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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

“1835 (plus) JOHN BATMAN and

FRIENDS *versus*

JOHN PASCOE FAWKNER

versus

CAPTAIN LONSDALE +

GOVERNOR BOURKE + BRITISH

COLONIAL OFFICE

AIM: To demonstrate that : Batman and Fawkner were quick off the mark in settling the Land across the Straight from V.D.L. It forced the British Foreign Secretary to declare that all foreign land was owned by Britain, and no one could just take land without paying for it and the Government agreeing to that occupation.

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 each appropriate book.

SIGNPOSTS TO EARLY AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AND THE PLAY SETTING.

After Britain had been “pushed” out of America (and its use as a convict settlement) she took ownership of the so called her so called “defensive colonies.” Britain provided ships, men, and supplies, therefore it deserved ownership. Hence NULLIUS was born.

The current site of Victoria was attached to N.S.W. The Governor’s of the day were in no hurry to have the land developed particularly as it would “cost”

Even the Henty settlement at Portland did not excite too much concern. BUT, when the influential people backing the Port Phillip Site, started to make their claims known, the Governor of the day Bourke, was forced to act, claiming that ALL land was owned by the British Government.

A “TASTE OF OUR EARLY PEOPLE.”

Quite a lot was known about the size, and areas of Australia through the efforts of explorers **George Bass** and **Matthew Flinders** circumnavigating Tasmania in 1797. **James Grant** sighting the entrance to Port Phillip whilst sailing to Sydney from Cape Town in 1800, John Murray sent to explore Westernport then Port Phillip in 1801, Charles Grimes and Charles Robbins mapping Port Phillip in 1803 after following the French expedition into the Bass strait Islands in 1803, the Short lived Military Encampment at Corinella in 1803, and **Hamilton Hume**, John Batman’s childhood friend from Parramatta, and **Captain Hovell’s** expedition that found Port Phillip Bay from the land in 1824, mistakenly thinking they had found Westernport; because of an error in navigation by Hovell.

There is no doubt that **John Batman** was instrumental in opening up the Port Phillip area for settlement, particularly as sheep and cattle prices required more and more grazing area for the animals was required. Land in Tasmania was just about all taken up.

Meetings by the members of the Port Phillip Association, were sometimes held in the Public House in Launceston the Cornwall Arms, owned by **John Pascoe Fawkner**, who would as a business man would have been intrigued and desirous of joining the venture. He was not invited! So he decided to go it alone, and set up a rival establishment in what is now called Melbourne.

The **Henty** occupation at Portland, gave a sense of urgency to the development of Port Phillip. Some of the Henty family, had had bad experiences at the Swann River settlement in Western Australia, so the “family” re located to Launceston. From there the settlement at Portland was begun and maintained.

Because what is now called Victoria, belonged to NSW, and was a long way from Sydney, the Governor of Australia in Sydney was reluctant to allow settlement. However the influential people in Launceston and Hobart, plus the Henty settlement at Portland, meant some action had to be taken. It was, in the form of **Terra Nullius**.

In other words ALL Land belonged to the British Government. Therefore ONLY the British Government could sell land

The actual first people to settle in Melbourne, were under the control of **John Pascoe Fawkner**, who provided the ship. He decided to leave his ship the *Enterprize*, (due to financial and Legal commitments in Launceston, when at sea and returned to George Town) under the command of Captain Peter Hunter, and the overall expedition under the command of Captain John Lancey.

In summing up the very early settlers in Port Phillip at Melbourne, **John Batman** was a big energetic highly regarded bush man, very large land owner sheep farmer, in Van Diemens Land. Slowly dying of a disease he inherited at birth, or picked up during his life. He was highly regarded by the Government and helped capture Mathew Brady, and commanded part of the Infamous Black Line in Tasmania.

John Pascoe Fawkner, went with his Family, his Father was a convicted person, on the short lived Convict settlement, at Sorrento. A small man he hated authority of any kind, and had experienced whippings and jail terms during his growing up. **Captain John Lancey** just happened to be a small investor in Fawkner's plans to beat Batman in setting up in Port Phillip. He and several others had actually paid Fawkner about 7 pounds each to go on Fawkner's ship the *Enterprize*.

Governor Bourke appointed **Captain Lonsdale**, to act as Government Representative for Law and Order, and at Governor Bourke's visit, he decided the laying out, and naming of the village Melbourne (after the British Prime Minister)

ACT 1 PLAYERS.

Mrs. Henry Batman—Mrs. Fawkner—Mrs. Gilbert—Mrs. Lancey

John Helder Wedge—Henry Batman—Captain Lancey—Mr. Gilbert.

Mrs. Henry Batman. Thank you for butter you made and gave to me Mrs. Fawkner. It is so nice to be with women here at Bearbrass, instead of being the only woman with 4 daughters at Indented Head. And only a few men I might add. My girls had no one to associate with.

Mrs. John Fawkner. Well Mrs. Batman, thank you for the compliment about the butter. It will make up in a little way for the fish your husband Henry has caught and given to me.

Mrs. J Gilbert. Ladies I never knew that my forthcoming baby, would need to have women and children around. With my husband, Mr. Fawkner's Blacksmith, we only came here to live at Bearbrass, because Mr. Fawkner promised us some land, if my husband gave him good service.

Mrs. Lancey. I have made up my mind that we are going to leave this dreadful settlement here on the Yarra Yarra River, and go back to Launceston.

Mrs. Henry Batman. But Mrs. Lancey, your husband was so good in talking to Helder Wedge about the Port Phillip Association's land and the rights of Mr. Fawkner's settlement.

Mrs. Lancey. I know, but I am very scared of the Black People around here. My husband also wants to go back to sea as a Ships Captain.

Mrs. John Fawkner. I know you want to return to Launceston, and your husband has given a lot to this Fawkner settlement, but at least you have agreed you can leave your youngest child, little Amelia, with myself and Mr. Fawkner. My husband is very fond of Amelia, and our adopted son.

Mrs. J Gilbert. I hope you don't go Mrs. Lancey, I have found you a very dear friend.

.....**Later**.....

Mr. J Fawkner. Look Captain Lancey, you are being outrageous if you think you can charge me for acting on my behalf here in Bearbrass.

Captain John Lancey. Mr. Fawkner, I have fought with the Port Phillip Association's John Helder Wedge, to keep nice land for you. I have organized the unloading of your ships in your absence. I have resolved labour disputes, I even directed the planting of many of your Fruit Trees and Shrubs that you sent over from Tasmania

Mr. J Fawkner. Captain Lancey, do not forget who you are talking too. I remember Captain Bligh, the deposed Governor of this land. He was staying on a boat at Hobart fighting for his rights. I lost my Public House, due to Magistrates not liking me. As you now I regained it. I served people in the Courts, giving very cheap, sometimes free, legal advice fighting the ruling class. The Port Phillip Association thinks it can manufacture a “Treaty” then take all the Land its shareholders want. They can think again.! AND YOU! Want to charge me for your services. You ate and used up my supplies. What do you say about that. What about you Mr. Gilbert?

Captain John Lancey. Mr. Fawkner, I realize I cannot beat you. I and my wife just want to return to Launceston. Maybe you still want to adopt our daughter Amanda?

Mr. J Gilbert. Mr. Fawkner, it’s not for me to interfere. I work for you, and I believe I have given good service. My Forge, is just about set up properly now, and all the iron items you want made, can now be done. All I want is to have a roof over my wife’s head, and food for my wife and our forthcoming baby.

ACT 2 PLAYERS.

Mrs. John Batman, and 7 daughters.—Miss Caroline Newcomb—Mrs. Thompson

Joseph Tice Gellibrand—John Batman—John Helder Wedge--Doctor Thompson.

Mr. John Batman. Mr. Helder Wedge, I know you really don't approve, but I have convinced Mr. Pascoe Fawkner, to move his settlement over to the South side of this River Yarra.

Mr. Helder Wedge. I must say I have always found Mr. Fawkner helpful. He has allowed his men to help unload some of the boats when you were not here. He also provided longboats to sometimes take cargo ashore, and even though he doesn't trust them has helped with the Black People.

Mr. Joseph Tice Gellibrand. I can't believe that the Shepherd I left behind at Westernport, before I walked here, has been murdered by the Black People.

Doctor Thompson. Well Mr. Gellibrand we all know that's true.

Miss Caroline Newcomb. Excuse me gentlemen, Mr. Batman, one of your daughters is ill. Mrs. Batman would like Doctor Thompson can come and see her.

Doctor Thompson. Of course I will come immediately Miss Newcomb. If I still owned my Steam Boats, we could have sailed in them from here at the Falls, to the jetty at Mr. Batman's Hill. Instead we will have to walk of borrow Mr. Fawkner's horse and cart.

Mr. Joseph Tice Gellibrand. At least the walk for you Miss Newcomb and you Doctor Thompson is not as far or as exhausting as my walk from Westernport to here at Bearbrass.

Mr. Helder Wedge. Well Mr. Batman, at least you now tell that runaway convict William Buckley, that Governor Bourke in Sydney Town, is granting him a free pardon after some 25 years, because he helped in preventing the Black People massacring the white settlers here.

Mr. John Batman. Yes, I have already informed him of the Governors act. He was a bricklayer by trade and he has agreed to build me a chimney at my cottage on Batman's Hill.

Mr. Joseph Tice Gellibrand. Doctor Thompson, has agreed to let some of my sheep and Charles Swanston's to go with his sheep when he leaves this settlement and goes to live in that area called Geelong, near Indented Head

Mr. John Batman. Its rather a funny feeling that I have about the Geelong area. Hamilton Hume, who was my friend when I grew up in Parramatta, also wrote to me saying how good he thought the land on the Western Side of this Bay we call Port Phillip, would be for sheep farmers.

.....LATER.....

Mrs. John Batman. Mrs. Thompson, that looks like your Husband and Miss Newman coming up the Hill.

Mrs. Thompson. Well at least Archibald will be able to tell what is wrong with your child, and hopefully be able to remedy the problem.

Mrs. John Batman. There are quite a few youngsters in the Settlement now. We will miss the Doctor if you go to the Geelong area.

Mrs. Thompson. I am sure he would come to the settlement by horse and buggy if a serious medical problem occurs. Maybe later another Doctor will come to live here in Bearbrass.

Governor Bourke. Well Captain Lonsdale your job as Police Magistrate, will certainly be a lot easier for you now that I have left everyone in no doubt that the British Government is in charge of this land. I will appoint a Lieutenant Governor upon my return to Sydney Town. I have several fellows in mind, and of course the British Government would have the final say in the matter. After reading several books, I have in mind a fellow called Charles La Trobe. Any way we will see.