



1823 Gregory Blaxland received a silver medal from the Royal Society of Arts in London for wine produced on his property in the Dundas area. Blaxland brought vines from the Cape of Good Hope and discovered a species resistance to blight. Medal by W. Wyan.

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July William Charles Wentworth submitted a patriotic poem entitled 'Australasia' for the chancellor's prize at Cambridge University. His entry came second and was soon published.

28 August The secretary of state, Earl Bathurst, announced the appointment of Lieut-Col George Arthur as lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land. He also announced that the lieutenant-governor would have increased powers, including control of the colony's finances, and would report directly to the secretary of state, but he stopped short of making the colony entirely independent of NSW.

August Archibald Bell jr discovered a new way across the Blue Mountains — the route that became the present 'Bell's Line of Road'.

August Elizabeth Fry, an English prison reformer, submitted to the British government suggestions for improving conditions of female convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land. These included the erection of a building for their accommodation at Hobart, the appointment of a matron and schoolmistress for their management and the provision of uniforms for the women.

4 September Rev Thomas Hobbes Scott, previously Commissioner Bigge's secretary, proposed a new educational system for NSW, including a college designed as a future university.

3 October Earl Bathurst ordered that areas of land throughout NSW should be set aside for the maintenance of the clergy and schools. He forecast that the rental income from these lands would secure for every child 'a good, practical English Education'.

13 October NSW and Van Diemen's Land received a third charter of justice, which provided for the creation of supreme courts as they exist today.

22 October John Oxley, the surveyor-general of NSW, was sent to examine Port Bowen, Port Curtis and Moreton Bay, north of Sydney, and report upon the capacity of each location to support a new convict settlement. He reported enthusiastically on Moreton Bay and became the first European to discover the river there, which he named the Brisbane, after the governor.

1823 Macquarie's Native Institution was moved from Parramatta to a reserve soon known as 'Black Town'.

1824

15 March The Bank of Van Diemen's Land opened in Hobart.

1 April Brisbane opened a public school in Sydney and appointed William Cape as master.

19 April Maj Frederick Goulburn, the colonial secretary of NSW, claimed that the governor's orders and proclamations were invalid unless they went through his office.

1 May Brisbane complained to the secretary of state, Earl Bathurst, that Maj Goulburn was exceeding his authority and interfering with the work of government.

10 May The new Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land was opened by the recently appointed chief justice, John Lewes Pedder.

12 May Lieut-Col George Arthur arrived at Hobart and two days later assumed office as lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land.

10 June The first sittings of the Supreme Court of NSW took place. Francis Forbes, who had arrived on 5 March, was chief justice.

12 June Fr Philip Conolly wrote to his bishop stressing that all future clergy sent to NSW should speak the Irish language.

18 June Lieut-Col William Sorell left for England, carrying a petition from the colonists of Van Diemen's Land to the King requesting an independent administration.

1 July The foundation stone of Scots Presbyterian church in Sydney was laid on the allotment next to the military barracks.

22 July The *Sydney Gazette* reported that eight Aborigines and five Europeans had been killed in clashes at Bathurst.

27 July Brisbane received instructions from Earl Bathurst that a settlement with a military station should be formed on the northwest coast of Australia to give security to the eastern trade route and allow British merchants to break the Dutch monopoly of trade in the East Indies.

July The Australian Agricultural Company was established by an act of the British parliament. It was granted 1 000 000 acres of grazing land near Port Stephens.

12 August The formation of a legislative council was proclaimed in NSW. It met for the first time on 25 August when the oaths of office were administered to its members, William Stewart, lieutenant-governor, Francis Forbes, chief justice, Maj Frederick Goulburn, colonial secretary, James Bowman, principal surgeon and John Oxley, surveyor-general.

14 August To suppress the conflict between Aboriginal and European populations, Brisbane proclaimed martial law west of the Blue Mountains. The detachment at Bathurst was strengthened to 75 men and local magistrates rode with soldiers in pursuit of the Aborigines. The 'most warlike chieftain' was taken to Sydney to receive a pardon from the governor and many of his 'tribe' attended the annual gathering of Aborigines held on 28 November. Martial law ceased on 11 December.

21 August An anonymous letter in the London *Morning Chronicle* criticised Brisbane's government, accusing him, among other things, of spending too much time at astronomical observations and of sending convict women to a government establishment for the purposes of prostitution.

August Acting on one of Commissioner Bigge's recommendations, Brisbane approved the sale of crown land at 5s per acre. Previously all grants by the crown had been subject only to a nominal 'quit' rent.

2 September In NSW, a court of requests began operation to deal with claims for small debts.

20 September Capt J.J. Gordon Bremer took formal possession of Melville Island and on 26 September established Fort Dundas on its western shore. In November, Bremer resigned command of the settlement and sailed for India, leaving behind about one hundred free labourers, soldiers and convicts.

24 September A new penal settlement was established at Redcliffe Peninsula on the shores of Moreton Bay. It was shortly moved to the present site of Brisbane.

28 September The first act of the legislative council of NSW confirmed the validity of promissory notes and bills of exchange drawn in Spanish dollars.

14 October The first issue of the *Australian* appeared. It was published by Dr Robert Wardell and William Charles Wentworth who set out to demonstrate through the paper the utility of 'a free press' and its benefits to the country and its political institutions. Although the newspaper was published without government authority, Brisbane allowed it to proceed and the next day lifted censorship on the *Sydney Gazette*.

17 October Hamilton Hume and William Hovell left the settled districts of NSW to explore the south of the colony. Crossing the Murrumbidgee River, they reached and named the Australian Alps. On 16 November they reached and named the Hume River, later renamed the Murray, and on 16 December they arrived at Port Phillip. Their journey opened up a vast area to grazing.

28 October In a despatch to Earl Bathurst, Lieut-Gov Arthur pressed for legislative and executive autonomy for Van Diemen's Land. He argued that the process of the law was constantly hampered by the irregular shipping movements between the two seats of government, especially when prompt action was needed in emergencies such as dealing with bush-rangers.

14 November A memorial service was held in Sydney for Macquarie, who had died in London on 1 July.

28–29 December Owing in part to the quarrel between Brisbane and the colonial secretary, Maj Frederick Goulburn, Earl Bathurst sent letters recalling both to London.

1825

1 January In accordance with Commissioner Bigge's recommendations, the secretary of state, Earl Bathurst, instructed Brisbane to institute a general survey of the territory to permit more thoroughly planned settlement. NSW and Van Diemen's Land were to be divided into counties, hundreds and parishes. Brisbane was to set aside one-seventh of all land in each county for the support of the Church of England and an educational system under its control. The income from this land was to be managed by the Church and Schools Corporation.

26 January A party of ex-convicts and native-born colonists, with William Charles Wentworth in the chair, met at Hill's Tavern in Sydney to celebrate the 37th anniversary of the colony. The toasts included 'the land, boys, we live in'.

January Scurvy broke out among the convicts left at Fort Dundas on Melville Island. The following month, it broke out among the soldiers. A vessel sent to Java for supplies was captured by pirates and its crew murdered.

17 February In Port Jackson, the captain of HMS *Slaney* seized the merchant ship *Almorah* for attempting to import tea in breach of the trade monopoly granted to the East India Company. As the *Almorah* had been hired to import stores for the government, the incident embarrassed Brisbane.

6 May The first archdeacon of NSW (including Van Diemen's Land), Thomas Hobbes Scott, arrived in Sydney. He was to be an *ex officio* member of the legislative council in place of the surveyor-general, ranking next in precedence to the governor. His appointment implied the formation of a regular ecclesiastical hierarchy in the colonies, instead of an establishment of quasi-military chaplains.

28 May A detachment of troops and convicts was sent from Sydney to reoccupy Norfolk Island. Earl Bathurst intended the island to become a penal settlement for 'the worst description of Convicts'.

May A hulk of 600 tonnes was fitted out in Port Jackson for use as a gaol, since the gaol that was under construction would not be completed for four years.

Brisbane anticipated that it would be 'a great accession of strength and terror to the Police of the Colony'.

10 June The Van Diemen's Land Company was established by an act of the British parliament. Its purpose was to grow fine wool in Van Diemen's Land.

14 June An order-in-council created the independent colony of Van Diemen's Land.

16 July Maj-Gen Ralph Darling received a commission as governor of NSW and a separate commission as governor of Van Diemen's Land. Where the commissions of previous governors of NSW had been almost identical, this commission introduced a number of changes, including an extension of the NSW boundary six degrees to the west.

21 October At a public meeting in Sydney, William Charles Wentworth attacked those whom he called the 'exclusives', who opposed representative government and the rights of ex-convicts.

October A board of trustees, with John Macarthur as chairman, was formed to supervise the establishment of the Sydney Public Free Grammar School, a school for boys, which was not associated with any church. The trustees included the ex-convict merchant Mary Reibey, who thus became the first woman in Australia, apart from the wives of governors and clergy, to hold public office.

1 December Brisbane sailed for England.

3 December As he passed through Hobart on his way to Sydney, Maj-Gen Darling proclaimed the separation of NSW and Van Diemen's Land.

18 December Darling arrived at Sydney and took up his position as governor.

19 December In conformity with his instructions from Downing Street, Darling appointed an executive council for NSW, comprising the lieutenant-governor, the chief justice, the archdeacon and the colonial secretary. The governor was required to consult the council 'in all things' and, wherever possible, to act with its concurrence and advice.

1826

5 January Darling announced a reorganisation of government departments to make the administration of NSW more efficient.

January Darling received an address from William Charles Wentworth and others urging constitutional reform, including an elected legislature.

February Joseph Tice Gellibrand, attorney-general of Van Diemen's Land, was suspended from office after a commission of inquiry had found him guilty of unprofessional conduct, including associating with a prominent opponent of the government, R.L. Murray, editor of the *Hobart Town Gazette*. The suspension was later confirmed by the secretary of state, Earl Bathurst.

18 March Eliza Darling, wife of the NSW governor, announced plans to establish a 'female school of

industry' to train poor girls for domestic service. The teaching of needlework, spinning, reading, writing, arithmetic and religion was intended to produce virtuous wives and pious mothers.

March Several bushrangers, including Mathew Brady, were captured near Launceston. They were executed in May.

7 April Sydney's first streetlight, an oil lamp in Macquarie Place, was lit.

1 May Darling restricted the rights of ticket-of-leave holders by ordering that they should no longer receive publicans' licences or convict servants.

19 May The first issue of Sydney's third newspaper, the *Monitor*, was published. Its editor, Edward Smith Hall, immediately attacked Darling's administration for its oppressiveness.

28 June After being petitioned by Eliza Walsh, who had tried for five years to obtain a land grant, Earl Bathurst ruled that there was no reason why a single woman should not receive a land grant, provided she possessed sufficient capital and could fulfil the other stipulations governing its acquisition. Walsh lived on a small farm near Richmond that she had purchased. Her herd of cattle had increased to 1080 and she had about £1000 capital.

3 July The Bank of Australia, the second bank in Sydney, opened for business.

12 July Sterling was made the official currency.

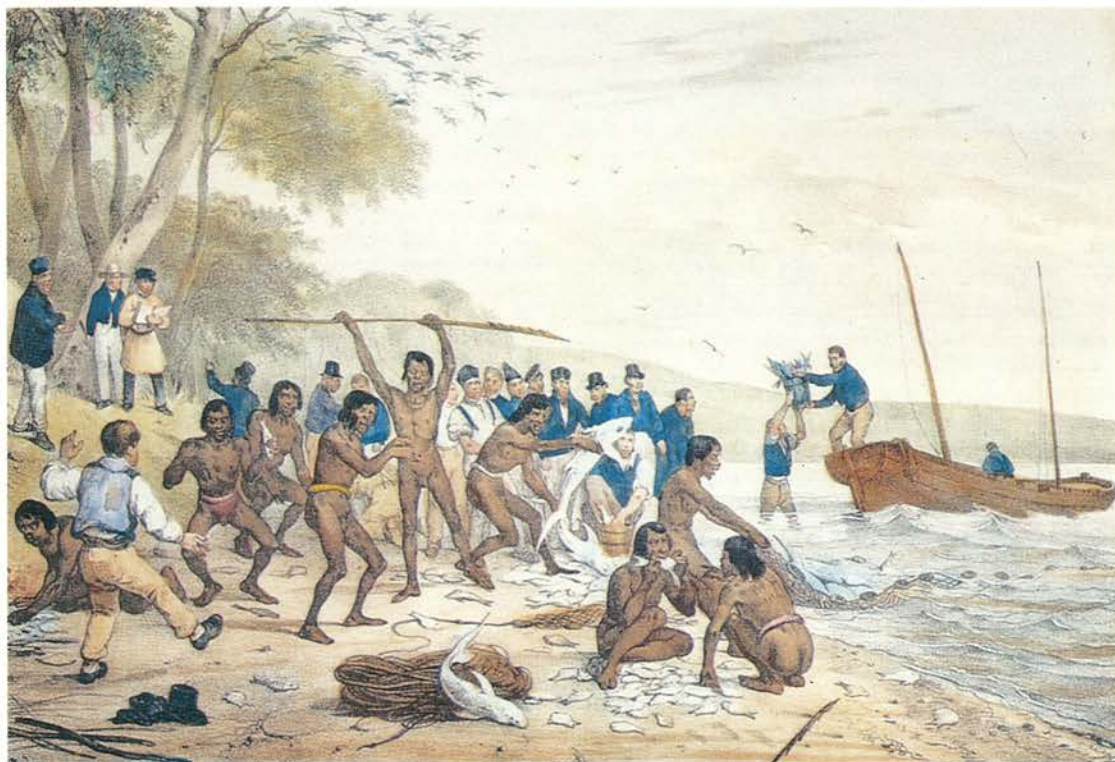
26 July The first of the colonial 'blue books' detailing the statistics of NSW, was sent to England.

4 September A public meeting took place at Stodart's Hotel, Hobart, to arrange for game to be brought to the colony from England. Deer, partridges and hares arrived in Van Diemen's Land during the next few years.



22 November 1826 Private Joseph [James] Sudds dies in prison, five days after being sentenced to hard labour by Governor Darling. Woodcut by an unknown artist from the cover of a pamphlet by William Charles Wentworth attacking Darling.

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November 1826 French sailors from *L' Astrolabe*, under the command of Dumont d'Urville, share a catch with Aborigines at Jervis Bay. Lithograph after Louis de Sainson, topographical draughtsman on the scientific expedition.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

4 September Eleven Hunter River landholders petitioned Darling for more protection by the mounted police against Aborigines who harassed their stockmen. Darling replied that if the landholders would only live on their properties they could do more to promote peace with the Aborigines by keeping their stockmen in order.

5 September In obedience to Earl Bathurst's despatch of 1 January 1825, Darling proclaimed boundaries within which the survey department was prepared to measure and allocate land grants. The boundaries, 'the limits of location', were later also used for other purposes, including police administration.

25 September A convict mutiny on Norfolk Island was savagely suppressed.

22 November Privates Joseph Sudds and Patrick Thompson, wearing heavy metal collars and chains, were publicly drummed out of their regiment. Preferring the prospect of a convict's life to a military one, they had committed theft, and had been sentenced to transportation to a penal settlement for seven years. Darling, anxious to prevent any breakdown in military discipline, had intervened, imposing the collars and commuting their sentences to hard labour in chains. When Sudds, who was unwell, suddenly died, Darling's opponents accused him of inhumanity and

challenged the legality of his intervention in the case. The accusations continued throughout his administration. In 1835 an inquiry in England absolved him from blame.

10 December The brig *Wellington* left Sydney for Norfolk Island with 66 convicts under guard. On 23 December the prisoners staged a rebellion, seized the ship and took it to the Bay of Islands, NZ, where it was captured by the captain and crew of a whaler with the help of Maoris on shore. The prisoners were brought back to Sydney, where 23 were sentenced to hang. However, because they had avoided excessive violence, all but five of them were reprieved.

12 December Capt F.A. Wetherall established a settlement at Western Port, Vic, on the south coast. The British government aimed to discourage anticipated French designs on the region.

25 December Maj Edmund Lockyer and a detachment of soldiers arrived at King George Sound, WA, where Lockyer was to establish a settlement to prevent French explorers from laying claim to New Holland, the western part of the continent.

1826 William Sherwin became the first native-born Australian to acquire a recognised diploma for the practice of medicine, when he took the examinations of the College of Surgeons in London.

1827

1 January The *Sydney Gazette*, edited by Robert Howe, briefly became Australia's first daily newspaper. It reverted to publication three times a week on 10 February.

16 January The report of the select committee of the House of Commons on emigration from the United Kingdom was published in Sydney. It encouraged free settlement.

26 January A public meeting in Sydney, organised by William Charles Wentworth and others, agreed to petition the King and British parliament for trial by jury and an elected legislature.

6 February Darling advocated the formation of a civil service consisting of 'free men of good character' to replace convict clerks.

13 March A public meeting in Hobart petitioned the British parliament for trial by jury and an elected legislature.

16 March The *Sydney Monitor* attacked the government on 24 grounds, including nepotism in public appointments and gross abuse of the power of patronage. Darling considered the criticism mischievous and contemptible.

March Capt James Stirling, with the approval of Darling, spent a fortnight exploring the Swan River and land in its vicinity. He later reported enthusiastically on the site's potential as a place for settlement.

30 April The botanist and explorer Allan Cunningham left the Hunter Valley to explore the country east of the Great Dividing Range and north to Moreton

Bay. His party came across several major rivers, the Darling Downs, and a pass through the range to Moreton Bay, later named Cunningham's Gap. They returned to Sydney on 5 September.

3 May The legislative council passed a bill to control the press, and another to impose a stamp duty of fourpence on newspapers. Darling was forced to suspend the provisions of the second bill on 31 May after Chief Justice Francis Forbes challenged its legality. Forbes's decision exacerbated the already strained relations between governor and chief justice.

8 June Coal was discovered near Ipswich, in what was to become Queensland, by Capt Patrick Logan, commandant of the penal settlement at Moreton Bay.

17 June Capt James Stirling arrived at Raffles Bay in the north of the continent, and on 18 June established a settlement, which he named Fort Wellington. It was abandoned in August 1829.

30 July Viscount Goderich, secretary of state for the colonies, introduced 'a more regular system of accounting' for colonial expenditure. The cost of the civil administration was to be borne by colonial revenue, while the cost of the convict system was to be met by the British government. This new burden on colonial funds gave impetus to the cause of constitutional reform and to the call for 'no taxation without representation'.

29 September Robert Wardell, editor of the *Australian*, was tried on charges of seditious libel brought against him by Darling for a letter he had published in the *Australian* (signed 'Vox Populi'), criticising Darling's press bill. The jury failed to reach a verdict. A



19 March 1827 *Members of Captain James Stirling's exploration party to the Swan River (Western Australia) cook their supper and string hammocks between the trees. The watercolours produced on this trip by the official artist, Frederick Garling, reflected the party's enthusiasm for the country.*

ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

second trial on a similar charge, held on 22 December, had the same result.

September Work began on a project supervised by the surveyor and engineer John Busby to provide Sydney with water from the Lachlan swamps (now Centennial Park) by means of a bore tunnelled 3 kilometres to Hyde Park.

19 October Lieut-Gov Arthur prohibited the publication of unlicensed newspapers in Van Diemen's Land. The order was later countermanded by the British government.

1 December The Australian Subscription Library and reading room began operations with 1000 volumes in premises in Pitt Street, Sydney. Though at first open only to subscribers, this library became the nucleus of the State Library of NSW.

30 December An East India Company cruiser, the *Research*, returned to Sydney from a voyage to the Santa Cruz Islands, where its captain had discovered the wrecks of *La Boussole* and *L'Astrolabe*, the two ships of Comte de la Pérouse's expedition. La Pérouse had left Botany Bay on 10 March 1788 and was never heard of again.

1827 The Hobart Town Mechanics' Institution was established by the master tradesmen of Hobart; its objects were 'the protection of trade and the promotion of knowledge among its members'.

1828

January Acting on instructions from the secretary of state, Viscount Goderich, Darling ordered the abandonment of the settlement at Western Port, Vic, sending the schooner *Isabella* to remove the settlers. The site had been criticised on the grounds of unsatisfactory water supply and port facilities.

3 March Whooping cough was introduced into Australia by the children of soldiers arriving on the transport *Morley* from Dublin. On 3 August, Edward Darling, the governor's infant son, died of the disease.

March The NSW government established a twice-weekly horse post between the principal inland towns, with postage on single letters from Sydney ranging between 4d (to Parramatta) and 1s (to Bathurst). Letters were conveyed between Sydney, Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Hobart by ship for 3d and newspapers for 1d.

March Andrew Bent produced an unlicensed news-sheet, the *Colonial Advocate*, in Hobart. Lieut-Gov Arthur used the Newspaper Licensing Act to imprison Bent but released him on his undertaking not to publish the news-sheet again.

23 April The Australian Racing and Jockey Club was founded in Sydney.

17 July In NSW the first Masters and Servants Act became law. Servants or labourers who absented themselves, neglected their work or disobeyed orders could be gaoled for six months and lose all their pay,

while employers who ill-treated their employees could be forced to pay them compensation of up to six months' wages.

24 July A party led by Allan Cunningham left Moreton Bay and explored the country southward to the Logan River and Macpherson Ranges, as well as the eastern side of Cunningham's Gap.

25 July The Australian Courts Act (9 Geo IV c83) was enacted to replace the temporary NSW Judicature Act of 1823. Under the new act the legislative council was to consist of ten to fifteen members nominated by the governor, who would preside over its meetings. The governor and council were given powers to make laws for the 'peace, welfare and good government' of the colony so long as they were consistent with the laws of England, while all laws and statutes then in force in England were declared to be received as far as possible. The act failed to grant the colonists' petitions for trial by civilian juries and an elected legislature.

27 July Alarm spread through the colony when it was learnt that the transport *Bussorah Merchant* had arrived carrying smallpox. The disease had not been seen for many years and hundreds of people were not vaccinated. The convicts and their guards were isolated on a remote part of Sydney's north shore.

28 August The supreme court building in King Street, Sydney, was completed and occupied.

30 August The secretary of state, Sir George Murray, warned Darling that he should take advice from the executive council and from no-one else. Darling had been in the habit of relying on his relatives and friends.

14 September Five thieves broke into the strong-room of the Bank of Australia in Sydney and escaped with over £3100 in silver coin and £14 500 in old banknotes. The bank recalled all its old notes to prevent the stolen ones from being used. The thieves were not caught until 1831.

29 September Edward Smith Hall, editor of the *Sydney Monitor*, became the first person in NSW to be convicted for libelling a public official. Hall, who had criticised Archdeacon Thomas Hobbes Scott after an altercation over a church pew, was given a £1 fine. Darling subsequently refused his application for a land grant.

1 November Martial law was declared against Aborigines in the settled districts of Van Diemen's Land. The proclamation permitted Aborigines to be shot on sight and roving parties were set up to capture as many as possible.

10 November Capt Charles Sturt left Sydney with a party of three soldiers and eight convicts, intending to trace the course of the Macquarie River. On 20 December they established a depot at Mt Harris on the Macquarie and then attempted to travel downstream by boat, but were blocked by the Macquarie Marshes. On 2 February 1829 they came upon the Darling River and investigated its course for over 100 kilometres before returning to the depot. They next investigated the Castlereagh River and, although it was dry, traced it to its junction with the Darling.

27 November A vessel left Sydney to transfer all personnel from the Melville Island settlement to Raffles Bay on the continent's northern mainland, because of the island's unhealthy climate, oppressive heat and the settlement's failure to promote trade.

November The first census of NSW was held, all previous government statistical reports having been taken from 'musters', with the inhabitants being brought together for counting. The total white population of the colony was 36 598, of whom 20 870 were free and 15 728 were convicts. Only 23.8 per cent of the total had been born in the colony; 24.5 per cent were women. There were 25 248 Protestants and 11 236 Catholics. Aborigines were not counted.

29 December Darling reluctantly offered the Australian Agricultural Co a lease of the land and coalmines at Newcastle for a term of 31 years, as instructed by the secretary of state. The grant resulted in the company gaining a monopoly in coal production.

1829

9 January A legislative council was appointed for Van Diemen's Land under the terms of the Australian Courts Act of 1828 (9 Geo IV c83).

30 January A new legislative council was appointed for NSW. In both NSW and Van Diemen's Land the councils were to comprise fifteen members, the governor or lieutenant-governor presiding.

1 March William Charles Wentworth sent the secretary of state a detailed account for the 'impeachment' of Darling for his conduct in the case of Sudds and Thompson in November 1826.

10 April Edward Smith Hall, editor of the *Sydney Monitor*, was found guilty of libelling Darling and another official. He was later sentenced to fifteen months in gaol, where he continued his attack on Darling's administration.

April An Aborigine was murdered near the Sydney Domain by other Aborigines. One of them, Bob Barret, was arrested, but Chief Justice Francis Forbes and Judge James Dowling, whose opinions had been sought by the attorney-general, determined that the application of British law to the Aborigines would be unjust.

2 May Capt Charles Fremantle raised the Union Flag at the mouth of the Swan River, taking possession of the western part of the continent in the name of the British crown. On 14 May the Act for the Government of His Majesty's Settlements in Western Australia received royal assent, giving parliamentary sanction to the word 'Australia' for the first time. The settlement was officially proclaimed on 18 June.

10 May Darling received orders to terminate settlement in northern Australia. The settlement site on Melville Island had been abandoned in March and Raffles Bay closed down in August. Northern Australia was not reoccupied until 1835.

1 June Capt James Stirling landed at Garden Island at the mouth of the Swan River with settlers for the colony of WA. On 10 August, 68 settlers moved to the mainland. Land was distributed on the basis of 40 acres (16 hectares) for every £3 capital, including livestock and farming implements.

June While imprisoned at Newgate in London for abducting an heiress, Edward Gibbon Wakefield anonymously published his *Sketch of a proposal for colonizing Australasia*, which argued for 'systematic colonisation'. His *Letter from Sydney, the principal town of Australasia*, was published in December.

1 July Uniform regulations governing penal settlements were proclaimed in Sydney. To ensure that they were kept at work, convicts were to be employed in agriculture exclusively, using hand implements instead of animal-drawn ploughs. Well-behaved convicts were to be given lighter duties.

12 August The foundation of Perth was marked by the felling of a tree.

8 September The Caledonian Theatre in Edinburgh performed David Bun's *The bushrangers*, the first play on an Australian theme originating in Australia to be performed overseas.

12 September Lieut-Gov Arthur requested that more soldiers should be sent to Van Diemen's Land, as continuing attacks by Aborigines and outrages by convicts made heavy demands on the military.

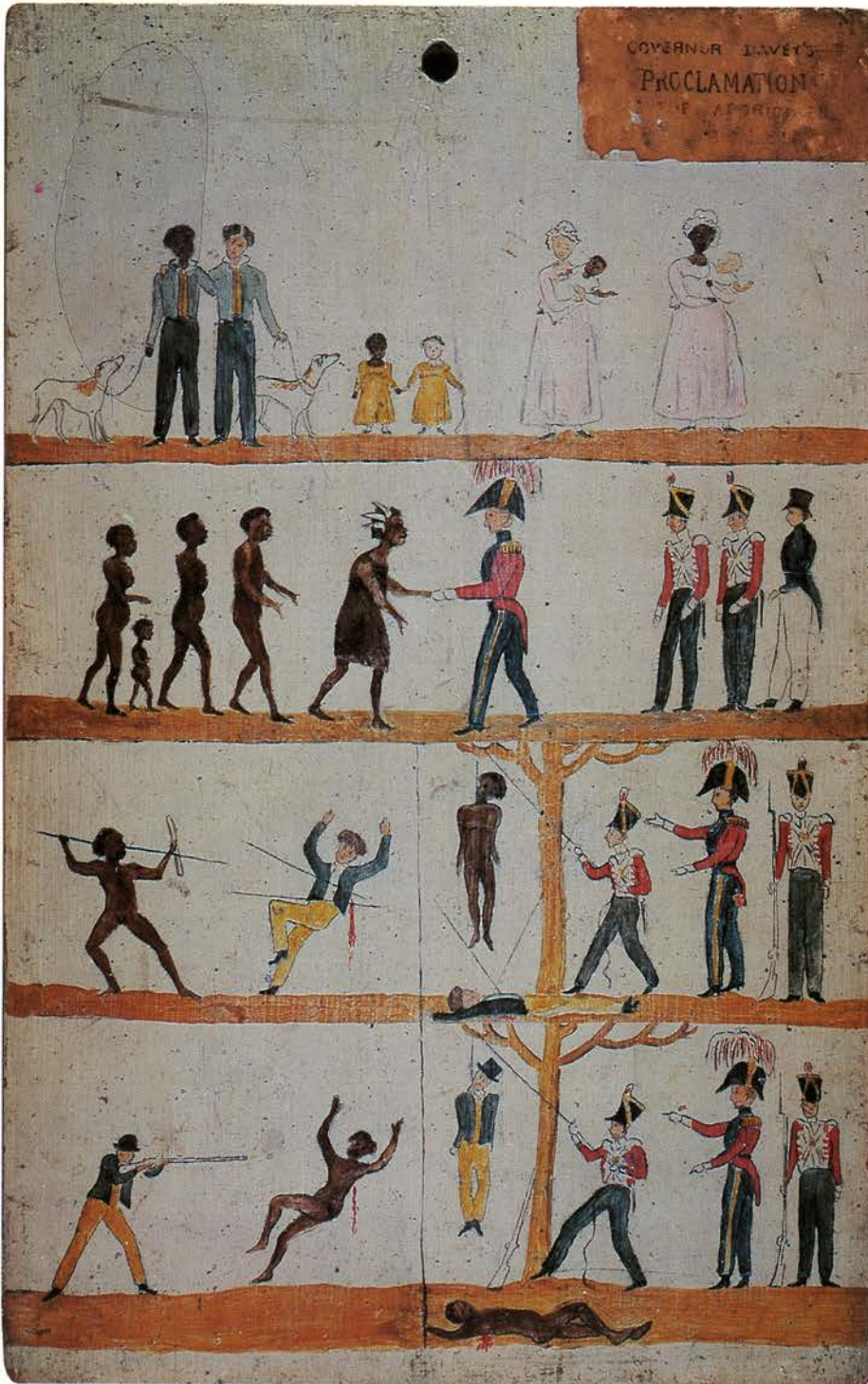
27 September William Grant Broughton, successor to Thomas Hobbes Scott as archdeacon of NSW, preached his first sermon in the colony at St Philip's Church.

17 October Darling proclaimed the nineteen counties of NSW in the *Sydney Gazette*. Settlers could acquire land only within the area bounded by the Manning River to the north, the Moruya River to the south and the Lachlan River to the west. In some places squatters were already established beyond these 'limits of location'.

20 October The Juries Act, passed by the legislative council on 9 October, came into force in NSW. It allowed juries of twelve civilians in civil cases before the supreme court to be appointed on the request of either party to a suit. The provision, however, was little used: between 1830 and 1833 only 80 juries sat out of a total of 1401 supreme court cases.

28 November Capt Charles Sturt's second expedition left the limits of settlement near Gundagai, NSW. Travelling overland and then by whaleboat, the party reached the junction of the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan rivers on 25 December, discovering the Murray River on 14 January 1830. They rowed downstream, finally reaching Lake Alexandrina near the sea on 9 February, thus proving that west-flowing rivers in NSW emptied into the Murray River and not into an inland sea.

December Darling received news that the British government intended to revoke the charter of the Church and Schools Corporation. The corporation,



1830 In an effort to reduce hostility between the Aborigines and settlers in Van Diemen's Land, Governor Arthur distributed painted boards promoting English justice to the Aborigines and had them fastened to trees in populous areas. In 1866–67 a lithographic version of these boards was produced as a souvenir for the intercolonial exhibition in Melbourne.

Oil on Huon pine by an unknown artist.

MITCHELL LIBRARY

which had been entitled to receive one-seventh of the colony's crown lands for the benefit of the Church of England, had been under attack from liberals, Catholics and dissenters for its privileged position. It was not finally dissolved until 1833.

1829 Gov Macquarie's Native Institution for Aborigines was abandoned, owing in part to the reluctance of Aboriginal parents to be separated from their children.

1830

27 January George Augustus Robinson, newly appointed 'protector of Aborigines' in Van Diemen's Land, set out from Hobart on a tour of the island. He attempted to establish friendly relations with the Aborigines and win them over to European ways.

29 January In NSW the legislative council passed another act intended to control the press. One of its sections provided that persons twice convicted of blasphemous or seditious libel would be banished from the colony. The act was later disallowed by the British government.

30 January Rev John Wittencoom arrived in Perth. He was WA's first Church of England clergyman.

10 February In an attempt to implement in part the educational schemes of Thomas Hobbes Scott, Archdeacon William Grant Broughton and the trustees of the Church and Schools Corporation proposed the establishment of two King's Schools in Sydney and Parramatta, which were opened in 1832. The Sydney school was short-lived, but the Parramatta one still exists.

21 April In NSW the legislative council passed a bush-ranging act, enabling any person to apprehend another on suspicion of bushranging or carrying arms. The onus was upon the persons accused to prove that they were not transported felons at large and police could be issued with general warrants to enter and search houses.

1 July WA's first court of quarter sessions was held. It differed from its counterparts elsewhere in that its judges had jurisdiction over all criminal offences, including those incurring capital punishment.

20 September A contingent of soldiers and convicts under the command of Dr John Russell established a penal settlement at Port Arthur in Van Diemen's Land.

5 October The NSW government increased the strength of the mounted police in Bathurst from 68 to 100 to deal with a gang of bushrangers that had been driven out of the Hunter River area and was roaming the district.

7 October Lieut-Gov Arthur attempted to drive the Aborigines of eastern Van Diemen's Land into the Tasman Peninsula. Although more than 5000 white men participated in the operation at a cost of £30 000, only two Aborigines were captured.



12 March 1830 Incensed at Governor Darling's attempt to gag editorial criticism of his administration, the Australian published a woodcut of a printing press chained up by a military officer with the printer hanged on his own press.

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17 October Capt Patrick Logan, commandant at Moreton Bay, was killed by Aborigines as he returned from an expedition to the headwaters of the Richmond River.

2 November Nine bushrangers were hanged at Bathurst.

1830 The first novel printed in Australia was published in Hobart. It was Henry Savery's *Quintus Servinton: a tale founded upon incidents of real occurrence*.

1830 The Van Diemen's Land Society was founded. Dr John Henderson, a surgeon from Calcutta, had proposed its formation in 1829 to publish local scientific information and establish a museum and botanic gardens.

1830 The surveyor-general of NSW, Maj Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, completed plotting a road south from Sydney through Appin, Berrima and Marulan to Goulburn, and also a western descent from the Blue Mountains towards Bathurst. In October 1832 Gov Bourke opened the western road.

1831

8 January The secretary of state, Viscount Goderich, approved payment of a salary to the missionary Rev Lancelot Threlkeld to support his work at Lake Macquarie, NSW, which included translating the Bible into an Aboriginal language.

14 February Viscount Goderich, later Earl of Ripon, issued regulations which became known as the 'Ripon regulations', providing that no crown land in NSW or Van Diemen's Land was in future to be leased or granted without purchase. Crown land was now to be sold at public auction at a minimum price of 5s an acre, and the income from sales to be used to finance

assisted immigration. Further instructions issued on 1 August stated that all free persons were eligible to purchase unlimited land.

31 March The first steamship to be built in Australia, the 25-tonne SS *Surprise*, was launched at Neutral Bay, Port Jackson.

18 April The first issue of the weekly newspaper the *Sydney Herald* appeared.

24 April The first Baptist service in Australia was held at the Rose and Crown Inn, Sydney. The service was conducted by Rev John McKaeg. Hobart's first Baptist service was held in 1835, Adelaide's in 1838 and Melbourne's in 1839.

15 May The 260-tonne *Sophia Jane*, a steamship from England, entered Port Jackson under sail. Driven by a 50-horsepower engine, and with paddles fitted in Sydney, it made the first steam passage from Sydney to Newcastle, in eight hours on 19 June.

24 June Emigration commissioners were appointed in London to compile information about the colonies and to assist in regulating emigration controls.

31 July The transport *Palamban* arrived in Sydney carrying 150 women prisoners and the first assisted immigrants to come to Australia, 50 girls from the foundling hospital at Cork, who had been given free passages to NSW.

6 October Lieut-Gov Arthur approved Flinders Island as a permanent site for an establishment for captive Aborigines. On 17 January 1832, 26 Aborigines were sent there aboard the *Tamar*.

13 October The brig *Stirling Castle*, chartered by the Presbyterian minister Rev John Dunmore Lang, arrived in Sydney carrying 59 Scottish artisans and their families.

21 November A report to Lieut-Gov Arthur recommended the establishment of a hospital for the insane next to the Invalid Hospital at New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land. The building, completed in 1833, later became part of the Royal Derwent Hospital.

24 November The surveyor-general of NSW, Maj Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, left Sydney to explore the northern inland rivers area. In January 1832 he reached the Macintyre River.

November Capt James Stirling took office as governor of WA, having administered the settlement since June 1829.

3 December Maj-Gen Richard Bourke, the new governor of NSW, arrived in Sydney. Darling had returned to England in October and in the meantime Col Patrick Lindesay had administered the colony.

1831 The artist and engraver Thomas Bock opened a gallery in Hobart while still an assigned convict, becoming the first professional painter to practise in the colony. He gave lessons in painting and soon became well known for his portraits of wealthy settlers. In 1832 he received a pardon.

1831 Daniel Herbert, a sign-writer who had been transported to Hobart in 1827 for highway robbery,

carved what is believed to be the first sculpture in Australia, at St Luke's Church, Bothwell. He later received a free pardon for his carvings on the bridge over the Macquarie River at Ross, Tas.

1832

3 February In NSW the legislative council passed a juries act, by which the accused could request a civilian jury in criminal cases that involved the governor or an official.

8 February English Quaker missionaries James Backhouse and George Washington Walker arrived in Hobart and spent seven years in the Australian colonies visiting penal and Aboriginal settlements. On 12 February 1832 they organised the first Quaker meeting in Hobart.

13 February The protector of Aborigines in Van Diemen's Land, George Augustus Robinson, left Hobart after having made an agreement with Lieut-Gov Arthur to bring in the remainder of the Van Diemen's Land Aborigines for a fee of £1000.

February As its first priority, the legislative council in WA passed an act for the establishment of a court to hear civil cases, thus providing for the exercise of civil jurisdiction in the colony for the first time. The court opened in March.

9 March In NSW the legislative council passed the Savings Bank Act, creating the Savings Bank of NSW 'for the encouragement of frugality'.

24 April The first temperance society in Australia was formed in Hobart by the English Quaker missionaries James Backhouse and George Washington Walker. The temperance movement was to provide a new field for women's political activity in the 1830s and 1840s.

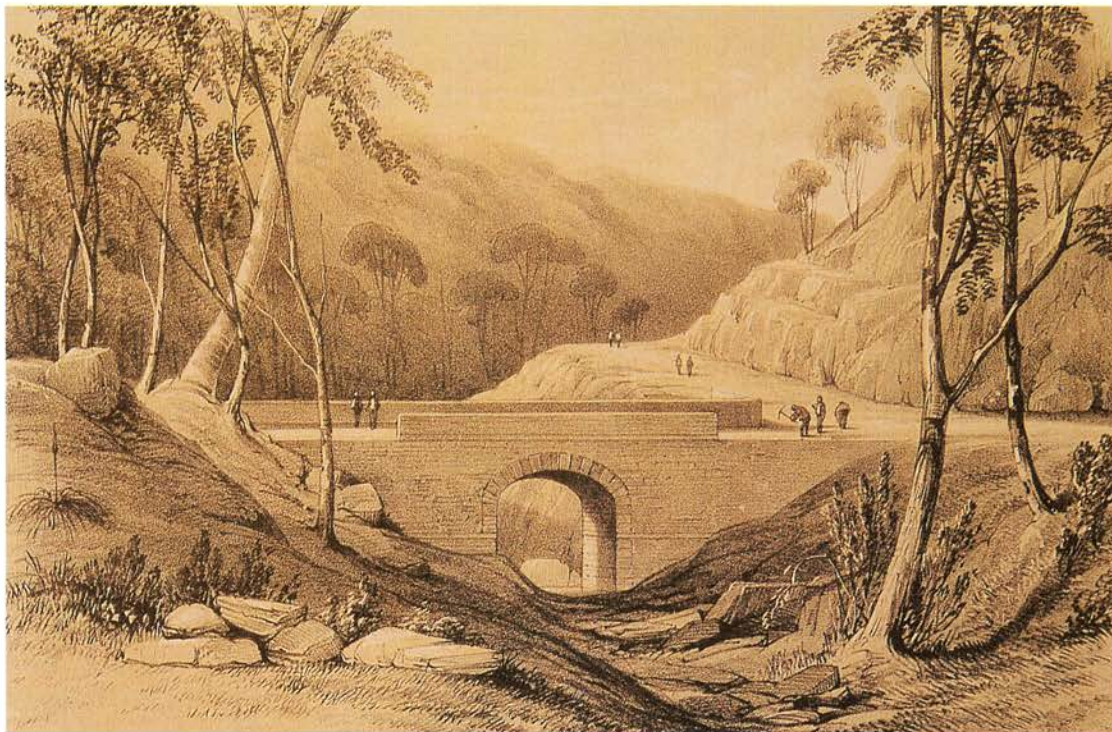
22 June A select committee of the House of Commons on secondary punishments presented its final report. It had been established in March 1831 and reappointed in February 1832. It took evidence from 36 witnesses, including Edward Gibbon Wakefield, and recommended harsher treatment of convicts in the colonies to emphasise in the United Kingdom the deterrent aspect of transportation.

28 July In NSW the legislative council passed Australia's first quarantine act in response to the cholera epidemic sweeping Europe.

12 August Gov Stirling left WA for London on a two-year mission to plead his colony's case for special treatment in relation to land policies and finance.

24 August In NSW the legislative council passed the Transportation and Punishment of Offenders Amendment Act, which reduced the application of sentencing to penal establishments and limited the magistrates' power to inflict sentences on assigned servants.

12 September In NSW the legislative council passed an act to prevent sheep scab from spreading, the first Australian legislation to control animal diseases.



July 1833 At Lapstone Hill on the Bathurst Road, the first stone bridge in New South Wales was completed. It was later named after its designer and supervisor, David Lennox. Tinted lithograph by R.M. Westmacott, c1835.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

October The Van Diemen's Land penal stations at Maria Island (founded in 1825) and Macquarie Harbour (1821) were closed and all convicts sentenced to a penal settlement were sent to Port Arthur. At the beginning of 1833 there were 475 convicts at Port Arthur.

1833

5 January The first issue of the *Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal* was published.

15 February The first Independent (Congregational) church was opened in Sydney. Congregational churches were founded in Hobart in 1832, Adelaide in 1837, Melbourne in 1839 and Perth in 1845.

18 February Rev William Ullathorne, appointed vicar-general of the Catholic Church in NSW, arrived in Sydney.

22 March The Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts held its first meeting. It had been established 'for the diffusion of scientific and other useful knowledge' under the patronage of Gov Bourke. Its first president was Maj Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, the surveyor-general.

23 March The secretary of state, Viscount Goderich, approved the granting of about 243 000 hectares of good grazing land on the Liverpool Plains, NSW, to

the Australian Agricultural Company, against the advice of the surveyor-general, Maj Mitchell.

March Australia's first literary periodical, the *Hobart Town monthly magazine*, was published.

May The Sydney Philharmonic Society was founded.

May George Augustus Robinson set out from Macquarie Harbour, Van Diemen's Land, to find groups of Aborigines from Port Davey, Macquarie Harbour and the Pieman River. In all, nineteen Aborigines were found and sent to Flinders Island.

July News reached Hobart that the immigrant ship *Hibernia*, bound for Van Diemen's Land, had caught fire south of the equator with the loss of 153 lives.

6 August In NSW the legislative council passed an act for the more efficient administration of the Sydney police. Modelled on the London Metropolitan Police Act of 1829, it empowered the governor to appoint justices of the peace who would then select, swear in and control the constables. It also gave the Sydney police the power to enforce regulations regarding town health and hygiene.

28 August In NSW the legislative council passed a juries act in which the possibility of trial by a civil jury was extended to criminal cases.

30 August The *Amphitrite* from London, with 100 women convicts on board, was lost off the coast of

France on its way to Australia. Three of the women and crew survived and 134 died.

5 October Sydney's Theatre Royal, built by Barnett Levey, with seating for about one thousand people, presented its first program, *The miller and his men*, a popular melodrama, and the farce *An Irishman in London*.

24 December The Hobart Town Theatre opened with a performance of Kotzebue's *The stranger*.

1834

10 January Sixty-eight boy convicts were sent to the new penal settlement at Point Puer, 2 kilometres from the main settlement at Port Arthur, Van Diemen's Land. Lieut-Gov Arthur hoped by this means to separate the boys from hardened criminals. Point Puer was closed in 1848.

15 January A carefully planned convict rebellion occurred on Norfolk Island, during which nine convicts were killed. One hundred and sixty-two convicts were implicated, of whom fifty-five stood trial on 10 July. Twenty-nine were sentenced to death, but only thirteen were executed on 22 and 23 September in the presence of other convicts at the settlement.

28 February On his fourth expedition, George Augustus Robinson met what he thought were the last Aboriginal inhabitants of the Van Diemen's Land bush. This group, the Tarkinener, and another nine he captured on 7 April were despatched to Flinders Island on 24 April.

10 April The pioneer woolgrower John Macarthur died at Camden, near Sydney. He had been a member of the NSW Legislative Council from 1825 to 1833.

April The Australian Mutual Benefit Society was formed. By paying a small monthly subscription, members could receive relief from the society in times of hardship or illness. The society also provided funeral benefits.

5 May The first meeting of the NSW Temperance Society was held in Sydney.

July A group of wealthy free immigrant landholders in the Hunter River district of NSW drew up a petition to the King complaining about inadequate convict discipline. They were bitterly opposed to the liberal policies of Gov Bourke and advocated greater severity in the law and its rigorous administration. The petition was referred to by its opponents as the 'hole-and-corner petition' because it was not formed at a public meeting but passed around from house to house for signature.

15 August The South Australian Colonization Act received royal assent in Britain. It provided for the proposed colony to be jointly administered by the Colonial Office and colonisation commissioners. Local administration was to be shared by a lieutenant-governor, assisted by a nominee council and a resident commissioner. Land was to be sold at a minimum of 12s per acre and the proceeds were to be used to

encourage immigration. There were to be no convicts.

17 August The *Surrey* arrived in Sydney carrying five of the six Tolpuddle 'martyrs' who had been sentenced to transportation for administering 'unlawful oaths' in the formation of an agricultural labourers' union. The sixth, George Loveless, arrived in Hobart on 4 September. They were pardoned on 10 March 1836 and by 1839 all had returned to England.

25 August The barque *Edward Lombe* from London was wrecked on rocks at Middle Head, Port Jackson; 12 of the 29 on board were killed.

7 September Dr Robert Wardell, former editor of the *Australian*, was murdered by runaway convicts when he challenged them on his estate at Petersham, Sydney. The two offenders were tried before the chief justice and a civil jury on 7 November and later executed.

28 October A punitive expedition led by Gov Stirling and a force of 24 soldiers ambushed and killed Aborigines at Pinjarra, WA. No count of Aboriginal casualties was made but European sources suggest that between 14 and 80 were killed; Aboriginal oral tradition claims that the number was much higher.

1 November The Commercial Banking Co of Sydney was formed.



1834 Dr John Lhotsky published the first European arrangement of Aboriginal music, 'A song of the women of the Menero tribe', after a journey to the Monaro Plains and the Australian Alps in that year. Photograph of music score, by an unknown artist.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

19 November Edward Henty and a small party from Launceston landed at Portland Bay with livestock. This was the first pastoral settlement in the Port Phillip district.

December Rev Henry Carmichael established the Normal Institution in Sydney. One of its functions was to train teachers for the 'national' system of education that Gov Bourke was attempting to introduce into NSW. It closed in 1843.

1835

1 January Rev John Dunmore Lang published the first issue of his *Colonist* newspaper.

17 January The first performance in Australia of a ballet, *The fair maid of Perth*, opened at the Theatre Royal, Sydney.

19 January Sydney College, successor to the Sydney Public Free Grammar School, opened as a non-denominational school with William Cape as headmaster.

January A public meeting held at the Ship Inn, Hobart, petitioned for an elected legislature in Van Diemen's Land.

8 April The surveyor-general of NSW, Maj Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, set out from Boree station near the present site of Orange on a journey to explore the inland river system. While tracing the Bogan River to its junction with the Darling, one of his party, the botanist Richard Cunningham (brother of Allan), wandered from the main party and was killed by Aborigines. Mitchell followed the Darling for about 480 kilometres and then turned back on 9 July after he had attacked and killed several Aborigines.

12 April The convict transport *George III* carrying 220 male convicts struck a rock in D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Van Diemen's Land and sank, killing 134 people. All guards survived and were later criticised for their failure to free the convicts quickly.

14 May The convict transport *Neva* from Cork, Ireland, with 241 people aboard, was wrecked near King Island, Van Diemen's Land. There were fifteen survivors.

29 May The Australian Patriotic Association was founded at a public meeting in Sydney. Its chief object was to obtain an elected legislature. Sir John Jamison was president.

29 May On behalf of fifteen partners in the Port Phillip Association, John Batman from Launceston landed at Indented Head in Port Phillip Bay. He explored the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers, then in June negotiated 'a treaty' with the Wurundjeri 'tribe', exchanging 243 000 hectares of land for a yearly tribute of blankets, knives, mirrors, axes and trinkets. He left a party on the Bellarine Peninsula to guard his claim. He died in 1839, having failed to prosper from his treaty.

June James Raymond became the first postmaster-general in NSW.



July 1835 William Buckley, an escaped convict, was found by John Helder Wedge and his party while exploring the Port Phillip area. Buckley had been living with Aborigines since 1803 and was identified only by the tattoo 'WB' on his arm, having forgotten how to speak his native language. Lithograph by Charles Henry Theodore Constantini in a supplement to the *Cornwall Chronicle*, 1837.

17 July The ship *Enchantress* was wrecked in D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Van Diemen's Land. About fifty people died and twenty-two survived.

8 August A party organised by the Launceston publican John Pascoe Fawkner arrived at Port Phillip Bay and built huts on the Yarra bank opposite John Batman's claim, thus establishing a base that was to form the nucleus of Melbourne.

13 September The first bishop of the Catholic Church in Australia, John Bede Polding, arrived in Sydney. His installation took place at St Mary's Church on 20 September.

18 September In NSW a legislative council committee on immigration recommended that in future immigrants should be chosen from agricultural districts rather than large towns and that colonial agents should be sent to Great Britain to select immigrants and accompany them to NSW. On 14 October Gov Bourke proposed to employ surgeons who had been superintendents of convict ships to act as such government agents.

13 October George Augustus Robinson, protector of the Aborigines in Van Diemen's Land, arrived at Flinders Island as commandant of the settlement. The Aboriginal population he had sent there numbered 123; disease rapidly reduced their number. He immediately improved living conditions on the

island, but his attempts to replace Aboriginal with European culture met with resistance from the Aborigines. In October 1847 the surviving Aborigines were transferred to Oyster Cove.

28 October Bourke introduced the bounty system of assisted immigration. Colonists were to select immigrants from England and be reimbursed for the cost of their passages by the NSW government. An examining board appointed in the colony was to interview the immigrants on arrival and could refuse bounties on those it deemed unsuitable. This system operated alongside the 'government system', by which immigrants were sent by the British government.

October The first play written in Australia, *The bandit of the Rhine* by Evan Henry Thomas, was published.

5 November A Society of Friends (Quaker) meeting house was opened in Macquarie St, Sydney.

November The artist John Glover had more than 60 paintings of Van Diemen's Land exhibited in London.

18 December The London-based Bank of Australasia began business in Sydney to facilitate the transfer of funds between Britain and Australia. Full banking business commenced on 1 January 1836.

1835 The Australian College was opened by Rev John Dunmore Lang. It taught both practical commercial subjects and the classics. Lang hoped that it would become a university. In 1854 the college closed.

SUPPLEMENT.
GOVERNOR GEO. ARTHUR
Is Ordered
H O M E !

LORD GLENELG closes his Despatch as follows:—"I have felt it my duty, to advise his Majesty, that you should be IMMEDIATELY RECALLED; and I have to convey to you, his Majesty's commands, that, on receipt of this Despatch, you will, with as little delay as possible, repair to this Office. ("Signed) GLENELG."

TO-MORROW OUGHT TO BE A DAY OF GENERAL
THANKSGIVING!

For the deliverance from the iron-hand of GOVERNOR ARTHUR. We have now a prospect of breathing. The accursed gang of blood-suckers will be destroyed. Boys will be seen no more upon Police Benches, to insult Respectable Men. Forjery will cease to be countenanced, and a gang of Felons will be no longer permitted to violate the LAWS OF CIVILIZED SOCIETY.

COLONISTS,

The dismissal of Arthur from the Government of unhappy TASMANIA, is a BLESSING, that will be felt by the worthy, and be duly appreciated. The Impending Law, which was made to benefit the great Members of Council, will be abolished. The Turkey and Persian Act will meet with the same fate; and the Act of abominations practised by the hirelings, and secret emissaries of the Government, upon the People, will no longer be countenanced.

REJOICE!
FOR THE DAY OF
Retribution
HAS
ARRIVED.

WILLIAM ANDERSON, HISTORIC DRUGS STREET. — GLENELG DRUGGIST.

28 May 1836 *The Cornwall Chronicle* rejoices at the news of Governor Arthur's recall, although he did not leave the colony until 30 October. *Cornwall Chronicle*, 28 May 1836.

1836

1 January Gov Bourke issued a new commission of the peace, which omitted the names of several who had formerly been justices of the peace. One was James Mudie, a Hunter valley grazier, who returned to England in March where he denounced Bourke and his supporters. In 1837 he published an account of the social order of NSW, *The felony of New South Wales*.

12–30 January The HMS *Beagle* anchored at Sydney. On board was Charles Darwin, whose observations in Australia contributed to his theory of evolution.

26 January Bourke opened Lansdowne Bridge, a single 30-metre span masonry arch designed and built by David Lennox to cross Prospect Creek about five kilometres from Liverpool.

14 February In London, Archdeacon William Grant Broughton was consecrated Bishop of Australia. He returned to NSW on 2 June. Broughton was the only person to hold the title 'Bishop of Australia'; he became first Bishop of Sydney in 1847.

19 March The surveyor-general of NSW, Maj Thomas Livingstone Mitchell set out from Boree near present-day Orange with 23 men to explore the area around Menindee and the Darling. The party travelled west to the Lachlan River, but owing to drought they were unable to journey overland to Menindee and instead proceeded downstream to the Murrumbidgee, which they reached on 12 May, and went on to the Murray.

March The 'exclusives' of the colony met at the home of the merchant Richard Jones and prepared petitions to the King and the House of Commons complaining of an upsurge in crime and the difficulty of maintaining law and order. They condemned the Jury Act of 1833, which they thought increased the rate of acquittal and thus crime by putting unpardoned former convicts on juries. They also warned that the colony was not ready for an elected legislature.

11 April In the case of *R. v Jack Congo Murrell*, involving the ritual killing of an Aborigine under customary law, three judges of the Supreme Court of NSW held that Aborigines did not possess recognisable laws and were subject to British law, even when their activities did not involve Europeans.

12 April A meeting of those in favour of constitutional reform took place at the Royal Hotel, Sydney, to consider the exclusives' petitions currently in circulation. They drafted a petition disputing the arguments of their opponents.

24 April Melbourne's first church service was conducted by the Wesleyan Methodist missionary Rev Joseph Orton.

21 May The brig *Stirling Castle*, sailing from Sydney to Singapore, was wrecked on Swain Reefs just north of the Tropic of Cancer. Eliza Fraser and her husband, Capt James Fraser, were among the eighteen survivors in two boats who reached the Bunker Islands,



1836 On 28 December Captain John Hindmarsh arrived in HMS Buffalo at Holdfast Bay, South Australia, with his commission as governor. At his tent he proclaimed the infant settlement an official British colony. Watercolour by John Michael Skipper, c1836.

DIXSON GALLERIES

where part of the crew mutinied, taking most of the supplies and one of the boats. The Frasers and seven others sailed south to Great Sandy (present Fraser) Island where three seamen set out to walk to Moreton Bay. When they reached Brisbane a military rescue party was sent out. Between 13 and 17 August they discovered the second mate, the two ship's boys and Eliza Fraser living with Aborigines, Capt Fraser and the first mate having died.

23 May Maj Mitchell arrived at the junction of the Murrumbidgee and the Murray and the next day encountered a large group of Aborigines. Apprehensive, Mitchell's party laid an ambush and fired several volleys on the Aborigines, killing at least seven of them.

20 June Mitchell, now travelling up the Murray, arrived at the junction with the Loddon and turning southwards encountered country so fertile that he called it 'Australia Felix'.

29 June Catholic Bishop John Bede Polding consecrated St Mary's Church as his cathedral.

29 July In NSW the first Squatting Act, which enabled the issue of licences to squatters occupying crown lands, passed through the legislative council.

29 July In NSW Bourke's Church Act, granting the Presbyterian and Catholic churches equal status with the Church of England and granting government financial support to the several denominations, was passed by the legislative council.

29 August Having traced the Glenelg River to its mouth, Mitchell and his party were surprised to dis-

cover a settlement established by Edward and Francis Henty at Portland, Vic.

29 September Capt William Lonsdale anchored near the mouth of the Yarra on his way to the Port Phillip settlement. As police magistrate, he was to superintend all matters needing the exercise of government authority.

30 September Bourke issued a proclamation stating that the Port Phillip district was open for settlement.

6 October The *Swan River Guardian*, the first Australian newspaper advocating the rights of working men, appeared in Perth. It ceased publication early in 1838, owing to opposition from the government.

1 November Col Kenneth Snodgrass was sworn in as acting governor of Van Diemen's Land, Lieut-Gov Arthur having left for England two days previously.

23 November The first Baptist church was opened in Bathurst Street, Sydney. It was designed by the architect John Verge.

17 December Capt John Hindmarsh, his family and 160 emigrants arrived at Port Lincoln aboard the *Buffalo* to establish the new colony of South Australia. The surveyor-general, Lieut-Col William Light, had already rejected the site owing to its inaccessibility, in favour of the flat land under Mt Lofty.

28 December The *Buffalo* anchored at Holdfast Bay, SA, and a ceremony was held to proclaim the beginning of settlement. A Church of England minister, Rev Charles Beaumont Howard, was SA's first chaplain. He conducted his first service on 1 January 1837.

December The executive council of NSW conducted an inquiry into the killing of Aborigines by Mitchell's party. No charges were laid.

December John Hepburn, Joseph Hawdon and John Gardiner arrived in Melbourne, having driven cattle and sheep from NSW. Until then there had been only a few horses and fifteen head of cattle in the settlement.

1836 The 'minstrel waltz' by Thomas Stubbs was published, reputedly the first work by an Australian-born composer.

1837

5 January Sir John Franklin arrived in Van Diemen's Land to succeed Lieut-Col George Arthur as lieutenant-governor. He was accompanied by Alexander Maconochie as his private secretary.

10 February At a public meeting a majority of colonists supported the decision of the surveyor-general of SA, Lieut-Col William Light, to locate the town of Adelaide inland on the Torrens River, rather than on the coast as had been suggested by Gov Hindmarsh.

12 February Gov Bourke wrote to London explaining the need to build a 'circular quay' in Sydney Cove to facilitate the landing of goods and prevent the silting up of the harbour. Work was completed in 1854.

26 February The immigrant ship *Lady McNaghton* arrived in Sydney with typhus on board. During the voyage 44 people had died and 13 more died at the Sydney quarantine station. Most of the casualties were children.

3 March Bourke landed at Port Phillip, inspected the settlement and a few days later named the future site for a township after the British prime minister Viscount Melbourne.

6 March The Royal Victoria Theatre (later the Theatre Royal) opened in Hobart.

7 April A parliamentary select committee on the transportation of convicts, chaired by Sir William Molesworth, began hearing evidence in London.

21 April Sir John Jeffcott arrived in SA to take up his position as chief judge of the colony. On 13 May he held the first criminal sessions. On 31 May an act was passed by the legislative council to establish the supreme court, which opened in October.

1 June The Bank of WA began operations.

3 June The first Adelaide edition of the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* was printed. The first issue had been printed in London on 18 June 1836.

1 July Australia's first passenger railway was completed in Van Diemen's Land. It consisted of 8 kilometres of wooden rails on timber sleepers connecting Long Bay and Norfolk Bay. Wooden carts, each propelled by four convicts, carried goods and passengers and reached speeds of 65 kilometres per hour downhill.

7 July The Union Bank of Australia was formed in London by Liverpool capitalists.

30 August James Dowling was appointed chief justice of NSW, replacing Francis Forbes.

10 November The Tasmanian Society for Natural History was founded by Sir John Franklin.

18 November In NSW Bourke issued a government notice announcing that the British government intended to discontinue assigning convicts to private service. Employers were encouraged to look to immigration for their source of labour.

5 December Bourke left Sydney for England. He had resigned the governorship after continuous battles with those whom he called 'the official Tories'. NSW was administered by Lieut-Col Kenneth Snodgrass until Sir George Gipps arrived in February 1838.

11 December A schism occurred in the Presbyterian Church in NSW when Rev John Dunmore Lang and a number of other ministers separated from the Presbytery of NSW to form the Synod of NSW.

24 December The *Peter Proctor* arrived in Sydney from Calcutta with 42 Indian labourers bonded to John Mackay. In November, 18 Indian labourers bonded to Joseph Bruce had been landed in Adelaide. They were intended to be the first shiploads of a major migration, which did not eventuate. There already were a few Indian labourers in WA.

29 December Maj James Winniett Nunn set out with a party of 23 mounted police to investigate the murder of five Europeans and other 'outrages' committed by Aborigines on the Namoi, Gwydir and Big rivers, NSW. About three hundred Aborigines probably died in what became known as 'Major Nunn's campaign'.

30 December The first overland mail left Sydney for Melbourne. On 3 February 1838 a regular fortnightly service was introduced. The mail left Sydney by coach, which covered the 300 kilometres to Yass in three days. At Yass the driver exchanged mailbags with John Conway Bourke, an employee of the mail contractor Joseph Hawdon, who rode the 620 kilometres back to Melbourne in fourteen days.

1838

1 January John Pascoe Fawkner founded the *Melbourne Advertiser*, the Port Phillip district's first newspaper.

26 January The 50th anniversary of the colony of NSW was celebrated with a regatta on Sydney Harbour and other festivities.

31 January The secretary of state, Lord Glenelg, sent Sir George Gipps the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Aborigines (British settlements) which recommended that 'protectors of Aborigines' should be engaged. They would be required to learn the Aboriginal language and their duties would be to watch over the rights of

Aborigines, to guard against encroachment on their property and to protect them from acts of cruelty, oppression and injustice. As an immediate result, the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate was established with George Augustus Robinson as chief protector and four full-time protectors, who were to persuade the Aborigines in their district to settle down to a life of farming.

22 February The merchant and landowner Samuel Terry died in Sydney, leaving a personal estate of over £250 000, an income of over £10 000 per annum from Sydney rentals, and substantial landholdings. His funeral was described by a contemporary as the grandest seen in the colony.

23 February The new governor of NSW, Sir George Gipps, arrived in Sydney. He took the oath of office the following day.

26 March The Royal Victoria Theatre, with seating for 2000 people, opened in Pitt Street, Sydney.

11 April A party of 150 or more Aboriginal warriors attacked eighteen men who were droving livestock and supplies from Goulburn to William Pitt Faithfull's new station in the Port Phillip district. Eleven of the men, mostly assigned servants, were killed in the attack near the present town of Benalla.

April Joseph Hawdon and Charles Bonney arrived in Adelaide with 300 cattle for sale. They had set out with 400 cattle, travelling along the Murray River, following Charles Sturt's route of the previous year.

12 May Rev Samuel Marsden died at Windsor, NSW, at the age of 72.

28 May The Theatre Royal opened in the ballroom of the Adelaide Tavern.



November–December 1838 *A party of French sailors from La Vénus, commanded by Abel Du Petit-Thouars, visits Sydney after completing a mission to assert French dominance in Tahiti by a show of force. Lithograph by Bichebois, after a sketch by Ménard.*

MITCHELL LIBRARY

7 June It became compulsory for all immigrants to the Australian colonies to be vaccinated against smallpox at the time of their selection.

10 June In what became known as the 'Myall Creek massacre' 12 white men killed 28 Aborigines at Henry Dangar's station on the Liverpool Plains.

13 June The Legislative Council of NSW passed an act regulating medical practice in the colony.

14 July Gov John Hindmarsh left Adelaide after being recalled by the Colonial Office.

28 August A special meeting of the General Synod of the Church of Scotland refused to recognise the position taken by Rev John Dunmore Lang and his supporters, who had broken away from the original Presbyterian Church in NSW.

18 September John Gould, a naturalist, arrived in Hobart. He spent the next eighteen months travelling throughout the colonies exploring various native habitats for information and specimens to assist his proposed publication on the birds of Australia.

29 September The Australian Club, the first gentleman's club in NSW, was inaugurated at a meeting at the Pulteney Hotel, Sydney. Similar institutions already existed in Perth and Hobart.

27 October Sir J.J. Gordon Bremer landed in north Australia with a party from England and re-established a military settlement on the north coast of Australia at Port Essington. It was to combat the threat of foreign settlement and promote trade with Asia.

October The first patients were admitted to a new lunatic asylum at Tarban Creek, Sydney.

1 November At the suggestion of postmaster-general James Raymond, Gipps introduced stamped sheets to be used as the first envelopes. The model for this came from England, but it anticipated the British penny postage by two years.

20 November The first Lutherans in the Australian colonies arrived in Adelaide, fleeing religious persecution in Germany. They established settlements on the Torrens River, just outside Adelaide, and by 1842 at Hahndorf and in the Barossa Valley.

November An influenza epidemic swept NSW. Thousands were afflicted and many died.

5 December A council of crown nominees, composed of the governor, colonial secretary, advocate-general, surveyor-general and assistant commissioner of lands, was established in SA. It served both executive and legislative functions.

5 December Having been tried and acquitted in November, seven of the twelve men involved in the Myall Creek massacre were retried and convicted of murder.

31 December Rev William Bernard Ullathorne, the Catholic vicar-general of NSW, returned from Ireland, bringing with him three priests and five Sisters of Charity, the first nuns to come to Australia. Two of the nuns were nurses who later pioneered vocational nursing.



1839 In March Dumont d'Urville's expedition in L'Astrolabe arrived at Port Essington and was surprised to discover an established garrison. Sir J.J. Gordon Bremer had landed there in October 1838 in a second attempt to establish a British outpost in the north. Tinted lithograph showing a view of the garrison by E. Lassalle after Louis le Breton, the artist on the voyage.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

1838 A drought which lasted through 1839 ravaged NSW, particularly large stretches of the Murrumbidgee. The effects were such that 2 November was declared by the government a day of national fasting and contrition.

1838 The *Beagle*, commanded by Capt John C. Wickham, charted the northwestern coast of Australia.

1838 Twelve German missionaries, the first free settlers to come to Moreton Bay, were brought out by Rev John Dunmore Lang to work among the Aborigines.

1838 *The guardian: a tale*, was published in Sydney by Anna Maria Bunn using the pseudonym 'An Australian'. It was the first Australian novel written by a woman.

1839

1 January John Hutt arrived at the Swan River to succeed James Stirling as governor of WA.

1 January The Melbourne Club was inaugurated for the gentlemen of Port Phillip. It soon took up premises at John Pascoe Fawcner's hotel.

17 January The minimum price of crown land was increased from 5s to 12s per acre.

6 February The first issue of the *Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser* (formerly the *Melbourne Advertiser*) was published by John Pascoe Fawcner. In 1852 it was incorporated with the *Argus*.

22 March In NSW the legislative council passed an act to divide the crown lands beyond the 'limits of location' into districts, each to be controlled by a crown lands commissioner and patrolled by border police, whose salaries were to be paid by a levy on licensed graziers.

21 May Gov Gipps proclaimed that the Aboriginal population had rights equal with those of Europeans to the protection and assistance of the laws of England. An inquest was to be held in every case where an Aborigine met a violent death.

May An Aboriginal guide led Angus McMillan to his discovery of cattle pastures in the Gippsland district. McMillan later founded Port Albert.

15 June The British government extended the boundaries of NSW to include New Zealand.

1 July Moreton Bay was closed as a penal settlement. All convicts were transferred, except 94 who were left in charge of the government flocks and herds. A survey of the area was made prior to the land being offered for private sale.