

LIBERTY!

WELCOME TO LIBERTY!
Liberty! #67 December 2018

www.eurekaschildren.org.au

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ANNUAL EUREKA STOCKADE COMMEMORATION DINNER AND PRESENTATION OF 2018 EUREKA DEMOCRACY AWARD

At the Annual Eureka Democracy Dinner, we were very fortunate to have the historian *Clare Wright* as our guest speaker (pictured on the right). The Eureka Democracy Award was received by investigative journalist *Adele Ferguson* (pictured on the left), with special guest, (in the middle) the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, *Cr. Sally Capp*.

Remarks by President Eric Howard for the Presentation to Adele Ferguson

Democracy around the world is under pressure, increasing nationalism is placing pressure on liberal democracies, dividing societies into us and them. What is democracy? Complicated, but it is the best of available feasible social systems. It is about much more than ensuring voting majorities. Some sections of society are feeling left behind and looking to populist leaders offering simple answers and a brutalisation of language with increasing authoritarianism. These are major risks for the liberal democracies. Clearly, political decisions need to be more transparent to the public.

Background to the Award

Each year, as close as feasible to the 3rd of December, the Anniversary of the storming of the Eureka Stockade, Eureka's Children commemorates those events and their wonderful legacy and presents the Eureka Democracy Award to a worthy individual or organisation to recognise outstanding endeavours that have contributed and still contribute to protecting and strengthening democratic traditions in Australia.

Professor John Molony reminds us that *“The men and women who had been at Eureka knew that in this new land, the right to stand up against tyranny, to be treated with respect befitting a human person and to hope in, and work for, a better future, is inalienable. They knew that those things had been fought and died for at Eureka. They had stood up for a freer, more democratic society and we are all the beneficiaries”*.

Australian Democracy is one of the oldest and most stable democracies in the world. And it was at Eureka where the people, as distinct from the Government and the bureaucracy, sought to obtain their democratic rights by laying down and demonstrating their principles of democracy. They held Monster Meetings and sought Deputations. They produced a Reform Charter and presented it to Governor Hotham, designed, manufactured and flew their Flag of the Southern Cross and finally stood to defend their Rights and Liberties at the Eureka Stockade. This was the first, brave and eventually successful example of ordinary citizens standing up to (and being killed and injured for their stance by) a then tyrannical government in the Colony of Victoria. In the process of seeking justice they gave massive impetus to the development and introduction of many of the democratic traditions we now enjoy and which are embedded in Australia's Constitution.

The question is – Do Australians, today, value our democracy or do we take it for granted? Do we understand and appreciate what democracy really is? Are we aware of the various challenges that exist today that can and are a challenge to our democratic way of life?

We need to value our democracy and we certainly need to protect it and whenever possible to enhance it. We need to find ways to remind our communities of the fragility of democracy and the need for constant vigilance.

Eureka's Children believes we all need to actively encourage participation by citizens in our democratic society and its many activities, encourage individuals of all ages to inform themselves about contemporary issues which put pressure on our democracy and to promote inclusiveness as a continuing hallmark of Australian life. Providing the public with access to relevant objective information is a critical part of that challenge.

Eureka's Children established the annual Eureka Democracy Award in 2008. The Award recognises an individual or an organisation that has, through their endeavours, contributed to Australian democratic and social justice traditions, including the 'fair go' for all and the recognition that all political power resides in the people; demonstrated respect for our cultural diversity and supported the basic human rights of those in the Australian Community.

Eureka speaks to us of the importance of a free society being prepared to react to oppressive authority while seeking fairness and equity, valuing human rights and respecting human dignity. In short, the Eureka diggers by their actions were seeking a more democratic and just society for all.

The Award seeks to ensure that the vision of democracy that was at the heart of the Eureka events is kept alive in contemporary Australian culture. Eureka's Children seek, within our means, to lift debate about Australian democracy and change in society and the strengths of our culturally diverse society, in an independent forum and in a respectful, tolerant manner;

THE EUREKA DEMOCRACY AWARD 2018 is presented to Adele Ferguson for her courage and leadership in investigating and exposing corrupt and predatory practices among a number of Australian businesses affecting staff and customers, her strong advocacy for improving whistleblower protections to encourage people to speak out about corporate wrongdoing, for expressing her deep distaste for the dishonesty and avarice she has encountered during her career reporting on business and above all, for giving vulnerable people a voice.

Trust in our public institutions and our corporate entities is a key underpinning of our participatory democracy and of our contemporary Australian culture, reflecting the values displayed at Eureka and the need for fair dealing in a community built upon a strong 'common good' ethic.

Adele Ferguson with Eric Howard



Remarks by Adele Ferguson on accepting her Eureka Democracy Award 2018

I would like to say I feel honoured that I've been chosen to receive the Eureka Democracy Award---to everyone at Eureka's Children, thank you.

I notice one of the past recipients of the award is Father Frank Brennan, a champion for those without a voice. His life-long advocacy for the marginalised, poor, refugees and indigenous people, has in many ways, made Australia a more just and humane society. It's hardly surprising that he has been recognised as a 'Living National Treasure' by the National Trust.

In one sense, Father Brennan, who I think sees the 'Big Picture' better than most, continues the struggle of the Eureka diggers who fought and died to bring about changes in the system.

As an investigative business journalist, I see my role as shining a light in dark places where powerful individuals and institutions don't want a light shone. It can be high stakes - and sometimes high pressure - as they are powerful and have a lot to lose if the stories get out - or get traction.

To expose wrongdoing and defend the people who can't defend themselves is my key motivation, that's what gets me up in the morning.

Other journalists operate in this space: Kate McClymont a fearless lady who takes on some of the biggest crooks in the country; Joanne McCarthy who exposed child sex abuse in the Catholic Church; the redoubtable Sarah Ferguson on the brutality of the live cattle trade, Richard Baker and Nick McKenzie who have exposed corruption and fraud. There are countless others who put their neck on the line every day.

Journalists who take on these institutions often face legal action, intimidation, abuse and worse. It's no fun when it happens, but it goes with the job and it won't stop us from doing that job.

My joint Fairfax and Four Corners exposes on the Commonwealth Bank, rampant wage fraud at 7-Eleven convenience store chain and gouging retirees in the retirement village industry highlighted in the clearest possible terms how some of our biggest corporations systematically exploit and rip off vulnerable customers and staff.



Adele Ferguson speaking at the 2018 dinner

Sadly, even when incontrovertible evidence was produced, many continued to dissemble. At the heart of the problem is a quest for more profit. We see change when a tidal wave of public opinion forces them to apologise and open up a compensation scheme. It's a shame it takes public exposure to do the right thing. When the stories appeared, CBA pulled all ads in Fairfax. They were worth millions of dollars. There were redundancies going on at Fairfax at the time, which made me feel dreadful.

But the labor party for the first time decided to back a royal commission. It was then that the lobbying really intensified. I was anti-business, a bank basher and many other derogatory names. Many in the media wrote about what a bad idea a royal commission was, a waste of money, wouldn't find anything, might even hurt the economy and our international reputation. In other words, I was irresponsible. What would I know? But it isn't just banks that have needed the blowtorch. Wage fraud is another area where people, often foreign students on a visa, have been exploited. My first story on this was 7-Eleven, a franchise giant that was owned by a brother and sister who had become billionaires out of it. But behind their wealth was systemic wage fraud as franchisees struggled to make money so screwed their workers. We spoke to many students working 60 or more hours a week for as little as \$5 an hour in some cases.

There is always the constant threat of litigation from some of the rich and the powerful.

In 2012, just after I had published *Gina Rinehart: The Untold Story of the Richest Woman in the World*, I was served with a subpoena by Gina's lawyers demanding that I hand over information that would expose confidential sources. As a journalist I would never do this, even though there was the very real possibility that I could land in jail for contempt of court. The subpoena was eventually dismissed but it hung over my head like Damocles Sword and put a great strain on me and my family-----There was many a sleepless night as Fairfax's lawyers worked to get it set aside. The whole period was surreal. Here was I, fighting to keep my sources sacred, and the person who wanted them was a major shareholder in the company that was employing me as one of their senior writers!

As Pamela Williams, an investigative journalist said at the time: "It is a pretty remarkable situation for a media company's major shareholder to demand a journalist reveal their sources. This really is an inversion of everything that someone with a commitment to media should stand for."

In 2013 a record number of subpoenas were served on journalists in Australia----I bagged three of them. Increasingly, journalists are being targeted with subpoenas to intimidate them to close down a particular issue or a piece of investigative journalism. This tactic to use the courts as a weapon to suppress information must be resisted at all costs. Information is the lifeblood of our democratic system, sever this vital artery and the body politic of the nation and all the people who live in it, will be the poorer.

THE EUREKA DEMOCRACY AWARD 2018

is presented to

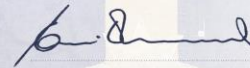
Adele Ferguson

for her courage and leadership in investigating and exposing corrupt and predatory practices among a number of Australian businesses affecting staff and customers, for her strong advocacy to improve whistleblower protections which encourage people to speak out about corporate wrongdoing, for expressing her deep distaste for the dishonesty and avarice she has encountered during her career reporting on business and above all, for giving vulnerable people a voice.

Trust in our public institutions and our corporate entities is a key underpinning of our participatory democracy and of our contemporary Australian culture, reflecting the values displayed at Eureka and the need for fair dealing in a community built upon a strong 'common good' ethic.

Eureka's Children

President: Eric Howard



Eureka Democracy Award Citation - presented to Adele Ferguson

Address by Associate Professor Clare Wright at the 2018 Eureka Democracy Award Dinner

It's a great honour to be asked to give the address at tonight's Eureka Democracy Awards. I thank the organising committee, particularly Eric Howard, for the opportunity to do so. I have been the guest of Eureka's Children on previous occasions, when I have spoken about my book, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*. I've recently released a new book called **You Daughters of Freedom**, which is about how Australian women won historic voting rights in 1902, then used their status as the most fully enfranchised women on the planet to fight for democratic progressivism on the international stage. It is for this reason that I have been asked to speak tonight on the topic of **The Forgotten Rebels of Australian Democracy**.

What I'd like to do tonight is demonstrate some of the links between my research into Eureka and my new book, for they now form the first two instalments of my Democracy Trilogy. Then I'll talk a bit about how we remember the past, and why who we remember and the way we remember them matters.

Many of you will have read *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* so I won't spend too much time re-telling that story. Basically, it recounts how a generation of risk-takers and dreamers came to Victoria during the gold rush, saddled with their hopes and expectations for a richer, freer life. Many of those hopes were dashed in Ballarat in 1854: crushed by poverty, petty tyranny, bureaucratic oppression and, because the immigrants, being without property, didn't have the right to vote, the inability to address their grievances or change the conditions of their daily lives. Through primary evidence, I demonstrated just how many of those immigrants were women and children, and how the women of Eureka were just as full of expectation about their destiny, their entitlements and the bright future that was supposed to be theirs. These women directly challenged what they considered to be bad government policies and

decisions. Women like Anastasia Hayes, Ellen Young, Sarah Hanmer, Catherine Bentley and Clara Seekamp made sure their grievances were heard and that their actions counted, even if their voice and activities were limited in formal political terms.

As we know, the legislative regime was changed after Eureka, and manhood suffrage won (even though a direct causal link is still debated). Some women — and their male allies — argued for womanhood suffrage at this time too. Though women and men fought shoulder to shoulder for their rights and liberties, women's rights were effectively thrown under the bus. It would take another generation of rebellious women to win the female franchise.



Clare Wright speaking at the 2018 dinner

My new book is clearly an international story to begin with because women's suffrage was an international rights movement. Indeed, fifty years after Eureka, women's suffrage was described as *the great world movement ... the most insistent political problem of the day ... the most significant revolution that has come over society in the first years of the 20th century.*

The suffrage movement – or The Cause, as it was known — stood for rebellion, emancipation, spiritual renewal and a fundamental change in the sexual, political and industrial structure of society.

Itsinsurgence is worldwide, wrote one contemporary commentator, *for this reason I think the woman suffrage crusade will, in the eyes of the historian, overshadow all the other events of these tumultuous times.* Votes for Women was what Kevin Rudd might have called “the great moral challenge” of the age.

And the remarkable fact is that Australia lead the world in finding a forward-thinking solution to this challenge. For in 1902, just one year after its inauguration, the new Australian parliament passed legislation securing white women's right to both vote and to stand for federal office.

This Act made Australian women the most fully enfranchised in the world. As one journalist in 1903 wrote, *the purest type of democracy the human race has ever known flourishes to-day beneath Australian skies.* For Australia truly was, in the decade and a half before 1914, what one contemporary called *the envy of the world.* Journalists, sociologists and political scientists travelled to Australia to observe what might happen in the unprecedented petri dish of political and legislative reform, the test site that would also pioneer the living wage, the first elected Labor government and other socially progressive legislation like pure food laws. And Australians, men and women, took their responsibilities as the social innovators of the world very seriously. Australia was, after all, as the globe-trotting American journalist Jessie Ackermann put it, *in the noonday glare.*

The irony is that the British suffragettes have become icons of female resistance and protest to generations of women around the world. The recent Hollywood blockbuster starring Meryl Streep as Emmeline Pankhurst brought a new global audience to this singular moment in British history. And here in Australia, the Eureka miners — until recently conceived as exclusively male — and bushrangers like Ned Kelly have become an icon of anti-authoritarianism and reckless bravado to generations of wannabe rebels in Australia.

But Australian political activists who were global media sensations and folk heroes a century ago — women like Dora Montefiore and Muriel Matters — are relegated to the footnotes of academic history, if considered at all.

Lest we forget— as the narrative of militarism permits us to do — that women as well as men have historically fought for the rights and liberties we theoretically hold dear today. These women have not only worked to strengthen democratic traditions in Australia, but indeed to create them. These women are too often the forgotten rebels of democracy. Please, let's not forget them.

Remarks at the Eureka Democracy Award Dinner by Invited Guest, the German Consul General in Melbourne, Mr Michael Pierce, SC

Michael noted that his father had grown up in Ballarat and for that reason Michael had always been interested in the Eureka story. He spoke about the 3 diggers of German origin who were killed in the Eureka Stockade in the attack by Troops and Police and remarked that the German contingent on the goldfields and in the early settlement of Victoria was one of the largest in number after the English, Scots and Irish.

He pointed out that one of the Diggers killed was Edouard Thonen, who was of Prussian Jewish origin, a background he shares with another famous Victorian, perhaps our most famous son, General Sir John Monash, whose Prussian Jewish parents emigrated to Australia around that time.

Michael talked of the locations where those of German origin settled at and after the goldrush period across Victoria, especially in Western Victoria and referred to the German Lantern Festival to be held in Tarrington near Hamilton in Western Victoria in a week's time. He noted that Tarrington was once called Hochkirk and was settled in 1853 and that many German place names were changed during WW1 for reasons that are of course well understood.

Michael saluted the 3 diggers for their courage and commended Eureka's Children for keeping alive the spirit of Eureka.



Michael Pierce speaking at the Dinner

We are indebted to Leigh Callinan (re Edward Thonen and John Hafele) and Phillip Moore (re Thomas Henfield) for providing the following supportive notes on the 3 German Diggers who lost their lives.

Notes on the Germans at the Eureka Stockade:

While several Germans would have been involved in the Ballarat miner's struggle for justice in 1854, three were killed in the attack on the Stockade. They are noteworthy **heroes of the Eureka Rebels**. The description below is taken from the pages of: Fitzsimons, Peter. (2012). Eureka: The Unfinished Revolution. Heinemann Australia.

Referenced work therein is indicated by single quotes (').

1. Edward Thonen

A young German Jewish man by the name of Edward Thonen emerges as the Leader of a company of riflemen: p. 386.

Also present is the exceedingly slight and short 23-year-old, Edward Thonen, the Jewish man from Prussia ...He has always stood out on the goldfields for the lemonade he sells to thirsty miners and his shrewd chess playing. He was involved in an uprising with Friedrich Engels, which caused him to be expelled from Prussia. Raffaello Carboni described him as 'Shrewd, yet honest; benevolent but scorning the knave; deep of thought, though prompt in action; Thonen possessed the head of that cast of men whose word is their bond.' p. 398.

When Carboni proposed that Lalor be elected Commander in Chief of the Rebels, he was seconded by Edward Thonen. p. 401. Thonen was the one member of the Council for the Defence on duty through the night {before the battle; Peter Lalor having retired for sleep}. p. 452

Captain Thonen {led his diggers against} Furnell's mounted police attacking their flank. P.471. Edward Thonen was shot multiple times 'exactly in the mouth' – his boots on, gun in his hand, still firing – but he is dead before he hits the ground. p. 478.

And of course, there is Edward Thonen, the popular 'lemonade man', 'his mouth literally choked with bullets', the bottom part of his face and jawline shot away. p. 487

2. John Hafele

One man who has no time to stop, however, is swarthy German Blacksmith, John Hafele. Within the stockade he makes pikes, sharpened metal spikes secured to 8 foot poles – which he promises will most definitely 'fix red coats and blue pissants especially'. p. 418.

{Hafele armed} 20 men with pikes ... worthily holding one himself. p. 464

And nor are there any braver than the German blacksmith Hafele, who has worked so hard to forge all those pikes. Right in the thick of it, he is flailing his own pike at every soldier who comes within range – and even those who don't – before he too is struck down, his corpse run through with frenzied repeated bayonet thrusts. p. 478.

Strangely and most movingly of all, in the face of all the devastation around and about Hafele, his dog – a tiny Irish Terrier- won't stop howling and trying to lick his master awake. Time and again the dog is removed, for decency's sake, but time and again the dog comes back and 'lying again on his master's breast [begins] howling again.' p. 487

Alas, when the body of John Hafele is lifted onto the dray, his little terrier reaches new depths of misery and jumps up to sit on his master's chest ... p. 491.

When the time comes to bury the poor German pikeman Hafele, the huge procession is accompanied closely by the same faithful terrier who hovered by the morgue all night long and now follows his 'dead master to the grave, perhaps the deepest mourner in the procession'. p. 505.

3. Thomas Henfield. In addition, there was a third German digger who died at Eureka. Thomas Henfield died on 5 December from his wounds received in the battle. He was later buried in the Diggers' Grave at the Old Ballarat Cemetery.

An Administrative Appeals Tribunal hearing on the Eureka flag being used by the Australia First party as their logo on the ballot paper

A Melbourne based academic, Louise Watson, is appealing the decision made by the Australian Electoral Commission to grant this party considered extreme by many in the political world [led by a person who Wikipedia describes as a "convicted criminal and former neo-Nazi"] the use of the Eureka logo in election material and on the election ballot paper.

The Committee of Eureka's Children has assisted Louise in preparing her case as we believe that no political party should be allowed to use the Eureka logo, which we regard as sacred.

The public hearing is to be held on Wednesday 19 December at 10 am in the Hearing Room 5.06 on level 5, 15 William Street Melbourne. Louise would appreciate a supportive audience, so members and friends are invited to attend.

"WE SWEAR BY THE SOUTHERN CROSS TO STAND TRULY BY EACH OTHER AND FIGHT TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES"
MINERS OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO EACH OTHER AT BAKERY HILL NOVEMBER 30, 1854

EUREKA DEMOCRACY AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- 2008 LATE PROFESSOR WESTON BATE, ACADEMIC AND HISTORIAN**
- 2009 LATE EMERITUS PROFESSOR JOHN MOLONY, AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN**
- 2010 MARGARET RICH, DIRECTOR BALLARAT FINE ART GALLERY, 1980-2003**
- 2011 DR. ANNE BEGGS-SUNTER, ACADEMIC, AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST**
- 2013 MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY AT EUREKA (M.A.D.E.)**
- 2015 FATHER FRANK BRENNAN SJ AO, CEO CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, AUSTRALIA**
- 2016 PHIL GLENDENNING AM, CHAIR, REFUGEE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA**
- 2017 SENATOR PATRICK DODSON, SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA**
- 2018 ADELE FERGUSON, INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST, FAIRFAX AND ABC**

Eureka's Children Merchandise

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



\$20 each, including postage

Flag Pins & Fridge Magnets

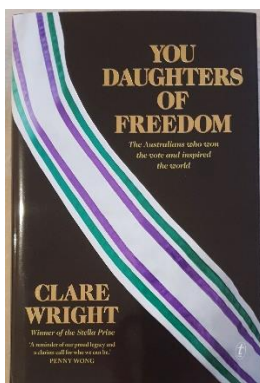


\$5 each, including postage

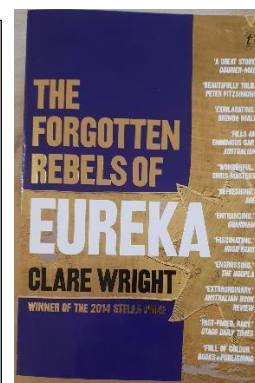
T-shirts for men, women and children (in best quality cotton)



\$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)



Contact Leigh Callinan at acallinan@vtown.com.au 03 5442 3675, 0408 061 766 to purchase.

EUREKA'S CHILDREN INC.

Membership Application/Renewal for 2019 (Jan-Dec)

Please print all details and where appropriate.

Surname:			
Other Names:			
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Phone No			
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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

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*

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***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.



The Melbourne 'Age' reported on Saturday 8 December that 'Adele Ferguson is writing a book on banks and financial misconduct to be released next year'.

We understand it will be released in the 3rd quarter of 2019.