



Dr Andrew Kilsby

La Trobe Society Fellow 2024

It is with great pleasure that we announce the La Trobe Society Fellow for 2024. Dr Andrew Kilsby was awarded the Fellowship for his research project on ‘La Trobe, Law and Order: Soldiers and Constables, 1836 to 1854’.

Andrew Kilsby is an independent professional historian specialising in Australian social, business and military history, having had careers in defence, foreign affairs and trade, public relations, corporate communications, history consulting and property management. He graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon with a doctorate from the University of New South Wales, titled ‘The Rifle Club Movement and Australian Defence, 1860-1941’, and is the founder of Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc. and a member of the Victorian Military Society (UK).

He has recently completed a history of the Defence Reserves Association, founded by Major-General Paul Cullen (the first Australian general of Jewish descent since Monash). His book, *The Case of Eichengruen-Edwards and Continental Tyres*, received a commendation in the 2020 Victorian Community History Awards.

In his application for the La Trobe Society Fellowship Andrew described his project in the following terms:

With the arrival of Lonsdale in the Port Phillip District in 1836 and then La Trobe in 1839, soldiers and constables became essential for law and order in the rapidly growing colony. Not least because of the population explosion that accompanied the Victorian gold rushes from 1851. Yet surprisingly very little is known of the military detachments. This project aims to fill that gap. Who were these detachments? How did they live? What roles did they have? What was their relationship with the Constabulary, Lonsdale and La Trobe?

We look forward to hearing from Andrew on his research as a guest speaker in the La Trobe Society’s program in the coming year.