

Media release

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Colonial Robin Hoods or murderous thugs? Discover new stories of Victoria's bushrangers at the Old Treasury Building

If you thought you knew all about Victoria's bushrangers, think again. There's far more to it than the story of Ned Kelly.

From the 19th of September, a new exhibition at the Old Treasury Building will reveal the long history of bushranging in Victoria, with some new and little-known characters from our frontier past.

Meet the first bushrangers convicted in 1842 who were tried and executed publicly as an example to others. And the audacious gang who held up travellers on St Kilda Road in the 1850s.

Visitors can also meet the oldest bushranger, and the youngest – John (Jack) Doolan, who inspired part of the well-known bushranging song *The Wild Colonial Boy*. The Kelly Gang will be there too of course. There's no story of bushranging without Ned!

Wild Colonial Boys is presented by the Old Treasury Building in partnership with Public Record Office Victoria. It features records from the state's archives and other intriguing artefacts, including Mad Dan Morgan's death mask from the collection of the Museum of Anatomy and Pathology at the University of Melbourne and Dan Kelly's armour, on loan from the Police Museum.

And it asks us to think about how we see the bushrangers today. Were they indeed nineteenth century 'Robin Hoods' – or just common criminals? We'll leave you to judge.

What: *Wild Colonial Boys: Bushrangers in Victoria*

Where: Old Treasury Building, 20 Spring Street, Melbourne.

When: From 19 September 2016 to August 2017. Open Sunday through Friday 10am-4pm (closed Saturdays). **Bookings:** This is a FREE exhibition. Bookings not required.

An exciting public program accompanies the exhibition, see otb.org.au for details. Visitors can also access additional digital content by downloading the 'Layar' app and scanning codes hidden throughout the displays.

Contact Tara Oldfield at Public Record Office Victoria for more information.

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