

THE LATROBE SOCIETY

Patron: The Honourable Alex Chernov, AC, QC Governor of Victoria

'Early Melbourne Paintings'

**Opened by His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC,
Governor of Victoria and Patron of the La Trobe Society**

**Morgans at 401, 401 Collins Street, Melbourne, Friday December 7, 2012
&**

Government House, Saturday January 26, 2013



Roy Morgan collection



Roy Morgan collection

Matthew Flinders (1774-1814) and
wife, Ann Chappelle (1770-1852)
carved ivory, 1812.

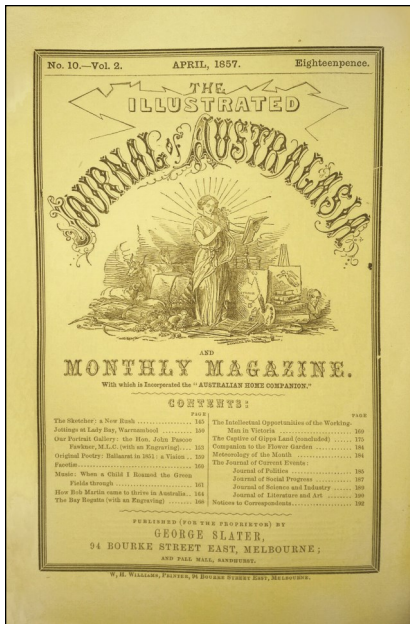
In April 1802 Matthew Flinders visited Port
Phillip during his epic voyage of discovery
lasting from 1801 to 1803.



Roy Morgan collection

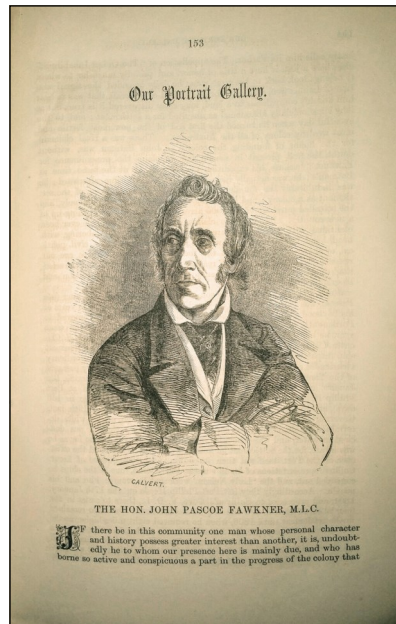
The current Exhibition contains paintings and lithographs on loan from the Roy Morgan collection.

Also included in this catalogue are paintings from ANZ collection, City of Melbourne, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) McCrae Collection, The Australian Club, State Library of New South Wales and Private collections.



(i) *The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine*, April 1857.
 Joint proprietor and printer W. H. Williams, joint proprietor and publisher George Slater.

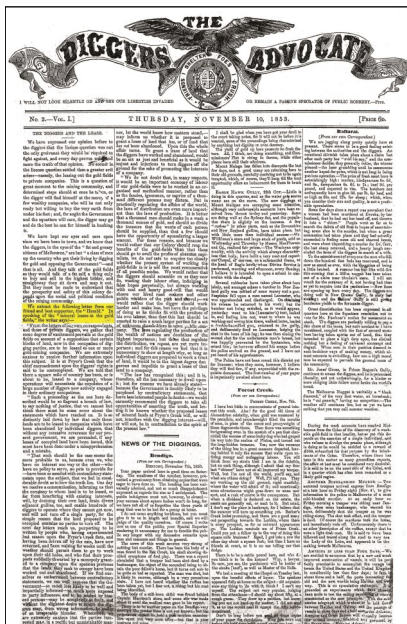
William H. Williams (1831-1910) is the grandfather of Roy Morgan (1908-1985)



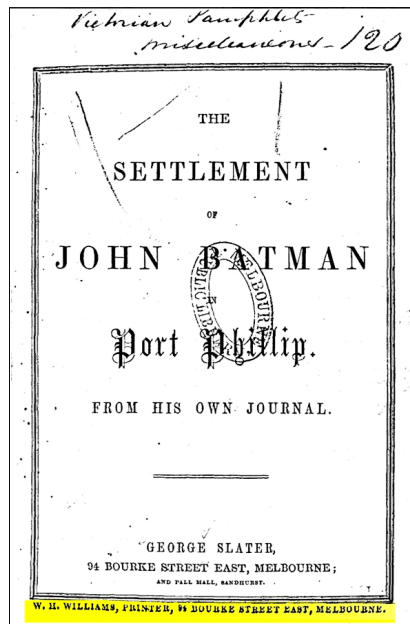
(ii) John Pascoe Fawcner (1792-1869), *Our Portrait Gallery*, Samuel Calvert drawn woodcut engraving published in *The Illustrated Journal of Australasia*, April 1857.
 Original painting by William Strutt, 1851 displayed 1854 at The Melbourne Exhibition, see Exhibit 31, Page 13.



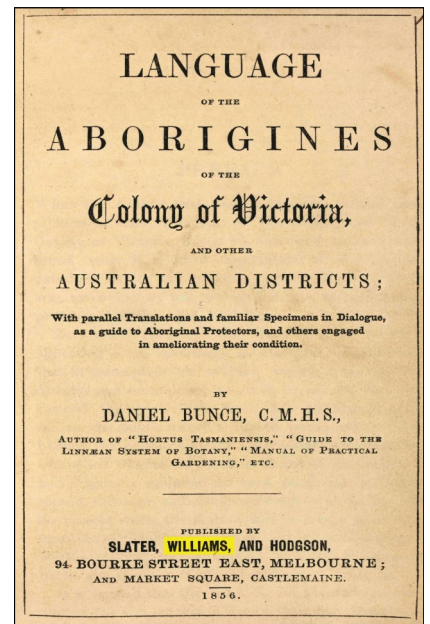
(iii) *Caledonian Gathering The News Letter of Australia* No. 39, Nov., 1859.
 Proprietor W. H. Williams, Publisher and printed at "The Herald".



(iv) *The Diggers Advocate*, Nov 10, 1853
 Published and printed for Heath, Hough & Williams, with help from "our friend and best supporter, the 'Herald'".



(v) *The Settlement of John Batman in Port Phillip* from his own Journal, 1856.
 Joint proprietor and publisher George Slater, joint proprietor and printer William H. Williams.



(vi) *Language of the Aborigines of the Colony of Victoria and other Australian Districts* by Daniel Bunce, C.M.H.S., 1856.
 Published & printed by Slater, Williams & Hodgson.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
VICTORIA

**LA TROBE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS RECEPTION AND OPENING OF
THE EXHIBITION 'EARLY MELBOURNE PAINTINGS'**

**His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC,
Governor of Victoria and Patron of the La Trobe Society**

Friday 7th December, 2012



Mr John Landy, Former Governor of Victoria and **Mrs Lynne Landy**
Professor David de Kretser, Former Governor of Victoria and **Mrs Jan de Kretser**
The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne
Ms Dianne Gardiner, President, The La Trobe Society
Ms Adrienne Clark, former Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of the La Trobe University
Mr Gary Morgan, Executive Chairman, Roy Morgan Research
And many Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that Elizabeth and I join you this evening to share in this wonderful exhibition of 'Early Melbourne Paintings', and it will be my pleasure to open it officially.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Society, who wrote to me as long ago as May last in the context of foreshadowing this event and inviting me to open it officially, told me that the evening will be jointly hosted by 'Mr Gary Morgan and the C J La Trobe Society', and that an exhibition of 'Early Melbourne Colonial Paintings' will be displayed at this function, as indeed it is.

Can I pay tribute to the La Trobe Society and its members for the work they do in promoting a greater recognition and understanding in our community of La Trobe and our very early colonial history.

Without Charles Joseph La Trobe, there would obviously be no La Trobe Society. This is not the time to analyse his administration of what became our State. But it is appropriate to mention that, as many say, he was a complex man and one who was often misunderstood. More often than not he was at odds with the bulk of the colonists in many respects.

For example, La Trobe's approach to his public duties was based essentially on his personal views on religion and morality, which he considered should be a central pillar of the new community. This attitude may be contrasted with the more material aspirations of the young colonists at that time.

Also, contrary to the expectations of the great proportion of the colonists he was unable to procure quickly enough separation from the colony of New South Wales. I believe, however, that he was at all times committed to Separation, which was not a straight forward process, and which finally came in 1851 as a great achievement to him.

Furthermore, La Trobe seemed to have been inept in his handling of the grievances of the miners principally in relation to the unpopular licence fee which he had imposed and, consequently, he became the subject of loud criticism and became increasingly unpopular. Ultimately, these difficulties manifested themselves in the tragedy of Eureka.

But it should also be borne in mind that La Trobe had no relevant training that would have equipped him to deal with the population explosion and other complexities that followed from this and the discovery of gold here. As Dr Dianne Reilly says, when La Trobe arrived here in 1839 Port Philip was 'a primitive, underdeveloped and underpopulated colony, (but when he) left it in 1854 (it was) the most affluent city in the world ...'

The harassment and stress that La Trobe had to endure over many years caused him to submit his resignation on 31 December 1852. Although his resignation was accepted, his successor, Governor Sir Charles Hotham, did not arrive here until May 1854. So La Trobe left Melbourne almost 15 years after arriving here, almost a broken man. Sadly, it took some years before the seemingly ungrateful British Government granted him a meagre pension.

But one very important area in which La Trobe did make a lasting contribution was to facilitate the establishment of Melbourne's cultural base. Remember that it was during his period in office, when the population of Melbourne was barely 100,000, that La Trobe lent his assistance to the establishment of the University of Melbourne, the Museum, the Public Library, the National Gallery, the Houses of Parliament, the Old Treasury Building and other like icons which are still used and admired in the context of the day to day life of our city.

Universal education was a particular concern of La Trobe, and it was under his aegis that the foundation stones for the University of Melbourne and the Public Library of Victoria were laid in 1853. La Trobe was himself a Patron and often the instigator of such cultural and learned bodies as the Philosophical Society, now the Royal Society of Victoria, the Mechanics' Institute, now the Melbourne Athenaeum, the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Society, still in existence, and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Also, what I am sure many of you know, but is less known to the broader community, is that La Trobe was also an artist. He was a well-travelled and educated man who spent much time producing many fine landscapes and sketches. His artistic talent was obvious to many around him and he spent time reflecting and taking in the various landscapes that surrounded him in his life and through his travels. Government House has a beautiful book titled 'Charles Joseph La Trobe – Landscapes and Sketches' that includes an informative introduction by Dr Dianne Reilly. The book truly displays La Trobe's remarkable talent in that regard and should be more widely appreciated.

There is a connection between the works on display this evening and La Trobe in the sense that he was a landscape artist and the works here are also landscapes of early Melbourne, including the city as it looked during his period.

The Society and Gary Morgan are to be commended for bringing together for the first time, this unique and fine collection of works depicting images of early Melbourne – some of which, I understand, have never been publicly displayed before.

The collection provides a most remarkable insight into the beginnings of the colony, particularly during La Trobe's time and gives us all a greater insight into what life was like in that period. What is wonderful about these works is the familiarity of the landscapes yet at the same time, a contrast between today's city and the extent of city 'life' portrayed as it then was.

This collection is important to understanding and appreciating more intimately, the history and story of both this great city and State of Victoria.

And so, as Governor of Victoria and Patron of the La Trobe Society, it gives me great pleasure to declare officially open the exhibition of 'Early Melbourne Paintings'.

Thank you.

Alex Chernov

For details on how to join the C J La Trobe Society write to:

Hon Secretary
C J La Trobe Society
401 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Or Email: secretary@latrobesociety.org.au

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3. Charles La Trobe, Victoria's Separation & Gold Tax – *'turning a wild colonial country into a civilised one'*, Australia Day Council (Victoria) Inc. Oration by Gary Morgan, May 9, 2011,
Updated January 2020

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Melbourne.— January 2020

My special thanks go to the following who helped in the preparation of this publication:

Pauline Underwood, Dianne Reilly, John Drury, Marcus Tarrant, Sue Renshaw and Lauraine Diggins.

Gary Morgan, January 2020

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1. Melbourne in 1836

Samuel Calvert drawn woodcut engraving from Robert Russell's 1836 sketch of huts, in background John Pascoe Fawkner's, in front John Batman's and his party. *Williams's Musical Annual and Australian Sketch Book for 1858* Printed and published by W. H. Williams, 1858



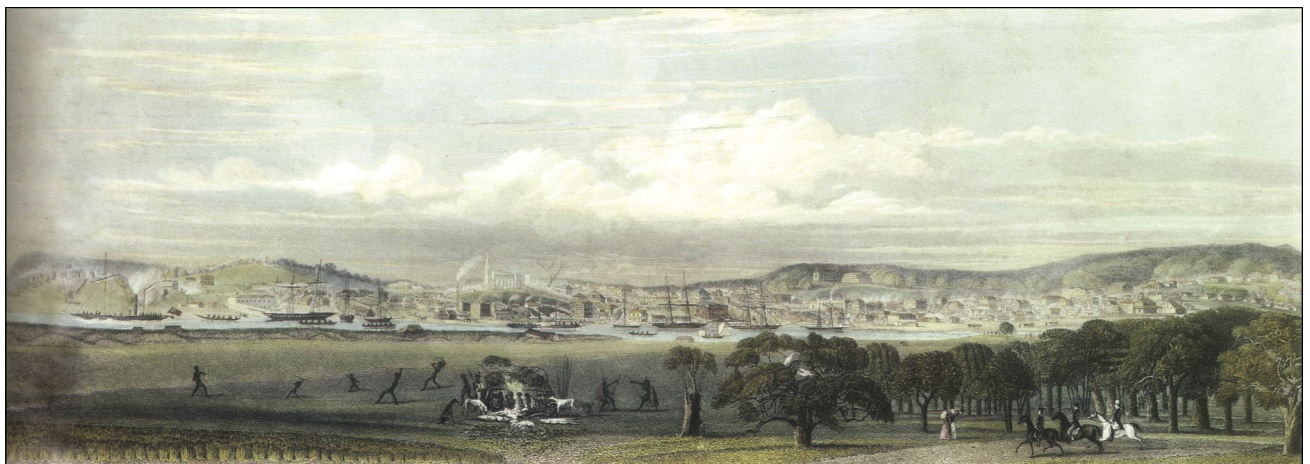
Roy Morgan collection



Private collection

2. The Commandant's House, Melbourne

Lithograph by Captain (later) Admiral P.P. King, c.1840



ANZ collection

3. View of Melbourne, Port Phillip

by W. F. E Liardet, c.1843 - 1845



ANZ collection

4. *View down Collins Street, Melbourne*
Watercolour, Unknown Artist, c.1845-50



Roy Morgan collection

5. *Sunset, Williamstown*
Oil on canvas by I. M. Nelson, c.1845



Roy Morgan collection

6. *River Yarra, Melbourne.* (John Pascoe Fawkner's house lower far left)
Watercolour and gouache by George Alexander Gilbert, 1846



Roy Morgan collection

7. *Melbourne's First Bridge over the Yarra completed 1846 — looking east from south side*
(See Exhibits 19 & 32)
Colour lithograph by Thomas Ham, c.1846

Early Melbourne 1841 to 1845; Etchings by Henry Gilbert Jones

Roy Morgan collection



8. *Wesleyan Chapel, with a View in Queen Street* (See Exhibit 21)



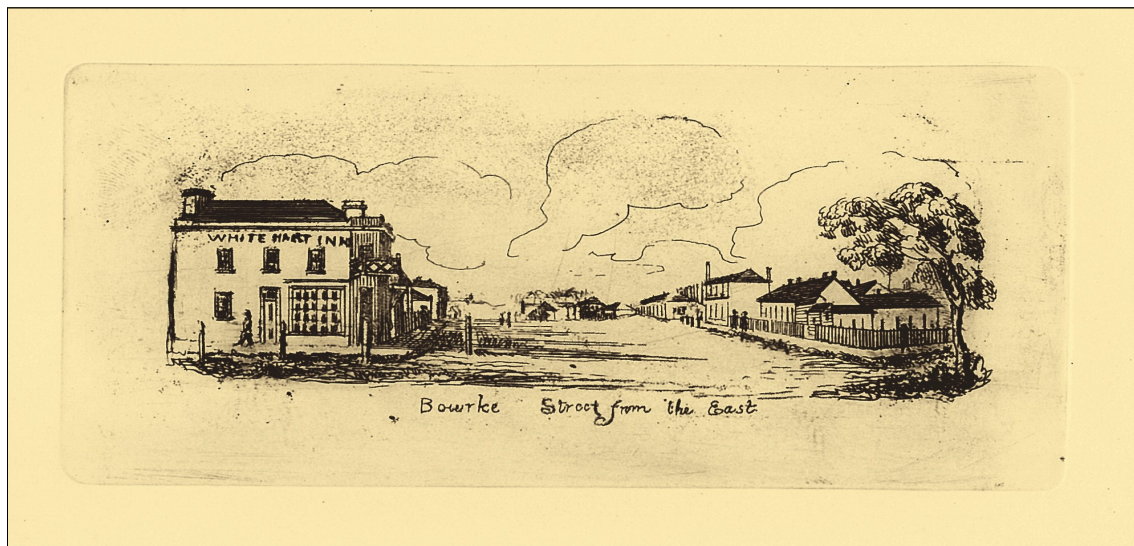
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10. *Collins Street from the West*



11. *Elizabeth Street in Flood*



12. *Bourke Street from the East*



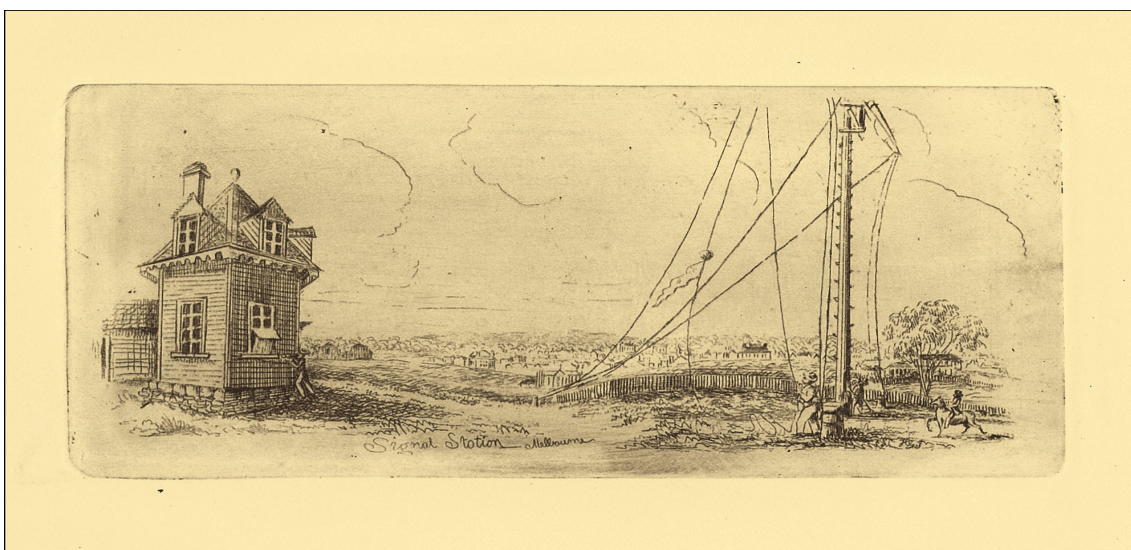
13. *St. Francis Church from Elizabeth Street* (See Exhibits 44 & 45)



14. *The Wharf, Melbourne*



15. *Collins Street from the Independent Chapel*



16. *The Signal Station, Flagstaff Hill* (See Exhibit 23)



17. *Collins Street from the Scotch Kirk*



18. *Government Offices from Batman's Hill*



19. *The Old Wooden Bridge over the Yarra* (See Exhibits 7 & 32)



National Trust of Australia (Victoria) McCrae Homestead collection

20. *Queen Street, Annaud's Corner*
by Georgiana McCrae, c.1844



National Trust of Australia (Victoria) McCrae Homestead collection

21. *Wesleyan Chapel Queen Street, from the Windows of the Savings Bank,
Collins Street West* (See Exhibit 8)
by Georgiana McCrae, c.1853



National Trust of Australia (Victoria) McCrae Homestead collection

22. *The Flagstaff and Observatory*
by Georgiana McCrae, c.1850



The Australian Club

23. *View of Melbourne from the Flagstaff* Lithograph, 1858
 (1854 Melbourne Exhibition Building, centre left—see Exhibit 31)



Roy Morgan collection

24. *Panoramic View of Melbourne*
 Lithograph, c.1863



Roy Morgan collection

25. Collins Street from Queen Street

Watercolour by Henry C. Gritten, c.1859

(Collins Street scene used by François Cogné for his lithograph printed and published by Charles Troedel, 1863-64)



Roy Morgan collection

26. Bourke Street

Watercolour by Henry C. Gritten, c.1859

(Collins Street scene used by François Cogné for his lithograph printed and published by Charles Troedel, 1863-64)



Roy Morgan collection

27. *Swanston Street*

Watercolour by Henry C. Gritten, c.1859

(Collins Street scene used by François Cogné for his lithograph printed and published by Charles Troedel, 1863)



Roy Morgan collection

28. *Elizabeth Street*

Watercolour by Henry C. Gritten, c.1859

(Elizabeth Street scene used by Edward Gilks for his lithograph printed and published by Charles Troedel, 1864)



Roy Morgan collection

29. *Eastern Market*

Watercolour by Henry C. Gritten, c.1859

(Eastern Market scene used by James Buckingham Philip for his lithograph printed and published by Charles Troedel, 1864)



Roy Morgan collection

30. *View from Eastern Hill*

Watercolour by Henry C. Gritten, c.1859

(View from Eastern Hill scene used by Unknown Artist for the lithograph printed and published by Charles Troedel, 1864)



Roy Morgan collection

31. *1854 Melbourne Exhibition Building (NW angle)*

Original pencil & water colour drawing by Edward Turner (1836-1913), 1856
 (S.T. Gill used the drawing for his 1856 lithograph of the Melbourne Exhibition Building - see Exhibit 23)



Roy Morgan collection

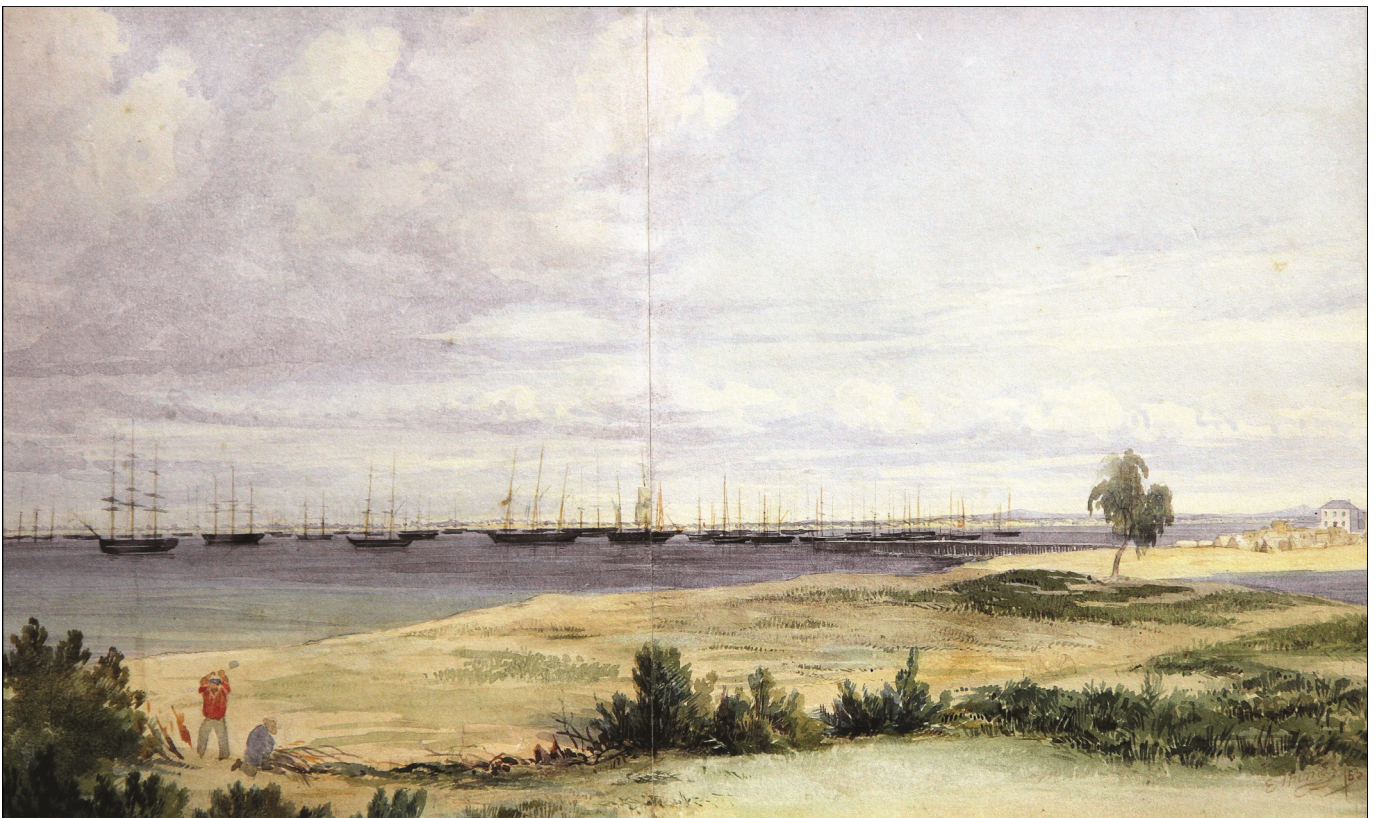
32. *Melbourne's Yarra from south side looking north-west. (On each side pylon stumps from First Bridge over the Yarra)* (See Exhibits 7 & 19)

Lithograph attributed to Edmund Thomas, c.1853



Roy Morgan collection

33. *Sketch from St Kilda*
Watercolour by J. D. Stone, c.1851



Roy Morgan collection

34. *Sandridge*
Watercolour by Edmund Thomas, c.1853



Roy Morgan collection

35. *Evening on the Yarra, Melbourne*
Watercolour by Henry Easom Davies, c.1856

RICHMOND PUNT.

To the Editor of the Argus from George Tilley

Wednesday May 30, 1855

RICHMOND PUNT.

To the Editor of the Argus.

Sir,—The *Argus* of this morning contains a letter from a "Gentleman" (?), which I should pass with silence had he not charged me with abusing a female. I trust you will allow me space (as an old subscriber) in your valuable paper to contradict the slander of this "gentleman" On the 21st instant, about half-past six o'clock, my second son, of fourteen years of age, was working the small punt: I was myself on the large punt. The small one being detained on the Richmond side, I called out to know the reason; my son replied that a female would not pay the penny. On the punt arriving at the opposite side the female left the punt without "difficulty," and was leaving without paying the penny. I requested her to pay the boy immediately, and told her she had detained the punt too long already. She insisted on the boy putting the change first into her hand for a two-shilling piece, as she called it. Immediately afterwards, on taking this coin to the light, it was discovered to be a rupee, not a two-shilling piece. The "gentleman" commenced on me by saying that I had insulted the lady; he likewise approved and sanctioned the conduct of the lady,

and said I was sharp after the pennies. I replied that, having paid £1200 per annum for the punts, I was obliged to look sharp after the pennies. He still continued to abuse me, and was replied to by two gentlemen (passengers) on my behalf. (These witnesses I can produce.) I likewise told him I would not allow him to act as a blackguard towards me. He still continued and justified the conduct of the female. I told him "a fool would be meddling, and I should say no more to him." I ought here to say that this "gentleman" had been previously pointed out to me by my sons as being a troublesome man, and that he always disputed about paying his penny. You know, Sir, that it is difficult in my situation to please all parties, especially a certain class who think all tolls an imposition, and would not be satisfied even if I passed them toll free.

The series of certificates, which appear as an advertisement in another column of your paper, will show you, and a generous public, that I have conducted the punts properly. May I be allowed to say, that when I obtained the signatures to the certificates I had not the least intention of making them public, therefore I beg most respectfully to apologise to those gentlemen for taking this liberty.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
GEORGE TILLEY.

George Tilley (1805-1872) is the 2 x great grandfather of Gary Morgan, b1941.



Roy Morgan collection

36a. *View of Melbourne over the Yarra, Melbourne*
Watercolour by Henry Easom Davies, c.1862



Roy Morgan collection

36b. *View in the Botanical Gardens*

Samuel Calvert drawn woodcut engraving from an original drawing by M. Guerard, c.1856
The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine, May 1857, published for the proprietor by
George Slater, printed by W.H. Williams, 94 Bourke Street East, Melbourne



Roy Morgan collection

37. Yarra River near the Punt
Watercolour by Henry Easom Davies, c.1856



Roy Morgan collection

38. View of Melbourne and Yarra from the Botanical Gardens
Oil on canvas by Henry C. Gritten, c.1865



Roy Morgan collection

39a. *Melbourne from the Yarra*
Watercolour by Nicholas Chevalier, c.1868



Roy Morgan collection

39b. *Melbourne from the Yarra, across East Melbourne*
E. Brandard drawn engraving from the c.1868 original watercolour by Nicholas Chevalier, 1874



Private collection

40. *Dights Falls*
Watercolour by Henry Easom Davies, c.1856



Roy Morgan collection

41. *Grazing by the Yarra*
Oil on canvas by William Short Snr, c.1878



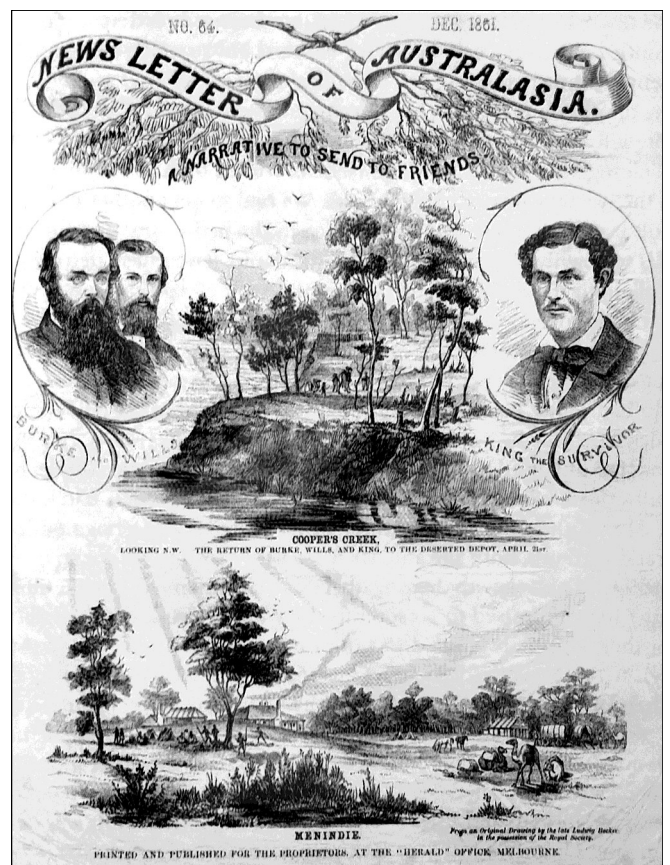
Roy Morgan collection

42. *Burke and Wills Expedition leaving Melbourne*
 Tinted lithograph published & printed by A.H. Massina & Co, c.1860



Roy Morgan collection

43a. *Burke and Wills Monument*
 Watercolour by FA, c.1862



43b. *Cooper's Creek and Mindie*
News Letter of Australasia, No. 64, Dec 1861
 Published and printed for the Proprietor
 (W. H. Williams) at the "Herald" office



Roy Morgan collection

44. *St Francis Cathedral, Melbourne* (See Exhibit 13)
Oil on board by J. W. Atwood, c.1848



Roy Morgan collection

45. *Great Lonsdale Street East* (See Exhibit 13)
Lithograph by François Cogné, c.1864



Roy Morgan collection

46a. *Melbourne from St Kilda Road*
Watercolour by Nicholas Chevalier, c.1865



Roy Morgan collection

46b. *Melbourne from the St Kilda Road*
J C Armytage drawn engraving from the c.1865 original watercolour by Nicholas Chevalier, 1874



Private collection

47. *On the Yarra with second bridge over the Yarra*
Oil on canvas by James Howe Carse, c.1875



ANZ collection

48. *Port of Melbourne*
Oil on canvas by Jacques Carabain, c.1879



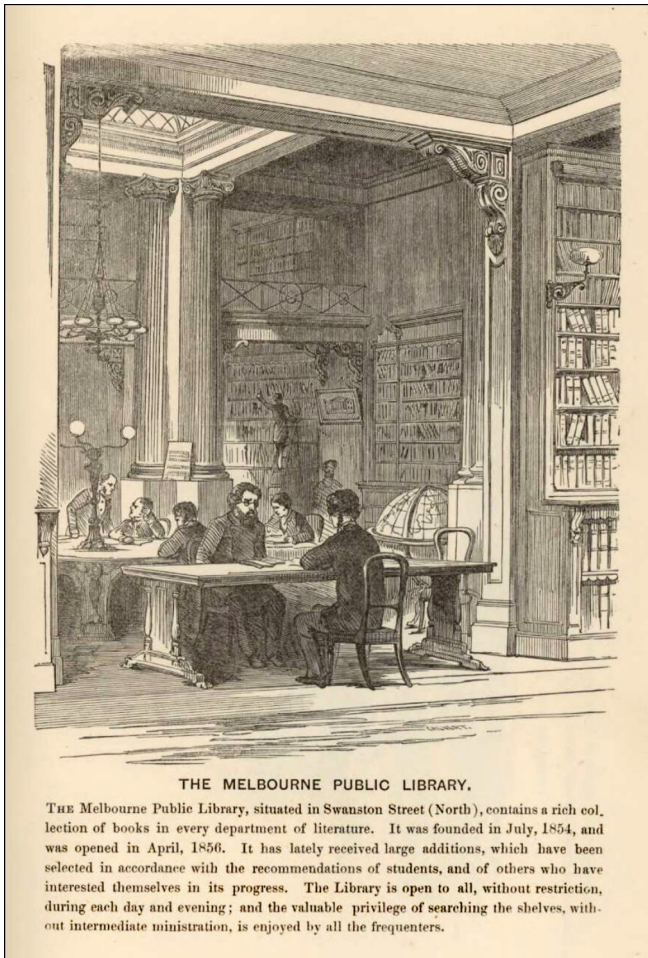
ANZ collection

49. *View down Collins Street from Spring Street*
Oil on canvas by James Alfred Turner, c.1874



Roy Morgan collection

50. *Melbourne Public Library*
Oil on canvas attributed to Jacques Carabain, c.1880



THE MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE Melbourne Public Library, situated in Swanston Street (North), contains a rich collection of books in every department of literature. It was founded in July, 1854, and was opened in April, 1856. It has lately received large additions, which have been selected in accordance with the recommendations of students, and of others who have interested themselves in its progress. The Library is open to all, without restriction, during each day and evening; and the valuable privilege of searching the shelves, without intermediate ministrations, is enjoyed by all the frequenters.

Roy Morgan collection



Roy Morgan collection

51a. *The Melbourne Public Library*
 Drawn woodcut engraving published in
Williams's Musical Annual and
Australian Sketch Book for 1858.

51b. *Melbourne Coffee Palace, Bourke Street, Melbourne*
 Watercolour by William Pitt, c.1881



Roy Morgan collection

52. *Collins Street at dusk*
 Oil on canvas attributed to Albert Henry Fullwood, c.1890



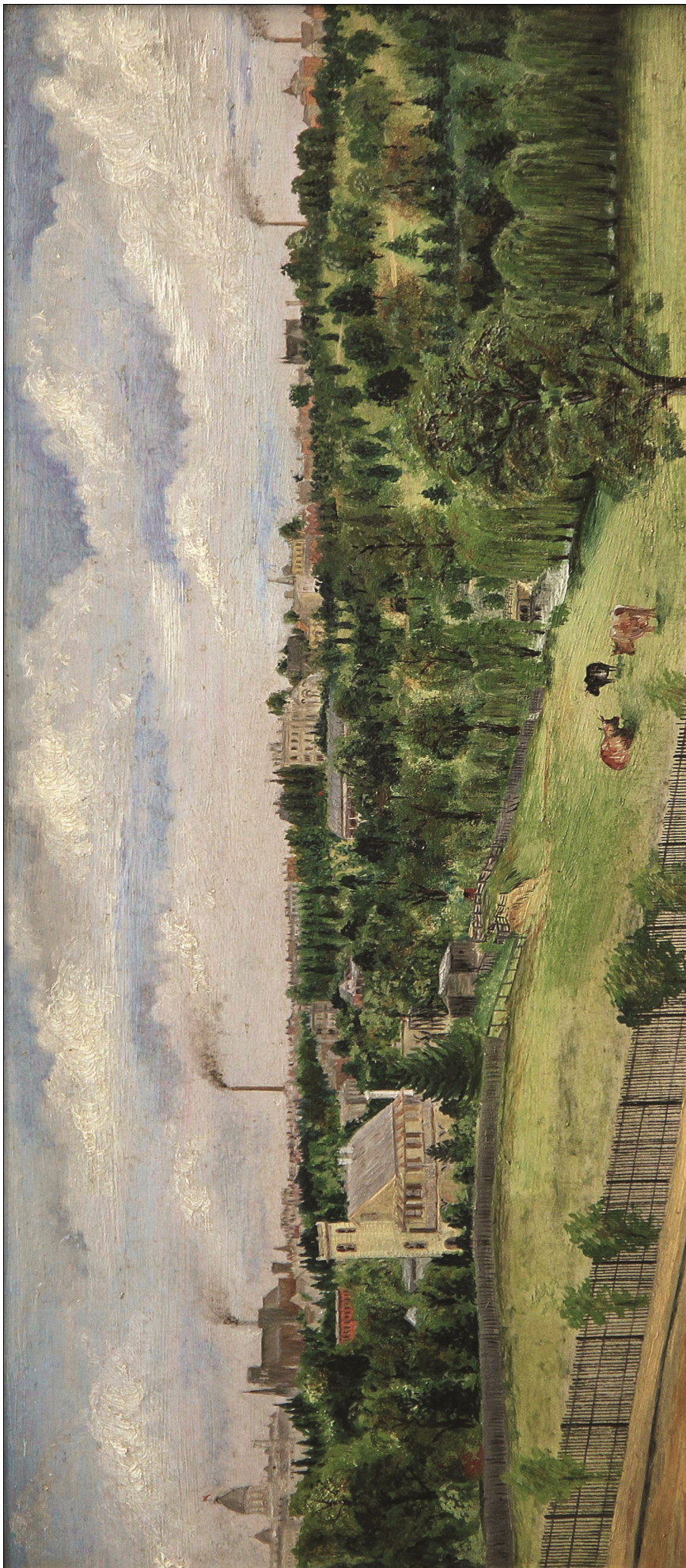
Roy Morgan collection

53. *Law Courts from the Maribyrnong River*
Watercolour by F. B. Gibbes, c.1882



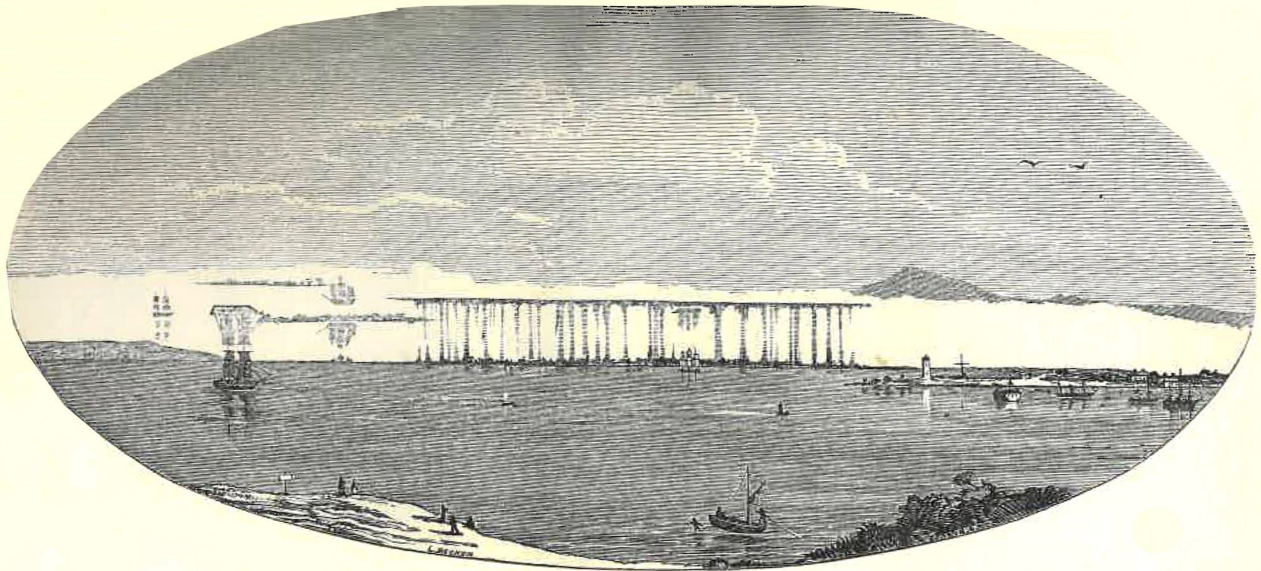
Roy Morgan collection

54. *View of Melbourne from Sweet William, Brunswick*
Watercolour by George Rossi Ashton, c.1880



Roy Morgan collection

55. *Early view of Melbourne from Punt Hill*
Oil on canvas by Colonial Artist, 1888



MIRAGE IN HOBSON'S BAY.

THE phenomenon of Mirage is frequently to be seen in Victoria, especially on the plains and in the Bay: the sudden and irregular meteorological changes, peculiar to this climate, so altering the refractive powers of the atmosphere that it is not uncommon to see distant places loom upward in a very remarkable manner. The Engraving illustrates a singular and beautiful mirage witnessed in Hobson's Bay, in August, 1857.

Roy Morgan collection

56a Mirage in Hobson's Bay, in August 1857

Drawn woodcut engraving published in *Williams's Musical Annual and Australian Sketch Book for 1858*.



Roy Morgan collection

56b Sandringham Beach

Oil on canvas by Leon 'Sonny' Pole, 1890



Roy Morgan collection

57. *View of Melbourne*
Photograph, 1906

RARE SET OF 12 PLATES
OF
EARLY MELBOURNE

1841 TO 1845

BY
HENRY GILBERT JONES



PUBLISHED BY
THE FINE ART SOCIETY
100 EXHIBITION STREET
MELBOURNE

1934

(Copyrighted)



HIS SET OF ETCHINGS BY HENRY GILBERT JONES of Early Melbourne, is probably the Earliest Work in Copperplate produced within the First Ten Years of the Birth of Melbourne, and is therefore unique and of considerable Historical Interest and Value.

The Artist, HENRY GILBERT JONES, was born in Swansea, Wales, in 1804. He arrived in Melbourne in 1841, and was by profession an Apothecary, but never practiced, being in comfortable circumstances financially.

He applied his talents to drawing and sketching, and to the amelioration of the Aborigines, and was appointed a Deputy-protector of the Natives, and held the position for some years.

These Etchings were made entirely for his own personal use, and as illustrated headings for his letter paper. They were never publically used and distributed as prints, and so are extremely rare, and it is quite possible that some of the Copperplates were never printed from before the publication of this set.

HENRY GILBERT JONES was the first person to live at Eltham, where he built a log hut, and resided there for many years, living the life of a recluse. He died in 1887.

(3)

(There are no pages 2 and 4)

LIST OF PLATES

1. *Wesleyan Chapel, with a View in Queen Street* - Etching No. 8, page 6(i)
2. *The Wharf from Batman's Hill* - Etching No. 9, page 6(i)
3. *Collins Street from the West* - Etching No. 10, page 6(i)
4. *Elizabeth Street in Flood* - Etching No. 11, page 6(ii)
5. *Bourke Street from the East* - Etching No. 12, page 6(ii)
6. *St. Francis Church from Elizabeth Street* - Etching No. 13, page 6(ii)
7. *The Wharf, Melbourne* - Etching No. 14, page 7(i)
8. *Collins Street from the Independent Chapel* - Etching No. 15, page 7(i)
9. *The Signal Station, Flagstaff Hill* - Etching No. 16, page 7(i)
10. *Collins Street from the Scotch Kirk* - Etching No. 17, page 7(ii)
11. *Government Offices from Batman's Hill* - Etching No. 18, page 7(ii)
12. *The Old Wooden Bridge over the Yarra* - Etching No. 19, page 7(ii)

These subjects were executed at varying periods, the earliest depicting the extreme Primitive Buildings, Chapels, and Streets of the Town as it existed from about 1841 until about 1845.

Plate No. 11 is perhaps the Earliest, showing the Old Government Offices built of wood, and shingle roofs.

(5)

Plate No. 9, Flagstaff Hill, was originally known as Burial Hill, afterwards the popular Flagstaff Hill, where all the Melbourne folks used to take their outings on Sundays and Holidays.

It was the Signal Station where all Vessels coming into Hobson's Bay were signalled.

Plate No. 4 shows Elizabeth Street in Flood, and the terrible conditions that existed in all the low lying parts of the Town when the River Yarra overflowed its banks.

The Four Plates of the Earliest Churches in Melbourne are of considerable Historical Interest.

Plate No. 1.—Wesleyan Chapel. The First Religious Service was held in May, 1836, under some Sheoak Trees on Batman's Hill, by the Rev. Joseph Orton, a Wesleyan Minister, who came from Hobartown on a visit with the Batman family.

The First Building was a diminutive brick-built Chapel, holding 150 persons, erected by John J. Peers, on a block of land on the Corner of Swanston Street and Flinders Lane, where the Savings Bank now stands. The Bank paid £160,000 for the block, which cost at the original Second Land Sale, £59.

(6)

At the First Government Land Sale the block of land at the Corner of Collins Street and Queen Street was purchased for £40, and on this a deposit of £4 was paid. Later the purchaser was not satisfied that his purchase was a safe one, and forfeited his deposit.

This Site being abandoned, the Government finally granted it to the Wesleyans as a Site for a Chapel and School. Upon this was erected the Second Wesleyan Chapel (as depicted in the *Plate*). The Foundations were laid on the 11th of May, 1840, by the Rev. Benjamin Hurst, and the Chapel was formally opened on the 24th of June, 1841, by the Rev. S. Wilkinson and the Rev. William Waterfield. In 1857 the Trustees of the Church sold this Site for £40,000 to the Bank of Australasia, and they moved their Church to Lonsdale Street, as it now exists.

Plate No. 8 shows the First Independent Chapel at the Corner of Collins Street and Russell Street, which was first opened for Divine Worship on January 1st, 1841. The Rev. William Waterfield was the First Independent Minister, who came to Melbourne on the 22nd of May, 1838.

He preached his First Sermon in the house of Mr. John Gardiner, who resided on the site of the old *Bull and Mouth* Hotel, in Bourke Street.

(7)

Afterwards, Service was held in a Room at John Pascoe Fawkner's Hotel, at the Corner of Collins Street and Market Street.

Later, they secured the block of land on the Corner of Collins Street and Russell Street, and on this the Chapel (as depicted in the *Plate*) was built. The Foundations were laid by Mr. Henry Hopkins of Hobartown, on the 3rd of September, 1839, and it was Opened for Divine Service on the 1st January, 1841, being the First Permanent Place of Worship erected and finished in Port Phillip.

Plate No. 10 shows the old Scots Kirk on the Site at the Corner of Collins Street and Russell Street. On this land, which was a Grant from the Government, was built the First Weatherboard Room, which was to serve both as a Chapel and Schoolroom. At a later date the Brick Chapel was built (as shown in the *Plate*). The Foundation Stone was laid on the 22nd of January, 1841, by the Rev. James Forbes, who officiated at the Ceremony, and the Chapel was opened for Divine Service on October 3rd, 1841.

Plate No. 6.—St. Francis Church. The First Catholic Meeting place was at Campbell and Wooley's Store, at the Corner of Elizabeth Street and Little Collins Street, the Site of the Old Colonial Bank, and it was there the Rev. Father Geoghegan preached the First Sermon and Celebrated the First Mass.

(8)

Afterwards the Government granted to the Catholic Community the block of land at the Corner of Elizabeth Street and Lonsdale Street, and on this they First Built a Small Wooden Chapel, at a cost of £100, which was opened for Service on the 28th July, 1839.

The Foundation Stone of St. Francis Church was laid by the Rev. Father Geoghegan on the 4th of October, 1841, and the Building was finally completed, and the Solemn Opening and Dedication of the Church took place on the 25th of October, 1845. The Architect was Samuel Jackson. The *Plate* shows the Church in the Bush, as it was then, and as it exists to-day.

Plate No. 12 shows the First Old Wooden Bridge built over the Yarra River; this existed from 1845 to 1850. The First means of Crossing the River was a Ferry, then a large Punt in 1843, and then the Bridge of Wood, as depicted, which was built by Sutherland at a cost of £400. It was commenced on the 9th of June, 1845, and finished in January, 1846.

One of the most interesting *Plates* is *No. 5*, which illustrates the Old White Hart Inn at the Corner of Bourke Street and Spring Street, and is probably one of the Oldest Hotels which still occupies its Original Site.

(9)



VICTORIA DAY COUNCIL SEPARATION TREE CEREMONY ORATION

by
Gary Morgan

November 14, 2009



Town Crier, Brian Whykes



Left to Right; Gary Morgan, Anthony Cree
and Norman Kennedy,
Chair of the Victoria Day Council



Victorian Colonial Troops
(In 1850's uniform)



Reading of the 1850 Proclamation of Separation,
by the Town Crier, Brian Whykes



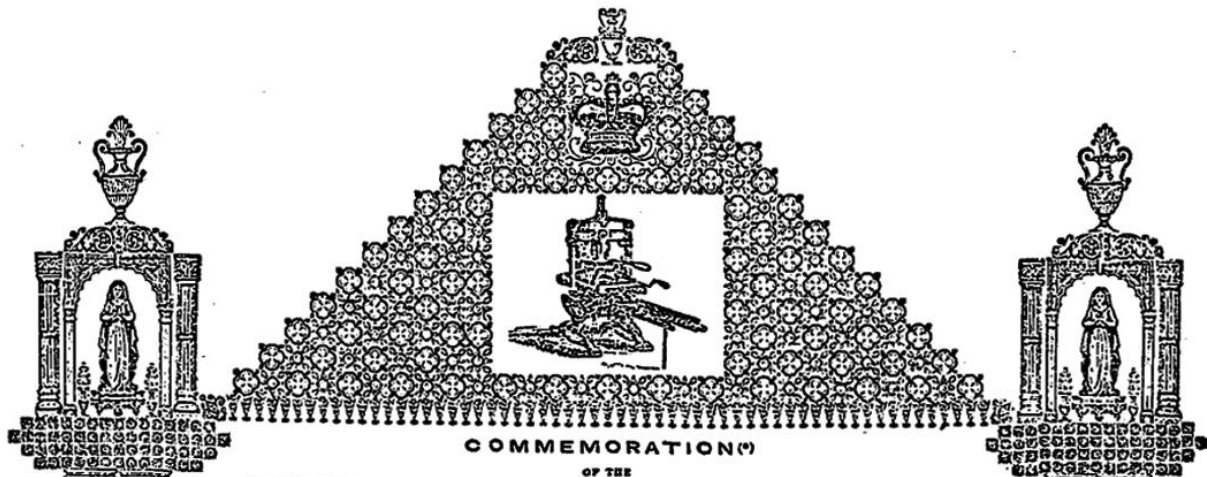
Victorian Re-enactment Society Inc and Victorian
Colonial Infantry Association Inc. (In 1850's uniform)



Oration and Presentation of Essay Prize
by Gary Morgan



Left to Right: Gary Morgan, Cr Helen Whiteside
(Mayor, City of Glen Eira), Cr Dick Ellis (East
Gippsland Shire Council) & Kim Ellis, Cr James Long
(Mayor, Bayside City Council)



COMMEMORATION*)

OF THE
BOON OF THE SEPARATION OF THE PROVINCE OF VICTORIA
 FROM THE
COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Melbourne, the Fifteenth of November, 1850. Printed in the line of the Procession to open the PRINCE'S BRIDGE.

The Act for the better regulation of the Australian Colonies, which constituted Victoria into a free Province, passed the Imperial Parliament on the First of August, 1850, of which information reached this Colony, by way of Adelaide, on the 11th of November, 1850.

In this cause the PRESS has been ever active, and has nobly performed the duty entrusted thereto. Justice has at length triumphed! Victoria is freed from the clog of the Elder Colony of New South Wales! Her people rejoice as one man. The PRINTERS, and all employed on the diffusion of the printed page: all engaged on the all-powerful PRESS, join heart and soul in the People's Joy.

This Colony was founded August 31st, 1835, on which day the first house was commenced for Mr. John Pascoe Fawkner. On the 1st of June, 1836, the first Public Meeting of the Inhabitants took place, and James Simpson, Esq., was elected unanimously as Ruler of the People.

In September, 1836, Captain Lonsdale and a small force of Military, with Officers and Workmen, arrived from Sydney, to govern and order the new Colony.

On Monday, 1st January, 1838, the first Newspaper was issued—a written sheet, published to the extent of 32 Nos. weekly, by Mr. John Pascoe Fawkner. The first Paper was printed on the 5th of March, 1838, and was entitled "The Melbourne Advertiser." It is now "The Melbourne Daily News and Port Phillip Patriot," edited by the Proprietor, George D'Arley Bourziquot, Esq. It commenced a foolscap sheet, once a week, was enlarged to a full sheet of double demy, and was first published daily, commencing on the 15th May, 1845, by John Pascoe Fawkner.

"The Port Phillip Gazette" was first published early in October, 1838, by Messrs. Strobe and Arden, bi-weekly. It is now a tri-weekly Journal, edited and published by Thomas M'Combie, Esq.

"The Melbourne Morning Herald" was commenced, and is still carried on by George Cavenagh, Esq. First published in January, 1839, twice a week. It has been a daily Paper since Jan. 1849.

"The Melbourne Argus" commenced on 1st June, 1846, and ceased 12th September, 1848.

"The Argus" commenced 15th September, 1848, and as a daily Paper 18th June, 1849. Present Proprietors,—Messrs. Wilson and Johnston.

"The Times," published by Ryland John Howard, was commenced September 1842, and was discontinued 1844.

"The Standard," bi-weekly Journal, was commenced by G. D. Bourziquot, Esq., in 1844, and amalgamated with the "Port Phillip Patriot" Oct. 1, 1845.

"The Courier" was published by Mr. S. Goode on 6th January, 1843, and discontinued in April, 1844.

"The Abilion" was commenced by Mr. S. Goode in December, 1847, and discontinued in March, 1848.

"The Geelong Advertiser" was commenced at Geelong, November, 1840, by J. P. Fawkner. Edited and Published by Messrs Harrison and Watkins. Began as a weekly paper, and is now the property of Mr. J. Harrison, and published daily.

"The Victoria Colonist," formerly "The Corio Chronicle," is published for Dr. Thomson, at Geelong, bi-weekly; and "The Omnibus," by Mr. Combe, is also issued at Geelong, making three Newspapers issued in that town.

The District of Portland Bay boasts its two Papers bi-weekly, viz., "The Portland Guardian," and "The Portland Herald."

Belfast also has its "Gazette," published by Mr Osborne. Melbourne also produces sundry other publications—

"The Church of England Messenger," originated by Dr. Perry, Bishop of Melbourne, January, 1850. Han's "Illustrated Australian Magazine," commenced August, 1850. Monthly.

"The Australasian," Published by Mr Pullar, a quarterly reprint. October, 1850.

"The Presbyterian Magazine," issued by Mr Ramsay, monthly.

"The Temperance Advocate," issued weekly by Mr. Finlayson.

"The Melbourne Family Journal," commenced by Mr. Hayden, and carried on by Mr Craig.

"The Christian Citizen," published by Mr Goode, monthly.

"Victoria Weekly Price Current and Circular," published by Mr W. L. Lees.

Thus VICTORIA can boast of the PRESS, and the people can exult in the noble patronage they afford to

THE PRESS.

Which has rendered Britain the Arbitress of the World, and has also wrought wonders in Victoria. This PRESS and the People have achieved that consummation so devoutly to be wished, viz., SEPARATION:—Total Separation from New South Wales. 'Tis to the PRESS that this city is indebted for the information diffused by Three Daily, One Tri-weekly, Three Weekly, Four Monthly, and One Quarterly Journal; and the City of Geelong circulates the pabulum of knowledge by means of One Daily and Two Weekly Newspapers. Portland Bay and Belfast have also the benefit of the information circulated by means of Three Journals. The PRESS is Omnipotent! Its diffusion is not only wide, but universal; its voice penetrates the deepest recesses of the forest; crosses the widest plains, the highest mountains, and the most rapid streams. Not a hut in the wilderness but feels the powerful influence of that Lever of Freedom—THE PRESS.

The first Meeting to demand Separation was held in Melbourne, June, 1840. The feat was forwarded by Non-Election; July, 1848, and finally accomplished August 1, 1850.

LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

VICTORIA SEPARATION ODE.

All hail! thou Glorious Press!
 When firstly thy bright frame was rear'd,
 Truth rose, in radiant light enshar'd,
 'The Nations to address.
 Then Tyrants trembled in dismay,
 And Reason held her sov'reign sway,
 Supported by the PRESS!

Advance! still the PRESS!
 And fair Religion's healing hand,
 Sheds peace and love o'er every land,
 'The multitudes to bless!
 Whilst Science all her varied stores
 From clime to clime benignly pours,
 Assisted by the PRESS!

Time-honored now, O PRESS!
 Thy power to quell the oppressor's pride,
 And draw corruption's veil aside,
 Our grateful hearts confess!
 This day shall by each voice attune
 To freedom's welcome boon,
 Enforced by the PRESS!



(*) This paper was, we believe, written by Mr. Fawkner, the only contribution to it from the Herald Office being the types in which it was printed, and the verses at the foot. We do not agree with Mr. Fawkner in thinking that Separation has been "forwarded by Non-Election;" the very reverse we believe to be the fact.—Ed.M.M.II.

**VICTORIA DAY COUNCIL
SEPARATION TREE CEREMONY ORATION**

by

Gary Morgan

November 14, 2009

(Updated by Gary Morgan, January 2020)

Acknowledgements:

Ian Morrison, Stewart McArthur, Shane Carmody (Director, Collections & Access, State Library of Vic.)

Since November 19, 1834, when Edward Henty (aged 24 years) arrived at Portland Bay, there have been three major political events which have shaped the State of Victoria to make it what it is today:

1. **Separation of the Port Phillip District (Victoria) from New South Wales** – July 1, 1851 – the **Separation Association** (formed June 4, 1840) was strongly opposed to convict labour and convict settlement, and English military administration from Sydney,
2. **The Eureka uprising in the Victorian goldfields**, December 3, 1854, and subsequent ‘Not Guilty’ verdicts involving the Melbourne legal establishment many of whom had been vocal supporters of the **Separation of Victoria** and opposed to the oppressive English military administration, and
3. **Federation of Australia**, January 1, 1901 – making it possible for Australian’s democracy which is today run from Canberra – Australia’s greatest self-made disaster. (I first went public on the issue of Canberra as the Federal Capital on March 3, 1998 at *The Melbourne Convention - Federation: into the Future* in my paper: [The Asian Crisis means we need major change for Australia - if not, we need to destroy the Federal System of Government as we now know it - and start again!](http://www.rovmorgan.com/news/papers/1998/19980601) <http://www.rovmorgan.com/news/papers/1998/19980601> - I am pleased former Prime Minister Paul Keating now agrees with me – it took him a while, however better late than never!)

On November 11, 1850, the news reached Melbourne by way of Adelaide, that the UK Imperial Parliament on August 1, 1850 had passed an Act which constituted that the **Port Phillip District (Victoria) would be a free province from the Colony of New South Wales**. During the days that followed there was much celebration.

We are here today to celebrate Friday, November 15, 1850, a public holiday. On that day Charles La Trobe, Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, commemorated the advent of separation after a Grand Separation Procession which included the opening of Princes Bridge. (The Princes Bridge Foundation Stone was laid March 25, 1846.)

The Separation Procession began in front of the Government Offices in William Street (now the Law Courts) and proceeded over the new Princes Bridge to the area we are at today in the Botanic Gardens near the present Government House. (See Exhibit 36b)

Garryowen (Edmund Finn, from July 1841 to 1851 a journalist for **George Cavenagh’s Port Phillip Herald**), See Page 916, says: “The procession and the crowd jammed the streets numbered about fifteen thousand persons – an immense aggregation for the period.”

There were “banners, emblems and regalia” representing many different interest groups. *Garryowen* maintains the “greatest novelty of the occasion” was a printing press (belonging to the *Port Phillip Herald*) mounted on a “huge wagon” drawn by eight horses for Melbourne’s printers. Included was a platform as standing room for **John Pascoe Fawkner** “the father of Port Phillipian Press” (*Port Phillip Patriot*), **William Clarke** and **Samuel Goode** (Goode published *The Melbourne Courier* and *Albion*). (See Page 8, my 2008 La Trobe Lecture.)

On Page 2 of this oration is the November 19, 1850 front page of *The Melbourne Morning Herald and General Daily Advertiser* prepared by John Pascoe Fawkner – **‘Boon of the Separation of the Province of Victoria from the Colony of New South Wales’** – only 15 years after Melbourne was founded by Fawkner’s party.

I am sure there are today many Victorian families with ‘colourful and interesting’ 19th Century Australian histories like mine – full of excitement, fear and sadness. My family had no direct involvement in the **Separation of Victoria** but they were directly involved in Victoria’s 19th Century publishing and printing business (newspapers, journals and magazines) during the periods from ‘Separation to Eureka, Federation and later’. (**William H. Williams** (1831-1910) in 1853 with Henry Hough & George Heath founded *The Diggers Advocate*, see ‘Inside front cover, Item iv’, also see Pages 69-74 & Appendix 1a-3 my 2008 La Trobe Lecture. **Alfred H. Massina** (1834-1917) printer and publisher see ‘Item 42, Page 20’, also see Pages 75-79 & 91 my 2008 La Trobe Lecture.)

However, the family of my wife, Genevieve Morgan (nee Edwards) was involved from when:



Portia Morgan and Genevieve Morgan
3x great granddaughter of
Mary Ann Condell, cousin of
Henry Condell (1797-1871), both from
a Leith, Scottish, brewing family.



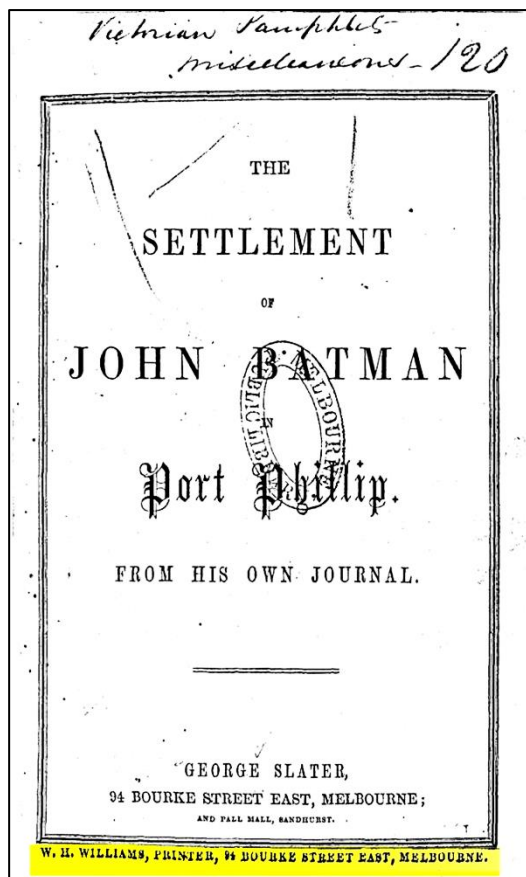
1) **Port Phillip District was in 1803 first settled at Sullivan Bay by Col. David Collins** when her 4x great grandfather **Robert Hay** (born **Kirkmichael Perthshire, Scotland, March 31, 1774–1839**) arrived as a convict before in 1804 being transferred to **Sullivan’s Cove (today Hobart)**. **John Pascoe Fawkner** was aged 10 years, son of **John (convict) & Hannah Fawkner (née Pascoe)**, also arrived at Sullivan Bay on October 9, 1803; then 12 years later on Nov. 20, 1815 **John Fawkner Snr.** witnessed **Robert Hay’s** marriage to **Maria Hopper Heazlwood**.

2) “**Early in the year 1835 Mr Fawkner...organized a party, consisting of Messers. Lancey, Robert Hay, Marr, George Evens, and Samuel and William Jackson for the purpose of forming and expedition to colonise Port Phillip...**”¹ On July 27, John Pascoe Fawkner’s party put to sea from George Town. Details of Fawkner’s party was **first published by his request in *The Digger’s Advocate*, No.1, Oct. 28, 1853**, published and printed by *The Herald* for **Heath, Hough & Williams**.² (**Marr was Robert Hay Marr**, b.1803, Peebleshire, Scotland, married Margaret Marshall in Launceston, 1825. It is not known if Robert Hay is a relation of Robert Hay Marr.), and

3) **Separation of Victoria**. Genevieve Morgan’s 3x great grandmother was **May Anne Condell (1797-1844, changed from Cundell**, Leith Scottish brewing family), **arrived Hobart 1820 and first cousin of Henry Condell (1797-1871)** (See Page v of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture). **Henry Condell arrived in Hobart Town 1822 then Melbourne 1839**. He was a brewer and active in the **Separation of Victoria and elected Melbourne’s first Mayor December 9, 1842** standing down in November 1844. **From June 1, 1843 to February 1, 1844 Henry Condell was Melbourne’s first elected representative to the NSW Legislative Council (NSW Upper House)**.³

On May 29, 1835 the 15 tons *Rebecca* with **John Batman’s party** anchored in Port Phillip Bay by Indented Head (near St Leonards). With John Batman were members of the **Port Phillip Association** (a representative body of 15 squatters and businessmen from Van Diemen’s Land⁴, see members listed page 10), three servants and seven Sydney Aborigines. **John Batman** maintains in his Journal (diary) that on June 6, 1835 he and his party met with the local Aboriginal people, eight aboriginal chiefs among them, not far from the site of Melbourne and purchased land (“about 600,000 acres more or less”) under a treaty he then made with them.⁴

John Batman's also claims in his 'diary' on June 8, 1835 members of his Port Phillip Association came across the Yarra Yarra falls and fresh water. (Today the location of Melbourne's Custom's House/Immigration Museum.)



On June 9, 1835 John Batman left Indented Head leaving eight of his party to remain at Indented Head and returned to Launceston arriving June 12, 1835.

In August 1835, members of John Batman's Port Phillip Association returned to Port Phillip and settled near the Heads of Port Phillip Bay at Indented Head.

On November 9, 1835 John Batman, Dr Barry Cotter and others, plus 500 sheep for members of the Port Phillip Association, arrived in Hobson's Bay on the *Norval*.

It was not until **Aug. 21, 1835** that members of **John Pascoe Fawkner's** party in the *Enterprise* 'found' the same Yarra Yarra falls location. On the Aug. 28, 1835 the *Enterprise* was moored to the trees which grew on the river banks (See Exhibit 1). Most of the party departed Sept. 5, 1835 except **George Evans**, his servant and Fawkner's servants stayed. (Details on members of John Pascoe Fawkner's party was first published, by his request, in No.1, Oct.28, 1853, *The Diggers Advocate* published and printed by *The Herald* for Heath, Hough & **Williams**.)⁵

Shortly after Fawkner's party arrived at Yarra Yarra falls members of the Port Phillip Association arrived in the same area on the Yarra Yarra, maintaining that **John Batman** in June, 1835, representing the Port Phillip Association, had purchased the land from the local aborigines – "about 600,000 acres more or less".

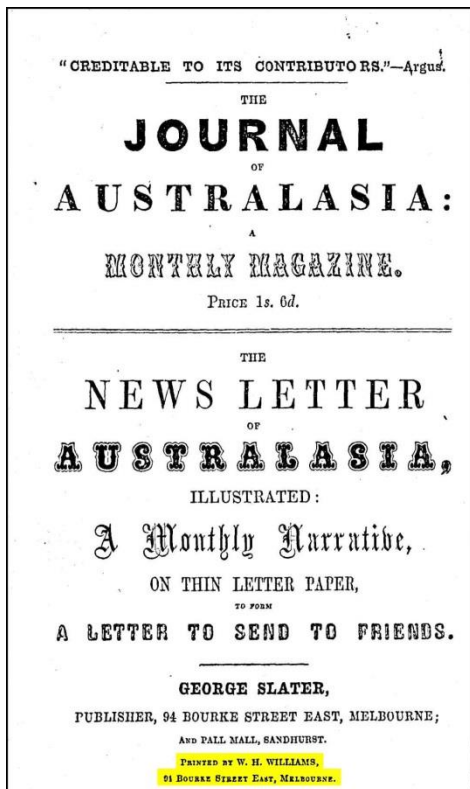
"**Wedge (John Helder)** reported this troubling turn of events to Batman after his party landed there (in the same area on the Yarra) shortly afterwards. Fearful that the Association would lose the land they had allegedly purchased to Fawkner's party, he was **more apprehensive that conflict between the two would prompt the NSW government to interfere and dispossess both.**" (*The Settlement of John Batman in Port Phillip. From his own Journal.* Joint proprietor and printer **W. H. Williams**, joint proprietor and publisher **George Slater**)⁶.

On Oct. 10, 1835 John Pascoe Fawkner revisited **Sullivan Bay** in the *Enterprise* before the *Enterprise* on Oct. 11 anchored in Hobson's Bay; just clear of the channel to the Yarra Yarra falls where **Fawkner's party arrived on Aug. 21, 1835.**

In late April, 1836, John Batman brought his wife, seven daughters and servants to Port Phillip on the Caledonia and established the 'homestead' of his first sheep station on the site which became St James Church. John Batman died on May 6, 1839 aged 39 years. (John Batman's only son, John Charles, was born in the Yarra village on November 5, 1836. On January 11, 1845 he drowned playing in the Yarra Falls – where the present Queen's Bridge is situated.)

Before John Batman died the **Melbourne Club** was founded (November 1838) by prominent Port Phillip District citizens (many of Irish, including Anglo Irish, and Scottish descent) who started seriously questioning the 'heavy handed' NSW Colonial Government which was dominated by the English military. It was these dynamic men, many young, who began in earnest the Separation of the Port Phillip District from New South Wales.

On May 24, 1839 the newly formed **Melbourne Club** (some members were either members of the Port Phillip Association or closely associated with the **Port Phillip Association**) agreed to lease Fawkner's



Shakspere Hotel for 5 years from June 1, 1839. The ‘amicable’ relationship between the Melbourne Club/Port Phillip Association and John Pascoe Fawkner didn’t last long and finally came to a head in June 1841 when there was a very public dispute between members of the Melbourne Club and John Pascoe Fawkner. (See Page 11, Note 2 and see Page 12, Note 3 of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture)

However both sides and Melbourne’s newspaper publishers and printers (John Pascoe Fawkner, George Cavenagh, George Arden, William Kerr, and Samuel Goode – See Page 8, of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture) were from Batman’s death and for more than 10 years united in their drive for the **Separation of the Port Phillip District from New South Wales**. (See Possession: Batman’s Treaty and the Matter of History, Page 65)

The first Separation Meeting was held in Scott’s School, Eastern Hill on May 13, 1840. Presiding was Major George Mercer, a Scot and member of the Port Phillip Association. Of the 19⁷ speakers, 14 at the time were members of the Melbourne Club.

On June 4, 1840 the **Separation Association** was formed, only five years after Melbourne was first settled in 1835.

Mr Henry Fysche Gisborne, a public servant and member of the Melbourne Club, then prepared the ‘First Petition to the Imperial Parliament’ which in due course was forwarded to London. (In 1841 Gisborne left the Colony and died at sea aged 26 years.)

While today most immigrants arrive in Australia by aeroplane, the recent publicity on ‘boat people’ should remind Australians that before the 1970s migration to Australia was by sea, and during the 19th Century it was a long and perilous trip with many lives lost at sea – ‘boat people’ dying at sea or being lost at sea is not new to Australia! (Two members of my family were lost at sea, Captain Nathaniel Florance on the ‘Rover’ near Batemans Bay, 1841 and Captain James Florance⁸ on the ‘Brisbane’, wrecked near Jervis Bay, 1832.

The **Separation Association** appointed three Committees (See *Garryowen*, (Edmond Finn), Page 907):

(1). To **obtain signatures to the Petition**, and to solicit subscriptions in aid of the objects set forth, viz, Jonathan Binns Were, Andrew Muirson M’Rae and Redmond Barry, Esqs.

(2). **London committee to promote the views of the Petitioners with Her Majesty’s Ministers, the Imperial Parliament, and the British public:** – Messrs. J.S. Brownrigg, M.P., R.H. Browne, – Donaldson, Henry Fysche Gisborne, A. A. Gower, – Little, William and Thomas Walker, Robert Brooks, J.B Montefiore, David Dunbar, W. H. Yaldwyn, Henry Buckle, Arthur Willis, John Hylder Wedge, Sir John Rae Reid, Major Mercer and Captain Bannister.

(3). **Permanent Colonial Committee to communicate with the Committee in England, and to keep the inhabitants of Australia Felix advised of its proceedings:** – Rev. James Clow, Messrs. C. H. Ebdon, A. F. Mollison, W. Verner, J. B. Were, A. M. M’Crae and W. Kerr.

PARLIAMENTARY AGENT: – John Richardson, Esq., Fludyer Street, Westminster. SECRETARY: – Mr William Kerr. (1840 editor *Port Phillip Herald*, 1841–1845 editor rival *Patriot*, 1845 for a few months editor of *The Melbourne Weekly Courier*, 1846–47 founder, joint owner and publisher of *The Argus*.)

The **first public Separation Meeting was held December 30, 1840** in Mr Isaac Hind’s store in Flinders Lane near Queen St (Chaired by William Verner, Melbourne Club’s first President, 1840). Other separation advocates present were some members of the Port Phillip Association, Edward Curr (Prominent Irish Roman Catholic who contested and lost, Melbourne’s first election for Mayor, 1842.), Henry Condell (later

Melbourne's first Mayor) and as mentioned many members of the Melbourne Club including: Major George Mercer (Separation Association first President, 1840.), Redmond Barry (Melbourne Club Secretary 1841, President 1844, 1846 & 1858.), Dr James Palmer (Third Melbourne Mayor, 1845-1846.), A Bolden (Melbourne Club Vice President, 1840/41.), Henry Fysche Gisborne, Dr Farquhar McCrae, Niel Black, William Foster Stawell, George Cavenagh, Dr W. D. Bernard, A. F. Mollison and others. (See Page 12, Note 3 of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture)

Garryowen (Edmond Finn) points out on Page 907 that from 1840 little was done for four years: "Little, however, was effected for the next four years, except that the continued injustice suffered under the Government of New South Wales pressed as an incubus, of which everyone was tired and were longing to shake off." (*Garryowen*, Page 907)

Most of the Port Phillip District early settlers were squatters with sheep and some cattle. By March 1841 the population of Melbourne, Geelong and surrounds had grown to only 4,479 – 2,676 males and 1,803 females. In 10 years (1851) Victoria had separated from New South Wales and the population had increased at a significant rate to 97,489; however the squatters, while significant contributors to the economy and politically important, were very much a minority by numbers.

By 1844, apart from the squatters, most settlers involved in the Port Phillip District commerce and trade were strongly opposed to accepting convicts. Despite this the British Home Government wanted to still 'foist a semi-diluted felony upon the district, in the form of conditionally pardoned convicts from the penal depôts in England'. (*Garryowen*, Page 908). In addition *Garryowen* (Page 907) 'explains' that by 1844 the English dominated administration in Sydney had imposed property taxes in and about Melbourne which caused great concern.

As a consequence an **important Separation Meeting was held on March 22, 1844 at the Royal Hotel**, where Mr Archibald Cunninghame, Barrister and member of the Melbourne Club, declared: "that it was more than time that this fair province should have a Government and Governor of its own, with a Legislature empowered to frame laws suited to the circumstances of a free colony adapted to the exigencies of her own position, aiding in the development of her vast resources, and in spreading population over these fertile plains, which have given to this portion of Australia the envied appellation of 'Felix'. Till separation be obtained we can, at best, but float like a dismayed and deserted hulk on the surface of the water, without captain to direct, without sails to impel, without helmsman to guide us, floating, more or less easily, as the waters may be smooth or troubled, but in either case, alike aimless and objectless. Separation will be to us at once, captain and helmsman, wind and sail."

The meeting passed a resolution affirming: "That total Separation from the Middle District (of New South Wales) is an indispensable pre-requisite to the just or beneficial working of any scheme of taxation, which has for its object the improvement of this district."

Garryowen records on April 16, 1844; "**a District Legislative Nomination was fixed for holding of an important meeting to advance the Separation Cause**". **The Chair was taken by the Mayor (Henry Condell)**, Edward Curr submitted a "remarkably able and convincing Report" and several "effective" speeches were delivered by Edward Curr and Dr James F Palmer. "A resolution was also affirmed, inaugurating a Society for attaining the Financial, Political, and Territorial Separation of Port Phillip from the Middle and Northern Districts of New South Wales." (*Garryowen* Pages 907 & 908)

On November 28, 1845 "the most successful public meeting yet mooted was convened on requisition" by Dr James Palmer who from November 1845-1846 was Melbourne's third Mayor.

The speakers were the Chairman (Mayor, Dr James Palmer), Messrs. Edward Curr, John Leslie Foster, William Foster Stawell, E.J. Brewster, Thomas Willis, J.A. Marsden, W. M. Bell, William Kerr, J.P. Fawkner, Niel Black and Dr. P. M'Arthur. The principal resolution was nominating Archibald Cunninghame, Esq., a Delegate to represent the interests of the people of the province of London. Messrs. Edward Curr, Thomas Wills, and William Westgarth were charged with the duty of instructing the Delegate,

and to be the authorised instrument of communication with him in London. It was estimated that £1000 would be a sufficient sum to raise by subscription.

Garryowen (Page 908) records the occasion as follows:

“To petition Parliament against pledging the Crown Lands of the district jointly with those of the Sydney district in security for a loan for immigration purposes; and to consider the propriety of appointing an agent to proceed to England to oppose the project and to advance generally the Cause of Separation.”

“Prior to the departure of the Delegate (January 5, 1846), he (Archibald Cunninghame) was entertained at a public breakfast in the *Royal Hotel*, with Mr E. Curr in the Chair. On the termination of the *matinée*, Mr Cunninghame was escorted to the wharf, thence to the steamer ‘*Vesta*’, by which he travelled to Geelong, whence he sailed for England”. (*Garryowen*, Page 908) Unfortunately Archibald Cunninghame did not express the views of those he had returned to England to represent and was consequently openly “denounced as a traitor”, he did not return to Australia although his brother and several of his five sisters came to Port Phillip and stayed in Australia.

In 1846 Dr Palmer as Mayor, prepared a paper thought to have been written too “plainly”; for the Governor (Sir G. Gipps) returned it with a “cutting memo”:

“His Excellency has yet to learn that because a gentleman had by fortuitous circumstances been made Mayor of Melbourne for one year, he was to insult the person of the Queen’s Representative.” (*Garryowen*, Page 909)

It was not until 1848, that it was ascertained that the Separation of Port Phillip was seriously contemplated by the British Home Government, but the precise form in which the constitutional changes were to be effected was not acceptable. Delay was interposed, and in 1849, after the Separation Bill had been introduced in the House of Commons, it was withdrawn.

An “indignation meeting” was then held on November 26, 1849 in the Melbourne Mechanics’ Institute, the Mayor (Dr Greeves) in the Chair.

“Resolutions of an uncompromising character were passed, unmincing in language, declaring that though intensely loyal, it was not possible to brook further delay, and adopting Petitions to the Queen and the Imperial Parliament. The speakers were Messrs. John Leslie Foster, Henry Moor, William Hull, Thos, M’Combie, J.P. Fawkner, C.H. Ebden, George Annand, William Kerr, John Stephen, David Young and Captain Cole.” (*Garryowen*, Page 909)

On July 5, 1850 amendments to the Australian Colonies’ Bill were made in the House of Lords, and agreed to in the Commons on August 1, 1850 to only await the Queen’s signature to become the law of the land. “The long-oppressed, long-buffed Port Phillip is at length an Independent Colony, gifted with the Royal name of Victoria, and endowed with a flourishing revenue and almost inexhaustible resources; let all classes of colonists then not lose a moment in their hour of triumph in celebrating the important epoch in a suitable manner, and observing one General Jubilee....**The Royal Assent to the Separation Bill was deemed a matter of form, and it was afterwards ascertained that this final ceremony was performed on the 5th of September 1850.**” (*Garryowen*, Page 910)

On July 1, 1851 Victoria became a Colony of the United Kingdom. It was more than eleven years since the first Separation Meeting of May 13, 1840 with Major George Mercer (Member of the Port Phillip Association) presiding followed by the June 4, 1840 meeting and formation of the Separation Association. Redmond Barry was involved in both meetings while on June 4, 1840 William Kerr, Editor of George Cavenagh’s *Port Phillip Herald* was made Secretary of the Separation Association.

Many of those involved in the Separation of Victoria from the early 1840s were members of the Melbourne Club and after July 1, 1851 members of Victoria’s first Government or members of Victoria’s legal establishment. They included **Redmond Barry**, appointed Victoria’s first Solicitor General, a position he

held briefly before January 1852, when aged 38, he was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, **John Leslie Foster**, born 1818, from July 20, 1852 Colonial Secretary to Victoria's first Government and appointed Administrator of Victoria from May 6, 1854 to June 1854, and his cousin **William Foster Stawell**, born 1815, in 1851 appointed Attorney General in the first Legislative Council by Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe. (In September 1853 Foster was appointed to the committee to draft a new constitution for Victoria. He and Stawell dominated the committee and the Constitution – acknowledged as skillfully framed for its democratic features more than its conservatism.)

Redmond Barry, John Leslie Foster and William Foster Stawell all attended Trinity College, Dublin; as did Peter Lalor, born 1827, leader of the Eureka uprising.

Separation Association supporters and Melbourne Club members – Redmond Barry, John Leslie Foster, William Foster Stawell and George Cavenagh (Irish Protestant proprietor of *The Melbourne Morning Herald* and financial backer of *The Diggers Advocate – Friends I Shelter Foes I Crush*, first published **October 28, 1853**. In February 24, 1854 it became *The Gold Diggers' Advocate and Commercial Advertiser*, published by George Black with contributions from H. R. Nicholls and support from John Pascoe Fawkner and Ebenezer Syme – both publications were the “voice of the gold diggers”), and George Black and Peter Lalor were consequently involved in the December 3, 1854 **Eureka uprising in the Ballarat goldfields** and the subsequent **Eureka Trials**⁹ with ‘Not Guilty’ verdicts – all **Eureka prisoners free and Victoria ‘saved’**. I will cover this period of Victoria's history in my next Lecture!

Gary Morgan.

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3) Bonwick, James, republished, *Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip; being A History of the Colony now called Victoria*, 1856 reported from *The Digger's Advocate*, No.1, Oct.28, 1853, published and printed by *The Herald* for Heath, Hough & Williams.



Sir Redmond Barry's
Cedar Secretaire

Attributed to George Thwaites,
c.1860

(Roy Morgan collection)

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5) Butler, R., *Eureka Stockade*, 1854, Angus & Robertson Publishers

6) Florance, Sandra, *The Chichester Connection – The Florance Family*, 1997, Caren Florance

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10) The Hon. Thomas McCombie, *The History of the Colony of Victoria, The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine*. Joint proprietor and printer W. H. Williams, joint proprietor and publisher George Slater, Sept. 1857

11) *James Fenton, A History of Tasmania – From its Discovery in 1642 to the Present Time – first published 1884, reported from of The Digger’s Advocate, No.1, Oct.28, 1853.*

12) The Hon. John Pascoe Fawkner, M.L.C. *Our Portrait Gallery, The Illustrated Journal of Australasia*, joint proprietor and printer W. H. Williams, joint proprietor and publisher George Slater, April 1857.

NOTES:

1. “Early in the year 1835 Mr. Fawkner conceived the idea of establishing a colony in the promising country he had so early visited. To this end he organised a party, consisting of Messrs. Lancey, **Robert Hay**, Marr, George Evens, and Samuel and William Jackson, for the purpose of forming and expedition to colonise Port Phillip.” **The Hon. John Pascoe Fawkner, M.L.C. Our Portrait Gallery, The Illustrated Journal of Australasia**, joint proprietor and printer **W. H. Williams**, joint proprietor and publisher **George Slater**, April 1857.

2. “On the 27th (July), the “Enterprise” put to sea from George Town, the port of clearance, having on board Messrs. Wm. Jackson, Geo. Evens, Robert Hay Moor (Marr), Captain John Lancey, and John Pascoe Fawkner. Mr. G. Evans took over one servant, and J. P. Fawkner put on board James Gilbert, blacksmith, and his wife Mary, Charles Wise, ploughman, and Thomas Morgan, general servant.” First published *The Digger’s Advocate, No.1, Oct.28, 1853*, published and printed by *The Herald* for **Heath, Hough & Williams**. **James Bonwick** republished, *Discovery and Settlement of Port Philip; being A History of the Colony now called Victoria*, 1856 reported from *Up to the arrival of Mr Superintendent LaTrobe*, in October, 1839, Melbourne, 1856.

3. **Henry Condell** arrived in Van Dieman’s Land in 1822 departing for Melbourne in 1839. His life was not always ‘smooth sailing’. In Van Dieman’s Land he was critical of officials’ stealing Government property and brewers adulterating their beer. Henry Condell was involved in several court cases including being charged with manslaughter (which was subsequently changed to assault and dropped). **Henry Condell** with wife, **Marion**, and only son, **William Vallange (b. 1827)**, left Van Dieman’s Land in 1839 for Melbourne where he established a successful brewery in Little Bourke Street and in 1842 was elected Melbourne’s first Mayor. In 1840 Henry Condell’s daughter **Jane Eliza (1822-1904)** arrived in Hobart Town. Henry Condell, wife and son spent about 30 years in Australia however they had no known contact with their daughter **Jane Eliza** who in 1844 married **Thomas Brooks (1810-1894)** a convict pardoned in 1845. By 1846 the Brooks family had moved to Mortlake, Vic. where they brought up their 11 children and **Jane Eliza’s** first son, **John Brooks (1841-1915)**. Henry Condell was a “rich man” when he left Melbourne in 1853 with his wife on the P. & O. *Bombay* for England (which nearly sank with its passengers and their gold). After Henry Condell died in England in 1871 his son, **William Vallange**, gave the City of Melbourne a portrait of Henry Condell and the clock for the Town Hall Tower which still operates today (See ‘back cover’).

4. The Port Phillip Association Members:

Henry Arthur, Thomas Bannister, John Batman, John Thomas Collicott, Michael Connolly, Anthony Cotterell, Joseph Tice Gellibrand, George Mercer, John and William Robertson, William George Sams, James Simpson, John Sinclair, Charles Swanston and John Helder Wedge.

5. Information on the ‘Fawkner’s party’ was also covered by:

1) **The Hon. Thomas McCombie**, *The History of the Colony of Victoria, The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine*. Joint proprietor and printer **W. H. Williams**, joint proprietor and publisher **George Slater**, Sept. 1857.

“The party who embarked on board the Enterprise consisted of Messrs. J. P. Fawkner, William Jackson, George Evens, Robert Hay, Man (Marr), and John Lancy. Mr. Fawkner also took on board, James Gilbert,

blacksmith, with his wife, Mary; and two servants, named Charles Wise and Thomas Morgan. The Ship went to sea on the 27th July, with a fair wind, which unfortunately changed before many hours, and the vessel was detained within sight of land. Mr Fawkner was attacked with sea sickness, and under the necessity of returning by George Town to Launceston.”

2) James Fenton, A History of Tasmania – From its Discovery in 1642 to the Present Time – first published 1884, reported from of *The Digger’s Advocate*, No.1, Oct.28, 1853.

“The members of Fawkner’s association were, himself, Robert Hay, George Evans and his man Marr, Evan Evans, and William Jackson. Fawkner also took over a ploughman, shoemaker, and blacksmiths with a wife. A friend, Captain Lancey, also accompanied him. This little party, intent on founding a new colony, sailed out of the Tamar Heads on 28th July; but the weather was stormy, and after beating about for two days and nights, the vessel put back to George Town. Fawkner’s health gave way, and he was unable to proceed with the vessel: he gave instructions, however, to his associates, and to Captain Lancey, who took charge of the expedition. The Enterprise put into Western Port on her voyage, entered Port Phillip on August 15th, and proceeded up to the Yarra river. On the 28th she was moored to the trees which grew on the banks of the river, where the great city of Melbourne now stands.”

6. John Batman’s Journal:

[Extracts from John Batman’s own Journal are available from the La Trobe State Library.](#)

[“The Settlement of John Batman in Port Phillip from his own Journal”](#)
<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/vicpamphlets/inter/204093.shtm> The extracts were first published in 1856 by George Slater and printed by William (W.H.) Williams, my great grandfather. In 1855 and 1856 George Slater and William Williams also published as Slater, Williams and Hobson, 94 Bourke Street East, Melbourne. (See Pages 69-74 of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture)

7. Speakers at first Separation Meeting, Scott’s School, Eastern Hill, May 13, 1840:

The 19 speakers were Major George Mercer, Messrs. H.F. Gisborne, A.M. M’Crea, C.H. Ebdon, James Montgomery, Arthur Kemmis, Arthur Hogue, J.D.L. Campbell, P.W., Welsh, A. Bolden, Redmond Barry, J.C Riddell, W. Verner, T. Arnold, W. Meek, W. Ryrie, R. H. Browne, Dr. M’Crae, and Dr. Greeves.

8. Florance Family in Australia:

In 1850, my great great grandfather, **Dr William Florance**, first arrived in Melbourne after visiting Sydney as the ‘*Troy*’ ship’s doctor, while a few years earlier two other members of the Florance family were ship captains and lost at sea off the New South Wales coast.

William Florance’s cousin, Thomas Florance, arrived in Van Diemen’s Land in 1817 and today is remembered for surveying under John Oxley the south coast of New South Wales in late 1827 and 1828 on the 13-tonne *Wasp* from Jervis Bay to Moruya (225 km from Victoria’s border) – he recorded in his diary some perilous incidents at sea. Accompanying Thomas Florance were two ‘free’ seamen, another surveyor (Abbott) and a crew of convicts. Florance survived his ‘assignments’ south but after disagreeing with Major **Thomas Mitchell** resigned as a Government surveyor and left New South Wales for New Zealand in October 1834 – before Major Mitchell had found the Henty brothers at Portland Bay and Melbourne had been established!

9. During the Eureka trials Butler Cole Aspinall, a radical Liverpool barrister, acted gratuitously for Eureka prisoners charged with treason, he was instrumental in their acquittal. In 1854, before Eureka, Aspinall was Editor of *The Melbourne Morning Herald*. In 1856 he was elected to the new Legislative Assembly (seat Talbot) and soon afterwards became a member of the Melbourne Club. In 1856 Peter Lalor was also elected to the new Legislative Assembly.

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Membership and Affiliations

Fellow, The Marketing Association of Australia and New Zealand,
Member, American Marketing Association,
Member, European Society for Opinion and Market Research,
Member, World Association of Public Opinion Research,
Executive Chairman, Roy Morgan Research Ltd, Australia's leading
International Marketing Research and Information Company.



Directorships

Roy Morgan Research Ltd, Roy Morgan International Limited (incorporated in USA), Roy Morgan New Zealand Ltd, Roy Morgan International Limited (incorporated in UK), PT Roy Morgan Research, Indonesia, Elazac Pty. Ltd., Elazac Mining Pty. Ltd., Haoma Mining NL, Kitchener Mining NL.

Roy Edward Morgan, ACA (1908 – 1985):

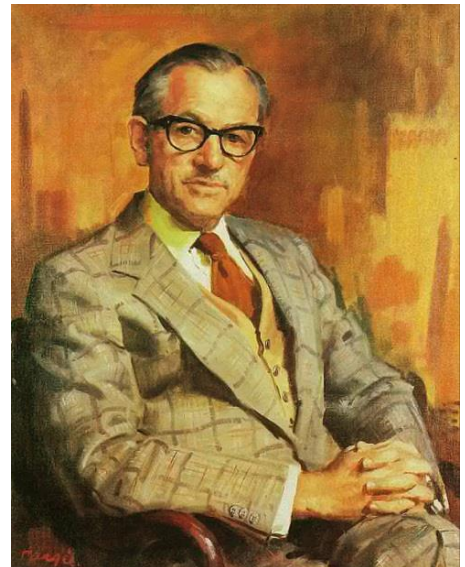
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Morgan_Research

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/morgan-roy-edward-15763>

(Some of Murray Goot's biography on my father is 'fake news', particularly 'why' in 1973 my father and I 'left' The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd. The Board and Management were initially annoyed from the time I began measuring Australia-wide readership of newspaper and magazine, Gary Morgan)

In 1941 Roy Morgan founded the Australian Gallup Poll, (today Roy Morgan Poll) for *The Herald and Weekly Times Ltd* (Sir Keith Murdoch) and other Australian newspapers.

Prior to this Roy Morgan was a freelance 'Financial writer' for *The Argus* then *The Herald*, and General Manager, The Stock Exchange of Melbourne.



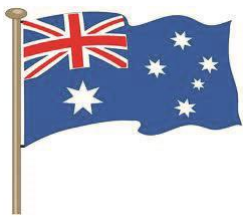
In 1959 he founded The Roy Morgan Research Centre Pty Ltd Australia's leading consumer and business marketing research company; today Roy Morgan Research Ltd.

In 1959 Roy Morgan was elected as a City of Melbourne Councillor (1959 to 1974), after standing as a 'Progressive Independent'. He was a Member and Chairman (1973-74) of the council's Civic Group and chaired the Town Planning Committee who were involved in negotiations that led to the development of the City Square (south of the Town Hall).

Membership and Affiliations

Founding Member, Public Relations Institute of Australia (1949),
Founding Member & Life Member, Market Research Society of Australia (1955),
Founding Member, International Association of Public Opinion Institutes (Gallup International),
Member of the sponsoring committee that founded, American Association for Public Opinion Research & the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR),
First 'overseas corresponding' Member, European Society for Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR).

Charles La Trobe, Victoria's Separation & Gold Tax – *'turning a wild colonial country into a civilised one'*



Australia Day Council (Victoria) Inc. Oration by Gary Morgan May 9, 2011

On July 25, 1839 Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived in Sydney. From October 3, 1839 to 1851 he was Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales and on July 1, 1851, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria until he left Melbourne on May 6, 1854.

During this period Victoria changed from a mainly agricultural society to a booming economy founded on one of the world's great gold discoveries.

La Trobe was a religious, well educated, sensitive person, with the highest ethical and social values; however he had little, if any, training or experience in administrating such a transformation which he was soon to be involved in.

La Trobe was a descendant of a French Huguenot family who in 1685 after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes fled France. His protestant, non conformist, French ancestors originally moved from Europe to Ireland, and finally to the Moravian village of Fairfield near Manchester, England. The family became highly cultured Moravian missionaries – a family aligned with Wilberforce and anti slavery.

In October 1824, Charles La Trobe, as a young unmarried man, became the tutor to the oldest, 12 year old son (Albert-Alexandre) of the Comte Frederic de Pourtales family who lived in Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Of importance Frederic himself gained the honour of attachment in 1809 to Napoleon's household as Master-of-the-Horse to Empress Josephine. In due course, on November 18, 1811, Frederic married Josephine's lady-in-waiting, the Comtesse Marie-Louise-Elizabeth de Castellane-Norante.

La Trobe tutored Albert-Alexandre until February 1827 and from then kept in close contact with the de Pourtales family. La Trobe in 1835 married the Count's cousin Sophie de Montmollin.

On arriving in Melbourne on October 3, 1839, La Trobe was accompanied by his family and initially stayed at the ten-month-old Melbourne Club, at that time, occupying the Shakespeare Hotel (east corner of Collins St and Market St) owned by founding colonist John Pascoe Fawkner. (The Melbourne Club was established in 1839 to be run on the principles of London clubs. Bankrupts or those with a criminal record could not be Members.)

At the invitation of the Melbourne Club Committee La Trobe became a Member of the Melbourne Club on October 12, 1844.

La Trobe was premature when he wrote at the end of 1840 that *'recent intelligence from home'* indicated separation in the near future.

Obviously La Trobe had not been opposed to the separation of the Port Phillip District from his beginning, but, like his superior officer, Sir George Gipps, La Trobe considered in his early years as Superintendent that the timing was not right due to the District having only been settled a few years before he arrived.



Joe Shneider OAM, Chairman Australia Day Council (Victoria) Inc and Gary Morgan, Executive Chairman, Roy Morgan Research



'The Statue' a 21st century bronze sculpture by Peter Corlett of a 19th century visionary administrator who laid the foundations for Victoria as it is today.

'The Making of a Statue, Charles Joseph La Trobe'
by John Drury

Photo by Susan Gordon - Brown

It was to be a long, slow process to self-determination and La Trobe accepted progress in this way - his character was predisposed to gradual, orderly change. It was easy for the Port Phillip Colonists at the time to interpret La Trobe's gradualism as lethargy.

The Colonists became impatient and considered La Trobe's slowness to move on their behalf was due to his inactivity.

Personally I believe La Trobe's inactivity was more due to his lack of authority than desire. His wife's family had close ties with Napoleon's 'household' and as such I believe La Trobe was at least a sympathetic Napoleonite (Most would consider Napoleonite's to be Republicans – anti the French Monarchy) and in favour of separation like his 'friends' at the Melbourne Club.

The first separation meeting was held on May 13, 1840 – 14 of the 19 speakers were Members of the Melbourne Club.¹ The first public meeting was held on December 30, 1840 in Isaac Hind's Store in Flinders Lane near Queen St.² While the separation movement accelerated in the first few years that La Trobe was resident; the desired goal was no closer to achievement.

In 1842 those in favour of separation managed to persuade voters not to nominate Port Phillip District representatives for the Legislative Council in Sydney. This was maintained until mid 1843 when Henry Condell was elected Melbourne's first representative of Port Phillip District for the Legislative Council in Sydney – the first representative Assembly of Australia. (On December 9, 1842 Henry Condell was elected Melbourne's first Mayor.)

In January 1845 a petition requesting separation was sent to the Colonial Office in London from the six minority Port Phillip Representatives of the New South Wales Legislative Council in Sydney; however separation still eluded the Port Phillip District.

However, Governor Gipps believed La Trobe was convinced of the sense and the inevitability of a separate colony and, in 1845, stated in a confidential letter to La Trobe: *"...and that I am not averse to separation"*.

¹ **Of the speakers at first Separation Meeting (Scott's School, Eastern Hill, May 13, 1840) 14 of the 19 were Members of the Melbourne Club.** The speakers were Major George Mercer presiding and Messrs. H.F. Gisborne, A.M. M'Crea, C.H. Ebdon, James Montgomery, Arthur Kemmis, Arthur Hogue, J.D.L. Campbell, P.W., Welsh, A. Bolden, Redmond Barry, J.C Riddell, W. Verner, T. Arnold, W. Meek, W. Ryrie, R. H. Browne, Dr. M'Crae, and Dr. Greeves.

² **The first Public Separation Meeting was held Dec. 30, 1840 in Mr Isaac Hind's store in Flinders Lane** near Queen St (Chaired by William Verner, Melbourne Club's first President, 1840). Other separation advocates were some members of the Port Phillip Association, a representative body of 15 squatters and businessmen from Van Dieman's Land, led by John Batman, who first settled Melbourne on May 29, 1835, Edward Curr (Prominent Irish Roman Catholic who contested Melbourne's first election for Mayor.), Henry Condell, Dec. 9, 1842 Melbourne's first Mayor (Brewer and publican from a Scottish brewing family.), and as mentioned many members of the Melbourne Club including: Major George Mercer (Separation Association first President, 1840.), Redmond Barry (Melbourne Club Secretary 1841, President 1844, 1846 & 1858.), Dr James Palmer (Second Melbourne Mayor, 1845.), A Bolden (Melbourne Club Vice President, 1840/41.), Henry Gibson, Dr Farquhar McCrae, Niel Black, William Stawell, George Cavenagh, Dr W. D. Bernard, A. F. Mollison and others.

A year later (1846) Gipps formally recommended to the Colonial Office in London separation of the Port Phillip District. It was seen that Gipps had confidence in La Trobe as the Administrator, and in the future Colony of Victoria. La Trobe had every reason to be glad that his persistence and reasoned arguments for separation had at last prevailed upon the Governor, although the act of separation would not be proclaimed for another five years.

While it was reported in the press that La Trobe placed himself in the way of the people's yearnings for increasing political privileges and self-government it is difficult to believe the delays were due to La Trobe. La Trobe himself had made it known he was tired of waiting for separation to come. **However the administration in Sydney was not concerned with the delay in separation. The blame can be linked to the Colonial Office in London who was eager to use Australia as a 'dumping ground' for the 'undesirables'.**

In 1846 the residents of Melbourne made it clear that convicts, once they were emancipated, except for some squatters were not wanted in the southern areas of New South Wales (Melbourne).

It is important to understand from La Trobe's family and background as a young man in England and then the West Indies one of La Trobe's strongest characteristics was his desire for equity.

Despite this desire for equity it appears that La Trobe favoured the squatters. He spent much of his time travelling the Port Phillip District including making sketches and water colour paintings of the places he visited. He knew many of the squatters personally, especially after 1844 when La Trobe was elected to the Melbourne Club, where some were Members.

While the imperial policy protected squatters' rights, La Trobe was concerned that although squatters did not have title to their land they had a 'virtual monopoly' on land tenure.

The media world was La Trobe's greatest critic including Edward Wilson, an English journalist of radical views, who in 1848 bought *The Argus* newspaper.

There is little doubt La Trobe was afraid of making decisions in those areas which might be 'wrong in the eyes' of Governor Fitzroy in Sydney and the Colonial Office in London. However on August 10, 1849 La Trobe sent the following important note to Fitzroy:

"The longer separation is delayed, the more difficult becomes the task of governing the district. Separation will remedy much, but any constitution which takes government away from a Governor, Executive Council and nominee Legislative Council (and substitutes a representative body for the latter) is unsuitable to the colony and will render its administration a task of great difficulty".

In the lead-up to separation, Wilson continued to insult La Trobe's manner of fulfilling his role as a representative of the Crown, calling him in *The Argus* on September 20, 1849 'that ruler with whom Providence has thought proper to afflict us...this caricature of Royalty!' Then a week later *The Argus* implied **La Trobe was a traitor** – a very unfair accusation.

The news of the UK Government agreeing to separation reached Melbourne in November 1849 with separation implemented on July 1 1851 just after gold was discovered at Clunes in June 1851!

La Trobe's overall general lack of action was being criticised by those elected to the Legislative Council, the press and by the 'man in the street'. Although George Cavenagh's *The Melbourne Morning Herald* on November 14, 1850 had a long editorial 'Our First Governor' which referred to La Trobe's fallibility but sought to do La Trobe justice.

From July 1, 1851 the Colony of Victoria was soon to be a very different place with a massive population influx – mainly young men from all parts of the world but also many ex-convicts from NSW and Tasmania – many with radical views on how 'modern' governments should be run!

The new Victorian Legislative Council under La Trobe as Chief Executive was advised by an Executive Council of four members appointed by the Crown. These were Captain William Lonsdale as Colonial Secretary, Charles Ebden as Auditor-General, William Stawell as Attorney-General, and Redmond Barry as Solicitor-General. (All were Members of the Melbourne Club.)

On August 15, 1851 La Trobe as Victoria's new Lieutenant-Governor issued a proclamation in the *Government Gazette* asserting the rights of the Crown to all minerals. A licence fee of thirty shillings per month would be levied on every gold seeker from September 1, 1851.

Turbulent times, and a constantly changing focus for La Trobe's attention as more and more problems came before him for resolution, eroded any decision-making ability La Trobe had remaining, and destabilised his judgement.

Unfortunately it became 'too hard' for La Trobe and he submitted his resignation to the Secretary of State in London on December 31, 1852 although he did not leave the vibrant but turbulent Colony of Victoria until May 6, 1854. (Governor Hotham arrived in Melbourne on June 22, 1854.)

The height of the persecution of La Trobe was reached in April and May 1853 when Wilson ran a serial advertisement in *The Argus*: 'Wanted a Governor. Apply to the People of Victoria'. By this time there was little popular support from anyone for La Trobe.

In June 1853, an **Anti-Gold Licence Association** was formed at Bendigo where about 23,000, or nearly half the total number of diggers in the Colony were located. They gave voice to their many grievances, the central focus being the licence fee, which even at its original cost, was considered too stringent. The leaders of the Association were G. E. Thomson, Dr Jones and 'Captain' Edward Brown.

They drew up a petition (13 meters long) signed by 5,000 diggers which articulated their grievances and met La Trobe in his office on August 1, 1853.

Dianne Reilly, Secretary of the La Trobe Society in *La Trobe* Page 224 puts it this way:

"The meeting was not a success. La Trobe responded defensively and coldly to each of the clauses put forward. He was aloof from the miners partly because of his own attitude regarding his position of authority as Lieutenant-Governor, but also because of his fear of the 'mob', the 'canaille' he had scorned in his earlier travels. He was the person in command, and by distancing himself from the miners, he maintained his authority. This moment of meeting with the miners could have changed history. Had La Trobe been able to act differently, perhaps the tragedy of Eureka would have been averted. But La Trobe could not put himself in the miners' shoes. He could not feel for them in their struggle for basic acknowledgement and rights. He did not have the force of personality, the experience of what it was like to really struggle to stay alive, nor the ability to place himself on their level - man to man."

La Trobe on August 30, 1853, at the opening of the next session of the Victorian Legislative Council proposed new legislation to totally abolish the licence system, in its place imposing an export duty on gold. In this way, taxation on the precious metal would only be paid according to the actual earnings of a miner.

Dianne Reilly in *La Trobe* Page 226 puts it this way:

"A select committee was set up to consider the matter, but it resolved to maintain the licence fee, albeit on a reduced and sliding scale: £1 for one month, £2 for three months and £5 for a year. The Goldfields Management Act was proclaimed in November 1853 after poorly handled debate in the Legislative Council which decided to introduce a sliding scale of fees from £1 for one month to £8 for twelve months, and gave the franchise only to miners who took out annual licences.³ Geoffrey Serle described the outcome as 'barefaced trickery, for as things stood almost no one was taking an annual licence as there was no financial incentive to do so'."⁴

Dianne Reilly concludes La Trobe's history in her doctoral thesis this way:

*"La Trobe's August 1, 1853 meeting with the gold miners changed Victoria's history. Had La Trobe been able to act differently, perhaps the tragedy of Eureka would have been averted. But La Trobe could not put himself in the miners' shoes, as **he was fearful of anarchy on the goldfields**. In fact, it could be said that La Trobe panicked before 'the mob'. The time was not there for him to deliberate. He had to make decisions, quick decisions, and these were sometimes the wrong decisions.*

"The historian Geoffrey Serle, in his definitive study of the gold rush, came to the conclusion that, when La Trobe was faced with the appalling difficulties of the times, La Trobe had tried to 'govern chaos on a scale to which there are few or no parallels in British colonial history'.

"La Trobe had, in fact, managed to keep the colony for which he was responsible operating in circumstances 'in which the archangel Gabriel might have been found wanting'."

³ Inglis, *Australian Colonists*, p. 228

⁴ Serle, *The Golden Age*, pp. 116-17.

The miners' resentment of the 'authority' and tax: £1 for one month was never going to be accepted – resulting in the Eureka uprising on December 3, 1854, the subsequent Eureka Trials and 'Not Guilty' verdicts – **resulting in Victoria and Australia being changed for ever.**

Separation of Victoria and the involvement of the Melbourne Club is covered in more detail in my paper 'Victoria Day Council Oration', presented November 14, 2009.

What needs to be understood is the **role eminent Victorians** of the day played in the **separation of Victoria**, the **gold licence fee (really a tax)** through to **Eureka** and the **Eureka Trials** (where juries' delivered thirteen 'not guilty' verdicts, eleven before Justice Redmond Barry). All these eminent Victorians were Melbourne Club Members,⁵ including: Redmond Barry, John Leslie Foster, William Foster Stawell and George Cavenagh (Proprietor of *The Melbourne Morning Herald* and financial backer of *The Diggers Advocate – Friends I Shelter Foes I Crush*, first published October 28, 1853. In February 24, 1854 it became *The Gold Diggers' Advocate and Commercial Advertiser*, published by George Black with contributions from H. R. Nicholls and support from John Pascoe Fawkner and Ebenezer Syme – both publications were the "voice of the gold diggers".)

There were fifteen years from the first separation meeting held on May 13, 1840 in Scott's School Eastern Hill to the last Eureka '**Not Guilty**' verdict. Redmond Barry played a significant role in the separation of Victoria from the first meeting through to the thirteen Eureka 'Not Guilty' verdicts.

While during the same period La Trobe played an important role in the foundation of Victoria it was **Redmond Barry and La Trobe's fellow Members of the Melbourne Club** who we need to recognise as the 'curators' of Victoria as we know it today. They were responsible for – '**turning a wild colonial country into a civilised one**'.⁶

Gary Morgan, July 20, 2010 (Presented to the La Trobe Society), updated and presented on May 9, 2011 to the Australia Day Council (Victoria) Inc

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3. **Victoria Day Council Separation Tree Ceremony Oration**, November 14, 2009
4. **"Change is needed by all"** Presented at Glen Eira Council Australia Day Breakfast, January 22, 2010
5. **La Trobe, The making of a Governor, 2006** by **Dianne Reilly Drury**
6. **Sir Redmond Barry KB KCMG, (1813-1880)** presented by **Stewart McArthur**, Melbourne Club, June 10, 2010

⁵ During the Eureka trials Butler Cole Aspinall, a radical Liverpool barrister, acted gratuitously for Eureka prisoners charged with treason, he was instrumental in their acquittal. In 1854, before Eureka, Aspinall was Editor of The Melbourne Morning Herald. In 1856 he was elected to the new Legislative Assembly (seat Talbot) and soon afterwards became a member of the Melbourne Club. In 1856 Peter Lalor was also elected to the new Legislative Assembly.

⁶Quote by La Trobe's friend, Hubert de Castella, *La Trobe, The making of a Governor*, Page 189

“Distinguished Members”

Presented by **Stewart McArthur**, President, Melbourne Club, June 10, 2010

Sir Redmond Barry KB KCMG, (1813-1880)

Gentleman, Redmond Barry was one of our most distinguished Members. His contribution to the colony, the young and thriving village of Melbourne and the Club was amazing. He joined the Club on 7th October 1840, having arrived in Melbourne a year earlier. He remained a Member for 39 years and was President on three occasions.

Redmond Barry was born in County Cork, Ireland, was of upper class Anglo-Irish background, educated at Trinity College, Dublin and in 1838 called to the Irish Bar. Lack of legal work in Dublin encouraged him to seek fame and fortune in the Colonies, so he came to Australia.

A lot is known about Redmond Barry as he kept a Day Book, which was in modern terminology, his diary in which he entered many intimate details of his professional and private life.

Redmond Barry was always physically active, tall, fit, had well cut features and was not a little vain in his appearances. He had an amorous nature which manifested itself throughout his life.

His appreciation of the fairer sex became clearly evident on the 16 week voyage from Plymouth to Sydney on the HMS Calcutta when he had a very open and scandalous affair with a Mrs Scott, wife of a fellow passenger.

This did not enhance his reputation in Sydney with the Governor and the leading lights of the Colony.

Obviously he was active in the formation of the Melbourne Club and it is reported he was instrumental in developing the Black Swan as our emblem and motto, *rara avis*. The motto emerged from Barry's classical scholarly background and a casual interpretation of the motto could suggest that a black swan is as rare as a perfect wife.

Barry led a diverse social life, supporting the aborigines, being a Supreme Court Judge, a friend of the Governor, a senior Member of the Melbourne Club. The “cheery, cultured, convivial Redmond Barry, stalwart of the Melbourne Bar, attractive bachelor and could be relied on to charm the ladies”. But there was another side to this public character.

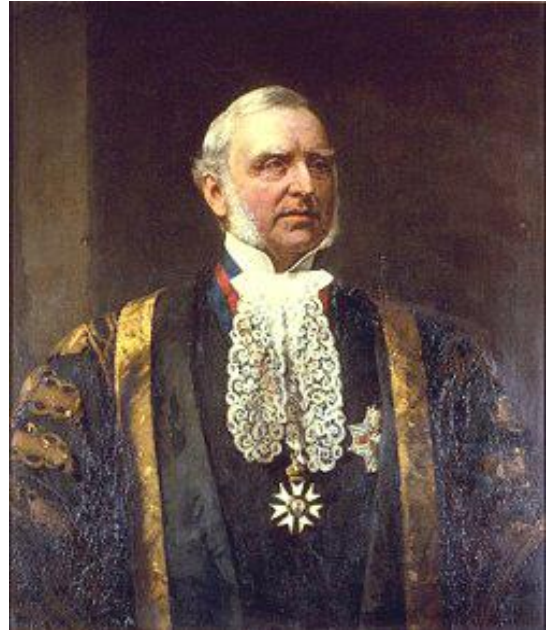
His famous duel with Snodgrass in 1841 over a defamatory letter has attracted much attention over the years. Snodgrass is related to our immediate past President Bill Shelton.

In the duel, after both contestants stepped out 12 paces and turned to face one another, Snodgrass, with nervous agitation, discharged his pistol prematurely. Barry fired into the air and was declared the winner with honour.

Redmond Barry remained a bachelor all his life and lived in Carlton and East Melbourne frequented the Melbourne Club. However, he retained the affections of one Louisa Barrow, his mistress for 34 years. Louisa was the mother to his 4 children.

It's also noted in his day book that he had a number of assignations with a Caroline and other female companions. His four children took his name and his elder son attended Melbourne Grammar under Headmaster Bromby, which gave his family an air of respectability.

Redmond Barry's huge energy and commitment ensued that Melbourne's cultural institutions had solid foundations. He was the first Chancellor of Melbourne University in 1853. He was the driving force in the



Sir Redmond Barry
An Anglo-Irish Australian
1813 – 1880
Image University of Melbourne

creation of the Melbourne Public Library, Melbourne Museum and President of the Commissioners of the first Melbourne Exhibition (1854). He was an active and conscientious Judge on the Supreme Court, often travelling through Victoria on horseback.

His range of interests was remarkable. First President of the School of Mines, Ballarat. First President of the Horticulture Society of Victoria, and active on his own property, Sabine Farm. He was also the first President of the Philharmonic Society, established in 1853 with Governor La Trobe as its patron. It remains active to this day.

Redmond Barry was extremely well read and had his own extensive library of classical literature, to which he had annotated extensively. He was ahead of his time in that he invited members of the public to his home to share his library and love of classical literature.

This idea formed the basic policy for the State library which allowed access to members of the public to read books. A controversial approach at the time.

Whilst Barry was a strong advocate of a classical university education he rejected the notion that women should be students although they were entitled to matriculate under the State Secondary system. Three years later, in Barry's absence, the University Council overturned the ruling and allowed females to attend University.

Redmond Barry could claim credit for the construction of the Wilson Hall. In December 1874, Mr Samuel Wilson, a Melbourne Club Member and squatter from Ercouldine, wrote out a cheque to Barry as Chancellor for £30,000.

It's reported that Wilson, like all pessimistic wool growers felt that his wool cheque would be down, but made an offer to Barry over a whisky and a glass of wine at dinner at the Club, that if the wool cheque was up, he would give a donation to the University. The Melbourne University is forever thankful that the wool price was good that year and Melbourne Club Member Wilson kept his word.

He implemented the law often with a death sentence which was in accord with the convention and laws of the day. He participated in the Eureka Trials in 1855 and the controversial decision to free 13 of the accused miners.

Barry was active in the move to separate the Port Philip District from the Colony of New South Wales. According to my very good friend Gary Morgan, Barry should be given much credit for his influence and also that of other the Melbourne Club members in agitating for Separation and the creation of Victoria as a State in July 1851.

The public face of Sir Redmond Barry is inextricably linked with the trial of Ned Kelly. Ned Kelly was the last of the bushrangers, gentlemanly, polite to the women, a fine bushman and developed a legendary status in rural northern Victoria.

Sir Redmond Barry sentenced the prisoner to death in the usual form, and covering his wig with a black cloth, ended with the words:

“May the Lord have mercy on your soul.”

To which Kelly replied:

“I will go further than that and see you there when I go.”

Twelve days later Sir Redmond Barry KB KCMG died from a diabetic condition at the age of 67 years, weighing 16 stone.

History does not relate as to the conversation between Ned Kelly and Sir Redmond Barry at their final rendezvous.

Reference:

Redmond Barry, An Anglo-Irish Australian by Ann Galbally
Published March 1995, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Vic



Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

58. *George Smith's Lamb Inn*, c.1840
Oil on canvas by Joe Levine, June 2009



Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

59. *John Pascoe Fawcner's Shakspeare Hotel*, c.1840
Oil on canvas by Joe Levine, June 2009
(Melbourne Club leased, June 1, 1839 – September 1844) and
Post Phillip Patriot Office

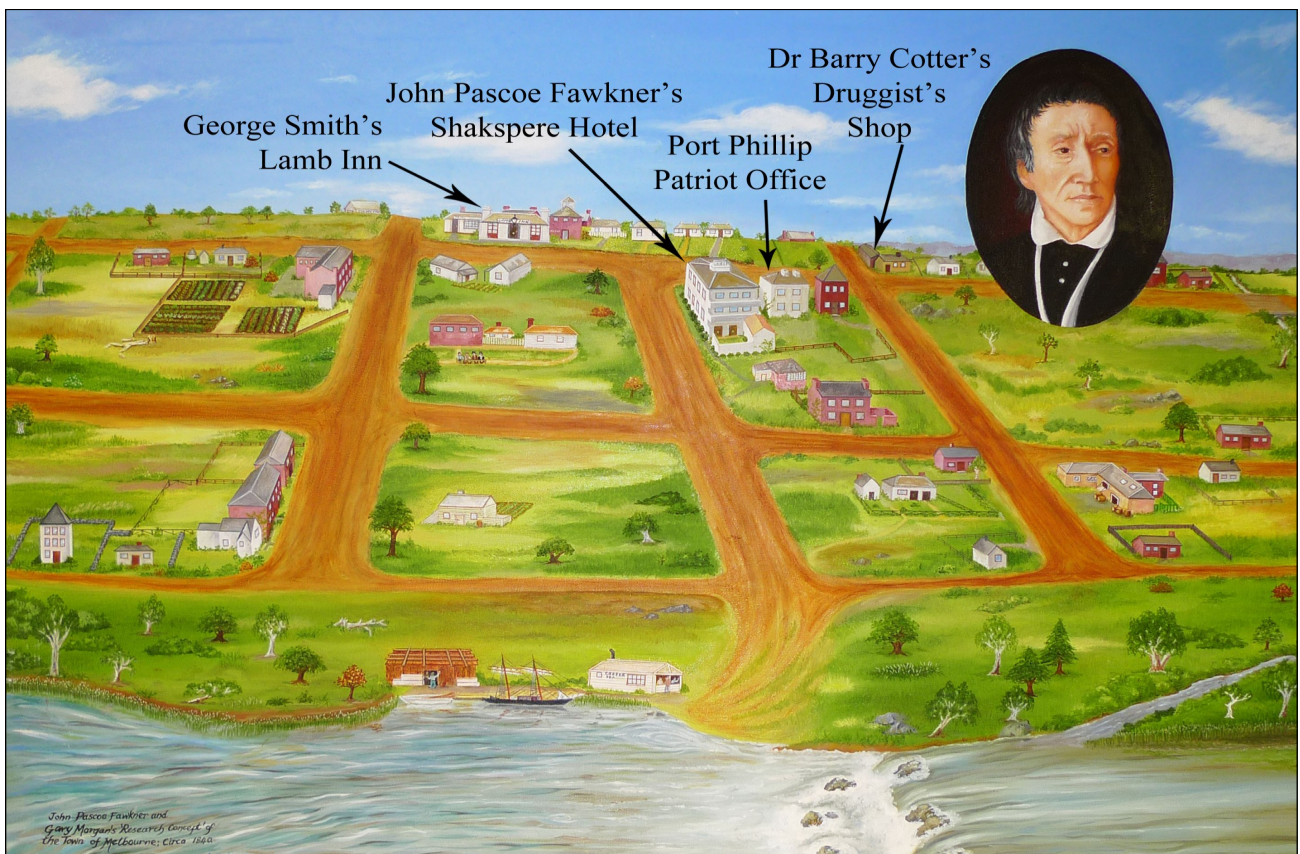


Roy Morgan collection

60. *Buckley the Wild White Man*, Indented Head, Port Phillip, 2pm July 6, 1835.

Oil on canvas by O. R. Campbell, c 1862,

John Batman's men 'left behind': Jim Gumm, Alex Thompson, Will Todd and 4-of-5 'Sydney blacks' known as Pigeon, Bullet, Bungett, Old Bull and Joe the Marine.



Roy Morgan collection

61. *Early Melbourne*, c.1840, Oil on canvas by Joe Levine, 2009.

John Pascoe Fawcner and his Shakspeare Hotel (Melbourne Club leased, June 1, 1839 to September 1844), and George Smith's Lamb Inn.



Roy Morgan Collection

62. *Melbourne Town Hall*,
Oil on canvas, by H. N. E. Cooke c.1883.



City of Melbourne

63. *Henry Condell (1797-1871)*.
First Melbourne Mayor, Dec 1842 – Nov 1844,
Oil on canvas, c.1870.
In 1874 William Villange Condell gifted
Portrait and Tower Clock to City of Melbourne.



State Library of New South Wales

64a. *Sir Richard Bourke*
(1771-1855),
Governor of
New South Wales
1831-1837,
by unknown
artist.



Roy Morgan collection

64b. *Governor Bourke's daughter*,
Anne Maria Deas-Thomson, 1806-1884
(nee Bourke, m 1833) &
daughter Helen Cecilia,
1847-1922 (m 1874,
Frederick Henry Stirling).
Attributed to
Robert Thorburn, 1855.