



VISITOR GUIDE
EUREKA CENTRE BALLARAT

The Eureka Centre respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Eureka Centre stands. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge their continuing connections to Country and Culture.

The Wadawurrung People are the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Eureka Rebellion took place. While the Eureka Stockade led to male suffrage in 1858 and informed the social reforms that followed, it was over 100 years until Australia's First Nations People were able to exercise the right to vote.

WELCOME TO THE EUREKA CENTRE BALLARAT

Each year we welcome people from around the world who seek a meaningful connection to one of Australia's most significant foundation stories – the Eureka Rebellion.

At the Eureka Centre, we explore the social history and cultural impact of the Victorian goldrush and honour the stories of the men and women who risked their lives in the fight for miners' rights.

The Eureka Centre is located at the Eureka Stockade Memorial Park, considered to be the site of the 1854 Eureka Stockade where the rebellion took place. It is home to one of the country's most compelling historic artefacts – the Eureka Flag.

The Eureka Stockade was a hastily erected wooden fort. It was just as quickly dismantled following the attack by government forces on 3 December 1854. Although, no tangible evidence of the structure remains, archaeological evidence was uncovered at the site between 1996 and 2012 that dates to the time of the Eureka Stockade.

The Eureka Stockade Memorial Park is a place to contemplate the legacy and honour those involved in Eureka. People visit the Eureka Centre for many reasons. Some are descendants of those involved in the battle; others come to reflect on Eureka's impact on Australian democracy and culture.

Many people have strong feelings about Eureka and there are differing interpretations of both its history and legacy. We recognise the value of diverse opinions and are here to help guide visitors through the Eureka story and site.

THE EUREKA STORY



Why did you disregard our memorials and entreaties...until the people, sickened by hope deferred, and maddened by continued and increased acts of oppression, were driven to take up arms in self-defence?

CLARA SEEKAMP

The Ballarat Times, 1 January 1855.



The battle of the Eureka Stockade has an enduring place in the Australian consciousness and is heralded by many as the birth of democracy in Australia.

In 1854, gold miners and their supporters protested what they saw as unjust regulations and law enforcement imposed by the colonial government, including the prohibitively expensive Gold License. Unrest built for months across the central Victorian goldfields, but especially in the busy goldrush settlements of Bendigo and Ballarat. They were angry at the restrictive rules around mining, land ownership and the right to vote.

Tensions continued to rise as the protesters felt the government was ignoring their demands. Finally, the miners and their allies met and agreed to resist the authorities by building a timber stockade at a strategic position on the Eureka Lead, in the heart of the gold mining area of Ballarat East and with a clear view of the road from Melbourne.

Before dawn on 3 December 1854, 276 soldiers and police marched from the Government Camp in the centre of Ballarat, to confront the rebels. Only 120 people were at the stockade when the soldiers and police arrived as they were not expecting an attack on a Sunday morning.

The battle was swift and deadly – it was over within 20 minutes. Six soldiers and 22 rebels were registered as casualties. The exact death toll remains a subject of debate but has been estimated as being as high as 60. There was a heavy military presence in the town immediately after the battle and more people may have died during this time. Those who survived either fled and went into hiding or were arrested. 13 rebels were tried for treason, 12 were acquitted and charges against one were dropped.

The battle at Eureka, known as the Eureka Stockade, resulted in an investigation into the administration of the goldfields, called a Commission of Enquiry. This enquiry recommended the abolition of the despised monthly licence. In 1855 the miners won the right to vote and further democratic reforms followed. As Mark Twain wrote after his 1895 visit to Ballarat, the Eureka Stockade 'is another instance of a victory won by a lost battle'.



The announcement of the verdict of the jury was received with the most vociferous demonstration of applause... Joseph was immediately surrounded by hundreds of friends who welcomed him with the most lively manifestations of joy.

'FRIDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY 1855'
The Age, Melbourne, 24 February 1855.



JOHN JOSEPH

1854

KEY DATES

11 NOVEMBER

The Ballarat Reform League Charter is adopted, listing demands for reform, including representation in parliament.

27 NOVEMBER

Lieutenant Governor Charles Hotham rejects the Reform League Charter, leading to anger amongst its advocates.

29 NOVEMBER

'Bring Your License' meeting of 10,000 gold miners at Bakery Hill. The Eureka Flag is unfurled for the first time.

30 NOVEMBER

The largest ever gold licence hunt, known as the 'Digger Hunt' is launched by authorities.

3 DECEMBER

Troopers attack the stockade at dawn on a Sunday – the Christian day of worship. The timing of the attack outrages the community.

1855

FEBRUARY

13 rebels are charged with treason. None are found guilty.

MARCH

The Goldfields Commission recommends the abolition of the gold licence and its replacement with a more affordable Miner's Right.

1856

SPRING

Peter Lalor, Leader of the Eureka Rebellion, and John Humffray, Secretary of the Ballarat Reform League are elected to the Legislative Assembly of Victoria.



My endeavour shall be to act honestly, and for the good of the people.

SIR CHARLES HOTHAM KCB

Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

Speaking on 16 August 1854, as quoted in 'Sir Charles Hotham's Reception at Geelong', *The Argus*, Melbourne, 17 August 1854.



Whatever may have been the object of our rulers in adopting the line of policy they have pursued, the result has been deplorable, and such, I hope, as a civilised people will never again have to witness.

PETER LALOR

Leader of the Eureka rebels.

'The Ballarat Rebellion', *The Age*, Melbourne, 19 April 1855.



THE EUREKA FLAG

The Eureka Centre is home to the Eureka Flag, on loan from the Art Gallery of Ballarat. The flag was known to the Eureka rebels as the Australian Flag, though it is catalogued as the 'Flag of the Southern Cross'. It was first raised at a Ballarat Reform League meeting on the 29 November 1854 at Bakery Hill. The flag's design features a white cross with five stars on a blue background, inspired by the Southern Cross constellation.

The history of the design and making of the Eureka Flag is a source of passionate debate. Evidence points to the flag being designed by Canadian miner and Eureka rebel, Henry Ross. A popular view, supported by oral histories, is that it was sewn by three women, Anne Duke, Anastasia Hayes and Anastasia Withers. There is another theory that it was made by professional tentmakers.

It is believed that police trooper John King souvenired the flag after the attack on the Eureka Stockade. In the 1890s, King's family loaned the flag to the Art Gallery of Ballarat and his descendants donated it in 2001. The flag measures 2.6 metres

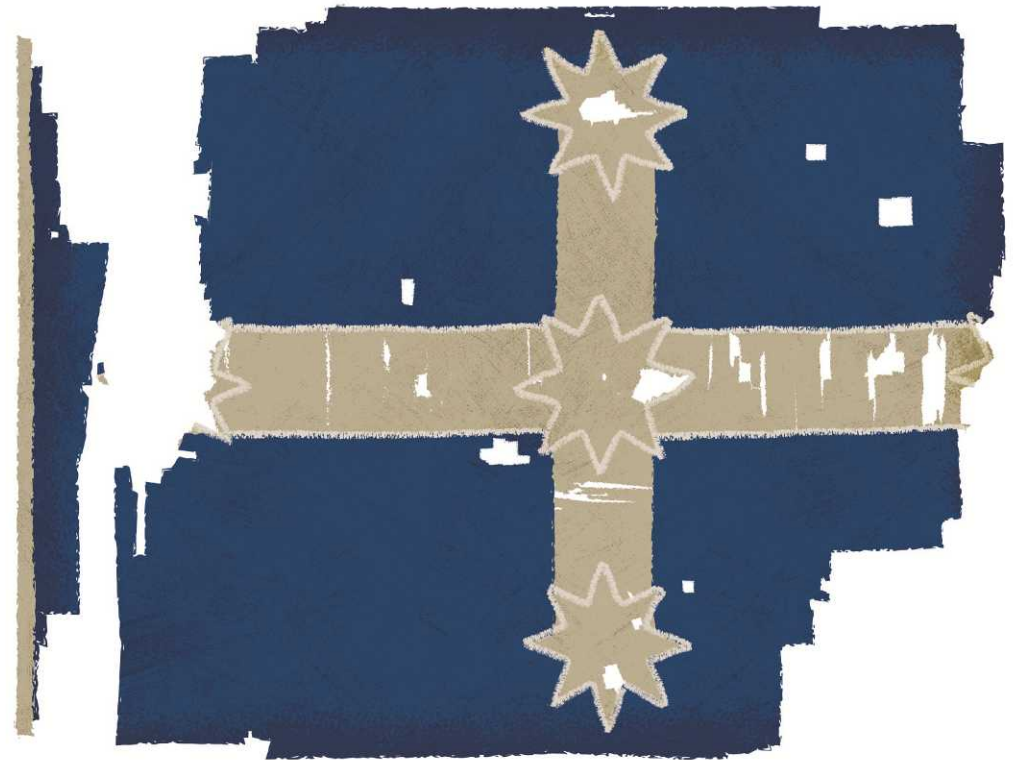


in height and 4 metres in width. It is made of cotton and wool. The flag has missing sections that were cut out as souvenirs. Occasionally these fragments reappear, and many are held in museum collections.

In 1973 the Art Gallery of Ballarat received a grant to repair and display the Eureka Flag. Ballarat seamstress Val D'Angri led the conservation effort. Prime Minister Gough Whitlam unveiled the flag on the 3 December 1973. He used the launch as an opportunity to position the Eureka story as central to Australia's national identity. In 2011, the flag was treated for a second time in accordance with contemporary conservation standards. The flag was then installed in a purpose-built case at the Eureka Centre.

The appropriation of the Eureka Flag by groups representing divergent ideologies has a long history. The flag has a strong association with the trade union movement, but in recent times has been adopted as an expression of political, subcultural or personal identity by many individuals and groups. The different ways in which the flag has been embraced is a reminder of Eureka's enduring resonance.

◀ ANASTASIA HAYES



▲ Illustration of the 'Flag of the Southern Cross (Eureka Flag)', 1854. Collection of the Art Gallery of Ballarat.



“
[I call] on all my fellow-diggers,
irrespective of nationality, religion,
and colour, to salute the “Southern Cross”
as the refuge of all the oppressed from
all countries on earth.

RAFFAELLO CARBONI
The Eureka Stockade, 1855



Inside the
**EUREKA
CENTRE**

**EUREKA
FLAG**

PERMANENT
EXHIBITION

Auditorium

Toilets



← CAPTAIN
HENRY WISE

CAR PARK
EXIT

Ballarat
Research Hub
at Eureka
(BRHAE)

CAFE
ENTRY



CAFE



Ramp



GIFT
SHOP

Tower
Room

MAIN
ENTRY

PETER
LALOR

CAR PARK
ENTRY from Stawell St.

HELEN MURRY MEMORIAL

EUREKA HALL



Toilets



BBQs

EUREKA STOCKADE
MONUMENT

PLAYGROUND

BLUE ATLAS CEDAR
(CEDRUS ATLANTICA F. GLAUCA)

EUREKA STOCKADE MEMORIAL PARK

LAKE
PENHALLURIAK

FOUNTAIN

MEMORIAL
GATE

PIKEMAN'S DOG

BRL PLAQUES

PATHWAY OF REMEMBRANCE

EUREKA
CIRCLE

15 BUS STOP

15 BUS STOP

EUREKA STREET

STAWELL STREET SOUTH

RODIER STREET



NORTH

0 25 50



metres

EUREKA STOCKADE MEMORIAL PARK

The Eureka Stockade Memorial Park is the site of the Eureka Lead goldfield, where the Eureka Stockade was constructed and defended by protesting miners. Today it is the focal point for the commemoration and interpretation of the Eureka story.

In 1869 Ballarat East Council decided to mark the site of the Eureka Stockade. The Victorian Government formally recognised it as a reserve in 1870. In 1884 a committee formed to commission a monument marking the rebellion's 30th anniversary. Eureka veterans were invited to determine exactly where the stockade stood. Due to continuous mining at the Eureka Lead since 1854, it was difficult for the veterans to agree on the exact location. Following some debate, a consensus was reached, though speculation about the exact site of the Eureka Stockade continues to this day.

The 1884 monument remains the centrepiece of the park, though other commemorative and interpretative elements have been added over the years. A walk through the park is a richly layered experience.

The park features two distinct landscapes. The heritage landscape to the south and east of the lake features significant trees, monuments and recreational features. The landscape to the west presents local plant species that flourished prior to colonisation.

The Eureka Stockade Memorial Park is on the Victorian Heritage Register and was added to the National Heritage List on 3 December 2004 – the 150th anniversary of the rebellion.



LAKE PENHALLURIAK

Lake Penhalluriak has its origins as a mining 'sludge pond' at the Eureka Lead. It was expanded as part of an employment relief program in 1915. The lake is named after Frank Penhalluriak, Ballarat East Mayor 1911-12.



BLUE ATLAS CEDAR

One of the most significant trees in the park is the Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica f. glauca*) which is estimated to be 140 years old. It is believed to have been planted in 1891 when Ballarat East Council began making improvements to the park.



THE PLAYGROUND

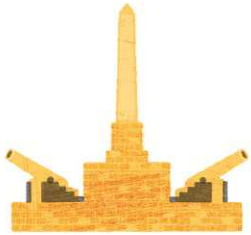
The playground was built in 2012 to reflect the story of the Eureka Stockade. The nearby rotunda, barbeques and pool make the park a popular open space in Ballarat.

The diggers did not take up arms, properly speaking, against the government, but to defend themselves against the bayonets, bullets, and swords of the insolent officials in their unconstitutional attack.

JOHN HUMFFRAY

'The Ballarat delegates, and their interview with his excellency Sir Charles Hotham', 1854, as quoted in Raffaello Carboni, *The Eureka Stockade*, 1855.

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS



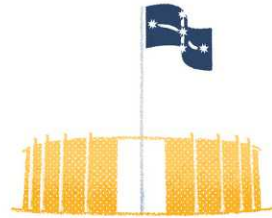
EUREKA STOCKADE MONUMENT

The Eureka Stockade Monument was built in 1884 by Rowsell and Sons to a design by H.A. King. The monument is constructed from Victorian bluestone and the monolith is of Stawell freestone sourced from the Grampians Gariwerd National Park. The cannons were supplied by the Victorian Defence Department for ornamental display but were not used in the Eureka battle. The memorial gates were erected in 1924.



PATHWAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Pathway of Remembrance was established in 2013 to recognise the Eureka fallen. In 2022, it was further developed by the City of Ballarat and Eureka Australia Inc. with 35 plaques honouring those known to have died due to the battle. The project received diplomatic support from Canada, Germany, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Tracing a section of the Eureka Lead, the pathway is flanked by snow gums (*eucalyptus pauciflora*) and native grasses (*poa labillardierii*).



EUREKA CIRCLE

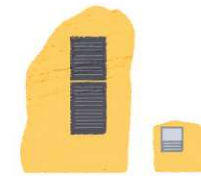
This interpretative sculpture was commissioned in 2004 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion. The events leading to the attack on the Eureka Stockade, its aftermath and legacy are explored in 20 steel panels in the following categories: Authority, Miners, Attack, Result. Artist: Dr Anton Hasell.



PIKEMAN'S DOG

The Pikeman's Dog honours the Irish contribution to Eureka. A sculpture of a loyal terrier named Wee Jock, who refused to leave his dead master, was commissioned in the 1990s. In 2012 it was incorporated into a larger monument. The 22 golden pikes represent those rebels whose deaths were registered following the battle.

Artists: Charles Smith and Joan Walsh-Smith.



BRL PLAQUES

These plaques were commissioned in 2008 by the Ballarat Reform League Inc. to identify significant Eureka-related sites across Victoria. Two additional plaques are in Ballarat at Bakery Hill and the corner of Main Road and Callow Street – the site of the former Star Hotel, which is where the Ballarat Reform League Charter was written.



EUREKA HALL

The construction of a brick hall began in 1926. The Helen McKay Memorial Gates were added in 1953 to commemorate a founding member of the Eureka Stockade Progress Association. Ballarat East Neighbourhood House presents a program of community activities in the hall:

www.ballarateastnh.org.au

For hall hire enquiries email:

info@eurekaholidaypark.com.au



BALLARAT'S EUREKA HERITAGE

The Eureka Centre at the Eureka Stockade Memorial Park is the starting point for experiencing the Eureka story. Continue your Eureka journey by visiting other significant sites and monuments around Ballarat.



1. ST ALIPIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

A slab church was built at this site in 1853. Father Smyth, St. Alipius' priest, appealed for a peaceful resolution to the miners' protests. Smyth reputedly hid rebel leader Peter Lalor after he was injured. The current bluestone church that stands on this site was opened in 1874.



4. ALFRED DEAKIN PLACE

This site is located on part of the former Government Camp where troopers and militia marched to the Eureka Stockade on 3 December 1854. The Art Gallery of Ballarat, built here in 1890, has an extraordinary art collection including representations of Eureka and the goldfields.

2. BAKERY HILL

The Eureka Flag and plaque at Bakery Hill recognise the 'monster meeting' of 29 November 1854 where the flag was first flown. The actual location of the meeting is designated with a marker at the rear of the nearby St Paul's Church.



5. PETER LALOR STATUE

This bronze sculpture by British artist T. Nelson MacLean was presented to the city in 1893 by Ballarat civic leader, James Oddie. It includes four relief panels depicting Peter Lalor's involvement at the Eureka Stockade and his career as a Victorian Member of Parliament.



3. BALLARAT TRADES HALL

Ballarat Trades Hall opened in 1888 and is in the vicinity of the former Government Camp. It is the second oldest trades hall in Australia. The Eureka Stockade inspired the union movement's adoption of the Eureka Flag as its principal symbol.



6. BALLARAT OLD CEMETERY

This is the resting place of both the rebels and the government forces involved in the Eureka Stockade. The Diggers' Monument was donated by sculptor James Leggatt in 1856, while the memorial for the soldiers was installed by the colonial government.

EUREKA FURTHER AFIELD

OLD MELBOURNE GAOL

The jail where Eureka rebels arrested for treason were held before trial.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, MELBOURNE

The seat of political power in the Colony of Victoria. Miners' rights activists Peter Lalor and John Humffray were elected to serve in 1856.

TOORAK HOUSE

Melbourne's Government House, 1854 to 1876. Now home to the Swedish Church and Scandinavian Community Centre.

MELBOURNE GENERAL CEMETERY

Eureka graves, including the Hotham Monument and Peter Lalor's Grave.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE VICTORIA & STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

Custodians of important Eureka records.

TENAKILL HOUSE

Raheen, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, Ireland. The birthplace of Peter Lalor.

BIRTH COUNTRIES OF THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN EUREKA



People arrived at the Victorian Goldfields from all over the world. This list has been compiled from a range of sources and may not be a definitive reflection of the different origins of those involved.

EUREKA CENTRE BALLARAT

OPENING HOURS

Daily 10am to 5pm

Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day
Please call and book a guided tour for groups of 10 or more.

Café hours 10am to 3.30pm daily

Ballarat Research Hub at Eureka (BRHAE)

Hours 10am to 4.30pm (Monday to Thursday)
BRHAE presents the combined resources and services of the Public Record Office Victoria's Ballarat Archives Centre, Ballarat and District Genealogical Society and the City of Ballarat's Australiana Research Collection.

LOCATION

102 Stawell Street South
Ballarat Central, Victoria, AUSTRALIA, 3350
Carpark entrance from Stawell Street

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Regular regional trains operate between Melbourne and Ballarat.
Route 15 Bus travels between the Eureka Centre and Ballarat Station.

CONTACT


Visitor Information

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+61 3 5333 0333

Education Program

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 eurekacentreballarat.com.au

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CITY OF
BALLARAT 



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