



LIBERTY!

WELCOME TO LIBERTY!

Liberty! #69 July 2019

www.eurekaschildren.org.au

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – Eric Howard

It has been a busy period for your Committee of Management and there are many opportunities to be pursued in coming months.

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 28 May. Michael van Leeuwen was elected Vice President and we congratulate Michael on assuming that position. We also thank Peter Gavin and Leigh Callinan for accepting the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. We thank Mary Howlett who has stood down from the Committee for her long period of support. Mary has indicated she is available to support specific activities that we involve ourselves in. We welcome Ian Higgins to the Committee. Ian is based in Ballarat and together with former Committee member Phillip Moore will strengthen our Ballarat connections. Thank you to all the Committee who have worked diligently this past year to improve our situation, which we intend to continue in 2019.

Membership

You will see later on our intent to increase our membership substantially in 2019/2020. 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.

We ask all of you who have not yet paid to please pay your annual dues for 2019 promptly. We need your support to continue to function and more importantly to prosper.

Pathway of Remembrance

We have completed an MOU with the City of Ballarat on a proposed Pathway of Honour to commemorate those who fell at Eureka and are joining with City in writing to the UK High Commission seeking their support and contribution to the pathway on behalf of all British citizens who fell at the Stockade. Phillip Moore continues to provide project support and liaison with the City of Ballarat on the project.

The total cost of this project is budgeted at \$18,550 for 33 trees and plaques for the fallen at the Stockade and a Story Display Board. Funds have been received for many Embassies for the project.

Meeting with the Eureka Stockade Centre / Ballarat City representatives

Phillip Moore and I met with Anthony Camm, Manager of the Eureka Stockade Centre, and Geoff Johnson, Director of Events and Arts for Ballarat City at the Eureka Centre to discuss our earlier submissions about the future of the centre, the Pathway of Remembrance project and the future relationship between the Centre and Eureka's Children.

We await proposals for the Centre and will do all we can to see that work to the repositioned Centre tells the broader story of eureka including the central events, the lead up to them and the remarkable reverberations and aftermath flowing from Eureka. The underlying story about dissent, freedoms, human decency and equality that this wonderful component of Australia's history teaches us is central to our purpose and the events we commemorate each year. We need to do all we can to ensure the Centre tells the story in all its depth and breadth, and never becomes a simple superficial treatment of events.

Eureka's Children Strategy Workshop held in June 2019

The Committee held a planning workshop in June and a number of priorities were identified. There are many initiatives to be pursued which will require much of all of us. We look to each of you as a key member to embrace these challenges and assist on the journey as we look to 2024 as a time by which we plan to have moved ahead in our capacities, depth of activity and accomplishments.

The first matter discussed was an intention to recommend a name change to members from the current Eureka's Children. This has been discussed further at our July Committee meeting and member input is being received.

While there is broad support for changing the focus away from Children, there is the need to preserve our unique point of difference from lobby groups – we are descendants and friends of Eureka and have that special connection to it, a fact that distinguishes us and our efforts. Discussion continues and

if members have a point of view they wish to express they could send an email to our secretary or myself (eric.howard@bigpond.com and pmgavin27@hotmail.com) or call any Committee member. The second issue was developing our capacity to provide a leadership role about Eureka and its influence on Victorian and Australian society.

The 170th Anniversary of Eureka will take place in 2024. We can utilise this commemorative event as a stimulus to develop our capacities through a range of small achievable actions, through the Eureka Centre, the Public Celebrations of Eureka e.g. the Pathway of Remembrance, Participation in public debate and engaging with major stakeholders – Universities, Ballarat City, Melbourne City, Victorian education department, Victorian Parliament, Another Remembrance/Commemorative day e.g. The Burning of the Eureka Hotel on 17 October.

We will seek an increased School Program for visits to the Centre, not just grade 5, but up to VCE, and work to appoint an education spokesperson on our Committee. We will work with Sovereign Hill to find ways to acknowledge better the Eureka Story, and be prepared as Committee members to talk/present in local media and to the community.

We will work to promote community awareness of the pivotal significance of the Ballarat Reform League Charter and also to link the events that took place in Victoria post Eureka to the important issue of dissent and the influence of the Eureka events and the community sentiments and values developed there – down the years - in contributing to shaping our society today. We will also emphasise the importance and relevance of these values today to maintaining and developing a free democratic society.

Our aim is to have 1,000 members by 2024 and 500 attendees at our Democracy Award Dinner; to have the Australiana and Victorian Parliaments open after each election with reference to Eureka and Democracy and to see a visit to the Eureka Centre become a must activity for most international and interstate visitors to Victoria.

Influencing will be achieved through face to face activity and through Facebook, Twitter and other social media plus our upgraded website, plus development of a potential App for the Melbourne Story.

We want Eureka's Children to become the Go To organisation for comment on Eureka and related matters.

The third issue was a proposal to develop Committee across all goldfield towns to recognise the role these centres played in providing stimulus for Victorian Responsible Government, strengthening to a more democratic society and to improved social justice – to broaden the Eureka Story, obtain detailed local stories which were part of the Eureka Story and involve all the goldfield towns in the story.

Eureka is a story that is heavily identified with Goldfields region and with Melbourne and Geelong, not just Ballarat. This is not well understood and efforts to improve this understanding are needed.

We are most grateful to Chris Wootton formerly of Philanthropic Australia who donated his time to provide a professional facilitation for our half day workshop and we express our thanks to Chris.

Democracy Award Dinner Program

Our planning for the Award Dinner is well advanced, an Awardee is being approached and venue details are being finalised. Please keep the evening of **Saturday 16 November** free for

this wonderful annual event. We want to see you there to celebrate Eureka and all it means to us today. Details will be published shortly.

GEORGE HIGINBOTHAM AND EUREKA: THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN COLONIAL VICTORIA

(Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2018) pp. 381, \$44

Is there anything new to be said about George Higinbotham? The lawyer, journalist, politician and judge has attracted plenty of attention since his death in 1892 although not, curiously, a modern biography. The absence of private papers was a disincentive: Higinbotham arranged for their destruction after his death. There was no treasure trove for an enterprising biographer such as there was for John La Nauze on Alfred Deakin, and Allan Martin on Henry Parkes. An early memoir, somewhat hagiographical, came from his son-in-law; a later study by Gwyneth Dow focussed on his contribution to education reform. Stuart Macintyre, who provides a foreword to *George Higinbotham and Eureka*, has written memorably on Higinbotham, alongside Charles Pearson and David Syme, as one of three great Victorian colonial liberals. But Higinbotham has remained an enigmatic figure; unapproachable, forbidding and always, it seemed, partially obscured by his own design. He is now coming into sharper focus.

During recent restoration work at Melbourne Trades Hall, a frieze that had been painted over in the 1960s was discovered. Portraits of four men were found: George Stephenson and Samuel Plimsoll – two figures from British industrial and maritime history – alongside George Higinbotham and the man whose cause he championed, Governor Sir Charles Darling. The image of a partially revealed Higinbotham from the frieze appears on the cover of this book; an apt symbol of Higinbotham's place in Australian collective memory and historiography, as well as of the recovery and revisionism that Geraldine Moore has undertaken in this fine book, the result of her doctoral work. If Higinbotham has been mysterious, he now seems a little less so.

How does she do it? In the first place, Moore has uncovered some previously unknown or obscure details of Higinbotham's family background and early life. The role of his forebears and relatives in the founding and history of the Orange Lodge, and Higinbotham's continuing association during his youth with this branch of his father's family, the Verners, are startling findings. Moore indicates that in a colony divided by sectarian animosity, Higinbotham likely felt the pull of loyalty to his own kin in spite of his developing radicalism. He may well have been sensitive to criticism of his connections to conservative Irish Protestantism.

On his mother's side, there was Unitarianism, a different kettle of fish in its emphasis on tolerance and hostility to dogma, and he had a grandfather in the American Revolution. He was also, while living in London as a young man, close to Philosophical Radicals such as Sir William Molesworth and possibly influenced by the Christian Socialist, F.D. Maurice. Higinbotham's obsessive insistence on colonial self-government appears here in a new light. He was an heir to American republicanism in something more than an intellectual sense, and his ideas about responsible government and social justice look more like a product of London's progressive intellectual milieu than personal idiosyncrasy.

Moore also points to business failure on his father's part, which brought a slide in the family's resources and standing, and probably led to the separation of his parents. His mother's fortune was swallowed by his father's debts. Is it going too far to link Higinbotham's later championing of the rights of married women to their own property to this experience? Moore thinks not, and it is hard to disagree. Nor does it seem far-fetched to see connections between Higinbotham's championing of the

poor, his family's fall from grace, and his observation, as a student at Trinity College Dublin, of the fearsome suffering of the Irish famine.

This is somewhat speculative but, in the absence of smoking guns, Moore does a very fair job of joining the dots. Her best discovery is the *Melbourne Morning Herald* or, more accurately, a series of editorials that Higinbotham wrote for it between 1854 and 1856. These place him much closer to the heart of the contemporary battles for power that culminated in Eureka, and the debates over Victoria's constitution. Her research points to the significance of Hotham's Minute of November 1855, which claimed ambitious powers for the governor; so ambitious, that they would have negated responsible government in anything like the form we now understand it. That crisis, she suggests, was only averted by Hotham's unexpected death the following month. Higinbotham's editorials, Moore suggests, were critical in this early struggle. His more famous battles of the 1860s against the Legislative Council and the Colonial Office had their genesis in views formed during these earlier conflicts.

If the strength of the book lies in its rereading of the earlier years of Higinbotham's life, Moore nonetheless also provides a splendidly engaging account of later struggles, of Higinbotham's career as a judge, and of his support for striking unionists in 1890. In the positions he took on many of the controversies of his day, Higinbotham often found himself on the losing side. But in his understanding of history's momentum, he was usually wise and prescient. This deeply researched and engagingly written book will be indispensable to students of Victorian colonial politics, as well as to anyone seriously interested in the ideas that have so largely shaped the way we are governed.

Australian National University

FRANK BONGIORNO

(The author Geraldine Moore is a member of Eureka's Children)

THE LEGEND OF LALOR'S ARM: EUREKA MYTHS AND COLONIAL SURGERY

Dr. Nicola Cousen was awarded the John Adams Prize at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's AGM in May for her article 'The legend of Lalor's Arm: Eureka myths and colonial surgery'. The prize is awarded for the best article in the *Victorian Historical Journal*.

The article on Peter Lalor's arm amputation surgery and Eureka developed from Nicola's Ph.D. research under the supervision of Dr. Anne Beggs-Sunter at Federation University. Nicola's Ph.D. thesis is a biography of Irish doctor and philanthropist James Stewart (1829-1906). Dr. Stewart was an early Ballarat pioneer who contributed greatly to the city and the health care of its population as a physician, surgeon and the Public Vaccinator.

The doctor was involved in the events of Eureka through the independent autopsy he performed on James Scobie's body and he was one of the three surgeons who performed the amputation operation on Peter Lalor. Dr. Stewart left generous bequests in his will to institutions in Ballarat, Ireland and to the medical school at the University of Melbourne.

(Dr. Nicola Cousen is a member of Eureka's Children)

THE AMERICAN EUREKA REBELS

By Treasurer Leigh Callinan

The following account of the INVOLVEMENT of Americans in the Eureka Rebellion is taken from:

Fitzsimons, Peter (2012). Eureka: the Unfinished Revolution. William Heinemann, Australia.

'The Americans have been in quite a sensitive position on the diggings as the situation has become more and more unstable. They have always been regarded with a gimlet eye by the authorities for their revolutionary leanings, and for that reason have been careful not to push themselves to the fore in the protests' . .

"But the time has now come", 'American digger Charles Ferguson would later recount', "when we were compelled to act or stand neutral. . . . we were in full and hearty sympathy with the miners . . . We told them . . . if they made a stand they would not find us wanting," [p. 348].

'Captain Charles Ross . . . stands by the flagpole upon which the Southern Cross is flying proud, sword in one hand, pistol in the other. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the Canadian is an American Rebel with the California Rangers . . . [He] is seen to be '[fighting] like a tiger'. 'His name is . . . lost to history' [p. 474]. When Peter Lalor, the Rebel Leader, is finally shot he shouts "Get away boys, as quickly as you can; the Stockade is taken". . . . 'an American by the name of Jim Hull, removes his neckerchief and fastens it tightly around Lalor's arm to stem the gushing flow. . . . Lalor slumps back and lands heavily, sitting upright on a pile of slabs. Again Hull has quick command of the situation: 'Drop in there and we'll cover you up'. 'Near the flagpole, first the tigerish American is brought low by a bullet to his right thigh, and then Captain Ross, with Charles Ferguson standing right beside him [is] felled by a vicious musket ball to the groin. Ferguson . . . is forced to make a formal surrender'[p. 477]. [Meanwhile] 'the black American John Joseph fights on, no more intimidated by such bloody violence...'[p. 478].

'On a rough count by [the military's] Captain Thomas'" 'not less than 30 were killed on the spot", while others have clearly not long to live. A little over half are identifiable, while the rest will have to go to their graves anonymously. At least 10 of the latter group are likely Americans, perhaps because, given the political sensitivities of the day, it is better not to have it recorded that these men of a famous and newly important republic have taken part'.

Henry Seekamp, the Editor of the Ballarat Times, wrote the following day: 'Surely the massacre of these human beings call from their fellow countrymen . . . a vengeance deep and terrible . . . May the God of Liberty and Justice defend the right'. Seekamp was arrested for sedition that afternoon. 'In the cells, Seekamp [was] chained to Charles Ferguson' [p. 511].

JEREMIAH'S TRUNK - BY DENISE TOBIN SHINE

Jeremiah's Trunk is a new novel by Denise Tobin Shine, author of the critically acclaimed *The Undertakers' Mother*. *Jeremiah's Trunk* is a multi-generational, heart-warming epic through two centuries. The readers of **Liberty** will be interested how this well researched piece of historical-fiction paints a very clear picture of family life in Ballarat in 1854.

In 2013, **Abigail Skinner** inherits an old oak trunk containing journals, written during the nineteenth century by Leticia Skinner, her several times great-grandmother. But it's the enclosed letter from her late Aunt Jane that turns her world upside down. Abigail is overwhelmed to discover that **Jane**, her actress mother, gave her up for adoption as a baby, but does not name her biological father.

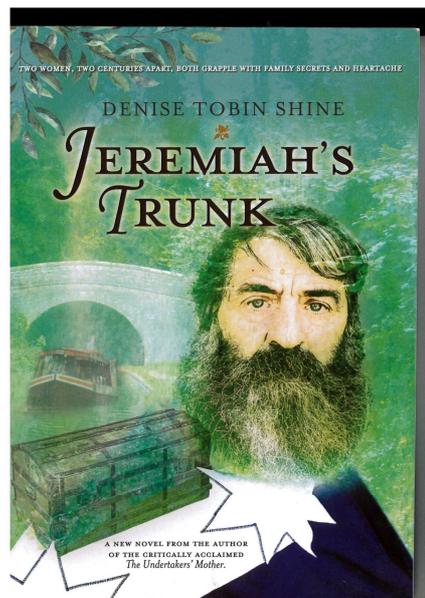
Still in shock, Abigail turns to **Leticia's** journals and discovers what life was like for her ancestors in Britain. Leticia writes of her Dame school, her talented twelve-year-old son, **Jeremiah**, the local potteries and her friendship with the working narrow boat folk of the canals.

At the dawn of the Industrial Revolution in England and on the eve of the crowning of Queen Victoria, Abigail's ancestors' lives are shattered when Jeremiah, now a part-time artist/potter and husband and father, is transported to New South Wales for forgery. Throughout his convict years, Jeremiah dreams of returning to his homeland, but his life takes a new turn with the discovery of gold in 1851. Jeremiah settles in Ballarat, is deeply involved with the Eureka Stockade and starts his Australian dynasty.

Meanwhile, Abigail embarks on her own voyage of self-discovery looking for her biological father. As she explores the historical locations that were part of her ancestors' era, in Britain and Ballarat, she eventually finds true happiness.

Jeremiah's Trunk is available for purchase in some book shops including Dymocks and Readings; on line with Amazon, Book Depository and Facebook; or Contact Denise Tobin Shine 0403 401 101 or mdshine@iinet.net.au RRP \$30.

(Denise Shine is a member of Eureka's Children)



EUREKA'S CHILDREN MERCHANDISE

Mugs with captions 'Eureka's Children' or 'Eureka Democracy'.



\$20 each, including postage

Flag Pins & Fridge Magnets

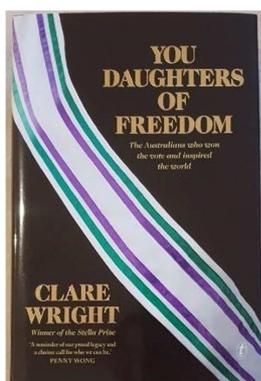


\$5 each, including postage

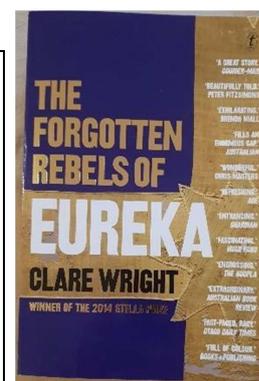
T-shirts for men, women and children (in best quality cotton)



\$24 adults, \$20 children, including postage.



Purchase Clare Wright's *FORGOTTEN REBELS OF EUREKA* for \$39.99 incl. postage and/ or Clare's: *YOU DAUGHTERS OF FREEDOM* for \$54.99 incl. postage (her recently published book in hardback)



Members, if you have not renewed for 2019, below is the renewal form. We would like you to remain a member to keep the organisation strong and active.

EUREKA'S CHILDREN INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2019 (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's Children - (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's Children. 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.