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September 2013

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The Albert Coffee Palace

The term *Coffee Palace* was primarily used in Australia to describe hotels which were built after the Victorian Gold Rush, that did not serve alcohol. Coffee Palaces often included a large number of rooms for accommodation as well as ballrooms and other function and leisure facilities. Catering for families, the Coffee Palaces were most popular in the coastal seaside resorts and for inner city locations popular with interstate and overseas visitors.

The building on the corner of Malop and Yarra Streets was one of Geelong’s earliest, originally serving as a drapers shop. In 1877 it was purchased by Wesleyan members of the Temperance Movement and converted into the Albert Coffee Palace. In addition to lodging rooms, entertainment areas were provided for bagatelle, draughts, and chess. The Albert also included reading rooms and a restaurant.

Meals cost between 6d. and 1s. (5—10 cents), and rooms could be rented for between 9d. and 2s. (9—20 cents) per night.

Only a Trickle at Newtown!

Over thirty years elapsed from the time the pioneers of Geelong endeavoured to distribute water for domestic purposes (drawn from the Barwon River) until the first regular water service through water pipes came into operation in 1874. This major event followed years of research and planning in the storage of water. The Stony Creek, some twenty-five-miles from Geelong, and about four miles north of Stieglitz in the Brisbane Rangers was then dammed.

In 1877 a service reservoir was built at the western end of Noble Street to increase water pressure in the higher suburbs throughout that locality. However, as the water was being drawn off quicker that it was being replenished, residents in the Newtown area issued many loud protests, especially on hot scorching days when they found themselves high and dry without even a trickle of water from their taps. In 1904 the problem was overcome by building a service basin at Montpellier (Highton)—an interesting feature of which was that the pipes were conveyed from Camden Road, Newtown across the Barwon River to Montpellier by means of an aerial tramway.
Just over 100 years ago, on December 13, 1912 Luna Park in Melbourne opened for the first time, and has been operating almost continuously ever since. This was the first of the five Luna Parks that were built in Australia, of which only Melbourne and Sydney are still operating. The other three, were at Glenelg, South Australia (1930–1934), Redcliffe, Queensland (1944–2005) and Scarborough, Western Australia (1936-1972).

The St Kilda park was developed by American showman J D Williams, in company with the three Phillips brothers who all had experience in the amusement and cinema industry in the United States. Williams returned to the US in 1913 to help found First National Films which subsequently became Warner Brothers. The Phillips brothers stayed on and ran the park until the 1950s.

Closed for WWI, Luna Park did not re-open until an extensive overhaul in 1923 added new and improved attractions, such as the Big Dipper roller coaster, a Water Chute, a Noah's Ark, and a beautiful 4-row Carousel.

Between the wars, a number of new attractions were added, including Dodgem cars in 1926-7 and in 1934 a Ghost Train. In the 1950s the park was refurbished, including the addition of The Rotor in 1951. In the late 1970s, some of the earlier attractions began to be replaced by more modern rides.

A fire in 1981 destroyed the Giggle Palace, and in the same year the River Caves were declared unsafe and demolished. In 1989 the Big Dipper was demolished in anticipation of a new large roller coaster which never eventuated. A consortium headed by Melbourne transport magnate Lindsay Fox bought Luna Park in early 2005 and continues to restore the old favourite rides, while adding new thrills each year, like the Coney Island Top Drop in 2010.

When was the last time you visited Luna Park?
Travelling west out of Geelong along Ryrie Street, the road name changes to Aberdeen Street in Geelong West, before being retitled Deviation Road, and then the Hamilton Highway. After some 7km the traveller will arrive at the junction of the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers, and the suburb of Fyansford.

From 1836, in the earliest days of white settlement, sheep belonging to Dr. Alexander Thomson could be seen grazing across the other side of the Barwon River on the hills of Highton. Then, in 1837, Captain Foster Fyans was assigned to Geelong as police magistrate. Fyans established his police camp where the Moorabool River could be forded—providing better access to the western districts, and giving the location the name ‘Fyan’s Ford’. The settlement soon became one of the earliest towns to be established near Geelong.

In 1845 a flour mill was built on the banks of the Barwon River, taking advantage of the ford which was used by grain farmers out west. The Fyansford Hotel was then established in 1854, making it one of the earliest watering holes in the district. Many locals would meet up after a hard day of farming, joining travellers heading west toward the gold fields or the farming districts of western Victoria. The building itself, in typical 19th century fashion, lacked river views from within. You can still visit this historical hotel and enjoy a beer, or a meal today.

Despite early prosperity, the area was prone to regular floods, closing the ford sometimes for many days before transportation could continue once more. Thus, a bridge was desperately needed. In 1854 a timber bridge was erected at the site of the police fort. This bridge was tolled up until 1877. It wasn’t until 1900 when a three arch Monier reinforced brick bridge was completed nearby at a cost of £4,506. In 1970 this bridge was then replaced by a modern concrete bridge to handle the increased and heavier traffic flows. The Monier Arch Bridge still exists, used for pedestrian traffic only.

By 1859 the population at Fyansford had increased to such an extent that a post office was opened. Seventeen years later in 1876 a paper mill was built at Buckley Falls, using rags collected from Geelong and Melbourne to make top

Women stacking paper in the Fyansford Paper Mill.
quality paper. In 1895 this mill became part of the Australian Paper Mills Company, the predecessor of modern-day Amcor Limited. The haunting ruins of the old mill still look out over the Barwon River.

While industry helped Fyansford to prosper, it had to wait until 1888 for the regions greatest asset to be discovered. Limestone, a key ingredient for cement, was first discovered in large quantities at Batesford 5km away. Thus, in 1890 overlooking the river Junction at Fyansford, the Geelong Cement Works was opened by Peter McCann. A massive limestone quarry eventually grew beside the Moorabool River. A ropeway was provided in 1912 to transport limestone from the original quarry to the cement works site. In 1918 a railway line was extended from the North Geelong Railway Station to the top of the hill above Fyansford to carry the finished product Australia-wide.

After operating for more than a century, the Cement Works closed in 2001, unable to compete with more modern and efficient cement factories. While the limestone quarry is still in operation, the unsightly, graffitistricken ruins that now exist at the top of the hill are all that is left of this once prominent Geelong industry.

Up until the 1930’s the only road into Geelong from the west extended along Hyland Street (originally called High Street) up the hill beside the cement works. The steep gradient of this stretch of road no doubt made it difficult for heavily laden drays in the pre-motorized era. Due to the difficulties of the steep climb, the citizens of Fyansford first petitioned for an alternative road to be built across the face of the hill as early as 1879. Finally, construction began in 1931, providing much needed jobs for workers suffering during the Great Depression.

The new stretch of road (Deviation Road) was completed in 1932 and officially opened in 1933, but joyful Fyansford residents were soon struck down by repeated tragedy. The problem? No guard rails were installed along the steep down-hill side of the road. Combined with the slippery road surface (during winter months no sunlight hits the south-facing road surface to keep it dry), and frequent land slides from the unstable upper hillside, disaster soon struck.

For example, on December 2, 1934 two women were driving a horse and buggy
back to Fyansford after attending church when their horse shied at debris from a landslide which covered the road. The horse backed up, sending the buggy with the two women on board catapulting down the steep incline on the side of the road. Both were thrown from the buggy and 51-year-old Miss Effie Clarke died from her injuries. Her older sister Adeline recovered in hospital. Guard rails were eventually built but land slides can still occur today, calling for caution on the part of motorists using the Hamilton Highway.

By the mid-twentieth century the land on the south side of the Barwon River had been set aside for parklands, and in 1948 the new Queen’s Park Golf Club was established in the park. Originally a 9-hole course, it was eventually extended to the full 18-hole course we see today.

From early days the land between the Barwon River and Deviation Road was used to grow grape vines, fruit, and vegetables, taking advantage of the rich fertile river soil. However, continuous flooding eventually discouraged farmers, after seeing their hard labours repeatedly washed downstream. Today the land forms part of Zillah Crawcour Park (see box).

Now surrounded by walking and riding trails, the area where the two rivers meet is a delightful spot for bird-lovers, the youthful seeking healthy exercise, or those wanting to simply stroll around the area soaking in the fresh air cascading down the beautiful rolling hills at Fyansford.

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**Priscilla (Zillah) Crawcour**

Zillah Crawcour had strong connections to the former Jewish synagogue in Geelong and played a huge role in the Geelong community. She served first as a councillor for the City of Newtown from 1957 onwards. She died while serving her second term as mayor in 1977.

Zillah was a founding member of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association and was awarded an Order of the British Empire for her contribution to the community.

In addition to the park adjacent to the Queens Park Bridge being named after her, The Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College has named a hall in her honour.

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The Fyansford Hotel—serving customers for nearly 160 years
Heroin use is on the rise. In 2010 a four-fold increase in heroin was reported, compared with the year before. Nearly all the world’s production of this illegal substance comes from Afghanistan, through Pakistan.

Heroin is a highly addictive drug derived from morphine, which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a “downer” or depressant that affects the brain’s pleasure systems and interferes with the brain’s ability to perceive pain.

Street names for heroin include: Big H, Blacktar, Brown sugar, Dope, Horse, Junk, Skag and Smack.

What does it look like? A white to dark brown powder or tar-like substance. Heroin can be used in a variety of ways, depending on user preference and the purity of the drug. Heroin can be injected into a vein, injected into a muscle, smoked in a water pipe or standard pipe, mixed in a marijuana joint or regular cigarette, or snorted as powder via the nose.

The short-term effects of heroin use appear soon after a single dose (within 7-8 seconds for an injection) and disappear in a few hours. The user initially reports feeling a surge of euphoria (“rush”) accompanied by a warm flushing of the skin, a dry mouth, and heavy extremities. Following this the user goes “on the nod,” an alternately wakeful and drowsy state. Mental functioning becomes clouded due to the depression of the central nervous system. Other effects included slowed and slurred speech, slow gait, constricted pupils, droopy eyelids, impaired night vision, vomiting, and constipation.

Long-term effects of heroin include collapsed veins, infection of the heart lining and valves, abscesses, cellulites, and liver disease. In addition to the effects of the drug itself, street heroin may have additives that do not dissolve in the bloodstream and result in the clogging of blood vessels that lead to the lungs, liver, kidneys, or brain. This can cause infection or even death.

As higher doses are used over time, physical dependence and addiction develop. Withdrawal, which in regular abusers may occur as early as a few hours after the last administration, produces drug craving, restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, diarrhea and vomiting, cold flashes with goose bumps (“cold turkey”), kicking movements (“kicking the habit”), and other symptoms.

If you are concerned about anyone taking drugs, contact the Barwon Drug and Alcohol Service— 40 Little Malop Street, Geelong. Ph: 5273 4000
Dutch sea captain, Dirk Hartog, became the first recorded European to land on Australian soil.

Baptized on October 30, 1580 at the Oude Kerk (Old Church), in Amsterdam, Dirk was the second son and one of at least four children of seaman Hartych Krynen, and his wife Griet Jans. On February 20, 1611, in the Old Church, Dirk married 18-year-old Meynsgen Abels using a Calvinist service. They are not known to have had children. At a time when Dutch spellings were not standardized, his name was variously spelled, including Hartogszoorn, Hartogsz, Hartoogs, Hatichs and Hertoghsz as his surname, and Dirck or Dirick as his first name. He signed his name (in several extant documents) as Dyrck Hartoochz. In Australian history, however, he has become known as Dirk Hartog.

By 1615 Hartog had engaged on voyages to various European ports as the owner and skipper of a small trading vessel, the *Dolphin*. In 1616 he was appointed to the *United East India Company* as skipper of the *Eendracht* (Concord) on its maiden voyage to the East Indies (Indonesia). It sailed from Texel, a Dutch island off the coast of the Netherlands, on January 23, carrying ten money chests containing 80,000 Spanish pieces-of-eight, valued at about 200,000 guilders (today’s value: over $45 million). The weather was bitterly cold and immediately before sailing twenty-one crewmembers and eight soldiers deserted by walking ashore over sea ice.

The *Eendracht* reached the Cape of Good Hope on August 5, 1616 and left on August 27, following the newly adopted 'Brouwer' route, which recommended ships sail east across the Indian Ocean for 1,000 Dutch miles (5,800 km), before heading north to the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra in Indonesia. Longitude could then be estimated only very approximately, however, and it was inevitable that a ships navigator would eventually sail too far east and come upon the west coast of Australia. Hartog was the first to do so.

On October 25, 1616 members of the *Eendracht*'s crew landed at the north end of what is now known as Cape Inscription on Dirk Hartog Island. They left a record of their visit inscribed on a flattened pewter plate, nailed to an oak post and placed upright in a fissure on the cliff top. The inscription on the plate may be translated as:
“1616, 25 October, is here arrived the ship the Eendracht of Amsterdam, the upper-merchant Gillis Miebais of Liege, skipper Dirck Hatichs of Amsterdam; the 27th ditto set sail again for Bantam, the under-merchant Jan Stins, the uppersteersman Pieter Dookes van Bill, Anno 1616.”

On December 14 the Eendracht reached Macassar (Ujung Pandang, the largest city on Sulawesi Island, Indonesia), where a confrontation with local inhabitants resulted in the deaths of fifteen of its men. Hartog then visited other trading centres in the East Indies, delivering chests of money. Still under his command, the Eendracht left Bantam (Banten, western Java) on December 17, 1617, carrying a rich cargo of benzoin (an aromatic wax used for medicinal purposes), silk and other goods. The ship reached Zeeland in the Netherlands on October 16, 1618.

Leaving United East India Company employment, Hartog skippered the Geluckige Leeu (Lucky Lion) on voyages to European ports. He died in 1621, in Amsterdam, and was buried in the grounds of the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church). He was only 41 years old. Later, his remains were removed to a communal grave field outside the city.

The Eendracht plate remained where it had been placed until February 2, 1697, when men of Willem de Vlamingh’s expedition found it lying beside a decayed post. Vlamingh replaced it with another flattened pewter plate, inscribed with a copy of the text on the old plate and a record of his own visit, and nailed it to a new post. He took the Eendracht plate to Batavia (Jakarta); from there it was transferred to the Netherlands and later to the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Hartog's discovery had a major impact on world cartography. Although Willem Jansz had charted the west coast of Cape York Peninsula some ten years earlier, that land was generally regarded as an extension of New Guinea. After Hartog's discovery, the mythical continent known as Terra Australis Incognita (the Unknown South Land) was replaced on maps by a major landmass called ‘t Landt van de Eendracht’ (the Land of the Eendracht). Later discoveries extended charts of the coastline and the continent was later renamed Hollandia Nova (New Holland) by the Dutch, and Australia by the British.
The Tawny Frogmouth is an Australian species of frogmouth, a type of bird that is found throughout the Australian mainland, Tasmania and southern New Guinea. First described in 1801 by English naturalist John Latham, the Tawny Frogmouth is often mistaken for an owl. However, while frogmouths are related to owls, they are more closely related to nightjars and oilbirds. Frogmouths are not raptorial birds.

**Description**
Males and females look similar and are between 35-53 cm in length. A very bulky species, they can weigh up to 680 grams and overweight zoo dwellers can weigh up to 1.4 kg. The birds have yellow eyes and a wide beak which is topped with a tuft of bristly feathers.

They make loud clacking sounds with their beaks and produce a reverberating booming call. Tawny Frogmouths hunt at night and spend the day roosting on a dead log or tree branch close to the tree trunk. Their camouflage is excellent. Staying motionless and upright, they look just like a part of the branch. In fact, this bird is so perfectly camouflaged during the day that it may be living near you, without you ever noticing it! When Tawny Frogmouths feel threatened they stay perfectly still, with eyes almost shut and with the bill pointed straight, relying on camouflage for protection.

Tawny Frogmouths and owls both have anisodactyl feet, which means that one toe is facing backwards and the other three face forwards. However, owl’s feet are much stronger than the feet of the Tawny Frogmouth as owls use their feet to catch their prey, whereas Frogmouths do not. Owls are also able to swing one of their toes around to the back (with a unique flexible joint) to get a better grip on their prey.

Owls eat small mammals, such as mice and rats, thus their bones are shorter and stronger than those of Tawny Frogmouths which usually hunt smaller prey. The Tawny Frogmouth is almost exclusively insectivorous (a type of carnivore with a diet that consists mostly of insects and similar small creatures). They feed rarely on frogs and other small prey. They catch their prey with their beaks rather than with their talons (claws on a bird of prey). While owls fly around at night hunting for food, Tawny Frogmouths generally
remain sitting very still on a low perch, waiting for their prey to come to them. The bird’s large eyes and excellent hearing aid aid nocturnal hunting.

**Habitat**

The Tawny Frogmouth can be seen in almost any habitat type (except for denser rainforests and treeless deserts) including heath, forest and woodlands, as well as city suburbs and rural fields.

Tawny Frogmouth pairs stay together until one of the pair dies. Breeding from August to December, they usually use the same nest each year and make repairs to their loose, untidy platforms of sticks. The female lays two or three eggs onto a lining of green leaves in the nest. Both parents take turns sitting on the eggs, incubating them until they hatch about 25 days later. Then both parents help feed the chicks.

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**Keeping Tawny Frogmouths Safe in Your Area**

How do you know if Frogmouths are around your area? On a quiet night listen for their call. A sample can be found on the web at:


Our backyards and neighbourhoods can be good homes for tawny frogmouths if we do a few simple things to help them stay safe.

- **Tawny frogmouths love:** Trees to roost in with safe nesting sites—they build a loose platform of twigs lined with green leaves in branches 5-15m above the ground. Try to keep mature trees in your backyard, streets and parks, and plant new gum trees if you have room. They also love eating garden pests - moths, slugs, and snails are favourites.

- **But they don’t like:** Being disturbed—cats and dogs may frighten or attack a frogmouth when it comes to ground to feed at night. Keep cats and dogs indoors at night to prevent attacks. They also don’t like garden pesticides, which may poison them when eating contaminated insects and slugs.

**Don’t be surprised if:** You think you can hear a frogmouth living near you, but never see it. You may struggle to see one in the day, even when pointed out to you. Many are stunned when a tawny frogmouth silently glides by to eat insects fluttering around outside lights. You may see one at night sitting on or low to the ground, or even on the road.
George Washington became the first president of the United States of America.

Washington was born on February 22, 1732 in Virginia. His father was Augustine Washington, an ambitious man who acquired land and slaves, built mills, and grew tobacco. George was the eldest of Augustine and his second wife Mary’s six children, all of which survived into adulthood. In 1738 the family moved to Ferry Farm, opposite Fredericksburg, Virginia, where George Washington spent much of his youth.

From age seven to fifteen, George was home schooled and studied with the local church sexton and later a schoolmaster in practical math, geography, Latin and the English classics. But much of the knowledge he would use the rest of his life was through his acquaintance with backwoodsmen and the plantation foreman. By his early teens, he had mastered growing tobacco, stock raising and surveying. George Washington’s father died when he was 11 and he became the ward of his older half-brother Lawrence who, along with his wife Anne, schooled George in the finer aspects of colonial culture.

In 1748, when he was 16, George travelled with a surveying party plotting land in Virginia’s western territory. The following year, he received an appointment as official surveyor of Culpeper County, a position he served in for the next two years. In July 1752, his brother Lawrence died of tuberculosis. When Lawrence’s only child, Sarah, died two months later Washington became the head of one of Virginia’s most prominent estates, Mount Vernon. He was 20 years old.

During the 1750s, the French military had begun occupying much of the Ohio Valley, protecting French land interests and their settlers. But the border lands of this area were unclear and prone to dispute with Britain. Since Washington showed early signs of natural leadership in the Virginia militia, with the rank of major he led a number of attacks against the French. Initial success was followed by an embarrassing defeat and capture. After his release Washington was given the honorary rank of colonel and joined British General Edward Braddock’s army in Virginia in 1755. During another attack on the French and their Indian allies Washington escaped injury with four bullet holes in his cloak and two horses shot out from under him.

In July 1776 The United States of America gained independence from Britain, but the states were far from unified. They fought among themselves over boundaries and navigation rights and refused to contribute to paying off the nation's war debt. In some instances, States imposed tyrannical tax policies on their own
citizens. In 1787, Congress held a convention in Philadelphia to amend the Articles of Confederation. Playing a prominent role at the convention, along with James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, Washington had come to the conclusion that it wasn't amendments that were needed, but a new constitution that would give the national government more authority. The Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, and went into effect on March 4, 1789.

During the presidential election of 1789, Washington, now aged 57, became the only president in American history to be elected by unanimous approval. Not wanting a high-sounding title like European rulers, he chose the title "Mr President," instead of more imposing names that were suggested. At first he declined the $25,000 salary, for he was already wealthy. However, Congress persuaded him to accept the compensation to avoid giving the impression that only wealthy men could serve as president (the current President, Barack Obama receives $400,000 annually).

Ever mindful his presidency would set the precedent for those to follow, Washington was careful to avoid the trappings of a monarchy. At public ceremonies, he did not appear in a military uniform or the monarchical robes. Instead, he dressed in a black velvet suit with gold buckles and powdered hair, as was the common custom.

After 8 years as president, and now desiring to return to Mount Vernon and his farming, Washington refused to yield to the pressures to serve a third term, setting a precedent for all future Presidents. His last official act was to pardon the participants in the Whiskey Rebellion. In March 1797, he turned over the government to John Adams and returned to Mount Vernon.

During his long absence, the plantation had not been productive, and there was much work to be done. On a cold December day in 1799, Washington spent much of it inspecting the farm on horseback in a driving snowstorm. When he returned home, he hastily ate his supper in his wet clothes and then went to bed. The next morning, on December 13, he awoke with a severe sore throat and became increasingly hoarse. The illness progressed until he died late in the evening of December 14, 1799. He was 67 years old.

Washington was not only considered a military and revolutionary hero, but a man of great personal integrity, with a deep sense of duty, honour, and patriotism.
Around 700 B.C.E., Etruscans in northern Italy made dentures out of human or other animal teeth. These deteriorated quickly but, being easy to produce, were popular right up until the mid-19th century.

The oldest useful complete denture appeared in Japan. It was a wooden denture used by Nakaoka Tei in the early sixteenth century. This wooden denture had almost the same shape as modern dentures which are retained by suction. Wooden dentures were used in Japan up until the beginning of the twentieth century.

Often early denture-makers were professional goldsmiths, ivory turners or students of barber-surgeons. The first porcelain dentures were made around 1770. In 1791, the first British patent was granted to Nicholas Dubois De Chemant, for "a composition for the purpose of making of artificial teeth either single double or in rows or in complete sets, and also springs for fastening or affixing the same in a more easy and effectual manner than any hitherto discovered which said teeth may be made of any shade or colour, which they will retain for any length of time and will consequently more perfectly resemble the natural teeth." He began selling his wares in 1792, with most of his porcelain paste supplied by Wedgwood.

In London in 1820, John Lennon, a goldsmith by trade, began manufacturing high-quality porcelain dentures mounted on 18-carat gold plates. Later dentures were made of Vulcanite from the 1850s on, a form of hardened rubber into which porcelain teeth were set. Modern dentures are most often fabricated in a commercial dental laboratory or denturist using a combination of a tissue
shaded powder polymethylmethacrylate acrylic (PMMA). Commercially produced acrylic teeth are widely available in hundreds of shapes and tooth colours.

Those who start wearing false teeth for the first time encounter a number of minor irritations. Problems with dentures include the fact that patients are not used to having something in their mouth that is not food. The brain senses this appliance as "food" and sends messages to the salivary glands to produce more saliva and to secrete it at a higher rate. This will only happen in the first 12 to 24 hours, after which the salivary glands return to their normal output.

New dentures can also be the cause of sore spots as they compress the soft tissues in the mouth. A few denture adjustments in the days following insertion can take care of this issue. Gagging is another problem encountered by a minority of patients. At times, this may be due to a denture that is too loose, too thick or extended too far posteriorly onto the soft palate. Another problem could be gingivitis under the dentures, which is caused by accumulation of dental plaque. Oral hygiene becomes more important than ever once dentures are worn.

Despite these negatives, the benefits of wearing dentures far out-weigh the disadvantages. Even if we don’t use dentures now, chances are that as we get older, we will have to resort to some form of teeth replacement. In 1989 about 40% of all Australians wore dentures by the age of 64, rising to nearly 80% by the time they turned 80.

While modern oral hygiene, including fluoride treatment in the water supply, along with better oral education has improved these statistics in more recent years, over half of the population will still require dentures in their lifetime.

When I ponder the early attempts at teeth replacement, all I can say is: “Thank goodness for modern technology!”

**Benefits of Dentures**

**Mastication:** Chewing ability is improved, and with it improved nutrition, leading to better overall health.

**Aesthetics:** Dentures provide a natural facial appearance, providing support for the lips and cheeks and correcting the collapsed appearance that occurs after losing teeth.

**Speech:** With missing teeth being replaced, the relationship between lips, tongue, palate and teeth improves word pronunciation.

**Self-esteem:** The person feels better and gains confidence knowing that missing or broken teeth are not providing an unsightly distraction when talking with others.
The Collection of Tolls

In 1854 committees were established around Geelong to start building public roads. Although some funding came from the colonial government in Melbourne and the collection of rates, a strong case was made for road users to pay for the privilege. Hence, road tolls were quickly approved and put in place. However, the collection of tolls was not as easy as it sounds—as the Portarlington Road Board discovered.

The Board instructed Country Roads Board engineer, Charles Rowand, to erect a toll house with toll gate on the Portarlington Road, where Moolap Station Road intersects today. At a cost of £135 the toll gate was installed, and Mr. Hammet was given permission to collect the tolls “if he be married!” (as Caroline Newcomb records in the Board’s minutes book). As it turned out, a Mr. Downey had to assist by minding the gate while Mr. Hammet chased after toll evaders.

Despite Mr. Hammet’s efforts, toll evasion continued to be a major problem. In August 1855 the Board requested permission from the Geelong Town Council to erect two more toll gates to catch the cheaters: one on the road to Shortlands Bluff, today called the Queenscliff Road or Bellarine Highway; the other on the beach road, (today behind the Australian Animal Health Laboratories and out to Point Henry). Three months later, after his wages were reduced to £3 per week, Mr. Hammet resigned and was replaced by William Pattison.

As toll evasion continued, in February 1856 the Portarlington Road Board hired a man to patrol the area between Elliott’s Hill (Leopold) and the toll gates back at Moolap, and prosecute anyone who had evaded paying the toll or was observed damaging any portion of the road. To add incentive for the toll keeper to do his job more diligently, in March that same year tenders were called for to operate the toll gates. James Delaney won the tender and paid his yearly fee of £365 to the board. How much profit he got from the job now depended on how diligently he pursued the tolls and those who tried to evade them.

This method proved much more successful in collecting tolls, since the toll keeper was the one who suffered loss if he let any escape without paying. The same method of toll collection was applied throughout the Geelong district.
However, it also led to a number of assaults, with toll evaders being set upon. For example, in March 1861 two teenage boys decided to run for it without paying the toll at Batesford Bridge. The toll keeper began chase and, catching up with the slowest of the two, gave him a rap over the head with the butt of his gun. Sadly the young man died the next day from his injury.

Meanwhile other problems continued to test the patience of the Portarlington Road Board. In 1859 the toll keeper on the Queenscliff Road, Charles Hale, complained that Mr. Hardwick, on whose property the toll house stood, had built his own access down to the main road, allowing himself, his friends, and their livestock to avoid having to pay the toll. The Roads Engineer was subsequently paid the bargain price of £25 to relocate the toll house and gate, build new fences, dig a new water closet and repaint the whole lot!

Shortly thereafter, another complaint came that those who had free toll tickets were giving them to people not entitled to them, thus defrauding the toll keeper from income he had a right to. The Board tightened up on the free tickets, providing them only to the Board Engineer, the Rate Collector (when on duty), ratepayers who paid at least 5s. on the assessment roll, and contractors carting metal (gravel and stones) for the roads.

In 1860 the Portarlington Road Board expanded in size to include most of the Bellarine Peninsula, and underwent a name change to become the Indented Head Roads Board. Again, in September 1865 the Roads Board was renamed the Bellarine Shire Council with territory right up to Boundary Road at Newcomb.

When the Shire Council wanted to move the tolls up to Boundary Road, the Geelong Council protested that townsfolk were being ‘strangled,’ unable to move without paying tolls. The change was averted, and the days of the Bellarine tolls were numbered. Finally, in April 1877 they were closed by the Victorian Government, and the gates and houses sold.

Next time you travel the Bellarine Peninsula, you will travel the roads for free, but you may want to pause and remember those who once had to pay for the privilege.

### Toll Evaders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>(Note: 1d. = 1c  1s. = 10c)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheep, lamb, pig, goat</td>
<td>1/4d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ox or head of neat cattle</td>
<td>1d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse, mare, ass, mule</td>
<td>3d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart, dray or two wheeler</td>
<td>6d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto drawn by two horses</td>
<td>9d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto drawn by three horses</td>
<td>Is. Od.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto drawn by four horses</td>
<td>Is. 3d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waggon or four wheeler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with two horses</td>
<td>9d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto with three horses</td>
<td>Is. Od.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto with four horses</td>
<td>Is. 3d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart, etc., two bullocks</td>
<td>6d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional bullocks</td>
<td>2d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two wheel gig, chaise, etc.</td>
<td>6d.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto with two horses</td>
<td>Is. Od.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why were so many travellers, and farmers keen to avoid the road tolls? To put it simply—the high cost of using them! Below are toll fees for the gates at Moolap, as published in 1873:
Without plants no living thing would exist on the surface of our planet. Yet every plant requires an amazing chemical reaction to take place between sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide for it to remain alive and grow.

Light shining down from the sun is absorbed by the plant’s cells. Inside these cells is a special ingredient called chlorophyll. This clever compound converts the sun’s light energy to chemical energy, vital to starting the process of photosynthesis.

Photosynthesis then causes water molecules to split, separating the hydrogen and oxygen atoms. The oxygen is then released, over a billion tonnes into Earth’s atmosphere every day. This helps stabilize the oxygen content in our air at 21%, making it perfect for us to breathe.

After the oxygen is released from the plant cell the remaining hydrogen atoms combine with carbon dioxide to form sugar. The end result is that the sugar created by photosynthesis is sent to the rest of the plant to use as food.

While we have provided a simple explanation of how photosynthesis works, science textbooks use several pages to explain the complex step-by-step process, and some steps are still not yet fully understood. Evolution cannot explain how each step evolved from something simpler. Indeed, each step appears to be irremediably complex.

For example, photosynthesis needs cell walls within which the process can safely take place, and the continuation of the process requires cells to be able to reproduce themselves.

How did this complex series of chemical reactions develop, which lead to life itself existing on our planet?

**Why are leaves green?**

The reason why we see leaves as green is because of chlorophyll, the pigment found in leaves and plants. When chlorophyll soaks in sunlight it absorbs the red and blue light but reflects only the green. This is the colour we thus see with our eyes.
Pluto was discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona USA. In 1978 it was then found that Pluto had a moon—Charon. Prior to that it was thought that Pluto was much larger since the images of Charon and Pluto were blurred together.

Like other planets, Pluto is named after a character in Roman mythology: Pluto is the god of the underworld. Charon is named after the Greek mythological figure who ferried the dead across the River Acheron into Hades (the underworld). Charon is unusual in that it is the largest moon with respect to its primary planet in the Solar System (a distinction once held by Earth's Moon). Some prefer to think of Pluto/Charon as a double planet rather than a planet and a moon.

In late 2005, the Hubble Space Telescope discovered two additional tiny moons orbiting Pluto. They are now known as Nix and Hydra, and are estimated to be between 50 and 60 kilometers in diameter.

Instead of being the only planet in its region, like the rest of the Solar System, Pluto and its moons are now known to be just a large example of a collection of objects called the Kuiper Belt. This region extends from the orbit of Neptune out to 55 astronomical units (55 times the distance of the Earth to the Sun). Astronomers estimate that there are at least 70,000 icy objects, with the same composition as Pluto, that measure 100 km across or more in the Kuiper Belt.

In 2005, an object was discovered further out than the orbit of Pluto, now named Eris. Eris has approximately 25% more mass than Pluto. Instead of being called planets, these two objects are now designated Dwarf Planets. For an object to be classified a planet, it needs to meet these 3 requirements:

- It needs to be in orbit around the Sun
- It needs to have enough gravity to pull itself into a spherical shape
- It needs to have “cleared the neighborhood” of its orbit of other objects

While meeting the first 2 requirements, Pluto is only 0.07 times the mass of the other objects in its orbit. The Earth, in comparison, has 1.7 million times the mass of the other objects in its orbit.

There are still many objects with similar size and mass to Pluto jostling around in its orbit—and until Pluto crashes into many of them and gains mass, it will remain a dwarf planet. Eris suffers from the same problem. In millions of years from now both may gain enough mass to be reclassified planets under the current definitions.
Nikola Tesla was a Serbian-American inventor, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, and physicist, best known for his contributions to the design of the modern alternating current (AC) electricity supply system.

Born on July 10, 1856, Tesla gained experience in telephony and electrical engineering before emigrating to the United States in 1884 to work for Thomas Edison. He soon struck out on his own with financial backers, including the wealthy J.P. Morgan, setting up laboratories and companies to develop a range of electrical devices. His patented AC induction motor and transformer were licensed by George Westinghouse, who also hired Tesla as a consultant to help develop a power system using alternating current.

In 1893, Tesla was involved with Mr. Westinghouse in the design and installation of generators in an amazing new power plant at Niagara falls. Later in 1893, the Worlds Fair at Chicago, which was to be illuminated by alternating current, engaged much of Tesla’s time. Tesla was given a personal exhibit there, where he demonstrated his AC motors and some of his high frequency discoveries.

Tesla also became known for his high-voltage, high-frequency power experiments in New York and Colorado Springs which included patented devices and theoretical work used in the invention of radio communication. He also conducted a number of X-ray experiments.

In 1902 Tesla attempted to build a wireless transmitter that would be able to provide free wireless energy to the entire planet. However, the project at Shoreham in upstate New York, named the Wardencllyffe Tower project, was a failure. Eventually financial backing was withdrawn, creditors from the Colorado Springs project were demanding their money, and Tesla himself suffered.
a series of nervous breakdowns. Working up to 19 hours every day for
the past two decades had finally
taken its toll on his health, and he
collapsed from exhaustion. By 1917
the tower was torn down, sold for
scrap, and the project was
abandoned.

Despite this setback, Tesla forged
ahead with other ideas. His achieve-
ments, along with his abilities as a
showman demonstrating seemingly
miraculous inventions, made him
world-famous. Although he made a
great deal of money from his patents,
he invested most of his own money
on numerous experiments.

Tesla lived for most of his life in a
series of New York hotels although
the end of his patent income and
eventual bankruptcy led him to live in
diminished circumstances. Tesla still
continued to invite the press to
parties he held on his birthday where he would announce the latest inventions
he was working on. During these media events he became known for making
unusual, sometimes bizarre statements. Because of his
pronouncements and the nature of his work over the
years, Tesla gained a reputation as the archetypal "mad
scientist."

Tesla never married, claiming that his chastity was very
helpful to his scientific abilities. His reputation was one
of being a loner, engrossed in his work. However,
Tesla's friend, Julian Hawthorne, wrote, "seldom did one
meet a scientist or engineer who was also a poet, a
philosopher, an appreciator of fine music, a linguist, and
a connoisseur of food and drink." Nikola Tesla died in
the New Yorker Hotel on January 7, 1943, aged 86.

In 1960, in honor of Tesla, the General Conference on
Weights and Measures for the International System of
Units dedicated the term "tesla" to the SI unit measure
for magnetic field strength.
How is Leather Made?

Since God made long skin clothes for rebellious Adam and Eve before removing them from the Garden of Eden 6,000 years ago, leather has been in continuous use for clothing, footwear, bookbinding, and 1,000’s of other uses. Leather’s prized durability is a result of tanning to alter the protein structure of a skin, which prevents it from being susceptible to bacteria and decay.

One of the main reasons for settlement around Port Phillip Bay was the lush pastures, suitable for raising livestock. Along with wool, milk and meat, sheep and cattle also provided an abundant supply of skins, to be converted into leather. Tanning operations were established as early as 1842, near the Barwon River. In 1844 another tannery was set up on the beach where water and nearby wattles trees (the source of tannin in the bark) were plentiful. Within a decade a number of fellmongers (sellers of animal skins) and tanners had settled into the Breakwater area, an area where tanning companies are still found today.

How is leather made? The entire process takes about one month from raw hide to final trimming and measuring. Let’s follow the steps:

**STEP.1  Sorting and Cleaning**
The leather-making process begins with the careful removal of the hide from the flesh of the animal. Freshly removed skins need to be treated quickly, before they start to decompose. Once at the tannery, skins are sorted by species and quality. Hides are immediately put into large drums to wash them, removing dirt and other materials.

**STEP.2  Hair Removal**
Next, hair is chemically removed from the hides using a lime (calcium carbonate) bath, after which the flesh is removed from the inside of the skin with a...
mechanical fleshing machine. Then another lime bath and enzyme solution prepare the hides for tanning. This second bath is also known as batting.

**STEP.3  Tanning**
Next comes the tanning, taking up to three or four days. Skins are weighed and placed in a rotating drum with water and the appropriate measure of tanning agent. Continuous agitation ensures even distribution. Then the skins are hung up to drain and allow the tannage to fix. Some skins are then re-lubricated with natural oils in a process known as fatliquoring.

**STEP.4  Drying**
After the tanning, the skins are now called leather. Next, the leathers are dried in a special enclosed room. The hides are kept flat while heaters and fans accelerate the drying process.

**STEP.5  Staking**
After drying, leathers are put through a “staker.” This machine mechanically softens the leather by stretching it between a series of rollers and two claws, simultaneously distributing the fatliquor to fully lubricate the leather and ensure its pliability.

**STEP.6  Splitting**
The next step is splitting, or levelling the skin to a uniform thickness. The thickness required depends on the end use of the leather. For example, thicker leather is used for shoes and in industry, while thinner leather is needed for clothes or purses.

**STEP.7  Sorting and Dying**
The leather is then sorted by appropriate character and grain for each order. Some of the skins are taken aside for dying, where they are put into a rotating drum with warm water with the appropriate measure of dye. Special dyes are used that combine chemically with the leather and are therefore less likely to wash out.

**STEP.8  Polishing**
After the leather is dried again it is polished or burnished, which involves rubbing with a metal or glass tool to bring up the shine. It is then ready for use.

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"Tanning"

The term tannin (from tanna, an Old High German word for oak or fir tree) refers to the chemical extracted from the bark of trees (European oak is best) used in turning animal hides into leather; hence the words "tan" and "tanning" for the treatment of leather. In Australia it was quickly discovered by bushmen that the wattled tree produces tannin of quality similar to European oak.

To extract the tannin the bark of the tree is crushed into the smallest pieces possible (powder is best) before being soaked in water. Soaking in cold water takes longer but produces a lighter colour tannin, resulting in lighter shades of leather. Heating the water produces a much quicker, but darker colour tannin and hence, darker leather.

Soaking the skins in a tannin bath neutralises the chemicals in the skin, making for long-lasting, and softer leather.
Edward Alexander Vidler became a Geelong newspaper publisher, journalist and author. He played a prominent role in converting Geelong from an farming town into a thriving cultured city.

Edward was born on August 13, 1863 in London, the son of surgeon dentist, Thomas Vidler, and his wife Amelia. After attending a private school, at 17 years of age Edward was employed by Cassell & Co., publishers, where he assisted in the publication of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* in volume form.

Immigrating to Melbourne in 1888, Vidler started work as a freelance journalist and critic. On December 28, 1889 he married Florence Byrchall in Balwyn. Moving to Geelong he became part-owner and editor of the *Evening News*, which was published between May 1892 and March 1897. In January 1896 he became co-founder of the Geelong Progress League. Working along with James Sayer, Vidler lobbied hard to establish an Art Gallery in Geelong which finally opened in 1900. He eventually became a life member of both the Art Gallery and the Geelong Public Library.

Returning to Melbourne by 1897, he edited the *Tatler*, a weekly magazine of art, literature, music and drama. In 1908 booksellers George Robertson & Co., appointed him head of their publishing department. When this department closed in 1918, Vidler began publishing on his own account, while continuing to work as a journalist, lecturer and literary agent. He concentrated on work by local artists and authors in an attempt to popularize Australian art and literature. To that end in 1925 he also started publishing his own magazine containing Australian verse, *The Spinner*. . . but few of his publications made money.

The active interest that Vidler displayed in all branches of the arts was the stimulus for the foundation of the Australian Institute of Arts and Literature in 1921. While Vidler's initial enthusiasm had helped the institute to become established as a focal meeting place, declining membership forced it to disband in 1931.

Vidler was essentially a man of ideas. He lacked the practical 'knowhow' and organizational ability which would have helped him achieve greater financial success, but his consistent support of Australian art and letters was recognized by the award in 1939 of a pension from the Commonwealth Literary Fund. And Geelong is a better place to live in because of him.

Vidler died on October 28, 1942 at Surrey Hills. Survived by his wife, son and daughter, he was buried in Box Hill cemetery.
10 Facts from the World Health Organization About HIV and AIDS

1. Infection results in the progressive deterioration of the immune system, breaking down the body’s ability to fend off some infections and other diseases. AIDS refers to the most advanced stages of HIV infection, defined by the occurrence of any of more than 20 opportunistic infections or related cancers.

2. HIV can be transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse; transfusions of contaminated blood; the sharing of contaminated needles, syringes or other sharp instruments; the transmission between a mother and her baby during pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

3. 34 million people live with HIV worldwide. The vast majority are in low and middle income countries. An estimated 2.5 million people were newly infected with the virus in 2011, including 1,137 here in Australia.

4. HIV is the world’s leading infectious killer. About 25 million people have died to date. An estimated 1.7 million people died of HIV/AIDS in 2011.

5. Combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) prevents the HIV virus from multiplying in the body. If the reproduction of the HIV virus stops, then the body’s immune cells are able to live longer and provide the body with protection from infections.

6. Close to 10 million HIV-positive people had access to ART in low and middle income countries at the end of 2012. There are some 26 million people who will require access to antiretroviral drugs under the new 2013 guidelines.

7. An estimated 3.34 million children are living with HIV. According to 2011 figures most of the children live in sub-Saharan Africa and were infected by their HIV-positive mothers during pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding. Over 900 children become newly infected with HIV each day.

8. Mother-to-child-transmission of HIV is almost entirely avoidable. In 2011, 56% of pregnant women living with HIV received the most effective drug regimens to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

9. HIV is the strongest risk factor for developing active TB disease. In 2011, approximately 430,000 deaths from tuberculosis occurred among people living with HIV. That is one quarter of the estimated 1.7 million deaths from HIV in that year.

10. There are several ways to prevent HIV transmission: Avoid sexual promiscuity; get tested and treated for any sexually transmitted infections; avoid recreational drugs; avoid blood products that may contain HIV.
“Up, up and away!”
Superman was created in 1933 by writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster, both high school students living in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. The character was later sold to Detective Comics, Inc. (later DC Comics) in 1938. Superman first appeared in Action Comics #1 (June 1938) and subsequently appeared in various radio serials, television programs, films, newspaper strips, and video games. With the success of his adventures, Superman helped to create the superhero genre, which is now filled with dozens of characters with super powers, who usually work to protect the good and innocent.

“Faster than a speeding bullet!”
As the story goes, Superman was born Kal-El on the planet Krypton, before being rocketed to Earth as an infant by his scientist father Jor-El, moments before Krypton’s destruction. Discovered and adopted by a Kansas farmer and his wife, the child is raised as Clark Kent. Very early he starts to display superhuman abilities, which upon reaching maturity, he resolves to use for the benefit of humanity.

Superman resides in the fictional American city of Metropolis. In ‘disguise’ as Clark Kent, he is employed as a journalist for a Metropolis newspaper called the Daily Planet, where he is able to quickly learn of any unfolding crime or tragedy needing Superman’s help. At the Daily Planet he forms close ties with editor, Perry White, photographer Jimmy Olsen, and most of all, reporter Lois Lane.

In the original Siegel and Shuster stories, Superman's personality is rough and aggressive. The character often attacks and terrorizes wife beaters, profiteers, lynch mobs, and gangsters in a rough manner, unconcerned about the harm his strength may cause. He tosses villainous characters in such a manner that fatalities would presumably occur, although these are seldom shown explicitly on the page. This came to an end in late 1940 when new editor Whitney Ellsworth instituted a code of conduct for his characters to follow, banning Superman from ever killing.

Today, Superman is commonly seen as a brave and kind-hearted hero with a strong sense of justice, morality,
righteousness. He adheres to an unwavering moral code instilled in him by his adoptive parents.

“More powerful than a locomotive!”
Superman’s famous arsenal of powers has included flight, super-strength, invulnerability to non-magical attacks, super-speed, vision powers (including x-ray, heat-emitting, telescopic, infra-red, and microscopic vision), super-hearing, super-intelligence, and super-breath, which enables him to blow out air at freezing temperatures, as well as exert the propulsive force of high-speed winds.

Superman is most vulnerable to Kryptonite, radioactive material from his home planet. Exposure to the green crystals nullifies Superman's powers and immobilizes him with pain and nausea. Prolonged exposure would eventually kill him. The only substance on Earth that can protect him from Kryptonite is lead, which blocks the radiation. Lead is also the only known substance that Superman cannot see through with his x-ray vision.

“Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!”
Superman has become one of the world’s most recognised icons. Since 1978 six feature-length movies have been made, based on the Superman character. The latest, *Man of Steel* was released in June this year.

“Look, up in the sky.” “It’s a bird.” “It’s a plane.” “No, it’s SUPERMAN!”

**Superman Facts**

- The name *Clark Kent* came from writer Jerry Siegel combining the names of two of his favourite actors: Clark Gable and Kent Taylor.
- The name of the city *Metropolis* comes from the silent German movie of the same name made in 1927. It was the first feature-length science fiction movie ever made.
- Superman’s creators, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were both Jewish, and Superman’s story has an uncanny likeness to the story of Moses in the Bible, who is sent away by his parents as a baby when his people are being destroyed, only to use God-given powers to save the Israelite nation from slavery in Egypt as an adult.
- Originally, Superman could only run very fast and jump long distances. To improve his ability to travel vast distances quickly, in the early 1940’s he was given the ability to fly.
- In February 2010 a copy of the very first Superman comic book, *Action Comics #1* sold at auction for $1 million.
Mushroom, Cheese and Parsley Omelette

Recipe Ingredients:
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups (100g) sliced mushrooms
- 4 eggs
- 1/4 cup (60mL) CARNATION Light & Creamy Cooking Milk
- 1/2 cup (60g) grated light cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley

How to Make:
- Heat oil in medium frying pan over medium heat. Add mushrooms, cook 3 minutes or until tender.
- Meanwhile, beat together eggs, CARNATION Light and Creamy Cooking Milk, cheese and parsley; pour into pan and stir slightly.
- Cook until firm; turn over to cook the other side or cook under a preheated grill until golden and set.
- Fold over or cut into wedges to serve.

Preparation time: 5 minutes
Cooking time: 10 minutes

This recipe is vegetarian, and a great source of calcium which is good for growing and maintaining healthy bones.

Serves: 2
Red–Tailed Phascogale

The Red-tailed Phascogale, also known as the Red-tailed Wambenger, was once widespread throughout the arid and semi-arid regions of central and northern Western Australia, central Northern Territory and along the far west border between New South Wales and Victoria. The species has not been seen outside Western Australia since the 1950’s and its range is now reduced to isolated locations in bush land in the south-west of Western Australia.

The Red-tailed phascogale is a small marsupial (up to 11cm long) with brown fur on the head and body sprinkled with grey. Colour fades to a creamy white on the underbelly and around the eyes. Ears and nose are light red. The tail (up to 13cm long) is rust coloured on top and black below.

Dense, tall vegetation (typically dry eucalypt forests) provides potential nest sites, protection and foraging. Phascogales are arboreal, spending most of their time above ground in trees and bushes. They travel through the forest canopy, leaping up to 2 metres from branch to branch as they search for food and shelter. Grooved pads on the bottom of their feet help them to climb and jump between tree branches. Phascogales nest in holes, hollows, and the forks of trees or in the skirts of grass trees, lining the nest with leaves and twigs.

Red-tailed Phascogales are nocturnal and feed mainly on insects, as well as the occasional small bird or mammal. They also prey on the introduced house mouse and help to keep their numbers down. They do not usually drink water, but rather, obtain moisture through their diet.

In the wild male Phascogales rarely live beyond their first mating, following which they usually die of stress related diseases. Females can live up to four years of age.

Conservationists in Western Australia are working together to provide a feral-proof area for the Phascogale and other endangered species at Wadderin Sanctuary in the Western Australian wheat belt. After the Red-tailed Phascogales were moved to the sanctuary in 2009, initial monitoring indicated that the translocation had been successful, with females having reproduced.
Geelong—150 years ago this month

“The desecration of the Sabbath has reached a pitch here that calls loudly for the interference of the police authorities; but, unfortunately, these officials do not seem to think it a matter worthy of their attention; and if things are allowed to go on much longer as at present, there is no telling where they may end...

In the afternoon, in the vicinity of Cowie’s Creek [at North Geelong], a hurling or shinty match was played by about thirty individuals; the goals being staked off with flags in the most approved style. There was no attempt at concealment, and the turmoil and noise of the game was heard for some considerable distance. No police were present here either.

This locality has latterly become notorious for Sunday cockfights and pugilistic (boxing) encounters, and no effort appears to be made to check them.”

(The Argus ) Tuesday, September 29, 1863 p.6

Hurling and shinty are similar games to modern hockey, but the ball can be played in the air, and with both sides of the stick. The game is said to pre-date Christianity, and comes from Scotland where it is still popular.
Portarlington: A View from the Pier.

Arriving by steamers which travelled down from Melbourne every day, holiday makers were greeted by the bare hills surrounding this small bay-side town 113 years ago. However, what the town lacked in scenery was soon made up for in pristine clean beaches and friendly service from the Grand Hotel (top left, built in 1888 and still operating today) and Family Hotel (tall building on the right, built in 1855, and now the rustic and charming Ol’ Duke Hotel – sadly closed at the end June).