



LIBERTY!

WELCOME TO LIBERTY!

Liberty! #73 June 2020

www.eurekaaustralia.org.au

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Eureka Australia – Descendants and Supporters Inc.

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INDEX

President's Column page 1
Eureka Democracy Walking App page 3
***Truth is the oxygen of Democracy* page 5**
Ancestors and Descendants – Annie Duke & Margie O'Brien - Peter Lalor & Peter Lalor Philp page 5
On the Street A Melbourne Anthology page 9
Eureka Memorabilia page 10
Our Annual Eureka Democracy Dinner Saturday 28 November page 11
Eureka Mugs page 11
Membership Form page 12

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – Eric Howard

I welcome all readers to this second Liberty for Eureka Australia for 2020, the second newsletter published under our new Eureka Australia identity.

I wish all members well and trust you are surviving the Covid 19 pandemic and lockdown as safely and as satisfactorily as possible. It is a difficult time for many.

Pathway of Remembrance

The official opening of the Pathway of Remembrance which was to take place at the Eureka Centre Ballarat on Friday April 3 has been deferred as a consequence of the Covid 19 lockdown. Ballarat City remain committed to a launch in happier times, and we will advise you all about fresh arrangements later this year we trust.

AGM

The 2020 Annual General meeting of Eureka Australia was to take place at 4.00 pm at the Celtic Club Administration Offices on Thursday April 23. Again due to Covid 19 this was not possible but our Secretary has received advice from Consumer Affairs that we have until August 2020 to conduct our AGM and can do so by Zoom if we wish to do so. This will be discussed at our next Committee meeting later in June. We conducted our first Committee meeting by Zoom on May 28 and we appreciate Adele Howard's assistance in setting up the meeting.

We are always looking for fresh inputs to our Committee so if you would like to be involved in Eureka Australia's efforts to make the awareness of the Eureka's impact on our society better understood and commemorated and to promote a stronger democratic and just society in this country please consider attending the AGM or advise Peter Gavin of your interest.

2020 Eureka Democracy Award Dinner

The 2020 Dinner is reported on later in the newsletter and we hope we are able to hold the function on November 28 and that a capacity crowd can attend the evening which promises to be a memorable night.

We hope to confirm the event will be proceeding by August. Please reserve November 28 in your calendar and await conformation.



Eureka Australia, Descendants and Supporters

The preparation and deployment of the name change, letterheads, banners, website, Democracy Award certificate and more to reflect the new Eureka Australia personality was carried out in a relatively short time frame from August to November 2019.

We are indebted to Adele Howard RSM who liaised with David Prestige (to whom we also express our sincere thanks) and others to ensure that the design options and final products were of the highest quality.

The efforts involved warrant recognition and we wish to thank Adele again for that commitment.

David has been most supportive and has recently offered to support our web hosting and updating activities particularly the placement of videos from our annual Democracy Award Dinners.

The videos of the 2019 Awardee Tim Costello' remarks; the Address from our Guest Speaker, Dr. Geraldine Moore; Introductions by our MC Peter Lalor Philp; remarks by myself and comments from Michael Van Leeuwen, our Vice President and from Adele Howard a Committee member are all at present viewable on the link below. They will be loaded onto our website in coming days with Tim and Geraldine's remarks to be posted on the Democracy Award tab and the other clips in our Events tab for the 2020 Democracy Award Dinner,

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY3a_65VTjsJPYiqT4CDSBrmU7MUjjkG

Membership

We want to increase our membership in 2020. We want all of you to actively canvass potential new members. Covid 19 has made the task more challenging, but there are many Victorians and Australians out there with a direct link or an abiding interest in the fair go and equality of opportunity messages we stand for and promote. While Descendants of Eureka are important to us any person with an empathy for the Eureka story and what it represents today are very welcome as members. Consider friends or colleagues who could be interested.

We ask all of you to please pay your annual dues for 2020 which fell due in January as soon as possible. We need your support to continue to function and most importantly to grow and prosper in order to send messages to the Australian Community about the values represented at Eureka. **The membership form is on the last page.**

Ballarat Heritage Weekend

The Ballarat Heritage Weekend did not proceed this year due to Covid 19. We hope to be involved in 2021. Assistance in manning the information booth over the two days in Ballarat is sought from our members.

All that is needed is your presence, a cheerful disposition and a willingness to seek some new members or at least inform interested members of the public about Eureka and about us! Please advise Peter Gavin if you are able to participate in May 2021.

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Eureka Democracy Walking App by Michael van Leeuwen

The Committee of Eureka Australia is currently working on the development of a walking app for use in the Melbourne CBD that will allow users to witness the various sites of relevance to the development of democracy in Victoria and Australia of events after Eureka.

In many ways, what happened in Melbourne in the succeeding months and period of two years from November 1854 to November 1856 was a remarkable explosion of democratic process and representation, with the extent of reform being unprecedented and exceptional.

Not enough is known in our history of the impact of the Goldfields Commission of Enquiry held from December 8 1854 to March 1855 and conducted by about 10 members of the Legislative Council meeting assiduously on the goldfields and in Melbourne.

Their report, tabled in the Legislative Council in March 1855 is scathing of the government and its failed administration of the goldfields. The Miners right, the right to vote if a Miners Right was held, the abolition of Police License hunts, the disbandment of the large numbers of police patrolling the goldfields diggings, the abolition of the autocratic Gold Commissions on each goldfield - presided over in Ballarat by that inflexible and ruthless Commissioner Rede, elected mining courts to settle claims disputes, and recommended electorates for mining communities which came into place later in 1855, were astonishing reforms and we have not seen the like of that pace and extent of change in our democracy since.

The various trials that were held in Melbourne of the main rebels with great support from many in the legal fraternity and the monster meetings held near St Pauls Cathedral (both for and against), as well as the altered Legislative Council membership in the lead up period to the initial representative government elections in 1856.

We intend to promote an understanding of these events through the development of our “Eureka Melbourne Democracy Walk”, which will take people through the City and show them places of significance in the Eureka and immediately related post Eureka period. We will primarily do this through the development of a “Walking App” which people can download and be guided through the streets of Melbourne. Several such Apps have already been developed by the Museum of Victoria. It would probably start at the Old Melbourne Gaol, one of the few buildings still existing from that time. Separate notifications will be developed within the App for geographically disparate sites, such as the Melbourne Cemetery.

New Committee Member Geraldine Moore, who recently authored ‘*George Higinbotham and Eureka: The Struggle for Democracy in Colonial Victoria*’, has been doing a great amount of research for the App working with Michael van Leeuwen and others to draft the content.

While we believe this will become an important source of information for Melbournians and others about a pivotal time in our History, what we have found has been a new awareness of the remarkable reform and change that happened in Melbourne and Victoria politically and socially in 1855 and 1856. To see more look for the App later this year.

We are continuing conversations with the City of Melbourne and they are interested in and supportive of the project. We have also sought the support and advice of the History Council of Victoria for this activity.

We would be grateful for any comments and suggestions made by Eureka Australia Members. Please contact Michael van Leeuwen, Vice President of Eureka Australia on mpvanl@gmail.com or 0403 584 171.

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DEMOCRACY:

Watch Bill Moyers and Christiane Amanpour “*Truth is the oxygen of Democracy*” CNN June 9 2020

<https://billmoyers.com/story/bill-moyers-and-christiane-amanpour-truth-is-the-oxygen-of-democracy/>

This programme is relevant to our interests as Eureka Australia.

Please view the video and reflect on how the Eureka events and period in Victoria 1854 to 1856 assisted our journey part way through this issue of inequality of rights, of opportunity, of political representation, assisting Victoria to avoid a complete failure to achieve improved equality which while not perfect and with much remaining to be done today still represents a very different path to that taken by many other places in the new world.

'Democracy in America has been a series of narrow escapes. We may be running out of luck, and no one is coming to save us. For that, we have only ourselves.' **Bill Moyers**

Highlights

Democracy was dying of too many lies long before this murder. I think America was dying of a great concentration of wealth; we were moving from democracy to plutocracy where the rich rule and buy the politics they want. I was concerned about democracy as so many were before this happened. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights act of 1965 were incredibly important in changing the politics of this country and the direction of this country, but they did not affect the daily lives of African Americans.

So even though we had a new political look about us, with African Americans participating, life didn't change for people who were living in the poverty of the ghetto, who couldn't find good jobs, and then we began not to see them. The great sin of America for all these decades is that we haven't seen what is happening to the people we were oppressing, we white people. We've finally come to that moment, when we're scraping the whitewash — and it is whitewash — off of our vision of the country, and what we are seeing is not pretty, and it's not right. Unless we see the truth of what is there, we are going to be just the same as we have been for the last decades, for the last 200 years.

EUREKA AUSTRALIA: Ancestors and Descendants

The Committee of Eureka Australia decided at its February meeting to invite members who have ancestors who participated in the struggle at Eureka in December 1854 to write a short summary of their ancestor's involvement as passed down to them by earlier generations of their family. It does not matter if the family's view of the ancestor differs from the accepted view of historians who may have written about this person. In fact, it is more interesting if there is controversy. Members were asked also to provide a photo of the ancestor, or if this is unavailable, a photo of any other relevant memorabilia connected with the person, e.g. an entry in the family Bible, a newspaper obituary, a photo of their grave, a photo of the home they lived in, their tools of trade, their miner's licence etc. In addition, the members were invited to send a photo of themselves or any of the descendants who agrees to be associated

with this account of the family's memories of the ancestor. They were invited to include some reflections on how the descendants feel about the ancestors and their involvement in the events of Eureka.

This was originally intended to be used for a panel display which could be exhibited in a place such as the Eureka Centre in Ballarat, or a municipal library, particularly on a relevant date such as History Month, or the anniversary of the battle at Eureka. Because of lockdown for Covid19, the idea of a panel display has not progressed so far, but we plan to put the papers received on the Eureka Australia website. So far five papers about ancestors have been submitted. All are excellent, and will make interesting reading. Here are the first two that we received. We hope to hear from more descendants.

Annie Duke's Story

21st November 1838 - 23rd June 1914.

Ann 'Annie' Gaynor was born in County Armagh, Ireland 21st November 1838. The Gaynor family arrived in NSW on the ship 'William Sharples' on the 29 January 1842 and came to Victoria in 1844. The family lived in Lonsdale St and Ann told her daughter Annie that she played around Collingwood Green near St Francis Church.

The family moved to Ballarat where her parents had a store on the diggings and her brothers Thomas and John carried goods between Melbourne and Ballarat.

Ann married George Duke in the Independent Church of Christ, Poverty Hills Goldfield near Castlemaine on 8th March 1854. It is possible that they eloped as Annie was not yet 16. Ann was Catholic and George was Methodist and the church was some distance from where her family lived.

Annie was a seamstress and family lore says that she was one of the women who sewed the Eureka Flag.

Annie who was 8 ½ months pregnant was in the stockade while the battle was on. She and a Mrs Parker lay behind a pile of logs near their tent. The tent, their utensils and clothes were riddled with shot.

Thomas Gaynor is said to be one of the many people who aided in the escape of Peter Lalor.

After finding each other after the battle, George and Annie fled to her parents, in Bendigo in fear of retribution. Annie gave birth to their son John on 13th December 1854 on the road to Bendigo under a spring cart with the help of an older lady.

Annie and George eventually had twelve children. Their seventh child, Annie is my great grandmother and was a dressmaker like her mother.

The story in the family over the years was that Annie made the flag with two other women. It was kept quiet outside of the home as she and George feared they would be arrested and tried for their part in the rebellion. It wasn't until long after her death that we found out what Annie and George did, and we are now so proud of our Great Great Grand Mother and Father for their part in Australian History.

Just before George died, he converted to Catholicism so he could be buried with his beloved Annie. Annie and George are buried in the Echuca Cemetery.

Annie Duke Beckwith (Annie's daughter) wrote about her mother's story for a publication "Pioneer Women of Victoria" sometime before her death in 1948.

Photo of Annie Duke



Photo of Margie O'Brien



MARGARET ("MARGIE") ANNE O'BRIEN

I am the Great Great Grand Daughter of Annie and George Duke, and I am proud to say that back in the 1800's and 1900's, you wouldn't be able to give an opinion to say that Annie Duke was ahead of her time. A very strong-minded, strong-willed woman who I am proud to say she is my Great Grand Mother

I do hope I have a few of her traits, I worked as a Para Legal for many years here in Victoria and New South Wales. Whilst in New South Wales, I worked for a Liberal Prime Minister in his Law Firm and a former female Labor Party Minister. I enjoyed working for both people and I did learn a lot from them.

I no longer work due to a workplace injury I was executed by turning off a light switch. It's not everyday someone has 240 volts through you and live!

PETER LALOR

Peter Lalor was born in County Laois, Ireland in 1827 and died in Richmond, Victoria in 1889. Peter Lalor brought to Australia that radical sense of justice that had been ingrained into him and his siblings throughout his early life. His father and brothers were active members in

the struggle for a democratic Ireland but also fierce fighters for the nation's poor and the oppressed members of the Catholic population. Before Peter Lalor landed in the Port Philip Colony, he was talking about confronting issues of social injustice in this country. Moving to the Victorian goldfields he was soon aware of the injustice concerning the gold diggers licences and the ruthless manner in which licence raids were carried out by violent and corrupt officials. Peter Lalor joined the Ballarat Reform League and was elected leader of the diggers who were demanding political reform of the political system.

As the situation worsened, 12,000 people massed at Bakery Hill Ballarat on 29th of November 1854 and Peter Lalor called on those committed to the cause to swear allegiance to the flag of the Southern Cross. Standing beneath this flag, described as, 'better than any standard in old Europe', Peter Lalor led the diggers in the swearing of the oath which would become the battle cry of Eureka. 'We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties.' On the morning of 3 December 1854, about 276 soldiers and police, attacked the diggers who were sheltering behind a flimsy stockade at Eureka. During the attack, Peter Lalor was injured and later smuggled out of Ballarat to Geelong where he recovered. Within 12 months of the Eureka Stockade, Lalor was a Member of Parliament. In his election declaration Lalor said: 'I am in favour of such a system of law form as will enable the poor man to obtain equal justice with the rich one, which at present I believe to be impossible.' During his parliamentary career, he held a number of Ministerial portfolios including Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1880-1887. He retired from Parliament a year later because of ill health.

In Parliament as at Eureka, Peter Lalor was always his own man, never a servant of the popular 'isms' of the time. Ask in Parliament if he was still a democrat, His reply was: 'If a democrat means opposition to tyrannical press, tyrannical people or a tyrannical government, then I have ever been, I am still and will remain a democrat.' When faced by an angry mob he said: 'You can murder me, but you will never frighten me.'

Photo of Peter Lalor



Peter Lalor Philp

Peter Lalor Philp is the great great-grandson of Eureka's Peter Lalor. He is a writer and broadcaster. Much of his career has been concentrated on the poverty and injustice in the Third World, particularly Latin America.

'We were brought up with the Lalor motto of being proud of the family's struggle for a more just society however never to be content to live under its shadow but actively carry forward that tradition.'

Photo of Peter Lalor Philp



On the Street A Melbourne Anthology

Edited by Sarah Fraser and Susanna Nelson

One of our members, Anna Sublet, has a chapter in this new book which was published recently.

Featuring:

Anna Kate Blair - Helen Cerne - Rijn Collins Alyssa Coombs - Johanna Ellersdorfer Michelle Fincke - Sarah Fraser - Nick Gadd Sheila Graham - Bea Jones - Allan Lake SJ Lawry - Chris Muir – Susanna Nelson - Thuy On - Mark Phillips - Olivia Shenken Arathi Sriprakash - Anna Sublet - John White Ailsa Wild

\$23.95 + postage

Melbourne's streets might not be as charming as Rome's, as romantic as Paris's as edgy as New York's – but they're more than capable of telling a good story.

In this collection of essays, short fiction and poetry, some of our best emerging and

established writers turn their pens to the streets of Melbourne. They explore geographies of love, loss, disappointment and change in a city beloved by many. It includes stories about Acland Street, Sydney Road, Brunswick Street etc.

If you've ever lived in or visited Melbourne or have a passing interest in our everyday connection to place, this is the book for you.

On the Street A Melbourne Anthology is published by Quiet Corner.

Most municipal libraries allow members to make purchase recommendations.

Eureka Memorabilia

Gerry and Jane Dorset
Brighton Antique Prints and Maps
388 Bay Street Brighton Vic
Ph 9596 9669
www.antiqueprints.com.au

This Antique dealer has 5 prints related to Eureka which may be of interest to individuals. Postage is \$17 for each item

Item 1. Disturbances at Ballarat - Victoria Government Report dated 5th December 1854. The report begins "The Lieutenant Governor has the painful duty of informing the Legislative Council that serious disturbances have occurred at Ballaraat". A statement by J.W. Thomas, Captain Commanding Troops at Ballaraat describes the events. Other statements about the events at Ballaraat. Five pages foolscap size blue paper. Price \$500

Item 2. Eureka Stockade c.1886. Hand coloured wood engraving. Approximately 26cm X 17cm plus margins. Mounted. Price \$125

Item 3. Manuscript document written June 1st 1869, relating to construction at St Paul's Church, Bakery Hill in Ballaraat East. Signed by Edward James. A single page. Price \$75.

Item 4. Lydiard Street from Bath's Hotel Ballaraat by S.T. Gill. C.1857 Hand coloured engraving. Approximately 18cm X 13cm plus wide margins. Price \$195

Item 5. Street map of Ballaraat prepared by the Department of Lands and Survey c.1931. Norman Street in the north to Gregory Street in the south. Approximately 76cm X 50cm. Price \$150

ANNUAL EUREKA DEMOCRACY DINNER 2020 – SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
2020

The Committee has agreed on a Guest Speaker and an Awardee to receive the annual Eureka Democracy Award. Both are well known and respected Australians and deserving of the honour.

We hope the pandemic has been successfully overcome by Victorians by November and that we will be able to hold this event safely. The Guest Speaker and the Awardee have put this date in their calendar and are hoping that we can proceed.

It is to be held at the Amora Hotel in Richmond as in previous years.

If we cannot proceed with the event, we will try to hold it as early as possible next year and would hope the Awardee and Guest Speaker would still be available to attend.

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EUREKA MUGS



We have two lots of mugs.

The first mug has our name *Eureka Australia Descendants & Supporters*.

The second says *Eureka Democracy*.

They are available from our office Level 1, 420 William Street West Melbourne costing \$15 each if you call in.

Or if you want a mug posted to you it costs \$20 each. Our account with Bank First is BSB 704 191 Account # 90789

**MEMBERS, IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.
PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBS WHICH ARE NOW FIVE MONTHS OVERDUE.**

EUREKA AUSTRALIA

DESCENDANTS AND SUPPORTERS INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2020 (Jan-Dec)

Please print all details and where appropriate.

Surname:			
Other Names:			
Address:			Postcode:
Phone No			
Email			

Membership of Eureka's Children Inc. operates on a calendar year basis.

- **Ordinary Membership** – Includes descendants of those connected with the Stockade event, its prelude and its aftermath as well as those who support the Eureka story and its ideals of democracy
 - Full \$40.00 per annum
 - *Concession \$20.00 per annum
- **Family Membership Full** \$40.00 + \$20 = \$60 per annum
- **Family M/ship Concession** \$20.00 + \$20 = \$40 per annum
- **Life Membership** Full \$300, Concession \$150

Note: Concessional Subscriptions include Pension Card Holders.

*For Family Membership please list each other name and their contact details
All amounts include GST*

DONATION WELCOME \$.....
TOTAL CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER \$.....

EFT Payments can be made to: "Eureka Australia" - (BSB) 704 191 (A/C) 90789"

Please include 'EC MEMB' as well as your name on the internet transfer

To send cheque or money order please print, complete this form and return with your cheque/money order to: Eureka Australia. C/O. Celtic Club, Level 1, 420 William Street, West Melbourne, Vic. 3003. **If paying by EFT** and you are a new member you would need to also complete and return this form as an initial record of your membership.