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From the President

Another bumper edition of the Brief once again highlighting the activities of the Menzies Scholars around the world! Thanks to Liisa and Pam for putting together such an interesting edition.

I was fortunate to attend the AGM of the Foundation this year, for the first time open to the public. It is hoped that this annual event will become an opportunity for the Foundation to increase its profile and celebrate its achievements.



At the Menzies Foundation AGM: Anina Rich, Marie Estcourt and Deputy Chairman of the Foundation, Brian Doyle, at Clarendon Terrace on 5 May 2011

We have also been exploring a new avenue of communication for the MMSA. I have established a MMSA Facebook page. The page is open to all members of the MMSA as well as current scholars. While I understand that some people choose not to use Facebook for privacy or other reasons, the page is to serve as an enhancement of our current communications, not as a replacement. The Brief will still be used as the primary means of communication. If you are interested in joining the page, please do a search for me and once we are ‘friends’ I can add you to the page. To preserve some privacy and provide a forum for Scholars communication, the page is currently ‘secret’ and can only be viewed by members.

Finally, I will also flag the upcoming MMSA annual general meeting in November; I hope to see many of you there. The AGM is always a fun day with scholars presenting their research and experiences from their time as Scholars. Elections will also be held this year, as I will be finishing my time as President. Liisa

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From the Secretary

Greetings all.

This edition of the Brief as always brings some news on Scholars and for the first time a personal note from last year’s Dimboola Prize winner. The Dimboola Prize contributes significantly to the early post-high school life of young Australians. It is supported in part by the Scholars Association, so it is gratifying to hear of the effect that the award has for the recipient.

We also hear from one of our Scholars living and working in New York. Sarah Beshar’s topic is the US philosophy of giving

- an interesting read and quite timely given the topical nature of philanthropy in Australia. It also brought home to me the importance of giving back to the Menzies Foundation, and the need to support the Foundation in continuing to support Australia’s brightest minds.

Another of our Scholars was recognized in the 2011 Australia Day Honours list. In this edition we focus on the career of Prof Bill Rawlinson AM. His extensive achievements were very difficult to summarise effectively but hopefully you will get some flavour for all that he has done and continues to do.

There is a short report on the Foundation’s 2011 AGM and we continue with our Spotlight column in this issue and get to know a little more about one of the Menzies Law Scholars.

Until next time,



Dr Liisa Laakso
 MMSA Secretary/Treasurer

News from Harvard

The 2010 Menzies scholars to Harvard both featured in the graduation program at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr Greg Keane was awarded the Dr Fang Ching Sun Memorial Award by the Department of Society, Human Development, and Health. It is awarded to an outstanding graduating student of the school who has demonstrated a commitment to promoting the health of underprivileged people.

Dr Lakshmi Nayana Vootakuru was the student speaker at the 2011 Commencement Ceremonies. Dr Vootakuru discussed her experiences as a medical student working with indigenous communities in remote areas of Australia.

“Public health to me is about re-imagining this society—to one where education and opportunity are plentiful and access to services is available to those who need it most and can ask for it least. Yes, in this most scientific of fields, firmly rooted in epidemiology and biostatistics, the most salient feature to me is ... imagination. Because that is always where transformation begins. Imagination is the ability to form images, sensations and concepts, in a moment when they are not perceivable through sight, hearing or any of our other senses. Surely that moment is now, when economies, governments, and societies face crises, when challenges seem intractable and solutions seem unattainable,” she said.

(See <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/features/hsph-commencement-2011.html>)

AM in Australia Day Honours to Professor William D Rawlinson



“For service to the medical sciences as a clinician, educator and researcher in the disciplines of virology and pathology”

Bill Rawlinson, Menzies Scholar in Medicine (1990), was recognised in the 2011 Australia Day Honours list as a Member of the Order of Australia. Bill served as Secretary and then President of the MMSA between 1998 and 2001.

Bill is currently Director of Virology and Staff specialist in charge of Diagnostic Virology at The Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick; Senior Medical Virologist (SESIHNS & The University of New South Wales; Adjunct Professor, School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, Faculty of Science, The University of New South Wales; Conjoint Professor, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine & The Prince of Wales Clinical School, The University of New South Wales; Chairman, Serology Quality Assurance Program, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Program; and, Chairman, Biologically-sensitive Quality Assurance Program, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Program.

He is involved in developing health research policy at State and Federal levels, and actively participates in a number of federal and state health committees, as well as research and diagnostic organisations including: federal-funded viral vaccine initiatives, committees on viral diagnosis, NHMRC Review Panels, national scientific advisory committees (ASM, RCPA), and non-government research committees (board member of the Influenza Specialist Group, board member of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Influenza Research).

DIARY DATE:
MMSA Annual Meeting
Thursday, 24 November 2011

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will be standing for President and we will be looking for a new Secretary/Treasurer. The MMSA President and Secretary also serve as Directors of the Menzies Foundation thereby making a direct and important contribution. The role is made easy with fantastic assistance from the secretariat and provides an opportunity to give something back to the Foundation, so I would encourage all of you to start thinking about your campaign speeches.

Enjoy the Brief, see you in November,



Dr Marie Estcourt
MMSA President

VALE

James McLachlan

Menzies Scholar in Law 1988; Director, Menzies Foundation 1995-2009; Secretary/Treasurer, Menzies Memorial Scholars Association 2004-2005.

The Foundation was saddened by Mr McLachlan's premature death; his valuable contributions are greatly appreciated by all.

Menzies Scholarships to Harvard

The Robert G Menzies Scholarship to Harvard University is a joint award from The Harvard Club of Australia, the Australian National University, and the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation. The award recognizes an individual's ability, leadership, and vision and potential for making a significant contribution to Australia. It is administered by the ANU and Ms Edwina Menzies represents the Menzies Foundation on the selection panel.

Congratulations to recipients for 2011, Miss Angela Lopes, Mr Luke Raffin and Miss Julia Smith.

Angela Lopes holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace) with First Class Honours and the University Medal and a Bachelor of Science (Advanced) from the University of Sydney. Angela has worked as a strategy consultant at Port Jackson Partners on various projects across the commercial and public sectors, including on the issue of climate change and sustainability and on critical infrastructure developments.



Angela Lopes

Angela will undertake an MBA at the Harvard Business School.

Luke Raffin holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) from the University of Melbourne. His activities have included the creation of a venture philanthropy fund which will support the growth of enterprises in remote indigenous communities; projects to improve the effectiveness of the Victorian Children's Court; and to optimise educational opportunities for young people in regional areas.



Luke Raffin

Luke will study for a Master of Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard.

Grant to Anne-Marie Hill

Falls are common and disabling in older people and the award of a Menzies Foundation Allied Health Sciences Grant to Anne-Marie Hill will help fund her research program on falls prevention.

The competitive (externally assessed) "start up" grant is available to Menzies Allied Health Sciences Scholars not more than five years after the completion of their PhD. The aim of the \$25,000 grant is to support the researchers early in their post-doctoral career.

Anne-Marie, one of only ten Gerontological Physiotherapists in Australia, will undertake her research program at the University of Notre Dame, WA through the School of Physiotherapy and Institute of Health and Rehabilitation Research.

Julia Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts (Geography) with First Class Honours from Monash University. Her interest is in the fields of international community development and education access, with experience in Asia and Africa through AusAID, the Clinton Foundation and an NGO she co-established called Help Educate Children.



Julia Smith

Julia will study for a Masters in International Education Policy (Education Policy Evaluation and Innovation) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

NHMRC/R G Menzies Fellowship

The NHMRC/R G Menzies Fellowships are available for postdoctoral medical study at approved overseas institutions with tenure for up to four years. The Fellowships aim to provide opportunities to outstanding health and medical researchers early in their career for research of major importance and of benefit to Australian health. Two years are spent overseas followed by two years back in Australia.

This year's Fellowship has been awarded to **Dr Susanna Park**. Susanna completed a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours and a Bachelor of Psychology from the Australian National University (2004). She received the University Medal in Neuroscience for her Honours research undertaken in the Neuronal Signalling Laboratory at the John Curtin School of Medical Research.



Susanna Park

From Neuroscience Research Australia, University of New South Wales, Susanna will take up her Fellowship in 2011 at the Sobell Department of Motor Neuroscience and Movement Disorders, Institute of Neurology, University College London. Her study is "The Pathophysiology of Chemotherapy-induced Neurotoxicity".

King for a day in Dimboola

This year, I was fortunate enough to travel to Dimboola Memorial Secondary College to present the Sir Robert Menzies Centenary Prize for 2010, on behalf of the MMSA and the Menzies Foundation.

Dimboola is approx 350kms from Melbourne and, with the exception of some locust swarms along the way, it was a beautiful 4 hour drive through some of the stunning Victorian countryside. On arrival at the College I was given a tour by teacher, Jeanette Walscott. It was exciting to see some very innovative and cutting-edge teaching and new constructions underway. The Principal, Mr Rob Pyers, told me about the outstanding VCE results achieved by the Year 12 students, a fantastic achievement for a remote country school and a clear indication of the strength and quality of teaching.

After checking into the Dimboola Motel and enjoying a meal at the Victoria Hotel, I returned to the College, in my academic regalia, to take my place on stage with distinguished guests including the Mayor, Cr Cliff

Unger. It was great to see the community come together and fill the school hall for this very special occasion in the local calendar. I was invited to make a short speech about the Menzies Centenary Prize and its significance and presented the award to the Prize Winner, Jessie Hutchinson. After the ceremony, I joined the parents and students for some light refreshment and heard some of the country stories that a city slicker, me, have only read about.

The community definitely made me feel very welcome and were generous in their hospitality and invitations from many of the parents to visit the local attractions and farms the next day.

It was a fantastic experience (with all expenses covered by the Foundation and the College) and I would strongly encourage all Scholars to take up this opportunity in the future. It is not every day that we get to be treated like a "King/Queen" for a day!

Andy Chien

2005 Menzies AHS Scholar



Letter from Jessie

Dear members of the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association,

It was only seven months ago I was awarded the Menzies Centenary Prize for 2010. I'll never forget how daunting the ceremony was to me, as I felt so intimidated by the numerous admirable and distinguished guests within the room at Clarendon Terrace. Perhaps my nervousness was apparent, or perhaps I was successful in keeping it hidden. Regardless, every person in attendance with whom I spoke was very welcoming and friendly, and I'm thankful that I can express my gratitude for such hospitality through this article.

Since receiving the award, I have commenced my studies at La Trobe University in Bendigo. I am currently undertaking the first year of my four-year

double degree of Bachelor of Health Sciences/ Master of Occupational Therapy Practice, and am thoroughly enjoying the challenges it presents. Once I have successfully completed these degrees, I aspire to work in many different aspects in

the occupational therapy field. Furthermore, I would love to practice occupational therapy overseas.

The Menzies Centenary Prize has assisted me greatly. As I was required to move away from home to commence my studies, I am currently spending the first of two \$5,000 payments towards my accommodation costs whilst I am a residential student. Being able to afford to live on-campus would have been difficult without the Menzies Centenary Prize, so I am very thankful that the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association and the Foundation has assisted me with this.

In closing, I'd like to give particular thanks to Sandra Mackenzie and Andy Chien. Sandra did an extraordinary job in coordinating the presentation ceremony, and made both myself and my parents feel very welcome during the evening. Andy and I were seated next to one another on the night, and we had some interesting conversations! He also made the long drive up to my hometown of Dimboola, to represent the Menzies Foundation and MMSA at my school's annual award ceremony. Thanks Andy.

Kind regards,
Jessie Hutchinson

A “thousand points of light”

from Sarah Beshar,
first Menzies Scholar in Law



As a young newly married bride, back in the early 1990s, my American husband and I reviewed our household budget for our New York City life. After our loft rental expense and subway costs, he explained that next came contributions to all of his (and now our) former educational institutions. This included his elementary school, boarding school, college and law school, together with every other group that may have helped him on his way.

Giving back at all levels is part of the American experience. Yes, there are tax benefits, but there is also a long history of private philanthropy in America. It is deeply rooted in the national psyche, beginning with Colonial society which was built by volunteers and the American Revolution which was funded by private donations. Indeed, private initiatives for public good permeates American culture and character. Notable philanthropists include Benjamin Franklin who was a volunteer public servant, Andrew Carnegie who gave away all his oil fortune and recently Bill Gates and Warren Buffet who have pledged to donate their entire wealth. But philanthropy in America is much more than giving at these big dollar amounts.

It begins with my children using their allowance to pay for a young boy in Sri Lanka to attend school; to a small child in Indonesia for books and food; and to host an inner city child in our home for part of the summer. At Christmas, in honor of the season, they select a favorite cause for a portion of their Christmas gifts. Across the land and through the church, synagogue or the school, American children are encouraged to set aside on a regular basis cash and other gifts to help others. In this way an early habit of giving becomes a lifetime of providing aid. As my now fourteen year old says, the dollars and quarters add up quickly to achieve amazing feats and can provide a “thousand points of light”.

Of particular importance to Americans is to give back to any institution or group that may have helped launch their own career. In my daughter’s freshman class at college, 70% of the students are receiving financial aid which has been almost entirely funded by alumni over the years. That is a big payback. Thanks to the generosity of generations of alumni, through large and small gifts, the next generation will stand tall.

Some opportunities are truly transformative, and the benefits of a Menzies Scholarship is surely one such leap. In honor of all those who came before us, let’s look back, and provide a helping hand for the next generation of Menzies Scholars.

Menzies Foundation AGM

The Foundation’s Annual General Meeting was held at Clarendon Terrace on 5 May 2011, with Sir Guy Green in the Chair. The Executive Director summarised Foundation activities and commended the 2010 Annual Review to those in attendance. The Annual Financial Reports, presented by Mr Brian Jamieson, were accepted unanimously. The re-election of three retiring directors completed the formal business of the day.

The directors, members and guests were privileged to hear a fascinating address by Professor Geoffrey Blainey, the eminent historian. Prof Blainey began with a historical appreciation of Sir Robert Menzies, whose national leadership provides continuing inspiration for the Foundation. Prof Blainey recalled how Menzies faced the challenge of losing office in 1941 by regrouping and developing his messages for the “forgotten people” of Australia, thus preparing the way for his subsequent electoral success. Prof Blainey then spoke of the pressing social problems in Aboriginal Australia, historically framed, but exacerbated by unemployment and poor educational outcomes. He used the title of his address, “Facing the unfaceable” to draw the parallel with Menzies’ predicament, and to suggest that the challenges for contemporary Aboriginal education also need to be faced by the nation as a whole, rather than denied on the grounds of cultural or historical sensitivity.

Prof Blainey’s address was warmly received, and the vote of thanks by Dr Tom Hurley, was passed with acclamation.



Sir Guy Green, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Dr Tom Hurley and Ms Diana Menzies



Mr John Gough and Sir Daryl Dawson



Mrs Danni Balmford and Sir Ninian Stephen



Professor Simon Maddocks and Mr Nicholas Callinan



Mr Ross Illingworth, Ms Kerrie Mariani, Mr Charles Kiefel and Mr Tim Hammon

Spotlight on Dariel de Sousa

Menzies Scholar in Law 1993



What is your job? What is the most fulfilling aspect of your work?

I am currently working as a Consultant at Maddocks in Melbourne, where I am a member of the Sustainability and Climate Change Team and the leader of the Water Team. I advise on a range of issues related to climate change as well as energy, water and environmental regulation. I am passionate about protecting our precious environment so this area of work is a good fit for me.

I find it particularly fulfilling to help clients develop innovative responses to challenging problems and to navigate complex regulatory frameworks.

What is your favourite book/film/music/activity?

While I wouldn't call it my favourite, the book that has made the most lasting impression on me is Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*, which I read as a teenager. I was so captivated by Heller's quirky style and engrossing characters that I read a number of his other books and plays.

I am a fan of classical music, particularly Chopin and Debussy. As I fast approach middle age, I wonder how I was ever able to stomach pop music as a youngster!

As for films, I prefer the ethnic variety, particularly Middle Eastern and French. They're a great way of getting insights into other cultures.

I enjoy jogging along the Yarra River near our home, which is looking particularly green and lush at the moment. However, aching joints and wet weather have meant that the river has not seen much of me of late.

Where in the world would you like to visit?

I have had the good fortune of visiting many places around the world during my 7 year stint at the World Trade Organisation. However, one place that I have not yet visited, but would love to, is Lebanon. I've been learning Arabic for many years and my hope is to one day spend some time in Lebanon to learn the language properly. I've heard that the people are particularly warm and hospitable, that the food is to-die-for and that the language is spoken in a particularly soft and lyrical way. Unfortunately, the political strife that is currently gripping the region means that my plan is unlikely to materialise for some time. In the meantime, I hope that calm and peace are restored.

Who has inspired you?

My father has been the most significant source of inspiration in my life. He was passionate about learning, a passion that I share. He was like a sponge when it came to any kind of information and had a memory that was astounding. He could recall details of high school chemistry even in his 70s. Unfortunately, we lost my father to cancer last year. He displayed such integrity, strength, courage and resilience, right until the end. I have never met a person quite as special as my Dad.

Who would you most like to meet?

Christine Lagarde, the new head of the International Monetary Fund, is a person who has been on my radar for some time. She is obviously incredibly intelligent, professional, accomplished, quick-witted and a woman to boot! It takes a very talented and gifted person to have executed such a wide variety of roles with as much success as Christine Lagarde. She is an inspiration and I would relish the opportunity to meet her.

How has the Menzies Scholarship helped you?

The Menzies Scholarship has helped me in many, many ways, both personally and professionally. The Scholarship led me to Oxford University, a truly magical, inspiring place, which will always be regarded as one of my 'homes'. The Scholarship enabled me to obtain a higher degree at a prestigious institution, which has opened many doors in my career. I have been able to take up most of the professional positions I have pursued so far and I would attribute that success, at least in part, to the opportunities that the Scholarship created for me.

I continue to feel privileged for having been awarded the Menzies Scholarship and am glad to still remain a part of the broader community that the Menzies Foundation has established.

MMSA
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