



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Old Melbourne Gaol Site of Miscarriage of Justice

The Old Melbourne Gaol, City Watch House and Old City Court were the sites where Colin Campbell Ross was held, pleaded his innocence, and finally was executed, in 1922.

Colin Ross was convicted for the murder of 12 year old Alma Tirtschke, and today in a historic legal ruling, he was pardoned.

Ross was held in cell ten at the Old Melbourne Gaol and on display are significant collection items, most importantly, Ross's annotated bible and a hand-written innocence note, written on the back of an envelope, and thrown over the Gaol wall on 18 April 1922, in a last desperate bid by Ross to state his innocence.

National Trust CEO Martin Purslow said: "this is a poignant reminder that a miscarriage of justice can lead to extreme consequences".

"We encourage people to visit the Old Melbourne Gaol to understand and learn about this historic case, as well as obtain an insight into the past, present and future of justice in this country" he said.

This site is operated by the National Trust (Victoria), which is a non-government, community funded organisation that is dedicated to preserving our cultural heritage.

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