

JAMES RUSSELL THOMSON

- Born 1818. Airdrie. Scotland
- Enlisted in Army, served in many parts of the world, then in Post Office.
- Arrived Australia 1852 with D. Gillies (later Premier Victoria) and L. Campbell.
- Ovens Diggings in 1853 ("subdued a mob of lawless men") then to Ballarat.
- As a miner one of the first to follow up leads in deeper ground. Successful.
- Share holder in several mines in Redan
- Took a determined and prominent part in the search for Scobie's murderer.
- A sound adviser and able worker in the events that led to Eureka Rising.
- Became deaf, made a fortune and lost much of it.
- "Truthful, patriotic and well read, a man of engaging disposition."
- Died 1886 at 93 Doveton St. Nth. Cause of Death - Cirrhosis of the Liver- 3 weeks, Dr Morrison.
- In his will set aside 3,700 pounds for the purchase of statuary for the Gardens.
- Trustees purchased "Flight from Pompeii" 1500 pounds.
- "Susannah" "Ruth", "Rebecca" and "Veiled Modesty" 2,500 pounds
- With the remainder Trustees bought "Wallace", the work of Percy Ball.