



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Rare Book Lecture 2019: Writing About Enlightenment And Criminal Justice

Melbourne Law School

Public Event

The Macquarie Story As a History Tale For Today Presented by Dr Austin Lovegrove, Honorary Principal Fellow

This lecture describes one attempt to inform the public and engage them in debate about an enlightened approach to the punishment of criminal offenders. It is about writing a book not for academics but for the people at large. The text has the character of a story; there are heroes and villains, the wise and foolish, encouragers and users, winners and losers. Though not in the style of a learned history, it is nonetheless a history tale. The heroes are the Scots Lachlan Macquarie – Governor of New South Wales between 1810 and 1821 – and his wife Elizabeth Macquarie, who together attempted to introduce an enlightened approach to the treatment of the convicts. For them the convicts were men and women of inherent worth, for whom reform not punishment should be the principal consideration in their treatment. Moreover, the aim of this treatment should be their full restoration to society, including leadership as appropriate.

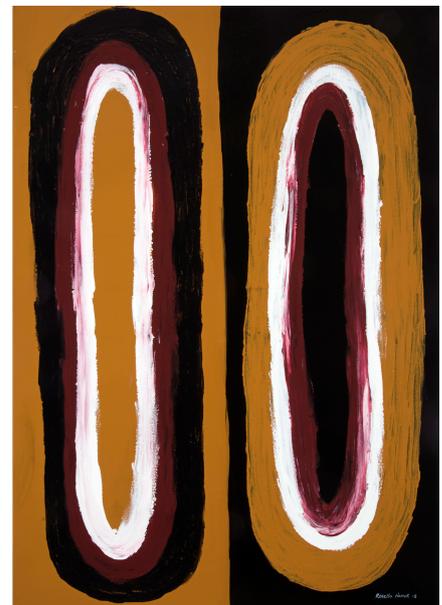
A feature of the present approach to the telling of this story is the role of images. Here they serve not simply as illustrations, but are integral to the telling of the story. There are 95 images throughout the text – images of places and of people of course, but also of documents and objects. The role of images, inter alia, is to convey information not readily open to verbal expression or understanding; and generally to inform more clearly, more memorably and with greater emotional

impact than words alone. In regard to these things, this work may be regarded as one of the Law's 'Picture Books'.

Images in this book are important not only in the telling of the Macquarie story. They are also used to better examine two related matters of importance: (1) barriers to a more enlightened approach to criminal justice today; and (2) Mrs Macquarie as co-architect of the Macquarie enlightenment and co-protagonist of its implementation. Finally, since the Macquarie enlightenment took place on Aboriginal lands, it is fitting that a pictorial representation of the Indigenous moiety of 'Kaapay and Kuyan' (Two Ways) serves as a foundation for the telling of this story and conveying its message to the modern world.

Austin Lovegrove is an honorary principal fellow in the Law School at the University of Melbourne. He has a PhD in behavioural science, and has taught courses in sentencing and research methods. His research interest is the punishment of criminal offenders, and includes public opinion and sentencing, sentencing policy, and sentencing guidelines. He has written two previous books, *Judicial Decision Making, Sentencing Policy and Numerical Guidance* (1989) and *The Framework of Judicial Sentencing: A Study in Legal Decision Making* (1997).

Image: 'Kaapay and Kuyan'.
Rosella Namok. 2018.



Thursday 12 September 2019

Time:
6.00pm - 7.00pm

Venue:
Theatre 102, Level 1
Melbourne Law School
185 Pelham Street
Carlton

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Bookings:
Bookings are essential for this free public lecture. Register at www.unimelb.edu.au/events