

**MELBOURNE FACTS**

**CELEBRATING 183 WONDERFUL YEARS in 2018!**

Melbourne celebrates its 183rd anniversary on Thursday, August 30, 2018.

How much do you really know about your city? Here are 100 facts.

* **At 182 metres,** Nauru House (80 Collins St) when completed in 1977 was the city's tallest building, until it was eclipsed by the 185 metres ANZ Tower at Collins Place in 1978.
* **Batmania:** Before Melbourne got its name, it was called Batmania, Barebrass, Bearport, Bareheap and Dutergalla.Even Glenelg.
* **Melbourne’s first cat:** Melbourne's first cat is believed to have arrived in 1835 aboard the *Enterprize* and was owned by Mary Gilbert, one of the ship’s passengers.
* **1837, Melbourne officially named:** On 4 March Governor Sir Richard Bourke named the settlement Melbourne, after the British Prime Minister of the day. <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/History/Pages/SettlementtoCity.aspx>
* **Luna Park:** The world’s oldest, privately-owned theme park, Luna Park has been open since 1912. <http://lunapark.com.au/park-info/history/>
* **Eureka Tower:** Melbourne's Eureka Tower is the second-tallest building in Australia, and the second-tallest residential tower after the Ocean Heights in Dubai.
* **First to host Olympic Games:** In 1956 Melbourne was the first host of the Summer Olympic Games outside of Europe and North America. <http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/infopage/olympic.htm>
* **First tram restaurant:** Melbourne’s Tramcar Restaurant came “on-line” in 1983 and was the first of its kind in the world.   
  <http://www.tramrestaurant.com.au/about/>
* **Australia’s Capital for 26 years:** Melbourne was the nation’s capital city for 26 years, between 1901 and 1927 - before we got Canberra.

<http://archive.uninews.unimelb.edu.au/news/4332/>

* **Worlds’ largest Italian and Greek population:** Melbourne is home to the largest Greek-speaking population outside of Europe.   
  <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/History/Pages/multiculturalhistory.aspx#italians>
* **Largest tram system in the world:** Melbourne has the largest tram system in the world.   
  <http://www.yarratrams.com.au/about-us/who-we-are/facts-figures/>
* **Worlds’ first eight-hour work day:** In 1856 Melbourne workers successfully campaigned for the world's first eight hour work day. <http://www.8hourday.org.au/history.asp>
* **World record for highest attendance at cricket and footy:** Melbourne holds the world record for highest attendance at a cricket match, with a total of 91,092 spectators in 1961. The MCG also holds the record for a sporting event - AFL football, 121,696 fans at the Grand Final of Carlton v Collingwood on 26/09/1970.   
  <http://www.topendsports.com/world/lists/crowd-largest.htm>   
  <http://www.cricket.com.au/news/world-record-crowd-at-the-mcg-on-cards/2013-12-26>
* **Fosters Larger, a Melbourne first:** Fosters was originally produced in Melbourne in 1988, and was created by two Irish American brothers, William M and Ralph R Foster, who arrived in Melbourne from New York.   
  <http://www.australianbeers.com/beers/fosters/fosters.htm>
* **A Melbourne constitution?** Legend has it that early settler John Pascoe Fawkner wrote a constitution for his dream colony – behind the bar of a pub in Tasmania sometime in the 1830s. His hope was that this constitution would one day ensure equality for all men, whether convicts or free settlers.
* **Melbourne’s waterfall:** The waterfall, or “rapids”, was originally alongside today's Queensbridge Bridge. The falls were dynamited around the turn of the century as part of works to straighten the Yarra River to stop it flooding.
* **Australia’s first traffic lights:** The first set of traffic lights was installed in Melbourne, Australia’s first, in 1928 on the corner of Collins and Swanston streets. <http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/australian-firsts-for-melbourne#.VYuE0xuqpBc>
* **Worlds’ largest stained-glass ceiling:** Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria, founded in 1861, holds the world’s largest stained-glass ceiling.
* **Best coffee and pizza, now paella:** Hola, amigo! Melbourne's paella made by our city's Simply Spanish eateries was in 2016 voted the best in world, outside of Spain! Gracias!  
  <http://www.melbourneday.com.au/news.html#foodie-city>
* **Aussie Rules invented in Melbourne:** Mixing football, rugby and Gaelic football, Australian Rules Football was invented in Melbourne in 1858 by Tom Wills and friends as a way to keep cricketers fit during the off-season.

<http://www.afl.com.au/afl-hq/the-afl-explained/history>

* **Capital of cool:** We're the reigning ‘capital of cool' and world's most friendly city, as rated by Conde Nast Traveler magazine’s 2014 annual Readers’ Choice Survey.
* **It’s illegal to trade with pirates:** According to the Crimes Act of 1958, if you meet a pirate in Melbourne, you must not trade with them (or walk the plank, matey).

<http://www.au.timeout.com/melbourne/aroundtown/features/2423/breaking-the-law>

* **Worlds’ most innovative biotechnology breakthroughs:** Melbourne's scientists have been pivotal in the development of the world's most innovative biotechnology breakthroughs including Relenza, Relaxin and the bionic ear - providing hearing to 20,000 profoundly or totally deaf people in over 55 countries.
* **Worlds’ first feature film:** The *Story of the Ned Kelly Gang,* made in Melbourne in 1906, is recognised as the world's first feature film.   
  <http://www.nfsa.gov.au/collection/film/story-kelly-gang/>
* **Worlds’ largest full-steerable telescope:** In 1869, the largest fully-steerable telescope the world had seen was installed at the Melbourne Observatory.
* **Inspiring:** The Victorian Arts Centre spire reaches 115 metres, with 496 computer-controlled devices manipulating the colours and movement of the lights.
* ***Neighbours* made in Melbourne:** The Melbourne-made television soap opera *Neighbours* recorded its 4000th episode in May 2002. Since it began in 1985 the show has had 18 marriages, 11 deaths and six births.   
  <http://tenplay.com.au/channel-eleven/neighbours>
* **Vegemite invented and made in Melbourne:** The story began in 1922 when a young chemist was hired to develop a spread from one of the richest known natural sources in the Vitamin B group. It was labelled ‘Pure Vegetable Extract’ and manufactured solely at the Vegemite factory near Port Melbourne.   
  <https://www.vegemite.com.au/heritage/vegemite%20timeline>
* **MCC advertises for return of its club rooms:** In 1846 the hallowed ground of the MCG was originally located at present day Southbank, but had to move because of constant flooding. <http://www.mcc.org.au/About%20the%20MCC/Managing%20the%20MCG/Background.aspx>
* **Vic market built on site of Melbourne’s first cemetery:** The market’s car park sits on the site of Melbourne's original cemetery. Most graves were moved in 1917, but some were unmarked and it is thought some 9000 remain below the car park.
* **Worlds’ fox capital:** Melbourne is officially the fox capital of the world, with six to 23 foxes per square kilometre in the urban area of the city.
* **Worlds’ largest collection of bathing boxes:** There are some 1800 private bathing boxes and boat sheds around Port Phillip Bay.
* **Goat carts banned in Melbourne:** Under local Melbourne by-laws, it was an offence to drive your goat (or dog) harnessed or attached to a vehicle in a public place. It was also illegal to sing a rude or bawdy song within earshot of another person.
* **Worlds’ most over-the-top car park:** Tucked under the grand lawns of Melbourne University, at the end of Professors Walk, is possibly the most over-the-top car park you will see anywhere.

<https://www.onmydoorstep.com.au/heritage-listing/3808/underground-car-park>

* **The Lava Bubble, Williamstown:** Melbourne has one of the rarest geological phenomena in the world. The 2m lava blister, hidden amongst the rocks and saltbush on the edge of the beach at Pt Gellibrand, was formed when a huge bubble of magma formed as it slowly cooled a long time ago.
* **Fairies in Fitzroy Gardens:** The Fairy Tree in Fitzroy Gardens was carved in the 1930s by Ola Cohn, as a gift for the city's children.
* **Burke and Wills starting line, Royal Park:** Near the zoo, is a rugged memorial cairn to explorers Burke and Wills. It marks the departure point of their ill-fated 1860 expedition to cross Australia from south to north.
* **Freddo Frog born in Melbourne:** MacRobertson’s Stream Confectionery Works invented famous chocolate products like The Freddo Frog (1930), which is one of Australia's most popular children's chocolates and considered an Australian icon. <https://www.cadbury.com.au/Products/Pre-teens-Confectionery/Freddo.aspx>

<http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/macpherson-robertson-sir#.VYqhPEY_xm>

* **Melbourne opens Australia’s first pizza restaurant:** Melbourne is home to Toto’s, Australia’s first pizza restaurant, which opened in 1961 in Little Italy, Lygon Street, Carlton, where the business has remained since. In 2007 Toto's Pizza House was inducted as the second member of the World Pizza Hall of Fame
* **Chinese takeaway since 1851:** Chinese prospectors founded Chinatown in 1851, which remains the longest continuous Chinese settlement in the western world, and one of the oldest Chinatowns in the Southern Hemisphere.
* **Bathing in Brighton:** In 1881, the Brighton Sea Baths allowed bathers to discreetly enter the sea unseen - gentlemen and ladies at the time were required to swim at separate times.
* **Melburnians banned from making rain:** According to the Rain Making Control Act 1966, Melburnians are banned from carrying out unauthorised rain-making operations.
* "**Alas, poor Yorick!**” **Australia’s first literary club opens:** Australia’s first literary club started in Melbourne in 1868 and was called the Yorick Club, named after one of the characters in Shakespeare’s *Hamlet.*
* **Marvellous Melbourne:** During a visit in 1885 English journalist George Augustus Henry Sala coined the phrase “Marvellous Melbourne”, which is still used today.
* **Kiwi shoe polish invented in Melbourne:** The popular product was invented in 1906 by William Ramsay and Hamilton McKellan and made out of a factory in Melbourne.
* **The Ute is invented in Melbourne:** In 1929 Melburnian James Freeland Leacock invented and built the first Ute – utility vehicles with the cabin of a car and the rear of a small truck still popular with Australian farmers and tradies.
* **Melbourne invents the Black Box:** The Black Box flight recorder (now orange in colour) was invented in 1958 by Dr David Warren at the Aeronautical Research Laboratories in Melbourne.
* **World’s longest-running comic strip:** Published continuously for 62 years, The Potts was the world’s longest running comic strip, running in Melbourne’s *Sun News-Pictorial* and *Herald* from January 1940 until cartoonist’s Jim Russell’s death in 2001.
* **World’s first gay and lesbian radio station:** Melbourne’s Rainbow Radio was the world’s first gay and lesbian radio station.
* **World’s No 1 liveable city:** Melbourne has been ranked the world’s most liveable city seven years in a row, from 2011 to 2017, by the *Economist* Intelligence Unit.
* **Princes Bridge constructed:** In 1888 the landmark Princes Bridge was constructed. <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/History/Pages/BuildingMelbourne.aspx>
* **Melbourne opens first Australian steam railway:** The first Australian steam railway was established between Flinders Street and Port Melbourne.
* **1856 MCG opens its doors:** The MCG was built in 1856 and in 1956 the MCG was the focal point for the Olympic Games.
* **1861 NSW horse wins first Melbourne Cup:** The first Melbourne Cup was held in 1861 and won by Archer. Legend has it that Archer walked to Melbourne from his stables in Nowra, NSW, an 800km trip.
* **Melbourne’s very own Phar Lap:** Horse racing was the first sport to be covered live on Australian radio. During the Great Depression, Phar Lap captured the public’s imagination with his rise to dominance.
* **1837 Hoddle lays out Melbourne:** The streets of Melbourne were laid out in 1837 in the classic grid pattern that we call The Hoddle Grid.
* **Melbourne’s first census:** In 1854, when the first census of Victorians was conducted, 236,798 people lived in the colony.
* **“Call Girl” invented in Melbourne:** The expression “call girl” that is used for a prostitute, was invented in Melbourne and in 1891 Melbourne brothels created a telephone rendezvous system.
* **Melbourne Cup - the dreaded barrier 18:** No horse has won from barrier 18 since first introduced in 1924.
* **Russia defeats Australia in 1946:** What Australian sporting event did Russia win in 1946? Answer: the Melbourne Cup. Russia was a horse. He won by three lengths. <http://www.races.com.au/melbourne-cup/melbourne-cup-history/past-winners/1941-to-1950-melbourne-cup/>
* **Shrimpton shocks Melburnians:** British model Jean Shrimpton shocked Flemington by wearing a miniskirt in 1965.
* **Aspro - a Melbourne invention:** George Richard R. Nicholas made the first Australian acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) in a tablet form registered in 1917 as "Aspro".
* **First bionic ear:** The Australian bionic ear is the result of pioneering research commenced by Professor Graeme Clark in the late 1960s at the University Of Melbourne Department Of Otolaryngology-it was first implanted in 1982.
* **Dim Sims invented in Melbourne:** The savoury snack was developed in Melbourne by Chinese chef William Wing Young (father of TV chef Elizabeth Chong) for his restaurant "Wing Lee".
* **Electrical drill:** The invention of the first electric drill is credited to Arthur James Arnot and William Blanch Brain in 1889 in Melbourne.
* **Hills hoist - made in Melbourne:** Around 1912, an inventor in Geelong called Gilbert Toyne, designed a rotary clothes hoist. By the early 1920s, Toyne's “All-Metal Rotary Clothes Hoist” was being manufactured and advertised in Australia.
* **Latex gloves:** The Ansell Company had made household gloves since 1925 but in 1964 they introduced the disposable latex gloves for use in surgery.
* **Reading machine for the blind – 1990:** Milan Hudecek of Melbourne invented the world's first reading machine for the blind.
* **“In Flew Enza” – 1989:** Heralded as the world's first influenza drug, Zanamivir was discovered in 1989 by scientists led by Mark von Itzstein at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University, in collaboration with the CSIRO.
* **Round-the-world airline service – 1958:** Qantas inaugurated a pioneering round-the-world airline service with two planes taking off from Melbourne.
* **Sunshine harvester – 1885:** In 1882, the Australian Hugh Victor McKay (Drummartin, Victoria) developed the first commercial combine harvester in 1885, the Sunshine Harvester. The suburb of Sunshine was named after Sunshine Harvester where it was manufactured.
* **Trugo – 1918:** Trugo, like Australian Rules Football, is one of Victoria's few indigenous sports. It is still played in the suburbs every week. Apart from its players, most people have never heard of it.
* **Plastic money invented in Melbourne:** Australia’s polymer currency, released in 1988, was developed in Melbourne. It’s now used in more than 30 denominations around the world, helping prevent counterfeiting and providing a longer-lasting alternative to paper cash.

<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/australia_innovates/?behaviour=view_article&Section_id=1060&article_id=10080>

* **Melbourne sharpens its knives:** In 1964 after a US market survey showed 80 per cent of Americans didn’t know how to sharpen a knife, Melbourne design engineer Dennis Jackson invented a spring-loaded sharpening block inside a sheath or scabbard, which sharpened the knife every time it was taken out or replaced.
* **Melbourne’s love affair with trams:** Trams have operated continuously in Melbourne since 1884, with the opening of a horse tram line in Fairfield. Since then they have become a distinctive part of Melbourne's character and feature in tourism and travel advertising.
* **City Council rules Melburnians must drive on left side:** To control the motorised horde, in 1916 Melbourne City Council imposed new restrictions. Vehicles had to travel on the left-hand side of the road and when stopping a hand or a whip had to be raised. In the following years hand signals for turning were imposed, along with time restrictions on parking.
* **1835 - Melbourne starts as an illegal settlement:** Sheep farmers from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) crossed Bass Strait in search of new pastures in 1835 and within two years, more than 350 people and 55,000 sheep had landed. We celebrate Melbourne Day on 30 August, the day in 1835 the first settlers arrived, founding Melbourne.
* **A ticket to Melbourne:** Immigrants leaving Britain in 1852 bought more tickets to Melbourne than to any other destination in the world.
* **Melburnians drink champagne from buckets:** Gold brought both progress and problems in the late 1800s. Society seemed to be turned upside down as diggers drank champagne from buckets and Irish maids paraded in silks and diamonds.
* **125,000 = boom town:** By 1861, Melbourne was a city of 125,000 people and evolving as the richest city in the world at the time, thanks to the booming Gold Rush.
* **Maid makes fortune sweeping the floor:** One Melbourne hotel maid was rumoured to have made a fortune by collecting gold sweepings off the carpets during the 1850s Gold Rush.
* **Smile for the camera:** Richard Daintree, Antoine Fauchery and Charles Nettleton were the first to photograph Melbourne.
* **Coffee anyone?** A particular feature of Melbourne’s boom years were the temperance hotels, known as coffee palaces. The historic Windsor Hotel was one such place.
* **Melbourne cast in iron:** Melbourne has more decorative cast iron than any other city in the world. By the 1880s it symbolised the city's brash image. Virtually every new balcony and verandah was draped in an “iron petticoat”.
* **Meet me under the clocks:** Flinders Street Station became the city's new gateway from 1910, and the clocks above the entrance to this Edwardian baroque masterpiece acted as pacesetters for the tens of thousands of people who passed beneath daily.
* **Your three minutes are up - are you extending?** Melbourne's earliest telephone connection was installed in 1879.
* **Need a lift?** In 1887, Melbourne became the fourth city in the world to build a centralised pumping station — near Victoria Dock — to power hydraulic lifts.
* **Cable trams arrive:** The first cable tram in Victoria operated along Flinders Street to Richmond in 1885.
* **Manchester Unity becomes Melbourne’s tallest building:** The Manchester Unity was Melbourne's tallest building of the time, with its ornamental towers reaching beyond the then height limit of 132 feet.
* **You’ve got two chances - Buckleys and None!** Buckley & Nunn was a store in Melbourne. It was named after the escape convict, William Buckley, who hid in caves and lived with Aborigines near Barwon Heads for 32 years. It first opened in 1851 as a drapery store until it was taken over by David Jones in 1982.

<http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/explore-history/colonial-melbourne/convicts/william-buckleys-escape>

* **Wild animals arrive in Melbourne:** Melbourne Zoo is the oldest zoo still operating in Australia, having opened in 1862.
* **Melbourne and the arts:** The first public art gallery in Australia was the Melbourne Museum of Art. It later changed its name to the National Gallery of Victoria.
* **Melbourne Uni first to admit women:** The University of Melbourne was the first university to admit women and it opened its doors to female undergraduates during 1879.

<http://our-history.unimelb.edu.au/timeline/>

* **Australia’ first comic hits the presses:** Australia’s first comic came off the press in Melbourne in May 1934 and was called *Fatty Finn’s Weekly*.
* **Tinny’s first produced in Melbourne:** The brewery to first sell beer in cans (not bottles) was the Carlton United Breweries in January 1958.
* **First Australian tractor made in Melbourne:** The first Australian manufactured tractor was produced in 1909 in Melbourne called The McDonald Imperial.
* **Anyone for tennis?** The first tennis balls in Australia were manufactured in Melbourne in 1908 by Dunlop.
* **Polo first played in Melbourne:** Polo was first played in Australia in 1875 at Albert Park.
* **Robin Hood would have been proud:** WFE Liardet, proprietor of the Brighton Pier Hotel at Port Melbourne organized the first archery club in October 1840.
* **Boneshakers arrive at MCG:** On 10 July 1869 the first bike race in Australia was held at the MCG and it was called The Royal Boneshakers Cycling Club.

For more information visit [MelbourneDay.com.au](http://www.melbourneday.com.au)



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***What is Melbourne Day?***

*Melbourne Day celebrates the founding of Melbourne - 30 August 1835.*

*Melbourne Day Committee coordinates activities and events to educate citizens on the history of their city and clarify the historical events about who actually discovered Melbourne.*

*Melbourne was founded by European settlers who sailed from Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) aboard the schooner Enterprize. They landed on the north bank of the Yarra River and established the first permanent settlement, close to the Immigration Museum at the Old Customs House — on the corner of William and Flinders streets — and the place today known as Enterprize Park.*

*Melbourne Day Committee works with tourism industry partners and businesses to develop, promote and deliver a program of events to celebrate the founding of our city and showcase all that is great about Melbourne.*

*The aim is to raise awareness and clarify historical events surrounding the foundation of Melbourne whilst acknowledging the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as this land's traditional owners.*