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On December 8, 1846, preliminary arrangements were made for the establishment of a Mechanics Institute in Geelong. Unfortunately, in what was to become a well established pattern, the Institute faced almost continuous financial difficulties from the beginning. The original membership of 106 persons who paid an annual subscription of £1 was clearly insufficient to meet the costs of running the institute. Survival came through fund raising from social functions, the donation of books and, in 1849, Governor George Gipps provided a grant of £200. However, by 1851 membership had fallen to 61, and a lack of interest, financial insolvency, and a depleted population due to the gold rush led to the disbanding of Geelong Mechanics Institute in 1853.

The Institute was revived a year later in November 1854, and a number of fortuitous circumstances combined to ensure its continued survival. The Legislative Assembly of Victoria offered £1500, conditional on a similar amount being raised locally. The Institute then amalgamated with the rival Geelong Literary and Scientific Society and an experienced librarian, Benjamin Wheatland, was employed. Wheatland’s expertise contributed much to the revival. In the aftermath of the gold rush, prosperity returned to

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**What is a Mechanics Institute?**
A community organisation consisting mostly of volunteers that provides a venue and facilities to run community educational classes and entertainment, as well as other events. Mechanics Institutes were the pioneers of adult education in Victoria.

**Why is it called “Mechanics” Institute?**
The nineteenth century term “mechanic” meant artisan or working man.

**Where did the Mechanics Institutes come from?**
The Mechanics Institute movement began in 1800 when Dr. George Birkbeck of the Andersonian Institute in Scotland gave a series of lectures to local mechanics. The lectures were free and proved popular. They led to the formation of the Edinburgh School of Arts (1821) and the London Mechanics Institute (1823). The movement spread quickly throughout the British Empire.
the town. By 1858 membership at the Institute reached 502 persons.

In its heyday, the Mechanics Institute was the principal place of amusement in town. While there was no regular theatre, the large hall at the rear of the Institute contained a well-appointed little stage. The reading room was furnished with the leading Colonial, European and American newspapers, magazines, and reviews. A well selected library of 11,000 volumes was extensively used.

Then, on June 21, 1926 a suspicious early morning fire at the Mechanics Institute destroyed the hall and stage. (It was the fourth fire outbreak in the building in three months.) The City Fire Brigade received the alarm from a signalman at the railway station. When the firemen arrived the hall was burning from end to end. Ten minutes later the high wall forming the back of the stage collapsed.

The extensive damage was valued at £20,000. Mr. Allan Wilkie was the heaviest loser as most of his stage fittings and property, including props and costumes for the upcoming Shakespeare plays were inside the building and subsequently destroyed. The Mechanics Institute would have to start again from scratch.

The reconstructed Mechanics Institute was opened on June 9, 1928, with the addition of a new library which was arranged so that all books were within view and the shelves were arranged in a circular pattern.

Since 1858 Geelong had a separate library on Moorabool Street behind the current Commonwealth Bank building. It was sold by the Geelong City Council for £25,000 in 1953, to make way for the current 6-storey office block. When the new modern library was built, along with better schooling facilities for all Geelong children, the Mechanics Institute was no longer in regular use. In the 1970’s it was then incorporated into the master plan for the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

These days, the ground level of the Mechanics Institute are shops and the second story holds a ballet studio owned by GPAC.

**The first Victorian Mechanics Institute** was the Melbourne Mechanics Institute established in 1839 and renamed The Melbourne Athenaeum in 1873. The Athenaeum continues to operate a library, theatres and shops in its original building at 188 Collins Street, Melbourne. From the 1850s, Mechanics Institutes quickly spread throughout Victoria wherever a hall or library, or a school was needed. Nearly a thousand were built in Victoria and 562 remain today.
Euphemism: “A mild or indirect swear word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing.”

Why do people swear? Swearing is a learned habit. Like smoking, children pick it up from their peers, or their parents. They may feel it makes them appear more grown-up, tougher, or more worldly-wise. Others claim it helps them express their feelings. Yet the truth is, swearing is linked to a growing trend toward anger and more aggressive behaviour.

Two large-scale studies have shown that cigarette smoking, alcohol consumption, and an unhealthful diet are life-style habits that fuel stress and frustration—frustration that erupts in the form of swearing, impatience, and intolerance.

There is also a link between uncivil speech and crime. Dr. Adam Graycar, director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, observes: "A renewed focus on respect and civility may be one of the most significant steps towards reducing petty crime." The institute advocates exercising patience, showing tolerance, and refraining from swearing. Failure to do so, it claims, can turn disorderly behaviour into criminal behaviour.

One way some choose to soften their swearing is by using euphemisms—milder forms of swearing, that usually are less offensive, particularly toward those sensitive in nature, under stress, or religiously inclined. Common euphemisms include:

◆ “Heck” - Used instead of “hell,” a blasphemous word for some.
◆ “Gosh” “Golly” - Used instead of “God,” the taking god’s name in vain.
◆ “Gee” “Jeez” - Shortened forms of “Jesus.”
◆ “Struth” - Instead of “God’s Truth,” an oath claiming honesty.
◆ “By Jove” - a milder form of swearing upon the Roman god “Jupiter.”

While you may consider using these milder words as a more acceptable form of speech, they are still swear words. Why not consider cutting them out all together! You will be pleasantly surprised by the more respectful attitude others show to you, and the calmer manner in which problems are resolved.
The exact origins of Two-up are obscure, but it seems to have evolved from ‘Pitch and Toss’, a gambling game involving tossing a single coin into the air and wagering on the result. Two-up was popular amongst poorer English and Irish citizens in the 18th century. In Australia as early as 1798 the game came to the attention of New South Wales’ first Judge Advocate, who expressed concern with the lack of skill involved and the large losses suffered by those who played. As a result the game was made illegal in the early Australian colonies. Despite this, by the 1850s, the two-coin form of the game proved popular on the gold-fields of Victoria and New South Wales. Two-up was also played extensively by Australia's soldiers during World War I, creating a sentimental link between Australia's war effort, nationalism, and the game, which eventually saw Two-up legalized on one day (Anzac day) each year. Despite its illegal status, as time passed increasingly elaborate illegal "two-up schools" grew around Australia, to the consternation of the authorities, and yet with the backing of corrupt police. The legendary Thommo's Two-up School, which operated at various locations in Surry Hills, Sydney, from the early years of the 20th century until at least 1979, was one of Australia's first major illegal gambling operations. The popularity of Two-up declined after the 1950s as more sophisticated forms of gambling and poker machines were legalised in clubs. While some may view gambling games like Two-up as exciting recreation, sadly too many families around Geelong continue to see hard-earned wages squandered, leaving them to seek community hand-outs to survive.

How is Two-up played?
The game is traditionally played with two pennies—decimal coins are generally considered to be too small and light. A person selected as the ‘Spinner’ makes a bet with at least one other player. He then tosses the ‘kip’ containing the two pennies. If the coins both land heads up the Spinner wins; if they land tails up he loses; if one lands heads up and the other tails, the Spinner tosses again. Other players make bets with each other on whether the Spinner will win or lose.
The narwhal, is a medium-sized toothed whale that lives year-round in Arctic waters. Found primarily near Canada and Greenland, the Narwhal is a uniquely beautiful sea creature.

The most conspicuous characteristic of the male Narwhal is its single long tusk, an incisor tooth that projects from the left side of the upper jaw and forms a left-handed helix (spiral). The tusk can extend up to 3m long (compared with a body length of 4–5m) and weigh up to 10kg.

About one in 500 males have two tusks, which occurs when the right incisor, normally small, also grows out. A female Narwhal has a shorter, and straighter tusk. She may also produce a second tusk, but this occurs rarely. At times, male Narwhals rub their tusks together in an activity called "tusking". This behaviour is thought to help determine social dominance within the pod (group).

The Inuit people in northern Canada and Greenland are allowed to hunt this whale species legally for subsistence, since it provides a valuable source of nutrition in an environment with few other options. Almost all parts of the Narwhal—meat, skin, blubber and organs are consumed. "Mattak", the name for raw skin and blubber, is considered a delicacy. Not wanting to waste anything, even the bones are used for tools and artwork.

Male Narwhals can weigh up to 1,600kg, while females weigh around 1,000kg.

The pigmentation of the Narwhal is a mottled black and white pattern. They are darkest when born and become whiter in colour as they age.

Narwhals have a relatively specialized...
diet, preying predominantly on Greenland halibut, polar and Arctic cod, shrimp and squid.

Narwhals are a migratory species. In summer months, they move closer to land, usually in pods of 10-100 in number. As the winter freeze begins, they move away from shore, and reside in densely packed ice, surviving in leads and small holes in the ice. As spring comes, the leads open up into channels, allowing the Narwhals to return to the coastal bays.

While wintering, Narwhals have been known to make some of the deepest dives ever recorded for a marine mammal, diving to at least 800m, over 15 times per day, with some dives reaching up to 1,500m. Dives to these depths last around 25 minutes, including the time spent at the bottom and the transit down and back from the surface. Scientists still puzzle over how whales are able to cope with the tremendous change in pressure as they dive and return to the surface. Such activity would quickly kill a man!

The Narwhal world population is currently estimated to be around 75,000 individuals. While the population appear stable, the Narwhal has been deemed particularly vulnerable due to climate change in the narrow geographical range in which they live, and a diminishing specialized diet.

Costly Superstition

Medieval Europeans believed Narwhal tusks to be the horns from the legendary unicorn. The horns were considered to have magic powers, such as the ability to cure poison and melancholia. The tusks were also used to make cups that were thought to negate any poison that may have been slipped into the drink. As a result, Vikings and other northern traders were able to sell them for many times their weight in gold.

An example of how valuable the Narwhal tusk became occurred during the 16th century. Queen Elizabeth I was given a carved and bejewelled Narwhal tusk for which £10,000 had been paid—the same cost as building an entire castle!

The tusks were staples inside cabinets of curiosities. The truth of the tusk’s origin developed gradually during the 18th and 19th centuries, as European explorers and naturalists began to visit the Arctic regions for themselves.
Visitors to Geelong tend to be drawn to the Waterfront Area. When the sun is out, glistening across the water, sightseers can be observed relaxing on the grass or digging their toes into the sand. The more energetic take to the water, especially at Eastern Beach. A comment often overheard is: “Isn’t Geelong beautiful!” While many have contributed to constructing and maintaining the area, the efforts of one man, in particular, stand out—Ian McDonald.

Born on May 24, 1898 to farming parents at Little River, Ian was educated at the Gordon Institute of Technology. Applying himself at school he eventually qualified as a civil engineer and town surveyor. He started work at the Shire of Marong, which includes the Bendigo area. There he met Violet Murray, and on April 21, 1925 they married. Eventually they had one daughter.

After gaining experience at Bendigo, he accepted an appointment as Assistant Engineer at Albury, on the Murray River in NSW. By 1933 he was serving as the city engineer for Mordialloc and Geelong West.

After settling back in Geelong, Ian saw a need to promote Geelong by beautifying the bay waterfront area. In May 1933, while addressing the Apex Club he first put forth his proposal to build a swimming pool and bathing area at Eastern Beach, based on a design by structural engineer and architect, Harry Hare, whose design for the Eastern Beach foreshore redevelopment won a competition in 1924-5.

By the early 1930’s laws relating to the segregated bathing of men and women, as well as those relating to bathing in public had been relaxed, and McDonald had drawn up comprehensive plans to take advantage of these new freedoms, as well as to promote the scenic landscape of Eastern Beach. Although some improvements had already started, work progressed slowly until McDonald was appointed as Surveyor (City Engineer) for Geelong on August 1, 1936. He was 38 years old, and for the next 20 years would do more to shape Geelong than any other person.

Now with the full backing of the Geelong council, and with funding from the Victorian Government, the swimming and recreational facilities at Eastern Beach started to rapidly take shape, with McDonald closely supervising. In fact, in 1938, to be able to assist as
much as possible, Ian and wife Violet took up renting an apartment in the Walbaringa Flats, at 16-18 Eastern Beach Road, overlooking the new swimming enclosure and promenade. They remained at this address for many years.

When works concluded in 1939, the Eastern Beach Bathing Complex became the last major enclosed sea bathing facility to be constructed on Port Phillip Bay, and provided a focal point for Geelong's outdoor activities. The promenade was also significant, and is now the only original structure that has survived of the many sea-baths which once dominated Port Phillip Bay's foreshore.

The completion of the Eastern Beach project coincided with the outbreak of World War II in Europe, and so, out of necessity, Ian McDonald’s attention became directed toward securing the Geelong area from possible attack, especially after Japan entered the war in 1941. That same year McDonald served as Secretary of the Geelong recruiting committee of the Royal Australian Air Force. In addition, for the remaining years of the war, he worked diligently to build air-raid shelters throughout Geelong, especially within school grounds to provide protection from air attack. He also assisted with building an airstrip at North Shore [see box below].

When not required for active duty, many servicemen needed work and Ian helped out where he could. George Park, an ex-Air Cadet remembers: “He had a vacancy as both his draftsmen had left and joined the forces, and at that stage I had developed a reasonable amount of skill in drafting. So I...joined Ian McDonald at Geelong City Hall. I took this job and never regretted it - [He was] a wonderful man, a great engineer. “

Once the war concluded, McDonald remained active, not only with city construction projects, but also within community affairs. He served as president of the Geelong Legacy Club, helping to care for the families of war casualties. He also actively raised money for the Red Cross, serving as chairman of their fund-raising committees.

Ian McDonald died on March 6, 1963, aged 64, after a very distinguished career working for the Geelong community. He is buried in the Geelong Eastern Cemetery alongside his beloved wife, Violet.

North Geelong Airstrip
Few locals may realise that during World War Two, an airstrip was built opposite the International Harvester factory at North Shore, with Ian McDonald supervising its construction.

During the war, International Harvester converted its factory into making war materials. There was an urgent need for more pilots, as aeroplanes started to play a more dominant role in military strategy. A British pilot training plane called the Fairey Battle was constructed at the factory and flown over to Sale where training for Australian pilots took place. The airstrip was closed once the war ended.
Adidas AG is a German sports apparel manufacturer and parent company of the Adidas Group, which consists of the Reebok sportswear company, TaylorMade-Adidas golf company (including Ashworth), and Rockport. Besides sports footwear, the company also produces other products such as bags, shirts, watches, eyewear, and other sports and clothing related goods. The company is the largest sportswear manufacturer in Europe and the second-biggest sportswear manufacturer in the world, with American rival Nike being the biggest.

After his return from World War I, Adolf "Adi" Dassler started to produce his own sports shoes in his mother's laundry in Herzogenaurach, 20km north of Nuremberg in central Germany. On July 1, 1924, his brother Rudolf "Rudi" Dassler joined the business, which became Gebrüder Dassler Schuhfabrik (Dassler Brothers Shoe Factory). At the time, electricity supplies in the town were unreliable, and the brothers sometimes had to use pedal power from a stationary bicycle to run their equipment.

By the 1936 Summer Olympics, Adi Dassler drove from Bavaria on one of the world's first motorways to the Olympic village with a suitcase full of spikes and persuaded U.S. sprinter Jesse Owens to use them, the first sponsorship for an African American. Following Owens's haul of four gold medals, his success cemented the good reputation of Dassler shoes among the world's most famous sportsmen. Letters from around the world landed on the brothers' desks, and the trainers of other national teams became interested in their shoes. Business boomed and the Dasslers were selling 200,000 pairs of shoes each year before World War II.

As was expected of all German businessmen, both brothers joined the Nazi Party, and during World War II
their shoe-making factory was converted to the manufacture of war materials. It was during this time that a growing family feud between the two brothers threatened to destroy the business. Finally, in 1947, after WWII had ended, the two split up and formed a fierce rivalry with each other. Rudi formed a new firm that he called Ruda (from Rudolf Dassler, later rebranded Puma), while Adi formed a company registered as Adidas AG on August 18, 1949.

The town of Herzogenaurach was divided between the brothers, leading to the nickname "the town of bent necks"—people looked down to see which shoes strangers wore. The two brothers never reconciled, and although both are buried in the same cemetery, they are spaced as far apart as possible. Adidas and rival, Puma, are still both based in Herzogenaurach.

The Adidas company's clothing and shoe designs typically feature three parallel bars, and the same motif is incorporated into Adidas's current official logo. The "Three Stripes" were bought from the Finnish sport company Karhu Sports in 1951, and is now instantly recognised worldwide, including here in Australia. Company revenue for 2010 was listed as €11.99 billion with a profit of €567 million. As of the end of 2010 Adidas employed 42,540 people worldwide. Do you possess any Adidas footwear or apparel?
Francis Melville, bushranger, was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1822. He had some schooling but, at about 12 years of age became a thief. He served four sentences, totalling twenty-two months before October 3, 1836 when at 15, he was sentenced to seven years' transportation for housebreaking. He served twenty months in English gaols before being loaded onto the Minerva and sent to Hobart Town. He arrived on September 29, 1838 and was placed at Port Arthur in the Point Puer institution for juvenile convicts.

From 1839 until 1848 he came before the police magistrate twenty-five times. In July 1841 his sentence was extended to life for burglary. In 1846 he absconded and lived with the Aboriginals for a year. After recapture he was given nine months' hard labour in chains, an experience repeated twice more in 1850, before he escaped Tasmania for good.

Calling himself Captain Francis Melville and posing as a gentleman, he reached Victoria about October 1851 and by December had turned bushranger, claiming leadership of the Mount Macedon gang. Throughout 1852 they held up numerous travellers in Western Victoria, including teamsters at Rokewood, 62km north-west of Geelong.

Early in December 1852, at Marida Yallock, 10km west of Camperdown, he ordered the Mackinnon girls to entertain him. He sang and played the piano before leaving. On the 18th with William Roberts, he held up sixteen men at a shearing shed, robbing 4 of them. Next day at Bruce's Creek the bushrangers robbed Thomas Warren and William Madden of £37 but gave them £10 for travelling expenses. On the 24th they held up two bush workers at Fyansford. But Melville’s luck was due to run out.

In Geelong they put up at Christy's Inn (off Malop Street), dined, and visited a brothel. Melville's boasting and a £100 reward for his capture induced a woman to warn the police. Alerted, Melville smashed a window and climbed into the street. He knocked down a policeman and ran toward the Ballarat Road, but was met by Henry Guy on a fine horse at La Trobe's Dam (today, Johnstone Park). As he tossed Guy from the saddle the horse escaped. Guy grappled with him until two policemen arrived. The bushranger spent Christmas in South Geelong gaol.

Captain Foster Fyans committed him on January 3, 1853 for trial before Judge Redmond Barry on February 3. On three charges of highway robbery Melville
was sentenced to a total of 32 years hard labour on the roads. He was then 31 years of age.

Imprisoned in the hulk President, Melville attempted on June 4, to bite off a sergeant's nose. He was beaten and given twenty days' solitary. On January 20, 1854 he had another month solitary for 'inciting the prisoners to mutiny'. In mid-year John Price had him transferred to the hulk Success and allowed him to work ashore in the Point Gellibrand quarry. Melville behaved and was allowed to spend three days a week allegedly translating the Bible into the local Aboriginal language. In fact he was planning with a former ship's captain, Billy Stevens, to seize a cutter and sail to Gippsland with eight accomplices. They captured a boat, took Constable Owens as hostage and rowed down Hobson's Bay with Melville yelling “Goodbye at last to Victoria.” As the water police and guard boats closed in Stevens smashed Owens's skull and leapt into the sea to his death.

Melville conducted his own defence before Judge Robert Molesworth on November 19, 1855. He was charged as Thomas Smith, alias Frank McCallum, alias Captain Melville with escaping custody and murder. He and two other conspirators were sentenced to death but the case was referred to the Full Court where he was acquitted. On December 4, the Full Court concluded that the Crown had not produced a warrant for Melville's transfer from the President to the Success and thus failed to prove that he had tried to escape from legal custody. The death sentence was postponed.

Melville was transferred to Melbourne gaol where his frequent outbursts of anger were noted by the guards. At dawn on August 12, 1857 a warder found him strangled by his own large handkerchief. Melville had committed suicide.

While a legend started to follow Melville, viewing him as a “gentleman Robin Hood” type character, his life history reads of one selfish, rebellious act after another. The legend did not remain popular for long, since a more famous bush-ranger was to be hanged 23 years later—Ned Kelly.

Geelong in 1855. La Trobe’s Dam (Johnstone Park) is behind the house and horseman.
On August 5, 1850 a bill was passed by England’s Parliament, allowing for the separation of Victoria from New South Wales. (It was to become official on July 1, 1851.)

Two months later, on October 1, 1850 another bill was passed in England abolishing the transportation of convicts to the New South Wales and Port Phillip Districts in Australia. Newspaper reports from the day documented the rejoicing displayed by Geelong residents when the news filtered into town:

“All Geelong is ablaze—men, women and children running frantically into the streets and carrying logs of wood to heap upon the beacon fires to heil far and near the independence of their adopted country.

Oh for the pen of Dickens to send you an adequate description of the proceedings of the Commercial Capital yesterday evening...

Vague rumours spread themselves through the wondering crowd. An hour elapses and from the office of the Advertiser forth comes an “Extraordinary” cry with the wondrous news: “Victoria is free!” The signal rocket is fired, forth blazes a distant fire, another and another and another. Point Henry to Station Peak (You Yangs) the signals shine, till the whole country is one blaze of fire.

Proud to have been the first to communicate the joyful intelligence, the Advertiser offices shine forth with all the splendour a multitude of variegated lamps could bestow. The street lanes and bye-ways glance the livid flames afar; whilst guns, pistols, crackers, rockets and every species of infernal squibs combined in adding to the disturbance. Few of the Geelong folk spent a quite night.

But all things have an end, and with the morning’s light came sorrow and repentance. Men sneaked about as if afraid to look one another in the face. Each shifted the blame from his own shoulders to those of his perhaps guiltless neighbour. The laugh was long, loud and general against the poor circulator of the report who, wishing no doubt to keep as long as possible from the keen eye of the Melbourne folk, did not show this morning till full two hours after the departure of the steamer.

Let us, however, draw a veil over the wiseacres of the Commercial Capital. The best have erred; and after all, it shows how warm we are in the good cause, and how well we will celebrate its real advent among us.

The defeat of the transportation has filled all here with joy. Next to the receipt of bona fide intelligence respecting the Separation Bill, I do believe nothing could have excited greater pleasure. All combine in scornfully rejecting the foul stain of convictism.

The Separation Rejoicing Preparations are progressing daily. Some design the erection of an orphan asylum. Some speculate on a railway from the Heads here and hence to you; and others are fully convinced of their ability to sweep away the bar that impedes the rising growth of this flourishing place. You will see in our local papers a full list of the several Committees.”

*The Argus Friday, October 11, 1850 (Quoting from the Geelong Advertiser)*
In 1934, at the height of the Great Depression, unemployed Charles B. Darrow of Germantown, Penns. USA, showed his MONOPOLY game to the executives at Parker Brothers. They rejected the game due to "52 design errors"!

Undaunted he pressed on. With help from a friend who was a printer, Mr. Darrow sold 5,000 handmade sets of MONOPOLY to a Philadelphia department store. It was an instant success! As demand for the game grew, Darrow found he couldn't keep up with all the orders. He returned to Parker Brothers, and this time they took him more seriously.

In its first year, 1935, MONOPOLY was the best-selling game in America. And before the turn of the century 65 years later, an estimated 500 million people had played the game!

MONOPOLY is the best-selling board game in the world, sold in 103 countries and produced in 37 languages.

Over 250 million MONOPOLY games have been sold worldwide.

World records are maintained for the longest game in a tree house (286 hours), underground (100 hours), in a bathtub (99 hours) and upside-down (36 hours).

The character locked behind the bars is called Jake the Jailbird. Officer Edgar Mallory sends him to jail.

The official mascot of Monopoly is Rich Uncle Pennybags. He was renamed Mr. Monopoly in 1998.

The race car was voted the favourite token in 1998.

More than five billion little green houses have been "built" since 1935.

The longest MONOPOLY game ever played was 1,680 hours long. That’s 70 straight days!
Geelong’s Liquor War

The battle lines were drawn. Both sides had recruited heavily. Carefully prepared propaganda campaigns tugged at the minds and loyalties of local citizens. Emotions were running high. It all came to a head in Geelong on Monday, March 26, 1888 when Geelong’s registered voters went to the polling booths to decide on Local Option. Who was going to win the battle over drinking alcohol in Geelong?

Why was this war fought? Who was on each side? The fallout from these events 124 years ago are still being felt in Geelong. If the battle was fought again today which side would you favour?

Since the area around Geelong began to be settled in the early 1830’s, drunkenness was a common problem. Before long, expensive hotels, corner pubs, and sleazy ‘sly grog shops’ catered for every man’s desire for liquor, despite the best efforts of authorities to regulate them. Police were kept busy dealing with the crimes and domestic disputes that arose due to over-consumption, primarily by men.

On the other hand, many of those who had made the long journey from Europe to settle in Australia were hard-working and devoutly religious people. Before long, churches sprang up beside the pubs throughout Geelong, and church leaders took a stand against the “evils of liquor.” Temperance Societies* were soon established in all the colonies, but it was the battle for Geelong that was to eventually make national headlines, as the confrontation reached its climax.

In 1858 the Geelong Temperance Hall was built in Little Malop Street (GPAC is on the site today). Financed by the Geelong Total Abstinence Society and sponsored by various Protestant groups, including Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregationalists, Quakers and others, the hall was used for meetings and lectures promoting abstinence from alcohol, as well as for general public

What Was “Local Option?”
In 1853 British Temperance Movements devised a policy that would allow all the ratepayers within a particular Shire or Municipality to eradicate licensed premises (hotels) from their area by means of majority vote. By 1859 the idea became popular with Australian Temperance Societies as well. Colony governments were pressured to legislate for Local Option. Finally, in 1885 the Victorian Licensing Act gave local residents the right to reduce the number of hotels in a town or suburb to one for every 500 inhabitants. One third of all electors had to agree for the vote to be passed.

*Temperance Societies were groups formed (usually church-based) to promote the reduced use of alcoholic beverages. They criticized excessive alcohol use, promoted moderation or complete abstinence, and pressured the government to ban (prohibition) or at least limit alcohol consumption.
entertainment. Elaborate processions, with supporters carrying banners were organised in the main streets of Geelong, with music blaring from the accompanying band to catch the attention of shoppers and town workers.

Perhaps their greatest victory was won at Ocean Grove, with the town covenant including the statute that "no part of the ... Land shall be used for the Manufacture or Sale of Malted Spirituous, or Vinous Liquors." To this day no hotel is located within the town boundaries; the Collendina Hotel being located just outside the boundary on the east side of Bonnyvale Road. Yet, despite the Temperance Movement’s best efforts, demands for complete abstinence from alcohol met with little success. Back in Geelong, the hotel business was thriving with new pubs opening up everywhere.

Out of desperation, some church groups tried to use the bible to claim that drinking alcohol was forbidden by God. Those members of the churches who drank alcohol in moderation were pressured to become abstainers in support of those who lacked restraint. Under influence from groups like the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, many signed written oaths vowing never to drink alcohol again. However, others were not happy. Printed copies of the bible were becoming more readily available to the common people who could read it for themselves. Although forbidding drunkenness, drinking alcohol (wine) in moderation was very popular amongst bible characters, the bible even describing wine being given by God to man to make him happy. (Psalm 104:15)

Eventually, most churches (but not all) in Geelong conceded that total abstinence was not achievable, so they focussed their efforts to lobbying Government officials to legalise Local Option. (see box: What Was “Local Option” on the previous page.)

Richard Heales (1821-64) was one of the early noted supporters of the Local Option policy. Although he served as Victorian Premier for 12 months in 1860-1 it was as president of the Melbourne Total Abstinence Society that he was best remembered.

It was Heales who combined the efforts of Temperance Societies throughout Australia, naming them the Temperance League. He then led the political fight to make Local Option law. Sadly, he died a decade before his goals started to become reality, beginning in Queensland in 1874.

However, local publicans did not idly stand by and allow “fanatical religious movements” to destroy their businesses. They argued persuasively that drunken behaviour was not going to change with a smaller number of hotels in Geelong. They pointed to the large number of people who would lose their livelihoods if hotels were forcibly shut down. Instead, they promoted social welfare schemes, designed to educate people about the dangers of over-drinking, as well as educating hotel owners to encourage responsible drinking within their respective establishments. Largely due to
the popularity of alcoholic drinks, hotel owners throughout Victoria had many supporters. What would happen when the Local Option was finally put before voters?

Five Victorian suburbs and towns were initially targeted for Local Option votes—Williamstown, Port Melbourne, Warrnambool, Kyneton, and Geelong. In 1887 polls were held, first in Williamstown, then Port Melbourne, with both polls being defeated. Warrnambool held its poll on March 21, 1888 and was lost by 48 votes. The next day Kyneton was also defeated, this time by 145 votes. The Temperance Societies were furious. The Catholic and Anglican Churches were blamed for not giving enough support to the cause. In communities throughout Victoria, where loyalties were often based on religious affiliation, tensions remained high. After 4 defeats, what would happen at Geelong the following week?

On Monday, March 26, 1888, after vigorous campaigning by both sides, Geelong ratepayers went to the poll on the Local Option issue. At the time there were about 19,000 residents in Geelong, and 56 hotels. According to the Victorian Licensing Act the statutory number of hotels for Geelong should have been 38 (1 for every 500 inhabitants). The result? Victory for the Temperance Movement in Victoria! By the slim margin of 12 votes Geelong citizens voted to shut down 18 of the 56 local hotels. The hotel industry protested that the 72 invalid votes taken as part of the poll should be considered, and the outcome reversed. Their protests were dismissed.

A special commission was set up to decide which hotels should be forced to close and how much compensation the owners should receive from the government. Judgement was handed down on Friday, June 23, 1888. Since one hotel had already closed since the poll was taken, 17 hotels in the town of Geelong were named. There was much protest, but the decision stood. Owners of the 17 hotels were eventually compensated a total of £17,069, an average of about £1,000 for each hotel.

The result was initially hailed as a great victory for the Temperance Movement, with one supporter going so far as to claim a 37% drop in crime in Geelong over the next 12 months. But in reality it made little difference, with loopholes in the licensing law allowing for an increase in licensed “clubs.” In addition, shops selling alcohol were not subject to Local Option votes and increased four-fold by the end of the decade.

The battle still rages today. As police continue to deal with alcohol-fuelled crime, many still ponder the solution to over-consumption of spirits, wine and beer.
Blueberry Pudding

Preparation - 10 minutes

♦ 1 tbsp unflavoured gelatine,
♦ 1/4 cup boiling water
♦ 300 grams tofu, drained
♦ 5 tbsp apple juice concentrate, defrosted
♦ 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
♦ 1 tbsp firmly packed brown sugar
♦ 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

♦ 450 grams fresh blueberries, rinsed, drained and divided

Dissolve gelatine in boiling water, stirring until crystals disappear. In a blender or the work bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade, blend dissolved gelatine, tofu, apple juice concentrate, vanilla, brown sugar, cinnamon and 1 cup of blueberries until smooth. Pour pudding into a bowl, fold in remaining cup of blueberries.

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours, or until set. Serve cold.
December 21st, 2012, marks the end of the Mayan long calendar. The calendar is based on advanced astronomy.* The Mayan long calendar was designed to last for 5,125 years, which many believe was to correspond with a long term prediction, based on astrology of the end of the world.

The earliest astrologers imagined that the earth was the centre of the universe and that the planets and stars were locked in a series of progressively larger celestial spheres that rotated around the earth. They also thought that the sun travelled through the sky among the stars and constellations along a specific path in a yearly journey. They divided the path of the sun into 12 zones, or segments. Each segment was named after the constellation in it through which the sun passed. Thus came into being the 12 signs of the zodiac. Of course, in time, scientists learned that the sun does not travel around the earth but the earth travels around the sun. That discovery dealt astrology its deathblow as a science.

From its origin in Mesopotamia, the practice of astrology spread to nearly all parts of the world and became embedded in practically all major civilizations of mankind. While the actual route of transmission to the Maya is not known, that civilization made extensive use of astrological observations in a way similar to that of the Babylonians.

Historical documents are riddled with failed astrological predictions, including those about the Maya themselves, whose civilization was destroyed in the 9th century. These failures show that astrology is a fraud, incapable of accurately predicting anything.

*Astronomy is the scientific study of our universe—the stars, planets and other stellar bodies.

Astrology goes beyond astronomy. It asserts that the location and alignment of the sun, moon, planets, stars, and constellations not only influences major events on earth but also controls individual lives.

The Maya Calendar
The Maya developed an accurate yearly calendar system that even took into consideration the leap year. The Maya year consisted of 365 days. Of these, 364 days were divided into 28 weeks, each having 13 days. The new year began on the 365th day, on July 16.

What about months? The Maya calendar, pictured above, had 18, and each of these was made up of 20 days. Thus, weeks and months ran independently of one another—that is, with one exception. Once every 260 days (the multiple of 13 and 20), the week and the month began on the same day. According to one reference work, “the Mayan calendar, although highly complex, was the most accurate known to man until the introduction of the Gregorian calendar.”—Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia.
Before the invention of the refrigerator, icehouses were used to provide cool storage for most of the year. Placed near freshwater lakes or packed with snow and ice during the winter, they were once very common.

American inventor Oliver Evans, acclaimed as the "father of refrigeration," designed a vapour-compression refrigeration machine in 1805. Heat would be removed from the environment by recycling vaporized refrigerant, moving it through a compressor, then condenser. However, no such refrigeration unit was built by Evans. In 1834, Jacob Perkins modified Evans' original design, building the world's first refrigerator and filing the first legal patent for refrigeration using vapour-compression. John Gorrie, an American doctor from Florida, invented the first mechanical refrigeration unit in 1841, based on Evans' original invention to make ice in order to cool the air for yellow fever patients.

In 1856, James Harrison, from Geelong, developed an ice making machine using an ammonia and ether compressor. It was used in the brewing and meat packing industries.

In 1913, refrigerators for home and domestic use were invented by Fred Wolf of Indiana USA with models consisting of a unit that was mounted on top of an ice box. A self-contained refrigerator, with a compressor on the bottom of the cabinet was invented by Alfred Mellowes in 1916. The absorption refrigerator was invented by Baltzar von Platen and Carl Munters from Sweden in 1922. It became a worldwide success and was commercialized by Electrolux.

The first refrigerator to see widespread use was the General Electric "Monitor-Top" refrigerator introduced in 1927. The compressor assembly, which emitted a great deal of heat, was placed above the cabinet, and surrounded with a decorative ring. Over a million units were produced and many of these units are still functional today.

The 1950s and 1960s saw technical advances like automatic defrosting and automatic ice making. More efficient refrigerators were developed in the 1970s and 1980s, even though environmental issues led to the banning of very effective refrigerants, including Freon.

Today, no modern home exists without a refrigerator. We could easily take these very practical machines for granted, not knowing of the labours of many hard-working and clever inventors who made it possible.
Spartacus was the most notable leader of slaves in the Third Servile War, a major slave uprising against the Roman Republic in 73-71 BC.

Ancient sources agree that Spartacus was from Thrace (an area north of the Aegean Sea and west of the Black Sea). According to the differing sources and their interpretation, Spartacus either was an auxiliary from the Roman legions later condemned to slavery, or a captive taken by the legions. He went on to be trained at a gladiatorial school near Capua, near Naples in Italy.

In 73 BC, Spartacus was among a group of gladiators who plotted an escape from their Roman masters. The plot was betrayed but about 70 men seized kitchen implements, fought their way free from the school, and seized several wagons of gladiatorial weapons and armour. The escaped slaves defeated a small force sent after them, plundered the region surrounding Capua, recruited many other slaves into their ranks, and eventually retired to a more defensible position on Mount Vesuvius.

Once free, the escaped gladiators chose Spartacus and two slaves from Gaul (ancient France) – Crixus and Oenomaus – as their leaders.

The response of the Romans was hampered by the absence of the Roman legions, which were already engaged in fighting a revolt in Spain and war in Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Rome dispatched local militia under the command of praetor Gaius Glaber, which besieged the slaves on the mountain, hoping that starvation would force the slaves to surrender. They were surprised when Spartacus had ropes made from vines, climbed down the cliff side of the volcano with his men and attacked the unfortified Roman camp in the rear, killing most of them. The slaves also defeated a second expedition, nearly capturing the praetor commander, killing his lieutenants and seizing their military equipment. With these successes, more and more slaves flocked to join Spartacus, as did many of the herdsmen and shepherds of the region, swelling their ranks to some 70,000.

In these altercations Spartacus proved to be an excellent tactician, suggesting that he may have had previous military experience. Though the slaves lacked military training, they displayed a skilful use of available local materials and

Kirk Douglas played the lead role in the 1960 film *Spartacus*
unusual tactics when facing the disciplined Roman armies. They spent the winter of 73–72 BCE training, arming and equipping their new recruits, and expanding their raiding territory to include several more Roman towns.

In the spring of 72 BCE, the slaves left their winter encampments and began to move northward. At the same time, the Roman Senate, alarmed by the defeat of the praetorian forces, dispatched a pair of consular legions under the command of Lucius Publicola and Gnaeus Clodianus. The two legions were initially successful—defeating a group of 30,000 slaves commanded by Crixus near Mount Garganus (on the “Achilles Heel” of Italy)—but then were defeated by Spartacus.

Alarmed by the apparently unstoppable rebellion, the Senate charged Marcus Licinius Crassus, the wealthiest man in Rome and the only volunteer for the position, with ending the rebellion. Crassus was put in charge of eight legions, approximately 40,000–50,000 trained Roman soldiers, which he treated with harsh, even brutal discipline, reviving the punishment of unit decimation.*

When Spartacus and his followers, who for unclear reasons had retreated to the south of Italy, moved northward again in early 71 BCE, Crassus' legions attacked, and were victorious in several engagements, forcing Spartacus farther south. By the end of 71 BCE, Spartacus was encamped near the Strait of Messina.

According to Plutarch, Spartacus made a bargain with Cilician pirates to transport him and some 2,000 of his men to Sicily, where he intended to incite a slave revolt and gather reinforcements. However, he was betrayed by the pirates, who took payment and then abandoned the rebel slaves. The rebels remained under siege and cut off from their supplies. In a number of ensuing battles Spartacus tried to force his way north, through the surrounding Roman legions.

The final battle that saw the defeat and death of Spartacus in 71 BCE took place at Senerchia, about 80km east of Naples. His body was never found, but it is accepted by historians that he perished in battle along with his men. Six thousand survivors of the revolt captured by the legions of Crassus were crucified, lining the Appian Way from Rome to Capua.

*A unit selected for punishment by decimation was divided into groups of ten; each group drew lots, and the soldier on whom the lot fell was executed by his nine comrades, often by stoning or clubbing. The remaining soldiers were given rations of barley instead of wheat and forced to sleep outside the Roman encampment. Because the punishment fell by lot, all soldiers in the group were eligible for execution, regardless of the individual degree of fault, or rank and distinction.

Spartacus by French sculptor Denis Foyatier. 1830
Tucked away in Turner Court in the tranquil seaside township of Portarlington is one of the regions hidden historical treasures—the Portarlington Steam Flour Mill. This magnificent four story sandstone building dates back to August 1857. The Portarlington Mill site is historically significant for its initial associations with the local Koori people as a camping ground, and as one of the oldest surviving building examples constructed for steam power milling operations in the mid 19th century. It is classified by the National Trust.

The sandstone was carved from the sea cliffs adjacent to the building, while the floors and roof beams were constructed from timber gathered from Blue Gums at Swan Bay. Designed by architect Andrew MacWilliams, the initial cost of £7,500 for the building and equipment was funded by offering shares to the public.
The mill was used to make flour from crops grown throughout the Bellarine Peninsula in what was a booming business due to the huge number of people coming to Victoria around this time to join the Gold Rush. The nearby port provided easy access to ship flour out of the township. The mill was in fact the second mill to open on the Bellarine, an earlier mill opened a few years earlier in Drysdale, unfortunately this mill burnt to the ground in 1861.

The original mill site consisted of the mill building as we still have today plus a brick house, store and four small weatherboard cottages. The mill also had a boiler house which is also no longer part of today's structures. The mill changed hands a few times in the early years and was known as the Paignton Flour Mill during the 1860’s when it was owned by T. H. Widdicombe.

The building ceased being a mill in 1874 and over the years has had a variety of purposes including a brick maker and even a fertiliser business which processed seaweed into fertiliser. The mill was also a holiday camp for the Gordon Institute during the 1920—40’s. The then Shire of Bellarine purchased the building in 1970 and later transferred it to the National Trust of Australia in 1977, who has cared for the building ever since.

Today the mill is one of the region’s more interesting historic properties and is open to the public with the help of countless dedicated volunteers. At the time of writing the mill is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from the second weekend of September to the end of May. On other special occasions the mill is also popular for weddings and other gatherings.

The mill’s interior features a trove of interesting artefacts, many dating back to the time of the mill. There are displays on how the flour was produced, and some amazing photographs of the mill and Portarlington in the 19th century. The mill also feature’s quite a bit of heritage from the Portarlington port, including many pieces of memorabilia from the historic steamship, Edina.
Born on October 25, 1825, Johann Strauss II was an Austrian composer of light music, particularly dance music and operettas. He composed over 500 waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and other types of dance music, as well as several operettas and a ballet. In his lifetime, he was known as “The Waltz King,” and was largely responsible for the popularity of the waltz in Vienna during the 19th century.

Some of Johann Strauss’s most famous works include The Blue Danube, Kaiser-Walzer, Tales from the Vienna Woods, the Tritsch-Tratsch-polka, and the Pizzicato Polka. Among his operettas, Die Fledermaus and Der Zigeunerbaron are the most well-known.

Strauss was the son of famous composer Johann Strauss I. Despite his musical heritage, his father did not want him to become a musician but rather a banker. Nevertheless, Strauss Junior studied the violin secretly as a child with the first violinist of his father’s orchestra, Franz Amon. When his father discovered his son secretly practicing on a violin one day, he gave him a severe whipping, saying that he was going to beat the music out of the boy. It seems that rather than trying to avoid a Strauss rivalry, the elder Strauss only wanted his son to escape the rigors of a musician’s life. It was only when the father abandoned his family for a mistress, Emilie Trampusch, that the son was able to concentrate fully on a career as a composer with the support of his mother.

Strauss studied music at a private music school owned by Professor Joachim Hoffmann. His talents were also recognized by composer Joseph Drechsler, who taught him exercises in harmony. His other violin teacher, Anton Kollmann, also wrote excellent testimonials for him. Armed with these, he approached the Viennese authorities to apply for a license to perform. He initially formed his small orchestra by recruiting his members at the Zur Stadt Belgrad tavern, where musicians seeking work could be hired easily.

His father’s influence over the local entertainment establishments meant that many of them were wary of offering the younger Strauss a contract for fear of
angering the father. Eventually, Strauss Jr. was able to persuade the Dommayer’s Casino in Vienna, to allow him to perform. The elder Strauss, in anger at his son and the owner, refused to ever play at Dommayer’s again, which had been the site of many of his earlier triumphs.

On debut in October 1844, Strauss preformed some of his first compositions. The press was unanimous in their praise for his music. A critic for Der Wanderer wrote: “Strauss's name will be worthily continued in his son.”

Despite the initial fanfare, Strauss found his early years as a composer difficult, but things got easier for him after accepting commissions to perform away from home.

Then, on February 24, 1848 Vienna was racked by a bourgeois revolution. Johann Jr. decided to side with the revolutionaries. It was a decision that was professionally disadvantageous, as the Austrian royalty twice denied him the much coveted “KK Hofballmusikdirektor” position, which was first designated especially for Johann I in recognition of his musical contributions. Further, the younger Strauss was also arrested by the Viennese authorities for publicly playing the La Marseillaise, but was later acquitted. The elder Strauss remained loyal to the monarchy, and composed his “Radetzky March”, Op. 228, one of his best-known compositions in their honour.

When the elder Strauss died from scarlet fever in Vienna in 1849, the younger Strauss merged both their orchestras and engaged in further tours. He never looked back, rising in popularity for the rest of his career.

In the spring of 1899 Strauss was diagnosed with pleural pneumonia. He died on June 3, in Vienna, at the age of 73. He was buried in the Zentralfriedhof at Vienna, the largest cemetery in Europe.

Original Music?
Most of the Strauss works that are performed today may once have existed in a slightly different form, as Eduard Strauss, brother of Johann Strauss II, destroyed much of the original Strauss orchestral archives in a factory furnace at Vienna in 1907. The brothers agreed in a pact to destroy the priceless written music to prevent the Strauss family’s works from being claimed by another composer.
Walking through the supermarket, mothers are overheard lamenting constant increases in prices. Oh, for the “good old days!” Consider the prices of goods in Melbourne back in 1838, 174 years ago, as reported in *The Sydney Herald* (December 7, 1838 p.2):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1838 Price</th>
<th>Today Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>3½d. per lb. (or 10c/kg)</td>
<td>$15/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap</td>
<td>6d. per lb. (or 16c/kg)</td>
<td>$6/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>£1. 3s. per 100 lbs. (or 2c/kg)</td>
<td>$0.90/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>£8. 8s. per ton (or 2c/kg)</td>
<td>$2/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ham</td>
<td>1s. per lb. (or 25c/kg) today: $15/kg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ham</td>
<td>1s. per lb. (or 25c/kg)</td>
<td>$15/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buter</td>
<td>2s. per lb. (or 42c/kg)</td>
<td>$5/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese</td>
<td>1s. per lb. (or 21c/kg)</td>
<td>$10/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>2s. 6d. per doz (or 25c/doz)</td>
<td>$3.50/dozen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**...or is it?**

Before you start grumbling too much about current prices, you may wish to know that a basic labourers wage in the late 1830’s in Australia was only 3/6 to 4s. (35-40 cents) per week.
Aussie Animals Word Search

ANTEATER  ECHIDNA  HUNTSMAN SPIDER  RED KANGAROO
BANDICOOT  EMU  KING PARROT  SALT WATER CROCODILE
BILBY  FAIRY PENGUIN  KOALA  SANDHILL DUNNART
BLUE GREY MOUSE  FALCON  KOOKABURRA  STONEFISH
BLACK SNAKE  FLYING FOX  KOWARI  SUGAR GLIDER
BLACK SWAN  FRILL NECK LIZARD  KANGAROO  TASMANIAN TIGER
BLUE WHALE  FUR SEAL  LYREBIRD  THORNY DEVIL
BOX JELLYFISH  GALAH  MAGPIE  WALLABY
BROWN SNAKE  GHOST BAT  MALLEE FOWL  WEDGETAIL EAGLE
CAPE BARREN GOOSE  GOANNA  PELICAN  WOLF SPIDER
CASSOWARY  GREAT WHITE SHARK  PLATYPUS  WOMBAT
CHUDDITCH  GREEN SEA TURTLE  POSSUM  YABBY
DINGO  GREEN TREE FROG  RAINBOW LORIKEET
DUGONG  HUMPBACK WHALE  REDBACK SPIDER
In Greek mythology, **Helen of Troy** was the daughter of Zeus, King of the Gods, and Leda, the wife of King Tyndareus of Sparta. King Tyndareus raised Helen as his own daughter. Her abduction by Paris brought about the Trojan War. Her beauty is described as “the face that launched a thousand ships.”

The earliest stories relating to Helen date back to the 7th century BC. Leda, not wishing to mate with Zeus changed shape into various animals as she attempted to flee, finally becoming a goose (later versions of the story say a swan). Zeus also transformed himself into a goose and mated with Leda, who produced an egg from which Helen was born. Upon entering adulthood, she came to be considered the most beautiful human woman in the world.

When it was time for Helen to marry, many kings and princes from around the world came to seek her hand (up to 36 different men), bringing rich gifts with them. The final decision rested with King Tyndareus. Eventually, all the suitors agreed, by swearing a solemn oath, that they would only be considered for Helen’s husband if they would defend the victor to the death against any jilted suitor. Menelaus was chosen, and eventually Helen and Menelaus became rulers of Sparta, after Tyndareus abdicated.

Some years later, Paris, a Trojan prince, came to Sparta to claim Helen, in the guise of a supposed diplomatic mission. Before this journey, Paris had been appointed by Zeus to proclaim the most beautiful goddess. In order to earn his favour, Aphrodite promised Paris the most beautiful human woman in the world as his wife. Swayed by her offer, Paris chose Aphrodite as the most beautiful of the goddesses, and, in return, Aphrodite made Helen fall in love with Paris. Helen then abandoned her husband to return with Paris to Troy.

When he discovered that his wife was missing, Menelaus called upon all the other suitors to fulfil their oaths, thus beginning the Trojan War, which lasted for 10 years. After diplomatic approaches were rejected by Paris and his father Priam, the King of Troy, the Spartans (Greeks) besieged the city.

During the many battles that followed Paris showed himself to be of weak character, lacking in courage. Helen’s love for him waned, leaving her feeling trapped inside Troy. Eventually, the Greeks built their famous Trojan Horse to gain entry into the city and conquer its inhabitants.

When Menelaus finally found Helen, he raised his sword to kill his unfaithful wife. She then dropped her robe from her shoulders, and the sight of her beauty caused him to let the sword fall from his hand. She returned to Sparta with her husband and continued to rule beside him until her death.
Geelong—150 years ago this month

“One of the most disastrous visitations by fire ever experienced in Geelong was that of yesterday afternoon, when Singapore terrace, the greatest ornament of the Esplanade overlooking the eastern beach, was burnt to the ground, together with the adjoining cottage at the corner of Swanston Street... Not fewer than seventy of our townsfolk, all in a respectable sphere of life, were thus rendered homeless...

The saddest sight of all was the throng of bewildered and terrified ladies and children rushing from the houses. Here one anxiously striving to save some prized article of furniture, yet appalled at the magnitude of the danger that threatened her. There another manifesting her joy that in having her little ones scatheless she had saved her all. There were a few exceptional cases, where we observed tender women working like coalheavers, and carrying loads that under other circumstances they would not have attempted to move...

The supply of water by the carriers was by no means adequate to the requirements of the occasion; and never did we feel more keenly the want of an adequate provision for Geelong in the all-important item of water...

Scarce a vestige of the terrace stands, where so recently all was so full of life; even the very fowl-houses, every out-office, and the fences have been burned or pulled down. Here and there a desolate fire-place and chimney-hearth may have been; but the walls have completely disappeared.”

(The Geelong Advertiser: Monday, March 10, 1862)
Cobblestones can be clearly seen crossing over the intersection in the top picture. One of the earliest problems in Geelong was muddy streets. One attempt to solve the problem in the 1840’s was to lay paving stones along the footpaths. However, when it rained they simply sank into the mud. Ladies as well as gents complained of losing their boots, stuck in the mud as they crossed the street. As late as 1916 the council issued a by-law banning any cart pulled by more than two horses from entering Geelong streets to stop them being chopped up and thick mud forming when it rained. The bottom picture shows the modern asphalt and concrete streets of today.