Large numbers of Chinese migrants came to Australia after gold was discovered and made a significant contribution to the country. Life in China had become difficult because of war and natural disasters such as floods. Migrating to a place where there was the chance to find a job or good fortune was very appealing. Many had to borrow money to be able to make the journey and had to continue working to repay their debt. In 1856, there were more than 4000 Chinese men in Australia, but only six women. By 1876, this number had increased to around 18,000 in total. From this time, Chinese migrants have contributed to the development of Australia.