

FORGING AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE SERIES

PART I



MENZIES AND THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
27 & 28 NOVEMBER 2025

SERIES OVERVIEW

The Robert Menzies Institute is dedicated to exploring the enduring legacy of Robert Menzies – his ideas, his leadership, and their relevance to the challenges Australia faces today and into the future.

This commitment underpins our annual academic conferences, which bring together leading thinkers to re-examine Menzies's life, philosophy, and the policies and personalities of his governments. Held in the historic Old Quad of the University of Melbourne, where Menzies studied law over a century ago and later served as Chancellor, these conferences are both intellectually rigorous and deeply symbolic.

From 2021 to 2024, the first four conferences produced a landmark four-volume history: *The Young Menzies*, *The Menzies Watershed*, *The Menzies Ascendancy*, and *The Menzies Legacy* (forthcoming 2026). These works have become essential references for understanding Australia's journey to modernity.

Building on this success, the Institute now launches a new trilogy of conferences to deepen our understanding of Australia's 20th-century transformation, an era in which Menzies played a defining role. At a time when national historical literacy is in decline, our mission is to reignite interest in Australia's story by fostering original research and fresh perspectives on the global forces that shaped it. As Menzies himself believed, a meaningful appreciation of the past provides a "sense of continuity" that empowers us to meet the demands of the present.

To better understand this evolution, the Robert Menzies Institute will host a trilogy of conferences, each tied to a key anniversary from Sir Robert's life. Under the banner ***Forging Australia: The Global Forces that Shaped a Nation***, the series will explore the most significant cultural, intellectual, and geopolitical influences on Australia – Britain, America, and the Indo-Pacific – during Menzies's public career (1917–78):

2025 – Menzies and the British Commonwealth of Nations

Marking 90 years since Menzies's first trip to Britain, this conference will examine Australia's historical ties to the Commonwealth and their impact on national identity, diplomacy, and governance.

2026 – Menzies and America

Coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty, this conference will explore the evolution of Australia's strategic alliance with the United States and its influence on defence, foreign policy, and cultural exchange.

2027 – Menzies and Asia

Commemorating 70 years since the Australia-Japan Commerce Agreement, this final conference will investigate Australia's growing engagement with its regional neighbours and the shift toward an Indo-Pacific future.

Australia's modern history is a story of dynamic interaction between local values and global currents. Through this trilogy, we aim to illuminate how external forces helped shape a uniquely Australian liberal democracy, and how Menzies's leadership navigated and influenced that transformation.

INTRODUCTION

Georgina Downer

Chief Executive Officer

Since its founding in 2021, the Robert Menzies Institute has worked to restore a deeper understanding of Australia's political heritage by reintroducing Robert Menzies to a new generation of Australians—not just as a statesman, but as a thinker, reformer, and nation-builder. In an era where historical literacy is in decline and civic memory is increasingly fragmented, the Institute has sought to reverse this trend through rigorous scholarship, public engagement, and educational outreach.

Over the past five years, we have built a vibrant intellectual community around the study of Menzies's life and legacy. Our exhibitions, school programs, publications, and annual conferences have brought together historians, students, and everyday Australians to explore the ideas and institutions that shaped modern Australia. The four-volume history produced from our first conference series has already become a cornerstone for understanding the Menzies era and its enduring relevance.

Now, we turn our attention outward—to the global forces that helped forge Australia's identity and place in the world. Through our new trilogy of conferences, *Forging Australia: The Global Forces that Shaped a Nation*, we will examine the cultural, strategic, and intellectual influences of the British Commonwealth, the United States, and the Indo-Pacific region during Menzies's public career. Each conference is tied to a key anniversary in his life and will form the basis of a new publishing series with Melbourne University Press.

This work is not just about remembering one man, it is about understanding the foundations of our liberal democracy and ensuring that future generations inherit a rich and meaningful sense of national continuity.



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Dr Zachary Gorman

Historian and Research Manager

Robert Menzies's deep connection to the British Commonwealth is well known, and sometimes controversial. He admired Queen Elizabeth II, held traditional titles like Knight of the Thistle and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and was devoted to British institutions like the Common Law and the Westminster system of government. It's no surprise people still remark that he was 'British to his boot heels'.



But this description can overlook the fact that Menzies was not just shaped by his era, he was also shaped by his culture and his country. In the mid-20th century, Australia still saw itself as British. Labor Leaders like Prime Minister John Curtin spoke of building a 'Fourth Empire', and Opposition Leader H.V. 'Doc' Evatt celebrated the purchase of a 1297 copy of Magna Carta with the same 'sense of continuity' and tradition that inspired his political opponent Menzies. These sentiments didn't weaken their patriotism; they gave it depth and meaning. Britain's influence on Australia, through its institutions, ideas, and personal ties, might seem obvious. But that very familiarity makes Britain and the Commonwealth vital to understanding Australia's identity. Comparing Australia to countries like France or Germany highlights stark and fundamental differences. But comparing it to New Zealand or Canada reveals subtle yet significant distinctions.

Australia's ties weren't limited to Britain or other settler colonies. Through the Commonwealth, Australia became deeply connected to Asia and the Pacific. During Menzies's time, Australia fought in Korea and Vietnam, but it was in defence of its Commonwealth partner Malaya/Malaysia that it engaged in multiple conflicts, including World War II's Pacific theatre, which began under Menzies's leadership.

Paradoxically, it was under Menzies that Australia began to move away from Britain, shifting trade, defence procurements, and immigration policies. As Britain pulled back from its global commitments and tried to join the European Economic Community, it distanced itself from Australia. Menzies had to prepare the country for this change. His success in doing so may explain why his Britishness later seemed outdated. By 1966, Australia had changed so much that people forgot what it was like in 1949.

The Trip

It's fitting to begin a conference on "Menzies and the British Commonwealth of Nations" with his first real experience of it – his 1935 trip to Britain as Attorney General in the Lyons Government. This journey is often seen as a symbolic moment in Menzies's life, described by biographers like Judith Brett and Allan Martin as a kind of emotional "homecoming" to a place he'd never actually been.

But what's often missed is that this trip introduced Menzies to the full diversity of the Commonwealth, not just its British core. From Colombo to Fiji, he encountered the many cultures and peoples that made up the empire. At the same time, parts of the Commonwealth, like Canada, Ireland, and South Africa, were already pushing for more independence. Menzies's efforts to promote unity show that even early in his career, he understood Australia's global role and the value of international cooperation.

Defence

One of the biggest promises of the British Empire to Australia was security, but that promise proved unreliable. By the time Menzies visited Britain, its military weaknesses were becoming clear, leading to appeasement policies and eventually the fall of Singapore.

During World War II, Australia contributed significantly, sending troops to Greece and Syria, and joining the Empire Air Training Scheme. But these efforts were sometimes seen as stretching our forces too thin. After the war, Britain's focus shifted, and Australia began relying more on our new 'great and powerful friend', the United States. But there was always a fear that Washington's interests were more 'foreign' than those of Westminster, and thus much geostrategic effort went into offsetting American power with a continued British presence. When events have come full circle with the adding of AUKUS to ANZUS, we may either fulfill a long dreamt of goal or find that Menzies was correct in preferring the options provided by two friends to a dependence on one.

Political Philosophy

John Howard famously described the Liberal Party as a "broad church," embracing both the ideas of John Stuart Mill and Edmund Burke. For Menzies, these weren't opposing views, they were complementary traditions from Britain, a country he deeply admired.

Exploring Menzies's connection to these thinkers helps us understand Australian liberalism, which is both a progressor of liberty and conservator of that which exists. This session will provide insights into how local leaders have adapted British ideas and ideals to our distinctive Antipodean culture and circumstances. Menzies called Burke "the greatest of practical political philosophers," and his own leadership reflected a practical use of clear principles adapted to Australia's unique context.

Crosspollination

Australia used to suffer from a "cultural cringe," feeling inferior to Britain. But during Menzies's time, *the Kangaroo* began to surpass the *old British Lion* in key areas like economics, national confidence, and political stability.

It's now clear that the Commonwealth wasn't just about Britain influencing its Dominions, it was a two-way exchange. Australia played a role in shaping Britain too. This session looks at Australia's part in the Keynesian economic revolution and how Menzies evolved from following British political models to becoming one himself.

The Law and Lord's

Even as political and diplomatic ties with Britain weakened, its cultural and institutional legacies remained strong. Menzies might have let go of symbols like the Crown or Union Jack, but never his love for the legal system and summers of cricket.

In this session, presenters will demonstrate that Menzies's most cherished British legacies have never been mere relics or frivolities but rather serve to bind together communities that have otherwise grown apart. Indeed, such was their value, Menzies even hatched a plot to export cricket to the USSR – presumably in the hope that the Soviets might be interested in trading hammer and sickle for bat and ball.

Commonwealth Relations

Before Australia had Ambassadors dotting the globe, it had High Commissioners across the Empire. In some respects, the Commonwealth proved to be the nursery of Australian diplomacy, where it learnt the craft of bargaining and bickering before tackling the world stage. But if it was an educational experience, it was educational precisely because the Commonwealth contained much the same diversity of viewpoint and interest as could be found in the United Nations – which is probably why having both eventually came to be seen as somewhat superfluous. But before that depressing realisation, there was a time when it was genuinely hoped that the shared bonds and cooperative direction of the Commonwealth might serve as the first stepping stone towards a more integrated and harmonious world. This session explores the Menzies Government's relations with India, Canada, South Africa and Rhodesia, and the complexities that became apparent in the notion of British kinship.

Identity

One of the remarkable things about the old form of British identity was how it could combine profound emotive pull with relative ambiguity. People fought for 'God, King and Country', even though they worshipped differently and came from different countries. 'Britishness' was an overarching ideal which could accommodate distinctive national identities and even (with some minor difficulty) the Irish Catholic diaspora.

For Australians, being both British and Australian was normal. But as the dual identity faded, this left something of a noticeable void. This session unpacks both the past and present complexities of our national identity, relating them to the motivations and traditions of our armed services, and the ongoing challenge of integrating migrants into a national community.

Sunsets

The hubristic boast that the 'sun never sets on the British Empire' provoked the inevitable fall. But for a generation who had fought two world wars in defence of Greater Britain, when the sunset fell, it appeared as tragic as it was unavoidable. The fall of empire was the curse offsetting the fortune of Menzies's remarkable political longevity. The Empire Man Menzies not only lived to see the end of Empire and hollowing out of the Commonwealth connection, he was in charge when it happened. This session is not just a tale of how all good (or bad) things must come to an end; it is a case study in how leaders and governments can adapt to an ever-changing world over which they have limited control. Considering that Pax Americana may soon meet the same fate as Pax Britannica, it is a timely lesson in meeting unwanted challenges as they occur.



DAY 1 PROGRAM

27TH NOVEMBER 2025

| TIME | EVENT | SPEAKER |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 8:30am | Registration – University Hall, First Floor, North Wing, Old Quad | |
| 9:00am | Welcome | Georgina Downer |
| 9:10am | Keynote: ‘Conservative Homes: Robert Menzies, postwar Britain, and the ends of the Commonwealth’ | Martin Farr |
| SESSION ONE THE TRIP | | |
| 9:45am | ‘Enlarged horizons and excited imagination’: Re-reading Robert Menzies’s 1935 overseas diary | Josh Woodward |
| 10:15am | Menzies and Imperial Unity, 1934–1942 | David Lee |
| 10:45am | Morning Tea | |
| SESSION TWO DEFENCE | | |
| 11:15am | Britain, Australia, the Empire and prisoner of war diplomacy, 1939–1942 | Lee Rippon |
| 11:45am | Navigating Imperial Overstretch east of Suez: Menzies and Australian foreign and defence policies 1935–1965 | Wayne Reynolds |
| 12:15pm | Menzies’s Balancing Act in Southeast Asian Security | Sue Thompson |
| 12:45pm | Lunch & Speech Competition Winners | |
| SESSION THREE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY | | |
| 2:00pm | A Twentieth Century Australian Whig: Robert Menzies and the Nineteenth Century British Liberal Tradition | David Furse-Roberts |
| 2:30pm | Menzies, Burkean liberal or Burkean conservative? | Charles Richardson |
| 3:00pm | Afternoon Tea | |
| SESSION FOUR CROSSPOLLINATION | | |
| 3:30pm | When Menzies met Baldwin: Australian and English conservatism, difference and convergence | Alex McDermott & Henry Ergas |
| 4:00pm | Australia in the post-war British Conservative Political Imagination | Kit Kowol |
| 4:30pm | Menzies, Keynes and the Australian Economists | Selwyn Cornish & John Hawkins |
| 5:00pm | Close | |
| 6:00pm | Conference Dinner, Woodward Centre, Law Building, 10th floor, 106/185 Pelham St, Carlton | |

DAY 2 PROGRAM

28TH NOVEMBER 2025

| TIME | EVENT | SPEAKER |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 8:30am | Registration – University hall, First Floor, North Wing, Old Quad | |
| SESSION FIVE THE LAW & LORDS | | |
| 9:00am | A Judicial Commonwealth? | Mark Lunney |
| 9:30am | ‘Equally Sacred Precincts’: Why Lord’s was as central as Westminster to Menzies’s relationship with the British Commonwealth of Nations | Eliezer Rubenstein Sturgess |
| 10:00am | Menzies, Cricket, and the Cold War | Daniel Brettig |
| 10:30am | Morning Tea | |
| SESSION SIX COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS | | |
| 11:00am | Menzies, Commonwealth and Kashmir | Teesta Prakash |
| 11:30am | Canada and Australia in the Commonwealth: Robert Menzies’s Relationship with Mackenzie King to Lester Pearson | Stewart Gill |
| 12:00pm | Menzies’s disenchantment with the British Commonwealth | Tim Rowse |
| 12:30pm | Lunch | |
| SESSION SEVEN IDENTITY | | |
| 1:30pm | God, King, and Country: British Identity and the Australian Defence Force | Michael de Percy |
| 2:00pm | Being British, Being Australian | Greg Melleuish |
| 2:30pm | Beyond the Founder’s Intentions: Menzies, the Commonwealth and Australian Pluralism | Peter Kurti |
| 3:00pm | Afternoon Tea | |
| SESSION EIGHT SUNSETS | | |
| 3:30pm | Sons of Empire: Menzies, Downer and their response to Britain joining the EEC | Paul Brown |
| 4:00pm | A very different world: Robert Menzies, Harold Macmillan, and the end of Greater Britain | Andrew Kemp |
| 4:30pm | Menzies and Diefenbaker: Navigating the post-British World | Lucas McLennan |
| 5:00pm | Closing Remarks | Zachary Gorman |

SPEAKER BIOS

Daniel Brettig is The Age's chief cricket writer and author of several books on cricket. They include *Whitewash to Whitewash: Australian Cricket's Years of Struggle and Summer of Riches*, *Bradman & Packer: The Deal that Changed Cricket*, and *Bucking the Trend* (co-authored with Chris Rogers).

Paul Brown is a published author awarded a Bachelor of Arts (History Honours) at the University of New South Wales for a thesis on the Balfour Declaration and Palestine 1917 and a Doctorate from the University of Wollongong for his study of Alexander Downer's Formative Family Policy Influences. He has also contributed to various publications including the chapter 'The Progressive Conservatism of Alexander Downer' in Greg Melleuish's study *Liberalism and Conservatism* and 'Alick Downer's Immigration Program' in Zachary Gorman's *The Menzies Ascendancy*.

Selwyn Cornish is Honorary Associate Professor in the School of History, Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, and the Official Historian of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Michael de Percy FRSA FCILT MRSN is a political scientist, journalist, and political commentator based in Gunning, New South Wales. He is the Canberra Press Gallery Correspondent for *The Spectator Australia* and an Adjunct Associate Professor with the Canberra School of Government at the University of Canberra. He was appointed to the Australian Research Council's College of Experts from 2022–2025. Michael is a graduate of the Royal Military College Duntroon where he received the Brigadier Urquhart Trophy (Royal Australian Artillery Prize).

Henry Ergas AO is an economist who spent many years at the OECD in Paris before returning to Australia. He has taught at several universities, including Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the University of Auckland and the École Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Économique in Paris, served as Inaugural Professor of Infrastructure Economics at the University of Wollongong and worked as an adviser to companies and governments.

Martin Farr teaches contemporary history at Newcastle University (UK). His research interests centre on British politics and public life, foreign policy, and foreign relations. He has published on politics and strategy in the two world wars, political life-writing, US-UK relations, tourism, and popular culture. He is currently writing *Margaret Thatcher's World*, an international history of Thatcherism. He heads Britain and the World, with its annual conference, book series, and peer-reviewed journal.

David Furse-Roberts presently works as a speechwriter and researcher for a Federal Senator. He holds a PhD in history from the University of NSW and is the author of *God and Menzies* (2021). He is also the editor of *Howard: The Art of Persuasion* (2018) and *Menzies: The Forgotten Speeches* (2017). Since joining the MRC in 2016, he has written for the *ABC*, *Quadrant*, *Spectator Australia* and other publications on the history and contemporary relevance of liberalism in Australia. This has covered such topics as the founding philosophy of Robert Menzies, the remarkable life of Prime Minister John Gorton and the rich legacy of John Howard. David also comments on topical issues such as free speech and education from a conservative and liberal perspective.

Stewart Gill OAM is an Honorary Senior Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. He was formerly Master of Queen's College. He has a Master of Arts from the University of Toronto and a PhD from the University of Guelph. He is a Fellow of The Royal Historical Society, London and his published historical studies span Canada, Scotland, and Australia.

John Hawkins is deputy head of the Canberra School of Politics, Economics & Society at the University of Canberra. He was awarded a PhD in political science from the Australian National University for his thesis on the Australian treasurers. He also holds an MSc in economics from the London School of Economics and an MA in politics and history from Macquarie University. He is co-editor of *History of Economics Review*. He previously worked in the Australian Treasury and the Reserve Bank and served as secretary of the Senate Economics Committee. He was interviewed for the Afternoon Light podcast in August 2023 on Menzies as treasurer.

Andrew Kemp is a Melbourne-based writer and a former economist at the Commonwealth Treasury and the Department of Treasury and Finance in Victoria. He has written for *The Australian*, the *Australian Financial Review*, contributed a chapter to *Unity in Autonomy: A Federal History of the Founding of the Liberal Party*, and recently launched an Australian history themed Substack titled 'Australia Past and Present'.

Kit Kowol received his DPhil in Politics from the University of Oxford in 2014. He subsequently taught at Oxford and at King's College London where he was an Early Career Development Fellow in Modern British History. His first book, *Blue Jerusalem: British Conservatism, Winston Churchill and the Second World War* was published by Oxford University Press in 2024. He now lives in Brisbane where he works for the Queensland Government.

Peter Kurti is Director of the Culture, Prosperity & Civil Society program at the Centre for Independent Studies and is also Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Law and Business at the University of Notre Dame Australia. He has written extensively about issues of religion, liberty, culture, and civil society in Australia, and appears frequently as a commentator on television and radio. In addition to having written many newspaper articles, he is also the author or editor of a number of books, including *The Tyranny of Tolerance: Threats to Religious Liberty in Australia*; *Euthanasia: Seven Questions about Voluntary Assisted Dying*; *Sacred & Profane: Faith and Belief in a Secular Society*; *Beyond Belief: Rethinking the Voice to Parliament*; and *Beneath the Southern Cross: Looking for Australia in the 21st century*. Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and an ordained minister in the Anglican Church of Australia.

David Lee is an Associate Professor in history in the University of New South Wales, Canberra. He has published widely on Australian history in the twentieth century. His most recent books are *Australia and the World: International Relations and Global Events since Federation* (Circa, 2022) and *John Curtin* (Connor Court, 2022). He is also author of *The Second Rush: Mining and the Transformation of Australia* (Connor Court, 2016) and *Stanley Melbourne Bruce: Australian Internationalist* (Bloomsbury, 2010). He is Chair of the Commonwealth Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography and Cabinet Historian of the National Archives of Australia. Current projects are a history of the Australian Department of Trade and its Antecedent Agencies, 1941–87; a history of Australian independence; Governance During the Howard Era, 1996–2007; a biography of JB Chifley; and an edited volume, *Conduits of War: Dominion Governors and Governors-General during the Great War*.

Mark Lunney is a Professor at the Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the School of Law at the University of New England, Armidale, Australia. His research interests are the law of tort, and the history of the common law and legal profession. His recent historical work has focussed on the relationship between British race patriotism and representations of Australian legal exceptionalism from the late nineteenth century to the 1970s. His monograph, *A History of Australian Tort Law 1901–1945: England's Obedient Servant?* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2018. In September 2018 he was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

Alex McDermott is a Curator and Fellow at the Robert Menzies Institute. He is an author, historian and Executive Producer. He was Historical Curator for the "Democracy DNA" exhibition (2022) at the Museum of Australian Democracy, authored *Australian History For Dummies* (2022) and various commissioned histories which explore the crucial role played by civic associations in Australia's democratic history, such as *Of no personal influence: how people of common enterprise unexpectedly shaped Australia* (2015) to mark the 175th anniversary of Australian Unity. Across more than two decades as public historian he has contributed his expertise to Screen Australia, State Library of Victoria, La Trobe University, the Institute of Public Affairs, Channel 7, SBS, ABC, Sky News Documentaries, and many other organisations.

Lucas McLennan works as a Senior History Teacher. He completed an Honours Degree in History and teaching qualifications at Monash University and recently completed a Master of Education from the University of Melbourne. His Masters thesis was on the Education policy of the first Anglican Bishop in Australia, William Grant Broughton, while his earlier Honours thesis examined Australia's compulsory military training schemes between Federation and the First World War. He has a strong interest in Australia's political, religious, and cultural history.

Greg Melleuish is Professorial Fellow of the Robert Menzies Institute. Before his recent retirement, he was a professor in the School of Humanities and Social Inquiry at the University of Wollongong, where he taught, among other things, Australian politics. He has written widely on Australian political thought, including *Cultural Liberalism in Australia* (Cambridge University Press, 1995) and *Despotic State or Free Individual* (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2014). He wrote *The Forgotten Menzies* (MUP, 2021) with Dr Stephen Chavura.

Teesta Prakash is the research fellow (security and geopolitics) at the Australia India Institute. She is an expert on the strategic affairs of the Indo-Pacific, specialising in geoeconomics of India, Southeast Asia, and the Quad. Previously, she was an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute leading the Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Program between 2022 and 2023. Before that she was the inaugural Southeast Asia Research Associate at the Lowy Institute between 2021 and 2022. Dr Prakash completed her PhD in 2021 from Griffith University; the focus of her thesis was Australia-India strategic and economic relations during the Cold War.

Wayne Reynolds is an Hon Associate Professor at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He has worked on the history of Australian defence and foreign affairs with a focus on nuclear policy. Recent works include *Australia and the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty 1945–1974* (Canberra: DFAT, 2013); 'An Astute Choice: Anglo-Australian Cooperation on Nuclear Submarines in Historical Perspective', *Security Challenges*, December 2013; 'Whatever Happened to the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership',

Australian Journal of Politics and History, December 2023. Forthcoming works include a book chapter on Australia in *The Cambridge History of the Nuclear Age* (2026); Manuscript *Australia and Global Power 1756–2021*.

Charles Richardson has a law degree from Melbourne University and a PhD from Rutgers University, specialising in ethics and political philosophy. He has worked in a variety of positions in government and politics, and is a former director of Above Quota Elections Pty Ltd. His work has appeared in numerous publications, and he has been featured as a commentator in newspapers, radio, and television. Since 2012 he has written on world politics at his blog, *The World is Not Enough*, and does periodic consulting work on electoral matters. His research interests include the history of liberal democratic structures and the comparative study of European party systems.

Lee Rippon is an academic status holder at Flinders University and works as a historian in the Commemorative Events Branch of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. She is the author of the book *Australia's Forgotten Soldiers in the Empire, 1939–1945: Prisoners of War, International Diplomacy and Australian Foreign Policy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024). Currently, Lee is researching her second monograph, which investigates Australians' roles in the Special Operations Executive and MI9 in Europe during the Second World War.

Tim Rowse is an historian of Australia. Before retiring in 2016 from Western Sydney University, he had held appointments at: Macquarie University, University of Sydney, University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, The Menzies School of Health Research, the Australian National University and Harvard University. Most of his works were about the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. He is the author of two books about the career of Dr. H.C. Coombs. Alongside Murray Goot, he has written on the politics of constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians, and he and Professor Goot have a book length account of the 2023 referendum in press.

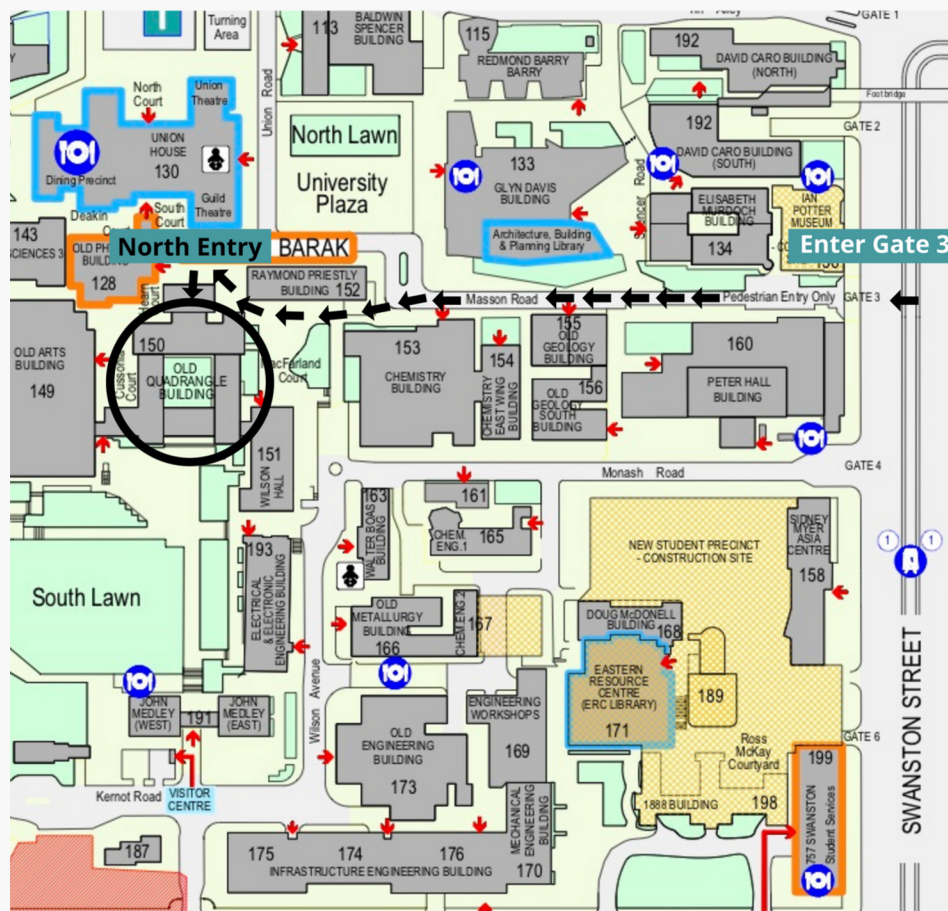
Eliezer ('Eli') Rubenstein Sturgess is a graduate of the University of Melbourne having completed a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma in Music. In 2024, he undertook an honours year in History under the supervision of Professor Joy Damousi and received first-class honours. He has applied to begin a PhD in History at the University of Melbourne starting 2026. Eli has an interest in the nexus between politics and cricket, and the often-overlooked role of cricket in the lives of Australia's political leaders.

Sue Thompson is an Associate Professor at the ANU National Security College and current Secretary of the Britain and the World Society. Her research specialisation examines the history of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia during the Cold War with a focus on foreign and defence policy influences in the post-war evolution of Southeast Asian regionalism. She is the author of *The United States and Southeast Asian Regionalism: Collective Security and Economic Development, 1945–75 and British Military Withdrawal from Southeast Asia and the Rise of Regional Cooperation, 1964–1973*.

Josh Woodward is an Australian environmental historian whose research explores representations of nature in tourist advertising. He has published several articles on the tourist promotion of Australian national parks and their emergence as important sites of the settler-nation. He completed his Masters at the University of Western Australia, where he was the 2019 recipient of the Frank Broeze scholarship. Josh will complete his PhD on twentieth century Australian tourist advertising at the Australian National University in 2025.

Melbourne University Campus

From the Foyer, head south through the open double doors and proceed up the stairs or via the lift to Level 1, where the Library main doors will be open and clearly visible.



For those who are driving, parking may be difficult, but we suggest the Eastern Precinct Car Park at 375 Cardigan Street, Carlton, near the corner of Elgin Street. Their charge is \$25 for the day.



"Everything we have in this country as we look around has its British origin. Parliament, a free Press, a popularly elected Government, upright Justice, these things – the rule of Law – these are the matters which are essential to Australian self-government and we would be a lot of damnable fools if we forget 'the pit from which we were hewn.'"

- Sir Robert Menzies



EAST WING - OLD QUAD
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VIC 3010
PO BOX 4042
MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY VIC 3052