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**\*\* Regarding The History of the Period**

**\*\*And HOW to RUN the Play**

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**THE PLAY REAL EVENTS-----REAL PEOPLE**

**VICTORIA --during--and after the**  
**GOLD RUSH!**

**AIM: To demonstrate that :**

***The actual acknowledgement and PROMOTION of FINDING GOLD deposits in N.S.W. by Edward Hargreaves, eventually transferred the search to VICTORIA, and in the process TRANSFORMED VICTORIA.***

**A SIMPLE PLAY TO ENCOMPASS ALL the CLASS.**

**SHOULD OCCUPY 3 classroom periods only.L**

**1 Signposts and Taste READINGS.by TEACHER**

**2 Select the PLAYERS. 3. Enjoy the PLAY.**

**HOW:**

**JOBS to be done:**

1. To include ALL THE CLASS..A job can be found for ALL.
2. Signs, drawings, and simple uniforms or period clothes.
3. Equal speaking time for all participants.
4. A Historical commentary, **and** Introduction for each ACT, should allow Girls, to make up for the historical imbalance of men (Boys).
5. Understudies should be given a go.

**TEACHER READ: With possibly Some light discussion to follow.**

1. **SIGNPOSTS TO EARLY AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AND THE PLAY SETTING.**
2. **GET A "TASTE OF OUR EARLY PEOPLE."**

**SELECT:**

1. Actors and Actresses.

**MAKE SIMPLE:** Uniforms or Clothing. Use a LARGE name SIGN..

**READ:** Directly From the script. Tutors may change how they like. **Have FUN!!**

**PERHAPS** attach a Video and Sound link.-Another job?

Please Note, All Sources and Acknowledgements are at the end of The Forgotten Tyabb Secret book.

## **SIGNPOSTS TO EARLY AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AND THE PLAY SETTING.**

Whilst it had been acknowledged, for some time, that GOLD could be found in Australia, it was really the Californian GOLD rushes, starting in 1848 then 1849, that started people thinking. GOLD consciousness was growing in Australia. Sensationalist finds of GOLD and its "poor to riches" effect was becoming quite well published in Australia.

The NSW Colonial Secretary, announced on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1851 that Gold had been found in NSW near Bathurst.

P & O's "*CHUSAN*," was the first Sailing and Steam Engine ship, to motor through the Suez canal, and cut the journey from UK to Australia down to 80 days, arriving in Melbourne on July 1852. This meant that prospective GOLD finders could rely on a shorter trip than taking the Sailing ship's route via South America then across to South Africa, and through Bass Strait. A lighthouse had been built in 1848 at cape Otway to help guide ships along Bass Strait to Melbourne.

### **A "TASTE OF OUR EARLY PEOPLE."**

Edward Hargreaves, was not actually the first to discover Gold in Australia. BUT he did promote the findings at Ophir near Bathurst NSW, giving rise to the NSW Colonial Secretary's announcement.

It had been rumored that James Gumm a former servant of John Pascoe Fawkner, had always been looking for Gold in his Victorian holdings. Pastoralists, Squatters, and sheepherders would have the signs of GOLD, and possibly dabbled in a "bit of Gold selling" but they all feared it would undermine the Country nature of the land.

At the 1851 census, just after the First GOLD Rush in Australia, and after devastating Bush Fires, Victoria had a population of about 77,000. In 1854, after 3 years, it had jumped to 237,000. By 1861 it was 540,000. **Nearly half the total population of Australia.**

In 1854 Sir Charles Hotham succeeded La Trobe as Lt. Governor of Victoria. This was the year of the EUREKA STOCKADE REBELLION at BALLARAT. December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1854. Hotham delayed his acceptance of the post, wishing to be a Captain of a naval Vessel at the Crimean War. William Lonsdale, Victoria's First Police Magistrate, continued to serve on as First Colonial Secretary to the Elected Victoria Legislative Council.

BOTH La Trobe and Hotham, believed in "Nullius" and charged Gold Miners a License Fee. The License Fee and its cost triggered the revolt at Ballarat. At the time Melbourne was slowly becoming a sophisticated City.

Its interesting that John Pascoe became a Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, and opposed the Miners rioting, and Major Edward MacArthur, son of John MacArthur, became acting Lt. Governor for 12 months after Charles Hotham's death. This son helped Macarthur pull down Governor Bligh.

## **THE ACTS.**

**ACT 1. Scene 1 Players.** La Trobe—Lonsdale—

**Scene 2 Players.** Fawcner—Leader of the Opposition—Speaker--Members

**ACT 2. Scene 1 Players.** Matt.--Horace the Mine owner—Dr. Wills.(Father of John Wills of Bourke and Wills fame)—Linda Matt's wife.

**Scene 2 Players.** Mrs. Ena Perry—Raffaello Carboni

**ACT 3. Scene 1. Players.** Chris—Tristo—Garrath--Macca

**Scene 2. Players.** Hayley—Jessica, Gemma—Mackenzie--Ling Wah Ho

**ACT 4. Scene 1. Players** A Newspaper in Action--Normality in Victoria.

**Scene 2. Players.** Peter Lalor “being grilled” before becoming SPEAKER in The State of Victoria Legislative Assembly

**ACT 1. Scene 1.**LaTrobe and Lonsdale Discussing the Affairs of Victoria.

**LaTrobe:** I foresee a disaster looming, around the Gold Fields. I have made several visits to the area, and I think the Mining Licenses are quite high. Impossibly high for the unsuccessful Miners.

**Lonsdale:** I feel the same Charles. I think it is quite wrong to give the Troops so much power in collecting the Mining Licenses. Anyway the next Lt. Governor will have the situation not you! You have been here since September 1839., and this is 1845. I here that the new Lt. Governor, being a Naval Captain really wants a ship to command so that he can go to the Crimean War, and that is the reason why he is taking so long to get here.

**LaTrobe:** Well, now we have a terrible situation, with people coming from all over the world, to look for Gold, and judging out Governing of the situation. Even Mr. Fawkner attacks me, through his Colonial Reform Party. What on earth is that fellow Lalor and others up to, and that foreign fellow Garibaldi?

**Lonsdale:** Charles with all due respect, the Gold Fever, has robbed this City of Melbourne, in this infant State of Victoria, of manpower. We are collecting Taxes on Gold, but not everyone finds Gold. Soon they will have to leave the Gold Areas, and get jobs just to live,

**LaTrobe:** Maybe then William, in the later half of the 1850's The Legislative Council could set an example. Get a few good men, pay them well, and build anything, Roads, Public Buildings, enlarge the wharf area at Williamstown, Anything to keep people here.

**Lonsdale:** We could also get that Steam Railway System to grow. You know that big Engine" thing" that George and Robert Stephenson have pioneered in England. Maybe you could set it up to start before your successor Charles Hotham gets here!

**La Trobe:** That American fellow Samuel Morse with his thing that sends dits and dats that represent letters in the alphabet along a steel cable attached to tall poles seems to have helped our communication between here and Williamstown. The line between Melbourne and Geelong is nearly finished. Maybe it can be used to connect the whole world? The Argus newspaper seems to like the idea. At least they have not criticized me on that matter. The paper seems to criticize me on every other matter. I stopped the English Government sending Convicts here. But they think I should promote this Port Phillip area over the NSW area!

## **ACT 1.Scene 2. A noisy scene in the VICTORIAN Legislative Assembly**

**Leader of some Opposition.** You must have gone mad! You of all people have been incarcerated, whipped, kept in chains, all your possessions taken away from you, you acted giving free legal advice to the poor, and yet you criticize Miners for rebelling about an unfair large Mining tax to the Government.

**J.P.Fawkner.** My fellow colleagues. I did heartily condemn the rising of Miners at Ballarat! I was misled, about who was causing the problem.

-----**Jeers and more noise**-----

**Speaker.** Order, order please Gentlemen!

**J.P.Fawkner.** The Miners knew their responsibility, it was the troublemakers who caused the fight not the Miners. They did not have to fight the Troopers.

**Leader of some Opposition.** You silly old man, maybe you are too rich to care anymore! You wanted to give Lt. Gov. Hotham a thousand pounds, for being a bold leader, and you wanted this Assembly to thank the Troops.

-----**boos hiss, jeers**-----

**Speaker.** That's enough bad behavior. Anymore and I will order the noise maker to leave the Chamber.

**J.P.Fawkner.** I have been appointed to the Royal Commission, to investigate the Miners situation, and complaints. I propose to investigate every reported abuse or fault or complaint.

**Leader of some Opposition.** What about getting our money back from the Lt. Governor. What about stopping the Courts from trying to lock up several of the Miners Leaders.

**J.P.Fawkner.** I can only repeat! I was misled, and I am going to investigate every Miner's situation if he complains about Law.

## **ACT 2. Scene 1. At Doctor Wills Surgery at Ballarat**

**Horace:** By heavens !! That hurts Doctor Wills.

**Dr. Wills:** I know, but at least Matthew has kept the knee wound free of infection.

**Horace:** Thanks Matthew!

**Matt:** Good to see you are mending Horace.

**Horace:** Yes, but I will never be able to work my Gold mine. I am too big and overweight, and my knee will always let me down. That's why I am enticing you Matt, to go shares in my Gold Mine. You do all the work and hiring. I keep an eye on the profit and the Operation.

**Dr. Wills:** If Matt wants to leave my Medical Practice, I could ask my eldest son William to work for me here. At least it would get him away from Shepherding and Surveying Studies. But he is very interested in Gold, and it was the reason we came here as a Family because, whilst in England, I invested money for a share in the Melbourne Gold Mining Company.

**Matt:** I met William some time ago. I think he could be interested in helping here at your Practice. Anyway I will have to make some decision soon because my parents, uncles and aunts want to go off and get cattle at Deniliquin and sell them here on these Ballarat Goldfields.

**Dr. Wills:** Deniliquin That's where William and his brother are looking after sheep on a property. I will contact William, and see if he is interested, but please don't leave this surgery Matthew until he comes here or I can arrange for someone else to replace you.

-----**later at Matt and Linda's Home**-----

**Linda:** Matt, I think Horace has given us a great opportunity with the Gold Mine. If I could persuade Mrs. Ena Perry to cook and wash for us, we could take Hayley and Jessica with us.

**Matt:** I have worked out how to run the mine. If Horace gives us half the profits, we could be setup for life. When Tristan and Christopher get back from the cattle drive from "The Long Paddock" to here at Ballarat, with my Dad David, Uncle Jim and Uncle Garrath, and our Mums, they could work in the mine getting the rough rocks and soil. Mackenzie could guide and look after the horse that pulls the baskets of mined lumps of rock to the surface. Hayley and Jess could select the larger lumps of gold bearing rock, and Gemma could sift the residue in the pan of water to find the smaller specks of gold.

**Linda:** Why don't you make a Puddling Area, that way all the hard work can be done by the horse. And you could make money from any miner that needed the service.

**Matt:** That's a good idea. Maybe I could do some Puddling for some of the Miners and make extra money. At the Mine we have a creek that feeds into the small dam. I could make the creek overflow into 3 small pools with stone bottoms, so that all the mud would be available for the other miners to inspect if they wanted to use our 'puddling'.

**ACT 2. Scene 2. At Matt and Linda's Home at the Gold Mine.**



**Raffaello Carboni:** Ello isa Orace ere?

**Mrs. Ena Perry:** No! Whom may I ask is enquiring.

**Carboni:** Mya name isa Carboni. I ams looking for Orace.

**Mrs. Perry:** You mean Horace?

**Carboni:** Si si. Heeya promise me a look at isa mine.

**Mrs. Perry:** Why Mister Carboni?

**Carboni:** Peter Lalor, wants me to sees all the foreigners and tell them what isa happening.

**Mrs. Perry:** What is happening Mister Carboni?

**Carboni:** Alla the Miners donna like the Govments Mining Tax, so we not pay them.

**Mrs. Perry:** But that will make the Government Officials angry, and they may send the Troops to make the Miners Pay. They have already put up signs against you.

**Carboni:** Thatsa too bad. We av also put up signs saying Govment no good. We are not going to pay pay the mining tax!

**Mrs. Perry:** Anyway Mr. Mathew Duncan is in charge of this Mine. He is busy at the moment, and will not have time to see you.

**Carboni:** Thatsa who Pietro is seeing at the moment. E is discusing with im how to build a Puddling area. E was an Engineer on the Melbourne to Williamstown Railway line, before he come here to get gold.

### **ACT 3. Scene 1 At Ballarat Cattle Yards**

**Chris:** I can flick the fly away from that steer's backside with my whip!

**Tristan:** I can as well, but I have to mend my stock whip first.

**Chris:** It's a bit slow, with no action or freedom, sitting on these stockyard rails, making sure the cattle don't break out of this holding yard. I should be fixing my saddle.

**Tristo:** I know, but our Dad's were very strong in telling us to make sure the cattle don't get out. Anyway our Bluey dog will help us.

**Garrath:** Boys, I'm going down to join your Fathers, Dave and Jim, at the market place, to help find buyers for the cattle. Look after young Macca.

**Macca:** Hey fella's, Haven't seen you for weeks. Was the trip to get the cattle good?

**Tristo:** Pretty good. Here hold this stock whips handle, while I tie on the crackers.

**Chris:** Tristan and I reckon we could go up the Long Paddock, and just work away helping drovers.

**Macca:** I think Matt is thinking about running a Gold Mine, and want's you two to help.

**Chris:** A Gold Mine?

**Tristo:** Matt usually doesn't make many mistakes. It could be ok.

**Chris:** Anyway we have to deliver a letter from our friend Jack Wills to his Doctor father here in Ballarat.

**Macca:** That maybe the Doctor Matt is working for.

**Tristo:** You can guide us there Macca, so we can deliver the letter.

### **ACT 3. Scene 2 At The Mine.**

**Hayley:** I don't mind getting some of the lumps and letting Gemma, swirl the water in the pan to see Gold settle at the bottom. At least all I have to do is bake 3 loaves of bread every day.

**Jessica:** It's getting harder and harder to find sticks and burning material around this mine. Maybe you can bake a few more loaves on the fire I give you.

**Hayley:** At least Mrs. Perry is pretty good at washing and gives Linda a hand in getting food ready.

**Jessica:** I only have to look after Ella in the mornings. She is starting to speak a little, and just wants to run all over the place.

**Hayley:** At least we don't have to wash our clothes, and Mrs. Perry tells us when some of our clothes need a bit of sewing.

**Jessica:** Maybe I could look after the horse. Mackenzie doesn't seem to like the job. Anyway Matt is going to town tomorrow with the horse and kart. We can all go. We had better wash and clean up early.

.....Later.....

**Gemma:** I'm going to find a little rock I can sit on to swish the soil in the pan. It's too hard just squatting. You are lucky Mackenzie, to be moving around, with the horse. Pulling up the rocks in baskets that Chris and Tristo fill up underground, then dumping them for the girls Hayley and Jessica to pick over. I have to put water in the dish with some soil then swirl it around to see if specks of gold are there.

**Mackenzie:** At least you can see something. All I see is a big horse and lots, of droppings, and if Matt gets his way and we used the horse for puddling for other gold diggers, I'll always be seeing a horses backside.

**Chinese Boy:** Heya what doin'?

**Mackenzie:** Just letting the horse pick on some grass. What are you doing?

**Chinese Boy:** Lookin around. Orse looks fatter than you n me.

**Mackenzie:** (laughing) He sure does.

**Gemma:** How did you get here, what's your name.

**Chinese Boy:** Me called Ling Wah Ho. You?

**Gemma:** Me Gemma, he is Mackenzie. That's Hayley and Jessica over there.

**Ling Wah:** Gumaa. Mackssss (laughing) Ahley and Jesssss.

**Mackenzie:** You can call me anything, but not late for dinner. Ha ha!!

**Gemma:** Where do you come from and what do you do?

**Ling Wah Ho:** Me come from China with Father, on a boat, with lotsa men from my village in China. Many many big waves, lotsa people sick. The boat stopped at Robe. We Chinese from ship walked here. Very hot and long way. My Father put needles into Chinese to make devils, and sickness go way, he gives them little mixtures of herbs ground up. I look after needles, and grow little things that my Father uses as medicine. I have got a lot of spuds. I give you bucket veggies for bucket of horse poo? Do you want some?

**Hayley:** Yes please, Ling Wah. Mrs. Perry will be very happy, not having to find raw veggies.

**ACT 4 .Scene 1. A Newspaper in Action. Normality in Victoria.**

***Owner of the Newspaper Argus.*** All right let's hear what you individually want to write about.

***Journalist 1.*** Well I think that "macadamizing" our roads is a big step for stopping our streets smelling of horse droppings., and you don't have to wear high sided boots.

***Journalist 2.*** I think the building of the New Treasury Building, to store Gold in, and the Library deserve an article.

***Journalist 3.*** I think the general prosperity of Melbourne now that the Gold Rushings appear to be over.

***Owner of the Newspaper Argus.*** Come on Fellows, a little bit of thinking please. Aren't you all forgetting about The Steam Train from Melbourne to Williamstown, and the invention of the American Samuel Morse, and how we can now communicate from Melbourne to Williamstown by the wire attached to long poles? Pretty soon we will be able to communicate with London.

***Journalist 1.*** I have heard rumor's that a Committee has been formed to select people to survey the land between here and Darwin to see if a Telegraph Line can be set up, so that all the overseas news comes to Melbourne first.

***Journalist 3.*** I have heard that rumor also, they appear to have picked a Police Inspector from Beechworth, called Bourke, to lead the expedition, but the expedition is being held up because they want Camels to carry the equipment and stores, so they have sent a man overseas to purchase them.

***Journalist 2.*** What about expansion of the Railway track system. Now that Peter Lalor has been elected to the State Legislature, he has been put in charge of Building new railways tracks. Not bad for a fellow who looked like going to jail for taking part in the Eureka rebellion.

**ACT 4. Scene 2. Another noisy scene in The State of Victoria Legislative Assembly**

-----boos hiss, jeers-----

**Speaker.** That's enough bad behavior. Anymore and I will order the noise maker to leave the Chamber.

**Leader of some Opposition:** I object to you becoming Speaker of the House. I remember when you were hiding from Policemen to face a rebellion charge at Ballarat. Now you are going to become the SPEAKER OF THIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

**A Member of the HOUSE.** Wasn't that when you lost part of your arm?

**Another Member.** Didn't you hide after the rebellion.

**Speaker Elect-Mr.Peter lalor.** I have been elected, as Speaker, by Members of this House, do you question their validity.

**MEMBER of the Largest side.** At least the Speaker has had a University Education. Something that most of you Members opposite could never get. He also worked on the Railway line, from Melbourne to Williamstown, as an Engineer. He has also helped run a Gold Mine at Clunes.

**A Member of the HOUSE.** Mr. Speaker Elect, Wasn't that when you used Chinese Labor to break Labor Strikers?

**SpeakerElect-Mr.Peter lalor.** My past life has been examined by my peers in this House, and they have elected me Speaker. I do not intend to debate my role with anyone in this House.