



reasons for his opinion, including the city's architecture, its wide streets, its public transport system and its churches. Recognising wherein lay the basis of this marvel, Sala summed up his assessment in the words 'The whole city, in short, teems with wealth, even as it does with humanity' (*Argus* 5 August 1885).

Melbourne was marvellous, not only for the well-to-do; the working classes were well represented in this time of economic boom. As many of the better tradesmen benefitted from the boom in work and moved up a rung on the social ladder, it created a shortage of artisans. During the boom workers were required in greater number and, with a shortage of those tradesmen who were qualified, could demand more money and better conditions (Davison 1978).

But there were groups within society for whom Melbourne was less than marvellous. Victoria had an overwhelmingly white population and those who were not of British or European heritage were at a disadvantage. Among such groups were the Chinese and Aborigines. There were close to 1000 Chinese living in Melbourne in 1880 (*Argus* 9 June 1880, p.10), but few of them were enjoying the benefits of the general level of wealth and culture. An often-expressed feeling within the wider population about the presence of Chinese was that they should leave the country (*Argus* 7 June 1881, p.6).

Aboriginal people also were not in a position to benefit from the improved social and financial situation that was widespread in Melbourne during the 1880s. In the census of 1877 only two Indigenous people were recorded within Melbourne and its suburbs (BPA 1877), but Coranderrk was a familiar name. Readers of the *Argus* were regularly informed about the Aboriginal reserve and its residents (*Argus* 19 March 1881, p. 4).

Perhaps nowhere was the mood of 'Marvellous' Melbourne more apparent than in the 1880 International Exhibition. And yet there was virtually no involvement or mention of Victoria's Indigenous people in this showcasing of the colony's history and achievements. There was a diorama set up to display an Aboriginal camp — installed by the South Australian government (Dunstan 1996). However, hops grown at Coranderrk were awarded a 'First Order of Merit' by the judges at the Exhibition (*Argus* 3 February 1881, p. 6).