

## The Cross of the South

The words are by Kenneth Cook 1971 and set to the Irish rebel tune 'Kelly of Killane'. Cook (1929~1987) was an Australian journalist, documentary maker, and novelist. His interest in lepidoptery led to the establishment of the first Australian Butterfly Farm at Wilberforce

'Twas the month of Dec - em - ber, the year fif - ty four,  
 When the men of Eu - rek a re - belled.  
 And they swore that the flag that they'd made for them - selves,  
 E - ver proud - ly a - - loft would be held.  
 Oh The min - ers took arms in the stock - ade that day,  
 The bold word passed from mouth to mouth.  
 "We will stand by the flag, and the stars that it bears,  
 White stars of the Cross of the South".

Though the hot blood of heroes ran fast in their veins,  
 There was but one man they obeyed.  
 The hero of heroes they chose from their ranks.  
 Peter Lalor their hero they made.  
 Peter Lalor said, "Now we must stand by our guns,  
 Fear not the cannon's fierce mouth!  
 For I see the soldiers are gathering now  
 To tear down the Cross of the South".

Captain Thomas, he charged the Eureka Stockade,  
 With three hundred troops by his side.  
 Fire and steel met them there and they fell back again,  
 But the first of the miners had died.  
 The smoke from the battle had scarce cleared away,  
 When the soldiers came charging once more,  
 And the miners were killed as they stood 'round their flag,  
 Or fell from the wounds that they bore.

Bold Peter Lalor lay shot on the ground,  
Where the soldiers had left him for dead.  
And the flag that he loved lay there by his side,  
The white stars all stained with red.  
Peter Lalor he rose on his knees in the dust,  
Wild words poured from his mouth.  
"You can murder us all in black tyranny's name,  
But you can't kill the Cross of the South".