

# eureka circle

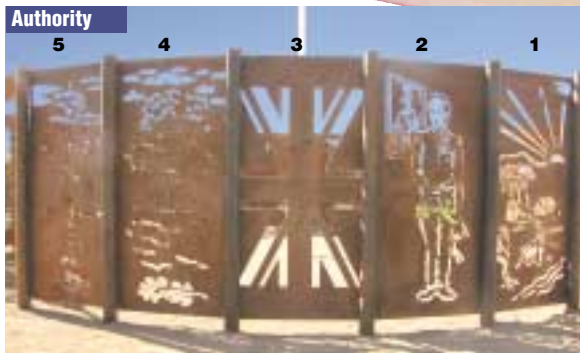
**Artist: Dr Anton Hasell**  
Completed November 2004



## EUREKA CIRCLE

"Eureka Circle" was unveiled by the Premier of Victoria Steve Bracks at the opening of Eureka 150 on the 26th of November 2004.

Funding for this Interpretive Sculpture by Anton Hasell and the redevelopment of the Eureka Stockade Gardens was provided through the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Development Fund and the City of Ballarat.



### INTRODUCTION:

The artwork "Eureka Circle" was commissioned during 2004 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion. The principle objective underlying the installation was to capture the sacrifice, a sense of noble cause, a spirit of unity and to provide an educational component that acknowledges the Eureka Stockade, the men, women and children involved and the nations represented.

Designed and constructed by Dr Anton Hasell, the installation consists of 20 individual steel panels depicting aspects of the Eureka story. Each panel has been cut using the plasma cutting process to present the detail of each image.

Entry to the Circle is gained by passing beneath the oath sworn by the diggers at Bakery Hill on the 30th of November, 1854.

**"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties"**

### PANEL INFORMATION:

The individual panels are arranged in the categories of:

- \* AUTHORITY
- \* MINERS
- \* ATTACK
- \* RESULT



### AUTHORITY:

#### 1. Diggers at work

Panning for gold was hard work and the diggers worked long hours digging and working their cradles in search of this precious metal. They were regularly interrupted by police and troopers searching for diggers without gold licenses.

#### 2. Lt Governor Hotham

Lt Governor Charles Hotham arrived in Melbourne on the 22nd of June 1854. He is shown with a portrait of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. Lt Governor Hotham proceeded Governor Joseph Latrobe as chief administrator of the Colony of Victoria and upon arrival was confronted with the rising tensions on the Ballarat and Bendigo Goldfields.

#### 3. The Union Jack

The Union Jack was the official flag of The British Government. The Flag of the Southern Cross adopted by the diggers at Ballarat was regarded with contempt by the Government authorities and considered to be the flag of foreigners and rebel elements.

#### 4. The English Oak Tree

The English Oak tree is symbolic of the British cultural, social and administrative presence in Australia during the 19th Century and in particular on the Victorian gold fields in the 1850's.

#### 5. The Australian Gum Tree

The gum tree with its rugged and spontaneous structure is symbolic of the Australian rural landscape and provides a strong contrast to the English Oak tree with its compact and orderly form.

# eureka circle



## MINERS:

### 1. Migration to the Goldfields of Australia

Following the discovery of Gold in New South Wales in 1850 and in Victoria in 1851 people from all over the world traveled to Australia in search of gold and a new life. Many of these new arrivals came from countries where the residents were prepared to take a strong stand to achieve both political and social reforms.

### 2. The License Inspection

Regular inspections of the gold license were carried out by troopers and police. Diggers found not holding a current license could be arrested, fined and jailed. The license was introduced to raise much needed revenue for the government and to dissuade people from leaving their jobs to assume the role of a digger on the Victorian gold fields.

### 3. The Burning of the Eureka Hotel

On the 17th of October 1854, following the murder of James Scobie outside the Eureka Hotel and the failure of the Police Magistrate John Dewes to find the Hotel owner James Bentley guilty of the crime the angry diggers gathered outside the hotel. The Hotel was later burned down.

### 4. Sewing the Flag of the Southern Cross

Prior to the Bakery Hill meetings of diggers on the 29th and 30th of November 1854, women on the Eureka Lead constructed the Flag of the Southern Cross (also referred to as the Eureka Flag) using a combination of wool and cotton materials.

### 5. Peter Lalor swearing the Oath of Allegiance

Peter Lalor an Irishman was elected leader of the diggers at Ballarat. On the 30th of November 1854 beneath the Flag of the Southern Cross on Bakery Hill he asked those diggers prepared to support him to swear an oath of allegiance to each other.

## ATTACK:

### 1. The Flag of the Southern Cross

The Flag of the Southern Cross or the Eureka Flag is reported to have been based on a design developed by the Canadian Captain Ross. The flag made by women on the Eureka Lead was first raised at Bakery Hill on the 29th of November, 1854. The flag measuring approximately 4 x 2.6 metres was made from wool and cotton material. The flag was pulled down during the battle at the Stockade by trooper John King. The flag was badly cut and damaged with pieces being given away later as souvenirs. The flag is now on display at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery.

### 2. The armed digger

As unrest grew amongst the diggers following their harsh treatment by the authorities many diggers took up arms and prepared to defend themselves.



## Result

### 3. The Battle at the Eureka Stockade

At dawn on the 3rd of December 1854 soldiers and police attacked the diggers at the Stockade on the Eureka Lead. Taken by surprise the diggers fought bravely but were quickly overcome by the well equipped and trained government forces.

### 4. Soldier arresting a digger

Following the battle at the Eureka Stockade up to 125 diggers were arrested.

### 5. Soldier

Soldiers of the 12th and 40th Regiments were stationed in Ballarat during 1854 and took part in the attack on the Eureka Stockade on the 3rd of December of that year.

## RESULT:

### 1. John Joseph and the trials of the diggers

Following the arrest of the diggers at the Stockade 13 diggers were sent for trial in Melbourne charged with committing High Treason. The first man to be placed on trial was the black American John Joseph. Joseph and 11 other diggers were found by the juries to be not guilty of this serious charge. Thomas Dignum was discharged without being brought to trial.

### 2. Meeting of the residents of Melbourne in support of the diggers

Following the battle at the Eureka Stockade meetings were called to support the diggers actions in Ballarat and to condemn the attack on the diggers by the soldiers and police at Ballarat. A large meeting was held outside St Paul's Cathedral on the 6th of December 1854, attended by 6000 people.

### 3. Digger casting his Vote

In April 1855 following the events of Eureka the introduction of the Miners Right entitled the holder to the franchise or vote. This entitlement became known as the Victorian Ballot.

### 4. Peter Lalor as a Member of Parliament

On the 18th of November 1855 Peter Lalor and John Humfray were elected to the Legislative Council as representatives of the residents of Ballarat. In 1856 Lalor was elected to the new Legislative Assembly and in 1880 appointed speaker of the House of Assembly. He resigned from Parliament in 1887.

### 5. Goldfields Family

Although a major proportion of the goldfields population were single men some women and children lived on the diggings. Living in a tent, facing poverty and surviving the extremes of winter and summer were major challenges for many families. Unrest on the goldfields diminished following Eureka with the granting of reforms and improvements in administration. The method of searching for gold moved from diggers working individually or in small groups to large scale mining companies. These companies possessed the equipment and other resources necessary to secure the large gold deposits that lay deep below the earth's surface.



## Eureka 150th

26 November –  
5 December 2004

Eureka... birthplace of  
the Australian spirit



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