

# The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Fellowships and Scholarships for 2003

## NHMRC/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 (NHMRC) CJ Martin/Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellowships with one of the Fellowships to become known as the NHMRC/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 NHMRC/RG Menzies Fellowship, e.g. conference travel.

The 2003 NHMRC/RG Menzies Fellowship was awarded to Dr John Pimanda from the Centre of Vascular Research, University of New South Wales. John will take up his Fellowship in 2004 at the University of Cambridge in the Department of Haematology. His proposed study is "Transcriptional control of stem cell identity and development".



*Dr John Pimanda*

## 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 post-graduate scholarships in law for tenure at universities in the United Kingdom.

There were 42 applications for the three law scholarships that were available this year. One application was returned because the candidate had not completed her law degree at the time of application. The remaining applications were

then forwarded to a panel for ranking. The eight most highly ranked candidates were invited for interview in Melbourne on 13 October, 2003. The Selection Committee was the Hon Sir Daryl Dawson (Chairman), the Hon Justice Susan Kenny (Federal Court and Menzies Scholar), Professor Gillian Triggs (University of Melbourne) and Ms Louise Goold (Education Manager, British Council, representing the British Consul General and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships in Law were awarded to:

Mr William Heath who holds the degrees of LLB with First Class Honours and BA with First Class Honours (2002) from the University of Melbourne. Mr Heath will take up his two year scholarship at Oxford University where he will study for the BCL/MPhil commencing in October 2004;

Ms Premala Thiagarajan who holds the degrees of LLB with First Class Honours (2002) and the Supreme Court Prize and BA (1999) from Monash University. Ms Thiagarajan will take up her one year scholarship at Oxford University where she will study for a BCL commencing in October 2004; and

Ms Nicole Tyson who holds the degrees of BA/LLB with First Class Honours in Law (2000) and the University Medal from the University of Tasmania. Ms Tyson will take up her one year scholarship at Oxford University where she will study for the Master of Studies in Legal Research commencing in October 2004.



*Law Scholars William Heath, Nicole Tyson and Premala Thiagarajan were presented with the Mészáros Menzies medallion at the Menzies Scholars Dinner on 27 November 2003.*

## 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 2003 the scholarship attracted a field of 35 candidates and the disciplines included physiotherapy, speech pathology, psychology, nursing, human movement studies, occupational therapy, nutrition and podiatry.

Four candidates were invited to attend for interview in Melbourne on 14 August, 2003. The interview panel consisted of Professor John Coghlan (Chairman), Professor Robyn O’Hehir, Professor Alison Perry and Professor Susan Paxton.

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship in the Allied Health Sciences for 2004-2005 has been awarded to Ms Keryn Proctor who holds the degree of Masters of Family Therapy from La Trobe University. Ms Proctor’s PhD project is entitled “The Breaking Through Project: A school, family and rural community partnership to reduce suicide risk and increase safety in schools for at risk youth” and is being carried out in the Bouverie Centre, La Trobe University.



*Keryn Proctor*

## 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.

Twenty-eight applications for the RG Menzies Scholarship to Harvard were considered by the Selection Committee, which included former Menzies Scholars, Mr Simon Hannaford and Professor Simon Maddocks. The Committee interviewed six candidates. After consideration, it was not possible to separate two outstanding candidates and the Scholarship was awarded jointly to Ms Belinda Baker and Dr Daniel Siskind.

Ms Baker holds the degrees of BA/LLB with First Class Honours and the University Medal in Law from Macquarie University. She will study for a Master of Laws in the Harvard Law School, specialising in constitutional and criminal law.

Dr Siskind, who, holds the degree of MBBS from the University of Queensland, will study for a Master of Public Health in the Harvard School of Public Health.



*Belinda Baker*



*Dan Siskind*

# The Menzies Memorial Scholars Association



*Mr Simon Hannaford, President*

## President's Report

The Menzies Memorial Scholars Association continues to grow as further Scholarships are awarded. Contrary to what hitherto has been accepted as Gospel, it is my view that the Association will never reach critical mass. By critical mass, I mean a size where, from mere weight of numbers the Association will spontaneously and effortlessly achieve its purpose of putting the aims of the Menzies Foundation into practice in the community.

Although the members of the Association are extremely talented and all want to assist the Foundation with its important work, the Association must clearly understand in what areas the Foundation requires assistance and how members' talents may be best utilised to those ends. 2003 has been an important year for the Association's progression along that path.

That is not to say that members of the Association have not continued to help the Foundation. Several members of the Association are members of the Foundation's Board, including the President and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association on an ex officio basis. Others assist with the ranking of candidates for various Menzies Scholarships and also have sat on selection committees. Further, Medical Scholars conducted occasional Symposia, though for financial reasons, planned Symposia were not scheduled in 2002 and 2003.

Impetus for more targeted assistance to the Foundation has come from the planned 25th Anniversary celebrations. Members of the Association have made helpful

suggestions for activities in 2004 and many will be involved in the final program. Perhaps more unexpectedly has come a proposal that Law Scholars will put on a Continuing Legal Education Seminar in Sydney or Melbourne in 2004 and if successful, annually thereafter. It is often said that organising lawyers is akin to herding cats, so we are extremely hopeful that this venture will succeed, because it promises to be a very notable showcase for our Law Scholars.

In addition, the Association has planned to develop its own website, as an important adjunct to the Foundation's site. This too will provide an opportunity for Scholars' work and achievements to be highlighted for potential donors, hopeful Scholarship applicants, etc. It is also anticipated that this facility will supplement the "Menzies Brief" and allow members of the Association to maintain greater communication between Annual Meetings, so that good ideas become actual initiatives before the passage of time intervenes.

2003 also marks the end of my term as the Association's President. The satisfaction I have gained from my term is only exceeded by my confidence that under the stewardship of Professor Robyn O'Hehir and Dominique Hogan-Doran, the Association will continue to encourage and enable its members to contribute to the work of the Foundation.

The Association remains indebted to the Foundation's Board and Secretariat for their support, particularly with our Annual Meeting and Dinner. I am sure that these close links with the Foundation will continue to be productive.



*Glenis and Malcolm McDonald and Bob Anderson congratulate Prof Robyn O'Hehir on her election as President of the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association.*

## 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.

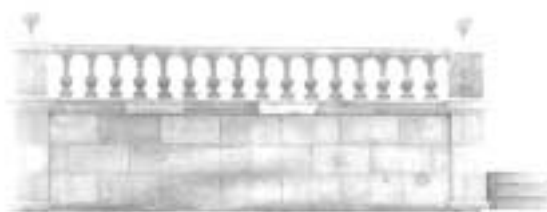
This year the Prize was awarded to Ms Michelle Blake. Michelle was the winner of the College's 2002 Year 12 Scholastic Award and the Brian Frecker Outstanding Senior Student Award. She was also elected by her peers to the position of College Captain and won the local section of the Lion's Youth of the Year contest. Michelle is enrolled at the University of Melbourne, where she is studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree.



Michelle Blake

## JEPARIT – BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT GORDON MENZIES

"They [parents, James and Kate] went to a small township with a main street and a few score houses, called by the curious name of Jeparit... There, on 20 December 1894, I was born, my birth being ushered in by the greatest series of bank failures in the history of the State of Victoria." Sir Robert Menzies, *Afternoon Light*, 1967, p.7.



James and Kate Menzies (centre) outside the Jeparit store where Robert Gordon Menzies was born in 1894.

(Photograph courtesy of Jeparit & District Historical Society)

(Extract from  
The Menzies Virtual Museum  
[www.menziesvirtualmuseum.org.au](http://www.menziesvirtualmuseum.org.au))

## The Mészáros Menzies Medallion

Since 1998, the Menzies Foundation has awarded the Mészáros Menzies medallion to Menzies Scholars, the Menzies Foundation Lecturers and Life Members. In 2002, a “one-off” gold plated medallion was presented to the Hon John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, following his launch of the Menzies Virtual Museum web site. The four medallions – gold, silver, bronze and copper – are pictured on the front cover of this Annual Report.

Andor Mészáros was “for over thirty years, a unique, intriguing, controversial figure of the Australian art world. His monumental works may be found in a number of Australian cities, his bronze reliefs on the walls of numerous public buildings, cathedrals, schools, hospitals, universities. His medals are highly esteemed possessions of museums and private collections”. (“Mészáros” by Tihamer Wachtel, 1987). His son, Michael – himself a renowned Australian sculptor – has recorded for us the history of the Menzies medallion and describes the work involved in the production of each medallion.

“My father originally met Sir Robert in the late 1950s and ‘60s when Sir Robert unveiled some of his works. Sir Robert liked my father’s work and found him interesting personally and my father similarly admired Menzies’ wit and personality. At some point, my father expressed the wish to do Sir Robert’s portrait as a profile medallion, an art form that he had taken to great heights. Menzies agreed in principle, but it wasn’t until Sir Robert retired that my father felt the time was right to propose that they really do it, in 1969.

The sittings were held in my father’s studio in Laver Street, Kew (where I still work 35 years later). In those days our front drive was very steep and rough and our neighbour had a nice straight, concreted drive. Menzies’ driver drove up the neighbour’s drive and parked there while the sittings took place since we had no dividing fence. Our neighbour was extremely left-wing, a supporter of East Germany and was appalled not only

at the incursion onto his property, but by the person who was responsible!

Three sittings took place of about two hours each and I understand they passed with good conversation and humour, both of them being great conversationalists, who enjoyed each other’s company. One of the key elements in doing a portrait like this is to maintain an interesting conversation to keep the subject animated. I think the final work shows the results of this approach.

Once the modelling was done, in plasticine, a plaster mould was cast. From this plaster mould, a plaster positive is cast which is the pattern for bronze castings in the original modelled size (150mm).



To produce the small struck pieces, a bronze casting was used as the pattern for a reduction on a pantograph which cuts a reduced reproduction directly into a block of steel in the size of the final medallion. This reduction is heat treated to harden and temper it and is then pressed into a cylinder of softer steel to form the die, i.e. a negative impression in steel. This die is then hardened and tempered with heat treatment.

In a large press, under a force of several hundred tonnes, the dies are forced down on to the bronze blank and a positive impression is created.

After striking the edges are filed, the medals are blasted with a very fine zircon flour to clean the surface and treated with potassium sulphide solution to make them black. They are then rubbed back with a soft abrasive to reveal the relief, dried and given a coat of matt lacquer. Engraving of individual recipients details is done later, as is silver plating. The medallions are struck in both copper and brass and some copper pieces are silver-plated and gold plated to create four categories of award.”

The Menzies Foundation expresses its gratitude to the Mészáros family for the use of the die and for their continuing interest in the work of the Foundation.