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www.eurekaschildren.org.au

Welcome to Liberty!

Welcome to the May-June 2017 Edition of Liberty!

The Eureka's Children 2017 AGM was held on the 10th of May. The new structure of the Committee is to the bottom left. We would like to welcome Margaret O' Brien and Rosmary Callanan to the Committee for the first time.

The members voted in the AGM to increase the membership fees. The fees have not changed since incorporation in 1998. We encourage all those who have not yet paid their membership dues to do so before the end of the financial year—this really helps us plan events and projects and assists with applications for grants.

We also offer a big congratulations to Phillip Moore who was voted an Honorary Life Membership for his tireless work for Eureka's Children over the years. Phillip has stepped back from the Vice-President role, but will still be instrumental in the ongoing and future projects of Eureka's Children.

If you'd like to write in and submit any material for Liberty! Please send your correspondence to eurekaschildren@gmail.com

Eureka Democracy Award & Dinner

Eureka's Children are planning one of our biggest events yet. The Committee has decided to arrange a dinner on the 2nd of December which will encompass a Guest Speaker and the awarding of the Eureka Democracy Award in a showcase of Eureka's Children. We are looking at the theme of 'A Fair Go' for this year's event.

We are seeking the support of Members and Friends of Eureka's Children for this event. Details on guest speakers and a recipient for the democracy award will be determined in the coming weeks. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them to the email above.

Eureka's
Children

Flying the Flag



Irish Ambassador visits Ballarat

Irish Ambassador Breandan O'Caollai and wife Carmel visited Ballarat on 29-31st April.

Phillip Moore organized their visit and arranged a two day tour of Ballarat presenting to them this wonderful city and describing the Irish contribution and involvement in the social and cultural development and history of Ballarat and region. Obviously, as part of the tour they visited the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka, Sovereign Hill Museum - including their evening theatre production "Blood on the Southern Cross, the Ballarat Art Gallery and other places of significance.



Escorting their tour Phillip also arranged meetings with Ballarat City Council's Mayor; Samantha McIntosh and Terry Demeo –Director of Infrastructure and Environment, the CEO of Sovereign Hill; Jeremy Johnson and Tanya Dickens - the Manager of Visitor Services at M A D E.

When meeting the Mayor particular discussion was given to the proposed Eureka Avenue of Honour project and at which both Ambassador and Mayor gave their on-going commitment. When visiting M A D E the Ambassador was shown the site for the Avenue of Honour.



Subsequent to the Ambassador's visit Phillip has met at the site with Ballarat City Council officers; Terry Demeo, Peter Marquand - Curator of Parks and Nursery and Daryl Wallis- Co-ordinator of Parks and Gardens, to discuss project arrangements and options. Council's graphic officer is now developing design options for the Avenue of Honour.

MADE's funding in doubt

after 30 June 2018



The Ballarat Council recently decided to fund the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (MADE) until 30 June 2018 rather than their normal three year guarantee. In the meantime MADE is also applying to the Federal Government for funding. Acting Chief Executive, Sarah Masters said: Council has undertaken a substantial burden – the Eureka story is an Australian story – Council has made a great commitment and have carried a large share of the load”.

The state Government will provide 4 years of funding to help the Museum continue.

Council has decided to undertake a feasibility study of MADE as part of a review into the three year agreements as well as with the Art Gallery and Visit Ballarat. Collectively the three bodies had received \$6.2 million annually. Made had received approximately \$1.05million. 54 per cent of the Museums funding came from Council with 46 per cent coming from other sources.

The review is in response to the pressures of rate capping and its effect on council revenue. The review will examine for instance the possibilities of MADE working collaboratively with other bodies such as Sovereign Hill, Gold Museum, the Art Gallery, Visit Ballarat and other cultural organisations.

Apparently MADE attracts 62,000 visits per year with a high percentage being school children who wish to learn about the Eureka Rebellion, its causes and its ideals of democracy.

Eureka's Children has a special relationship with MADE and has been involved in many joint events and programs with them. As an important Eureka cultural group we will always be ever ready and eager to work collaboratively with them to develop new events and programs that will bring in more visitors and funding and especially in this hour of need. We encourage all our members to visit MADE. It is located on the historic site of the 1854 Eureka Stockade and is home to the rebellion's iconic flag. It is an educational and entertaining Museum.

For more information MADE's website is www.made.org



Danny Spooner 1936-2017 - By Phillip Moore

Danny Spooner was born to be a singer and a story teller. From childhood days there was always family 'sing-alongs' and then at age 13 years when starting work on Bob Roberts steam tug on the Thames, this singing skipper enrolled Danny in 3 libraries and insisted that he read history and tell him the stories. Danny did so and added songs to those stories.

Danny's experience as a Waterman and Lighterman and then offshore as a Tugman and a Trawler Skipper, gave Danny a rare and real life experience in the ways of working people.

When work on the boats diminished, affected somewhat by increasing air cargo transportation, Danny worked his passage to Australia, arriving in 1962.

On arrival he found thriving folk music clubs that paid performers and who relished his songs from London's East End. And it was at Dan O'Connell's hotel in Carlton in the mid 1960's that I first met Danny and listened to his captivating songs. And in the 1970's, University of Melbourne lecturer, Weston Bate, was so impressed by Danny presentations that he arranged a position for him in the history department as an artist in residence. It was here also that he met Gael Shannon who became his life-long partner.

Decades later in early 2000 with the recent establishment of Eureka's Children Inc., Gael became a member of our committee. She had also been education officer for the Eureka Centre which is now the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M A D E) in Ballarat. Professor Weston Bate was also a member of our committee at the time. Gael and Danny attended various cultural events at the Celtic Club, where Eureka's Children's committee met, and often Danny entertained us with his songs at their various functions

In 2005 at the inaugural presentation of the Jageurs Literary Award at Melbourne's Celtic Club, Gael became the first winner with her entry "Eureka , A Great Australian Story". And what was also a gift from that initiative; 5 months later Gael and Danny combined to produce and present a musical of the same title which they presented, accompanied by the Australian Trades Hall choir, to a packed audience at the Club; a musical that needs to be repeated and taken further afield.

Danny and Gael's interest and involvement in the Eureka story and the plight of the diggers extends even further. They have also been continuously involved in the celebrations across the Victoria Central Goldfields where at Castlemaine, Chewton and Bendigo the performers present the story of the diggers and their supporters who in the 1850's, gathered at monster meetings declaring their rights and demanding democracy.

Danny has performed in folk clubs and festival all over Australia and New Zealand and in Britain and America. He was considered the Godfather in Victoria's folk community – a man with infectious energy and smile, an encyclopaedic music knowledge and a captivating musical style. His audience appreciated his selection of songs relevant to them and his introductory chats which gave the songs their social context and allowed the ancestors to speak clearly and directly to the audiences

The Irish Prime Minister Edna Kenny once said of Danny's singing: "When you hear songs like that, sung like that, you know why they will last forever". And Danny, as we play them so will our memory of you



SING A SONG OF SOMEBODY

By Weston Bate - 9th March 2017



You came to these shores like a comet,
In its tail there were thousands of songs
And your own special story to tell.
Your voice filled classrooms and pubs
With much more than more of the same.
You shipped in the sights and sounds,
Of a Thames ennobled by time
With temples, domes, palaces and towers.
Engraved on its surface, your tug
Was busy with daily encounters,
While an immense past was being towed
Towards unexpected destinations.

Oh! Danny boy, child of the East End,
The mightily flow of life would take you
Far across the sea, until spouting whales,
Their haunting songs, and an unpredictable tide
In your roving life, landed you here,
Like flotsam on a beneficial wave.

Your appetite and intellect combined
To put Australian capital into the bank
Of folksong you inherited. It grew
Into an asset much admired. Your skill
And passion opened many doors;
Important, among them, Melbourne University,
Which welcomed the doyen of the folksong scene.

And Spooner, dubbed "professor" by his peers,
Added excitement to the lecturing
Of Ian Maxwell, fervent professor of English.
They made Norse sagas resonate, and Beowulf.

To my delight, when made aware of Danny,
A stroke of luck brought joy to History.
I found an opening, through a special grant
For an artist in residence, to swell our team.
So began a friendship, crystalline,
Which sparkled down the years. Immediately,
Your impact was immense, putting to use,
In British History, work and protest songs

Already Spoonered, but adding greatly,
For Australianites, ballads of convicts
Shearers, miners, tramps.
Much you did, and doing, quite outdid
The rest of us. By reading everything in sight
The folksy bookworm gobbled up the library.

Becoming well known within the campus,
Our rising star was traced
By the Extension team, who wanted him
To take the University to town,
Just as they did with Medicine and Science.
And Danny paid them well. His common
touch

Was much admired, especially, it seems,
By our man's minder. Gael Shannon found
Her new performer was indeed a star,
Who soon shone brightly in her firmament.
A splendid meteor, he was,
Who gently came to earth beside her.

So much they've done since then and
Multiplied

The impact of his voice. He studied hard
 And joined the teaching trade,
 Inspiring hundreds to excel.
 But singing still. Across Australia
 And in the USA, at festivals and gigs,
 Danny hits the spot. Applause is in the air
 He breathes. So is Gael. Shining together
 Teachers of much renown, they've made
 Their home a special place for us and cats.
 And, add to that, their spirit never seems to
 flag.

Gael was, still is, will be, his true support.
 The years applaud her, just as we,
 Gathered to toast him on his 80th,
 Give thanks for all the wondrous
 Times we've shared : for all the songs
 He brought to life. And we rejoice
 That, through an elastic bond,
 London's East end has been extended here.

And ended here, resting, complete
 Among Grey Box and charcoal Ironbarks.

You took Australia to your heart
 And left it much, much richer,
 Enlivened by your perfect pitch
 And magic match of voice and spirit.

Embracing us with great affection,
 You made all comers welcome
 To your world of song. Enough to fill
 A mighty concert hall to standing room with
 admiration.

You live so strongly from beyond your grave

That little of what you meant to us will dim.
 Folksong, through you, was heart-song
 Deeply felt. Your eyes, embellished by a laugh,
 Told stories of a life enriched by everything
 you'd done.

Your balance sheet is like a music score,
 Containing symbols of a symphony as vibrant
 As your life. The coda written here, among
 the trees,
 Was choral tributes from your friends.
 A bagpipe skirled to stir the silent crowd,
 While home-made wreaths were dropped
 upon the shroud.

From Danny's resting place, I hear him sing,
 Backed by a trumpet call,
 "Thank you all for all the joys we shared,
 From my first friendships, eager to sing,
 Until my breath gave out".

***The tugboat skipper towed his friends
 Beyond all earthly destinations.***



Eureka's Children: Phillip Glendenning – a fighter for justice and human rights wins the Eureka Democracy Award



NEWS or MEDIA RELEASE

The prestigious Eureka Democracy Award for 2016 has been presented to the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, Phillip Glendenning.

The presentation was made last night at Sydney's Eureka Commemoration Committee dinner by the President of Eureka's Children, Eric Howard.

Eric Howard said that Phillip Glendenning has been a key leader in his tireless efforts to address injustice in our community for more than 20 years.

"He has been a source of outstanding inspiration for those of us who want to see a just, forward looking Australia - where all of us, including aboriginal Australians, have a chance for a better life and where those who try to reach our shores as refugees are treated decently, with practical ways being found to support their hopes for a better future. Phil's social justice work in this country and internationally inspires all of us to reject fear and to expect much greater decency from our fellow citizens and our political leaders", Eric Howard said.

The Eureka Democracy Award is presented annually by Eureka's Children to recognise an individual or organization which has endeavoured to make Australia a more inclusive, more just, more democratic place.

"We are witnessing a move to greater authoritarianism internationally and in this country, with the associated rise of far right political movements and a pandering to these groups by some mainstream political parties trying to preserve their voter base and jettisoning principles. Eureka's Children wants Australia to be a country where all – not just some – receive a fair go in their search for a better life. Just as the Eureka diggers and their supporters in 1854 fought for respect for human dignity, justice and freedom from oppressive authoritarian officialdom, Phil Glendenning today represents the interests of many who are denied their fair go in our prosperous Australian Society. These are also the values which were defended at Eureka and which became the bedrock of our Australian democracy."

Phil is currently the President of the Refugee Council of Australia and the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre since its inception in 1996. The Centre promotes human rights, social justice and eco-justice through research, community education, advocacy and networking. Its priority areas for involvement are Indigenous People and Reconciliation, Refugees and Asylum Seekers and Pacific Island people affected by climate change. Phil is also the co – founder (in 1997), past president for 10 years and current Board member of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR).

Phil has lead and shaped the work of the Edmund Rice Centre to be a powerful advocate in making Australia a better, more just and more compassionate society and a more respected member of the international community. Previous winners of the Eureka Democracy Award include Emeritus Professor John Molony, distinguished historian (2009); The Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M.A.D.E.) in Ballarat (2013); and Father Frank Brennan SJ AO (2015)

Eureka's Children salutes Phil Glendenning, a great Australian and worthy recipient of the 2016 Eureka Democracy Award.

Eureka speaks to us of the importance of a free society being prepared to react to oppressive authority while seeking fairness and equity, valuing human rights and respecting human dignity. In short the Eureka diggers by their actions were seeking a more democratic and just society for all.
www.eurekaschildren.org.au

CONTACT:

eurekaschildren@gmail.com

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EUREKA'S CHILDREN INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2017 (Jan-Dec)

Please print all details and ☒ where appropriate.

Surname:			
Other Names:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Phone No			

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 \$30.00 + \$30 = \$60 per annum ☐ \$

Family M/ship Concession \$15.00 + \$25 = \$40 per annum ☐ \$

Donations Welcome ☐ \$

Life Membership Full \$300, Concession \$150

Note: Concessional Subscriptions include Pension Card Holders.

For Family Membership please list each other name and there contact detail (See over page)

All amounts include GST

DONATIONS WELCOME \$.....

Total Cheque/Money order *\$.....*

NOTE: EFT Payments can be made to: "Eurekas Children - (BSB)704191 (A/C)90789"

Please include Eurekas Children as well as your name on the internet transfer

Please print, complete this form and return with your cheque/money order to: Eureka's Children. C/O. Celtic Club 316-320 Queen St, Melb. Vic. 3000 Ph. 0417330883

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

Contact Details:

Mail Address:

Eureka's Children (Care of Cultural Heritage Committee)
316-320 Queen St
Melbourne 3000

E-mail: eurekaschildren@gmail.com

www.eurekaschildren.org.au