

Robert Menzies

INSTITUTE



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Robert Menzies

I N S T I T U T E

“For the greatest of all liberties is that which exists in a man’s own mind. It is a liberty of which he alone is master, and it makes him to that extent a master, not a servant. Produce in a nation a generation of men and women with liberty in their own individual minds, and dictatorship becomes impossible”

ROBERT MENZIES, THE CHALLENGE TO
EDUCATION, 19 MAY 1961



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Vision

The Robert Menzies Institute celebrates the life and legacy of Australia's greatest prime minister.

The ideas and values that Menzies espoused are timeless – freedom of the individual to flourish and thrive, private enterprise rather than state control, fostering a liberal broad-based education to develop engaged citizens, home ownership to strengthen families, and a proud liberal democratic nation unafraid to stand up for our values abroad.

Our mission is to uphold and promote Sir Robert's legacy and vision for Australia as a country of freedom, opportunity, enterprise and individual dignity by encouraging debate, learning and enquiry.

Some may ask why it is so important to celebrate a prime minister who retired 66 years ago? Well, as Menzies himself said "a sense of history ... does more to produce sanity of mind and judgment and stability of spirit than anything else." Learning from our leaders, understanding their decisions and the ideas that underpinned them, gives us direction for the future.

The Robert Menzies Institute, as one of six prime ministerial libraries in Australia, ensures that the role of Australia's longest serving prime minister in shaping Australia through a period of incredible social, political and economic change is never forgotten.

But the Institute is not just about the past, it is about upholding the principles that Sir Robert championed and applying these to the challenges of today and beyond. Through our exhibitions, research, schools program and Digital Hub we aim to bring alive the spirit of a great Australian for a new generation.

From the Chief Executive Officer

I am proud to share with you the incredible work we do at the Robert Menzies Institute and all we have achieved since our inception in April 2021. Our Institute is named in honour of Sir Robert Menzies, Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister and one of our nation's greatest leaders. Sir Robert led Australia during the early stages of World War II and for much of the Cold War. So much of what we take for granted in Australia is thanks to Sir Robert and the governments he led. The ANZUS Alliance, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, trade with Asia, the Reserve Bank of Australia, the PBS, Federal support for non-government and Catholic schools, the rapid expansion of Australia's tertiary education sector, post war migration, and high rates of home ownership, to name but a few.

The Robert Menzies Institute is dedicated to ensuring that Sir Robert's legacy and his enduring ideas of freedom, individual dignity, personal

responsibility and patriotism, continue to inspire current and future generations. We believe that history is not just about the past, but shapes our present and future. By studying Menzies's achievements, and the values that underpinned them, we can learn vital lessons and apply them to today's challenges.

In our unique location based in the historic Old Quadrangle at the University of Melbourne, we display a range of items from the Menzies Collection and other cultural institutions so that university students and members of the public alike can learn about Menzies's extraordinary personal story from Jeparit to the Lodge, the Menzies era, and his nation building legacy. We achieve this by displaying his books, papers speeches, and other important items. We also organise events, seminars and conferences to further the discussion on the values that Menzies held dear, including liberty, democracy, and individual responsibility.



Our research program, led by **Dr Zachary Gorman**, addresses the gaps in scholarship on Menzies and his era, through our annual conference and in-house and commissioned works. Our first book, *The Young Menzies*, has received rave reviews with limited copies still available for sale. Zac is creating an incredible corpus of knowledge through the On This Day and Book of the Week Series which you can follow on our website, and produces our weekly Afternoon Light podcast.

We have assembled an impressive group of Fellows of the Institute, including **Dr William Stoltz** whose groundbreaking research on the founding of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service in 1952 provides unique and important insights on the development of Australia's intelligence community. Fellows **Dr James Waghorne** and **Dr Gwilym Croucher** are undertaking an important project on the Menzies Generation, collecting the stories of recipients of Commonwealth Scholarships during the Menzies era, while **Professor Gregory Melleuish** is working with Zac Gorman on an exciting new book on the complete 105 episode series of the Forgotten People Broadcasts and the context in which Menzies made them.

Our schools program, led by **Samantha Rogers**, is vital to connect the ideas and achievements of Robert Menzies with the next generation. The Institute has commissioned the History Teachers' Association of Victoria to produce a series of

curriculum materials on Menzies. We were thrilled with the response to our inaugural Secondary School Speaking Competition last year, with the winner, Year 10 Student Ysmene Ostik-Smith delivering a speech on 'An Educated Nation is a Successful Nation'.

Our public events, led by **Nina Geoghegan**, bring some brilliant minds and fantastic speakers to our home in the Old Quadrangle at the University of Melbourne, and also across Australia.

Our signature event, the Robert Menzies Institute Gala and Oration, was a sell-out last year, with former UK Supreme Court Justice, **Jonathan Sumption** delivering an important address on 'A State of Fear: Covid-19 and Lockdowns'. I am very much looking forward to this year's Oration to be delivered by the editor of *The Spectator*, **Fraser Nelson**. It promises to be another wonderful celebration.



We were honoured to host with Asialink and Queen's College 30 foreign policy leaders for an important dialogue in July 2022 on 'Australia's Dilemmas Now and Then'. I look forward to sharing an occasional paper from this event written by Dr Stoltz with you soon.

Our digitisation program, led by **William Cook**, is making the Menzies Collection of over 4500 books and items more accessible to students, academics and members of the public. Will has completed the catalogue of the Collection and through this work has uncovered many new treasures, revealing of the personalities Sir Robert met, his family, his interests and influences on his ideas.

While it's been 45 years since Sir Robert's passing, the work of the Robert Menzies Institute has only just begun. I know that with your support, we can continue to make a significant difference in promoting Menzies's legacy and ideas.

Together, we can inspire a new generation to be bold, creative, and optimistic about our future, valuing debate and critical thinking in this vibrant liberal democracy in which we live. Thank you for being a part of our community, and I invite you to join us in defending the principles that make our country great.



Georgina Downer

17

Events

49

Books of the
Week

1,315

Email
subscribers

9,400

YouTube hours
watched

34

On This
Days

52

Afternoon
Light Episodes

2,950

Online
Followers

62,145

YouTube
Views

Exhibition

Over the last year the Robert Menzies Institute has seen large audiences attend our permanent exhibition in the Old Quad at the University of Melbourne. The exhibition, managed by the Institute's **Samantha Rogers** and initially curated by the **Hon Dr David Kemp** and **Nick Cater**, explores Menzies's liberalism and how his views enabled his unprecedented success in Australian politics. The exhibition explores Sir Robert's leadership qualities, his success as a political architect in the establishment of the Liberal Party, his achievements in both nation building and advocating for Australia's interests on an international stage, and the significant legacy he left us.

The exhibition showcases items from the Menzies Collection at the University of Melbourne, as well as loans from national collecting institutions including the National Library of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House. We also house items from family members and private collectors. Our exhibition explores Menzies's Scottish ancestry, his early intellectual successes that enabled his rise to fame, and his close relationship with the British monarchy. We also display items that speak to Menzies's great achievements in government such as Australia's space program, Australia's reaction to the communist threat during the Cold War, and the strengthening of the United States alliance through the signing of the ANZUS Treaty.

As a free exhibition open to the general public we have been thrilled to see a sharp increase in the number of visitors over the past year as people return to campus and the awareness of the museum continues to grow. It is particularly encouraging to see many students from Melbourne University take a strong interest in the museum and our work.



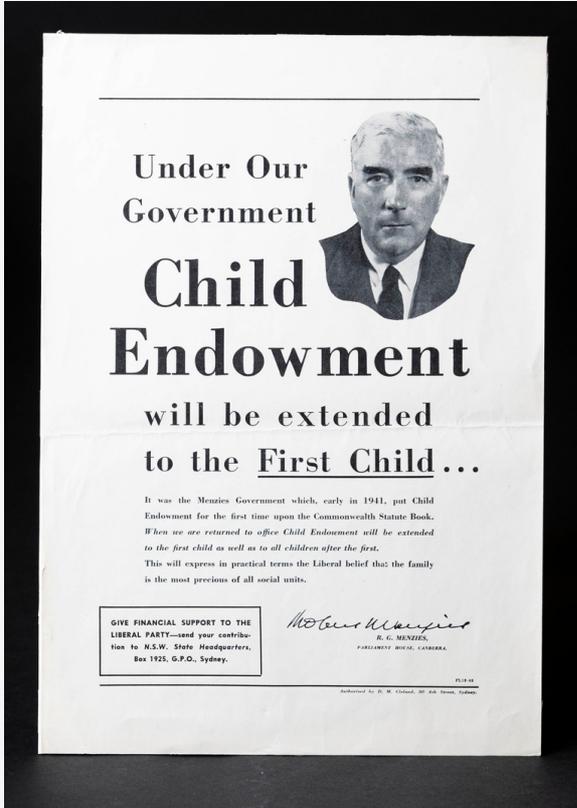


Image: Child Endowment Handbill from the 1949 election on loan from the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

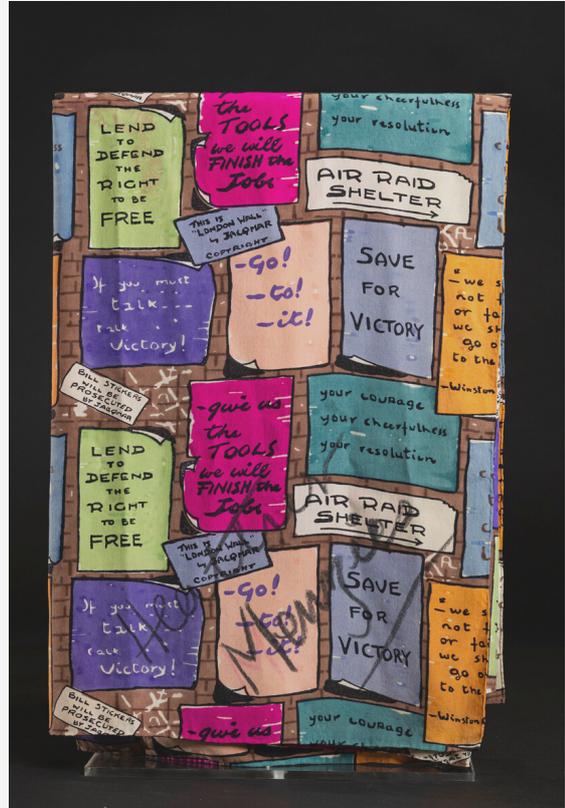


Image: Second World War Slogan Scarf on loan from Heather Henderson



Image: Film Projector and Case, owned by R.G. Menzies on loan from Alec Menzies
Film Box and Reel, owned by R.G. Menzies on loan from Heather Henderson



Image: Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports Uniform on loan from the National Library of Australia

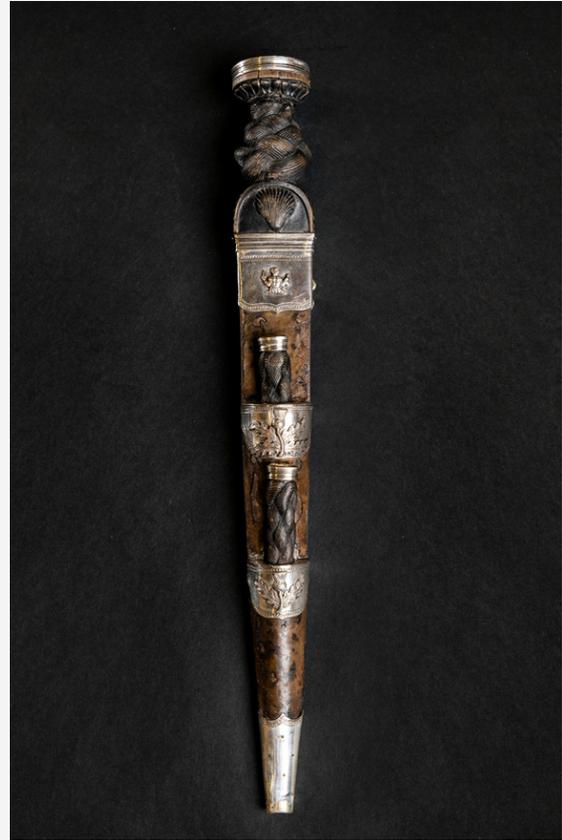


Image: Ceremonial Scottish Dirk owned by R.G. Menzies on loan from Alec Menzies

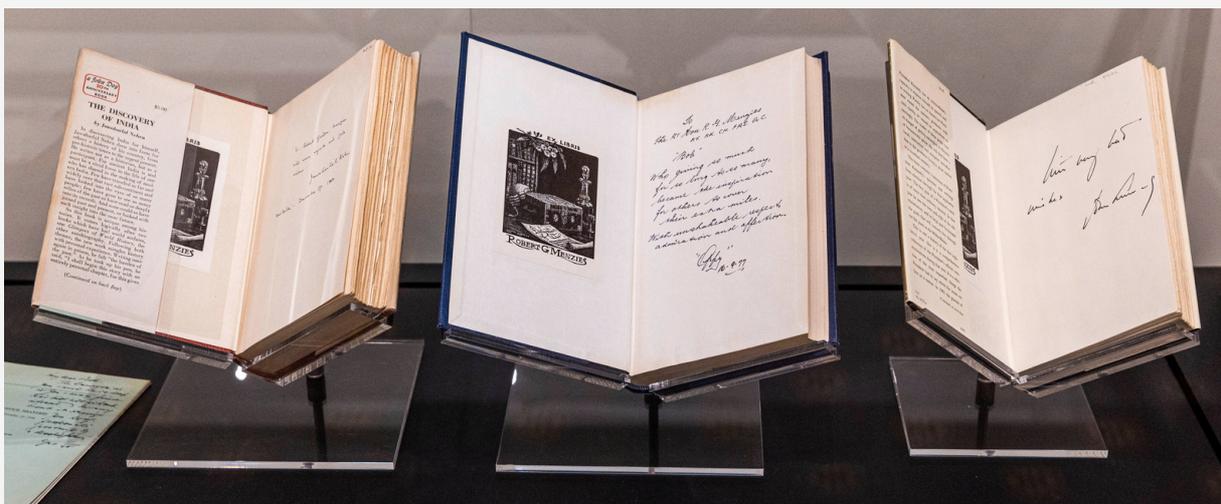


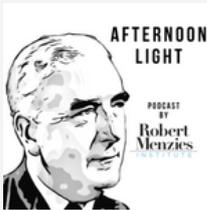
Image:
 Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India* (1946), inscribed by the author
 Hubert Opperman, *Pedals, Politics and People* (1977) inscribed by the author
 John F. Kennedy, *To Turn the Tide: A Collection of Public Statements* (1962), inscribed by the author
 Robert Menzies Collection Rare Books, Archives and Special Collections University of Melbourne

Digital Engagement

The Robert Menzies Institute maintains a constant and enlightening digital presence that serves to build public knowledge of Menzies and his legacy.

01

AFTERNOON LIGHT PODCAST



Each week on the Afternoon Light Podcast, our CEO Georgina Downer sits down with a guest to discuss topics related to Menzies and contemporary events. Now into its third season, the podcast has featured upwards of 50 academics and authors, as well as leading figures like John Howard, Lord Jonathan Sumption, Barry Jones, Daniel Hannan, and Alexander Downer – not to mention the living treasure that is Menzies’s daughter Heather Henderson.

02

BOOK OF THE WEEK SERIES



Book of the Week is Zachary Gorman’s exploration of the treasure trove of over 4500 items from Menzies’s personal book collection which serves as a time-capsule of Menzies’s intellectual influences, the prominent people he met and knew, as well as the broader society in which he lived. We are now past week 80 – so all things being equal, it will be at least another 77 years before we cover the entirety of the Menzies Collection!

03

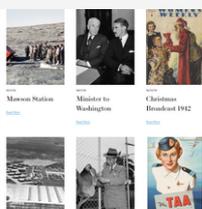
QUOTE OF THE WEEK



Quote of the Week provides nuggets of Menzies’s wisdom which have proven a big hit on social media.

04

ON THIS DAY SERIES



The On This Day series, tracks the anniversaries of notable moments in Menzies’s life and career with short essays explaining their importance to Australian history. We now have thoroughly researched articles corresponding to 90 days in the calendar year.

Conservation

The historical and research value of the Menzies Collection cannot be overstated. As Menzies's personal library, it gives a unique insight into his personal and professional interests, his relationships and career.

Juxtaposed against Sir Robert's formal papers housed at the National Archives of Australia, the Menzies Collection gives an insight into the personal and private elements of Sir Robert's life.

Through his bequest to the University of Melbourne in 1976, Sir Robert intended that the Collection be used as a reference library. The Collection is open to the public, with access through the Baillieu Library reading room. Though well protected in the Leigh Scott room in the Baillieu, the books do show some wear and tear. A conservation assessment commissioned by the Robert Menzies Institute revealed that approximately 55% of the Collection needs some sort of repair or interventive storage solution to prevent further damage, while 10% of the Collection requires major conservation work.

The Robert Menzies Institute is dedicated to fostering access to the Menzies Collection. The Institute's Curatorial Assistant **William Cook** works daily on the Collection, identifying the significant research potential that exists. With increased access, however, comes the responsibilities of ensuring its ongoing preservation.

Under the guidance of our conservator-in-training **Samantha Rogers**, the Robert



Menzies Institute hopes to financially support the University of Melbourne, as custodian of the Collection, to carry out necessary conservation works. This will ensure that Sir Robert's beloved personal library continues to be valued for generations to come.

It is the mission of the Robert Menzies Institute to ensure that all heritage materials related to Sir Robert have the best possible opportunity to be conserved for posterity and research. The Institute is also supporting the Jeparit Historical Society and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum to continue their excellent work in caring for their local heritage. Documents relating to the Menzies family's time in Jeparit have been identified in their respective collections and the Institute is partnering with these groups to assess their collections and facilitate support from cultural heritage experts in their preservation.

With your support we will continue to ensure that Menzies's heritage is conserved, catalogued, and digitised so it will be accessible for generations to come.

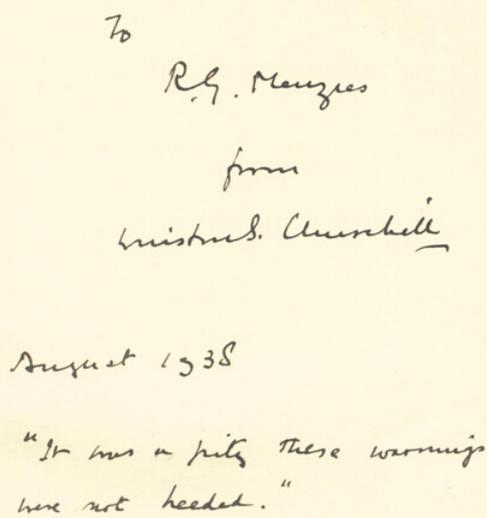
Digital Hub

The Digital Hub Project at the Robert Menzies Institute has seen major advances in 2023.

Most notably, Curatorial Assistant **William Cook** has begun the herculean task of digitising Sir Robert's entire personal library of over 4,500 books. This includes scanned images of every inscription, as well as the detailed highlights and annotations so often made by Robert Menzies.

The Digital Hub will make the Collection more widely accessible for researchers, students and people interested in Menzies. The Digital Hub will not only include extensive information about every item in the Collection but will also serve as a one-stop shop to boost accessibility for everything related to Menzies.

Amongst a host of integrated resources, the Digital Hub will feature learning materials for teachers, scholarly articles related to Menzies as well as links to research and discussion on Menzies including the On This Day series and the Afternoon Light Podcast. We eagerly anticipate the launch of the website in the latter half of 2023.

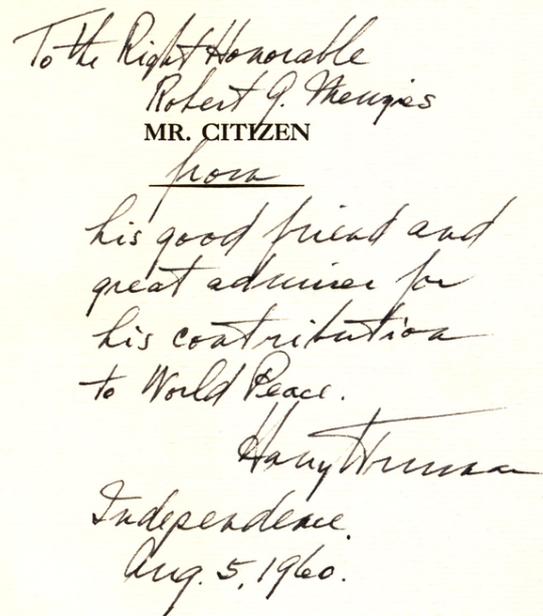


To
R.G. Menzies
from
Winston Churchill

August 1938

"It has a pity these warnings
were not heeded."

Image: Winston Churchill, *Arms and the Covenant* (1938).
Robert Menzies Collection Rare Books,
Archives and Special Collections - The
University of Melbourne



To the Right Honorable
Robert G. Menzies
MR. CITIZEN
from
his good friend and
great admirer for
his contribution
to World Peace.

Harry Truman
Independence.
Aug. 5, 1960.

Image: Harry Truman, *Mr. Citizen* (1960).
Robert Menzies Collection Rare Books,
Archives and Special Collections - The
University of Melbourne

Research

Under the leadership of Academic Coordinator **Dr Zachary Gorman**, the Robert Menzies Institute is spearheading a range of important research into Robert Menzies's career, beliefs, and legacy, as well as the enduring impact of the Menzies era in shaping modern Australia.

The Institute's annual academic conference, which takes place in November each year, is rapidly becoming a landmark event, attracting historians, authors and other leading figures to look at Menzies with fresh eyes. The 2022 conference featured 14 presenters, including the Hon George Brandis KC, Troy Bramston, Tom Switzer, and Australian Human Rights Commissioner Lorraine Finlay, alongside a number of highly talented historians. The Institute's next book, *The Menzies Watershed*, will be based on the edited papers from this conference and will be released in November this year.

The 2023 conference on 'The Menzies Ascendancy: Implementing a Liberal Agenda and Consolidating Gains, 1954-1961', is scheduled for 23-24 November and promises to deliver another stellar set of insights into the Menzies era.

Beyond our flagship conferences, we currently have a wide variety of research projects either underway or in development. These cover topics ranging from Menzies's wartime radio broadcasts, the Menzies's



Image: Academic Coordinator Dr Zachary Gorman presenting at the 2022 annual conference.

Government's landmark investment in democratising university education via Commonwealth Scholarships, a new grassroots history of the founding of the Liberal Party, a poetry anthology, and an innovative and engaging narrative history of the 1949 election campaign.

Research Fellows

PROFESSOR GREGORY MELLEUSH



University of Wollongong Professor Gregory Melleuish joined the Institute in July last year to conduct a research project, in conjunction with the Institute's Academic Coordinator Dr Zachary Gorman, examining the complete 105 episodes of Robert Menzies's 'Forgotten People' wartime radio broadcasts. Professor Melleuish and Dr Gorman are exploring the context in which Sir Robert delivered these speeches, the ideas that influenced him, and their enduring impact.

That project has since made major discoveries, including that the broadcasts were not just popular at home but were also relayed to radio stations in the United State of America and across the British Commonwealth, reported on extensively in the London and New York Times, and quoted in the halls of Westminster. This project will culminate in a book to be published in 2024.

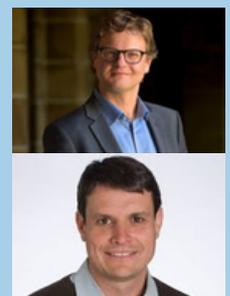
DR WILLIAM STOLTZ



The ANU's National Security College Dr William Stoltz joined the Institute as its first Visiting Fellow in January 2022 to conduct research into the founding of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service. Dr Stoltz shared his findings at a public lecture at the Institute, and at our second conference. We look forward to sharing his chapter on ASIS with you in *The Menzies Watershed*.

While Dr Stoltz has now completed his research into ASIS, he has continued to be heavily involved in the Institute's work, helping to organise our foreign policy dialogue 'Australia's Dilemmas: Then and Now', writing an occasional paper based on the insights from the dialogue, and working on a new project involving 'Menzies's Grand Strategy'.

DR JAMES WAGHORNE AND DR GWILYM CROUCHER



Dr James Waghorne and Dr Gwilym Croucher, historians from the University of Melbourne's Centre for the Study of Higher Education, have teamed up with the Institute for an innovative oral history project capturing the stories of Commonwealth Scholarship recipients of the 1950s - 70s. Robert Menzies was directly responsible for democratising Australia's university system, making education accessible to a whole generation of Australians who previously would have been denied access to higher learning.

'The Menzies Generation' project has recently received ethics approval from the University of Melbourne, and James and Gwil are currently hard at work identifying interview subjects whose lives have been fundamentally shaped by Menzies's vision and generosity.

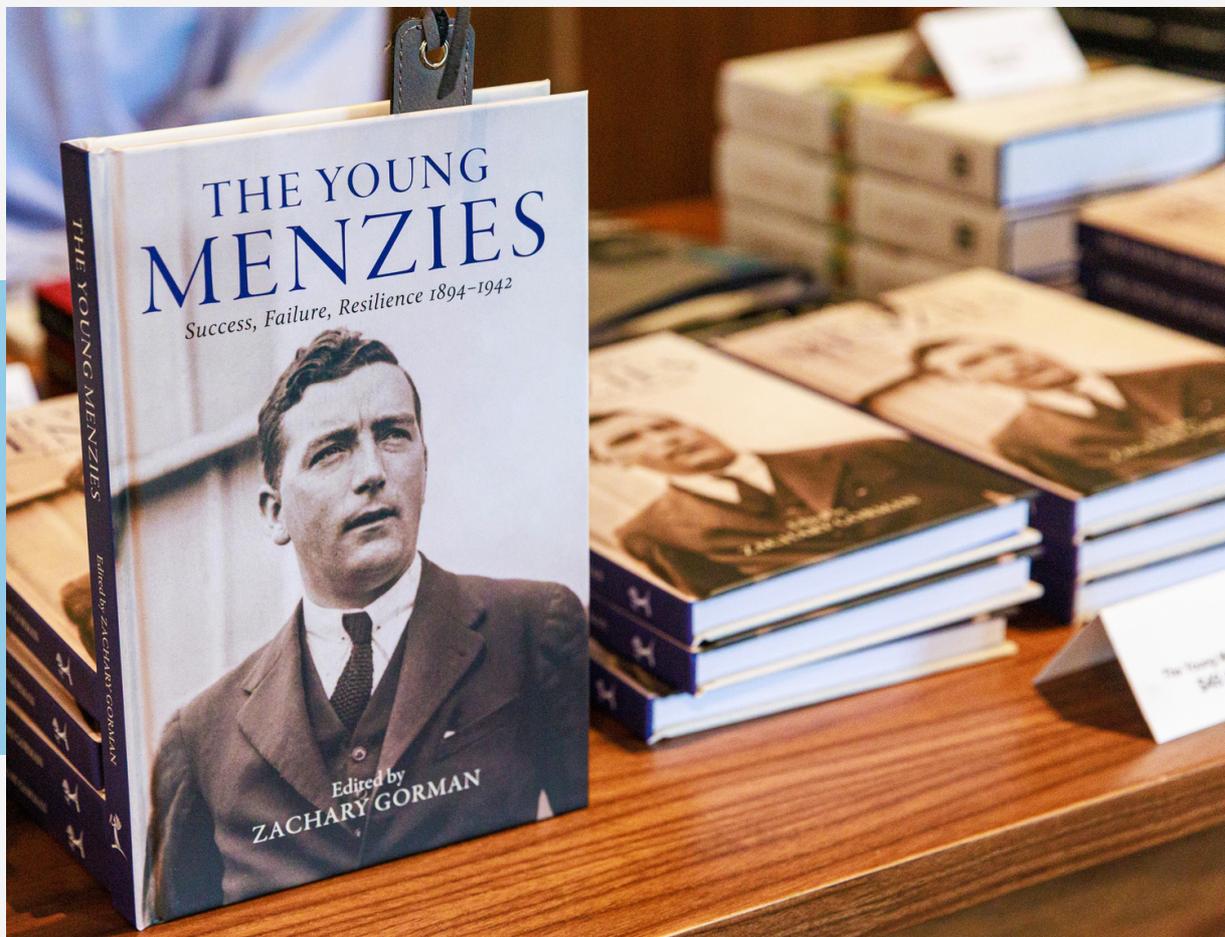
Publications

In November last year the Robert Menzies Institute released its first book, *The Young Menzies: Success, Failure, Resilience 1894-1942*, edited by Zachary Gorman and published by Melbourne University Press. The book was launched at events around Australia by the Hon John Howard AC, the Hon Peter Dutton and Senator Jane Hume, and has since proven to be a tremendous success.

The book received great press attention, with Zachary Gorman sitting down for a panel discussion at the National Library of Australia, and positive reviews in the Australian Book Review, The Australian, the Sydney Morning Herald, the Canberra Times and Quadrant.

We also published Lord Jonathan Sumption's stirring keynote on *A State of Fear: Covid 19 and Lockdowns*, which he delivered at the Robert Menzies Institute's Gala in 2022.

We have a number of books in production, the most immediate being volume two of our conference series, *The Menzies Watershed: Liberalism, Anti-Communism, Continuities 1943-1954*, and it is slated for a November 2023 release.



Book Project - The Year 1949

The federal election held on 10 December 1949 was arguably the most important political watershed in Australian history. Robert Menzies's success at this election ended what was then easily the longest period of Labor rule (8 years) and ushered in an as yet unbeaten 23 year period in government for the Liberals at the Commonwealth level. In more practical policy terms, the 1949 poll would determine the long-term trajectory of post-war Australia and protect the central role of private enterprise in the Australian economy.

In defeating a program of government monopoly in areas such as banking and air travel, whole-sale constitutional change aimed at expanding the scope of the Commonwealth government, and government owned housing intended to prevent the growth of homeowning 'little capitalists', Menzies struck a lasting blow that limited the role of the state in the everyday lives of ordinary Australians. Instead, he would give them the freedom to own their own homes, pursue their own dreams, and be the 'lifters' that would help forge Australia into the highly prosperous nation it has since become.

The importance of the poll has been featured heavily in biographies of both Robert Menzies and Ben Chifley, but there has never been a blow-by-blow account of how the year unfolded, ending with the election in December 1949. This book will be highly revealing, not only of how Australian elections were fought in the 1940s, but of Menzies's skill as a political operator during the fight of his life. Indeed, modern politicians have much to learn from what Menzies accomplished in 1949 – that you can win by articulating clear values rather than forming policy around focus groups and opinion polling, and if you do so you will have a far more profound impact on the direction of the country.

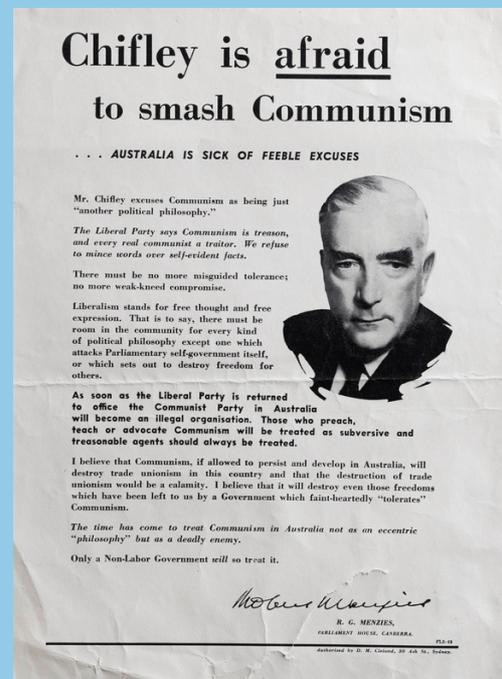


Image: *Smash Communism*, handbill from the 1949 election (1949) on loan from the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House

With your support, this book can become a reality to ensure that a new generation of readers can learn how and why Australia definitively chose liberalism over socialism.

Liberal Party 80th Anniversary

Commemorative Book and Exhibition

2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Liberal Party of Australia. This was a pivotal moment in our political history, giving a permanent voice to the long tradition of Australian liberalism, establishing a national and highly successful political organisation, and fundamentally shaping the course of national affairs for decades to come.

It was famously Robert Menzies who set in motion and then guided the establishment of a 'party with a philosophy', in 1944. As the centre-right in Australia once again comes under pressure, it is worth reflecting on how and why Menzies was able to bring the disparate centre-right groups together in the first place – and what are the core liberal principles that initially united the movement.

While there have been histories covering the foundation of the Liberal Party written before, this book will be the first to examine how these centre-right organisations came together in each individual State.

One of the key issues the Liberal Party faces today is how to attract support in places as disparate as Queensland and Victoria. Understanding how Menzies overcame such obstacles is once again extremely relevant. Another key issue is the Liberal Party's appeal to female voters. The founding of the party reveals the important role of women's groups and women's votes. This project's grassroots approach will ensure that these women's groups get the attention they deserve, and can offer lessons for today.

Each contributor will delve into State-based archives around Australia to uncover a hidden but crucial history – and it is something that we can only do with your support. It will be an investment in the past, present and future of Australian liberalism.

To further commemorate 80 years since the founding of the Liberal Party, the Robert Menzies Institute plans to organise a touring exhibition. The exhibition will address the questions of why the party was founded, what elements of the new political party allowed it to go on to have the success that it did and provide more information on the philosophy behind the founding of the party that informed its early policy development.



Schools Program

The Robert Menzies Institute has worked hard to become the go-to for educators and students in supporting the learning and teaching of the senior history curriculum nation-wide. Last year we hosted our inaugural speech competition, open to Australian students from years 9 through to 12. We have partnered with the History Teachers' Association of Victoria to deliver teacher training sessions to help fill in the gaps in knowledge of the Menzies Era and the decisions that underpinned Australia's position in significant international historic events, including our participation in the Korean War and Malayan Emergency. Teacher training sessions have been a fantastic initiative for the Institute to create a significant impact in the way the Menzies Era is taught in Australian Secondary Schools. Information focussing on an Australian perspective is in high demand with educators who often feel underprepared in this area of the curriculum.

Our inaugural speech competition was a great success with many entrants from schools both in Victoria and interstate. Students were highly engaged with the speech topic 'an educated nation is a successful nation', a topic that echoes Menzies's sentiments on the importance of a broad education to aid in the development of a well-rounded individual who participates fully in civic society. Students are provided the opportunity to excel in an extracurricular activity that promotes analysis and public speaking, helping to shape a new generation of leaders. This year's competition is currently open for submissions on the topic "'Even small friends are important to a great power". How does the ANZUS alliance contribute to peace and democracy?'.



Image: Robert Menzies Institute staff members Samantha Rogers and Dr Zachary Gorman exhibiting at the 2022 HTAV Conference.

In conjunction with the History Teachers' Association of Victoria, the peak body for the teaching of history in Victoria, we have developed several curriculum resources that will allow both teachers and students to study Australian history through the lens of the Menzies government. These subjects include Australia's post-war immigration program under Menzies and how it contributed to the erosion of the White Australia policy and helped to establish Australia as a multicultural nation. Secondly, the Menzies government's response to the pressures of the Cold War, including the threat to ban communism, the Petrov affair, and the creation of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service. Lastly, Australia's post-war relationship with the United States and our growing position on the international stage in the signing of the ANZUS treaty. These are just some of the topics that appear within the national and state curriculum frameworks, with scope for many more projects ahead.

Student Engagement



Speech Competition

The 2022 Robert Menzies Institute Speech Competition was won by year 10 Wesley College student Ysmene Ostik-Smith. [Ysmene's speech](#) on 'An educated nation is a successful nation' argued for the importance of a broad humanities education in the nurturing of the individual and formation of one's character. Focusing on the university education system, Ysmene discussed the difference between university education as a training institution for careers and vehicle for the development of active civilians with the capacity to think critically.

"As a relative newcomer to Australia, this experience gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in Australian political history. Speaking at the conference shaped my learning at Wesley, and it was an experience I will cherish forever."

- Ysmene Ostik-Smith

Volunteering

University of Melbourne Student William Li has been volunteering at the Robert Menzies Institute Museum this year as a Museum Attendant. William has brought great enthusiasm to his role, greeting visitors and giving tours in both English and Mandarin. As a student of the Masters of Cultural Materials Conservation specialising in objects conservation, William has helped assist in conservation projects within the exhibition in addition to his Museum Attendant role, giving him valuable experience in exhibition maintenance.



Curriculum Resources

With your support we can develop further resources for teacher and student learning.

We have several exciting initiatives under development including:

- Further expanding our curriculum resource materials to include perspectives on Menzies as a war-time prime minister, Australia's participation in pre-Vietnam Cold War military engagements, Australia's participation in the Vietnam War, and British nuclear testing in the Australian desert under Menzies.
- The creation of a detailed teacher training program focused on providing context and further understanding as to the cause and effect of the Menzies government's decision-making across post-war and Cold War historical events.
- A curriculum-based school visitation program to our Old Quad Museum including additional student lectures and historical skills workshops.
- The funding of our speech competition, including prizes and travel and accommodation expenses for the winning student and parent/guardian.



Events

Over the last year the Institute has continued to enrich campus life through a program of events aimed at bringing leading speakers to campus to discuss Menzies-related topics.

A particular highlight in 2022 was co-hosting 'Australia's Dilemmas: Then and Now'. This track 2 dialogue assembled 30 of Australia's leading foreign policy specialists and historians to discuss the extent to which the dilemmas faced, and choices made by the Menzies government in the 1950s can provide insights for the Australian government today. We were also delighted to assemble fourteen leading academics who presented their papers across two days at our second annual conference *Learning to Govern and Gathering Momentum, 1943-1954*.



The Institute has thoroughly enjoyed taking our events interstate and having the opportunity to connect with a national audience. In October we hosted our first international guest, Lord Jonathan Sumption, for a series of events themed around the rule of law in a time of crisis. Lord Sumption delivered talks in Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra before concluding his series by delivering the Oration at our Annual Gala Dinner in Melbourne. We also hosted a series of book launches for our first book, *The Young Menzies: Success, Failure, Resilience 1894-1942*. We were honored to have the book launched in Melbourne by the Hon Senator Jane Hume, in Brisbane by The Hon Peter Dutton MP and in Sydney by The Hon John Howard OM AC.



Finally it has been a pleasure having the opportunity to engage with the University community now that campus life has returned. In February the Institute hosted a series of events to coincide with the start of semester which included an O-Week stall and a screening of the Foxtel documentary *The Menzies Movies*. We were also excited to have a student representative on each team for our lively debate on the Republic. Engaging with students at our events allows the Institute to bring alive the spirit of a great Australian for a new generation.



Events Timeline

2022

- July** *[Australia's Dilemmas: Then and Now](#)* an invitation-only foreign affairs dialogue hosted at the University of Melbourne
- August** *[Early Cold War Migration and its Impact on Australia](#)* a public lecture delivered by Professor Mark Edele at the University of Melbourne
- October** *[How to Dismantle Your Democracy in 6 Easy Steps: Lessons from the Northern Hemisphere](#)* a public lecture delivered by Lord Jonathan Sumption at the Queensland Supreme and District Courts, Brisbane
- [What is going on in the United Kingdom?](#)* address delivered by Lord Jonathan Sumption to the National Press Club, Canberra
- [Rule of Law in a time of crisis](#)* a public lecture delivered by Lord Jonathan Sumption at the Centre for Independent Studies, Sydney
- [A State of Fear: Covid-19 and Lockdowns](#)* oration delivered by Lord Jonathan Sumption at the Park Hyatt, Melbourne
- November** *[Coming to Power, Learning to Govern and Gathering Momentum, 1943-1954](#)* two day conference hosted at the University of Melbourne
- [The Young Menzies Melbourne book launch](#)* launched by Senator The Hon Jane Hume at the University of Melbourne
- December** *[Launch of the second Exhibition of the Robert Menzies Institute](#)* launched by Heather Henderson at the Robert Menzies Institute

2023

- February** *[The Young Menzies book launch](#)* launched by The Hon Peter Dutton MP at King and Wood Mallesons, Brisbane
- [The Young Menzies book launch](#)* launched by The Hon John Howard OM AC at Australian Catholic University, Sydney
- March** *[Semester 1 Kick Off](#)* screening of 'The Menzies Movies' hosted at the Robert Menzies Institute
- [Launch of the third Exhibition of the Robert Menzies Institute](#)* launched by Dr Stewart Gill OAM at the Robert Menzies Institute
- April** *[70 Years of the Korean War Truce](#)* a public talk delivered by Keith Wolahan MP at the University of Melbourne
- May** *[Australia: Monarchy vs Republic?](#)* a public debate hosted at the University of Melbourne
- [Joseph Cook: The knight who climbed up a mineshaft book launch](#)* launched by The Hon David Kemp AC at the Robert Menzies Institute

Media

Over the last year, the Robert Menzies Institute has been active in the media, including op-eds by the Institute's CEO, Academic Coordinator, and international guest Jonathan Sumption in major broadsheets, radio and television appearances. Our book, *The Young Menzies*, was reviewed widely to great acclaim, including in the Australian Book Review, Quadrant, the Canberra Times, The Australian and the Sydney Morning Herald.

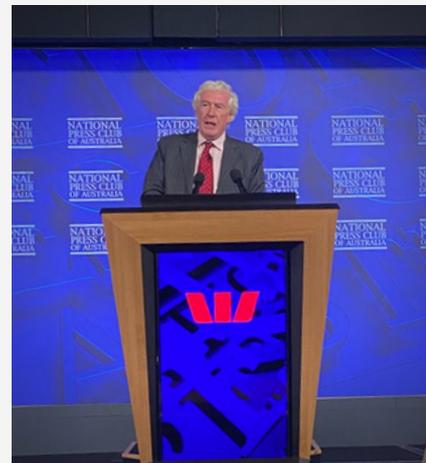


TV

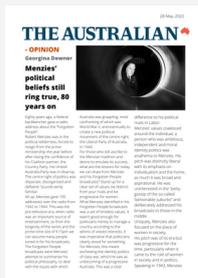
- ABC News Breakfast Georgina Downer 16 August
- ABC News Breakfast Georgina Downer 2 September
- Q&A Jonathan Sumption 6 October
- National Press Club address Jonathan Sumption 10 October
- Sky News Peta Credlin interviews Jonathan Sumption

Radio

- Jonathan Sumption interviewed by Damien Carrick on ABC Radio National's Law Report on 3 October 2022
- Jonathan Sumption interviewed by Tom Switzer on ABC Radio National's Between the Lines on 21 October 2022
- Zachary Gorman interviewed on ABC Tropical North about *The Young Menzies* 12 January 2023
- Georgina Downer interviewed by Tom Switzer for ABC Radio National's Between the Lines program



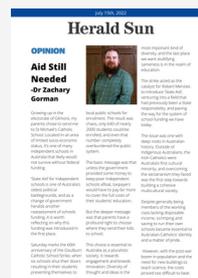
Op Eds



Menzies' political beliefs still ring true, 80 years on
Georgina Downer



The Liberal party cannot rebuild until it rediscovers its reason to exist
Zachary Gorman



Aid Still Needed
Zachary Gorman



Death of democracy is now a live threat
Jonathan Sumption

Our People

Staff



Chief Executive Officer

Georgina Downer



Curatorial Assistant

Will Cook



Development Manager

Nina Geoghegan



Academic Coordinator

Dr Zachary Gorman



Curator

Samantha Rogers

Fellows



Dr Gwilym Croucher



Professor Greg Melleuish



Dr William Stoltz



Dr James Waghorne

Board



Chair

Leigh Clifford AO



Deputy Chair

Hon David Kemp AC



Professor Su Baker AM



Peta Credlin AO



Geoffrey Hone



Professor Ian Harper AO

Volunteers

Daniel Harris

William Li

Virginia Rogers

Accounts

Robert Menzies Institute Ltd

Income & Expenditure Statement

Ending Financial Years 31/12/2021 and 31/12/2022

Income	to December 2022 Audited (\$)	to December 2021 Audited (\$)
Grants, donations, gifts and contribution	681,909	1,222,696
Interest	242	0
Bequests and endowments	112,744	33,872
Other	86,663	75,982
Total Income	881,558	1,332,550
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	444,347	230,507
Depreciation and amortisation	114,689	43,180
Rental expense	1	1
Legal and consultancy fees	35,171	12,999
Event and fundraising expenses	89,383	99,403
Sundry expenses	134,424	55,091
Total Expenses	818,015	441,180
Surplus	63,543	891,370



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