

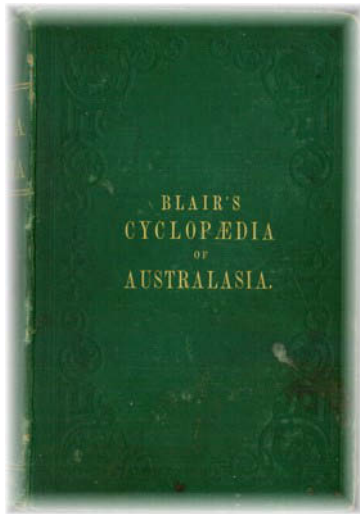




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# Cyclopædia of Australasia;

OR,

## DICTIONARY OF FACTS, EVENTS, DATES, PERSONS, AND PLACES

CONNECTED WITH THE

DISCOVERY, EXPLORATION, AND PROGRESS OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS  
IN THE SOUTH,

FROM THE

EARLIEST DAWN OF DISCOVERY IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN  
TO THE YEAR 1881.

BY

DAVID BLAIR,

*Author of a "History of Australasia," late Member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria,  
and for Thirty Years an Australian Journalist.*

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IN ONE VOLUME.

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# INTRODUCTION.

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1. The present volume is the result of many years of diligent labour, and is the first attempt that has yet been made to systematise the entire range of facts bearing on the past history and present condition of the British possessions in the Southern Ocean.

2. In the prosecution of his duties as a Victorian journalist, during the past thirty years, the compiler has felt, almost hourly, the necessity of a work of this kind. The information he required was, he found, either not accessible at all, or it was scattered over a large mass of fugitive—and for the most part worthless—publications. The compilation of a “Cyclopædia of Australasia,” therefore, occurred to him at a very early date as a task to be undertaken when the fitting time should arrive. The year that witnessed the two Grand International Exhibitions at Sydney and Melbourne distinctly marked that period. Australasia, for the first time, took its rightful place amongst the world’s great dominions. Up till that time it was generally regarded as nothing more than a group of detached settlements belonging to Great Britain, situated “at the antipodes,” quite destitute of any distinctive history, and not of any great interest or importance in the eyes of foreign nations. And in this injurious estimate of their magnificent territory Australians themselves were only too willing to acquiesce.

3. The bulk of the adult population in all the colonies, excepting New South Wales, was up till a very recent period composed of immigrant adventurers, who had come hither to better their fortunes, but *not* with the fixed intention of becoming Australian citizens. They clung to the conviction that they still belonged to “the old country,” which was always their “home,” and that they were merely temporary sojourners here, whose chief object in life was to return and settle down in their native land. There was an unwillingness to admit that they were permanent residents here, or should ever become such, and an impatience of all solicitation to take an active personal interest in the history and concerns of Australasia. There was even, in some cases, a positive determination to remain ignorant of everything relating to this part of the world, beyond the limited range of knowledge needful to carry on commercial or other business transactions. These feelings still linger in the breasts of some of the older generation of colonists, and many amusing instances might be cited by the present compiler. The result is a general unacquaintance with the past history and present condition of the land they live in, which is certainly not creditable to the Australians as a people.

4. But, in the meantime, a new generation has sprung into existence, and the effects of this indifference of the fathers are being witnessed in the children. The sentiment of patriotism has not yet been kindled in their breasts. They have no noble pride in the land of their birth. They speak, as their elders do, of the “old country” as their “home.” They affect rather to despise their native land. They cherish a dim conviction that they, too, will some day leave Australia altogether, and go to Europe “with a fortune.” They

# CYCLOPÆDIA OF AUSTRALASIA.

## A.

**ABBOTT, MAJOR.** In the year 1814, when the Crown erected a Supreme Court at Sydney for the decision of civil causes, Major Abbott, a member of the New South Wales Corps, was commissioned as Deputy Judge Advocate in Van Diemen's Land. He adjudicated in petty sessions as a magistrate, and by the accommodation of law to the circumstances of the Colony, dealt in a summary manner with capital offences where prisoners were concerned. This appointment terminated the absolute dependence on Port Jackson for judicial relief. It was not until 1816 that Abbott commenced operations. The accumulation of debts must have been great, for at his first session 1400 complaints were entered; nor did he exhaust the suitors by delay, for 1100 were disposed of that year. Abbott was a lover of fair play. He continued to preside as Deputy Judge Advocate until his office was abolished. After visiting England, he returned to Launceston with the appointment of Civil Commandant. He died in 1832. He was esteemed as a person of a generous nature and upright intentions. He entered the army at the age of thirteen, and was in the service of the Crown fifty-three years, forty-three of which were spent in the Colonies.

**A'BECKETT, THOMAS TURNER** (1808—), came to Victoria in 1851, where his brother was Chief Justice. In 1852 he was nominated to a seat in the first Legislative Council, and in 1857 was appointed Registrar of the Diocese of Melbourne for the Church of England. He was elected to the Upper House for the Central Province in 1858, and sat in it for twenty years. He was Commissioner of Customs in the McCulloch Ministry of 1870, and chairman of the Hobson's Bay Railway Company until it passed into the hands of the Government in 1879.

**A'BECKETT, SIR WILLIAM** (1806-1869), first Chief Justice of Victoria, was called to the English Bar in 1829. Besides following the law, he cultivated literature, and either edited or wholly compiled two large biographical works, entitled "The Universal Biography" and "The Georgian Era." He came to New South Wales, and was appointed Solicitor-General in 1841, and made a Judge of the Supreme Court for the District of

Port Phillip in 1846. In 1851, when separation took place, he was appointed first Chief Justice of Victoria, and held this post till 1863, when he resigned on account of ill health, and went to Europe. During the leisure of his latter years he travelled much, and wrote some small works in prose and verse. A'Beckett was an able lawyer, and as judge was very much respected. He was brother to the celebrated journalist, comic writer, and police magistrate of London, Gilbert Abbot A'Beckett.

**ABORIGINES.** RACE.—The aboriginal inhabitants of Australia belong to the Ethiopic, which is the lowest family of the human race. They are ranked by ethnologists in the Papuan or Austral-Negro scale; but as forming a special type, distinguishable both from the Papuans and the Malays, and are decidedly inferior to the African negro in physical and mental attributes. Many writers, with great ingenuity, have attempted to trace the original colonisation of Australia to a horde of Malays passing over in canoes from the Indian Archipelago, across Torres Straits to the unknown Southern Land. The colour of the skin, however, the formation of the skull and the limbs, with the genius, the habits, and the general character of the Australians, most nearly identify them with the negro race of New Guinea. The weapons they employ are similar, and their progress in the industrial arts, as well as their mental qualities and conditions of existence, being infinitely lower than those of the Malay, and closely similar to those of the Papuans, destroy the theory of their Malay origin. Throughout the Continent the natives exhibit a general conformity to one pattern, as regards features, colour, and mental character. A man from the South would be recognised as an Australian by the natives on the North coast. The race, however, is not pure. There is an intermixture of blood by inter-marriages with the islanders of Torres' Straits and New Guinea. The true theory seems to be that the Australian is a separate branch of the Papuan race, with a large infusion of Papuan blood. Traditions they have few, and these but faint and incoherent. Wallace, however, holds them to be distinct from the Papuans, and, like the animal and vegetable productions of the Continent, to be the remnant of an ancient and peculiar race.

**PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.**—The native man of Australia is of a dark, sooty-brown complexion,

the wattle, a hard, heavy wood, which is good for the manufacture of ornamental furniture. The mallee scrub a small tree whose roots spread horizontally and retain water, often found useful for travellers, and the quondong or native peach, are also plentiful. The Murray is fed on its Victorian side by the Lindsay, Loddon, Campaspe, Goulburn, Ovens, Mitta Mitta and Limestone Rivers, and by numerous creeks. It waters the Murray, Loddon and Wimmera districts and flows past the following towns in V. :—Swan Hill, Echuca, Wahgunyah and Wodonga. The lower part of the river, known as the Goolwa or Lower Murray, is a narrow arm of Lake Alexandrina, separating the mainland from the sandy island known as Hindmarsh Island. It is however navigable, and the channel which the Murray steamers use. Most of the land lying along the river banks is reserved for agricultural purposes, although taken up under pastoral leases at short dates. The sea mouth of the Murray may be recognised by Barker's Knoll, the first bare sand-hill of any elevation to the eastward of Encounter Bay. This extraordinary sand-hill which is ever-changing in its form and appearance according to the prevailing winds, and is fast receding to the eastward, is about ninety feet high, and forms the eastern side of the entrance of the Murray; the western side being the termination of the low sand-hills of Sir Richard's peninsula.

**MURRAY, TERENCE AUBREY** (1810—1873) came to N.S.W. in 1827. In 1833 he was gazetted a magistrate. In this capacity he proved himself very active with Mr. Waddy commander of the mounted police in repressing bushranging. In 1843 he was elected for the representation of Murray, King and Georgiana, and continued to sit till the enlarged Constitution of 1856 was passed when he was elected for Argyle to the Legislative Assembly, in which he sat until 1862 when he was appointed a Member of the Upper House. In 1857 he was made Minister of Lands and Works; in 1860 was made Speaker of the Assembly, and in 1862 President of the Council. In 1869 he received the honour of knighthood.

**MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER**, in N.S.W., has its origin in the western ridge of the dividing range of mountains in the district of Menaroo, about 250 miles S.W. of the City of Sydney, at a distance of about eighty miles from the sea. The Murrumbidgee pursues a long and tortuous course for upwards of 500 miles without deriving the slightest increase from the country it waters. It falls in a low level; the hills of sandstone rock which give a picturesque appearance to the land on its banks disappear higher up the stream, and flats of alluvial deposit occupy their place. It expands in the marshes of the Lachlan, the two rivers uniting, flowing to the westward and joining the Murray. This river traverses a great extent of fine country adapted for pastoral settlement, and is now occupied along its entire course by sheep and cattle stations.

**MUSGRAVE, SIR ANTHONY** (18—) was in 1850 Private Secretary to the Governor of the Leeward Islands; was then appointed Treasury Accountant in Antigua and afterwards Colonial Secretary; in 1860 was made Governor of St. Nevis and in 1861 was promoted to St. Vincent. In 1864 he was removed to Newfoundland and from there in 1869 was made Governor of British Columbia. He was then appointed Governor of Natal, and on Sir James Fergusson being removed to N.Z. in 1873 was made Governor of S.A., which appointment he held until 1877.

## N

**NAHE, HOANI** (1833—) a native member of the Cabinet of N.Z., belongs to the Ngatimaru tribe. He was taught his primary education by Mr. Green, missionary catechist, and afterwards by the Rev. Mr. Dudley. He was then removed to St. John's College, Auckland, and placed under Archdeacons Abrahams and Lloyd and Mr. Greenwood. Not liking college discipline he ran away and reached home. Bishop Selwyn however had him brought back to college, where he acquired a good English education. He took honours in arithmetic and first prize for general knowledge. It was intended that he should take orders, but he had no taste for theological studies. From his first entry into Parliament, where he represents the Western Maori district, he was a firm supporter of Sir George Grey. His education enables him to speak fluently and intelligently on all subjects before the House. He is very astute, and his behaviour does no discredit to the high office bestowed upon him.

**NARRAN SWAMP**, a large swamp and river of N.S.W., discovered by Mitchell in 1846. It is situated twenty-six miles beyond the river Darling; the Narran River terminates in this extensive swamp. Along the banks of this river the grass is of the best description, growing on plains or in open forests well adapted for cattle stations.

**NEILD, JAMES EDWARD** (1824—) journalist, studied at University College, London, and passed his examination in 1848. In 1853 he came to V.; in 1855 he first began to write for the *Age*, and in 1857 for the *Examiner* under the signature of "Christopher Sly." When the *Australasian* was started he wrote for it under the signature of "Jaques," and with some slight intermission has continued to contribute to the *Argus* and *Australasian* up to this time. Dr. Neild is a journalist of first-class reputation and as a theatrical critic stands unrivalled. He is also lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence at the Melbourne University. He is a man of singularly rich and varied intellectual qualifications.

**NELSON CAPE**, the southernmost extreme of the county of Normanby, V., was named by Lieutenant Grant after his ship *Lady Nelson*.

high-water 43 feet. 1274 tons of iron were used in its construction, and its cost was £52,135. The surrounding district is agricultural.

**OXLEY'S PEAK.** A mountain of N.S.W. in the Liverpool range.

**OXLEY'S TABLE LAND** in N.S.W. consists of two hills that appear to have been rent asunder by some convulsion of nature, since the passage between them is narrow, and their inner faces are equally perpendicular. The one named Mount Oxley is steep on all sides, but the other gradually declines from the south. It is from four to five miles in length, and is picturesque in appearance, and lightly wooded with cypresses.

## P.

**PALMER, ARTHUR HUNTER** (1819—) a native of Ireland, came to N.S.W. in 1838. In 1845 he went to Q. In 1866 he was returned to Parliament, and in the following year became Colonial Secretary in the Mackenzie Ministry, and successively Minister for Public Works and Minister for Lands in the same cabinet. After holding office for eighteen months, his Ministry resigned; but Palmer again came into power in 1870, and formed the Palmer Ministry, which held office for nearly five years. In January 1879 Palmer joined McIlwraith, and formed the Ministry now in power, taking the office of Vice-President of the Board of Lands and Works.

**PALMER.** A goldfield in the extreme north of Q., named after the river of the same name, about 1250 miles N.W. of Brisbane, and 120 miles S.W. of Cooktown. The diggings were discovered about the middle of 1873 by James V. Mulligan. A large digging population was drawn thither and much gold raised. Tin is found on Granite Creek waters, where in the form of stream tin it occurs in association with gold. The gold in the alluvial deposits is fast disappearing, but the quartz reefs are proving remunerative. There are it is estimated 119 well-defined reefs on the Palmer. Nine crushing machines are at work and some of the stone is very rich. The gold is pure, averaging an assay value of £4 2s. 6d. to the ounce. In 1879, 4814 tons of quartz were crushed yielding 10,002 ounces of gold, an average of 2oz. 1dwt. 23grs. to the ton. The geological evidences betoken a regular formation of gold-bearing rocks extending in a northerly and southerly direction for some hundreds of miles. During the year 1879 the population fell from 10,000 to 6500, of whom only 500 were Europeans, and the yield of gold from 120,233 ounces in 1878 to 90,000 ounces in 1879. Reefing is not in a flourishing condition, as the present appliances are not capable of overcoming the water found in the lower levels. The population is estimated at 300 Europeans and 5000 Chinese.

**PALMER, SIR JAMES FREDERIC** (1814-1873) was a native of Devonshire in England, and was educated for the medical profession. He came to Port Phillip in 1839, and practised his profession. In 1846 he was elected Mayor of Melbourne, and Member for Normanby in the Legislative Council, and in 1851 was chosen first Speaker of the Council. In 1856 he was returned for the north-western Province, and again elected President of the Council. He was knighted for his public services in 1857.

**PALMER, REV. THOMAS FYSSHE**, one of the "Scotch Martyrs," was a native of Bedfordshire, England, and descended from one of the oldest families in that county. He was educated at the University of Cambridge and was fellow of Queen's College, but in consequence of perusing the writings of Dr. Priestley he had embraced Unitarian opinions, and in 1792 became minister of a church of that denomination in Dundee, Scotland. He was a man of excellent understanding, unimpeachable morals, and great simplicity of character, but he incautiously took part in republishing an old "Address to the people of Scotland concerning the Reform of Parliament." For this offence he was tried in Edinburgh in August 1793, convicted and sentenced to seven years transportation to Botany Bay, where he arrived in September 1794. Palmer was voluntarily accompanied in his banishment by two devoted friends, Ellis and Boston, who by instances of devotion and self-sacrificing sympathy were the means of saving his life, which had been threatened by a plot laid by the captain of the *Surprise*, the vessel which brought them to Australia. When Palmer's sentence had expired in 1801 Ellis, who had meanwhile established himself in Sydney as a brewer, fitted out a small vessel to convey himself and his friend and pastor to England, but they were wrecked on one of the Ladrone Islands, where they were taken prisoners by the Spaniards, and Palmer debilitated by hardship and suffering caught a fever and died in December 1801.

**PALMERSTON**, the metropolis of the South Australian settlement in the Northern Territory, is situated on the eastern side of Port Darwin, on the peninsula dividing the main portion of the harbour from Frances Bay, and terminating at Fort Point. It is about 2000 miles N.N.W. of Adelaide. The site of the city is eligible and healthy for a tropical climate, being about sixty feet above the level of the sea and almost surrounded by it. From the nature of the ground the heavy rains of the wet season run off into the harbour immediately after falling, and so lessen the danger of malaria. Cool breezes blow almost constantly throughout the year and so temper an otherwise unbearable climate. The town is admirably laid out. Substantial buildings and stores of wood and iron abound. The South Australian Government has erected good stone buildings for public purposes, comprising courthouse, post-office, land and survey office, and the

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# Getting around this CD

## NAVIGATING ARCHIVE CD BOOKS CDs

All Archive CD Books products can be navigated easily using the handy bookmarks on each CD. The table of contents in most original books, and the original book index where it exists, can provide additional ways of finding the information required.

## SEARCHING TEXT ON ARCHIVE CD BOOKS AUSTRALIA CDs

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology has been developing over the years as a useful mechanism to convert images (as Archive CD Books pages are) into text which can be searched.

The quality of the OCR can still vary, and hence the searchability can vary. Around 95% or 99% of the words in books with good type are searchable—or even higher with very good type.

*OCR is now a wonderful searching aid in many instances  
but there is still no substitute for reading the book!*

## DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF ADOBE ACROBAT READER

Adobe Acrobat Reader 4 or later should be used. Adobe Reader 6 (as it is now named) in fact has considerably better searching options and is recommended.

- **Acrobat Reader v4** has both a "Find" and a "Search" tool. Those tools are two *\*totally\** different things. Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the *\*FIND\** tool
- **Acrobat Reader v5** has only a "Find" tool (not a "search" tool). Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the *\*FIND\** tool.
- **Adobe Reader v6** has only a "Search" tool (not a tool labelled "Find")  
HOWEVER — what is called "Search" is the same as the tool that used to be called "Find" Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the *\*SEARCH\** tool

## TIPS FOR SEARCHING AND GETTING MORE FROM THE CD BOOKS

- update to Adobe Reader 6 for more versatile searching options, including the ability to bring up a list of all instances of the word you are searching for — across multiple files on a single CD in a single search request.
- enter the MINIMUM number of characters needed to bring up the search results required.
- use Adobe Reader 6 to do some trial searches to try to identify the characters that may be misread. These can show up in the extra text in the search results list (Adobe 6 only). A few minutes trial will help you to avoid using characters that are more prone to being misread, e.g. try entering "rederi" if you want "Frederick", but find that the letters "F" "c" and "k" are sometimes misread.
- use the "Match whole word" option to eliminate unnecessary items in your results list, e.g. to eliminate all the blacksmiths and tinsmiths etc when you only want the name Smith
- use the "Match case" option when you want to eliminate all the occupations "smith" if you only want the name "Smith"
- Don't just search for names. Search the book for other names, places and subjects of interest:
  - look for others of the same name
  - look for others who lived in the same place or street
  - who was the postmaster or police officer in the town?
  - how often and at what time did the coach arrive in town?
  - what churches were there and what time were services held?
  - what other activities were there in the community?
  - look for others who had the same occupation or other interests
- All of this and more may be available in a seemingly mundane book such as a directory. You could learn or write much of the background of life at the time, even if your ancestor is not listed there.

ADOBE ACROBAT SEARCHING IS A WONDERFUL FIRST FINDING AID.  
BUT DO NOT RELY ON IT TO PICK UP ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

