



Wellington Branch

Wellington Branch Medals Conference 20 October 2018

Thank you for your interest in the Orders, Medals and Research Society (OMRS) Wellington Branch Medals Conference being held during Labour Weekend, October 2018. The event is open to all who have an interest in numismatics, especially orders, decorations and medals from around the world and associated research. This is the first time we have staged this event and we hope the numismatic community will support it, so we can make it a regular occurrence.

We have an outstanding line up of speakers with Dr Steven Loveridge an independent World War One historian as our dinner speaker. International speakers include Christopher Mellor-Hill and David Eskin-Hill from London based auction houses DNW and Spink. An outstanding array of local speakers discussing a wide variety of topics rounds out what will be a great day.

The event is the weekend before OMRS Canberra to provide an opportunity for those who are planning to travel to the southern hemisphere to attend both events. The long weekend provides a great opportunity to those closer to home the opportunity to “make a weekend of it”.

We are looking forward to seeing you in October!

This event is made possible thanks to our very generous sponsors:



www.spink.com



www.dwn.co.uk



www.mowbrays.co.nz

Winterstoke
Medals

Military
Memorabilia
Ltd

www.milimem.com

Accommodation

The Wellington Club would like to offer a discounted rate of \$150 per night, including continental breakfast. For guests who wish to book multiple nights over the weekend the rate will reduce to \$120 per night including continental breakfast. Please indicate when registering if you would like to take advantage of this offer.

Introductory Drinks

Please join the conference organisers on Friday evening for introduction drinks and nibbles. Come along and meet other conference attendees to renew old friendships and make new ones.

The event will be held on **Level 6, The Wellington Club from 1800**. Dress for the event is business casual. Please indicate when registering if you might be attending.

Dress for Conference

The dress for the conference is smart casual.

Conference Dinner

The conference dinner will be held on **Level 5, The Wellington Club from 1800 (for 1830)**. The dress for gentlemen for the dinner is black tie/mess kit or jacket and tie and for ladies semi-formal. For all guests, neck decorations, stars and miniatures are to be worn. Recipients of OMRS honours are to wear these on the right lapel.

Displays

Any attendees are welcome to display. Displays can focus on many groups, family stories, a single medal or even just a ribbon, as each entertains and informs. A display can also be a commercial display to sell medals, books etc. There will be a 'people's choice' award for the best display which will be presented at the dinner. If you would like to display please indicate when registering and we will confirm requirements with you directly.

Costs

It is thanks to the very generous sponsorship of Spink, DNW, Mowbray's, Military Memorabilia, and Winterstoke that this conference is possible. As a result of this sponsorship, the cost for attendees is only \$70 for the full days conference programme including all meals.

Registration and Payment

Please copy and paste the text below into an email and send to tskilton@gmail.com to register your attendance at the conference. Once registered please credit \$70 per attendee into the OMRS Wellington Branch account 03-1395-0333794-00 to confirm your attendance, ensuring that your surname is included with the transfer.

Name:

Contact email:

Contact phone number:

Will you be producing a display? Y/N

Will you be requiring accommodation at the Wellington Club? Y/N

Will you attend the introductory drinks on Friday evening? Y/N

Special dietary requirements for the conference:

Conference Schedule

Friday - 19 October 2018

Level 6, The Wellington Club, 88 The Terrace

Introductory Event

1800: Drinks and Nibbles

Cash bar

Saturday - 20 October 2018

Level 5, The Wellington Club, 88 The Terrace

Conference

0845: Registration/Coffee/Displays

Morning

0915: **Todd Skilton** – Conference opening and welcome

directly followed by:

“Archival Holdings of St John New Zealand”

Todd will discuss the various holdings and projects underway within St John New Zealand, which may help collectors and researchers shed new light and gather further information on awards and recognition bestowed by the organisation.

0945: **David Dickens** – “For their own good - The Vatican’s use of orders and decorations to perfect harmony”

David will trace the Vatican use of awards as diplomatic tools to promote the good of people and their neighbours. The talk will set the context, briefly covering the Vatican’s role in the medieval origins of the heraldry still used in modern orders and the rise of the medal (and collecting) in the Vatican inspired Renaissance. Then to the rise of the modern Vatican order. Vatican diplomacy to promote harmony (the loss of the Vatican states and the invasion of Rome through, the rise of German fascism and the threat of extermination of the Polish Church and suppression of the Catholic Church in Germany) will be illustrated with various period examples of insignia.

1025: Morning Break/Displays

Supported by Mowbray Collectables

Mid-Morning

1100: **James Sutherland** – “Sergeant Edgar “Sandy” Sanders MM”

James will discuss Sandy Sanders, a colourful character who initially served with 2NZEF, before going on to serve with the LRDG and later becoming the only New Zealander to serve with Popski’s Private Army.

1145: **David Eskine-Hill** – “40 Years of Auctions”

David will look back and offer his thoughts and analysis over his 40 year involvement with the world of auctioning numismatics.

1220: Lunch/Displays

Supported by Winterstoke Medals

Mid-Afternoon

1320: **Brett Delahunt** – “Bravery on the Job”

Brett will discuss the Edward Medal, a British civilian decoration with a number of unique features. Awards of the medal are scarce and recipients demonstrated astonishing bravery to earn their awards.

1405: **Gail Romano** – “When Storage Meets Display: Rehousing a Museum Medal Collection “

When Auckland War Memorial Museum opened its new family military research centre Pou Maumahara on Armistice Day 2016, a long-held goal was realised: to get the military medal collection, together with civil decorations, out of off-display storage and into public view. This presentation reviews the collection and discusses the project that aimed to create secure ‘visible storage’ that meets the on-going needs of both curators and museum visitors.

1445: Afternoon Break/Displays

Supported by Military Memorabilia

Afternoon

1515: **Christopher Mellor-Hill** – “The Great War in Africa - An Overview”

Christopher will discuss the Great War in Africa. An especially topical issue as the first & last shots of World War One were fired in Africa, with the German General in Africa not surrendering until well after the war was over in the remainder of the world.

1615: **John O'Reilly** – “Polar Medal Declined”

John will present on Arthur Sawyer and the 1911-1914 Mawson Antarctic Expedition.

1700: Close of talks

Evening

The conference dinner is supported by Spink (UK) with the wine provided by DNW (UK)

1800: Pre-Dinner Drinks

1830: Conference Dinner Commences

Speaker: **Steven Loveridge** – “New Zealand Society and the Outbreak of the Great War”

Perhaps no aspect of the Great War draws more attention and contestation than its origins. In debates that now span a century, commentators have reviewed the events leading from an assassination at Sarajevo, to the July Crisis, to the outbreak of war. Judgements have been cast at figures, nations, political developments, economic forces and at sheer human folly. Beyond the historians, the popular images of how societies are thought to have gone to war have long been prominent touchstones within the war’s mythology. Looming large are scenes of cheering crowds, enthusiastic volunteers and confident touting that the war would be ‘over by Christmas’. All seem to speak of a haunting naivety over what was to follow and to complement the sense of a war often defined by tragic irony. In recent decades, however, renewed interest has decidedly modified these older motifs, with scholarship capturing an altogether more complicated scene and complex range of intellectual and emotional reactions. This talk offers a similar reconsideration of New Zealand society and its responses to the outbreak of war in August 1914.

Biographies of Speakers

Dr Steven Loveridge



Steven graduated with a PhD in history from Victoria University of Wellington, works from the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies and has researched, written and lectured on numerous aspects of the First World War. His first book, *Calls to Arms: New Zealand Society and Commitment to the Great War*, was published by Victoria University Press in 2014 and examines the social and cultural dynamics backing New Zealand's wartime commitment. In 2016 he was the editor of an anthology collection, *New Zealand Society at War, 1914-1918*, which has been reviewed as holding a 'solid claim to the status of a new foundational text'. He is currently co-authoring the WW100 Centenary history volume on the New Zealand home front.

Christopher Mellor-Hill



Christopher was appointed to the position of Head of Client Liaison (Associate Director) at DNW in 2006. Christopher is a long serving member of the OMRS and during his time with DNW has become the "de-facto" international Branch liaison officer, which was recognised in 2017 when Christopher was a recipient of OMRS Meritorious Service Medal. When the OMRS closed down their London meetings in 1999, Christopher established the London Medal Club, a convivial monthly group which reflected his enjoyment of the social side of medal collecting which he believes makes the medal collecting hobby so rewarding.

David Erskine-Hill



David went straight from school to Christie's, and then moved to Sotheby's in 1980, where his love of history led him to specialise in Orders, Medals & Decorations. He was appointed an Auctioneer in 1987, then Deputy Director and Head of a newly created Medals, Militaria, Arms & Armour Department. David next joined Spink & Son as Head of the Medal Department in 1997 and, in June 2002, moved to Dix Noonan Webb. He returned to Spink in late 2016 as the Medals Specialist. Later this year he will commence a new role as the Medallic advisor to Lord Ashcroft. He regularly carries out valuation work for national institutions and is a special adviser to the Royal Green Jackets Museum at Winchester.

Professor Brett Delahunt ONZM, KStJ, FRSNZ, FRNSNZ



Brett is a regular speaker at numismatic conferences and events in New Zealand and internationally. He has co-authored several books on honours and awards and is a member of the Lifesaving Awards Research Society. In addition he is a Vice-President and Fellow of the Royal Numismatic New Zealand Society of New Zealand. Brett is a long serving member of the OMRS and in 2017 was a recipient of OMRS Meritorious Service Medal. An internationally renowned pathologist and medical academic, in 2004 Brett was appointed as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Pathology and as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2012.

Gail Romano



Gail is Associate Curator, History at Auckland War Memorial Museum. In her curatorial role Gail works with the Museum's huge collection of objects related to New Zealand's war and social histories. Her particular interests include social and economic aspects of New Zealand's war experiences in the Pacific, North Africa, and South-East Asia and the country's role in more recent conflicts. Gail was closely involved with the very successful 2017 symposium *The Myriad Faces of War: 1917 & its legacy* and is a co-editor of the product of that conference, *The Myriad Legacies of 1917: A Year of War and Revolution* (Palgrave, 2018).

Lieutenant Colonel John O'Reilly MNZM



John has a particular interest in New Zealanders who served in Indian Forces. A former full-time and now Reserve army officer, John has undertaken a variety of operational tours in the Pacific and Middle East. In 2002, John was appointed as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit as a result of his service in East Timor.

Dr David Dickens



A former soldier (7 RNZIR and then 2nd/1st RNZIR) and defence official: Ministry of Defence and then Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. His research interests include Asia-Pacific strategy, airpower, and the security of South and South East Asia. His PhD covered official policy advice to the New Zealand government during the Vietnam War. David is also a graduate of the Senior Course: RNZAF Command and Staff College (1993). In more recent years David has worked as a project manager for professional societies, a telecommunications corporation and the government. David's current interests include modern India and airpower. David is near completion of a book about New Zealand defence in early 2000.

Todd Skilton



Todd has wide involvement across the numismatic community. He joined the OMRS in 2000 and in 2015 was appointed the Convener of the Wellington Branch before being elected Branch Secretary in 2016. He has been a member of the National Council of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand since 2017 and a Society Member since 2015. Todd is the volunteer Assistant Register of the Order of St John, Priory in New Zealand and has produced a publication on its awards. Since 2017, Todd has been a trustee of the United Services Medal Collection Trust. He is an Army Reserve Officer, where he has involvement with various aspects of medallic policy and the issuing of awards to New Zealanders.

James Sutherland



Jim is the son of two parents who served during WW2, who developed an interest in things military after reading biographies of WW2 heroes. He undertook National Service and served for three years in the Territorials as a Gunner with 31 Battery RNZA before heading overseas for his OE. He started collecting militaria, primarily badges before graduating to medals. This led to a great interest in research, primarily in the field of NZ gallantry awards during WW2, but other aspects such as the DSO and awards to airmen resulting in his publications. He has been an OMRS member since about 1980 and has had the pleasure of attending two UK conventions in 2005 and 2008.

Things to see and do in Wellington

There are many other things to see and do when you are in Wellington for the Conference. Here are a few things that might be of interest:

New Zealand Police Museum - www.police.govt.nz/about-us/history-museum/museum

The Great War Exhibition - <https://www.greatwarexhibition.nz/>

Gallipoli: The Scale of Our War - <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/visit/exhibitions/gallipoli-scale-our-war>

Museum of Wellington City and Sea - <https://www.museumswellington.org.nz/>

Botanic Gardens - <https://wellington.govt.nz/recreation/enjoy-the-outdoors/gardens/botanic-garden>

Cable Car - <https://www.wellingtoncablecar.co.nz/English/home.html>