Foreword

Gary Morgan - La Trobe Lecture, presented July 5, 2008
(Prepared over the period late July 2008 to August 15, 2008)

Since presenting my Victoria Day Council 2008 La Trobe Lecture in Queen’s Hall, Parliament House of Victoria, many people have sent me corrections, suggestions and additions; in particular Stewart McArthur, Barry Jones, and Ian Morrison.

In addition Pauline Underwood and I have sourced numerous additional books, papers and other documents. They are listed as further references at the end of this Foreword.

I expect those who study my La Trobe Lecture to advise me what aspects they disagree with and how they could better explain the points I have covered.

I do not claim to be an expert in Victorian history, or English history or any history. However, my main conclusion is Victoria and Australia ‘came of age’ during the gold miners’ ‘diggers’ confrontation with the new Victorian Government and Governor Charles La Trobe and Governor Sir Charles Hotham. The dispute began in earnest in mid-1853 with the formation of the anti-Gold Licence Association established by G E Thomson, Dr Jones and ‘Captain’ Edward Brown – the precursor to the Eureka Stockade, December 1, 1854. The Eureka trials ‘bonded’ Victorians with a common cause and opened the way for a vibrant Victorian Colony.

My paper focused on three areas: Women, the Media and People from Other Countries who have helped make Melbourne and Victoria from 1851 to today. I did not cover in detail the economic and social history covering the District of Port Phillip or New South Wales from 1834 until Victoria was founded on July 1, 1851. For this reason, some significant historical Australian and British events were not covered in sufficient detail, in particular events leading up to the December 4, 1851 Eureka uprising.

My friend and critical paper advisor, Stewart McArthur, summarised my La Trobe Lecture in the following way:
Influence of UK Laws and Customs on 1851 Victoria

Gary Morgan’s La Trobe Lecture sets out the early political debates in the UK covering Slaves, War (Wellington, Napoleon), the 1829 Catholic Relief Act, the 1832 Reform Act, the 1934 Work House Act, and the 1850 Secular Education Bill followed by the 1870 Elementary Education Act.

In the Colonies’ early formative years (up to 1829) all Colonies were dependent on UK House of Commons legislations and debates. All UK Colonies were subjected to the direction of the Home Office in London.

From as early as the mid 18th Century different dissenting religious/political groups (Irish Catholics, Presbyterians, Quakers, etc) left the UK on religious/political grounds.

The 1934 Work House Act (‘poor houses’ legislation) forced those without housing to work for lodgings - indeed a further incentive to immigrate to Australia and other places.

Culture and Attitudes

While there were many who emigrated to Victoria for religious freedom (anti-Catholic and anti-Church of England) there were also a large number of improvised farmers seeking ‘economic salvation’ in the new Australian ‘Felix’ hoping to generate huge wealth growing wool and grain (1840 to 1851).

And then came the 1851 Victorian ‘gold rush’ – with huge numbers of single men impacting on a rural society structure for two or three generations – without an equal number of women.

Women

Women in the 18th and 19th Century UK played major roles in the suffrage vote debate and a more subtle influence on anti-slavery activities, along with their commitment to the family and the importance of education to their children.

The role of women in Victoria from its inception in 1851 as compared to the role of women in Victoria in 2008 is very different.

While not discussed in the Gary Morgan's La Trobe Lecture women finally achieved equal status with the 1977 introduction of the Australian Equal Opportunity Acts of both State and Federal Parliaments. The Acts attempted to incorporate in ‘Law’ women’s position in society by either merit (a difficult concept) or by numerical numbers within Corporations or Government Departments.

Despite the 'Law', there are however still some stark comparisons and areas where ‘women’ have yet to break through the ‘glass ceiling’ according to some commentators and Gary Morgan.
Media

From 1851 the ‘printed’ Media (newspapers, journals, letters, public documents and other publications) quickly became Victoria's agenda setting voice and depositor of public record – with many diverse publications publishing unrestricted content – it was the activists’ communications medium for political exchange of ideas and debates.

Adam Lindsay Gordon, Marcus Clarke, Henry Kendall, George Walstab, Joseph Winter and other prominent political advocates argued a number of propositions in the journals of the day.

In about 1900 the advent of radio (Morse code, international telegraph) opened up a whole new world of communication.

And it is worth noting that in about 1920 the telephone introduction, crude though it was, had a huge impact in rural Australian allowing rural contact with the ‘outside world’ and of course their neighbours.

In the 1930s public radio joined newspapers and journals as the vehicle for public debate and information dissemination.

Public debate changed forever in 1934 when Australia moved to a more sophisticated radio system with the ABC and then again in 1956 with the advent of black and white television staring with the coverage of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games.

Today some people believe politics and cultural attitudes have become dependent on the television black box. However newspapers with the Internet have reinvented the ‘printed’ media enabling the public record of newspapers being part of an instant sophisticated exchange of information between individuals and institutions all over the world.

Roy Morgan Research is a 20th Century information provider capable of measuring the population’s attitude to political issues, commercial products and most public social issues.

Stewart McArthur, Meningoort, Victoria

New South Wales Governor Sir Richard Bourke, 1831-1837

From 1831 the Governor of New South Wales (until he resigned in January 1837) was Whig ‘liberal’ Governor Sir Richard Bourke (1777-1855)Apart from naming Melbourne, Bourke's contribution to New South Wales and the District of Port Phillip was significant and should not be overlooked. In addition his involvement in the British Colonies from 1826 had far reaching consequences both in Australia and elsewhere.

Margaret Kiddle in her book Men of Yesterday described Governor Bourke as “noallest Governor of them all, worried because he knew ‘much evil’ must follow ‘without the guidance and control of authority’. He (Bourke) thought it would be
‘desirable to impose reasonable conditions on Mr Batman and his associates’, to consider the capital expended by them, and so to recognise the occupation of Port Phillip”.

On June 15, 1825 Richard Bourke was appointed Major-General on the staff at Malta, but a "political storm blew up" in Britain through complaints from the Cape of Good Hope about the arbitrary rule of the Governor, Lord Charles Somerset, who was given leave to return home to answer the charges against him. The Government hastily decided to divide Cape Colony and create a separate Government in the Eastern District as recommended by a Commission of Inquiry at the Cape. On July 4, 1825 Bourke was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Eastern District, on the understanding that he should be Acting Governor of the whole Colony in Somerset's absence. As an avowed Whig ‘Liberal’, he was a surprising choice for a Tory Government, but his tact and ability had favourably impressed Wilmot Horton at the Colonial Office. Bourke arrived at Cape Town in February 1826, and took office as Acting Governor on March 5 when Somerset left.

A major cause of friction between British settlers and the Colonial Government was control of the press. Bourke was drawn into this struggle in March 1827 when he was instructed by the Colonial Office to withdraw the licence of the Colony's only independent English-language newspaper which had been criticising Somerset. In reporting that he had done so, Bourke suggested that, when the Courts became independent of the Colonial Government, the press should be controlled not by the licences issued or withdrawn at the Governor's discretion, but by the due processes of the law. This suggestion was adopted in 1829 (Duke of Wellington was UK Prime Minister) when the independence of the Colony's press was virtually secured by statute - this major legislation had long and far reaching consequences in establishing a free press in all British Colonies.
In 1831 New South Wales’ total population was about 51,000 of whom about 21,000 were convicts. In 1837 there were 32,000 convicts however the population had increased to 97,000 helped by the assisted ‘Bounty’ immigration system proposed by Bourke in 1835 and controlled and organised from the Colony. In November 1836 the District of Port Phillip’s European population was 324, by 1839 the District’s population numbered 5,822 and by 1840 10,291 - a significant increase partly assisted by ‘Bounty’ immigrants (the scheme was abandoned in 1841).

Independence of the Colony's press played an important part in the District of Port Phillips' move to separation from when first proposed in June 1840 - more than eleven years before happening. Over this period (June 1840 – July 1, 1851) there were numerous publications (newspaper, journals, diaries, letters, government papers, etc) which in different ways fully reported and debated the social and economic issues regarding separation. Below is The Melbourne Morning Herald – Boon of Separation, November 19, 1850

“Men of Yesterday” and “Strangers in a Foreign Land”

Margaret Kiddle’s ‘Men of Yesterday’ (1961) and the recent publication by Maggie MacKellar, ‘Strangers in a Foreign Land’ (2008) cover in considerable detail the life in the District of Port Phillip from 1835 to 1851. The District’s economy was mainly agricultural with ‘squatting’ farmers claiming leasehold properties controlled under ‘Government’ by a small military force instructed from Sydney.

District of Port Phillip ‘squatters’ were often dissatisfied with the cumbersome ‘Sydney’ decision making processing and held strong local feelings that the District was hindered by oppressive rules and delays.

Both books (which I hadn’t seen before presenting my paper on July 5) contribute to the understanding of the pastoral District of Port Phillip before the ‘gold rush’, and also give some insights into the circumstances in Europe up to and during this period.

According to Maggie MacKellar by 1840 the Western District population consisted of three groups of settlers. (In 1840 the Western District supported 242 sheep runs compared to the next ‘richest’ district with 44 sheep runs!):

“The Vandiemonians pushed out from around Geelong, Melbourne and Portland to occupy the country further inland. Second were the overlanders, who drove their cattle and sheep from Sydney following Mitchell’s path to meet with the first illegal ‘squatters’. As they travelled they established stations on the way. Third came the men with money and the assisted immigrants from England, Scotland and Ireland, who either landed in Port Phillip or tried their luck driving stock overland from Sydney.”

Black’s Journal sets out his early impression of the Colony of New South Wales with the reader left with little doubt that Black settled on Port Phillip as the site of his pastoral empire in part because he thought it a "Scotch settlement", not yet riddled with the ‘vice and greed’ that he saw in Sydney.

The early ‘squatters’, about half Scottish, had a culture very different than elsewhere in the District of Port Phillip and the rest of NSW - and soon became extremely wealthy!

(My La Trobe Lecture did not cover in detail the Aboriginal peoples’ problems in the District of Port Phillip. On Page 60 I refer to Daniel Bunce’s ‘Language of the Aborigines’ published by Slater, Williams, & Hodgson. I suggest the Aboriginal problems in the District of Port Phillip are covered in a future La Trobe Lecture, 1856.)

At the same time Melbourne was led by a small core of educated leaders such as John Pascoe Fawkner (journalist), Redmond Barry (lawyer and barrister), Bishop Charles Perry, Rev James Forbes, Ebenezer Syme (printer and publisher) and others who were responsible for establishing a culture in Victoria involving open debate and a desire for better education which in most instances persists today and is still the envy of the other Australian States.
Much more needs to be presented on why such significant differences existed from the time of the early District of Port Phillip settlement through to the ‘land boom’ and subsequent ‘bust’ in the 1890s.

In my paper, with examples, I pointed from the 1850s, Melbourne in particular, became the home of the “serious, radical and provocative” media. (*The Bulletin*, published in Sydney, did not begin until January 31, 1880.)

From 1852 the newly-established Victorian Government and Governor La Trobe (then Governor Charles Hotham) received plenty of criticism from Melbourne’s “serious, radical and provocative” media.

While there were many early Melbourne printers and publishers the ‘gold diggers’ cause began in earnest on October 28, 1853 when *Heath & Co.* (Hough and Williams) began *The Diggers Advocate,* Then on February 24, 1854 George Black with support from John Pascoe Fawkner and H R Nicholls an Editor began *The Gold Digger’s Advocate and Commercial Advertiser.*

There were other publishers such as *Slater, Williams, & Hodgson* (1854) who strongly criticised ‘Bounty Immigration’ and Aboriginal rights; *Ebenezer Syme and The Age* (1854) who campaigned strongly for ‘gold miners’ rights before and during the Eureka trial; *W. H. Williams* (1856) who published *John Bateman’s Journals* and the first works of Marcus Clarke; *A. H. Massina & Co.* (1859) who published most of *Adam Lindsay Gordon’s* many works and commissioned and published “*His Natural Life*” by Marcus Clarke; and finally *Marcus Clarke* (1868) himself.
In October 28, 1853 the first miner’s ‘voice’ was The Digger’s Advocate, above is the November 10, 1853 issue, (National Library of Australia) and below letters to the Editor after the first issue.

http://www.roymorgan.com/resources/pdf/papers/20080712.pdf (printed and
published by former Melbourne Morning Herald people - Hough, Heath and Williams) In addition to campaigning for 'miner’s rights' they campaigned on “denouncing the racist sentiments of the Bendigo diggers” calling on diggers to welcome the Chinese.

THE DIGGERS’ ADVOCATE, THURSDAY, NOV. 10, 1853.

Open Council.

(To the Editors of the “Diggers Advocate.”

Sir,—Bringing a new owner into this colony, you will perhaps allow me to make a few suggestions to you. You, who have been here some time, are hard in a position to understand the requirements of a new owner. Nothing surprised me so much, upon my first arrival in Melbourne, as the orderly appearance of the streets. The idea prevalent in England when I left was, that it was necessary, before entering Melbourne, to charge several pence to the tram, and to carry a bowler hat around up to a very fine edge. I am happy to say that I find quite a different state of affairs. The climate does not appear to induce a love for man-shooting; nor, as far as I have yet experienced, is there anything in the water consumed by the inhabitants of Melbourne which is likely to produce a desire to cut my neighbour’s throat.

Having banded with the intention of proceeding to the diggings, my first step was to inquire for some obtainable source of information. By accident I heard of the “Diggers Advocate”; but I am sorry to say, that what appears to me ought to have been a principal feature in your paper was entirely neglected—I mean information to new comers. I saw a great deal about Bendigo and Forest Creek, and some mysterious allusions to “沙龙bottoms.” The paper was evidently written for “old hands.” I sought in vain for some indication of the route to the diggings, and for some notice of the expense of the journey. Do not, therefore, think, sir, that you would be conferring a great benefit upon those unfortunate who are located on the wharf with holes of diggings, if you were to give a few plain straightforward directions as to the manner of proceeding to the diggings, and the necessities for the journey? Trusting you will take this suggestion into consideration, I remain yours truly,

R. B. Nichols.

[The suggestions made by our new friend shall receive our attention; and next week we hope to be in a position to furnish every necessary information to new comers respecting the gold-fields, the best modes of getting there, and what to do when they have reached the “land of treasures.” We thank our correspondent for the suggestion, and shall feel obliged by any one pointing out what they may think we have forgotten.—Ed. D. A.]

(To the Editors of the “Diggers Advocate.”

Gentlemen,—I have just got hold of the first number of the “Diggers Advocate”; and though it is but small, it is great. It is great, because it is the advocate of a community, who up to this moment was without a voice in this colony, and a political advocate. Your paper gives us both, and we already feel ourselves more and more independent. Only a few days ago we had no means of bringing our grievances before the authorities, or advocating our rights before the Government. Now, we have all these advantages, and that too by the exertions of yourselves; as a digger I feel grateful, and trust that all my fellow workers will do their best for the paper, and think the best work they can do, will be in supporting the “Diggers Advocate.”

As regards my own, I try not to burden the paper with a great deal of writing, and when I do, it is to send in a few lines for your paper, and to show the best work they can do, will be in supporting the “Diggers Advocate.”

AN OLD FRIEND AND DIGGER.

(To the Editors of the “Diggers Advocate.”

Sir,—And so you have appeared at last, to use the expression of a very eminent man, “in this superabundant infinite variety of which all phenomena are but the glories and colours.” And you are actually at the starting just among your brother diggers to run the race of literature on the golden soil of Australia. I envy you must have a heavy task of the old Peter Pan’s blood, to carry you successfully through the dust and mists of the morning journalism.

But that as it may, I congratulate you on your pluck; do not start, my gentle editors, at the vulgarity of that term. It is strictly Poloniusian, and I am but a dirty old digger, a boziller of the earth, a groper among the dark thines of to-day and bygone ages; think you I am of wisdom, may, nay rather of folly know. Well, I wish you every success, and that I feel you will have at Ballarat.

I am, gentlemen,

BY NUMN.

A Converted Farmer.
The Gold Digger’s Advocate and Commercial Advertiser (State Library of Victoria)  

First published February 24, 1854 by George Black in conjunction with John Pascoe Fawkner and with H R Nicholls an editor and contributor. A remarkable newspaper covering in detail Victoria’s problems associated with the Victorian ‘gold rush’.
The subsequent Eureka trials and judicial verdicts were the beginning of Australian’s independence and ‘roots’. Over time many of the young Victorians involved in the turbulent Eureka period changed from independent ‘diggers’ to ‘company’ mine workers and by Federation (1901) the workers’ ‘statesmen’. At Federation the older radical miners then favoured a ‘white’ Australia and were protectionists with
publications such as *The Age* and *The Bulletin* supporting their causes. Their political supporters were people such as Alfred Deakin (Federal Member for Ballaarat).

In a period of approximately 35 years Victoria’s capital, Melbourne, was transformed from a rural society (initially with many ‘squatters’ having a strong desire to return to their homeland) into one of the great industrial cities of the world, with the expansion of the time only equalled by Paris and New York.

Melbourne during this period constructed many spectacular buildings – Government House (over 4 years from 1872), the Exhibition Building, Parliament House, many grand city buildings (Old Treasury Building, The Customs House, ANZ Banking Chamber (corner Queen and Collins), The Block Arcade, The Australian Club, Windsor Hotel, etc plus thousands of grand suburban and country residential homes which were serviced by an extensive railway network both state-wide to rural Victoria and throughout suburban Melbourne. There is little doubt that by the 1880s **Marvellous Melbourne** and its surrounds had become one of the great cities of the world with the world’s tallest building on the corner of Elizabeth St and Flinders Lane.

In a short time period I have studied many important books, documents and references. George Dick Meudell’s *The Pleasant Career of A Spendthrift* published in 1929 and his subsequent *The Pleasant Career of A Spendthrift and His Later Reflections* (1935) helped me better understand many Victorian ‘personalities’ covering more than 40 years. (Ian Morrison lent me his copy of *The Pleasant Career of A Spendthrift* - I was lucky he had the book as last year he had offered it to a prominent Melbourne Library who preferred not to have the book on their shelves!). The following Press Reviews give an accurate summary of its contents. George Meudell was one of Australia’s most colourful personalities – irrespective of whether readers agree or not with the accuracy of Meudell’s writings - when reading the book readers need to be aware that for 40 years Meudell was a regular contributor to *The Bulletin*. (See Appendix Four).
THE PLEASANT CAREER
OF A SPENDTHRIFT

BY

GEORGE MEUDELL

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LTD.
BROADWAY HOUSE: 68-74 CARTER LANE, E.C.

Printed in Great Britain by
The Bemanning Press, Plymouth

fifteen times during the last forty years, and
his peregrinations have brought him into contact
with all kinds and conditions of men and women
in the higher and middle strata of society. In
this book he gives his impressions in a diary.
Press Reviews of The Pleasant Career of a Spendthrift by George Meudell, 1929. The book covers a lot about the period before and after the 1890s ‘land bust’

Gary Morgan, August 19, 2008

Press Reviews of

“THE PLEASANT CAREER OF A SPENDTHrift”

By

GEORGE MEUDELL

in 1936

“Financial Times,” London.—“Thoroughly entertaining and informative.”

Melbourne “Age.”—“A racy account of a varied and active life, historically interesting and entertaining.”

“Saturday Review,” London.—“Mr. Meudell rambles in his book as widely and as rapidly as he seems to have travelled over land and sea.”

“Manchester Daily Dispatch.”—“Book full of racy stories about gold, diamond and silver mining.”

“Sunday Times,” London.—“A rolling stone who has travelled on over 400 steamships and seen 400 cities.”

“Manchester Evening Chronicle.”—“A whole series of racy reminiscences, told in an original and sparkling style.”

“Birmingham Post,”—“A book about that wonderful land, Australia.”

“Sydney Sun.”—“A book of most unconventional reminiscences, concerning the land boom and bank crisis of 1893.”

“Financial World,” London.—“The author has been well to the fore in the great Australian mining, banking, and land booms.”

“Yorkshire Post.”—“Has travelled 400,000 miles in 40 countries, and has been a banker, a stockbroker, and a mining agent.”

“Sunday Times,” London.—“The author boasts that Australia is the best country, and the Australians the best people in the world, pure bred, and of one race—the British.”

“Daily Telegraph,” London.—“A collection of dogmatic statements, but their cardinal virtue cannot be denied.”

“Daily Truth,” Broken Hill.—“Gleaning of 40 years of world travel and an infinite range of mementoes.”

“The Harbour,” Sydney.—“Travels have been world, A capital book for holiday reading.”
APPENDIX FOUR: (Prepared by Gary Morgan, August 2008)

The Pleasant Career of a Spendthrift (1929)

BY

GEORGE MEUDELL
‘My way of joking’, Meudell wrote, ‘is to tell the truth’.

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LTD.
Broadway house: 68-74 Carter Lane, E.C.

Printed in Great Britain by
The Bowering Press, Plymouth

MEUDELL, GEORGE DICK (1860-1936), was one of Australia’s most colourful personalities.

Meudell chose to tell the truth (through his ‘eyes’) about the Victorian 1880s ‘land boom’ in his autobiography, The Pleasant Career of a Spendthrift, its publication in 1929 caused a sensation. On the instruction of Robertson & Mullen’s Chairman J. M. Gillespie, a land-boomer, Robertson & Mullen’s withdrew the book, and other booksellers were warned of possible legal consequences of stocking it.

For a time Meudell sold his book privately and in 1935 published an “expurgated version”, The Pleasant Career of a Spendthrift and His Later Reflections. This later book looks at many people (Theodore Fink, Sidney Myer, Marcus Clarke etc) in a significantly better ‘light’.

In 1935 Meudell covers Theodore Fink’s “remarkable career” (Pages 231 - 240) states he was “a friend” (Page 260). In 1929 Meudell claimed: “(Sidney Myer) has crippled all his big rivals in the city and smothered dozens of small shops in the suburbs.” However, by 1935 Sidney Myer was the “…brightest commercial genius who has ever built a first-class business out of almost nothing.” (Pages 227 – 229)

Meudell was a stockbroker, company promoter and accountant, and for 40 years a regular contributor to The Bulletin. “No paper in the Empire has done more to mould the thought and guide the policy and politics of a great continent destined to house a great nation, than the Sydney ‘Bulletin’ founded by Jack F. Archibald, an Australian to the backbone and spinal marrow.” (Page 257, Bulletin’s Editor, Jules Francois Archibald was known from Meudell’s early Warrnambool days.)

In 1929 Meudell (Page 263 & 264) had little time for “popular Australia fetishe” Marcus Clarke “no literary merits nor any right to live”, Adam Lindsay Gordon “second-rate poetry” and many other successful Victorian people and institutions - the
Eureka Stockade riot “was a comic opera rebellion . . . ought to be banned and forgotten”! The Melbourne Herald “a shockingly inferior yellow paper” (Pages 272), “wallowing in the mire of mere incompetence” and “was obscure . . . not an attraction” (Page 218 & 219).

Many of Meudell’s 1929 thoughts on The Melbourne Herald are not surprising as he believed his long time friend John F. Archibald as “. . . next to David Syme of ‘The Age’ the greatest publicist in Australia” (Page 236).

Others at the time described The Bulletin magazine as “viciously racist”, which is understandable when you read Meudell’s comment on Page 237; “At my suggestion Archibald used as the ‘Bulletin’ motto, ‘Australia for the Australians,’ and when a ‘White Australia’ became a living question he changed it to the meaningless phrase, ‘Australia for the White Man’. Immigration is a needless curse to Australia and some day we may have to give battle to stop it.”

Nineteenth century ‘truthful’ reporting of the day was too often ‘sledging’ those who were successful – today it is more subtle!

George Meudell was born on January 29, 1860 at Sandhurst (Bendigo), Victoria, son of William Meudell and his wife Elizabeth Strachan, née Taylor. Educated at Warrnambool Grammar School and Sandhurst High School, he matriculated aged 14. A childhood accident which left him blind in one eye frustrated his intention of reading for the Bar so he joined the Sandhurst branch of the Bank of Victoria, where his father, a university-educated Scot, was manager.
George Meudell’s father, William Meudell (1831-1911) had migrated to Victoria in 1852 and joined the Bank of Victoria in 1854. In 1881 he was appointed by Henry (‘Money’) Miller general manager in Melbourne and in 1889-91 was manager in London – prior to the Bank of Victoria being forced to close. It is understandable why Meudell in *The Pleasant Career of a Spendthrift*, is ‘kind’ to Henry Miller while not to others, “The only man with whom I used to discuss seriously the absurd chopping and changing of city and suburban land allotments was my father who protested to his directors of the Bank of Victoria against loans to the champion land boomers like B. J. Fink, G.W. Taylor, Thomas Bent and W.L. Baillieu. Old ‘Money’ Miller, unfortunately for the Bank of Victoria, was in his dotage and off the Board or it would never have collapsed.” (Pages 32 & 33).

Contracting tuberculosis in 1907, Meudell defied doctors’ predictions of imminent death to travel the world looking at oilfields and return to an unsuccessful nineteen-year attempt to launch an Australian oil industry. This was one of many abortive schemes: it was preceded by enthusiasm for brown coal and hydro-electricity, and followed by an interest in oil-shale.

**Gary Morgan, August 15, 2008**

In 1935 George Meudell published his “expurgated version”

**THE PLEASANT CAREER OF A SPENTHRIFT**

*and His LATER REFLECTIONS (1935)*

on

1. SIDNEY MYER  Pages 227 - 229
2. THE LATE L. K. S. MACKINNON  Page 229
3. THE HON. THEODORE FINK  Pages 231 - 240
4. THE BULLETIN  Page 259
5. THE “MELBOURNE REVIEW”, NEWSPAPERS, MELBOURNE NEWSPAPERS  Pages 260 - 263
6. MELBOURNE “ARGUS” AND “ORIEL’ COLUMN  Pages 266 - 267
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