Richard d’Apice AM AAIH, President, and the Committee of The Australian Heraldry Society extend a most cordial invitation to you to attend a lecture titled “Australia’s First? – The History of The Bowman Flag Reconsidered”
In this presentation Bruce Baskerville and Stephen Michael Szabo will contest the generally accepted story of the origins and date of the Australian vexillium generally described as “The Bowman Flag”. Drawing on newspaper reports, nineteenth century pamphlets, artefacts and conservation reports, a number of alternative possibilities will be examined. Was the flag made at a later date than 1806? Was it created as a political campaign flag in 1843, or a fraternal lodge flag in the later 1840s, or a military unit flag in the 1860s? Claims that “The Bowman Flag” was the inspiration for the supporters of the arms of the Commonwealth of Australia will also be challenged.

A shorter version of this paper was presented in August 2015 at the 26th International Congress of Vexillology, held in Sydney.

Bruce Baskerville is Deputy President of The Australian Heraldry Society and editor of its Members’ Circular. Bruce Baskerville is a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney researching a cultural history of the Crown in Australia. He graduated with honours from the University of Western Australia, and has worked in cultural heritage management around Australia, being a historian for the World Heritage nomination of the Australian Convict Sites (inscribed 2010), and site manager of the Kingston & Arthur’s Vale Historic Area on Norfolk Island in the South Pacific. Bruce is particularly interested in the use of material artefacts and places as historical records. Recent publications include a study of the Australian coat of arms in Symbols of Australian Identity: Uncovering the Stories behind the Myths, (ed Melissa Harper and Richard White, UNSW Press: Sydney 2010, 107-114), and a review of David Phillips, ‘Emblems of the Indian States’, Heraldry News: The Journal of Heraldry Australia Inc., (No 58, November 2011: 18-25).

Stephen Michael Szabo is the Secretary of The Australian Heraldry Society and Editor of its journal, Heraldry News. He is a graduate of the University of Sydney, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and a Fellow of The Augustan Society. His primary research interests are in the areas of heraldic use and display in nineteenth and twentieth century Australia and in heraldic design. This has led him to interesting places and to meet interesting people. He has written and published extensively on both historical and contemporary heraldry.
We invite you to attend a lecture titled

Australia’s First? – The History of The Bowman Flag Reconsidered

to be delivered by

Bruce Baskerville and Stephen Michael Szabo

This event will take place on

Saturday 4 June 2016
(Doors open at 10:00am – Lecture commences at 10:25am)

and will be held at the

Sydney Mechanics School of Arts
Level 1
280 Pitt St, Sydney

Entry is by gold coin donation and refreshments will be available prior to the lecture. There will also be a raffle.

For bookings and inquiries please contact the Secretary by telephone call or text message on 0431 701 055 or by e-mail on secretary@heraldryaustralia.org
The Purposes of The Australian Heraldry Society are:

*The advancement of education in the science, art, history, practice and development of heraldry and allied subjects and the encouragement of their study and practice in Australia*

We fulfil these purposes in a number of ways, including the publication of a journal and a newsletter, the conduct of tours of sites of heraldic interest, meetings of members, and through lectures such as this one.

Further information can be obtained by visiting our web-log, which is located at www.theaustralianheraldrysociety.wordpress.com, by making contact with the Secretary via e-mail on secretary@heraldryaustralia.org, by post at PO Box 107, Lawson NSW 2783 or by telephone on 0431 701 055