



Eureka Forum

Giving voice to rural communities and values

Our democratic institutions are changing. Individuals and community groups are increasingly demanding and being given a direct voice in the deliberative processes.

While this is in the main a positive trend, in the world of participatory democracy the voices of the organised can easily shout-out those of the unorganised.

This is often the case on issues related to management and conservation of the environment. Traditional land users, including people in agriculture, forestry, fishing, honey-making, hunters, firewood collectors and recreational providers, as well as people who access and use the environment for recreations pursuits, are being disenfranchised.

While their voices and views continue to be represented in the formal institutions of democracy – by political parties, farmer organisations, and in the bureaucracy – their representation within civil society is weak. Indeed, the dominant voice heard from within civil society on the environment and on rural issues in general is urban based and at odds with those of farmers, fishermen, and other traditional users. While some environmental activists see modern farming, fishing, 4-wheel driving as a threat to the environment, traditional land users regard these activities as legitimate and, within reasonable limits, a valid means of making a living and enjoying nature which is not inconsistent with meaningful conservation.

There is a need for a balancing voice within civil society that represents the many people and communities who derive their livelihood or pleasures from using and conserving environmental resources.

To achieve this, the Institute of Public Affairs together with over 150 resource user groups, many with a strong community base, has established the Eureka Forum.

The aim of this inaugural meeting is to:

- Bring together community groups from across the country who share an interest in the use and management of environmental resources;
- Provide ideas, contacts and networks that enhance the capacity of these groups;
- Break down barriers between groups and enhance co-operation amongst them;
- Potentially begin the process of developing an institution to represent the member groups on a national basis in the deliberative processes, particularly in Canberra.

The inaugural Eureka Forum will meet in Ballart on the 3rd and 4th of December - the weekend of the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade.

Inaugural Eureka Forum



Reclaiming the Environment

3rd - 4th December 2004

Friday 9.00 am to Saturday 10.00 am

Ballarat Lodge 613 Main Rd, Ballarat

Keynote speaker is Dr Patrick Moore

Dinner with Barry Cohen, Former Labor Minister

Breakfast on Saturday with Michael Thomson

It's time to be heard !

Environmental fundamentalism is denying farmers, foresters, fishermen, prospectors, miners, beekeepers, 4WD enthusiasts and others access rights, property rights, water rights.

It is also generating excessive red tape and harming the environment.

The wrong-headed "hands off, leave it to nature" approach is destroying our National Parks.

These are national issues requiring national, grass-roots action. Be a part of the inaugural Eureka Forum and help build a strong national network.

Keynote speaker is Canadian Patrick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace, who now rejects the environmental fundamentalists' narrow approach. Other speakers include Australian media and polling experts, and scientist Dr Jennifer Marohasy.

The Forum coincides with the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade. Come to Ballarat, be a part of the action and help create a national network that represents a balanced view on conservation.

Registration starts at 9.00 am. Price includes lunch, dinner with drinks, and breakfast the next day.

YOU MUST BOOK ACCOMMODATION EARLY AS THIS IS THE 'EUREKA 150 BALLARAT' WEEKEND

Rooms are available, but limited in numbers.

Ballarat Lodge is offering corporate rates on 03 53313588 for attendees.

For enquiries regarding other accommodation phone Ballarat Visitor Information Centre on 1800 44 6633

Reclaiming the Environment

Inaugural Eureka Forum

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER - SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER 2004
Ballarat Lodge, 613 Main Road, Ballarat

THE IPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SELECT ATTENDEES

Please reserve _____ places at \$130 (*includes conference, lunch, dinner and breakfast on Saturday morning and GST*). Additional guests are welcome for dinner [\$50] _____ and breakfast [\$20] _____ \$ _____ Total-

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail _____

Please invoice me

Enclosed is a cheque (payable to Institute of Public Affairs Ltd)

Please charge my credit card:

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Name: _____

Signature: _____

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PLEASE RETURN BY Friday 12 November

Inaugural Eureka Forum

Reclaiming the Environment

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th December 2004

FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2004

9.00 am	<i>Registration and morning tea and coffee</i>	
9.45 am	Welcome	Tim Lee <i>Landline, ABC Television</i>
10.00am	Key note address: <i>Environmentalism for the 21st Century</i>	Patrick Moore, <i>Greenspirit</i>
10.45am	<i>Shared Problems & Lessons Learnt</i>	Jennifer Marohasy, IPA
11.15am	Panel Discussion and Questions <i>Will include prominent farmers, foresters, fishermen and miners</i>	

Noon

Lunch

1.00pm	<i>The Greening Electorate</i>	TBA
1.20pm	<i>The Greens & the Australian Media</i>	Michael Short, <i>Australian Financial Review</i>
1.40pm	<i>How They Became the Establishment</i>	Mike Nahan, IPA
2.00pm	<i>Running a Political Strategy</i>	Greg Barns <i>Political activist, commentator</i>
2.20pm	Panel Discussion & Questions	Facilitator: Clay Manners

3.30pm Afternoon tea

4.00pm	<i>Planning for Now, 2005</i>	Facilitator: Tony Cutcliffe <i>The Eureka Project</i>
5.00pm	In Summary	Tim Lee

Break

7.00pm	Inaugural Eureka Dinner	Barry Cohen <i>Former Labor Environment Minister, raconteur and owner of Calga Springs Sanctuary</i>
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SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2004

7.30am	Inaugural Eureka Breakfast	Michael Thomson <i>Rural Press</i>
9.30am	Close of Forum	Tim Lee
10.00am	Eureka Rally	Central Ballarat