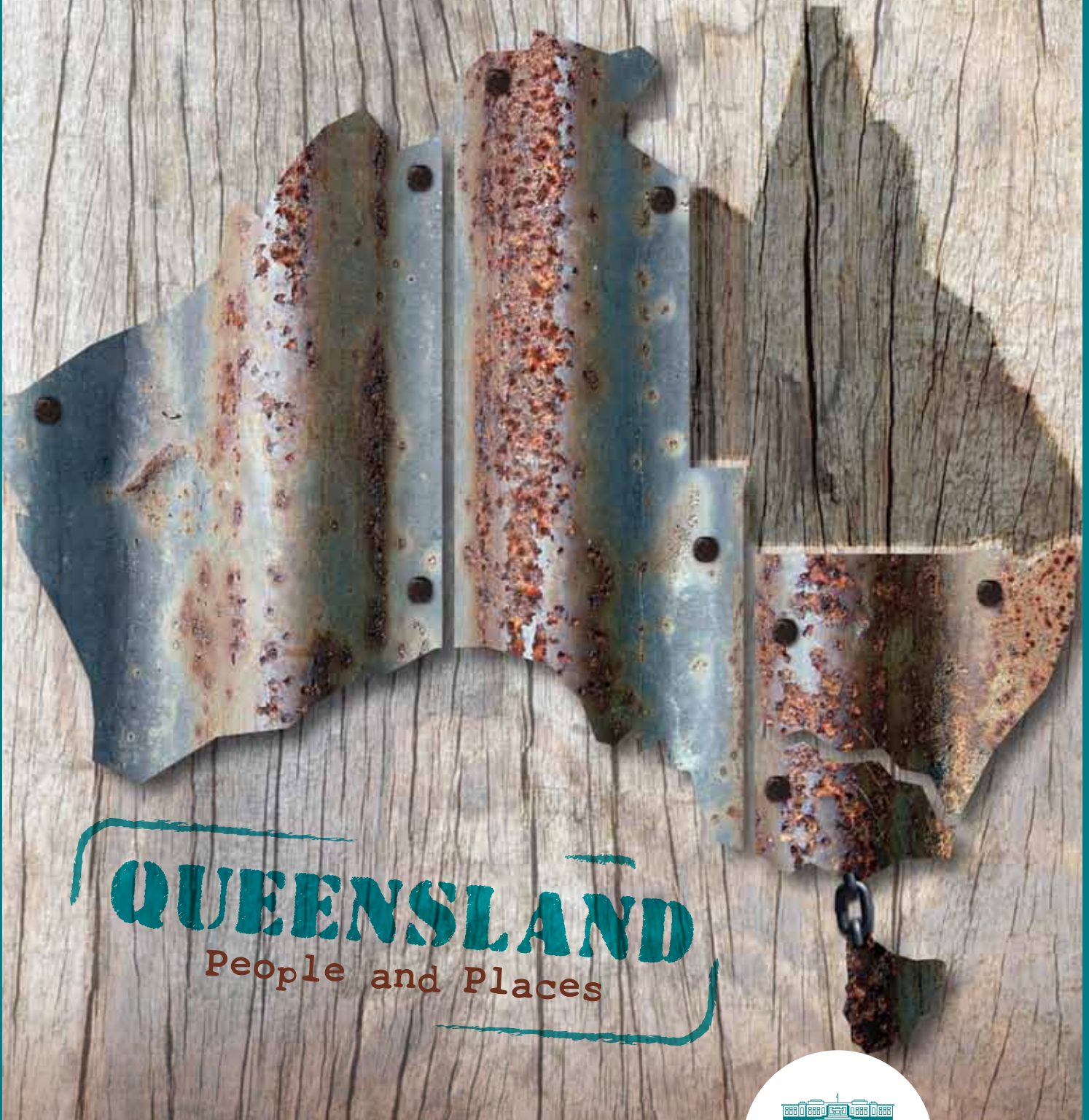


GETTING IT TOGETHER

From Colonies to Federation



QUEENSLAND
People and Places



MUSEUM
OF AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRACY

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

INVESTIGATIONS OF
AUSTRALIA'S JOURNEY
TO NATIONHOOD
FOR THE MIDDLE
YEARS CLASSROOM

MOAD
LEARNING

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PO Box 177

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Australia

Tel: (03) 9207 9600

Fax: (03) 9910 9800

Email: info@curriculum.edu.au

Website: www.curriculum.edu.au

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PO Box 7088

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Tel: (02) 6270 8222

Fax: (02) 6270 8111

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Edited by Katharine Sturak and Zoe Naughten

Designed by Deanna Vener

People and Places






From the 1860s to the early 1890s, Queensland had laid the foundations for a prosperous colony. Agricultural industries had been established and gold mining had played an important part in developing the colony. Britons made up the largest percentage of migrants, followed by Germans. Non-Europeans in Queensland had also made their contributions under more difficult conditions, and to a greater extent, than in any other Australian colony.

Brisbane was the colony's proud capital and commercial centre, developed through the wealth of sheep and cattle farmers, called pastoralists. Large homes were built on the banks of the Brisbane River for merchants, lawyers, stockbrokers and government administrators. The homes of domestic servants and workers on the wharfs and in the factories, however, were sometimes little more than shanties. *The Brisbane Courier*, the town's major newspaper, carried the news and opinion of the colony, and told of the comings and goings of prominent people in its detailed shipping and overland travel lists.

In an area as large as Europe, distance was playing a part in shaping the character of the colony. The sugar plantations of Mackay were almost a thousand kilometres north of Brisbane, while the mining communities of Charters Towers to the west were even further. In a parliament dominated by 'southerners', the cattlemen, plantation owners and miners felt ignored and neglected. They began to think of forming one or two more colonies, and separating from the south.

Other problems also threatened the achievements of the colony. Economic depression and then a drought in the 1890s troubled those in government. The defeat of the Shearers' Strike in 1891 encouraged workers to band together for better wages and conditions and to strive for representation in the Queensland Parliament. They also wanted a fairer parliament in which workers and not just the rich were represented.

Investigations

-  1. What was life like on the land in Queensland in the late 1800s?
-  2. Why were workers from the South Pacific Islands important to Queensland's development?
-  3. What were the characteristics of Queensland's mining communities in the late 1800s?
-  4. Why did workers want fairer voting for the Queensland Parliament in the 1890s?
-  5. Who were some of the political leaders in the colony of Queensland in the late 1800s?

INVESTIGATION 1

What was life like on the land in Queensland in the late 1800s?

Much of Queensland's wealth came from the land. In the early years of the colony, squatters set out to occupy vast areas, often forcing the Indigenous people from their country in violent struggles. Not only did the squatters control large sheep and cattle stations, they employed many people, such as drovers, shearers and domestic servants. Surrounding towns depended on the stations to use their processing factories, port facilities and other services.

Rural life was often difficult, with farming families having to withstand years of floods

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 1

- list: station supplies
- extract: *On Our Selection* by Steele Rudd
- photographs: dwellings in rural Queensland

or drought. Farmers who came after the squatters, usually did not have enough resources to see them through the lean times. And, some were forced to sell their farms, move to town or become labourers for bigger landowners. The lives of these small farm owners inspired Arthur Hoey Davis, who published his stories under the name Steele Rudd. He wrote *On Our Selection*, a serialised story of farming life on the Darling Downs, which appeared in *The Bulletin* magazine in the late 1890s.

Examine texts about rural Queensland in the 1800s, and find out about the kind of people who lived there during that time.

Your task

Activities

1. In pairs, explore the list of station supplies and consider the following questions.

- What kind of work might I & R Lawson do?
- What kinds of goods are being requested?
- Are the quantities of goods being requested small or large?
- What evidence is there that I & R Lawson are responsible for other people?
- What might these other people do for I & R Lawson?

2. With your partner, examine the extract from *On Our Selection* by Steele Rudd and consider the following questions.

- Using one word, how would you describe the family's house?
- Do you think they had a difficult or easy life to look forward to? Why?
- What evidence is there in the extract that this family have 'made a go of it' on their farm or 'selection'?

- Would this family have written a list of purchases like the one by I & R Lawson? Justify your answer.

3. Examine the photographs of the two houses in southern Queensland in the 1800s. Match the texts you have explored to the photographs. Explain to another pair why you matched the particular extract to the particular photograph.

4. Do one of the following tasks.

- As a 19th century traveller in Queensland, write a diary entry about the responsibility of being a 'squatter' or owning a sheep station.
- Create a cartoon or act out an encounter that depicts the differences between life on a large sheep station and life on a small family farm.

5. As a class, discuss why someone might choose the life of a small farmer, instead of working for a wealthy landowner in Queensland in the 1800s.

INVESTIGATION 2

Why were workers from the South Pacific Islands important to Queensland's development?

The tropical areas of Queensland around Mackay, Bundaberg and Cairns were suitable for the cultivation of sugar cane, and large plantations were established. Sugar was exported to the other Australian colonies where it was used in a variety of products, including sweets.

In order to compete with the sugar imports from places such as Fiji, Queensland's sugar cane growers needed a source of cheap labour. The work of clearing the land and cultivating the cane in the heat and humidity was considered too difficult for 'white men'. So, the plantation owners imported people from the South Pacific Islands, in particular New Caledonia, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. These Polynesian people were brought to Queensland as indentured labourers, meaning that they were the responsibility of the plantation owner for a fixed period of time, usually three years. They were paid at the end of their service, and then returned to their islands.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 2

- extract: newspaper
- photograph: South Pacific Islander workers
- extracts: about Polynesian labour

Your task

Investigate the working conditions of South Pacific Islander workers, and their significance to the Queensland sugar cane industry.

Activities

1. In groups of four, read the article about Bingera Plantation. List the kinds of work that you might have seen on a sugar plantation in north Queensland in the late 1800s. Work together to create a poster of the types of work. Label the jobs to indicate whether they could be done by people or machines or both.
2. Examine the photograph. What kinds of work do you imagine the South Pacific Islanders would be doing on a sugar plantation? What do you think is the job of the man in the top section of the photograph? On your posters, tick all the jobs that you imagine would have been done by South Pacific Islander workers.
3. Read the three text extracts about Polynesian labour. Complete a group chart outlining the 'plus, minus and interesting' facts relating to South Pacific Islander workers in Queensland in the late 1800s.
4. In your group, brainstorm ways in which you might have changed the working conditions of South Pacific Islanders in Queensland in the 1800s. Present your ideas to the class.
5. As a class, discuss whether the South Pacific Islander workers would have continued to be important to the sugar plantation owners if their conditions had been different.

INVESTIGATION 3

What were the characteristics of Queensland's mining communities in the late 1800s?

Gold was discovered in Queensland in the 1800s, which encouraged the rapid settlement of the colony. Gold was discovered in the south of Queensland, at Gympie, in 1867. Later gold discoveries, in areas such as Charters Towers and Croydon, led to the opening up of the north of the colony for settlement.

Not only did gold make the colony wealthy, it also gave rise to new communities that were very different to the pastoral and plantation communities. Gold discoveries usually led to 'chaotic' rushes to the places where it was found. Would-be diggers staked their claim and attempted to find as much surface gold as possible. Depending on the size of the find, miners would come from all over the continent and even other parts of the world. The populations of the towns near the

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 3

- extracts: accounts of life on the goldfields – Gympie and Cape River
- photograph: Gympie
- extract: newspaper
- photograph: Chinese miner
- illustration: Chinese miners
- extract: petition to the Queensland Parliament

diggings would grow overnight, not only because of the miners, but because of those who provided the services that the miners needed.

Your task

Examine the mining communities in Queensland in the 1800s, and their contribution to the development of the colony.

Activities

1. As a class, read the descriptions of life on the goldfields. Use a Venn diagram to compare the similarities and differences between the two settlements. Which settlement is being described shortly after the discovery of gold? Justify your answer.
2. Examine the photograph of Gympie in 1898. Write a short paragraph describing what you see. Mention any differences between it and the way the settlement is described in the extract.
3. Many Chinese miners came to Queensland. With others in your class, read 'The Chinese invasion' and look at the photograph of the Chinese miner. How do you think the author feels about the Chinese miners? What are his main concerns?

How does the photograph confirm his concerns? What does he imagine may happen in the future?

4. Read the 'Petition to the Queensland Parliament' and look at the illustration. What do 'The Chinese invasion' and the petition have in common? Are the arguments convincing? What do you think are the writer's and illustrator's real motivations? What arguments can you make to challenge their view?
5. In small groups, research and create a class presentation on one of the following topics.
 - The advantages and disadvantages of the gold discoveries in Queensland in the 1800s.
 - The impact of people from all over the world being attracted to the Australian goldfields in the 1800s.

INVESTIGATION 4

Why did workers want fairer voting for the Queensland Parliament in the 1890s?

When Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859, only men who owned property or paid rent were allowed to vote for the new Parliament. The property qualification was removed in 1872, and all white men received the right to vote. However, those who owned property could vote in all the electorates in which they held property. This form of voting was called 'plural voting', meaning that some wealthy people could vote more than once. This advantaged the rich, such as pastoralists, sugar planters and mine owners. Workers who moved around the colony could not vote because they were not resident in one place for long enough.

Workers wanted this form of voting abolished. They called for 'one-man-one-vote'. They knew that they would never be able to change the laws and their working conditions unless they were represented fairly in Parliament. This was the lesson of the Shearers' Strike in 1891, when shearers refused to keep working for the pastoralists until they had fairer working conditions.

Workers also supported organisations such as the Queensland Women's Suffrage Association and the Women's Equal Franchise Association, which campaigned for women's right to vote. Women such as Emma Miller knew that the right to vote would improve women's working conditions, as well as their lives generally. It was also a stepping stone for women standing for Parliament in their own right.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 4

- extracts: voting

Your task

Explore the fairness of the voting system in Queensland in the 1890s.

Activities

1. With your class, brainstorm what you know about enrolling to vote in your State or for the Commonwealth Parliament. In particular, think about who is able to vote, and record the criteria they have to fulfil.
2. Compare the results of your brainstorm to the enrolment qualifications on the Australian Electoral Commission's website www.aec.gov.au/FAQs/Enrolment.htm. Add any that you missed. Discuss with your classmates whether the enrolment qualifications are fair.
3. In pairs, examine Anthony Trollope's description of enrolment qualifications for the Queensland Parliament in the early 1870s. How are they different from today? Do you think they are fair and reasonable? Justify your response.
4. Examine the extract by William Lane. He was a leader among the workers in Queensland and edited *The Worker* newspaper. In 1891, men who owned property could still vote in every electorate where they had property. As a class, discuss the following questions.
 - What does Lane mean by the slogan 'one-man-one-vote'?
 - Why is it important to him?
 - Who does he say opposes it?
 - Why do these people oppose it?
 - What does he think about women having the right to vote?
5. In pairs, create a class presentation explaining how and why you would have changed Queensland enrolment qualifications in the early 1870s and the 1890s. What would have been the consequences of these changes?

INVESTIGATION 5

Who were some of the political leaders in the colony of Queensland in the late 1800s?

When Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859, it had established its own parliament to make laws for the new colony. As the colony grew, people in the north, including workers and women felt that their interests were not represented in the Parliament, which was dominated by the pastoralists and business people from the south. Miners and sugar planters, workers, and then women started to organise to make their voices heard by government. With the exception of women, all of these groups would find representation in the Parliament by the end of the century.

Forming organisations, campaigning for causes and standing for elections requires leadership skills, commitment and motivation. There were many people in colonial Queensland politics that had such qualities. Some of them even represented the Queensland Parliament in intercolonial conferences and at the first Federal Convention in 1891. Conventions were held to decide how Federation would work and what responsibilities a new Federal Parliament would have.

Queenslanders had to decide whether or not to support Federation, and many organisations campaigned to influence people's opinions.

YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 5


- biographies: Sir Samuel Griffith, Emma Miller, Anderson Dawson, John Macrossan

Your task

Investigate the lives of political figures in Queensland in the late 1800s, including their values, motivations and leadership qualities.

Activities

1. As a class, brainstorm a list of values and qualities that make a good leader.
2. In groups of four, choose a biography of one of the prominent Queenslanders of the late 1880s each. List the most significant facts and events in the life of your subject. Place these in a flow chart.
3. In your groups, discuss the values and qualities that were important in your subject's life. You might do this by assigning values or characteristics to the decisions and events in their life. Reflect this information in your flow chart. Explain your choice of values to the members of your group.
4. Combine with another group, and compare the life, values and characteristics of your respective subjects. What do they have in common, and what are their differences?
5. Create a class presentation of the values and characteristics that you think were important to the achievements of each of your subjects during their lives in colonial Queensland in the late 1800s. In your presentation, include a description of the kind of world they lived in, and the questions you would have wanted to ask them if you had the opportunity.



What are you thinking now?

Now that you have completed the investigations in People and Places, use your knowledge to explore connections to your life today. Do one or more of the following activities.

- 1.** Leadership can take many forms and may even depend on the kind of situation or challenge presented. Who are the leaders you most admire? What qualities do they show? Create a collage poster, poem or a rap to show how your favourite leader demonstrates these qualities.
- 2.** In consultation with your teacher, host a 'Leadership Day'. Invite important leaders in your community to visit the school and discuss the qualities of good leadership.
- 3.** Expecting to be treated fairly and without discrimination is a right of all people. Can you think of situations in your community or your school where that might not have happened? Design a class presentation in which you highlight those situations, and provide fair solutions to those problems.
- 4.** For your next class or student council elections, design qualifications for enrolment, and consider the following questions.
 - Why have you chosen the criteria that you have?
 - Do you think your criteria are fair? Why?
 - Why do think there are qualifications for enrolling to vote?

RESOURCE SHEET 1

List of supplies for the station

from I & R Lawson to EB Uhr

We will require very little supplies from Sydney this season to keep the station going, as the store is now well fitted with the principal articles requiring sugar and flour.

½ ton salt	1 doz. duck trousers
2 tea chests	3 doz. pairs mole skin trousers
2 tins coffee/ say 4 lbs.	2 doz. pairs cord trousers
3 boxes soap/each 1 cwt.	2 doz. pairs tweed trousers
15 gallons rum/blood quality	4 doz. Guernsey shirts assorted
4 cases Pale Brandy	2 doz. Guernsey frocks assorted
2 casks porter/each 4 doz.	4 doz. silk pocket handkerchiefs
2 casks ale/each 4 doz.	2 doz. silk neck handkerchiefs
1 octave sherry wine	1 doz. piece calico/stout
1 small bottle essence of lemon	½ doz. lambs wool flannel shirts
1 small bottle essence of peppermint	3 doz. pairs strong boots for shepherds
½ doz. quires letter paper	2 bottles Castor Oil
½ doz. note paper with envelopes to correspond	1 box tobacco papers
a little blotting paper	4 doz. Pickles pints/best quality
	2 doz. sauces/best quality

A & R Lawson, Boondooma, to Messrs Gilchrist, Watts & Co., Sydney 18 January 1855,
Boondooma Station Correspondence, John Oxley Library, Brisbane.

On Our Selection

It's twenty years ago now since we settled on the Creek. Twenty years! I remember well the day we came from Stanthorpe, on Jerome's dray - eight of us, and all the things - beds, tubs, a bucket, the two cedar chairs with the pine bottoms and backs ...

Dad didn't travel with us: he had gone some months before, to put up the house and dig the waterhole. It was a slabbed house, with shingled roof, and space enough for two rooms; but the partition wasn't up. The floor was earth; but Dad had a mixture of sand and fresh cow-dung, which he used to keep it level. About once every month he would put it on; and everyone had to keep outside that day till it was dry. There were no locks on the doors; pegs were put in to keep them fast at night; and the slabs were not very close together, for we could easily see through them anybody coming on horseback. Joe and I used to play at counting the stars through the cracks in the roof ...

No mistake, it was a real wilderness - nothing but trees, "goannas", dead timber ... and the nearest house - Dwyers - three miles away ...

Whenever there came a short drought the waterhole was sure to run dry; then it was take turns to carry water from the springs ... and talk about a drag! ... none of us liked carrying water.

Steele Rudd (Arthur Hoey Davis), *On Our Selection*, 1899.

Family outside farmhouse, Queensland, 1870



Family and farmhouse, c 1870, Richard Daintree, State Library of Queensland, 22161.

Jimbour Station, Darling Downs, Queensland, 1880



The House, Jimbour, 1880, Hume Photograph Collection, University of Queensland (Fryer Library), Image 126.

RESOURCE SHEET 2

The Bingera Plantation

It is our pleasing duty to announce the completion of Messrs Gibson and Howes sugar factory at Bingera Plantation. This magnificent estate is situated some twelve miles from Bundaberg ...

Between 1883 and 1885 they have cleared and planted many hundreds of acres, erected a splendid sugar mill, a sawmill, expensive water pumping machinery, a railway, a tramway, erected 22 substantial buildings, put up several miles of fencing, and possess about three miles of portable rail for cane haulage ...

An evening festival in celebration of the completion of the mill, was held by invitation in the large sugar house. The company, which included all the white employees, seventy-five in all, with their wives and families, all settlers residing in the neighbourhood, and several visitors from Bundaberg, were banquetted in a most lavish style.

Bundaberg and Mount Perry Mail, 13 October 1885.

South Pacific Islander workers in Cairns, 1890



Group of South Sea Islander workers on a property in Cairns c 1890, State Library of Queensland, APO-025-0001-0013.

Statement on the general question of Polynesian labour

... sold at the island by the chiefs and bought by white men and sold a second time at our wharves in Brisbane, Maryborough, Rockhampton, and Mackay. Our newspapers contained advertisements that the injured helpless creatures could be bought on application to agents. They were carried by our steamers, not as passengers, but as freight, like horses, cattle, and sheep. They had a market price; were quoted at so much a head ... They were, in fact, merchandise.

William Brookes, Select Committee on the General Question of Polynesian Labour, Queensland, *Votes and Proceedings* 3, 1876, pp 3–5.

Cheap labour

A cheap and reliable source of labour is at present an indispensable condition to the profitable cultivation of sugar.

JY Walker, *History of Bundaberg*, Bundaberg, 1890.

Imported labour

But without imported labour I doubt whether Queensland sugar can be grown. I found the cost to the sugar planter of these Polynesians to be about £75 per head for the whole term of three years – which was divided as follows:–

Journey out and back ...

Average cost of getting the man up to the station

Wages for three years

Rations (3s 9d. a week, say for three years)

Blankets, clothes, etc.

For lost time by illness, etc. (say)

This amounts to nearly 10s. a week for the entire time. The average wages of a white man on a plantation may be taken at about 25s. a week, including rations. I was told by more than one sugar-grower that two islanders were worth three white men among the canes.

Anthony Trollope, *Australia and New Zealand*, Chapman & Hall, Robertson, 1873.

RESOURCE SHEET 3

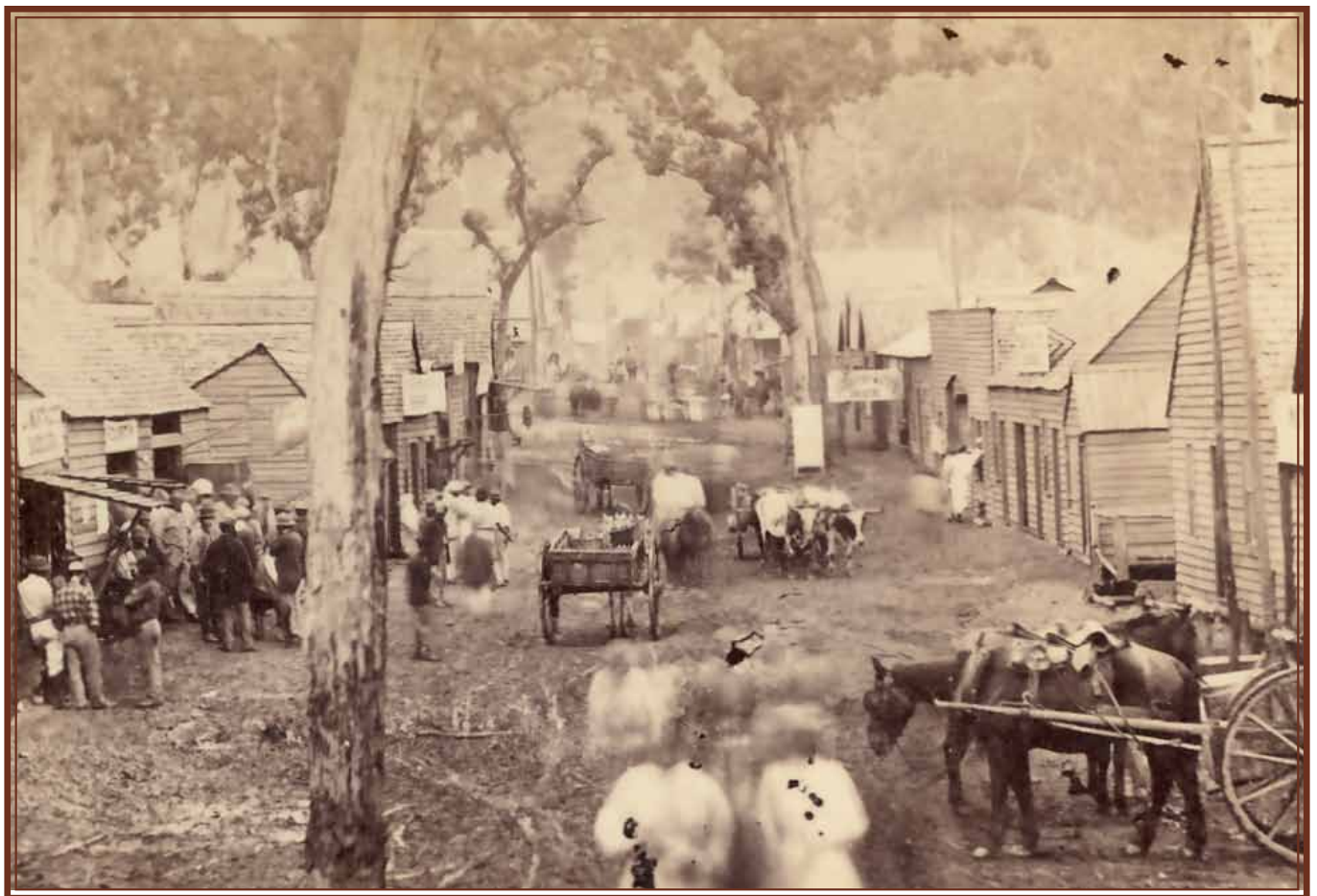
Life on the goldfields - Gympie

This was in October, 1867, and at that time Gympie was an uninhabited creek in the heart of the Queensland bush ... When I visited it a very few months afterwards, two large towns had arisen on this wild and desolate spot, and 7,000 inhabitants were busily engaged in the work of gold-digging ...

Each township has its long, narrow, main street, winding its unformed, crooked way through the bush, as house after house and store after store is quickly run up by newly-arrived adventurers. Banks, stores, shanties, and other buildings of wood and iron, had sprung, as if by magic, from the ground; and amongst these you may see a circulating library, two or three theatres, and other pretentious erections, that one would not expect to find in such a truly infant settlement.

CH Allan, *A Visit to Queensland and Her Goldfields*, London, Chapman and Hall 1870, pp 119–20, 133.

Gympie gold diggings



Streetscape of Gympie Gold diggings, c 1870s, Hume Photograph Collection, University of Queensland (Fryer Library), Image 019.

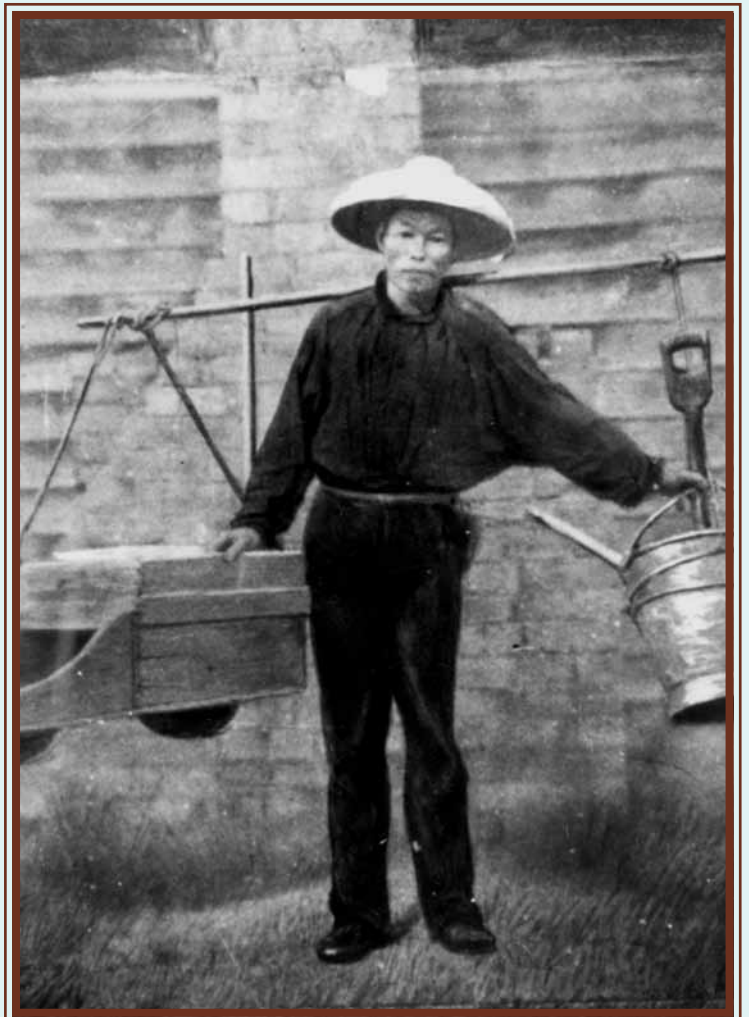
Life on the goldfields – Cape River

The Cape in 1868 was a decidedly rough locality, there being fully two thousand five hundred men, representing many nationalities, and among them the scum of all the Southern Gold Fields ... Gold was easily obtained and much more easily spent. Dreadful stuff, called whisky, rum and brandy, was sold in shilling drinks, and there was no need to wonder that many of the poor fellows, after the usual spree, became raving maniacs. Picture in your imagination a mob of two hundred or three hundred half drunk semi-madmen running amok with each other in the brutal fights which were a daily occurrence!

Hill, WRO, *Forty-five years' experiences in North Queensland 1865-1905: With a few incidents in England 1844 to 1861*, H Pole, Brisbane, 1907.

'The Chinese invasion'

There are at present located on the Palmer 15,000 Chinese ... Besides this loss of wealth they displace a large number of the European gold miners, who contribute so largely to swell the revenue and who also invest their earnings towards the further development of the resources of the colony. Yes, if immediate steps are not taken John [China] will monopolise the labor of the mines, the farms, the railroad, and the factory, and our colonial youths left as drones in the market. Even so near home as Cooktown we find already the Chinese drayman, packer, carter, publican, doctor, aye, shame to say, that even the telegraph messenger is of Chinese extraction. The free labor of the European and the servile labor of the Chinese *cannot* exist together.



Chinese gold digger starting for work, c 1860s, Richard Daintree, State Library of Queensland, 60526.

JF Conway, *Northern Miner*, 26 May 1877.

On the road to the Palmer Goldfield



Drawing of Chinese people on the road to the Palmer Goldfield, Queensland, 1875, State Library of Queensland, 57820.

Petition to the Queensland Parliament

1. That your petitioners regard with great alarm and apprehension the continued influx of Chinese into the colony there being now not less than eighteen thousand Chinese in Northern Queensland, being in some places from ten to fifteen to one in excess of the European population.
2. That your petitioners pray your Honourable House to totally prohibit the further introduction of Chinese, and also to exclude the Chinese now in the colony from actual mining operations on the gold fields.

Queensland, *Votes and Proceedings* 2, 1877, p 1203.

RESOURCE SHEET 4

On voting, by Anthony Trollope

Every man aged twenty-one can vote, provided that he is possessed of one of the following qualifications ...

Own a freehold, worth £100 above encumbrances.

Occupy a tenement worth £10 per annum.

Hold a lease of £10 per annum, of which three years are still to run, or of which three years have already run.

Hold a Pastoral licence.

Enjoy a salary of £100 per annum.

Pay £40 per annum for board and lodging.

Or pay £10 for lodging only.

By this law ... wandering labourers ... are excluded from the registers.

Anthony Trollope, *Australia and New Zealand*, Robertson, Chapman & Hall, 1873.

On one-man-one-vote

One-man-one-vote means equal voice in law-making for all men, thereby giving the men of Queensland opportunity to be rulers of Queensland ...

One-man-one-vote has this weakness, this failing, that it does not include the women. Not a single principle can be advanced in support of the rights of men which does not apply with equal force to the rights of women. Our mothers, our wives, our sisters and our daughters are essentially citizens of the state as any man of us ...

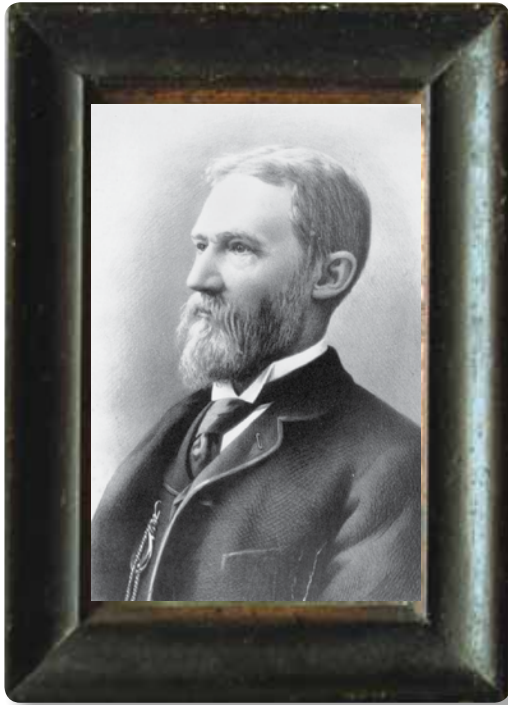
What is this other reason, the real reason, why one-man-one-vote is opposed? It is opposed only by the propertied classes in their own selfish self-interest, by the great land monopolists, by the great mine monopolists ...

They fear that if one-man-one-vote is secured by the common people, the labourers who toil and have nothing ... that the first use made of that power will be legislative 'interference' with existing industrial conditions.

William Lane, *The Worker*, 13 June 1891.

RESOURCE SHEET 5

Biography: Sir Samuel Griffith (1845-1920)



Portrait of Sir Samuel Walker Griffith,
State Library of Queensland, 68165.

Samuel Griffith was eight when he migrated with his family from Wales to Queensland in 1853. After an education at several different schools in Queensland, Samuel went to the University of Sydney. He was an outstanding student, and later studied law in Brisbane, becoming a lawyer in 1867. He married Julia Thomson in 1870, and two years later entered politics when he was elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

Samuel Griffith was twice Premier of Queensland and had two knighthoods bestowed on him, which entitled him to be called Sir Samuel Griffith. As a politician, he introduced laws to prevent more South Pacific Islander labour being imported to Queensland, and passed a bill to legalise trade unions. He represented Queensland at the Colonial Conference in London in 1887 and impressed delegates with his ideas about trade. In 1891, he authorised the use of the military to break the Shearers' Strike that had put Queensland in turmoil.

In the same year, at the Sydney Constitutional Convention, he used his fine legal mind to draft Australia's first

Constitution. His main ideas are still in Australia's Constitution today. As Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Samuel Griffith drafted Queensland's Criminal Code.

Samuel Griffith was a great supporter of Federation and campaigned for it boldly. After Federation, he became the first Chief Justice of the High Court, the highest legal position in Australia. Samuel Griffith retired from the High Court in 1919. He died the following year, aged 75.

Samuel Griffith welcomed the new Federation on 1 January with an article entitled 'The New Citizenship', in which he foresaw the people of the colonies developing an Australia-wide loyalty and responsibility.

To-day Queensland ceases to bear the name of "Colony," and becomes "The State of Queensland in the Commonwealth of Australia." ... But not only the name is changed ... No Australian can henceforth say that anything Australian is no concern of his.

The Brisbane Courier, 1 January 1901.

Biography: Emma Miller (1839-1917)



Portrait of Mrs Emma Miller, State Library of Queensland, 86511.

Emma Miller was born in Derbyshire, England. She was strongly influenced by her father, who took her to political meetings of the Chartists, a group which argued for more democratic government. Two of their demands were that all men over the age of 21 should be allowed to vote and that voting should be secret. After marrying in 1857, Emma worked hard as a seamstress, sewing clothes 12 hours a day, six days a week to support four children. She migrated to Brisbane with her second husband and children in 1879.

Emma became a shirt-maker and helped to form a female workers' union, mainly of tailors. Her life was filled with activity to improve the lives of working people. She was an organiser for the Australian Workers' Union, and became the first woman member of the Brisbane Workers Political Organisation. She also gave evidence at a Royal Commission into shops, factories and workshops, arguing for better pay, shorter working hours and improved conditions. Emma Miller was also a champion for women's rights and fought for causes such as equal pay with men, and women's right to vote in elections.

Emma was an energetic and active citizen. She marched with Shearers' Strike leaders after they were released from prison, and opposed Australian participation in the First World War. At a demonstration to parliament in 1912, she is said to have stuck a hatpin into a policeman's horse. The horse reared and the policeman was injured.

Emma was a member, delegate or president of many organisations promoting rights for workers. She became known as 'mother Miller' and 'the grand old labor woman of Queensland'.

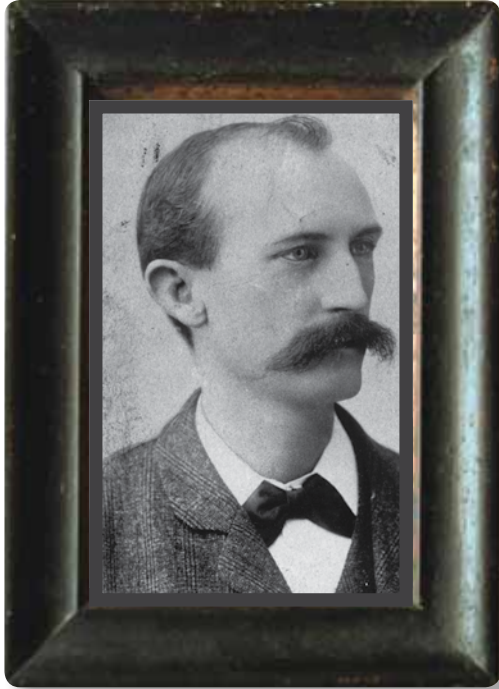
When she died at Toowoomba in 1917, the flag on the Brisbane Trades Hall flew at half-mast. In 1922, a marble bust of her was unveiled in the same building.

Emma Miller stood for workers' rights, as well as the vote for women. At a meeting in Brisbane in 1894, she objected to women getting the vote on the same, unequal terms as men, because the franchise for the Queensland Parliament at that time gave men who owned property an unfair advantage over men who did not. She was reported to have wanted a fairer scheme for all people – one person, one vote.

[Women] did not ask for anything unfair. All women were equal; they wanted One Woman, One Vote and not three or four apiece for some women.

Telegraph, 6 March 1894.

Biography: Anderson Dawson (1863-1910)



Honourable Anderson (Andrew) Dawson,
1899, State Library of Queensland, 157084.

Anderson Dawson was born in 1863 at Rockhampton in Queensland. When he was very young, his parents died, and he was put in an orphanage. Later, an uncle took him to Gympie, where he went to school until the age of 12. Dawson moved to Charters Towers and worked in various occupations, including bullock-driving and mining. At only 19 years old, he became head amalgamator of one of the main gold batteries, which was unhealthy and dangerous work. At this time, mercury was used to extract gold by forming an amalgam.

Trade unionism steadily grew in Queensland, and Dawson became President of the local Miners' Union. He was Chairman of the Charters Towers 1891 strike committee, Vice-President of the Queensland Provincial Council of the Australian Labour Federation, and helped begin the Charters Towers Republican Association. He worked as a journalist too, writing articles for the *Northern Miner*. He later became the first editor and part owner of the *Charters Towers Eagle*.

In 1893, Dawson was elected to the Queensland Parliament's Legislative Assembly as a Labor member for Charters Towers.

His speeches in Parliament were mainly about mining and railways. Dawson made friends with many other politicians, even those from the Liberal opposition party. He hoped that cooperation with the Liberals would help Labor lead the government. Dawson was successful in this ambition, and became Premier of Queensland in 1899. It was the first Labor Government anywhere in the world. However, it only lasted one week before it was defeated.

Dawson was an enthusiastic supporter of Federation. After the formation of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901, he became a member of the Senate. In 1904, he was Minister for Defence in the government led by Prime Minister John Watson. He retired from politics in 1906, and died in Brisbane in 1910.

Anderson Dawson saw the Chinese on the goldfields and the use of South Pacific Islander labour on the sugar plantations of north Queensland as a threat to the employment and wages of white workers. For him, Federation was an opportunity to advance the rights and living standards of workers.

... we shall federate in order to bring to our assistance the real power of our democratic brothers in the other colonies. I feel confident that when we are under the Commonwealth ... we shall put a very speedy and a very effective check on the coloured aliens, and whatever wealth there is to be gained ... it will be for the white Australia ...

The Brisbane Courier, 8 August 1899.

Biography: John Macrossan (1832-1891)



Portrait of John Murtagh Macrossan, Poulsen Studio, State Library of Queensland, 68214.

John Murtagh Macrossan was born in Creeslough, County Donegal in Ireland in 1832. At 16 years of age, he was sent to study in Glasgow, but the adventurous Macrossan found himself on the Victorian goldfields by the time he was 21, and on the goldfields of north Queensland by the age of 33. A fiery personality with a fierce loyalty to his fellow miners, Macrossan became a spokesperson for miners' rights and formed the Ravenswood Miners Protective Association. He was elected to the Queensland Parliament in 1874, where he served as a government minister many times.

Macrossan was an unshakeable representative of miners and north Queensland. He would also become a fierce advocate of the Australian colonies joining together in Federation. In debates in the Parliament, Macrossan advanced the causes of north Queensland. He argued for a continuing cheap supply of South Pacific Islander labour for sugar planters, as long as their work was confined to the plantations, and for a tax to be removed from mining machinery. In 1886, he made an impassioned speech in favour of north Queensland's

separation from the rest of Queensland, because he did not believe the north was receiving its due in government expenditure.

Macrossan's belief in separation was only rivalled by his passion for Federation. At the Federal Convention, he warned that there could be no true Federation without the colonies giving up some of their powers to the Federal Parliament. He looked forward to a time when the people of the colonies would be 'first Australians, and then Queenslanders and South Australians and Victorians'.

John Macrossan died suddenly while attending the Federal Convention in 1891.

Macrossan pursued the separation issue at the Federation Convention of 1891. Representing Queensland with his long-time parliamentary adversary Samuel Griffith, Macrossan argued that some of the colonies were too large for good government.

I believe also that power should be given to the Federal Parliament ... to cut up, if thought necessary, the different existing colonies into smaller states ... Some of the existing colonies, such as Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, are far too large for good government.

J Macrossan quoted by G Curtis in 1897 in Debate on Enabling Bill, Official Records of the Debates of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly, 15 June to 16 December, 1897, Vol LXXVIII, p 1738.