Free Copy

Jillong Pocket

October 2012						
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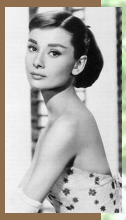
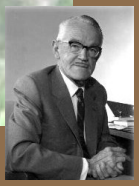




Jillong Pocket—Now Available Online!

We are pleased to announce that the Jillong Pocket is now available online. Simply visit **www.workskil.com.au** click on the "Community Programs" tab and then "Jillong Pocket Magazine".

General Information, all back Issues (since April 2010), as well as the latest edition are all made available free of charge to readers. Provided in PDF format, and in full colour, the Jillong Pocket can be read online or printed out on your home computer.

GEELONG ROAD "GLUE POT."

1916 Motoring in Victoria

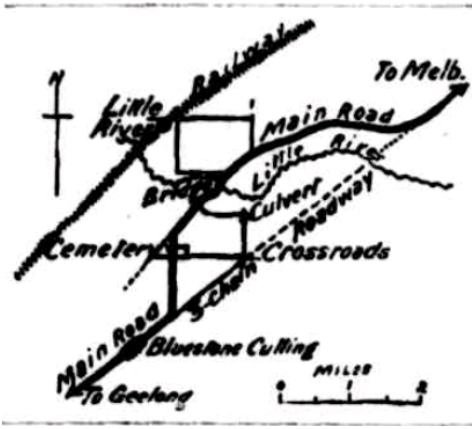
The 6-lane highway between Melbourne and Geelong is a delight to travel– smooth pavement for the entire one hour trip. However, that has not always been the case, as described in The Argus newspaper of November 15, 1916 p.7:

"By road, Geelong is 46 miles from Melbourne, and, with the exception of a single mile, it is a first-class highway, two-thirds of it having been reconstructed by the Roads Board. To many motorists and others who have used the thoroughfare it is a cause for wonder why that single mile is left untouched, and why the "gluepot" at least has not been filled in or renovated in some way. . .

The mile in question extends from the Little River bridge to the local cemetery, both of which are indicated on the accompanying plan, the "gluepot" being from where the road bears south past the cemetery. The main reason why this section has not been reconstructed is because it will not be portion of the main road when completed—not that there will be any deflection, but, rather, the highway will be straightened. . .

It is the purpose of the Roads Board to continue the highway along the line indicated as a three-chain roadway, necessitating the construction of another bridge over the river in alignment. No doubt the work would long ago have been commenced but for the shortage of funds available owing to the war. . .

On the south side of the river the road is in the Corio Shire and. . . by arrangements with the Roads Board, commenced operations for improvement at the "gluepot" immediately before the seven or eight days continuous rain we experienced nearly two months ago. What work was then affected was swallowed up in the bog. . . And many vehicles, including motor cars, were held up for hours. Work on the road ceased, and has not been resumed, and with every rainfall the track becomes well-nigh impassable."



The new section of road was completed and opened on March 19, 1920.

So, the next time you pass the Little River turnoff heading to Melbourne, you may want to reflect a little on our pioneering motorists and the men who worked hard to pave our roads.

The **Blue Mountains** border on Sydney's metropolitan area, its foothills starting approximately 50 kilometres west of the city. The area begins on the west side of the Nepean River and extends westward as far as Coxs River.

Arthur Phillip, the first governor of New South Wales, named them the Carmarthen Hills, reckoning that the ground was "most suitable for government stock". European settlers initially assumed that fertile lands lay beyond the mountains, but initial investigation led to the belief that they were impassable. This idea was, to some extent, convenient for local authorities. An "insurmountable" barrier would deter convicts from escaping in that direction.

A former convict, John Wilson, may have been the first European to cross the Blue Mountains. Wilson arrived with the First Fleet in 1788 and was freed in 1792. He settled in the bush, living with the Aborigines and even functioning as an intermediary between them and the settlers. In 1797 he returned to Sydney, claiming to have explored up to a hundred miles in all directions around Sydney, including across the mountains. His descriptions and observations were generally accurate, and it is possible that he had crossed the mountains via the Coxs River corridor, guided by the Aborigines. However, Wilson's claims were never verified, and Wilson was eventually killed by Aborigines after abducting one of their women for his personal use.

Between 1798 and 1813, many people explored various parts of the mountains, from the Bilpin Ridge to the southern regions, today the site of the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. Still, they did not find a definite route across the mountains.

Official credit for crossing the Blue Mountains was eventually given to Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth. Following an exploratory trip in 1811, Blaxland, who wanted more grazing land, reasoned that the

mountains could be crossed by following the ridges (thus creating the myth that the ridges were the easy way, when the easy way was in fact Coxs River). Accompanied by Lawson and Wentworth, he set out on May 11, 1813, and the party succeeded in crossing the mountains by May 31. They ventured as far as to what is now Mount Blaxland, just west of Cox's River. On their return to Sydney, Governor Lachlan Macquarie granted them 1,000 acres of land each as a reward for their accomplishment.

In that same year, 1813, drought struck the Sydney settlement. Governor Macquarie desperately needed more grazing land for the colony's stock. In November 1813, Macquarie sent the surveyor George Evans on an expedition to confirm the discoveries made by Blaxland and to see if there existed enough arable land to justify settlement.

Evans and his party reached the Fish and Macquarie rivers, and the site of Bathurst. On July 7, 1814, construction of a road across the mountains was begun by William Cox, in charge of 30 convict labourers and 8 guards. The rough road was completed on January 14, 1815 after 27 weeks of back-breaking work. The Blue Mountains had been conquered!

Why are the Blue Mountains Blue?

The name *Blue Mountains* is derived from the blue tinge the range takes on when viewed from a distance. The tinge is believed to be caused by ultraviolet radiation scattered by particles within the atmosphere (from chemical vapours emitted by the abundant eucalyptus trees) creating a blue-greyish colour to any distant objects, including the mountains and even nearby clouds. The process is called '*mie scattering*.'

Rabbits - As Pets

Rabbits make wonderful house pets. But, keeping a bunny isn't like keeping a cat. Here's information about feeding, housing, veterinary care and other things you should think about before bringing Flopsy or Mopsy home.

1. ***Consider your lifestyle.*** Rabbits are social animals and without interaction will quickly become destructive and fail to thrive. Do you have the time to play with a rabbit? If not, are you willing to adopt two bunnies so they can keep each other company?
2. ***Do you have children?*** Rabbits don't like to be handled roughly. While most bunnies will learn to love and appreciate your gentle touch, they are easily frightened and will respond to roughness first by trying to escape and eventually by scratching or biting. A rabbit is a poor choice of pet for children under nine or ten.
3. ***Do you own other pets?*** Cats make good companions for bunnies, but not all dogs. Before you bring a rabbit into your home it is always wise to think about the personalities of your other pets and realistically assess whether Rover will ever accept Flopsy into the fold. And, if worse comes to worst, you may need to be prepared to find your bunny or Fido a new home.
4. ***Feeding your bunny.*** To keep your bunny in optimum health, feed it a diet of leafy green vegetables with the occasional carrot, sweet potato and apple slice for variety. Rabbits should be fed a pile of greens roughly the size of the animal's body every day.
5. ***Housing.*** Rabbits need lots of exercise and should not be confined to a hutch or cage 24 hours a day. While most commercial rabbit confinements are constructed of wire mesh, all housing should include an area with a solid floor.
6. ***Veterinary care.*** Your bunny will need an annual check up as well as emergency care if it becomes ill. Make sure your veterinarian is qualified and

willing to treat your pet. If not, look for a vet that specializes in exotic pets.

7. ***Spaying or neutering.*** Spaying or neutering your rabbit is not only the responsible thing to do, it makes your life better as well. Bucks no longer feel compelled to mark their territory with unpleasant odors while spayed females are spared a number of health problems including uterine cancer.
8. ***Potty training.*** The easiest way is to put a litter box in a corner your rabbit's cage. Rabbits are naturally clean animals and almost all will begin using the box. Gradually increase the area of your rabbit's domain and he will continue to find and use the litter box.
9. ***Grooming.*** Grooming a rabbit is a simple process. It is also an opportunity to handle the animal gently. All you need is a soft brush or comb to remove loose hairs. This also saves your bunny from developing a life threatening hairball in its intestinal track. You may also want to clip your bunny's nails if they don't wear down naturally. Have your vet show you the proper procedure during your bunny's first check up.
10. ***Bunny proofing your home.*** Rabbits love to chew and are particularly fond of wood, carpet and electrical cords. This presents a couple of dangers, one to your rabbit's health and another to your possessions. The best way to handle a rabbit's need to gnaw is to confine it to a rabbit-proof area. Be sure there are no electrical cords or other hazards within the rabbit's reach and remove any prized possessions. Meanwhile, give the bunny plenty of safe toys and blocks of wood to gnaw.

If you still think a bunny is the right pet for you and your family, the best place to start looking is your local animal shelter. If they don't have any candidates for adoption check your newspaper for a local breeder.

Elizabeth Austin

was born on August 14, 1821 in Somerset, England, the fourth daughter of Robert Harding, yeoman* farmer, and his wife Mary. At twenty years of age Elizabeth sailed for the Port Phillip District of New South Wales with her brother William. As a squatter, he took up land at Winchelsea. One of the few women to venture inland in the early 1840s, Elizabeth married a neighbour, Thomas Austin on her twenty-fourth birthday (August 14, 1845) at St James's Church, in Melbourne. She gave birth to eleven children, three of whom died when young.

Thomas Austin

The family eventually formed a notable farming dynasty, with the Austin's headquarters being at Barwon Park in Winchelsea, where they even entertained the Duke of Edinburgh in 1867. Elizabeth was a proud woman. Allegedly mortified at having to receive the Duke in an undistinguished homestead and consumed with jealousy by the house of her sister-in law, Elizabeth persuaded Thomas to build a substantial, bluestone mansion, designed by Davidson & Henderson. Begun in 1869, it was finished in 1871. Six months after it's completion, her husband Thomas unexpectedly died.

In her first years of widowhood, Elizabeth withdrew from society while living at Barwon Park. Some described her as being "disappointed and domineering," while others recall a "shrewd, determined woman." She was known among the family as 'Aunt Tom'.

By 1880 Mrs Austin had quietly begun a second career, helping to fund programs for the needy, sick, and poor. One of her staff at Barwon Park was struck down by an incurable disease, with all hospitals refusing admission. Her concern for the staff member revealed a different side to her personality. Later, when an appeal was made for a hospital for incurables in Melbourne, she offered a substantial amount (£6,000) to launch the scheme. Her example prompted others to donate money and, in 1882 the Austin Hospital for Incurables was opened.

Elizabeth gave further donations towards its maintenance, and in 1898 paid for the establishment of a children's ward. She reportedly made monthly visits to the place she called with some justification 'my hospital.' Continuing the family connection, three of her granddaughters served on the hospital committee until the 1960s.

Her other principal benefaction was the Austin Homes for Women at South Geelong, built to commemorate Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1887.

Barwon Park

**A yeoman was a free man who owned his own farm.*

Mrs Austin also supported the Servants' Training Institute, St Thomas's Church, Winchelsea, the Ladies' Benevolent Society and local charities. By 1892 her name was 'a household word throughout the colony'. She died aged 89, on September 2, 1910 at Winchelsea and was buried in Geelong cemetery with Anglican rites, her funeral being a notable civic event. Her last charitable act, only a week before she died, was to write a cheque for 100 guineas to donate toward the King Edward Memorial Clock Fund (Geelong Post Office tower clocks)

Elizabeth Austin, while at times of difficult and abrupt disposition, had a heart of gold toward those in need.

The following article appeared in the Melbourne Argus newspaper, (August 16, 1887) at the opening of the Elizabeth Austin Cottages in South Geelong:

"The formal opening of the Elizabeth Austin Cottages erected at South Geelong, near to the railway station, with the view of providing homes for the female aged poor, took place to-day in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen. There are 12 cottages altogether, each containing two rooms. Each cottage is fitted up with every household requisite, and they have been made very comfortable. The buildings were erected at the cost of Mrs. Austin, of Barwon-park. After inspecting the cottages, a meeting was held in one of the large classrooms of the South Geelong state school, where the formal opening ceremony was performed, the room being crowded. . .

The Rev. Canon Goodman stated that on the 14th August, just a year ago, being the anniversary of the Birthday of Mrs. Austin, they assembled to lay the foundation stone of the cottage homes which they had that afternoon met to open. It was Mrs. Austin's wish that the ceremony should take place that day. . . He further stated that the cottages cost £2,400. In addition to the cost, Mrs. Austin had given £500 towards a maintenance fund, and £500 had been raised by jubilee subscriptions, making £1,000 in all. They had already 11 persons, whose ages ranged from 65 to 8O years, to place in the cottages, and these inmates would be allowed 3s. 6d. per week by the Ladies Benevolent Association.

Mrs Austin then handed over the keys of the cottages to Mrs. Hitchcock, the president of the Ladies Benevolent Association. Mrs. Hitchcock warmly thanked Mrs. Austin for the gift. . . Dr. Pincott stated that he would be glad to give his services gratuitously to any of the inmates whenever required.

Mr. G. M. Hitchcock spoke in terms of praise of the establishment of the home, and suggested that the name should be altered from "Elizabeth Home" to "Austin Home. Mrs. Austin agreed to alter this name to the "Elizabeth Austin Cottages." Hearty cheers were then given for Mrs. Austin, and a vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the proceedings terminated."

The Geelong Art Gallery is considered one of Australia's finest provincial galleries. It is home to a diverse collection of approximately 4000 pieces of art. Forming a crucial part of the Geelong Arts Precinct along with GPAC and the Courthouse, the Geelong Art Gallery is built on an annex of the Geelong Town Hall.

The gallery date back to 1896, with the current building being built in 1913 and officially opened in 1915, financed by a public subscription system and government grant. Over the years, many expansions and modernisations have been undertaken including 1937, 1958 and 1970. The building was constructed as a memorial to George M Hitchcock. Hitchcock was a town councillor and member of the Chamber of Commerce. With his brother, he built up the Bright & Hitchcocks department store that was located on the corner of Moorabool Street and the Little Malop Street Mall (now where the 7 Eleven store is).

The vast collection includes an impressive display of 19th, 20th and now 21st century Australian and European paintings, with some beautiful decorative arts including porcelain and pottery from England, lovely colonial silver items from Australia and a wide assortment of contemporary Australian art, including a large collection of art from local artists.

There are works by Louis Buvelot, Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, and Rupert Bunny. But probably the Geelong Art Galleries' most famous painting is that of Heidelberg School Artist Frederick McCubbin's "A Bush Burial". (see page 13)

Eugene von Guerard's "View of Geelong" is another significant and extremely valuable piece of work. The work was purchased from Phantom of the Opera and Cats composer Andrew Lloyd Webber in 2005 for $3.8 million,

Eugene von Guerard's "View of Geelong"

Lloyd Webber didn't do too bad out of the deal either—he paid just under $2 million for the work some 8 years earlier. The painting, an oil on canvas, was painted in 1856 and depicts the beautiful rolling hills of our region, with Corio Bay and the You Yangs in the background.

As well as a magnificent permanent exhibition there are many temporary exhibitions during the year, featuring local, Australian and international artists. The Gallery also has been hosting "prize" exhibitions since the late 1930's with works being acquired and added to the galleries many treasures.

Frederick McCubbin

Frederick McCubbin is one of Australia's most well-known painters.

McCubbin was born in West Melbourne on February 25, 1855, the third of eight children of baker Alexander McCubbin (who had immigrated from Scotland) and his English wife Anne. McCubbin was educated at William Willmett's West Melbourne Common School and St Paul's School, Swanston Street. He later worked for a time as solicitor's clerk, a coach painter and in his family's bakery while studying art at the National Gallery of Victoria's School of Design. There he met painter Tom Roberts, and studied under Eugene von Guerard. He also studied at the Victorian Academy of the Arts and exhibited there in 1876 and again from 1879 to 1882, selling his first painting in 1880. In this period, after the death of his father, he also became responsible for running the family bakery business.

By the early 1880s, McCubbin's work began to attract considerable attention and won a number of prizes from the National Gallery, including a first prize in 1883 in their annual student exhibition. By the mid-1880s he began to concentrate more on painting the Australian bush, the works for which he became noted.

In 1883, McCubbin received first prize in the annual Gallery students' exhibition, for best studies in colour and drawing. In 1888, he became instructor and master of the School of Design at the National Gallery. In this position he taught a number of students who themselves became prominent Australian artists, including Charles Conder and Arthur Streeton.

The Pioneer—1904

McCubbin married Annie Moriarty in March 1889. They had seven children, of whom their son Louis became an artist like his father. A grandson, Charles, also became a painter of note.

McCubbin continued to paint through the first two decades of the 20th century, though by the beginning of World War I his health began to fail. He travelled to England in 1907 and also visited Tasmania, but aside from these

relatively short excursions lived most of his life around Melbourne.

In 1901 McCubbin and his family moved to Mount Macedon, transporting a prefabricated English style home up onto the northern slopes of the mountain which they named *Fontainebleau*. It was in this beautiful setting that he painted *The pioneer which was painted in 1904* amongst many other works and this is the only place that McCubbin ever painted fairies. The house survived the Ash Wednesday fires and stands today as a testament to the artist. It was at Macedon that he was inspired by the surrounding bush to experiment with the light and its effects on colour in nature.

In 1912 McCubbin became a founding member of the Australian Art Association. He died on December 20, 1917 from a heart attack and was buried at Brighton Cemetery.

"A Bush Burial"

(painted by Frederick McCubbin in 1890. Oil on canvas, 122.5 x 224.5 cm)

In 1890 the Victorian colony was experiencing the worst drought and depression in its young history. It was a hard time for settlers who struggled to make a living in the dry bush. Despite the harsh life, most early settlers were very religious by nature, reflected in the sad, but solemn scene depicted by McCubbin.

The Geelong Gallery bought the work for 100 guineas in 1900. One guinea was worth 21 shillings, about $2.10. So the original price paid was equal to about $210, not a bad investment with the painting being worth millions today. As a guide, in 1998, McCubbin's painting "*Bush Idyll*," the same size painting as "*A Bush Burial*," fetched over 2.3 million dollars at auction.

You can see the original painting by visiting the free Geelong Art Gallery today.

Werribee—a brief history

The Werribee Plain was known to the local Aboriginal tribes for hundreds of years before Europeans arrived. The first white visitors were Hamilton Hume and William Hovell, who had trekked overland from Sydney to explore the land around Westernport Bay. During the two month journey they had miscalculated their direction and ended up passing to the west of Port Phillip Bay and arriving at Geelong in December 1824. As they crossed the Werribee Plain they remarked on the tall grass and excellent soil, not only good for livestock but also growing crops.

The first people of European heritage to settle in the area arrived ten years later. Then, during the late 1840's a Scotsman called Thomas Chirnside, who already owned a large areas of land in western Victoria, started taking up land in the Werribee area. (see box)

A rural township began in the early 1850s. This village was initially named Wyndham (the name of the local municipality today). The name was suggested by the owner of a local village inn, Elliott Armstrong, who sought to honour Scottish soldier Sir Henry Wyndham. The Wyndham Post Office opened on January 12, 1858.

A year earlier in 1857, the Geelong to Melbourne railway line had opened. This made it much easier for local farmers and merchants to ship goods in and out of the town to Melbourne or Geelong. Market gardening (vegetable growing) soon followed, taking advantage of the fertile soil in the area.

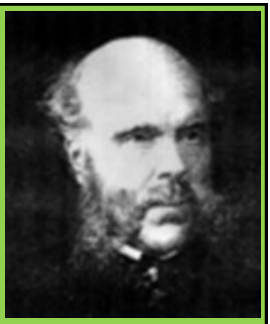
This small village was situated on the Werribee River. The name Werribee is an aboriginal name meaning "backbone" or "spine". It is thought that this name was given to the river since the shape of the river valley curves like a person's spine. From 1884 the name of the growing town was changed from Wyndham to Werribee and the Post Office was officially renamed Werribee in 1904. The shire council was also renamed Werribee in 1909.

By World War One the aviation industry settled in the region, with aviation instruction first held at Point Cook, then, in 1921 the RAAF establishing its first base in the area. After the war many ex-servicemen and women settled in the area.

Werribee today is a major satellite city of Melbourne and is quickly losing the rural green pasturage between it and Western Melbourne's burgeoning suburbs. Many Werribee residents commute daily to the city for work either by road or rail. The Melbourne Board of Works farm is one of the largest land owners in the district today. It's sewerage treatment plant helps water and fertilize much of the surrounding farmland.

Science and technology is also one of the bigger employers in the Werribee region. It is home to many technical centres including the Animal Research Institute, University of Melbourne's Veterinary Science School and the CSIRO.

Current population of the city itself is 38,000 with 184,000 people living within the municipality of the Wyndham City Council.



Thomas Chirnside was a hard-working pastoralist who tamed much the land west of Melbourne.

Born in 1815 in Berwickshire, Scotland, Thomas was the eldest son of farmer, Robert Chirnside and his wife Mary. In 1839 Thomas immigrated to Australia joining his younger brother Andrew in Melbourne.

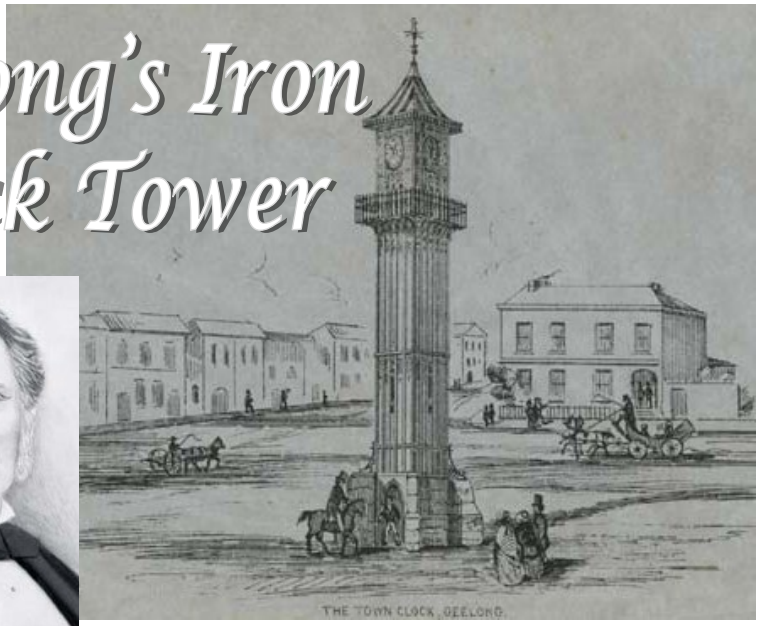
In April 1842 the brothers established sheep stations in the Grampians, employing Aborigines to work as shepherds. In the years that followed they expanded their holdings in the Western District. The elder Chirnside then settled in the Werribee area just before the gold rushes started in 1851, eventually buying a massive 93,000 acres of local land. He built his permanent home in 1874-7 out of sandstone, now known as the Werribee Park Mansion. It is still considered Victoria's finest colonial homestead.

An active member in community affairs, he was a member of the Philosophical Institute of Victoria from 1857 to 1859 and the Royal Society of Victoria from 1860 to 1866.

Thomas Chirnside committed suicide in 1887. He was found dead in the laundry at Werribee Park with a shotgun lying beside him. His brother Andrew died three years later, and the property was divided between Andrew's two sons.

Geelong's Iron Clock Tower

James Austin



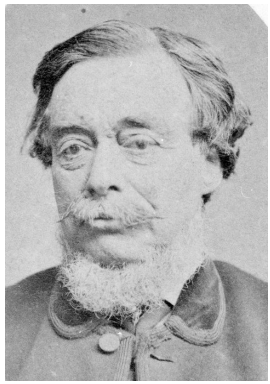
In 1860 the Austin clock tower dominated the skyline in Geelong.

"What's the time?" How many times each day do you ask yourself that question? A glance at your wrist-watch, or the clock on the wall, or perhaps your mobile phone quickly reveals the answer. But if you lived in Geelong 160 years ago, finding the answer may not have been so simple.

While reliable time-pieces had been around for hundreds of years, they belonged mainly to the wealthier citizens. A clock may have stood proudly on the mantelpiece at home, or a merchant may have tucked a watch into his waistcoat pocket, but for many Geelong residents, finding the time was not so easy. Thus the need for a public clock in the town, in a location that could be seen by people everywhere was very much needed.

On May 1, 1845, seven years after the township of Geelong had been declared, Cr. George Thomas Lloyd put forward a motion to the town council that a block of vacant land be set aside for a town square. The town soon renamed the land Market Square, since it proved to be a very suitable location for the town's produce market.

In 1851 Geelong's third mayor was elected—James Austin, the brother of Thomas Austin. James was a wealthy landowner who very much desired to see Geelong prosper as a town. As council funds were limited, he donated some of his own money to build a clock tower in the middle of Geelong, for the benefit of the whole town.



George Thomas Lloyd

Since the colony of Victoria had only just been proclaimed that same year, the technical know-how to build such a tower with mechanical time-piece did not exist locally. Thus, when George Thomas Lloyd travelled back to England in 1853, he was assigned the task of designing the clock tower and contracting its construction and shipment to Australia. Lloyd's design featured a weather vane at the top in the shape of a kangaroo, a delightful addition to the cast-iron frame tower that was clad in 14" x 11" cream and brown ceramic tiles.

The tower was constructed by Messrs. Silvester and Co. in London. The 18m high tower was fully completed and erected in the inner London suburb of Clerkenwell, to the amazement of local Londoners. Its construction was so unique that it featured in the popular *Illustrated London News* in March 1855. A stairway ran up the inside of the tower to service the clockwork which also required winding once each week. The heavy weights which formed part of the winding mechanism hung down the middle of the tower. When finished, the entire tower was disassembled, packed into crates, and shipped to Geelong.

Meanwhile, back at Geelong all was not well. Town councillors and prominent citizens heatedly debated the final location for the clock tower. Some councillors wanted to expand the centre market area to include a cabbage and fish market—thus no room for such a tower. Others wanted the tower located in a more elevated position, perhaps at the top of Moorabool Street, Yarra Street or even Gheringhap Street. While the components for the clock tower arrived in November, 1855, the debate raged on. Long-suffering Geelong citizens pleaded with council to make a decision. Finally, sanity prevailed and in July 1857 (nearly 2 years later) the foundation stone for the tower was laid in Market Square.

The CML building today, with the original Austin Tower clocks

The clock tower remained until October 1923 when it was demolished to make way for the new CML Building. There was a public outcry, and no one was willing to demolish it. However, it was deemed too impractical to move intact, and was brought down by steel cables attached to a traction engine.

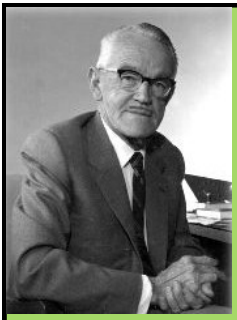
While the tower was lost to Geelong forever, the clockwork inside the tower was relocated to the new tower of the CML Building. The clock faces are still visible as you walk past the building today.

The **Victa lawn mower** was invented in 1952, in the Sydney suburb of Concord, in the backyard of Mervyn Victor Richardson.

In 1951, Mervyn's son Garry mowed lawns to earn money during university holidays. Garry borrowed his Dad's power mower which was very heavy and difficult to operate. So, Mervyn decided to design a new mower for his son's business. He wanted it to be cheaper, lighter and more powerful than other mowers currently being used.

In August 1952 he made a rotary lawn mower using a Villiers two-stroke engine mounted on its side but utilising a lighter base plate, allowing use by a single operator. He called it the "Peach-Tin Prototype", so named because it was made out of scrap metal with a peach tin used as a fuel tank.

By 1953, demand for his rotary mowers was so strong that Richardson gave up his job and became full-time manager of Victa Mowers Pty Ltd. By 1958, the company had 3,000 employees that were building 143,000 mowers a year for export to 28 countries. Since 1952, Victa has sold over 8 million lawn mowers world-wide. In 2008 Victa was sold to the American-based company Briggs & Stratton for A$23 million.



Mervyn Victor Richardson was born on November 11, 1893 at Yarramalong, between Sydney and Newcastle, in New South Wales. He only received a primary school education. After being apprenticed to a jeweller, he worked at many different jobs with varying success—as a sign writer, motor car salesman, selling slide-rules and door-to-door sales. Throughout his life Mervyn loved to design and tinker with machines. In 1916 he helped his elder brother to build a low-winged monoplane, for which they designed a radial engine with contra-rotating propellers. In 1927 he designed the Austin 'Wasp', a sporty, duck-tailed, coupé body for the locally assembled Austin 7 car.

The depression hit hard. By the early 1930s Mervyn, wife Vera and their baby son Garry were reduced to living in a single room at North Strathfield. Richardson regularly walked to the city in search of work. A new job as an engineering salesman led to improved circumstances. In 1941 the family moved to a house in Bray Street, Concord, that Richardson had designed.

When Garry started a lawn-mowing business during university vacations, his father made two complex reel-type mowers to help him. Driven by the desire to improve the design, Mervyn continued to build lawnmowers in his backyard workshop. He registered the name Victa Mowers (a corruption of his middle name) in mid-1950. Over the next two years he built and sold sixty reel-type mowers, powered by imported Villiers two-stroke engines.

Survived by his wife and their son, Mervyn Richardson died on 31 December 1972 at St Luke's Hospital, Darlinghurst, and was cremated with Anglican rites.

Comic Books

While comic strips had appeared in newspapers for many years, it was in 1931 that the very first Australian comic 'book' was published—**THE KOOKABURRA**.

The Kookaburra featured characters such as Bloodthirsty Ben and Callous Claude; The Mulga Merrymakers, Perky Pete the Prospector, and Lucy Lubra the Artful Abo!

There had been annual compilations of Ginger Meggs and Fatty Finn comic strips in the 1920's and 1930's but these were not actually comic books.

On May 20, 1934 another Australian comic was published—*Fatty Finn's Weekly*, featuring *Fatty Finn* by Syd Nicholls.

During the 1930s, 40s and 50s Australia had a very active although small comic book industry. The majority of Australian comics were produced in the 1940's and 50's when the popular American comics were often unavailable. Facing a US dollar shortage during WW2, the Australian Government enforced trade regulations and banned the importation of American comics in July 1940. As a result the Australian comic industry flourished.

A **comic book** (or comic for short) is a magazine or book containing sequential art. Although the term implies otherwise, the subject matter in comic books is not necessarily humorous; in fact, it is often serious and action-oriented.

Comic books are so called because some of the earliest comic books were simply collections of comic strips, mostly humorous, that were originally published in newspapers. The commercial success of these collections led to work being created specifically for the comic book form.

While some publishers reprinted American material, such as the Batman and Superman, others focused on quickly developing a local industry that brought together teams of writers and artists to create specifically Australian comic books. Although many of these comics were copies of the American comics, others included Australian slang using such words as **dinky-di, bonzer, shiela** and **mate**.

Did you enjoy reading comic books when you were younger?

Australian Banknotes

Australian banknotes are printed by Note Printing Australia Limited (NPA) in the Melbourne suburb of Craigieburn. Since the first polymer $50 notes appeared in 1995, the NPA has become a leader in printing polymer, rather than traditional paper banknotes. At NPA banknotes are printed for many nations throughout the world, including our neighbouring New Zealand.

Printing on polymer makes possible the inclusion of many security features. Do you know what they are? Let us take a look at the Australian $50 note—

Description

The front of the current Australian $50 has a portrait of David Unaipon who, in 1909, applied to patent his mechanical hand piece for shearing sheep. Some diagrams of his invention can also be seen on the front of the $50 dollar note. Unaipon's people came from the Point McLeay region, hence there is view of the mission church and the portrait of a local couple.

The back features portraits of Edith Cowan in profile and at the lectern, a reference to her roles as social worker, politician and social reformer. Included are some of the people she worked with, a foster mother and state children of the early 1900's, and one of the more notable places she worked, the Western Australian Parliament House c.1920.

Damaged banknote policy

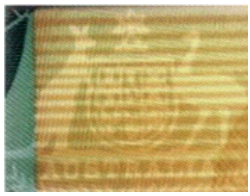
Minor damage does not affect the value, nor prevent the ongoing use of the banknote. If up to 20% of banknote is missing, the note can be used at full value. If more than 20% of the banknote is missing or damaged, that note can be exchanged for the corresponding proportion at the notes original value. For example— half a $10 note will only get you a fiver!

If more than 80% of the banknote is missing no value is paid. The assessment of value for incomplete banknotes depends only on the surface area remaining. Other badly damaged/contaminated banknotes need to be returned to the Reserve Bank for assessment. The presence or absence of a serial number or other specific feature is not a determining factor when assessing damaged banknotes for value.

Banknote Security Features

The words 'FIFTY DOLLARS' in microprint can be seen with the aid of a magnifying glass.

Intricate multi-coloured fine-line patterns and images appear on each side.



When the banknote is held to the light, an image of the Australian Coat of Arms can be seen under other printing.

Security features include:
Slightly raised printing that can be felt with the fingers.

The serial number of each banknote is printed twice, one in blue and one in black, on the back of the banknote. A different font is used for each serial number. Under ultra-violet light, the serial numbers fluoresce.

When the banknote is held to the light, a seven pointed star within a circle is formed by four points on one side of the banknote combining perfectly with three points on the other side.

A clear window has a stylised version of the Southern Cross printed in it, along with embossing of the number '50' (both can be seen from either side of the banknote).

Halloween today is a popular holiday but its past hides a dark history with ancient roots in pagan religious cults, spiritism and magic.

Around 2,000 years ago, the Celts, who lived in what is now the United Kingdom, Ireland, and northern France, had a festival commemorating the end of the year. Their New Years celebration was held on November 1, and was called Samhain (pronounced *'sow-en'*). This festival signalled the end of summer and the harvest season. Because of the cruel winter to come, this time of year also signified death to the pagan Celtics. They believed that on the night before the New Year, the border between the living and the dead was opened, allowing spirits of the dead, both good and bad, to mingle among the living. Some of these spirits were thought to possess living people, cause trouble, ruin crops, or were searching for a passage to the afterlife.

Some say the spirits that were unleashed were those that had died in that year, and offerings of food and drink were left to aid the spirits, or to ward them away. Other Celts dressed up in outlandish costumes and roamed the neighbourhoods making noise to scare the spirits away.

A sacred, central bonfire was always lit to honour the pagan gods. Some extinguished their home fires during Samhain, either to make their homes unattractive to roving spirits, or for their home fires to be re-lit from the sacred bonfire. Fortunes were told, and magical stones were thrown into the bonfire. If a person's stone was not found after the bonfire went out, it was believed that person would die during the next year. Faeries were also believed to roam the land during Samhain, dressed as beggars asking for food door to door. Those that gave food to the faeries were rewarded, while those that did not were punished by the faeries. This is reported to be the first origin of the modern "trick or treat" practice.

Where did Jack o'lanterns come from?

The early pagan Celtic peoples used hollowed out turnips or gourds to hold an ember from the sacred bonfire, to light their home fires, which they believed gave them good luck.

Jack o'lanterns found a new face in the pumpkin when the holiday became popular in America.

Hundreds of years after the death of Jesus, the 'Christian' church had spread to northern France and England. Rather than ban the popular, but pagan Samhain festival, the church decided to 'Christianise' it, giving it links to accepted 'Christian' practises. Thus, in 835 A.D., Pope

Gregory IV designated November 1 as All Saints Day. Since All Saints Day was sanctioned by the church, and related to the dead, the church was happy, but many pagan traditions of Samhain continued to be practiced, including bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costume.

All Saints Day was also known as All Hallows, or All Hallowmas (Hallowmas is Old English for All Saints Day). Since Samhain was celebrated the night before November 1, the celebration was known as All Hallows Eve, later simply called Halloween.

On All Souls Day in England, the poor would "go a-souling". They would go door to door asking for food, and in return, would pray for the souls of their dead relatives. It was widely believed at the time that the souls of the dead would await passage into heaven until enough people prayed for their souls.* The church encouraged this practice to replace the old pagan tradition of leaving cakes and wine out for the spirits of the dead. The poor would be given "soul cakes", which were pastries made for those who promised to pray for their dead relatives. In some cultures, soul cakes would be given in exchange for a performance or song as well. Children eventually adopted this practice, and were given food, ale, or money.

Over the next several centuries, superstitions about witches and black cats were added to the folklore and legends of Halloween. Cats were thought of as evil, especially black cats, and were killed by the thousands in Medieval times, possibly contributing to the Black Plague of the 14th century, due to the shortage of the rat's natural enemy, the cat.

In an effort to preserve their traditions, in the late 1800's Catholics and Episcopalians in America sought to popularize their holidays among the general population by campaigning to note these holidays (Halloween and All Saints Day) on public calendars, and to include reports in newspapers. This American culture has since spread worldwide. How do you feel about celebrating Halloween?

**A belief openly acknowledged by the church to be based on Greek mythology, not the bible.*

Chocolate was originally used more than 2,500 years ago, beginning in Central America. The name 'Cacao' is a Maya word meaning 'god food' which after being introduced to Europe in the 16th century, formed the basis of the Latin name for the Cacao tree 'Theobrama Cacao' meaning 'food for the gods.'

The name chocolate comes from the Aztec word xocalati meaning 'bitter water,' which is not surprising, considering they made the drink by mixing cacao beans with chillies, achiote and cornmeal.

Napoleon always carried chocolate with him, which he ate as a pick-me-up whenever he needed an energy boost. (and we all thought he bought it for Josephine...).

The biggest chocolate structure ever made was a 4,484lb, 10 foot tall, Easter egg, made in Melbourne Australia.

Despite being high in fat content, chocolate doesn't appear to raise blood cholesterol levels.

Chocolate contains a small quantity of caffeine.

17,000 people in Belgium work in the chocolate industry

Chocolate produces the effects of a mild anti-depressant by increasing serotonin and endorphin levels in the brain.

Cocoa butter is a by-product produced from the crushing of roasted cacao beans, and although used in the chocolate making process, it is also used in a number of cosmetic products including massage oils and skin cosmetics—an ideal foundation in moisturising creams.

Allergies to chocolate are uncommon (isn't that good to know).

More than 66% of the worlds cacao is produced in Africa and 98% of the worlds cocoa is produced by just 15 countries.

Chocolate cravings cannot usually be satisfied by any sweet/candy other than chocolate itself (no surprises there).

Ninety percent of the worlds cacao is grown on small family run farms, no larger than 12 acres.

Almost half the world's chocolate is consumed in America.

More than 7 billion chocolate chips are eaten annually.

More than twice as many women than men eat and crave chocolate.

In 2006 more than 6.5 million tons of chocolate was traded worldwide.

A cocoa pod contains an average of about 42 beans. It takes up to 650 cocoa beans to make a kilogram of chocolate.

Audrey Hepburn

Audrey Hepburn was born Audrey Kathleen Ruston on May 4, 1929 in Brussels, Belgium. She spent her childhood between Belgium, England and the Netherlands. After leaving school she studied ballet in Amsterdam before moving to London in 1948. That same year she made her stage debut as a chorus girl in the London musical *High Button Shoes*. More small parts on the British stage followed. She was a chorus girl in *Sauce Tartare* (1949), but was moved to a featured player in *Sauce Piquante* (1950).

Hepburn was then offered a small role in the film being shot in both English and French, entitled *Monte Carlo Baby* (1951). Whilst Hepburn was filming on location, the French novelist Colette happened to be on the set, on an international search for the right actress to play the title character in her Broadway play *Gigi*. Upon first glance of Hepburn, Colette supposedly whispered, "Voilà," indicating about Hepburn—"There's your Gigi." Hepburn supplemented her rehearsals for the show with many hours of private coaching.

On November 24, 1951, *Gigi* opened at the Fulton Theatre in New York, and Hepburn's name was hoisted above the title of the play on the theatre marquee. The successful play ran for 219 performances, finishing on May 31, 1952. After then appearing in several British films Hepburn played the Academy Award-winning lead role in Roman Holiday (1953).

On May 31, 2004 Audrey Hepburn was named the most naturally beautiful woman of all time by a panel of experts.
According to Elle beauty director, Rosie Green, Hepburn “has a rare charm and inner beauty that radiates when she smiles. Her skin looks fresh in all her films and her personality really shines through as someone warm and lively."

Three months after the birth of her son, Sean in 1960, Hepburn began work on Blake Edwards' *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961), a film based on a novel by Truman Capote. The film was drastically changed from the original novel and Capote disapproved of Hepburn for the lead role. He proclaimed that Hepburn was "grossly miscast" as Holly Golightly, (a quirky New York call girl) a role he had envisioned for Marilyn Monroe.

Despite the lack of sexuality in her character, her portrayal was nominated for the 1961 Academy Award for Best Actress and

she became an iconic character in American cinema. She named the role "the jazziest of my career" yet admitted that, "I'm an introvert. Playing the extroverted girl was the hardest thing I ever did." The little black dress which is worn by Hepburn in the beginning of the film is cited as one of the most iconic items of clothing in the history of the twentieth century and perhaps the most famous little black dress of all time.

Many biographies describe Hepburn as a "heavy smoker", since the age of 15. Her day typically wound down with her ambling around the house with a Kent cigarette and her nightly 'two fingers' of J&B Scotch.

Other successful films for Hepburn included *Sabrina* (1954), *The Nun's Story* (1959), *Charade* (1963), *My Fair Lady* (1964) and *Wait Until Dark* (1967)

In the 1970s and 1980s, Hepburn worked sporadically. She starred opposite Sean Connery in *Robin and Marian* (1976), a look at the central figures of the Robin Hood saga in their later years. In 1979, Hepburn co-starred with Ben Gazzara in the crime thriller *Bloodline*. Hepburn and Gazzara teamed up again for the 1981 comedy *They All Laughed*, directed by Peter Bogdanovich. Her last screen role was in *Always* (1989) directed by Steven Spielberg.

Hepburn received an Academy Award, Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations and accrued a Tony Award for her theatrical performance in the 1954 Broadway play *Ondine*. She remains one of few people who have won Academy, Emmy, Grammy, and Tony awards.

In her later years, acting took a back seat to her work on behalf of children. She became a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF in the late 1980s. Traveling the world, Hepburn tried to raise awareness about children in need. She understood too well what it was like to go hungry from her days in The Netherlands during the German Occupation. Making more than 50 trips, Hepburn visited UNICEF projects in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. She won a special Academy Award for her humanitarian work in 1993, but she did not live long enough to receive it. Hepburn died on January 20, 1993, at her home in Tolochenaz, Switzerland after a battle with colon cancer. She was 63 years old.

Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

Tandoori Chicken-
With Coconut and Coriander Rice

INGREDIENTS

- 8 chicken drumsticks
- 1/2 cup tandoori paste
- 1 1/3 cups Greek-style yoghurt
- olive oil cooking spray
- 1 Lebanese cucumber, deseeded, finely chopped
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- pappadums, to serve coconut and coriander rice
- 1 cup basmati rice, rinsed
- 1/2 cup desiccated coconut, toasted
- 1/4 cup coriander leaves, finely chopped

METHOD

1. Cut three 1cm-deep, 2.5cm-long slits into each drumstick. Combine tandoori paste and 2/3 cup yoghurt in a large ceramic dish. Add chicken and, using your fingers, rub marinade all over. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight, if time permits
2. Preheat oven to 220°C. Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Spray a wire rack with oil and place over tray (see note). Remove chicken from marinade. Place on rack. Roast for 25 to 30 minutes or until juices run clear when thickest part is pierced with a skewer.
3. Make coconut and coriander rice: Meanwhile, cook rice following absorption method on packet. Stir in coconut and coriander.
4. Place cucumber, 2 teaspoons lemon juice and remaining 2/3 cup yoghurt in a small bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Stir to combine. Serve chicken with coconut and coriander rice, cucumber yoghurt and pappadums.

Roasting drumsticks:
Drumsticks are best roasted on a lightly greased roasting rack over a lined baking tray. This allows excess fat and/or marinade to drain during roasting, which in turn produces a crisper, healthier and more nutritious meal.

Recipe by: Alison Roberts. For more recipes like this: See www.taste.com.au

Word Search–Australian Music

S L I M D U S T Y N L K R I S E A N R N
M N C S C S G K O I W T J X S N E R M E
A I S E A R E C L L O N N O N N A H S D
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T E M E C O L D C H I S E L M E G O P L

ACDC
AUSSIE CRAWL
BEE GEES
BIRDS OF TOKYO
CHRISTINE ANU
COLD CHISEL
CROWDED HOUSE
ESKIMO JOE
GOTYE
HILLTOP HOODS
INXS
JIMMY BARNES
JOHN FARNHAM
JOHN WILLIAMSON
KYLIE MINOGUE
LEE KERNAGHAN
LITTLE RED
MEN AT WORK
MIDNIGHT OIL
PAUL KELLY
PETER ALLEN
POWDERFINGER
ROGUE TRADERS
ROLF HARRIS
SAVAGE GARDEN
SHANNON NOLL
SILVERCHAIR
SLIM DUSTY
THE WIGGLES
YOUTH GROUP

Shipwrecked!

The Columbine

The two-masted brig Columbine was built in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1839. On its last voyage the ship was 144 days out from Liverpool bound for Melbourne with six crew and four passengers when it arrived off Port Phillip Heads at about 6pm on April 1, 1854 in fine weather. Pilot Matthew Davidson boarded the vessel at 8.30pm and ordered the Columbine's course for a safe passage through the Rip. However, an angry exchange was witnessed between Davidson and Captain Alexander McLennan, the captain refusing to obey the pilot's orders under the impression that he was steering a wrong course.

At 10.30pm the Columbine struck bottom four or five times on the outside reef at Ocean Grove, breaking the tiller and rudder trunk. The vessel then washed over the reef and settled within 200m of the beach. At 3am in the morning a decision was made by the captain to abandon the ship. The pilot Davidson disagreed, advising to wait for daylight and wade ashore at low tide. Captain McLennan over-ruled the pilot and the leaky, unseaworthy longboat was launched.

Immediately on leaving the brig the longboat with its ten passengers turned broadside to the surf washing John Clarke Jr. overboard. He swam to shore with difficulty, while the very next wave capsized the boat and washed everyone else out of it except for seaman William Lewis who had lashed himself in. Arriving on shore John Clarke Jr. dragged Matthew Davidson's dead body ashore. Captain McLennan then came ashore to find the body of his drowned sister Catherine. Eventually the dead bodies of John Clarke Jr's parents washed ashore.

A local, Mr W. Hudson of Little Malop Street, Geelong found the scene of the wreck the next morning with the survivors attempting to light a fire. He gave them some provisions and at noon rode to town to alert the police magistrate and Lloyds agent. The Columbine held together well for the next few days, allowing the salvage of most of the cargo. The estimated loss of the vessel was £3,000. The wreck was rediscovered by amateur divers in January 2003 off Ocean Grove beach.

The tragedy was a deplorable loss for Davidson's wife and his six children left behind. An inquest was held on April 5, 1854 at Queenscliff into the deaths of the pilot and three passengers, but an open finding was handed down. To this day there remains an air of mystery as to the exact circumstances surrounding the loss, and the argument between McLennan and Davidson.

A diver at the Columbine wreck

Geelong– 150 years ago this month

"An inquest was held at the hospital to-day on the body of a man named John Almond, who was received into that institution on Saturday night, suffering from a severe fracture of the arm. The deceased, it appeared, had been riding a young horse on Saturday, which threw him, and caused the accident alluded to. This occurred near Murghe-Bolac, and from the bronchial artery being torn in two by the fractured end of the bone, which protruded through the flesh, the deceased lost so much blood before arriving at the hospital, that he was pulseless. He never rallied, and died yesterday. A verdict of "Accidental Death," in accordance with the circumstances, was returned."

"An order has been received here to forward no more lunatics from this to Yarra Bend,* there being no more room for them there. It will be, therefore, necessary to make some provision for their treatment here other than that at present afforded by the goal [jail] accommodation."

(The Argus Thursday, October 2, 1862 p.5)

**Institution for the mentally ill in Melbourne.*

About this brochure:
This brochure has been produced as a community service by participants in the Work For The Dole scheme at Workskil- Corio branch office. This is part of a Job Services Australia initiative.
All comments and views expressed in this publication are the opinions of the participants in the scheme and not necessarily the views of Workskil or Job Services Australia.
If you have any comments about information contained in this brochure, or suggestions for future issues please write to:

Workskil WFTD
Unit 1001 Corio Shopping Centre.
Bacchus Marsh Rd. Corio 3214
Ph: (03) 5245 3000

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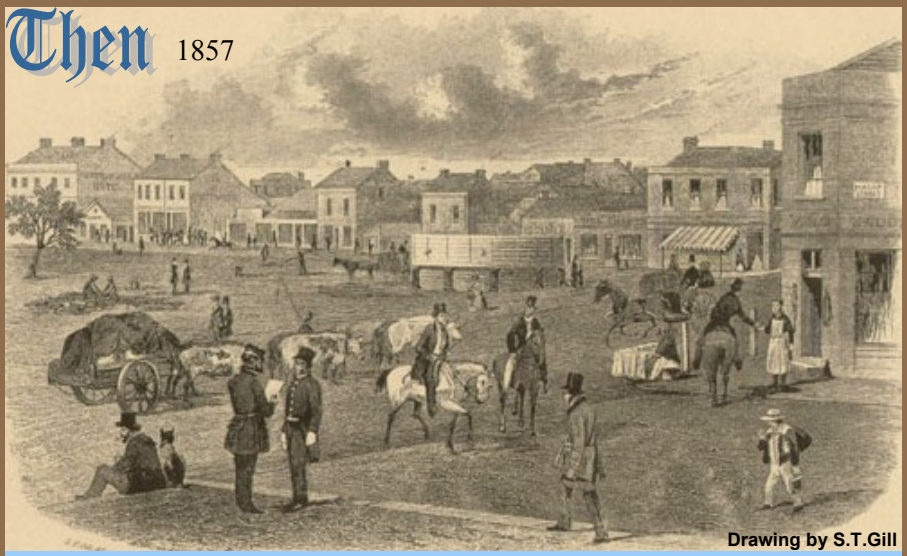

Drawing by S.T.Gill

Corner of Malop St and Moorabool St– Looking at Market Square

In 1857 English fashion was copied on the streets of Geelong. Shopkeepers wore white aprons and school children all wore uniforms. When men came to town they wore top hats and coats with tails. They strolled or rode their horses past teams of oxen dragging their loads up Moorabool Street. What would they think of today's pedestrians—with jeans, short skirts, tattoos, and body piercing all accompanied with an attitude? Today we cross the street holding our breath to escape the car fumes. In 1857 pedestrians looked down, to avoid stepping into piles of cow or horse manure.