

You are invited to the launch of

Hugh Mahon
Patriot, Pressman, Politician

Volume 1: the years from 1857 to 1901

by Jeff Kildea

Author of *Tearing the Fabric: Sectarianism in Australia 1910-1925* (2002),
Anzacs and Ireland (2007) and *Wartime Australians: Billy Hughes* (2008)

The book will be launched by

H.E. Richard Andrews

(Australian Ambassador to Ireland)

at

The Royal Irish Academy

Dawson Street, Dublin

Wednesday **26 April 2017**

at 6 pm for 6.30 pm

Other Launches

Offaly History Centre

Bury Quay, **Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

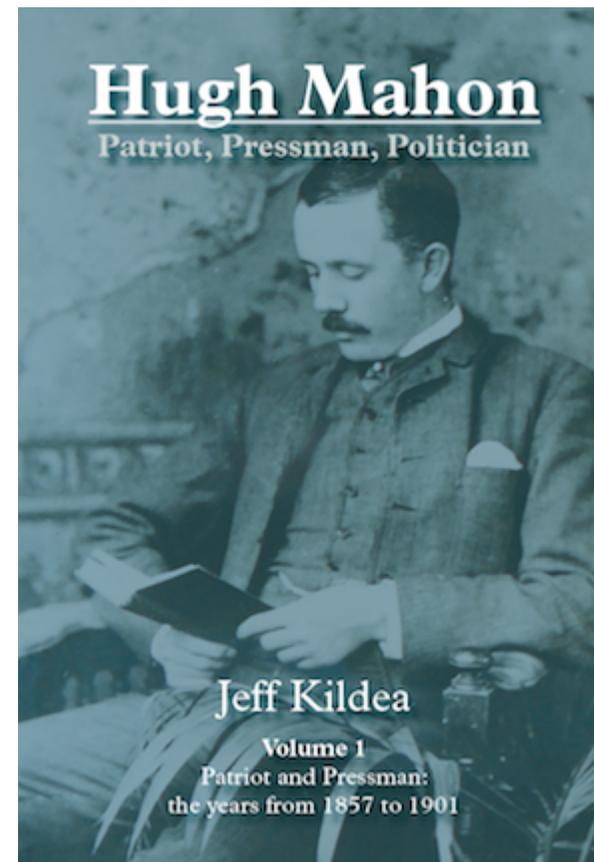
Thursday **27 April 2017** at 8 pm

New Ross Historical Society

Boat Club, Rosbercon, **New Ross, Co. Wexford**

Friday **28 April 2017** at 8 pm

To assist catering, if attending please contact:
anchorbooksaustralia@gmail.com



One of Australia's most controversial politicians in the early years of the Commonwealth, Hugh Mahon has the distinction of being the only member expelled from the federal parliament. This followed a speech he made in 1920 critical of British rule in Ireland. Born in Co. Offaly in 1857, Hugh and his family emigrated to America in 1869 but returned in 1880 after their American dream failed. A crusading journalist and Land League activist in Co. Wexford, he was imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol with Parnell in 1881 before fleeing to Australia where he resumed his career in journalism. As the pugnacious and racy editor of the *Kalgoorlie Sun*, Mahon became a thorn in the side of the Forrest government, exposing corruption and successfully defending four actions for criminal libel. Elected to the first Commonwealth parliament in 1901, he was an advocate of Aboriginal rights and a minister in four Labor governments, serving as Minister for External Affairs in World War I. After the war his campaign for Irish self-determination led to his expulsion from parliament. He saw out the rest of his life as head of Catholic Church Property Insurance Co. he had set up in 1911. He died in 1931 and is buried in Melbourne.

In this first volume of a two-volume biography of Hugh Mahon, historian Dr Jeff Kildea explores Mahon's formative years in America, his journalism and political activism in Ireland and his career as a newspaperman and budding politician in Australia in the years leading up to his election to the first Commonwealth parliament in 1901.

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