



# LIBERTY!

**WELCOME TO LIBERTY!**  
**Liberty! #74 October 2020**

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

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

I wish all members well and hope that you are able to endure the tests of our resilience as individuals and as a community due to the Covid 19 pandemic and lockdown for a little while longer. It is a difficult time for many.

Your Committee has been very active as you will observe from the numerous activities underway at present and summarised below. Much good work has been carried out by many

Committee members during the lockdown and this will become more evident to members in coming months. Thanks to all Committee members for their support and commitment.

I have also put together some material about democracy internationally and the challenges it faces. As the US elections in November draw near it is a relevant time for reflection as unprecedented challenges to the US democratic system emerge. The material is headed ***The State of Democracy*** and while it represents my views, it does for most of the content, (but not all) draw on reputable third party material and our own published material on our website. If there are any comments you have on any of these matters or suggestions for other matters please email our secretary on the address at the top of the page.

### **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 was 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 next year.

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

The 2020 Dinner has unfortunately, due to Covid 19, had to be cancelled for this year and the Committee has taken the decision to hold the event on November 27, 2021, again at the Amora Hotel. We do hope that a capacity crowd can attend the evening which promises to be a memorable night. Our Awardee and our Guest Speaker have both accepted for next November's event. More information will be provided in mid 2021 about the evening.

**Please reserve Saturday November 27, 2021 in your calendar, encourage friends to attend and let us work to have our largest attendance ever.**



### **Website update**

Our Website has been upgraded recently to now include the video of Tim Costello's Eureka Democracy Award last November (See Democracy Award tab) and Geraldine Moore's presentation about George Higinbotham plus other supporting addresses (introductions by our MC Peter Lalor Philp; remarks by myself and comments from Michael Van Leeuwen, our Vice President and from Adele Howard, Committee member, are all now posted on our website under the separate Events tab for the 2020 Democracy Award Dinner).

Thank you to Adele Howard and also to David Prestige for updating our site throughout the year. David is supporting our web hosting and updating activities on a voluntary basis and we much appreciate this indispensable support.

## **Membership**

We are working to increase our membership in 2020. Thank you to Leigh Callinan, our Treasurer for his work on assisting the chasing up of members who had fallen silent and not renewed. We received a very positive and supportive response from those individuals when contacted.

We want all of you to actively canvass potential new members. While Covid 19 has made the task more challenging, 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.

**Please note that annual dues for all members for 2021 will fall due in January 2021.** 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.**

## **Promotional brochures for Eureka Australia**

Recent new Committee Members, Graeme McGregor (Lismore NSW) and Nicola Cousen (Geelong) are developing a draft promotional brochure to assist members by outlining what Eureka Australia is about, what we can offer new members and why being part of this organisation is a worthwhile commitment. It is hoped it can be ready by year end.

We are also exploring opportunities for an approach to larger corporate entities through the platform of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is early days yet but discussions are underway and a small sub-committee of myself, Michael van Leeuwen and John Capp will be pursuing this opportunity, in concert with Liz Waller, one of our members, who has identified this possible avenue to corporate interest in our activities.

## **Eureka Melbourne Democracy Walking App**

Our Vice- president Michael and a small team of committed members including Geraldine Moore have been working to research information, locations and photographs and write the App segments plus sourcing suitable, background music for our Eureka Melbourne Democracy Walking App.

Michael has provided an update below. We hope to have a test version operating in a few weeks with full rollout in the first quarter of 2021. A publicity brochure is being written to promote the App and discussions are taking place with Melbourne City Council about promotion of the App.

## **Electoral Commission naming of new Federal Electorate for Victoria**

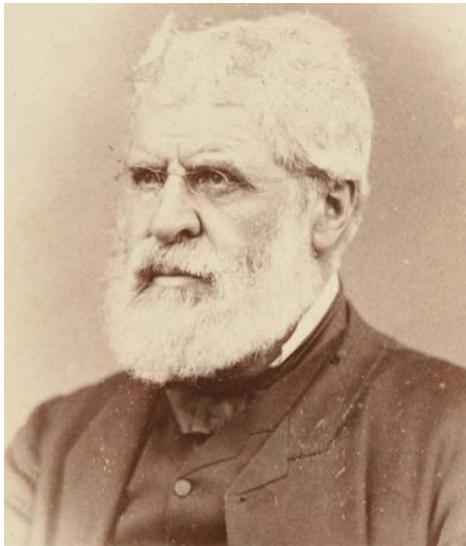
Thanks to Committee member Geraldine Moore for identifying that the Commonwealth Electoral Commission is to redistribute electoral boundaries for Federal House of Representative seats in Victoria in coming months and they have called for public submissions on any related matters.

Eureka Australia is requesting in our submission that the new electorate be named **Chapman** after Henry Chapman, an unsung major figure in the successful struggle for parliamentary representative democracy in Victoria from 1854 to 1856 and beyond. We await the response of the Electoral Commission.

The following material has been compiled by Eureka Australia in recent months as one of 17 App segments forming part of our Eureka Melbourne Democracy Walking App to be launched later this year.

Political reformers in Britain and on the Victorian goldfields had long advocated the introduction of a secret ballot. In 1856 the English-born barrister, Henry Chapman (1803–1881), made this aspiration a reality in Victoria.

Chapman was an ever present and highly influential figure in the reform of democratic processes in Victoria from his arrival in 1854 (from previous posts in New Zealand and Tasmania via the UK) and from October 1854 he began to practise successfully at the Victorian Bar. He came to public prominence in early 1855 when he and his colleague, Butler Cole Aspinall, mounted a clever defence of the Afro-American prisoner, John Joseph, following the battle at Eureka. Joseph's acquittal on the charge of high treason undermined the prosecution's case against the other prisoners, and none were convicted. Chapman was elected to the Victorian Legislative Council in February 1855 and in November 1855, when Governor Hotham claimed unconstitutional powers for himself and his successors, Chapman denounced Hotham's claim in the Legislative Council and condemned those ministers who had acquiesced in it. Sensing the strength of the opposition and succumbing to an illness that would ultimately prove fatal, Hotham did not press his claim.



In early 1856, Chapman convinced opposition members that the secret ballot was 'the key to political progress'. His parliamentary colleague, William Nicholson, introduced the principle into an Electoral Reform Bill in the Legislative Council for the crucial first Legislative Assembly elections to be held later in 1856. The Attorney-General, William Stawell, denounced the secret ballot as 'furtive' and 'anti-British'. The Chief Secretary, William Haines, threatened that if the bill should pass, his Government would resign. The bill passed and the Government resigned, though before long, it was re-instated. Haines's law officers then refused to draft the clauses regarding the secret ballot into the Electoral Reform Bill, but Chapman undertook the task.

Working without a model, he designed a practical secret

### **Henry Chapman**

ballot system - the first in the world. He invented the now familiar accoutrements of modern elections such as the printed voting paper prepared by government, the record of who had voted, the private stall for marking the ballot paper and the sealed box to hold the completed votes. The legislation passed on 13 March 1856 and received royal assent on 19 March.

The introduction of the secret ballot reflected the vision of the goldfields reformers and the joint efforts of reformers in the Parliament and the press. Above all, its achievement owes

much to the dedication and inventiveness of Henry Chapman. The secret ballot became known around the world as the ‘Victorian’ or ‘Australian’ ballot.

The secret ballot was exported to New Zealand (1870), the United Kingdom (1872), Canada (1874) and Belgium (1877). From 1888 onwards, many jurisdictions of the United States enacted ‘Australian ballot’ legislation.

In February 1862 Chapman was appointed an acting-judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria while Redmond Barry took a year’s leave of absence. In March 1864, Chapman was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at Dunedin and was involved there with the University of Otago and the Otago Institute. Chapman retired in 1875 and died in Dunedin.

### **Eureka in Melbourne Walking App Update – Support from the Victorian Government** **by Michael van Leeuwen**

Eureka Australia is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$3,980.00 funding under the Local History Grants Program 2019-2020 for its Walking App. In making the recommendation for funding, the assessment panel unanimously supported full funding for this worthy project to develop a Walking App that will promote the importance of Eureka related events in Melbourne. We thank the Public Records Office of Victoria, which administers this Grants Program. The PRO plays a vital role in ensuring that Victorian stories are shared, preserved and recorded for current and future generations.

The Eureka Australia Committee has been working hard on finalizing research and accompanying photographs for the Walking App for use in the Melbourne CBD that will allow users to witness the various sites for relevance to the development of democracy in Victoria and Australia of events after Eureka. We now have more than twelve stops on the Walking Tour. It will start at the Old Melbourne Gaol, go to the State Library and then on to St Paul’s Cathedral. It goes past the site of the old Legislative Council at St Patrick’s Hall; up to Parliament House and finally concluding at Peter Lalor ‘s (leader of the Rebellion) House in East Melbourne. While many of the sites have been altered, photos, text and a voice over will allow users to envisage what it was like as the events unfolded. Some new sites are being included, such as the Eureka Tower in Southbank, the tallest residential building in the Southern Hemisphere.

There has been a great deal of original research done for the App by all Members of the Committee. Geraldine Moore has continued to do much work in identifying the various sites while new comers such as Nicole Cousens have also edited text and provided suggestions.

The software development for the Walking App is being undertaken by Oncell in New Zealand, which has great expertise in this area. There will be an online map which shows where to go next. We hope to have a first version of the app completed by early November. 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 on how best to promote it. They are interested in and supportive of the project. It will complement other Walking Apps on historical themes that they have developed.

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.

### **THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY, by Eric Howard**

I wish to provide some commentary about democracy and its condition internationally and its relevance in my view to our organisation's purpose and objectives.

What does democracy mean to Eureka Australia?

On our website among our key objectives we list the following:

- To become more significantly involved in the political narrative of democracy at home and abroad, to be ever vigilant, to speak out against threats to democracy, to promote democratic change, and to promote political awareness within the education system and cultural spheres.
- To utilise advocacy to encourage citizens to exercise their fundamental rights and to defend fairness, human dignity, equity and community interests.
- To develop, lead and support selected projects which strengthen awareness of the Eureka events and their significance to Victoria and Australia's development from 1854 towards fully representative and responsive government for all, and the relevance of the associated values and principles to our internationally significant democratic society today.

### **Our website also summarises what we believe is meant by Australian Democracy, drawn from my invited Tobin Oration at the Eureka Centre in 2015 as President of Eureka Australia (then Eureka's Children).**

- Our democracy as a means of operating our society or running our government of ourselves is not set in stone. It has developed, it has changed, it has been modified as successive generations have made the protection of our rights and liberties a priority. This is not the case in too many societies around the world, however. The events which took place here in Victoria and Ballarat at Eureka, in 1854 had a powerful influence upon Australian society. Eureka played such a large part in embedding the "Fair Go"- that expectation that injustice will be swiftly redressed - in the Australian psyche.
- It was also a series of events with some global linkage and context. Its participants had come to Victoria from around the globe seeking opportunity and Eureka's searing messages about 'rights to democratic representation' were a call to all societies about dignity, justice and self-determination.
- For Daniel Yankelovich, renowned social researcher and Co-Founder of Public Agenda in the USA:  
*"The defining characteristic of democracy-as-a-way-of-life is that the public participates responsibly and thoughtfully in shaping important communal decisions, such as what to do about health care, criminal justice, immigration, climate change and economic inequality."*

- John Dunn, emeritus Professor of Political Theory at King's College, Cambridge, argues ..”[it] is not that we govern ourselves....It is that our State and government which does so much to organise our lives draws its legitimacy from us and that we have a reasonable chance of being able to compel each of them to continue to do so. They draw it from holding regular elections, in which every adult citizen can vote freely and without fear’ in which their votes have at least a reasonably equal weight and in which any uncriminalised political opinion can compete freely for them”.
- Dunn also reminds us that not understanding our current political structures is a good recipe for not being able to change them for the better.
- Australia is one of the world’s longest continuously operating and most stable democracies. The Australian way of life, the context for our democratic society, has been built around an open, free and essentially tolerant society which has worked towards functioning with reduced rancour.
- Democracy (in Australia and for any country) relies upon much more than elections, effective electoral administration, elected members, parliaments, parliamentary debates and respect for the separation of powers (between the parliament, the executive government/ cabinet and the judiciary).
- A mature democratic society requires other preconditions – such as community respect for: the rule of law and property rights and intolerance of corruption; basic liberties including freedom of expression and opinion; freedom of religion; freedom of assembly; and for human rights additional to those implicit in the above. It also demands openness and transparency in the way that government interacts with the community, business, individuals and other organisations in their decision-making processes.
- It relies not only on effective consumer protection, fair labour conditions, environmental protection mechanisms and institutional arrangements to reduce anti-competitive behaviours, but also upon conventions about accepted behaviours and social norms – the ways in which governments lead the public debate, how society operates and interacts with each other as individuals and as organisations; the encouragement of a diversity of cultures; plus transparent, citizen focused and high standard public administration; effective regulation to keep unfettered self-interest from imposing harm or garnering unfair benefits which disadvantage others, and by standing firm against those who might seek to impose their will through violence and intimidation.

**The state of democracy around the world today in this lead up to a bitterly contested US election in November 2020 is parlous.**

*Peter Hartcher of the Age, asserted in an article written a few days ago that: “Under cover of COVID there's been troubling news about tyranny's rise”*

One of the things that slipped by unnoticed this year was some troubling news about the state of democracy. While the world was busy with the pandemic, a Swedish research group published its annual study of the health of democracy worldwide.

We already knew that the post-Cold War flourishing of democracy had ground to a halt around the time of the global financial crisis. The world has since been in a "democratic recession" as the number of democracies shrank.

A decade ago, there were 98 democratic states in the world, according to Democracy Without Borders. By this year that had fallen to 87. Autocracy claimed eight nations last year alone.

"For the first time since 2001, a majority of all states worldwide are no longer under democratic rule," says its annual *Varieties of Democracy* report, published in March by researchers based at the University of Gothenburg. It draws on a survey of 3000 experts worldwide to produce 3 million data points.

Fifty-four per cent of the human race now lives under autocratic rule. "And with Hungary, there is for the first time an EU member state classified as autocratic," it finds.



Under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Hungary has become the first EU state to join the ranks of authoritarian regimes.

Freedom is in retreat. Tyranny is on the rise. The researchers find that every region of the planet is affected by what they call "the third wave of autocracy". The first was the rise of fascism leading to World War II. The second was the consolidation of the Soviet empire in the 1960s and 70s.

Strikingly, this year's report finds that "powerful G20 countries with a significant economy, such as the USA, India or Brazil, have slipped down the democracy index". They're not suggesting that these three are actually autocratic, but that they are on a downward slide.

A similar kind of study, the annual *Freedom in the World* report by the US group Freedom House, found the same outcome, measured differently. Its dashboard, also unveiled in March, found that last year was the 14th consecutive year of decline in global freedom. The case of the US commands global attention. As it should. The country that saw itself as the Atlas of democracy, the giant bearing the weight of the world's freedom on its shoulders, is in a profoundly destabilising condition. Long a leader in the cause of progress, the US is now leading the regression of the democratic world.

Donald Trump last week again refused to commit to recognising the result of the US election due in a month. Worse, he has implied that violence could be an acceptable way of deciding a contested outcome.

Many Americans are preparing themselves accordingly. The number of requests for FBI background checks on new gun purchases was a record 12.1 million, up by 71 per cent, in the first seven months of this year. The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade

association for the gun industry, estimated that 40 per cent are people buying a gun for the first time. That would be nearly 5 million new gun owners.

In his study of the history of violence, Harvard's Steven Pinker found that the creation of the nation state "that uses a monopoly on force to protect its citizens from one another" was the single greatest force in reducing violence in human history. The US has never truly enforced such a monopoly because of its historical gun fetish; it is now embracing the exact opposite, a free-for-all of democratised violence while the fringe political left campaigns to "defund the police".

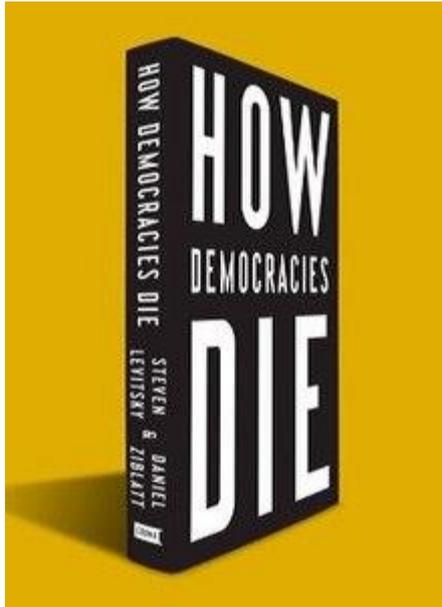
At the same time, the country doing more to crush human freedom than any other major nation, China, is extending some of its worst practices. Kevin Rudd has labelled Xi Jinping's regime "the enemy of liberal democracy". This year it extinguished the civil liberties it had promised Hong Kong. Beijing said it would honour the One Country, Two Systems principle for at least 50 years. It cancelled after 23.

Even more disturbing, Xi claimed that the National Security Law he imposed on Hong Kong is applicable worldwide. In other words, claiming extraterritorial jurisdiction over all the Earth and all its peoples. And last week we learnt that Beijing's vast system for the repression of its Muslim population in Xinjiang province, which started in 2017, has expanded, while it had also started applying the same system of mass detention to its Buddhist citizens in Tibet.

The topmost countries in the *Varieties of Democracy* report are Denmark, Estonia and Sweden. Australia ranks the 14th freest nation, the US No. 36 and China 174th out of 179. The only countries ranked lower are among the world's hell holes of suffering and repression – Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea and North Korea.

**Australia turns out to be a beacon of liberty in a darkening world.** But the metatrend towards illiberalism means that even the freest countries need to work on renewing their democracies. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are tell-tales of trends, "the first signs of a process of autocratisation", say the researchers. On that score alone, Australia has work to do. Federal power over the press needs to be checked. Beijing-funded efforts to stifle free speech on university campuses need to be quashed. "Social" media needs to be made to respect free speech, not undermine it. We already know the price of liberty. Eternal vigilance.

**Peter Hartcher, SMH, Age: October 2020**



**The *Lexington* column in the UK Economist magazine, on September 30, 2020 under the heading *Flashing Red*, wrote of the warning messages that two Harvard Professors of Government had provided in their Book, “How Democracies Die”, published in 2017.**

**“Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt described a slippery slope that starts with a trampling of democratic norms—thereby ending the degree of mutual trust between rivals that democracy requires—and proceeds through damage to institutions, especially those related to elections, to lawlessness and extremism. It is always possible to underestimate the shock absorbers in America’s vigorous, multi-tiered system. Yet at the federal level, it must be admitted, many of the warning lights they described are already flashing.”**

The book warns against this breakdown of "mutual toleration" and assert the importance of respecting the opinions of those who come to legitimately different political opinions, in contrast to attacking the patriotism of any who disagree, or warning that if they come to power they will destroy the country.

The authors warn against ramming through a political agenda or accumulating power by taking a very hard line and recommend "forbearance" and some degree of cooperation to keep government functioning in a balanced fashion. Other threats to democratic stability cited by the authors include economic inequality and segregation of the political parties by race, religion, and geography.

The book asserts that the United States has, until 2016, resisted the attempts to undermine democracy thanks to two norms: mutual toleration and forbearance, the latter defined as the intentional restraint of one's power in order to respect the spirit of the law if not its letters.

Some of their recommendations to save democracy include the need to learn from other countries and recognise the warning signs. As Australians we need to be aware of the fateful missteps that have wrecked other democracies and “We must not only restore democratic norms but extend them through the whole of increasingly diverse societies. This is a daunting challenge, this is the challenge we face, previous generations made extraordinary sacrifice, we must prevent it from dying from within.”

They talk of the importance of political parties building a more diverse electoral constituency and finding ways to win elections without appealing to white nationalism, the sugar high of populism, nativism, and demagoguery. They also point out that political parties should consider more comprehensive labor market policies to address the issue of inequality.

The book is recommended to all with an interest in better understanding what constitutes a democratic society and the pressures faced by those societies, including our own.

### **What can we learn about our democracy from the current turmoil internationally?**

Here are some thoughts about our society, with a comparison of our voting system with that of the US being an informative subtheme.

- Firstly, the importance of governments governing for all and not just for their party's supporters, being inclusive and tolerant and not extremely hard line.
- Second, the powerful anti-polarising stabiliser of Australia's compulsory voting in elections, reducing the need to use extreme rhetoric, including the heavy politicisation of media, to get out the vote by the right and left.
- Third, the benefits of an electoral commission system which removes electoral boundary decisions from the hands of elected members who otherwise sit down with each other to determine electoral boundaries which make their electorates more to the left or right to suit their party, a way of embedding difference for the long term
- Fourth, a need for one vote/ one value in determining electoral boundaries to minimise a gerrymander of electorates, and providing for electoral outcomes from seats won that are more likely to reflect overall voting numbers in aggregate
- Fifth, a system of voting which gives a higher proportion of voters a say in determining the winner in any electorate - such as the preferential voting system (compared to a first past the post system) and a proportional representation system for electing plural numbers of members for a whole of electorate, such as on a statewide basis (e.g., as for our Senate)
- Sixth, independent (of government) conciliation arrangements for industrial conditions between business and labour such as the Fair Work Commission to support improved social equity
- Seventh, a Westminster parliamentary system of government which enables the governing party to replace its leader with a simple party room vote if there is widespread concern about the party direction, compared to waiting four or more years to obtain a vote by the public to change that person as in most presidential systems. It also protects a country from strong presidential systems where one person can exercise remarkable power, including taking measures not favoured by a substantial proportion of the electorate.
- Eighth, a 'two arms' of government system which makes legislative change much less difficult than a 'three arms' of government system
- Ninth, respect for the conventions of government such as conceding when election results are not in your favour to enable the winning party to claim victory with less rancour.
- Tenth, the critical role of major political parties in any country to work together to avoid alliances with small extremist right or left views to maintain power, to avoid giving these elements a credibility and a foothold which history has shown can lead to them taking over government.
- Eleventh, avoiding too great a concentration of print and electronic media which enable one or two voices to dominate political coverage and drown out diverse views.

Other conditions supportive of a vibrant democratic society are the maintenance of a tolerant society where personal endeavour and the 'fair go for all' are prized and encouragement of a healthy cynicism about political messaging.

These issues are of considerable relevance to our democracy today and to its condition internationally. The fragilities of democracy internationally today deserve to be better understood in our society and more discussion would be beneficial. Eureka Australia can play a role in raising awareness of the risks and in facilitating speakers to provide information in written form in Liberty or on our web, or in presentations, about the underlying threats to democracy and the need for vigilance by all Australians.

**Eric Howard    October 2020**

### **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 is one that Maurice Hanrahan has submitted. We hope to hear from more descendants.

# MICHAEL HANRAHAN : CAPTAIN OF THE PIKE DIVISION

By Maurice Hanrahan

This is the third contribution from members regarding an ancestor who participated at Eureka



Michael  
and Mary  
Hanrahan

Michael Hanrahan (1828-1912) was born at Scalpnagown, Crusheen Parish, Co. Clare, Ireland. His parents were Thomas Hanrahan and Bridget Heath. Little is known of how he survived the famine or how or where he spent the three or four years after the famine.

## ARRIVAL IN VICTORIA

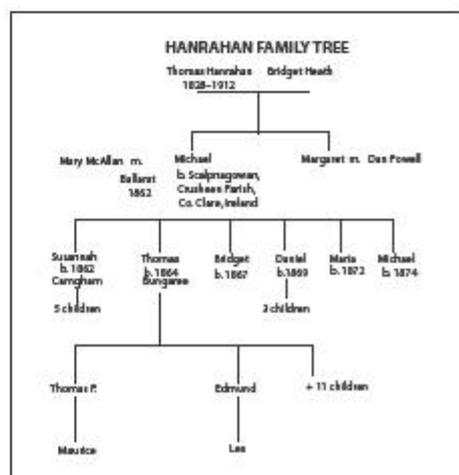
Michael Hanrahan was a passenger on the "Miles Barton" ship that sailed from Liverpool on 27 April 1853 bound for Melbourne. He and his sister, Margaret and brother-in-law, Dan Powell arrived in Melbourne in July 1853. Michael arrived in Ballarat on 1 January 1854. His brother Thomas arrived a few years later.

## CAPTAIN OF THE PIKE DIVISION

There is no record of Michael Hanrahan having been involved in an armed struggle against the landlords and ruling class in Ireland, however within ten months of his arrival in Ballarat he was chosen as the captain of the pike division at Eureka on 1 December 1854. It is not recorded if he was chosen because of previous resistance fighter involvement or because of his leadership qualities. Michael Hanrahan must have had some success as a miner during 1854 because he sent home five hundred pounds to his family in Ireland.

## THE BATTLE AT THE EUREKA STOCKADE

A first-hand report of Michael Hanrahan's involvement at Eureka is contained in the book *The Eureka Stockade* written by Raffaello Carboni, who was one of the Eureka participants, and one of those who was subsequently charged with high treason, tried and acquitted.



## CARBONI'S RECOLLECTIONS

Following the licence hunt of Thursday morning 30 November 1854 Peter Lalor, Commander-in-chief, called a meeting towards sunset in a room at Diamond's store. Carboni refers to the meeting as 'the Council for the Defence', and recounts that twelve persons were present, including the Captains of the division and chief persons who had taken part in the movement.

### THE LEAD-UP TO THE BATTLE AT EUREKA

"Curtain was captain, and subsequently lieutenant of the pike division, when they choose HANRAHAN for their captain. Said pikemen division were one of the first to take up arms on Thursday, November 30th immediately after the licence hunt. It was formed on Bakery Hill, and received Lalor on the stump with acclamation. It increased hourly and permanently: was the strongest division in the Eureka stockade: in comparison to others, it stood the most true to the "Southern Cross" and consequently suffered the greatest loss on the morning of the massacre.

Carboni records that a person who was known as "Old Waterloo" because he had been at the Battle of Waterloo, witnessed the miners drilling on Saturday 2nd December. This witness reported that he "Saw one squad with pikes and another with rifles. He heard one of them say, "Shoulder poles", then he said, "Order poles", "Ground arms", "Stand at ease", "Pick up poles", "Shoulder arms", "Right face", "Quick march", "Right counter march," and they were then marched for more than two hours. After that he saw them "fall in three deep" and were then told (by Captain Hanrahan) to prepare to "receive cavalry" and "charge cavalry"—"Poke your pike into the guts of the horse, and draw it out from under their tail."

### THE STORMING OF THE EUREKA STOCKADE

Sunday morning, 3rd December 1854.

Peter Lalor was now on the top of the first logged-up hole within the stockade and by his gestures pointed to the men to retire among the holes. He was shot down in his left shoulder at this identical moment: it was a chance shot, I recollect it well. A full discharge of musketry from the military, now mowed down all those who had their heads above the barricades. Ross was shot in the groin. Another shot struck Thonen exactly in the mouth, and felled him on the spot. Those who suffered the most were the scores of pikemen, who stood their ground from the time the whole division had been posted at the top, facing the Melbourne road from Ballarat, in double file under the slabs, to stick the cavalry with their pikes.



*Maurice Hanrahan, great-grandson of Michael Hanrahan at the unveiling of the statue of the Pikeman's Dog, Eureka Centre, 3 December 2014*

## LIFE AFTER EUREKA

Michael Hanrahan mined for gold for 10 years, spending some time at Carngham 30km west of Ballarat. While mining at Carngham he was married to Mary McAllan at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East on 14 January 1862. Their first daughter Susannah was born on 14 November 1862 while they were still at Carngham.

One of the several outcomes of the Eureka battle and its aftermath was that the Government began to survey the land and passed various closer settlement Acts and amendments enabling Crown Land to be sold for farming. Surveying Crown Land into farming size blocks in the rich volcanic land east of Ballarat was mostly completed in 1856, and the first land sales commenced in March 1857.

Michael Hanrahan gave up mining in 1863/64 and moved to the Bungaree district and began farming on 40 acres of allotment 10, Section 4, Parish of Warrenheip, at Bungaree which had been purchased by his wife Mary's brother Dan McAllan. The farm was located 10km east of Eureka. A number of other participants and witnesses of the Eureka battle also settled in the Bungaree district. A son, Thomas, was born to Michael and Mary Hanrahan on 15 September 1864 within a year of their arrival in Bungaree. Michael and Mary Hanrahan had two more sons; Daniel and Michael. Michael Hanrahan set up all his three sons in farming in Bungaree. He died Tuesday 2 January 1912.



## MICHAEL'S DESCENDANTS

On Michael Jnr's retirement from farming, the original Hanrahan farm was taken over by Thomas P Hanrahan (son of Thomas), and later farmed by his brother Edmond. Both were second generation Australian born. Maurice Hanrahan, the son of Thomas P Hanrahan is a third generation Australian, and a committee member of Eureka Australia. The 80 acres of land first settled by Daniel McAllan and Michael Hanrahan in 1863 still forms part of the Bungaree farm currently owned by Les Hanrahan, a great grandson of Michael Hanrahan. Les is a son of Edmond Hanrahan. There are seven Hanrahan families still involved in farming in the district.

## MEMORIES PASSED DOWN

Michael Hanrahan rarely spoke to his family about the Eureka battle. His eldest son Thomas considered his reluctance to speak about the Eureka Affair was due to his shame and disappointment that the miners were so comprehensively defeated in such a short time in spite of the massive build-up of support in the days leading up to the battle.

On the evening of Saturday 2nd December 1854, the Catholic priest at Eureka, Father P Smyth, warned the Catholics within the stockade of the strength of the Government forces and the impending bloodshed. He said that the miners' issues should be resolved by peaceful negotiations. This resulted in many leaving the stockade. Michael Hanrahan's family believe that Father Smyth's warning seemed to weigh heavily on him. There are reports that on Saturday night Michael Hanrahan led some diggers out to intercept and delay the troops from the Melbourne direction however the soldiers and police who attacked the stockade all came from the Ballarat Camp. Michael did not attend the 50 year reunion of the Eureka stockade battle in December 1904. His family did not record the reason for his non-attendance.

## REUNIONS

Descendants of Michael Hanrahan have visited the ancestral home of Michael Hanrahan's parents in Scalpnagown, County Clare, Ireland. Maurice Hanrahan a Committee member of Eureka Australia last visited Scalpnagown in 2019. He wrote: "On my first visit to Co Clare in mid 1970's I was taken up to the common which is a low stony mountain.



ridge above Scalpnagown, not suitable for agriculture. I was shown where the destitute, homeless people lived, squeezed in among the large boulders with sticks, branches and sods for a roof. I thought of my great-grandfather Michael who lived only a short walk away, who would have been around 18 years old when the first potato crop failed, and 24 years old when he left the country. The poverty and evictions and starvations must have had a profound effect on him".

Commencing in 1971, the descendants of Michael Hanrahan have been holding a family reunion each five years with a focus on the Eureka events of 1854 and the outcomes. Three generations are usually represented at these reunions. In the 1970's this included the second generation of Australian born grandchildren of Michael Hanrahan. As the older generations all pass on, their place is taken by the latest generation. Great, great, great, grandchildren attended the reunion held in 2019.

## REFLECTIONS

The many descendants of Michael Hanrahan are proud that he played a role at Eureka. They believe that this event gained important concessions for the miners and led to reform of the goldfields. Gaining the right to vote and stand for Parliament without the requirement for property ownership saw the birth of democracy in Australia and hastened land settlement.



Grandchildren of Michael and Mary Hanrahan in 1971



Hanrahan reunion 1981

# Eureka Australia Merchandise

**Mugs with captions 'Eureka Australia Descendants and Supporters' & 'Eureka Democracy'.**

\$20 each including postage



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PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBS WHICH ARE NOW OVERDUE. (Note also that subs  
for 2021 will fall due in January 2021)**

**EUREKA AUSTRALIA  
DESCENDANTS AND SUPPORTERS INC.  
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*Please print all details and  where appropriate.***

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<b>Other Names:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			<b>Postcode:</b>
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*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***
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