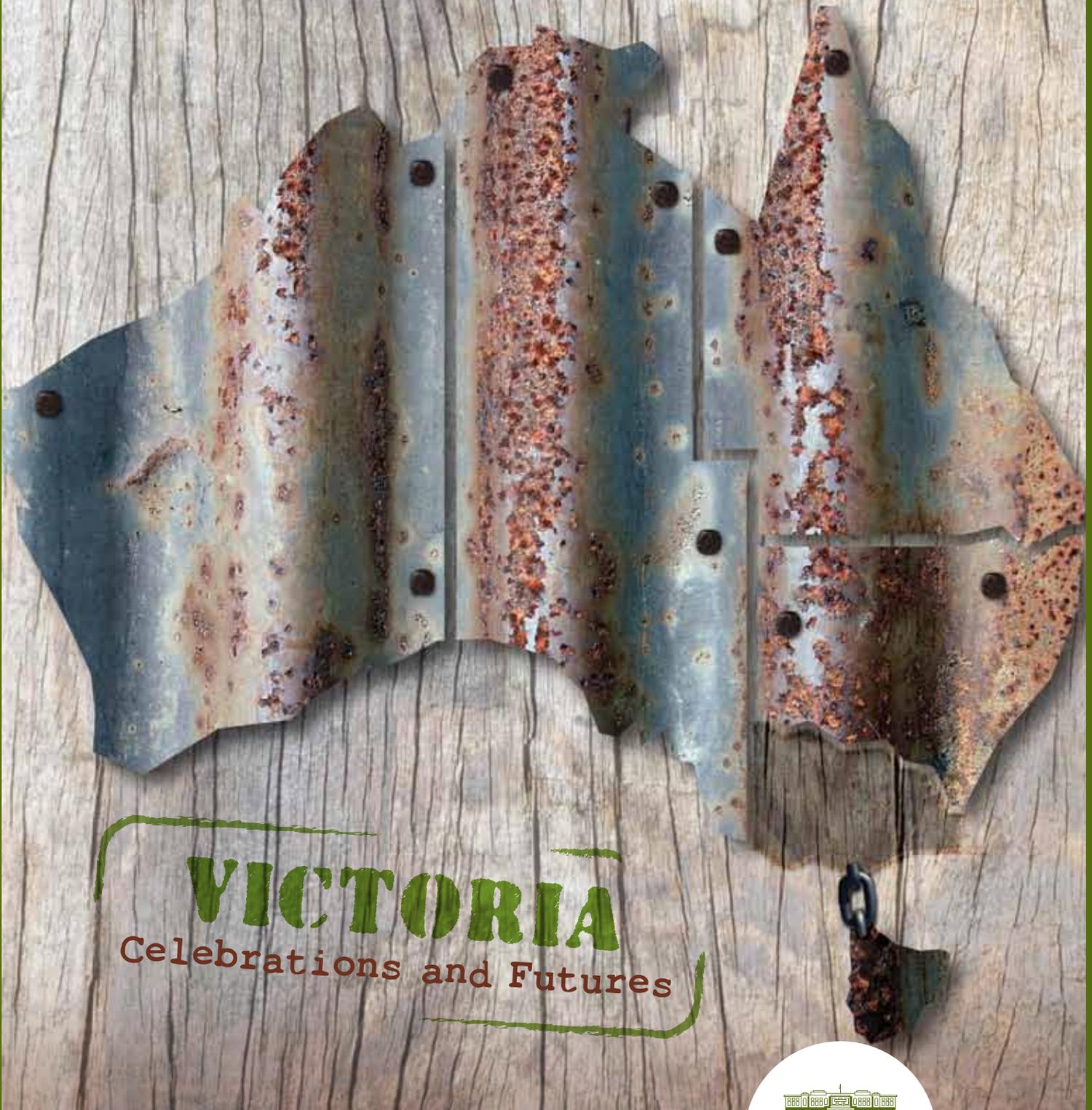


# GETTING IT TOGETHER

From Colonies to Federation



## VICTORIA

Celebrations and Futures



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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# Celebrations and Futures

On 1 January 1901, Victorians celebrated with other Australians as a new century and new nation began. Victoria was now a State of the newly formed Commonwealth of Australia.

Sydney was chosen to host the main celebrations of the new Australian Commonwealth. Australia's first Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun declared the formation of the Commonwealth at a ceremony in Centennial Park on Federation Day, 1 January 1901. Victoria too, held celebrations to mark the birth of a new nation.

Victoria's main celebrations occurred when the Commonwealth Parliament met for the first time in Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building on 9 May 1901. The Duke of Cornwall and York opened the Parliament as the representative of his father, King Edward VII. The Duke and Duchess arrived by boat and came ashore at St Kilda Pier, where they were welcomed by a great military display.

Country areas of Victoria celebrated on 14 May, the same day that the Duchess of Cornwall and York sent a telegraphic message to schools. When each school received the message, it raised the British flag (the Union Jack) and the children sang 'God Save the King'. Afterwards, local communities held processions, picnics, sports afternoons, dances and banquets.

Victoria has seen many changes in the years since Federation in 1901. Will these changes influence the way Victorians celebrate Federation today and in the future?

## Investigations

-  1. How was Federation celebrated in Melbourne?
-  2. How did Victorians outside Melbourne celebrate Federation?
-  3. How was the spirit of Federation captured in Victoria?
-  4. How was the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament celebrated in Melbourne?
-  5. How should Victorians commemorate Federation now and into the future?

## INVESTIGATION 1

# How was Federation celebrated in Melbourne?

The official proceedings to celebrate the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia in Melbourne on 1 January 1901 were low-key. The Premier of Victoria, George Turner and other key Federation figures, such as Alfred Deakin, John Quick and Isaac Isaacs, had gone to the inauguration ceremony in Sydney. Melbourne's main celebrations coincided with the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament celebrated a few months later, in May. Despite the low-key approach to celebrating Commonwealth Day, those visiting Melbourne on the long-awaited day still had the opportunity to view decorations, attend special church services and be entertained at picnics and social gatherings.

### YOU WILL NEED

#### Resource sheet 1

- extracts: newspaper, about Melbourne's Federation celebrations

Your task

Discover how Federation was celebrated in Melbourne on 1 January 1901.

## Activities

1. Form small groups. Use a mind map to brainstorm what you would have expected to see in the celebrations in Melbourne on 1 January 1901. What aspects of Federation would have been celebrated? Imagine what the city would have looked like, the things you would have seen, the sounds you would have heard and the events that might have taken place.
2. Read the extracts from newspaper reports. How does what they recount compare with the expectations you recorded on your mind map?
3. Individually or with a partner, write a letter to the editor of either *The Argus* or *The Age* newspapers expressing your delight or disappointment regarding the city's efforts to celebrate this most special of days.

4. Your group has been given responsibility for providing 'festal garments' (decorations) for public buildings on the streets of Melbourne. Brainstorm a list of public buildings or streets that you would like to decorate. Consider the following questions.

- How could they be decorated?
- What colours, symbols and slogans could you use to represent Federation?

Draw sketches of your ideas, including the slogans or words you would display.

## INVESTIGATION 2

# How did Victorians outside Melbourne celebrate Federation?

Victoria's country towns and regional centres celebrated Federation in their own ways on 1 January 1901. Flags were flown, banners erected, bands played and choirs sang. Local dignitaries and church leaders addressed those who had gathered to celebrate the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia. Sporting events, such as races and cricket matches, were popular activities at the local celebrations. Federation, it seemed, was popular everywhere! Further celebrations would occur in country Victoria when the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York visited Australia for the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament on 9 May 1901.

### Your task

Discover how Federation was celebrated throughout Victoria.

### YOU WILL NEED

#### Resource sheet 2

- extracts: newspaper, about Federation celebrations around Victoria
- map: Victoria atlas

## Activities

1. In groups of five, read aloud the reports of celebrations in the towns around Victoria.
2. For each report, make a list of the people and community groups involved in the Federation celebrations, and the kinds of activities they organised. Discuss the following questions.
  - Why do you think community leaders felt it was important to be part of the celebrations?
  - Why did so many of the activities organised involve children?
  - What were the most popular decorations?
3. Speculate on the reasons why some celebrations may have been more enjoyable and better attended than others. Look for clues in the resources provided. Compare your findings to those of other groups.
4. Using an atlas, find and write the names of the towns on the map of Victoria. With symbols and drawings, decorate the area around each town with the activities that took place, the people involved and the kinds of decorations that were used. Display your maps in the classroom.

## INVESTIGATION 3

# How was the spirit of Federation captured in Victoria?

In 1898, Victorian school inspector, Carlton Football Club player and Federation supporter, Henry F Rix published the words and music to a song that he dedicated to the Australian Natives Association – ‘Australia For Ever’. The song, as well as a poem Rix published, entitled, *Australians! Rise and Federate!*, were popular among those who had eagerly awaited the day that the six Australian colonies would federate and become the Commonwealth of Australia. ‘Australia For Ever’ was sung at celebrations on 1 January 1901, in several places around Victoria.

### YOU WILL NEED

Resource sheet 3

- lyrics: ‘Australia For Ever’

### Your task

Examine why ‘Australia For Ever’ captured the spirit of Federation in Victoria.

## Activities

1. As a class, read the lyrics of ‘Australia For Ever’ by Henry F Rix.
  - What might Rix have been referring to when he wrote, ‘Not might, but right shall rule the land’?
  - Do the words of ‘Australia For Ever’ reflect a modern Australia? Would you recommend the song to be sung at a State or national celebration today?
2. Form small groups. Discuss the following questions about ‘Australia For Ever’ and record your answers.
  - Why might ‘Australia For Ever’ have been sung at federal gatherings and at celebrations for Federation?
  - Which aspects of the song refer to Australia and the emerging Australian values of mateship and a fair go?
  - Which qualities of the people and new nation does the song promote? Can you find examples of any of the nine *Values for Australian Schooling* represented in the song? To access this document, go to [www.valuededucation.edu.au](http://www.valuededucation.edu.au). Then, click on ‘National’, followed by ‘National Framework: Nine Values for Australian Schooling’.
  - Why might the song have appealed to those supporting Federation, in particular, members of the Australian Natives Association?
3. Work with a partner to rewrite the lyrics of the song in contemporary language, to reflect how the same ideas might be expressed today. Share your version of the song with the class.
4. Work with your partner to visually represent a line of the song. Different pairs could take responsibility for different lines. You may want to present your work as a piece of art, for example, a painted mural or a photographic collage, or as a digital presentation. Include the lyrics from the song in your picture. Display them in the classroom.

## INVESTIGATION 4

# How was the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament celebrated in Melbourne?

Melbourne was the centre of Australia's Federation celebrations on 9 May 1901. An air of excitement filled the city before the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament. The opening took place at the Royal Exhibition Building as it was the only public building large enough to host the 12,000 people who attended. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York arrived from Britain to open the Parliament. They travelled by coach through the richly decorated streets of Melbourne for the event. Many specially constructed arches spanned major streets and added to the sense of occasion and excitement.

### Your task

Discover how the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament was celebrated.

### YOU WILL NEED

#### Resource sheet 4

- extracts: newspaper, about the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament
- map: the procession route
- photograph: the Municipal Arch

## Activities

1. As a class, read the newspaper extracts describing the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, and the arches that decorated the streets of Melbourne.
2. Form small groups. Discuss the following questions about the celebrations and record your answers.
  - What evidence can you find that Australians were still very attached to Britain?
  - What contributions did migrants to Australia make to the celebrations?
  - Which industries were represented by the arches? Why were these industries represented?
3. Use the map of the procession route to plot the location of the arches. You may need to refer to another map of Melbourne as not all streets are shown. The reports on the celebrations will help you to identify their locations.
4. Look at the photograph of the Municipal Arch, Princes Bridge, Melbourne. Use the National Library of Australia's Picture Australia website [www.pictureaustralia.org](http://www.pictureaustralia.org) to locate other photographs of Melbourne's Federation arches in 1901. Type in 'federation arches Vic 1901'.
5. The Victorian Chamber of Manufacturers and the dairy industry were used as focal points for some of the arches. The German and Chinese communities had their own arches. With a partner, brainstorm a list of industries and groups that might represent Australia and, in particular, Victoria today. Choose one group or industry from your list and sketch a design for an arch that would represent this group or industry.

## INVESTIGATION 5

# How should Victorians commemorate Federation now and into the future?

Federation was an important milestone in Australia's and Victoria's history. Its significance has been commemorated in various ways over the years. In 2001, to mark the Commonwealth's one hundredth anniversary, the Australian Government issued special Centenary of Federation coins and stamps. Although Melbourne has Federation Square and the sculpture called 'Federation Bells', we do not

### Your task

Imagine how Federation could be commemorated every year in Victoria.

### YOU WILL NEED

internet access  
library access

celebrate a national Federation Day as we do the national holiday of Anzac Day.

Use your knowledge and imagination to think of ways in which Victorians could commemorate Federation now and into the future. You might feel that the celebrations should have some things in common with the celebrations that took place in 1901. Or, when you consider how Victoria has changed and developed over more than a century, you might decide that celebrations should reflect new and different elements of the State's identity and its place in the Australian nation.

## Activities

**1.** Imagine your class has been put in charge of organising Federation Day, an event to be celebrated in every State and Territory of Australia on 1 January. You will be celebrating the creation of the nation, as well as what is special about each place in the nation.

As a class, brainstorm and write down your ideas about:

- how Australia has changed in the last hundred years – think about transportation, immigration, communication, music, food, the environment, population, achievements;
- how Victoria has changed in the last hundred years:
- what is special about Australia;
- what is special about Victoria; and
- how you would like Australia to be in the future.

**2.** In groups of four, choose a place in Victoria, ensuring each group picks a different place. Make plans for a Federation Day celebration. Give each team member a job according to their skills. You will need researchers, writers, illustrators and a spokesperson. Think about the following things.

- What will your community celebrate about Australia's Federation?
- What symbols will you use?
- Will there be a Federation monument?
- What dignitaries will be invited?
- Where will the celebration be held?
- What events will take place?
- What equipment will be needed?
- What decorations will be used for the occasion?
- What music and other performances will there be?

**3.** Present your plan to the rest of the class. You can do this in a number of ways, for instance:

- an illustrated program/brochure inviting the public to the celebrations;
- a report on how the celebrations will be organised and carried out; or
- a digital presentation of your plan for the celebration.



## What are you thinking now?

Now that you have completed the investigations in Celebrations and Futures, use your knowledge to explore connections to your life today. Do the following activity.

The Federation movement grew out of a desire to build the best possible future for Australia. Many people felt that aspects of Australian social and political life needed to be strengthened or changed for ‘the interests of the whole country’. Every new generation of Australians continues to look ahead, and we can identify issues now that need to be addressed to build the best possible future for Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Brainstorm issues that are important to you. Think about:

- water and the environment
- Indigenous peoples
- health and education
- multiculturalism and immigration
- the economy
- national security, defence and peacekeeping
- caring for the disadvantaged
- Australian identity and values

Use the following questions.

- What decisions have recently been made regarding the issues?
- How do you feel about the decisions that have been made about the issues?
- What positive decisions have been made about the issues? Why are they positive?
- What negative decisions have been made about the issues? Why are they negative?
- What could you, personally, do to help overcome negative decisions about the issues now or in the future?
- How can you summarise your ideas?

Present your ideas for ‘Australia in the Future’ as either:

- as a song or rap;
- as a ceremonial arch; or
- as a play or news report;
- in some other way.
- as a poster or digital presentation;

# RESOURCE SHEET 1

## Melbourne's Federation celebrations, 1 January 1901

The city man's notion of a holiday, naturally, is to get away from the city as far as possible, but a holiday to the country people is not complete unless they can get to the city. With the desertion of Melbourne on holidays by the city folk, the opportunity comes to their country cousins to see "the sights of the town." "I've been in Melbourne for nearly a fortnight," said an old lady from the country yesterday, "and this is the only day I've had a good look at the shop window." The old lady was the central figure in a group of eight persons ... All the afternoon this group, and many more like it, paraded the streets with that uneasy gait which comes of walking over uneven roads. Their enjoyment was quiet, but very full, and none of them will forget the first Commonwealth Day in Melbourne ...

Flags and streamers were the principal decorations in the streets ... At Parliament house the Government concentrated its efforts in this direction ... Amidst a wealth of flags and streamers on the top of the building there was a representation of the crowning of the Young Queen described in Kipling's federation poem. Then in big gold letters the words "Federated Australia" ran across the full front of the Parliament house. Underneath in smaller gold and red letters was the sentence, "One Flag, One Hope, One Destiny"...

*The Argus*, 2 January 1901

At intervals yesterday crowds of people stood at the top of Bourke street and gazed intently at the outlines of Parliament House. They lingered around in admiring groups, and after they had gone away their places were taken by others. In all matters of art there is room for differences of opinion; but in regard to the decorations of Parliament House there was absolute unanimity. It was agreed on all sides that the work had been artistically done, and that the expenditure of £500 was entirely justified ...

With Parliament House bearing the brunt of the decorations, the remainder of the city did not trouble itself to put on many festal garments ... The Town Hall and some other buildings were decorated with taste and profusion. In the vicinity of Princes bridge was an arch of flags which gave the southern approach to the city a gala appearance ...

In the way of formal decorations and public ceremony there was very little done in Melbourne. ... Two services were held in St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday in celebration of the inauguration of the Commonwealth ... The sailors present in the port of Melbourne were reminded of the inauguration of the Commonwealth yesterday by being entertained at a picnic and social at Elsternwick in commemoration of the occasion ... and afterwards an enjoyable musical programme was rendered.

*The Age*, 2 January 1901.

# RESOURCE SHEET 2

## Celebrations in country Victoria on 1 January 1901

### **Bendigo**

Delightfully, fine weather prevailed on Tuesday, but owing to the absence of a number of citizens there was not any demonstration in the city. This part is the more incomprehensible when the prominent part played by Bendigo in connection with the Federation movement is called to mind ... At the request of the mayor, Mr. S. Ryan, a number of citizens decorated their residences and places of business with bunting, and flags were flying at the Government offices and town hall; but the only really good display was at the Beehive Exchange, where Mr. H. Burridge had the buildings tastefully decorated with a profusion of bunting. Special services were conducted in some of the churches.

*The Age*, 3 January 1901.

### **Echuca**

Never before in Echuca has such enthusiasm been shown as was displayed in connection with the Commonwealth celebrations. The town was crowded with people from all parts of the district, and the houses and public buildings were gaily decorated. A procession of the local military, fire brigade, and others marched, headed by the band, to the centre of the Murray bridge, where it was met by a similar procession from Moama. The mayors of both municipalities shook hands and exchanged greetings, after which several patriotic speeches were made, and the crowd sang the National Anthem. A banquet was given in the town hall, the mayor presiding. Cricket teams, representing Victoria and New South Wales, met in the park in the afternoon and the latter won by 4 runs. In the evening a free open air concert was held at Moama, and a display of fireworks was given several thousands of people being present.

*The Age*, 3 January 1901.

### **Traralgon**

Commonwealth Day was celebrated here by a monster picnic, to which all the children in the shire were invited. The town was decorated with flags. The children, headed by the band, marched by the post office to the recreation reserve, a novelty in the procession being a cannon, followed by six young ladies dressed as nurses, with an ambulance stretcher ... In the evening there was a concert and as a wind up a display of fireworks.

*The Age*, 3 January 1901.

### **Port Fairy**

The ceremony of hoisting the flag at the State school was performed by Mr. Peacock, Chief Secretary, who made an appropriate patriotic speech. A large number of children formed in procession and marched to the school grounds, where they cheered when the flag was hoisted, and afterwards were treated to a picnic in the Botanical Gardens.

*The Age*, 3 January 1901.

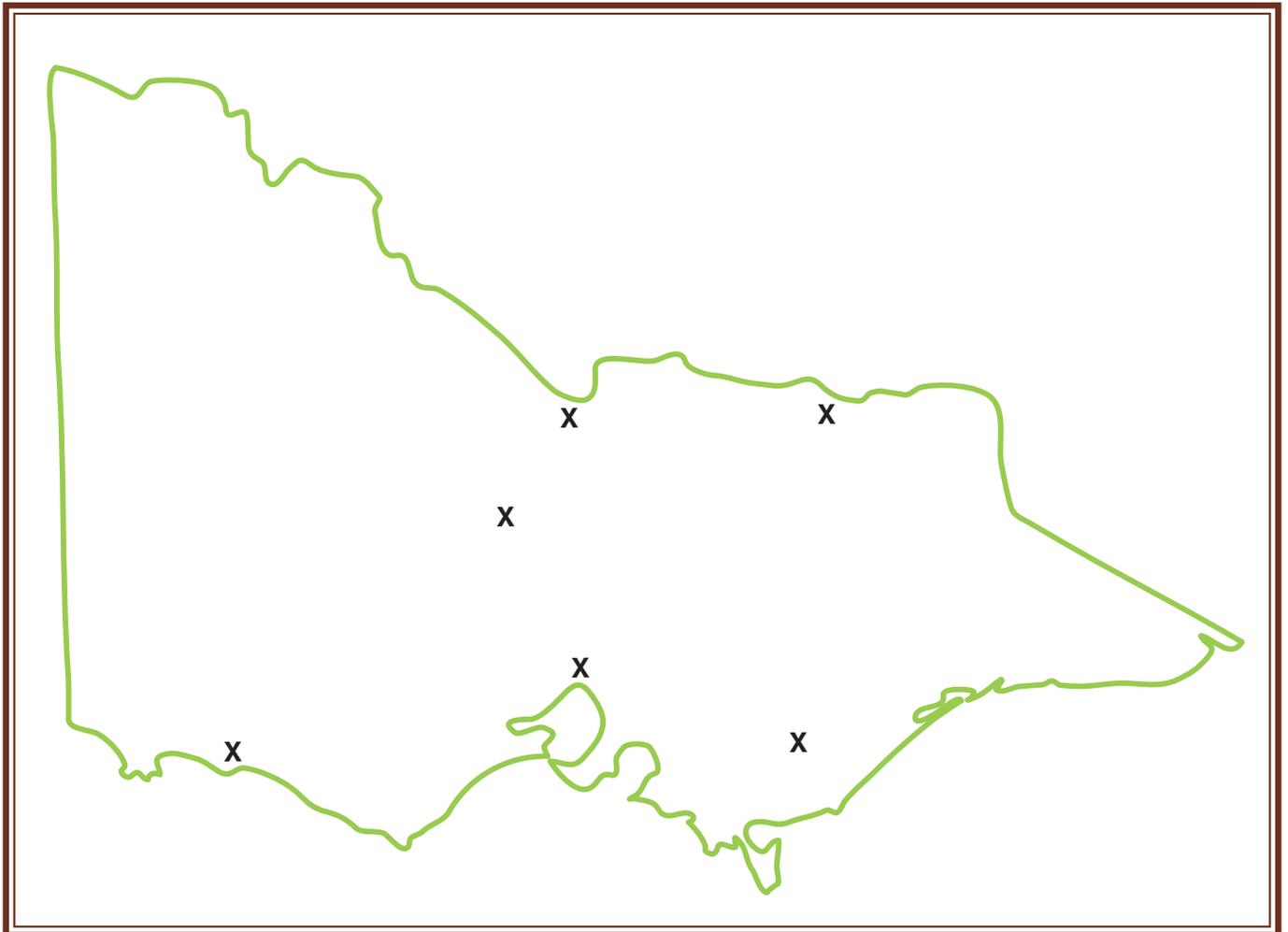
# RESOURCE SHEET 2 continued

## Wodonga

The monster picnic in Wodonga park on Tuesday was a highly successful gathering. Shortly before 11 o'clock about 300 bright looking and well-dressed children assembled at the Wodonga Post Office. The banners and bannerettes contained the usual loyal and patriotic mottoes, and added to the picturesqueness of the juvenile procession, as "the men and women of the future" wended their way down Sydney-street ... The vast juvenile concourse, under the leadership of Miss McKoy, rendered the patriotic air "Australia for Ever" (by Mr. H.F Rix) most effectively during the afternoon.

*Albury Banner & Wodonga Express, 4 January 1901.*

## Map of Victoria



# RESOURCE SHEET 3



## Australia For Ever

A Federation song dedicated to  
The Australian Natives Association.

by Henry F Rix

*On high let fly the Southern flag—  
Australia united;*

*Ring out the shout when on each crag  
The Union Flag is sighted.*

*Join hand in hand from shore to shore,  
Eternal friendship pledging;*

*From heart to heart for evermore,  
Let one life blood be surging.*

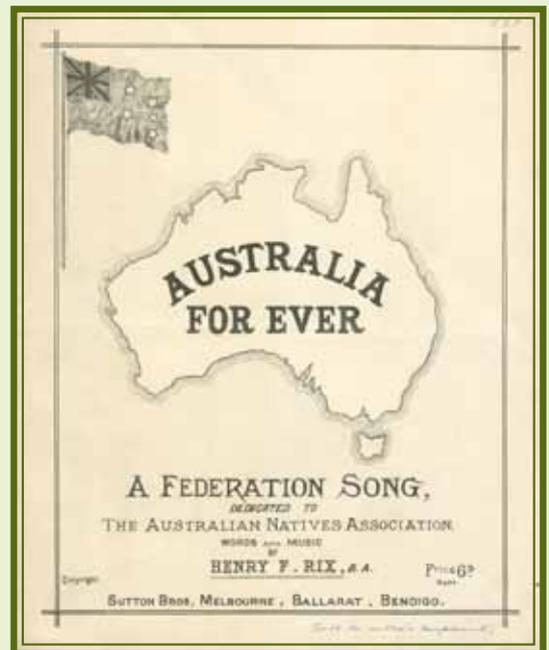
(Chorus)

*Australia for ever, boys,  
Her call we'll all obey,  
For her we'll live, for her we'll die  
Australia for aye!*

*One people we, strong-souled and free,  
To noble fame aspiring,  
A brotherhood of liberty  
In honour's cause untiring.  
Then man to man we'll ever stand,  
No feuds our soul shall sever;  
Not might, but right shall rule the land,  
Australia for ever!*

(Chorus)

*Australia for ever, boys,  
Her call we'll all obey,  
For her we'll live, for her we'll die  
Australia for aye!*



Australia For Ever: a Federation song dedicated to the Australian Natives Association, Henry Rix, National Library of Australia, nla.mus-an3920779.

# RESOURCE SHEET 4

## Celebrations for the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Melbourne

### Welcoming the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York

Australia united yesterday in welcoming to her shores the future King and Queen of the British Empire ... The people rejoiced in the proclamation of the Commonwealth. It was to them their own nation's birthday, and was honoured as an occasion fraught with untold possibilities ... The consummation of Australian unity was the work of our own people, the concrete expression of their own aspirations, and the reward of their own sustained efforts.

### The spectacle in the streets

The arches rose over the great masses of the people in the gorgeousness of their colours like so many rainbows set against a cloudless sky. The senses were whirled away with the bewildering spectacle, and for moments together buildings, people and arches alike were blended in a dizzy hundred-tinted wave of colour.

### Municipal Arch

The great feature of all the arrangements made for the reception of their Royal Highnesses was undoubtedly the Municipal Arch on Princes bridge ... The arch is in the early Renaissance style architecture ... three masts in the centre, supporting giant banners ... The arch measures 90 feet across the road ... On the southern elevation there are two inscriptions ... "The City Hails Her Monarch's Son" and ... "The Wattle Greet the Rose of York" ... On the reverse ... are the Tennysonian mottoes, "One Life, One Flag" "One Fleet, One Throne"...

### The King's Arch

It stands in Swanston street just north of Flinders lane, rising to a height of 60 feet ... At the summit ... are five ornamental pierced openings, surrounded on either side by shields bearing the King's crest ... [The covering] is of cardinal and old gold velveteen, richly broken into panels with gilt mouldings, with diagonal silk cord forming diaper work.

### The Queen's Arch

At the intersection of Collins and Russell streets, the loftiest point in the route of the procession, a magnificent bronze statue of the late Queen Victoria looks down from the arch which bears the name of the wise and good Sovereign who ruled over the destinies of England for over sixty years ... The decoration is in delicate tints of violet, picked out in pure white, silver and gold.

*The Age*, 7 May 1901.

## **The Duke's Arch**

... in Bourke street, between Elizabeth and Swanston streets ... [The Duke's Arch has] handsome photographs of the Royal visitors, and their exalted destiny is represented by the overshadowing crown which is appropriately supported by a golden cupid ... The primary features of the arch are outlined by 400 electric lights.

## **The Manufacturers Monument**

The Victorian Chamber of Manufacturers is to the fore with a beautiful monument on the corner of Collins street and Exhibition street. At the top of the lofty column is a figure supporting the globe ... Emblazoned around the globe and on the pedestal are messages of greeting.

## **The Butter Arch**

The Butter Arch, in Collins street, between Market street and William street, by no means came up to the original expectations, but at least it served to advertise an important industry.

## **The Citizens' Arch**

Decorated in warm fresh tints relieved with gold, the Citizens' Arch gives strength, finish and added beauty to the ornamentation of Bourke street. It is erected just east of the Russell street intersection ... On the towers are medals, one representing the six States, together with embossed portraits of the Duke and Duchess. In the centre of the arch figures the portrait of his Majesty the King ...

## **The German Arch**

The German Arch, or portal, that adorns the Block in Collins street, is in the German Renaissance style of architecture and consists of two elegantly-designed columns ... [that have] been "Australianised" by the introduction of a lyre bird in the capitol ... The metrical translation of the inscription is "One People We, United and Fraternal".

## **The Chinese Arch**

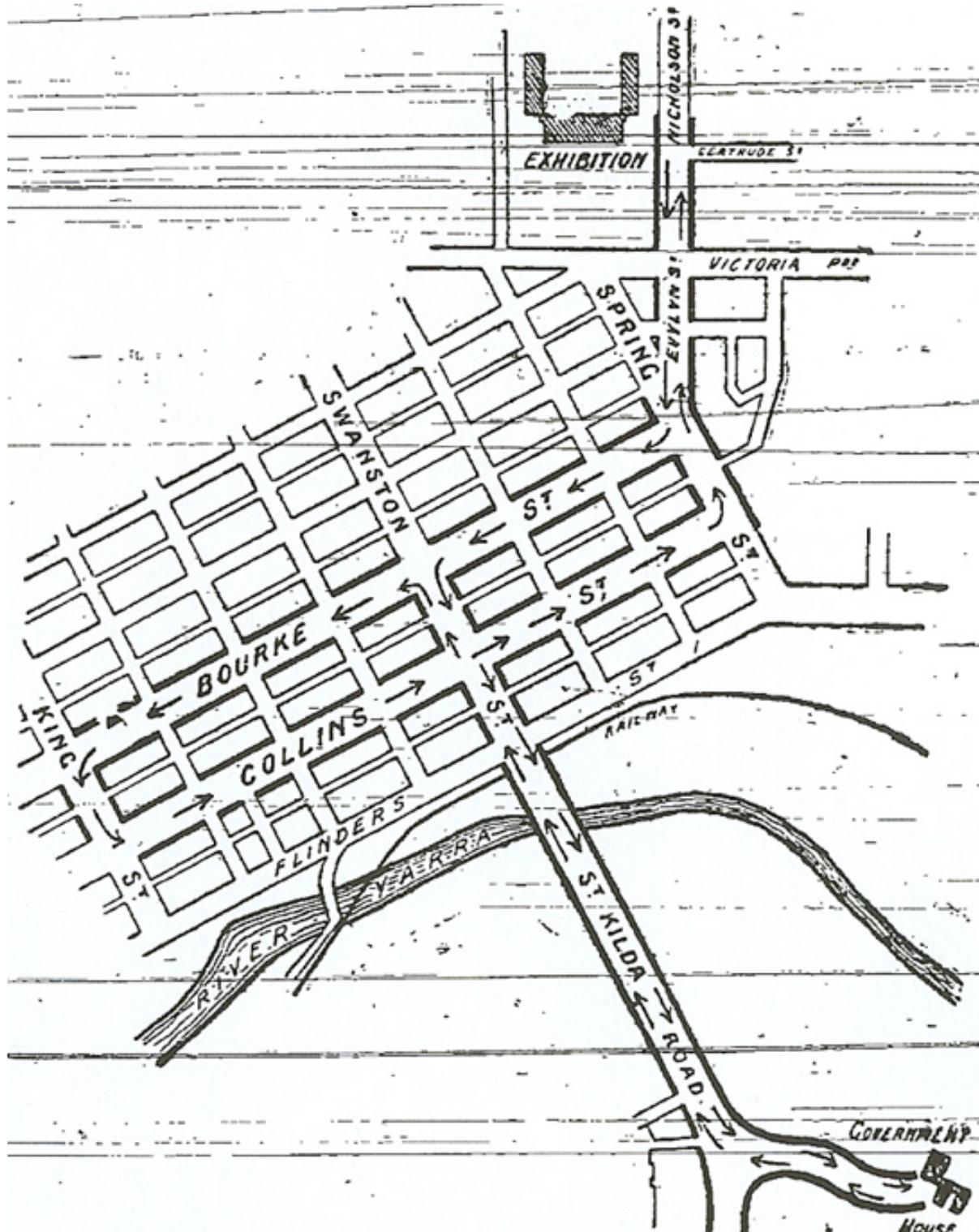
The Chinese Arch in Swanston street, near Little Bourke street, is of course distinct in style... It is of the Pagoda character, two towers flanking a central span rising 45 feet high ... the heavily bell cast imitation tiled roofs ... and creatings so characteristic of Chinese art, realise an effect particularly striking and not displeasing.

*The Age*, 7 May 1901.

# RESOURCE SHEET 4 continued

## Procession route for the Opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia: Government House to Royal Exhibition Building

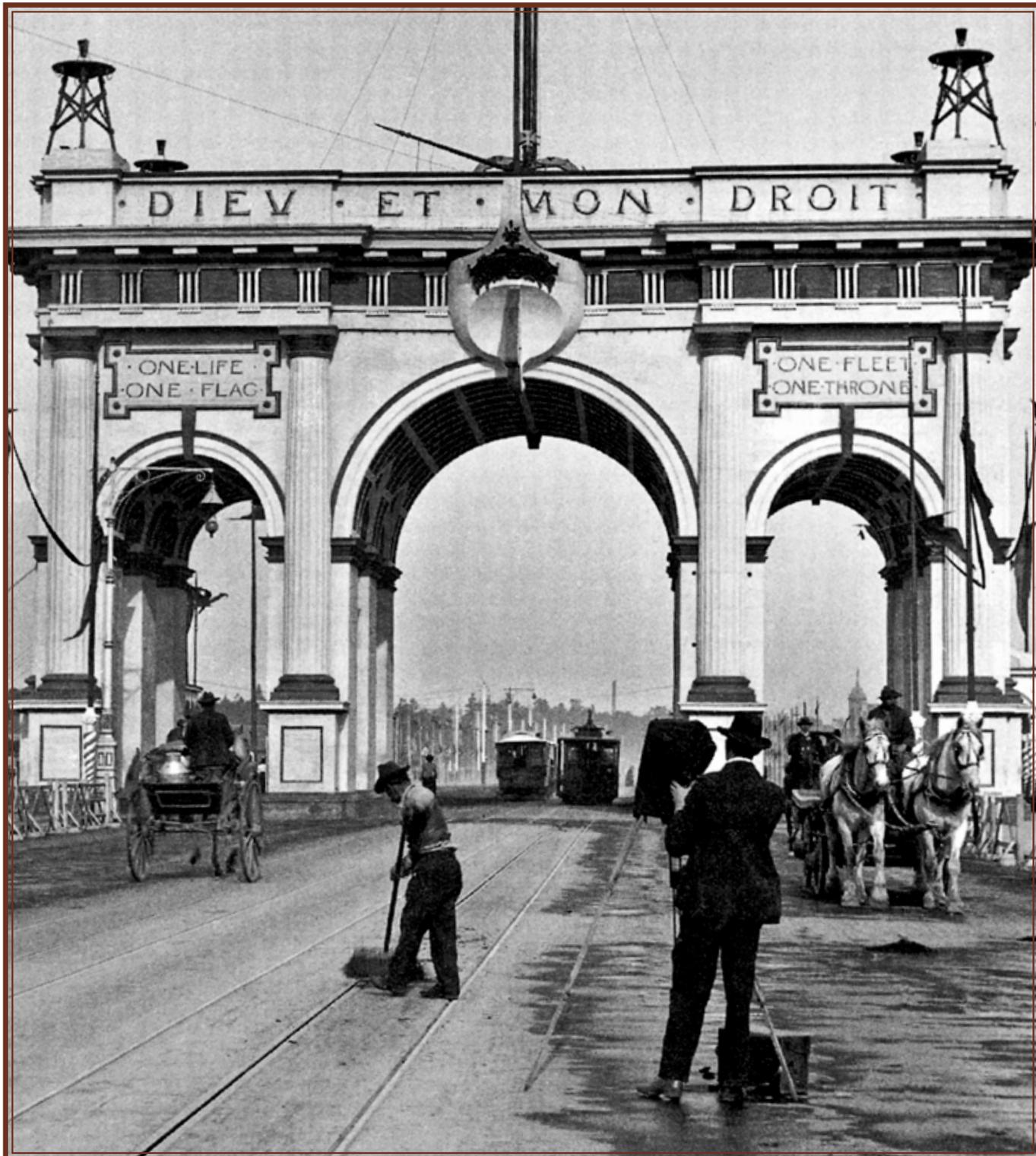
The route to be taken by the procession will be, on the outward journey from Government House, along St. Kilda road, Swanston, Bourke, King, Collins, Spring, Evelyn and Nicholson streets to the Exhibition; and on the return journey via Nicholson, Evelyn, Spring, Bourke and Swanston streets and St. Kilda road to Government House.



The Age, 9 May 1901.

# RESOURCE SHEET 4 continued

Municipal Arch on Princes Bridge, Melbourne, May 1901



GH Myers, [www.thecollectormm.com.au](http://www.thecollectormm.com.au).

