

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Fellowships and Scholarships for 2001

NH MRC/RG Menzies Fellowship

In 1996, the Foundation made the inaugural contribution of \$50,000 per annum to the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NH MRC) CJ Martin/Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellowships with one of the Fellowships to become known as the NH MRC/RG Menzies Fellowship. These Fellowships are available for postgraduate medical study at approved overseas institutions with tenure for up to four years. Two years are spent in the overseas country followed by two years back in Australia. The Foundation has also made available a supplementation of \$5,000 for each of the four years of the award for activities associated with the NH MRC/RG Menzies Fellowship, e.g. conference travel.

The 2001 NH MRC/RG Menzies Fellowship was awarded to Ms Marie Escourt. Ms Escourt has been a PhD student at the Division of Immunology and Cell Biology, John Curtin School of Medical Research. Her thesis entitled "Prime-boost immunization and the nature of the induced immune response" was submitted in November 2001.



Ms Marie Escourt

Ms Escourt will take up her Fellowship at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, Radcliff Hospital, Oxford University in March 2002. Her proposed course of study is "Analysis of CD8 T cell memory generation following cell mediated vaccination strategies".

Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships in Law

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust in London, with the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and of the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation in Australia, offers to Australians one or two post-graduate scholarships in law for tenure at universities in the United Kingdom.

There were 39 applications for the two law scholarships that were available this year. Three applications were returned because the candidates had not completed their law degree at the time of application.

Thirty one candidates held their law degree with First Class Honours or its equivalent and references were taken up for this group. Their applications were then forwarded to a panel for ranking. The seven most highly ranked candidates were invited for interview in Melbourne on 19 October, 2001. The Selection Committee was the Hon Sir Daryl Dawson (Chairman), the Hon Justice Susan Kenny (Menzies Scholar in Law 1985), Professor Gillian Triggs (University of Melbourne) and Mr Ray Terry, the Deputy British Consul-General, representing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships in Law were awarded to Mr Oren Bigos and Ms Sarah Martin. Mr Bigos holds the degrees of LLB with First Class Honours (1999) and BComm (1997) from Monash University where he was placed first in his graduating class of 360 and awarded the Supreme Court Prize. Mr Bigos will take up his two year scholarship at Oxford University where he will study for the BCL/MPhil commencing in October 2002.

Ms Sarah Martin holds the degrees of BA and LLB with First Class Honours (2000) from the University of Melbourne where she was placed second in her graduating class of 297. Ms Martin will take up her two year scholarship at Oxford University where she will study for a BCL/MPhil commencing in October 2002.



Ms Sarah Martin (left) and Mr Oren Bigos (centre) who were awarded the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships in Law and Ms Deborah Walsh (right) the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholar in the Allied Health Sciences.

Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholarship in the Allied Health Sciences

This research scholarship, which is valued at \$24,000 per annum for each of two years, is open to graduates in any of the health sciences who have enrolled for a PhD in an Australian University and who have completed the first stage of their doctoral program. As in previous years, the Foundation is grateful for the support of the final selection committee and the assessors who are nominated by the respective disciplines to grade the applications in terms of topic, relevance and methodology.

In 2001 the scholarship attracted a field of 30 candidates and the disciplines included physiotherapy, speech pathology, psychology, nursing, human movement studies, occupational therapy, social work, nutrition, population health and orthoptics. In addition to the grading by the discipline assessors, the academic qualifications and publication record of each candidate as well as the scientific validity of the various projects are carefully considered.

Four candidates were invited to attend for interview in Melbourne on Wednesday, 22 August, 2001. The interview panel consisted of Professor John Coghlan (Chair), Professor Alison Perry (La Trobe University) and Dr Susan Paxton (University of Melbourne).

The Scholarship was awarded to Ms Deborah Walsh who holds the degree of Master of Social Work from La Trobe University. Ms Walsh's PhD project is entitled "The level, extent and nature of domestic violence in pregnancy" and is being carried out in the Department of Social Work, University of Melbourne.

Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship to Harvard

The Harvard Club of Australia, the Australian National University and the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation jointly sponsor the Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship to Harvard University. The Scholarship is administered by the Australian National University.

Mr Nicholas Vines, a music student and composer from Sydney, has been awarded the 2001 R G Menzies Harvard Scholarship. Mr Vines will study for a PhD in Music specialising in composition at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Former Menzies Scholars in Law, Messrs James McLachlan and Simon Hannaford, were the Menzies Foundation representatives on the Selection Committee.

The Menzies Memorial Scholars Association



President's Report

My report on behalf of the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association begins with sadness. On 13 December, 2001 the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association lost an esteemed Member with the death of Professor Christopher Silagy, AO, aged 41 years. Chris took an active interest in the work of the Association and convened the First Menzies Scholars Symposium on evidence-based health advice in 1998. His remarkable achievements in such a short life time have been documented in an obituary earlier in this Annual Report. The Menzies Memorial Scholars Association joins with the Menzies Foundation in expressing its condolences to his wife Jane and sons Andrew, Michael, Nicholas and Benjamin.

The Menzies Memorial Scholars Association held its 12th Annual Meeting at Clarendon Terrace on 22 November 2001. The Association now includes all recipients of Menzies Scholarships in Allied Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Engineering, the NH & MRC/RG Menzies Fellowship and during 2001-2002 an invitation to join the Association was issued to the RG Menzies Harvard Scholars. This means the Association has a substantial number of members in a wide range of organisations throughout Australia. The scholars contribute to the memory of Sir Robert Menzies by their involvement in the community and directly by displaying their certificates of membership and recently struck medal in their places of work. More directly, the scholars continue to sponsor the Sir Robert Menzies Centenary Prize at Dimboola Memorial Secondary College and have encouraged the closer association of the recipient with the Menzies Foundation. This has been done by a member of

the Scholars Association presenting the prize in Dimboola in late December and the recipient now attending the Association's Annual Dinner. The Annual Scholars Symposium was not held in 2001 but plans were made for a 2003 Symposium.

The president and secretary/treasurer of the Association continue to be ex officio members of the Foundation's Board and aim to represent the views of the Association, and the scholars, directly to the Board. It is to the credit of the Foundation that such opinions are sought and allow direct input of the scholarship recipients to the decisions being made about the conduct and award of the scholarships.

The "Menzies Brief" continues to be an important mechanism for informal communication between the members of the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association and, with the increasing numbers of these members, provides a means for communicating with an increasingly diverse group of people. Harnessing the talents of this group has in the past produced the Scholars Symposia, assistance to students from Dimboola College, assistance with the selection of candidates for scholarships, advice to the Board and support for new and continuing scholars both in Australia and overseas. Continuing with these roles and expanding to provide a broader role for the returned scholars, is the work of the next few years. These projects will be carried forward by the new President of the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association, Mr Simon Hannaford, and the new Secretary/Treasurer, Professor Robyn O'Hehir. As retiring president, I have appreciated the enormous assistance of the Foundation's Secretariat – Professor John Coghlan, Ms Sandra Mackenzie and Mrs Glenis McDonald - as well as the encouragement and support of the Foundation Board.

The Menzies Memorial Scholars Association continues to grow in diversity, number and breadth of individuals who have been fortunate enough to be associated with the Menzies Foundation through the scholarships. The number of areas for involvement of the scholars in the Association continues to grow, the number of groups of Menzies Scholars has increased and I leave my term as President of the Association confident that the work of the scholars will continue to expand their role within the Foundation, assisted by the Secretariat and members of the Board.

*Associate Professor William Rawlinson
President*

Sir Robert Menzies Centenary Prize

In 1994, as a mark of Sir Robert's contribution to education, the Foundation created an annual Sir Robert Menzies Centenary Prize at the Dimboola Memorial Secondary College, i.e. the college closest to Sir Robert's birthplace of Jeparit. The criteria for the award were developed jointly with the College Council and make special reference to academic excellence and community service. The award is for a senior student who is proceeding to tertiary study and is a contribution of \$2,000 to the first year of study. This cost is met jointly by the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association and the Menzies Foundation.

This year the Prize was awarded to Belinda Smith, a pupil at Dimboola Memorial Secondary College from 1995 to 2000. Academically, Belinda excelled throughout her secondary education, winning many scholastic awards and achieving an ENTER score of 94.70 in 2000. She has gone on to tertiary study at Melbourne University, undertaking a degree in Bachelor of Arts/Science and is a resident of Janet Clarke Hall. Belinda was active in all aspects of college life including leadership roles, debating, sport, music, fundraising for the college and charity and took part in a student exchange program to Germany as well as a Mentoring Program and a Rural University Experience Program.



Miss Belinda Smith (centre) and her grandmother, Mrs Frances Smith (left), are welcomed to the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association dinner at Clarendon Terrace by the Foundation's General Manager, Ms Sandra Mackenzie.