



Australian Senate Occasional Lecture Series

Fitzpatrick and Browne after 60 years

→ Dr Andrew Moore

Friday 29 May, 12.15pm to 1.15pm • Theatre, Parliament House



Dr Andrew Moore

The gaoling by Commonwealth Parliament of two individuals, Ray Fitzpatrick and Frank Browne, for contempt of parliament in 1955 is a celebrated event in Australian constitutional, political and legal history. The *Australian Law Journal* has described it as ‘one of the most significant constitutional law cases of twentieth century Australia’. Sixty years later *Fitzpatrick and Browne* remains of ongoing significance for those who care about civil liberties and free speech. It bears upon fundamental principles in a democracy, including the role of the executive branch of government, the importance of the rule of law and the separation of powers. Using the historiographical signposts provided by two distinguished parliamentary insiders, Frank Green and Harry Evans, this talk will revisit the lessons and legacies of the one and only time in Australian history that Commonwealth Parliament saw fit to send citizens to gaol.

Dr Andrew Moore is an adjunct associate professor at the University of Western Sydney where he taught Australian history for thirty years. He is the author of five books and around 100 scholarly articles. His most recent book, *Mr Big of Bankstown: The Scandalous Fitzpatrick and Browne case* (UWA Publishing, 2011) was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Community and Regional History prize in 2012. He continues to work on sport and labour history and is a member of the NSW working party of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

Admission free – bookings not required

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