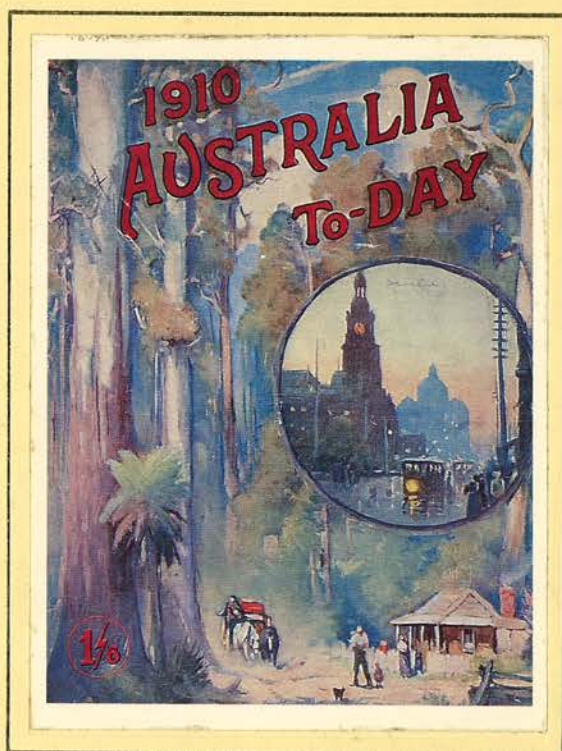


AUSTRALIANS EVENTS AND PLACES



AUSTRALIANS
EVENTS AND PLACES



The Duke of York opens the first parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia in the Melbourne Exhibition Building, on 9 May 1901. Tom Roberts, who attended the ceremony, painted this Sketch for the opening of federal parliament 1901 in preparation for painting the larger and more detailed work that now hangs in the high court, Canberra.

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EVENTS AND PLACES

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AUSTRALIANS: A HISTORICAL LIBRARY
AUSTRALIANS: EVENTS AND PLACES

First published 1987 by
Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates
235 Jones Street, Broadway
New South Wales 2007, Australia

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Australians: a historical library
Includes bibliographies and index.
ISBN 0 949288 09 8 (set).
ISBN 0 949288 18 7 (set : deluxe).
ISBN 0 949288 13 6 (Australians, events and places).
ISBN 0 949288 17 9 (Australians, events and places : deluxe).

1. Australia – History. I. Title: Australians to 1788.
II. Title: Australians 1838. III. Title: Australians
1888. IV. Title: Australians 1938. V. Title: Australians
from 1939. VI. Title: Australians, a historical atlas.
VII. Title: Australians, a guide to sources. VIII.
Title: Australians, events and places. IX. Title:
Australians, a historical dictionary. X. Title:
Australians, historical statistics.

994

Typeset by Phototext Pty Ltd, North Sydney, Australia.

Typeset and Printed by Griffin Press, Netley, South Australia, 5037, Australia.

Film Separations, Colour Scanners Pty Limited, Marrickville, New South Wales, 2204, Australia.

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Fairfax Syme & Weldon Associates is a partnership between John Fairfax & Sons Limited, David Syme & Co. Limited and Kevin Weldon & Associates Pty Ltd.

Published outside Australia by Cambridge University Press
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP 32 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022, USA.
ISBN 0 521 34073 X (set, Cambridge University Press).



COVER ILLUSTRATION

*The 1910 edition of Australia today, published by
the United Commercial Travellers' Association of
Australasia, contrasts a busy Sydney street scene with
the picturesque serenity of rural life.*

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FOREWORD

THIS BOOK and its ten companions have been ten years in the making. They have been created to mark the bicentenary of European settlement in this country, and they are the outcome of collaboration on a scale never before attempted in the writing of Australian history. Hundreds of people in and beyond universities have joined together to re-create the experience of people living in Australia since 1788 and to place that experience in the wider context of a human occupation that began tens of thousands of years ago.

The editors and contributors have worked in a variety of modes: from slicing into the past at fifty-year intervals (*Australians 1838, 1888 and 1938*) to laying out, in terse chronology, events as they happened year by year (*Events and places*), and from portraying processes and movements on maps of the country (*A historical atlas*) to briefing readers for explorations of their own (*A guide to sources*). The authors represent diverse approaches, in terms both of occupation—historian, economist, archaeologist, geographer, librarian, journalist—and of outlook. We have sought the best person for each part of the job, and not altered or muffled anybody's voice. We have also tried to make the work of scholars readily accessible to general readers.

In this aspiration we have been strengthened by a close working relationship with the publishers. From early days the project has benefited from continuous consultation with representatives of Fairfax, Syme & Weldon about its form and presentation. Their confidence in our enterprise has heartened us throughout the long journey.

Together, we and they present *Australians: a historical library* to the people of Australia as an offering for 1988 and beyond.

OLIVER MACDONAGH

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