



LIBERTY!

WELCOME TO LIBERTY!

#79 April 2022

**Newsletter of *Eureka Australia –
Descendants and Supporters Inc.***

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Introduction:

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia's Vladimir Putin is one of the most egregious examples of total disregard for world peace and the rights of the Ukrainian peoples, reminding us all of the fragility of liberal democratic societies in the face of despotism.

The monstrosity of Putin's attack on human dignity, freedom and democracy offends all the Eureka values and the principles behind the Eureka protest and resistance.

Putin is probably unhinged and so many Ukrainians will probably die. Indeed President Joe Biden has described Putin's war as genocide as he strives to eradicate the notion of a Ukrainian nation and people.

The people of Ukraine have shown all of us in the west how democracy and freedom have to be fought for and how much they value these principles.

We should be embarrassed in the west at the weakness we have collectively displayed in selfish introspection, and our lack of understanding of the vigilance necessary to protect our way of life.

Our hope should be that the Ukrainian people's courage will drive substantial change in our world.

Zelensky is a leader of great quality. I fear for his safety but he should never be forgotten.

Let us all commit to being vigilant about our democracy, to understand what enable it to survive and thrive and to be more aware of what is necessary to protect our freedoms. Let us encourage family and friends to reflect on these issues.

And let us never forget the people of Ukraine and what they stood for – for all freedom loving people - in February to April (so far) 2022.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: Our AGM is to be held on May 11 and it is an opportunity to elect a fresh committee with some new membership. I would encourage all members to consider standing for the Committee and bringing their enthusiasm and skills to the table. We are an active group with many activities in progress and an important message to deliver to our Australian community.

Pathway of Remembrance launch at the Eureka Centre planned for late May this year.

We look forward to the intended (long delayed by Covid) launch of the Pathway of Remembrance, located in the park adjacent to the Eureka Centre, on a Friday afternoon in late May (Final details to be advised by the City of Ballarat). Eureka Australia initiated the project but we have had great support from the Ballarat City Council and Eureka Centre in its implementation. 33 Individual plaques with the name of a fallen person from the Stockade battle are to be placed along the existing pathway from the commemorative circle extending east, each at a planted tree. Relevant Embassies/ consulates have contributed to this project and we believe it is certainly time that the sacrifice of those who lost their lives and the international nature of the Eureka events should be fully recognised and embraced by the community in 2022.

Meeting with Michaela Settle, MLA, member for Buninyong, (soon to be the renamed and altered seat of Eureka)

Michael van Leeuwin and I met with Michaela Settle the member for the State division of Buninyong now renamed Eureka last month at Parliament House, Melbourne. We appreciated the meeting and outlined to Michaela our aims and objectives and our wish to strengthen our interaction with her as the local State member for the new electorate of Eureka which includes the site of Eureka.

Some of the matters we raised in our discussions were the following:

Our Democracy Award Dinner is an annual event, with our Awardee to be presented with the Eureka Democracy Award at a Dinner at to be held the Amora Hotel in Richmond on the evening of Saturday December 3 this year. We would very much appreciate your attendance as our guest and look forward to providing more information nearer the event.

We are embarking on the development and publication of a Eureka Ballarat Democracy (Driving) App which is likely to take up to 2 years to research and complete. The focus is to be on stories linked to specific locations demonstrating the significant political, administrative and social reforms resulting from Eureka that changed forever the way that our community functioned, in Ballarat and district and across Victoria. We believe these substantial post 1854 changes to outcomes and their direct linkages to the Eureka events could be better known.

Any assistance and advice you could opportunities to apply for grant funding and the all important subsequent much appreciated. This activity follows Democracy App publication based on key relate to important individual actions or to substantial political, administrative Victoria.



provide in suggesting potential for the App development and publishing promotion of the App would be very closely on from our Melbourne locations in the Melbourne CBD which events drawing upon Eureka and leading and social change in Melbourne and

Thank you for the suggestion that we link relevant to our activities. We will follow up.

to the APSG group activities that are

We have approached the major political parties at national HQ level as well as Dr. Helen Haines seeking their position on introducing an effective ICAC body and the potential reform of the system for political donations and campaign expenditure at national level. We have drawn guidance from the Centre for Public Integrity and utilised their checklist and approach in the matter.

Two issues we raised with you and for which we would value your continued interest and guidance are a suggested Museum of Democracy to be established near the Parliamentary precinct in Melbourne – to convey the seminal story of Victoria's journey to representative democracy from 1854 to 1857 – and the opportunity to develop a 'promoting democracy kit' for use with corporates to brief staff on what democracy is and entails - as they address and report on the SDG's. This service would be on a cost recovery basis.

A deeper understanding of what democracy is, what that entails and what it should aspire to deliver in modern Australia is necessary in our view to counter limited levels of awareness and understanding in the community, and to respond to the recognition that the price of continuing democratic freedom is ongoing vigilance.

I have attached the Goldfields Commission of Enquiry report from 1855 and also the Minutes of Evidence presented to the Enquiry at various hearings across the goldfields especially Ballarat. It is exceptional reading and will be the major reference for our proposed Ballarat App. It can hopefully become more familiar to Australians in future.

Membership Drive.

We need to build our membership to improve our capacities to deliver improved outcomes, promote the Eureka and democracy message more widely and build our influence. I would ask all members to discuss this with family and friends whether in the Descendants or Supporters categories of membership and to actively seek to sign up new members. We are busy, doing good things, but to continue that trajectory we need to grow. Over to you all. The membership application form is on the final page.

A new Project – the Eureka Ballarat Democracy Driving App.

We are embarking on the development and publication of a Eureka Ballarat Democracy Driving App which is likely to take up to 2 years to research and complete. The focus is to be on stories linked to specific locations in Ballarat which demonstrate most vividly the significant political, administrative and social reforms resulting from Eureka that changed the way our community functioned in Ballarat and District and across Victoria then and since. We believe these substantial post 1854 changed outcomes (particularly taking place in the 1854 to 1847 period) and their linkages to the Eureka events could be much better known.

Any members who can suggest avenues for applications for potential grant funding for the App development and publishing and the all important subsequent promotion of the App are requested to contact Peter Gavin with information which we can follow up.

Further, any member with spare capacity to assist our research into press articles in the period 1854 to 1857 (in the Ballarat press and also the Melbourne press) is encouraged to register with us their interest in assisting this effort.. We have skilled members who can provide guidance as to what information is sought to make the task more specific.

The Report of the Goldfields Commission of Enquiry which initiated hearings in mid December 1854 and reported to the Legislative Council and Governor in late March 1855, is a remarkable window into the events at Ballarat (and on other goldfields) in the lead up to the Eureka stockade. The Commission comprising four Legislative Council Members, a Chairman and the Chief Commissioner of Goldfields, (an officer of the government) conducted numerous public hearings across the goldfields. The Report is some 70 pages in length and is supplemented by 180 pages of Minutes of Evidence detailing verbal submissions to the Commission and Commissioners' questions and responses to submissions. It is a valuable record of the events and the period. The Report recommended major political, administrative and social reforms for Victoria and most of these were adopted and swiftly introduced. The report recommendations are a comprehensive summary of the critical change outcomes for the Victorian community which were facilitated by Eureka.

This activity follows closely on from our Eureka Melbourne Democracy App publication based on key locations in the Melbourne CBD which relate to important individual actions or events drawing upon Eureka and leading to substantial political, administrative and social change in Melbourne and Victoria from 1854 to 1856. It is available on both Android Play or Apple Store platforms and can be searched by typing 'Eureka Australia' into your search function.

Eureka Democracy Award Dinner December 2022, Melbourne.

Our Democracy Award Dinner is an annual event, with our Awardee to be presented with the Eureka Democracy Award at a Dinner which is to be held at the Amora Hotel in Richmond on December 3 this year. We look forward to providing more information nearer the event, which is always a sellout and a wonderful occasion.



Extending Honorary membership to our Eureka Democracy Awardees

We recently wrote to our Democracy Awardees over the past 15 years, offering honorary membership. These individuals are a remarkable group of leading Australians and it makes considerable sense for the Committee to maintain and further strengthen contact with each of them. Their advice and guidance from time to time would be invaluable. The Award was first offered in 2007 and while some Awardees have passed away in the intervening years, there are many who remain active and contributing members of our society. We will shortly be writing to our guest speakers over the years offering them each honorary membership



Eureka AUSTRALIA
DESCENDANTS AND SUPPORTERS

As addressed

7/03/2022

Dear Democracy Awardee,

As a former awardee of our Eureka Democracy Award I am writing on behalf of Eureka Australia to offer you honorary membership of our organisation.

For the past 167 years, Eureka has been a significant touchstone for many Australians. Eureka Australia continues to commemorate the events surrounding the Eureka Stockade in Ballarat in 1854. However we are increasingly endeavouring to promote what Eureka stood for, the changes in Australian society it facilitated and the continuing relevance of its underlying values today.

Eureka Australia, Descendants and Supporters, remains a not for profit incorporated Association of descendants of those who were involved in the events at Eureka in Ballarat in late 1854 and the subsequent period of major political reform in Victoria, as the first Legislative Assembly was elected and established in late 1856, ushering in the first elements of 'responsible' government in Victoria.

Membership is also open to those individuals or corporate bodies who may not be descendants but who have a special interest in Eureka and its democratic ideals and who wish to support the work of Eureka Australia, Descendants and Supporters. The organisation is non-partisan.

Eureka Australia endeavours to educate Australians about Eureka's remarkable legacy for our democratic society today.

Our activities include:

- build awareness and recognition of the significance and the relevance of Eureka's messages today across Australia.
- publishing our *Liberty* newsletter and providing information on our website and Facebook page,
- participating in annual Eureka celebrations in Ballarat and Melbourne,
- conducting our annual Eureka commemorative dinner and awarding our Eureka Democracy Award to an individual (or organisation) who has contributed to the strengthening of democratic traditions in Australia (such as yourself)
- Developing and delivering relevant projects each year to enhance the understanding of Australians about Eureka's legacy, its significance and how Australians could embrace and strengthen it.
- Responding to public interest issues (such as recently successfully advocating for the naming of the altered new state electorate in the east of Ballarat as *Eureka*, responding to requests for comment about the regular and varied use of the Eureka Flag by many organisations for reasons they assert are relevant to Eureka and more)

We are committed to doing what we can to encourage the strengthening of our liberal democracy in Australia which flowed from the Eureka events. We support:

- freedom and liberty expressed through a genuinely democratic society with government outcomes which respond to the needs of the whole community

- insisting on a responsive public administration which demonstrates respect for the needs of a diverse multicultural community in their dealings with Authority and in the daily business and personal lives of Australians
- strengthening equality of opportunity for all Australians, respect for their human rights and encouraging support for each other in times of difficulty

We have a busy and ambitious program each year and strive to make as many people as possible familiar with our existence, our purposes and the potential relevance of the Eureka outcomes to their lives.

A substantial new project we have developed is our [Eureka Melbourne Democracy Walking App](#) which became operational some weeks ago and is to be formally launched in Melbourne (and Ballarat) in the first half of 2022. This has been a major initiative of Eureka Australia and is a walk

around specific locations in the Melbourne CBD, with relevant sites important to the post Eureka, pre - democratic government period from 1855 to 1856 in Victoria being highlighted. The impacts of the Eureka events on this post Eureka period, economically, politically and administratively deserve to be better understood and recognised as Eureka's substantial legacy. Details about the App which is now available on the Android or Apple phone app stores, are included in our recently published brochure. [A pdf copy of the brochure is attached.](#)

Our website, eurekaaustralia.org.au is being constantly updated and material from the phone based Walking App will be published on the site in a couple of months time.

Details and stories about Eureka participants and their descendants on our Committee are also being progressively added to the Site and there is also extensive material about our annual Eureka Democracy Award and Recipients since 2007.

We are planning to research, write and publish a [Ballarat Eureka Democracy App](#) with a focus on the period from November 1854 to January 1857. Over that time the old order of authoritarian government was replaced with a democratically elected model of government and public administration.

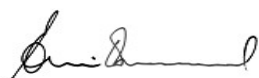
Telling that story based on events in Ballarat including the actual findings of the 1854/55 Goldfields Commission of Enquiry and their implementation, the research findings of history experts and the press coverage of the day is to be the objective of our work. We plan to work with Federation University and have held preliminary discussions with relevant representatives to seek their support and guidance. We wish to involve a broad range of Ballarat contributors for the App content including the City Council through the Eureka Centre. The Centre are supportive of the concept at this stage and we have volunteer expertise within our membership able to lead the programme. It is expected to take up to two years to complete.

We maintain a strong connection to the Eureka Centre in Ballarat and enjoy a good relationship with the Mayor Daniel Moloney and Council Officers.

I have also [attached a copy of our latest newsletter Liberty](#) for your information and [a copy of a letter we sent recently to the four major political parties at national level seeking their position on a potential Integrity Commission and on Political Donations reform at national level](#), reflecting the positions published by the independent *Centre for Public Integrity* (An independent think tank dedicated to preventing corruption, protecting the integrity of our accountability institutions, and eliminating undue influence of money in politics in Australia, see <https://publicintegrity.org.au/>).

Best wishes for the year ahead and I hope we can arrange to periodically brief you further on our activities.

We do hope you will accept our offer of honorary membership.



Eric Howard AM
President, Eureka Australia
0417 307 541

Update on some important current political integrity issues pursued by Eureka Australia which impact upon Australian democracy and electoral arrangements.

As noted earlier we have taken up the Centre for Public Integrity's positions seeking an ICAC and also the reform of political donations regulation. The Centre has recently published further information about these matters on their website and selected material from the Centre's website is reproduced below.

From The Centre for Public Integrity



Research Update - Money in Politics

Blueprint to rein in money in politics

Last financial year the source of over \$68.27 million in party income was hidden from public view. With an election looming and an estimated \$31m in Clive Palmer attack ads littering the internet/streets of Australia the need for donation reform has never been starker.

Our research paper, [*Blueprint to rein in money in politics*](#), indicates four priority reforms

- Lower the disclosure threshold
- Implement spending caps
- Implement donations caps
- Strengthen enforcement and compliance

Figure 1: Commonwealth has the weakest laws in the country

	QLD	NSW	VIC	ACT	SA	WA	Fed
Disclosure threshold	\$1000	\$1000	\$1040	\$1000	\$5,576	\$2500	\$14500
Disclosure during elections	7 days	21 days	21 days	7 days	7 days	No	No
Non-election disclosure	7 days	Half-yearly	Annual	Annual	Half-yearly	Annual	Annual
Donation caps - party	Yes - \$4000	Yes - \$6700	Yes - \$4160	No	No	No	No
Expenditure caps	Yes - \$95,964 per seat	Yes - \$132,600 per seat	No	Yes - \$42,750 per seat	Yes - \$83,635 per seat	No	No

Sources: Commonwealth Parliamentary Library 2018, Victorian Electoral Commission 2021, WA Electoral Commission 2021, Queensland Electoral Commission 2021, NSW Electoral Commission 2021, ACT Electoral Commission 2021, SA Electoral Commission 2021.

As the Executive Director of the CPI Han Aulby said in 'The Age':

"Our current rules allowed Clive Palmer to spend \$80 million on an election campaign. It also allowed [\\$68 million in donations](#) from unknown sources last financial year."

"Big money in politics can buy access and influence. It can shape policies and win or lose elections. We need urgent reform to stop the flows of cash currently flooding our democracy."

Blueprint to rein in money in politics

Urgent reform of political donations laws is needed to stop the flows of hidden money in politics, and rein in record campaign spending and millionaire donors, according to new research by the Centre for Public Integrity.

The Centre for Public Integrity, led by former judges and corruption experts, has published a [Blueprint to Rein in Money in Politics](#), setting out 4 priority reforms:

1. Require real time disclosure of donations over \$1000;
2. Implement spending caps;
3. Implement donations caps;
4. Strengthen enforcement and compliance through the Australian Electoral Commission and a National Integrity Commission.

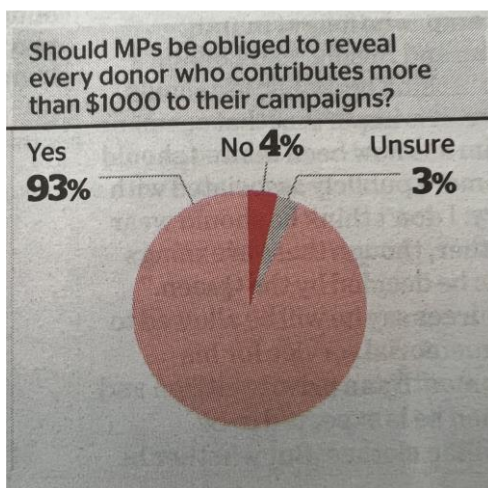
"The Commonwealth has the weakest laws in the country, allowing millions in hidden money to flood our political parties," said Geoffrey Watson SC, a Director of the Centre for Public Integrity.

"The public will have no idea who is funding our parties before the next federal election,"

"We urgently need to lower the disclosure threshold to \$1000, and cap political donations and election spending," said Mr Watson.

"We're reaching a crisis point where money in politics is undermining the integrity of our democracy," said the Hon Anthony Whealy QC, Chair of the Centre for Public Integrity.

"We need to stop the flows of secret donations, and set caps on donations and spending so billionaires can't influence our elections," said Mr Whealy.



Fringe issue?

"A recent poll found 93 per cent of Australians favour politicians revealing every donor who contributes more than \$1000."

*The barrier to reform **is not a lack of solutions or community support, but national leadership and political will.** This is the missing element to **fix a broken system** that breeds corruption and causes enormous harm to the public interest," [wrote board member Professor George Williams.](#)*

The Centre for Public Integrity has published the following additional material about the undermining impact of inadequate political donations regulation at federal level, in recent weeks.

Rules on political donations must be tightened to restore trust

Written by Centre Board Member, George Williams, professor of law at the University of NSW. Originally published in the Australian on 7/3/22

State politics has yet again been tainted by crooked donations. The Independent Commission Against Corruption made findings of corruption last week against people including former NSW Labor MP Ernest Wong over attempts to conceal a \$100,000 donation by Chinese billionaire Huang Xiangmo.

In South Australia, Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas has a solution. He promises to ban all political donations if he becomes premier this month. He says this is “the single biggest thing we can do to restore public trust in our democracy”.

What is missing from this debate is a focus on our federal system. No state reform can succeed without national action. Moreover, Australia’s next election will be fought with the political finance system in crisis. Voters will elect their federal representatives without being told the source of tens of millions of dollars received by parties and candidates. The community will not know what expectations have been created by these donations, and who their representatives are beholden to.

On the expenditure side, Clive Palmer has promised the United Australia Party will run the most expensive campaign in Australian history. His splash of advertising across the media bears this out. To date, Palmer has spent 100 times more than either of the major parties. This undermines any semblance of a level playing field.

The source of these problems is easy to pinpoint. National law on political donations and expenditure is not only lax, it has been designed deliberately with gaping holes. Legislation has been drafted so political parties can hide their receipt of vast sums of money.

This facilitates fundraising because donors can be rewarded with favourable decisions without public scrutiny. The biggest losers are ordinary Australians when their interests come second to those of wealthy donors and vested interests.

The sums of money involved are not small change. They are more than sufficient to buy influence and create incentives for politicians to reward donors. They encourage a sense of expectation in donors, including corporations that prioritise their shareholders in deciding where to give money. It is the anticipation of a return, rather than altruism, that drives corporate giving to politicians.

Of greatest concern is undisclosed donations. Over the past year, our political parties received \$68m from unexplained origins, which is almost 40 per cent of all party income. The amount of dark money has been growing steadily. According to the sums done by the Centre for Public Integrity (of which I am a board member), our political parties earned \$4.5bn since 1999. This includes \$1.38bn with no apparent source, with each of the major parties receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in unexplained wealth. Federal election law says only donations over \$14,500 need be revealed. Gifts exceeding this threshold can be split into smaller amounts that do not require disclosure where they are funnelled through multiple party entities. It is possible to donate \$14,500 to each of the nine national, state and territory branches of a major political party, totalling \$130,500, without triggering disclosure.

The definition of what amounts to a donation also has loopholes. It does not cover major sources of income such as party fundraisers and corporate sponsorship of business forums.

Even where disclosure is required, it comes too late. Rather than transparency when a gift is made, donations from the previous financial year are reported the following February by the Australian Electoral Commission. For example, a gift made on July 1, 2022 will not be made public until February 2024. Donations to parties and candidates in the lead-up to a federal election are revealed long after Australians cast their ballot.

Federal election rules governing expenditure on campaigns are similarly problematic. Electoral regulation is often directed to creating a level playing field. Voters should have the opportunity to be exposed to the policies of many candidates without this being drowned out by saturation advertising by those with the deepest pockets. Expenditure caps also alleviate some of the pressure from fundraising and the likelihood that politicians will become beholden to donors. Despite this, federal law places no limit on the amount of electoral expenditure.

The system need not be this way. The states have their problems, but they have much stronger regimes in place. NSW, Queensland and Victoria require disclosure of donations over \$1000, with gifts made public in as few as

seven days during an election. States have also put in place limits on how much can be spent during elections. In NSW a party can spend a maximum \$132,600 per seat on electoral expenditure; in Queensland \$95,964.

Federal reforms of this kind are needed, and are backed by overwhelming public support. A recent poll found 93 per cent of Australians favour politicians revealing every donor who contributes more than \$1000. The barrier to reform is not a lack of solutions or community support, but national leadership and political will. This is the missing element to fix a broken system that breeds corruption and causes enormous harm to the public interest

What do members think? Let us know your views by email or post.

Members would recall that we wrote to the four major political parties at national level, plus two independents (Dr. Helen Haines, MHR for Indi, Victoria and Senator Jaquie Lambie) seeking their position on legislating for an ICAC and for reform of political donations at national government level. Each of the two independents responded promptly especially Dr Helen Haines, who has arranged for the Hansard material covering her proposed federal integrity Commission Bill to be made available.

We have written again to the four major parties seeking their response. At this time we have no replies. It is most disappointing that this situation exists. Members are encouraged to refer to Party policy positions on the websites of the major parties to seek any clarification.

Liberal Party policy. Difficult to find, no obvious statement on the Policy page: <https://www.liberal.org.au/our-plan>

See also: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-02-07/no-anti-corruption-commission-before-federal-election/100809796>

and

Michaelia Cash confirms no action on national integrity commission before election.

Attorney general also tells hearing no changes have been made to the Coalition's proposed model, despite two years of consultation, see:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/feb/15/michaelia-cash-confirms-no-action-on-national-integrity-commission-before-election>

Labor Party Policy: <https://www.alp.org.au/policies/fighting-corruption>

"establish a powerful, transparent and independent National Anti-Corruption Commission.

National Party policy: Difficult to find, no obvious statement on the Policy page: <https://nationals.org.au/our-plan-2/>

Greens Party: Under the policy heading of *Clean Up Politics*, a number of integrity changes proposed. <https://greens.org.au/platform/democracy#clean-up-politics>

Use of the Eureka Flag and Name by Anti vax protesters

Peter Fitzsimmons who was guest speaker at our Eureka Democracy Award Dinner in Canberra in 2014, published the following article in 'The Age' last December responding to the actions of demonstrators using the Eureka Flag in Ballarat marches to support their anti vaccination stance and seeking to argue alignment with the ideals of Eureka.

"The nutters who stormed Ballarat know nothing of Eureka or its heroes"

Peter FitzSimons

Columnist and author
December 6, 2021

Right then! I address my intemperate remarks to you disgraceful bozos who stormed Ballarat on the weekend, wanting to “reclaim the Eureka flag” to put it in the service of your anti-vaxx nuttury. For shame!

Do you, seriously, have the first clue how ludicrous your position is, how far it is from that held by the heroes of Eureka?

Let’s go back. At 2pm on the afternoon of November 30, 1854, the great Peter Lalor stood beneath a newly minted Eureka flag atop Ballarat’s Bakery Hill as hundreds of miners knelt before him, their palms upraised to the fluttering flag. Now, repeat after Lalor: “We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other, and fight to defend our rights and liberties.”

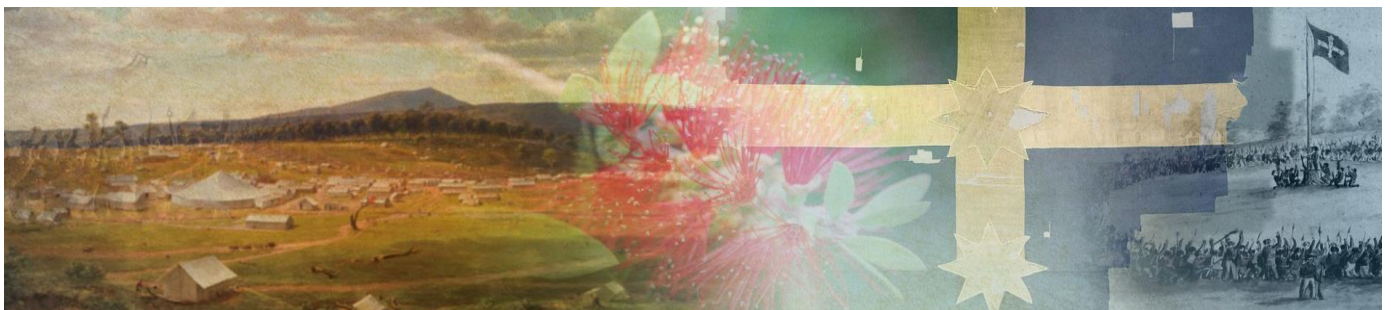
The sea of men, their heads bowed, solemnly repeated the sacred words, with an earthy and throaty rumble, “WE SWEAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS . . .” which was followed by a “universal well-rounded AMEN.”

Beyond wanting to be rid of in iniquitous mining tax – imposed on them, no matter whether or not they struck gold, while the squatters paid a pittance – these brave souls, these genuine torch-bearers for a new and better age, were committing to fight for the basic tenets of liberal democracy: the right to vote to be given to all men and to have paid members of parliament; the right to stand for election irrespective of your property holdings.

That night, as the word spread that the Redcoats were on their way to Ballarat to crush the uprising, no fewer than 2000 Diggers marched from nearby Creswick through a dreadful storm, behind a German band, singing *La Marseillaise*. “MARCHONS! MARCHONS! Qu’un sangue impur, abreuve nos sillons.”

Glorious, yes? It was Australia’s answer to the Boston Tea Party, and it came complete with our own Declaration of Independence, which is why I called a book I wrote on the subject *Eureka, The Unfinished Revolution*. But you bozos have the hide, the gall, the pig-ignorance, to think your cause resembles theirs? Please.

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EUREKA CENTRE TALKS

‘Ballarat: Better than the Great Exhibition’

A public talk by Doug Bradby

Thursday 7 April, 5.30pm

Doug will discuss his latest book, *Famous visitors to a famous city*, about the people who came to marvel at how a mining town of muck and mullock could be turned into ‘The Garden City’ of grandeur and beauty. Doug is a local teacher, historian and author. He has written several history books and is now working on a series that explores the vibrancy of Ballarat’s community life.

Free. No bookings required.

‘Gold Digger Jewellery: An Australian Original’

A public talk by Dr Linda Young

Thursday 5 May, 5.30pm

In this talk, Linda will examine gold digger jewellery invented in the 1850s, likely in Ballarat. This unique jewellery represented that the hard manual labour of digging for gold was a glorious achievement. Linda is a cultural historian of the British World in the 19th century, specially drawing on material objects as historical sources.

Free. No bookings required.

‘Wagga Quilts and the Art of Making Do’

A public talk by Padraic Fisher

Thursday 2 June, 5.30pm

Padraic will examine the art of making do and the creation of the wagga quilt, or bush blanket, a uniquely Australian art form born from necessity. Padraic is Director of the multi-award-winning National Wool Museum, Geelong, and his talk will draw on waggas from its collection. He has over 40 years’ experience in arts, culture and heritage.

Free. No bookings required.

‘Colonial Brickwork’

A public talk by Adam Magennis

Thursday 7 July, 5.30pm

Adam specialises in colonial brick architecture will discuss some of his recent findings and observations in this talk. Adam is a Bunurong First Nations Traditional Owner, a ranger and archaeologist for Parks Victoria and the Heritage Officer for Mornington Peninsula Shire Council.

Free. No bookings required.

EUREKA CENTRE AS PART OF THE BALLARAT HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Who owns Eureka?: The contested nature of Eureka and its symbolism

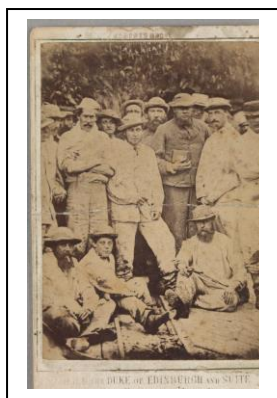
Friday 20 May, 6pm

The significance of the Eureka Rebellion and its legacy has long been contested. In the past year, the appropriation of the Eureka Flag has been the subject of heated debate. The flag has a long history as an adoptable symbol with diverse claimants from trade unions to libertarians and most recently by far-right fringe groups. The flag has been purloined by individuals and groups from across the social and political spectrum. This panel discussion will reflect on Eureka’s defining values, its enduring appeal and the flag’s symbolic malleability.

Chair: Jeff Sparrow, author and journalist

Panel: Greg Barnes SC, Barrister and political commentator

Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, historian and Lecturer, Federation University
Free. No bookings required.



Dark Tourism and Darker Histories

Sunday 29 May, 2pm

Established histories have romanticised the Victorian Goldrush, obscuring the stories of the marginalised and notably omitting the displacement and dispossession of Indigenous peoples. In recent years, sites of death and tragedy have become a popular focus for Dark Tourism. Dark Tourism is seen as exploitative and unethical, or alternatively as claiming space for marginalised histories in public discourse. This panel discussion will consider the problematic histories of such sites, and the challenges and opportunities that Dark Tourism brings to heritage management and interpretation.

Chair: Dr David Waldron: Senior Lecturer in History at Federation University.

Panel: Bonnie Chew, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and Director, Mirriyu Cultural Consulting

Tara Calaby, PhD candidate at La Trobe University, Melbourne, researching the social worlds of women in Victoria's lunatic asylums between 1860 and 1914.

Nathaniel Buchanan, Managing Director of Eerie Tours

A Ballarat Heritage Festival event presented by the Eureka Centre in partnership with Tales from Rat City
Free. No bookings required.

EXHIBITIONS

The Eureka Community Flag

Until 1 May 2022

In 2014, Ballarat community members created a replica Eureka Flag that was raised to mark the 160th anniversary of the 1854 Eureka Stockade. This community flag is featured in this exhibition alongside the tools and materials used to create it and photographs that document its history.

Museum entry fees apply.

Climate Anxiety Ark

Paul E Mason

7 May – 18 November 2022

Paul E Mason's sculptures comment on the legacy and continuation of the global colonial project and its contribution to environmental destruction. He exploits the language of the museum through meticulously crafted sculptures that take the form of reliquaries, hand-cranked audio automatons and dioramas. These works could be viewed as nostalgic follies, but this is a ruse to provoke an encounter with powerful social themes. These sculptures remind us that colonisation's impacts are ongoing, as reflected in our everyday lives and in the political and economic climate of the Australian nation and our increasingly globalised world.

Museum entry fees apply.

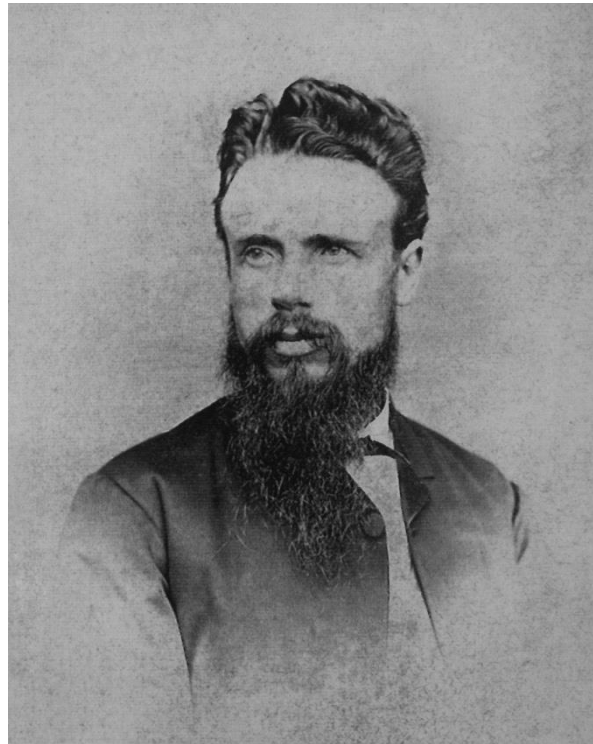
Part Four

GEORGE SCOBIE

(About 1828-1874)*

MY GREAT- GREAT- GRANDFATHER

By Graeme McGregor



*About 1828 – (records show a discrepancy about George's age)

George Scobie was born into a stonemasonry family in Auchterarder, Perthshire, Scotland. George pursued the family career as a stonemason, but in 1852 he and his brother James were so smitten by the lure of the gold rush in Victoria that they decided to travel to Ballarat, hoping make their fortune.

Family legend has it that George's family was reluctant to allow his younger brother James to accompany him to Australia. Still, the family eventually agreed after receiving an assurance from George that he would protect James. (It is worth noting that George and James's mother, Francis, died in 1847, more than four years before her sons departed for Australia so she couldn't have objected to their departure to Australia, and there is some evidence to suggest James was George's older brother)¹.

Having sailed on the *Moselle*, the young men arrived at Geelong in December 1852. To get their possessions to their destination George constructed a wheelbarrow. The two men took turns to push it to the Ballarat goldfields. George saw that a better opportunity than mining lay in establishing a cartage business to bring provisions from the Port of Geelong to the miners at Ballarat. James helped with the business but he was also a gold miner. On 7 October 1854 tragedy befell the Scobies when James was killed outside Bentley's Eureka Hotel by publican James Bentley and two of his employees, Farrell and Hance. This tragic event was also to irrevocably change George's life because George's family in Scotland

¹There are details in both the family's versions of events, and the commonly held view found in publications and the internet which I believe are not backed by evidence (or where no evidence can be found). One such example is the age of James Scobie. There is some evidence, such as the shipping records (not always considered to be accurate), to support that he is George's older brother and was probably in his late 20s when he came to Australia. These versions are of interest and invite further research.

believed that he had broken his promise to protect James. This resulted in a rift in the family, with George being treated as an outcast from then on. His connection to his family in Scotland was never restored.

James Scobie, who was known to the miners as 'Scottie', was a popular young man, and his murder enraged the miners. They were even more enraged by the initial acquittal of James Bentley despite strong prima facie evidence implicating him in the crime. They gathered in their thousands at Bentley's Eureka Hotel to protest the unjust findings of the Coroner's inquest into James's death. Before the day was out the miners had burnt the Eureka Hotel to the ground. It had been the grandest hotel on the Ballarat goldfields. Following public pressure, a trial was ordered. This time, James Bentley, Thomas Farrell and William Hance were found guilty of the manslaughter of James Scobie. Bentley's wife, Catherine, was found not guilty.

Thousands of miners gathered for a mass meeting. There was great sympathy for George over the loss of his brother, and much anger at the failure of the authorities to investigate the murder of James properly. This may explain why it was that on that fateful morning of 3 December 1854, George was in the Stockade at Eureka when the government troops raided it. In the carnage that followed the unexpected raid, some of the miners in the Stockade fled for their lives. George Scobie as well as two others who supported the miners' cause, George Black and John Humffray, sought shelter in the nearby store run by Phoebe and George Emerson. Shortly afterwards, Phoebe found that the miners' badly wounded leader, Peter Lalor, was hiding in the shrubbery near the store. At great danger to herself from reprisals by the government troopers, Phoebe hid the men and tended to Peter Lalor's wounds.

It is likely that George Scobie would have known Phoebe Emerson through his cartage business, as he may have brought goods from the Port of Geelong to her store. Phoebe sought help from Scobie to take the injured Peter Lalor on his dray to a place of safety at nearby Warrenheip, while she summoned help for Lalor. After securing support, Lalor was taken to an annex of the Saint Alipius Presbytery of Father Smyth where his shattered arm was amputated on 4 December 1854. Scobie reputedly then took Lalor, concealed in a load of Patrick Carroll's farm produce, to Lalor's fiancée Alicia Dunne and friends in Geelong where he recuperated². The courageous actions of Phoebe and George, and the doctors who tended to his injuries, saved Peter Lalor's life.

Phoebe was first widowed in 1857 when her husband, George Emerson, succumbed to a lung infection. In time George Scobie began to court Phoebe and in 1860 they married. There were six children to Phoebe's second marriage to Scobie as well as her two children to George Emerson. George Scobie fell on hard times with losses in mining and contracting, and was declared insolvent in 1863. He went back to stonemasonry, working on some bridges and local reservoirs, including Newlyn Reservoir, where he later became the caretaker.

During a flood in 1874, George operated one of the reservoir valves, presumably to release some of the floodwaters. It blew up, causing terrible injuries from which he died four days later in Creswick hospital. George Scobie was about 45 years old, leaving behind a young family, with the youngest child born two months after his death.

To honour his brother's death, George built an impressive monument over James' grave in the Old Cemetery at Ballarat. It has a broken column as its centrepiece (see the picture in James Scobie's chapter), which symbolises a life cut short. Working on the gravestone when he had time, it took George 20 years to complete, finishing it only one month before he was killed in an accident in 1874. He is

² Bob O'Brien: *Massacre at Eureka: The Untold Story*, 1992, p 125.

buried along with his brother James and other family members. George was never to return to Scotland, however, he and his wife Phoebe have left a long line of descendants in Australia, one of whom is me.

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