



RESPECT THE PAST
EMBRACE THE FUTURE
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Unwrapping the past : revealing the future

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While the main focus of the paper will be on Tasmanian legislators and judges during the years 1856 to 1900 (self government to federation) and the impact that the colony's precarious financial status had on legal developments, there will also be consideration given to key judicial decisions and legislation in the other colonies in the second half of the 19th century. As a backdrop to the main drama the availability of law libraries and reference material for judges will be summarised, along with a snapshot of the technology of the time that was available for the writing and publication of legislation and judgments. The epilogue will then muse on how these threads might be woven together to see how, if at all, our past has affected the future.