



O'Leathlobhair Line

From Laois, Ballarat & beyond

EDITION SUMMER 2018-2019

MARY IS CHIEFTAIN

Mary Lalor Carmody has been elected Clan chieftain for 2018/19 and says that she was very honoured to win the election and looks forward to events for the coming year.

The new Chieftain is also Correspondence and Computer Operator for the Clan. She is married to Dan Carmody who is a committee member of the Lalor Clan.

Mary and Dan are valued members of the Lalor House Restoration Project. Mary is joint treasurer with Tom Lawlor and her husband Dan is secretary.

Mary loves travelling and is a member of Laois Writer's Group and has written several short stories which have been published by the group.

- Mary Lalor Fitzpatrick



The restoration of Tenakill House has completed its second phase. This included extensive remedial work to the front façade, the two gables and the capping of the walls to prevent further water damage. Kevin Lalor Fitzpatrick said that Tenakill's conservation architect, Richard McLoughlin, has completed a survey of the house which will form the basis of a blueprint for the continued conservation restoration.

"Phase three which will commence next spring involves sifting through debris for any artefacts and the rebuilding of the back wall of the house. When this is completed, the house will be ready for a new roof and this is the program for phase four in 2020. We are now moving into a new and by far a more expensive phase of the restoration program and are happy
(Continued page 2)

MORE LALOR HISTORY DISCOVERED



with the response to our 'Sponsor a Slate' but we need large contributions also. "The committee is determined to see this work finished because we cannot countenance a situation where this historic house will ultimately finish as a pile of rubble. That is a prospect too dire to consider," said Kevin. Lalors, Lawlors, Lawlers everywhere should be very encouraged to see the progress already made. The historic home is certainly looking much improved thanks to work carried out so far. At last the front door of Tenakill is open.

A Major Funding Raising Appeal is underway to finance the restoration of Tenakill House

Details of the Tenakill House appeal bank account are as follows:
Name of bank: Bank of Ireland, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Ireland.
Account Name: Tenakill House Restoration Fund
Bank Sort Code: 90 18 88
Account No.: 79166416
IBAN IE64 BOFI 9018 8879166416
Bank Identifier Code: BOFIE2D

JAMES FINTAN LALOR SCHOOL

An important cultural event went missing from last year's calendar in Ireland – The James Fintan Lalor School. Laois Heritage Society was committed with a number of large projects and was unable to arrange the school. It was hoped that the Tenakill House Restoration Committee might have been able to step in but it was heavily occupied with its work.

It would be a tragedy if the James Fintan Lalor School does not find a managing committee. So much insight can be gained from Lalor's writings particularly now when many democratic systems are challenged.

Lalor historian, John Cherry, has discovered new information about Patt Lalor (Honest Patt) and his wife Ann Dillion.

"The Registry of Deeds data base continues to throw up big surprises," said John "The new information contains marriage settlements between Patt and Ann Dillon and also marriage settlements of Honest Patt's sister Mary to William Dillon.

"Mary Lalor's deed also mentions that Mary had a sister named Catherine," John said. John Cherry's research discovered that Peter Lalor's grandfather, Patrick, who established the Tenakill estate, was married three times. The first wife's name is not known and they had a son named Thomas. All we know about Thomas is that he married an Elizabeth and they had two children – Patrick and Alicia. Pat then married Catherine Dunne and they had four children – James, Honest Patt, Catherine and Mary (Maria). His third wife was Mary of Doon.

John published the first edition of the comprehensive history 'The Lalors of Laois'. A revised edition of 'Lalors Laois' has just been completed by John.

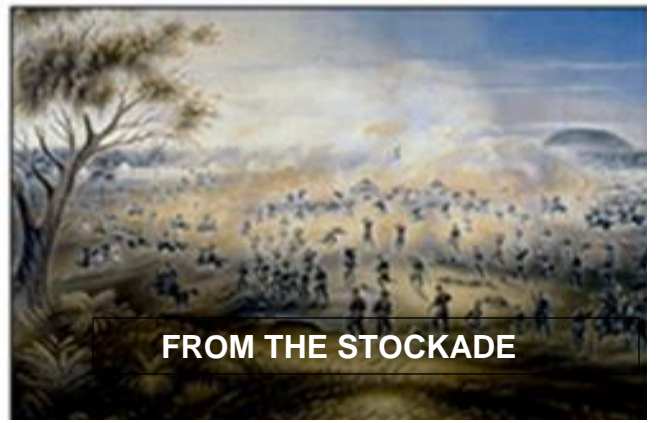


**3 DECEMBER
1854-2018**



PETER LALOR'S STATUE

The statue of the Eureka's leader, standing outside St Patrick's Cathedral in Sturt St. Ballarat was erected in 1893. It was a gift to the City of Ballarat by James Oddie. The cost to the benefactor was 2200 pounds. The unveiling of the monument was carried out by the Premier of Victoria, Duncan Gillies who was a colleague of Peter Lalor while he was the Speaker in the Victorian Parliament. Oddie was an admirer of Peter Lalor. He was born in Lancastershire in the UK and travelled to Geelong in 1849 where he operated a foundry. Later he moved to Ballarat, opened a store on the gold fields and joined in the miners' protest meetings. James Oddie became known as the Father of Ballarat. He accepted the return of the original Eureka Flag from the King family for preservation at the Ballarat Fine Arts Gallery. One of Peter Lalor's captains, John Lynch, writing about the erection of the statue, said: "Victoria cannot forget those who risked their life and liberty in her cause; and when in the fullness of time she shall have taken her place in the front rank of the nations of the earth, her citizens will look back with pride on that one particular bright page which unfolds the story of the Eureka, and with hearts glowing with thankful emotion assign to Peter Lalor, the Bayard of her initial revolution, the first place amongst the patriotic phalanx that won back the sacred heritage of liberty."



FROM THE STOCKADE

The 2018 Eureka Democracy Award winner and the keynote speaker at that dinner, both gave their audience plenty of food for thought about keeping the spirit of Eureka alive in our modern society.

Adele Ferguson, the award winner and Clare Wright, the keynote speaker, both highlighted the strike by miners for democracy based on justice to emphasize the inequality and corruption of today. Like Peter Lalor's rebels at Eureka, Adele made her strike in the Fairfax Media and the ABC's Four Corners program exposing the Australian banking industry's corruption scandal and the blatant exploitation of vulnerable people employed by Seven 11 and others. This courageous stand has come at a cost to Adele as it did the Ballarat miners. The powerful end of town has turned on her for disclosing its disgraceful conduct. Clare Wright, author of Eureka's Forgotten Heroes, reminded her audience about the ongoing injustice practiced daily against powerless people in this country and the lack of basic human rights many still endure. The presentations of both respected women were important because they spotlighted the shameful behaviour of some of Australia's most trusted institutions. Adele and Clare have demonstrated that there are some not prepared to ignore these issues as too difficult or too political. The message of both women was that boldness today against greed and corruption is keeping the spirit of Eureka alive. Without those monster meetings at Bakery Hill in 1854, Australia's democracy might have been a long time coming and injustice would have claimed the day.

May we, members of that proud clan, keep the Eureka spirit alive too.

- Peter L P

PETER FINTAN LALOR

The The Great Grand Son

A shy and retiring Lalor who never-the-less proudly kept the Eureka spirit burning in the Lalor story and was always a dignified representative of the family at public events, Peter Fintan Lalor II was born in Tasmania 100 years ago.

Too frequently, comparisons are unhelpful. How does one accurately compare Peter of Eureka with his elder brother James Fintan?

Different people in different situations.

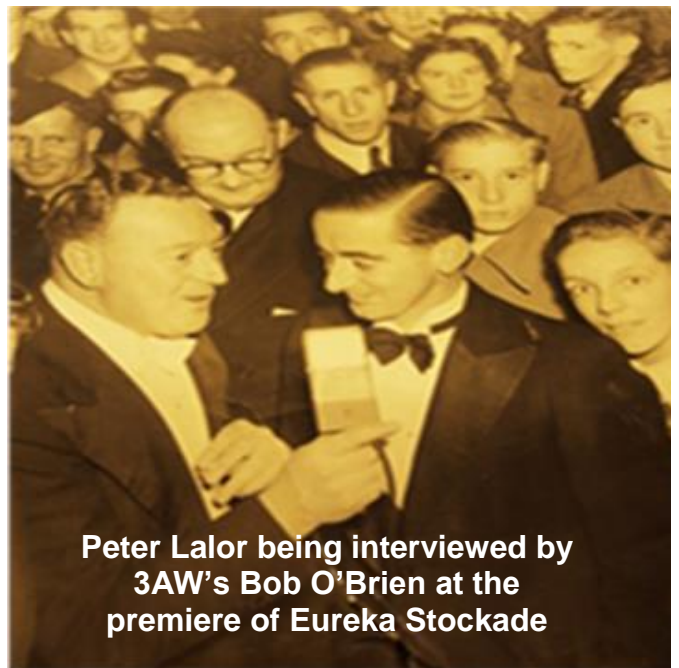
Regrettably, Peter Fintan II has been measured against his father, Dr Peter Anthony, his uncle Captain Joseph Peter and his cousin Peter Bernard rather than allowing him to stand in his own spotlight.

Peter was three when his mother Nano died and nine when his father died, He was very fortunate to have a wonderful adoptive mother, Eileen Mary Lalor (Lee). However with the death of his father, a new world dawned. From an era of relative luxury and status, Peter's family now had to exist on a government pension and in an ordinary rented home. Eileen Mary in her wisdom invested the little money she had into her children's education. Peter like his father was educated at Xavier College, Melbourne. In this changed environment, young Peter carved his own initials into Lalor history.

Peter Lalor Philp grew up in the Lalor household at Ravens Grove, East St. Kilda. "My uncle Peter was no rebel nor a member of parliament. He, unlike most of his decedents, didn't have a university education. Maybe some would call him an ordinary soul. But what is important in life? To me he was an impressive big brother who cared about me and instilled into me values that I have maintained all my life. He was never too busy to be around and to take me to places that without him I may never have seen."

Peter Fintan II carried into his generation something that had always been part of the Lalor DNA and for which his fore fathers fought for in Ireland - his Christian faith. He was a true believer and did his best to practice that faith.

Peter married Dorothy Ida Joan Pringle in 1954 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.



**Peter Lalor being interviewed by
3AW's Bob O'Brien at the
premiere of Eureka Stockade**

Peter and Dorothy had six children, Peter, Anne, Marie, Anthony, Louise and Fintan.

Daughter Anne remembered her father as a quiet but fiercely proud man and like all others made his share of mistakes.

"I recall fondly our outings with dad to the beach on the old red rattler (trains) or the ferry rides and picnics on the banks of the Yarra River. We enjoyed going to the football with him to watch Melbourne. The best football story that my mum told me was when he picked her up from the Mercy Maternity Hospital after having me a week earlier, and my elder brother Peter in tow. Dad said that he wanted to call by the MCG to see how the Melbourne boys were playing, only to be told off by an older woman at the game. The woman had stopped to look at the baby and told my father he should be at home and not at the football. Apparently he was very embarrassed and headed home with mum and baby.

"Dad was surprised when I didn't call one of my twins, Peter. I explained to him that there were enough Peters in the family. I thought I had done well by calling the other twin, Alicia.

"I am still very proud of my father and love him very much," said Anne.

For much of his life, Peter Fintan II did not keep good health and it deteriorated in his later years.

Peter died in St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne in 1983. Dorothy Ida Lalor died in 2012.



Christine and Nainalicia



Eileen Mary 'Lee' Lalor

THE O'LEATHLOBHAIR WOMEN

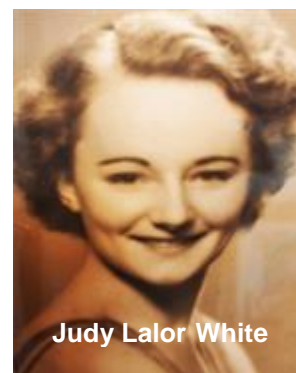
Christine Lalor Gillespie wrote a play about the women of Eureka. Clare Wright wrote the award winning history of the Forgotten Rebels of Eureka – the story of the women on the gold fields. What about the O'Leathlobhair women? Like those at Eureka they are too often forgotten. The newspaper obituary published following the death of Alicia Lalor was more about the actions of her husband, Peter Lalor. The same happened when Agnes Lalor died. Her newspaper obituary highlighted the career of her husband, Dr Joseph Lalor and her father-in-law. In the more recent history of this family there is no doubt that the female line has led and protected the Australian clan. Yet some of today's senior clan members probably never heard the name of Peter Lalor's wife mentioned during the countless moments during which the Eureka story was told at Lalor House in St Kilda. In Michael Carroll's account of Peter Lalor's escape from Ballarat, he said that his father Patrick, who transported Lalor on a covered wagon, took the injured Eureka leader straight to Alicia Dunne's home before taking him to the Young Queen Hotel in Geelong South for more surgery. Alicia remained with him during this time despite the great danger to herself and her teaching career. This should not be surprising because as well as her love for Peter, Alicia came from Mountrath, County Laois. The Dunnes, like the Lalors, were probably fighters for a free and green Ireland. If they were not, why would two of the Dunne's daughters want to marry into a family of rebels like the Lalors? Moving into another era we encounter a woman who saved the Lalors from becoming a family of orphans and maybe a dysfunctional kindred.

When Dr Peter Anthony Lalor's wife, Nano, died and a few years later he passed away, it was Eileen Mary Lalor (Lee) who became the children's mother, providing them with an excellent education and steering them through the Great Depression and leaving herself with only the pride that the Lalors would continue as a respected family. But Eileen did even more than that. She became the clan leader, protecting and guiding the next two generations with her strength, wisdom and unconditional love. In her own way she stands with the greatest of the O'Leathlobhairs.

Three exceptional Lalor women followed – Nano Bernadette, Moya Anne and Judith. All displaying the benefits of their upbringing and education, these women carried their forebear's spirit forward including a strong but certainly not a popular religiosity, rather a Christianity based on equality for all.

Their aunt, Dorothy Lucy Lalor, was never restricted by her religious life as a Loreto sister, to be another bold but graceful standard bearer of the family traditions.

The spirit of Christine Mary Lalor Gillespie has been likened to her great great grand uncle James Fintan. (Continued next page)



Judy Lalor White



Moya Lalor Gillespie



Alicia Christie Lalor and Margot Lalor Coogan

Not only could she readily recognize injustice but was always prepared to confront it. If it was wrong then Christine would fight it as a campaigner, writer or by her presence. When David Hick's father, Terry, attended a Eureka rally, Christine joined Terry to march in protest against the jailing of David at Guantanamo without a trial and his ongoing torture by US officials. Christine saw this as tyranny. Despite two very serious periods of cancer, Christine struggled on with what energy she had left in the name of righteousness. Christine was highly respected by all, ever those who sometimes did not support her stands. **Susan Lalor White** said that Christine was always an inspiration to her. And here is another Lalor woman not frightened to step forward. At that same march of solidarity with Terry Hicks was Susan Lalor White alongside cousin Christine. And so to a new generation. Christine's daughter, **Emily Jane**, is another crusader for the underprivileged working for some time with the needle exchange program. **Alicia Christie Lalor White** is another who has taken a deep interest in preserving the Lalor story and the values it embodies. Alicia too was the first Leader of 'Lalors Australia'. How can one help develop and liberate the poor and those balanced on the edge of destruction unless you believe in them? It's a Gospel value. **Nainalicia Lalor Philp** works with those whom many others reject as hopeless.

O'LEATHLOBHAIR WOMEN

Her belief in those addicted to substance abuse and their rehabilitation rather than increased incarceration brings Nainalicia sometimes into conflict with authorities. So be it – two wrongs never make it right. It is when life turns really tough that the determination and quality of leadership is prevalent. **Dorothy Ida Joan Lalor** led her family through a difficult life's journey. Here was another woman who took to the front putting her responsibilities before self-interest and did it courageously.



Dorothy Lalor

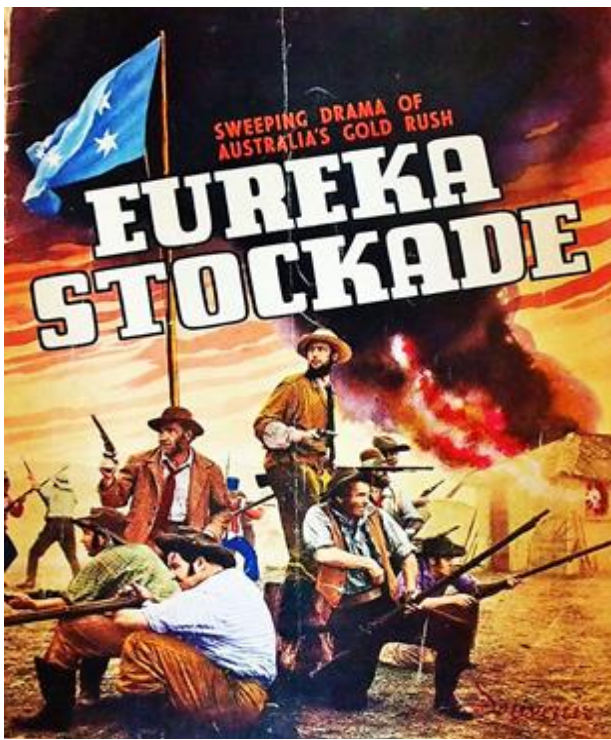
There are many other Australian Lalor women who have been a credit to their faith and the family name through their dedicated service, leadership and love. They have lived in nobody's shadow, rather they made valuable sacrifices and important contributions.

There is also an Irish colleen who deserves mention although not an Australian. Margot Lalor Coogan has successfully reunited the mighty Lalor Clan. Through her leadership, both as a chieftain and her engaging personality, Margot has narrowed the deep oceans between Ireland and Australia and created a common shoreline. She has been an influential ambassador for Ballarat and its Eureka history but most of all for Ireland where that Lalor line begins.

- Peter Lalor Philp

Contributions to the O'Leathlobhair Line are always welcome, including letters to the editor. Please email to:

eureka3kz@bigpond.com



LALORS RISE AGAIN AT EUREKA STOCKADE

Eureka Stockade was the scene of new dramas 95 years after Peter Lalor proclaimed the oath at Bakery Hill. Australia is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the release of the Ealing Studios film, Eureka Stockade, starring Chip Rafferty as Peter Lalor and Jane Barrett as Alicia Dunne. It wasn't the first public exhibition of the famous event. In 1933 Australian writer Edmund Barclay penned Eureka Stockade for ABC Radio, featuring John Pickard as Lalor and Winifred Green as Alicia and this had a number of reruns on radio. Despite its controversies, the Ealing film not only highlighted an historic date but reminded its audience of the major political advancements Eureka achieved. The film had two gala premieres one in Sydney at the Lyceum in Pitt Street, the other at the Majestic Theatre in Flinders Street, Melbourne, opposite where Federation Square stands today. Members of the Lalor family were picked up in old Cobb and Co coaches and transported to the theatre. In the crowded and glittering theatre foyer, Bob O'Brien a leading journalist with 3AW interviewed Peter Fintan Lalor II. The daily newspapers hailed it a Hollywood occasion.

The premiere however was the climax of a stormy period in the stockade.

The film's director, Harry Watt, had been to Australia earlier with Ealing to film the Overlanders, which also starred Chips Rafferty.

However before the filming began the British Government threatened to impose a tax on revenue earned from the movie because it regarded the production as a foreign film. So the company had to increase the number of cast and crew members who were from Britain. Then Australia's Actors Equity said it would black ban the movie because Australian actors were being paid substantially less than the Brits. Then a debate began over the casting of Rafferty as Lalor. Peter Fintan II had been consulted by Harry Watt about the Lalor family history. The Herald's film critic Ian Aird, who did not question Chip's ability as an actor, wrote that as Lalor, Chips was miscast. Responding in the newspapers, Peter Fintan Lalor II wrote: "I agree with Ian Aird that Mr Chip Rafferty would be entirely out of place in the role of Peter Lalor. I consider that to portray the role of the hero of Eureka correctly, the producer must go further afield." That debate ran through the press for some time but Harry Watt refused to recast although there is a story that later he was not happy with Rafferty's performance and was contemplating promoting brilliant Australian actor Peter Finch to that role. In this production Peter Finch played John Humffray. The argument about the role of Lalor was debated for years in the Lalor household with none of the family in favour of Rafferty who had a very broad Australian accent. However there was no comment about Jane Barrett's portrayal of Alicia Dunne. Jane was an English actress but probably held an Irish accent well. Because the area surrounding Ballarat was so built up by the late 1940s, the outdoor filming for the movie was shot in a valley at Blind Creek near Singleton, New South Wales and most of the interior filming was done at the old Pagewood Studios in Sydney and at the Cinesound Studios.



Chips Rafferty as Peter Lalor

EUREKA'S STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Eric Howard
President
Eureka's Children



This year's Eureka Democracy Award's Dinner held on 23 November in Melbourne emphasized that the struggle for freedom, equality and justice continues today. Along with the Eureka Democracy Award winner, Adele Ferguson and historian, Clare Wright, the President of Eureka's Children, Eric Howard spoke about the 'fragility of Australia's democracy.

The President of Eureka's Children said:
"Australian Democracy is one of the oldest and most stable democracies in the world. And it was at Eureka where the people, as distinct from the Government and the bureaucracy, sought to obtain their democratic rights by laying down and demonstrating their principles of democracy. They held monster meetings and sought deputations. They produced a Reform Charter and presented it to Governor Hotham. They designed, manufactured and flew their Flag of the Southern Cross and finally stood to defend their Rights and Liberties at the Eureka Stockade. This was the first, brave and eventually successful example of ordinary citizens standing up to (and being killed and injured for their actions) a then tyrannical government in the Colony of Victoria. In the process of seeking justice they gave massive impetus to the development and introduction of many of the democratic traditions we now enjoy and which are embedded in Australia's Constitution.

The question is – do Australians, today, value our democracy or do we take it for granted? Do we understand and appreciate what democracy really is? Are we aware of the various challenges that exist today that can and are a challenge to our democratic way of life?

We need to value our democracy and we certainly need to protect it and whenever possible to enhance it. We need to find ways to remind our communities of the fragility of democracy and the need for constant vigilance.

Eureka speaks to us of the importance of a free society being prepared to react to oppressive authority while seeking fairness and equity, valuing human rights and respecting human dignity. In short, the Eureka diggers by their actions were seeking a more democratic and just society for all."

Clare
Wright



EUREKA WOMEN IN NEW DRAMA

The award winning history of the women on the Victorian gold fields, *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka* by Clare Wright, is on its way to becoming an eight part television series. The program will include women such as Clara Duval Seekamp, a newspaper editor on the gold fields, Sarah Hanmer, a political activist and Anastasia Hayes, a prominent school teacher at Eureka. US writer/producer, Anne Kenney will be the producer and writer of the pilot episodes. Ms Kenney has been associated with features like *Outlander*, *ER* and *LA Law*.

**LALORS/LAWLORS/LAWLERS
ALL**

**Christmas Blessings and a New Year
of Great Opportunities**

