

# CITATION

## EUREKA AUSTRALIA DAY MEDAL 3rd DECEMBER 2006



**Ms. WENDY LOWENSTEIN** (Posthumously) died a few months ago aged 76. She was well known in radical circles in Melbourne for her lifelong involvement in community and political struggles. She was a leading pioneer of the oral history movement - a movement which made history accessible to ordinary people. Her books included *'Weevils in the Flour'* and *'The Immigrants'*. These books recounted history in people's own words. Her efforts forced the academic community to accept oral history as a legitimate historical discipline. Wendy understood that ordinary people's recollections are the cornerstone of all historical research.

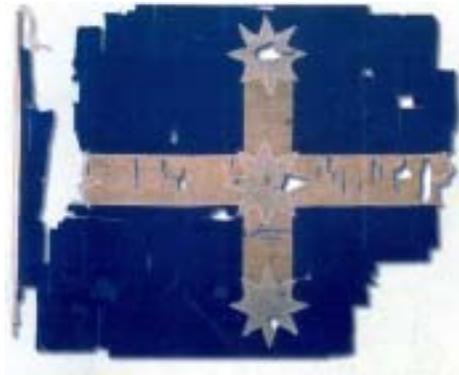
*"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other  
and fight to defend our rights and liberties"*

- Eureka Oath 1854

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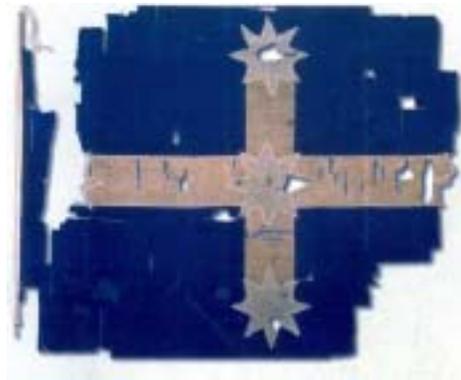
**Mr. KEVIN BRACKEN** is the Victorian Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia. Kevin was elected Secretary after the Howard government attempted to destroy the MUA in 1998. He is a relatively young Secretary of the union. The events surrounding the MUA dispute in 1998 had a major impact on Kevin BRACKEN. He realised that without community support and the support provided by radical activists around Australia, the MUA could have been crushed. When the police marched down to the docks in Melbourne, the community stood side by side with the MUA. When a Victorian Supreme Court Judge placed an injunction on activists going down to the docks, thousands disobeyed that injunction, highlighting the impotence of the courts when faced with a united front of community activists and union members. Kevin never forgot the lessons of that struggle and has fought to ensure that the MUA repays that debt and assists the community and radical activists in their day to day struggles. He has been awarded one of the five 2006 Eureka Australia Day Medals to acknowledge his efforts to maintain and strengthen the link between the Victorian branch of the MUA, the community and radical activists.

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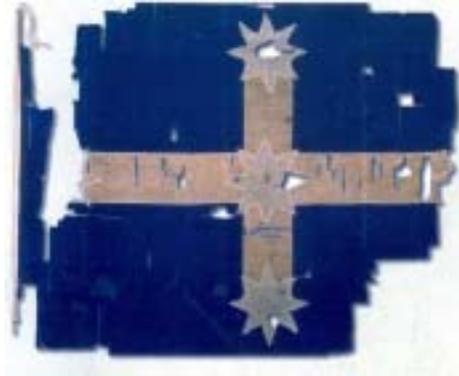
**Mr. JERRY HARANT**, a refugee from Nazi Austria, made his way to Australia in the late 1930's. He has been a political and community activist all his life. Jerry was involved in the formation of one of Australia's first community radio stations - Melbourne's 3CR, and 30 years later continues to broadcast on 3CR as the mythical Ned Ludd. He continues to be involved in the Camp Eureka movement, although he is now over 80 years old. Mr. HARANT has been involved in all the significant post World War Two workplace, community and political struggles in Australia. He has never forgotten his experiences at the hands of the Nazis and has devoted his life to the mission to ensure that nobody will ever again have to endure the personal privations of a totalitarian regime.

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**Mrs. Margaret MacDONALD**, a retired school teacher in her 70's, has been an activist all her life. Driven by the personal need to help to create a just society, she has been involved in grassroots community and political activity since she was very young. She has a practical hands-on approach to the question of creating an egalitarian community, and through her day to day activities she has helped to make the lives of many people much better than they would have been. Mrs. MacDONALD continues to be involved in many community and political struggles, not letting age get in the way of her struggle to achieve social justice. Women and men like her have spent their lives trying to create that new world in their hearts.

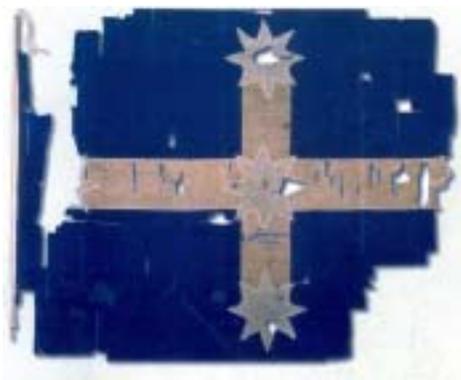
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**Ms. Pauline MITCHELL** has been politically active all her life. A foundation member of the Melbourne branch of a world wide movement for Nuclear Disarmament and World Peace that was formed in the 1950's, she continues to be actively involved in the movement. She is one of those small band of activists that form the backbone of the progressive movement week after week, month after month, year after year for over 50 years. Ms. MITCHELL has devoted her life to the struggle to promote peace. Without the Pauline Mitchells' of the world making the effort to change society, people now living in Australia would not be enjoying many of the rights and freedoms that Pauline Mitchell's lifelong efforts to achieve peace, have helped to create.

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