

The Francis Forbes Society

For Australian Legal History

1 June 2022 – call to renew memberships and forthcoming events

15 June tutorial - Antipodean Property Law: We are pleased to advise the date for Dr Nicole Graham, Associate Professor (University of Sydney Law School) to present the legal history tutorial “Antipodean Property Law” on Wednesday 15 June at 5:15 pm in Court 13A, Law Courts Building, Queens Square. In court attendance will be available along with viewing online.

The Mason Court tutorial: to be presented by Professor Barbara McDonald, Dr Ben Chen and Dr Jeffrey Gordon (University of Sydney Law School) on their research project, the Mason Court – the subject of the forthcoming book, *Dynamic and Principled: The Influence of Sir Anthony Mason*. As we advised last week, unfortunately, this tutorial had to be postponed. It is likely to be presented in July/August. We will update members once a date has been confirmed.

We are very grateful for the use of the Supreme Court facilities, courtesy of Chief Justice Bell.

Renewing Memberships for 2021-22: We invite you to renew your membership of the Francis Forbes Society for the 2022/2023 financial year. Memberships are renewed annually and will run for the period to 30 June 2023.

In 2021, we introduced two new categories of membership. Membership fees are unchanged from last year:

- Ordinary member – \$90 incl GST
- Ordinary member (full time tertiary student) – \$30 incl GST
- Corporate member – \$160 incl GST
- Secondary school student – \$15 incl GST
- School with nominated teacher contact (we envisage a Legal Studies or History teacher) – \$50 incl of GST

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.

A renewal / application form is available here: [FFS Membership-application and renewal 22-23](#). We ask you to complete the renewal / application and return it as soon as possible to the address on the form or email to membership@forbessociety.org.au.

We look forward to your continuing membership of the Francis Forbes Society. Please feel free to forward to others who might be interested in membership of 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.

In 2021 grants from the Fund included the support of projects at a number of universities:

- the 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
- the University of New England - Dr Patrick Graham – “Sir John Latham and constitutional autochthony”
- the University of Sydney - projects of Tony Cunneen including digitisation of letters from solicitors, barristers and law students to the University of Sydney Law School Comforts Fund during the Second World War; further support for “Dynamic and Principled: The Influence of Sir Anthony Mason” (Professor Barbara McDonald, Dr Ben Chen and Dr Jeffrey Gordon)
- Monash University / University of Queensland - Professor Tamara Walsh and Associate Professor Dominique Allen –research project about the history of human rights complaints in federal law.

In 2020 grants from the Fund included the support of projects at Macquarie University: by Dr Kate Gleeson, Sinead Ring, Kim Stevenson “Legal Responses to Historical Child Sexual Abuse: Critical and Comparative Perspectives” and by Dr Henry Kha “The Unification of Australian Divorce Law under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959” and at Sydney University: Professor Barbara McDonald, Dr Ben Chen, Dr Jeffrey Gordon, “Dynamic and Principled: The Influence of Sir Anthony Mason”.

In addition the Society supports an annual Essay prize for the best paper presented at the ANZLHS Conference, judged by a panel appointed by the Editor of law & history. The Fund has supported Sydney Living Museum, noting the approach of the Bicentenary of the Supreme Court and the Legislative Council and the roles of SLM / the State Archives & Records Authority and the Society.

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 a separate form for donations is [Francis Forbes Society 2022 Donation form](#) and on the web site forbessociety.org.au at DONATIONS.

If you have any queries, please email membership@forbessociety.org.au.

Alternatively you may contact the Secretary: Simon Chapple secretary@forbessociety.org.au or Treasurer: Carol Webster SC treasurer@forbessociety.org.au.

ANZLHS Annual Conference: The 2022 conference will be held at the University of Technology Sydney on 1-3 December 2022. The theme of the conference is *Tenuous Histories and Provable Pasts: How Legal Historians Create Knowledge*. Keynote speakers will include Professors Constance Backhouse and Katherine Biber. Please see [2022 conference](#) for details and a link to the full Call For Papers

Upcoming Dates (in Court 13A, Supreme Court):

- 15 June - legal history tutorial “**Antipodean Property Law**” by Dr Nicole Graham, Associate Professor (University of Sydney Law School)
 - 28 June **Forbes Lecture** by Dr Susan Bartie from the University of Tasmania
 - July /August (to be advised) - legal history tutorial “**The Mason Court**” by Professor Barbara McDonald, Dr Ben Chen, and Dr Jeffrey Gordon (University of Sydney Law School)
-