

Ned Kelly Wanted poster

in terms of self-defence, but Kelly's barrister was less than expert, though his solicitor David Gaunson was energetic.²⁴ A mass meeting sought a reprieve, and it was clear there was widespread lower-class support for the outlaws. The Melbourne *Telegraph* reported of the protest meeting that it was 'humiliating to have to admit that a great number of respectable working men were present', ²⁵ but the major newspapers, led by the *Argus*, kept up a deeply negative treatment of Kelly. A substantial movement for a reprieve, led by Gaunson and with Kate Kelly's active support, gained over thirty thousand signatures, but had no effect, and on 11 November 1880 Kelly was hanged at Melbourne jail. A death mask was made, the skull was examined and, unsurprisingly, proclaimed that of a habitual criminal. The body was buried unmarked, but apparently survived changes of location