

EUREKA EDUCATION WALKING TOUR

This is a build it yourself tour of the Eureka Stockade memorial park. It should feel like your tour so please take the time to read the information and consider how you would like it to run. You could just visit one or two of these places and spend your full time there, you could focus on a theme (like monuments), or you could do a full tour and pack it full of all the interesting facts.

This tour can be used for large groups to reduce the number of students that are in the building. Have a think about the appropriate level of details to include in your tour based on the student level. This tour is not part of a Eureka Centre program so individual risks have not been included in our Risk Management plan.

Below is a list of the key places in the park and then more detailed information about each one. The Eureka stockade is often called the 'Birthplace of Australian Democracy and it is why we focus on Democratic changes at our Museum. This tour of the park includes key information about the Eureka Story and highlights why our museum is located here.



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| A. Eureka Centre Ballarat (START/FINISH) | F. Discussion on Bentley's Hotel |
| B. Lake Penhalluriak | G. Eureka Path of Remembrance |
| C. Blue Atlas Cedar | H. Eureka Circle |
| D. Eureka Stockade Monument | I. BRL plaque |
| E. Old Melbourne Road (Now Eureka Street) | J. Pikemans dog |

A. Eureka Centre: Introduction to the 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. 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 Stockade.

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.

B. Lake Penhalluriak



Lake Penhalluriak has its origins as a mining ‘sludge pond’ at the Eureka Lead and there is a drawing of it from as early as 1873. Sludge ponds were areas used to contain the water pumped out of mines so that it didn’t run down the landscape (getting in mines/ruining residential areas, etc). It was expanded as part of an employment relief program in 1915. The lake is named after Frank Penhalluriak, Ballarat East Mayor 1911-1912.

C. 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. This is the only tree to have survived from that first planting. Many of the trees on this side of the park are planted in geometric patterns – such as in a square around the monument. This was a common way of planting trees in parks.

D. Eureka Stockade Monument



This monument was erected in 1886. Two years earlier, On 16 April 1884 (almost thirty years after the Stockade) a meeting was held to discuss the need to create a permanent monument to mark the site of the battle. However, even in 1884 there was confusion about the exact location of the battle.

The uncertainty was a result of the fact that:

- The Stockade was on the diggings where there were few landmarks – mainly tents and mines
- The materials it was made from were quickly reclaimed for other purposes. This meant the Stockade left no clear archeological footprint
- The area continued to be mined after the battle which changed the basic topography of the area

The cannons were supplied by the Victorian Defence Department for ornamental display but were not used in the Eureka battle.

E. Old Melbourne Road (Now Eureka Street)

During the Gold Rush, people travelling to Ballarat from Melbourne would enter the town by Old Melbourne Road, which passed directly through the Eureka diggings.

The Eureka diggings encompassed this area, including the park where the Eureka Centre is located. In 1854 it would have been covered in tents, with a few buildings, and many mine shafts.

Eureka St developed quickly with the discovery of the Eureka lead. This early development left a legacy of winding roads and irregular shaped lots following the placement of mining and building sites. The layout of many of the other roads in a partly distorted grid pattern illustrates an attempt to introduce a formal urban plan over the haphazard development in the area caused through mining.

Most of the allotments were laid out by private section under Miner's Right leases

F. Discussion of Bentley's Hotel

The Eureka hotel was very large (slept 80 people). It had three bars, a bowling alley, and a billiards room. It was owned by James Bentley who lived there with his wife, Catherine, and children.

In October 1854, a miner named James Scobie was murdered near the Hotel and many thought that Bentley was responsible for Scobies death. Bentley was arrested but cleared by local magistrates.

It is widely believed that the anger created by Bentley's release, which many considered proof of official corruption, was a catalyst for the Eureka Rebellion. We do not know exactly where Bentley's Hotel stood because the streets in the area have changed significantly since 1854. However, we know it was nearby.

G. Eureka Path of Remembrance



The Pathway of Remembrance was established in 2013 to recognise the Eureka fallen. In 1854, 27 were recorded on the official death list of the Rebellion, five of whom were soldiers. Other lists including different names were also created - including one by Peter Lalor, published in the *Argus*.

As many people fled into the bush, it is likely that other unknown people also died as a result of their wounds.

There is evidence that at least one woman and one child also died, although their names were never recorded. The evidence comes from the diary of Charles Evans who was not involved in the battle but was living in Ballarat at the time. On Tuesday, December 5, Evans recorded:

‘Among the victims of last nights unpardonable recklessness were a woman and her infant -The same ball [bullet] which murdered the Mother (for that is the term for it) passed through the child as it lay sleeping in her arms.’¹

In 2021 the pathway was further developed by the City of Ballarat and Eureka Australia Inc. with 35 plaques honouring those known to have died because of the battle. The project received diplomatic support from Canada, Germany, Ireland, Russia and the United Kingdom. The planting (*Poa labillardieri*) along the path traces a segment of the Eureka Lead.

H. Eureka Circle



Artist: Dr Anton Hasell.

This interpretative sculpture was commissioned in 2004 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion. It was unveiled by then Premier Steve Bracks. It features 20 steel panels welded in a circle that is 11 metres in diameter. Each panel is 4 metres high and depicts an aspect of the Eureka story. The panels are arranged in the categories of: Authority, Miners, Attack, Result. Although the panels look old because they are rusty – they were actually treated with acid to make them rust! They have a special coating which makes them resistant to paint/damage.

I. Ballarat Reform League 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. There is one at Bakery Hill to recognize the monster meeting, where 10,000 miners gathered to burn their licenses. And another at 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.

The Ballarat Reform League were key organisers of the Eureka rebellion/stockade. They were the ones who organized the monster meetings and wrote a petition to the Governor to get rid of the miners license.

J. Pikeman's Dog



Artists: Charles Smith and Joan Walsh-Smith.

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 to a larger monument. The 22 golden pikes represent the rebels killed at Eureka whose deaths were registered at the time.

The RSPCA Purple Cross Award was presented to the Pikeman's Dog posthumously at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery on 30 November 1997. The RSPCA Australia Purple Cross Award recognises the deeds of animals that have shown outstanding service to humans.

The Pikeman's Dog, a little terrier, showed great devotion and bravery at the death of his master at the [Eureka Stockade](#) on 3 December 1854. As a result of the attack on the miners by Crown forces, five British soldiers and some thirty miners died. Among the miners lay a Pikeman, mortally wounded with some 15 wounds. Guarding his body throughout the hours it lay unclaimed at the battlefield, and later accompanying it on the death cart as the remaining bodies were transferred to the cemetery.

The purple cross is on display at the Eureka Centre.