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MEDIA RELEASE

Labour History Queensland commemorates Eureka 150 years on

The most bloody civil conflict waged on Australian soil will be commemorated this Friday at a function to mark the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade.

Members and supporters of Labour History Queensland will gather at the Terminus Hotel this Friday to celebrate the occasion – 150 years to the day of the conflict.

Labour History Queensland Secretary Dr Bradley Bowden said it was important to commemorate one of the most important historical events in Australia's history.

"Back on that fateful day in 1854 at least 27 miners and five soldiers were killed or mortally wounded as a result of the attack on the Eureka Stockade by British soldiers.

"Even though the miners were defeated militarily, the ideals for which they had fought – greater political democracy, an end to arbitrary police behaviour and enhanced self-government from Britain – were soon realised"

Dr Bowden said that the American novelist, Mark Twain, who visited the site some 40 years after the battle, had been inspired by what had taken place when he said *"It was a revolution – small in size, but great politically; it was a strike for liberty, a struggle for principle, a stand against injustice and oppression... it is another instance of a victory won by a lost battle."*

"Throughout the decade, others have been likewise inspired. When striking shearers established their camp at Barcaldine in 1891 they flew the blue-flagged Southern Cross," said Dr Bowden.

"Today, unionists still frequently carry the same flag in disputes and rallies across the country."

Join Labour History Queensland in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Eureka battle this Friday at the Atrium Bar, Terminus Hotel, Melbourne St, South Brisbane from 1:30 pm. Discussion will be led by Steve Ross, Labour History Queensland Executive Member.

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