



THE 2026 ANNUAL FORBES LECTURE

Is Equity Fit for Purpose? Saving Mixed Purposes Trusts

PROGRAMME

Lecturer:	Emerita Professor Pauline Ridge
Chair:	Professor Mark Lunney, Junior Vice President of the Forbes Society
Date:	Wednesday 14 October 2026
Time:	5.30pm – 6.30pm
Venue:	Banco Court, Level 13 Law Courts Building, Queen's Square, Sydney

CONTEXT: 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. He was knighted in 1837.

ORDER OF EVENTS

1. **WELCOME** – by Professor Mark Lunney, Junior Vice President of the Forbes Society for Australian Legal History
2. **PRESENTATION OF THE LECTURE** – by Emerita Professor Pauline Ridge
3. **THANKS and CLOSE OF PROCEEDINGS** – by the Chair

THE FORBES LECTURER

Emerita Professor Pauline Ridge is a private law scholar and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Her articles and book chapters concerning equity, restitution, property and contract law have been cited by judges and commentators across the common law world. She co-edited *Fault Lines in Equity* (Hart Publishing, 2012) and is co-author, with Professor Joachim Dietrich, of *Accessories in Private Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). Her doctrinal and historical research into the legal regulation of religious financing is also highly regarded. This work led Pauline into human rights law, particularly the right to freedom of religion, which she explored in the context of private law.

She is a former Director for the Centre for Commercial Law at the ANU College of Law and member of the Charity Law Association, Australia and New Zealand.

Pauline studied at the Australian National University (where she received a University Medal) and the University of Oxford (BCL).

FORBES SOCIETY LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Lectures and legal history tutorials convened by the Forbes Society are generally open to the public, without charge. The Forbes Society's annual programme of legal history tutorials has, since its inception in 2013, included presentations by senior judges, academics, members of the Bar and Court staff. Presentations this year include:

10 Feb 2026 Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, Occasional Lecture "The origin of the doctrine of mutual wills" combined with presentations to the 2025 Essayists

18 Feb 2026 Professor Paul P Miller (Notre Dame Law School) Legal history tutorial "Political Trust, Public Justification and Judicial Office"

3 March 2026 Professor Prue Vines (Faculty of Law, UNSW) Legal history tutorial "The history of Australian treatment of Aboriginal Customary law with particular reference to Succession Law"

31 March 2026 Professor Fleur Johns (Dean and Head of School, The University of Sydney Law School) Legal history tutorial "A Short Legal Prehistory of the Foreign Policy of the Second Trump Administration"

30 April 2026 Associate Professor Alecia Simmonds (University of Technology Sydney) Legal history tutorial, exploring themes emerging from her published book, 'Courting: An Intimate History of Love and the Law'

7 May 2026 Dr Paula Jane Byrne (Western Sydney University) Legal history tutorial 'Law in the New Democracy'

8 Sep 2026 Associate Professor Raynor Thwaites (University of Sydney) Legal history tutorial "Additional punishment for naturalized Australians? Migrant protest and legal reform in the late 1950s"

If you have any queries about attending or presenting, please advise the Treasurer (Carol Webster SC) or the Secretary of the Society (Dr Simon Chapple SC) at secretariat@forbessociety.org.au.

PRIOR FORBES LECTURES: Last year's Annual Forbes Lecture was given on 22 July 2025 by Professor Kathy Bowrey of the Faculty of Law UNSW, in Banco Court, titled "The Diva, her Lover and the Recording Company scheme to "get Melba": Introducing Dame Nellie Melba (1861-1931), the business woman," chaired by Professor Mark Lunney (Junior Vice President).

JH PLUNKETT LECTURES: The Annual [JH Plunkett Lecture](#) honours the memory of one of the State's pivotal Attorneys General. John Hubert Plunkett (1802-1869) arrived in NSW, from Ireland, in 1832. For more than 30 years thereafter he made a major contribution to colonial law and society, serving, inter alia, as Solicitor General and Attorney General. He was the first Australian lawyer to be granted a commission as Queen's Counsel. He led Roger Therry, another Irish-born barrister, in the conduct of the Myall Creek Murder trials.

Last year's Plunkett Lecture was given on 23 October 2025 by the then Solicitor General for NSW, Michael Sexton SC, titled "The Model of a Modern Solicitor General".

This year's Plunkett Lecture will be delivered on 17 November 2026 by Associate Professor Catherine Bond (UNSW Faculty of Law and Justice), in Banco Court.

JOINT PRESENTATIONS WITH THE NGARA YURA COMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF NSW: The [Joint presentation](#) on 19 May 2026 explored current *Towards Truth* subjects: contemporary policing and criminal offences, and the present work on historical policing. [Towards Truth](#) is a partnership between the Indigenous Law Centre and the Justice and Equity Centre. The event was chaired by the Hon. Justice Phillip Boulton, Supreme Court of NSW and [Ngara Yura Committee](#) member, who introduced presenters/ panellists Anna Harding (Project Director of Towards Truth), Jonathan Hunyor (CEO of the Justice and Equity Centre), Shane Phillips (CEO Tribal Warrior) and Kate Sinclair (Solicitor, Strategic Litigation, Justice and Equity Centre).

THE FORBES FUND: One of the Society's objects is to encourage and promote research into Australian legal history and it maintains for that purpose the Francis Forbes Fund, to which donations may be made. Donations to the Forbes Fund (in the sum of \$2.00 or more) are tax deductible. As well as specific projects each year, the Society supports an annual Essay prize awarded for the best presentation by a higher degree research student or an early career researcher at the Annual ANZLHS conference. This paper may be published in *law&history*. Recent grants from the Fund have included:

(2026 grants): *Adelaide University* Associate Professor Sylvia Villios, *Law reform, Legal memory and Public Participation in South Australia*

Flinders University Dr Rowan Nicholson, *The Unconquered Desert: The Law of Sovereignty and Invasion in Australia 1606–2026*

University of Melbourne Antonia Smith, *Historical relationship between indigenous settlor law in Aotearoa New Zealand*

University of New South Wales Dr Zoe Smith *Coercive Control and 'Mental Cruelty' in Queensland, 1890-1975*

University of Sydney Dr Rosemary Grey (Co-Director, Sydney Centre for International Law), *Embedding 'Indigenous perspectives' in international law-making: Australia's role in the Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity treaty negotiations :*

Dr Ben Mostyn, *Australia, the United Nations, and a History of Global Drug Policy*

(2025 grants): *Australian National University* Dr Paula Byrne's book with ANU Press, "Law in the New Democracy", which has as its subject the criminal courts of the 1850s;

University of Melbourne Dr Lucinda O'Brien, 'Evolution of Australian bankruptcy law from the mid-1800s';

Australian National University Dr Laura L. Dawes, 'Slip! Slop! Sue! A history of tax litigation and skin cancer activism';

University of New England Ben Hingley, 'Martial law in the pre-Federation colonies of New South Wales, Victoria and Van Diemen's Land';

University of Southern Queensland Dr Rhett Martin, 'Historical review of the circumstances of the 1891 conviction and imprisonment of 10 striking shearers for conspiracy.'

We welcome all further donations to enable us to support such worthy projects – provision for donations is made on the membership form.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORBES SOCIETY: Membership of the Forbes Society is open to everybody. A [2026-27 membership form](#) can be downloaded from the Society's website forbessociety.org.au or by scanning this QR code. Benefits of membership include timely notification of legal history events via updates emailed to members from time to time.