NOVEMBER 2026

THE IMPACT YOU'VE MADE

Promoting the success of our liberal democracy and its values



Advancing liberal ideas | **Preserving liberal heritage** | **Engaging the next generation**

Robert Menzies INSTITUTE



What does it take to keep our liberal democracy strong? It takes more than elections. It takes citizens who understand their nation's history, take pride in its achievements, believe in the institutions that protect their freedoms — and are willing to defend them. **That, ultimately, is what the Robert Menzies Institute is about.** In the past year, *with your incredible support*, the Institute has pursued this mission with vigour and enthusiasm. We have introduced the history of Australian liberalism, its values and achievements to ever more Australians in our high schools, universities and public life.

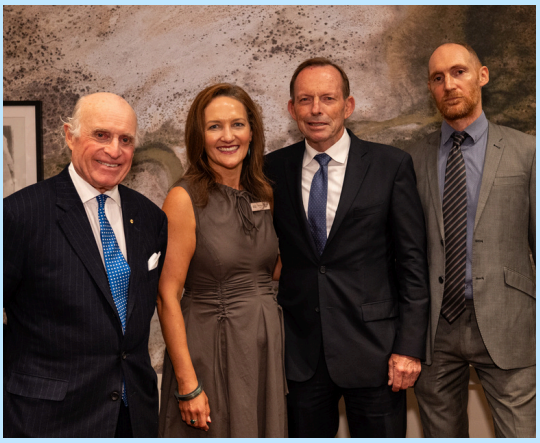
I want to give you a snapshot of the impact you've had on advancing liberal ideas, preserving our heritage and engaging young Australians.

Georgina Downer, Chief Executive

Honouring Robert Menzies

The Institute launched a new exhibition honouring Robert Menzies's life: *Robert Menzies: The Man Who Made Modern Australia.* It is a fitting tribute to a national hero who transformed Australia into a confident, prosperous democracy ready to take its place in the world in the post-war years.

Over 1,800 visitors in 2026!



Ideas That Matter



40 public intellectuals in a room to shape the future!

In July, the Institute held its 4th **Policy Dialogue**, bringing together historians, economists, demographers and policy makers from across the political aisle to explore the defining issue of the moment: immigration. Informed by the discussion, the Institute launched a Policy Paper, ***Conditions for a Successful Immigration Policy,*** on 27 October 2026.

Publishing New History

In February, the Institute published the final volume in our Menzies series, *The Menzies Legacy,* exploring what it means for Australia today, from home ownership, universities, immigration to the US alliance. It had a national launch across **Sydney**, **Melbourne** and **Brisbane**.

11 books published since 2021!





Engaging The Next Generation

The Institute's flagship program for high school students, the **Menzies Speech Competition** grew by 70% in 2026. We also launched the **Barton Parliamentary Competition**. We trained students to make informed arguments, defend and debate them and understand how our democracy actually works.

150 students from 80 schools engaged!

Mentoring future leaders

This year, our prestigious **Menzies Early Career Network** mentored 16 talented university students from across Australia through workshops, masterclasses, and a conference. The program requires them to research, debate, publish and podcast about the forces that made modern Australia. MECN is an investment in Australia's future leaders.



26 podcast episodes on contemporary Australia

28 published essays on Australian history

Serious Scholarship

The **2026 Annual Conference** focused on ***Menzies and America*** to mark the 75th anniversary of the signing of the landmark ANZUS Security Treaty. It brought **23 leading scholars** together to discuss their research and findings.

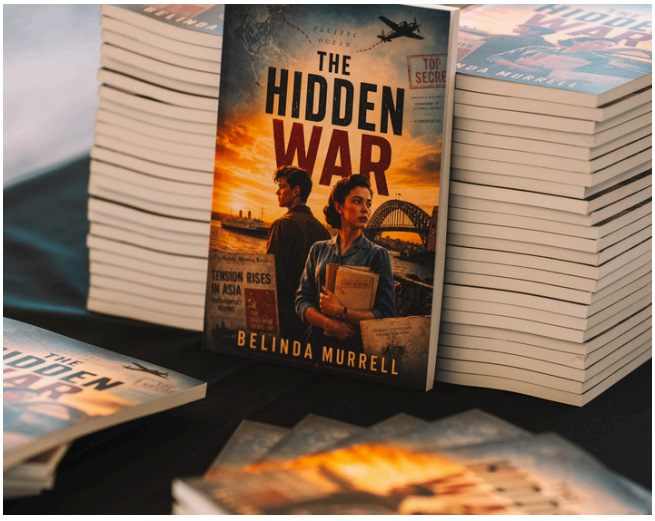
Represented by:

- **Australia**
- **United States**
- **United Kingdom**
- **Japan**

300 Conversations

This year we passed a significant milestone: **300 podcast episodes** of *Afternoon Light* with prime ministers, historians, and thinkers, making it Australia's leading podcast on our national history. The monthly *Afternoon Light Live* hosted **Tony Abbott, Paul Kelly, Henry Ergas, Kylie Moore Gilbert** and others.

10,000 listeners enjoyed our episodes throughout 2026



The Hidden War

This year the Institute commissioned Australian children's author Belinda Murrell to write ***The Hidden War***, a historical fiction for young Australians centred on the origins of the ANZUS Alliance. A twelve-year-old may not read the diplomatic history of ANZUS, but they'll love this adventure story about 15-year-old John Spender.

Available in **75 School Libraries** in Australia

The ANZAC Oration

To mark the **75th anniversary of ANZUS**, the Institute hosted **Andrew Hastie MP** for our fifth ANZAC Oration. A veteran himself, Andrew returned to Menzies's original conception of the alliance — the Alliance remains indispensable but a strong ally must also be capable of defending itself.

Featured on News24 and the ABC!



The Annual Oration

The Institute hosted world famous historian **Andrew Roberts** for its Annual Oration held at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Melbourne on 17 September 2026. Andrew Roberts spoke on '**One Soaring Imagination: The Destiny of the English-Speaking Peoples in the Twenty First Century**'.

250 guests attended!



Donate to our Christmas Appeal to support the next generation!

DONATE NOW

I would like to make a **tax deductible donation** to the Robert Menzies Institute of:

☐ **$150** ☐ **$250** ☐ **$500** ☐ **$1000** ☐ **$**.....

Name:

☐ **Donate online** by visiting robertmenziesinstitute.org.au/support

☐ **Bank transfer** to Robert Menzies Institute Ltd | BSB: 083-004 | Account: 88-084-8770

☐ **Cheque enclosed** within, posted via reply-paid envelope

☐ **Charge Bank Card** $_____ ☐ Amex ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card No: Expiry:

Name on card: CVN/CVV2:

Signature:

Thank you for supporting the Institute. Your donations help us **preserve Australia's liberal heritage**, **advance liberal ideas** and **engage the next generation**.

Robert Menzies INSTITUTE