Melbourne's streets and lanes: what's in a name?

A'BECKETT STREET Sir William A'Beckett, Port Phillip Resident Judge from 1845, and Victoria's first Chief Justice **(D1)**.

ALBION ALLEY The Albion Hotel in Bourke Street was the city terminus of Cobb & Co. coaches **(F3)**.

ALFRED PLACE After migrant ship or for birth of Prince Alfred, 6 August 1844, who visited Australia as Duke of Edinburgh 1867-1868 **(H4)**.

ATHENAEUM PLACE Named for Athena (Greek Goddess of Wisdom), the Athenaeum was the rebuilt Mechanics Institute; now hosts a library, club and theatre **(G4)**.

BANK PLACE Bank of Australasia built Collins Street premises in 1840 on land purchased from CH Ebden. In 1858 rebuilt on Queen Street corner **(D4)**.

BAPTIST PLACE Built 1846, the original brick Collins Street chapel was designed by John Gill, and its Corinthian portico, designed by Reed and Barnes, was added in 1862 **(G4)**.

BENNETTS LANE Robert Bennett MLA, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, 1861-62 **(H2)**.

BLIGH PLACE Merchants Bligh & Harbottle operated from premises in Little Flinders Street **(E5)**.

BLOCK PLACE Access to Block Arcade (1893). 'Doing the Block' was the fashionable afternoon shopping and social promenade along this section of Collins Street **(F4)**.

BOND STREET Import merchants established bonded warehouses there after Melbourne was granted full Customs port status in 1840 **(E5)**.

BOURKE STREET Sir Richard Bourke, NSW Governor 1831-38. While visiting Port Phillip in 1837, he named Melbourne and its major streets **(B3)**.

BOWEN STREET Named for Sir George Bowen Governor of Victoria 1873-79, the street was closed in 1950 and incorporated into grounds of RMIT University **(G1)**.

BRIEN LANE Opposite the former Eastern Market, butcher Joseph Brien carved out his business from 1848 **(H3)**.

BULLENS LANE Clothiers Frederick Bullen and Son, of Little Bourke Street, 1880s **(G3)**.

CALEDONIAN LANE Caledonian Hotel, near corner Swanston and Lonsdale Streets, originally a 13-room house built by Presbyterian minister JP Clow in 1839 **(F3)**.

CARSON PLACE Featuring an elaborate facade, Carson's quality footwear shop in Collins Street prospered in the gold-rush **(F4)**.

CELESTIAL AVENUE A name associated with ancient China's Celestial Empire, ruled by heavenly beings **(G3)**.

CHAPTER HOUSE LANE Robert Hoddle included the lane when surveying the site in 1848 for St Paul's church, rebuilt as the Cathedral in the 1880s **(G5)**.

CHURCH STREET AND LANE St James Church of England estab. 1839, was relocated from William Street to King Street, West Melbourne in 1913 **(C4)**.

CLEVE LANE Cleve Bros. built bonded warehouse in Lonsdale Street in 1854, expanded business to King Street corner in 1862 **(B3)**.

CLUB LANE Rear access to the Melbourne Club (estab. 1838). Renamed from Collins Lane after the Club's Collins Street premises were built in 1859 **(J4)**.

COATES LANE EAST Grazier Walter Coates purchased a property on the Yarra's northern banks, 1840 **(J4)**.

COHEN PLACE Cohen's Pawnbroker, Little Lonsdale Street, and Cohen Brothers Upholsterers, Lonsdale Street, located east of Elizabeth Street **(H3)**.

COLLINS STREET Commandant Lt-Colonel David Collins abandoned 1803-4 convict settlement, near today's Sorrento, to establish Hobart Town. Escaped convict William Buckley remained behind **(B4)**.

COROMANDEL PLACE Ship from Plymouth with 239 passengers arrived at Port Phillip July 1840 **(H4)**.

CORPORATION LANE Led to works depot of Melbourne City Council **(H5)**.

CROMBIE LANE A survival from the early 1850s, probably named for Lonsdale St drapers and importers Crombie, Clapperton & Findlay **(B3)**.

CROSSLEY STREET Previously Romeo Lane, located near Shakespeare Hotel in Stephen (later Exhibition) Street **(J3)**.

CROWN PLACE Crown Hotel cnr. Lonsdale and Queen Streets **(E3)**.

CUSTOMS HOUSE LANE Begun in 1839 and completed 1859, the Customs House (now Immigration Museum) was adjacent to deep anchorage at Queen's Wharf **(C5)**.

DEGRAVES STREET Merchant pastoralist William Degraves built a steam-driven flour mill on this site in 1851 **(F5)**.

DOWNIE STREET Est. 1884, JB Downie, importer of beer, spirits, machinery and Portland cement, later moved company to Market Street **(B5)**.

DREWERY LANE Chemist Thomas Drewery was elected City Councillor for Gipps Ward in 1851 **(F2)**.

DUCKBOARD PLACE Adjacent to Duckboard House, WW2 entertainment centre for troops **(H5)**.

EAGLE ALLEY An old right-of-way from LaTrobe Street to Hawk Place off King Street became Eagle Alley in 1890, a name now given to the whole 'dogleg' **(B2)**.

ELIZABETH STREET The once-timbered gully was possibly named to honour Gov. Bourke's wife who died at Parramatta in 1832 **(F5)**.

EQUITABLE PLACE Equitable Life Assurance offices on Elizabeth-Collins Street corner were built by Dame Nellie Melba's father, David Mitchell **(E4)**.

EXHIBITION STREET see STEPHEN STREET

EXPLORATION LANE Little Lonsdale's Exploration Hotel was possibly named for the doomed Burke and Wills Expedition 1860-1 **(H2)**.

FINLAY ALLEY Possibly for John Finlay, road contractor, pastoralist and later St Kilda resident **(E2)**.

FLANIGAN LANE Architects John Flanigan snr and jnr designed the now demolished Eastern Market **(E2)**.

FLINDERS STREET In April 1802 navigator Capt. Matthew Flinders in the Investigator claimed discovery of Port Phillip, but later acknowledged the prior arrival in February of the Lady Nelson under Acting Lieut. John Murray **(C5)**.

FRANCIS STREET Merchant politician JG Francis held the Trade and Customs portfolio in 1866 when the Government Shipping Offices were built fronting Spencer Street **(A4)**.

GEDDES LANE Engineer and machinist William Geddes operated from Collins Street premises **(C5)**.

GEORGE PDE Name changed from La Trobe Parade c1924 after the Henry George Club, named for the political theorist, established headquarters there **(H5)**.

GLOBE ALLEY Globe Hotel on corner Swanston and Little Bourke Streets **(G3)**.

GODFREY STREET Formed by 1880s subdivision, possibly named for developer **(A4)**.

GOLDEN FLEECE ALLEY Russell Street's Golden Fleece Hotel **(H3)**.

GOLDSBROUGH LANE Richard Goldsbrough's wool warehouse, built 1862 on the Bourke-William Street corner **(C3)**.

GORDON PLACE Gordon House built 1883 as apartments then converted to a rooming house is again an up-market hotel and apartments **(J3)**.

GRESHAM STREET Formed in late 1880s, the name was first listed in 1933 **(C3)**.

GRIFFIN LANE Hay and corn merchant William Griffin was established in Little Collins Street by 1856 **(J2)**.

GUESTS LANE Biscuit bakers TB Guest & Co. were in William Street from 1866 **(C3)**.

GURNERS LANE Henry Gurner, Crown Solicitor from 1841-80, lived in William Street until 1854 **(D4)**.

HARDWARE STREET (AND LANE) Named for Hardware House 1927. Northern end was formerly Wright Lane, named by 1857 **(E2 & E3)**.

HARPER LANE Merchant (and later Federal MP) Robert Harper, had a tea, coffee, spice, flour and oatmeal business in Flinders Lane from 1865 **(D5)**.

HEAPE COURT Benjamin Heape, pastoralist merchant, of Heape and Grice, Little Lonsdale Street **(E2)**.

HEFFERNAN LANE Rody Heffernan owned the Melbourne Hotel (later Centenary Hotel) in Lonsdale Street **(G3)**.

HENTY LANE The pastoralist Henty family established James Henty & Co., a merchant and shipping agency in Little Collins Street in 1851 **(C4)**.

HIGHLANDER LANE From Royal Highlander Hotel in Flinders Street **(C5)**.

HOWEY PLACE Henry Howey, pastoralist and first purchaser of land on the corner of Swanston and Collins Streets, 1837 **(F4)**.

HOWITT LANE Dr Godfrey Howitt's renowned prefabricated wooden cottage and garden was at the top of Collins Street from 1840 **(J5)**.

JEFFCOTT STREET William Jeffcott, Port Phillip's second Resident Judge, 1843-45 **(B1)**.

KING STREET NSW Governor 1800-06, Philip Gidley King, facilitated the discovery of Port Phillip opening off strategic Bass Strait **(B5)**.

KIRKS LANE August stallion sales were a highlight of Kirk's Horse Bazaar, one of several Bourke Street saleyards between Swanston and Queen Streets **(E3)**.

KITZ LANE Swiss-born wine merchant Louis Kitz had stores in Bourke and Collins Streets and in Geelong **(D4)**.

KNOX LANE Behind the former John Knox Church in Swanston Street, now a convention centre for Melbourne Church of Christ **(F2)**.

LA TROBE STREET Charles Joseph La Trobe, Port Phillip Superintendent 1839-50, Victoria's first Lieut.-Governor 1851-54 **(B1)**.

LITTLE BOURKE STREET Sections were named Law Courts Place and Post Office Place for adjacent institutions **(B3)**.

LITTLE COLLINS STREET Section between Queen and William Streets was known as Chancery Lane **(B4)**.

LITTLE LEICHARDT STREET German explorer scientist Ludwig Leichardt disappeared on his fourth north Australia trip, 1848 **(J2)**.

LITTLE LONSDALE STREET Little Lon's eastern end gained a notorious reputation; its western end including Mint Place adjoining the Royal Mint, was a more respectable address **(B2)**.

LITTLE QUEEN STREET Synagogue Lane until 1868, the new name reduced 'annoyances' directed at those attending Little Bourke Street synagogue **(D3)**.

LIVERPOOL STREET Formerly Juliet Terrace, companion to Romeo Lane (see Crossley Street) it was renamed for Bourke Street's Liverpool Hotel **(J3)**.

LONSDALE STREET Capt. William Lonsdale oversaw civil and military matters as Port Phillip Police Magistrate, 1836-39 **(C2)**.

LUSH LANE James Lush of Mowbray and Lush, drapers and importers in adjacent Flinders Lane **(G5)**.

MACKENZIE STREET Poss. for Alistair Mackenzie, who arrived in 1842 with appointment from Colonial Office as Sheriff. In 1851 he succeeded Lonsdale as Victorian Treasurer **(H1)**.

MALTHOUSE LANE Samuel Burston's five-storey steam and gas powered malthouse produced superior malt for brewing from 1869 **(H5)**.

MANCHESTER LANE Adjacent to Flinders Lane's numerous fabric and soft goods warehouses **(F5)**.

MARKET STREET A market square fronting Collins Street from 1842, the Western Market provided covered accommodation from 1849 **(D5)**.

MARKET LANE Gas lit by 1860s, the Eastern Market provided fresh produce and lively entertainment on Saturday nights **(H3)**.

MCCRACKENS LANE McCracken's Collins Street brewery produced stout and ales from 1851 until it became part of Carlton and United breweries in 1907 **(C4)**.

MCILWRAITH PLACE Formerly Lilly Lane, after 1840s estate agent James Lilly; John McIlwraith, manufacturer of plumbing goods and shipowner was Lord Mayor of Melbourne 1873-4 **(J4)**.

MCKILLOP STREET Named by 1856, probably for the Scottish accountant and estate agent, JP McKillop **(E4)**.

MITCHELL LANE First listed 1935, provided rear access to a new commercial building, Mitchell House in Elizabeth Street **(E2)**.

MITRE LANE Haunt of artists, lawyers and writers, the high-gabled Mitre Tavern has been licensed since 1867 **(D4)**.

MONAGHAN PLACE Thomas Monaghan of Queens Arms Hotel, cnr. Swanston Street and Flinders Lane from 1845 **(F5)**.

NIAGARA LANE Niagara Hotel on Lonsdale Street was named in 1856 for the ship on which its original owners arrived **(E3)**.

PARK STREET Formed c1877 opposite Flagstaff Gardens allowing access between LaTrobe and Little Lonsdale Streets **(B2)**.

PAYNES PLACE Renaming of an old lane in 1909 after John Payne of Payne's Bon Marche in Bourke Street **(H3)**.

QUEEN STREET Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV. Some considered Adelaide Street a more honorable tribute to the King's Consort **(E5)**.

RACING CLUB LANE Racing Club Hotel and offices of the Victorian Racing Club were located nearby **(E3)**.

RAINBOW ALLEY Rainbow Hotel, cnr. Swanston and Little Collins Streets **(G4)**.

ROSE ALLEY Named for King Street's hay and corn merchant, Alexander Rose **(B3)**.

ROYAL LANE Near Royal Mail Hotel, cnr. Bourke and Swanston Streets, and Coppin's Theatre Royal **(G4)**.

ROYSTON PLACE Formerly Were's Alley after stockbroker, JB Were, arrived 1839, whose name remains incorporated in a modern firm **(F5)**.

RUSSELL STREET After Lord John Russell, Secretary of State 1835-41, later British Prime Minister **(G5)**.

SPENCER STREET Earl John Charles Spencer (Lord Melbourne's former Chancellor of Exchequer as Lord Althorp), leader in House of Lords from 1835 **(A5)**.

SPRING STREET A tribute to a verdant precinct; or more likely to Thomas Spring-Rice, Chancellor of Exchequer 1835-38 **(J2)**.

ST JAMES LANE See Church Lane **(C4)**.

ST PATRICKS ALLEY St Patrick's Hall in Little Bourke Street hosted Victoria's first Legislative Council, 1851-56 **(D3)**.

STAUGHTON ALLEY Pastoralist and banker Simon Staughton died 1865; stockholder in Flinders Lane 1841 **(E5)**.

STEPHEN STREET, LATER EXHIBITION STREET Sir James Stephen, Colonial Office Under-Secretary 1836-47, was a great supporter of Australia's colonization. Street name changed for the 1880 Great Exhibition **(J4)**.

SUTHERLAND STREET First listed 1865, possibly for solicitor RA Sutherland **(E2)**.

SWANSTON STREET Capt. Charles Swanston, founder of Tasmania's Derwent Bank, was a leader of the Port Phillip Association **(F1)**.

TATTERSALLS LANE Tattersalls Hotel and Tattersalls Club located nearby in Bourke Street **(G3)**.

TAVISTOCK PLACE Named as lane by 1865, possibly after London's Tavistock Street. Former Tavistock House was in Flinders Lane **(D5)**.

TEMPLE COURT PLACE Temple Court, home of the legal profession, named for one of London's Inns of Court **(D4)**.

THOMSON STREET Thomson & Co., brassfounders and coppersmiths, operated in Little Bourke Street c1880-1950 **(D3)**.

ULSTER LANE Ulster Family Hotel on corner of Spring and Little Collins Streets **(J4)**.

UNION LANE Union Hotel in Little Collins Street in 1860s **(F4)**.

WILLIAM STREET King William IV who reigned 1830-37 left no heirs. His niece Victoria succeeded to the throne **(C5)**.

WILLS STREET Formed c1869 at the side of a new Crown Lands Office. Possibly honoring WJ Wills who died with RO Burke on the northern Australia expedition **(D1)**.
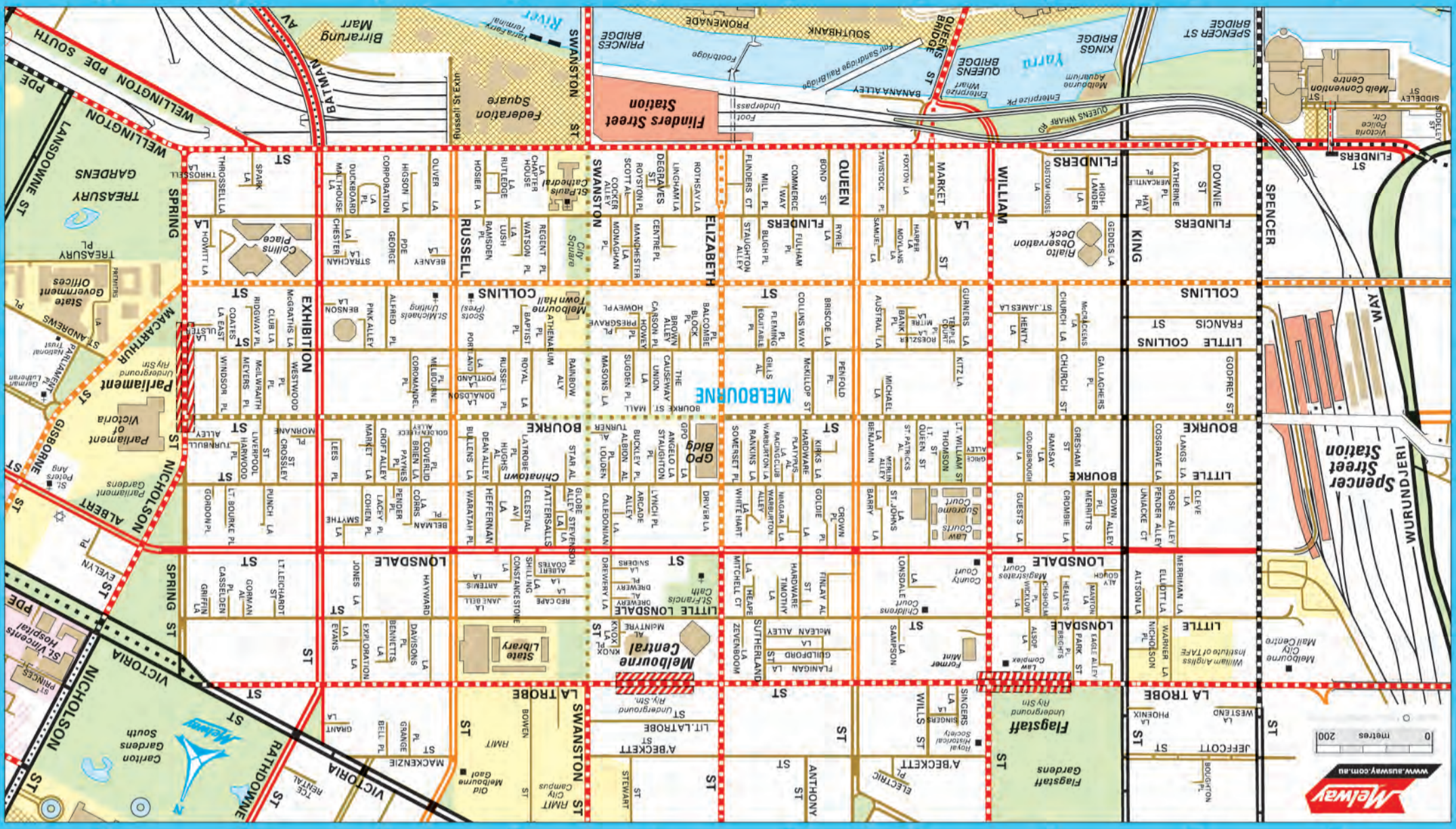
WINDSOR PLACE Built in 1883 (architect Charles Webb), The Windsor (originally The Grand Hotel), became a place of temperance as the Grand Coffee Palace and re-emerged as the licensed Windsor Hotel in 1920 **(J4)**.

WURUNDJERI WAY Dedicated to the Wurundjeri, the traditional owners in the area before European settlement; from wurund - river white gum trees and the jeri grubs found in them **(A3)**.

ZEVENBOOM LANE Dutch-born John Zevenboom launched the southern hemisphere's first brush-making business **(E2)**.

Map of Melbourne's streets and lanes

MELBOURNE'S STREETS & LANES
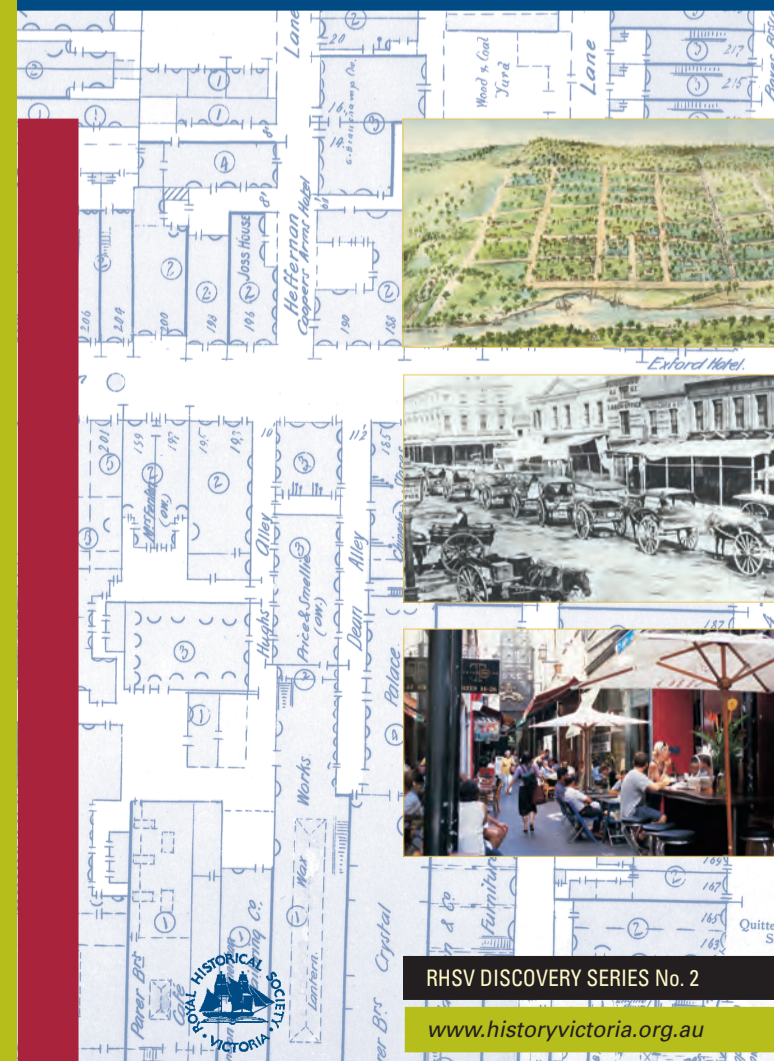

View from Parliament House c1880

View from Parliament House steps 2004

Cnr. Collins and Swanston Streets 1900

Cnr. Collins and Swanston Streets 2004

Discover Melbourne's history at a glance

RHSV DISCOVERY SERIES No. 2

www.historyvictoria.org.au

Taking a stroll down Melbourne's streets & lanes

Melbourne and its main streets from Flinders to Lonsdale and Spencer to Spring were named in 1837 by New South Wales Governor Richard Bourke following his official sanction of the Port Phillip settlement. Some names were drawn from his British masters in Lord Melbourne's second ministry 1835-1841. Under Bourke's successor George Gipps, the grid was extended northward to La Trobe Street in 1839, with a north-west wing to Victoria Street in 1845.

In England during the period, William IV died in June 1837, Queen Victoria succeeded to the throne, was crowned in July 1838 and married Prince Albert on 10 February 1840, the royal names all being given to city and near city streets.

Before and after Port Phillip became the separate Colony of Victoria in 1851, private subdivisions created Melbourne's lanes and alleys, giving side or rear access to buildings. Their names usually reflect people and places of commerce on a particular site at a particular time. A few persist from the 1840s and 1850s, but in many cases rebuilding has resulted in successive name changes. Since the 1970s when site consolidation for tower blocks intensified, many lanes and alleys have been closed and therefore no longer exist.

The following listing is by no means complete. It represents a tantalising glimpse of Melbourne's heritage, its changing fortunes and the myriad stories and characters who have contributed to the names of the city's streets, lanes and alleys.

ARTS VICTORIA

Victoria — Your Place to Be

Melway

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY VICTORIA