



THE STATE OF THE COLONY

People, Place & Politics in 1823

Welcome to **DAY TWO** of this special conference exploring key figures, surprising stories & critical events in the early history of NSW

24 NOVEMBER 2022
NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

WE'RE SO PLEASED YOU COULD JOIN US AGAIN...

Welcome back to this rescheduled day two of our conference *The State of the Colony: People, Place & Politics in 1823*, where we will be continuing our special journey back in time.

Featuring sessions with some of the most respected academics and experts in their fields, *The State of the Colony* is helping us to reflect on key figures and events in the early colony; the experiences of the Aboriginal community; the perspectives of women and the media of the time; and much more.

Many of the stories and circumstances we will continue to delve into on day two were preludes to the development of the Legislative Council as Australia's first legislative body. The Council was established by the British Parliament's *NSW Act* of 1823, and its small number of appointed members met for the first time in 1824 – an anniversary we will be marking very soon. In fact, *The State of the Colony* forms part of a full program of activities commemorating the Bicentenary of the NSW Legislative Council, celebrating 200 years of evolving democracy in Australia. Learn more: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bicentenary.

Thank you for being part of the Bicentenary by attending *The State of the Colony*. I hope you come away from the event with a new appreciation for our rich history, an insight into the different experiences and perspectives within the colony and Aboriginal community, and a desire to learn more – because with the Bicentenary, there is much more in store.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Matthew Mason-Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

THE HON MATTHEW MASON-COX
President of the NSW Legislative Council



DAY 2 SCHEDULE

Thursday 24 November 2022

9:00 AM

Welcome

9:15 AM

Politics & People: Interpersonal Politics, the Courts & the Press with Prof Kirsten McKenzie, Prof Emerita Penny Russell & Dr James Dunk
Introduced by the Hon Chris Rath MLC

10:30 AM

Morning tea in the Fountain Court

11:00 AM

Executive Power: Unrestrained & Restrained
with Rev Dr John Harris & Caleb Cugley
Introduced by the Hon Damien Tudehope MLC

12:15 PM

Lunch break

1:30 PM

Money Changes Everything: The Bigge Reports, Currency & Banking in the Colony
with Kim Eberhard (virtual)
Introduced by the Hon Wes Fang MLC

2:45 PM

Afternoon tea in the Fountain Court

3:15PM

HerStory: Extraordinary Women in Early Colonial NSW with Jessica North
Introduced by the Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC

4:15PM

Closing (virtual) keynote with Ita Buttrose AC, OBE
Introduced by the Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

FROM
4:45 PM

Reception with refreshments in the Fountain Court

If you'd like to join our evening tour of Parliament, please meet in the Fountain Court at **5:30pm**.

SESSIONS & PRESENTERS

DAY 2 SESSION 1

Politics and People: Interpersonal Politics, the Courts and the Press

with Prof Kirsten McKenzie, Prof Emerita Penny Russell & Dr James Dunk

When the Council was formed in 1823, what was the relationship between formal politics and the informal politics of everyday life? This panel explores lesser-known scandals and darker stories that were amplified by those who lay closer to the new constitutional politics, to become public struggles over reputation and power. In the rhetoric of the day, what was at stake was the moral fibre of the colony itself. Who protected the morals, and what ultimately happened to the powerless individuals whose stories were so effectively weaponised in the public domain?



ABOUT KIRSTEN

Kirsten McKenzie is Professor of History at The University of Sydney. Her sole-authored books include *Scandal in the Colonies: Sydney and Cape Town, 1820 - 1850* (Melbourne University Publishing, 2004), *A Swindler's Progress: Nobles and Convicts in the Age of Liberty* (UNSW Press and Harvard, 2009 and 2010) and *Imperial Underworld: An Escaped Convict and the transformation of the British Colonial Order* (Cambridge, 2016). She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Royal Historical Society. Her current work on imperial commissions of inquiry is funded by the collaborative Australian Research Council project 'Inquiring into Empire: Remaking the British world after 1815', led by Professor Lisa Ford.

ABOUT PENNY

Penny Russell, FAHA is a historian of gender, class, race and culture in 19th-century Australia, with a particular interest in families, intimacy and colonial encounters. Her recent books include *Honourable Intentions? Violence and Virtue in Australian and Cape Colonies, c. 1750 to 1850* (Routledge, 2016), with Nigel Worden, and the award-winning *Savage or Civilised? Manners in Colonial Australia* (NewSouth, 2010). Penny is Professor Emerita at The University of Sydney, where from 1990 to 2021 she taught Australian and gender history. In 2022 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Australian Historical Association.



ABOUT JAMES

Dr James Dunk is a Research Fellow in the School of Humanities and the Sydney Environment Institute at The University of Sydney. His research joins histories of health and medicine and the environmental humanities. His first book, *Bedlam at Botany Bay* (NewSouth, 2019) won the Australian History Prize at the 2020 NSW Premier's History Awards and was shortlisted for several other prizes. He is currently President of the ANZ Society of the History of Medicine. His articles have been published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *History of Psychology*, *Rethinking History* and other journals, and his literary writing appears in various magazines.



DAY 2
SESSION 2

Executive Power: Unrestrained & Restrained
with Rev Dr John Harris & Caleb Cugley

Governor Lachlan Macquarie was given almost unlimited power over the colony of NSW. He tried to wield that power with justice and mercy. That he would sometimes fail was inevitable. As this session will explore, the fault lay less with him personally than with the differing priorities of the Parliament which appointed him and would finally judge him.



ABOUT JOHN

Rev Dr John Harris has spent much of his life involved with Aboriginal people as a child, a teacher, a linguist and an advocate. John has a particular interest in Aboriginal people and early colonial history. The author of numerous books and papers, John holds a PhD in Aboriginal languages, a ThD in theology, and a DD from the Archbishop of Canterbury and H.M. Queen Elizabeth.



ABOUT CALEB

Caleb Cugley currently teaches English and History to secondary students at St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens. He graduated from the St Philip's Teaching School in conjunction with Alphacrucis University College with a Bachelor of Education (Secondary). Caleb loves bringing history to life and found a particular love of early Australian colonial history while working on the Reacting Education event 'Judging the Macquaries'. Caleb created character profiles of key participants in Governor Macquarie's time in Australia and undertook further study to ensure his own performance in the event was as accurate as possible.

DAY 2
SESSION 3

Money Changes Everything: The Bigge Reports, Currency and Banking in the Colony
with Kim Eberhard

They say money changes everything – and when it came to the early colony, it certainly did. This session will consider the role of Governor Lachlan Macquarie as the architect of the now-famous holey dollars and dumps, bringing Australia's very first currency to the colony.

ABOUT KIM

Westpac Group Archivist and Historian Kim Eberhard is a passionate advocate of records, archives and the stories they hold. She contributed to the book and major exhibition produced for the Bank's 200th anniversary, and also arranged for the listing of the Bank's earliest records – dating from 1816 – on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. Kim's 25-year career has been spent principally in the private sector and she holds a Bachelor degree in Communications, a Master of Information Management, and is about to start a doctorate examining the life and contribution of former BNSW CEO Sir Alfred Davidson to Australia's economic history. A former President of the Australian Society of Archivists (2006 –2008) and member of the Executive Board of the International Council on Archives (2009 – 2012), Kim was one of the authors of the Universal Declaration on Archives, which was adopted by UNESCO in 2011. She has also written a number of award-winning publications, including the centenary history of North Sydney Boys' High School, and *In Good Faith: Waverley College and the Great War*. She also writes for the profession, with a number of journal articles and industry-standard textbooks to her credit.



DAY 2
SESSION 4

HerStory: Extraordinary Women in Early Colonial NSW
with Jessica North

With beautiful images to accompany her talk, in this session researcher and author Jessica North will tell the true stories of some remarkable women from early colonial NSW. They include the first woman who managed a large agricultural estate (and it wasn't Elizabeth Macarthur); the subject of the very first civil law case in Australia; the instigator of the first prenuptial agreement; and the child of convicts who became a society queen, promoting Australia to the world.



ABOUT JESSICA

Jessica North has worked at the Australian Research Institute for Environment and Sustainability at Macquarie University for the past 15 years, including five as its Director. She has also spent the past 10 years researching the lives of some fascinating colonial women. Her books are published by Allen & Unwin and have been top sellers in Amazon's 'History of Australia' category. Dr Catie Gilchrist from the University of Sydney has described Jessica's writing as "so utterly beautiful and compelling that reading her prose is akin to hearing the remarkable history for the first time".

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Delivered by Ita Buttrose AC, OBE

We're honoured to have Ita Buttrose AC, OBE deliver the closing keynote address of *The State of the Colony: People, Place & Politics in 1823*.

ABOUT ITA

A renowned Australian figure and the current Chair of the ABC, Ita is a media trailblazer, businesswoman, best-selling author, committed community and welfare contributor, and former Australian of the Year. Wrapping up this special Bicentenary conference, Ita will help us reflect on the themes woven throughout the sessions, from power and politics, to 'hidden' experiences, and, of course, the role played by the press.





CONFERENCE DAY ONE

The first day of *The State of the Colony* conference was held on Thursday 8 September 2022, as part of History Week 2022. Recordings found below.

Welcome to Day One

About the Welcome

Our Welcome to Country was delivered by **Uncle Michael West** from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, while greetings were offered by **Clerk of the Parliaments David Blunt** and **President of the Legislative Council Matthew Mason-Cox**.

Watch:



Read:

Find the full transcript of the conference opening from page 2 of the Hansard record [here](#).



SESSION RECORDINGS & PAPERS

After the conference, you'll find recordings of most sessions, as well as related research papers, at www.bit.ly/SOTC1823





[www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/
bicentenary](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bicentenary)



council@parliament.nsw.gov.au



facebook.com/nswupperhouse



twitter.com/nsw_upperhouse