



# LIBERTY!

**WELCOME TO LIBERTY!**  
**Liberty! #72 March 2020**

[www.eurekaaustralia.org.au](http://www.eurekaaustralia.org.au)

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## **Eureka Australia – Descendants and Supporters Inc.**

### **Committee**

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### **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – Eric Howard**

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

### **Pathway of Remembrance**

The official opening of the Pathway of Remembrance will take place at the Eureka Centre Ballarat at 4.00 pm on Friday April 3.

Eureka Australia has initiated this commemoration pathway and event which commemorates all who fell at Eureka on 3 December 1854 and the legacy they have provided to the Victorian and Australian Community.

The support of the Irish, German, Russian, British and Canadian Embassies in Australia as well as the Shire of Goulburn (where the only Australian born person who died was born, in responding so positively to our approaches for support with the cost of individual plinths and plaques is very much appreciated as is the support of the City of Ballarat and the Eureka Centre in managing the installation and opening day arrangements.

Invitations have been going out to all our members and if you are attending please advise the Coordinator Civic Support, City of Ballarat on (03) 5320 5735 soon. We look forward to a strong attendance from our members and friends as this is our initiative (albeit with great support from the Eureka Centre and City of Ballarat) and it is important for us and the purpose of the recognition and its significance that strong support is demonstrated.

Thanks you in particular to our member and former President Phillip Moore for his patient long term pursuit of the outcomes of this project.

### **2020 Eureka Democracy Award Dinner**

The 2019 Award Dinner was an enjoyable evening for the more than 100 attendees with the Awardee, Tim Costello AO showing us all the characteristics that have made him a major voice in Australian society for the less fortunate and in resisting gambling's incursion into our lives.

Our 2020 Award Dinner is Saturday November 28 at Richmond. The EA Committee has provided a EA Committee last recommended Awardee approach is now being availability of the



planned to be held on the Amora Hotel Nominations sub-recommendation to the Thursday and a has been agreed. An made to sound out the recommended Awardee.

Please keep the night free as it once again promises to be a wonderful evening. Ticket sales will commence with our Secretary Peter Gavin in May.

### **AGM**

The 2020 Annual General meeting of Eureka Australia will take place at 4.00 pm at the Celtic Club Administration Offices on Thursday April 23.

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 society in this country please consider attending the AGM or advise Peter Gavin of your interest.

### **Preparation of information panels about individual participants at Eureka and one or more of their living descendants**

Geraldine Moore and Mary Howlett have commenced a project to gather material about descendants of Eureka and their Eureka related ancestors as the basis for an initial display

for History week in October.

A series of free-standing information panels about individual participants at Eureka and one or more of their living descendants that can be displayed at a suitable venue during History month in October 2020 is proposed. The panels might possibly be used at other venues on other occasions. The purpose is to create an interesting display that draws attention to Eureka Australia and provides evidence that descendants of the participants are conscious of their link with their Eureka ancestor.

Geraldine and Mary will be writing to a number of Eureka descendants to obtain their information if they wish to take part. Please participate if approached and support this initiative.



### **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 thank Adele for that commitment.

Let us reaffirm that our change of name seeks to ensure that we are not seen as a closed door for prospective members who are not necessarily descendants but may have a strong interest in remembering the men and women of Eureka and celebrating Australian democracy and social justice history and current challenges.

We are looking to convey a more outward and forward looking message about who we are and what we seek to do.

It speaks to our challenge in better informing the Australian Community about Eureka, and to assist improving awareness of the values it represented then and continues to represent as relevant to our democracy today.

### **Membership**

We want to increase our membership in 2020. We want all of you to actively canvass potential new members. Descendants of Eureka are important but 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 prepare to 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 weekend of May 30 and 31 is Ballarat Heritage Weekend and Eureka Australia will again be participating with an information booth at the Town Hall for the weekend. We need volunteers for a day of the weekend and are probably looking for 6 to 8 members to assist.

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

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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 years is what really had the greatest impact on the development of democratic traditions in the State and nationally. This includes the various trials that were held in Melbourne of the main rebels and the monster meetings held near St Pauls Cathedral (both for and against), as well as the franchise developments 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 a “Eureka Democracy Walk”, which will take people through the city and show them places of significance in the Eureka story. 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. A paper map could also be developed, as we have been advised that they are very popular with tourists. 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.

We believe that this is a good basis for a walk that will inform the Melbourne community, tourists and schoolchildren of these important events in the development of Melbourne and the wider Australian community. We have already spoken to Councillors and Managers in 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](mailto:mpvanl@gmail.com) or 0403 584 171.

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### **Analysis of 2019 Democracy Index published by the Economist Intelligence Unit**

by Peter Gavin

The 12th edition of the Democracy Index published by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which began in 2006, was released in January 2020 and it records how global democracy fared in 2019. They rate democracy levels in 165 independent states and two territories. The research is based on criteria including civil liberties, the electoral process and pluralism, government functionality, political participation and political culture with the countries rated on a 0 to 10 scale.

According to their measure of democracy, almost one-half (48.4%) of the world's population live in a democracy of some sort, although only 5.7% reside in a "full democracy", down from 8.9% in 2015 as a result of the US being demoted from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy" in 2016. More than one-third of the world's population live under authoritarian rule, with a large share being in China which has been described as a 'controlocracy' by Norwegian political scientist Stein Ringen.

According to the 2019 Democracy Index, 76 of the 167 countries covered by the model, or 45.5% of all countries, can be considered to be democracies. The number of "full democracies" increased to 22 in 2019, up from 20 in 2018, as Chile, France and Portugal joined the top-ranked countries (those scoring more than 8.00), while Malta was relegated to the "flawed democracy" category. At the other end of the democracy spectrum, Iraq and Palestine moved from being classified as "hybrid regimes" to "authoritarian regimes". Algeria moved from being classified as an "authoritarian regime" to the "hybrid regime" category. El Salvador and Thailand moved out of the "hybrid regime" category into the "flawed democracy" category, while Senegal moved in the opposite direction, from being a "flawed democracy" to a "hybrid regime".

The number of "flawed democracies" fell by one to 54 in 2019. Of the remaining 91 countries in the index, 54 are "authoritarian regimes", up from 52 in 2018, and 37 are classified as "hybrid regimes", down from 39 in 2018.

This year's index found that the average global democracy score has fallen from 5.48 in 2018 to 5.44 in 2019, the worst average score since the research was first conducted in 2006. Northern Europe leads the way for democracy with *Norway* recording the highest score, 9.87. Iceland came second with 9.58 while Sweden was third with 9.39. The United States only managed a score of 7.96 which left it in 25th position. North Korea comes last, scoring 1.08 out of 10 while the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic complete the bottom three.

The most democratic nations in the world are:

1. [Norway](#) (9.87)
2. [Iceland](#) (9.58)
3. [Sweden](#) (9.39)
4. [New Zealand](#) (9.26)

5. [Denmark](#) (9.22)
6. [Ireland](#) (9.15)
7. [Canada](#) (9.15)
8. [Finland](#) (9.14)
9. [Australia](#) (9.09)
10. [Switzerland](#) (9.03)

If 2016 was notable for the populist insurgency against the status quo in the developed democracies, 2019 was defined in large part by a wave of popular protest in the developing world. Both expressed a demand for more popular sovereignty and better political representation and both hold out the potential for a regeneration of democracy.

The failures of “actually existing democracy” in the developing and developed world have inspired millions of people who aspire to have a better version of democracy, to become engaged, and to demand reforms. Following a popular backlash against “actually existing democracy” in the developed democracies in recent years, public dissatisfaction with the political status quo boiled over in many places in the developing world in 2019. A rising tide of popular protest shook regimes run by despots and democrats alike in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and in Sub-Saharan Africa. The willingness of populations to take to the streets to express their opposition to the established order, to protest against official measures, unjust laws and corruption and to demand changes and reforms resulted in improved scores for political participation in many countries and across the regions. But it is worth remembering that despotic leaders usually do not want to provide benefits to those they govern; they firstly want to support with arms or money those who can keep them in power. They will not accept policies that aim to end their rule. What’s more, organizing against a despot is dangerous and unusual. Revolutions are rare.

According to Larry Diamond, a renowned democracy scholar, “we have been going through a democracy recession”, and he points to a trend towards authoritarianism especially in the developing world.

What lies behind the global democratic regression? Surveys by the Pew Research Centre on global attitudes towards democracy have in recent years revealed a disjuncture between still-high levels of public support for democracy across the globe and deep popular disappointment with the functioning of democracy and systems of political representation.

Articles in the *Journal of Democracy* and also the *Democracy Digest* say the main causes appear to be:

An increasing emphasis on elite/expert governance rather than popular participatory democracy;

A growing influence of unelected, unaccountable institutions and expert bodies;

The removal of substantive issues of national importance from the political arena to be decided by politicians, experts or supranational bodies behind closed doors;

A widening gap between political elites and parties on the one hand and national electorates on the other;

Runaway inequality is eroding trust in democratic societies;

A decline in civil liberties, including media freedom and freedom of speech.

‘Computational propaganda and its elements’, a term popularised by Samuel Woolley describing everything from false news to political trolling.

Or as Cambridge University researchers Roberto Foa and Andrew James Klassen say there are four factors that stand out in explaining why some democracies have – or have not – experienced an eroding democratic satisfaction. These can be summarised by [four “Ps”: polarisation, paralysis, perfidy \(or scandal\), and powerlessness.](#)

These regressive trends in the mature democracies developed from the 1990s onwards, accelerated in the 2000s and reached their apogee in the decade that closed in 2019.

Asia is the region with the biggest divergence in scores: it includes top-scoring New Zealand (9.26), which retained its 4th position in the global ranking while persistent laggard North Korea (1.08) is at the bottom of the global ranking in 167th place.

Australia and New Zealand are the region’s only two “full democracies”. However, South Korea and Japan are very close to attaining “full democracy” status, but for now they remain “flawed democracies”.

The region has 12 other “flawed democracies” after Thailand returned to the fold following the general election in 2019. The region has five “hybrid regimes” and seven “authoritarian regimes”. For Asian democracies 2019 was a tumultuous year. The biggest score change occurred in Thailand with a 1.69-point improvement from 2018, to 6.32, resulting in a rise of 38 places in the global rankings and the country’s transition from a “hybrid regime” to a “flawed democracy”. The improvement came about because Thailand finally held an election in March 2019, the first since the military coup d’état in May 2014. Voters had a wide array of parties and candidates from which to choose, and this helped to restore some public confidence in the electoral process and the political system. There were reports of minor infringements and limited coercion, but not enough to sully the process entirely. The election led to improvements in the scores across all five categories of the Democracy Index, but the sharpest increase was recorded for electoral process and pluralism.

The biggest fall for any country was India. It was rated 51<sup>st</sup> among 167 countries marking a fall of 10 places from 2018. India — "the world’s biggest democracy" currently being ruled by a "Hindu-nationalist government" — among the world's “flawed democracies” and said it gave the country a rating of 6.90 out of 10 due to a "democratic regression [in] erosion of civil liberties”.

Clearly, we need our government and Non-Government Organisation (NGOs) operating overseas to have a policy of working for democratic goals supporting human rights, civic education, independent media, free and fair elections, the rule of law, freer markets, free trade unions, and fighting corruption.

## Talking History @ Eureka Centre



The Ballarat Eureka Centre's 2020 Talking History @ Eureka series occurs on the first Tuesday of every month through to November. This event of 1 hour starting at 5.30 pm, creates a forum for sharing significant research into the history of Ballarat, with a special focus on Ballarat, Eureka and colonial history

**In May on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup>** our Phillip Moore, former President of our organisation, will speak on "The Irish at Eureka". The following is an introduction to that talk:

*The Irish at Eureka is a story of a people who were facing unbearable troubles at home because of a tyrannical British Government of some 700 years and as well as suffering the recent catastrophe of the great Irish famine. These people were desperately seeking a better way of life and a chance to determine their rights and liberties with a better form government; and one that embraced the principles of democracy. Australia's Victorian goldfields in the 1850's offered that opportunity to many.*

*Consequently the Irish with others were prepared to take their stand for these principles during the events at Eureka; their involvement was substantial, they were among the champions of reform and action and today their legacy is seen in recorded history and in the interpretation of artefacts, structures and exhibitions presented at the Eureka Centre and its surrounding Memorial Park.*

## 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 St, 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.