

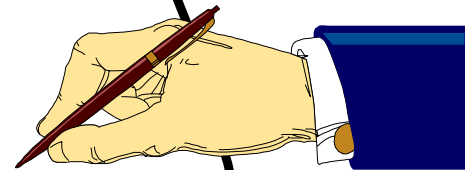
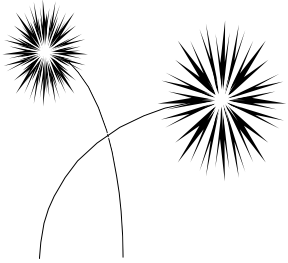


Teaching Resources - Primary



# *Celebrating Federation*

- at the  
W.A. Constitutional Centre



*The Constitutional Centre of W.A. is at the corner of Parliament Place & Havelock Street  
in the Old Hale School building. We are open Monday to Friday and entry is free.*

Our phone number is 92226922 and our website is [www.ccentre.wa.gov.au](http://www.ccentre.wa.gov.au)

## INTRODUCTION

The Constitutional Centre of Western Australia was opened in 1997. It is the Centre of its kind in Australia. The Centre houses exhibitions and runs educational programs about our State and Federal systems of government. We are open to the public five days a week and our facilities are used by students, teachers, community groups, corporate bodies, professional groups as well as the general public.

In accordance with our aims to:

- ❖ Educate Western Australians about the State's Parliamentary and electoral system,
- ❖ Promote awareness of our federal system of government and the Australian Constitution and
- ❖ Encourage balanced debate about the development of our system of government

*A Nation at Last* is an exhibition which explores the six colony's and their road to Federation.

The main aim of this federation teaching resource is to provide both teachers and students with activities that would be appropriate either before or after a visit to the centre. Each activity is linked to the curriculum framework. It is recommended that some of the activities are undertaken before attending the centre so that students are generally aware of the subject matter and therefore able to actively participate during a visit.

The Centre is co-located with the W.A. Electoral Education Centre and just up the road from Parliament House. May schools spend a day visiting all three centres or alternatively, half a day visiting our Centre and the Electoral Education Centre.

## ***Teachers' Reference Material*** ***–Background Information***

### **'A Nation at Last'**

In 1901 Henry Lawson was in London. There he wrote 'Jack Cornstalk' in which he imagines meeting a 'bushman' from home on the crowded streets. Jack tells him of federation and the success of the new Australian federal government. For Lawson it is a proud moment and he states that Australia, for long simply a 'Country', was now a 'nation'.

### **'Would they go on for ever with New South Wales divided from Victoria by a narrow stream and a line of customs houses?'**

*Henry Parkes, speaking at the banquet for the National Australasian Convention, Sydney Town Hall, 2 March 1891.*

In April 1899 Mr P. MacDonnell, licensee of the Punt Hotel, Gooramadda, was fined fifty pounds by the government of Victoria. He had failed to pay duty on gloves imported from New South Wales.

Less than two years later, on 1 January 1901, the customs barriers throughout Australia were torn down. On that day, the six virtually independent colonies on the continent became states of the Commonwealth of Australia. An Australian government was appointed to deal with national affairs and on 9 May the first Australian Parliament was opened in Melbourne.

The idea that the six Australian colonies ought to create some form of national government had existed since the 1850s. By the 1880s colonial leaders were becoming concerned about matters such as defence and immigration which affected the whole continent. Might not such issues be better handled by a national government?

It was only at the beginning of the 1890s that serious moves towards federation began. This exhibition tells the federal story. It follows the constitutional events of the 1890s - the conventions, the so-called popular movement towards federation, the vote on the constitution and the celebrations for the birth of the Commonwealth.

The creation of the Commonwealth is part of that wider story of how Australia, in Henry Lawson's words, became 'a nation at last'.

### **The 1891 National Australasian Convention**

#### **'One People, One Destiny'**

*Toast given by Sir Henry Parkes, Premier of New South Wales and President of the National Australasian Convention at a banquet in the Sydney Town Hall, 2 March 1891.*

The man popularly credited with the first decisive move towards federation was Sir Henry Parkes, the Premier of New South Wales. Parkes persuaded the other colonial premiers to hold an Australasian Federation Conference in Melbourne in 1890. The Conference decided to call a National Australasian Convention. The purpose of this Convention was to 'consider and report upon an adequate scheme for an Australian Constitution'.

The Convention met in Sydney in March and April 1891. Each colony sent seven Members of Parliament and two even came from New Zealand. By April 9 they had hammered out a draft bill to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia. The principal draftsman and architect of the Constitution was Sir Samuel Griffith, the Premier of Queensland. Griffith was assisted by Andrew Inglis Clark, the Tasmanian Attorney-General, Charles Cameron Kingston, MP, from South Australia and Edmund Barton, MP, from New South Wales.

The Convention delegates tackled the thorny problem of how six independent governments might surrender some of their powers to a 'federal' Parliament. How could states with small populations resist the overwhelming voting power of Victoria and New South Wales? Members of Parliament from those states would dominate the proposed House of Representatives. It was decided that a Senate, in which each state would be represented equally no matter what its population, would defend the interests of the small states.

Another major problem for the Convention was the power of the proposed Senate, particularly over money. A majority of delegates from the smaller colonies favoured a second chamber which would be able to amend, although not initiate, money bills. The larger colonies thought this undemocratic as the wishes of a minority of the population could prevail over the representatives of the majority. At this point the Constitution would not have been accepted without the delegates' agreement to the great 'Compromise of 1891'. This restricted the Senate's powers over money bills. The Senate could not itself make amendments to these bills, although it could request the House of Representatives to make such amendments, and, ultimately, it could refuse to pass the bills.

### **Taking Federation to the People**

**'The fiery cross of union from the Gulf of Carpentaria to the Great Australian Bight, and from Melbourne clear across to Perth.'**

*James Hume Cook, President, Australian Natives Association, at a meeting to promote federation at Charters Towers, Queensland, 1896.*

In the early 1890s the Australian colonies descended into economic depression. In the midst of bank crashes, rising unemployment and social distress, many

politicians took little real interest in federation. It was not a good time for serious consideration of an Australian constitution. By the end of 1892 the draft Constitution of 1891 had failed to make any headway in the colonial parliaments.

It became evident that to succeed federation would have to take on the appearance of a popular cause. In Victoria men like Alfred Deakin and other members of the Australian Natives Association had long worked for national unity. To stir up interest in New South Wales, Edmund Barton founded the Australasian Federation League in 1893. The League received strong support along the Murray River where the people of the border towns were daily inconvenienced by customs barriers.

At a conference of federation leagues and branches of the Australian Natives Association, held in the Murray River town of Corowa in 1893, a real link between federation and the people was forged. John Quick, a lawyer from Bendigo, successfully proposed a resolution which showed a new way forward. Each colonial parliament should pass an Act to elect delegates to another convention. This convention would draw up a constitution. The proposed constitution would then be put to the voters for approval at a referendum in each colony.

The Hobart Premiers' Conference of 1895 accepted Quick's proposal. By 1897 Enabling Acts to elect delegates to a Convention had been passed by all but the Queensland Parliament. Subsequent Convention elections revealed who the people regarded as the real supporters of federation. Leading politicians such as Alfred Deakin in Victoria, Charles Cameron Kingston in South Australia and Edward Nicholas Braddon in Tasmania were easily elected. But far above them all in the popular mind was New South Welshman, Edmund Barton. He topped the poll in his own colony - 15,000 votes ahead of his nearest rival.

### **The Australasian Federal Convention of 1897/1898**

**'Today, Saturday March 12th 1898, after an all-night's sitting and under conditions of great nervous exhaustion and irritability we have practically completed the draft bill for the Constitution of the Australian Commonwealth.'**

Alfred Deakin, in his first-hand account of federation, first published in 1923 as *The Federal Story*.

The Australasian Federal Convention of 1897 and 1898 was a tale of three cities. The opening session was held in Adelaide in March 1897 where a draft Constitution was produced. Four months were then allowed for the colonial parliaments to consider and comment upon this draft. The Convention reassembled in Sydney in September and a final session was held in Melbourne in February and March of 1898. On 17 March 1898, St Patrick's Day, a Constitution was ready to place before the voters of Australia.

The Convention delegates used the Constitution of 1891 as their starting point and amended various sections. A small drafting committee then worked the Convention's resolutions into the precise language of a legal document. The members of the drafting committee were faced with a most demanding task. Robert Garran was secretary to the committee. He described this experience in a letter to his family:

'You have not heard much from me lately, but I have an excuse. I do not think I have had such a hard week's work in all my life before...I think my average hours of getting to bed have been about 4 a.m., winding up on Tuesday with a day's work of nearly 20 hours...'

A central concern to the Convention was how to resolve irreconcilable disputes over legislation between the Senate and the House of Representatives. Delegates spent hours debating this issue. Section 57 of the Constitution, the 'double dissolution' clause, provided for a simultaneous election of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. If the Senate then still refused to pass a bill, a joint sitting of both Houses could be called. In a joint sitting a three-fifths majority would be sufficient to pass a bill.

State finances also worried the colonial premiers. How would they balance their budgets if the Commonwealth government collected customs duties? It was decided that the states would receive back a fixed proportion of customs revenues in perpetuity. Because this provision would curb the spending power of a Commonwealth government, it was known as the 'Braddon Blot' after Edward Braddon, the Premier of Tasmania who devised it.

### **Barton and Billy Tea**

The delegates to the 1897/1898 Australian Convention had little hesitation in making Edmund 'Toby' Barton the leader of the Convention. Despite a reputation for laziness, Barton worked long hours on the drafting committee. Deakin judged him to be of 'first rank among the men of influence at the final sitting'.

Barton's obvious deep commitment to federation gained him the title of 'The Federal Leader'. During the referendums of 1898 and 1899 voters in both the city and the bush asked for Barton to come and explain the new Constitution.

In 1899 journalist, Leon Broinowski, accompanied Barton on his campaign. Barton kept the group going twenty-four hours a day with little rest except for a doze on the floor of a buggy. The evening meal was billy tea and fried meat. This would be followed by a long political meeting and an all-night drive to the next venue. Broinowski recalled day breaking with Barton still at the reins urging the horses forward.

In 1901 Edmund Barton, 'Australia's Favourite Son', became the first Prime Minister of the Commonwealth.

### **The Federal Constitutional Referendums of 1898, 1899 and 1900**

**'May the result be, that I may see, before I die, the 'Commonwealth of Australia' an established fact, with Tasmania as a component part'.**

*James Backhouse Walker, resident of Tasmania, on the eve of the first federal referendum in Tasmania, June 21 1898.*

In April and May 1898 the campaign for and against the Bill to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia began in earnest.

'Anti-Billites', as they were known, tried to frighten voters with statistics. It was alleged, for example, that in New South Wales, under the proposed form of federation, every Australian would pay an extra twenty-two shillings and sixpence per year in tax.

The members of the Women's Federal League in New South Wales, none of whom had a vote, were more positive. How could any scheme drawn up by fifty men for 4.5 million people please everyone? They urged men to ignore narrow economic arguments and to vote for the Commonwealth on behalf of future generations:

Shall our children be Australians and of one family, or shall they be colonists and rivals?

On 3 and 4 June 1898, Tasmania, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria went to the polls. One pro-federation Adelaide newspaper, conscious of the significance of the occasion, called referendum day 'The Glorious Fourth'. In these four colonies a majority voted 'Yes' for the Constitution. However, in New South Wales the Enabling Act had specified that 80,000 votes would be required for the Commonwealth Bill to pass. This figure was not reached.

The colonial premiers met in early 1899 to try to resolve this problem. They agreed to a number of amendments to the proposed constitution which would make it more acceptable to New South Wales. The 'Braddon' clause, concerning the return of customs revenue to the states, would operate for only ten years. In addition, the new federal capital was to be built in New South Wales provided it was at least a hundred miles from Sydney.

These changes were accepted by the voters at another referendum held in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. In September 1899 Queensland voted for the Commonwealth Bill. Finally on 31 July 1900 a majority of Western Australians said 'Yes'.

Edmund Barton's famous phrase - 'We have a nation for a continent, and a continent for a nation' - had become a reality.

## The Tally Boards

**'When the expeditious posters placed the successively gratifying results on the board the people sent up cheers and triumphant shouts which proclaimed a decisive victory and sent a thrill through everyone with any emotional feelings'.**

Description from the *Adelaide Observer* of the crowd at the referendum tally board in front of the *Observer* office, June 4 1898.

As the referendum results became known major city newspapers made them available to the public on large tally boards. Crowds gathered at these boards and there were frequent outbursts of patriotic sentiment.

Outside the *Argus* office in Melbourne on referendum night in 1898, entertainment was provided by a lantern slide show. This featured the faces of prominent federal leaders and 'Anti-Billites'. These were greeted with either cheers or boo-hoos. A reporter described the response given to Queen Victoria's picture:

'The appearance of the Queen was the signal for a loyal demonstration... The National Anthem was sung from 30,000 throats and was followed by round after round of cheering.'

Australian women were able to cast their votes for or against the constitution bill in South Australia and Western Australia. At the Lefevre Peninsula booth at Port Adelaide there were 789 male and 987 female enrolled voters, of whom 366 men and 349 women cast their votes.

Few Aboriginal men and women have been recorded as voting for the Bill. They were entitled to vote in every colony except Queensland and Western Australia. One group believed to have voted at the federal referendums were those at Point Macleay in the Albert electorate in South Australia.

Voting in the referendums was not compulsory. In no colony did more than 46.63% of qualified voters cast a vote. The constitution itself, and the economic issues



involved, were difficult to understand. At an Adelaide polling booth one man spoiled his ballot paper by writing across it: 'Only lawyers understand this'. Another in the same city decided the issue for himself by the toss of a coin. Nevertheless, federal sentiment was strong enough throughout Australia to record sufficient majorities for the creation of the Commonwealth.

## THE VOTERS

Today, all Australian citizens over 18 are eligible to vote. At the time of the federation referendums you may not have held that right. With different eligibility laws in each colony, could you have voted for the Australian constitution?

YOU COULD VOTE IF YOU WERE:

A male British citizen resident in one of the colonies over the age of 21.

A naturalised male over the age of 21.

A woman over 21 in South Australia and Western Australia.

An Aboriginal male in all colonies except Queensland and Western Australia. (Evidence suggests this right was only exercised in South Australia.)

An Aboriginal woman in South Australia.

## Australians Celebrate the Commonwealth

**'We did not flaunt any Federal flags...Nor did the pubs run dry, as some of our best drinking men were on a visit to Sydney.'**

*Description of Federation day in Moree, New South Wales, as reported in the Maitland Daily Mercury, 3 January 1901.*

To celebrate the birth of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901 the people of Glen Innes, New South Wales made a 'Federal pudding'. It was no ordinary pudding but a 'Mammoth' which was paraded through the streets on a 'gaily decorated trolley'. After a celebratory sports carnival at the showground the pudding was cut and distributed among the crowd.

In Sydney and Melbourne grander ceremonies announced the declaration of the Commonwealth in January and the opening of its first Parliament in May. Splendidly dressed troops marched and rode under great arches, choirs sang, children danced round maypoles and a Royal Duke and Duchess arrived to add grandeur to the events.

How involved were Australians in these festivities? As some of the items in this display show perhaps a little more than poet Henry Lawson cared to admit. Lawson disliked the pomp and ceremony. Most of it, he felt, was an indulgence by the colonial middle classes anxious to impress their royal guests. For Lawson the 'Men who made Australia' - 'the men who made the land' - did not attend.

The rich and influential appear to have been most involved in the official ceremonies. Their central position can be seen in the official record of photographs and invitations. Ordinary Australians, who did not participate in or watch the grand parades, probably welcomed the arrival of national unity and celebrated it in some way, however slight. But we still have some way to go before we can appreciate the role of federation in the development of an Australian identity.

### **Off to London to see the Queen'**

**'When the door closed upon them and left them alone, they seized each other's hands and danced hand in hand in a ring around the centre of the room to express their jubilation.'**

Alfred Deakin, describing the reaction of the Australian delegates after they had reached final agreement with the British Government on the Bill to Constitute the Commonwealth of Australia, *The Federal Story*, 1923.

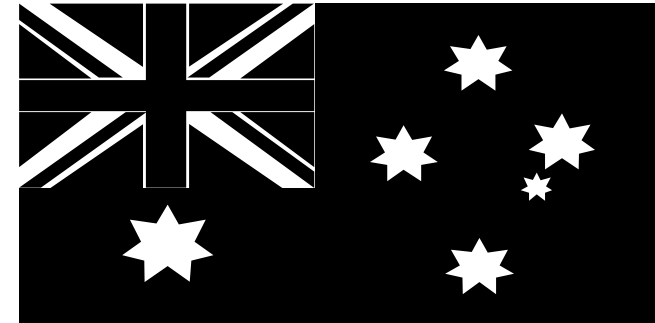
The last act in the making of the Australian Constitution was performed in London. The British Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, requested that certain amendments be made to the Bill. A delegation from the colonies, however, insisted on 'the Bill, the whole Bill and nothing but the Bill', although they ultimately accepted one change to Clause 74. Legal appeals on non-constitutional matters would be allowed from the proposed Australian High Court to the Privy Council in London. The British Parliament now passed the Constitution Bill and Queen Victoria signed *An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia* on 9 July 1900. The news was greeted with cheers in the British Parliament.

## Time-line to Federation

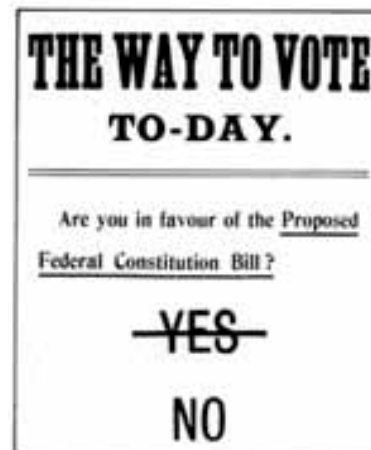
<b>1850</b>	➤ Henry Parkes promotes Federation in his newspaper
<b>1883</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Australasian Council established</li> </ul>
<b>1885</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Council established. An attempt to have joint action on matters affecting all the colonies in common: New South Wales refuses to join.</li> </ul>
<b>1889</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Premier Henry Parkes' Tenterfield (NSW) speech – calls for Federation</li> </ul>
<b>1890</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australasia Federation Conference – adopts a resolution in favour of the union of colonies</li> </ul>
<b>1891</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Australasian Convention, Sydney – agrees to draft a constitution. Adopts name of Commonwealth of Australia.</li> <li>• Constitution drafted by Andrew Inglis Clark (Tasmania)</li> <li>• Draft Constitution amended aboard Queensland government boat Lucinda by Charles Cameron Kingston (SA), Samuel Griffith 9Qld), Edmund Barton (NSW), Andrew Inglis Clark (Tas).</li> </ul>
<b>1892</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edmund Barton tours the Riverina area, setting up Federation Leagues.</li> </ul>
<b>1893</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation of the Australasian Federation League in New South Wales.</li> <li>• “People’s Convention” in Corowa (NSW) – accepts the idea that people are to vote for delegates to the next convention to consider the Constitution.</li> </ul>
<b>1895</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premiers meet in Hobart – agree to the Corowa Conference approach for achieving Federation.</li> </ul>
<b>1896</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second “People’s Conference” in Bathurst (NSW) – debated 1891 draft and suggested key changes to the Senate.</li> </ul>
<b>1897</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second session of the National Australasian Convention – in Sydney – revises draft Constitution.</li> </ul>
<b>1898</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referendum Vote – YES vote in Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and NSW but not the required majority in NSW</li> </ul>
<b>1899</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secret Premiers’ Conference – to amend the Constitution to satisfy NSW and Queensland</li> <li>• Referendum vote – all colonies except Western Australia vote for Federation</li> </ul>
<b>1900</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Parliament passes Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act</li> <li>• Vote in Western Australia – 31 July – for Federation.</li> <li>• Queen Victoria proclaims the date of inauguration of the Commonwealth – 1 January 1901</li> </ul>
<b>1901</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia – 1 January</li> <li>• First federal election – three main parties which ran candidates were Protectionists, Free traders and Labor</li> <li>• Opening of the first Parliament – at Melbourne’s Exhibition building.</li> </ul>

# Federation Timeline

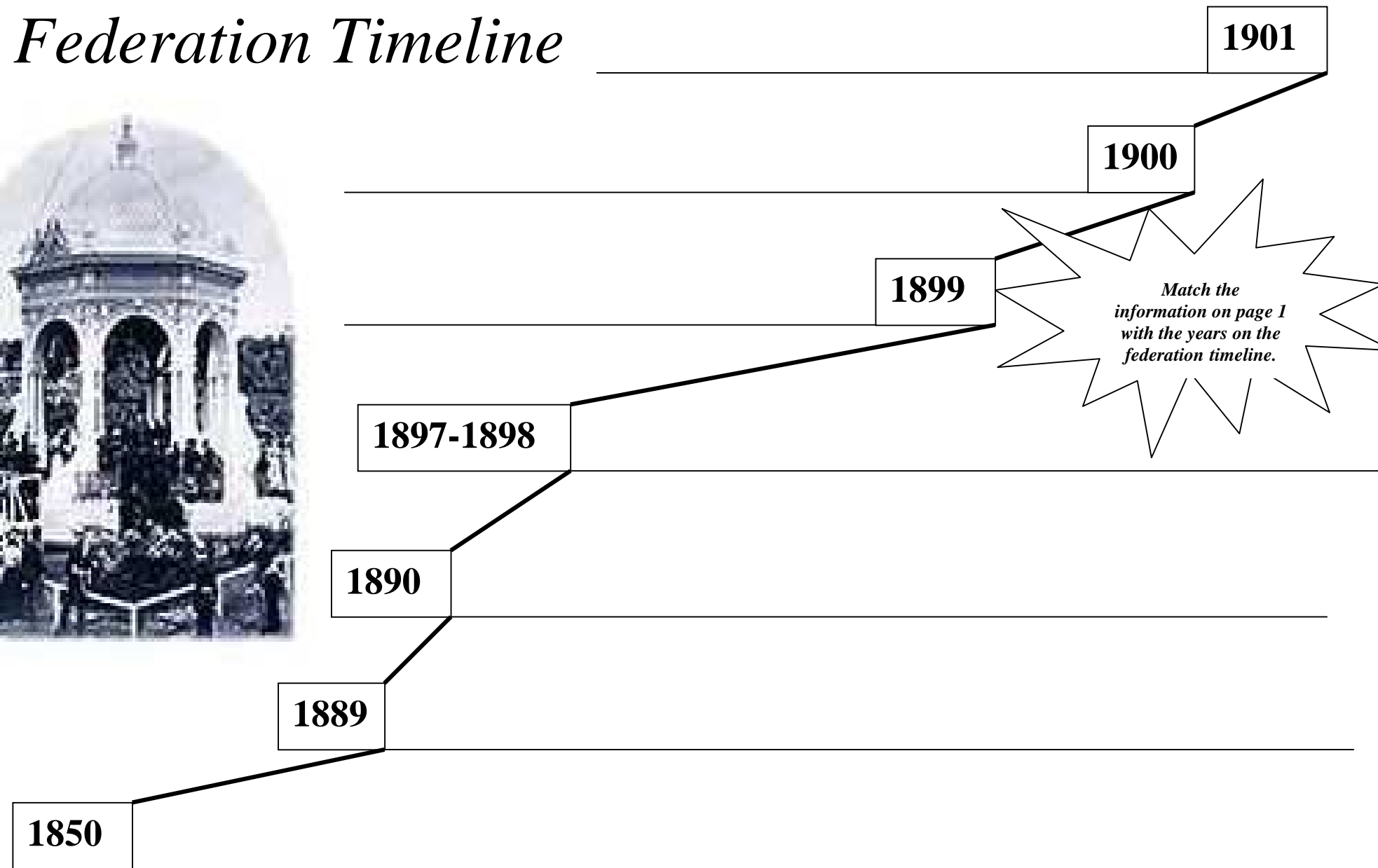
*Match the information on this page with the years on the federation timeline on page 2  
Write the information on the line next to each year.*



- The six colonies become “One People, One Destiny”
- Henry Parkes promotes Federation in his newspaper – The Empire
- Henry Parkes makes a Federation speech at Tenterfield in NSW
- The Australasian Federation Conference in Melbourne in favour of an early union of the colonies
- The result of W.A.’s July Federation Referendum is a YES
- Various sessions of the Australasian Federal Conventions are held in Adelaide, Sydney & Melbourne
- Secret Premiers’ Conference amends the draft Constitution Bill

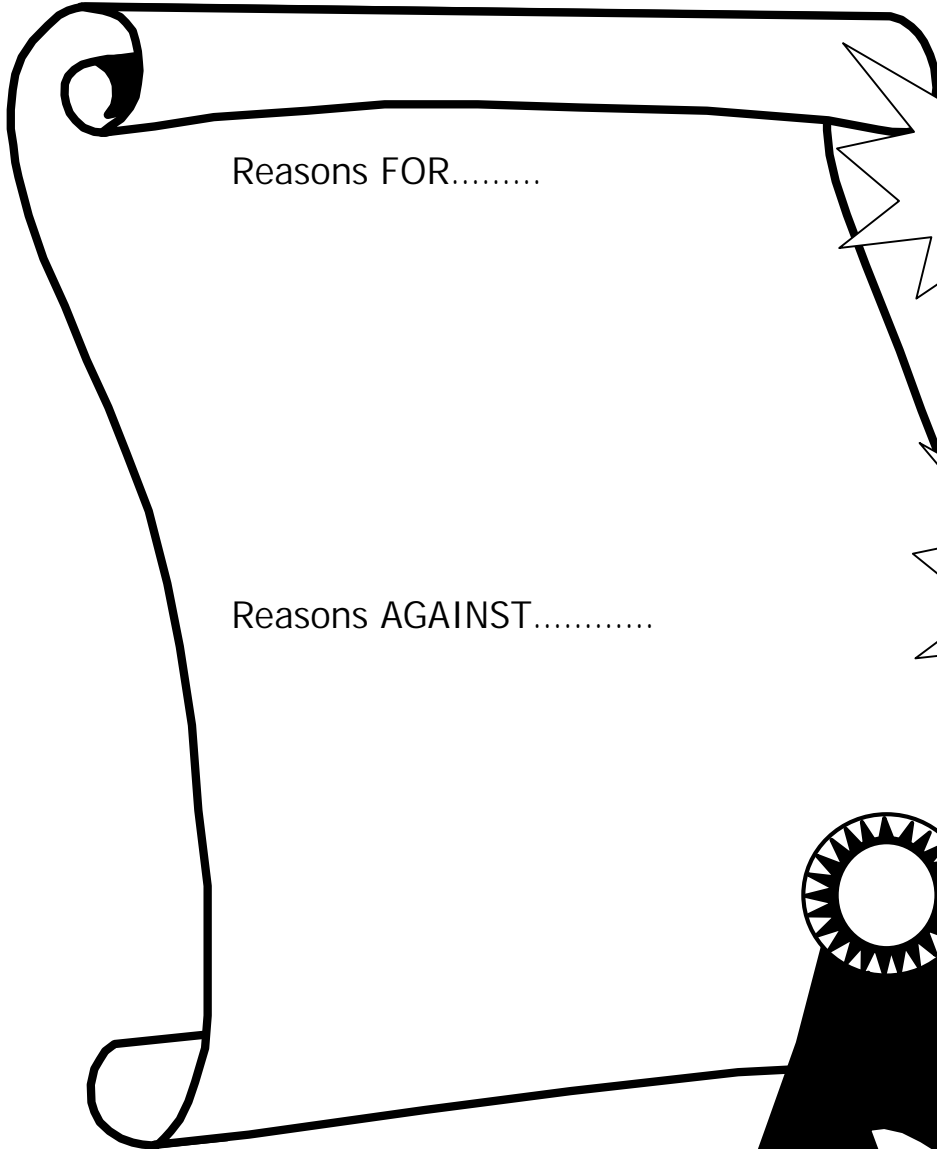


# *Federation Timeline*



# Reasons FOR and AGAINST Federation

Match the reasons in the star shapes on the right with the list on the left.



**FREE TRADE**

**GEOGRAPHY & DISTANCE BETWEEN STATES**

**LOSS OF STATE POWER**

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

**ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY**

**NATIONAL IMMIGRATION POLICY**

**SMALL STATES FEAR OF POWER OF BIG STATES**

**NATIONAL RAILWAY LINE**

# W.A. Federation Referendum – Tallyboard Maths

Federation – Activity 3 – Constitutional Centre of W.A.

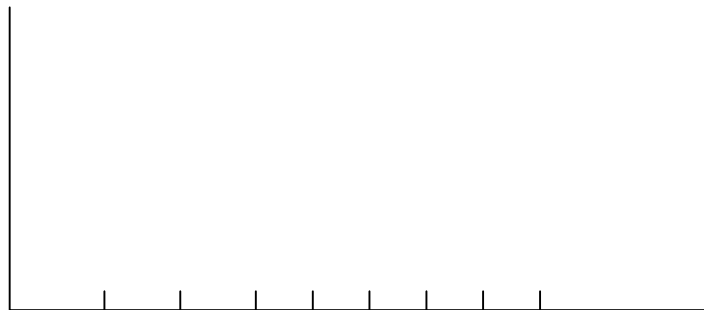
YES		NO	
44652		19636	
ALBANY	914 67	N.E. COOLGARDIE	2723 143
ASHBURTON	32 17	DE GREY	84 15
BEVERLEY	86 415	DUNDAS	816 30
BUNBURY	493 802	FREMANTLE	532 277
CANNING	405 509	E. MANTLE	1322 804
COOLGARDIE	4337 170	N. MANTLE	1289 678
E. COOLGARDIE	11502 732	S. MANTLE	1544 1382
N. COOLGARDIE	3727 117	GASCOYNE	53 66
		N. MANTLE	777 65
		W. PERTH	2078 1388
		YALGOO	155 114
		N. PERTH	1416 844
		WILLIAMS	213 749
		PERTH	2386 1328
		TOODYAY	75 578
		E. PERTH	1128 820
		W. PERTH	2078 1388
		YALGOO	155 114
		YILGARN	460 138
		YORK	139 670
		ROEBURNE	98 18
		SUSSEX	246 474
		SWAN	852 903
		WINTON	581 695
		WILLIAMS	213 749
		YALGOO	155 114
		YILGARN	460 138
		YORK	139 670
		MURRAY	469 674
		NELSON	402 487
		NORTHAM	593 833
		PERTH	2386 1328
		TOODYAY	75 578
		WINTON	581 695
		WILLIAMS	213 749
		YALGOO	155 114
		YILGARN	460 138
		YORK	139 670
		MOORE	65 463
		MURCHISON	26 222
		N. PERTH	1416 844
		W. PERTH	2078 1388
		YALGOO	155 114
		YILGARN	460 138
		YORK	139 670
		PILBARRA	308 9
		YILGARN	460 138
		YORK	139 670
		PTAGENET	359 213
		YORK	139 670
		GERALDTON	254 679
		S. MANTLE	1544 1382
		SM. CHISON	910 209
		PTAGENET	359 213
		YORK	139 670

**FEDERAL POLL JULY 31<sup>st</sup> 1900**  
**"The West Australian" RECORD BOARD**

1. How many YES votes are recorded? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many NO votes are recorded? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the difference between York's YES and NO votes? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which town tallied more YES votes -Toodyay or York? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the total YES votes for Perth, East Perth, West Perth & North Perth? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are most people from Northam FOR or AGAINST federation? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What date in 1900 was this referendum held? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What newspaper reported on the results of Federation? \_\_\_\_\_

When you have finished the eight questions on this page complete the bar graph below – showing the YES votes for all the areas in the Goldfields and Perth.

Yes votes



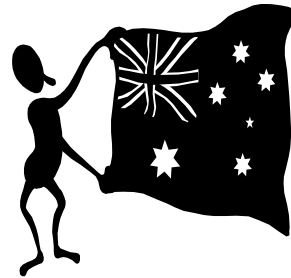
Location

- Coolgardie
- East Coolgardie
- North Coolgardie
- North East Coolgardie
- Perth
- East Perth
- North Perth
- West Perth

# How do we celebrate special days in our history?

## Australia Day

- What date is Australia Day? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why is it a special day?
  
- What do you and your family do on Australia Day?



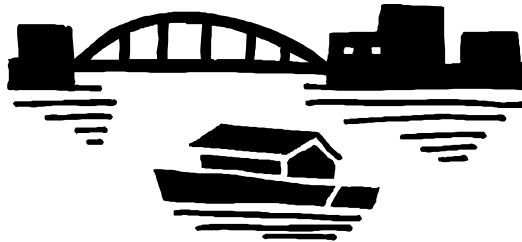
## Foundation Day (Perth)

- What date is Foundation Day? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why is it a special day?
  
- What do you and your family do on Foundation Day?



## Labour Day

- What date is Labour Day? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why is it a special day?
  
- What do you and your family do on Labour Day?



\*\*\*\*\*  
If Western Australia had a special public holiday called “People’s Day” – how do you think the people of W.A. should celebrate?



## *Federation Celebrations in W.A.*

Activity 4 – Page 1 - Federation – Constitutional Centre of W.A.

### Perth

*The Argus reported on 2 January 1901.....*

The Commonwealth celebrations today were in every sense worthy of the capital city of the West. The small government grant in aid was splendidly supplemented by private citizens, with the result that the display was most creditable.

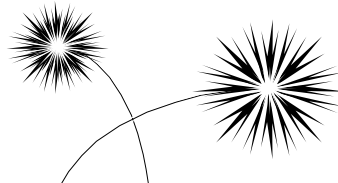
The weather, though hot, was not oppressive, and the city was thronged as it has never been before. The public and private buildings were profusely and tastefully decorated, and several triumphal arches had been erected. The day opened with services in all the churches.

*The ceremony of swearing in the state Governor and the reading of the proclamation was witnessed by a tremendous crowd.*

*There were three distinct processions, the first being military, the second friendly and labour societies, and the third children.....*

This afternoon, children, numbering 5,000, were entertained at sports and regaled with refreshments. Tonight the city was flooded with light, the illuminations being the finest ever witnessed in the colony, the electric tramcars being a special feature of the display.

*At the town-hall a national concert was held in the evening, and a pyrotechnic display was on the Perth water, while torchlight processions paraded the*



### Bunbury

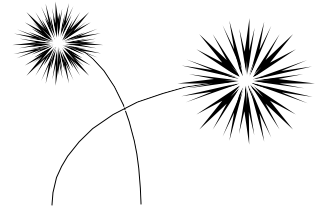
*The West Australian reported on 2 January 1901.....*

*The Commonwealth celebrations tonight passed off very successfully. A procession assembled outside the council chambers.*

The public procession, which was witnessed by a large gathering of the public, went down Stephen Street, Victoria Street, around the Federal Park, and back to the recreation ground. This was beautifully illuminated for the occasion.

A large bonfire was lit on top of the sand hill near the beach. Coloured lights were showing at various points, and rockets were sent up from Lighthouse Hill.

Three cheers were called for United Australia, the Governor General and Sir John Forrest. The national anthem was sung by the assembly and then played by the band.



### Kalgoorlie

*The Kalgoorlie Miner reported on 3 January 1901.....*

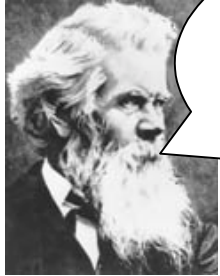
*The residents of Kalgoorlie and district, reinforced by many thousands of visitors from outside centres, made Commonwealth and New Year's Day a real high holiday in this town. Fine weather, though perhaps a little warm for some folks, favoured festive gatherings, and old and young had abundant inducement to go from their homes to join their fellow beings in vast assemblages for celebration and enjoyment.*

One Hannan Street firm had the front of its premises adorned with six separate representations of the now united colonies, representing their divided conditions in 1900, and these were surmounted by a great picture of a federated Australia in 1901, bare of any territorial division lines.

In the forenoon the great event of general public concern was a great procession, to see



# *Centenary of Federation Dinner* Activity 5 – Federation – Constitutional Centre of W.A.



My name is Sir Henry Parkes. I am known as the Father of Federation. I supported federation from the 1850s. I was Premier of New South Wales. I died in 1896 - before my dream of federation came into being.



*My name is Sir John Forrest. I was born in Bunbury and became the Premier of W.A. in 1890. In the beginning I did not support Federation but in the end I agreed to hold a state referendum and later joined the new federal*



My name is Edmund Barton and I was the first Prime Minister of Australia. I was a great supporter of Federation and attended the federation conventions in the 1890s. After three years as Prime Minister I joined the High Court as one of the judges.

*Your task is to plan a celebratory dinner for these three men.*

- **What would they eat?**
  
- **What would they drink?**
  
- **Where would the dinner be held?**
  
- **What do you think each person would say to each other?**



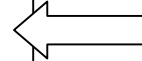
# Federation Celebrations in London

Activity 6 – Federation – Constitutional Centre of W.A.

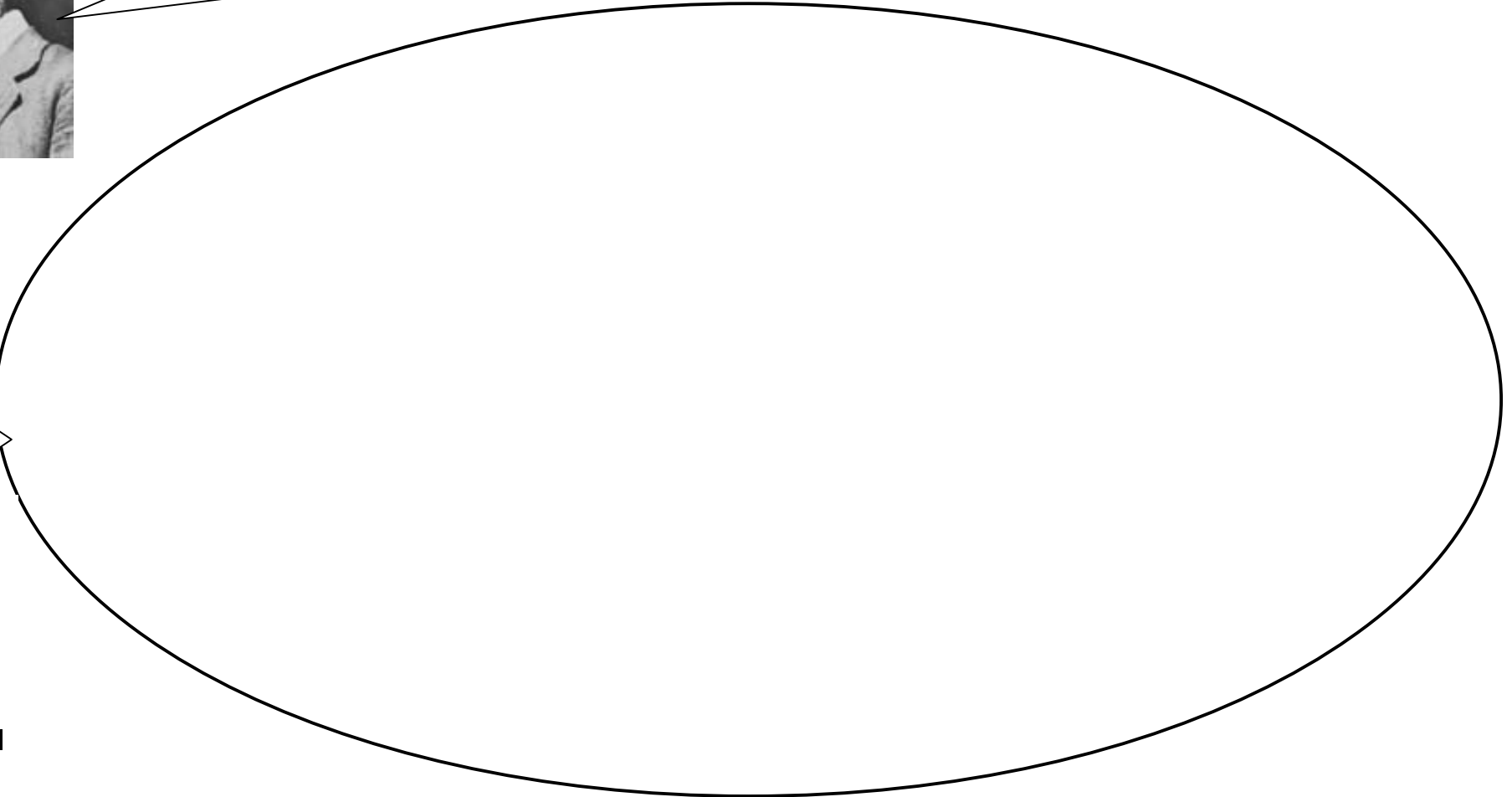
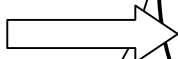


*“When the door closed upon them and left them alone, they seized each other’s hands and danced hand in hand around the centre of the room to express their jubilation.” Alfred Deakin*

This statement was made by Alfred Deakin. He was describing the reaction of the Australian delegates, in London, when they reached final agreement with the British Government on the Bill to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia.



Your task is to draw the men dancing hand in hand around the centre of the room.



### Federation Crossword

### Activity 7 – Federation – Constitutional Centre of W.A.

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#### ACROSS

4. W.A. was the \_\_\_\_\_ state to join the Federation
7. Australia's mother country
8. If you were opposed to Federation you would vote \_\_\_\_\_
13. Represents the monarchy in Australia
15. First Prime Minister of Australia
16. Female monarch
17. Barton was the Premier of this State
20. The opposite to 4 across
21. Precious Australian gem
22. The opposite to west
23. Women in W.A. could \_\_\_\_\_ in the referendum for Federation
24. \_\_\_\_\_ Nation \_\_\_\_\_ Destiny
25. Famous Australian writer
28. The Constitution is a set of \_\_\_\_\_s defining a system of government
29. The Father of Federation
31. Male monarch
33. Queen \_\_\_\_\_ gave royal assent to the Constitution
34. Australia's first female political candidate
35. Same as 24 across

#### DOWN

1. The long version of 17 across
2. W.A. is one
3. A major issue during the Federation debate
4. Once legislation has been passed in parliament it becomes \_\_\_\_\_
5. An old fashioned mode of transport still used in Melbourne and Adelaide
6. A debate/talk between many people – these occurred during federation.
7. “\_\_\_\_\_save our gracious Queen” used to be our national anthem
9. Catherine Spence lived in this state.
10. A major issue in the Federation campaigns
11. W.A.'s Federation referendum had a majority of \_\_\_\_\_ votes.
12. Australia's capital city
14. This document is supreme law in Australia
18. The same as 16 across
19. The process of voting at an election
20. People in support of \_\_\_\_\_ trade supported Federation
26. Australia's immigration policy after Federation - \_\_\_\_\_Australia Policy
27. Same as 35 across
30. \_\_\_\_\_John Forrest was a W.A. delegate at the Federation Conventions
31. An abbreviation for our southern most state.

**1 January** – the Commonwealth Constitution was proclaimed in Sydney’s Centennial Park.

**22 January** – Queen Victoria died. She was 82 and had reigned for 64 years in Great Britain.

**30 January** – Melbourne pensioners aged over 65 years to receive 1 shilling a day.

**9 May** – opening of the first parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia by the Duke of Cornwall and York in Melbourne. Prime Minister – Edmund Barton.

**5 June** – Immigration Restriction Bill read for the first time in parliament. The Bill aims to create a “White Australia” by keeping Asian people out of the country.

**21 June** – 18 Victorian soldiers were killed and at least 42 wounded in an attack on their camp in South Africa during the Boer War.

**21 June** – Melbourne - Australian Natives Association urges state government to ban sale of cigarettes to children.

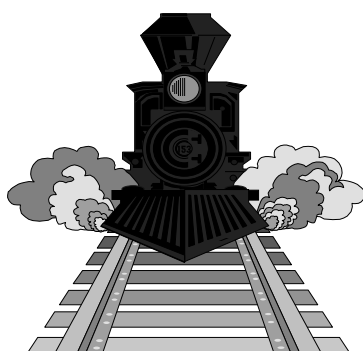
**July 5** – Prime Minister Edmund Barton says Federal Government has no powers to assist the unemployed or deal with distress.

**4 September** – 5 winners in the national flag competition. All designs incorporated into the final design. Over 30,000 entries were received.

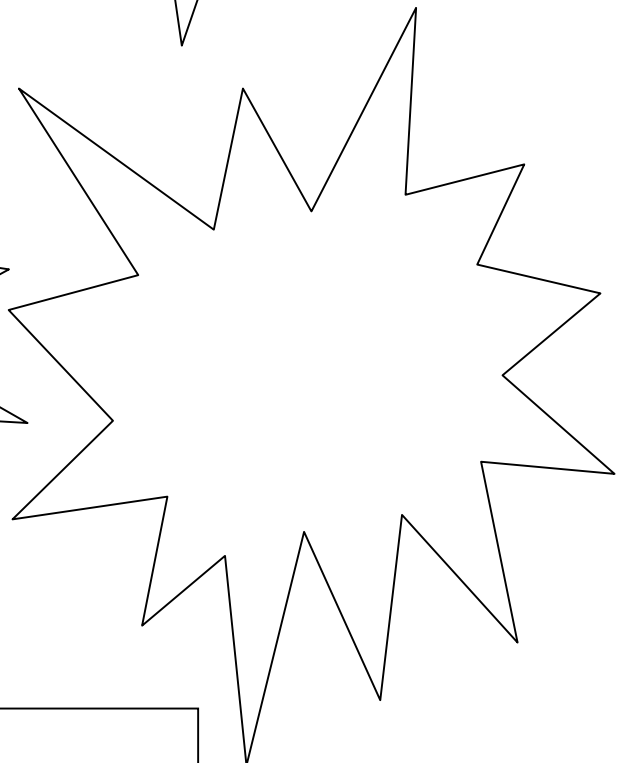
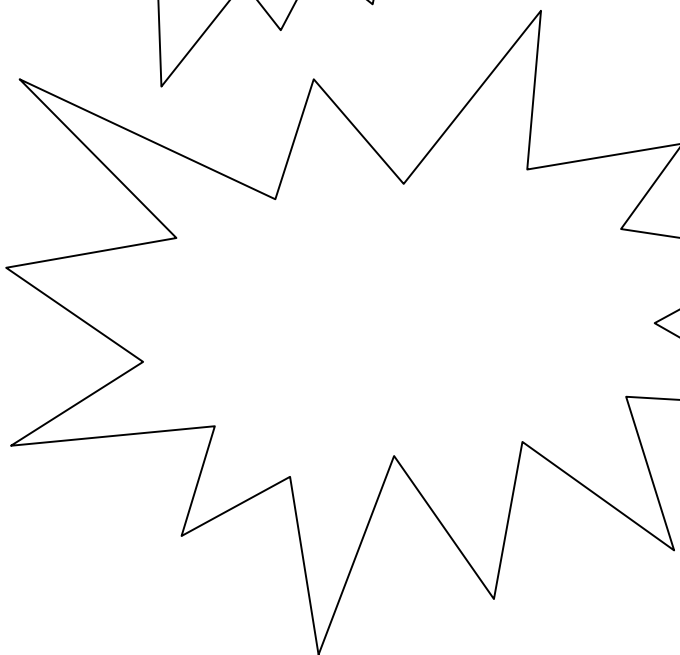
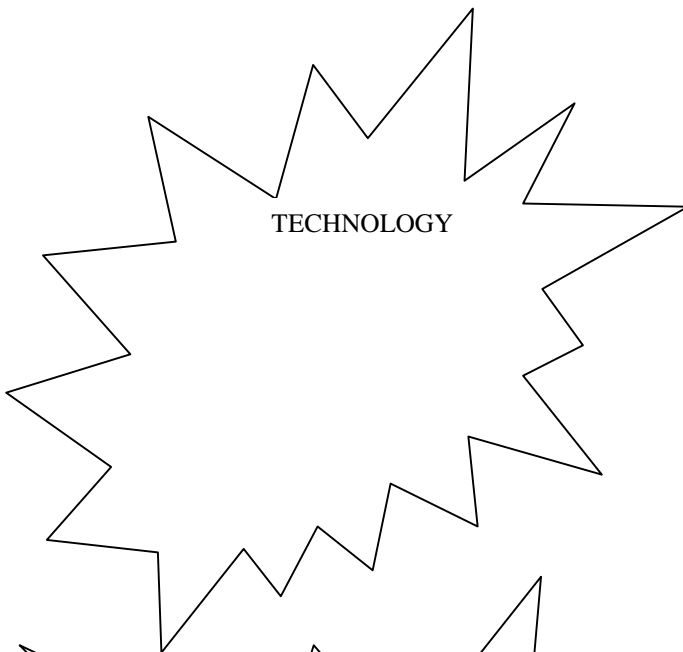
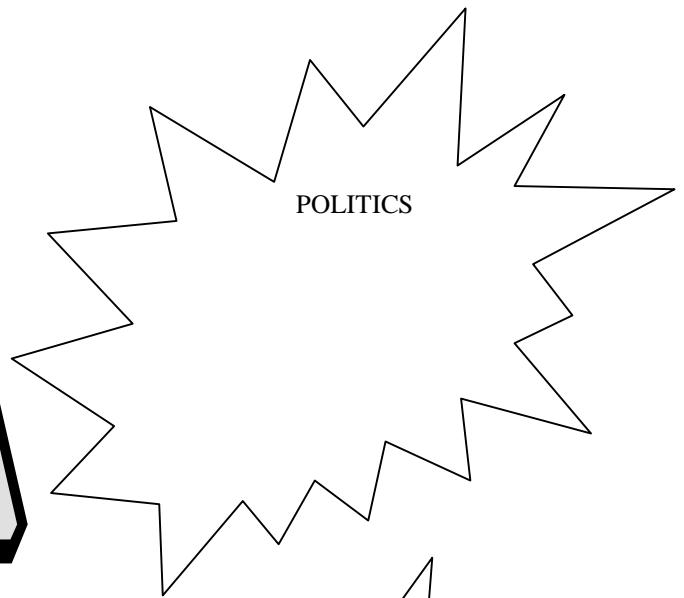
**December** – William Farrer releases his new strain of wheat named “Federation.” This variety is strongly drought resistant.



- ❖ Melbourne VFL Premiers – Essendon
- ❖ W.A. Premiers – West Perth
- ❖ Population – 3,774,000
- ❖ Women in South Australia and Western Australia had won the right to vote – others states followed after Federation.
- ❖ Voting age was 21 years.
- ❖ The Cakewalk was the latest dance craze imported from the USA – people danced around like prancing kangaroos.
- ❖ The Kinetoscope was introduced to Australia. It allowed one person at a time to watch moving pictures on a loop of running film.



Quote of the year –  
*Federation gives us a  
place and a position in  
the world.* –  
Argus Editorial



*Your quote for 2001-*

### Federation Crossword Answer Sheet

### Activity 7 – Federation – Constitutional Centre of W.A.

			1 N		2 S					3 T				4 L	A	S	5 T		6 C	
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A		T						33 V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A				O	
34 S	P	E	N	C	E				A								35 O	N	E	

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## GLOSSARY

ACT	A Bill that has been passed by parliament, received Royal Assent, and become law.
AMENDMENT	An alteration to a Bill or an Act.
ASSENT	The formal agreement of the Governor General or the Queen to a Bill which has been passed by the Houses of Parliament in accordance with the Constitution.
BICAMERAL PARLIAMENT	A Parliament with two Houses or chambers: in the Australian Constitution, the Senate and the House of Representatives.
BIPARTISAN	Involving the support or membership of two political parties.
BILL	A proposed law that has been introduced into parliament but has not been passed. If passed, and granted Royal Assent it becomes an Act.
BY-ELECTION	An election to fill a seat in the Lower House that has become vacant during the term of the Parliament, between general elections.
CABINET	The policy making body of Government, consisting of senior ministers (and in some governments, of all ministers)
CASUAL VACANCY	A vacancy caused by the death or retirement of a member of the Upper House before the end of his or her normal term.
COLONY	A community that is subject to the final legal authority of another country.
CONCURRENT POWERS	Powers that can be exercised by either the Commonwealth or the States.
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION	A widely accepted and important practice which affects the operation of the Constitution: for example, the convention that the Governor General generally acts on the advice of the government in exercising his or her powers.
CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY	A monarchy is a system of government in which the position of head of state is hereditary. The monarch exercises his or her power in accordance with constitutional rules, which usually require power to be exercised on the advice of an elected government.



DISSOLUTION	Action taken by the Governor General, on the advice of the prime minister, to bring the term of the House of representatives to an end, making a general election for a new House necessary.
DOUBLE DISSOLUTION	Action taken by the Governor General, on the advice of the prime minister, to dissolve both House in accordance with section 57 of the Constitution, in order to resolve a deadlock between the Houses.
ELECTORATE	A geographical area or “division” within a State from which a member of the Lower House is elected.
EXCLUSIVE POWERS	Powers which only the Commonwealth may exercise and which the States may not.
FEDERATION	A form of government in which power is shared between two spheres of government, each of which has some autonomy: in Australia, the commonwealth and the States. Australia’s federal system began on 1January 1901.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	The Lower House of Commonwealth Parliament. It represents Australians in accordance with population numbers.
JOINT SITTING	A meeting of both Houses of parliament.
JUDICATURE	The entire court structure.
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	The Lower House of W.A.’s State Parliament.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	The Upper House of W.A.’s State Parliament.
LEGISLATIVE POWER	The power to make new law.
M.L.A.	Member of the Legislative Assembly.
M.L.C.	Member of the Legislative Council.
M.P.	Member of Parliament.
PARLIAMENT	The law-making body which under the Australian Constitution consists of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Queen.
PREAMBLE	The introduction to a Constitution or Act of Parliament.
PREFERENTIAL VOTING	The system of voting presently used for the Lower House of parliament, under which the second and later preferences may be taken into account in counting votes.
PRESIDENT	The presiding officer of the Upper House (Senate and Legislative Council).
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION	The system used for counting votes in Upper House elections. Its effect is to make it more likely that the distribution of seats

will roughly reflect the opinions of voters.

QUEEN IN COUNCIL	This is another way of referring to the Privy Council. The Privy Council is a court, which sits in London to deal with appeals from the courts of colonies or from the courts of former colonies that decide to continue to use it.
QUORUM	The minimum number of members required in both Houses of Parliament for business to be transacted.
REFERENDUM	A direct vote by the people on proposals for change. Section 128 of Australia's Constitution refers to the need for a referendum for Constitutional change. Advisory referendums, unlike constitutional referendums, are not binding by the government. For example daylight saving (W.A.)
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT	A system under which government is carried on largely through elected representatives.
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT	A system under which government ministers are drawn from the Parliament, have the confidence of the Parliament and are responsible to the Parliament.
RESERVE POWER	A power which may be exercised by the Governor General against or without advice.
SENATE	The Upper House of the Commonwealth Parliament designed to represent the States.
SPEAKER	The presiding officer of the Lower House.
STANDING ORDERS	The rules made by each House of the Parliament for the conduct of their own business.
TREATY	An agreement between national governments, which is binding at international law.
WESTMINSTER SYSTEM	A system of government roughly modelled on that originally developed in the United Kingdom. Its principal feature is that Parliament is elected and that the government is drawn from the Parliament and depends on the confidence of the Lower House of Parliament for it to continue in office.

Reference

Constitutional Centenary Foundation *The Australian Constitution*, Melbourne 1997