

The History Council of NSW

is pleased to award the



• MAX KELLY MEDAL •

for
2016
to

Mr Daniel McKay

FOR HIS ESSAY

*'Loyal Children: The Australian Factor in the
Birth of the Imperial Federation Movement'*

Daniel McKay's essay demonstrates the importance of Australia and the Australian Colonies in the foundation of the Imperial Federation League and more broadly, the changing nature of imperial relations in the late nineteenth century, with a particular focus on the largely forgotten figure of George Rusden. Rusden's critique of imperial administration and his calls for a genuine imperial fraternity based upon shared interests and equal representation - with its implicitly male and explicitly racial identity - had a major influence on imperial debates in the 1880s and 1890s. McKay also demonstrates the significance of the settler colonies in the formation of the League, and the disproportionate interest in the federal idea in Australia, even after it had been abandoned in England. Grounded in detailed archival research in the papers of the central and the colonial Leagues, and the publications of imperialists, McKay's essay is an important contribution to our understanding of the trans-national nature of imperial thought and Australian engagement with it.

Awarded 7 September 2016

Dr Tanya Evans



historycouncilnsw