

AUSTRALIAN SIKH MIGRATION

— A Brief Timeline —



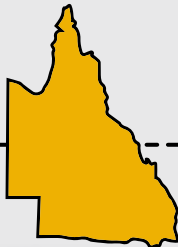
Sikhs in Adelaide, 1922

1834



Charles von Hügel visits the Swan River Colony via the Court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, King of Punjab

1844



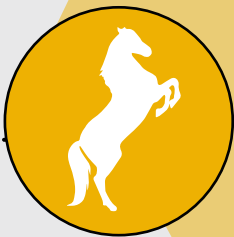
Dabee Singh and Nunkey Kaur, arrive in Brisbane, QLD. First recorded Australian Sikh migrants

1848



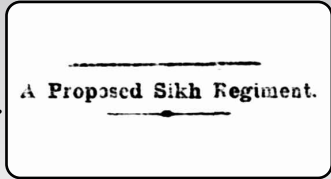
Croppo Singh deposits his life savings into The Savings Bank of South Australia, opening first bank account in SA

1850s



Significant trade commences with India with the export of commodities such as horses and sandalwood

1888



Sikhs in VIC write to Premier with desire to offer their services in an Australian Sikh Regiment

1880



William Davis is born in WA - son of a Sikh named Bung Singh and an Aboriginal woman

1877



Sydney Watson names his cattle station lease in QLD, 'Punjaub'

1860s



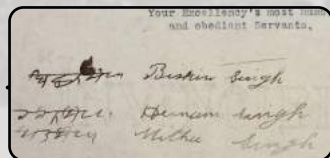
Many Punjabi cameleers, some Sikh, arrive to unlock the mystery and potential of the Australian interior

1890s - 1930s



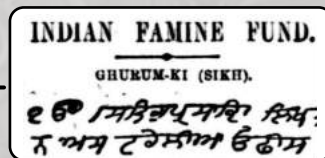
Travelling Sikh hawkers regularly visit Australian country towns to sell their wares

1898



100 Sikhs sign a petition seeking equal rights from the WA Governor

1900



An appeal in Gurmukhi appears in newspapers seeking donations to help a famine in India

1901



Australia's federation celebrations are attended by 100 soldiers including from Punjab and Sikh regiments

1920



The first Darbar (Royal Court) of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib is photographed in Benalla, VIC



The iconic Australian Army slouch hat has a seven-pleated cloth band that is called a 'puggaree' which is Punjabi for 'turban'

1914 - 1918



At least 19 Sikhs enlisted or attempted to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force to serve in WWI

1903



Buttan Singh holds the 'Champion of Australia' wrestling title for the next three years

1929



The Cremation Act 1929 is legislated following decades of petitioning by WA Sikhs

1942



Flying Officer Manmohan Singh killed in WWII action in Broome, WA

1968



Foundation stone for the first Gurdwara in Australia laid in Woolgoolga, NSW

2016



Census data confirms 129,900 Sikhs living in Australia. 500% increase since 2006

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Our Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and elders past, present and future.