

The Francis Forbes Society

For Australian Legal History

A **reminder** of the legal history tutorial next week, on **Wednesday 24 May 2023 @ 5:15pm** in Court 13A Law Courts Building – **Michael Adams**, Counsel in the Office of General Counsel at the Australian Government Solicitor and a J.S.D. candidate at Columbia Law School will present on *The effect of the American Civil War on the law of contract*

The Society is very grateful to Chief Justice Bell for his permission to use Supreme Court facilities.

Please direct any questions on the night to secretary@forbessociety.org.au.

On **15 August 2023** – Skye Krichauff from the University of Adelaide will present *The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies: a truth telling project*. Skye is working with Associate Professor Robert Foster, whose project received funding from the Forbes Fund in 2022.

Abstract: Skye is a primary researcher for an Australian Research Council project that maps the extent and nature of conflict between Aboriginal people and colonists on the South Australian frontier (c. 1836 to 1900). The project emerges out of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart's* call to engage in 'truth-telling about our history'. In addition to examining archival sources, Skye has been working with Aboriginal communities and recording both Aboriginal people's and settler descendants' oral histories. The information gathered is compiled in a software platform called 'Story Maps' which allows the project team to incorporate multimedia forms of visualisation (electronic documents, charts and graphs, images, audio and video recordings). During this presentation, Skye will outline the aims, methodology and findings of the project, and demonstrate the features and workability of the story map.

The Society is delighted to advise that on Wednesday **23 August 2023** Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of New South Wales will present the **2023 Forbes Lecture**.

Membership renewal: The Society invites members to **renew** membership of the Francis Forbes Society for the 2023/2024 financial year and welcomes new applications for membership. Memberships are annual and will run to 30 June 2024. A renewal / application form is available here [2023 - 2024 Forbes Membership Application and Renewal form](#)

The Society is dedicated to studying and documenting the history of Australian law. Its membership includes legal practitioners, academics, journalists and students. Benefits of membership include timely notification of legal history events *via* updates emailed to members from time to time and opportunities to obtain discounts on publications from time to time published or arranged by the Society.

Donating to the Francis Forbes Fund: One of the Society's objects is to encourage and promote research into Australian legal history, and it maintains a fund for that purpose to which donations may be made – the Francis Forbes Fund. Grants from the Fund for **2022** supported the following projects:

- the University of Adelaide - Associate Professor Robert Foster 'Reconciling with the Frontier', which is to produce a digital map of frontier conflict in 19th century South Australia, including First Nations stories and oral history accounts
- the Australian Catholic University - Dr Jessica Lake 'The Slander of Women', which will examine why and how the Australian colonies reformed defamation laws in the nineteenth century to make it easier for women to bring claims and better protect their reputations
- the University of Sydney - Megan Cameron: an examination of the work of magistrates in early colonial New South Wales (from 1788 until 1835).

- the University of New South Wales - Associate Professor Marina Nehme, 'A study of the legal history of proprietary companies', examining the legal and policy motivations behind the introduction of proprietary companies in Victoria through the enactment of the Companies Act 1896 (Vic) and the key legal features of these companies back then and how they compared with public companies, studying three proprietary companies registered under the Companies Act 1896.

In **2021** grants from the Fund included the support of projects at a number of universities: *University of New England* Dr Patrick Graham – 'Sir John Latham and constitutional autochthony'; *University of Southern Queensland* Professor Antony Gray and Associate Professor Marcus Harmes – 'The History of Judicial Independence in New South Wales', exploring the history of the separation of powers principle in the Australian Colonies in the 19th century; *University of Sydney*: Digitisation of letters from solicitors, barristers and law students to the University of Sydney Law School Comforts Fund during the Second World War (Tony Cunneen); further support for 'Dynamic and Principled: The Influence of Sir Anthony Mason' (Professor McDonald, Dr Chen, Dr Gordon); *Monash University* Professor Tamara Walsh and Associate Professor Dominique Allen – a research project about the history of human rights complaints in federal law.

In 2019 the Society was able to support through the Fund:

- Digitisation of the notebooks of Sir Keith Officer and Sir Robin Sharwood – a proposal from Professor Mark Lunney (UNE), Dr Tanya Josev (Melbourne Law School) and Ms Carole Hinchcliff (senior law librarian at Melbourne). The notebooks have now been digitised (<https://digitised-collections.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/236008>). Professor Lunney advises that in addition to what was planned, a notebook of KH Bailey, originally thought to be from his time at university in Melbourne but now thought to be from his first year in Oxford, has also been included. The final stage of the project was to involve some summaries and synopsis of the content of a selection of the notebooks
- A Biographical Dictionary of Barristers and Solicitors in Early NSW, 1824-1861 (Peter Moore, through the University of Adelaide)

The Society supported the publication by the 2019 Forbes lecturer, Professor Anne Twomey (Sydney University) of Pitt Cobbett's grand opus 'The Government of Australia' through the Fund. The book *The Constitution and Government of Australia, 1788 to 1919* by William Pitt Cobbett and edited by Anne Twomey was published by Federation Press in October 2019.

The Society encourages **donations** to the Francis Forbes Fund to enable us to continue to support such worthy projects. All donations to the Forbes Fund of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. There is provision for a donation on the membership renewal form, or there is a separate form for donations here [Forbes Donation Form 2023 - 2024](#) and on the web site forbessociety.org.au at DONATIONS

Dates for the Diary

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| 24 May 2023 | <i>"The effect of the American Civil War on the law of contract"</i>
by Michael Adams, Counsel in the Office of General Counsel at the Australian Government Solicitor and a J.S.D. candidate at Columbia Law School. |
| 15 August 2023 | Skye Krichauff of the University of Adelaide: <i>"The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies: a truth telling project"</i> . Skye is working with Associate Professor Robert Foster, whose project 'Reconciling the Frontier' received funding from the Forbes Fund in 2022 |
| 23 August 2023 | Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of New South Wales will present the 2023 Forbes Lecture. |
| 1 November 2023 | Dr Jessica Lake of ACU (Melbourne) whose project 'The Slander of Women' also received funding from the Forbes Fund in 2022 |