built too late. Many were abandoned or heightened and converted to dingo, kangaroo and emu fences.

**RABBITS** Domesticated rabbits were brought to Australia from England for food and sport. They were aboard the first fleet, and were kept in most towns as a food source in early colonial times. They escaped from time to time and spread through surrounding areas, although their early impact seems to have been minor compared with later infestations.

It is now generally accepted that the greatest spread of rabbits in Australia, leading ultimately to a veritable plague and near-disaster for the pastoral industry, stemmed from the liberation of wild rabbits at Barwon Park near Geelong, Vic, in 1859. Thomas Austin had imported the rabbits and other animals and birds to be acclimatised and then liberated for sport. These wild rabbits were much more successful in their new habitat than had been the domesticated escapees.

By 1880 rabbits had spread to the Riverina from Vic and SA. The NSW–Qld border was crossed in 1886 and rabbits first appeared at Eucla in 1894, reaching Geraldton in 1907. Although much of the spread seems to have been in the form of gradual diffusion from southern Vic, more than one source may have been involved. It is thought that there were independent liberations in SA and northern NSW, and that trappers and shooters may have sometimes deliberately introduced rabbits to new areas.

It soon became apparent that the wild rabbits going forth and multiplying so efficiently were a major pest destroying immense areas of pasture. Not only did the rabbits favour much the same plant species as did sheep and cattle, but they grazed extensive areas virtually bare of vegetation, particularly in drought periods. They also dug to eat plant roots, and burrowed extensively, undermining huge areas and thus creating dangers for grazing animals and farm vehicles as well as precipitating soil erosion. Vegetation changes following rabbit infestations were often permanent.



*Arranging a catch of rabbits at Tamworth, August 1953. Rabbits were used for food and fur from the time they reached plague proportions in the late nineteenth century until they were largely controlled by myxomatosis in the 1950s. They again became a major pest in the mid-1980s.*

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS



Farmers, individually and co-operatively, tried to reduce rabbit numbers by laborious and, at best, only temporarily effective methods such as drives and digging out burrows. Central government action was needed. Long stretches of rabbit-proof fences were erected by colonial governments to stem the tide, but they were often too late and generally ineffective. Bounties were introduced in NSW in 1883, and by 1887 over £900 000 had been paid out to successful hunters and trappers. Pasture protection boards and vermin boards were established in the various colonies, largely to deal with the rabbit problem. Various poisons were used: strychnine was the most common until the widespread use of '1080' (sodium fluoroacetate) since the 1960s. Successful control first came, however, with the introduction of the viral disease myxomatosis in the 1950s. Its effect has unfortunately diminished over the years as rabbit populations developed resistance to it.

**RACISM** From the early period of British occupation of Australia ideas that can be regarded as racist, in the contemporary sense of the word, can be identified. In the view of many explorers and colonists, Aborigines were savages by nature, being closer to the animal kingdom than to humankind; it was common for those seeking to justify the dispossession of Aborigines to depict them as less than fully human. They were seen as incapable of abstract thought, with no concept of an afterlife, a people unresponsive to kindness and honesty; they were 'detestable monsters'; 'a set of monkeys' whose extinction was to be welcomed.

These ideas were not, however, universally accepted. Beliefs based on Christian and enlightenment philosophy affirmed the full human capacity or potential of Aborigines; these ideas were evident in missionary work, attempts at education and in hopes for the absorption of Aborigines into European society (albeit in a lowly position). Such ideas were of relatively minor practical consequence, and received less attention with the passage of time. Despite instructions to the early governors that Aborigines were to receive protection, they were effectively placed outside the British legal system, and there was a continuing disregard of Aboriginal occupancy of the land. Aboriginal resistance to the settlers was met with force, at times through the use of government troops or paramilitary formations (notably the Queensland Native Mounted Police), but more commonly by pastoralists, whose actions were directly or indirectly sanctioned.

Other groups were also subjected to intolerance caused by racism. Chinese goldminers suffered violence at the hands of individuals and mobs, being singled out, in the view of some historians, on a racist basis. They were the victims in major disturbances, the best known being the 1861 Lambing Flat riots. Governments, in contrast with their treatment of Aborigines, did not sanction such lawlessness but chose to resolve problems through discriminatory legislation. Until 1888 one objective of legislation was to limit the entry of Chinese, and thereafter to entirely prohibit the entry of a wide range of peoples. In addition



*Adam Morris and Tianchang Chua, Sydney University students, man the front desk at the 'Rock against racism' concert at the Trade Union Club in 1984.*

FAIRFAX PHOTO LIBRARY

tion there was increasing discrimination against non-Europeans resident in Australia, including denial of naturalisation and measures designed to restrict opportunities to earn a living. By the early years of the twentieth century the remnants of the Aboriginal population also faced discriminatory legislation, designed to legitimise the denial of basic rights and privileges; governments acquired (although they did not exercise in all cases) the power to compel Aborigines to live on reserves, to control their movement, employment, assets and family life, including their right to marry and raise children.

The shift in legislation from restriction of entry to prohibition, and from a specific target group, the Chinese, to broad categories such as Asians, indicated a change in racist thought. This change was significantly influenced by the spread of ideas from Europe and America, and by a contemplation of the experience of other countries; by the end of the nineteenth century there was relatively little contact or conflict with the 'inferior races' in the main centres of population.

In the half-century between 1890 and 1940 racist ideas occupied a dominant, rarely questioned position in Australian society, continuing to undergo a process of development evident in the eugenics movement and in scientific work designed to quantify differences between racial groups. Racism shaped the evaluation of the military threat posed by Japan and the response in the late 1930s to attempts by Jewish people to migrate to Australia. Although there was some rethinking of racist assumptions in the 1930s it was not until after 1945 that belief in the assimilability of a diverse range of people gradually replaced ideas of biological determinism as a basis of government policy and in the thinking of the majority of Australians. The change was reflected in policy towards Aborigines, the recruitment of previously unacceptable immigrants, the piecemeal removal of discriminatory legislation



and the enactment of measures to outlaw discrimination on the grounds of race, yet informal practices are proving difficult to eradicate and racist ideas continue to be held and espoused.

There is no simple explanation for the existence of racism. The treatment of Aborigines in the early period of British colonisation can be explained in terms of conflict over control of a limited resource, the land: racist concepts served to rationalise this conflict. The hunter-gatherer economy of the Aborigines and their unwillingness to adapt to a European life-style explains the particular form of conflict and racist ideas, but not the existence of conflict itself, which arose from the imperatives of the pastoral economy. A people dissimilar to the Aborigines, the New Zealand Maoris—agriculturalists skilled in warfare and rapidly acquiring European learning and technology—were ultimately unable to prevent the seizure of the bulk of their lands and, like the Aborigines, found themselves devalued in racist terms.

Problems of explanation arise, however, in dealing with discrimination against non-European immigrants in the second half of the nineteenth century. In the view of some, discrimination against Chinese goldminers resulted from the threat their numbers posed to the livelihood of other miners. A contrary argument holds that racist ideas were a necessary precondition for the targeting of the Chinese, for how else was the Chinese minority isolated as the group posing the economic threat? Why were the Chinese blamed rather than other miners? Racist ideas, although stemming from and given substance by specific historical circumstances have the capacity to shape perceptions and thus channel behaviour.

ANDREW MARKUS

**Further reading** R. Broome, *Aboriginal Australians: black response to white dominance 1788–1980*, Sydney 1982; A. Curthoys and A. Markus (eds), *Who are our enemies?*, Sydney 1978; L. Lippmann, *Generations of resistance*, Melbourne 1981; A.T. Yarwood and M. Knowling, *Race relations in Australia*, Sydney 1982.

**RADCLIFFE-BROWN**, Alfred Reginald (1881–1955), anthropologist, was born in England and educated at Cambridge University. He spent 1906–08 on anthropological fieldwork in the Andaman Islands and 1910–12 in WA, where Daisy Bates collaborated with him. A restless scholar, he was foundation professor in three anthropology departments—Cape Town, Sydney and Oxford—and professor at Chicago, Yenching, Sao Paulo and Alexandria. His comparative analysis of social structure, especially kinship and legal-political institutions ('structural positivism') replaced earlier social evolutionism. An influential anthropologist, he set the course of Australian anthropology.

D.J. MULVANEY

**RAILWAYS** The first public railway in Australia, an 11-kilometre horse-drawn route, was opened from Port Elliot to Goolwa, SA, in 1854. Steam railways were opened in Melbourne in 1854 and Sydney in 1855. Colonial governments soon took responsibility for most railway building. By 1861 there were 391



Advertisement for Western Australian Government Railways which, as early as 1946, was involved in road as well as rail transport. *Western Mail Annual, Christmas 1946.*

kilometres of railways in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. From 1861 to 1921 the government rail systems, which radiated from the capital cities and regional centres, grew at a spectacular rate, from 6557 kilometres in 1881 to 20 241 in 1901 to 38 491 in 1921. The routes to be taken by new rail lines and the towns to be served were the subject of intense political debate and vigorous lobbying by interested parties. Railway route length peaked at 43 771 in 1941–42, after which it gradually declined. An average of 1400 kilometres of line per decade was closed down between 1950 and 1980. Most of these lines were branch lines catering to a declining market in passengers and freight.

This vast network of railways was not a unified system. Each colony adopted its own gauge. New South Wales elected standard gauge (1435 mm), Victoria a wider gauge (1600 mm) which was also adopted in part by South Australia, while Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and some South Australian lines used a narrow gauge (1066 mm). Sydney and Melbourne were not linked by a standard gauge line until 1962. Between 1883 and 1962 travellers and



freight had to change at Albury. The Trans-Australian Railway, the longest in Australia, linking the eastern states to Perth, was completed in 1917, but the whole route did not become standard gauge until 1968.

Australia's freight and passenger trains were steam powered from the 1850s to the 1950s, when diesel locomotives were gradually introduced. The last steam locomotives saw active service in the 1970s. The age of steam continues to capture the imagination of many Australians and a number of voluntary organisations are currently reopening abandoned branch lines and catering to the tourist trade with reconditioned locomotives. Australia has retained a portion of its railway heritage but most abandoned railway stations have been sold and converted.

While most of the freight carried by railways was between hinterland centres and the port cities, most passengers were carried within the cities. All state capitals along with Newcastle developed suburban rail networks. Most of the lines in Sydney and Melbourne were built between the 1860s and 1890s, and were electrified in the 1920s. Brisbane's suburban electrification did not begin until 1979, while some interurban routes such as Sydney–Wollongong and Sydney–Newcastle were not electrified until the 1980s. For most of this century the suburban lines have accounted for over 90 per cent of all rail passenger travel. Country rail travel peaked in Australia in 1945–46 with about 47 million trips. Petrol rationing and restrictions on car production caused major increases in both suburban and country rail travel during the war. Country rail travel stabilised at about 25 million passengers per annum in the 1950s and 1960s but with a spate of branch-line closures in the early 1970s it fell to less than 13 million in 1974–75. Since then some of the state government statutory authorities that control the railways have attempted to win back passengers on major interurban routes, such as Sydney–Canberra. The introduction of the XPT train in New South Wales in 1982 has seen a slight improvement in both the image and the passenger numbers of that state's railway.

The railway systems quickly became the colonial and state governments' largest single enterprise, with ramifications for many sectors of the economy. The building of railways demanded both steel and labour. Before the establishment of the BHP steel works in Newcastle in 1915 most of the rails were imported, but since the 1920s most have been supplied by BHP. The railways created many new towns, and some became important junctions, such as Junee in New South Wales. Once established the railways required a large workforce to operate the system. This workforce, which is covered by a number of unions, has had periods of great militancy, and some very long strikes have ensued.

A large workforce (over 100 000 in 1979), competition from trucks for freight traffic and competition from cars for passenger traffic, has produced sizeable deficits in every state's rail system. In 1978–79 New South Wales lost \$371 million, Victoria \$155 million,

RAILWAY PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT  
1901–1981

Year 30 June	Total passengers	Passengers suburban lines	Freight	Net revenue
	<i>mil</i>	<i>mil</i>	<i>mil tonnes</i>	<i>mil</i>
1901	109	n/a	15.3	+ £ 3.8
1921	327	n/a	33.66	+ £ 5.9
1941	414	381	36.72	+ £12.0
1961	463	421	56.1	– £13.3
1981	412	n/a	127.0	– \$698.3

Queensland \$113 million, South Australia \$2 million, Western Australia \$24 million and Tasmania \$13 million. The plight of some of the smaller rail systems was such that in 1978 the federally funded Australian National Railways took over the Tasmanian and non-metropolitan South Australian railways and subsumed the commonwealth railways system. Private railways, apart from sugar tramways, were not very important in Australia until the development of bulk iron ore exports from the 1960s. PETER SPEARRITT

**Further reading** C.C. Singleton and D. Burke, *Railways of Australia*, Sydney 1963; P. Spearritt and J. Wells, 'The rise and decline of the public transport city, 1900–1980', *Australian historical statistics bulletin* 8, 1984.

**RANKIN, Dame Annabelle Jane Mary** (1908–86), politician, became in 1946 Liberal senator for Qld. In her distinguished parliamentary career she held several important offices, many of them as the first female incumbent. She served as opposition whip from 1947 to 1949; government whip in 1951; and minister for housing from 1966 to 1971. She held the position of high commissioner to New Zealand from 1971 until her retirement in 1974. She worked for many voluntary organisations including the Girl Guides Association and the Multiple Handicapped Association.

**RASP, Charles** (1846–1907), prospector, came to Melbourne from Germany in 1869 owing to ill-health. He worked as a miner and station hand, and in far west NSW as a boundary rider. On 5 September 1883 he pegged a claim on 'Broken Hill' believing it held tin deposits. A syndicate of seven was later formed and pegged out the ridge. In 1885 it found rich silver deposits and Broken Hill Proprietary Co was formed. Within five years Rasp was a wealthy man.

**RATS OF TOBRUK** The allied troops who from 11 April to 10 December 1941 defended the besieged fortress of Tobruk, Libya, included some 24 000 Australians of the 7th and 9th Divisions. They became known as the 'Rats of Tobruk', a nickname derived from an intended insult broadcast by the German propagandist 'Lord Haw Haw' but adopted proudly



by the garrison. An Australian branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association, an international body with Australian, British, Polish and Indian members, was founded in Australia in 1946, and now has about 4100 members.

**REED, Joseph** (1823?–90), architect, arrived in Melbourne in 1853. From the first he enjoyed considerable success in competitions, and in 1854 he won the competition for the design of the public library. In 1854 he was appointed university architect. Among the many public and private buildings designed by Reed are the Melbourne Town Hall (1867), Rippon Lea (1868) and the Exhibition Building (1879–80).

**REES, Lloyd Frederick** (1895–), painter and teacher, joined Ure Smith's commercial art studio in 1917 and adopted a dark, dramatic pen and ink style for depicting Sydney. In 1935 Rees began painting in oils, focusing mainly on the south coast of NSW. On visits to Europe at various times from the 1950s, he drew, sketched, painted in watercolour and developed a technique of thickly layered oils. From 1978 his paintings have been large, thinly covered in pale colours with details barely suggested: abstract but still recognisable landscapes. Rees has been exhibiting work since 1918 and he won the Wynne Prize for landscape in 1950 and again in 1982.

**REFERENDUMS** In a referendum a proposed change of law is put to popular vote, where an affirmative majority vote is constitutionally required. The device came from the United States and Switzerland where it was developed in the nineteenth century. Its major use in Australia has been with proposed amendments to the federal constitution: sixteen referendums have been held with 36 proposals being put. A majority of votes is not sufficient to carry a federal referendum; there must also be a majority of states. In NSW there have been five referendums with seven proposals to alter the state constitution. The term is often confused with 'plebiscite', where the public's opinion is sought, but is not required, for legal or administrative action. Plebiscites were held in 1898, 1899 and 1900 over the proposed federation, in 1916 and 1917 over military conscription. Plebiscites have often been held in several states over daylight saving, the sale of alcohol, and the local option for licences and for opening hours of hotels.

**REIBEY, Mary** (1777–1855), businesswoman, was convicted of horse stealing in 1790 and sentenced to transportation for seven years. She arrived in Sydney in 1792 and in 1794 she married Thomas Reibey, the first free settler outside the military ring to trade. The scope of his business interests grew to include rural properties, sealing in Bass Strait and vessels trading in the Hunter and Hawkesbury rivers and with the Pacific Islands, China and India. After his death in 1811 Mrs Reibey was left with seven children and entirely in control of numerous business concerns. Her perseverance and enterprise made her legendary in the colony as a successful businesswoman. By 1816 she was said to be worth about £20 000. She gradually

retired from active participation in business and lived on her investments.

**REID, Sir George Houston** (1845–1918), politician, emigrated from Scotland to Vic in 1852 and moved to Sydney in 1856. Reid attended the Melbourne Academy and worked in a Sydney counting house and in the NSW public service before qualifying for the Bar and entering parliament as a free-trader. He was minister for public instruction (1883–84), leader of the opposition (1891–94 and 1899–1900), and premier (1894–99). After taking a prominent but controversial part in the federation movement, he became the leader of the opposition in the first federal parliament, and prime minister (1904–05). From 1910 to 1916 he was first high commissioner in London, entering the House of Commons at the end of his term. He was appointed KCMG in 1909, GCMG in 1911 and GCB in 1916. His publications included *Five free trade essays* (1875), *New South Wales, mother colony of the Australias* (1878) and *My reminiscences* (1917). W.G. McMINN

**Further reading** G.H. Reid, *My reminiscences*, London 1917.

**RELIGION** is as old as human habitation in Australia, existing for the 40 000 years of Aboriginal history in forms integral to their way of life and comprehension of the world. Christianity has been the almost exclusively dominant form of institutionalised belief system in Australia since the beginning of white settlement. An Anglican chaplain arrived in Sydney with the first fleet, but in sharp contrast with the avowedly godly foundation of the American colonies, religion was not highly regarded or given much prominence by the governing authorities in early colonial life. They tended to see it as having a police function, an adjunct to the imposition of law and order: a view reflected in the lack of interest in and respect for religion that prevailed among the convict population. As a consequence, a place and reputation for religion was set at Australia's foundation. Religion has a place, but not a very large place in Australian life, being accorded little understanding or affection publicly.

Australia's English governmental origins meant that the Church of England became NSW's largest denomination (at least nominally), occupying a position of official privilege, and having the status of a favoured establishment religion—characteristics it still retains. Australia's wider origins in the British Isles meant that regional adherences were also imported—Catholicism from Ireland, Presbyterianism from Scotland, and various smaller allegiances, Methodism, Congregationalism, Quakerism and so on. Of these the most important for the formation of the character of the Australian colonies was Catholicism, not only because of the large size of this denomination (about a quarter of the population), but because its character, grievances, and activities were associated with its origins in disturbed and rebellious Ireland.

The Anglican monopoly of public religious observance in the early colony—embodied in the prominence of the Reverend Samuel Marsden as clergyman, landowner and magistrate—was not challenged until



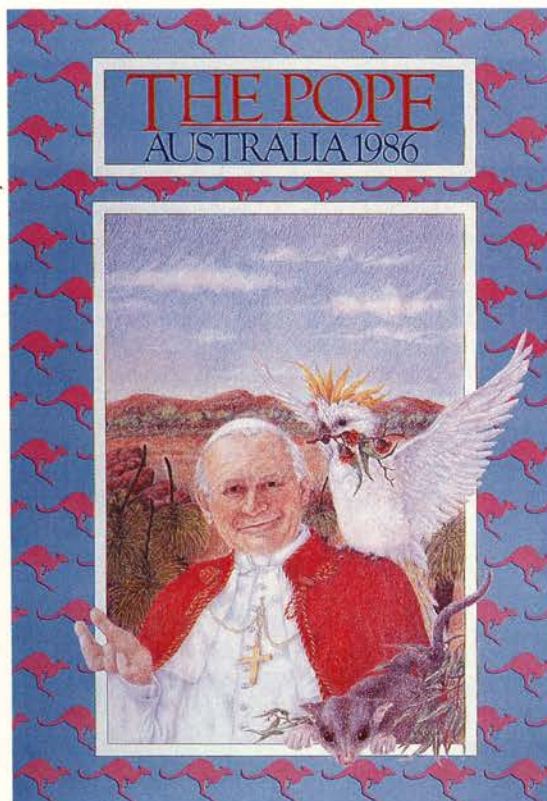
the 1820s. In 1820, the first two Irish Catholic priests were admitted, Father J.J. Therry thereafter playing a vigorous part in asserting the rights of Catholics to freedom of worship and civic equality. In 1823 the first Presbyterian minister arrived; Reverend J.D. Lang was an equally aggressive churchman. All these early churchmen were concerned with the debased moral condition of what was still mainly a penal settlement, with providing ministry to members of their own denominations, and with building churches. The non-Anglican churchmen also set out to end the Anglican monopoly, succeeding in 1836 with Gov Bourke's Church Act, which provided public funds to support the principal religious bodies, a measure continuing until 1862 in NSW, 1870 in Vic. But while religious pluralism was a feature of Australian life, so was sectarianism, particularly suspicion and hostility between Protestants and Catholics, a distrust and enmity which endured well into the twentieth century. This animosity was not only centered around the truth or otherwise of various denominational beliefs and practices, but also focused on major social issues, particularly immigration: from the 1830s to the 1870s there was continuing criticism of Irish Catholic immigration on the ground that this increased the numbers of 'ignorant Catholics', would lead to

their political dominance, and menaced the British Protestant character of Australia.

All churches had major problems providing ministry to a pioneering Australia in which the population was growing rapidly and was widely dispersed—failure to keep pace with demand for religious services is another factor explaining the weak hold of religion. The major churches set up their basic organisational structures from the 1830s: the first Catholic bishop was J.B. Polding in 1835, the first Anglican bishop was W.G. Broughton in 1836. But serious shortfalls in both the quantity and quality of ministry continued to afflict all Australian churches: the Australian mission was not seen as attractive in a Britain whose clerical resources were severely taxed by the other demands of nineteenth-century colonial expansion. Until the end of the century little was done to foster or train a local ministry. The result was that all aspects of Australian religion, including personnel, remained derivative and colonial long after nationalism and local independence had transformed their secular institutional counterparts. The Australian Catholic Church had an additional problem. Its governance had been entrusted to the English Benedictine monastic order, and Polding as bishop planned to make his church Benedictine in structure and spirit. This was foreign to the wishes and character of the Irish priests who mainly staffed Polding's church, and to the laity, overwhelmingly of Irish origin. Consequently, from the 1830s, control of that church was contested, success going to the Irish, with episcopal appointments in the 1860s made complete by the appointment of P.F. Moran (later Cardinal) as Archbishop of Sydney in 1884. While quarrelling was most intense in the Catholic Church, all denominations were troubled by similar internal difficulties, particularly over the matters of discipline, authority and personality natural to new, growing, and colonial church situations.

The major issue in which religion impinged on public life in nineteenth-century Australia was education, traditionally a church responsibility and preserve. All major denominations had established schools, but by the 1850s it was evident to governments that these were too few and inefficient to provide the basic public education believed necessary. The Catholic bishops insisted on religious education under church control. From the 1870s and 1880s, the Catholic Church began the prodigious task of setting up its own schools to rival the states', staffed them with religious teachers (initially recruited mainly from Ireland), and financed by the laity. It also began a campaign for 'state aid' for its schools, a campaign which continued unabated for a century, being gradually and partly successful from the 1960s. This long public struggle was often bitter and divisive, and, with the separate existence of a large Catholic school system (with about half a million pupils), helped to sustain a distinctive Catholic subculture until recent times.

At the end of the nineteenth century the energies of the Catholic Church were substantially absorbed by building, particularly schools, but also convents,



*This poster by Annette Harcus was produced as part of a massive publicity campaign surrounding the visit of Pope John Paul II to Australia in 1986.*  
JOHN SINGLETON ADVERTISING



churches, and other institutions; it was the only denomination to provide major hospitals. Its life tended to be indrawn, with laws against mixed marriage and a whole range of separate socio-religious organisations. The Protestant churches increasingly busied themselves with social reform, securing legislation affecting the observance of the sabbath, the availability of alcohol, and other aspects of ordinary life and behaviour. Controversy over such matters led to a strong public association of religion with restrictive middle-class respectability, and 'wowsers', that is, opposition to pleasure and fun.

The association of politics with religion (particularly Catholicism) had long been suspected, alleged, and deplored, but it was not until the early years of this century that it became significant fact, in the alignment between Catholics and the then new Labor party. This lasted until the 1950s. It was only one of the dimensions of the most spectacular intermingling of religion and politics in Australian history, in the conscription referenda campaigns of 1916–17. The Catholic archbishop of Melbourne, Daniel Mannix, led the anti-conscription forces, beginning a series of conflicts over the role of Catholicism and Irish issues in public life, and a series of sectarian explosions throughout Australia which did not end until the mid-1920s. Archbishop Mannix was also a central figure in the major political disputes and divisions that erupted around the activities of the Catholic Action Movement (led by Mr B.A. Santamaria) from 1954. Allegations of a Catholic plot to control the Labor party split the party and divided Catholic opinion.

From 1947 massive immigration, first from southern and eastern Europe, then from Asia, diversified the Australian religious scene. The established denomination most affected was Catholicism which was at least the nominal religion of perhaps half of the three million or so newcomers. That church in particular and Australian religion in general were affected by the Second Vatican Council (1962–65) which introduced modernising changes within Catholicism (disturbing its traditional tranquillity) and created better relationships between churches. All churches were challenged in the 1960s and 1970s by either internal problems or declining numbers, and the forces of a more militant hostile secularism. One response was the formation, in 1977, of the Uniting Church, composed of the Presbyterian's, Methodist's and Congregationalist's.

Between 1947 and 1981 several trends are clear. Anglicanism declined from 39 per cent to 26.1 per cent. Catholicism increased its adherents from 20.7 per cent to 26 per cent. A radical increase occurred in the numbers and percentage of those of no religion, from 0.3 per cent (26 328) to 10.8 per cent (1 576 718). There has been an increase in non-Christian religions and a proliferation of small sects. Yet surveys indicate that the level of religious practice (weekly attendance) has remained virtually the same since the 1860s. While secular and anti-religious trends and legislation are increasingly evident and open in Australian society, religion appears stable in what has traditionally been a relatively private and low-profile role.

Australian religion remains derivative, the local environment producing no new religion and little by way of distinctive variations. Some elements in the characters of the Australian states are related to religious differences—SA has been flavoured by its origins in settlements of dissenting Protestants, Sydney has been influenced by low-church Anglicanism, Melbourne bears the signs of a high proportion of Catholics and the long reign (1911–63) of Archbishop Mannix—but these tend to be subtle variations rather than major distinctive features. It has also been claimed that some aspects of Australian social behaviour—sunbathing, Australian rules football, Anzac Day—are pursued with ritual and enthusiasm to a degree which makes them the 'real' Australian religions.

PATRICK O'FARRELL

**Further reading** A. Black and P. Glasner (eds), *Practice and belief*, Sydney 1983; D. Harris et al (eds), *The shape of belief: Christianity in Australia today*, Homebush West 1982; H. Mol, *The faith of Australians*, Sydney 1985; P. O'Farrell, *The Catholic Church and community: an Australian history*, Sydney 1985.

**'REMITTANCE MAN'** (or 'broken down swell' or 'colonial experimenter'), was a term used to describe Englishmen of middle-class or aristocratic background in Australia during the nineteenth century who were considered to have been sent to the colonies by their families to 'make good', and were dependent on funds from England. Many went to the country, some becoming the gentlemen jackeroos described by writers such as Banjo Paterson and Joseph Furphy. Some succeeded in their new lifestyle, but many did not, being regarded as idle and lacking in intelligence.

**RENE, Roy 'Mo' (Harry van der Sluice)** (1892–1954), comedian, was born in Adelaide, had a brief career as a boy soprano and was a vaudeville performer from the age of fifteen. He became famous for his distinctive black and white face makeup and risqué stage routines. When his partner Nat 'Stiffy' Phillips died in 1936, Mo won a whole new audience on radio with his show *McCackie Mansions*.

**RENT CONTROL** Some states instituted rent controls during World War I, and comprehensive controls throughout Australia became law in 1941 as part of wartime price controls. They remained in force until 1948 when they were replaced by state regulations in most states. Rents were fixed at 1939 levels, adjusted for increases in outgoings such as rates, interest, repairs and insurance. During the 1950s and 1960s, the controls were progressively relaxed, exempting new buildings and those whose tenants changed. As late as 1975, it was estimated that one-fifth of Sydney's privately rented dwellings were rent-controlled. Rent controls are believed to have discouraged the building of new and the holding and upkeep of old rented dwellings. Some states have used controls more recently to disallow 'unfair' rents and to discourage deterioration.

MAX NEUTZE

**REPATRIATION** The Australian government provided for its returned soldiers at the outbreak of the



1914–18 war by passing the War Pensions Act, extending the benefits available to ex-service men and women through the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act in 1920. 'Repatriation' included care of both disabled soldiers and dependants, who in 1939 numbered some 77 000 and 172 000 respectively. Ex-service men were also given preference in government employment and were assisted through the War Service Land Settlement and War Service Homes schemes. Similar, but more generous, provisions were made following World War II with the addition of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, under which, from 1943, some 250 000 ex-service men and women received vocational training.

**RESCH, Edmund** (1879–1963), brewer, was born in Sydney and studied brewing in the United States and Germany, where he obtained a diploma in brewing. He returned to Sydney, and he and his brother Arnold managed their father's firm, Resch's Ltd, until 1929 when it was acquired by Tooth & Co Ltd.

**RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA**, established in 1959, is the central bank which performs banking and other services for the Australian government, for some state governments and for the NT, and is banker to the trading and savings banks. It also regulates the Australian monetary and banking system.

Its monetary and banking policies, which form an important part of the Australian government's general economic policies, influence the availability and cost of loans through trading and savings banks and other financial institutions.

All Australian currency notes are printed, and coins minted, and distributed by the bank on behalf of the Australian government.

The bank's other main activities are the management of stock registries for Australian government debt, the custody of the nation's gold and foreign currency reserves, and the making of short-term loans to rural marketing boards and co-operative societies of primary producers.

**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT** refers to the responsibility of ministers in a government to the parliament in the sense of their having to defend their actions in the parliament and ultimately secure majority support there. This convention of ministerial responsibility emerged slowly in Britain, and by the 1840s had replaced earlier conventions under which ministers were appointed by and answerable to the monarch. As the Canadian and Australian colonies clamoured in the 1840s for more local control and self-government, the term 'responsible government' was often confusingly equated with self-government. Britain, in conceding self-government to the Australian colonies in 1852, also intended that the principle of responsible ministers be included in the new parliamentary systems. The leading conservatives in NSW, on achieving self-government, were unsure about the functioning of responsible government, not realising that the prime minister would have to obtain election to the lower house.

Once the system was set up, the conventions were established that most ministers and all leading ones were members of the lower house, and that the ministers had a collective as well as an individual responsibility to the parliament. Under the federal constitution the power of the Senate in relationship to the House of Representatives to some extent weakens the principle of responsible government. This was one of the issues in the 1975 constitutional crisis. Recently the term 'responsible government' has been used to refer to the way in which a government can be said to be answerable to the electors.

BRUCE MITCHELL

**RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE** Originally known as the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia, the organisation adopted its current title in 1965. Formed in 1916 to ensure that returned men and women received proper benefits in recognition of their war service, the League quickly became Australia's most significant lobby group. Membership has fluctuated, traditionally highest in the years immediately after war. The RSL remains the voice of the ex-service community, with privileged access to the federal governments of the day. The RSL boasts numerous successes in creating and maintaining repatriation benefits. It has argued for 'eternal vigilance' to protect the freedoms the Australians fought and died for. In practice this has meant a conservative approach to most political and social questions.

**RETURNED SOLDIERS** Returned soldiers enjoyed a privileged position in Australia after they emerged as a political force during World War I. There are three interrelated reasons for this. First, the ANZACs were credited with the major mythical achievement of forging Australia's nationhood at Gallipoli, an achievement commemorated each year on 25 April, Anzac Day. Second, because Australian governments did not succeed in introducing conscription during World War I, the voluntary recruit was able to exercise a considerable bargaining power. Third, in return for a pledge to control returned soldiers, the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) was given official representative status, a central place in the administration of repatriation, and special access to the prime minister of the day.

Of the 330 770 Australian men who served overseas in World War I, almost one in five was killed. Of the 267 607 who returned home, 152 422 had been wounded. Some 90 000 returned soldiers were drawing invalid pensions in 1920. They and their comrades were eligible for a variety of repatriation benefits, won from governments forced to woo voluntary recruits throughout the war. There were, in addition to pensions for returned soldiers and their families, loans for education, training, houses and small businesses. Preference in employment was guaranteed by state and commonwealth governments. War gratuities were introduced as promised by W. M. Hughes in the 1919 election campaign. The centrepiece of the repatriation policy was, however, the nationwide scheme of soldier settlement.





*Few Australian institutions grew from such small beginnings to be as powerful and influential as the Returned Services League. Insert, Sydney Mail, 23 Apr 1919.*

Soon after the return to Australia of the first veterans of the war in July 1915 their disruptive activities began to cause apprehension. Riots in the streets were thought to be jeopardising successful recruiting. A program of land settlement would simultaneously provide soldiers with visible material rewards for service and remove them from metropolitan streets. J.C. Watson, the Labor ex-prime minister, appointed honorary organiser by the Federal Parliamentary War Committee in 1915, pushed ahead with the scheme as a matter of urgency. There was a strong response from soldiers: census cards distributed in 1915 and 1916 suggested that one-third of the men wished to take up land. In the event nearly 40 000 soldier settlers (including some nurses and soldiers' dependants) were placed on the land throughout Australia, but more than half of these failed to make a permanent home. Lack of capital, falling prices, inadequate and unsuitable land, drought and domestic problems all contributed to the widespread failure.

Those returned soldiers who remained in the cities caused continuing anxiety to the authorities, especially when they mobilised behind the Labor banner.

The Anzac tradition celebrated mateship, co-operation, egalitarianism. Nationalist governments, gripped by a 'red scare', feared a re-enactment of the situation in Kiel, Germany, in 1918, when angry sailors walked off their ships to become the vanguard of the socialist revolution. Government leaders became increasingly responsive to the RSSILA's demands for a monopoly of representation of the returned men, and they redoubled their efforts to award preference to returned soldiers in employment and promotions in the public service.

As the authority of the RSSILA (later known as the RSL) grew, its social base contracted. Membership fell from a peak of 150 000 in 1919 to 24 482 in 1923, and only began to pick up substantially during the depression. Membership received a further boost with the outbreak of World War II, numbers increasing to a maximum of 323 036 in 1947. By 1984 there were 269 767 members in 1547 sub-branches in Australia and Papua New Guinea, and the majority of members had served overseas in the armed forces, during the two world wars or subsequently in Korea, Malaysia or Vietnam, or in peace-keeping forces. The



League's undoubted influence as a lobby group derived not so much from its membership, however, as from its monopoly of representation of returned service personnel's interests, which was a consequence of political battles fought in World War I.

MARILYN LAKE

**RICHARDSON, Ethel Florence Lindesay** (1870–1946), writer, who wrote as Henry Handel Richardson, was born in Melbourne, and educated at the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Melbourne, and at Leipzig, where she studied piano.

After her marriage in 1895 to John George Robertson, Richardson devoted her life to writing. She was one of the first Australian writers to achieve international critical acclaim, particularly for her historical trilogy, *The fortunes of Richard Mahony*. Its three volumes, *Australia Felix* (1917), *The way home* (1925) and *Ultima Thule* (1929), trace the chequered career of a gold-rush migrant, based in part on her father. Her other major novels are *Maurice Guest* (1908), set in Leipzig, and *The getting of wisdom* (1910), based on her schooldays. She died in England on 20 March 1946, leaving an unfinished autobiography, published as *Myself when young* (1948).

ELIZABETH WEBBY

**Further reading** G. Howells, *Henry Handel Richardson 1870–1946*, Canberra 1979.

**RIDLEY, John** (1806–87), pioneer miller and inventor, migrated from England to SA in 1839. Owing to the scarcity of agricultural labour, a prize was offered in 1843 for the best design of a harvesting machine. Ridley constructed a machine which beat the heads off the wheat and collected them. He declined to patent his 'stripper-harvester', regarding it as his gift to the colony where he had prospered through his milling and mineral interests.

**RINGBARKING** is the practice of cutting the bark of a tree right around the circumference of the trunk, thus killing the tree by stopping the flow of sap. The modern equivalent is to 'frill' the trunk and apply systemic poison to the cut area. In the early years of settlement ringbarking was used to clear land for cultivation, sometimes to allow trees to die standing and sometimes to stop stump regrowth after trees were cut down. It was adopted on a large scale in the 1860s and became the general practice in the Hunter region by 1870. Ringbarking on NSW crown leases was controlled from the 1880s, but there was no control on private land. Much valuable timber was destroyed unnecessarily, especially in southeastern Australia. Some states now have controls on clearing, especially near watercourses.

**RIPON REGULATIONS** These were introduced in 1831 by Viscount Goderich (Earl of Ripon), the secretary of state for the colonies. Crown land was no longer to be granted free of charge but auctioned at a minimum (or upset) price of 5s per acre. Where the previous scheme required a certain proportion of the land to be cultivated, this was now replaced by a tax on uncultivated land. Influenced by the ideas of E. G.

Wakefield, land sale revenue was to be used to fund immigration to the Australian colonies. While promoting cultivation and concentration of settlement, the regulations also attempted to prevent labourers from becoming landowners too easily.

**RIVER MURRAY COMMISSION** After riverboats began plying the Murray in the mid-1850s, the NSW, Vic and SA governments began to realise that the river was an important resource. Their concern with its management became evident in 1863, when representatives of each government met in Melbourne to consider building locks to assist river navigation. Although no such scheme eventuated, the development of Murray irrigation projects brought control of the river into intercolonial discussion once more because irrigation affected farmers and river transport operators in all three colonies. The three governments accordingly began consultations again in 1885, but reached no agreement until after Federation.

The commonwealth government took an early interest in the Murray because of the drought of 1902, when the river almost stopped flowing. Discussions between the prime minister and the three state premiers at Corowa that year led the four governments to conduct a joint royal commission. After prolonged negotiations they eventually finalised the four-way River Murray Waters Agreement in 1914. This provided for the setting up of a River Murray Commission, to be made up of a member from each state and a commonwealth-appointed president. The commission was established in 1917. Its functions included regulating the flow of the river; maintaining and operating the storages; providing water for irrigation, navigation and urban use; and allocating the water to the three states. In accordance with the agreement a series of weirs and navigation locks were built along the Murray.

Amendments to the agreement were necessary to take account of water conservation developments in the Murray–Darling basin such as the Snowy Mountains hydro-electricity scheme, which, during the 1960s and 1970s, greatly enhanced storage capacity along the Murray. Amending the agreement proved difficult, however, as this required the approval of all four governments. The unwieldy nature of mechanisms for regulating Murray usage became obvious in attempts to preserve the quality of the river water: the commission took eight years to gain power over water quality improvement. In that time, critics said, increasing salinity in the river had become a national crisis, and they argued that the agreement had become inadequate for coping with the pressures settlement along the river was imposing on it.

**Further reading** River Murray Commission, *Annual report*, 1917 to date.

**RIVER TRANSPORT** The earliest effective means of long distance transport in colonial Australia was by water. Before the nineteenth century small boats traded north from Sydney to the Hawkesbury and the Hunter and early in the new century to other rivers like the Clarence and Richmond. Southwards trade



was coastal to the Shoalhaven River and then further south to Eden. Eventually the Brisbane River in Qld, the Yarra River and the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria, the Derwent and Tamar rivers in Tas and the Swan in WA were similarly used. The vessels involved brought in settlers and stores and took out timber and agricultural produce. River transport provided essential communication links and helped establish the social and economic development of each valley. This development was accelerated with the advent of steamships, which mode of transport only waned as a result of serious rail and road competition in the 1920s. Some river trading remained until the 1950s.

The largest river transport system in Australia was that on the Murray–Darling. Its commercial development from Goolwa to the Darling junction was encouraged by the offer of financial rewards by the South Australian government in 1850. These were earned by Francis Cadell and J. G. and W. R. Randall in 1853 and their voyages ushered in new opportunities for the further development of agricultural and pastoral areas in the hinterlands of the Murray, Edwards, Darling and Murrumbidgee rivers. About 6500 kilometres were opened up to water transport. The boats went as far east as Albury and Gundagai and as far north as Bourke and Walgett; farm and station supplies were brought in and wool and other primary products were shipped out. At the peak, probably in the 1880s, there were at least 100 steamers (rear and sidepaddlers) and their barges. Most were built at South Australian river towns and were of broad beam and shallow draught. The operators ranged from sole proprietors to registered companies like the River Murray Navigation Co and William McCulloch & Co. However, they all faced the same constant threats to their viability from changing water-levels, shifting sandbars,

snags and the weather. The encroaching railways were an additional problem and ultimately sealed the fate of the Murray trade as Victoria and NSW vied with SA, but more intensely between each other, over the Riverina trade, using preferential freight rates and intercolonial tariffs as weapons.

The Murray–Darling traffic ceased in the interwar period, but a renaissance in all river operations has come with the enormous increase in the recreational use of river boats since about 1960. The new riverine tourist industry uses both refurbished and newly-built riverboats and has inspired a renewed interest in the history of inland navigation. G.R. HENNING

**Further reading** C.E.W. Bean, *The 'Dreadnought' of the Darling*, Sydney 1956 (1911); M. and C. Kerr, *The river men*, Adelaide 1975; A. Morris, *Rich river*, Colac 1979 (1970); I. Mudie, *Riverboats*, Adelaide 1971; Royal Australian Historical Society, *Studies in transport and the Murray River*, Sydney 1980.

**RIVETT, Sir (Albert Cherbury) David** (1885–1961), scientist, graduated in 1905 with first-class honours in chemistry from the University of Melbourne. He was appointed professor of chemistry in 1924 and three years later became chief executive officer of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Rivett's ultimate aim was scientific self-reliance for Australia and his best-known achievement was the eradication of prickly pear through the introduction of *Cactoblastis cactorum*. He was appointed KCMG in 1935.

**ROADS** Road building has been a major Australian industry since the beginning of European settlement. By the early 1980s Australia had over 800 000 kilometres of roads, one-third of which were sealed. Most urban roads, 77 per cent of rural arterial roads



Pictorial representation of the projected road to the summit of Mount Kosciusko.

The Snowy River is on the left at the foot of the range.

Prepared by the New South Wales Government Tourist Bureau, 1909.

NATIONAL LIBRARY



and 19 per cent of rural local roads were sealed. Vic, the smallest state, had the highest proportion, 40 per cent, of sealed roads; the figures elsewhere were SA (21), WA (27), Qld (30), Tas (36) and NSW (37). In the territories, NT had 26 per cent and the ACT 83. In 1950 less than 12 per cent of roads in any state had been sealed.

Most nineteenth-century road building was financed by the colonial governments. The best roads were in or near the city centres; most rural roads became impassable in wet weather. With the spread of local government from the 1860s many municipalities also started building and maintaining roads. The increase in car ownership after World War I led the federal government to start funding the states for road building in the early 1920s. Automobile associations, founded in all states, lobbied for improvement of the road system, while the state road authorities pushed for a large share of state government expenditure. The total annual expenditure on roads in Australia by federal, state and local governments (in 1981–82 dollars) has increased from 300 million dollars a year in 1920 to over 2000 million dollars a year since the early 1960s, much of this expenditure since the 1970s being for freeways.

PETER SPEARRITT

**ROBERTS, Stephen Henry** (1901–71), historian, was born in Maldon, Vic, graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1921 with distinction and joined the history department under Professor Ernest Scott. Roberts' first book, *History of Australian land settlement*, appeared when he was twenty-three. In 1929 he published the *History of French colonial policy* and was appointed Challis Professor of History in the University of Sydney. *The squatting age in Australia* appeared in 1935. Roberts was active in the teaching of history in NSW schools, writing textbooks and examining.

As World War II approached, he undertook radio and newspaper commentaries on international and military affairs. *The house that Hitler built*, which appeared in 1937, attracted worldwide interest. During the war he wrote for the *Sydney Morning Herald* as military correspondent, and occupied senior administrative posts in the university. In 1947 he became vice-chancellor. At that time the university had insufficient money, an exhausted administrative system and too many students. Despite ill-health he presided over exceptionally rapid growth. On retirement in 1967 he planned to write on history, travel and philately, but he died at sea near Melbourne in 1971. JOHN M. WARD

**ROBERTS, Thomas William (Tom)** (1856–1931), painter, migrated to Australia from England in 1869 with his widowed mother and his brother and sister to join relatives in Melbourne. Tom enrolled at the National Gallery of Vic while working as a photographic assistant in Collingwood. In 1881 he sailed to England and studied at the Royal Academy, returning to Australia in 1885 via France and Spain. Roberts became a founding member of the Australian Artists' Association, breaking away from the conservative Victorian Academy. With McCubbin and Abrahams

he established the first artists' camp at Box Hill in 1886, and two years later he joined Streeton and Conder at Eaglemont near Heidelberg, Vic. Roberts organised the famous '9 x 5 Impressions Exhibition' of 1889 which included 62 of his paintings. The following year he visited Brocklesby station, near Corowa, NSW and did sketches for his best-known painting, *Shearing the rams*. Among other bush-life paintings, *The breakaway* (1891) and *Bailed up* (1895) are outstanding. Roberts also painted many portraits. In 1901 he was commissioned to paint the opening of Australia's first federal parliament in Melbourne. The painting was completed in London in 1903 but had drained Roberts' health and creative energies. He served as a hospital orderly during World War I, returning to settle in Australia in 1922 at Kallista, Vic. Largely neglected during his lifetime, Roberts is now appreciated as a key figure in Australian art and is represented in all major Australian galleries.

ADRIENNE SHORT

**ROBERTSON, Sir John** (1816–91), politician, came to NSW with his parents in 1820 and took up land as a squatter in 1835. In 1856 he entered the legislative assembly. His views were considered radical; he supported national education and manhood suffrage, and felt that the land laws hampered agricultural development. In 1861, after a struggle, his land bill was passed, providing for free selection before survey and closer settlement. He was premier five times and held many portfolios.

**ROBERTSON, Sir Macpherson** (1860–1945), manufacturer and philanthropist, began making sweets at his parents' Fitzroy home in 1880 and by 1925 had established the MacRobertson company with an annual turnover of £2 million. He sponsored Antarctic expeditions in 1929 and 1930 and MacRobertson Land was named after him by Sir Douglas Mawson. Robertson's donation to Vic's centenary celebrations in 1933 was used to build a herbarium in Melbourne's Botanic Gardens, a bridge across the Yarra and a girls' high school.

**ROBINSON, George Augustus** (1788–1866), philanthropist, was born in 1788, probably in London. Nothing is known of Robinson's childhood and youth. Probably he had little formal schooling, but he read widely. Like his father, he entered the building trade, but because of a recession he emigrated, arriving at Hobart on 24 January 1824. There he went into business as a builder and prospered. He became involved in religious and community activities.

Becoming interested in the plight of Aborigines, Robinson replied to a government advertisement in March 1829 for 'a steady man of good character to effect an intercourse with the natives'. He was appointed and spent 1829 making contact with the Aborigines on Bruny Island. In January 1830 he began the friendly missions to the Aborigines which were to lead to the capture of all but a very few of the natives still alive in the territory. These remarkable journeys were the high point of Robinson's life, and thereafter





*Jealousy*, oil by Tom Roberts, 1889 reflects the more conventional European traditions in painting that Roberts was later to break away from.

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

his activities, though financially rewarding, were of less consequence. From October 1835 to February 1839 Robinson was commandant of the Aboriginal settlement on Flinders Island, but his attempts to Europeanise the natives there were ineffective. Robinson could not offer the Aborigines a culture that was acceptable to them.

From Flinders Island Robinson went to Port Phillip in 1839 as Chief Protector of the Aborigines, but he was incapable of dealing with the problems that arose there and entirely failed to protect the Aborigines from the settlers' lust for land. The protectorate was abolished at the end of 1849, and in 1852 Robinson returned to England. He died at Bath in 1866.

N.J.B. PLOMLEY

**Further reading** N.J.B. Plomley, *Friendly mission: the Tasmanian journals and papers of George Augustus Robinson 1829–1834*, Hobart 1966.

**ROBINSON, William Sydney** (1876–1963), industrialist, tried farming and fruitgrowing in Vic and in 1898 took up journalism and became financial editor of the *Melbourne Age* (1899–1907). A shrewd investor in the mining of non-ferrous metals, he was managing director of Broken Hill Associated Smelters and Zinc Corporation (now Conzinc Riotinto of Australia), and a founder of Western Mining Corporation. He was awarded the gold medal of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, London, for his leadership in the Australian mining industry. In the 1930s Robin-

son helped establish the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation. During world wars I and II he was London adviser to the Australian government.

He declined public honours, but in 1949 Winston Churchill was party to the presentation of a Baskerville Bible to his old school, Scotch College, Melbourne, in recognition of his assistance to Britain in World War II.

JUDY WING

**ROE, John Septimus** (1797–1878), surveyor, first surveyor-general of WA, reached the mouth of the Swan River in 1829 with Captain James Stirling and on his recommendation the sites for Perth and Fremantle were chosen. The townships of Roebourne and Mount Roe are named after him.

**ROLLAND, Sir Francis William** (1878–1965), Presbyterian clergyman, spent several years as a travelling minister in remote SA before founding the Australian Inland Mission with John Flynn in 1912. He was headmaster of Geelong College (1920–45) and rebuilt it as an important school. From 1954 to 1959 he was moderator-general of the Presbyterian Church in Australia and in 1958 became the first Australian clergyman to be knighted.

**ROSE, Lionel Edmund** (1948–), boxer, won the national amateur bantamweight championships in 1963. As a professional, he became in 1968 the first Aborigine to win a world title, and was awarded an MBE.



**ROSENTHAL, Sir Charles** (1875–1954), soldier and architect, commanded a field artillery of the 1st Australian Division, which landed at Gallipoli in April 1915. In 1917, as brigadier-general, he commanded the 9th Infantry Brigade, and then the 2nd Division, which he led in the advance on the Western Front on 8 August 1918 and at the capture of Mont St Quentin. He received various honours, including the DSO in 1918. He returned to Australia and sat in the NSW legislative assembly as member for Bathurst from 1922 to 1925 and served as an alderman of the Sydney City Council (1921–24).

**ROSEWALL, Kenneth Robert** (1934– ), tennis player, dominated Australian tennis, amateur and professional, for two decades. Though he never won Wimbledon he was one of the best groundstroke players of the postwar period.

**ROWELL, Sir Sydney Fairbairn** (1894–1975), soldier, was appointed director of Military Operations and Intelligence AHQ in 1938. In 1940 he was brigadier-general staff at HQ1 Australian Corps and served in campaigns in Greece and Syria. Taking command in New Guinea in 1942, he played a significant part in the defeat of the Japanese attack on Milne Bay. The arrival of General Blamey led to conflict and to Rowell's dismissal. In 1944 he was appointed director of tactical investigation at the war office. In 1950 he became chief of the Australian General Staff.

**ROWLANDSON, Alfred Cecil** (1865–1922), publisher, started work in 1883 selling tram tickets for the NSW Bookstall Company. He rose steadily through the company and in 1897 bought it. Rowlandson believed there was a market for inexpensive books by good Australian writers. Over 70 authors appeared in his Bookstall series, including Norman Lindsay and Louis Becke, and in twenty years sales exceeded five million copies.

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE (RAAF)** Established in March 1921, and at first known simply as the Australian Air Force, the RAAF is one of Australia's three armed services. It grew out of the Australian Flying Corps of the 1914–18 war. It was poorly equipped in its early years, having only 128 aircraft, donated by the British government, and its strength did not exceed 1200 men until the mid-1920s. During its first decade the RAAF was under threat of being divided between the army and the navy, and it only began to expand and improve its aircraft in the early 1930s. In World War II the RAAF served in every theatre, having 114000 personnel in 1942. It formed part of the postwar occupation force in Japan; it saw action in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam during the 1950s and 1960s; and it was used to garrison Malta, Malaysia and Singapore. By the mid-1980s the RAAF had attained a strength of about 22000 men and women.

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY** The Australian Historical Society was formed in Sydney in March 1901. Some 'gentlemen interested in

Australian history' had been meeting since 1898 and were stimulated by a leading article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in April 1900 urging the careful recording of Sydney's history. Since November 1900 scholarly papers have been read to regular meetings, documents collected and excursions conducted. A *Journal and proceedings* has been published since 1901. The prefix 'Royal' was granted in 1918. The society was the forerunner of similar bodies in the other states and long preceded widespread school, university and public interest in Australian history. **BRUCE MITCHELL**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY** Formed from the naval forces of the Australian colonies at Federation, for its first decade the navy was known as the Commonwealth Naval Forces, becoming the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 1911.

Despite opposition from the Royal Navy, Australia ordered its own 'blue water' ships, and in 1913 a battlecruiser, three light cruisers and three destroyers entered service. In the 1914–18 war the RAN saw service with Royal Navy fleets in European, Mediterranean and Asian waters.

Between the world wars the fleet was drastically reduced. The battlecruiser *Australia* was scrapped in 1924 under the Washington Naval Treaty and financial stringency forced further reductions, but in the 1930s the RAN experienced a modest expansion.

In World War II a greatly expanded RAN served in the Mediterranean and in the Pacific. It was reorganised after the war as a task force based on two aircraft carriers, HMAS *Sydney* and HMAS *Melbourne*. The Fleet Air Arm was, however, disbanded. The RAN served in southeast Asia, and in the war in Vietnam. By the 1980s its fleet consisted of 54 vessels, including guided missile destroyers and frigates, destroyer escorts, submarines, patrol boats, landing craft and assorted tenders, with a strength of 17 000 people.

**ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (RSPCA)** was founded in England in June 1824 and has affiliated branches in all Australian states. The first, the Vic-



Patients taking in the air. RSPCA mobile hospital for sick and injured animals, early 1950s.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS



torian Society for the Protection of Animals, founded in 1871, became the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1955 and the following year was granted the prefix Royal. Branches were formed in New South Wales in 1873 and South Australia in 1875. The society is financed largely by donation.

**ROYAL VISITS** A son of Queen Victoria, Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, visited Australia in 1867–68 and two grandsons in 1881, one of whom, as Duke of Cornwall and York (later King George V) opened the Commonwealth Parliament in 1901. The Prince of Wales toured for several months in 1920. The first reigning monarch to visit Australia was Elizabeth II in 1954. During this visit the Queen attracted almost fanatical adulation but on subsequent visits, which have become increasingly frequent, the Australian public has been more restrained. Royal visits are now associated with specific events, such as the opening of a major building (like the Sydney Opera House) or an important anniversary. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince and Princess of Wales are now regular visitors to Australia and other members of the royal family also visit from time to time.

**RUBINSTEIN, Helena** (c1871–1965), beautician and businesswoman, was born in Poland, and arrived in Australia at the age of eighteen. She soon had a thriving beauty salon in Melbourne, and she opened a salon in London in 1908. After her move to America in about 1915 her business became Helena Rubinstein Incorporated, which continues to produce and sell cosmetics worldwide. She endowed the Helena Rubinstein Travelling Scholarship for Australian artists in 1958.

**RUM REBELLION** was the name given to the uprising in Sydney which deposed Capt William Bligh as governor of NSW on 26 January 1808. The Rum Rebellion is one of the most dramatic events in Australian history, and our understanding of it has been clouded not only by obscure and ambiguous evidence but also by the partisan opinions of historians. It is clear, however, that the officers and a large number of the soldiers of the New South Wales Corps took a very active part. It also appears that several prosperous ex-convicts in Sydney, and perhaps a large number of them, lent their support. We know too that John Macarthur, formerly an officer in the New South Wales Corps, controlled much of the planning and was afterwards the effective ruler of NSW.

The traditional interpretation of the rebellion makes it a protest, principally on the part of the officers, against Bligh's attempts to restrict the local trade in spirits. This no longer seems convincing. On the one hand we now know that the officers were strongly opposed to Bligh even before his policies were fully implemented. And on the other, it seems



*For the first visit to Australia by a reigning monarch in 1954, sentimental and romantic images helped to sustain the royal aura that distance had fostered. The royal visit of Australia in pictures, Melbourne 1954.*

SPEARITT COLLECTION

very unlikely that they would have taken such an extreme step simply on their own initiative. Also, the officers no longer monopolised the spirits market. Large numbers of ex-convict men and women had been drawn into it, and they stood to suffer at least as much from Bligh's attempted reforms. This perhaps explains the involvement of such people in the rebellion.

It is true that by a concerted display of military force the officers created the rebellion. Also their senior officer, Maj George Johnston, became the nominal ruler afterwards. Nevertheless, the main responsibility must lie with John Macarthur, who had strong supporters among both officers and soldiers. Macarthur was a man of strong personality, and he too was affected by Bligh's commercial reforms. He apparently believed that the system of authority in NSW was in some ways illegal, and he probably persuaded the most influential officers to agree with him. There is also reason to think that he aimed, through the rebellion, to bring about a thorough change in the colonial constitution, and with it the economy.

Johnston and Macarthur governed NSW from the day of the rebellion until July 1808, when Lieut-Col Joseph Foveaux, Johnston's superior officer, arrived from England and took command. The British government proved entirely unsympathetic to the rebellion. Johnston was court-martialled and dismissed from the army, while Macarthur, having gone to England in 1809, was virtually forbidden to return home until 1817.

ALAN ATKINSON

**RUSE, James** (1760–1837), pioneer farmer, arrived in Sydney Cove in 1788 as a convict with the first fleet. In 1789 he was permitted by Governor Phillip to occupy an allotment near Parramatta named Experiment Farm and four years later received there the first land grant made in Australia.