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A newsletter for Eureka's Children

APRIL 2007

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	2
EUREKA'S CHILDREN – DRAFT OF EXISTING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR REVIEW..	3
EUREKA'S CHILDREN – BACKGROUND	4
EUREKA STOCKADE AND A CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY	5
EUREKA STOCKADE DIGGERS MARCH – MAP OF THE ROUTE AND COMMENTARY – PART 2 - CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HAYES' TENT SITE	6
NOTICE OF AGM FOR EUREKA'S CHILDREN.....	8

Liberty!



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello to all our members and friends.

Do remember to renew your membership and encourage other family and friends to join up. It will strengthen our capacity to bring about change and make a difference. Please see the renewal notice in this edition.

The executive committee of Eureka's children has set itself the challenge during 2007 to develop the value offered to its members and to lift the relevance and profile of Eureka's Children.

We will meet later this month for a half day workshop to develop a number of opportunities we have identified.

Committee members are preparing papers on:

- Membership Development
- The Redevelopment of the Eureka Stockade Centre with a focus on democracy and the role we believe Eureka's Children should play in this project.
- An annual Award Program from Eureka's Children
- Options for a number of Melbourne based functions for Eureka's Children and friends.

We want to consider how we can provide more value for our members and strengthen the role of our group in promoting democratic values in Australian society.

The potential expansion of the Eureka Centre in Ballarat is a most exciting project.

An extensive independent review for the City of Ballarat in 2005/2006 determined that the focus of the Centre needs to be on the fundamental importance of the Eureka experience and its effects on democratic government principles in Victoria and beyond.

A separate article in this newsletter by Phillip Moore, one of our two Vice-presidents and John Ireland, our Secretary, sets out some of the history of this project and the role that Eureka's Children has played and continues to play in assisting it to become a reality.

The Federal Government has been approached to support the recently announced State Government funding of \$5 million for the redevelopment of the centre which is conditional upon Federal Government matching support.

Eureka's Children continues to play a role in encouraging this support and in seeking to develop linkages between the recently announced Centre for Democracy Project at Old Parliament House in Canberra (see Phillip and Johns' separate article) and the proposed redeveloped Eureka Stockade Centre at Ballarat.

Eureka took place in Ballarat but it belongs to all Australians and is an essential part of the development of Australian democratic tradition.

We believe the links to the commemoration of democracy in Canberra will be very important to a fuller understanding of Eureka's role and the future success of the Eureka Stockade centre.

There are other issues we intend to address as well. The committee believes that an appropriate award, presented annually, to a person who has contributed to the strengthening of democratic traditions in Australian society, could be a relevant contribution by Eureka's Children.

However we have much discussion ahead about this matter and the suggestion that we conduct possible regular functions in Melbourne for our members and friends - in order to further develop details.

In addition at the workshop we will review the current "Aims and Objectives" of Eureka's Children which we have set out in this edition for your information and comment.

If you have any ideas about these matters or related issues they would be welcomed. Do put them on paper and send them to our Secretary, John Ireland at:

127 Glen Park Road
Eltham North 3095 or at
decourcy@netspace.net.au

Eric Howard (Chairman)

Liberty!



A newsletter for Eureka's Children

APRIL 2007

EUREKA'S CHILDREN – DRAFT OF EXISTING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR REVIEW

Eureka's Children is an Association for descendants of those involved in the events surrounding the Eureka Stockade battle of Sunday 3 December 1854.

Membership is open to all descendants of those involved in, or associated with, the Eureka Stockade, its prelude and aftermath.

- **The MISSION of Eureka's Children is to encourage the understanding of the events culminating at the Eureka Stockade on 3 December 1854 and their significance in the development of our nation.**
- **The OBJECTIVES adopted by Eureka's Children in order to fulfill its Mission are as follows:**
 1. To gain Australia wide support for the recognition and acceptance of the view that the Eureka Stockade was an event of national significance in the history of Australia.
 2. To gain continuing Federal and State government support and funding for the development of the Eureka Stockade (Centre) as a museum for the storage and display of all Eureka materials and the encouragement of further research into the impacts of Eureka upon Australian life
 3. To gain Federal, State & Local (Ballarat) government support and funding towards the celebrations associated with Eureka Week commemorations.
 4. To gain endorsement for the proposal that the Eureka Flag be permanently displayed at the Eureka Stockade (Centre) as soon as suitable 'museum standard' facilities can be provided there.
 5. To gain acceptance for the view that the Eureka Flag belongs to the people of Australia and that eventual custodianship of the Flag should rest with a body to be formed for the purpose of managing the Eureka Stockade (Museum).
 6. To encourage the use of the Eureka flag by various bodies, organizations and institutions as a symbol of struggle against oppression and for the development of democracy.
 7. To provide support for the proposition that the Eureka Flag be adopted as the flag of Australia.
 8. To generate publicity, discussion and debate in relation to all aspects of the Eureka Stockade (event) and in so doing promote the further development and greater understanding of Australian democracy.
 9. To gain recognition of Eureka's Children as an historical society concerned with public education and research on the Eureka Stockade and the development of Australian democracy.
 10. To identify, as far as is possible, all those persons who were involved (directly & indirectly) in the Eureka Stockade and to trace the descendants of those concerned.
- **The ACTIVITIES/ SERVICES currently conducted or provided by Eureka's Children include:**
 1. Publication of a quarterly newsletter 'Liberty', which includes general matters of interest to members together with articles and reprints of special significance regarding the Eureka Stockade (event).
 2. Organization and conduct of events such as "The Eureka Stockade Diggers' March" as part of celebrations commemorating the Eureka Stockade.
 3. Establishment of a Eureka's Children Web-site for members and the wider community to cover a wide range of Eureka Stockade related matters.
 4. Representations to all levels of government promoting the Eureka's Children objectives.
 5. Lobbying all levels of government and other relevant bodies on Eureka related matters.
 6. Contributing speakers to various conferences on matters related to the Eureka Stockade.

Liberty!



A newsletter for Eureka's Children

APRIL 2007

7. As and when appropriate generate discussion and debate on a range of Eureka related matters, such as:

- ownership and custodianship of the Eureka Flag.
- development of Stage 2 of the Eureka Stockade (Centre) to museum standard to enable the safe storage and display of the Eureka Flag and other Eureka materials
- promotion of the Eureka Stockade (Centre) as a centre for democracy – a centre for learning and research on the development of Australian democracy.

EUREKA'S CHILDREN – BACKGROUND

Eureka's Children was formed in 1996 as a result of the initiative of Paul Murphy who was Honorary Executive Officer of the Association for many years.

The idea grew from a gathering of some descendants who met at the Old Ballarat Cemetery as part of the Eureka celebrations in December 1986.

In April 1987 'The Age' carried an article by John Lahey headed "Hunt is on for Eureka's Children". It carried a picture of Paul Murphy, and described how Murphy, Bob O'Brien and Peter Tobin had the ambition to stage a gathering of Eureka descendants as part of the 1988 Bicentenary celebrations. Hundreds of people responded to the John Lahey article.

The group applied for funding to the Bicentenary Authority but was told that Eureka was not of national significance and did not meet the criteria. Eventually a meagre grant of \$5000 was received.

The 1988 'Gathering of Children of Eureka' was the last official activity of Ballarat's Bicentenary program. 5000 people came to the Cemetery and for a march from Bakery Hill to the Stockade Monument in miserable wet weather.

In 1998 Eureka's Children was incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act. It currently has approximately 100 members.

The membership of the Association is made up, predominantly, of descendants of the diggers. However there are also those who are descendants of the military and troopers and also a significant number who are descendants of the 'Carroll family', the carters who took Peter Lalor to Geelong in February 1855. Others are descendants of hotelkeepers, a newspaper editor, a lawyer, a law clerk, shopkeepers, a baker, doctors and civil servants.

Liberty!



A newsletter for Eureka's Children

APRIL 2007

EUREKA STOCKADE AND A CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY

In 2006 during the election campaign the Brack's Government announced a Grant of \$5 million for the Second Stage of the Eureka Stockade Memorial Centre.

Quite separately the Federal Government announced it had set aside \$31.5 million to enhance the role of Old Parliament House so as to be the premium institution interpreting Australia's political history and including a Gallery of Australian Democracy.

The Ballarat project has its origins in 2001 when the Ballarat City Council's Special Eureka Committee (of which Eureka's Children is a member) commissioned a report from Sinclair Knight and Mertz concerning the future development of the Eureka site and in particular emphasising the enlargement of the Centre in order to portray the story of democracy, its Australian development and the role of Eureka in this.

Then in 2005 the Ballarat City Council reviewed its operations at the Centre and commissioned a second report engaging Price Waterhouse Coopers Lybrand. This report convinced the State Government to offer financial support of \$5 million, contingent on a similar grant from the Federal Government.

Eureka's Children played an active role in helping to engage Federal members in the Ballarat proposal which presently led to direct negotiations between Ballarat City Council and the Federal Government, which we trust will in turn lead to a Federal Government Grant to the Project.

Similarly Eureka's Children decided to take the initiative with the Canberra project and arrangements were made for a delegation of the project's special planning committee in Canberra to meet representatives of Eureka's Children to express our interest in the project and our willingness to contribute to their account of the story of Australian democracy.

In our discussions with the Canberra delegates the linkage between the two projects became apparent to them as well as the vital interest Eureka's Children had in both and the considerable input we can make to them. They made a generous offer to continue these discussions, to consider what we might have to offer them and to assist where appropriate in the development of the Ballarat Project.



EUREKA STOCKADE DIGGERS MARCH – MAP OF THE ROUTE AND COMMENTARY – PART 2 - CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HAYES' TENT SITE

This is an extract from the commentary provided during the Digger's march in recent years by Professor John Molony, eminent historian and member of Eureka's Children. It is intended to publish this material in successive editions of Liberty in the interests of bringing these comments to the attention of as many of our members and others as possible.

Eureka's Children was instrumental in seeing the Diggers March return to Ballarat in 2001 and Phillip Moore, our President at that time and local Ballarat identity Jack Harvey researched the route and set out selected sites for the march, now from Bakery Hill to the Eureka Stockade, as taken by the Miners on the 30th of November 1854 when they marched from Bakery Hill to the Eureka Lead, built their stockade and elected their leaders.

We acknowledge and thank them for all of their important contributions

Eureka Stockade Diggers' March Route

Points of Interest

1. Bakery Hill
2. Catholic chapel
3. Hayes' tent
4. Carbon's vantage point
5. Bentley's Eureka Hotel plaques
6. Bentley's Eureka Hotel
7. Attack on government reinforcements
8. Approaching site of Eureka Stockade
9. Eureka Stockade Monument

The route of the Diggers' March retraces that actually taken by the diggers on the afternoon of that fateful day (Thursday 30 November) in 1854 when, having sworn their allegiance under 'the Southern Cross' on Bakery Hill, they then marched to the Eureka where they built their stockade and elected their leaders.

Prof. John Molony's commentary for the Eureka Stockade Diggers' March was presented at the various stopping points along the way.

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HAYES' TENT SITE

The most tightly knit national group on Ballarat in 1854 was that of the Irish Catholics whose young, learned and devout priest, Father Patrick Smyth, was much esteemed. He lived on this site in a recently built, modest house next to his chapel, a frail wooden structure with a canvass roof which could not hold the numbers who came to Mass. Smyth's predecessor had opened a school on this site in April 1853. It was the first school in Ballarat.

On 18 October 1854, the priest's crippled, Armenian manservant was arrested for the non-possession of a miner's licence. The arrest was a violation of the law because, as the servant of a Smyth, for assaulting the arresting constable. A respectable witness swore that, in truth, the constable had assaulted the cripple and allowed his horse to trample on him. The Catholics, represented by one of their leaders, Timothy Hayes, submitted a petition to the Governor which pleaded for the redress of the wrong done to their priest, his servant

Liberty!



A newsletter for Eureka's Children

APRIL 2007

and to their community.

The Camp connived in this travesty of justice and Governor Hotham, at his home in Toorak, refused to act on the petition. This event was a turning point in the relations between the authorities and the Catholics. By it, according to their bishop, the Catholics were forced 'into the ranks of the disaffected'. That simple, but stark, injustice became a decisive event in the weeks leading to Eureka.

A few weeks later all had changed and death had stalked on the Eureka. On Monday, 4 December, Father Smyth arranged that Peter Lalor be brought here secretly to his house where two doctors amputated the leader's injured arm, thus saving his life. Peter was hidden in the homes of several brave citizens of Ballarat until February 1855 when he escaped to Geelong where, restored to health, he married Alicia Dunne on 10 July at St Mary's Church.

At the time of Eureka, Timothy and Anastasia Hayes, both Irish born, lived in a tent near here. Timothy was a reporter with the Ballarat Times and he probably wrote some of its more forthright leading articles. He was also a digger trying to support their six children, one still a babe in Anastasia's arms. Together with a few other diggers, Tim was a founder of the Ballarat Reform League. He became a member of the council for the defence of the diggers' rights which met in the Stockade.

On Saturday 2 December he probably heeded the plea of Father Smyth to the Catholics at Eureka to return to their homes and come to Mass on Sunday morning. As a result, he was not in the Stockade when the soldiers attacked at dawn but, despite his absence, Tim was rightly regarded as a leader in the whole movement. He was arrested, gaoled and tried for his life with twelve other diggers and, like them, acquitted by Melbourne juries.

Anastasia Hayes was one of the most remarkable women on Ballarat. Courageous, forthright and loyal, she supported her husband and the diggers' movement throughout the whole episode called Eureka. She helped sew the Southern Cross and was horrified at the bloody affair of Eureka Sunday. Later, she upbraided Tim for his meekness in allowing the police to arrest him, saying that she would have resisted with all her might. Convinced of their innocence, she stood by him and the others throughout their trials.

Anastasia's tragedy was that Tim lacked her great and noble spirit. Soon after Eureka, he left Ballarat to seek a fortune in America for himself and the family. Timothy Hayes never returned to them. Anastasia alone carried the weight of ensuring the upbringing of their children. minister of religion, he was not obliged to take out a licence. The charge was changed and the Armenian was fined five pounds, paid by Father

For further information about Eureka's Children please contact:

Secretary: John Ireland

Postal Address: 127 Glen Park Road, Eltham North, 3095



Eureka's Children

Incorporated A0036503R

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Eureka's Children Inc. is to be held on Saturday 28th April 2007 at 12.30pm at the Celtic Club, 316-320 Queen Street, Melbourne.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous AGM held on 20 April 2006
2. Chairman's Report for 2006
3. Treasurer's Report for 2006
4. Election of Executive Committee Members for 2007/2008
5. Any Other Business:

NOTES:

Agenda Item 4: Election of Executive Committee Members 2007/2008.

Our Constitution and Rules provide for an Executive Committee of 10 members. The Committee currently comprises six members, as follows, all of whom are offering for re-election: John Capp, Eric Howard, John Ireland, Sharon Keys, John Molony, Robert Sublet, Pat Phair, Patrice Hickey, Josie Golding, Anne Beggs-Sunter.

Nominations for election the Committee are to include the names of the Proposer and Seconder and the Nominee, all of whom must be financial members of Eureka's Children for 2006. If the number of nominations received by the time of the AGM exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, then a ballot will be conducted at the AGM.

Proxy votes are admitted at the AGM provided they are submitted to the Secretary for verification, 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Proxy Votes should be forwarded to the Secretary, John Ireland, 127 Glen Park Road, Eltham North, 3095 (Telephone 03 94397417)

Proxy votes must be in writing and signed by a financial member. The signature must be countersigned by a witness over the age of 18 years.

The proxy vote may be in the form of a vote for one or all positions of the Executive Committee or by nominating a person to act on the voter's behalf at the Annual General Meeting.