THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF

Melbourne

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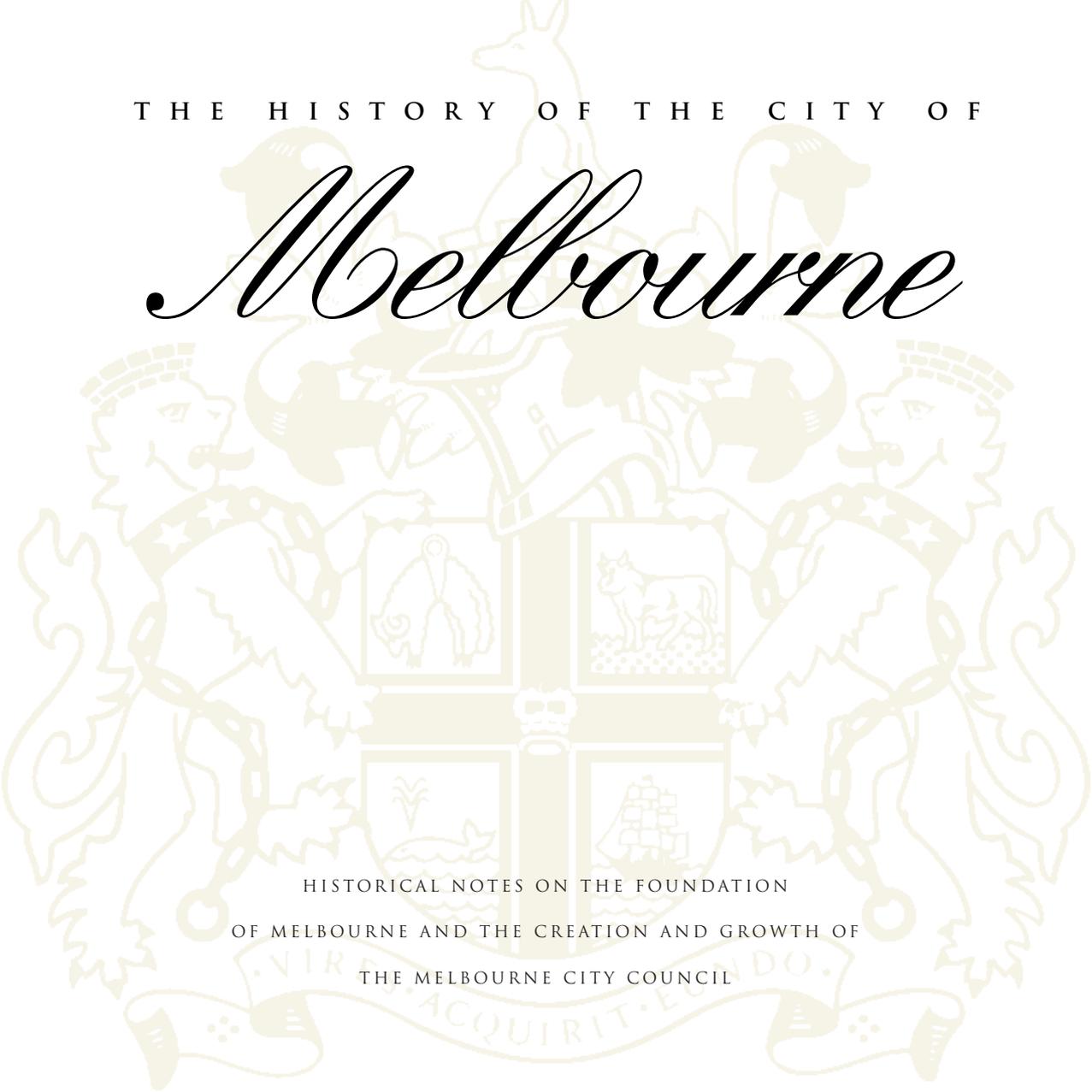
CITY OF MELBOURNE

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE FOUNDATION
OF MELBOURNE AND THE CREATION AND GROWTH OF
THE MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL

IVAN A DEVESON AO, LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE

FOREWORD

It was the English writer, Edward Gibbon (1737–1794), who wrote that history was … "indeed, little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind". Whilst this somewhat unkind view of history is as relevant to Melbourne as it is to any other of the world's great cities, there is no doubt that the history of the City of Melbourne is a subject which has been, and continues to be, of enormous interest to residents and non-residents alike.

It is with this interest in mind that this publication has been put together. It is intended for all levels of readership and aims to present a concise, factual and representative history of the City of Melbourne. It also aims to provide answers to the wide range of enquiries typically inspired by the affection that Melburnians and visitors to Melbourne hold for the City.

I hope it may also inspire the reader to investigate further the wide range of material concerning the history of the City of Melbourne.

Ivan A Deveson.

Ivan A Deveson AO
Lord Mayor of Melbourne

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FOUNDATION OF THE SETTLEMENT

Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, was founded in 1835, in the reign of King William IV. However, unlike other Australian capital cities, Melbourne did not originate under official auspices. It owes its birth to the enterprise and foresight of some settlers from Tasmania, where the land available for pastoral purposes was becoming overstocked. They, therefore, formed the Port Phillip Association for the purpose of the pastoral exploration of Port Phillip. On 10th May, 1835, John Batman set sail in the 30-ton schooner 'Rebecca' on behalf of the Association to explore Port Phillip for land.

Batman and his party, after entering Port Phillip Bay on 29 May, anchored their ship a short distance from the heads and made several excursions through the countryside. On 6 June, at Merri Creek, near what is now Northcote, Batman purchased 600 000 acres of land from eight aboriginal chiefs. This area of land included the sites of both Melbourne and Geelong. The Government later cancelled this purchase and, as a result, had to compensate the Port Phillip Association.

On 8 June, 1835, Batman and his party rowed up the Yarra River and landed near the site of the former Customs House (now Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices). John Batman recorded in his journal: "about six miles up, found the river all good water and very deep. This will be the place for a village". Batman left three white men of his party and five Aborigines from New South Wales behind with instructions to build a hut and commence a garden, and returned to Launceston to report to his association.

John Pascoe Fawkner had made a similar decision to settle at Port Phillip and formed a syndicate in Launceston which purchased the 55-ton schooner 'Enterprize'. Fawkner and his party of six set sail from Launceston, but because of sea sickness, Fawkner had to be sent ashore and the party eventually sailed without him.

On 29 August, 1835 the 'Enterprize' sailed up the Yarra River and anchored at the site chosen earlier by Batman as "the place for a village". Fawkner's party then went ashore, landed stores and livestock, and proceeded to erect the settlement's first home. The 'Enterprize' then returned to Launceston to collect Fawkner and his family who eventually arrived at the settlement on 10th October, 1835.

The Irish pioneer journalist, Edward Finn, using the pen-name 'Garryowen', wrote in his 'Chronicles of early Melbourne' in 1888, that there had been much dispute as to who actually

founded Melbourne. Finn, however, arrived at the conclusion "that not Fawkner, but Fawkner's party – five men, a woman, and the woman's cat – were the bona-fide founders of the present great metropolis".

On 26 August, 1835, the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Richard Bourke, issued a proclamation stating that all treaties with Aborigines for the possession of land would be dealt with as if the Aborigines were trespassers on Crown lands. Later that year, Bourke wrote to the Secretary of State, Baron Glenelg, reporting his action and proposing that a township be marked out and allotments sold. On 13th April, 1836, Baron Glenelg authorised Governor Bourke to form a settlement.

The settlement, at this time, lacked the essentials of a town (a governing authority, a legal survey and ownership of lands); everyone seemed to do as they liked, but the community was law-abiding and the only disputes were between Batman and Fawkner.

On 25 May, 1836, Governor Bourke sent a Commissioner to report on affairs. In his report he stated that the settlement, which he called 'Bearbrass', comprised 13 buildings – three weatherboard, two slate and eight turf huts. "The whole of the European population," he wrote, "consists of 142 males and 35 females. The number of sheep grazing is 26 900; horses, 57; and horned cattle, 100; while 11 vessels of from 55 to 300 tons are engaged in bringing stock over from Tasmania."

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CENTRAL MELBOURNE

SURVEYING OF THE SETTLEMENT

On 4 March, 1837, Governor Bourke arrived and instructed the Assistant Surveyor-General, Robert Hoddle, whom he had brought out with him, to lay out the town. The first name suggested by the Colonial Secretary was Glenelg. However, Governor Bourke overruled this and named the settlement Melbourne as a compliment to the Prime Minister of Great Britain. Hoddle's plan for Melbourne was approved by Governor Bourke but the plan was based largely on the work of Hoddle's predecessor and junior, Robert Russell.

Garryowen's 'Chronicles' reported that there was a remarkable controversy between Governor Bourke and Surveyor Hoddle and an extract from Hoddle's journal states –

> "When I marked out Melbourne in 1837, I proposed that all streets should be ninety-five feet wide. Sir Richard Bourke suggested the lanes as mews or approaches to the stablings and out-buildings of the main streets of buildings. I staked the main streets ninety-nine feet wide and after having done so, was ordered by the Governor to make them sixty-six feet wide; but upon my urging the Governor and convincing him that wide streets were advantageous on the score of health and convenience to the future city of Victoria, he consented to let me have my will. I therefore gave up my objection to the narrow lanes thirty-three feet wide, which have unfortunately become streets, and many expensive buildings have been erected thereon. Had a greater number of allotments been brought to public auction at first, houses in broad streets would have been erected thereon."

The citizens of Melbourne have reason to be thankful for Hoddle's insistence on wide main streets. If it were not for these wide thoroughfares, the City would now be experiencing considerably more congestion and difficulties with pedestrian and vehicular traffic than would ever have been thought possible in Hoddle's day. Unfortunately, Bourke's insistence that every second street running north and south be a "mews" or "little" street, left Melbourne with a legacy of constraint. This legacy necessitated the Council, in the late 1930s, to request the enactment of legislation to permit it gradually to buy back a four-foot strip of land on both sides of the little streets when redevelopment of each property fronting thereon took place. If Sir Robert Bourke had not disregarded the remarkable foresight of Robert Hoddle, the citizens of Melbourne would today be enjoying a much less congested city and the Council would have saved the considerable expense involved in endeavouring to rectify these faults.

FIRST LAND SALE

Governor Bourke authorised the first sale of Crown land in Melbourne which was conducted by Robert Hoddle on 1 June, 1836. The sale comprised three areas bounded by –

✦ Swanston Street, Collins Street, William Street and Bourke Street.

✦ King Street, Flinders Street, William Street and Collins Street.

✦ Elizabeth Street, Flinders Street, Queen Street and Collins Street.

SECTION OF FIRST LAND SALE DOCUMENT

Each block, as laid out by Hoddle, was subdivided into twenty allotments each of approximately half an acre (0.202 hectares). Each purchaser was covenanted to erect a substantial building on the land within two years. All the land was sold and the more westerly the situation, the more valuable the land.

The highest price was paid for the north-east corner of William Street and Collins Street. The lowest price was paid for the allotments on the north side of Collins Street, between Swanston Street and Elizabeth Street – an area later to be known as 'The Golden Mile', the highest priced real estate in Australia.

It is perhaps interesting to note that Robert Hoddle's investment in, and his commission for conducting the sale of a block of land in Elizabeth Street, extending from Little Collins Street through to Bourke Street, increased substantially in value during his lifetime.

SECOND LAND SALE

On 1 November, 1836, five months after the first land sale, the second sale of land took place; the boundary streets were –

- Swanston Street, Flinders Street, Elizabeth Street and Collins Street
- Queen Street, Flinders Street, Market Street and Collins Street
- Swanston Street, Bourke Street, William Street and Lonsdale Street with the exception of the reserved land where the General Post Office and the Law Courts now stand.

Even over this short space of a few months, the price of land in Melbourne had risen, the highest price being paid by John Batman for the allotment on the north-west corner of Swanston Street and Flinders Street.

Because it was thought that land in Melbourne would fetch a higher price if the auctions were conducted in Sydney, the next land sales were conducted in that city and this assumption proved correct.

Garryowen's 'Chronicles' revealed that –

"Melbourne in 1840 was certainly not a city and could hardly be called a town; nor did it even partake of the character of a village or a hamlet. It was a kind of big settlement in groups pitched here and there, with houses, sheds and tents in clusters, or scattered in ones and twos – During winter the streets were chains of waterholes, and the traffic had to be suspended in places – Elizabeth Street and Swanston Street were shallow gullies, with deep and dangerous ruts every twenty yards; Flinders Street was a swamp".

A census taken on 2 March, 1841, showed that the total population of the province was 16 671 and that the inhabitants of Melbourne numbered 4 479, comprising 2 676 males and 1 803 females.

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE

On 22 October, 1841, the settlement of Melbourne was divided into four wards for the purpose of electing commissioners for the management of the Melbourne markets established under the provisions of Act 3 Victoria No. 19 of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales. The internal boundaries of the four wards were the centre lines of Bourke Street and Elizabeth Street prolonged to the settlement's boundaries.

The first markets were established by the Commissioners on the present site of St. Paul's Cathedral (hay and corn), the Western Market site – now the National Mutual Centre – (fruit and general produce) and the north-east corner of Elizabeth Street and Victoria Street opposite the present Queen Victoria Market site (cattle). A fish market was later established on the present site of the Flinders Street railway station.

From the time of its establishment in 1835, Melbourne had been a province of New South Wales and the affairs of the settlement had been administered by the Parliament of New South Wales. With the growth of the settlement there had been an increasing demand by the inhabitants for greater autonomy over their own affairs. Accordingly, on 12th August, 1842, Melbourne was incorporated as a Town by Act 6 Victoria No. 7 of the Governor and Legislative Council of New South Wales.

The Town of Melbourne so incorporated was subdivided into four wards, (the internal boundaries being the same as those defined in Act 3 Victoria No.19 for the election of market commissioners). The names given to the wards were Bourke Ward (north-west), Gipps Ward (north-east), La Trobe Ward (south-east) and Lonsdale Ward (south-west).

CREATION OF A TOWN COUNCIL AND ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS AND ALDERMEN

The Act incorporating the Town of Melbourne also made provision for the creation of a Town Council to administer the affairs of the town, and for the election of town councillors and aldermen.

To enable an election for Town Council to take place, the Act provided that every male person of the full age of 21 years who was not an alien, had not received public relief, had no children in a charitable institution and who, for one year, had occupied premises in the town or within seven miles of it should, on being enrolled, be a burgess, (i.e. a citizen) and a member of the body corporate of the mayor, aldermen, councillors and burgesses of the town.

It should be noted that the Council is not the 'Corporation' as is sometimes imagined. Those members constituting the Council are simply the persons chosen by the Corporation (now known as the 'Lord Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the City of Melbourne') to conduct its affairs.

Before the machinery for the creation of the Town Council as provided for in the Act could be set in motion, there was a need for an interim Mayor, Aldermen, Assessors, and Collectors and a Town Clerk to compile and revise the first Burgess roll and conduct the first election. Accordingly, on 30th August, 1842, Superintendent La Trobe appointed a number of people to carry out those respective duties temporarily until such officers had been officially elected. With the exception of the Collectors, all of these people were officers of the government.

The Act provided for three citizens to be elected from each ward to be councillors for the new town. The term of office was to be three years with one councillor from each ward retiring each year (if still qualified, however, a retiring councillor was eligible for re-election). The municipal year was from 9 November one year to 8 November the following year; annual elections were to be held on the first day of November on each succeeding year. The financial year was from 1 January to 31 December.

The Act also prescribed that, after the first election of councillors, the councillors so elected were to elect four aldermen (one to represent each ward) to be either from within their own membership or from those qualified to be councillors. Of the four people elected, two were to continue in office for six years and the other two for three years only. Thereafter, on the ninth day of November in every succeeding third year, one half of the whole number of Aldermen were to retire (if still qualified, however, a retiring alderman was eligible for re-election).

THE FIRST ELECTIONS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL

Although the Act incorporating the town provided for the first election of councillors to take place on the first day of November following the passing of the Act, the election did not take place until 1 December, 1842. This was largely due to the fact the Corporation Act wasn't passed until 12 August and in order to allow for the completion of all pre-election procedures an agreement was made between Governor Gipps and Superintendent La Trobe to postpone the first election for one month.

According to Garryowen's 'Chronicles' the first election was a wildly exciting and keenly contested one, the licensed hotel trade having an inescapable prominence owing to the absence of a sufficiency of public halls for polling booths and committee rooms. The four wards with their polling booths were–

Bourke Ward   –   'The Crown'   –   Queen Street
Gipps Ward   –   'The Caledonia' –   Lonsdale Street
La Trobe Ward   –   'The Eagle Inn' –   Bourke Street
                      (afterwards 'The Bull and Mouth')
Lonsdale Ward   –   'The Royal'   –   Collins Street

Those elected were –

Bourke Ward   –   John Thomas Smith, John Patterson, William Kerr.

Gipps Ward   –   Henry Condell, John Dickson, George Beaver.

La Trobe Ward   –   Andrew Russell, Daniel Stoodhart Campbell, George James.

Lonsdale Ward   –   John Orr, Henry William Mortimer, John Pascoe Fawkner.

On 3 December 1842, the 12 councillors met at the Royal Hotel in Collins Street, took the oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria and made declarations of their acceptance of office.

On 9 December 1842, they met again at the hotel behind closed doors to elect a mayor and aldermen. In a close election, Henry Condell was elected the first Mayor of Melbourne. He and Andrew Russell were elected the first aldermen for a six-year term and William Kerr and Henry William Mortimer were elected the first aldermen for a three-year term.

The first meeting of the Town Council for the transaction of business was held at the 'Royal' hotel on 15 December, 1842. The proceedings were made open to the public. Allowances and salaries to the Mayor, the Town Clerk, and Town Surveyor were fixed. Charles King was appointed as Town Clerk and took over from the interim Town Clerk, H. F. Gurner. William Weston Howe was appointed Town Surveyor.

HENRY CONDELL, FIRST MAYOR OF MELBOURNE

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The Council in 1842, therefore, comprised of 12 people, an alderman and two councillors for each ward, the Mayor and the aldermen being elected from within this membership of 12. However, on 19 December, 1844, Act 8 Victoria No.12 to amend the original incorporating Act was passed and section 10 of that Act provided that if a councillor was elected to be an alderman then his seat as an elected councillor became vacant. This increased the composition of the Council to 16 members.

In 1853, "An Act to regulate the tenure of office by the Aldermen of additional wards of the City of Melbourne" (Act 17 Victoria No. 3) was passed. That Act was then repealed in 1863 by Act 27 Victoria No.178 which provided in Sections 28 and 29 for aldermen to hold office for periods of four years each and to retire on the ninth day of November (but to be eligible for re-election if still qualified). Section 31 of the Act provided that –

> "… nothing therein contained shall be held to deprive any alderman of the right to continue as a member of the Council for one year after the expiry of his term of office as alderman".

In the absence of a mayor (or the Lord Mayor after 1902) at any meeting of the Council, an alderman was chosen as chairman (Section 93 of Act 6 Victoria No. 7).

In 1939, the office of alderman was abolished with the coming into operation of the Melbourne and Geelong Corporations Act 1938.

The last alderman elected to the Council was the Honourable A. A. Calwell who was elected as alderman for Hopetoun Ward on 12th April, 1939, following the death of Alderman B. B. Deveney on 4 April, 1939. He is believed to have been the only person elected an alderman without having been elected as a councillor previously.

At the time of writing the Council consisted of nine councillors, 4 of whom represent the 4 wards into which the City is divided. The other five are district councillors elected by all ratepayers. The Lord Mayor is chosen from these councillors. These elected councillors replaced appointed commissioners in March 1996, and serve a three year term in office.

CORPORATION MOTTO

The motto 'Vires acquirit eundo' (or, in its literal translation, 'we gather strength as we go') was suggested to the Mayor of Melbourne by the first Judge of the district (Judge Willis), a well-known Latin scholar who, recalling the passage in Virgil's fourth book of the Aenoid –

"Fame, malum quo allud veloclus ollum, Mobilitate viget, viresque acquirit eundo" –

thought it would be appropriate for the new Town Council.

Alderman Condell and his fellow aldermen and councillors also must have thought it appropriate – for the three words 'Vires acquirit eundo' were adopted by the Council as the motto for the Town.

Curiously the passage quoted, refers to the Roman goddess, Rumour. The lines preceding the text used for the motto refer to Rumour as she raced through Africa and state that of all the pests Rumour is the swiftest. The actual motto translates as follows:

"In her freedom of movement lies her power, and she gathers strength with her going."

ELEVATION OF THE TOWN TO THE STATUS OF A CITY

The Town of Melbourne was raised to the status of a City by Letters Patent of Queen Victoria dated 25 June, 1847, just five years after its incorporation. This royal action arose from a desire to establish a bishop's see of the Church of England in the town. As the establishment of a bishopric required the status of a city, Melbourne was ecclesiastically created a cathedral city by the letters which the Queen gave to the first bishop.

However, legally to proclaim the Town a City required more than the Royal Letters Patent, for the Letters Patent merely changed its name from a town to a City. An Act of the Colonial Legislature was necessary to change the name of the body corporate. Accordingly, following the tabling of a motion at a meeting of the Town Council to alter the style and title of Melbourne from a Town to a City, a draft Bill was approved and transmitted to the Government for introduction to the Legislature. It was not until 3 August, 1849, however, that it found a place in the statute book, when Act 13 Victoria No. 14 was finally assented to as "An Act to effect a change in the Style and Title of the Corporation of Melbourne rendered necessary by the erection of the Town of Melbourne to a City".

The Right Reverend Charles Perry was consecrated as the first bishop of Melbourne on 29 June, 1847, four days after the granting of the Letters Patent by the Queen. He arrived in Melbourne on board 'The Stag' on 23 January, 1848, and was installed on 28 June, 1848 in the Cathedral Church of St. James. The Letters Patent given to Dr. Perry were subsequently lost and not recovered until 1930 when they were found in an old London second-hand shop. Now, they are in the Collection of St Paul's Cathedral and treasured by its authorities.

The Cathedral Church of St. James, a modest wooden structure, first opened for worship in 1837, on the corner of Collins and William Streets. One of the first subscribers to the fund for the erection of the building was John Batman, whose generous gift made possible the first centre of worship for pioneer families. It was not long, however, before moves were made for a more permanent church and, in 1839, soon after his arrival to take office as Superintendent of Port Phillip, Charles Joseph La Trobe laid the foundation stone for the new St. James Church. Although its first role was that of a parish church, St James became the Cathedral Church with the founding of the Diocese of Melbourne in 1847. It remained as the Cathedral Church until the completion of St Paul's Cathedral in 1891. It was moved, stone by stone, to its present site on the corner of King and Batman Streets, West Melbourne, in 1914.

The 'old' Cathedral contains many features of historical interest. Of particular importance is the baptismal font. Made of white marble, the font once graced the altar of St. Katherine's Abbey that stood on the bank of the Thames just beyond the Tower of London. The Abbey was demolished in 1837 and, during the demolition, Queen Victoria, who had ascended the throne that year, had the baptismal font removed. Later she sent it to Governor La Trobe who presented it to St. James. It is thought to be over 800 years old.

St James' Cathedral is classified by the National Trust as "being of national importance to be preserved at all costs".

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: 1840 ONWARDS

On 22 April, 1840, a company was formed with the object of erecting a bridge across the Yarra River. In 1845, there was a controversy where the bridge should be built. Superintendent La Trobe favoured the end of Elizabeth Street where the water was a little over six metres deep with a thick, black mud bottom, but the company preferred Swanston Street where the depth of the water was only two metres but had a hard, gravelly bed. Despite bitter arguments, the company finally had its way and, on 9 June, 1845, a contract for the bridge and

the approaches was let. By the time the construction of the bridge was completed, however, it had greatly exceeded the original estimated cost of which the tenderer seems to have borne the difference. This bridge was just above the present Prince's Bridge. It remained a toll bridge until it was superseded by a free government bridge, the first Prince's Bridge which, after many delays, was finally officially opened on 15 November, 1850.

In 1845, the Council appointed a Public Works Committee which reported three months later that 400 tree stumps had been grubbed from the main streets of the town but that 1 000 still remained to be cleared. By 1849, however, most of the principal streets were paved, the footpaths gravelled and the centres of the roads metalled. Some streets had kerbed and pitched water channels while one thoroughfare even had a few oil lamps placed on wooden posts.

The year 1850 saw construction commence on St. Patrick's Cathedral to replace the small wooden structure that had been built on 2.023 hectares (5 acres) of land granted to the Church by Superintendent La Trobe. Although the first mass was celebrated on 14 February, 1858, the building was not officially opened until November of that year.

The discovery of gold in Victoria in the early 1850s had a remarkable effect on the growth of Melbourne. The Melbourne Morning Herald in October, 1851, stated that – "The whole city is gold mad; the city is getting more and more deserted every day". But this trend to leave the city was only temporary, for in a week or two the gold seekers were drifting back, some successful, some disappointed. But the news of the discovery of gold had spread all round the world, and during the years 1852, 1853 and 1854 the number of persons arriving in Victoria by sea averaged 90 000 a year. From 1855 to 1858, the average was still 60 000 with less than 30 000 disappointed people departing each year over this whole period. By 1854, the population of Melbourne was nearly 80 000 and by 1861 it was 140 000. As at the 30th June, 1973, the total estimated population of Victoria was 3.6 million of which approximately 2.6 million lived in the metropolitan area of Melbourne and 75 000 of these resided in the municipal district itself. In June 1996, the population of metropolitan Melbourne was 3.248 million whilst the number of residents living in the City of Melbourne in June 1996 was estimated to be 39 100.

In 1851, Victoria was separated from New South Wales and Melbourne became the capital of the colony. The State Legislation Council, having no other home, sat in St Patrick's Hall in Bourke Street. Building commenced on Parliament House early in 1856 and was sufficiently completed for it to be officially opened on 25 November, 1856, by the Acting Governor

General, Sir Edward Macarthur (a son of John Macarthur of Camden, New South Wales, who pioneered the wool industry in Australia).

The State Parliament met in that building until the Federation of the States in 1901, when Australia became a nation. The building then became the seat of Federal Parliament, and the State Parliament transferred to the Exhibition Building (which opened in 1880), where it continued to meet until 1927. In that year, Canberra became the official capital of Australia, and the departure for Canberra of the Federal Parliament left the way open for the State Parliament again to take up residence in Parliament House.

The first steam operated trains and railway in Australia was established by The Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company in 1854. The line, which was single, ran from Flinders Street to a pier at Sandridge (Port Melbourne), a distance of approximately 4 kilometres (2.5 miles). The Governor, Sir Charles Hotham, officially opened it on 12th September, 1854.

It has been said that by 1860 the city had reached its final form, most of the land had been sold and many of the sections of the town had attracted special types of occupancies which still characterise the city today. The eastern end of Collins Street had attracted members of the medical profession while the central and western section of this same street saw insurance companies, banks and building societies established. Bourke Street had its theatres and music halls, while the western section of Little Collins Street had attracted the legal profession.

Prior to 1860, a large fountain graced the centre of the intersection of Collins and Swanston Streets; but to enable the laying of tram tracks in these streets it was transferred, in the mid 1860s, to the Carlton (or Exhibition) Gardens where it still stands today.

The year 1872 saw the opening of the Melbourne Mint (a branch of the British Royal Mint) to meet the problems created by the large discoveries of gold in Australia and to reduce its export as much as possible. When the Sydney Mint closed in 1926, the Royal Melbourne Mint became the mint of the Commonwealth and the sole contractor for the production of Commonwealth coinage. The Melbourne Mint closed in 1968 and the production of coinage now takes place at the Royal Mint in Canberra. Melbourne's Mint had been given an 'A' classification by the National Trust of Australia which means it is to be preserved unconditionally.

The Queen Victoria Market opened on 16 March, 1873, on the site of the old settlement's first general cemetery. The first graveyard was on Flagstaff Hill; but on the first survey approximately 4.047 hectares (10 acres) were set aside for a general cemetery. This cemetery was closed in 1853, but was used occasionally until 1917, when the Melbourne General

EASTERN MARKET

Markets Lands Act 1917 gave the Council control of the old cemetery area for the market purposes. On 28 November, 1921, the Council approved the removal of the bodies buried therein and their reinterment in the New Melbourne General Cemetery, Fawkner. The market then was extended to its present area of 5.458 hectares (13 acres).

The period between 1880 and 1890 was the time of the land booms, with surpluses in government revenue and buoyant optimism creating great progress for the metropolis of Melbourne. Where previously in the city three or four storey office blocks had been the highest buildings, virtually overnight eight and nine storey buildings were erected as a result of private enterprise. The foundation stone of St. Paul's Cathedral at the corner of Flinders and Swanston Streets was laid in 1880 and the building consecrated at the beginning of 1891. The first cable tramway was opened in 1885 and ran from the corner of Spencer and Flinders Streets to Richmond. In 1886, to permit the extension of the cable-tram lines to Collins Street, the Bourke and Wills Monument was removed from the corner of Russell and Collins Streets and repositioned in Spring Street. In 1887, over 32 kilometres (20 miles) of tramway system had been constructed. The Crown Law offices in Lonsdale Street and the Spencer Street Railway Offices were erected during this period. A new Prince's Bridge was built and officially opened on 4 October, 1888, and the year 1890 saw the opening of a seaward road bridge leading out of the city – the present Queens Bridge.

The early 1890s cast a shadow on the growth of Melbourne when the land boom subsided and, in 1891 and 1892, numerous banks and building societies ceased operation. By the middle of 1892, twenty-one financial companies were in suspension.

The new century saw a fresh surge of activity; the Council Baths in Swanston Street were erected in 1903. In 1906, following the success of electric tram lines in Sydney, the first electric tram service was introduced and operated from the cable-tram terminus at Flemington to Essendon and the Maribyrnong River. The five or six years around the First World War saw a large number of public buildings erected. Flinders Street Station was completed. The Council's administration building, the Spencer Street post office and the City Courts were built. The Melbourne Hospital, which became the Queen Victoria Hospital, was almost entirely rebuilt.

After the First World War, the erection of public buildings continued, culminating in the building of Spencer Street Bridge in 1929. The electrification of the entire suburban railway system was carried out between 1918 and 1923. The conversion of the cable trams to electric traction did not commence until 1925 and did not conclude until early in the Second World War.

Following the worldwide depression of the 1930s, the commencement of the Second World War together with postwar building restrictions and material shortages, building development in Melbourne remained fairly static until the early 1950s. The late 1950s and 1960s saw enormous changes take place to the Central Business District. Between 1956 and 1958 Melbourne witnessed the construction of what was to be its first skyscraper. ICI House was designed by Bates Smart & McCutcheon and represented an international style glass curtain wall development. In the lead up to the 1956 Olympic Games the removal of verandahs further contributed to the radical changes taking place in the city fabric. The 1960s saw the opening of the first stage of the Victorian arts centre complex, the National Gallery of Victoria designed by Roy Grounds. This period of growth and development also saw the start of construction of the West Gate Bridge and the demolition of the old Eastern and Western Markets and their respective replacement by the Southern Cross Hotel and the National Mutual Centre building.

In the early 1970s digging commenced on the first tunnels for the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop line and this project was completed in 1986. Construction also began on the Collins Place and Nauru House developments. Other major developments which have altered the City's skyline and character in the 1980s and 1990s include the award winning redevelopment of the Melbourne City Baths, the promotion and development of an inner city housing strategy by the City of Melbourne, and major redevelopments of the State Library of Victoria, the old Queen Victoria Hospital site, and the Queen Victoria Market. The installation of light towers at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Yarra Park in 1985 and the construction of the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne Park (formerly Flinders Park), saw major alterations to the landscape of one of Melbourne's principle assets, namely its parks and gardens. The new museum development proposed for the Carlton Gardens is likely to continue this trend.

In 1992, the City of Melbourne further altered the City's character by announcing the closure of Swanston Street to through traffic. This was done with the dual aim of encouraging street activity and improving the ambience of the Central Business District for workers and residents. Another important incentive was to increase the standard of retail activity in this area.

MELBOURNE CITY SQUARE

The Council had been investigating the possibility of the establishment of a City Square in the heart of Melbourne since 1961. Early plans included a large open area on the south-east corner of Collins and Swanston Streets with a multi-storey building incorporating office accommodation, an international standard hotel and a retail-shopping complex. The development did not proceed because of insurmountable problems experienced by the

developer and the State Government's decision that the Regent/Plaza Theatre Building should be retained and restored.

In 1975, a concept for a new City Square was developed in consultation with the Victorian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and a national architectural competition was held to select a design for the City Square. The competition was won by Messrs. J. Denton, W.S Corker and B.C Marshall with a design aimed primarily at reinforcing the presence of the Town Hall and St Paul's Cathedral. The winning design also aimed to create an informal image and an atmosphere of space while retaining the character of the City.

Some of the features of this design were:

(i)   25 000-bulb video screen along the Regent Theatre backdrop to the Square with a capability of displaying moving and still images in 16 shades of sepia;

(ii)   a 360-seat sunken amphitheatre covered by a glass roof;

(iii)   the use of diamond-cut bluestone as paving material;

(iv)   the installation of an electrical system to dry out and warm the bluestone-paved seating in the meeting place/display area;

(v)   the liberal use of deciduous trees, including a 20-metre-high elm tree; and

(vi)   overall seating for 1 400 people.

Construction of the Square commenced in February 1978, and was officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 28 May, 1981.

Unfortunately, unforeseeable problems meant that by the mid 1980s it became apparent the City Square had failed to meet many of the expectations held for it. Some of the Square's features proved expensive to run, i.e., the video screen. The central sculpture, 'Vault' by Ron Robertson Swann, was the object of much community disdain resulting in its removal and retailers complained that the area had not provided the potential trade they had been promised.

In 1994, new plans for the redevelopment of the City Square were underway which incorporated arrangements for both the City Square and the Regent Theatre. The new plans resulted from an agreement between the Council and the State Government to enter into a development agreement with Staged Developments Australia. The first stage of the development included the refurbishment and restoration of the Regent Theatre that had remained unused and dilapidated for almost three decades.

THE REGENT THEATRE

The Regent Theatre was first opened in 1929. It incorporated two theatres, the Plaza and the Regent, and has often been described as an Australian example of the French Revival Style. In April 1945, a fire swept through the complex causing enormous damage to the Regent Theatre whilst the Plaza Theatre was only partially damaged. The Regent Theatre was rebuilt and re-opened to the public in December 1947; however, it was purchased by the Melbourne City Council in 1969 and eventually ceased operations to make way for the development of the City Square. Many members of the community objected strongly to the intended demolition of the theatres which they felt occupied a significant place in Melbourne's social fabric. Finally, after a great deal of lobbying and consultation, the Regent Theatre was saved from demolition and meticulously restored to its former character. It re-opened in October 1997 with the musical 'Sunset Boulevard.'

In 1997, planning for the second stage of the City Square redevelopment commenced. The second stage incorporates the development of the Regent Plaza Hotel on the City Square site, the completion of the City Square itself as well as the construction of an underground carpark for short term parking.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND LORD MAYOR

In 1863, the date for the election of the Mayor was changed by Act 27 Victoria No.178 to the 9 October in every year. On this day, a special meeting of the Council was to be held with the successful candidate assuming office as soon after noon on the 9 November next, once he had taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the declaration of office. The Act also provided that "nothing herein contained shall prevent the council from electing the mayor as Mayor elect and in the event of any member of the council whose term of office in such council would expire by effluxion of time on or before the ninth day of November being elected as Mayor elect he shall continue to be a member of the said council until the expiry of the period of one year after the termination of his office as Mayor".

ALDERMAN SAMUEL AMESS
MAYOR 1869 – 1870

This method of electing the Mayor (and the Lord Mayor) continued in force until the election held on 10 October, 1938 (a Monday, the 9th having been a Sunday). Councillor A.W. Coles was then elected Lord Mayor for the ensuing municipal year and, as Lord Mayor elect, subscribed a declaration of his intention to accept the office of Lord Mayor. He assumed office on 9 November, 1938.

Mayors and Lord Mayors, until 1996, were elected for one year and the option existed for a previous occupant of the position to be re-elected for up to three consecutive terms. In 1996, Ivan Deveson AO, became the first Lord Mayor to be elected for three years under new electoral arrangements resulting from Local Government reforms initiated by the State Government.

OFFICE OF THE LORD MAYOR

By Royal warrant dated 18 December, 1902, His Majesty King Edward VII graciously conferred the title 'Lord Mayor' on the Mayor of the City of Melbourne. This warrant is now displayed on the east wall of the Lord Mayor's Room at the Town Hall. The first recipient of the honour was Sir Samuel Gillot who was then in his third term as Mayor of the City, having been Mayor of Melbourne in 1900–1901 and 1901–1902. From 1842 to 1902 the office of Mayor of Melbourne was held by 42 members.

The office of Mayor of Melbourne was held on seven separate occasions, not in succession, by John Thomas Smith between 1851 and 1863. This is the greatest number of terms of Mayor held by any member of the Council.

Sir David Hennessy held office as Lord Mayor of Melbourne for five successive years from 1912–1913 to 1916–1917. This is the longest period of successive years of office in the history of the City.

THE LORD MAYOR'S CHAIN OF OFFICE

The following information was supplied by Wm. Drummond and Company on 27 July, 1939 –

> "In the year 1884 Wm. Drummond and Co was instructed by the Town Hall Committee, under the leadership of Alderman Bayles, to submit design and quotations for the Mayoral Chain. These designs were submitted through a member of the Drummond's staff, a Mr J. B. Bayles, who started with the firm in 1872 and retired in 1934, after a period of 62 years' continuous service. The work was placed in the hands of the foreman of the factory, the late Henry Young, father of Florence Young, the singer, and the one workman carried this on until his death in 1919, since then it has been in the hands of only one other workman, so that since the inauguration of the Mayoral Chain two men only have been responsible for the workmanship."

The minutes for the meeting of the City Council held on 9 October, 1884, record that: "Alderman Bayles presented to the Corporation a chain of office for the Mayors of the City, subscribed for and manufactured by the desire of the Mayors and ex-Mayors, and with a pendant medallion presented by the Town Clerk. The newly-elected Mayor (Councillor G. D. Carter), on behalf of the Corporation, accepted and acknowledged the gift in fitting terms."

The following inscription appears on the pendant medallion –

> "Presented 9 October, 1884, by Edmund Gerald Fitz-Gibbon, Barrister at Law, Clerk of Committees from 6/3/1854 to 30/6/1856, Thenceforth the Town Clerk."

According to an extract from Jewitt & Hope's Corportion Insignia 1895 it was tradition amongst many important social figures to wear a chain. Whilst the wearing of chains in the eighteenth century ceased to be fashionable, the practice continued amongst certain high ranking officials and community leaders, including many mayors.

The Lord Mayor's Chain is also referred to as the collar and is worn by the Lord Mayor at official functions when official regalia is required. When it was valued in 1993, the chain was made up of 72 oval medallions, six connecting spaces joined with plain oval links all eighteen carat gold, with an approximate total weight of 3 500 grams. Each medallion bears the Coat of Arms of the City of Melbourne and is engraved with the name and the date of one of the Mayors or Lord Mayors. The detachable Fitz-Gibbon oval pendant medallion is also 18 carat yellow gold and bears the Coat of Arms of the City of Melbourne in polychrome enamels on a white ground.

No new medallions have been added to the chain since 1982.

THE CORPORATION SEAL

Armorial bearings (or arms) were first granted to the Corporation by Letters Patent of the College of Heralds dated 30th January, 1940. They were based on the device approved by the Council of the Town of Melbourne on 2 January 1843, for the Common Seal of the Corporation. The seal (engraved by Thomas Ham) was presented to, and formally adopted by, the Council at its first quarterly meeting on 9 February, 1843.

CURRENT AMORIAL BEARINGS OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

The seal device was used from 1843 until 1940 as the arms of the Corporation. It was described in the report submitted to the Council on 2 January, 1843, as follows:

Shields: Argent, St. George's Cross gules surmounted by the regal Crown of Great Britain. Quarterling – Whale, Golden Fleece, Bull, and a Ship Proper.

Crests: Kangaroo demi coupe regardant

Shield: ornamented by wattle branches proper.

The whole encircled by a wreath – The Town of Melbourne incorporated 1842.

Motto: 'Vires Acquiri Eundo'

On the shield and in the arms, the charges on the shield appeared in a slightly different order. The fleece was in the first quarter and the whale in the second, instead of being the other way round.

At its meeting on 9 February, 1843, the Council resolved that the Mayor be instructed to forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies an impression of the Common Seal for Her Majesty's approval, and to request him "to take the necessary steps for the enrolment of the Town Arms in the Heralds' College". However, for some unknown reason, nothing came of this and, as mentioned above, it was not until 1940 that Melbourne obtained a grant of arms from the College of Arms.

The present arms differ from those of 1940 in the following respects:

1. the bull on the shield is in the second quarter instead of the third and the whale is in the third quarter instead of the second, (the two water based charges – the whale and the ship – thus being placed on the same level at the bottom of the shield);

2. in the crest, a gold mural crown has been placed around the base of the demi-kangaroo's body; and

3. supporters, (the two gold lions) have been added.

The supporters are adaptations of the supporters to the arms of Lord Melbourne, Prime Minister of Great Britain, after whom Melbourne was named in 1837. His supporters were two red lions (without any form of crown), each with a gold collar and chain, the collar having on it two, five-pointed, black starts (mullets).

The Letters Patent of 18 March, 1970, also granted to the Corporation a badge, blazoned as "A Fountain charged with a Cross Moline throughout and ensigned by a length of Wall with three crenels Or." The badge forms a rebus (an enigmatic representation of a name by pictures suggesting its syllables) on the place name of Melbourne in Derbyshire, England, from

which Lord Melbourne took his title. The name means 'The Mill Stream', and this is symbolized by the fountain (the heraldic way of water) and the cross moline, so called because the end of each traverse terminates in the form of a millrind (the iron fixed at the centre of a millstone). The length of gold wall – with three open spaces (crenels) between the stones of the top row – placed above the fountain is the equivalent of a mural crown.

The altering of the Corporation's arms (from those of 1940), particularly by the addition of supporters, was first suggested by Horace K. Hall, of North Balwyn, archivist of The Australian and New Zealand Bank Ltd., who had an interest of long standing in heraldry and genealogy. His proposals were developed by officers of the Corporation (in consultation with Mr Hall), with the Richmond Herald of Arms, J.P. Brooks-Little, Esq. M.V.O, M.A, F.S.A., whose valuable help and advice contributed greatly to the determination of the final form of the new arms as depicted in the Letters Patent. It was Mr. Brooke-Little who designed the badge.

In all the lengthy negotiations that culminated in the granting of the new arms, one constant thought was that there should be no radical departure from the form of the arms granted in 1940 and, thus, from the device of the Corporation's original (1843) seal on which the 1940 arms were based. In fact, the new arms are not greatly dissimilar from the 1843 seal. The Cross of St George, the Royal Crown, the charges in the four quarters of the shield, (the fleece, the bull, the whale, and the ship), the demi-kangaroo in the crest and the motto remain subsequently as they were in 1843.

The Seal of the Coat of Arms is still an important emblem representing the elected Council. Its use as a symbol of the Administration has been supplanted by the new Corporate logo which was launched in 1993. This logo has been designed to incorporate four symbols representing the City of Melbourne.

This logo, which can be seen in such places as Council letterhead paper and on Council motor vehicles, has become a widely recognisable symbol representing the city administration.

THE TOWN HALL

Prior to the building of a Town Hall, the Mechanics' Institute in Collins Street (now the Athenaeum) was rented as temporary quarters where the Council carried out its business and affairs. The question of a site for a Town Hall was referred by the Council to its Works Committee. In a report subsequently submitted, the Works Committee recommended that 4.047 hectares (10 acres) of land situated on Eastern Hill which, in part, included the area

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE TOWN HALL

where Parliament House now stands, should be granted to the Corporation as a reserve on which to erect a Town Hall. Superintendent La Trobe, on being consulted, agreed to this.

Dr. A.F.A. Greeves, who was a member of the Council and a man of ability and influence, opposed the proposal and suggested the present site at the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets because of its central position and convenience. Although the Works Committee's recommendations already had been adopted, the resolution was later amended in favour of the site suggested by Dr. Greeves.

The erection of the first Town Hall (a modest brick building) was commenced in 1850 but because of a shortage of labour brought about by gold discoveries in 1851, the building was not completed until 1854. This building was demolished in the mid 1860s and on 29 November 1867, His Royal Highness Alfred Ernst Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, laid the foundation stone for a new Town Hall which was completed in 1870.

The new building was opened officially by his Excellency the Governor of Victoria Lord Viscount Canterbury on 9 August, 1870. The Tower was named 'Prince Alfred's Tower' after the Duke of Edinburgh who, on his second visit to Melbourne in 1869, laid a capital on one of the columns of the Town Hall Clock Tower. The Duke was the first offical guest in the soon to be completed Town Hall.

The portico on the Swanston Street frontage of the building was added in 1887.

THE TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

There was a fire in the main hall on 1 February, 1925, which caused extensive damage. The auditorium was remodelled and enlarged, using an area of land owned by Council and adjoining the Town Hall. The new auditorium was completed in December 1927. The dimensions of the main hall are: length – 28.96 metres (95 feet); width – 32.9 metres (106 feet); and height – 21.34 metres (70 feet). The foyer covers an area of 13.9 metres (43 feet) by 9.14 metres (30 feet). The hall is mechanically heated and ventilated and an elaborate system of lighting is installed. The seating capacity is 2 492 – 1 698 in the main floor and 794 in the balcony.

In redecorating the auditorium after the fire, one of the major concerns was to ensure the provision of satisfactory acoustics, and the solution was to treat the walls with 'Celotex' panels. Due to the absorptive nature of this material, they could not be sized or painted as such treatment would have interfered with their acoustic qualities. Accordingly, in view of the

need to preserve as large an area of the Celotex as possible without any treatment, the conventional line decoration was adopted which enabled all but a very small portion of the panels to remain uncoloured.

The figures used in the design are approximately four times life size, in keeping with the scale of the Town Hall. The subjects of the panels are not allegorical, mythological or descriptive, as decoration was the first consideration and the lines were designed according to the proportion of the panels. Consideration was given to the depiction of the subjects such as the founding of Melbourne and its early development, but this proposal was not favoured as the designs were not suitable to the limitations of the Celotex.

The work was carried out by Mervyn Napier Waller, in conjunction with J Oliver and Sons, under contract granted to Massey and Sons Pty. Ltd. for the interior decoration of the Town Hall.

THE TOWN HALL CLOCK TOWER

THE TOWN HALL CLOCK

The Town Hall clock was made by Smith and Sons of London and was presented by Vallange Condell, the son of the first Mayor of Melbourne, to the Council on 7 September, 1874. The clock is situated in Prince Alfred's Tower and was set going on 31 August, 1874. It has a diameter of 2.44 metres (8 feet), and the hands are made of copper, 1.19 metres (3 feet 10 inches) in length and weighing 8.85 kilograms (19.5 pounds).

THE TOWN HALL ORGAN

There have been only two permanent Grand Organs installed in the Town Hall since 1872, but the original organ was quite extensively rebuilt in 1905 and is generally regarded as being additional to the first organ. The actual second organ was installed in 1929 following the Town Hall fire of 1925.

The 1872 Organ
Despite the fact that arrangements had been made for the construction and installation of a Grand Organ in 1869, the makers were unable to install it in time for the official opening of the then new Town Hall on 9 August, 1870. A 17-stop organ, which only recently had been installed in a lecture room in Richmond, was borrowed and used until the installation and opening of the Grand Organ on 10th August, 1872.

This organ was built and installed by William Hill and Son of London. The various organ parts packed in a great number of cases (which were later sold by the builder to recoup part of the losses on the tender) arrived in Melbourne on 27 November, 1871, after a 56-day journey from London on the 'Lammermuir'.

Under the skillful guidance of Robert Mackenzie of William Hill and Son and D. Renton, the organ was installed into the recess intended, in the northern part of the Hall. This work took nine months to complete.

The organ contained four manuals, 66 speaking stops and 4 373 pipes.

The organ was opened formally on 10th August, 1872 by the Mayor, Orlando Fenwick, in the presence of the Governor of Victoria, Lord Viscount Canterbury and Lady Canterbury. The organist for the opening was David Lee, who was later appointed City Organist.

George Fincham, the builder of the temporary organ used prior to 1872, carried out various repairs and maintenance of the organ until the early 1900s. Then the Council decided to undertake a major re-construction of the organ to improve the action and tonal qualities of the instrument.

The 1906 Organ
After consulting leading overseas and local organ-building experts, a contract was entered into with Ingram and Co.(who prepared the specification) for the complete reconstruction of the organ on the electro-pneumatic principle, including the provision of a new console. In addition, a number of new stops were installed and all necessary alterations and repairs to the wind trunks, sound board, etc., were carried out.
Edwin H. Lemare of London gave the opening recital on the 'new' organ on 4 July, 1906.

Visually, the organ still retained its appearance of 1872, apart from some variations in ornamentation and the position of the console. The alterations to the choir seating were perhaps the most noticeable feature of the stage and organ arrangement.

On 1 February, 1925, the organ and a large part of the Main Hall were destroyed by fire.

The 1929 Organ
Following the fire, the Council resolved in late 1925 to rebuild the Main Hall and install a new Grand Organ. A comprehensive specification of work, dated 30th April, 1926, invited tenders throughout Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom for the supply, delivery and installation of a modern Grand Organ in the Town Hall.

The tender of William Hill and Son and Norman and Beard Ltd., of London, was accepted.

The opening recital on the new Grand Organ was given by W. G. Price, the City Organist, on 3 July, 1929.

This organ, which is still a predominant feature of the Town Hall, today stands 9.75 metres (32 feet) high. The casework of the organ is constructed of rich-grained Queensland maple with coin-bronze grilles. More than 483 kilometres (300 miles) of wire and over 3 000 magnets with 32 000 electric contacts were used in the electrical equipment. There are 6 024 pipes, the largest being the 'Tibia Profunda', a large pedal flute 9.75 metres

THE 1929 ORGAN

(32 feet) long with a girth of 2.95 metres (9 feet 8 inches). The organ was constructed of California red pine and contains over 1 000 metres (300 super feet) of 30/8 mm (2 inches) thick timber.

The smallest pipe is the top note of the Tierce and is 9.3 mm (3/8 inch) in length with a diameter of 11.11 mm (7/16 inch).

The console has four manuals (i.e., four rows of keys) from top to bottom being: Solo, Swell, Great and Choir. The Orchestral is a floating organ and is playable on all manuals by way of a rocking tablet on the key cheek of each set of keys.

The organ is blown by two electric motors, one 14.91 kilowatts (20 horsepower) and one 11.18 kilowatts (15 horsepower) and gives pressures from 215.900 mm (8 Ω inches) to 7 010.400 mm (23 Ω inches) water pressure as measured by a water pressure gauge. The wind is delivered at a rate of 2 548.53 cubic metres (90 000 cubic feet) per minute.

The following is a synopsis of the 6 024 pipes comprising the organ:

Great	1 528	Solo	851
Swell	1 382	Orchestral	706
Choir	671	Pedal	886

On 11th September, 1972, a Grand Organ Music Concert was held to celebrate a centenary of organ music concerts at the Town Hall. The four soloists on this historic occasion were Anthony Fenelon, Gordon Hamilton, Lance Hardy and Dr. Harold Fabrikant.

The organ stands as one of the most significant features of the Town Hall and has been listed by Heritage Victoria. Renowned organ builder, Jack Bethards (President and Tonal Director of the Schoenstein & Company Organ Builders, San Francisco) described it as an instrument "which has the potential of being one of the finest Late English Romantic Concert Organs in the World". Unfortunately, by the mid 1990s the Town Hall Organ had fallen into disrepair and was greatly in need of refurbishing. Financial constraints in the past had prevented any major work being carried out on it for some time so that by 1997 the organ was, in fact, unplayable.

In acknowledgment of the significance of the organ along with a desire to see the organ once more contribute to the cultural life of the city, a working committee was established in 1996 called the Town Hall Organ Working Committee. The committee aimed to make recommendations in regard to the restoration and enhancement of the organ and worked in consultation with a member of the Grand Organ Committee and other interested parties. In 1997, the City of Melbourne, in response to the committee's recommendations, agreed to the commencement of a refurbishment and enhancement program.

THE TOWN HALL ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS AND COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Administrative block adjoining the Town Hall occupies the site of the old City Court and was purchased by the Council from the State Government in 1890. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Sir Henry Weedon, laid the foundation stone on 27 August, 1908.

The Administrative Building contains the Council Chamber and Committee Rooms and once accommodated many Council Departments.

The Council Chamber itself is situated on the second floor of the Town Hall Administrative Building. The decorative design is in the First-Italian-English-Renaissance style of the period 1500-1800. Competitive designs were submitted and the successful architects were Grainger, Kennedy and Yulle. The work was carried out under the direction of the then City Architect (H. E. Morton) by an outside contractor, R. Stockdale.

All dadoes, doors, architraves, and the gallery are constructed of solid Australian (Tasmanian) blackwood, embellished with fiddle-back panels and elaborate carving. The semi-circular tiered seating and chairs also are made of Australian blackwood.

Borenore marble from New South Wales, in solid blocks, has been used for the pillars with King Edward marble, also from New South Wales, used for the windows. Caps and bases, in each case, are of bronze.

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Council's former Coat of Arms, with the motto 'Vires Acquirit Eundo' (we gather strength as we go), is carved on each balcony front and also forms the decorative feature to the leaded-glass, dome and windows. This Coat of Arms is slightly different from the latest version.

The Lord Mayor's chair, kidney shaped tables, long tables and stools, are of moulded and carved cedar. Walls are of plaster with elaborate perforated fibrous plaster coffered ceiling, coloured and scrumbled.

The mallet used by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh is displayed in a glass case on a blackwood pedestal, at the rear of the Lord Mayor's chair. This mallet was used in the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Town Hall ceremony on 29 November, 1867.

The Melbourne Town Hall and Administrative Offices have been the subject of extensive renovations during the 1980s and 1990s. The development of the Front Desk reception area has resulted in a relaxed customer-friendly entrance for anyone who enters the Town Hall and is a contrast to the rather austere and formal outward appearance of the building. Further redevelopment has meant the challenge of updating the Town Hall to meet public needs into the 21 Century and beyond without compromising the building's historic integrity and its character. Starting with the restoration of the stonework on the exterior of the building, the facilities throughout have been upgraded and several new rooms opened up for community and commercial use. This has resulted in this important architectural landmark resuming its place as the hub of cultural and civic activity for the people of Melbourne.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF WARDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY

Act 6 Victoria No. 7 (12th August, 1842), which incorporated the inhabitants of the Town of Melbourne, defined the extent of the Town (the Parish of North Melbourne, and the suburb of Newtown or Collingwood) as the area encompassed by the following boundaries:

> North-Eastern prolongation of Victoria Street, Nicholson Street, Alexandra Parade, (Fitzroy), Smith Street, (Collingwood) and Victoria Parade
>
> East   –   Hoddle Street
>
> South   –   Yarra River, (old course before straightening in vicinity of Olympic Park)
>
> West   –   Southern prolongation of Boundary Road, (North Melbourne)

The internal ward boundaries remained the same to give four wards: Bourke (north-west), Gipps (north-east), La Trobe (south-east) and Lonsdale (south-west).

In 1844, the Town boundaries were extended considerably by Act 8 Victoria No. 12 (19 December, 1844). The new boundaries were as follows:

North	–	Brunswick Road, (Brunswick)
East	–	Merri Creek, Alexandra Parade, (Fitzroy), Smith Street, (Collingwood), Hoddle Street, Punt Road and Barkly Street, (St Kilda)
West	–	Southern prolongation of Boundary Road, (North Melbourne), Boundary Road and Moonee Ponds Creek

The internal ward boundaries were merely prolonged to the new Town boundaries to increase the sizes of the four wards.

Act 6 Victoria No. 7 also imposed on the Mayor a duty to set up "permanent and conspicuous boundary marks of iron, wood, stone or other durable material" along or near the line of the Town's boundaries. Also within a period of six calendar months after the expiration of every successive period of three years thereafter, a circuit of perambulation of the metes and bounds of the said town was to be made by the Mayor and the Town Clerk, to ensure that the boundaries remained unaltered.

The first full "perambulation of the metes and bounds" was undertaken by Mayor James Frederick Palmer and Town Clerk John Charles King on 4 February, 1846. At that time, the town boundaries stretched from Point Ormond in a line directly up Punt Road to the Yarra River, east along the Yarra to Merri Creek, along the creek to a line running east and west equivalent to Brunswick Road, to the Moonee Ponds Creek, south along the creek to Flemington Bridge and then almost due south to a point on Hobson's Bay, just west of where Princes Pier now stands.

In 1850, a new ward was appointed under the name of Fitzroy Ward. It comprised that part of the present-day City of Fitzroy south of Alexandra Parade.

Hotham Ward was appointed in 1855. Its boundaries were Brunswick Road, Royal Parade, Elizabeth Street, Victoria Street, the southern prolongation of Boundary Road and Boundary Road.

Later in 1855, parts of La Trobe Ward and Lonsdale Ward were severed to form the Municipal District of Emerald Hill (South Melbourne).

In 1856, Smith Ward was formed from the northern and north-eastern parts of Gipps Ward. Later that year, Macarthur Ward (all that part of the City south of the Yarra River between the Municipal District of Emerald Hill and the western boundary of the City) was formed.

Early in 1857, parts of La Trobe Ward and Smith Ward (except the Corporation Quarry Reserve in what is now Clifton Hill) were severed for an extension of the Municipal District of East Collingwood. In February of the same year, parts of La Trobe and Lonsdale Ward were

severed for an extension of the Municipal District of St.Kilda and part of Macarthur Ward for an extension of the Municipal District of Emerald Hill.

In 1857, a five-chain strip along the northern boundary of the City was severed (parts of Hotham and Smith Wards) for an extension of the Municipal District of Brunswick. Early in 1858, a small part of La Trobe Ward (half the width of Punt Road) was transferred to the Municipal District of Prahran.

By Act 21 Victoria No. 11 (27 August, 1857) the Cattle Market and Abattoir Reserves at Doutta Galla were deemed to be within and to form part of the City.

In September 1858, the Fitzroy Ward was severed to form the Municipal District of Fitzroy. In September 1859, all that part of Hotham Ward to the south and west of Flemington Road and Elizabeth Street was severed to form the Municipal District of Hotham.

The remainder of Macarthur Ward was severed in 1860 to form part of the newly constituted Municipal District of Sandridge (Port Melbourne). A few weeks later, part of Smith Ward was severed for an extension of the Municipal District of Fitzroy.

In November 1869, Albert Ward and Victoria Ward were appointed from parts of La Trobe Ward and Smith Ward respectively.

Part of the Borough of Footscray (the West Melbourne swamp lands) was united with the City in 1894.

The Municipal Districts of the Town of North Melbourne and the Borough of Flemington and Kensington were united with the City in October 1905 and constituted and formed into Hopetoun Ward.

In 1917, a small part of the municipal district of the City of Brunswick was united with the City.

In 1946, the Corporation Quarry Reserve in Clifton Hill was annexed to the City of Collingwood.

From 1905 until 1939, the City was divided into eight wards: Albert, Bourke, Gipps, Hopetoun, La Trobe, Lonsdale, Smith and Victoria.

Coincident with the coming into operation of the Melbourne and Geelong Corporation Act 1938, the City was resubdivided from 1 October, 1939, into 11 Wards: Albert, Batman, Bourke, Gipps, Hoddle, Hopetoun, Hotham, La Trobe, Lonsdale, Smith and Victoria. Each ward continued to be represented by three councillors (i.e., 33 councillors in all). The office of alderman was abolished.

As a result of an inquiry and a recommendation by the Local Government Advisory Board in 1978, the municipal district, by Order in Council 27 February, 1979, was resubdivided into

eight wards with effect from 19 May 1979. These eight wards were: Albert, Bourke, Gipps, Hopetoun, La Trobe, Lonsdale, Smith and Victoria. Another change in the ward structure which took effect from 1982 onward, saw the creation of seven wards which were: Central, East, Hotham, Park, Princes, West, and University.

The City of Melbourne Act (1993) specified changes to Municipal Boundaries which saw the City of Melbourne gain areas south of the Yarra River including Southbank and the Victorian Arts Centre. The area of North Carlton became part of the newly formed City of Yarra which incorporated the old Cities of Richmond, Fitzroy, and Collingwood. The City of Melbourne is currently divided into four wards. These wards are Flagstaff, University, Hoddle, and Domain.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS AT THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

Under the provision of the Local Government (City of Melbourne) Act 1981 (No. 9525) the Lord Mayor and Councillors went out of office on 6 May, 1981. Three Commissioners were appointed:

Peter Thorley (Chairman)

Neil Smith

Richard Allston

These Commissioners were replaced by elected Councillors in 1982. In a reflection of the turbulent times afflicting local government in Victoria during the 1990s, the City once again came under the reign of Commissioner under the provisions of the City of Melbourne Act (1993). The four Commissioners were appointed in November, 1993, as part of State Government reforms to local government in Victoria. The Commissioners were:

Kevan Gosper AO (Chief Commissioner)

Professor John Rose (Deputy Chief Commissioner)

Catherine Walter

Kevin Rose

In March 1996 these Commissioners were replaced by elected Councillors. The new council was comprised of nine elected councillors and the Lord Mayor. Four Councillors were elected from the four wards and the other five were elected from the entire City of Melbourne. Ivan Deveson AO was elected as the Lord Mayor and in contrast to the yearly terms served by previous Lord Mayors, the new Lord Mayor was elected to serve a three-year term.

SECTION OF B.I.B.S. MAP

VIRES · ACQUIRIT · EUNDO