THE LA TROBE SOCIETY

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

'Early Melbourne Paintings'

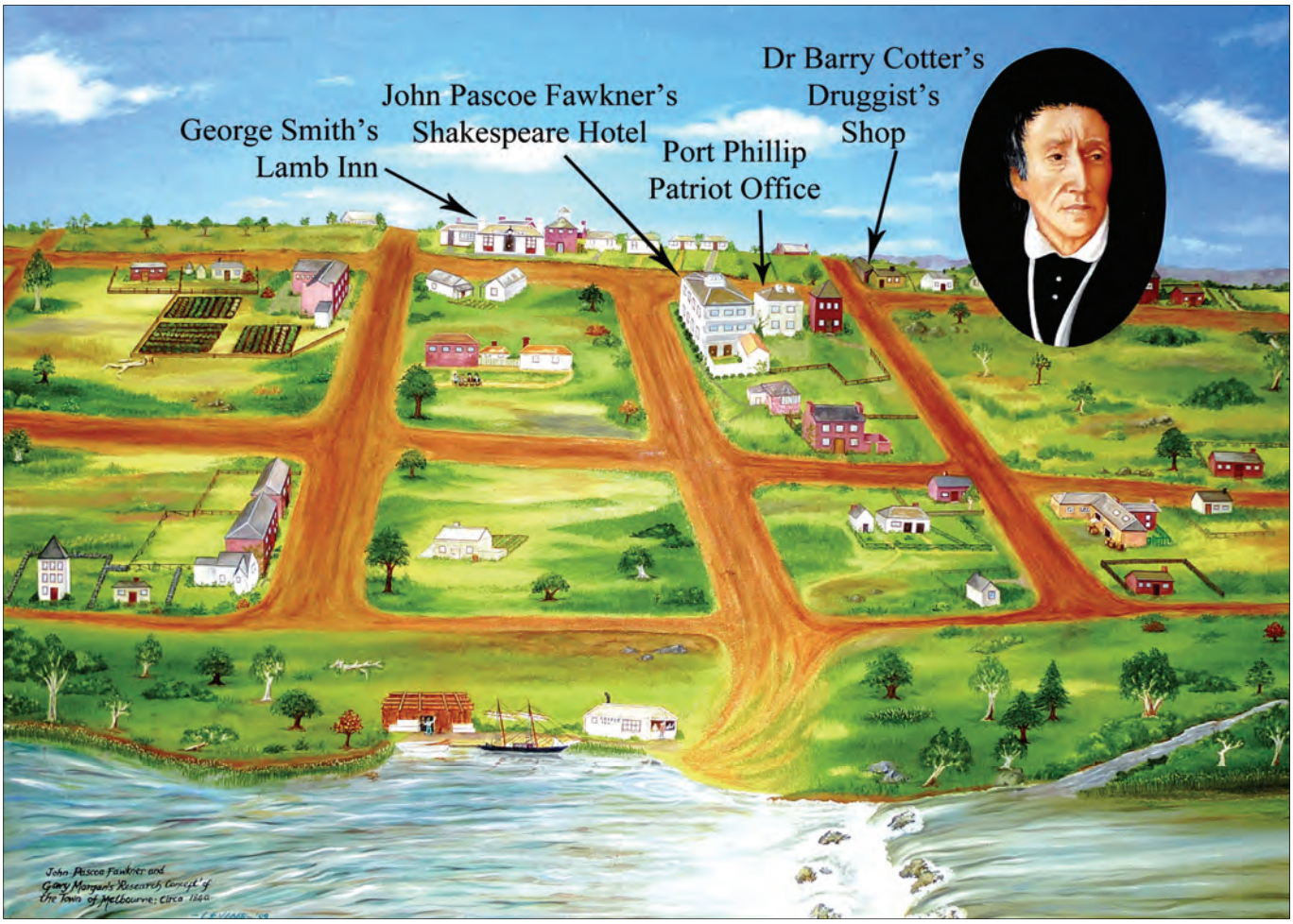
Opened by His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria and Patron of the La Trobe Society

Morgans at 401, 401 Collins Street, Melbourne
Friday December 7, 2012
&
Government House
Saturday January 26, 2013

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

The Exhibition contains paintings and lithographs on loan from:

ANZ collection
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
Roy Morgan Research Centre collection
The Australian Club
Lauraine Diggins Fine Art
Private collections



Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

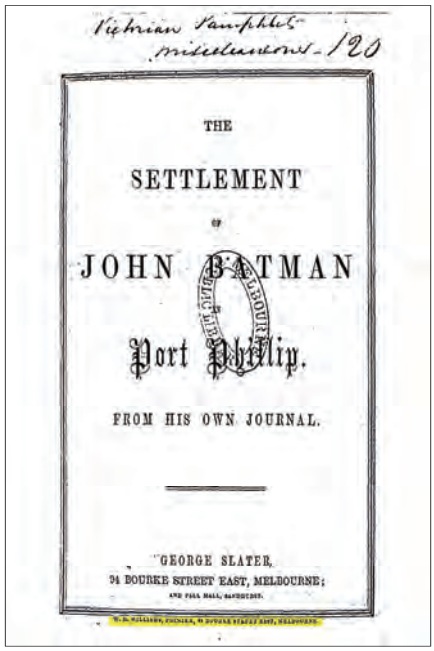
1. *Early Melbourne,* c.1840 oil on canvas by Joe Levine 2009,
John Pascoe Fawkner and his Shakespeare Hotel (Melbourne Club leased, June 1, 1839 – September 1844), and
George Smith's Lamb Inn.

THE DIGGERS ADVOCATE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1853

NEWS OF THE DIGGINGS.

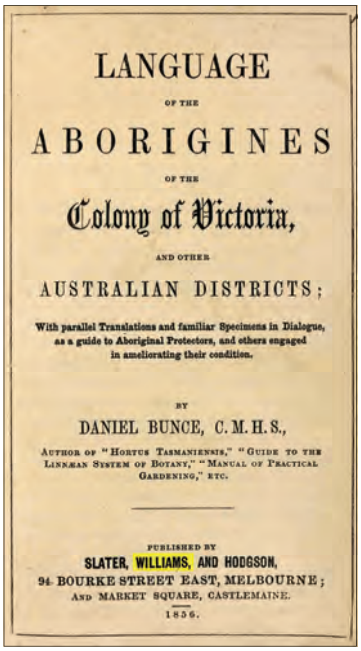
The Diggers Advocate, Nov 10, 1853
Published and Printed by Heath, Hough & Williams, with help from "our friend and best supporter, the 'Herald'"


Victorian Pamphlets
miscellaneous - 120

THE
SETTLEMENT
OF
JOHN BATMAN
AT
Port Phillip.
FROM HIS OWN JOURNAL.

GEORGE SLATER,
94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE;

The Settlement of John Batman in Port Phillip from his own Journal, 1856
Published by George Slater, Printed by William Williams


LANGUAGE
OF THE
ABORIGINES
OF THE
Colony of Victoria,
AND OTHER
AUSTRALIAN DISTRICTS;

With parallel Translations and familiar Specimens in Dialogue, as a guide to Aboriginal Protectors, and others engaged in ameliorating their condition.

BY
DANIEL BUNCE, C.M.H.S.,
AUTHOR OF "HORTUS TASMANIENSIS," "GUIDE TO THE LINNEAN SYSTEM OF BOTANY," "MANUAL OF PRACTICAL GARDENING," ETC.

PUBLISHED BY
SLATER, WILLIAMS, AND HODGSON,
94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE;
AND MARKET SQUARE, CASTLEMAINE.
1856.

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

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Catalogue printed and published by The Roy Morgan Research Centre Pty Ltd, 401 Collins St, Melbourne.

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

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Private collection

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ANZ collection

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Watercolour, Unknown Artist, c.1845-50

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

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

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

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

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

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(See exhibits 19 & 32)
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Early Melbourne 1841 to 1846;
Etchings by Henry Gilbert Jones

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

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Lithograph, 1858

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Image from State Library of Victoria

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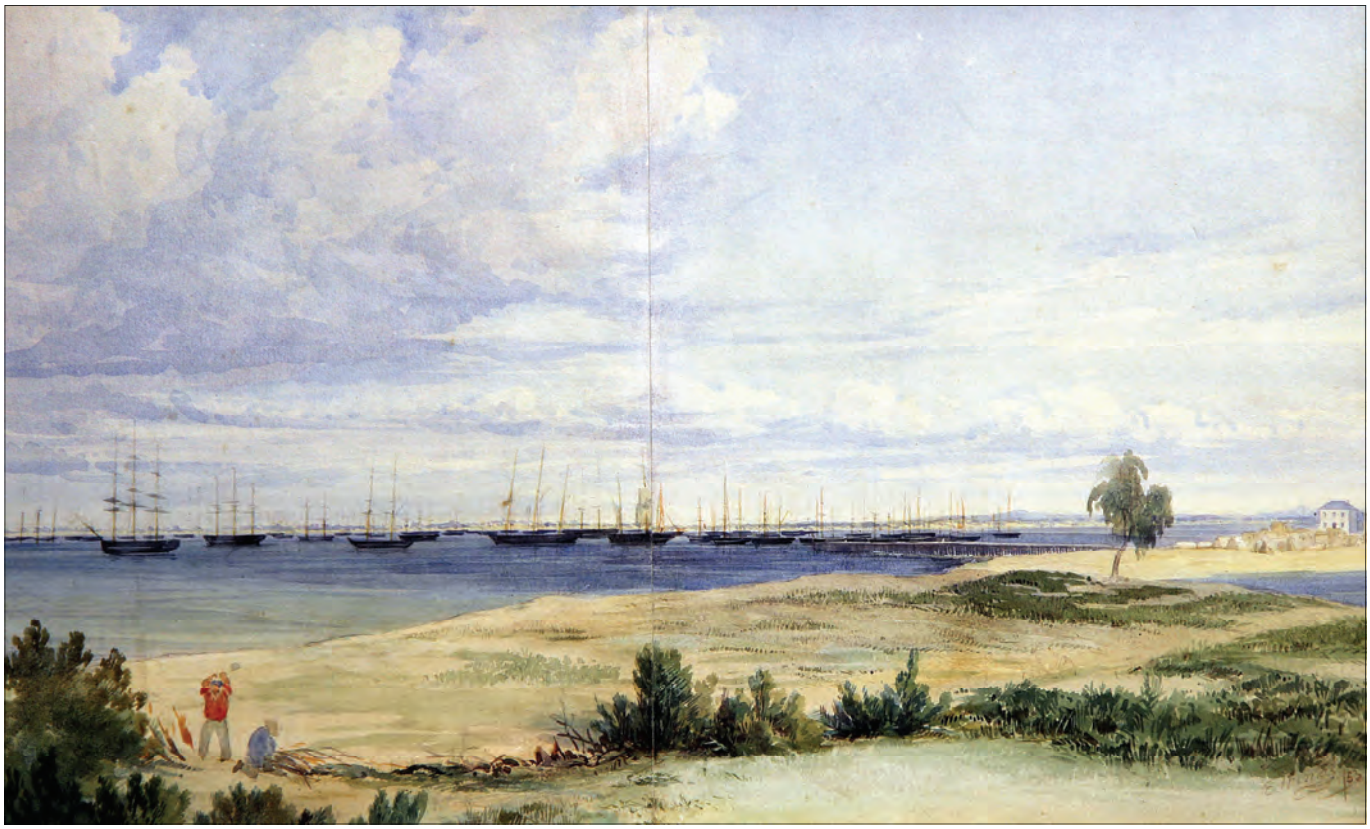

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

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

Roy Morgan Research Centre 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 to 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.

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

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Watercolour by Henry Easom Davies, c.1864

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

ANZ collection

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

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

56. *Sandringham Beach*

Oil on canvas by Leon 'Sonny' Pole, c.1890

Roy Morgan Research Centre collection

57. *View of Melbourne*
Photograph, 1906

Appendix 1

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)

THIS 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 Aboriginals, 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.

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10. *Collins Street from the Scotch Kirk*
11. *Government Offices from Batman's Hill*
12. *The Old Wooden Bridge over the Yarra*

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Appendix 2

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

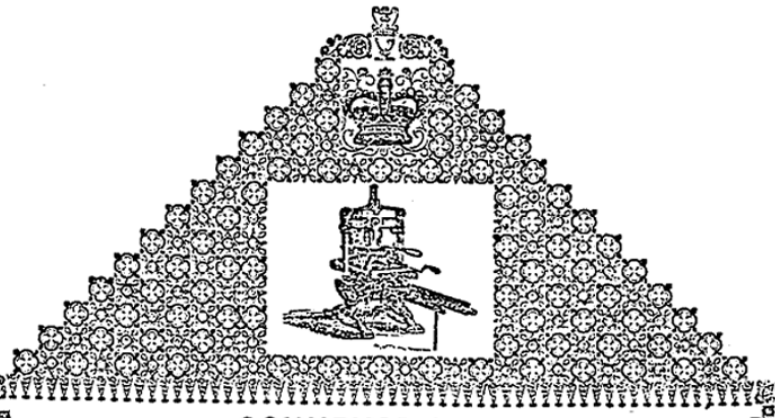
Victorian Colonial Troops (In 1850's uniform)

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 Boursiquot, 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. Strode 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. Boursiquot, 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 Albion" 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.

Ham'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 first thy mighty frame was rear'd,
Truth rose, in radiant light enspher'd,
The Nations to address.
Then Tyrants trembled in dismay,
And Reason held her sovereign 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 joy each voice attune
To greet dear 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.H.

VICTORIA DAY COUNCIL
SEPARATION TREE CEREMONY ORATION
by
Gary Morgan
November 14, 2009

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.roymorgan.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.

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, of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture)

On Page 2 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'**.

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 involved in the Separation of Victoria but they were directly involved in Victoria's 19th Century publishing and printing business (newspapers and magazines) during the periods leading up to Eureka and then Federation.

Portia Morgan and Genevieve Morgan great great great granddaughter of Henry Condell (1797-1871) below.

However, the family of my wife, Genevieve nee Edwards, was involved in the Separation of Victoria. Genevieve's great, great, great grandfather was Henry Condell, born 1797, and Melbourne's first Mayor from December 9, 1842 until 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).[1]

It was during this period that prominent Port Phillip District citizens (many of Irish, including Anglo Irish, and Scottish descent) seriously questioned 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.

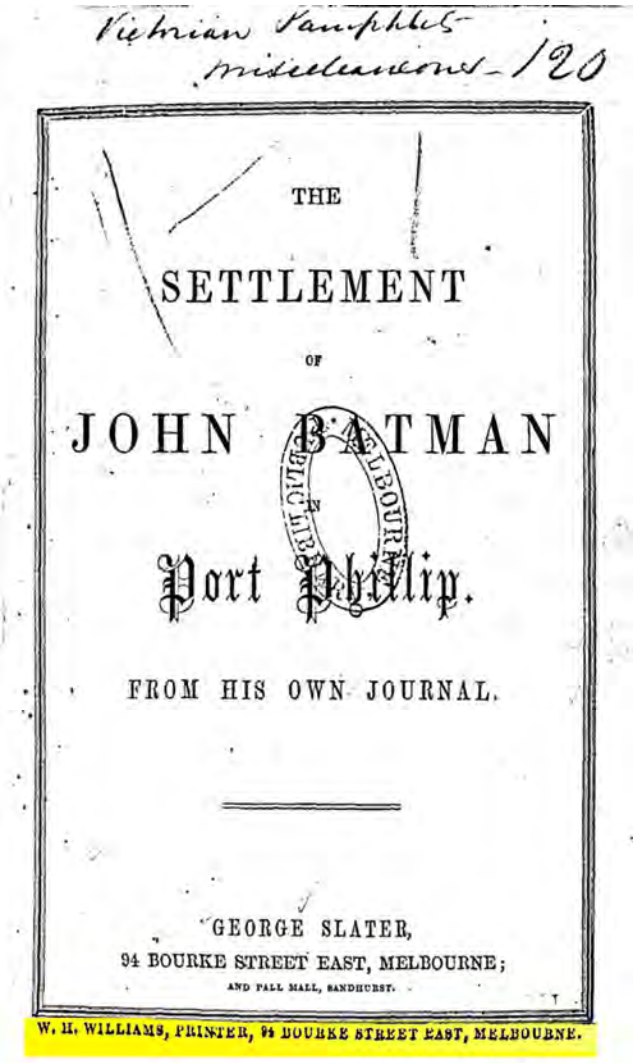
John Batman, first settled in Port Phillip Bay (near St Leonards) on May 29, 1835. He arrived on the 15 tons *Rebecca* with three servants and seven Sydney Aborigines representing the Port Phillip Association a representative body of 15 squatters and businessmen from Van Diemen's Land[2] (See Members listed below, Note 2). John Batman maintains in his Journal 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

[1] Henry Condell arrived in Hobart in 1822. He was a brewer and publican from a Scottish brewing family, his mother was Roman Catholic of Irish parents. In 1839 Henry Condell arrived in Melbourne with his family from Tasmania.

[2] **Note 2, 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.

purchased land ("about 600,000 acres more or less") under a treaty he then made with them.[3] (See below Note 3)

On June 9, 1835 Batman left eight of his party to remain at Indented Head (near Portarlington) and returned to Launceston, arriving on June 12, 1835.


Victorian Pamphlets
Miscellaneous 120

THE

SETTLEMENT

OF

JOHN BATMAN

IN

Port Phillip.

FROM HIS OWN JOURNAL.

GEORGE SLATER,
94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE;
AND PALL MALL, SANDHURST.

W. H. WILLIAMS, PRINTER, 94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE.

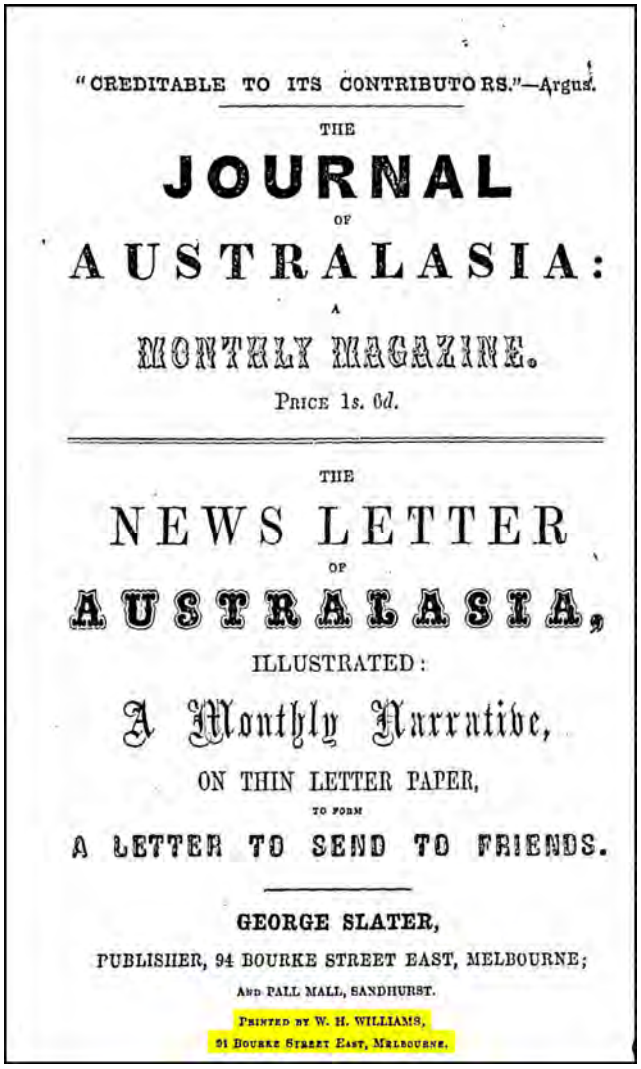
From August 1835, members of John Batman's Port Phillip Association returned to Port Phillip and settled near the Heads of Port Phillip Bay at Indented Head. They were closely followed in late August by a party of 'Van Diemen's', sponsored by John Pascoe Fawkner, who landed on the banks of the Yarra. Shortly afterwards members of the Port Phillip Association landed in the same area on the Yarra, maintaining that John Batman in June, 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**."

On October 11, 1835 John Pascoe Fawkner arrived in Hobson's Bay on the *Enterprise* and 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.*

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.)

[3] **Note 3, 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 70-74 of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture)



"CREDITABLE TO ITS CONTRIBUTORS."—Argus.

THE

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A

MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

PRICE 1s. 6d.

THE

NEWS LETTER

OF

AUSTRALASIA,

ILLUSTRATED:

A Monthly Narrative,

ON THIN LETTER PAPER,

TO FORM

A LETTER TO SEND TO FRIENDS.

GEORGE SLATER,

PUBLISHER, 94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE;

AND PALL MALL, SANDHURST.

PRINTED BY W. H. WILLIAMS,

91 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE.

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 Shakespeare 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 12, Note 3 of my 2008 La Trobe Lecture)

From this time there were many years of conflict between John Batman and other members of the Port Phillip Association **and** John Pascoe Fawkner and his party. (See Page 11, Note 2 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 19 [4]speakers, 14 at the time were members of the Melbourne Club. (See speakers listed below, Note 4)

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

[4] **Note 4, Speakers at first Separation Meeting, Scott's School, Eastern Hill, May 13, 1840:**
The speakers were Messrs. H.F. Gisborne, A.M. M'Crea, C.H. Ebden, 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.

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[5] on the *'Rover'* near Batemans Bay, 1841 and Captain James Florance[5] on the *'Brisbane'*, wrecked near Jervis Bay, 1832 - See below Note 5.)

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. Ebden, A. F. Mollison, W. Verner, J. B. Were, A. M. M'Crae and W. Kerr.
PARLIAMENTARY AGENT: – John Richardson, Esq., Fludyer Street, Westminister.
SECETARY: – 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 (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)

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[5] **Note 5, 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!

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." (Garyowen, 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'. (Garryown, Page 908). In addition Garryown (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 dismasted 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."

Garryown 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." (Garryown 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.

Garryown (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." (Garryown, 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-buffetted 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**." (Garryown, 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 (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 all involved in the December 3, 1854 **Eureka uprising in the Ballarat goldfields** and the subsequent **Eureka Trials**[6] 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, 193 George Street, East Melbourne

[6] 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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Appendix 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

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.

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

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.

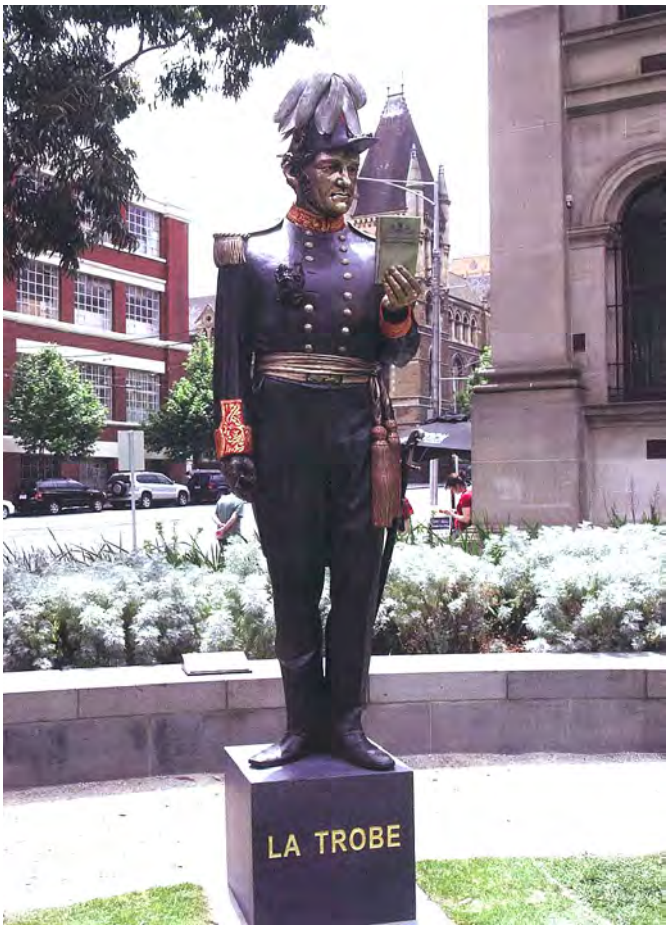
La Trobe tutored Albert-Alexandre until February 1827 and from then kept in close contact with the de Pourtales family. La Trobe in 1835 married the Count's cousin Sophie de Montmollin.

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.



'*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"*.

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

[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. Ebden, 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.

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, 1851the 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'."

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[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

Acknowledgements:

Dianne Reilly, Secretary, The La Trobe Society

Stewart McArthur, President, Melbourne Club, 2010/2011

Michele Levine, CEO, Roy Morgan Research

Pauline Underwood, Collins Street Gallery

Blayney Morgan, Roy Morgan Research Centre

Alex Farquharson, Roy Morgan Research

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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.

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

"Distinguish 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.

Sir Redmond Barry
1813 - 1880

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 creation of the Melbourne Public Library and Melbourne Museum. He was the advocate and supporter of

the Melbourne Exhibition in 1862. He was an active and conscientious Judge on the Supreme Court, often travelling through Victoria on horse back.

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 <u>there</u> 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.

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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 Fawkner's Shakespeare 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 Research Centre Collection

60. *Melbourne Town Hall*

Oil on canvas, by H. N. E. Cooke c.1883

Image courtesy of City of Melbourne

61. *Henry Condell (1797-1871),* First Melbourne Mayor, Dec 1842 – Nov 1844

Oil on canvas,

In 1874 William Villange Condell gifted Portrait and Tower Clock to Melbourne