

## Appendix 6

### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S VISIT – Geelong 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1867.**

The Duke of Edinburgh was born at Windsor Castle on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1844, the second son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. His early education was entrusted to the Rev H.M. Birch and, from 1852, to F.W. Gills Esq., C.B. In 1856 he was placed under the special care of Major Cowell R.E., and passed the winter 1856-1857 at Genova where he was occupied in the study of modern languages. An important part of his education was obtained in the University of Edinburgh. He joined the naval service 31<sup>st</sup> August 1858. He was appointed a naval cadet.

By the time of his visit to Australia he had risen through the ranks to be Captain of his own ship, *SS Galatea*, which he had captained on the voyage out.

As far as Comunn na Feinne was concerned, this Royal visit was to have an after effect which left it exhausted – physically and financially – and unable to stage the annual Highland Gathering for 1868.

December, 1867 was to be an important time for Geelong, the visit of Royalty. Queen Victoria's son, Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, was making a royal tour. One of the Duke's stops was to be Buninyong, a goldfield town, and an invitation had been extended to the Buninyong Highland Society "to welcome His Highness the Duke of Edinburgh." The Geelong Comunn na Feinne had already held a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September regarding the Prince's visit and "Letters had been received from the Ballarat and Buninyong Societies asking what action the Comunn na Feinne intended taking with reference to the reception of the H.R.H. Duke of Edinburgh." After some discussion by the CNF Committee, it was agreed, "that on the arrival of the Prince, a number of members should proceed to Melbourne, either appearing in kilts or wearing some badge of nationality." What exactly they were going to do when they got there is not stated. However, an invitation to become a member of the Society (providing, of course, he could satisfy membership qualifications!) would, perhaps, surely have been on their collective minds!

In due course, the Buninyong Highland Society had invited the Geelong Comunn na Feinne to attend their gathering on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1867. The Geelong Society, together with Ballarat Highland Society and the Buninyong Highland Society also agreed to join together to welcome the Prince.

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The Duke had already visited Adelaide and Melbourne and it was now Geelong's turn to welcome a son of Queen Victoria in this the first ever Royal Visit to Australia.

The excitement among the people was palpable. Not that Geelong folk were more star-struck than any other centre in the Colonies at the prospect of meeting this representative of their Queen, so remote at the other end of the world. However, the *Advertiser* bid fair to raise the excitement level and turned the Royal visit into something of a challenge to outdo Melbourne.

But before even Melbourne and Geelong, the Prince and his entourage would have to face the determination of a group of councillors of the tiny borough of Queenscliff not to be overlooked in their desire to present an Address to the Royal visitor on behalf of their town. Although Queenscliff was not on the Royal itinerary, having inadvertently been overlooked by the Protocol officer, the Mayor and his Councillors decided to take matters into their own hands by staging an impromptu boarding of the Prince's ship while it was awaiting a pilot to take it through the rip on its way to Melbourne, and to present their Address. The full account of the "Queenscliff Pirates", as presented by the press, is well worth reading for its amusing account of this episode.

H.M.S. *Galatea* passed through the Heads and had reached a point off Queenscliff when two events occurred, completely unscripted in an otherwise very carefully choreographed Royal visit to Melbourne, which caused not a little annoyance to the Duke as well as others.

The *Advertiser's* reporter, waiting for the *Galatea* to enter the Heads, and obviously having too much time on his hands while waiting for the big moment, took the opportunity of fulfilling what had probably been his childhood ambition, perhaps, of 'real' writing, and pictured the scene as one of dramatic moment; the unfolding of the Divine plan, a virtual 'epiphany'!

This day will usher in an event which will be memorable in the annals of Victoria, and which is fraught with consequences of the highest moment to our future progress and advancement. The friendly and loyal welcome of a Prince of the blood royal realizes the fact of our unity and our actual incorporate condition as an integral portion of the Empire, and a rising part of the vast possessions of the British Crown, whose just and benign sway extends over so many millions of the human race. The very fact of the visit of the Duke to Austral regions still in a degree unknown to the greater part of the people of the United Kingdom, will stimulate inquiry into our doings and actual position, and give an impetus to our actuality in the eyes of England and of Europe such as no event which has happened before could create in our favour. The scenes at Queenscliff ... will be magnificent, and

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one of which this young and vigorous colony may well feel proud. To the older colonist and reflective man it will bring forcibly to his mind's eye the scene which must have taken place some few short years ago, when the aboriginal Australian crouched in concealment in wonder, terror, and alarm on those self-same cliffs and watched a small insignificant bark feeling its way through the opening to Port Phillip Bay, with a few solitary adventurers to explore a country which years gone by had been abandoned as unfit for British settlement and occupation\*.

\*[This is a reference to the earlier first attempt to establishment a settlement at Port Phillip Island.]

We read fairy tales and well-drawn up fictions, and we still glow in admiration at the recollection of the one hundred and one nights of the Arabian tales, but what wand of the enchanter ever equaled that of truth, what we can see visibly with our eyes, a wild waste of wilderness and terra incognita, transformed by an unseen but Mightier Hand than all, into a comparatively thickly peopled community, having all the civilized appliances and social enjoyments of the old world, and now occupying a country teeming with flocks and herds, enriching the world, with its circulating medium, pure gold, embedded to its rocks, distributed in its rivers, interspersed in alluvial deposits, nay, laying for ages, for ought we know to the contrary, on the very surface of the earth, and fertilizing and invigorating British commerce in every corner of the Globe. Had the wand of a veritable magician been laid on the adventurous Batman and his few comrades, and he had been put to sleep, and when he awakened he had declared he had dreamt a dream. That as he lay thinking of the passing of the waters of the opening they had that day passed through, he saw a rising town with churches and spires on the cliffs, with elegant villas dotted here and there, tall signal staffs, and every indication of a stirring and active group of inhabitants, when suddenly the small town became peopled with thousands of anxious spectators, banners displayed and flags flying in all directions, and lo! he looked at the small opening from the outer sea, and he saw a noble frigate passing through, the Royal Standard of England flowing from the stern, the Royal Ensign from the fore, and no sooner was she through the passage than she was met with a noble flotilla of vessels which seemed to have come from some great commercial city far away across the Bay. The scene then faded from my vision, and I awoke.

You my, friends, were fast locked in sleep, a kangaroo of gigantic size was peering at us not far away, and when I rose up it fled away, the early morning had arisen, the grass was steeped in dew and, rising up in the distance, I could discern the smoke of the small fires of the aboriginals here and there in the distant horizon. Who among that small band of adventurers would have thought the sleeping vision would so soon be actually realized. But hark! we have allowed ourselves in fantastic reverie to be carried away from the actual scene before us, the thunderous salutes, the flashes of the cannons, the columns of smoke rolling up, one after the other, the outpour of human voices, the cheers that rend the air, from the peopled waters and the peopled shores, the noble British hurrah! bring us back to actual events, and we see before us the Galatea and the noble son of a noble mother and Queen of the British realms standing on the deck, hat in hand acknowledging every cheer, and with mute but speaking gesture acknowledging the first hearty welcome of the people of Victoria. Well, it is a significant and cheering sight, the ends of the earth have met

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together, the civilization of Europe and the Royal blood of England greets the foremost colony of the Austral antipodean world, fulfilling the prophetic declaration that in the latter days, knowledge and civilization shall run to and fro over the earth as the waters cover the sea. Anon, the stately flotilla marshals itself into two diverging lines, the *Galatea* forming their apex leading in the front, and with music and with shouting, amid the acclamation of the living masses on the shore, with pendants flying in the breeze, the naval pageant wends its way across the small inland sea, to anchor at the port of the Victorian Metropolis. We hope every genuine colonist will enjoy the day, we hope the Prince will also enjoy and be pleased with the first earnest he receives that we are loyal to the Throne, and we sincerely hope that no accident or mischance may befall to mar the happy event, that all may go well as the “joyous marriage bells,” and we hope we shall be pardoned that if our avocations preclude us from the actual sight, we have allowed ourselves to conceive the exciting scene in imagination, and that we may be permitted in our humble but noble calling as watchers over the public weal, to bid a thrice hearty and loyal welcome to the Royal Duke of Edinburgh.

The writer’s imagination may have painted the whole scene as in the foregoing fanciful colours, but the reality was not to turn out quite as romantic as his description.

#### The Queenscliff ‘Pirates’

There already was a measure of discord in the Queenscliff Council with, among other things, a suggestion that the present election of a new Mayor was not strictly according to the rules. But there was also a problem relating to funds available for the celebration of the Duke of Edinburgh’s visit to the Colony. An application, by the Queenscliff Council, to the Government was turned down on the grounds that the Government funds for the visit had been exhausted. Lastly, there was the hubris felt at having been overlooked when the original programme for the Duke’s visit had been drawn up.

However, there was the hope that the problem of a lack of funds, to support the local Band in its performance for the occasion, together with the other events such as bonfires and fireworks, would be resolved before the great day. As it turned out the festivities, which were organized by the Queenscliff royal visit committee, were very much cut according to the cloth available and, “it being Saturday night, [this] occasioned them to be somewhat curtailed.”

The Queenscliff experience turned out to be a sort of rehearsal for the some of the disasters, arising from events relating to the Duke’s visit, that were to befall Melbourne and Geelong. The *Galatea*, bearing the Duke from his stopover at Adelaide, was to have been met, once through the Heads, by the warship, the *Pharos*, as well as two other official craft, the *Barwon* and the

*Victoria*, carrying the Governor and the Premier of the State as well as a clutch of politicians. It was expected that the Governor and the other officials of the Royal Reception Committee from Melbourne would board the pilot vessel when the pilot went out to steer the Duke's vessel through the gap and be invited to board the *Galatea*. Then, with the Duke at the helm, they would pass through the opening of Port Phillip Bay and thence to Melbourne. It was also planned that a flotilla of smaller craft from Melbourne would also arrive to form, as it were a colourful escort for this, the last leg of the sea trip.

However, as the Duke's vessel came into view, the salutes from the shore, and from the two Government vessels, brought no response from the *Galatea* which continued through the armada of small craft waiting to greet the Duke, and only coming to a halt just before the entrance of the Bay. It then signalled for the pilot boat. That was the scheduled plan but the Duke was to find that he was to be boarded by more than just the pilot. As Burns' wrote, "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley." This is the case whether it is Royal plans or those of the commoner!

Queenscliff was the first point of contact in Victoria reached travelling by sea from Adelaide, and the local Mayor and Councillors of this borough had sought, from the Officer of Protocol handling the Duke's visit to Victoria, permission to welcome the Duke and present their Loyal Addresses to him personally. They had been advised by the Protocol Committee that this request was refused and the Duke would only receive such Addresses at the Melbourne Levee, and only after they had been vetted. Colonial persistence was not, however, so easily brushed aside, nor its respect so meek as that of Englishmen. The Council decided, after this rebuff, to adopt the following action.

That if the *Galatea* anchors here, or the opportunity offers, the Addresses be presented by the Mayor and Chairman of the Reception Committee, accompanied by such members as might feel inclined to attend. (*Geelong Advertiser* 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1867)

Thus, officially ignored, and the opportunity presenting itself with the *Galatea* at anchor, the Queenscliff 'pirates' followed the course they had agreed upon. They were thus first "to reach and board, wet jackets being counted as nothing against the honour." Charles Kennedy was, thus, the first Victorian mayor to welcome His Royal Highness to these shores."

Having received a lift in the Pilot boat, they followed the pilot, Captain Norman, up the ladder and onto the deck of the *Galatea*. They then sought to present their Loyal Address to the Duke. What followed next has two interpretations. The *Geelong Advertiser* describes what followed in terms completely different from that of the Melbourne *Age's* account. The local reporter, with all due sense of deference, filed his story, appearing in the *Geelong Advertiser*.

As I anticipated, the *Galatea* was at the Heads before the flotilla arrived, but this was to be expected as the strong headwind, and the opposing sea rendered the progress down the bay more tardy than was first anticipated. On her arrival at the Heads the Queenscliff battery fired a royal salute of what the Prince was not previously informed as it was not down in the telegram which the Melbourne Royal Reception Committee had sent him.

As much as the royal salute surprised all aboard the *Galatea*, what followed next was an even bigger surprise, catching not only the crew but the Prince and his entourage unawares.

When the *Galatea* was boarded by the mayor of Queenscliff with an address of welcome, he (ie the Prince) seemed a little puzzled. It had not entered into his head that there were any Victorian mayors so far down the coast, the Reception Commission, not having included for some reason or other, this marine borough in the Maritime Reception ...

The Mayor and his party, “were received on board by the Prince’s Equerry, who invited them into the private cabin.

The deputation were (sic) kept some little time waiting, for which H.R.H. was pleased to apologize. The Prince then came below, and the Mayor, after stating their object, read the address to H.R.H., who expressed his pleasure at receiving so cordial a welcome on entering Victoria, more especially as this was not in the official programme. Thanking them for the same, H.R.H. said that a reply would be forwarded in due course.

However, we might gain an insight into the Prince’s actual frame of mind at that time from the rest of the *Advertiser's* report:

The *Victoria* saluted the Prince, and the *Galatea* saluted the Governor. As soon as the steam flotilla which went down to Queenscliff to meet the Prince, had got into line, the *Galatea* took her position at the head, and steamed away at the rate of something like thirteen knots soon leaving many of the smaller craft far behind. ... One of the steamers, the *Edina*, had the bagpipes aboard, and a Highland piper gave his fellow-passengers some little idea of the kind of music that is likely for a while to be fashionable, because it is favoured by our illustrious visitor.

The *Age* report, however, painted a different colour in its descriptive picturing of the event. According to the Melbourne paper, the Mayor and his deputation, cadged a ride out to the

*Galatea* on the pilot boat. Furthermore, regarding the uninvited and unwelcome clutch of local politicians suddenly appearing on the deck of his ship, the *Age* reports that the Duke addressing the Pilot, Captain Norman, to the effect that he did not want to meet them nor to accept any Addresses. However, having achieved, at least part of their aim, the “pirates” departed the way they came much to the annoyance of the dignitaries still on the vessels at Queenscliff. The *Age* gleefully stated that “The *Galatea* was attacked and overwhelmed by a boarding party from Queenscliff. The British Navy has been taken by surprise by a covey of local potentates.” (*Age* 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1867)

It might be thought that anything following the Queenscliff re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party would have been an anti-climax, and tame indeed, in the story of the Duke’s visit to Victoria. But the potential for disaster whenever humans are involved can never be over-estimated!

It would seem that the Prince’s mood had improved little by the time he had reached Melbourne. Despite the very large crowd of well-wishers, not counting the dignitaries, the Prince did not appear on deck nor did he acknowledge the crowds who had gathered or make himself visible to any but his minders on board the *Galatea*. He was likewise ‘invisible’ the following day. He made his first public appearance, “unsmiling” on the morning of Monday 24 November, 1867. Following his arrival in Melbourne the Duke had to steel himself to a further round of official events, speeches, addresses and feasts. The Duke came, smiled, listened, was polite and hurried off to whatever next official event had been laid on for him, and smiled, listened, was polite etc.,. However, the *Advertiser* bid fair to raise the excitement level and turned the Royal visit into something of a challenge to outdo Melbourne. This was especially so as a free public banquet, complete with a wine fountain, for the ‘ordinary people’, to be held on the banks of the River Yarra, at which the Prince was supposed to attend, got out of hand. Although wiser heads had misgivings about the venture (especially the free wine fountain), the Melbourne reception committee went ahead with the proposal. It was thought that the presence of those defenders of social morality and ‘proper’ behaviour, the ‘fair’ ladies (inspired by the presence of the Governor’s wife, Lady Manners-Sutton), together with the religious establishment, would exert enough influence to keep the general public ‘nice’ throughout the occasion. Even the Melbourne’s *Age* newspaper, of small ‘r’ radical persuasion in its early years, in an editorial on

26<sup>th</sup> November, 1867, demonstrated that it was in favour of the royal presence and the people's 'free banquet'. Believing in the general decency of the population, the paper reasoned, albeit with some degree of strange logic, that, "the public will behave well, for any failure to do this will be seen as proof that the common people have a tendency to behave badly."

Not for the first, or the last time was a miscalculation made regarding the extent of the public's capacity for misbehaving!

The true excitement and interest, for the general public and the children in Melbourne, probably lay in the anticipated free picnic which was to be provided for them and at which the Prince would attend. An anticipated crowd of ten thousand for the public event had, by midday become a concourse of people four times the expected number. The day was exceedingly hot, the wine fountain was becoming more and more desirable, the Prince's arrival becoming more and more delayed, and the crowd's behaviour becoming less and less patient - less and less 'nice'. The forces of authority expressed their opinion that they could not guarantee the Prince's safety if the crowd got out of hand and thus a decision was taken that the Prince would not leave Government House, nor open the Banquet as was planned. It was now past 2.30pm, and on hearing this latter piece of news, the crowd's patience broke and it was every man for himself! The scene brought some severe criticism from those witnessing the scramble for food and drink. What had been prepared for about 10,000 was now facing a crowd anywhere between 70,000 and 100,000. The other main paper in Melbourne, the *Argus*, on 28<sup>th</sup> November, reported that the performance was, "A frightful saturnalia such as we shudder to recall." Warming up to its classical allusions it continued, saying that: "We saw a bacchanalian picture of unbelievable horror, set against the general background of struggling carnivora."

The *Argus*, with what it regarded as its more realistic view of human nature, identified the goings on as a clear demonstration, "of the natural baseness of the masses." The *Age*, however, constricted perhaps by its public opinion of the 'decency' of the ordinary workingman, targeted for criticism, instead, the lack of police and the poor advice given to the Prince by his minders that he not attend to officially open the Banquet.

The *Geelong Advertiser*, while covering the Prince's visit to Melbourne, sought quietly to draw a veil over the banquet episode with the words; "On Thursday a free banquet was given in the Zoological Gardens, but the less said about this the better." However, the Geelong paper could



not resist the temptation to elaborate and, in the spirit of the grand rivalry between Melbourne and Geelong, said a little more than the “less” it had pledged itself to say. Melbourne, and Melburnians in general, were firmly in its sights. Writing, after learning of the descent of the Melbourne free banquet into a food and drink ‘gorgy’, it reported, on the day after the episode, that the Prince did not attend, and, as for the free banquet itself, with all its shenanigans, according to the *Advertiser’s* report, “it could not have been held in a more appropriate place than the Zoological Gardens.”

But that was Melbourne, and Geelong was a step removed from such behavior; or so wrote the *Advertiser*. The reporter covering the Royal Visit could not help bringing in comparisons with Melbourne. One just had to look at the dress sense of those joining the Melbourne parade to see that Geelong came out on top, at least in its dress sense if in nothing else!

One thing being very noticeable, and that was the manner in which the members of the Friendly Societies were dressed. It will be remembered many of those who joined in the procession at Melbourne looked very seedy. Yesterday [at Geelong] the contrary was the case.

The ‘big town-little town’ rivalry between Melbourne and Geelong, of course, was played out in these comparisons. Melbourne had a Ball, so too then, must Geelong; Melbourne had a free banquet, so too then, must Geelong. The Mechanics’ Institute Hall, with some alterations, was made ready for a Ball, “which should be got up on a scale of magnificence never before attempted in Geelong.” But this would be no ordinary ball, wrote the *Advertiser* of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1867, with tongue firmly lodged in its cheek. It would be one which would cause:

A revolution in almost every family in town. Fathers have had to bear the principal shock of these revolutions; they have been teased and coaxed and threatened with the most terrible misfortunes until, at last, they have been compelled to succumb to the attacks and acknowledge their defeat by lessening to a considerable extent the contents of the cashbox.

But then it was the mothers’ turn to share the care and worry, and the nerves, of their excited and excitable daughters.

[I]hey had to be consulted of course on many little points as to the numerous articles of dress their fair daughters required, and frequent and mysterious were the communications between young girls, from blushing sixteen, anxious to captivate some handsome young fellow, to the more matured of twenty-five, confident in her expectation of soon being allied to the object of her choice, as to what was to be worn at the ball.

Every girl it seemed was to have “such a duck of a dress,” and all felt confident in creating “an effect.”]

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## A People's Ball?

But this was to be something more than a Ball for the 'rich and famous'. [T]his was to be no Government House Ball; this was to be an all-inclusive ball. As well as the 'bright young things' from the prominent families, all anxious to be seen and to display their latest fashions, not to mention their respective charms, on the dance floor, there would be those, "elderly dames and gentlemen, who are not partial to the "muse of many twinkling feet" but wanted to be there, "for the sake of the sight alone, all anticipating that the effect of the decoration of the room, the ladies' dresses and beauty, would be gorgeous." But this was still not inclusive enough.] "The ball committee were (sic) indefatigable in their (sic) exertions to conduct the ball on such a principle that all classes of the community of good repute could be present ...". And, in order to achieve such a 'democratic' approach to this 'royal' ball, the Mechanics' Institute Hall had been hired at great expense and suitably altered, "to make more room for the expected number of dancers..."

The Duke was, as Dukes are for formal occasions, 'royally' late, but by 10pm he was engaged in his first dance. A glance at the dancing partners, and other guests, suggests that it was a ball dominated by the daughters of the prominent men of the district, including the Chirnsides, Strachans etc., with little evidence of the 'below stairs' cinderellas promised by the *Advertiser's* levelling prose.

The Prince's itinerary included a visit to Geelong and the preparations had been well underway for some time.

The Society's influence can be seen, for example, in the fact that one of the dances listed for the Ball was the Highland Reel. The Duke came with a reputation for being fond of this Scottish item and of being able, enthusiastically, to 'kick up his heels' when dancing it. However, at 1am he departed, "without dancing a Highland reel, as was anxiously expected, in consequence of his piper having neglected to bring his pipes." A convenient excuse?

The reporter covering the Queenscliff episode sought to outdo the extravagant picture he had already presented in his reverie at that time, as it appeared in the *Geelong Advertiser*.

Never have the loyal citizens of Geelong and the surrounding district witnessed a greater sight in the second town of the colony of Victoria than that which took place on Monday. The visit of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh to our beautiful little town was one of those bright scenes that will fill a green spot in the memory of all those who were fortunate enough to witness it. At a very early hour in the morning gaily dressed visitors on foot, on

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horseback, and in every imaginable style of vehicle poured into the town from the east, from the west and from the south, in hundreds and in thousands, and continued to arrive until two o'clock, at which hour the town presented a most animated appearance, the streets being lined on either side with men, women, and children, all dressed in holiday attire, anxious to get a view of and give a hearty greeting to the second son of our well-beloved Queen.

Children, all kitted out "each countenance beaming with delight in anticipation of the scene in which they were shortly to take so prominent a part ... they were marched down on to the wharf to the platform which had been prepared for their reception.

In addition to the children every society and group in Geelong bode keen to be represented. Groups of members of the various friendly societies in sparkling regalia and wearing rosettes chiefly formed of the national colours, volunteers in uniform - on foot and on horseback - members of the volunteer fire brigades in their scarlet uniforms, riding on their fire-engines, members of Parliament, members of the town and suburban councils, ministers, and laymen, could all be seen wending their way to Corio Terrace, there to join in the procession, or to secure seats on the wharf. The scene was indescribable and utterly mocks all our power of description - no pen could do it justice.

However, after having confessed his inadequacy to describe the scene, the reporter proceeds to give his description nevertheless!

Visitors ... began to arrive at the Terraces and take up points of vantage from which to witness the arrival; between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning, and gradually the numbers increased until the visitors, men, women and children, were crowded together ten and fifteen deep on each side of the road, the grand stand, near Mack's Hotel, gradually filled with gaily dressed visitors, every window was occupied with beauty whose beaming eyes caused many an heart to ache, the ballast hill was crowded to excess even to the very edge of the precipice and it is a wonder that no accident occurred for delicate women and tender children were standing there for hours, the least slip through faintness or other cause would doubtless have terminated fatally. The houses were decked with flags, the balconies were decorated with garlands of flowers and evergreens and it was from Corio terrace that the best view could be obtained of the Yarra street wharf with its triumphal arch, the children's and Corporation platforms, the splendid merchantmen decked out in flags of many nations and crowded with visitors, the yachts skimming over the dancing waves, the rich crimson coloured dais formed such an enchanting and animated picture that no language could describe.

Nevertheless, the reporter then trotted out every adjective, simile, analogy etc., in the book in making an attempt to do so!

It was clear, too, that those enterprising 'capitalists' who had cut their teeth on providing platforms for non-paying spectators outside the fence at the Comunn na Feinne Gatherings,

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were out in force again, and making the most of “the eye to the main chance” philosophy on how to make ‘a quick buck’!

The main body of the procession formed on the terrace, an avenue was kept clear by means of ropes and at the time the Prince arrived there could not have been less than twenty thousand persons congregated, many paying a high price for a stand upon a cab just for the sake of having a peep at His Royal Highness as he passed, and when the Duke landed, the waving of handkerchiefs and the brilliant dresses of the ladies on the corporation platform resembled a forest of blossom; the Prince approaching up the wharf, accompanied by thousands of those who had witnessed the presentation of the addresses formed another striking picture.

Again, the reporter goes for over-the-top reportage of the scene he has witnessed as he attempts to describe what he had claimed was the indescribable; the scene at the Yarra Street Wharf.

Here again was a scene of splendour. The Yarra street wharf was yesterday honoured by the presence of more beauty than perhaps will ever be seen there again. At the end nearest the town appeared every neat and unassuming triumphal arch erected by the corporation and on which was inscribed the following motto: “Welcome to Geelong.” Two substantial railings kept the crowd from trespassing upon the space through which the Prince was to pass, the central avenue being covered with matting right up to the rich and handsome crimson dais provided for the occasion by Messrs Ashmore and Sons, and situated in the centre of the wharf about fifty yards from the landing place. The dais was surmounted by a rich cornice and graceful canopy on the top of which appeared a gilt and crimson crown; handsome chairs were placed on the dais for the accommodation of the illustrious visitor, his Excellency the Governor, and their respective suites, the tout ensemble was very striking. The approaches from the landing-place to the dais were also covered with matting. On the right-hand side of the wharf the splendid clipper ship *Lanarkshire* was gaily dressed in bunting, and graced by the presence of a fashionable company, the sweet notes of a harp proceeding now and again from the quarter-deck of the noble vessel adding to the general effect. On the left-hand side appeared that equally noble vessel the *Damascus* also making a liberal display of bunting, and the barque *India*, just behind her following suit. The *Salamander* laying off the wharf, looked to great advantage, but perhaps the most interesting feature to be seen was the children’s platforms, on which were seated over three thousand boys and girls, each of whom was, we believe, presented with a medal struck in honour of the Duke’s visit to Victoria, and testified their glee by repeatedly cheering, especially when the yacht ‘*Foam*,’ was seen approaching the wharf some of the little ones imagining it was the royal vessel approaching. The corporation platforms were also well filled and doubtless will be rendered good account of by Mr Turner, the photographer (sic) who was busily engaged during the morning with his camera.

There was to be a special ceremony when the aboriginal known as ‘King’ Jerry was to present to the Duke a book compiled by Daniel Bunce on aboriginal vocabulary. In turn, ‘King’ Jerry was to receive a presentation from the Duke.

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Much amusement was afforded by 'King' Jerry, habited in a new suit of clothes ornamented with a marksman's badge, and wearing his well-known medal, taking his seat on the steps of the dais before the Prince arrived, and looking calmly on the brilliant scene, as if he was the monarch of all he surveyed.

After a few more descriptive pieces about the dais, the stairs up to the dais (which the reporter thought a disgrace to Geelong workmanship!) and every other thing his eye lighted upon, the observer returned to his descriptions of the "indescribable."

The appearance of the wharf and platforms with their thousands of loyal subjects, having the terrace with its tens of thousands for a background, the undulating verdant slopes of the Eastern and Western Beach, the beautiful bay dotted with numerous beautiful yachts and other smaller craft, must indeed have formed the loveliest sight that His Royal Highness has yet witnessed during his visit to the Australian colonies.

Local pride overcame the reporter as he pushed out his chest in his praise of Geelong over the Melbourne effort.

We saw every portion of the Melbourne procession; there were of course more people, but a prettier spectacle than that we saw yesterday when the Prince landed never occurred during the Royal progress in the metropolis.

The Duke's ship, the *Galatea*, was not able to navigate into the port of Geelong and the Prince had thus come down in a smaller craft, the *Victoria*.

The landing of the Prince on the wharf was the signal for immense cheering, the clear ringing voices of the three thousand children being held above all. ... The Duke appeared to be in the enjoyment of good health and pleased with the reception given him by the people of Geelong.

He, along with the dignitaries took their place on the stand prepared for the occasion.

The usual speeches from the Mayor and other dignitaries took place. Addresses were made and given from all the relevant organizations in Geelong. One which was unexpected was the following.

The next feature in the program was an interesting one, being neither more or less than the presentation of an address signed by four hundred ladies of Geelong who, on this auspicious occasion, were represented by the Hon. C. Sladen MLC and Captain Haines, and we noticed our gallant Prince received the address with apparent pleasure.

However, when the Hon. C. Sladen, MLC., began to give the address the Prince, perhaps all 'addressed-out,' said that, "he would not trouble Mr Sladen to read the address, as he had seen a copy of it, and would forward a written reply to it.

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Mr S. Leon and Mr M. Fink (who each had an association with Comunn na Feinne educational competitions), presented an address on behalf of the Jewish Congregation of Geelong.

[NB The mayor of Geelong was Robert de Bruce Johnstone and he was also the President of Comunn na Feinne at that time.]

Surviving the 'Loyal Address' equivalent of death by a thousand cuts, the Duke and assorted bigwigs took the tour of the town.

The reporter could not help bringing in comparisons with Melbourne and pointing out that Geelong came out tops in the comparison stakes.

One thing being very noticeable, and that was the manner in which the members of the Friendly Societies were dressed. It will be remembered many of those who joined in the procession at Melbourne looked very seedy. Yesterday (at Geelong) the contrary was the case. We did not observe any such.

Again, comparisons with Melbourne were drawn and the Geelong effort regarded more favourably.

Taking place so shortly after the grand display at Melbourne – which exceeded in its proportions and brilliancy anything that has ever been witnessed on this side of the line and surprisingly, we imagine, anything ever seen in any town of the same size either at home or abroad – it was imagined that the illuminations in Geelong would appear very insignificant. This, it was acknowledged by all who saw them, was not the case. Geelong may be a much smaller town than Melbourne, but its inhabitants yield the “pas” to none in loyalty, and for weeks previous to the Duke’s coming, even before it was finally settled that he should pay our beautiful little town a visit ... our local artists, and we have some amongst us of no mean repute, were busily engaged in painting designs for illuminated pictures all of which, though of a varied character, were expressive of welcome to the second son of our most noble and gracious Queen.

Some foolish people talked of obtaining the transparencies from Melbourne after they had done duty in that town; but we do not know of one single instance where this idea was carried out. Our illuminated pictures were all brand new and, although not so numerous as displayed in Melbourne, we had several that were not surpassed in beauty and artistic merit by any we saw in the metropolis.

The versifier, W. Stitt-Jenkins was on hand to perpetuate the day in verse, as well as managing to squeeze in several references to abstinence and also some ‘class’ comments about the rich and the poor! In view of what happened in Melbourne at the free banquet, and what was about to happen in Geelong, probably gave the abstinence cause some ammunition! A barb or two directed at the idle rich were also fired from Jenkins’ pen.

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## The Holiday

Behold the banners wave on high,  
And acclamation reach the sky;  
The clubs march forth in proud array  
To hail the glorious holiday.  
With cheery sound of fife and drum,  
Corio's stalwart thousands come.  
A balmy fragrance fills the air,  
And seas and land alike are fair.

Why haste our people in the shore?  
Say, why is heard the cannons roar?  
Why, to the radiant waters throng  
The joyous thousands of Geelong!  
The merry children thither run,  
The smiling maids and matrons come,  
The young and old of each degree,  
They come, they come, the Duke to see.

The Firemen came in red and blue,  
And very grand Oddfellows, too;  
The Foresters march bravely on  
With Friar Tuck and Little John.  
The Rechabites, who still decline,  
To touch or taste or handle wine;  
And with their standard blazoned fair,  
See noble Sons of Temp'rance there.

And now they reach the heaving bay,  
And soon along its margin stray;  
While children gathered in a ring  
The Anthem of our nation sing.

Away, away, the shallops\* go,  
And now the favouring breezes blow,  
Ye seamen heed each tack and sheet  
Of fair Corio's little fleet,  
And fair let every nation be,  
Nor trick, nor foul let any see,  
Your manly skill brave hearts evince,  
A brother sailor is your Prince.

\*A shallop is a small open boat which is used on close in waters. cc

The Prince of open heart and hand,  
Who comes to view the Austral land,

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Is not deceived by gloss and glare,  
But sees the people as they are,  
Sees grasping men of puny soul,  
Sees brainless dolts in riches roll;  
O, Great Jehovah, hear their prayer,  
(For such are Thy peculiar care)  
And bless these darlings every one  
In days to come when we are gone.



Now gaily dancing o'er the tide  
The gallant yachts in beauty glide;  
Like things of life rush too and fro.  
All taut aloft and snug below,  
The song of mariner is heard  
The wailing cry of ocean bird  
The gentle murmur of the breeze.  
And humming melody of trees  
And sees with joy the sons of toil –  
Receives him with a brother's smile.

Lo, gentle Prince, we pray to day  
For that dear island far away,  
The storm-throned monarch of the sea,  
Home of our fathers and of thee  
Land of the true, the fair, the brave,

Hail, loveliest spot the sun hath seen –  
God save thy people, and the Queen.  
(W. Stitt-Jenkins  
Newtown Hill, Geelong  
3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1867.)

Illuminations and other Window Decorations.

In addition to the welcoming committee greeting the Prince on his arrival in Melbourne, members and supporters of the Comunn na Feinne business owners provided decorations and window displays to welcome him to Geelong on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1867. In some window displays the Scottish theme was much to the fore. However, there were several representations of Aborigines and this demonstrated not only Comunn na Feinne's relationship with the indigenous people in and around Geelong, but also a confidence that neither the royal visitor (nor his mother!) would take offence at the familiarity with which Aborigine and royal personages were represented. Illuminations there were in great number and most were illumined by gas.



Perhaps there was never a time when Geelong put on so gay an appearance as yesterday evening, more especially with regard to the many and varied illuminations exhibited. Every one appeared to attempt their best for the occasion of the appearance of a Prince of the Royal blood among them, and certainly the endeavors made were in every instance successful. The principal streets of the town presented one grand blaze of light—gas illuminations, transparencies, and decorations, including a plentiful supply of Chinese lanterns, and other modes of illumination were everywhere to be seen; and the effect during the evening was grand. The streets were lined with visitors and spectators; but although the crowd was great, no accidents occurred. We have attempted to get a list of the various illuminations, but it will be necessarily incomplete from the fact that fresh illuminations were continually being put up to this very latest hour. However, we have obtained the most prominent of them and submit them to our readers, more especially those who were not able to visit us, and see what was going on. The following is a list of them:

Comunn na Feinne Office-bearers and members were much to the fore with some of these Illuminations. (The following descriptions are taken from the *Geelong Advertiser* 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1867.)

In addition to the welcoming committee greeting the Prince on his arrival in Melbourne, members and supporters of the Comunn na Feinne provided decorations and widow displays to welcome him to Geelong.

The Scottish Business Illuminations tended to outdo each other in a form of ‘over the top’ kitsch.

Robert Shirra, long time office-bearer of the Society and contributor to the CNF Crest engraving, displayed a, “Transparency with figures of a Highlander and a Sailor on either side of a Shield containing the Glasgow Coat of Arms motto ‘Let Glasgow Flourish’. At the top of the building was a model of the *Galatea*.”

Robert de Bruce Johnson, President of the Society, Mayor of Geelong and Member of Parliament, also displayed a Transparency “representing Victoria welcoming the Prince to Geelong. In the background were the You Yangs standing out in bold relief. In the foreground is Victoria holding out the Laurel Wreath and, by her side, is ‘King’ Jerry\* in aboriginal dress. The Prince is with Neptune in a car drawn by horses, and is approaching the shore. The Transparency is well painted, and as a work of art would pass muster.”

\*[An Aboriginal who was well known in the town and who had featured in the Comunn na Feinne Games. The portrayal of Queen Victoria with ‘Jerry’ by her side demonstrates the confidence on the part of the Society that no one would be offended by such a display. The appellation ‘King Jerry’ reflected more the Europeans’ notion of authority than it did the reality of Aboriginal social structure. It was not meant as a form of ridicule or mockery but demonstrated that, among his people at Geelong, the colonists assumed that he had some authority.]

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J.M. Tulloch

Extensive decorations and the word 'Welcome' in flowers.

Lowe and McKenzie

Extensive decorations in evergreen and flowers formed into wreaths.

William Ashmore

Extensive green decorations, and the following mottoes; 'Welcome to our Beloved Queen's Australia Colonies'; 'Prince Alfred, we hail your visit with joy.'

Stirling –

A Transparency representing the Edinburgh Castle and with a figure of a Highlander and a Harpist."

William Clarkson

Floral decorations with the Motto, "Victoria Welcomes Queen Victoria's Son."

Messrs Wilson and Buchanan and Co

Gas Star, and transparency of the Royal Arms with the motto '*Treu und Fest*'.

Strachan –

Transparency of flags with anchor in the centre. The letters P.A. and the motto '*Treu und Fest*'.

Prince of Wales Hotel –Charles B. Dawson

A transparency with portrait of the Duke of Edinburgh."

At top of MALOP STREET.

Railway Station.

Over the refreshment rooms, there were two crowns, with the letters P. A., and D. E. The interior of the station was handsomely decorated with evergreens, and rows of Chinese lanterns, hung in festoons, had a very pretty effect.

Bank of Victoria

Large initials, A. E. A. in centre of the building; Scroll work under the parapet, and lines of gas jets along the cornices of the building.

Messrs Hedrick and Co.

The word Welcome in double rows of gas jets.

Mr Green, Chemist.

Two transparencies, one representing Britannia, and the other Victoria. The letters P. and A. in gas.

*Advertiser* Office.

A star, with 'A' in centre.

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National Bank.

Large transparency, 10ft. by 12ft. In the centre a figure of peace, with the motto, "Welcome", underneath. A shield on either side, with the Duke of Edinburgh's Arms, and the motto, *Treu und Fest*. In the other shield, the Australian Arms, with the motto, "Advance Australia".

Mr Beamond

Star and transparency with the words, "Welcome Royal Guest".

Shirra and Moodie.

Transparency with figures of a Highlander and a sailor on either side of a shield containing the Glasgow arms. Motto "Let Glasgow flourish." At the top of the building, a model of the *Galatea*.

Mr Peter Skirving displayed "A transparency, representing the Castle of Edinburgh, with the figures of a Highlander and a Harpist, and appropriate inscriptions.

The Eureka Hotel

It displayed "A large transparency showing an aboriginal and lubra with a piccaninny; the representative of the tribe shaking hands with the Prince, and the words "Welcome, white-fellow," over them."

Mr E. Knight

Transparency representing a digger and an aboriginal. At the top, the figure of Victoria welcoming the Prince."

Freeman and Gaydon.

Transparency of royal arms, with the letters P. A. and Welcome.

Mr Sommers, Union Hotel.

Transparency of Her Majesty the Queen; three large diamonds, studded with colored lamps; and festoons of evergreens and flowers.

Mr E. Knight.

Transparency representing a digger and an aboriginal. At the top, the figure of Victoria welcoming the Prince.

*Register* Office.

A circle, with P. A. in centre. Gas.

Black Bull Hotel.

Transparency representing a bull, with the word "John" over it, and the initials V. A. on each side. Also, P. A. and D. E. in gas jets.

Cobb and Co, (Western Stage Company).

A transparency representing coach and six horses. The flags of England and America on each side, and the motto underneath, "United by telegraph."

London Chartered' Bank.

Large semi-circle in gas with anchor in centre.

Colonial Bank of Australasia.

Large star surmounted by anchor, and A. A. in centre.

Bank of Australasia.

Large transparency representing at the top the Queen and Young Victoria, with a marine view. The Royal Arms in the centre with the motto "*Treu und fest*," and "God save the Queen" underneath; scroll work on each side, with the words "Agriculture, Navigation Manufacture, Commerce," and "Peace, Plenty, Happiness, Love;" the Dove, with the olive branch surmounts the whole. Also, large star in gas, with A. A. in centre.

Bartlett- and Bunton.

Transparency of the Royal Arms, and "Welcome."

Mr R. de B. Johnstone.

Transparency representing Victoria welcoming the Prince to Geelong. In the background are the You Yangs standing out in bold relief. In the foreground is Victoria holding out the laurel wreath, and by her side is 'King' Jerry, in aboriginal costume.' The Prince is with Neptune in a car drawn by sea horses, and is approaching the shore. The transparency is well painted, and as a work of art would well pass muster.

Mr Mercer

Three transparencies, with the devices "A.E.A." with star; all in colored paper.

Mr Lake

A transparency, representing the Edinburgh Arms, and appropriate mottoes.

Mr Franks

Illuminations with candles.

Mr Hedrick

Also exhibited a similar illumination, finding that the gas was insufficient.

Mr Brown, draper

Several transparencies of various devices.

Messrs Burke Brothers

Various transparencies.

## MARKET SQUARE GARDENS

These gardens formed the centre of attraction during the evening, and they were most brilliantly illuminated with coloured lamps. From the clock-tower also, there was a very creditable display of fireworks, which tended to keep the visitors on the *qui vive* during the whole of the evening.

Mr Bull, chemist.

Star. In centre, Duke of Edinburgh's coat of arms, with the motto, "*Nisi frustra dominus*"

Bank of New South Wales.

Star, with royal arms in centre.

Mr G. Whitelaw

Star.

Mr Morris Jacobs.

Gas jets along cornice of building.

Mr Matthews.

Transparency. The British Lion under a Crown with the words "Son of our beloved Queen, welcome to Geelong."

Mr Kirkland.

Transparency. Crown, anchor, and flags, with the word, "Welcome."

## MOORABOOL STREET.

Phoenix Hotel.

Transparency, portrait of the Prince, with the word "Welcome," and representation of the *Galatea* underneath.

Savings Bank.

Large transparency, comprising the Union Jack and Royal Standard. A circle in the centre, in which is a mariner's compass, with the initials A. E. over it. Motto, "Victoria welcomes Victoria's Son." Under this is a drawing of the *Galatea*, very well executed, with the words "*Bien venu*" under.

Hoffman's Hotel.

Transparency, "Welcome, Prince Alfred.". Crown in centre.

Dalgety, Ibbotson and Co.

Gas star.

Victoria Hotel.

Transparencies in several of the windows; various designs.

Chamber of Commerce.

This building, so appropriate for decorating in lamps, was hung with Chinese Lanterns. The four along the main entrance were tulip shaped, and resembled much the flowers they were intended to represent. The others were similar to those used in Fitzroy's Gardens, and when lit up they had a very pretty effect.

Mr Franks

Transparency, representing the Galatea.

McGee, Dick and Co.

Gas star.

Clarke Brothers—

Star in gas, with P. A. in centre.

T. Y. Anderson and Co.

Gas jet circle, with P. A. in centre.

J. M. Tulloch

Extensive decorations and the word "Welcome" in flowers.

Mr Parker.

A transparency, with likeness of the Prince, and a representation of the *Galatea*. Motto, "Welcome to our Prince."

M'Cure (Bed Boot)

Circle of jets, with D. E. in centre.

Mr Whitchell

Illumination of windows with candles.

Mr Irvine—

A crown in reflectors, with gas,

Mr Turner, photographer

Large transparency, representing Victoria welcoming the Duke to Geelong. This was one of the best transparencies exhibited, and the design was both artistic and effective. The view of the Bay, with Victoria welcoming her Royal guest; is very prettily done, and the, "noble army" of young sailors, infantile as they appear, waving their hats at the approach of the Duke, is a very fitting accompaniment to the picture.

Mr McCure

Gas circle, with D. E. in centre.

Mr Bartlett

Transparency of Britannia surrounded by representations of the trade and commerce of the colony.

Mr McCallum

A transparency, with the motto "Welcome Prince Alfred to Geelong."

— Pee Chee Lee Store

A transparency with the portrait of Her Majesty in a shield, and the words "Welcome to the son of our noble Queen."

· Lowe and McKenzie.

Extensive decorations in evergreens, and flowers formed into wreaths.

J. Budd.

Transparency of the Prince.

Mr Blair, baker.

Extensive floral decorations. A star and anchor, and the word, " Welcome," in flowers.

Red Lion Hotel.

A crown and the letters A and E in reflectors, lit up by gas.

(From this point to the top of Moorabool street, the places of business were nearly all covered with evergreen and floral decorations, and had a very pretty effect.)

Mr Warren.

A gas illumination.

Mr Ashmore

Extensive green' decorations, and the, following mottoes" Welcome to our beloved Queen's Australian Colonics;" "Prince Alfred, we hail, your visit with joy."

National Hotel

A large transparency, consisting of the Manchester Unity emblem of Odd Fellows'; and Victoria investing the Prince with the badge of the Order; Motto "M.U.'s, welcome to Prince Alfred."

Mr Couves

Two large diamonds in colored lamps.

Wise and Downie

A transparency representing the Duke's arms.

Friendly Societies' Meeting Room, corner of Ryrie-street.

A transparency of the Odd Fellows' emblem, and the motto, "Welcome to the son of our beloved Queen."

From Ryrie street to Bright and Hitchcocks, it was a perfect maze of green decorations, interwoven with flowers.

Mrs Appleton

Star in gas jets.

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Mr Costin

Transparency of the Edinburgh arms, and the words " Welcome to Victoria."

Messrs Bright and Hitchcocks

At the place of business of this firm the most extensive preparations had been made in order to show that the Prince was deserving of a right Royal welcome. The whole of the extensive verandah had been surmounted by flagstaffs and flags; and between each was a semi-circle of gas jets making in all no less than eleven semi-circular arches. Over the verandah at the main entrance there was a large transparency, very artistically finished, representing a globe, or the world, in the centre, surrounded by the colors of all nations—the figure of Britannia being on one side and 'Victoria on the other. The motto at the bottom was, "United we Prosper." The building was completely covered with flags, and a row was stretched across the road.

Mr Tough

A transparency representing Britannia and the Galatea, with the word "Welcome."

Mr E. H, Cole

An anchor and crown in gas reflectors.

MOORABOOL STREET.

Mr Sander, tobacconist.

A number, of varied transparencies.

Mr Skirving.

A transparency, representing the Castle of Edinburgh, with the figures of a Highlander and harpist, and appropriate inscriptions.

Mr Quincy, Olive Branch Hotel.

A transparency of St. George and the Dragon, painted very well; also a number of Chinese lanterns.

MARKET SQUARE (SOUTH SIDE).

Messrs Thorne and Bradley.

Large transparency representing the *Galatea* in a gale, the Edinburgh arms, and "Welcome, Duke of Edinburgh" on one side, and a crown on a cushion, on the other, with "Welcome to Geelong, Royal Duke."

Prince of Wales Hotel.

A gas star, with anchor in the centre.

Carpenter's Coach Factory.

A number of transparencies in the windows.

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Geelong Gas Company.  
A Maltese CROSS, with P. and A. in gas.

Union Bank.

Large transparency, representing the entry of the Galatea into the Heads by moonlight. Flags of all nations surround the device, and the motto at the bottom of the picture is—"With joy. We greet our sailor prince."

GHERINGHAP STREET.

Town Hall

Gas star, with A. in centre; also, a crown and P. A; in gas.

Holmes, White and Co

Transparency of royal arms, with the word "Welcome."

Victoria Insurance Company.

Transparencies of various devices in the windows.

Post-office

A gas star, with colored lamps lining the cornice of the building.

In the Ryrie-street frontage a crown; with coloured lamps along the cornices.

Ladies' College

Festoons of evergreens and flowers, very prettily arranged.

RYRIE-STREET.

Telegraph-office

A glass star, with 'gas jets. The cornices, of the building illuminated with colored lamps;

Mechanics' Institute

Gas star with 'A' in centre.

White and Brockbank

Festoons of flowers and evergreens; also, gas star, with 'D. E.' in centra.

Mr Hunt

Crown in reflectors, with gas; also transparency, a star, wreath, and P.A.

W. McMullen

Two large diamonds in coloured lamps.

Queen's Head Hotel

A star in gas.

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Mr Dayies, Upholsterer

Illuminated windows, and transparency with anchor in centre, and the words, "Welcome, Sailor Prince."

Rising Sun Hotel

A gas reflector star, and various transparencies in the windows.

Mr Jennings

Transparent star, and P.A.

Mr Chas. Andrews

The letter A. in semi-circle, gas jets.

W. Noble and Co.

Transparency of the Royal Arms, surrounded by flags of all nations.

W.T.Morris and Mr Brown

The letters P. and A. in floral decorations and arch in gas, jets.

Mr Gant

The letter 'A'. in scroll work with gas jets.

Australian.Hotel

A gas star with 'A' centre.

Mr Clarkson and Mr Thacker

Floral decorations with the motto, "Victoria Welcomes Victoria's Son!"

Mr Stone

Crown in gas jets.

Mr Baldock

A gas star.

Mr Wilkinson

Two stars and crown.

Mr Holland

"Welcome, P. A.", in a glass transparency.

Mr Jones

Floral decorations.

Dawson's Hotel

A transparency representing portrait of the Duke.

Masonic Hall

A masonic emblem, surrounded on other side by colored lamps.

Preston's Hotel

The initials 'P.A', in gas jets.

Prince Albert Hotel

Portrait of the Prince and illuminations in windows.

Mr Woollard

A transparency with the *Galatea* in centre, and the words, "Welcome to Prince Alfred."

BELLERINE STREET.

Sir Charles Darling Hotel.

A portrait of the Prince in transparency, and decorations of evergreens.

Mr Powell's brewery.

A transparency of the royal arms and crown.

Eureka Hotel.

A lighted transparency showing an aboriginal and lubra with a piccaninny, the representative of the tribe, shaking hands with the Prince, and the Words: "Welcome, white-fellow," over them.

YARRA STREET

Cavalry Orderly Room

Three transparencies, representing uniforms of the troop, with a crown and flags in the centre.

Mr Steedman and Mr Ferguson.

Illuminated windows in coloured paper, and flags.

Mr Higgins, solicitor

A transparency Royal arms and another, Australian arms, and the words, "Welcome Duke of Edinburgh."

Australasian Insurance Company

Two transparencies in windows, various designs.

Messrs Taylor and Buckland

A large transparency of flags of all nations, with the initials 'P.A.', surmounted by a crown; and the words, "Geelong welcomes our "noble Prince."

Commercial Bank of Australasia

Glass star with gas jets.

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Messrs Woolley and Harwood

A transparent scroll, with the words "A joyful greeting", the letter 'A' in centre; and a star under the Royal arms.

Ship Inn

A transparency Representing the *Galatea*; with a sailor and soldier 'on either side. The letters. 'P. A.' and 'D. E.' at one end, and at the other an anchor an 'H.R.H. D'. of E. A number of floral decorations also.

#### CORIO TERRACE.

Messrs Wilson; Buchanan, and Co.,

Glass star, and transparency of Royal Arms, with motto, "*Treu und fest.*"

Custom House

Crown and rows of gas jets.

Strachan's bonded store

Transparency of flags, with anchor in centre, The letters 'P A', and the motto, "*Treu und fest.*"

Derby Arms

A large show of floral decorations in front of the hotel.

#### THOMSON AND BARWON WARDS.

These wards of the town of Geelong presented a gay appearance yesterday as far as the exhibition of flags and the decoration of many of the houses were concerned but the streets were literally, speaking, empty, nearly everybody having left their homesteads in the early part of the day to visit Geelong and partake of the festivities prepared there in consequence of the arrival of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. Although there were very few outside illuminations many of the houses were lit up, but generally the streets were dark and silent, most of the people being in Geelong.

#### NEWTOWN AND CHILWELL

This borough Was deserted yesterday, the majority of the inhabitants having gone to Geelong to witness the demonstration in honor of the visit of-the Duke of Edinburgh.

But while they had left their homes the residents did not neglect them altogether but made the borough look gay with numbers of flags of every nation. No matter through what street one traversed flags were met with, and many houses were decorated with flowers and evergreens.

The belfry of the fire brigade station was very prettily decorated with evergreens, and in the centre was a transparency, the Royal Arms being represented with three hanging bells as an emblem of the body. Overall were the words "Fireman's Welcome," and underneath that a circle of roses. This was illuminated in the evening, and was considerably admired by those who were

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in the immediate neighborhood. Only a very few of the shopkeepers illuminated their premises in the evening as they knew the majority of the inhabitants would be in Geelong to witness the greater preparations there. Some, however, perhaps feeling a greater degree of loyalty than others, did exhibit; cheap transparencies which were cheered by a number of small boys who could not be trusted into town by their parents.

A singular circumstance occurred, as the cortege was returning down Malop street; many were suddenly startled on hearing the fire bell pealing an alarm, some would have it that it was ringing welcome, others that it was a dodge on the part of the brigade to show how active they could be in case of emergency. Unfortunately, however, it happened that their services were actually required in Skene Street proving they believed in one of their mottoes, and leaving the line of procession the three engines each drawn by two of Mr Hurley's powerful horses, rattled along Great Ryrie street at a fearful pace, fully which appeared on their arch, "England expects every man to do his duty." The departure of the firemen and their engines detracted sadly from the appearance of the procession which then passed along Great Malop street, which was literally alive with life, spectators rushing by short cuts to obtain a good view. The Prince then returned to Mack's hotel, where he and His Excellency the Governor, and the gentlemen belonging to the respective suites, partook of a luncheon provided in Mr Trear's best style, in the handsome *salle-a-manger* of the celebrated hotel, of which we intend giving an account in our next, together with the other splendid improvements that have been made for the occasion.

And so it went, each shop window displaying transparencies, floral wreaths and mottoes of a variety of kinds welcoming the Queen's son. Some had been inventive although the message being offered was not always clear. Edinburgh Castle and a Harpist was in there (for balance?) as Glasgow had featured in one.

The charitable and friendly relations between Comunn na Feinne and the local Aboriginals was represented in some of the illuminated transparencies.

One of the highlights of the Prince's visit to Geelong on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1867 was to be the presentation, by 'King' Jerry, of a special book to the Prince. The Advertiser revealed, ahead of the presentation, the nature of the gift. It was inscribed; "This book is, with the deepest respect, presented to His Royal Highness as a specimen of the language of King Jerry's own and other tribes of Australasia."

We have been shown the Book which 'King' Jerry is to present to His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, being by Daniel Bunce a Dictionary of the Aboriginal Language. It is very handsomely bound in blue Russian Leather and got up at the establishment of Henry Franks of Geelong and does credit to our artisans. No doubt it will be an acceptable present to the Duke and will be poured over in England as one of the curiosities of Australia.

The Geelong Volunteer Fire Brigade, struggling for money, and which was shortly to be asked by the Society to conduct its annual New Year's Day Highland Games for 1868, featured prominently on the day of the procession through the town. For those who do not believe in

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“coincidences,” the following newsworthy item would seem just a little bit like a ‘staged’ event to draw attention to the Brigade’s efficiency and worth to the town and its desperate financial plight, thereby encouraging donations.

Yesterday, during the procession through the town, the fire bell rang out the alarm, and it was ascertained that the back portion of the premises in Malop street, occupied by Messrs Shirra and Moodie, were on fire. A number of volunteers, however, were soon on the spot; and the Fire Brigade, with their usual dispatch, were soon in readiness, and succeeded in arresting the progress of the conflagration which, at one time, threatened the destruction of the whole premises. By an advertisement in another column, it will be seen that Messrs Shirra and Moodie return their thanks for the assistance rendered them during the fire.

Robert Shirra was a Comunn na Feinne office-bearer. Coincidence! M’mm!

The *Advertiser*, while covering the Prince’s visit to Melbourne, quietly drew a veil over the banquet episode with the words; “On Thursday a free banquet was given in the Zoological Gardens, but the less said about this the better.” However, the reporter could not resist the temptation, in the spirit of the grand rivalry between Melbourne and Geelong, to have a shot at Melbourne, and Melburnians in general. Writing of the Melbourne banquet, he reported, “The Prince did not go, and it could not have been held in a more appropriate place than the Zoological Gardens.”

The coverage of the free banquet in Melbourne had been sufficient to inflate the local newspaper’s opinion that, in Geelong, no such disaster as had taken place in the metropolis would be repeated in its town. There were two other things supporting its opinion, said the *Advertiser* in its editorial of 3<sup>rd</sup> December; the Prince would not be present to open or attend the ‘picnic’, but a large contingent of police would be in attendance.

All classes appeared bent upon enjoyment; all difference of opinion was laid aside for the time being, and one and all united heart and hand to do honour to the occasion. Everywhere was excitement and bustle, but the order kept throughout the day by a strong Body of Police under the command of Mr Superintendent Wookey and Subs Macnamara and Ryall, assisted by the Drill Instructor, Sergeant McSweeney, was admirable.

The deliberate reference to the Police presence generally, and to the mention of such senior ranks specifically, was probably a response to the criticism levelled at the Melbourne police for failing to have an adequate visible presence on the day of the people’s banquet on the banks of the River Yarra.

In Melbourne a “Free Banquet” held on the banks of the River Yarra to honour the Prince visit had ended in a melee, perhaps partly due to the presence of a wine fountain. [however, such a presence proved to be inadequate in preventing the ensuing melee at the] Geelong’s corresponding free ‘picnic’ fared a little better, although the *Advertiser’s* editorial of the 4<sup>th</sup> December, the day following the [free] picnic, was not a flattering one.

The Free Banquet, or ‘snack’, which was given to all-comers in the Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, if contrasted with that lately given in Melbourne, might be deemed a comparative success, but withal was a failure, if the intention of those who contributed the supplies is taken into consideration. Certainly, some of the more rowdy of the gathered multitude appeared to enjoy themselves, but to persons of the most ordinary civilized habits the exhibition presented at the tables where the food was distributed was most disgusting.

The account continued, stating that this was not the blame of those who organized the affair, especially the contribution of those representing Comunn na Feinne. All credit to the Comunn na Feinne!. The *Advertiser* wrote, for example, that Mr Clarkson, a Comunn na Feinne committee-man, picnic organizer for the free lunch had by his action when the people’s behaviour was beginning to get out of control, prevented a bad situation from becoming a riot.

Mr W. Clarkson, to whose well meant, but abortive, exertions alone can be attributed the fact that the entire affair was not so great a failure as that in Melbourne (not one of the other members of the committee appointed to carry out the arrangements being present to lend a helping hand), was already there when the young folks began to arrive, and he distributed among them a number of bats and balls, skipping ropes and other articles, with which to amuse themselves and while away the time until feeding time should take place. From this time (nine o’clock) the people gathered in such numbers that at eleven o’clock there could not have been less than three thousand on the ground.

Lacking any of his committee to assist at that time, Mr Clarkson had called for volunteers. The children were placed in their enclosure and the local butcher and his staff had been busy wines and various kinds of ale had also been prepared]. Given the size of the crowd it was thought wise to start serving the food and drink at 1pm, an hour before the due time of starting. Mr Clarkson and his volunteers thus began distributing this to the “hundreds ready to receive it.” The reporter, as reporters are of course, was reluctant to ‘dig the dirt,’ but a story is still a story! If the working class seemed like “wild beasts feeding” - the ‘respectable’ class was worse, having made off with the cutlery!

The least said about this portion of the proceedings the better, but truth compels me to state that it was calculated to excite disgust in the mind of any decent person. The people were ranged around the tables a dozen deep, and the amount of rushing and scrambling for food was such as would make a stranger and casual observer imagine that he was at an

exhibition of wild beasts feeding. A forest of hands were (sic) held up for the receipt of something, and pieces of meat and bread and pudding were indiscriminately thrown among the crowd who eagerly contested for possession. Of course, this disorder was created by a number of loafers and other characters who appeared to be in their element, while the more respectable portion of the gathering suffered, more especially the females, many of whom could not obtain anything to eat in consequence of the conduct of the rowdies. The conduct of a number of visitors, whose appearance betokened respectability, must be chronicled as decidedly ungrateful if a harsher term be not more appropriate. Many represented that they had families who could not attend at the table, and to these, plates, knives and forks were lent, and food distributed so that a number of picnics were improvised on a small scale, but several of the recipients of this privilege forgot to return the knives, forks etc., perhaps through excitement.

No doubt, this last phrase was written tongue in cheek! But, here, at least was something democratic for a journalist to boast about – a democracy of greed and drunkenness!

The crowd of expectant stomachs had now grown to five or six thousand. As the bread soon ran out, more was sent for from the town. What had not run out yet was (sic) the wines and the ales “which was (sic) so freely partaken of that evidence of its intoxicating nature could be seen in the condition of many men, some boys, and a few women, who, as the drink got into their heads, became almost mad, so that about half past four o’clock the scene presented was one of a drunken orgie (sic).

Interestingly, it was without any note of irony that, to commemorate the Prince’s visit, it was decided to erect a Lunacy Reception Ward at the Geelong Hospital!

Numbers of drunken men and women crowded around the tent in which was placed the wines, some almost praying for drink, and others trying to obtain forcible entrance, the tent being kept clear only by a guard of police who surrounded the structure. A scene of indescribable confusion ensued, swearing and cursing were heard around, and Mr Clarkson had to break in the head of a cask of wine and let the liquor escape to prevent it being used by those who had already taken too much. Mr Matthews, on refusing to allow a man to go once too often to the barrel was rewarded by a billet of wood thrown at his head, and several of the drums belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery fife and drum band were cut by somebody.

William Clarkson, as already noted, was head of the Free Banquet or “snack” committee and was, unfortunately, let down when he could not immediately locate his supporting committee members. But his swift action, given the restless crowds at the tables, in beginning the picnic an hour earlier than the appointed time, by separating the children into their own special area and by spilling the wine out of the barrels to the ground, probably helped spare the function even greater scenes of disorder and drunkenness. However, according to the *Advertiser*, even with the fiasco which ensued at the Geelong event, Geelong could be assured that its experience was still not as disgraceful as had been the behaviour of those attending the Melbourne free for all! At the

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Geelong ‘picnic’, “no damage was done to the gardens the demonstration being on open ground, where there was not so much to harm”, unless, of course, it was someone’s head or the skins of band drums!

Upon closer reflection, however, the *Advertiser* adopted a humbler tone. Far from its previous boasting about the superiority of Geelong’s efforts in celebrating the Prince’s visit as compared to that of Melbourne, it had to confess:

From the above report, we fear we have nothing to boast of over the metropolitan orgie (sic), and we are afraid we must admit we have only added to the disgrace which the colony will have to sustain. Fortunately, warned by the disgraceful and dangerous occurrence at Melbourne, the most of our population kept away from the “snack” altogether, or matters might have been much worse. The wonder is that the citizens of Geelong should have permitted a committee of three persons to persevere in carrying out a mode of demonstration which everyone condemned, and which already, with all the appliances of the metropolis, had proved a most disgraceful Saturnalia. It is quite supererogatory to adduce any argument against such absurd attempts at festivity. We ourselves heard working men talking to each other in total condemnation of the attempt. The citizens of Geelong were fully warned, and they must now bear the blame which they have justly earned in not diverting the demonstration into legitimate channels and saved an exhibition which it has been painful for us to recount, but which would have amounted to a dereliction of duty to the public had we withheld it. We can only hope that the example of Melbourne and Geelong will now teach a wholesome lesson to the interior towns.

Whether from reports of the Melbourne and Geelong free banquet experiences, or Sunday School moral admonitions from the *Advertiser*, or from the possession of superior common sense - or from a better grasp of human nature - the “interior towns” did indeed avoid, in their respective celebrations of the Duke’s presence, any attempt to stage such a risky venture as a free meal with free alcohol laid on.

Lapsing for the moment the reporter, in a more reflective mood, ponders, like Solomon long before him, the meaning of life, and concluding all of life and its achievements, in the face of inevitable death, are vanity, adopts a philosophical attitude in terms of the nature of humanity and its desire, always, for the superficial pleasures of life. Only man’s desire for something, even in the interim, for pleasures and enjoyments, can explain such bursts of irrationalism as were taking place at the Duke’s visit.

All things earthly are vanity. This is an ancient, but true saying. We expend an immense amount of time, patience and money over trifles for our amusement, and what is the reward – a few hours enjoyment, a few hours excitement – which leave afterwards a feeling of lassitude, injurious alike to the spirits and to the health of the physical system.

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But with all this it is the nature of people to rush into gaiety when they have an opportunity ... Especially welcome are unlooked for or chance holidays, and such have we now in the visit to the town of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Young and old, rich and poor, are striving their utmost to exhibit ... the loyalty we bear towards his royal mother, and the attachment we feel to the country which gave us birth ...

### **Conclusion**

The Duke left Geelong and, although the Geelong to Ballarat rail link had been opened in 1862, he and his entourage made the journey to regional centres in a specially built Cobb and Co carriage with a team of the firm's best horses. To the fore in escorting the Duke and his entourage on his way was another Comunn na Feinne presence in the shape of the Geelong Volunteer Force which had been formed by Captain John Bell, soon to be the Chief of the Society. Happily for the Prince his route out of Geelong passed through some of the best winegrowing areas in the State. Stopping at one of these, Percevals, the Prince was not only 'refreshed' but was sent on his way with several crates of the finest!