



## **The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka By Dr. Clare Wright**

**The Eureka story is one of Australia's foundation legends. But until now it has been told as though only half the participants were there. As Clare reveals in her book *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, there were thousands of women on the goldfields and many of them were active in pivotal roles.**

**The stories of how they arrived there, why they came and how they sustained themselves makes for fascinating reading in their own right. But it is in the rebellion itself that the unbiddable women of Ballarat come into their own.**

**Clare Wright reminds us that these women attended the Monster Meetings at Bakery Hill and it was they who sewed the Eureka Flag. They wrote letters of protest to newspapers and even to Governor Latrobe, about the many intolerable conditions on the goldfields. And like the diggers, those women who had their own business were constantly raided and checked by the dreaded police for their licence to operate a business. Clare tells us how these women stood by their husbands, the diggers at Eureka, suffered the consequences of their actions, their incarceration or worse, their death, who nursed the wounded and hid the wanted.**

**In her preface to the book Clare says: "I want to reinvigorate the story of Eureka, to bring it with renewed relevance to a modern, diverse community for whom talk of 'democracy and freedom' should automatically raise questions of gender equity. The great gift of Eureka –its beauty and, in a sense, its terror - is that the story of women's effort, influence and sacrifice is both politically correct and historically true.**

**Dr Clare Wright is an historian who has worked as a political speechwriter, university lecturer, historical consultant and radio and television broadcaster. Her first book, *Beyond the Ladies Lounge: Australia's Female Publicans*, garnered both critical and popular acclaim. She researched, wrote and presented the ABC television documentary *Utopia Girls*.**

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