

Bob Railton

Pride and Prejudice: Our Convict Ancestors – Petty Thieves or Hardened Criminals?

This presentation will address some of the critical aspects of the convict transportation era, elements of which have become part of our folklore. It will reveal how “convictism” has permeated and shaped the Australian character. Also, some of the popular myths about the convict era will be addressed. For example, were the convicts really transported for only stealing a handkerchief or loaf bread, or were they career criminals? Some may even be surprised to learn that they have a convict ancestor – others may not want to know!