

Building the Australian Nation: Introduction to the History and Literature of Australia from 1788 to 1901

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ACADÉMIE D'ORLÉANS-TOURS

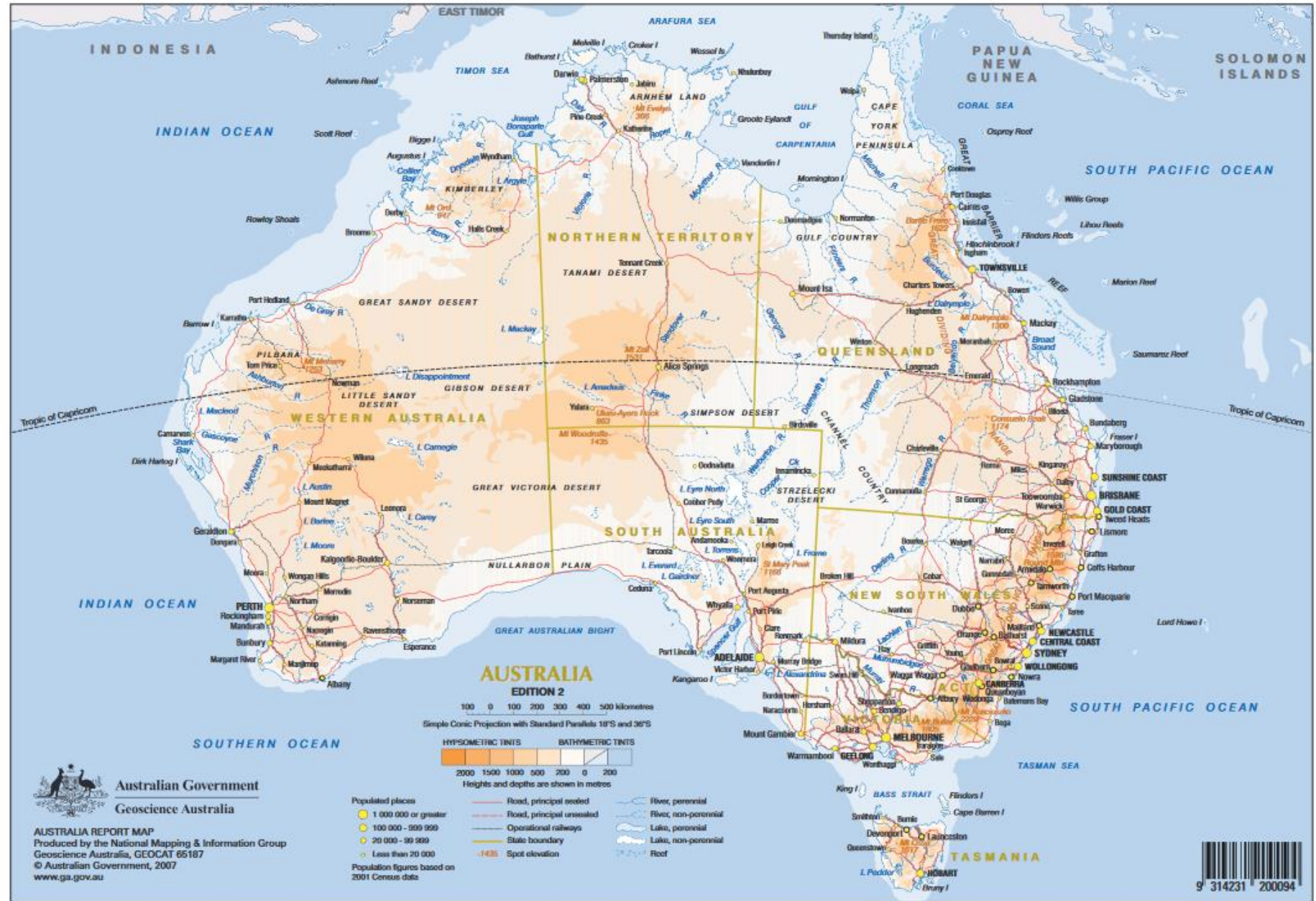
Introduction

Introduction

- Australia : continent, colonisation, settlers, indigenous people (Aboriginals)
- History and literature
- 1788 : the first British settlers → 1901 : Federation ; Commonwealth of Australia
- 'Australian colonies'

Map of Australia

Commonwealth of Australia, Australian Government, Geoscience Australia, 2007



Introduction (2)

- What are the key moments in the history of modern Australia, in relation to the notion of the building of the nation?
 - What do the literary texts reveal about the colonial experience of the authors in Australia?
 - How did the texts themselves influence the colonial society?
-
- I. 1788: the beginning of colonisation
 - II. The (convict) burden of the past: the convict system (Marcus Clarke, Caroline Leakey)
 - III. Expansion: Melbourne and the gold rush (Mary Fortune)
 - IV. Nationalism and literature: the Bush or the city (Henry Lawson and Ada Cambridge)
 - V. the 1901 Federation and nationhood

I) 1788: The beginning of colonisation

A) Why Australia?

- The Dutch, South-eastern coast → Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) ; New Holland
- loss of the American colonies (American War of Independence; Declaration of Independence 1776)
- imperial expansion in Asia and the Pacific
- an alternative place to 'transport' convicts

- Captain James Cook (1728 – 1779): British merchant, Royal Navy
- suitable climate
- 1768 – 1771 : Tahiti, circumnavigation of New Zealand, and mapping of the East coast of Australia

Map of New
Holland
1753,
Jacques
Nicolas Bellin



A)

- suitable land (crops, livestock)
- a settlement colony
- *Terra Australia Incognita*

B) The First Fleet and the development of Sydney

- 1787: Lord Sydney (1733 – 1800), British Colonial Office
- Governor Arthur Phillip (1738 – 1814)
- a penal colony
- Aboriginals : 500,000 – 750,000 people ; over 250 distinct languages
- 1788: Cadigal people of the Eora Nation, near the port called 'Warrang'
- 13 May 1787, Portsmouth
- 6 convict ships, 3 supply ships, 2 military vessels, 1300 people
- 18 January 1788, arrival in Botany Bay

The First Fleet, 1788



The Alexander, the biggest transport ship
(painting by Dennis Adams)



The Prince of Wales leaving Portsmouth

Paintings by Phil Belbin



Lady Penrhyn, with 101 female convicts



By John Allcott

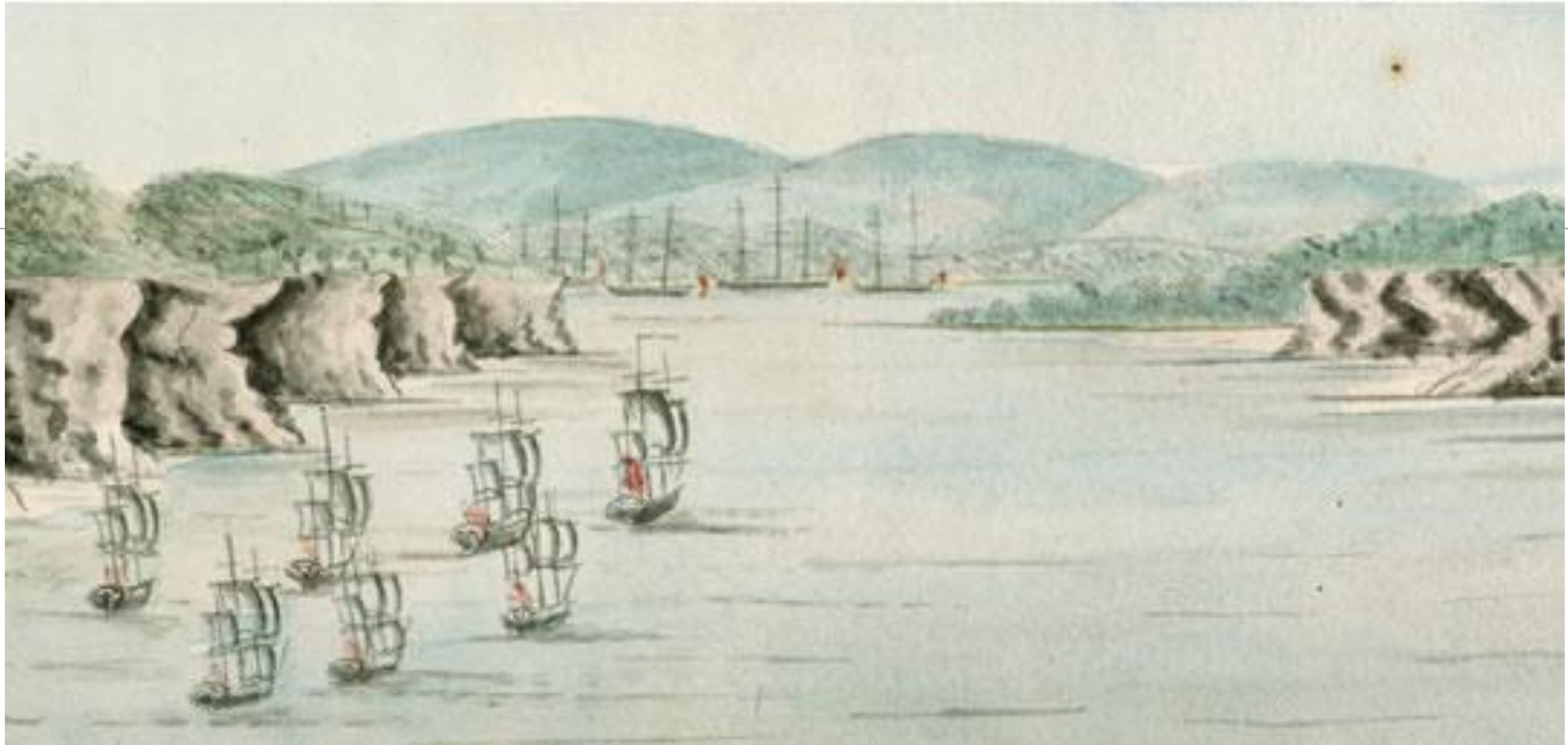
HMS Sirius, the flagship



Early sites of European landfall



Map o.i Sites of early European landfall



Botany Bay. 'Sirius & convoy going in: Supply & agents division in the bay. 21 Janry 1788.' William Bradley, watercolour from his journal 'A Voyage to New South Wales', 1802+. State Library of New South Wales, [Safe 1 / 14]

B)

- Botany Bay: unsuitable for settlement → further north
- Sydney Cove
- Port Jackson, Sydney Cove, 26 January 1788
- proclamation of the colony of New South Wales
- *Terra nullius*
- Invasion Day / Survival Day



The Founding of
Australia, by
Captain Arthur
Philip, Sydney
Cove, 26
January 1788.
(Algernon
Talmadge R.A.
1937, NSW
State Library)

C) Surviving

- beset by difficulties (lack of skills, poor land)
- May 1788: food shortage
- food rationing
- kangaroos, possums, emus
- end of 1789: starvation and smallpox



Map of Sydney Cove settlement,
by Francis Fowkes, National
Library of Australia, 24 July 1789

(Detail of 'Sketch & Description of
the settlement at Sydney Cove
Port Jackson in the County of
Cumberland taken by a
transported Convict on the 16th
of April, 1788, which was not
quite 3 months after
Commodore Phillips's Landing
there' (detail)



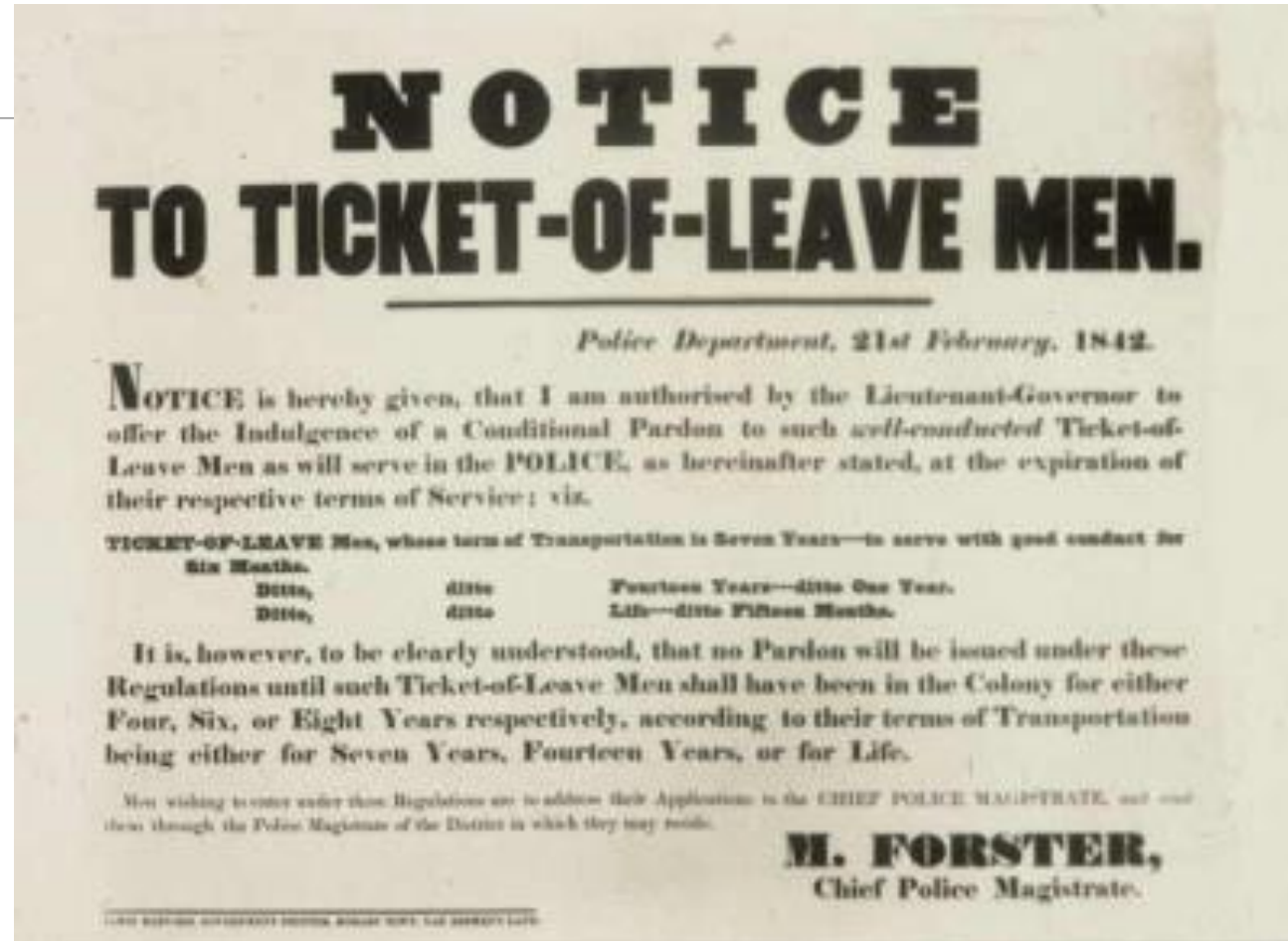
II) The (convict) burden of the past

A) The convict system

- 1788 – 1868
- 162,000 convicts (7,000 in 1833 !)
- Transportation : legal punishment for crimes and minor offences
- American colonies: unofficial destination, 50,000 by 1775
- Overpopulated British prisons

- Change in the 1820s: terrifying ordeal + improving economic development (Bigge reports)
- Assignment system
- Ticket of leave

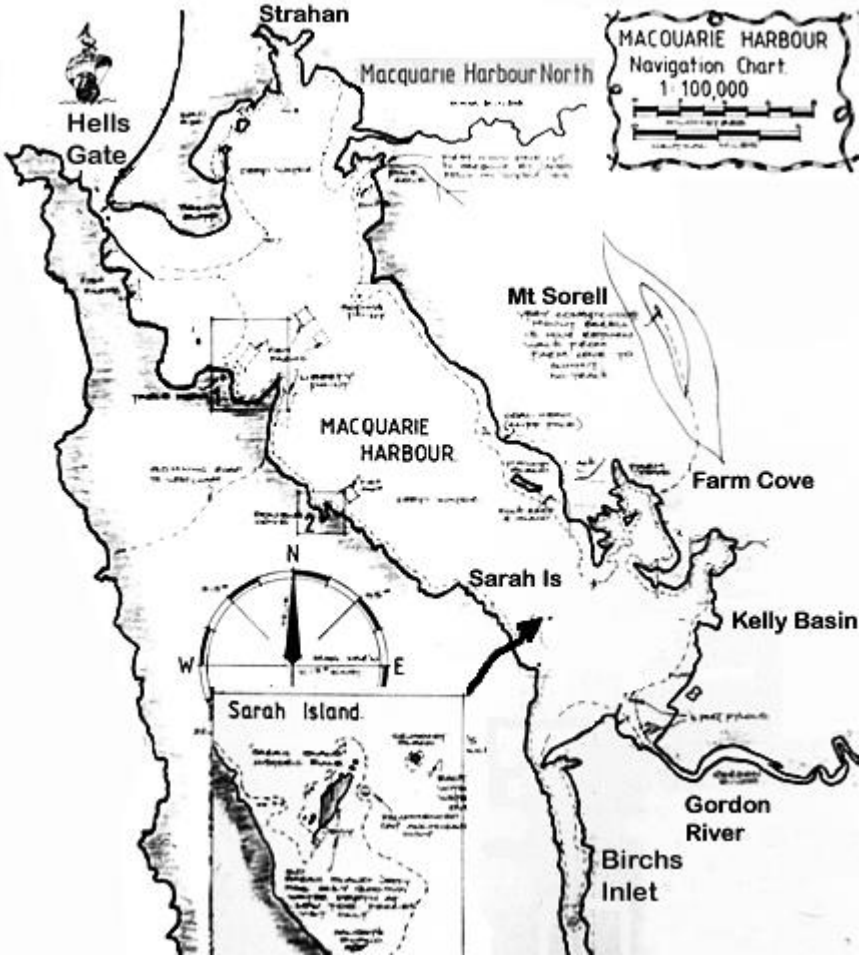
Notice offering a conditional pardon to Ticket-of-Leave men who will serve in the police force (State Library of Victoria, H22214)



B) Examples of penal colonies and female factories

- new prisons (1820s)
- **Macquarie Harbour**: 1822, Sarah Island, Tasmania
- ‘a place of banishment and security for the worst description of convicts’
- ‘the gates of hell’
- Malnutrition and scurvy
- Punishments: solitary confinement, ankle iron, repetitive hard labour, 100 whiplashes
- wood cutters and boat builders
- Matthew Brady, the ‘Gentleman Bushranger’

Macquarie Harbour, Sarah Island



Matthew Brady, 'The Gentleman Bushranger'



B)

- **Moreton Bay** (Brisbane) : 1823, John Oxley
- Repeat offenders
- 1828 : 693 convicts
- James Davies (1808 – 1889): escaped and lived with the local Aboriginals

B)

- Female factories: prisons and workplaces
- Servant, wife (free settler or released convict) ; shelter (pregnant, ill)
- Harsh treatment

- **Parramatta** : 1821 (NSW)
- convict architect Francis Greenway (1777 – 1837)
- 300 women, 3 storeys
- 1829 : 537 women and 61 women
- Children : after 4, orphanage

Parramatta Female Factory (1821-1848)

Female penitentiary
or factory,
Parramata,
watercolour; 15.9 x
25.7 cm.



-
- **Cascades**: Hobart, Tasmania, 1828 (100 women)
 - Hospital, nursery, workrooms, chapel
 - Overcrowding, disease, extreme temperatures, high mortality rate
 - The largest prison in Van Diemen's Land
 - 1853: 5 main yards, 1000 women, 175 children

The Cascades, Hobart

Walker, James Backhouse
1892 , *Photographs of
Cascades' Female Factory,
Hobart, Tasmania,
November 1892*





C) Narrating the convict experience: Marcus Clarke and Caroline Leahey

- **Frederick Sinnett, 'The Fiction Fields of Australia', 1856**
- an inquiry *'into the feasibility of writing Australian novels; or, to use other words, into the suitability of Australian life and scenery for the novel writers' purpose and, secondly, into the right manner of their treatment'*.
- no tradition, no myth, no rich past
- there is *'to be obtained in Australia not a single local reference [that is even] a century old'*

Marcus Clarke (1)

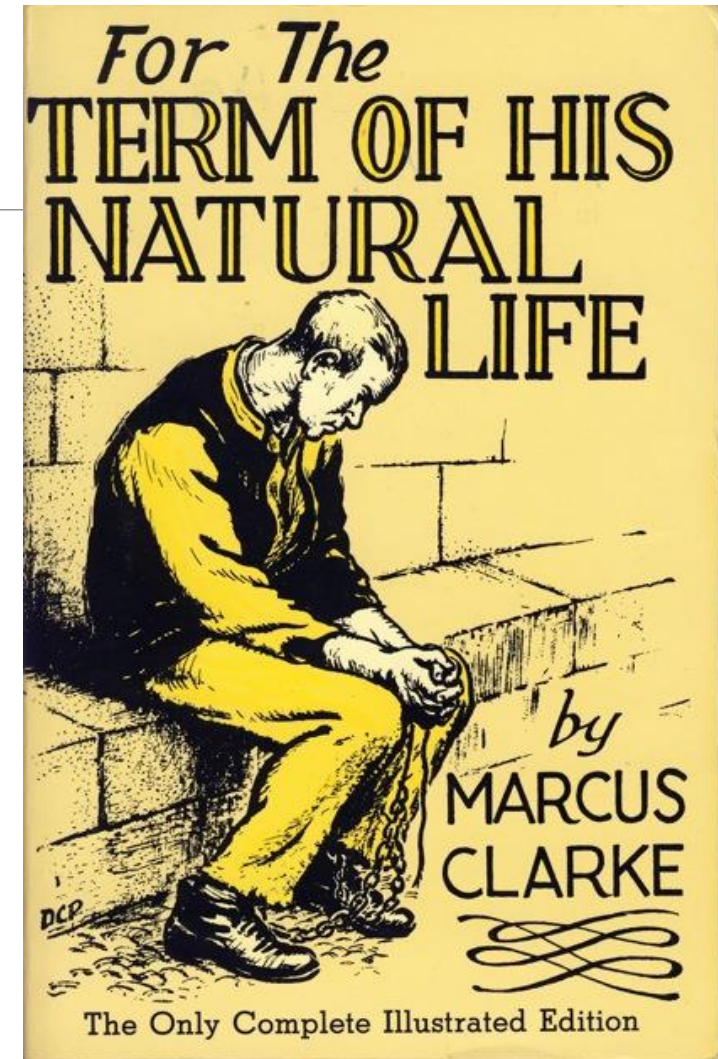
- 'Country Leisure' essay (4 September 1875)
- *In historic Europe, where every rood of ground is hallowed in legend and in song, the least imaginative can find food for sad and sweet reflection. When strolling at noon down an English country lane, [...] looking at sunset by some ruined chapel on the margin of an Irish lake, [...] we feel all the charm which springs from association with the past. Soothed, saddened, and cheered by turns, we partake the varied moods which belong not so much to ourselves as to the dead men who in old days sung, suffered, or conquered in the scenes which we survey. But this our native or adopted land has no past, no story. No poet speaks to us. Do we need a poet to interpret Nature's teachings, we must look into our own hearts, if perchance we may find a poet there.*

Marcus Clarke (2)

- ‘His Natural Life’ (serialised in the *Australian Journal* 1870 – 1872)
- *For the Term of his Natural Life* (book form 1874)
- Richard Devine ‘enmeshed’ in ‘a web of circumstantial evidence’ → Rufus Dawes, ‘new life’
- Pain and hardship,
- *‘Rufus Dawes took five-and-twenty lashes without a murmur, and then Gabbett ‘crossed the cuts’ [...], At the hundredth lash, the giant paused [...]. For twenty lashes more Dawes was mute, and then the agony forced from his labouring breast a hideous cry [...] He cursed all soldiers for tyrants, all parsons for hypocrites. He blasphemed his God and his Saviour. With a frightful outpouring of obscenity and blasphemy, he called on the earth to gape and swallow his persecutors, for heaven to open and rain fire upon them, for hell to yawn and engulf them [...] He seemed to have abandoned his humanity.’*

Marcus Clarke (3)

- Dehumanisation
- Brutality and violence of the system
- Doppelgänger (Rufus Dawes, John Rex + Maurice Frere)
- The best known convict novel, often presented as the first



Caroline Leakey

- *The Broad Arrow*, 1859
- the first novel about convict life
- a woman as the main character
- *The Broad Arrow, Being Passages from the History of Maida Gwynnham, a Lifer* (London 1859, Hobart 1860)
- Oliné Reese (penname)
- Double standard in literary evaluation
- 1847 joined her sister Eliza in Van Diemen's Land
- a system that corrupted both convict and free societies

Bridget clung to her uncle's arm as they passed through rows of prisoners, who were variously employed in working reading, and learning, it being their school-hour. Each file arose and curtsied as the party passed.

Ever and anon Miss Perkins issued orders to some unfortunate. 'Mary Gull, tie your cap. What Mary Pike, yours off! The next offence you'll go downstairs.' Mary understood the allusion, and hastily put on her cap. 'Sarah Gubb, you are talking there. Jane Dawson, where's your curtesy? Why don't you rise, Ellen Bracket? Muggins, I shall complain of you.'

'Would you like to walk through the cells, sir?' They went below. In one cell was a captive, kicking and stamping violently. Miss Perkins thought fit to soothe her by rapping at the door. 'You don't think that's the way to get out, do you, Stooks?' 'Twas you got me in, you did, you beast!' 'If I wasn't very indulgent, Stooks, I should get you double for that,' said the maternal Perkins. 'Is the devil indulgent, I should like to know, you old cant?' cried Stooks.

(...)'Do let us go, uncle; it is so dreadful to have these poor creatures made a show of,' whispered Bridget.

'They are accustomed to it,' answered Miss Perkins to the second clause of Bridget's speech.(...)

(...) Many anxious eyes followed the party as the grated door closed, and an audible sigh was simultaneously heaved by those whom it imprisoned. Each prisoner envied Martha and wished it had been her lot to fall to so sweet a looking lady as that bright-eyed girl who smiled on her in passing.

What lay beyond those gates not one could tell. They were as the gates of death--all doubt and mystery beyond. None ever returned to tell of the untried world to which they led.

Strange and vague are the mental picturings the prisoned female forms of the land of bier exile, which she knows lies little further than a stone's-throw from her. [...] The cunning and malicious amongst them delight in filling the minds of their less gifted associates with the most terrible apprehensions of the barbarities awaiting them on their departure from their probation. It is with a thrill of cruel suspense that such prisoners first plant their foot on Tasmanian ground.

In this respect the male convicts do not suffer so acutely. Their doubts, hopes, and fears are answered, realized, or crushed almost immediately on arriving at the colony. Their probationary course does not add suspense to sorrow. At once formed into gangs, they learn the worst, and are sent to labour in the roads, or work on public buildings. The torture of suspense is not added to it.

Caroline Leakey

- Dehumanisation, before Marcus Clarke
- Psychological violence
- Violence of the system for women
- Accuracy of the account
- Social document
- The first novel about convict life and the horrors women faced

III) Expansion: Melbourne and the gold rush

A) A new colony: the founding of Melbourne (1835)

- Port Phillip, Victoria
- Batman and Fawkner





John Batman

Bust of John Batman, in profile.
Published in the Supplement to the
Illustrated Australian news. Created
circa 1888 by an unknown artist .
Print: wood engraving. Accession
number: IAN01/08/88/Supp/5b
From the State Library of Victoria's
Pictures Collection.

Batman's treaty

- John Batman (1801-1839)
- 1835: treaty with the Wurundjeri people
- 240,000 hectares
- Compensation: blankets, tomahawks, annual fee
- A special relationship to the land
- Europeans: owning the land Vs. Wurundjeri: belonging to the land
- Chiefs → elders with no superior right to the land

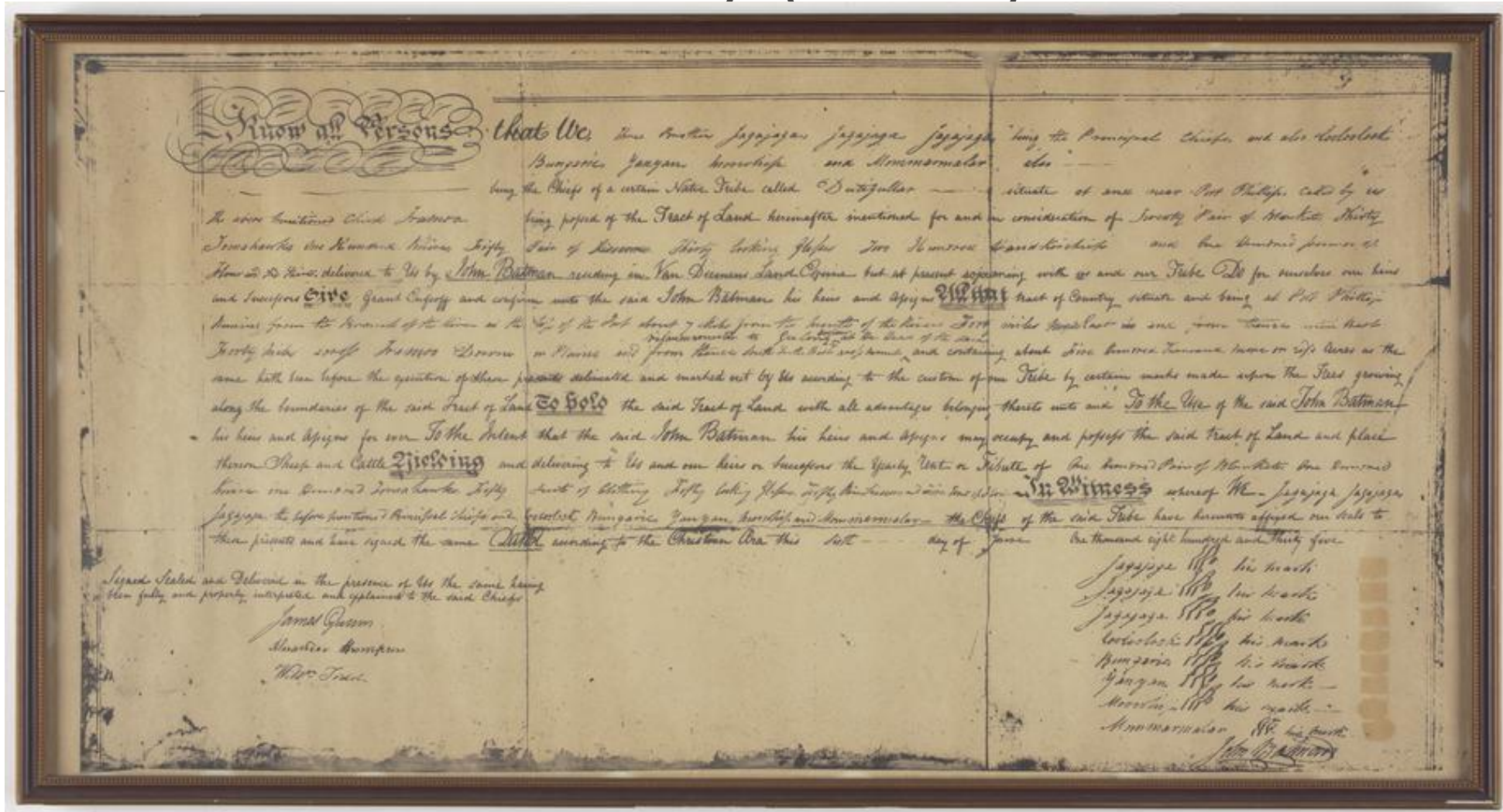
William Buckley, Morgan, J., 1852, [*The life and adventures of William Buckley*](#), Archibald MacDougall, Hobart, Tas.

‘[...]they had seen several of the native chiefs, with whom, as they said, they had exchanged all sorts of things for land; but that I knew could not have been, because unlike other savage communities, or people, **they have no chiefs claiming or possessing any superior right over the soil: theirs only being as the heads of families.** [...] I therefore looked upon the land dealing spoken of as another hoax of the white man, to possess the inheritance of the uncivilised natives.’

Batman's treaty (2)

- Aboriginal translators from NSW
- offering gifts in exchange for **tandarrum** (safe journey through the land)

John Batman's treaty (1835)

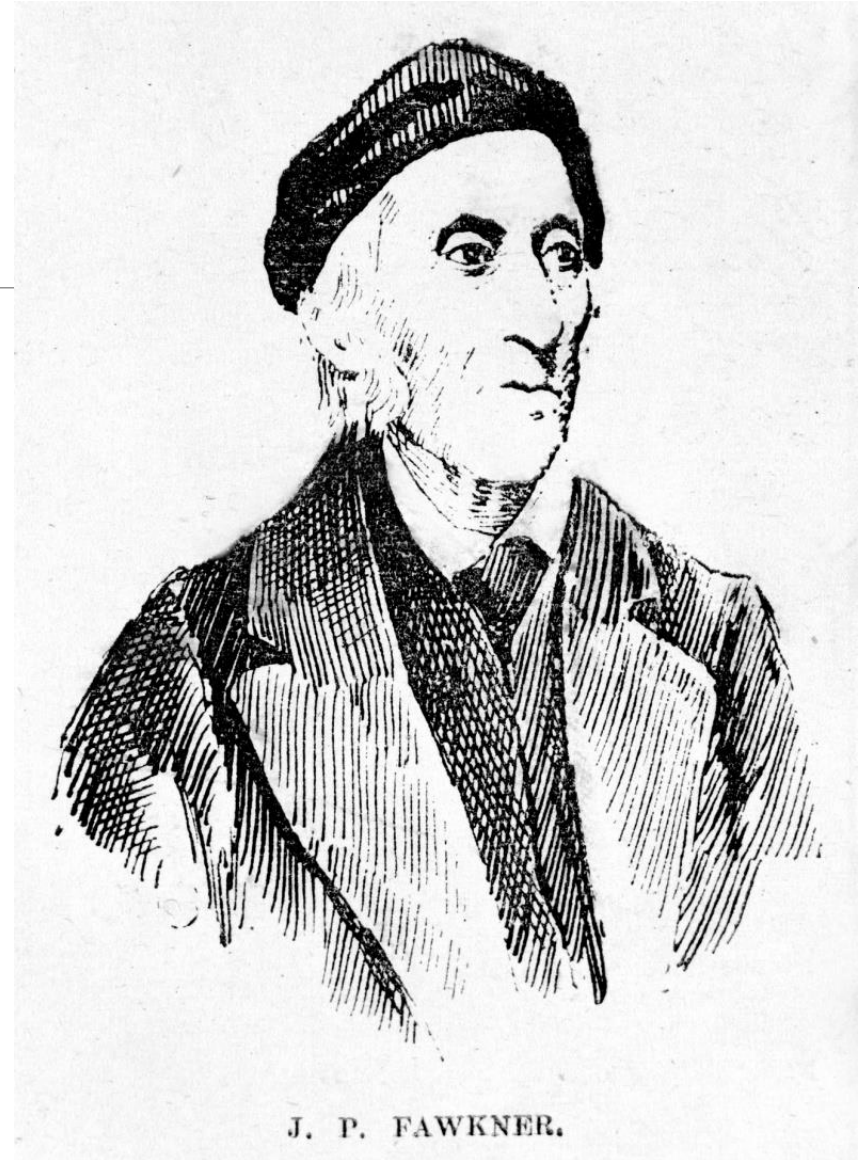


Batman's Treaty (3)

- invalidated by Proclamation of Governor Bourke of NSW
- 6 August 1835: the British Crown owned all the land in Australia; only the Crown had the right to sell or distribute the land

John Pascoe Fawkner

Bust of John Pascoe Fawkner, in profile. Published in the Supplement to the Illustrated Australian news. Created circa 1888, by an unknown artist. Print: wood engraving. Accession number: IAN01/08/88/Supp/5a From the State Library of Victoria's Pictures Collection.



John Pascoe Fawkner

- 1792, England
- 1803 Australia (convicted father)
- 1835 Port Phillip
- The first pub, hotel and newspaper in Melbourne
- 1851: one of the first members of the Victorian government
- Melbourne's most influential pioneer

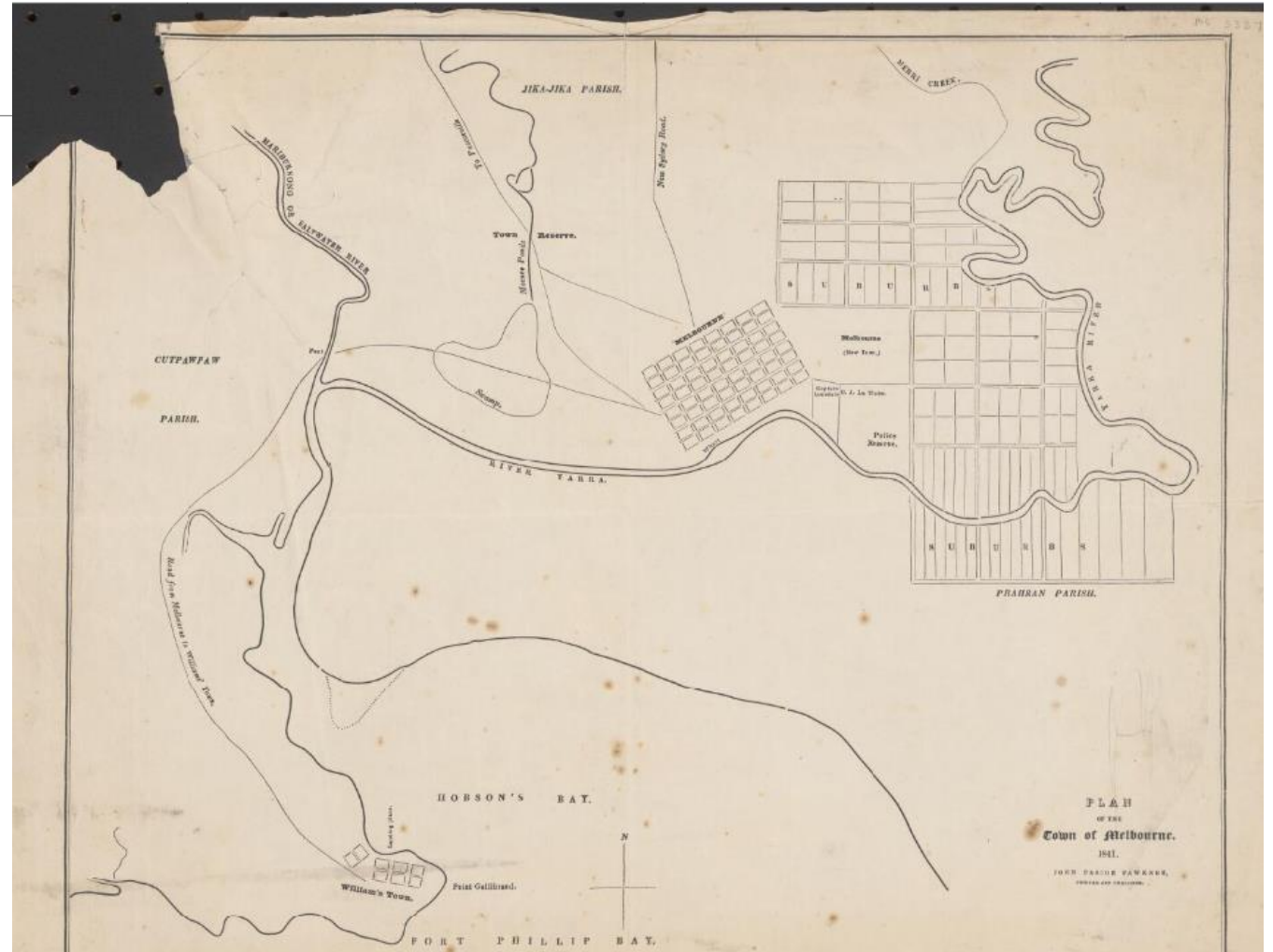
Melbourne, 1836

An early view of Melbourne from the south of the Yarra, probably reconstructed after 1836. R. Hofmann, after 1838. Oil on linen, mounted on masonite. Accession number: H18182 From the State Library of Victoria's Pictures Collection.



Map of Melbourne by Fawkner, 1841

Creator : Fawkner, John Pascoe, 1792-1869 Title : Plan of the town of Melbourne / John Pascoe Fawkner, printer and publisher ; Call Number MAP RM 1292 ; Created/Published [Melbourne?] : J.P. Fawkner, 1841



B) The gold rush



- 1841, Reverend William Branwhite Clarke (geologist): gold near Hartley (Blue Mountains)
- 1844, Governor Gipps : *'Put it away Mr Clarke or we shall all have our throats cut'*
- fear of mutiny
- 1848, Californian gold rush → thousands left the Australian colony (labour shortage + eco crisis)
- 1849, reward offered for a viable gold nugget



B)

- 1849, Edward Hargraves : gold rush in California → topographical and geological similarities
- Jan 1851, return to NSW, inland
- → near Bathurst, found gold at Ophir
- Reward £10,000
- News in the *Sydney Morning Herald*
- 15 May 1851, 300 miners in Ophir
- = Beginning of the gold rush



Hargraves in 1851, by Thomas Tyrwhitt Balcombe

B)

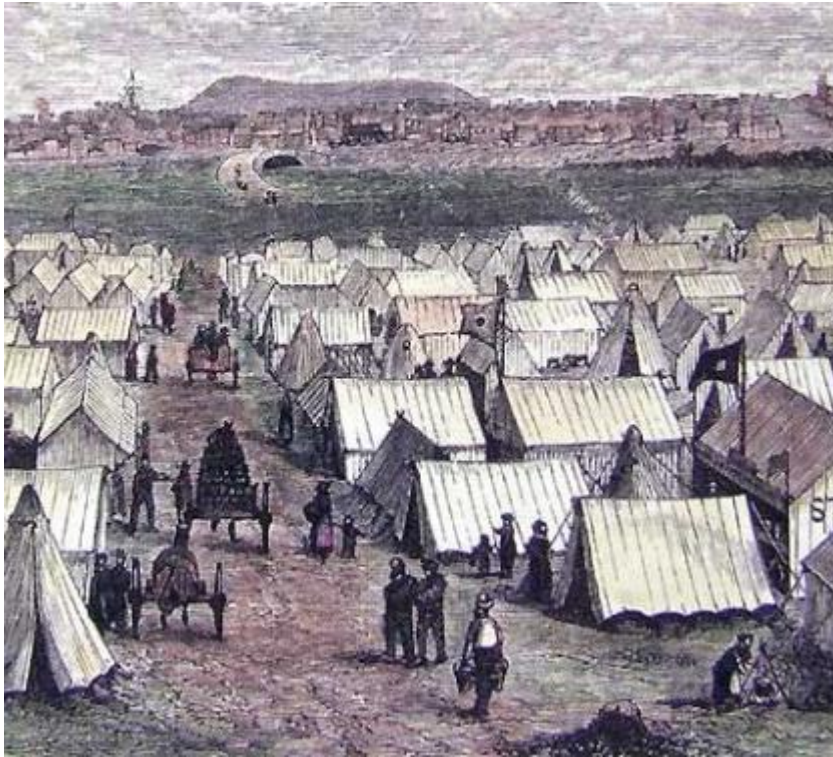
- Men moving north to NSW
- Reward of £200 offered if gold found within 200 miles of Melbourne
- Gold : Clunes, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Bendigo
- Gold in Victoria: 1/3 of the world's production in the 1850s
- 20,000 men at the end of 1851 → 150,000 men in 1858

<https://www.nma.gov.au/learn/classroom-resources/gold-rush-game>



B)

- 1851 – 1861 : population x4 (over 500,000 in 1861)
- Melbourne : small pioneer settlement → major metropolis
- more immigrants in 2 years than the number of convicts in 70 years
- "[it] was truly wonderful, not to be imagined or understood in the ordinary growth or progress of Old World cities. (William Kelly, *Life in Victoria: or, Victoria in 1853, and Victoria in 1858, Showing the March of Improvement Made by the Colony within Those Periods, in Town and Country, Cities and Diggings*, 1859)
- 'Instant cities' (Gunther Barth, *Instant Cities: Urbanization and the Rise of San Francisco and Denver*, 1975)
- new threats and opportunities for the Aboriginals (jobs)



Old Treasury Building



- Modernisation of the city's infrastructure (roads, steel bridges, railways, reservoir...)
- Urbanisation of Victoria

Ada Cambridge, *Thirty years in Australia* (1903)

'No description that we had read or heard of, even from our fellow-passengers whose homes were there, had prepared us for the wonder that Melbourne was to us. As I remember our metropolis then, and see it now, I am not conscious of any striking general change, although, of course, the changes in detail are innumerable. It was a greater city for its age thirty years ago than it is to-day, great as it is to-day. I lately read in some English magazine the statement that tree-stumps—likewise, if I mistake not, kangaroos—were features of Collins Street "twenty-five years ago." I can answer for it that in 1870 it was excellently paved and macadamised, thronged with its waggonette-cabs, omnibuses, and private carriages—a perfectly good and proper street, except for its open drainage gutters. The nearest kangaroo hopped in the Zoological Gardens at Royal Park.'

MARY FORTUNE

- One of the most popular writers of XIXth century Australia
- Yet fallen into oblivion
- More than 500 detective novels, serial novels, articles
- Mysterious life
- Pseudonym: Waif Wander
- *The Australian Journal*
- Identity re-discovered in the 1950s

-
- born in 1833 in Belfast
 - Mary Wilson
 - Canada
 - Married Joseph Fortune in 1851 ; son George
 - 1855 Australia, gold rush
 - 1856 another son → illegitimate
 - 1858 married Percy Brett after declaring herself a widow
 - Poverty, homelessness, alcoholism
 - Died in 1909, date and place discovered in 2015

Twenty-Six Years Ago: or, the Diggings from '55

- *The Australian Journal*, September 1882 – May 1883
- Autobiographical account
- *'Who would write pages at fifteen shillings when one paid nine shillings per day for milk, and for a 'woman's' magazine, too! Nay, there was nothing of the namby-pamby elegance of ladies' literature in our stirring, hardy, and eventful life on the early goldfields.'*
- Desire for independence, refusal to fit into conventions
- *I was interviewed by a man who stared in open-eyed wonder at me and my youngster, whom I led by the hand.*

'Are you "M.H.F"?' he questioned with evident disbelief.

'Yes.'

'I can hardly credit it. You had better see Mr. Saint; but as for the request that M.H.F would call, we want a reporter and sub-editor, and thought he might suit.'

- First visit to Melbourne:

'I carried up to the diggings a few prominent memories of the city at that day, and it is strange to note with what pertinacity first and new impressions will cling to the brain upon which they have been photographed.'

- Surprise to see her travelling alone:

'an' it's wonderin' I've been all the road if it's going to the diggings by yerself ye are?

- Difficult journey:

'A woman, especially with little ones in charge, can scarcely be expected to feel safe or comfortable in a strange land, and among a class of people she has been told were as rough and knobby as the stones from among which they were rooting out their gold.'

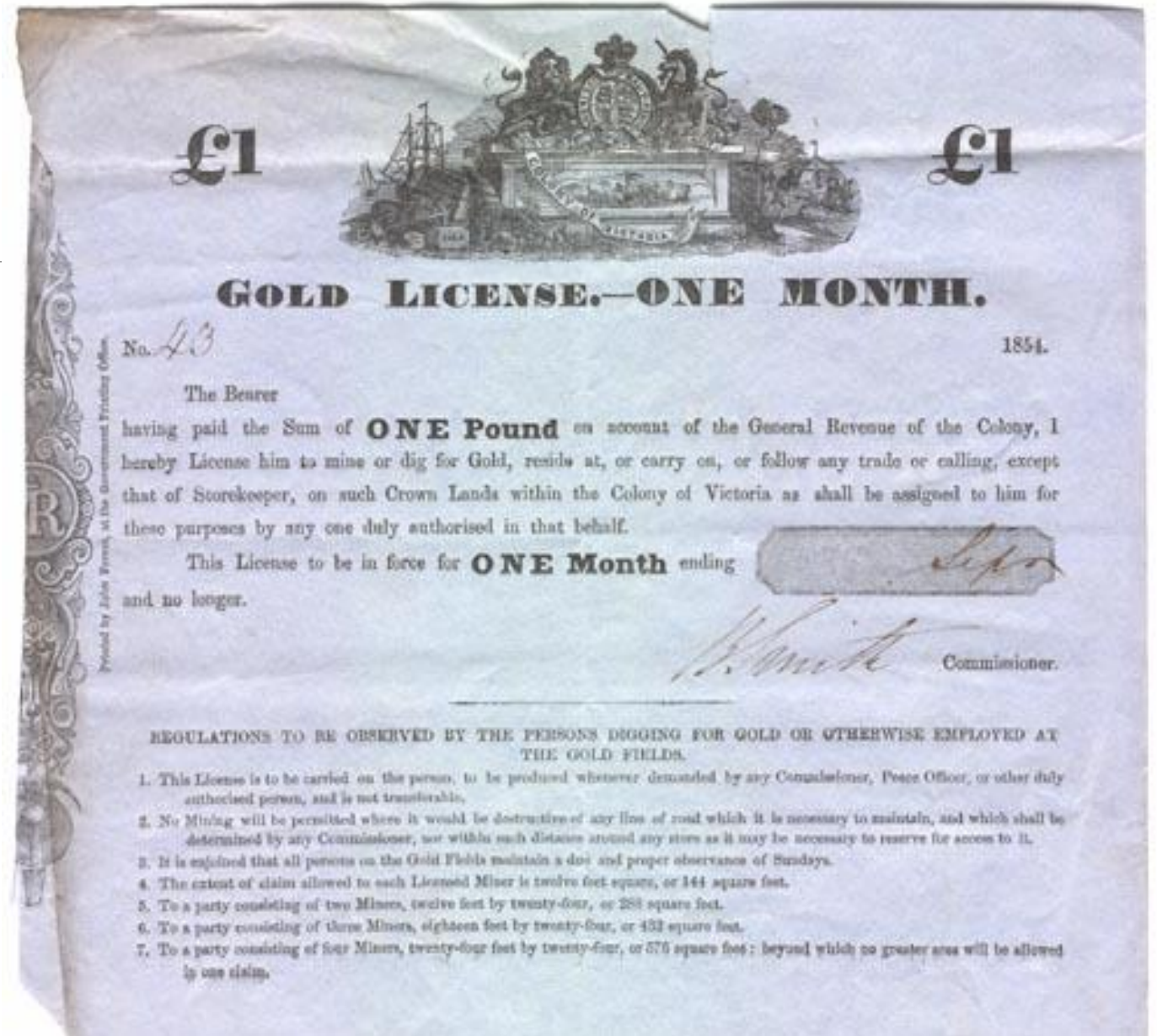
'our experience of travelling in '55 did not include any time to bestow on the beauties of Nature in any shape or form'

- Anecdote of another woman's regrets to have come to Australia:

'What ever came over me at all to come to such an outlandish place!' she sobbed. [...] Ah! Many of us have come to the same conclusion many a hundred times since our voluntary expatriation.'

C) The Eureka Rebellion: the birth of the Australian Democracy

- Context:
- Hard life for diggers
- 1851: Introduction of a gold licence
- Corrupt police
- No elections on the goldfields



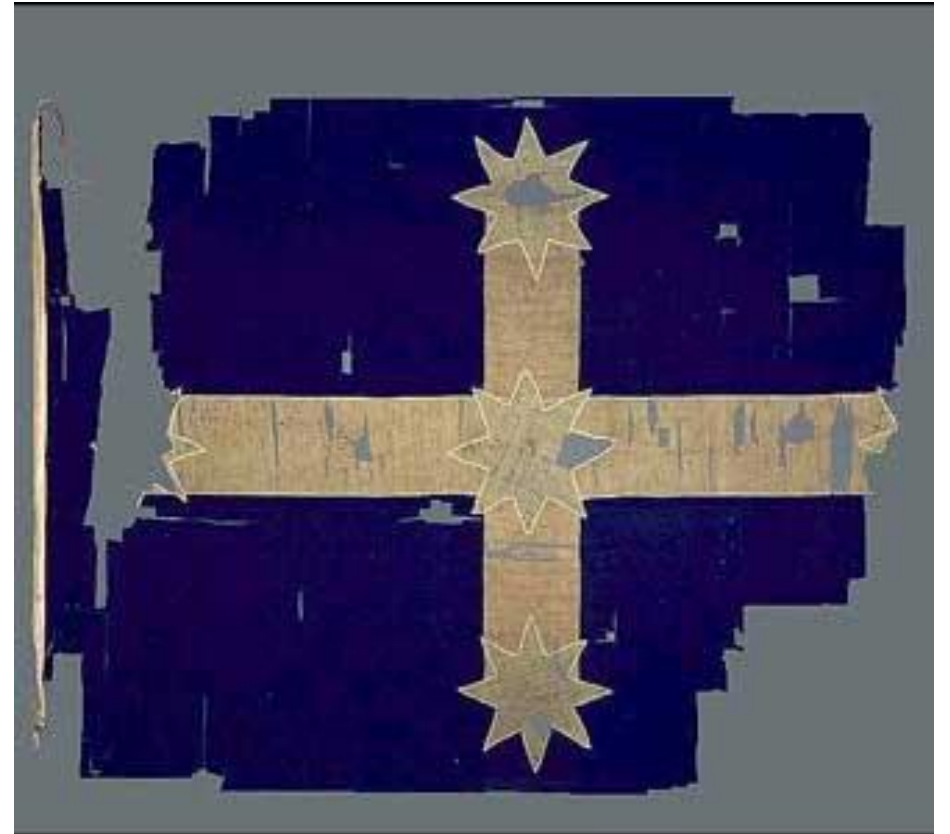
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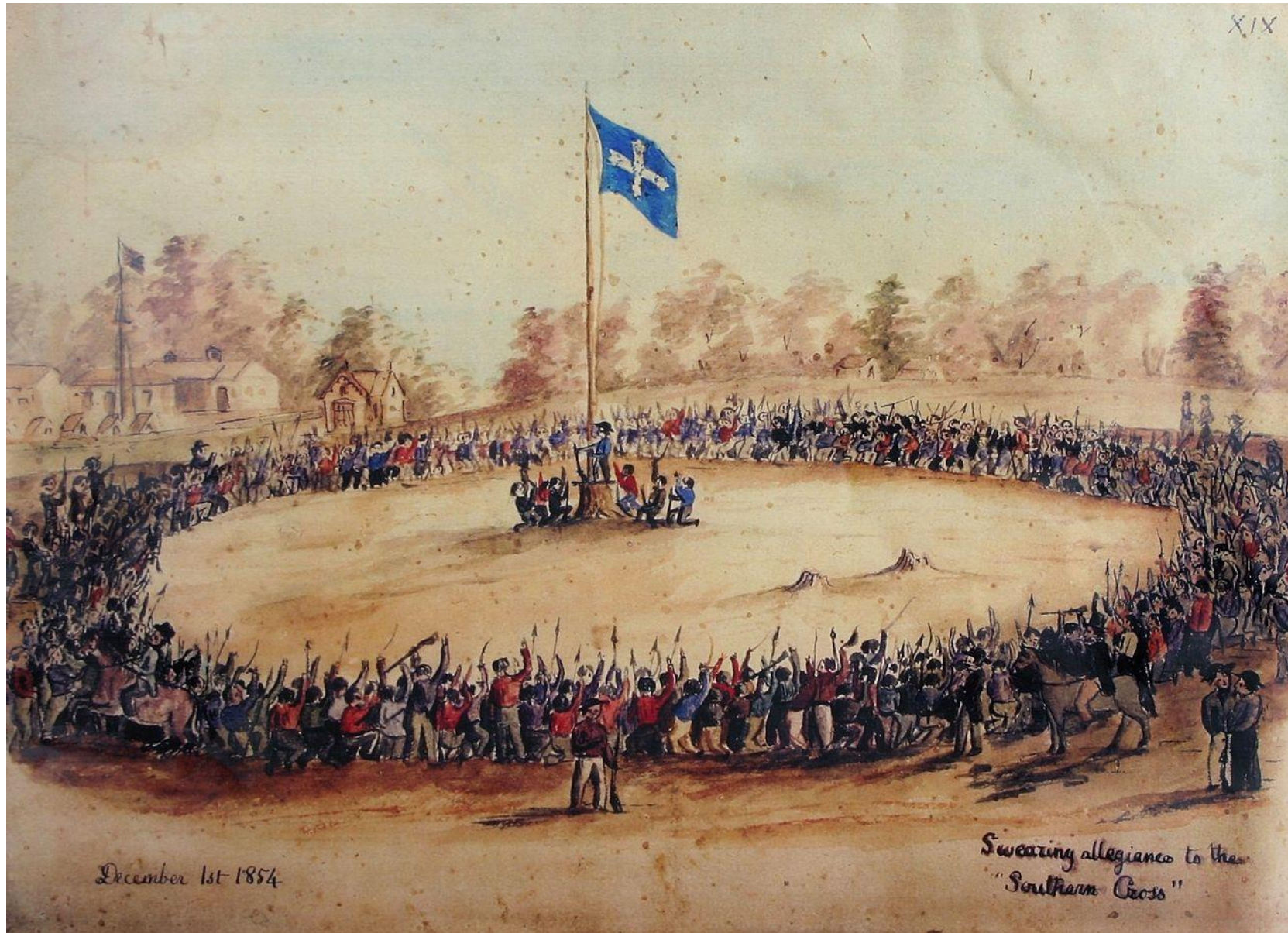
- Ballarat, Victoria, 25,000 diggers
- Peaceful demonstrations
- 7 October 1854: a Scottish digger was beaten to death by a group including James Bentley, owner of the Eureka Pub, who escaped prosecution
- 17 October 1854: burning of Bentley's pub



Charles A. Doudiet, *watercolour on paper*, 1854, watercolour, on paper.
Courtesy Art Gallery of Ballarat, purchased by the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery with the assistance of many donors, 1996.

-
- 11 November: 10,000 diggers meet at Bakery Hill ; creation of the Ballarat Reform League
 - 29 November : 12,000 diggers, the Eureka Flag (Southern Cross Flag) is raised
 - 31 November: Peter Lalor, leader of Ballarat Reform League.
 - Oath of allegiance
 - 2 December: Eureka, protest enclosure (stockade)
 - 3 December: Battle of Eureka Stockade
 - ➔ End of rebellion but beginning of unionism and democracy in Australia





*Swearing Allegiance to
the Southern Cross,
Charles Doudiet, 1854.*

IV) Nationalism and Literature (Henry Lawson, Ada Cambridge)

A) Nationalism and Literature in the late XIXth century in the Australian colonies

- 1890s : debate around the Australian colonial literary culture
- Major national literary development
- From colonial to national
- The bush: embodiment of the Australian landscape
- Social reality
- Egalitarianism, collectivism, mateship
- Rural labour, sublimation of the bushman as a hero
- *The Sydney Bulletin* (1880) (short stories and ballads), patriotic attitude
- Australianness

Henry Lawson, the voice of the bush

- Short story, 'The Union Buries its Dead', *The Bulletin*, 1893
- Bush culture
- Funeral of a young drover (drowned in a billabong)
- Assessment of the bush community
- Male environment, prone to fight and drink: *'Liquor, however, is stronger than Unionism; and when the hearse presently arrived, more than two-thirds of the funeral were unable to follow.'*
- Positive values: *'Bushmen seldom grumble at an inconvenience of this sort, when it is caused by a funeral. They have too much respect for the dead.'*

-
- Lawson = **‘The voice of the bush’** (*The Bulletin*, 1895), and of the nation:

The Bulletin knows plenty of clever writers, but it does not know another than Lawson who could write the sketch called ‘The Drover’s Wife’ [...]. You can ransack the whole realm of Australian prose without finding a mate for that sketch, brim-full of the humor and pathos of the bush. [...] Henry Lawson is the voice of the bush, and the bush is the heart of Australia.

- Link between the *Bulletin* and the bush, between the bush and the Australian identity
- The *Bulletin* = **‘The Bushman’s Bible’**

Ada Cambridge, a writer of in-betweenness

- Born in 1844 in England, clergyman's wife (1870), Settled in Victoria
- In-betweenness: cultural (Australia and England), social and literary (bourgeois conservatism and reformist radicalism)
- 1908: back to England, then back to Australia, then to England
- 1917 after her husband's death, moved back to Melbourne
- 1926 died

-
- Prolific writer (28 novels and serial novels, 2 collections of short stories, 2 autobiographies, essays, 4 volumes of poetry)
 - Initials 'A.C.'
 - Provocative themes: women's rights, social reform, religion
 - Conditions of publication
 - Praised by her contemporaries

-
- In-betweenness (England and Australia)
 - Exile: major theme
 - *Thirty Years in Australia* (1903, autobiography), arrival in Australia:

'We, strangers in a strange land, sat apart and watched these favoured ones – listened to their callings back and forth over the ship's side, beheld their embraces at the gangway, their excited interviews in the cuddy, their gay departures into the night and the unknown, which in nearly every case swallowed them for ever as far as we were concerned.' (*Thirty Years* p.15)

- Excitement and subjugation when discovering Melbourne:

'No description that we had read or heard of, even from our fellow-passengers whose homes were there, had prepared us for the wonder that Melbourne was to us' (*Thirty Years* 18).

-
- Homesickness and nostalgia for her home England + gradual anchoring into the Australian colonies
 - Going back and forth between England and Australia in her fiction = Making sense of the in-between experience of the exile
 - ‘That lake was the region of romance to me. The sunrises out of its mists and shimmers, the moonbeams on its breast at night, that I used to step out upon the terrace-like verandah to feast upon – they are pictures of memory that can never fade’ (*Thirty Years* 65).
 - ‘For about seven-eighths of that long time in Australia, while succeeding very well in making the best of things, I was never without a subconscious sense of exile, a chronic nostalgia, that could hardly bear the sight of a homeward-bound ship’ (*The Retrospect* 11).
 - “Australia is a land of plenty to all her people, high and low, but we forget it until we go away from her. Then we know” (*The Retrospect* 33).

V) 1901: Federation

A) The beginning of Federation

- Deliberation, consultation, and debate
- Only possible with the consent of the people, following a referendum

- 6 colonies (NSW, Victoria, Queensland, SA, WA, Tasmania)
- In practice, working as separate countries

The main reasons for federating

- Free Trade
- Defence
- Immigration
- National Pride

The Australian Constitution

- **1891 Australasian National Convention** (delegates): Edmund Barton, 'A nation for a continent and a continent for a nation'
- Draft constitution
- 'Washminster'
- **1893 The People's Convention** (Corowa, NSW) → a referendum was to be held
- 1899 referendums in the colonies
- "The Australian nation is a fact. Now is accomplished the dream of a continent for a people and a people for a continent. No longer shall there exist those artificial barriers which have divided brother from brother. We are one people – with one destiny.' *The Brisbane Courier*, 4 September, 1899."

Constitution Act and Nationhood

- March 1900 delegation to London, British Parliament
- 5 July 1900: The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act
- 9 July 1900: Queen Victoria signed the Act
- 1 January 1901: the Commonwealth of Australia is declared (Centennial Park, Sydney)
- 3 September 1901: the Australian Flag is flown for the first time

Conclusion

-
- Different narratives
 - Colonial, Anglo-Australian, or Australian?
 - The bush, the convict system, the diggers, the Eureka Revolt...but also the city, a feeling of exile, loneliness...
 - Who has been included in Australian literary histories and who has not.
 - Finding its own voice and identity
 - Miles Franklin, *My Brilliant Career* (1901): « *My dear fellow Australians, You can dive into this story head first as it were. Do not fear encountering such trash as descriptions of beautiful sunsets and whisperings of wind. We (999 out of every 1000) can see nought in sunsets save as signs and tokens whether we may expect rain on the morrow or the contrary, so we will leave such vain and foolish imagining to those poets and painters—poor fools! Let us rejoice that we are not of their temperament!(...)There is no plot in this story, because there has been none in my life or in any other life which has come under my notice.* »
 - Independence + tradition