

John Adams Prize 2017–2018

Prize winner

Nicola Cousen, 'The Legend of Lalor's Arm. Eureka Myths and Colonial Surgery', *VHJ*, vol. 88, no. 2, November 2017, pp. 212–34.

Judges' Citation:

'Ms Cousen's article is lively and well written. It revisits a controversy with particular resonance for Victorian history: the competing stories around the amputation of the arm of Peter Lalor, the hero of Eureka. The Eureka rebellion remains a contested site, with interest groups still making claims on its lode of historical significance. Ms Cousen has cleared away the tangle of myths on a small section of the field, with findings that are relevant to the whole. Her research brings evidence from medical biographies and the history of medical practice to bear on the amputation and its aftermath. By showing how Lalor's survival depended both on the commitment of a group of young doctors and on broader community support, Ms Cousen demonstrates the strength of the democratic impulse within goldfields society'.

Judges

Emeritus Professor Patricia Grimshaw. AM, FAHA, FASSA, FFAHS, University of Melbourne

Professor Emerita Marian Quartly, FFAHS, Monash University