

The Francis Forbes Society

For Australian Legal History

The Forbes Society is pleased to inform members of the Society's first event for 2024 – the Twelfth Annual **Plunkett Lecture** "*Unheralded nation-builder: another dimension of John Hubert Plunkett*" which will be delivered in person by the Chief Justice, the Hon A S Bell, on **Tuesday 13 February 2024** in Banco Court.

Formal presentations to prize-winners in the Forbes Society's **2023 Australian Legal History Essay competition** will follow the Chief Justice's Plunkett Lecture. The Society was very pleased to receive essays from a wide range of schools and tertiary students within *and* outside NSW: Glen Waverley Secondary College in Victoria, the Australian National University and the University of Queensland. There were 29 essays in the junior secondary category, 7 essays in the senior secondary category, and 10 essays in the tertiary category.

Membership renewal and supporting the Francis Forbes Fund: A renewal / application form is available here: [2023-24 Francis Forbes Membership Application and Renewal](#). 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.

Recent books: We draw attention to two recent Federation Press publications: the late Dr John McLaughlin AM's book [The Immigration of Irish Lawyers to Australia in the Nineteenth Century](#) and Professor David Rolph, another of our members, has recently published [Contempt](#).

Forbes dates to note for the diary:

2024

13 Feb 2024 Plunkett Lecture by the Chief Justice, the Hon A S Bell AC in Banco Court @ 5.15pm