

**ANSWER:** The following facts & quotes, are taken from "The Colonial Child". Edited by Guy Featherstone. (Available in the Box Cottage Library.)

,Page 40 & 41. The "Colonial Child" tells us that in the 1880's poverty stricken children roamed around the inner suburbs, and back streets of Melbourne. They formed large gangs and were known as "larrikins", (this word was an *epitaph* in Victorian times), or "street arabs". Some went on to join in theft & violence. "The characteristic larrikin hung about streets in inner suburbs, boys approaching adulthood fought one another, annoyed the respectable with insults and occasional attacks, or destroyed property for no reason"

Page 83: "The roads, macadamised or not, were cut up by the great draught horses with their iron- wheeled lorries, and their heavy loads. They were mud in winter, dust in summer, and often the teams would go sprawling, 'flailing the air with their legs' "

*This last paragraph reminds us why the tramway plates were laid down in Bentleigh, (then known as East Brighton), Cheltenham, and down Nepean Highway to St Kilda , in the 1800's.*