



The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka

Clare Wright

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Winner of the Stella Prize, 2014.

The Eureka Stockade. The story is one of Australia's foundation legends, but until now it has been told as though only half the participants were there.

What if the hot-tempered, free-wheeling gold miners we learnt about in school were actually husbands and fathers, brothers and sons? And what if there were women and children inside the Eureka Stockade, defending their rights while defending themselves against a barrage of bullets?

As Clare Wright reveals, 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 make for fascinating reading in their own right. But it is in the rebellion itself that the unbiddable women of Ballarat come into their own.

Groundbreaking, absorbing, crucially important, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* is the uncut story of the day the Australian people found their voice.

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* and is currently writing a four-part series to commemorate the centenary of WWI for ABC1. She lives in Melbourne with her husband and three children.

'Lively, incisive and timely, Clare Wright's account of the role of women in the Eureka Stockade is an engrossing read. Assembling a tapestry of voices that vividly illuminate the hardscrabble lives endured on Ballarat's muddy goldfields, this excellent book reveals a concealed facet of one of Australia's most famous incidences of colonial rebellion. For once, Peter Lalor isn't the hero: it's the women who are placed front and centre...*The Forgotten Rebels* links the actions of its heroines to the later fight for female suffrage, and will be of strong relevance to a contemporary female audience. Comprehensive and full of colour, this book will also be essential reading for devotees of Australian history.' *Bookseller and Publisher*

'This is a wonderful book. At last an Australian foundation story where women are not only found, but are found to have played a fundamental role.' Chris Masters

'Brilliantly researched and fun to read. An exhilarating new take on a story we thought we knew.' Brenda Niall

'Fascinating revelations. Beautifully told.' Peter FitzSimons

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