

Small group tour of Victoria for Senior travellers

Reading List

Cry Me A River: The Tragedy of the Murray-Darling Basin

by Margaret Simons

The Murray-Darling Basin is the food bowl of Australia, and it's in trouble. What does this mean for the future - for water and crops, and for the people and towns that depend on it?

In *Cry Me a River*, acclaimed journalist Margaret Simons takes a trip through the Basin, all the way from Queensland to South Australia. She shows that its plight is environmental but also economic, and enmeshed in ideology and identity.

Her essay is both a portrait of the Murray-Darling Basin and an explanation of its woes. It looks at rural Australia and the failure of politics over decades to meet the needs of communities forced to bear the heaviest burden of change. Whether it is fish kills or state rivalries, drought or climate change, in the Basin our ability to plan for the future is being put to the test.

"The story of the Murray-Darling Basin ... is a story of our nation, the things that join and divide us. It asks whether our current systems - our society and its communities - can possibly meet the needs of the nation and the certainty of change. Is the Plan an honest compact, and is it fair? Can it work? Are our politics up to the task?"

Black Gold: Aboriginal People on the Goldfields of Victoria 1850-1870

by Fred Cahir

Fred Cahir tells the story about the magnitude of Aboriginal involvement on the Victorian goldfields in the middle of the nineteenth century. The first history of Aboriginal-white interaction on the Victorian goldfields, *Black Gold* offers new insights on one of the great epochs in Australian and world history?the gold story. In vivid detail it describes how Aboriginal people often figured significantly in the search for gold and documents the devastating social impact of gold mining on Victorian Aboriginal communities. It reveals the complexity of their involvement from passive presence, to active discovery, to shunning the goldfields. This detailed examination of Aboriginal people on the goldfields of Victoria provides striking evidence which demonstrates that Aboriginal people participated in gold mining and interacted with non-Aboriginal people in a range of hitherto neglected ways. Running through this book are themes of Aboriginal empowerment, identity,

integration, resistance, social disruption and communication.

Sludge: Disaster on Victoria's Goldfields

by Susan Lawrence, Peter Davies

The fascinating, troubling legacy of the gold rush

Everyone knows gold made Victoria rich. But did you know gold mining was disastrous for the land, engulfing it in floods of sand, gravel and silt that gushed out of the mines?

Or that this environmental devastation still affects our rivers and floodplains?

Victorians had a name for this mining waste- 'sludge'. Sludge submerged Victoria's best grapevines near Bendigo, filled Laanecoorie Reservoir on the Loddon River and flowed down from Beechworth over thousands of hectares of rich agricultural land. Children and animals drowned in sludge lakes. Mining effluent contaminated three-quarters of Victoria's creeks and rivers.

Sludge is the compelling story of the forgotten filth that plagued nineteenth-century Victoria. It exposes the big dirty secret of Victoria's mining history - the way it transformed the state's water and land, and how the battle against sludge helped lay the ground for the modern environmental movement.

'A remarkable achievement' -Tom Griffiths

'A work of brilliant rediscovery and a wake-up call for our own times' -Grace Karskens

'Vividly conveys the long-term costs of short-term gains' -Billy Griffiths

The Spirit of the Goldfields: Victorian Goldfields History and Environment

by David R Griffiths

This book is mostly light reading with copious illustrations. It is history with sufficient information to create interest. The book covers people of the goldfields, mines, engineering, law and order. The Eureka rebellion, particularly in relation to American involvement. And some of the public spirited individuals who used their wealth to create a better world as they saw it.

The History of Bendigo

by George Mackay

Excerpt from The History of Bendigo

Readers who honor me by a perusal of this work will perceive that the first eight chapters deal with the general history of Bendigo, from the gold discovery in 1851 down to the present day chapters nine, ten, and eleven are devoted to an account of Mining Development; chapters twelve and thirteen to Politics; and chapter fourteen to matters Municipal. Thereafter follow chapters on Water Supply, Journalism, Public Institutions, the Churches, Amusements, Agriculture and Viticulture, and lastly on Local Industries.

I have found facts and events besetting me in my investigations in such battalions that I have had no occasion to draw on my imagination, or to adorn the tale. The narrative is plain and unvarnished.

About the Publisher

Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com

This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

The Birth of Melbourne

by Tim Flannery

The Birth of Melbourne is a spectacular anthology of contemporary writings giving a vivid insight into the history of Melbourne.

In 1835 John Batman sailed up the Yarra and was astonished by the beauty of the land. It was a temperate Kakadu, teeming with wildlife and with soils rich enough to spawn pastoral empires. With the discovery of gold, the city was transformed almost overnight into 'marvellous Melbourne'. And yet, as Tim Flannery writes, the price paid was environmental ruin and the tragic loss of societies that had flourished on Port Phillip Bay for millennia.

The Birth of Melbourne includes voices that range from tribal elders to Chinese immigrants, from governors to criminals. Among many others, John Pascoe Fawcner, Georgiana McCrae, J. B. Were, Ned Kelly, Marcus Clarke, Anthony Trollope and Rudyard Kipling contribute to this biography of our most surprising city.

'For me, a story is always more vivid when I can marry it to a particular place...I recommend this book to anyone with an affection for Melbourne and a lively interest in its past.' Martin Flanagan, *Age*

The Ship That Never Was: The Greatest Escape Story Of Australian Colonial History

by Adam Courtenay

The greatest escape story of Australian colonial history by the son of Australia's best-loved storyteller

In 1823, cockney sailor and chancer James Porter was convicted of stealing a stack of beaver furs and transported halfway around the world to Van Diemen's Land. After several escape attempts from the notorious penal colony, Porter, who told authorities he was a 'beer-machine maker', was sent to Macquarie Harbour, known in Van Diemen's Land as hell on earth.

Many had tried to escape Macquarie Harbour; few had succeeded. But when Governor George Arthur announced that the place would be closed and its prisoners moved to the new penal station of Port Arthur, Porter, along with a motley crew of other prisoners, pulled off an audacious escape. Wresting control of the ship they'd been building to transport them to their fresh hell, the escapees instead sailed all the way to Chile. What happened next is stranger than fiction, a fitting outcome for this true-life picaresque tale.

The Ship That Never Was is the entertaining and rollicking story of what is surely the greatest escape in Australian colonial history. James Porter, whose memoirs were the inspiration for Marcus Clarke's *For the Term of his Natural Life*, is an original Australian larrikin whose ingenuity, gift of the gab and refusal to buckle under authority make him an irresistible anti-hero who deserves a place in our history.
