

The Francis Forbes Society

For Australian Legal History

Our next event is the tutorial by **Skye Krichauff** of the University of Adelaide: *The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies: a truth telling project*. This tutorial will be held next **Tuesday 15 August 2023** at 5.15 pm in Court 13A. Skye is working with Associate Professor Robert Foster, whose project 'Reconciling the Frontier' received funding from the Forbes Fund in 2022.

Abstract: Skye Krichauff 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.

No registration is necessary for in person attendance. If you are unable to join us in person, for online viewing please register here: [Tutorial by Skye Krichauff - 15 August 2023](#). After registering you will receive an email confirmation **which contains the viewing link** for the Supreme Court's AVL system (note that joining with camera and sound is disabled for events such as this).

We draw attention to the forthcoming Conference "**Enduring Courts in Changing Times**" from **8 to 10 September** at Banco Court, or online. The Conference is being organised by the Australian Academy of Law, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and the Australian Law Journal to mark the forthcoming 2024 bicentenaries of the Supreme Courts of New South Wales and Tasmania. Click here for [Conference tickets \(via eventbrite\)](#) or a link to the [Program](#)

On **23 August**, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC will present the **2023 Forbes Lecture**. This lecture will be held in Banco Court starting at 5.15pm. Again, no registration is necessary for in person attendance – for online viewing please register here: [2023 Forbes Lecture](#). The Forbes Society, and the annual Forbes Lecture sponsored by the Society, are named for Francis Forbes (1784-1841), the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW, 1824-1837.

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

Membership renewal for 2023 and supporting the Francis Forbes Fund: A renewal / application form is available here [2023 - 2024 Forbes Membership](#). Memberships are renewed annually and will run to 30 June 2024. Please return a completed renewal / application form to the address on the form or email to membership@forbessociety.org.au.

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. The Society encourages **donations** to the **Francis Forbes Fund** - members know that 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.

Francis Forbes Fund grants for 2023: Grants from the Fund for **2023** will support:

- *University of Technology Sydney* - Dr Alecia Simmonds 'Race, Legal Status and Subjecthood in Defamation Actions Across the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries'

- *Australian National University* - Dr Susan Bartie 'Contribution of Solicitors-General to the field of Australian law and environmental politics'
- *Macquarie University* - Dr Henry Kha 'Wife sales and legal responses in Colonial Australia'
- *Deakin University* - Associate Professor Gabrielle Wolf 'European Medical Émigrés in Tasmania and the Law, 1933-1946'

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. **Other projects supported by the Fund** – grants from the Fund in **2022** support:

- *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;
- *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;
- *University of Sydney* (Megan Cameron) an examination of the work of magistrates in early colonial New South Wales (from 1788 until 1835); and
- *University of New South Wales* (Associate Professor Marina Nehme) A study of the legal history of proprietary companies.

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'; *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.

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

To note for the diary

- 15 August Skye Krichauff of the University of Adelaide: "*The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies: a truth telling project*"
- 23 August Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC will present the Forbes Lecture
- 8 to 10 September "Enduring Courts in Changing Times" conference presented by the Australian Academy of Law, the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration and the Australian Law Journal at the Supreme Court in Sydney
- 1 November Dr Jessica Lake of ACU (Melbourne) whose project 'The Slander of Women' also received funding from the Forbes Fund in 2022