

GD BRUNY'S "BUSHRANGER ORIGINS"

GOLDRUSH [1851-1859]: CAVALCADE OF CHARACTERS AND EVENTS.

"MIGRATION" [1851]

Pickings in Van Diemen's Land are now lean. Vandemonian bushrangers begin fleeing north, to the new non-convict Colony of Victoria, on the Australian continent.

"GOLD FEVER" [1851]

The first Lieutenant-Governor of the new Colony of Victoria is Charles Joseph La Trobe who fixes an exorbitant tax on the diggers, at the goldfields, to raise revenue.

"THE SUFFOLK AND FARRELL GANG" [1851]

Owen Suffolk and Christopher Farrell are one of the first of the second epoch bushranging gangs.

"THE DALTON AND KELLY GANG" [1852]

Having escaped from Port Arthur penitentiary in Van Diemen's Land, James Dalton and Andrew Kelly reach the Colony of Victoria, with the intention of boarding separate ships on which to sail back to England.

"ENDEAVOUR" [1852]

John Pascoe Fawkner: son of a transported convict, high-powered business man, founder of Melbourne Town and a Vandemonian, works in opposition to La Trobe and his landed gentry cohort in a bid to protect the interests of the ordinary man and woman.

"THE NELSON GANG" [1852]

Fourteen bushrangers row out to the unguarded brig, Nelson, anchored on Port Phillip Bay where they steal 23 boxes of gold bullion.

"GOLD ESCORT" [1852]

Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe's revised gold-escort plan isn't getting on top of bushranging heists.

"THE FLANNIGAN AND WILLIAMS GANG" [1852]

"Having fled to non-convict Colony Victoria, John Flannigan and Thomas Williams are Melbourne's Saint Kilda Road bushrangers who discover crime doesn't pay.

“FINNEGAN AND DONOVAN’S EUREKA GANG” [1852]

Joint leaders, John Finnegan and John Donovan are a pair of tenderfoot bandits who believe bushranging is the best way to make a living.

“THE McIVOR ROBBERY” [1853]

Melbourne Gold Escort Company troopers are ambushed by a big gang of bushrangers and must fight to protect the shipment.

“PERILOUS JOURNEY” [1953]

Goldfields road-travel now includes the Cobb & Co passenger stage-coach. Imported from America, the service is vulnerable to bushranger hold-ups.

“CAPTAIN MELVILLE” [1853]

Of all the 'roaring fifties' bushrangers, none is more talked about and feared than the Vandemonian, Captain Melville.

“POWER PLAY” [1854]

John Pascoe Fawkner and Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe meet, in an attempt to solve the bushranging problem on the goldfields.

“LAWLESS SOCIETY” [1854]

Between 1852 and 1854, Melbourne Town is a place with a reputation for spending one's hard-earned over night.

“HIGH-COUNTRY BRIGAND” [1855]

Bushranging has since moved into Victoria's high-country where John Payne, alias Bogong Jack, takes up cattle-duffing and horse-theft, to supply meat and transport to the diggers on the goldfields.

“BUSHRANGING MASTER” [1856]

Harry Power has fled Van Diemen's Land and is hiding-out in Victoria's high-country where his survival is threatened.