ANNUAL REPORT 2026

ESTABLISHMENT

The Society has its origins in the Centenary Celebrations of the NSW Bar Association in 2002, as noted in previous Annual Reports. The Society is named for Francis Forbes (1784-1841), the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW, 1824-1837. He was knighted in 1837.

The inaugural meeting of the Council of the Forbes Society was held on Monday 5 August 2002. The 'founding' members of the Society were the inaugural members of its Council and its Honorary Executive Director, the late Philip Selth OAM. The inaugural members of the Council were:

- Professor Bruce Kercher of Macquarie University (President);
- Justice Keith Mason AC of the NSW Court of Appeal (Senior Vice President);
- Wendy Robinson QC of the NSW Bar (Junior Vice President);
- Geoff Lindsay SC of the NSW Bar (Secretary);
- Carol Webster of the NSW Bar (Treasurer); and
- Michael Sexton SC, Solicitor General of NSW; Laurie Glanfield AM, Director General of the NSW Attorney General's Department; Mark Richardson, Chief Executive of the Law Society of NSW and Stephen Toomey of Toomey Pegg Solicitors (Members).

The current members of the Council are:

- The Hon. James Allsop AC (President);
- The Hon. Justice Geoff Lindsay AM (Senior Vice President);
- Professor Mark Lunney (Junior Vice President);
- Carol Webster SC (Treasurer);
- Simon Chapple SC (Secretary); and
- Wendy Robinson KC, David Miller, Associate Professor Ben Chen and Jacqueline Dawson (Members).

The Honorary Executive Director of the Society is Heather Moore (Executive Director of the NSW Bar Association).

In accordance with the Society's constitution all Councillors retire at this Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

Advisory Board

In early 2017 the Society established an Advisory Board consisting of academics and other closely involved Forbes members to be involved in the development of projects for the Society. The current members of the Advisory Board are:

- David Ash;
- Tony Cunneen;
- The Hon. Justice Mark Leeming;
- The Hon. Keith Mason AC KC;
- Kathleen Morris;
- Mandy Tibbey; and
- Daniel Yazdani.

CONSTITUTION

The Forbes Society was registered as a public company, limited by guarantee, on 2 January 2002, and is authorised under s 150 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), to dispense with the word "Limited" from its title. The registered office of the Society is care of the Office of the NSW Bar Association, Basement Level, Selborne Chambers, 174 Phillip Street, Sydney.

"The Francis Forbes Fund" was established by Deed of Trust executed on 12 February 2002. Under the Deed the Society is trustee of the Fund. The Society and the Fund are endorsed as "income tax exempt charities" and the Fund is endorsed as a "deductible gift recipient" under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth).

ANNUAL FORBES LECTURE

Since its foundation, the Forbes Society has encouraged the study of the history of Australian law through an annual public lecture. The Forbes Lecture has become an important date in the legal calendar. In recent years, the Forbes Lectures have included the following:

- The 2020 Forbes Lecture was delivered by the Hon. Justice Mark Leeming of the Court of Appeal under the title "Lawyers' uses of history, from *Entick v Carrington* to *Smethurst v Commissioner of Police*". The lecture was chaired by the Hon Justice Stephen Gageler of the High Court of Australia. It was the first time the Society broadcast a lecture live. It has been published in the *Australian Bar Review*: (2020) 49 Aust Bar Rev 199.

- The 2021 Forbes Lecture was delivered by Gideon Haigh on 9 June 2021 titled 'She was looking for her child' Evatt J's dissent in Chester v the Council of Waverley Municipality'. The lecture was chaired by Professor Mark Lunney, Junior Vice-President of the Society.

- The 2022 Forbes Lecture was delivered by Dr Susan Bartie (University of Tasmania) on 31 August 2022 titled "Legal Life Histories and the Creation of Legal Fields" chaired by Carol Webster SC, Treasurer of the Society.

- The 2023 Forbes Lecture was delivered by Her Excellency the Hon. Margaret Beazley AC, KC, Governor of NSW, on 23 August 2023 "The Decade That Shaped Us: Before and After the Third Charter of Justice 1823 – 1833" chaired by the Hon. James Allsop AC, President of the Society. It has been published in the *Australian Bar Review*: (2024) 54 Aust Bar Rev 121.

- The 2024 Forbes Lecture was delivered by Daniel Yazdani on 31 July 2024, “Francis Forbes and the Parable of the Gown and Wig: A History of Legal Dress in New South Wales,” chaired by Simon Chapple SC, Secretary of the Society.

- The 2025 Forbes Lecture was delivered by Professor Kathy Bowrey of the Faculty of Law UNSW on 22 July 2025, “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 of the Forbes Society.

- The 2026 Forbes Lecture was delivered by Professor Pauline Ridge of ANU College of Law, Governance and Policy on 14 October 2026, “Is Equity Fit for Purpose? Saving Mixed Purposes Trusts”, chaired by Professor Mark Lunney, Junior Vice President of the Forbes Society.

THE ANNUAL JH PLUNKETT LECTURE

The 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. In 1835 he published The Australian Magistrate, the first Australian legal practice book. 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. In recent years, the Plunkett Lectures have included:

- The Ninth Annual Plunkett Lecture was delivered online by Dr John McLaughlin AM on 24 November 2020 in Banco Court. It focused on John Plunkett himself and was chaired by the NSW Attorney General, the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, himself a former Plunkett Lecturer.

- The Tenth Annual JH Plunkett Lecture “Dignity in the time of John Hubert Plunkett” was delivered by Hon. Justice Jacqueline Gleeson (High Court of Australia) on 19 August 2021, chaired by the NSW Attorney General, the Hon. Mark Speakman SC MP – delivered remotely with assistance from the NSW Bar Association. It has been published in the *Australian Bar Review*: (2022) 51 Aust Bar Rev 161.

- The Eleventh Annual JH Plunkett lecture was delivered by Dr Patrick Graham (School of Law, University of New England) on 27 October 2022 titled “The Unlikely Reformer: Sir John Latham and the Australian Constitution” chaired by Dr Simon Chapple, Secretary of the Society. Dr Graham’s project “Sir John Latham and constitutional autochthony” was the subject of a Forbes Fund grant in 2021.

- The Twelfth Annual JH Plunkett lecture was delivered by The Hon. A.S. Bell, Chief Justice of NSW, on 13 February 2024 titled “Unheralded nation-builder: another dimension of John Hubert Plunkett” chaired by the Hon. James Allsop AC, President of the Society and combined with a formal presentation to 2023 Essayists.

- The Thirteenth Annual JH Plunkett Lecture was delivered by Dr Jeff Kildea on 10 September 2024 titled “Liberty not Licence: The law’s response to the challenges of ethno-religious sectarianism in nineteenth and early twentieth century Australia”, and chaired by the Hon. Michael Daley MP, Attorney General of NSW. It has been published in the *Australian Bar Review*: (2024) 55 Aust Bar Rev 16

- The Fourteenth Annual JH Plunkett Lecture was delivered by the Solicitor General for New South Wales, Michael Sexton SC, on 23 October 2025, titled “The Model of a Modern Solicitor General” and was chaired by Carol Webster SC, Treasurer of the Forbes Society.

- The Fifteenth Annual JH Plunkett Lecture was delivered by Associate Professor Catherine Bond (UNSW Faculty of Law & Justice, School of Law, Society & Criminology) on 17 November 2026 titled “‘The Law or Billy Hughes?’: Marriage, Divorce & Religion in First World War Australia’”, and was chaired by Daniel Yazdani.

Further information about previous Forbes Lectures and Plunkett Lectures is available on the Society’s website (https://forbessociety.org.au/).

TUTORIALS AND OCCASIONAL LECTURES IN AUSTRALIAN LEGAL HISTORY

Throughout 2025 and 2026 members and friends of the Forbes Society (including judges, tipstaves and research officers of the Supreme Court of NSW) met, in Banco Court and Court 13A in the Law Courts Building in Sydney for tutorials in Legal History aimed at increasing the understanding of Australian law through legal history.

During 2025 and 2026, presentations included:

- An occasional lecture by the Hon Peter Applegarth AM KC “In Search of Samuel Griffith: pragmatist or idealist?” chaired by Professor Mark Lunney (Junior Vice President) combined with presentations to 2024 essayists (24 February 2025). It has been published in the *Australian Bar Review*: (2025) 55 Aust Bar Rev 243.
- The Hon. Arthur Emmett AO KC, “The significance of Roman Law in the Western Legal Tradition”, chaired by Carol Webster SC (11 June 2025)
- The Hon. Joe Campbell KC “The History of Equity”, chaired by Simon Chapple SC (10 July 2025)
- Inma Conde (Casual Lecturer and PhD Candidate at Sydney Law School), “*Origins of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods*” chaired by Associate Professor Ben Chen (29 July 2025)
- Professor Mark Lunney, Junior Vice-President of the Society, presented an occasional lecture, titled “The state of the road was such "as to be a disgrace to the responsible city officers": Immunity for nonfeasance for repair of roads and its challenges to the imperial legal order in the late nineteenth century”, chaired by Simon Chapple SC (11 August 2025).
- Associate Prof Marina Nehme (UNSW), “Corporate Reforms and the Emergence of Proprietary Companies in Victoria in 1896”, chaired by Simon Chapple SC (18 September 2025).
- Professor Gabrielle Wolf (Monash University, formerly Deakin University), a recipient of a grant from the Forbes Fund in 2023, “Medical Dominance and the Law: European Medical Exiles in Tasmania, 1933–1951”, chaired by Associate Professor Ben Chen (30 October 2025).
- Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM presented an occasional lecture titled “The origin of the doctrine of mutual wills” chaired by Simon Chapple SC, combined with presentations to the 2025 Essayists (10 February 2026).
- Professor Paul P Miller (Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law and Associate Dean for International & Graduate Programs at Notre Dame Law School) “Political Trust, Public

Justification and Judicial Office", chaired by Associate Professor Ben Chen (18 February 2026).

- Professor Prue Vines (Faculty of Law, UNSW), "The history of Australian treatment of Aboriginal Customary Law with particular reference to Succession Law", chaired by Simon Chapple SC (3 March 2026). It has been published in the *Australian Bar Review*: (2026) 57 Aust Bar Rev 113.
- Professor Fleur Johns (Dean and Head of School, The University of Sydney Law School), "A Short Legal Prehistory of the Foreign Policy of the Second Trump Administration", chaired by Associate Professor Ben Chen (31 March 2026).
- Associate Professor Alecia Simmonds (University of Technology Sydney), exploring themes emerging from her published book, 'Courting: An Intimate History of Love and the Law', chaired by Simon Chapple SC (30 April 2026).
- Dr Paula Jane Byrne (Western Sydney University) "Law in the New Democracy: some findings and questions", chaired by Daniel Yazdani (7 May 2026).
- Associate Professor Raynor Thwaites (University of Sydney), "Additional punishment for naturalized Australians? Migrant protest and legal reform in the late 1950s", chaired by Simon Chapple SC (8 September 2026).

The tutorials have produced a volume of research materials which the Society hopes could provide a foundation for the publication of a work, or works, on the doctrinal history of Australian law.

JOINT PRESENTATIONS WITH THE NGARA YURA COMMITTEE

In addition to the Forbes and Plunkett Lectures, the Society has a joint program of presentations with the Ngara Yura Committee of the Judicial Commission of NSW. The initial premise was an annual lecture on Australian history insofar as it concerns the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and non-Indigenous Peoples. The history of Australia, including its legal history, has this relationship at its foundation: the history, in all its aspects, whether comfortable or not, whether intractable or not, should be recognised and discussed, not just as part of a national process of Reconciliation, but also as part of understanding the human foundations of our legal system, so that its future development and growth come from a shared and understood reality. The following presentations have been given:

- on 5 November 2020, "Making the Past Visible: The Colonial Frontier Massacre Map Project and the Legacies of Frontier massacres" delivered by Professor Lyndall Ryan AM FAHA, The University of Newcastle, chaired by the Hon James Allsop AO, Chief Justice, Federal Court of Australia and the Hon Justice Lucy McCallum, NSW Court of Appeal and Chair of the Ngara Yura Committee.
- on 4 November 2021, "Making the Past Visible: The Legacies of the Protectionist Legislation" presented by Mr Richard Weston, inaugural Deputy Children's Guardian for Aboriginal Children and Young People in NSW together with members of Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation; chaired by Chief Justice the Hon. James Allsop AO.
- on 10 November 2022, "The fallacy of protectionism" by the Hon Lucy McCallum, Chief Justice of the ACT Supreme Court, chaired by the Hon Justice Rachel Pepper (Land and Environment Court, Ngara Yura Committee member).
- on 5 November 2024, "The history and personalities of the District Court's Walama List", chaired by the Hon. Justice Dina Yehia, The Hon Justice Dina Yehia, chair of the Ngara Yura Committee, the panellists: Edwina Crawford (Director, Aboriginal

Services Unit); her Honour Judge Sarah Hopkins (List Judge); Elder Aunty Marcia Ella-Duncan; Vanessa Edwige; Emma Hudson-Buhagiar (Senior Solicitor, Walama team, Aboriginal Legal Service) and Anthony Brookman (Senior Solicitor, Walama List, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions NSW).

- on 3 June 2025, Towards Truth: Her Honour Judge Sarah Hopkins (Ngara Yura Committee) facilitated the presentation involving Jonathon Hunyor (CEO of the Justice and Equity Centre) and Elizabeth Clark (Research Manager with the Towards Truth Project). Towards Truth is a partnership between the Indigenous Law Centre and the Justice and Equity Centre (formerly the Public Interest Advocacy Centre or PIAC). It is the first attempt to map in detail how decisions of Parliaments and Governments have dispossessed and disempowered First Nations people, and where they have sought to protect and provide for reparation. Towards Truth is also a resource for policymakers, researchers and educators investigating Australia's relationship with First Nations people, and a tool for advocates working to progress First Nations justice.
- on 19 May 2026, exploring current Towards Truth subjects: contemporary policing and criminal offences, and the present work on historical policing. The event was chaired by the Hon. Justice Phillip Boulten Supreme Court of NSW and Ngara Yura Committee and included panellists Anna Harding (Project Director of Towards Truth), Jonathon Hunyor (CEO of the Justice and Equity Centre), Shane Phillips (CEO Tribal Warrior) and Kate Sinclair (Solicitor, Strategic Litigation, Justice and Equity Centre).

ANZLHS ANNUAL PRIZE IN LEGAL HISTORY

Since 2014 the Society has, through The Francis Forbes Fund, supported a prize for the best paper presented at the Australian and New Zealand Legal History Society annual conference, judged by a panel appointed by the Editor of *law & history*. The first award was announced in December 2014, to Janine Pizzetti for a paper titled 'Judging Protection: "The Unintentional Errors of an Unlearned Magistracy", British Guiana and Port Phillip, 1830s–40s' published in *Law & History,* vol 3, 2016.

The 2021 winner was Elizabeth Bowyer for her paper 'Taking the Stand: Women as Witnesses in New Zealand's Colonial Courts c.1840-1900. The previous prize-winner was Georgina Rychner for her paper 'Defences to intimate partner homicide: Historicising the relationship between provocation and temporary insanity in Victoria, Australia.'

The 2023 winner was Ash Stanley-Ryan for his paper, 'Ka mua, ka Muri: He Whakaputanga, Concealed Indigenous Histories, and the Making of International Law'.

The 2024 winners were in two categories: best monograph, and best journal article or book chapter. The winners were Alecia Simmonds for her book, Courting: An Intimate History of Love and the Law (La Trobe University Press, 2023) and Sophie Couchman and Kate Bagnall, for their paper, 'Identification Photography and the Surveillance of Chinese Mobility in Colonial Australasia' *Australian Historical Studies* 54 (2): 299–329.

The 2025 winners were in two categories: best monograph, and best journal article or book chapter. The winners were Catharine Coleborne, for her book Vagrant Lives in Colonial Australasia: Regulating Mobility, 1840-1910 (Bloomsbury) and Mark Finnane, for his article "An atrocious crime": perjury on trial in colonial Australia' (2024) 21(2) History Australia 226-243.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS – 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.

Since 2022 the Society has supported the following projects by grants from the Fund:

2022

- Associate Professor Robert Foster 'Reconciling with the Frontier', research to produce a digital map of frontier conflict in 19th century South Australia, including First Nations stories and oral history accounts (University of Adelaide);
- Dr Jessica Lake 'The Slander of Women', examining 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 (Australian Catholic University);
- Megan Cameron: an examination of the work of magistrates in early colonial New South Wales from 1788 until 1835 (University of Sydney);
- 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 (University of New South Wales)

2023

- Dr Alecia Simmonds 'Race, Legal Status and Subjecthood in Defamation Actions Across the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries' (University of Technology Sydney)
- Dr Susan Bartie 'Contribution of Solicitors-General to the field of Australian law and environmental politics' (Australian National University)
- Dr Henry Kha 'Wife sales and legal responses in Colonial Australia' (Macquarie University)
- Associate Professor Gabrielle Wolf 'European Medical Émigrés in Tasmania and the Law, 1933-1946' (Deakin University

2024

- Dr Jeffrey Gordon (Senior Lecturer), Free speech moments in Australian legal history (University of Sydney)
- Inma Conde (PhD candidate), A historical interpretation of Article 7(1) of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (to the University of Sydney)
- Dr Henry Kha (Senior Lecturer), Ne Temere and the Marriage Law of New South Wales: Religious Sectarianism in the 1920s (University of New South Wales)

2025

- Dr Paula Byrne and her book with ANU Press, "Law in the New Democracy", which has as its subject the criminal courts of the 1850s (Australian National University)
- Dr Lucinda O'Brien (Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellow, Melbourne Centre for Commercial Law, Melbourne Law School), Evolution of Australian bankruptcy law from the mid-1800s (University of Melbourne)

- Dr Laura L. Dawes (Historian of Medicine, Science and the Law, Assoc. Director Education CPAS, NECTAR Co-Chair, Centre for the Public Awareness of Science), Slip! Slop! Sue! A history of tax litigation and skin cancer activism (Australian National University)
- Ben Hingley (Lecturer, School of Law and PhD candidate), Martial law in the pre-Federation colonies of New South Wales, Victoria and Van Diemen's Land (University of New England)
- Dr Rhett Martin (Associate Professor), Historical review of the circumstances of the 1891 conviction and imprisonment of 10 striking shearers for conspiracy (University of Southern Queensland)

2026

- Associate Professor Sylvia Villios, Law reform, Legal memory and Public Participation in South Australia (Adelaide University)
- Dr Rowan Nicholson, The Unconquered Desert: The Law of Sovereignty and Invasion in Australia 1606–2026 (Flinders University)
- Antonia Smith, Historical relationship between indigenous settlor law in Aotearoa New Zealand (University of Melbourne)
- Dr Zoe Smith Coercive Control and 'Mental Cruelty' in Queensland, 1890-1975 (University of New South Wales)
- 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 (University of Sydney):
- Dr Ben Mostyn, Australia, the United Nations, and a History of Global Drug Policy (University of Sydney)

Pitt Cobbett's grand opus 'The Government of Australia'

In 2017 and 2018 the Society made grants from the Fund to the University of Sydney to support the publication of Pitt Cobbett's 'The Government of Australia,' edited by Professor Anne Twomey. William Pitt Cobbett was appointed to the Challis chair of law at Sydney University in 1890 and became the first Dean of the Law School in 1891, retiring in 1909. He completed a handwritten manuscript (of about 275,000 words) of 'The Government of Australia' before he died in October 1919. The manuscript was given to the University of Sydney by the trustees of his will.

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. Professor Twomey delivered the 2019 Forbes Lecture on 5 June 2019 titled "Pitt Cobbett - A Pre-Engineer's Ghost Speaks from the Grave".

THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Society's website (www.forbessociety.org.au) can be used as a means of publicising research projects, inviting comments on draft papers and publishing papers. Members and friends of the Society are invited to use it accordingly. We are indebted to Tony Cunneen for his work on the website over many years.

THE AUSTRALIAN LEGAL HISTORY ESSAY COMPETITION

In March 2007, the Society launched the inaugural Australian Legal History Essay Competition. The Society awarded a prize to James Triggs, a Year 9 student at Doncaster College in Victoria. His essay (entitled "Authority, Democracy and the Rule of Law") was subsequently published in the *Australian Bar Review* at (2008) 30 Aust Bar Rev 221, and on the Society's website.

Since that time, the Society has conducted an essay competition each year. A list of the previous winners of the competition, along with the essay questions for each year, will be published on the Society's website.

The winners of the 2025 competition were:

- **Senior Secondary Category**: Samuel McIntyre for an essay, "The Silence of the Crown: The Historical Evolution and Constitutional Limits on the Royal Prerogative in Australia".
- **Junior Secondary Category**: Jake Lee for his essay, "Is Australia's offshore processing a continuation of older anti-immigration practices, or a fundamentally new regime?"
- **Tertiary**: Bradley Hogan for an essay "Cats, Chameleons and Chapter III Courts: The Tangled History of Judicial Power and the Constitutional Necessity of Indeterminacy".

The schools of each of the students who participated were: North Sydney Boys High School, St George Girls High School, Meriden School, Abbotsleigh School, Peel High School Tamworth, Presbyterian Ladies College Melbourne, Knox Grammar School, and Miami State High School.

The tertiary institutions were Australian National University, Melbourne University, Monash University, The University of Sydney and University of Technology Sydney.

Enquiries regarding submission of essays for this year's competition should be directed to the Secretary, Simon Chapple SC, email: secretariat@forbessociety.org.au

PUBLICATIONS

The Society's first publication, in 2003, was the 2002 Francis Forbes Lecture, given by Ian Barker QC, *Sorely Tried - Democracy and Trial by Jury in New South Wales*, released in October 2003. It is now out-of-print, but we aim to make it available electronically on the Society's website.

The Society has published five further books:

- The 2003 Francis Forbes Lecture, given by Philip Powell AM QC, *The Origins and Development of the Protective Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.*
- *Dowling's Select Cases 1828 to 1844*, edited by T D Castle and Bruce Kercher - the notebooks of Sir James Dowling, the second Chief Justice of NSW.
- The 2004 Francis Forbes Lecture, given by T D Castle and Bruce Kercher, *The Dowling Legacy - Foundations of an Australian legal culture 1828 - 1844*.
- *Callaghan's Diary*, edited by J M Bennett AM, formally launched by Judge Greg Woods QC on 31 May 2006.
- *The Kercher Reports: Decisions of the New South Wales Superior Courts, 1788 to 1827*, edited by Bruce Kercher and Brent Salter.

In 2011/2012 the Forbes Society assisted with the publication of two books:

- Professor John McLaren's *Dewigged, Bothered and Bewildered: British Colonial Judges on Trial, 1800-1900* (co-*published* with the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History); and
- Dr Paula J Byrne's *Judge Advocate Ellis Bent: Letters and Diaries, 1810-1821.*

AVAILABILITY OF FORBES SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

By an arrangement with The Federation Press, these publications can generally be obtained from that publisher.

Website:	www.federationpress.com.au
Email:	info@federationpress.com.au
Telephone:	(02) 9552 2200
Fax:	(02) 9552 1681

Several *Forbes Lectures, Plunkett Lectures* and entries in the Society's *Australian Legal History Essay Competition* have been published in the *Australian Bar Review* and the *Australian Law Journal.*

THE *FORBES FLYER*

The Society's newsletter for members, the *Forbes Flyer*, was published quarterly via email and on the Society's web site. David Ash retired as Editor of the *Forbes Flyer* after the Winter 2020 Edition. He developed an entertaining, regular publication reaching out beyond the legal profession, to academia and the general public. The Council awarded David Ash life membership of the Society in 2020 in recognition of his many valuable contributions to the life and work of the Society over many years, in particular his very substantial contribution as Editor of the *Flyer* over some 15 years.

THE OSGOODE SOCIETY

Membership of the Osgoode Society is open to all comers, as is membership of the Forbes Society. As is apparent from its website (www.osgoodesociety.ca), the publications and programme of the Osgoode Society are worthy of both emulation and engagement.

THE SELDEN SOCIETY

The Forbes Society continues to have a close, collaborative connection with the Selden Society. Like the Osgoode Society, it was an inspiration for establishment of the Forbes Society. Membership of the Selden Society too is encouraged.

The Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Australian chapter of the Selden Society is the Supreme Court of Queensland Librarian & CEO, Marian Morgan-Bindon. Contact details are https://www.sclqld.org.au/contact and further details here: https://www.sclqld.org.au/services/public-programs/selden-society.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society acknowledges the assistance it has received through the voluntary efforts of many people in addition to the members of the Council. The Secretary and Treasurer have

been significantly assisted by Daniel Yazdani in the work of 'The Secretariat'. Associate Professor Ben Chen (Councillor) has been instrumental in organising the tutorial program.

The Society is very grateful to the Chief Justice of New South Wales, the Hon. Andrew Bell AC, for his continued support for the Society's activities, generously making Court facilities available for in person and streamed lectures and tutorials, and for assistance throughout the year from Edwina Chapman, Associate to the Chief Justice, regarding arrangements for Forbes Society events.

Particular thanks are due to:

- Sophie Howard, Event, Artefact & Digital Content Officer, Supreme Court of NSW who continues to assist with promotion of Society events and refreshing of the website;
- Chris Winslow, Media Manager, Supreme Court of NSW; and
- Lachlan Wischer (current Tipstaff to Justice Lindsay) who assisted with the livestreaming of lectures and tutorials.

The Society values the continued support it receives from Federation Press and the Publisher Jason Mongahan, including generous provision of book prizes for the Australian Legal History Essay Competition.

The continuing support of the NSW Bar Association through its Executive Director, Heather Moore, Honorary Executive Director of the Society, is vital to the Society's operations.

We thank particularly the Bar Association's InBrief team, as well as the Law Society's Monday Briefs team, for assistance and support in the promotion of the Society's events.

CAROL WEBSTER SC
Treasurer
20 November 2026

SIMON CHAPPLE SC
Secretary