

**BACKHOUSE, James** (1794–1869), naturalist and Quaker missionary, arrived in Hobart in 1832 with George Washington Walker, sponsored by the London Yearly Meeting. Their visit to the penal and Aboriginal establishments of Van Diemen's Land was encouraged by Lieut-Gov Arthur and they reported to him on the conditions they found. These reports were influential in the formation of a new penal system in the colony. Throughout his travels, Backhouse, a keen botanist, collected a valuable herbarium which he sent to Kew Gardens. A genus of myrtaeous shrubs was later named *Backhousia*. Backhouse also recorded his journeys in *A narrative of a visit to the Australian colonies* (London 1843).

**BADHAM, Charles** (1813–84), classical scholar, was born in England and educated at Eton and Oxford. He was ordained a priest of the Church of England in 1848 and three years later became headmaster of King Edward VI Grammar School, Birmingham. Badham was a widely respected scholar and achieved recognition by his appointment as professor of classics and logic at the University of Sydney in 1867. He believed in education for all and offered himself as tutor by correspondence, free of charge, to students throughout the colony. He published a number of critical works on classical drama during his lifetime, and in 1890 a posthumous anthology, *Speeches and lectures* was published.

**BAILEY, Albert Edward ('Bert')** (1872–1953), actor and theatrical manager, best known for his portrayal of 'Dad' Rudd of the Steele Rudd stories, began his acting career aged seventeen with the touring theatrical company of Edmund Duggan. Bailey and Duggan wrote two successful melodramas, *The squatter's daughter* (1907) and *The man from outback* (1909) and their partnership culminated in *On our selection* (1912), a dramatisation of the Steele Rudd stories. Bailey formed a managerial partnership with Julius Grant of Anderson's King's Theatre, Melbourne, and together they produced many Australian plays including a stage version of C.J. Dennis's *A sentimental bloke*.

Bailey later starred in and directed film versions of the 'Dad and Dave' stories.

**BAILLIEU, William Lawrence** (1859–1936), financier and politician, became a successful auctioneer and speculator in the 1880s land boom in Melbourne and married the daughter of a wealthy Melbourne brewer. After the 1893 bank crash, Baillieu acquired overseas bank interests to finance mineral extraction at Broken Hill. He was a director of the Melbourne *Herald* and from 1901 to 1922 was a member of the Victorian Legislative Council. Baillieu continued his mineral interests through Broken Hill Associated Smelters, the world's largest lead producer, and Australia's largest copper refinery at Port Kembla, NSW. Baillieu's several brothers and later his sons continued the development of Australia's mining industries.

**BAINTON, Edgar Leslie** (1880–1956), musician, was born and educated in England, studying at the Royal College of Music, London and later becoming professor then principal of the Conservatorium of Music, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In 1934 Bainton was appointed director of the Conservatorium of Music, Sydney, where he began an opera school and conducted public concerts. He continued to compose and perform throughout his career and was an influential figure in Sydney's musical life.

**BALLARAT REFORM LEAGUE** grew out of the grievances of the diggers on the Ballarat goldfield in October 1854. Its leaders were former British Chartists J. B. Humffray (secretary), Henry Holyoake and George Black, and Raffaello Carboni, Frederick Venn, Timothy Hayes and Peter Lalor. Through a series of mass meetings on Bakery Hill in November it mobilised diggers first to demand reforms—abolition of the Gold Commission and the licence fee, adoption of the Chartist objectives of manhood suffrage, payment of members of parliament and no property qualifications, and release of three diggers unfairly arrested—and later in the organised resistance that culminated in the Eureka rebellion.



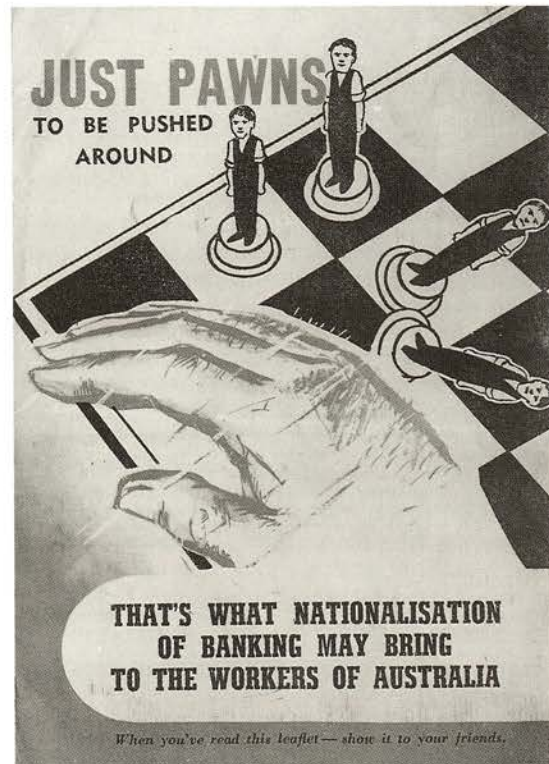
**BALLET** Australia's first self-contained ballet production, *The fair maid of Perth*, opened at the new Theatre Royal, Sydney in 1835 although amateur performances in makeshift accommodation had been common since the early days of colonisation. The establishment of theatres in Tas, Melbourne and Adelaide in the 1840s and the discovery of gold in NSW and Vic attracted dancers from Europe and the Americas, including the Leopold and Edouin families and Madame Celeste, who toured in 1867. The 1870s saw a decline in ballet's popularity but by the 1890s audiences were demanding a revival of the great classical traditions of ballet. In 1893 James Cassius Williamson inaugurated a one-hundred-strong classical ballet company which performed the first classical ballet conceived and created in Australia, *Turquoise*, in Melbourne's Princess Theatre on 9 September 1893.

The visit by the Russian Imperial Ballet in 1913 heralded the greatest era of ballet in Australia. Anna Pavlova made two inspiring tours in 1926 and 1929 and several influential Russian ballet companies toured in the 1930s. The first English ballet company to tour was the Ballet Rambert in 1948 which introduced audiences to works by Frederick Ashton and Ninette de Valois. In 1958–59 the Royal Ballet came to Australia, with Robert Helpmann, his first appearance in his home country for 25 years. Edouard Borovansky who toured with Pavlova in 1929 opened his own school in 1939. Following his death in 1959 (Dame) Peggy van Praagh was appointed artistic director of the Borovansky Ballet and when the company disbanded in 1961 she became founding artistic director of the Australian Ballet in 1962. Its repertoire included *Giselle* and Robert Helpmann's specially commissioned work *The display* with sets by Sidney Nolan and score by Malcolm Williamson.

A number of state ballet companies exist including the Sydney Dance Company. Under artistic director Graeme Murphy the company has performed several original Australian works including *Poppy* (1978) and *Daphnis and Chloe* (1981).

**BANDLER, Faith** (1918–), writer and black activist, was born at Tumbulgum, Murwillumbah, NSW. Her father, Wacvie, had been kidnapped in 1883 from the New Hebrides and sold as kanaka labour in Mackay, Qld. Long active in demanding improved conditions for her people, she and Pearl Gibbs founded the Aboriginal Australian Fellowship, which campaigned for Aboriginal rights. In 1970–73 she served as general secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and since 1972 she has been active in the Women's Electoral Lobby. She refused an MBE in 1976. Bandler published her father's story *Wacvie*, in 1977; in 1980 *Marani in Australia*, co-authored with Len Fox; in 1983 *The time was ripe*, again with Fox; and in 1984 *Welou my brother*.

**BANK NATIONALISATION** was a policy, officially adopted by the Labor party in 1934, of bringing the monetary and banking system under public control.



Section of a leaflet opposing Chifley's attempts to nationalise the banks, produced by the Bank Employees' Protest Committee.

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In 1945 the Chifley Labor government introduced two banking bills, which became law on 21 August. The Commonwealth Bank Act consolidated its central banking function and gave Treasury control of financial policy; the Banking Act extended a wartime measure whereby the trading banks placed special deposits with the Commonwealth Bank and established controls over interest rates and the flow of money. On 13 August 1947 the High Court declared parts of the Banking Act invalid. Chifley responded on 15 October by introducing a bill to nationalise banking completely by empowering the Commonwealth Bank to take over the private banks. The new act encountered bitter opposition from the non-Labor parties and the management and most staff of the trading banks. In 1948 the High Court again invalidated the legislation, a decision upheld by the Privy Council in 1949. Labor's loss of office at the election on 10 December 1949 was partly due to the unpopularity of bank nationalisation.

**BANKS, Donald Oscar** (1923–80), composer, was born in South Melbourne, the son of a professional jazz musician. After service in World War II he studied at the Melbourne Conservatorium before leaving for England in 1950. A few years later he established with Margaret Sutherland the Australian Musical Association in London with the aim of help-



ing young composers. His own compositions range from film scores to chamber music and orchestral works. Banks returned to Australia in 1973 and spent five years as head of composition and electronic music at the Canberra School of Music. In 1978 he was appointed head of composition at the NSW Conservatorium of Music. Banks was appointed AM in 1980.

**BANKS, Sir Joseph (1743–1820)**, naturalist, was born at Westminster and educated at home before going to Harrow and Eton. He developed an early passion for botany. At 21 he gained his inheritance, and divided his time between London, Oxford and his family estate at Revesby, Lincolnshire. In 1766 he made an extensive natural history collection in Newfoundland and Labrador, and two years later joined HMS *Endeavour* with a mass of equipment and a staff of eight, including Daniel Solander, naturalist, and Sydney Parkinson, artist. Returning with enormous collections, Banks was soon consulted on many matters, more especially after 1778, when he was elected president of the Royal Society, a position he held until his death on 19 June 1820. In 1779, Banks strongly recommended Botany Bay for a proposed penal settlement, and so has been called 'the Father of Australia'.

Banks published little, but wrote much, maintaining correspondence with the early governors and with his botanists, Robert Brown, George Caley and Allan Cunningham. A dignified, formidable and influential figure, Banks was generous to scholars wishing to study in his library and museum, and he took an eccentric delight in weighing his friends. The plant genus *Banksia* and some species were named in his honour, as were Cape Banks, Mount Banks and Bankstown.

L. A. GILBERT

**Further reading** G. Mackaness, *Sir Joseph Banks: his relations with Australia*, Sydney 1936; H. C. Cameron, *Sir Joseph Banks K.B., P.R.S.: the autocrat of the philosophers*, London 1952; C. Lyte, *Sir Joseph Banks: 18th century explorer, botanist and entrepreneur*, Sydney 1980.

**BANKS AND BANKING** European settlements in Australia lacked banking facilities until 1817, when Gov Macquarie granted a charter to the first Australian bank, the Bank of New South Wales, recently established by a group of merchants and colonial officials. Its success prompted the foundation of others, and by 1850 over thirty had been founded, though not all survived. More banks were established during the period of prosperity following the gold rushes. Their willingness to lend money contributed to the speculative boom of the 1880s, and a number crashed in the banking crisis that ensued with the onset of depression in the early 1890s. By the end of the century only ten remained, and, chastened by recent experience, the banking system was now considerably more conservative and cautious.

The commonwealth government took direct interest in banking by establishing its own Commonwealth Bank in 1911. Mainly a savings bank at first, it

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*Banks shared in the optimism of the postwar years. Australia to-day, 26 Oct 1950.*

acquired trading functions as well. Over succeeding decades it progressively took on central banking functions, such as note issue and rural credit (to facilitate the orderly marketing of primary produce). This central role was formalised in 1945 in the Commonwealth Bank Act, which implemented recommendations for closer co-ordination of economic and monetary policy made in 1937 by a royal commission into the banking and monetary systems. The Labor government attempted to secure even greater centralised control via its Banking Act of 1947, which (until ruled invalid by the high court) gave it the power to nationalise the private trading banks. The private banks strenuously opposed this legislation, which contributed to Labor's loss of office in 1949.

In 1959 the federal government secured stronger regulatory powers through legislation to reconstitute the Commonwealth Bank and establish the Reserve Bank. The latter was set up to ensure that the banking and monetary systems contributed to the stability of the Australian currency, the maintenance of full employment, economic prosperity, and the people's welfare. In fulfilling these functions the bank exercised various controls over the private banks' lending policy and liquidity, the volume of credit available to the community, the purchase of foreign exchange, and the setting of interest rates.

The banking system subsequently evolved further with a series of amalgamations between the private



banks. In addition to the Commonwealth Banking Corporation (a product of the 1959 legislation), by the mid-1980s there were three major private banking groups – the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, the National Commercial Banking Corporation and the Westpac Banking Corporation. Each group maintained a nationwide network of branches offering a range of financial services. In addition to trading and savings bank facilities these included investment management, credit cards (the banks having co-operated in introducing the Bankcard scheme in 1974), and assistance with foreign exchange and international travel. The four major groups accounted for some 90 per cent of all commercial banking in Australia in the mid-1980s. They all maintained offices in London, and most also had branches in neighbouring Pacific nations.

In addition to the major banking groups there were four state-owned banks, in NSW, Vic, SA and WA, and two trustee savings banks in Tas, each operating only within their own states. There were also a number of lesser private banks, including the Australian Bank, the Bank of Queensland, the Banque Nationale de Paris and the Bank of New Zealand, the last two being foreign banks that had long held licences to operate in Australia, and had mainly financed trade with their home countries. The Banking Act of 1959 prevented other foreign banks from offering general banking facilities in Australia, but a number of large international banks such as Britain's National Westminster and the United States' Chase–Manhattan operated in Australia as merchant banks, trading in the money market, managing investments, and securing large loans for corporate borrowers. The 1981 report of the committee of inquiry into the Australian financial system (the Campbell report) recommended a lessening of centralised regulation to enable more banks, both foreign and new local banks, to enter the Australian market. In 1984 the Labor government acted on this advice, announcing that it would allow more foreign banks to operate in Australia. Several new banks were also subsequently formed by groups of companies including local insurance firms and building societies.

**Further reading** H. W. Arndt and W. J. Blacker, *The Australian trading banks*, Melbourne 1977 (1957); L. F. Giblin, *The growth of a central bank*, Melbourne 1951.

**BAPTIST CHURCH** Members of this denomination practise believers' baptism and, while subscribing to the major tenets of evangelical Christianity, uphold the religious freedom of the individual. A Baptist service was first held in Sydney in 1831 and a church was erected in 1836 after the arrival of Rev John Saunders (1834). Churches were established in Tas, Vic and SA in the 1830s, in Qld in the 1850s and not until 1895 in WA. The denomination was strongest in SA. Congregations are autonomous, although unions have been formed to facilitate co-operation in welfare and mission work. The Baptist Union of Australia was formed in 1926. Baptists comprise 1.3 per cent of the population (1981 census), a position which has remained relatively stable for the past 20 years.

**BARASSI, Ronald Dale** (1936–), Australian Rules footballer and coach, began his career playing for Melbourne in the Victorian Football League. After more than 200 games for the club he moved to Carlton as captain and coach in 1965, leading them to the VFL premiership in 1968 before retiring from the game in 1971. He returned as coach to North Melbourne in 1973 and led them to victory in the 1975 and 1977 premierships. Barassi moved back to his old club, Melbourne, in 1981 as coach. He was appointed AM in 1978 and in 1979 became the first VFL life member.

**BARKLY, Sir Henry** (1815–98), governor, arrived in Vic as governor in 1856, following a brief parliamentary career and governorships in British Guiana and Jamaica. Barkly's governorship coincided with the first seven years of responsible government in Vic during which he successfully handled the constitutional problems that arose. He was appointed KCB in 1853 and ended his career as governor of Cape Colony in 1877.

**BARNARD, Marjorie Faith** (1897–), writer, was born in Sydney and wrote in collaboration with Flora Eldershaw under the pseudonym M. Barnard Eldershaw. She graduated from Sydney University in 1919 and was awarded the first University Medal in history. Her sole-authored historical works include *Macquarie's world* (1941) and *A history of Australia* (1962). She has also written a biography, *Miles Franklin* (1967). Her best-known works, both written with Flora Eldershaw, are *A house is built*, which won the *Bulletin* prize in 1928, and *Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow* (1947, unexpurgated version 1983), which won the Patrick White Award in 1983. Her sole-authored works of fiction include *The ivory gate* (1920) and *The persimmon tree* (1943). In 1984 she received the NSW Premier's Literary Award, and in 1986 was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters from the University of Sydney. PATRICIA HOLT

**BARNET, James Johnstone** (1827–1904), architect, arrived in Sydney in 1854 and worked first for Edmund Blacket, before joining the colonial architect's department in 1860. Five years later he was appointed colonial architect. He was an enthusiastic exponent of the Italian renaissance style. His work includes the Bathurst courthouses, Sydney's GPO, Colonial Secretary's Office and the Garden Palace. In 1890 a royal commission found Barnet responsible for deficiencies in the Bare Island defences and Barnet resigned. In 1899 he published *Architectural work in Sydney, New South Wales, 1788–1899*.

**BARRY, Mary Gonzaga** (1834–1915), mother superior, arrived in Australia from Ireland in 1875 as founder and mother superior of a convent at Ballarat, Vic. She established a Catholic training college for teachers in Ballarat in 1884 and was later involved in the opening of the Albert Park College, for both Catholic and lay students. Mother Gonzaga was also a pioneer in establishing kindergarten education in Australia.



**BARRY, Sir Redmond** (1813–80), judge, was born in Ireland, into an Anglo-Irish family. His father was a major-general. He studied law at Dublin's Trinity College and was admitted to the Irish Bar in 1838, leaving for NSW the following year. He left Sydney for Melbourne soon after arriving and held his first court position there in 1841. With separation in 1851, he became Vic's first solicitor-general and in 1852 was appointed to the supreme court, a position he held until his death. Barry was an eminent leader in every phase of social, cultural and philanthropic activity: he was a founder of the University of Melbourne, becoming chancellor in 1855; he helped establish the public library and was president of trustees from 1856; he took an LLB and an MA at Melbourne University and was a member of several learned societies. Twice knighted, he acted as governor for eleven days in 1875. An austere man and severe judge, he believed that Vic, as a frontier society, needed a firm hand. Barry never married but lived in a de facto relationship with Louisa Barrow who bore him four children. Throughout his distinguished career he contributed greatly to the development of Vic's legal code, where many of his decisions were definitive. Barry is best remembered as the judge who sentenced the bush-ranger Ned Kelly to hang.

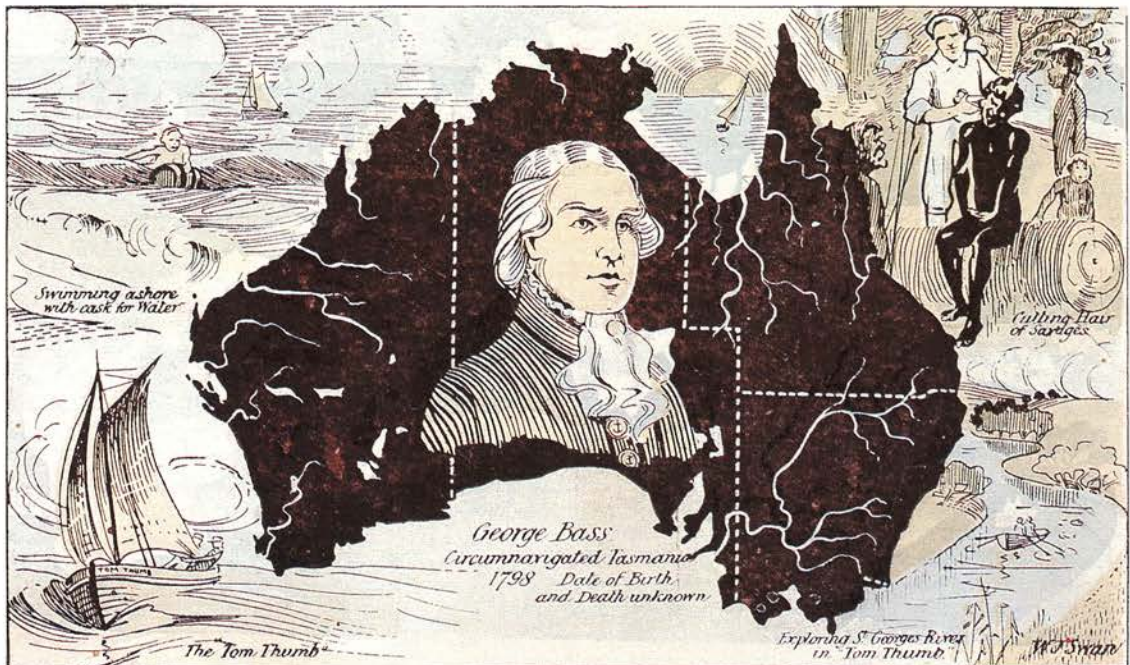
JOHN McQUILTON

**BARTON, Sir Edmund** (1849–1920), politician, followed a legal career before entering the Legislative Assembly of NSW in 1879 as member for the univer-

sity. He later became speaker of the house (1883–87) and attorney-general (1891–95). Barton became an avowed federalist, replacing Parkes as leader of the federal movement in 1891 and conducting a nationwide campaign culminating in the convention of 1897–98. In 1900 he led a delegation to London to discuss the commonwealth bill and, on the passing of the bill and his return to Australia, was invited to form a ministry and become the first prime minister. Barton's two years as prime minister were occupied with establishing the public service and high court and implementing a White Australia policy. He resigned in 1903 and became a high court judge for the next seventeen years. He was appointed PC in 1901 and GCMG in 1902.

**BARWICK, Sir Garfield Edward John** (1903–), chief justice of Australia, was admitted to the NSW Bar in 1927 and in 1941 took silk. He practised widely in all jurisdictions before entering politics in 1958 as Liberal member for the federal seat of Parramatta. He was attorney-general in the Liberal–Country party governments from 1958–64 when he retired from parliament upon appointment as chief justice of Australia. He was knighted in 1953 and in 1981 retired as chief justice.

**BASS, George** (1771–1803), naval surgeon and explorer, arrived in Sydney in 1795 on the same ship as Matthew Flinders. Bass joined Flinders in coastal



1903 postcard portraying the coastal explorer George Bass on the centenary of his death. His portrait is superimposed on a curiously inaccurate map of Australia which omits Tasmania, whose circumnavigation, with Matthew Flinders, was Bass's greatest achievement.

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exploration of Lake Illawarra and Port Hacking. Bass also attempted to cross the Blue Mountains. In 1797 he confirmed the existence of coal on the coast to the south of Sydney. In 1798 Bass explored the south coast of Vic to Westernport and correctly deduced that Van Diemen's Land was an island, a deduction proved later that year when he and Flinders circumnavigated the island. The stretch of water between the island and the mainland was named in Bass's honour.

In 1800 Bass left the navy on medical grounds and went into business with Charles Bishop, bringing supplies and goods from London to Sydney. In 1803 Bass left Sydney for South America on a trading venture and disappeared. No reliable evidence of his fate has been found.

JOHN McQUILTON

**BATES, Daisy May** (1863–1951), welfare worker among Aborigines and anthropologist, was born in Ireland and emigrated to Australia in 1884. In 1901 she began to study the kinship, language and rites of the Aborigines located around the Broome district. Lacking any formal training but serious in intent, her ability was recognised in 1904 with an appointment by the WA government to research the tribes of the state. About 1910 she joined the Radcliffe-Brown anthropological expedition to the northwest, during which she gave her attention to nursing the sick and elderly Aborigines. In 1912 she established the first of her isolated camps for which she became renowned. Her anthropological work was poorly received within the profession, but her hundreds of newspaper articles presented Aboriginal life sensitively and accurately and her descriptions of deprivation and hardship prompted government medical assistance. She was appointed CBE in 1934 and an autobiography covering part of her life was published in *The passing of the Australian Aborigines* (1938).

**BATMAN, John** (1801–39), pioneer, the son of a convict, was born in Parramatta and in 1821 went to live in Tas as a grazier. He gained fame through the capture of the bushranger Mathew Brady and through leading the first conciliation campaign among the Aborigines. In 1834 Batman formed the Port Phillip Association with Joseph Gellibrand and others to seek mainland grazing land. He sailed to Port Phillip in 1835 and explored the lower reaches of the Yarra River. There is some debate as to whether Batman or John Pascoe Fawkner was the founder of Melbourne as both founded settlements there in 1835.

**BATMAN'S TREATY** On 6 June 1835, John Batman, agent for the Port Phillip Association, signed a treaty with eight Aboriginal men of the Dutigalla tribe to whom he referred as 'chiefs', at what was probably Merri Creek near the present site of Melbourne. The Aborigines 'exchanged' 600 000 acres of land for trade goods and a yearly rental or tribute. Batman stressed that the Aborigines 'fully comprehended' the transaction but it is doubtful whether they understood the concept of trade or in fact were the owners of the entire area of land that they sold. Gov Bourke proclaimed the purchase void, declaring that the land in question belonged to the crown.



*Daisy Bates, in her distinctive veiled hat, on her return to Adelaide in 1941.*

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**BATTEN, Jean Gardner** (1909–), aviator, was born in New Zealand and was taught to fly by Kingsford Smith. The first woman to fly from England to Australia and back, she still holds the world record for a solo single-engine flight from Australia to England, set in 1937.

**BATTLE OF BRISBANE** The so-called 'battle of Brisbane', a spectacular example of antagonism between United States and Australian servicemen, originated in the differing pay and conditions enjoyed by the two armies. The better paid Americans, praised extravagantly as Australia's saviours, were resented by Australian troops, and during 1942 ill-feeling grew between the two groups.

Brisbane in 1942 was crowded with troops, and tension grew in October after the murder of an Australian soldier by two Americans. Resentment over the decision to exclude Australian troops from American recreational 'Post Exchange' (PX) facilities precipitated a riot on the night of 26 November, when angry Australians besieged the PX. Military policemen on both sides joined instead of breaking up the riot, in which one Australian was killed. Disturbances continued for several more nights. Similar riots occurred in Melbourne (where 2000 street brawlers held up city traffic for an hour in February 1943), Sydney and Perth.

**BATTLE OF PINJARRA** In October 1834 Gov Stirling set out from Perth to survey the future town of Pinjarra, 85 kilometres to the south, and to take action against Aborigines said to be guilty of crimes against settlers. On 28 October the party came upon a camp of blacks whom they were satisfied had committed the outrages. Capt Ellis, superintendent of police, charged the camp and drove the entire group



towards the river. Stirling's force lay on the opposite side of the river and the Aborigines were caught in the crossfire. Downstream, Lieut Roe waited to shoot any wounded who drifted down. The battle lasted for approximately an hour. Capt Ellis was mortally wounded and Corp Heffron wounded in the arm. Estimates of the number of Aborigines killed range from fourteen to eighty.

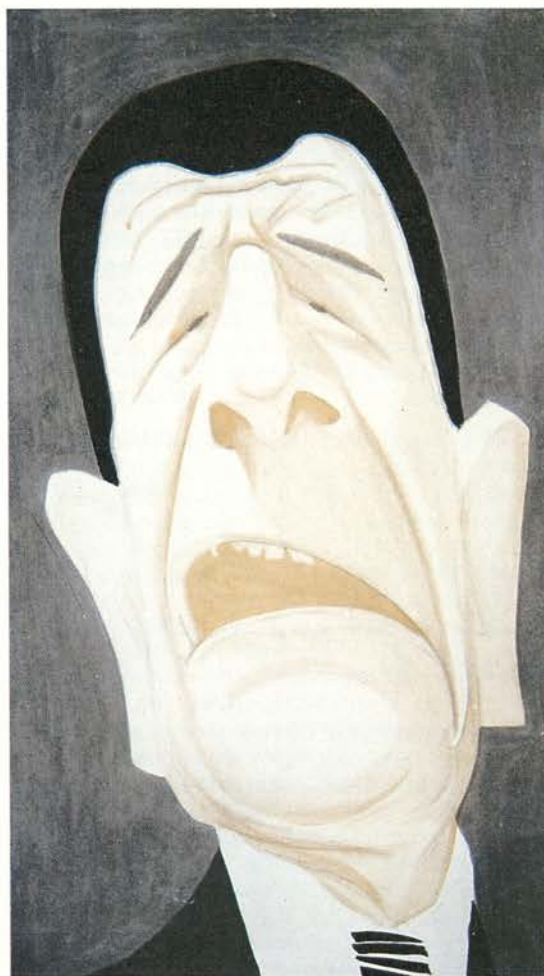
**BAUDIN, Thomas Nicholas** (1754–1803), explorer and naturalist, successfully led expeditions to the Indian Ocean and the West Indies before being given command of the French expedition mounted in 1800 to complete the French cartographic survey of the Australian coast. Baudin's two ships, *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste* surveyed parts of the southern and northern coasts between 1801 and 1803. Baudin died in Mauritius en route back to France at the conclusion of the expedition.

**BAVIN, Sir Thomas Rainsford** (1874–1941), politician, was born near Christchurch, New Zealand. He was closely associated with both Edmund Barton and Alfred Deakin prior to his election to the NSW Legislative Assembly in 1917. Elected premier in 1927, his vision of social justice was bedevilled by his dependence upon coalition support and the onset of Depression politics. He lost office in 1930, and resigned from parliament in 1935.

**BAYLEBRIDGE, William** (1883–1942), poet, travelled from Brisbane to London in 1908 to pursue a literary career. His eight early books of poetry and two of prose were mostly private printings and it was not until 1919, with the publication of his *Selected poems* and his return to Australia, that he achieved recognition. He was awarded the gold medal of the Australian Literary Society in 1939 for another anthology, *This vital flesh*, and in his will left money for an annual poetry award named the 'Grace Leven Prize'.

**BAYNTON, Barbara Jane** (1857–1929), writer, worked as a governess before marrying in 1880. Divorced in 1890, she then married Thomas Baynton, an affluent 70-year-old widower. She began to contribute short stories, verse and articles for the *Bulletin*. In 1902 *Bush studies*, a collection of short stories, was published and favourably received. Evoking the Australian bush, she wrote powerfully using symbolic themes, notably the isolation of the bush and a bitter insistence on men's brutality to women.

**BEAN, Charles Edwin Woodrow** (1879–1968), journalist, was born in Bathurst, NSW, and educated in England at several minor public schools. After reading classics at Oxford, Bean studied law, then returned to Australia and the NSW Bar. While travelling through the state he began writing newspaper articles, and in 1908 joined the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a reporter. His perceptive observations, especially of outback life, and fine literary style produced three books—*With the flagship in the south*, *On the wooltrack* and *The dreadnought of the Darling*—based on his articles. From 1910 to 1913 Bean served as the *Sydney Morning Herald's* London correspondent.



Thomas Bavin, caricature by George Finery. Art in Australia, June 1931.

When World War I began Bean was elected by his fellow journalists to accompany the AIF as official press correspondent. He landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, and earned respect by accompanying the troops in the fiercest of battles. He was recommended for the Military Cross and, though wounded, was the only correspondent to stay at the front line throughout the campaign. He then accompanied the AIF to France, and served there until the armistice.

Early in 1919 he returned to Gallipoli, collecting information for the official war history which the Australian government had commissioned him to write. This project occupied the next 23 years of his life. He wrote half of the volumes and edited the rest of the twelve-volume *Official history of Australia in the war of 1914–18*. The books are widely regarded as the finest of the official histories of nations in the war, and did much to create the Anzac legend. His other publications include: *In your hands Australians* (1919); *War aims of a plain Australian* (1943); *Anzac to Amiens* (1946); *Gallipoli mission* (1948) and *Two men I knew* (1957).



His keen interest in the outdoors led him to be closely involved with the Parks and Playgrounds Movement, the National Fitness Council and the Australian Wildlife Preservation Society. Several times he declined a knighthood. KEVIN FEWSTER

**Further reading** K. Fewster (ed), *Gallipoli correspondent: the frontline diary of C.E.W. Bean*, Sydney 1983; K.S. Inglis, *C.E.W. Bean: Australian historian*, Brisbane 1970; D. McCarthy, *Gallipoli to the Somme: the story of C.E.W. Bean*, Sydney 1983.

**BEAR, Annette Crawford** (1853–99), feminist, was educated in Australia and Europe. After her return to Melbourne in 1890 she became a major force in the women's movement, forming the United Council of Women's Suffrage in 1894. She helped to obtain amendments to legislation affecting women, including raising the age of consent to sixteen and the appointment of women as factory inspectors. Possibly her most enduring achievement was the foundation in Melbourne of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women which grew out of her concern for the welfare of unmarried mothers and their children.

**BEAUREPAIRE, Sir Francis Joseph Edmund** (1891–1956), swimmer, businessman and civic leader, won his first Victorian swimming title at the age of fourteen. He competed successfully in the London Olympic Games of 1908 but as with subsequent games, failed to win a first place in any event. His greatest year in competitive swimming was 1910: twelve Australian records, world records for the 300 yards and 200, 300 and 500 metres and seven English titles. In the 1920s Beaurepaire established a prosperous tyre service and in the 1940s began the profitable production of electric cables. He also became a Melbourne city councillor in 1928 and was lord mayor from 1940–42. He was a member of the legislative council from 1942–52 and was knighted in 1942.

**BEEBY, Sir George Stephenson** (1869–1942), politician, judge and writer, was one of the founders of the NSW Labor party and was elected Labor member for Blayney in 1907. After serving as minister for labour and industry in the first Labor government of 1910, Beeby became disillusioned with the party and attempted to form a new 'centre party' but did not win a seat in the 1913 election. When his political career failed, Beeby became a successful barrister and in 1939 was appointed chief judge of the federal conciliation and arbitration court. Throughout his life Beeby wrote a number of dramas and short stories. He was appointed KBE in 1939.

**BENEVOLENT ASYLUM** An 'Asylum for the Poor Blind, Aged and Infirm' was opened in Sydney in 1820 by the Benevolent Society of NSW. Funded by donations and government grants, the asylum provided work and residential care for 50 people. By June 1843 almost four hundred inmates were in residence, including a number of maternity cases. In 1862 a separate maternity ward was opened, and this later became a nursing school. The asylum closed in 1901 when the Society moved to new premises.

**BENNELONG**, (c1764–1813), was an Aboriginal from the Botany Bay–Port Jackson area. In 1789, at Gov Phillip's orders, he was captured and, before he escaped in May 1790, he learned to speak English and acquired a taste for European food and alcohol. In September he was involved in the exchange at Manly between Phillip and a group of Aborigines, during which Phillip was speared. He returned to the European settlement in 1791 and a hut was built for him on present-day Bennelong Point. In December 1792 he sailed with Phillip to England and was presented to King George III. The return voyage was delayed and he suffered from homesickness and the cold. He was described by Europeans as courageous, intelligent, vain and quick-tempered. However, failing to find acceptance with either Europeans or Aborigines he became alcoholic and quarrelsome and died in 1813.

**BENNETT, Agnes Elizabeth Lloyd** (1872–1960), medical practitioner, became in 1894 the first female science graduate of the University of Sydney. Unable to find employment, she went to Edinburgh to study medicine, graduating MB, CM in 1899 and in 1911 MD. She practised in New Zealand and from 1908–36 was chief medical officer at St Helen's maternity hospital, Wellington. During World War I, Dr Bennett was the first female commissioned officer and was decorated for her services. In 1948 she was appointed OBE.

**BENNETT, Henry Gordon** (1887–1962), soldier, served during World War I at Gallipoli and in France, where he attained the rank of brigadier-general. After the war Bennett went into business but retained his military interests as commander of the 2nd Division, Australian Military Forces. In 1941 he commanded the 8th Division in Malaya and was imprisoned along with most of the division after the fall of Singapore. Bennett made a controversial escape and returned to Australia to pass on his knowledge of Japanese tactics but he did not receive another command and in 1944 resigned from the army.

**BENNETT, Mary Montgomerie** (1881–1961), teacher and advocate of Aboriginal rights, grew up on a station in north Qld and shared her father's sympathetic views for Aboriginal society. Widowed in 1927, she devoted the rest of her life to teaching Aboriginal children in WA and promoting handicrafts among Aboriginal women. Mary Bennett wrote *The Australian Aboriginal as a human being* (London 1930), which was influential in the setting up of a royal commission in 1933 to inquire into Aboriginal problems in WA.

**BENT, Ellis** (1783–1815), judge advocate of NSW, arrived in Sydney in 1809 with Gov Macquarie as the first practising barrister-at-law in the colony. Bent recommended reforms including the establishment of a supreme court and the introduction of a jury system. In 1814, with his brother, Jeffery Hart Bent, he challenged Macquarie's authority and as a result was not appointed chief justice. He died soon afterwards.



**BENT, Jeffery Hart** (1780–1852), judge, spent three years from 1814 in the colony of NSW, having been appointed the first judge of the supreme court on the recommendation of his brother, Ellis Bent, the judge advocate. Governor Macquarie dismissed both brothers in 1816 after their refusal to allow ‘convict attorneys’ to practise in court while awaiting the arrival of two free attorneys from England.

**BENT, Sir Thomas** (1838–1909), politician, was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly as member for Brighton in 1871, having worked as a market gardener and rate-collector. As minister of railways (1881–83), he initiated a period of expansion coinciding with the land boom. After losing his seat in 1894, Bent was re-elected in 1900 and in 1904 became premier. In 1908 he was appointed KCMG.

**BERMAGUI MYSTERY** was the name given to the disappearance of five men from Bermagui on the NSW coast on 9 or 10 October 1880. They were Lamont Young, a government geologist camping in the area while examining the nearby Montreal gold diggings; his assistant, a German known as Schneider, whose real name was Karl Ludwig; Thomas Towers, a Batemans Bay fisherman; Bartholomew Casey, Towers’ father-in-law; and Frank Lloyd, another Batemans Bay seaman. Young was last seen near his camp late on the afternoon of 9 October; and Towers’ boat, on which Towers, Casey and Lloyd had been living, was seen leaving Bermagui early next morning. The boat was found on Monday 11 October on a reef near Dromedary Point, 14.5 kilometres to the north, with some of Young’s and Schneider’s effects nearby. No other trace of the men was ever found, despite protracted police investigations, the offer of large rewards, an appeal to Queen Victoria by Young’s parents, and a parliamentary inquiry. In the end the NSW government paid compensation to the men’s widows. Various theories on the mystery have been proffered: the boat could have been wrecked and the men swept away; they could have been kidnapped; Aborigines might have killed them; another view was that Schneider murdered the other four and escaped to Melbourne; and another was that a local man who quit the district suddenly had poisoned the five men, dumped their bodies at sea, and then wrecked the boat before fleeing to WA.

**Further reading** C. Pearl, *Five men vanished: the Bermagui mystery*, Melbourne 1978.

**BERRY, Sir Graham** (1822–1904), politician, arrived in Melbourne from London in 1852 and, after a successful storekeeping enterprise, entered politics in 1860 as legislative assembly member for East Melbourne and later Collingwood. Berry was a leading advocate of protectionism and was treasurer in the Duffy ministry of 1871, which introduced the first protectionist tariff. He was premier on three occasions between 1875 and 1881 but is best remembered for the ‘Black Wednesday’ incident of 8 January 1878, when he dismissed over 300 top civil servants saying that the government did not have enough money to

pay them. Berry left parliament in 1886 on becoming agent-general for Vic in London and was appointed KCMG that same year. Returning to Melbourne in 1892, he re-entered parliament and from 1894–97 was Speaker of the House.

**BIGGE, John Thomas** (1780–1843), lawyer, was born at Long Benton, Northumberland, and educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford. In 1806 he became barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple and served as chief justice in Trinidad from 1814 to 1818. Worried by the cost of the penal settlements and by rumours of lenient treatment of convicts, in 1819 Earl Bathurst appointed him commissioner of inquiry to examine the state of the colonies of NSW and Van Diemen’s Land. Bigge’s investigations in Australia lasted seventeen months, after which he wrote three reports that were submitted to parliament in 1822–23. In them, he criticised Macquarie’s administration, advocated retrenchment and regularity in convict discipline, and presented guarded suggestions for the governance of NSW during its transition from gaol to colony. From 1823 to 1829 Bigge scrutinised matters in the Cape, Mauritius and Ceylon, then lived alone in retirement until his death on 22 December 1843.

JOHN RITCHIE

**Further reading** J. Ritchie, *Punishment and profit*, Melbourne 1970.

**BIRDWOOD, William Riddell** (1865–1951), field marshal, was born in India, the son of an official of the Bombay government, and educated at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned in the British army in 1885 and in 1887 he transferred to the Indian army, serving on the North–West frontier and in South Africa, achieving promotion to major general in 1911.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War I Birdwood was appointed to command the Australian and New Zealand forces about to arrive in Egypt, where he directed their training before the invasion of Gallipoli. Birdwood planned the Australian and NZ army corps’ silent dawn landing on the peninsula, which occurred on 25 April, 1915.

Remaining with the Australian Imperial Force and the NZ Expeditionary Force on Gallipoli until its evacuation, Birdwood became (in Sir Ian Hamilton’s phrase) ‘the soul of Anzac’. He won the troops’ affection by touring their trenches, chatting with them and sharing the dangers of the peninsula by swimming in the shrapnel-swept water of Anzac Cove. Though opposing evacuation Birdwood completed the withdrawal from Gallipoli without loss.

In May 1916 he took I Anzac Corps to the western front (though continuing to administer the entire AIF), and commanded it during the terrible offensives of the Somme in 1916 and Bullecourt and Third Ypres in 1917. Birdwood commanded the Australian Corps until May 1918, and ended the war in command of the Fifth Army. Though holding high command, Birdwood retained his troops’ regard by, for example, writing to bereaved families and congratulating men winning awards.



In 1920 he made a popular tour of Australia and NZ, and returned to command the Indian Army before retiring in 1930. He became Baron Birdwood of Anzac and Totnes in 1928.

**BJELKE-PETERSEN, Sir Johannes** (1911–), politician, was born in Dannevirke, New Zealand, on 13 January 1911. Three years later his parents emigrated to Qld, taking up land at Kingaroy, northwest of Brisbane. At thirteen Bjelke-Petersen left Taabinga Valley School to work the farm full-time; the family property gradually expanded, and in partnership with his sister, Agneta, he diversified into land clearing, contract farming, peanut growing and aerial seeding. In 1946 he was elected to Kingaroy Shire Council.

In 1947 he entered the Labor-dominated state parliament as Country party MLA for the marginal electorate of Nanango, which was abolished in the 1949 redistribution. He has since represented Barambah, which incorporated most of his old electorate. Bjelke-Petersen first came to prominence when on 29 March 1949, during debate on an electoral districts bill, he outspokenly argued that the creation of separate electoral zones was 'a crafty and vicious piece of legislation . . . [which] will mean nothing but that the majority will be ruled by the minority'. In September 1963 he was promoted by Premier Frank Nicklin to the works and housing portfolio. His parliamentary speeches constantly stressed the dangers of socialism, the advantages of free enterprise and a belief in the forty-hour week. In the deteriorating industrial scene of the mid-1960s, Bjelke-Petersen's strong stand for law and order eventually helped him secure the police portfolio and, on 2 August 1968, the premiership.

After an unsuccessful leadership challenge in late October 1970, Bjelke Petersen consolidated his position, guided by Country (later National) party state secretary Mike Evans, state president Robert Sparkes, and his press secretary Allen Callaghan. By strongly supporting development and states' rights and by further tightening Qld's electoral gerrymander, he managed to dominate his coalition partner, the Liberal party, and to rout a factious Labor opposition. During the 1970s he banned political street marches and was hostile towards 'Canberra centralists' and advocates of Aboriginal land rights.

Since the state elections of 1983, Bjelke-Petersen has been able to govern in his own right with the aid of two Liberal ministers who defected to the National Party. He is, in 1986, Queensland's longest serving premier. His wife, Florence Isobel Bjelke-Petersen, nee Gilmour, born Brisbane, 11 August 1920, has been National party senator for Qld since 1980. Bjelke-Petersen was knighted in 1984.

ROSS FITZGERALD

**Further reading** R. Fitzgerald, *From 1915 to the early 1950s: a history of Queensland*, Brisbane 1984; H. Lunn, *Johannes Bjelke-Petersen: a political biography*, Brisbane 1984.

**BLACK THURSDAY** A memorably hot day accompanied by widespread bushfires in Vic on 6 February 1851. The temperature reached 44.4° Cel-

sus and at least ten people perished. William Strutt the artist, who witnessed the fires, used them as the subject of his most dramatic and vigorous painting, entitled '*Black Thursday*'.

**BLACK WAR** describes the violence between European colonists and the Aborigines of Tas in the late 1820s. Following an April 1828 proclamation ordering Aborigines to retire from settled areas or be forcibly removed, martial law was in effect until January 1832. As the military were given the right to shoot Aborigines on sight, the proclamation amounted to a declaration of war. In October 1830 three thousand soldiers, settlers and convicts made a human dragnet to drive the estimated three hundred remaining Aborigines into the Tasman Peninsula. Only two, an old woman and a boy, were captured; two were shot; and four or five troopers were killed by accident. Although the Protector of Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson, began to bring in the Aborigines that year in an attempt to give them refuge, he was too late to counter twenty-five years of harassment and violence. The full-blood Tasmanian Aborigines had been all but wiped out, though a number of Aborigines of mixed race survived. A small community on Cape Barren Island finally won recognition as their descendants in the 1980s. The brutality of penal society in Van Diemen's Land, and its attendant ignorance, cruelty and low regard for human life, especially for a people looked on as primitive savages, were largely responsible for the genocide of the full-blood Tasmanian Aborigines.

**Further reading** C. Turnbull, *Black war: the extermination of the Tasmanian Aborigines*, Melbourne 1974.

**BLACK WEDNESDAY** was a political crisis in Victoria precipitated by the premier, Graham Berry (1822–1904), after the legislative council refused to pass an appropriation bill. On Wednesday 8 January 1878 some 300 public servants were summarily dismissed along with county court judges, coroners and police magistrates. The official justification was to cut government spending and effect promised retrenchments. Most were later re-employed.

**BLACKBIRDING** was the term used for the recruitment of Melanesians for work on cotton and sugar plantations in Fiji, Samoa and Australia. Between 1863 and 1904 some 60 000 Pacific Islanders came to Qld. Some came voluntarily, but perhaps a quarter were coerced, tricked or misled. The experiences of the 5797 New Guineans recruited in such notorious ships as the *Ceara*, *Hopeful* and *Fanny* in 1883–84, and their mortality rate in Qld, prompted a royal commission in 1885. Stricter regulations followed, and the labour trade ceased in 1890. It was resumed in 1892, but finally ended in 1904.

**BLACKET, Edmund Thomas** (1817–83), architect, succeeded Mortimer Lewis as colonial architect in 1849, but resigned in 1854 to design the first buildings of the University of Sydney. Blacket dominated Sydney's ecclesiastical architecture for 40 years, with his introduction of adventurous high Victorian gothic





Face, by Charles Blackman, c1959.  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

design. His work included Christ Church St Lawrence, Sydney (1843) and St Stephen's, Newtown. His larger works have been criticised for a lack of originality, errors of scale, detail and organisation of space. His best work appears in smaller churches and other buildings where he retained control of form, construction and materials. Non-ecclesiastical works included Mort's wool stores.

**BLACKMAN, Charles Raymond** (1928– ), artist, was born and grew up in Sydney and studied at East Sydney Technical College before working as an artist on the *Sydney Sun*. He travelled extensively in the bush in the eastern states before settling in Melbourne. His first one-man exhibition in 1953 was on the theme of 'Schoolgirls' and caused a certain amount of controversy. Blackman's next major series of paintings in 1957 was on 'Alice in Wonderland' and again featured silhouette forms. In the 1960s he travelled and exhibited in Europe before returning to Australia in 1966. In 1977 he was appointed OBE.

**BLACKWOOD, Dame Margaret** (1909–86), academic, studied botany at the University of Melbourne and at Cambridge. A founding fellow of Janet Clarke Hall, and a member of the University Council 1975–83, her long service to the University of Melbourne culminated in the deputy chancellorship 1981–83. She was the first woman to hold the position.

**BLAIR, Harold** (1924–75), singer–teacher, was brought up on an Aboriginal mission station near

Ipswich, and worked as a farm labourer until it was suggested that he develop his baritone voice for a singing career. He studied at the Melba Memorial Conservatorium Melbourne and in 1949 in America with the baritone Todd Duncan. In 1962 he founded the Harold Blair Aboriginal Children's Project, which brought children from reserves and missions to Melbourne for holidays. He worked for the Victorian education department as a high school music teacher.

**BLAKE CASE** concerned the right of self-governing colonies to select governors. On 7 November 1888, Sir Henry Blake was appointed governor of Qld, but the colonial government then opposed the appointment, saying it should have been consulted. The matter was debated in SA, Vic and NSW. Although a new appointment was made, Blake having retired in the meantime, the Colonial Office refused to relinquish the right of nomination. State nomination was formally granted in 1930 although it had already become established in practice.

**BLAKE PRIZE** The Blake prize has been awarded each year since 1951 for a religious painting, drawing or sculpture. Mark Foy's Ltd was originally the major sponsor of the award but since 1963 the Commonwealth Banking Corporation has taken this role. Winners of the prize have included Donald Friend (1955), John Coburn (1960 and 1977), Leonard French (1963 and 1980), Desiderius Orban (1967 and 1971) and Rodney Milgate (1966 and 1977).

**BLAMEY, Sir Thomas** (1884–1951), field marshal, was born near Wagga Wagga, NSW. He joined the Australian army in 1906 and following the outbreak of war in 1914 was appointed to the staff of the 1st Australian Division. At Gallipoli and in France his ability as a staff officer became well known; in 1918 he was made chief of staff to Lieut-Gen Sir John Monash. He was Victoria's chief commissioner of police 1925–36, resigning amid controversy. He received a knighthood in 1935.

After the outbreak of World War II, Blamey was appointed general officer commanding (GOC), 1st Australian Corps, then GOC, Australian Imperial Force, Middle East. Following fighting in North Africa, he commanded the fighting withdrawal in Greece in 1941. Shortly after Japan's entry into the war, he became commander-in-chief, Australian Military Forces and then commander, Allied Land Forces, South-West Pacific Area. From September 1942 to January 1943 he commanded the operations that repulsed the Japanese in Papua. During 1944–45 he ordered a series of controversial, aggressive campaigns in Bougainville, New Britain, and the Wewak–Aitape area of New Guinea. He represented Australia at the Japanese surrender ceremony in September 1945.

In 1950 Blamey became the only Australian to attain the rank of field marshal.

**BLAXLAND, Gregory** (1778–1853), explorer and pioneer farmer, migrated from England to Sydney in 1805 with his brother John on the advice of Sir Joseph



Banks, a family friend. Both brothers became successful speculators and landowners, having been granted large areas of land by governors King and Macquarie. Gregory mounted an expedition across the Blue Mountains in 1813 with the aim of expanding his land tenure. He settled on land at Brush Farm (near Eastwood) where he successfully established vines and new strains of grass.

**BLIGH, William** (1754–1817), colonial governor, was born at Plymouth, and entered the navy in 1770, after being educated on HMS *Monmouth*. He served in the American revolutionary war, the West Indies and in the war against France.

Appointed governor of the penal colony of NSW in 1805, he arrived with the reputation of a man whose severity had precipitated the mutiny on HMS *Bounty* in April 1789. His abrasive manner, authoritarian behaviour and reformist zeal antagonised important sections of the community, including the officers of the New South Wales Corps, who saw in Bligh a threat to their trading and other illicit activities. The governor's actions in connection with the trial of John Macarthur on charges of importing a still and allowing a convict to escape overseas made the officers fearful for their own safety. At the instigation of John Macarthur, their commandant, Lieut-Col Johnston, removed Bligh from office on 26 January 1808. A year later Bligh returned to England, where he was promoted to rear-admiral following the court martial and cashiering of Johnston in 1811. He retired to Farningham, Kent, in 1813.

BRIAN H. FLETCHER

Further reading G. Mackness, *The life of Vice-Admiral William Bligh, R.N., F.R.S.*, Sydney 1931.

**BOAT PEOPLE** is a term applied to Vietnamese who fled their country by boat after the victory of the communist North Vietnamese. The first boat to reach Australia, carrying five refugees, arrived in Darwin on 26 April 1976. Arrivals increased steadily but the Australian government was slow to elaborate policy concerning the refugees.

In 1976 a report by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of Australia and Refugees argued for greater involvement of voluntary agencies in the resettlement of refugees from Indo-China, and recommended more financial support from community groups. On 27 May 1977 the Australian government made a formal commitment to help the refugees; however, it also maintained that the decision to accept refugees remained at all times with the government and that in some cases refugees might be better served if settled elsewhere.

On arrival refugees were sent to migrant centres; their movement thereafter was determined by employment opportunities. In 1979 the Community Refugee Settlement Scheme was established, whereby the government worked through community groups who 'adopted' Vietnamese families and assisted them to resettle.

In October 1981, the government, with community support, deported 146 people who arrived aboard a Thai fishing boat, claiming falsely to be Vietnamese

refugees. Between 1977 and 1981, 51 boats carrying 2011 people arrived in Australia, approximately 4 per cent of the total number of refugees accepted from Indo-China. It is estimated that there has been a 10 to 15 per cent mortality rate among those quitting Vietnam—that is, between 30 000 and 40 000 people have died in attempts to escape from the country.

TRACY BELL

Further reading B. Grant, *The Boat People: an 'Age' investigation*, Melbourne 1979; N. Viviani, *The long journey: Vietnamese migration and settlement in Australia*, Melbourne 1984.

**BODYLINE** After Don Bradman's success in the 1930 Australian tour of England the English cricket team touring Australia in 1932–33 devised a method to neutralise him. The English called it 'fast leg theory' but the Australian press called it 'bodyline bowling' because the ball was aimed at the batsman's body. Bodyline bowling created great resentment in Australia and the tour was nearly cancelled after the third test at Adelaide, when two Australian batsmen were seriously hurt.

**BOER WAR** Arising out of tension between Britain and the independent Boer (Afrikaaner) republics of Transvaal and the Orange Free State, the war began in October 1899 with a Boer invasion of the British colonies of Natal and Cape Colony. The Australian colonies immediately offered Britain troops to serve in South Africa and the first contingent, of NSW Lancers, arrived in November.

Eventually 16 000 Australian troops, mostly mounted riflemen, served against the Boers. They participated in the British advance to occupy the Boer capitals and in the campaigns against the Boer commandos during the war's guerilla phase from late 1900. Though at first enthusiastically supported, by the time of the Boer surrender in May 1902 the war had aroused widespread opposition, particularly when details of British 'concentration camps' became known. From 1901 eight battalions of Australian Commonwealth Horse were raised but saw little action. Some 500 Australians died in South Africa, about half from disease.

**BOGLE-CHANDLER CASE** Dr Gilbert Bogle, a research scientist, and Mrs Margaret Chandler attended a New Year's Eve party at Chatswood, Sydney, on 31 December 1962. They left the party at 3 am. Just after dawn their bodies were found next to the Lane Cove River. Their car was nearby. Forensic scientists believed the couple had been poisoned, but no traces of poison could be discovered. Many theories were then put forward, including one that foreign agents might have been involved—Bogle was to have gone to the United States in February 1963 on a special research project. However, the coroner found no indication of agents, murder or suicide. The case remains unsolved.

**BOLDREWOOD, Rolf** (Thomas Alexander Browne) (1826–1915), writer, was born in London and arrived in Sydney with his family in 1831. From 1844 he was



a farmer in various Vic and NSW country districts and from 1871 to 1895 he served as a police magistrate at Gulgong, Dubbo, Armidale and Albury respectively. After retirement from the public service he lived with his family in Melbourne. By 1881 he was a moderate success as a novelist but his reputation was established by *Robbery under arms* (1888), which had been serialised in the *Sydney Mail* from 1882 to 1883, and is considered a classic of colonial Australian fiction.

PATRICIA HOLT

**BOLTE, Sir Henry Edward** (1908– ), farmer and politician, was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly in 1947 and the following year became a minister in T.T. Hollway's Liberal party government. After a long period of factional disagreement within and between the conservative parties, which had given the state six years of unstable government, he became Liberal leader in 1953. Following the split in the Labor party and the defection of its Catholic Action group, which supported him, Bolte brought down the Cain Labor government in April 1955, alleging 'communist influence'. When the Liberals decisively won the May elections he began a record seventeen years as Victorian premier, during which his party's continuance in office through five subsequent elections depended on preferences from the

Democratic Labor Party (that of the Catholic former Laborites). The state prospered during these years, Bolte vigorously promoting Victoria's advantages to foreign investors. Other achievements were a large-scale expansion of secondary and tertiary education, and the formation of a ministry of Aboriginal affairs that led the nation in granting rights to Aborigines. He strongly advocated capital punishment and in 1967, against a national tide of protest, his government insisted on hanging Ronald Ryan, the last person executed in Australia. On retiring in 1972, he joined the boards of several corporations and sometimes appeared in public to campaign against Labor.

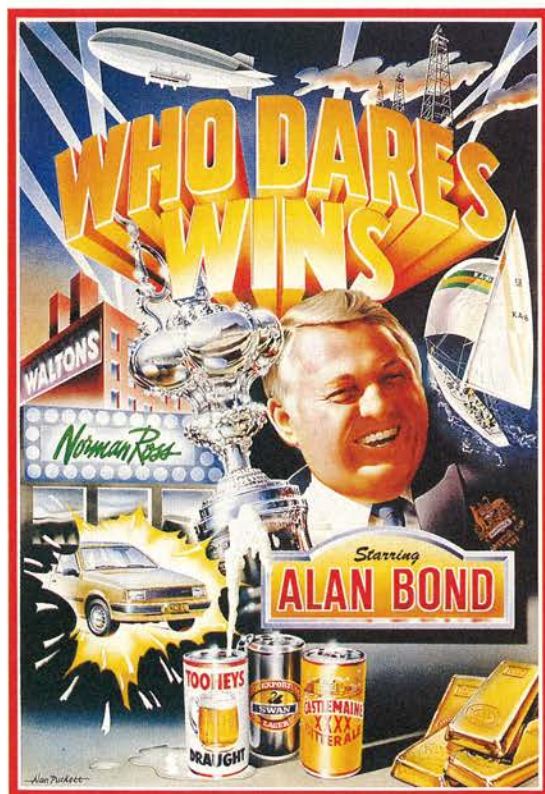
**Further reading** P. Blazey, *Bolte: a political biography*, Brisbane 1972.

**BOND, Alan** (1938–), businessman, migrated from Ealing, near London, in 1951 and enrolled at a boys' high school in Fremantle. He left just a year later to take a signwriting apprenticeship and set up his first company, Nu Signs Pty Ltd, when he was nineteen. Four years later he diversified into property development, ploughing the profits into ventures such as insurance, woodchipping, oil and gas and iron ore. In recent years, Bond Corporation's aggressive takeover strategy has given the company interests in media, brewing and retailing. Bond's 12-metre yacht syndicate won the America's Cup on its fourth attempt in 1983, ending 132 years of United States' domination of the contest.

**BONNER, Neville Thomas** (1922–), politician, first worked as a labourer, stockman and carpenter, and was later overseer at the Aboriginal settlement on Palm Island, Qld. Having become involved in the Liberal party, he was selected to fill a casual senate vacancy in 1971, thus becoming the first Aborigine to sit in federal parliament. He resigned from the party when it dropped him to an unwinnable place on its 1983 election ticket, and he unsuccessfully stood as an independent. The incoming Labor government appointed him to the board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

**BONNEY, Charles** (1813–97), became Australia's first overlander in March 1837 by taking 10 000 sheep south from the Murray River (near the present site of Albury) to the Goulburn River, his route becoming the road south into the Port Phillip district. In 1839 he helped overland the first stock from NSW to Adelaide. He was later a magistrate, parliamentarian and general manager of the railways in SA.

**BONWICK, James** (1817–1906), teacher, historian and writer, was sent out from England in 1841 with his wife Esther, to manage Hobart's Normal School. After two years they resigned and Bonwick worked variously in Tas, SA, Vic and England as a teacher, journalist, lecturer and, at one stage, gold digger. In London Bonwick uncovered a rich store of archival material on Australian history, from which in 1882 he published his *First twenty years of Australia*. He spent the next twenty years transcribing documents for col-



An advertisement for the sharebrokers Paul Morgan and Co urges readers to 'Take a share of the load. Buy a share in Bond', the 'greatest Australian entrepreneur ever'. *Bulletin*, 15 Apr 1986.



onial governments. In all he wrote over 60 books, including school texts, studies of history, geography and anthropology, and an autobiography.

**BONYTHON, Sir John Langdon** (1848–1939), newspaper editor and philanthropist, came to SA from England as a child. He joined the staff of the *Adelaide Advertiser*, later becoming its editor and sole proprietor for 35 years. He was a member of the federal House of Representatives 1901–06; he chaired the commonwealth literary fund for twenty years; he was council president of the SA school of mines and industries for 50 years and for 23 years was on the council of Adelaide University, to which he donated large sums of money.

**BOOTE, Henry Ernest** (1865–1949), journalist, was born in England in 1865. Coming from a poor background, he was forced to leave school at ten years of age to become a printer's apprentice. He emigrated from England in 1889, finding work in Brisbane as a compositor. He became editor of the *Bundaberg Guardian* and then moved to Gympie to become editor of the *Truth* newspaper. He worked closely with Andrew Fisher, a rising local Labor politician. He returned to Brisbane to edit the *Worker* newspaper. In 1911 he was appointed as a leader and feature writer for the *Australian Worker*, the official organ of the Australian Workers' Union, published in Sydney. He became the editor in 1914.

In 1916 and 1917 Boote assumed an important role—through the pages of the *Worker*—in the campaigns against conscription. He championed the cause of the gaoled IWW Twelve, and his efforts were partly responsible for their early release from prison when Labor returned to power in NSW in 1920. He also campaigned for 'one big union', but later lent his support in union campaigns against communism in the 1920s and 1930s. However, in 1940 he threatened to resign when an editorial he wrote favouring the 'Hands off Russia' resolution of the NSW Labor party was suppressed. He retired from the *Australian Worker* in March 1943, soon after the Curtin Labor government made provision for overseas conscription. He had campaigned against it, but ailing health forced him to withdraw from public life. FRANK FARRELL

**BORDER DUTIES** were the tariffs the six Australian colonies charged on goods traded across colonial borders. After the granting of self-government, the colonies developed their own tariff policies and, until federation and the introduction of free trade between the states, each colony imposed customs duties on goods imported from other colonies. The amount levied depended on whether the government of the day was 'free trade' or 'protectionist'. Vic, where David Syme of the *Melbourne Age* campaigned fervently for heavy duties, became increasingly protectionist as it sought to encourage local industry; by the late 1870s general duties of up to 45 per cent were usual, with duties on specific goods as high as 200 per cent. NSW generally followed free trade policies, imposing only low tariffs as a supplement to revenue. The other colonies followed a middle course.

Border duties were a contentious political matter; before party politics emerged, free trade versus protection was the issue that determined political alignments. The duties also exacerbated intercolonial rivalries, thus delaying the movement towards federation. Moreover, because political boundaries did not coincide with economic frontiers, they aroused great hostility in border areas. At border crossing points each colony erected customs posts, and in regions such as the Riverina, which was part of NSW but had strong economic links with Vic, these were much resented, as customs officials tended to treat citizens of the adjacent colony as foreigners. A uniform tariff or a colonial customs union, which would have resolved these problems, were often discussed, but were not introduced because business interests in the capital cities remained suspicious of such measures. Six intercolonial conferences in the period 1863–73 attempted unsuccessfully to resolve the problem of border duties. By the 1890s, however, economic union was a more accepted idea, and became one of the strongest arguments for federation.

**Further reading** C. M. H. Clark, *Select documents in Australian history 1851–1900*, Sydney 1977 (1955).

**BORDER POLICE**, a special mounted police force established in 1839 to serve remote pastoral districts in NSW. The force was brought into being by the Crown Lands Occupation Act, which included provision for a fee imposed on squatters' stock to defray the cost of policing pastoral areas. The Border Police were under the direction of the crown lands commissioners, and the force set up mainly through the efforts of Henry Fyshe Gisborne (1815–41), the first commissioner. The troopers were convict soldiers transported for military offences. They were not paid, but were given uniforms and food, having joined in the hope that satisfactory performance would be rewarded with early release. The force was meant to mediate disputes between squatters, maintain the peace between settlers and Aborigines, and deal with bushrangers. At peak strength it numbered 140 men deployed in eleven districts from the Darling Downs to Portland Bay. Complaints against the force were many: troopers were variously accused of thieving, being drunken and disorderly, being unnecessarily harsh in dealing with Aborigines but ineffective in preventing their raiding, and allowing bushrangers to escape. In 1846 the force disbanded, after the legislative council refused to grant finance for its support. By then many districts no longer required policing, and the end of transportation had cut off its supply of recruits.

**Further reading** J. O'Sullivan, *Mounted police in New South Wales*, Adelaide 1979; J. O'Sullivan, *Mounted police of Victoria and Tasmania*, Adelaide 1980.

**BOTANIC GARDENS** were established in all colonies in the nineteenth century, the first being in Sydney in 1816. Some of the better-known directors of the various gardens were Richard Cunningham, J.H. Maiden, Ferdinand Von Mueller, William R. Guilfoyle and Richard Schomburgk. Closely connected





Jardin botanique d'Hobart-Town, lithograph by P. Blanchard after  
L. le Breton, published 1841.

W. L. CROWTHER LIBRARY, STATE LIBRARY OF TASMANIA

with Kew in England and botanic gardens in other parts of the world, Australian botanic gardens were responsible for the introduction and the export of plants. In addition, they developed as public parks, and many were also established in country towns. A botanic garden devoted to Australian plants has been established in Canberra, ACT. VICTOR CRITTENDEN

**BOTTOM OF THE HARBOUR SCHEMES** were a series of tax frauds detailed as a result of a Victorian government investigation into tax evasion initiated in 1980. More than 6000 companies and almost \$1000 million were involved in the schemes. The frauds involved the selling of a company with a high unpaid tax bill to a promoter, who then transferred the company to a fake concern or an individual without any assets. In the process, the company would be stripped of funds and documentation would be lost or destroyed so that the taxes owed could not be recovered. Several notable figures were directors of companies that ended up 'at the bottom of the harbour'.

**BOUNTY IMMIGRANTS** In October 1835 Gov Bourke introduced a new scheme of assisted migration to co-exist with the government system. Known as the bounty system, it encouraged settlers to bring out migrants for whom, provided they fulfilled certain requirements, the settlers were paid a bounty. Married couples, children, unmarried females attached to families and single male mechanics or farm servants, within certain age limits, were eligible, if of good character and health. As regulations were relaxed

and bounties increased, the scheme degenerated into commercial speculation by shipowners who were appointed agents by the settlers, and it was virtually abandoned in 1842.

**BOURKE, Sir Richard** (1777–1855), colonial governor, was born in Dublin and educated at Westminster School, Oxford University and the Royal Military College, High Wycombe. In 1798 he entered the army as an ensign and he saw active service in the wars against France in the Netherlands, where he was badly wounded, and in South America and Spain. In 1814 he retired from active military duty with the rank of colonel and was awarded a CB. To increase his income he sought official appointments, and was acting governor of Cape Colony 1826–28, and governor of NSW 1831–37. His wife died in 1832 and was buried at Parramatta, NSW.

Through his initiative, the spreading pastoral occupation of NSW was regulated by legislation, and civil government was established in the area now called Victoria. Schemes of assisted free immigration were put into practice, trial by civil jury in criminal cases was introduced, the power of magistrates over convicts was curtailed, the press was freed from censorship and, aided by government funds, the numbers of churches and clergy of all denominations greatly increased. Bourke advocated the introduction of a partly elective legislature, and tried to establish a system of state controlled public education; he failed in both. The community was split into factions, with the 'emancipists' or 'liberals' supporting the governor



and the 'exclusives' or 'Botany Bay Tories' in opposition. One of the latter was C.D. Riddell, the colonial treasurer, whom Bourke suspended from office. When the secretary of state did not uphold the suspension, Bourke resigned, and left NSW in 1837. His statue, erected by public subscription, stands outside the State Library of NSW.

Bourke was knighted in 1835 and gazetted lieutenant-general and colonel-in-chief of the 64th Regiment in 1837. After leaving New South Wales he was offered the governorships of Cape Colony and Jamaica, also the command-in-chief of the troops in India. He declined all these and, living in retirement in Ireland, occupied himself with local affairs and with editing the correspondence of his kinsman, Edmund Burke, which he published in 1844. HAZEL KING

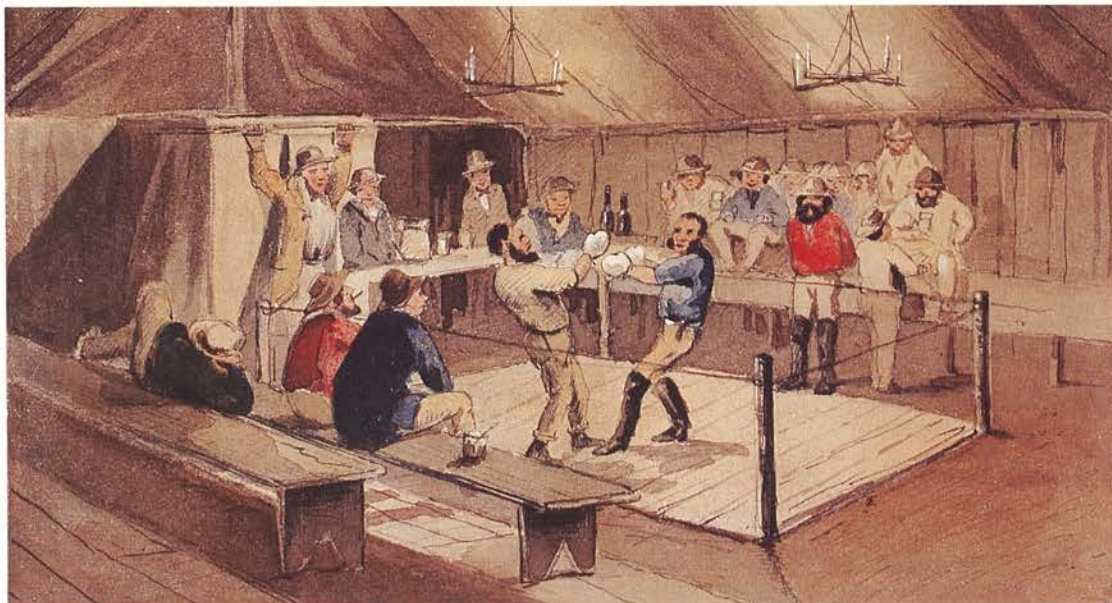
**Further reading** H. King, *Richard Bourke*, Melbourne 1971.

**BOXING** For most of the nineteenth century fights in Australia were with bare knuckles, the often brutal contests lasting up to 100 rounds. After the death of a boxer in Sydney in 1884, bare-knuckles boxing was banned and under the more scientific tutelage of Larry Foley, a former boxer turned promoter, Australian boxers gained international renown. Australia's most famous boxer was probably the middleweight Les D'Arcy, who went to America in 1916 amid charges of disloyalty to the war effort. Unable to arrange any bouts, he died there in 1917. Though still popular between the wars, boxing never regained the public interest it had before 1914. Australia's first official world boxing champion was Jimmy Carruthers, who held the world bantamweight title 1952–53.

**BOYD, Arthur Merric Bloomfield** (1920– ), artist, eldest son of potter Merric Boyd and grandson of artist Arthur Merric Boyd, held his first exhibition in Melbourne in 1936 after living and studying with his grandfather. Throughout the war years Boyd served as an army cartographer in Melbourne and continued to exhibit with the Contemporary Art Society. He worked as a painter, sculptor and potter, sharing a studio at Murrumbena until 1949 with John Perceval. Boyd moved to London in 1959 and established his international reputation with his first exhibition the following year. Over the next twenty years Boyd alternated between residence in Suffolk, England and Australia, returning in 1971 to a creative arts fellowship at the Australian National University. In 1975 he donated a major collection of his life's work to the Australian National Gallery.

**BOYD, Benjamin** (1800–51), financier and pastoralist, was born in Scotland. Arriving in Australia in 1842, the following year he opened the Sydney branch of the Bank of Australia, which he had floated in London in 1839. Boyd quickly became a major landholder, and built a coastal base for his whalers at Twofold Bay, NSW, which he named Boydtown. Financial difficulties led to the collapse of his bank in 1849, and Boyd set sail for the Californian goldfields in his last possession, the ship *Wanderer*. He disappeared when he went ashore in the Solomon Islands.

**BOYD, Martin a'Beckett** (1893–1972), writer, fourth son of painter Arthur Merric Boyd, was educated in Melbourne and trained as an architect before serving in the British army and RAF in World War I. Subsequently he settled in England and began his



McLaren's boxing saloon, Main Road, Ballarat, watercolour 1854 by S. T. Gill. A tent has been erected to accommodate the ring and spectators. More often at this time, the contestants boxed without gloves.

MITCHELL LIBRARY



career as a writer, achieving recognition with his first novel *The Montforts* (1928). His most famous works were the largely autobiographical quartet of novels, including *Outbreak of love* (1957), which depicted, out of chronological sequence, the relationships and fortunes of the Langton family, from about 1880 to the outbreak of World War I. He lived in Rome from 1958 and his autobiography was published in 1965.

**BOYD, Robin Gerard Penleigh** (1919–71), architect and writer, second son of Penleigh Boyd the painter, studied architecture and was appointed the director of a division of the Institute of Architects in 1947. Boyd worked in the field of domestic and institutional buildings and was exhibits architect of the Australian Pavilions at Expo 67 in Montreal and Expo 70 at Osaka. He was appointed to the National Capital Planning Committee in Canberra in 1967. Boyd was the writer of several highly acclaimed books including, *The Australian ugliness* (1960), and in 1971 was a member of the judging panel for the new Houses of Parliament of Westminster. Boyd was posthumously awarded the Architecture Critic's Medal of the American Institute of Architects.

**BOYER, Sir Richard** (1891–1961), chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission 1945–61, was born at Taree, NSW, served at Gallipoli in 1915 as an officer of the YMCA and in France 1916–17 as a lieutenant in the AIF until wounded at Passchendaele. From 1920 he lived on his pastoral property near Charleville in Qld. He was active in the affairs of graziers' associations, the Australian Institute of International Affairs and the League of Nations Union. The Menzies government appointed him to the ABC in 1940. He accepted the chairmanship in 1945 only after John Curtin affirmed the ABC's 'special independence of judgment and action'. As chairman he cherished that independence, and was defending it against an act of interference by a later Menzies government when he died. He was appointed KBE in 1956.

**Further reading** G. C. Bolton, *Dick Boyer: an Australian humanist*, Canberra 1967.

**BRABHAM, Sir John Arthur (Jack)** (1926–), racing-car driver and designer, began racing in midget cars in 1947 after wartime service as an air force mechanic. Successful in local senior competition, he went overseas (1955) and won many races. He was world champion three times (1959, 1960, 1966). In association with the Australian firm Repco Ltd, he developed the Repco–Brabham car, with which he won many championships from 1963.

**BRACK, (Cecil) John** (1920–), painter and teacher, taught painting at Melbourne Grammar School and the National Gallery of Victoria until his resignation in 1968 to paint full-time. His work is carefully directed towards synthesis of subject, line, colour and tone, with flat surfaces and linear perspective.

**BRADDON CLAUSE** The premier of Tas, Sir Edward Braddon, devised the formula in the draft

commonwealth bill which determined commonwealth–state financial relations for the first decade after Federation. Following disagreement among the colonies at the federal convention of 1897–98 over an appropriate revenue-sharing scheme, Braddon proposed a clause to which, with some amendments, delegates eventually agreed. As carried into the constitution, this ensured that for the first ten years after Federation the commonwealth would not retain more than one-quarter of its annual revenue from customs and excise, and would distribute to the states the remaining three-quarters, plus any surplus from its one-quarter share. The clause was intended to give the central government a source of revenue while preventing an erosion of states' financial rights, but in practice it proved unsatisfactory. It denied the commonwealth valuable funds while failing to ensure that the revenues were distributed equitably among the states, and for these reasons critics dubbed it the 'Braddon blot'. Through an agreement the prime minister, Alfred Deakin, reached with state premiers in 1909, the clause was replaced by a commonwealth undertaking to pay each state 25s per head of its population. When this took effect in July 1910, the commonwealth had paid the states £74 million, or 81 per cent of the customs and excise revenue collected.

**BRADFIELD, John Job Crew** (1867–1943), civil engineer, solved the difficulty of connecting Sydney's north shore with the city with his design for a single arch cantilever bridge. The design was approved by a parliamentary committee in 1913, but war intervened. He later supervised its construction when it went ahead in 1922, and on 19 March 1932 thousands watched Premier Jack Lang declare Sydney Harbour Bridge open. At the same time Bradfield promoted his plans for an electrified metropolitan railway system. The first stage of the underground city section of this opened in 1926. Other major projects were the Storey and St Lucia bridges across the Brisbane River, the Hornibrook highway and the University of Queensland.

**BRADMAN, Sir Donald George** (1908–), cricketer and businessman, was born at Cootamundra and brought up in Bowral. Bradman taught himself the skills of cricket by hitting a golf ball with a stump as it rebounded off a brick tank wall, and by fielding it as it bounced at various angles off a rounded fence rail. At the age of twelve he was already a formidable batsman. At fourteen he was employed in the real estate firm of Percy Westbrook.

In Bradman's first full season with the Bowral Town Cricket Club, 1925–26, he demonstrated his capacity for mammoth scores: his first double century, 234 against Wingello, is remembered because it was the first encounter between Bradman and Bill O'Reilly. Later in the season he scored 300. Bradman's rise to the top was rapid. By 1928–29 he was already in the Test side. His advance was made possible by a move to the Sydney office of Percy Westbrook. After it closed, he was employed with Mick Simmons.





Don Bradman, more renowned as a batsman than a bowler, rolls his arm over at the nets before the 1938 match at Lord's, where he captained the Australian team.

MAGAZINE PROMOTIONS

Bradman, small (170cm) and slight (65kg), possessed a wonderful eye, nimble feet and had great concentration. Uncoached, Bradman was 'an incurable original' with a unique style. He could play orthodox shots on important balls, but frequently defied orthodoxy by playing across the ball, invariably with great effect.

It was on the 1930 tour that the Bradman legend was firmly established. Some claimed that his technique would prove faulty under English conditions, but he proved them wrong with 1000 runs in May and a phenomenal record-breaking 974 Test runs in just seven innings. Bradman was so successful in 1930 that the English captain, Douglas Jardine, masterminded 'bodyline' tactics to try to reduce him to normal scores during the 1932-33 tour of Australia. The tactics lowered Bradman's Test average for the series to 56.57 (an aggregate of 396 runs), though he did score a century in Melbourne, which helped Australia win that Test. Such was the public outcry in Australia that bodyline tactics were not used again.

In 1934 Bradman was appointed a national selector. He was captain of Australia by 1936-37. Two seasons before this he had moved to SA to join the stock and share firm of cricket board member, H.W. Hodgetts. He later established his own company.

During the 1930s Australia became 'Bradman mad'. Sydneysiders referred to 'our Bridge and our Bradman' before and even after he left for Adelaide. He was also the subject of a hit song and featured in a film. Huge crowds flocked to cricket grounds whenever he was due to bat. Many of the crowd filed out when he was dismissed, much to the humiliation of the following batsmen.

Bradman is probably the most famous sportsman Australia has produced. Figuratively, he stood head and shoulders over all his contemporaries for more than two decades. His Test average of 99.94 is far better than that of any other player. But it was not just the number of runs Bradman scored, but the speed with which he scored them, often a run a minute, which enabled him to demoralise his opponents. The Bradman legend was augmented by the depression, the introduction of radio, and the 'bodyline' series. He also played in an era in which team sports attracted bigger crowds than ever before.

After Bradman retired from cricket he was knighted in 1949. He continued to play a major role in the administration of cricket, with several terms as chairman of the Australian Board of Control between 1960 and 1972, and he was a national selector until 1972.

RICHARD CASHMAN

Further reading M. Page, *Bradman: the illustrated biography*, Melbourne 1983.

**BRADY, John** (1800?-71), Roman Catholic bishop, was sent out as a missionary from Ireland, first to Sydney (1838), and then to the Swan River settlement, WA (1843). He took a particular interest in the conversion of Aborigines and in 1845, returning to Europe to recruit missionaries, he published in English and Italian *A descriptive vocabulary of the native language of W. Australia*. That same year he was consecrated bishop of Perth in Rome. Once back in the colony, however, he experienced problems, culminating in violent disagreements with his coadjutor, Dom Serra. He was suspended and went back to Ireland, though he never resigned his see.

**BRADY, Mathew** (1799-1826), bushranger, was transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1820 for forgery. In 1824, with six others, Brady escaped by boat from Macquarie Harbour. Over the next two years, Brady led a gang of bushrangers in Van Diemen's Land whose activities seriously impeded settlement. He was captured and executed in 1826.

**BRAHE, Mary Hannah** (May), nee Dickson (1885-1956), composer, worked as a musician in Melbourne before going to London in 1912. She wrote hundreds of songs, many recorded by the best, most popular singers of the day. After she settled in Sydney in 1939 her work, less prolific, included many songs and tunes for children.

**BRENNAN, Christopher John** (1870-1932), poet, was born in Sydney and given a Catholic upbringing and education. From 1885 to 1887 he attended Riverview College as a 'Cardinal's scholar' intended for the priesthood. But after leaving Riverview he went to



Sydney University, where he acquired a reputation for brilliance and rebelliousness, graduated in classics and philosophy, privately reached an unorthodox but now accepted view of the descent of the manuscripts of Aeschylus and, most importantly, lost his Catholic faith.

In Berlin on a travelling scholarship (1892–94), instead of studying for a doctorate, Brennan spent his time visiting beer houses and art galleries, attending concerts and operas, and reading modern European literature, especially French symbolist poetry. In 1893 he became engaged to his landlady's daughter, Anna Elisabeth Werth and, inspired by the example of the symbolist 'livre composé', decided to write verse seriously. Both commitments were made in the hope of finding a substitute for his lost Catholic faith, an 'Eden' in nuptial union and poetic symbol. His ambitious poetic quest, although hampered by cumbersome diction, produced some challenging poems such as 'Lilith'. But it ended in spiritual defeat, resolutely confronted in his best-known sequence, 'The wanderer: 1902–', after which he stopped writing verse regularly. His marriage, which had started happily in 1897, ended in terrible bitterness, exacerbated by tensions generated during the war.

At the end of 1922 Brennan left his wife for another woman, Violet Singer, who died in March 1925 in a tram accident. Three months later, in the wake of his marital scandal, he lost his position as Associate Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Sydney University, although he had been an exceptional scholar, critic and teacher. His life in following years was marked by grief, poverty and alcoholic degradation. Towards the end the darkness lifted a little: friends helped him with work and money, and four months before his death on 7 October 1932 he returned to the faith of his childhood. AXEL CLARK

**Further reading** A. Clark, *Christopher Brennan: a critical biography*, Melbourne 1980.

**BRIDGES, Sir William Throsby** (1861–1915), soldier, was born in Scotland and came to Australia in 1883, joined the permanent artillery in NSW in 1885, and saw active service in the Boer War. His courage and ability resulted in steady promotion, and in 1910 he was made brigadier-general and given command of Duntroon. On the outbreak of World War I he was asked to organise a force for overseas service. He led the AIF until he was mortally wounded at Gallipoli in May 1915.

**BRISBANE, Sir Thomas** (1773–1860), governor, entered the British army at the age of seventeen. His interest in navigational astronomy earned him the respect of his military colleagues and he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1812. After the Napoleonic wars, debts compelled him to seek employment, preferably in NSW where he could conduct astronomy experiments. Favoured with the support of Sir Joseph Banks, the Duke of Wellington and the Duke of York, he was appointed Lachlan Macquarie's successor as governor of NSW and arrived in Sydney in November 1821.

Brisbane quickly introduced new policies for convict management, land grants and finance. His administrative style was radically different from that of the autocratic Macquarie. He sought advice widely but believed that his officials should manage the details. Brisbane permitted his subordinates considerable independence. Many colonists saw this attempt to distance himself from day-to-day administration as an abdication of responsibility.

A personal supporter of a free press and free speech, Brisbane permitted press reforms which led to the establishment of the first competitive newspaper, the *Australian*. He favoured the introduction of trial by jury. The first legislative council met under his government and Brisbane regarded it as a forum for constructive criticism.

A tall imposing figure with considerable personal charm, Brisbane floundered in the rough intrigues of colonial society and politics. He privately deplored the morals of Botany Bay and isolated himself and his family as much as possible at Parramatta where he built an observatory.

Brisbane's policies were overruled by the Colonial Office. His administrative relations with his colonial secretary, Frederick Goulburn, provided a reason to recall both officials after four years. Brisbane returned to his native Scotland where he continued his scientific work and managed his estates. CAROL LISTON

**BRISBANE LINE** E.J. Ward, minister for labour and national service in John Curtin's wartime Labor government, claimed in October 1942 that the Menzies and Fadden governments had formulated a defence plan that would have surrendered northern and western Australia to the Japanese. Ward alleged that the previous governments had drawn a line and had agreed to defend only the populous parts of Australia—Brisbane and the south. Some army planners had previously drawn up schemes to concentrate available forces on defending the Newcastle–Sydney–Wollongong area and other major cities, but the Menzies and Fadden governments, sheltering behind the illusion of the invulnerability of Singapore, did not formally approve of detailed plans for the defence of the Australian mainland. Nevertheless the 'Brisbane line' became one of the myths of Australian politics.

**BRITISH INFLUENCE IN AUSTRALIA** Though the word 'British' inspires relatively low levels of identification in the United Kingdom, in Australia it has been used in two sharply different ways. Until recent times, Australian society identified its basic characteristics as being within a 'British' framework, using the word to denote positive values which merged with the meaning of 'Australian'. More recently, a sense of largely pejorative comparison has predominated, which has tacitly recognised a kinship but unfavourably compared British to Australian values.

These problems of usage are compounded by the social and institutional changes which both countries have experienced since 1788, and also by their constant contact. There are similarities between the two which largely originate from Britain but have devel-





*The British squire shakes 'hands across the sea' with the Australian farmer, seemingly oblivious of the continents between.*

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

oped in their own way in Australia—preferences in beer-drinking and football, for instance—but at no point can it be said definitively that the two societies have diverged, and the continuing contribution made by British migration to post-goldrush Australia has been underestimated. Institutionally, British influence may appear obvious, but the appearance may be deceptive. Thus, the Australian university system is 'British' (in so far as it resembles higher education in Scotland) but has taken on many features from North America. Similarly, Australian parliamentary government emulates many Westminster forms; however, when closely examined, it is seen to resemble the American model: whereas the British parliament in the twentieth century has become, in effect, a unicameral legislature (house of commons) advised by a review body (house of lords), the commonwealth parliament has increasingly become a bicameral legislature of virtually equal chambers, more on the lines of the American congress.

It is consequently better to think of British influence in the historical context of Britain's own development and expansion into Australia. Four points may be suggested about the significance of this context to the development of Australia. First, the formative period of European settlement took place during a century in which British naval and economic power was predominant in the world. As a result, no other power secured a foothold on the continent. Second, that same century saw within the British Isles the crucial

advance of English at the expense of the Celtic languages, none of which took root in Australia. The uniform predominance of the English language may thus be regarded as a major 'British' influence in Australia, but paradoxically one which has opened the country in recent times all the more to the dominance of American culture. Third, English and Scottish institutions provided models for emulation and points of reference for development, while their imitation conferred legitimacy and therefore a measure of stability within a new society. Fourth, the varied national elements originating from the British Isles have combined in a remarkably homogeneous and therefore distinct blend in Australia. Although sectarian feeling has been pervasive, open conflict has been rare, and real divisions involving English, Welsh, or Scottish national identities have never appeared. The separateness of the Irish has maintained longer, via religion and education, but they, too, have merged into the mainstream 'British'–Australian culture. Possibly the relative lack of cultural diversity has had disadvantages for Australia, but thus far the homogeneity has been an undoubted strength, and is the more striking given the failure of a single national or cultural identity to emerge within the British Isles themselves.

A feature of this distinct Australian development within a context shared with a country 12 000 miles away is that the interchange has been two-way, although less emphasised in the northern hemisphere.



Britain's transition to mass democracy involving organised labour movements was eased by observation of Australia. Australian terms and Aboriginal words, from 'cooee' to 'test match', have passed into standard English. Britain's popular culture, arts, professions and universities have long benefited from the presence of expatriate Australians, and Australia has long been seen as a different, freer kind of Britain. The collapse of British world power has removed from this sense of relationship much of the earlier metropolitan superiority, and may help the people of both countries to assess the significance of their shared background.

GED MARTIN

**Further reading** G.C. Bolton, *Britain's legacy overseas*, Oxford 1973; K.S. Inglis, *The Australian colonists*, Melbourne 1974.

**BROADCASTING** Wireless telegraphy—transmissions, point-to-point, in morse code—and experimental wireless telephony constitute the prehistory of broadcasting. Controlled by the commonwealth government, under the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1905, wireless telegraphy was used mostly by shipping and by the hundreds of amateurs, licensed or unlicensed, able to afford the equipment; after World War I the development of radio telephony saw these 'hams' multiply.

In 1913, a dispute over patent rights saw the formation of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd (AWA). Led by E. T. Fisk, AWA was to become a key manufacturer of both transmitters and receivers. Close to non-Labor, especially to W.H. Hughes, Fisk was to influence considerably the development of radio between the wars.

Officially, broadcasting began in 1923 with the AWA-inspired 'sealed' sets. Listeners' licence fees went to the stations and sets were sealed so that they received only those stations for which they were licensed. In 1924 a 'dual system' of 'A' stations—financed mainly by a general licence fee and limited advertising—and 'B' stations—financed mainly by advertising—was introduced. In 1932 the eight 'A' stations (government-owned since 1929, but privately operated) were reconstituted as the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) to be financed by listeners' licence fees (abolished 1973). Radio Australia, established in 1939 as a shortwave overseas service but taken over by the department of information in 1944, again became the ABC's responsibility in 1950.

Commercial radio has always attracted capital from adjoining fields. Though concentration of ownership has been limited by government regulations, AWA and a few newspaper publishers own large numbers of stations. From the late 1930s, the growth of radio corporations transformed commercial radio.

In 1948 the Australian Broadcasting Control Board (ABCB) was established by the Chifley Labor government to monitor commercial radio and to make recommendations on licences. Thereafter, no important changes to the structure of broadcasting were made by government until 1974–75 when another Labor government established a new non-commercial and non-government sector, 'public broadcast-

ing', by licensing two 'fine music' stations and twelve tertiary educational institutions. Most were allotted space on the new FM band, some on AM; for years commercial interests and the ABCB had claimed that no additional frequencies were available. A new (ethnic) government sector was also established with the funding of 2EA and 3EA. At the same time, the ABC established a multilingual 'access' station, 3ZZ (closed, 1977), and a youth station, 2JJ.

In 1977, under a Liberal–National party government, responsibility for the licensing (via public enquiry) of commercial and public radio shifted to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal; the ABCB was abolished. The Special Broadcasting Service was also established, with responsibility for ethnic radio. In 1978 the granting of new commercial FM licences diversified ownership; by the mid-1980s FM broadcasting was substantially affecting audiences notwithstanding the switch by some AM stations to stereo. From 1986 remote settlements were able to pick up the ABC (a corporation after 1983) via satellite.

Developments in radio have always been determined by political judgments (based less on policy than made ad hoc) and on commercial and other pressures, not just by the possibilities opened up by the available technology. (See also TELEVISION)

MURRAY GOOT

**Further reading** Y. Allen and S. Spencer, *The broadcasting chronology 1809–1980*, Sydney 1983; M. Armstrong, *Broadcasting law and policy in Australia*, Sydney 1982; K.S. Inglis, *This is the ABC*, Melbourne 1983.

**BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY LIMITED (BHP)** for much of the twentieth century has been Australia's largest company. A syndicate of seven people with mining claims in the Barrier Range of western NSW formed the firm in 1885 with £18 000 capital. Among them was Charles Rasp, a stockman who in 1883 had discovered rich silver-lead-zinc deposits in the area. BHP began mining at Broken Hill in 1885, started smelting in 1886, and was soon one of the world's chief lead and silver producers.

In 1889 BHP opened a smelter at Port Pirie, SA, and in 1898 stopped smelting at Broken Hill in favour of expanding operations at Port Pirie. As a flux for these works it used iron ore from Iron Knob on the other side of Spencer Gulf, where it obtained a lease in 1899. In 1911, when it was exhausting its Broken Hill ore body, BHP turned its attention to iron and steel, using its Iron Knob ore. In 1915 it opened a steelworks at Newcastle where ample coal for smelting was available, and soon helped make Australia self-sufficient in iron and steel.

BHP diversified its activities further after World War I by obtaining collieries and a shipping fleet. In 1935 it took over the Port Kembla works of Australian Iron and Steel Pty Ltd, its only local competitor, thus gaining a monopoly of Australian steel production. It proceeded towards complete control of the industry during the late 1930s by taking over a number of steel fabrication firms. At this time its out-







but not that of Bourke. After 1836 he acquiesced in his church's loss of special status under the church acts, but was baffled by continued British and colonial government interference in its affairs during the 1840s. He pioneered the revival of synodical government to secure ecclesiastical autonomy, and died in London in 1853 while conferring with other colonial bishops on its implementation.

As a legislative and executive councillor he opposed the alienation of vast tracts of crown land at low prices, helped to devise Gipps's squatting policy and the colony's first assisted immigration program, won support for family rather than single adult male immigration, led the first opposition to the revival of transportation, advocated the extension of savings banks, and fought for denominational education. In 1843 the *Sydney Morning Herald* described his government reports on capital and industry in the colony as a 'surer guide to accurate conclusions, than in any other publications'.

His memorials are the six dioceses created during his episcopate, the King's School, Parramatta, and St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. He is buried inside Canterbury Cathedral, the first person so honoured since the English Reformation. G.P. SHAW

**Further reading** G.P. Shaw, *Patriarch and patriot: William Grant Broughton 1788–1853, colonial statesman and ecclesiastic*, Melbourne 1978.

**BRUCE, Minnie (Mary) Grant** (1878–1958), journalist and writer of children's books, was born in Sale, Vic, and matriculated from a local ladies' college with honours in 1895, subsequently publishing some short stories. In 1900 she moved to Melbourne, working first as a secretary, then as a staff member of the *Age* and the *Leader*, while also contributing short stories and articles to various Australian publications. In 1910 Ward Lock published her first novel *A little bush maid*, the first of the fifteen-volume Billabong series she was to write, along with other works of children's fiction. In 1913 she travelled to London where she wrote for the *Daily Mail*. In 1914 she returned to Australia, and married George Bruce. After twelve years in Ireland, Europe and England, the couple returned to Australia in 1939, and Bruce became active in broadcasting and other war work. After her husband's death in 1948, she returned to England, though still visiting Australia occasionally, remaining there until her death.

**BRUCE, Stanley Melbourne, Viscount Bruce** (1883–1967), politician, was born in Melbourne and educated at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, where he was school captain, and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated BA in 1905. He read commercial law and was called to the Bar, but from 1907 when he became chairman of Paterson, Laing & Bruce, he was mainly engaged in managing the English side of the importing business. An elder brother managed the Australian side of the business and they exchanged positions in 1910 and 1914. Bruce married Ethel Dunlop Anderson in 1913. He enlisted with a British regiment and was twice wounded in the Gallipoli campaign, receiving the Military Cross and

the Croix de Guerre avec Palme. On leave in London, he resumed management of the family firm, and on his brother's enlistment came to live in Melbourne, where he took his military discharge.

In 1918 Bruce successfully contested Flinders (commonwealth) by-election as a Nationalist. His father and several of his wife's relatives had won parliamentary seats. Bruce was in London for business reasons when appointed Australian delegate to the League of Nations in 1921, and on his return he became treasurer. When Earle Page refused support to W.M. Hughes in 1923, Bruce negotiated the Bruce–Page coalition government which, when defeated in 1929, was the second longest serving commonwealth ministry. As prime minister during that period, he pursued policies directed to the development of Australia's rural and manufacturing industries and negotiated the financial agreement under which commonwealth control of state loan policies greatly increased. Bruce was detested by the union movement for attempting to deport two militant trade unionists, which was held to be unconstitutional, and for taking action against striking waterside workers. His government was defeated on a proposal to give the states sole responsibility for arbitration, which the Nationalist premiers had forced on Bruce. He travelled in Europe, returning to politics in 1932 as assistant treasurer in the Lyons ministry. He was Australia's main negotiator at the Ottawa Conference, and from 1933 to 1945 he was Australian high commissioner in London.



*Stanley Melbourne Bruce in the House of Representatives. Cartoon by L. F. Reynolds. Melbourne Punch, Feb 12, 1925.*

BOOROWA PRODUCTIONS



Bruce deplored the slide into another European war and gained an international reputation while representing Australia at the League of Nations. He declined R.G. Menzies' offer in 1939 to appoint him as the first Australian minister to the United States, though he had long recognised the importance of the US for Australia's defence, and had repeatedly sought presidential assurances of assistance against any Japanese attack.

After the war Bruce chaired the British Finance Corporation for Industry, with responsibility for the rehabilitation of small-scale British firms, and was also chairman of the World Food Council of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation from 1946 to 1951. He was given the title Viscount Bruce of Melbourne in 1947. From 1951 to 1961 he was chancellor of the Australian National University but absent in London except for ceremonial occasions. He died in London on 25 August 1967.

HEATHER RADI

**Further reading** A. Stirling, *Lord Bruce: the London years*, Melbourne 1974.

**BUCKLAND RIVER RIOTS** occurred at the Buckland goldfield in Vic, where Chinese goldseekers outnumbered the other diggers approximately five to one. On 4 July 1857 some 50 to 100 European and American diggers expelled the 2500 Chinese, attacking and looting as they drove them downstream. Although several Chinese drowned or later died from exposure, the expulsion was less violent and less concerted than those which occurred at Lambing Flat.

**BUILDERS' LABOURERS' FEDERATION** The Australian Building Construction Employees' and Builders' Labourers' Federation, better known as the BLF, was established in 1910 and is perhaps Australia's most militant union. Although it has been deregistered many times, it has been able to maintain its 35 000 members' over-award payments. During the 1970s the BLF became famous for the green bans it imposed which resulted in the preservation of historic areas such as the Rocks in Sydney. Under the leadership of Norman Gallagher in the 1970s and 1980s, the BLF became increasingly involved in public controversy. The deregistration of the union in 1986 threatened to erode its membership.

**Further reading** J. Munday, *Green bans and beyond*, Sydney 1981; P. Thomas, *Taming the concrete jungle: the builders' labourers' story NSW*, Sydney 1973.

**BULLETIN** was founded in 1880 by J.F. Archibald and John Haynes. Originally it was a folded broadsheet, the familiar 'red' cover being introduced at a later date. Despite early difficulties the publication was successful and was popularly known as 'The Bushman's Bible'. The founders envisaged a paper that would be significant in promoting the arts and in setting a high political standard, and the 1890s era is now regarded as the origin of our national culture. Many famous writers and artists such as Henry Lawson, 'Banjo' Paterson, 'Breaker' Morant, Will Dyson and Norman Lindsay in the early period, and Vance

Palmer, K.S. Prichard, Douglas Stewart and Eric Jolliffe in the 1930s, developed under the *Bulletin's* guidance. By 1939 the paper's popularity had declined and in the 1950s its format changed to a small magazine with a pictorial cover. The present content covers a variety of subjects and includes sections of political comment by feature writers, sections on the arts, on business and investment. In addition, the *Bulletin* now incorporates the international *Newsweek*.

The magazine is published each Wednesday by Australian Consolidated Press Ltd and the September 1985 circulation was over 123 000.

**BUNNY, Rupert Charles Wulsten** (1864–1947), painter, studied in Melbourne, London and Paris. He exhibited his work in England and France and received honours including a bronze medal at the Paris Exhibition in 1900. He first exhibited in Australia in 1901 and in 1911 presented successful shows in Melbourne and Sydney. His works included landscapes and portraiture. Deeply affected by World War I, he drew inspiration from mythology and the classics. In the 1920s he resumed landscape painting in France. Economic hardship caused his return to Melbourne in the 1930s.

**BUNYIP ARISTOCRACY** In July 1853, a select committee of the NSW legislature proposed a new constitution to include an upper house elected from an order of hereditary colonial baronets. The proposal, which was popularly associated with William Charles Wentworth, was dubbed the 'bunyip aristocracy' by Daniel Deniehy at a meeting held at the Victoria Theatre, Sydney, on 15 August. Historians have often portrayed the episode as a symbolic clash in which an outdated attempt to impose a British-style House of Lords on a free society was destroyed by Australian irreverence. In reality, the proposal fell short of a hereditary aristocracy, and had comprehensible roots in current conservative thinking about social stability in new societies—a crucial question, as eastern Australia had to face both the ending of the gold boom and the transition to local self-government. Deniehy's sarcasm was probably less well-received by contemporaries than posterity's subsequent lauding might indicate, and the 'bunyip aristocracy', which may have been put forward mainly as a cover for a nominated second chamber, had already been virtually dropped by its few supporters before the Victoria Theatre Meeting.

GED MARTIN

**Further reading** Ged Martin, *Bunyip aristocracy*, Sydney 1986.

**BURGMANN, Ernest Henry** (1885–1967), bishop, was ordained into the Anglican priesthood (1912) on graduating ThD from Sydney University. He served in parishes and colleges in NSW and England until elected bishop of Goulburn (1934). He was responsible for renaming the diocese Canberra–Goulburn (1950), and for moving its headquarters to Canberra (1964). A prominent liberal and social reformer, he took special interest in Anglican youth affairs.





*Motor omnibuses became increasingly important in the tourist industry, as well as for urban transport, from the 1920s onwards. Advertisement for the services of Days Motor Tourist Service Ltd, based in Sydney. B. P. magazine, Sept-Nov 1930.*

BOOROWA PRODUCTIONS

**BURKE, Robert O'Hara** (1821–61), explorer, was born in Ireland and served in both the army and the Irish Mounted Constabulary before emigrating to Melbourne in 1853. There he joined the Victorian police and was appointed senior officer in the Beechworth district. Burke demonstrated a lamentable lack of bush skills in 1857 when he set out to restore order on the Buckland goldfield where a riot had broken out. He got lost. Burke continued his career in the police force until 1860 when he was selected to lead an expedition set up to cross the continent from south to north. Ill planned and led by a man with no bush skills, it was doomed from the start.

At Menindie, NSW, Burke established his first depot. Splitting his party of seventeen, Burke, with his second in command, John Wills, went on with a party of six men and fifteen camels for Coopers Creek where a second depot was established. After waiting for six weeks for the party at Menindie to join him, Burke with Wills, King and Gray went north in December taking camels and provisions for twelve weeks. The small party reached the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria on 11 February 1861. On the return journey, with provisions running out, Gray died. Burke, Wills and King reached the Coopers Creek depot on 21 April only to find it abandoned. Wills and Burke died in a vain attempt to reach Mount Hopeless 240 kilometres away. King survived only because he was looked after by Aborigines. JOHN McQUILTON

**BURNET, Sir (Frank) Macfarlane** (1899–1985), medical scientist, was born at Traralgon, Vic. He gained overseas acclaim when with Dame Jean Macnamara he discovered there were at least two poliomyelitis viruses. He then investigated influenza viruses and vaccines and from 1944 to 1965 was director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, and research professor of experimental medicine at Melbourne University. In 1960 he was joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine (with Sir Peter Medawar of Britain) for his work on immunological tolerance.

**BURROWS, Donald Vernon** (1928– ), jazz musician, a versatile flautist, clarinetist and saxophonist, began playing as a soloist in the ABC radio show band when only sixteen. He later formed his own quartet, which stayed together for fifteen years and won acclaim at overseas jazz festivals. A composer and teacher as well as performer, he instituted the jazz studies program at the NSW Conservatorium of Music (1973), later becoming its first permanent director (1980).

**BUSBY, James** (1801–71), viticulturalist and civil servant, arrived in NSW in 1824 and in 1832 was appointed British resident in New Zealand, responsible to the governor in Sydney. His instructions were to maintain law and order, but he went further in



attempting to create a unified Maori state under British protection. He was superseded by the formal establishment of a colony and the appointment of a lieutenant-governor in 1840. ALAN ATKINSON

**BUSES** first became common in the 1920s, when regular private bus services began in all capital cities and some country centres. Government bus services began in Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide (1925), Canberra (1926), Sydney (1932) and in Brisbane and Perth (1940). A number of other cities including Newcastle (1935) and Darwin (1949) also have government bus services. In most of the cities the buses were designed to serve suburbs not catered for by trams, but in Sydney the state government gradually replaced some tram services with buses. With the closure of the tramway systems in the 1950s and 1960s in all capital cities except Melbourne, buses became the major form of urban public transport, carrying many more passengers than the railways. Government-operated trolley bus services existed in a number of cities including Adelaide (1932–63), Perth (1933–69), Sydney (1934–59), Hobart (1935–68), Brisbane (1951–69) and Launceston (1951–68). Like trams, trolley buses were replaced by conventional buses. In many middle and outer ring suburbs buses are the only form of public transport. By the end of the 1970s, some 548 million passenger journeys were being made annually by buses, compared with 320 million by train and 101 million by tram.

PETER SPEARRITT

**BUSH NURSING ASSOCIATIONS** have operated since 1911 in Vic and NSW and from 1914 in other states. They were formed to provide a variety of nursing services by professionally trained staff to isolated rural communities having no medical care facilities. In each state there are autonomous bush nursing associations, with subsidiary locally managed country centre associations which are largely self-supporting, and supply services according to local needs.

**BUSHFIRES** There were wildfires in Australia long before European settlement, some caused by lightning strikes or spontaneous combustion, but most arising from the activities of the Aborigines. Many writers, both those contemporary with early European settlement and modern scholars, have remarked on the use of fire to flush out game, to encourage regeneration of plant growth or just for fun. A general carelessness with fire also seems to have existed. It is now generally accepted that in many areas Australian vegetation is now thicker and has a different species mix because fires are now very largely prevented. Because pre-European fires were more frequent, they were of lower intensity than modern uncontrolled bushfires.

Few accurate records of bushfires were kept before volunteer brigades were formed early in the twentieth century, with state co-ordinating bodies following: for example, the Victorian Bush Fire Brigades Association was formed in 1928.

Each summer sees potentially serious fires break

out in various parts of the country. The greatest hazards occur when a hot, dry summer follows a season of strong growth promoted by good winter rains and possibly a number of years without fires. The eastern and southeastern coastal belt of NSW and Vic, parts of Tas and the southwest of WA are the most vulnerable areas for forest fires, while grass and scrub fires can devastate huge areas of the inland.

To name only some of the worst outbreaks—in NSW, perhaps the most extensive fires were in 1926. The Blue Mountains and other bushland areas near Sydney have experienced many severe fires, in part because there is so much human activity. Particularly severe fires swept through grazing and wooded country in the Canberra, Yass, Goulburn and Cobar districts in 1984–85. Vic has experienced many serious outbreaks, particularly in Gippsland and in the Dandenong Ranges northeast of Melbourne. Especially bad fires affecting wide areas of the state occurred in 1851 (Black Thursday), 1926 (31 deaths), 1939 (Black Friday, 2 million hectares burned, 1000 homes lost, 71 deaths), and 1983 (Ash Wednesday, 71 deaths and



*Carelessness has always been a major theme in publicity against bushfires in Australia. This poster, which is reminiscent of propaganda posters in World War I, was produced by the Forests Commission of Victoria, c.1940.*

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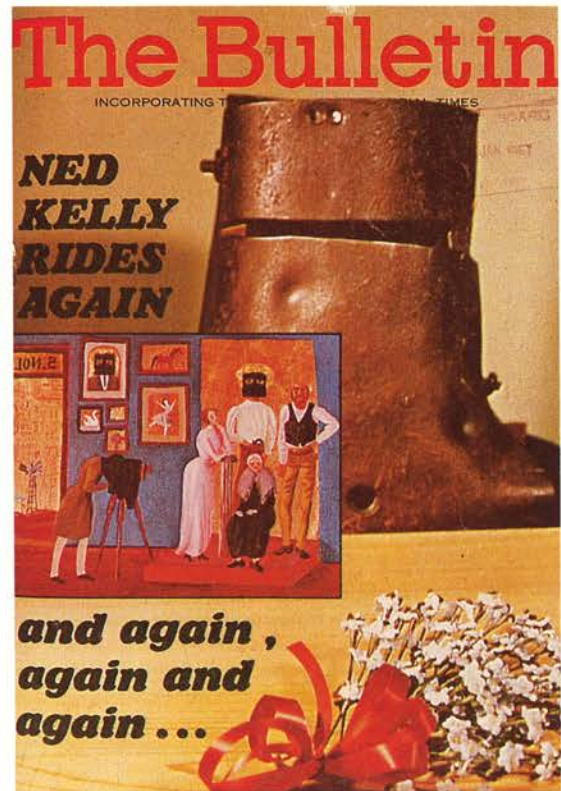
2000 homes lost in Vic and SA). In addition to Ash Wednesday 1983, SA has experienced severe fires in the Adelaide Hills and Mount Lofty Ranges on many occasions, the worst in the Adelaide Hills being in 1980. Tasmania experienced its worst bushfires in the summer of 1966–67, when suburbs of Hobart and smaller communities to the south were burned, with the loss of 59 lives and 1300 buildings. WA's worst years were in 1949 and 1961. Qld and the NT, largely for climatic reasons, are not as prone to bushfires as the southern states, although three million hectares of grazing land was burned in southwestern Qld in 1951.

**BUSHRANGING** Although initially coined to describe familiarity with the bush, bushranging soon took on a new meaning and was used to describe rural crime. It usually involved stock theft, robbery and murder, but was broad enough in the nineteenth century's first decade to include cannibalism. Bushranging became an integral part of Australia's settlement history. The first bushranger was at large in 1790, barely two years after the arrival of the Europeans, and in 1900, as the colonies finalised plans for federation, the Governor brothers were eluding capture in the New England area. Barely a decade during the century was free of some activity described as bushranging.

Three major outbreaks of bushranging occurred in Australia. The first began in 1810 with the appearance of Whitehead's gang in Van Diemen's Land and ended in 1844 with the capture of Martin Cash. Although Jack Donohoe, the original 'wild colonial boy', was at large on the mainland during this period, the outbreak was dominated by the Vandemonians. It sprang from the convict system, and was the most violent of the major outbreaks. The authorities in Van Diemen's Land attempted to suppress bushranging with outlawry acts and rewards. When such measures failed, they were forced to offer amnesty to the gangs then operating. In Van Diemen's Land, bushranging had impeded and, during the 1820s almost halted, rural settlement.

The second period followed the discovery of gold in 1851. Brigandage on the roads was common, and the incidence of stock theft rose as ill-equipped police forces proved incapable of handling the problems posed by the sudden increase in population. The native born in NSW dominated this period, and many of the outbreaks were interrelated. The Lachlan men, led by Frank Gardiner and Ben Hall, had been joined by the Clarke brothers before the latter began their own raids. Dan Morgan took advantage of the concentration of the police force in the Lachlan district in pursuit of Hall to take control of the Riverina. So, too, did 'Thunderbolt' (Frederick Ward) in New England. There were minor outbreaks in Qld (John McPherson), WA (Joseph Johns) and Vic, where Harry Power marauded a not-too-concerned northeastern Vic and took on a young apprentice, Ned Kelly.

The last period provided the classic example of Australian bushranging, the Kelly outbreak, and also gave Australians their most controversial folk hero. Many of the elements of the previous outbreaks came



*In the Bulletin, 31 Dec 1966, M. H. Ellis attributed the legend of Ned Kelly to 'the power of nationalist propaganda and the imagination of the poets and Irish romanticists who have extolled him'.*

together with the Kellys: the convict background, the native born with bush skills which few of the police could match, the awareness of a bushranging tradition, little respect for the forces of law and order, and a clash between local mores and outside authority.

A striking characteristic of bushranging was its concentration in three colonies, Van Diemen's Land, NSW and Vic, and the absence of major outbreaks in SA. Perhaps it is significant that SA had no convict legacy and that planning and order marked its settlement history.

Most bushrangers enjoyed only fleeting notoriety and were quickly forgotten, but a small number became part of Australian folklore and were transformed into Robin Hood figures. These are the men celebrated in the ballads: Michael Howe and Mathew Brady in Van Diemen's Land; Jack Donohoe, Ben Hall, Dan Morgan and 'Thunderbolt' in NSW; Ned Kelly in Vic. During their brief and often violent criminal careers, they were able to rely on a local population for support and sympathy. Howe, Brady and Donohoe received support from emancipist agriculturalists and convict shepherds. Ben Hall was supported by the Lachlan's small emancipist squatters. Morgan and Thunderbolt relied on itinerant bush workers. Ned Kelly found sympathy with the selectors.



These were the men who practised, albeit often imperfectly, a bushranger tradition with its courtesy towards women, flashness, defiance of authority, loyalty and courage. To their supporters they became symbols of resistance and protest, and with death they passed into legend and folklore. (The historian Hobsbawm has described such men as social bandits.) Their existence suggests not only that Australian bushranging and its legends reflect something of the Australian character, but that our rural settlement history was a more contentious process than is generally realised.

JOHN McQUILTON

**Further reading** G.E. Boxall, *History of Australian bushrangers*, London 1902; J. McQuilton, *The Kelly outbreak 1878–1880: the geographical dimensions of social banditry*, Melbourne 1979.

**BUSSELL, Grace** (1860–1935), heroine of a shipwreck, was born near Busselton, WA. In December 1875 the steamer *Georgette* ran aground on the rocks and began breaking up. Bussell, whose father's property was nearby, rode with a stockman Sam Isaac to the wreck and rode into the heavy surf rescuing children whose lifeboat had capsized. For four hours she continued this rescue work, until she and her horse were exhausted. Subsequently she became known as 'Grace Darling of the west' and was awarded the medal of the Royal Humane Society and a gold watch by the British government.

**BUTTERLEY, Nigel Henry** (1935– ), composer, played the piano from the age of six and began composing at an early age. After studies at the NSW Conservatorium of Music, in 1962 he went to London to study with Priaulx Rainier. Butterley returned in 1963 and composed 'Laudes' which was inspired by European churches. In 1966 he won the Italia prize for a musical work for radio, 'In the head the fire', commissioned by the ABC. Butterley continued to compose throughout his career as a producer for the ABC from 1955 to 1972 and from 1973 as lecturer in contemporary music at Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.

**BUVELOT, Abram-Louis** (1814–88), artist, was born in Switzerland. Arriving in Melbourne in 1865 after eighteen years in Brazil, he bought a photographer's studio, but soon returned to his main interest, landscape painting. He exhibited his work in national and international exhibitions and in 1869 the National Gallery of Victoria made its first purchases of his work. Buvelot was well respected as a realistic painter of the Australian landscape.

**BYLES, Marie Beuzeville** (1900–79), solicitor and writer, was in 1924 the first woman admitted as a solicitor in NSW and practiced for over 40 years. She wrote several books on travel and eastern philosophy and pioneered bushwalking and conservation in Australia. Chiefly through her efforts Boudi National Park just north of Sydney was created.



Summer afternoon, Templestowe, by Abram-Louis Buvelot, 1866.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA