

Robert
Menzies
INSTITUTE



ANNUAL REVIEW



The Robert Menzies Institute at the University of Melbourne is a prime ministerial library and museum established by the University of Melbourne and the Menzies Research Centre in 2021 to advance the understanding of Australian history by promoting the enduring legacy of Australia's longest-serving prime minister, Robert Menzies. The Institute is independent and non-partisan, and has been registered as a charity by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

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FOREWORD | CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CELEBRATING AN ENDURING LEGACY

It is an absolute privilege to lead the Robert Menzies Institute at The University of Melbourne. Now in our fourth year, I am proud of the impact the Institute has had on raising the profile of Australian history amongst the broader public. Only with an understanding of the story of our nation can we hope to tackle the significant challenges that lie ahead, from cost of living, housing affordability, immigration, and geopolitical tensions.

“

The Menzies era presents an extraordinary array of lessons for our current and future leaders. So much of what we take for granted in Australia is thanks to Sir Robert and the governments he led. The post-war immigration program, the rapid expansion of Australia's tertiary education sector and state aid for non-government schools, high rates of home ownership, trade with Asia, and the ANZUS Alliance, to name but a few.

I see the Institute as playing an important role as a classroom of democracy for young and old alike. It's my hope that as you visit our museum, attend our events, read our publications and engage with our online content, you can learn about the events and personalities that shaped Australia through the mid-twentieth century.

It has been wonderful to see so many visitors over the past year in our museum space in the historic Old Quadrangle at the University of Melbourne. Overseen by Museum Assistant **Victoria Hronas**, our changing display of items from the Menzies Collection showcases different sides of Sir Robert's character, achievements, and interests – from poetry to Cold War politics, the Scottish Enlightenment and British Liberal thought, to Australian art and, of course, cricket

One of the highlights of our past year's work has been the national rollout of the Institute's schools program, led by **Hayley Harkin**. The high school speech competition continues to grow in popularity, giving students the opportunity to think about how the Menzies era touches upon important issues that they must grapple with today, while at the same time, allowing them to hone their public speaking skills just as a Young Menzies did at Melbourne University 100 years ago. I was thrilled to introduce last year's winner, Vasish Vasireddy (Year 10), at our 2023 conference, where he delivered his inspiring speech on the enduring importance of the ANZUS Alliance.



Our research program, led by **Dr Zachary Gorman**, delves deep into the Menzies era through annual conferences and our book series, as well as in-house and commissioned work. Our second book, **The Menzies Watershed**, published by Melbourne University Press, received fantastic reviews and we look forward to launching the third book in the series, **The Menzies Ascendency**, later this year.

Zachary is also editing an important book to commemorate the 80th anniversary of one of Menzies's most significant achievements, the founding of Liberal Party, with contributors such as John Anderson, Shane Stone, Gary Humphries, David Kemp, and Anne Henderson. We are also looking forward to launching a collection of Sir Robert's poetry, made possible by a generous donation from the Alan and Mary-Louise Archibald Foundation.

Our fellows bring a wealth of talent and experience to the Institute. Earlier this year, we were pleased to welcome our newest fellow, **Dr Damien Freeman**. He will lead the Menzies Early Career Network, an important new initiative to mentor the next generation of Australian historians.

The Institute continues to convene important policy dialogues, drawing on the lessons of history for today. We are pleased to host two this year, one on The Future of the Two Party system and the other on Menzies and Adenauer in collaboration with the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Our public events, led by **Christina Parkes**, welcome brilliant minds to the Institute. We hosted large crowds to hear **Warren Mundine AO** speak on Indigenous Policy During the Menzies Era, and **Senator James Paterson** to deliver the 2024 Anzac Oration. Our signature event, the 2023 Robert Menzies Institute Gala and Oration, was once again a sell-out, with **Fraser Nelson**, editor of The Spectator, delivering an important address on 'The State of Modern Conservatism'. I am very much looking forward to this year's Oration, to be delivered by the eminent historian **Niall Ferguson**. It promises to be another wonderful celebration.

Finally, our much-anticipated Digital Hub launched in May 2024. This new website makes the Menzies Collection widely accessible and provides engaging online content curated by **Imogen Cowan**. With regular programming such as Quote of the Week, On This Day, Book of the Week and our Afternoon Light podcast, there is much to enjoy from wherever you are in the world.

The support we receive from the University of Melbourne, the Cormack Foundation, the Menzies Research Centre, and our much-valued members and donors makes it possible for us to nurture an understanding of Australian history through the vision of Robert Menzies. At a time when we are searching for common ground in understanding our nation's story, the work of the Robert Menzies Institute could not be more important. Thank you for being part of our community, and I invite you to join us in celebrating one of Australia's great visionaries.

Georgina Downer

Georgina Downer
Chief Executive Officer



VISION | LIFE & LEGACY

FREEDOM, ENTERPRISE, OPPORTUNITY

Robert Menzies, Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister, was a statesman.

His national vision emphasised freedom, prosperity, and resilience, and his legacy is a testament to the enduring values of compassionate leadership, pragmatic governance, and a deep commitment to national identity.

Menzies advocated for a society in which individual liberty was protected and individual effort was rewarded, thereby priming the nation for robust economic growth. He understood that prosperity was critical to maintaining social cohesion and national security, and worked tirelessly to promote economic stability, fiscal discipline, and international trade.

At the heart of Menzies's ideological framework lay the notion of the 'forgotten people', emblematic of the industrious middle class who he viewed as the backbone of our nation. He sought to establish an egalitarian society where access to opportunity remained indiscriminate of one's circumstances and all could aspire to realise their full potential.

To achieve these ends, Menzies championed policies to expand educational opportunities, promote homeownership, and provide social welfare support to foster a more equitable and aspirational society. Moreover, his leadership during global conflicts, such as World War II and the Cold War, reflected his commitment to national sovereignty and international diplomacy.

The Robert Menzies Institute celebrates the legacy and vision of our longest-serving Prime Minister by encouraging enquiry, learning, and debate. As we navigate contemporary challenges, the lasting relevance of Menzies's philosophy reminds us of the importance of principled leadership, tolerance, compromise, and civility in public discourse.

As we look to the future, we hold dear the enduring values of the past. After all, Menzies himself wisely emphasised the importance of 'continuity'. Let us draw inspiration from Menzies's example and strive to build a future that reflects his vision of a confident, prosperous, and united Australia; a vision worth preserving for generations to come.



ANNUAL GIVING

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE INSTITUTE

We are dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich tapestry of our past as enriched by the life and legacy of Robert Menzies.

This pursuit is only made possible through the generous support of individuals like you who believe in the power of history to inspire, educate, and unify.

Your annual contributions allow us to uncover new insights, curate engaging exhibitions, host vibrant events, and provide enriching educational programs.

Beyond the tangible impact on our day-to-day activities, your support enables us to fulfil our broader mission of preserving cultural heritage for generations to come.

It provides us with the stability and resources necessary to adapt and innovate, ensuring that the Robert Menzies Institute remains a beacon of knowledge and inspiration.

It also serves as a powerful statement of solidarity, demonstrating a shared commitment to the preservation and celebration of our heritage.

Each donation is a testament to the belief that history is not merely a relic of the past, but a living, breathing force that shapes our present and informs our future.



ENGAGEMENT | KEY FIGURES

SOCIAL & DIGITAL

With billions of users across social platforms, we are working hard to expand our reach and build our follower base. We achieved the following milestones over the past year:



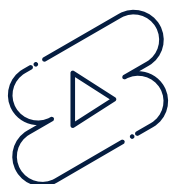
52
PODCAST
EPISODES



138
TOTAL BOOKS
OF THE WEEK



112
ON THIS DAY
ARTICLES



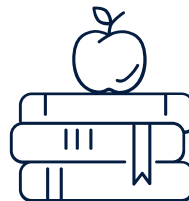
10.6k
YOUTUBE
VIEWS

MENZIES INSTITUTE

Our events and resources are designed to foster meaningful connections between students, patrons, academics, and of course, the Menzies legacy.



18
INSTITUTE
EVENTS



10
NEW
LEARNING
RESOURCES



1700
NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS



\$143k
IN DONATIONS

ENGAGEMENT | DIGITAL OUTPUT

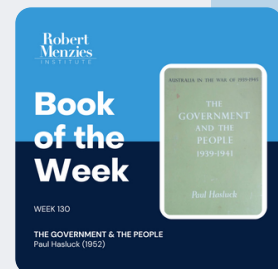
OMNI-CHANNEL CONTENT PRODUCTION

The Robert Menzies Institute maintains an enlightening digital presence that amplifies the Menzies legacy. We offer engaging and enriching content across a diverse range of platforms to ensure we can meet you wherever you are.



On **Afternoon Light**, CEO Georgina Downer meets with leading historians, biographers, and political figures to shed light on compelling aspects of the Australian story. We have featured over 100 guests including John Howard, Lord Jonathan Sumption, Barry Jones, and Professor Joy Damousi.

Our **Book of the Week** series explores the 4500 treasures within Menzies’s personal library; a time-capsule of the intellectual influences, prominent figures, and social conventions of his era. We’ve reviewed 138 books so far which means it will be another 70 years before we cover the entirety of the Menzies Collection!



Our **On This Day** series marks important milestones and anniversaries with informed, accessible articles detailing impactful historical events, locally and globally, throughout Menzies’s life. So far, we have commemorated significant events corresponding to 112 days across the calendar year.

Our **Quote of the Week** series serves as a window into the past, offering insights and wisdom from Menzies himself as iterated across orations and broadcasts. We hope to spark curiosity, prompt discussion, and encourage reflection on the contemporary relevance of his legacy to our lives.

If governments are to do more and more, let us at least see that they act in such a way as to preserve the greatest measure of independence of spirit, and do not sink into the error of creating a universal feeling of dependence, or a willingness to accept as inevitable the complete regimentation of life by political authority.

ROBERT MENZIES, ARTHUR HILLS MEMORIAL ORATION
SYDNEY, 31 MAY 1955

EXHIBITION | MENZIES MUSEUM

SIR ROBERT'S EVERLASTING LEGACY

Whether you're a curious student or a passionate historian, the doors of the Menzies Museum are open to you. Overseen by Museum Assistant **Victoria Hronas**, our exhibition has been carefully curated by **the Hon. Dr David Kemp AC** and **Nick Cater**.

We include items from the Menzies Collection at the University of Melbourne, the National Library of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, as well as from private collections.

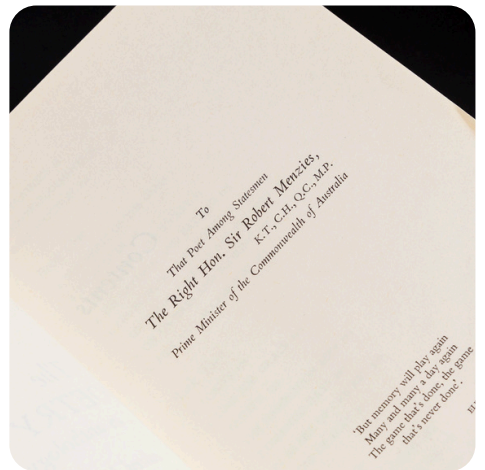
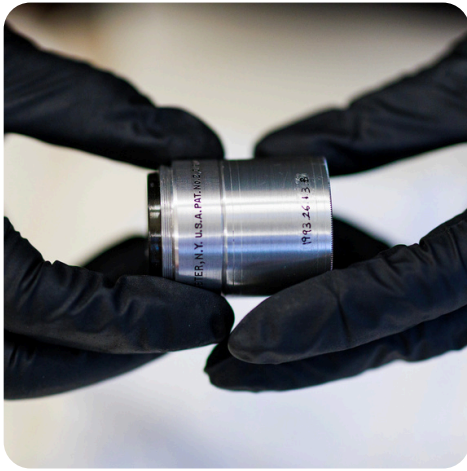
Visitors to our museum can now admire the prestigious Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, gifted to Menzies in honour of his contributions to Australia-Japan relations, and marvel at his Kodak 16mm video camera, a treasured relic of the past used to capture pivotal moments in the 1940s and 1950s.

At the heart of our museum rests a tribute to our longest-serving prime minister, highlighting his success as a political architect and his achievements in national leadership and international diplomacy, cementing the lasting relevance of his political legacy.

Our latest exhibition **The Poet Among Statesmen** examines the influence of poetry on the values and ideals of Robert Menzies. You can examine cherished artefacts including Menzies's own poetry published in the Melbourne University Magazine and his personal copy of Macbeth.

Your support ensures the preservation of these invaluable treasures for future generations.





"How necessary will it be to win
Mars and many a day
The game the lines, the game
that a never done."

CONSERVATION | MENZIES COLLECTION

PRESERVING TREASURES OF THE PAST

With your generous contributions, we can continue to conserve, catalogue, and digitise invaluable heritage materials, ensuring Menzies's legacy remains accessible and inspiring through the ages.

Central to this endeavour is the Menzies Collection, a host of over 4,500 books, notes, and photographs that offer a unique window into Robert Menzies's interests and intellect. While safely housed in the Baillieu Library's Leigh Scott Room, these precious items inevitably bear the marks of time.

A recent conservation assessment revealed that a significant portion of the collection requires restoration to prevent further deterioration. With approximately 55% of the collection requiring moderate repairs and an additional 10% in need of major conservation efforts, your support is critical in safeguarding these invaluable artefacts.

Our commitment to conservation extends beyond the Menzies Collection. We're also proud to support organisations like the Jeparit Historical Society and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum in preserving the local history of Menzies's birthplace through collaborative efforts and expert guidance.

We have also initiated a project to restore Menzies's degree certificates for display and archival purposes, ensuring his accolades to stand the test of time.

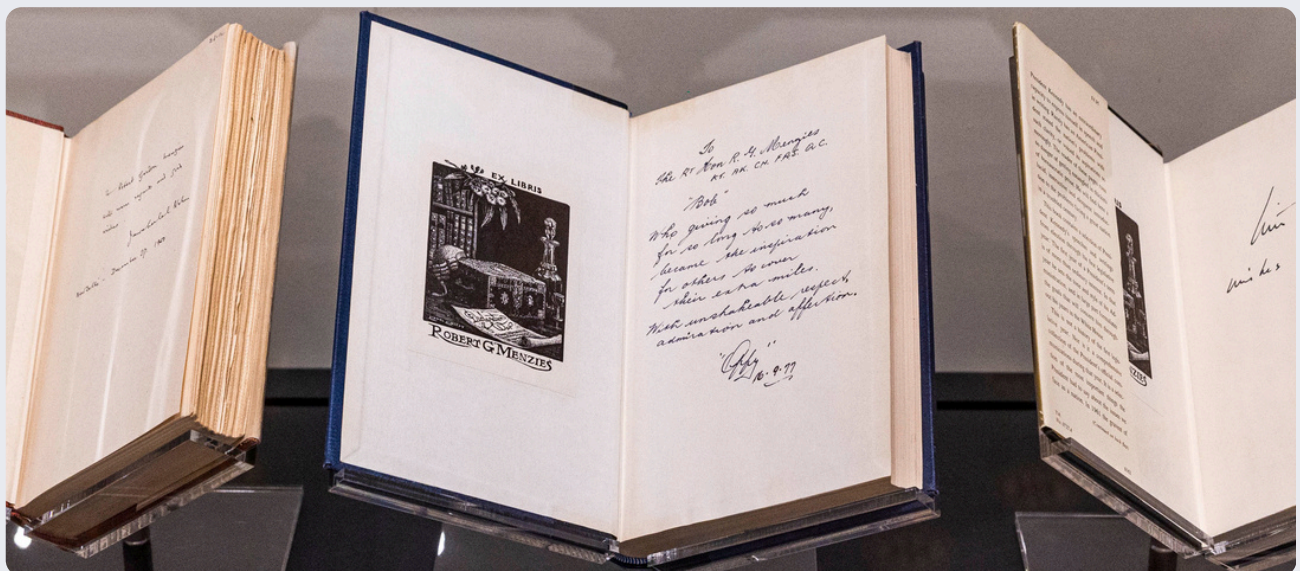


Image: Jawaharlal Nehru, *The Discovery of India* (1946), inscribed by the author; Hubert Opperman, *Pedals, Politics and People* (1977) inscribed by the author; John F. Kennedy, *To Turn the Tide: A Collection of Public Statements* (1962), inscribed by the author. Robert Menzies Collection Rare Books,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



DIGITISATION | MENZIES COLLECTION

OUR NEW DIGITAL HUB

In May 2024, we launched our new website and Digital Hub.

Amongst a host of integrated resources, the Digital Hub features online access to the Menzies Collection, learning materials, scholarly articles, and links to research and curriculum resources developed by the Institute, including the On This Day and Book of the Week series, and the Afternoon Light podcast.

This past year our staff continued the herculean task of digitising the 4,500 books and other artefacts from Robert Menzies's personal library to facilitate broader public access.

Our digitised collection increases accessibility for researchers, students, and those interested in the Menzies era. It provides extensive information on all items in the Menzies Collection including scanned images of inscriptions, and detailed highlights and annotations.

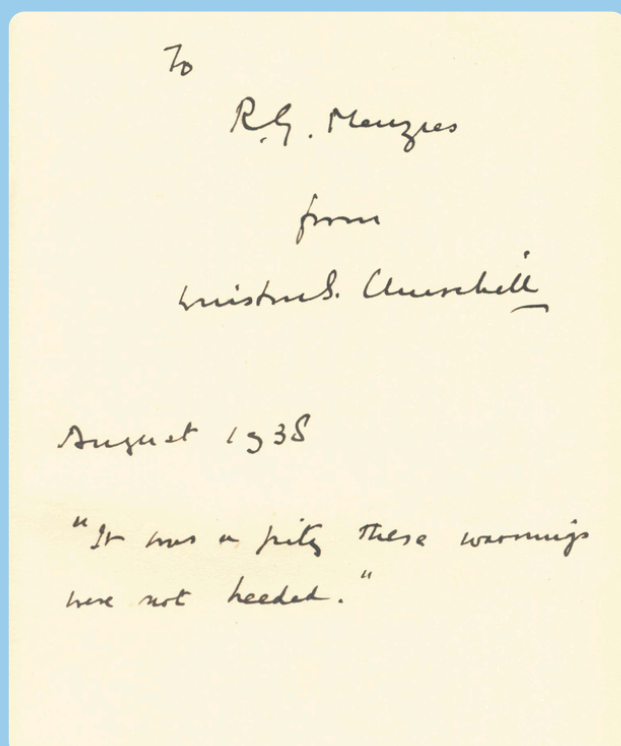


Image: Winston Churchill, Arms and the Covenant (1938). Robert Menzies Collection Rare Books, Archives and Special Collections, The University of Melbourne

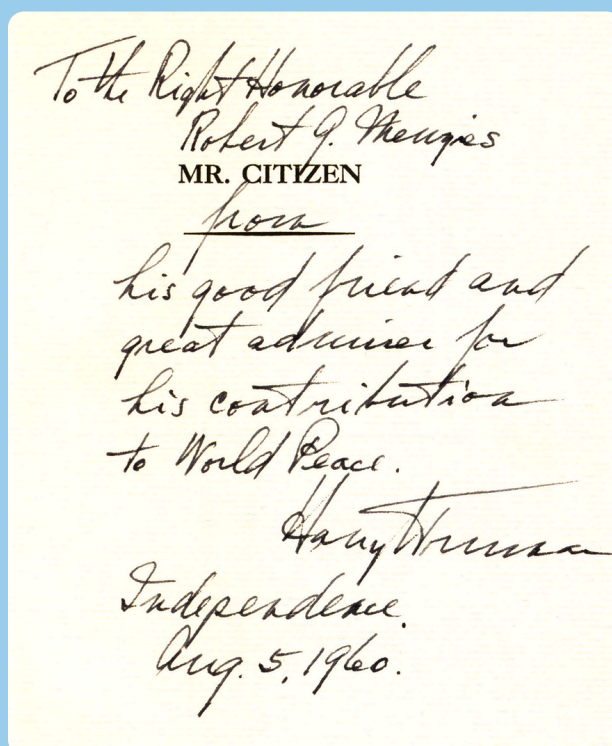


Image: Harry Truman, Mr. Citizen (1960). Robert Menzies Collection Rare Books, Archives and Special Collections, The University of Melbourne

RESEARCH | YEAR IN REVIEW

THE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY



At a time when the study of Australian history faces dire neglect, the Robert Menzies Institute breathes life into the subject with an expansive research program, designed to illuminate our national story and support robust understanding of Robert Menzies's pivotal role in its development.

Central to the program is our **Annual Conference**, uniting historians, academics, and leading thinkers at the University of Melbourne for enquiry and debate. Last year, at our largest conference yet, we analysed The Menzies Ascendancy 1954–1961. Our 16 speakers examined the basis for Menzies's success, highlighting his artful balance of policy innovation and societal progress with stability and social cohesion.

As Paul Kelly's keynote address illuminated, Menzies was skilled in underplaying the tremendous changes he oversaw, giving Australians a reassuring sense of continuity and ease. As in previous years, the conference forms the basis for Vol. III of our acclaimed Melbourne University Publishing series on the history of Robert Menzies, set for release in late 2024. Preceding texts **The Young Menzies** and **The Menzies Watershed** have received fantastic reviews, high sales figures, and now feature in all major libraries across Australia.

This year, our conference series concludes with **The Final Chapter: Purpose, Endurance, and Legacy 1961–1966 and Beyond**. We are looking forward to contributions from 23 speakers, including leading Australian historians Frank Bongiorno, James Curran, and Anne Henderson.

While some projects are coming to fruition, others are just getting started. We were delighted to welcome our newest fellow, **Dr Damien Freeman**, in early 2024. Dr Freeman is coordinating the **Menzies Early Career Network**, a program designed to nurture a new and much needed crop of budding historians to produce original research papers on the Menzies era.



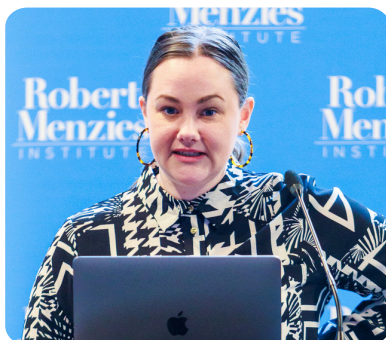
RESEARCH | YEAR IN REVIEW

These papers will be published in a Jeparit Press book to be launched at Parliament House, Canberra, in 2025.

Meanwhile, fellow **Dr William Stoltz** is coordinating a new symposium examining the future of the two-party system in Australia, 80 years on from its crystallisation with the founding of the Liberal Party in 1944. We are also pleased to partner with the German political foundation **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung** to host a symposium on the contribution to liberal democracy of two important post-war leaders in Robert Menzies and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

Zachary Gorman

Dr Zachary Gorman
Historian and Research Manager



RESEARCH | OUR FELLOWS

DR GWILYM CROUCHER

Dr Gwilym Croucher is Deputy Director of the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne. A former Fulbright Scholar, his research focuses on different aspects of the political economy of higher education. He is collaborating with the Institute on the Menzies Generation, an innovative oral history project capturing the stories of Commonwealth Scholarship recipients of the 1950s–70s.

DR DAMIEN FREEMAN

Dr Damien Freeman is a Fellow of the Robert Menzies Institute where he is responsible for the Institute's Menzies Early Career Network. He was educated at the University of Sydney (MA, LLB(Hons), MPhil) and the University of Cambridge (PhD). He co-established Uphold and Recognise, a non-profit committed to upholding the Australian Constitution and recognising Indigenous Australians.

PROFESSOR GREGORY MELLEUSH

University of Wollongong Professor Gregory Melleuish joined the Institute in 2022 to conduct a contextual examination of the full series of Robert Menzies's 'Forgotten People' wartime radio broadcasts with Dr Zachary Gorman. 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.

DR WILLIAM STOLTZ

ANU National Security College Fellow Dr William Stoltz first joined the Institute as a Visiting Fellow in January 2022 to conduct research into the founding of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service. He continues to be heavily involved in the Institute's work, organising our past foreign policy dialogue 'Australia's Dilemmas: Then and Now' and coordinating our upcoming symposium examining the future of the two-party system in Australia.

DR JAMES WAGHORNE

Dr James Waghorne is a Senior Research Fellow and University Historian, working on the history of higher education in the Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education. His work reaches across the history of university governance, disciplines, campus heritage, and the changing influence of campus life. Together with Dr Croucher, he is developing our upcoming oral history project, The Menzies Generation.

PUBLICATIONS | NEW TEXTS

THE MENZIES WATERSHED

In November 2023, we published Vol. II of our four-volume history of Menzies and his world, *The Menzies Watershed: Liberalism, Anti-communism, Continuities 1943–1954*. Our conferences convened at the University of Melbourne form the basis for these volumes, addressing pivotal moments in the social and political transformation that defined twentieth-century Australia.

THE STATE OF MODERN CONSERVATISM

Distilling contemporary issues with the sophistication of a seasoned political observer, Fraser Nelson, editor of *The Spectator*, delivered an oration on the state of modern conservatism at our 2023 Gala Dinner. To preserve his words in perpetuity, we published the oration as a booklet.

UPCOMING

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LIBERAL PARTY

A pivotal moment in Australian political history, the founding of the Liberal Party and consequent 'Liberal Revival' represented a significant ideological shift. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Liberal Party, we have diligently compiled a landmark history of its origins. Our book offers unique insight into the party as a federal entity and explores the political cultures of states and territories over time.

UPCOMING

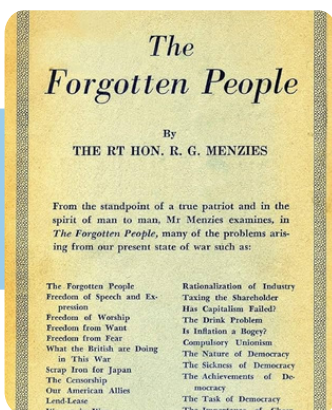
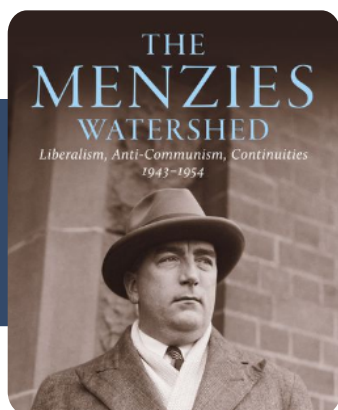
COLLECTED POEMS & OTHER WRITINGS BY ROBERT MENZIES

With the generous support of the Alan and Mary-Louise Archibald Foundation, we have compiled an anthology of Menzies's writings and poetic verses. With a foreword by Stephen McInerney, Dean of Studies at Campion College and acclaimed poet, the reader is introduced to the thoughtful, humorous, and even melancholy musings that Menzies put into verse.

UPCOMING

'THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE' BROADCASTS

Professorial Fellow Greg Melleuish and Dr Zachary Gorman have developed a contextual examination of the full series of Robert Menzies's 'Forgotten People' radio broadcasts. Menzies's intellectual outpourings outlined his vision for Australia in response to the poignant wartime question 'what sort of country are we fighting for?'



SCHOOLS PROGRAM

EDUCATION, INNOVATION, INSPIRATION



Explore the vibrant tapestry of Australian history with the Robert Menzies Institute's Schools Program, where the past comes alive to inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

Did you know that in some states only 1% of students study the subject Australian History in Years 11 and 12? In an era marked by global challenges and wavering faith in institutions, understanding our national story has never been more crucial.

At the Robert Menzies Institute, we want to change the narrative. Our Schools Program is dedicated to enriching the educational landscape with resources designed to spark curiosity and critical thinking via exploration of the Menzies era.

Engagement with young people is at the heart of what we do. In our world, history comes to life through interactive digital content to inspire a generation of Australians who are proud of their heritage and willing to stand up for their values and way of life; a nation of lifters, not leaners.

Last year alone, we designed and delivered 10 new resources for students studying Australian History in Years 11 and 12, and developed engaging materials for younger students exploring our nation's past. We also exhibited at conferences across Victoria and Australia in conjunction with the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (HTAV), the peak body for the teaching of history in Victoria, showcasing our educational programs.

Thanks to our recent partnership with Education Services Australia, our curriculum resources are now more accessible than ever, empowering teachers to inspire the next generation of leaders with learnings from the Menzies era.



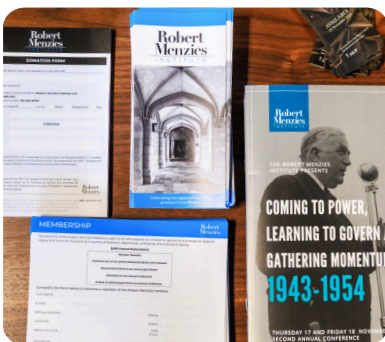
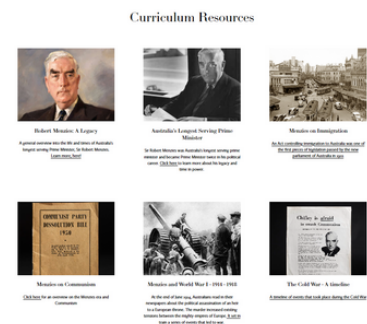
SCHOOLS PROGRAM

But our impact doesn't stop there. Through virtual tours, lectures, and teacher workshops we're reaching students far and wide, fostering a love for history beyond the classroom walls.

Our flagship initiative is our annual Speech Competition where students in Years 9-12 craft a speech on an aspect of Menzies era history and its contemporary relevance. It's more than just a contest – it's an opportunity for students to develop their public speaking skills and connect with our political heritage.

With each passing year, the Robert Menzies Institute is laying the groundwork for a more informed and engaged citizenry, where the lessons of the past guide us toward a more promising tomorrow.

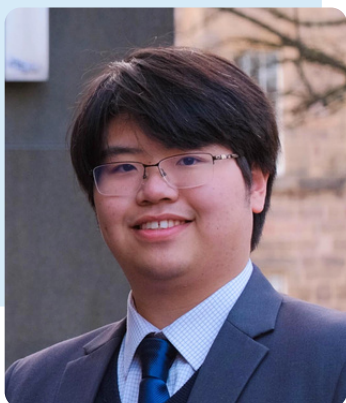
Join us in preserving the Menzies legacy and ensuring that Australian history remains a source of inspiration for generations to come.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS

The Menzies Museum regularly invites student volunteers to participate in the everyday operations to gain practical experience in specialised fields including museum practices, curatorship, and conservation through collaboration with Institute staff.



William Li has been volunteering at the Robert Menzies Institute Museum as a Museum Attendant for two years. He brings delightful warmth and enthusiasm to his role, offering guest tours in both English and Mandarin.

As a Masters student in Cultural Materials Conservation, William has also assisted in conservation projects within the exhibition, giving him valuable experience in exhibition maintenance.



Julia Tingate channels her academic specialisation in Art History into her role as Museum Attendant. On working at the Institute, she says:

"The Institute's curation provides an interesting and insightful environment for art and history lovers alike. In my short time at the Institute, I have found that their personal approach to the presentation of Menzies's artefacts is both unique and effective in engaging all visitors."



Vasish Vasireddy (Year 10, Melbourne High School) won our 2023 Speech Competition with his speech on ANZUS entitled 'Even Great Powers Need Small Friends'.

We were proud to host him at our 2023 Conference, during which he delivered his speech to a large crowd of attendees. We wish him every success as he continues his academic journey through secondary school and beyond.

EVENTS | YEAR IN REVIEW

A CHANCE TO CONNECT AND COLLABORATE

Each year we invite members and guests to attend a diverse lineup of events during which meaningful discussions and insightful dialogues unfold, illuminating the enduring significance of the Menzies era in contemporary society.

Between 2023–2024, we curated 18 engaging gatherings, attracting a wide range of participants from academics and experts to eager university students and history enthusiasts.

Our **2023 Gala Dinner**, a sell-out event, saw Fraser Nelson, editor of *The Spectator* deliver a thought-provoking address on ‘The State of Modern Conservatism’ at The Windsor Hotel, a venue with historical ties to Robert Menzies.

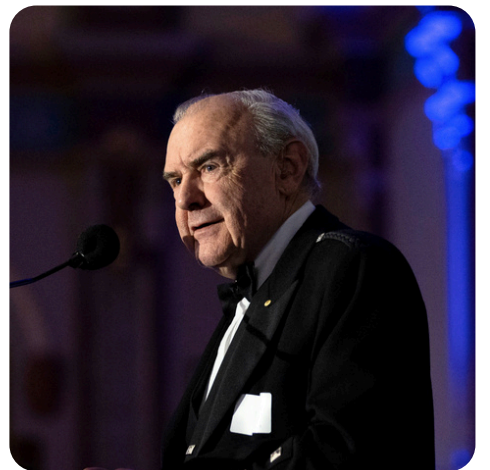
Our **2023 Annual Conference** focused on The Menzies Ascendancy 1954–1961. Insights from this event informed our upcoming publication by the same name, the penultimate volume of our series on Menzies’s life and legacy.

Following a successful launch of our second book, **The Menzies Watershed**, in Melbourne in November 2023, we expanded our reach with launches in Canberra, Brisbane, and Sydney, sharing our work with audiences across the country. We were honoured to host the Hon. Dan Tehan MP, the Hon. Andrew Hastie MP, the Hon. George Brandis KC, and Professor Greg Craven AO at these state launches, respectively.

We have continued our commitment to thought leadership through important lectures featuring Nyunggai Warren Mundine AO, Senator James Paterson, Troy Bramston and Alexander Downer, and Michael Wesley and John Roskam.

Our events serve as platforms for exchanging ideas, building connections, and deepening our understanding of history’s relevance today. Join us as we continue to shed light on the legacy of Robert Menzies and his impact on the modern world.





EVENTS TIMELINE

JULY 2023

'Markets & Prosperity' Book Launch
with Senator the Hon. Jane Hume & Harry Stutchbury

Australia's Dilemmas: Then and Now
launch of an occasional paper by Dr Will Stoltz

SEPTEMBER 2023

**Becoming the 'Mind of the Nation'
Robert Menzies on Australian Universities**
in conversation with Michael Wesley & John Roskam

The State of Modern Conservatism
oration delivered by Fraser Nelson, Editor of The Spectator

NOVEMBER 2023

**2023 Annual Conference
'The Menzies Ascendancy 1954-1961'**
with keynote speaker Paul Kelly at the University of Melbourne

Christmas Drinks
annual celebration at the Robert Menzies Institute

FEBRUARY 2024

'The Menzies Watershed: Liberalism, Anti-Communism, and Continuities 1943-54' Book Launch 3
with the Hon. George Brandis KC at King & Wood Mallesons, Brisbane

World War One: 110 Years On
ANZAC oration delivered by Senator James Paterson

MAY 2024

'The Art of Opposition' Book Launch
with Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham and Scott Prasser

AUGUST 2023

Indigenous Policy During the Menzies Era
public lecture delivered by Nyunggai Warren Mundine AO

Robert Menzies: The Art of Politics
in conversation with Troy Bramston & the Hon. Alexander Downer AC
in Adelaide

OCTOBER 2023

'Menzies vs Evatt: The Great Rivalry of Australian Politics' Book Launch
with Anne Henderson and Greg Sheridan

'Saving Lieutenant Kennedy' Book Launch
with the Hon. Peter Costello AC and Brett Mason

DECEMBER 2023

'The Menzies Watershed: Liberalism, Anti-Communism, and Continuities 1943-54' Book Launch 2
with the Hon. Andrew Hastie MP at R.G Menzies House, Barton, Canberra

O-Week Screening of 'The Menzies Movies'
documentary screening at the Robert Menzies Institute

APRIL 2024

'The Menzies Watershed: Liberalism, Anti-Communism, and Continuities 1943-54' Book Launch 4
with Professor Greg Craven AO at Centre for Independent Studies, Sydney

Exhibition Launch: The Poet Among Statesmen
with remarks by David McCubbin

JUNE 2024



IN THE MEDIA

RADIO, PODCASTS, NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

The Robert Menzies Institute maintains an active presence in the media, including op-eds in major broadsheets and radio and podcast appearances by Georgina Downer, CEO and Dr Zachary Gorman, Historian and Research Manager.

RADIO

Menzies Watershed Years & Liberal Legacy

Dr Zachary Gorman featured on 'Community Voices', Radio Northern Beaches, April 2024

The Origins of the Prime Minister's XI

Dr Zachary Gorman featured on ABC Canberra, December 2023

Robert Menzies's Lessons for Australian Defence Policy

Georgina Downer featured on 'Between the Lines', ABC Radio National, September 2023

Australia's Forgotten Prime Minister

Dr Zachary Gorman featured on 'Between the Lines', ABC Radio National, August 2023

ARTICLES

including but not limited to

'Kevin Rudd should learn from Australia's past foreign leader spats in his 'risky' tenure'

Georgina Downer for Sky News Australia, 27 March 2024

'Australian universities can rid themselves of partisan rhetoric over divisive issues like the Voice by creating new 'institutional neutrality' rules'

Georgina Downer for Sky News Australia, 9 March 2024

'We've been here before': Inside Labor and the states' response to the nations' housing crisis'

Georgina Downer for Sky News Australia, 13 February 2024

'AUKUS: A debate after the fact is still worth having'

Georgina Downer for The Lowy Interpreter, 28 September 2023

'Qantas debacle is a sign that Australia's once thriving airline industry must put customers first again'

Georgina Downer for the Sky News Australia, 10 September 2023

'Prepare for war but use our economic power to avoid it'

Georgina Downer for the Weekend Australian, 2 September 2023

'Why Menzies still matters'

Georgina Downer for The Spectator, 23 June 2023

OUR PEOPLE

STAFF



Georgina Downer
Chief Executive



Zachary Gorman
Historian and
Research Manager



Christina Parkes
Events Manager



Imogen Cowan
Communications
Manager



Hayley Harkin
Schools Program
Manager



Victoria Hronas
Museum Assistant

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**Dr Gwilym
Croucher**



**Dr Damien
Freeman**



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AM**



**Professor
Timothy Lynch**



ACCOUNTS

Robert Menzies Institute Ltd
ABN 68 649 685 352

Income & Expenditure Statement
Annual records for years ending 31/12/2023, 31/12/2022, and 31/12/2021

Income	2023	2022	2021
Grants, donations, gifts, and contributions	\$611,580	\$681,909	\$1,222,696
Interest	\$8,498	\$242	\$0
Bequests and endowments	\$175,687	\$112,744	\$33,872
Other	\$107,818	\$86,663	\$75,982
Total	\$903,583	\$881,558	\$1,332,550

Expenses	2023	2022	2021
Employee benefits expense	\$480,452	\$444,347	\$230,507
Depreciation and amortisation	\$120,465	\$114,689	\$43,180
Rental expense	\$1	\$1	\$1
Legal and consultancy fees	\$37,324	\$35,171	\$12,999
Event and fundraising expenses	\$91,715	\$89,383	\$99,403
Sundry expenses	\$177,750	\$134,424	\$55,091
Total	\$907,707	\$818,015	\$441,180

Surplus (Deficit)	-\$4124	\$63,543	\$891,370
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