

# The Menzies Virtual Museum Web Site

The Menzies Virtual Museum web site ([www.menziesvirtualmuseum.org.au](http://www.menziesvirtualmuseum.org.au)) was launched on 13 September 2002 by the Hon John Howard, MP, Prime Minister of Australia, at "Clarendon Terrace", the East Melbourne headquarters of the Menzies Foundation. The web site, which was developed by the Foundation's Secretariat, is an educational resource documenting the life and achievements of Sir Robert Menzies from 1894 to 1978. It takes the form of a time line which also incorporates Australian and world events to keep the Menzies years in context and includes multimedia resources such as historical photographs, sound and film clips and 25,000 words of supporting text.

Prime Minister Howard was welcomed to Clarendon Terrace by the Hon Sir Daryl Dawson, Chairman of the Menzies Foundation, and introduced to an invited audience of 70 guests including representatives of the Menzies family and the Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen and Sir William Vines, both past Chairmen of the Foundation.

The Prime Minister said in his address:

"It is a great delight for me to be here today... It's not a virtual visit it's a real visit to this building and the ambience of it fits the man whom the Foundation honours. And I do want to thank the tremendous efforts of those who have supported and run the Menzies Foundation over the years and I see around the room many of the people who have guided the Foundation. It [the Foundation] has been a truly non-political body and I'm delighted to acknowledge here amongst others the presence of Frank Crean, the former Federal Treasurer and parliamentary colleague of mine for a number of years. And it is right and fitting that these foundations are supported and conducted in a totally apolitical fashion..."

... I'm quite excited that you have decided to ... invite me to launch this virtual museum because what it does is to bring in contact with modern communications and technology the life and times of this remarkable Australian ... He [Menzies] had an extraordinary influence on this country and I think what is important about today is that it is another way of reflecting on the history of that period of time...

I think this virtual museum will be an invaluable educational resource particularly to young Australians. Sir Daryl has mentioned that it contains 750 images from all periods of Sir Robert's life. I will look forward to browsing through it with great interest...

So I want to congratulate everybody involved in the development of this web site including your previous Executive Director, Dr Eric Wigglesworth, your current Director, Professor John Coghlan, and your General Manager, Sandra Mackenzie. It gives me very great pleasure therefore to officially launch the Menzies Virtual Museum."

The full text of the Prime Minister's speech is linked to the Menzies Virtual Museum web site and a photographic record of the launch can be found on pages 20 and 21 of this report. A video recording of the event is also available from the Foundation.



Following the launch by the Prime Minister, the Foundation's General Manager, Ms Sandra Mackenzie, presented a tour of the web site which was displayed on large screens for the audience. The tour provided an overview of the information and features available on the site. Ms Mackenzie demonstrated the accessibility of photographic material, played a sound clip of the 1939 declaration of war and a film clip of Sir Robert opening the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

Ms Diana Menzies, grand-daughter of Sir Robert Menzies, spoke on behalf of the Menzies family and read the following message from Sir Robert's daughter, Mrs Heather Henderson, who was unable to be present.

"I can say with certainty that my father would have been quite mystified by this computer-internet – "on-line" – Virtual Museum business. He never even got a grip of how the phone on his office desk worked.

Times and skills have changed: one of our young grandsons has already been busy with the computer and proudly shown us two pages about Grandpa Bob which he got from the Menzies Foundation web site.

My father told me not to be too distressed when, after he died, all the "Clever People" would say how useless and incompetent and wrong he was, because in time the facts would become known.

There can be no greater contribution to a proper understanding and knowledge of R G Menzies than this Virtual Museum. For this we will always be in debt to the Board, past and present, and Secretariat, past and present.

I am well aware of the pressures of being Prime Minister, and am extremely grateful to Mr Howard for finding the time to launch the Menzies Virtual Museum, which we all hope will be visited constantly."

Professor John Coghlan, Executive Director of the Menzies Foundation, thanked all those involved in the development of the site:

Mr Steve Bowman of Steve Bowman Studios who produced the outstanding video "Menzies in his Time" for the Foundation in 1994, for the collection and assembly of photographic and audiovisual material in an easily accessible form;

Mr Bill Coppinger, formerly of Museum Victoria, for his early role in formulating concepts and Mr Tim Hart of Museum Victoria for his continuing technical advice and expertise;

Mr Richard Collmann, Mr Philip Dubbin and Ms Melinda Traves of Australogia (Vic) for their leading edge graphic and web design;

Ms Pam Shearman, of Shearman Office Support and the Foundation's Web Manager, for her collection, editing and the loading of the time line text and images; for testing the site in its various stages, for her forbearance and perseverance during the whole project; and for the ongoing regular site maintenance and improvements now and in the future.

He concluded by presenting a Menzies Meszaros medallion to the Prime Minister.

The web site is an ongoing project of the Menzies Foundation and will be updated continuously as material and funds become available.



*Participants at the launch of the Menzies Virtual Museum: Ms Sandra Mackenzie, the Hon Sir Daryl Dawson, Prime Minister Howard, Professor John Coghlan and Ms Diana Menzies.*

# Report from the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin

Prepared by Professor Kerin O'Dea, Director



We have had a most successful year in 2002, particularly from the perspective of external funding generated from competitive sources. A summary is provided later in my report. I believe this demonstrates the effectiveness of the administrative and organisational restructure, which was designed to provide strong support for the research and education roles of MSHR through a streamlined organisational and academic framework. I wish to acknowledge the strong support of staff and students in achieving these outcomes. Members of the Senior Management Team have been instrumental in facilitating this enhanced performance.

The Strategic Plan was released earlier in the year, and will guide our direction over the next 4-5 years.

The Northern Territory Government continues to provide strong support to MSHR through its funding of our core grant. The substantial increase in funding over the past 18 months is linked to performance, including external income generated. We were therefore doubly delighted with the outcome of the recent round of NHMRC funding which generated over \$4m in project grants, and almost an additional \$1m in Scholarships and Fellowships to be expended over a 2-5 year period. The seven projects funded all focus on important aspects of Indigenous health – and account for half of NHMRC's expenditure on Indigenous health in this funding round. We were especially pleased with the range of projects that were funded:

- The DRUID Study: Diabetes and Related disorders in Urban Indigenous people in the Darwin region.
- IMPAKT: Improving Indigenous People's Access to Kidney Transplantation.
- The impact of household infrastructure on child health in remote Aboriginal communities.
- Selective use of antibiotics for chronic obstructive lung diseases in Aboriginal adults.
- Implications of bacterial load for vaccine efficacy and antibiotic treatment in high risk populations.
- Pneumococcal surveillance in the NT.
- Molecular epidemiology of melioidosis in Australia.

Four students (Dr Louise Maple-Brown, Dr Emma Kowal, Matthew Stevens, Julie Brimblecombe) obtained PhD scholarships, and Dr Nick Anstey was awarded a prestigious Practitioner Fellowship for 5 years.

As a direct outcome from my presentation at the Menzies Foundation Board meeting in December 2001, Mr Peter Henderson arranged for me to make a presentation to the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in March of this year. The outcome of this has been a commitment to support the DRUID Study; \$409,560 has been allocated to supporting this project over the next 4 years. This study will provide the first ever population-based data on the prevalence of diabetes and related conditions such as renal and cardiovascular disease in an urban Indigenous population in Australia. The grant from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, titled "Reducing the Risk", will focus on enhancing the components of this program directed at capacity building and training of Indigenous people in research and clinical care and counselling of diabetic patients.

Earlier in 2002 we were successful in gaining 2 out of 11 grants nationally through the SCRIF (State Commonwealth Research Issues Forum) program, a joint initiative of the Departments of Health of the Commonwealth and States and Territories under AHMAC to fund priority driven research (\$758,500 over 3-5 years):

- "Psychosocial impact indicators as effect modifiers of behavioural and biochemical outcomes in Aboriginal diabetes prevention programs";

- “Community health centre organisation and quality of care for the prevention and management of chronic disease”.

Our public health education program is going from strength to strength, with 60 students enrolled across all programs in 2002, including 7 full fee paying international students. We were very successful in Round 2 of the Innovations funding of PHERP (Public Health Education and Research Program), gaining over \$900,000 over 3 years to support three projects:

- Development of a course on the social determinants of Indigenous health (in collaboration with the CRC in Aboriginal and Tropical Health);
- A national program on Advanced Training in Public Health Nutrition (in collaboration with Flinders University);
- Public health workforce development in prevention, early detection and management of chronic diseases in remote, rural and Indigenous communities: extending population health training to the wider rural health workforce (in collaboration with the NT Department of Health and Community Services, James Cook University, and the University of Queensland).



*Governing Board Members of the Menzies School of Health Research: Professor Simon Maddocks, Deputy Chair, Ms Ros Moriarty, Board Member and Mr Richard Ryan, Chair.*

Other highlights of 2002 include:

- Dr Louise Maple-Brown, a PhD student working on assessment of vascular disease in remote and urban Aboriginal populations, has gained competitive funding from three bodies (Diabetes Australia Research Trust, Pfizer, Eli Lilly) of almost \$100,000. This is a remarkable achievement for a young researcher.
- Associate Professor Nick Anstey was successful in renewing his NIH funding with colleagues from Duke University for his comprehensive malaria research program. His component is approximately \$1.25m over 5 years.
- The two MSHR Harkness Fellows, Drs Russell Gruen and Alan Cass, left Australia in August to spend their year in the US in policy-orientated health care research.
- Dr Rowena Ivers, who recently completed her PhD with us, was awarded the inaugural Chris Silagy Scholarship for research in the field of Evidence-Based Primary Health Care.
- The Director was appointed as a board member of Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- The commencement of formal international collaboration on Indigenous health with Canadian and New Zealand research teams.
- The Cooperative Research Centre in Aboriginal and Tropical Health, in which MSHR is a core partner and serves as Centre Agent, had a successful 5th year review in April. A proposal for a new CRC in Aboriginal Health was submitted at the end of May 2002. This proposed CRCAH has expanded considerably in terms of the number of academic and industry partners, and will have a national focus on Aboriginal health. The CRCATH was successful in its bid for a new CRC and the CRCAH will begin operations in 2003 for a further 7 years.

The major challenge for us in the year ahead is to maintain this momentum. We are embarking on a fundraising drive so that the organisation can better support its team of hardworking researchers. We believe MSHR is now clearly established as a national leader in Indigenous, remote and tropical health research and education.

# Report from the Menzies Centre for Population Health Research, Hobart



*Professor Terry Dwyer, Director*

2002 has been a year of consolidation with several major new research projects beginning, and in principle agreement on the incorporation of the Menzies Centre reached. Incorporation will provide the new institute with the flexibility to respond to emerging commercial opportunities. While there is still more work to be done in finalising the details and Service

Agreements, the Centre has strengthened its organisational structure and is now in a strong position to move forward.

Alongside the many organisational and administrative matters the Centre worked through in 2002, our researchers and staff continued to dedicate their energies to producing quality research outcomes for the Centre.

Following on from the success of the 2001 grants processes, numerous new research programs began, including research into the childhood determinants of adult health, the effect of low birth weight on subsequent risks of high blood pressure and diabetes, and a follow up of a clinical cohort of multiple sclerosis patients in southern Tasmania. The Tasmanian Epilepsy Register was also launched in 2002, with 892 people on medication for epilepsy volunteering to join the Register.

The Centre also continued its commitment to education and training with the hosting of two conferences. In December 2002, internationally respected epidemiological researcher Professor Kenneth Rothman returned to Hobart to present his 'Epidemiologic Principles and Methods' course. Attended by researchers from Australia and overseas, the course provided a valuable opportunity for students and researchers to explore approaches to epidemiological research.

In its role as a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centre for cardiovascular disease in the Western Pacific, the Centre hosted a three-day meeting for international researchers titled 'Physical activity measurement and surveillance'. The meeting discussed the best method for measuring activity in the Western Pacific Region countries and resulted in the development

of a suitable questionnaire. Ongoing discussions with WHO continue to solidify the Centre's role in the Western Pacific Region.



*Researchers from overseas and Australia attended the WHO 'Physical Activity Measurement and Surveillance' workshop.*

With such increased activity by the Centre and the funding that underpinned it, there was the inevitable increase in staffing numbers, with 39 new appointments in 2002. The increase stretched the Centre's resources, and discussions continue to secure funding for a new building to accommodate the Centre's current and future requirements.

The continued growth and success of the Centre contribute to the Centre's mission to conduct leading edge research.



*Research in the Menzies Centre's genetics laboratory.*

# Report from the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London

## Prepared by Professor Carl Bridge, Director

For the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, 2002 was the third year spent as part of the School of Humanities in King's College London, though the Centre remained physically in its quarters at 28 Russell Square. Professor Carl Bridge remained Head. Two lecturers, Dr Susan Bradley Smith (formerly Pfisterer) and Dr Stuart Ward, left the Centre at the end of the teaching year and Dr Anne Pender, from the Australian National University, joined as a new literature lecturer. Dr Pender had previously been the Centre's Rydon Fellow, working on Australian and British political satire in the 1960s and '70s.



Dr John Williams,  
Menzies Foundation Fellow

Dr John Williams, from the University of Adelaide Law School, was the Menzies Foundation Fellow, working on two books 'Rights and the Australian Constitution' and 'The Australian Constitution: A Documentary History'. Associate Professor Jim Davidson, from Victoria University, was Rhodes Trust Fellow, working

on a biography of Sir Keith Hancock. The Public Service Fellowship was vacant. There were seven research students. Four students were enrolled in all or part of the taught MA; 21 completed the BA History course; and 12 the Australian Literature BA course.

The 2002 Menzies Lecture was given by Mark Latham MHR on 'Wedge Politics and the Culture War in Australia' and the Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture by Dr David Lowe (History Department, Deakin University) on 'Percy Spender, foreign minister and internationalist: an Australian experience in the American Century'.

The following conferences and symposia were held:

- 'Churchill and Australia' (with Churchill College, Cambridge);
- 'The idea of the college and collegiality' (with the Britain-Australia Society, Lincolnshire Branch, with Lord Hurd of Westwell as principal speaker);
- 'A New Girl Order? Young Women and the Future of Feminist Inquiry' (with Monash University);
- 'Metropolitan Culture and Imperial Decline' (with the Institute of Contemporary British History);
- 'The End of the Affair? Australia and Britain since 1945' (with Monash University);
- 'The People and their Rights: Notions of Rights and Popular Sovereignty in the British World since 1790' (with the Australian National University);

and

- 'Federalism and Human Rights' (with the University of Adelaide).

There were also four Australian Update briefings held in conjunction with the Australia and New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK, 38 research seminars, and seven literary readings and book launches. Staff publications included, among others, Dr Ward's *Australia and the British Embrace* (Melbourne University Press) and Dr Pender's *Christina Stead: Satirist* (Common Ground).

Distinguished visitors to the Centre included: the Governor-General of Australia, Dr Peter Hollingworth; Mr Don McKinnon, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth; Sir Eric Neale, Chancellor of Flinders University; Professor Dame Leonie Kramer, former Chancellor of the University of Sydney; Viscount Slim of Yarralumla; and Mr Michael L'Estrange, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

# The Menzies Foundation Lectures

Since 1999, the Foundation has sponsored nine Menzies Foundation Lectures on health-related themes.

Year	1999
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Ms Laurie Garrett</b> former President of the National Association of Science Writers and author of <i>The Coming Plague</i> .
<b>Title</b>	"The Global Fight Against Disease"
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Dr Mark Schena</b> TeleChem International Inc., California.
<b>Title</b>	"Current and Future Trends in the Application of DNA Microarray Technology"
Year	2000
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Prof Susan Greenfield</b> Professor of Pharmacology, Oxford University; Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain.
<b>Title</b>	"The Future of the Mind"
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Prof Al Sommer</b> Dean of the School of Medicine and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University.
<b>Title</b>	"World Blindness and the Global Initiative"
Year	2001
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Prof Sir Philip Cohen</b> Professor of Biochemistry, University of Dundee and Director of the Medical Research Council Protein Phosphorylation Unit.
<b>Title</b>	"How Biochemistry can Transform the Economy"
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Prof Lord Winston</b> Professor of Fertility Studies, Imperial College School of Medicine, London.
<b>Title</b>	"Science and Ethics in the 21st Century"
<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Prof Christopher Mathias</b> Institute of Neurology, University College, London.
<b>Title</b>	"Living with Spinal Cord Injuries"

In 2002, the Menzies Foundation sponsored two Menzies Foundation Lectures, both given by eminent international speakers.

## "Health and Medicine in Medieval Art and Culture"

**Professor Nigel Morgan, University of Oslo**



*Professor Nigel Morgan*

The first Menzies Foundation Lecture for 2002 was given on 11 April and was held in association with the School of Fine Arts, Classical Studies and Archaeology, University of Melbourne. Professor Morgan, Professor of Art History, the University of Oslo and the Helen Macpherson Smith Professorial Fellow at the University of

Melbourne, is one of the leading scholars in Medieval and early Renaissance art history in the world. He is keenly interested in the approach of earlier societies to health and medicine, and especially how this is expressed in the art and culture of the Medieval and Early Renaissance period.

## "From Mad Cows to Mobile Phone: how should we deal with risk?"

**Professor Colin Blakemore, FRS, University of Oxford**



*Professor Colin Blakemore*

The second Menzies Foundation Lecture for 2002 was given on 21 August in conjunction with ScienceNOW!.

The lecture entitled "From Mad Cows to Mobile Phone: how should we deal with risk?" was followed by panel and audience discussion. Professor Blakemore is Waynflete Professor of Physiology and Director of the Oxford Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience,

University of Oxford. He studied Medical Sciences at Cambridge and completed a PhD in Physiological Optics at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been President and is now Chairman of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Professor Blakemore's research has been concerned with many aspects of vision and the early development of the brain.

# The Menzies Oration on Higher Education

Sir Robert Menzies considered that his contribution to the development of Universities might prove to be amongst the most lasting of his achievements for Australia. In recognition of this vision and in order to strengthen the role of higher education in Australia, the University of Melbourne and the Foundation established in 1991 the Sir Robert Menzies Oration on Higher Education.

The theme for the Oration is higher education policy and practice in Australia both in view of its national importance and also because of Sir Robert's attachment to both the extension of higher education and the wise development of it. The intention is for each Oration to be a contribution to intellectual debate in Australia.

Previous Menzies Orators have been:

- 1991 Professor David Penington  
*The University of Melbourne*
- 1992 Professor Emeritus Peter Karmel  
*Australian National University*
- 1993 Professor Henry Rosovsky  
*Harvard University*
- 1995 Professor Brian Wilson  
*The University of Queensland*
- 1996 Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland  
*The University of Edinburgh*
- 1997 Professor Wang Gungwu  
*The National University of Singapore*
- 1998 Lord Dearing  
*The University of Nottingham*
- 1999 Sir Guy Green  
*Governor of Tasmania*
- 2000 Professor Sir Alec Broers  
*University of Cambridge*
- 2001 Dr John Hood  
*University of Auckland*

The Oration is presented annually at the University of Melbourne in conjunction with a higher degree graduation ceremony. The choice of this University as the venue for the Oration recognises the eminent role played by Sir Robert as its Chancellor from 1967 to 1972 and a Menzies Foundation Medal, specially struck by the Royal Australian Mint, is presented to each Orator.

The eleventh Oration entitled "The Research University: an undergraduate challenge" was delivered by Dr Bernard J Shapiro, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University on 23 October, 2002. Dr Shapiro is the author of numerous articles on curriculum, public policy in education, the development of logical thinking in young people, and educational research and methodology.



*The Orator for 2002, Dr Bernard Shapiro, with the Chairman of the Menzies Foundation, the Hon Sir Daryl Dawson.*

The Foundation was represented by its Chairman, The Hon Sir Daryl Dawson and by Mr Alec Menzies, grandson of Sir Robert, who presented the Menzies Foundation Medal to Dr Shapiro.