William Barak, Wurundjeri Leader
I was just a boy when I attended the signing of the Melbourne Treaty with John Batman in 1835. Later I became the leader of the Corranderrk Mission and led many protest marches to Melbourne to seek justice for my people. Many of paintings are in the national gallery. They tell me a giant image of me eight storeys high is being engraved on a building in Swanston Street in my memory. Nice of them to go to the trouble but I would prefer if they hadn’t stolen my lands.

John Wedge (1793-1872),
I was the Surveyor and explorer who surveyed the area around Melbourne and named Melbourne’s river the ‘Yarra Yarra’ by mistake. The Aborigines were actually talking about the Falls at Williams Street. (‘yarra yarra = falling water’). The actual name was the Birrarung. So people have been calling the river by the wrong name for over 170 years! Nobody’s perfect!

Fawkner, John Pascoe (1792–1869)
I may have been the son of a convict but in 1835 I chartered the Enterprize ship to settle at Melbourne near today’s Immigration Museum. I don’t care what people say, I was ‘numero uno’ to settle Melbourne! I also opened the first hotel and newspaper and became a member of Parliament’ to look after the little bloke and stop the ‘squattocracy’. Beware - you don’t want to make an enemy of me! My dear plain wife Eliza Cobb was with me for 50 years.

John Batman, Founder of Colonial Melbourne
(1801 –1839)
I was a Tasmania sheep farmer when I led an expedition sign a ‘treaty’ with Aboriginal ‘chiefs’ in 1835 to found the settlement of Melbourne and the colony of Victoria. I captured bushranger Mathew Brady and married a runaway convict Eliza Callaghan. We had seven children in all. At Melbourne’s first land sale in 1837 I bought the Young and Jackson Hotel site opposite Flinders street Station to build a home for my children. It became a schoolhouse in 1839 and today a famous pub.

Peter Lalor, Rebel (1827-1889)
As Eureka stockade leader in December 1854 I took the oath of the rebel miners: We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other to defend our rights and liberties’. I lost my arm in that battle but later became the only outlaw ever elected to parliament! On 24 Nov 1857 all men received the right to vote and our Southern Cross flag is now part of the Australian flag.
Ron Clarke, Runner 1937-
I had the great honour of carrying the torch into the stadium in the Melbourne Olympic Games in 1956. I was also the first man to run three miles in under 13 minutes. They said I was fastest man on the planet when I broke 17 world records and 25 Australian records in 1965 alone. After retirement I started a Melbourne sporting business.

Sir Frederick Sargood, Merchant (1834-1903)
I was a merchant of the gold rush and afterwards, I became Minister for Defence. My wife and I built the famous Ripponlea Mansion for our family home. My huge hardware store ‘Butler and Sargood’ is now called Ross House and still stands at 251 Flinders Lane. Go have a look! To be successful follow my advice: In a gold rush don’t dig for gold, sell the picks and shovels!’

Harry Norris, Inter-war Architect (1888-1966)
Melbourne is covered with my buildings - the earliest skyscrapers of the city! 27 of them! I built most of them in the Jazz Age or ‘Roaring 20s’ between the two world wars. My favourites are the fabulous Majorca Building opposite Degraves Street and the Nicholas Building at 37 Swanston, David Jones at Bourke Street and Block Court on Collins Street. I built lots of the Coles Stores for the Coles Brothers. I visited America constantly to get new ideas for taller and taller buildings.

Benjamin Fink, Land Boomer (1847-1909)
My family on the ‘Suffolk’ in 1861. I became a gold dealer and ‘landboomer’ during Marvellous Melbourne. One of my expensive schemes was the Block Arcade 1891-3 one of the finest shopping arcades in the world modelled on Milan's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele. I was ruined in the Great Crash of 1893 losing many other people’s money as well. Take my advice: if you go broke, run away to England and put your money in your wife’s name.

Gog 1898 - 2014
My brother Magog and I are seven-foot robotic giants from Guildhall, England that defend the city of Melbourne. We have guarded Royal Arcade since 1898 and strike the hour. We are descended from 33 evil daughters that murdered their good husbands to marry demons. It’s great to have a grandfather who was a Trojan demon - you get to scowl at everybody.
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Robert Hoddle, Surveyor 1794 -1881
I laid out the original streets of Melbourne in 1837 known as the ‘Hoddle Grid’ and ‘the Golden Mile’. I liked very wide streets but hated narrow lanes. Unfortunately I put Elizabeth Street in a rain gully and several people drowned. Hey that’s life! Perhaps I shouldn’t have finished the plan in time for lunch. I also laid out Williamstown, Geelong and lots of other suburbs and towns. It’s great that they named Hoddle Street after me so people can curse my name during traffic jams.

Simcha Baevski, Founder Retail Empire (1878-1934)
I was born in Russia, youngest of eleven children. When I came to Melbourne I was just a street peddler with no English. I still managed to build up a great store in Bendigo with 200 employees. In 1914 I changed my name to Sidney Myer and opened Melbourne’s greatest department store in Bourke Street. In 1957 our family created the Bourke Street Xmas windows to celebrate the Olympic Games. Our family has given huge donations to Melbourne arts, science, medicine and culture. We believe in Melbourne!

Benjamin Baxter, Postmaster and Pioneer (1819 –1906)
I arrived with wife Martha only two years after settlement. We had had nine children in all. St Kilda Road was once called Baxter’s track. My first job was a convict supervisor. Later Martha and I ran the first Melbourne Post office before becoming graziers. We lived to a great age and founded the town of Baxter, south of Melbourne. Not a bad effort, eh?

Tom Roberts, ‘Father of the Australian Landscape’ (1856 -1931)
I and my mates - Streeton, McCubbin and Condor - were determined to paint Australia in its REAL light and colours. So we created a new art movement called the Heidelberg School. In 1889, we staged the radical ‘Impressionist’ exhibition in Swanston Street, opposite the Melbourne Town Hall painted on 9 by 5 inch cigar box lids. Here is my painting of Bourke Street. I painted it near the Buckley and Nunn store at 310 Bourke Street (today David Jones).
Edward Cole, Marvellous Melbourne Bookseller (1832–1918)
I created Melbourne’s greatest attraction - the Cole’s Book Arcade in Howey Place with a million books, a Monkey House, a band, Aviary, Fernery, Indian Bazaar and a Chinese Teahouse. I also wrote Australia’s most popular children’s book Cole’s Funny Picture Book in 1879. I advertised on the front page of the Herald offering 20 pounds reward for anyone who could find me ‘A Good Wife’. I wrote often about how all people are equal no matter what religion or colour!

Robert O’Hara Burke, Expedition Leader (1821-1861)
They say I was generous, tender-hearted and charming, but impulsive with a short fuse. I was chosen in 1860 to lead the great expedition to cross Australia from south to north. Pretty good I reckon for a guy with no experience and no sense of direction! Just in case. I took along a bathtub, a Chinese gong and a boat with me. Unfortunately seven men died including myself. Perhaps I shouldn’t have shot at the Aboriginal people who tried to feed me. Nobody’s perfect! Nice of them to put my statute in the City Square.

Captain Matthew Flinders 1774-1814
Naming our continent ‘Australia’ was my idea. I was a navigator who explored lots of Australia in a tiny whaleboat called the Tom Thumb. George Bass and I first proved Tasmania was an island. In 1802 I entered Port Phillip Bay where Melbourne was founded. With my Aboriginal friend Bungaree I sailed all around Australia to also prove it was an island. Eventually I ran into bad luck. The crazy French locked me up for six years as a spy!

Ned (Edward) Kelly, Bushranger (1855–1880)
I have been described as a horse thief, bushranger and rebel and was captured in my home-made armour at the siege of Glenrowan. I was sentenced to death by Judge Sir Redmond Barry for the murder of policemen but after they put my mother in jail, they had to pay! I cursed the Judge ‘I will see you where I go!’ and he died 12 days after my execution at Russell Street. Many films and books are about my controversial life.

Sir Redmond Barry, founder of State Library (1813–1880)
I was a hard-working young man who arrived just after settlement and rose to the very top of Marvellous Melbourne. I helped founded Melbourne University and the State Library and became a judge of the Supreme Court. I worked long hours and endured the arduous travel by coach, train or horseback to country courts. I died only not long after Ned Kelly cursed me when I sentenced him to death for murder. Go see my statue is on the front lawn of the State Library, corner Lonsdale and Swanston streets.
**John Monash, General** (1865-1931)
I was raised in a Jewish German family in country Victoria and became an engineer. My command of the Australian Army WW1 won brilliant victories in France. I created a new form of warfare to win battles and to save as many Australian lives as possible. After the war I was a leader of many civic institutions such as the SEC and Luna Park in Melbourne. At Melbourne Town Hall I was put in charge of the streets of Melbourne during riots in 1923.

**Albert Jacka, Victoria Cross Winner** (1893–1932)
I have been described as Australia’s greatest front-line soldier after I earned the first Victoria Cross at Gallipoli. However it was always the lives of my men who were my first concern. In fact my Battalion called themselves ‘Jacka’s Mob’. As Mayor of St Kilda I always fought for the rights of the poor and the unemployed. 50,000 people lined the streets of Melbourne for my funeral on the 17 January 1932. They still gather at St Kilda Cemetery every January!

**Alfred Deakin Leader of Federation** (1856–1919)
As a young man I was a lawyer, journalist, philosopher and poet. My first job was as reporter for the Age newspaper in Melbourne. I rose to become deputy Premier of Victoria. For years I fought to make Australia a Nation. When it finally happened in 1901 I was three times Prime Minster. One of the secrets to my success was that as Spiritualists my wife Patti and I regularly sought advice from the dead. Luckily they were always right.

**Phar Lap (‘Lightning’) October 1926 – 5 April 1932**
I was a champion racehorse worshipped by Australians during the Great Depression. They also called me Wonder Horse, Red Terror, Bobby and Big Red. I won 23 races including the Melbourne Cup and 2 Cox Plates. I suddenly died after mysterious illness in America but you can see my stuffed body on display at the Melbourne Museum. I hear it is one of the most popular exhibits.

**Ron Barassi, Football player and coach** 1936 –
I began playing VFL football at the age of 17 for Melbourne. I’ve been involved in 17 premierships and won ten! I captained Carlton to a premiership in 1968 and coached North Melbourne to two premierships. A couple of years ago I tackled a guy on the street who was hitting a women in St Kilda. Even if I am almost 70, I’ll give you some advice: NEVER give up and NEVER say die!!
**John Christie, Detective (1845–1927)**
As Detective Christie they called me Melbourne’s Sherlock Holmes - the master of disguises and a successful pursuer of criminals, idolised by the public. I was also a champion rower and boxer. I remember the day in Flinders Lane when I fought an armed criminal in an empty warehouse at night and then hauled him out through the roof.

**Derrimut, Indigenous leader 1810c - 1864**
I was an elder and leader of the Boon wurrung clan of Melbourne. I saved the settlers from attack on the settlement in 1838 by telling John Fawkner of a planned assault by another tribe. The settlers still took my land from even though I complained about the injustice. I am buried in Carlton Cemetery with a tombstone acknowledging that I once saved the settlement.

**William Buckley (1780-1856)**
They nicknamed me ‘the wild white man’, after I escaped as a convict from Sorrento in 1803 and lived with the Aboriginals in Victoria for 32 years before the settlement was founded at Melbourne. Being six foot and seven inches tall I think I gave them a scare when I walked out of the bush to meet the new settlers in 1835. John Batman gave me a job as a translator and I built the chimney of his first house near Spencer Street Station.

**Joseph Gellibrand (1792–1837)**
As a lawyer, I drew up the Melbourne treaty used to ‘purchase’ Melbourne from the Aboriginal people by John Batman. 600,000 acres for beads, blankets and axes – a pretty good deal! I vanished near Geelong on an expedition to explore Port Phillip in 1837. One day they amy solve my mysterious disappearance!

**George Coppin, Actor and Theatre Mogul (1819-1906)**
I was a comic actor credited with fathering the Australian theatre and introducing tours of famous celebrities. I built many famous early theatres in Melbourne including the Royal Hotel, Theatre Royal, the Olympic and Cremorne Gardens.
Sir Isaac Isaacs, Judge and reformer (1855–1948)
I was the son of a Jewish tailor, born in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. As a young man I was a passionate supporter of social reforms such as the Factories Act to stop worker exploitation and supported the vote for women. I helped design the Australian Constitution and rose to be Australian Chief Justice and the first Australia-born Governor-General in 1931. The British opposed it because of my religion but my friend Prime Minister Deakin told them too bad!

William Thomas Aboriginal Protector (1793–1867)
I was the assistant protector and guardian of Aboriginals from 1837 in Melbourne. I tried my very best to protect the Melbourne Aboriginal people and camped with them for years but never received enough support from the government.

Henry Lawson, The People’s Poet 1867-1922
I hardly went to school and was deaf for most of his life. I tried to write about ordinary life and struggles including many stories about the bush. I supported Australia being a republic, spent time in gaol and struggled with alcoholism yet I can honestly say I think I was Australia’s most popular poet and writer, often seen in Melbourne’s book stores. Read my books when you have time like While the Billy Boils’!
Mary Gilbert, first European Woman 1817-1878
I was the first European white woman to live in the Melbourne settlement and my son was the first white child. When I arrived on the schooner ‘Enterprise’ on 30 August 1835 I was just 18 and the only woman in Melbourne. They gave me Melbourne’s first cat for company! The Lady Mayoress unveiled a statue of me in Fitzroy Gardens in 1975.

Anastasia Withers 1819-1889
I came to Australia in 1844 as a convict transported for theft of five shawls. I was one of the first women on the Victorian goldfields where I ran orchards, drove horses and sewed clothes. The miners trusted me to hide their bags of gold nuggets under my petticoats. In November 1854 my friends Anne Duke and Anastasia Hayes and I began sewing the Southern Cross 'Eureka Flag', as a symbol of the battle for people’s rights.

Eliza Callaghan, Convict and City founder 1802-1852
In 1820 I was caught using counterfeit money and was sentenced to Australia for 14 years. My jail report described me simply as ‘Bad’. I escaped into the bush in 1823 and met John Batman who hid me. Together we helped found the City of Melbourne. We had six daughters and one boy who tragically drowned in the Yarra. We built a house for our children where today Young and Jacksons pub stands opposite Flinders Street Station.

Betty Cuthbert, ‘The Golden Girl’ 1938-
I was 18 when in 1956 I became the first athlete ever to win an Olympic Gold Medal in Australia at the Melbourne Games. Australia went crazy when I also blitzed a world record in the Womens’ Relay. I also won medals at the next two Olympic Games. In fact have the honour of being the only athlete ever to have won Olympic gold medals in every running event: 100, 200 and 400 metres.

Marion Sargood, Pioneer 1838-1878
My husband and I were the owners of Ripponlea Mansion and also our great hardware store at 251 Flinders Lane. I died in 1878 on my 40th birthday while giving birth to our twelfth child Frederick. It was a risky business in those days. My husband Frederick resigned all his positions to look after the children. Please visit my National Trust home, gardens and lake in Elsternwick and see the care and attention I lavished on it.
Eliza Cole, Shop Owner and Spiritualist
At 29 years of age I answered an advertisement by Edward Cole for a wife in 1884. I agreed to marry him and we raised six children. I assisted in the running of the Coles Book Arcade in Howey Place, the biggest book store in the world. I also acted as a ‘medium’ receiving messages from the spirit world as did many other leading persons at the time.

Martha Baxter, Postmistress 1812 - 1906
I was the first postmistress of Melbourne and ran the first Post Office in Melbourne at the corner of King Street and Flinders Lane. St Kilda Road was once called Baxters Track because it led to our cattle run at St Kilda. My husband Benjamin and I had nine children and founded the town of Baxter on the Mornington Peninsula. After a lifetime of hard work I lived to the age of 94. Not bad achievements, eh?

Eliza Cobb, Pioneer 1800-1879
For 51 years I was the devoted partner of John Fawkner, a founding settler of European Melbourne. I was sentenced to 7 years transportation to Tasmania in 1818 for kidnapping a baby. Men rushed to my ship to choose a wife. My husband said he chose the plainest woman on board because someone stole his first choice. However when he finally died I became a wealthy woman, plain or not!

Kate Kelly, folk figure 1863 – 1898
I was the sister of bushranger Ned Kelly. They wrote many newspaper articles, books, bush-songs and ballads about me as I was a skilled rider and played an important part in the Kelly saga. In 1880 I campaigned in Melbourne to save my brother Ned Kelly but Judge Redmond Barry hung him anyway as a bushranger. That night I held open audience with the public at a hall in Bourke Street. They criticised me because I charged people a shilling each but I just wanted to put our side of the case and pay for the hall.

Georgiana McCrae, pioneer and writer 1804 –1890
I was a writer and painter of early Melbourne. My diary ‘Georgiana's Journal’ by my grandson Hugh is still a popular book. My husband and I founded the town of McCrae, south of Melbourne. I often accompanied Governor La Trobe to functions as his wife Sophie was often sick. My fortunes varied but I believe you should always meet obstacles with wit, humour and culture.

Helen Garner, Writer
Helen Garner, born 7 November 1942 is an award winning Australian novelist, short-story writer, screenwriter and journalist. She wrote her famous novel 'Monkey Grip' sitting in the Reading Room at the State Library at 328 Swanston Street.
**Constance Stone, first doctor 1856 – 1947**
Despite great obstacles I became the first woman doctor in Australia. My sister, cousin and daughter all then became doctors with me and we all all dispensed free treatment to the poor in Melbourne. We then campaigned for every woman on Victoria to give us one shilling each and with the money we built Australia’s first women’s hospital in Lonsdale Street!

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**Patti Deakin, Reformer 1863-1934**
I was 19 when I married Alfred Deakin who wrote me thousands of love letters. My parents opposed the marriage. Obviously they didn’t know Alfred was going to be Prime Minister one day! I worked for children’s welfare, particularly establishing the kindergarten, crèche and playgrounds movements, and also to help servicemen in World War. I helped found the famous women’s Lyceum Club in Little Collins Street. Alfred and I are buried side by side in St Kilda Cemetery.

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**Vida Goldstein, Campaigner 1869-1949**
I was a Suffragette for the Women’s movement and proud of it. In 1891 we went from door to door collecting signatures for the ‘Monster Petition’ demanding that women have the right to vote and collected 33,000 signatures. We ran the Peace Commune at Storey hall in Swanston Street and were very unpopular but a person without principles is nothing! Stand up and be counted! I became the first woman to stand for parliament in the British Empire. Finally in 1908 women in Victoria could vote. A sculpture of the Monster Petition is in Spring Street.

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**Elizabeth Parsons, Painter 1831-1897**
I was Victoria’s best known woman painter in the late 1800s as well as a lithographer and teacher of art after I arrived in 1873 on the Great Britain. I loved to paint the St Kilda foreshore as well as Brighton, St Kilda and Caulfield in watercolours.

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**Mary MacKillop, first Australian Saint 1842-1909**
I was born in Brunswick Street not far from the Parliament. As the eldest daughter I looked after my brothers and sisters. Together with Father Julian Woods, I founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in order to run free schools for the poor around Australia including in Little Lonsdale Street in Melbourne. The Pope declared me Australia’s first saint in 2010.
Janet Clarke, patron 1851-1909
I was governess to the children of the very rich squatter William Clarke and later married him. Of our four boys and four girls, our eldest son and a daughter died young. Still I was survived by six children, and three stepchildren. I donated my life to charities to assist the unfortunate and the women of my country and organised many famous balls and events to do so.

Connie Waugh, Ghost
I was the girlfriend of the rich squatter Sir Rupert Clarke. They claim that today I am the ghost that still haunts the 1868 Mitre Tavern in Bank Place, off Collins Street. Well someone has to give Melbourne’s Ghost Tours a helping hand so it might as well be me! Mitre Tavern was a popular ‘bohemian’ hangout for artists in the early twentieth century and is a popular lunch place for lawyers and others today.

Dame Nellie Melba, Opera Singer (1861–1931)
I was a Prima Donna i.e an opera singer. My real name was Helen Porter Mitchell and I was the eldest of ten children. I called myself Melba because I loved Melbourne and Melbourne loved me! My father built many famous buildings in Melbourne. I became a world famous singer and. From 1904 I produced over one hundred records for the new invention of the gramophone. Peach Melba a dessert is named after me – definitely go and eat one, they are delicious!

Trugernanner, Famous Freedom Fighter 1812–1876
When the settlers arrived in Tasmania, we went to war against them. I survived many attacks and eventually came to Melbourne assisting the new Aboriginal Protector George Robinson. Here I joined a rebel band again to fight against white occupation but we were captured and I was wounded. They expelled me and my two women fellow fighters Fanny and Matilda back to Tasmania. I had a very adventurous life but I survived!

Nellie Stewart, Actress (1858–1931)
My reviews described me as ‘a beautiful woman with expressive eyes, a finely tilted mouth and dimpled smile, a talented, considerate and versatile actress’. I was certainly a darling of the Australian public in many plays and films. In 1911 I was one of the first performers ever to be filmed when I acted in the hit Australian film: Sweet Nell of Old Drury.

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, Patron
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, the father of newspaper magnate Rupert, was a famous matriarch and patron of many Australian charities. She was a member of the womens’ Alexandra Club founded in 1903 in Collins Street.
Emma Silcock, Reformer 1858-1931
Known as Sister Esther, I was a Founder of the Community of the Holy Name which became St James Mission to the Streets and Lanes. I worked endless hours with Ellen Okins and Christina Cameron in the slums around Little Lonsdale Street setting up soup kitchens, distributing clothes to the poor and rescuing destitute young women from the streets.

‘Madam Ghurka’, Fortune Teller 1872-1953
My name was Julia Glushkova but I called myself ‘Madam Ghurka’. I claimed I left Russia because I was an assassin and British spy. Actually I was just a circus performer with my husband Zac. In Melbourne I was known as the ‘Queen of Fortune Tellers’ at the Eastern Market in Bourke Street. They banned fortune telling so I became a ‘phrenologist’ telling people’s futures from the bumps on their heads.

Mrs Swindell, loyal wife
My husband Dick Swindell was a police officer in 1845. Doing his rounds he usually got drunk went to sleep on the corner of Lt Bourke and Queens Street. So at night I would follow his beat and put on his uniform and finish his round for him. It was the least I could do for my darling man. However one night I met the chief constable in Dicks uniform and we was sacked. How unfair!

St Joan of Arc, Military leader 1412 – 1431
I was the national heroine of France known as the Maid of Orleans. I was just a teenager when I was inspired by God to lead the French army to heroic victories over the English. Unfortunately I was captured and burned at the stake when I was 19 years old. However the Pope later pronounced me a Saint of France so all is good. Go see my statue is on the front lawn of the State Library, corner Lonsdale and Swanston Streets. Go girl!

Clarice Beckett
The talented artist Clarice Beckett had large yearly exhibitions at the Athenaeum at 188 Collins Street from 1924 until 1932. The building’s facade contains a statue of Minerva, patron goddess of wisdom.

Beryl Beaurepaire
Beryl Beaurepaire was community worker and women’s rights activist. She was a member of the well known Alexandra Club for women founded in 1903 in Collins Street.