

MENZIES FOUNDATION

Annual Report 1999

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1999

Sir Daryl Dawson, AC, KBE, CB

1999 is the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation. Substantial achievements have been made during those twenty years. Established by the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust in September 1979, the Foundation has created enduring memorials to Sir Robert Menzies and his ideals. Its initiatives derive from the Foundation's original charter of seeking "to promote, through research and innovation, the health and fitness of the Australian community."

Two outstanding and on-going memorials are the medical research centres - the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin and the Menzies Centre for Population Health Research in Hobart. Both the Centres continue to develop their strong reputation for excellence in their work both in Australia and internationally. The Foundation is immensely proud of its central role in the establishment of these Centres and they remain the major recipients of our grants. The Foundation wishes to place on record our gratitude to the two founding Directors, Professor John Mathews, AM and Professor Terry Dwyer, AM who have led their respective institutions to success through many challenging times. It was with regret, therefore, that we learned in June 1999 of Professor Mathews' resignation from the position of Director of the Menzies School of Health Research. We wholeheartedly add our concurrence to the words of the independent "Report of the 1998 Quinquennial Review Committee":

"The Committee has uniformly high praise for the performance of the Director. He leads an exciting and very productive Institute where the enthusiasm, dedication and general morale is high. He continues, with a great deal of sensitivity, to guide the School along a path which will establish a sustainable partnership between the research ethos of the School, the researchers and the Aboriginal community for whom and with whom the School wishes to work. The Director has played a significant role in establishing the Co-operative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health which in itself is a major acquisition for the Northern Territory and which should establish important new collaborations to the benefit and improvement of the health status of the Aboriginal people.

We wish Professor Mathews every success in his new position as Head of the National Centre for Disease Control and as Senior Medical Adviser to the Public Health Division of the Commonwealth Department of Health in Canberra.

It is worth noting that the recommendation for the establishment of both the medical research institutions came from a seminar or workshop sponsored by the Menzies Foundation. Over the past 20 years, the Foundation has conducted at least one health-related symposium each year. Since 1998, one annual symposium has been developed by a member of the Menzies Memorial Scholars Alumni Association, i.e. by a former recipient of a Menzies Memorial Scholarship in medicine, law, engineering or the allied health sciences. In 1999, a one-day meeting, initiated by Associate Professor David Morgan, was held at "Clarendon Terrace" on "The Establishment of a National Tissue Processing Centre in Australia". A summary of the meeting is included elsewhere in this Annual Report and the proceedings are also available on CD-ROM and on the Foundation's web site.

The Foundation continues to provide support for Menzies scholarships and fellowships and this year increased its support for the UK Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust Scholarships in Law by \$35,000. I was privileged to Chair the Selection Committee for the Law Scholarships and I am again pleased to report that the quality of the scholars is truly outstanding. It was a pleasure to meet many of the previous scholars at a joint dinner with the Foundation's Board in November and to hear of their many and varied individual achievements since they returned to Australia.

One new initiative of the Foundation in 1999 was the sponsorship of a Menzies Lecture held conjointly with other organisations. The first was the ScienceNOW! plenary lecture during Science Week and the second was held in the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine. The sponsorship of the lectures - given on both occasions by overseas speakers - greatly enhanced the Foundation's public visibility.

I am pleased to report that the Menzies name will also continue to be visible in the United Kingdom and Europe through the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies. In 1997 we regretfully announced that our financial support for the Centre - which had been the major recipient of our funds since 1988 - would cease in October

2000 but "with the proviso that we would take all possible steps to assist the Centre in seeking financial support from other sources." In its 1999 budget, the Federal Government recognised the Centre's "invaluable role for Australia and Britain as a centre for teaching and research in Australian studies" and announced that it would award a one-off endowment of \$5 million to the Centre. The Foundation will provide \$25,000 per annum from 2001 for a Menzies Foundation Fellowship to the Centre.

The Foundation moves into the 21st Century content in the knowledge that many worthwhile Menzies memorials have been created in the past 20 years. We look forward to a new era based on today's escalating computer technology. Our Executive Director's report outlines some exciting new developments in this area involving our own web site and Museum Victoria.

I report with sadness the death of Mr Harry Giese, AM, MBE on 4 February, 2000. Mr Giese's contribution to the Foundation and to the Menzies School of Health Research was immense and a tribute to him appears in this report. The Australia Day Honors list brought happier news with Dr Eric Wigglesworth, the Foundation's Executive Director from 1979-1998, being appointed a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) for "service to the promotion of public health through the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation and to accident prevention." Our warmest congratulations go to him on this recognition of his important role in the first 20 years of the Foundation's achievements.

Sir Daryl Dawson

Chairman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 1999

Professor John Coghlan, AO

As our financial advisers and fund managers forecast, our income in 1999 was diminished to 6% but expenditure was controlled back to about \$1 million. The market value of our investments totalled \$14.03 million at 31 December, 1999 and, by rough calculation, our original \$6.4 million investment has been protected against inflation.

Our diminished income prompted the Board as its first remedial action to call for tenders from a portfolio of the most effective investment fund managers. These managers were ranked by a rigorous process of written submission and interviews conducted by two Board members, Mr Ken Spencer and Mr Charles Kiefel, and myself. The Board decided to take a little more risk in our investments but at the same time hedging that risk by allocating the investment portfolio to three fund managers: Credit Suisse Asset Management (\$6 million); JB Were Asset Management (\$4 million); Westpac Investment Management (\$4.3 million). The outcome from these changes will be closely monitored by the Board during 2000.

Within our budget certain initiatives could still be taken. A long overdue upgrade of the office computers and net work was carried out and will be regularly updated from now on. Contemporary accounting software which is GST compliant was included in this upgrade and both Sandra Mackenzie and Glenis McDonald have become proficient in its use.

This year the secretariat introduced a new ranking system for the administration of the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship in Law. The reduced number of interviews seemed to work well and the very high standards of the past were well and truly maintained. The majority of candidates now download the application form from our web site. This system is not only convenient for the applicant but represents a considerable saving in time and postage costs for the secretariat. It is worth noting that amongst the philanthropic trusts and grant awarding bodies, the Menzies Foundation has had a leadership position in applying Internet technology to its day-to-day operations.

The virtual Menzies Museum CD-ROM to go onto our web site is in progress. The earlier time posts for this project were too ambitious. We have, however, increased the scope of the project because of advances in technology. Extensive video and film clips which were greatly restricted in the past can almost be included at will and sound clips can be included without restriction. Part of this plan for our web site is to include a time line spanning Sir Robert Menzies' life from 1894-1978. Each year would include an aspect of Sir Robert's life, Australian events and world events. We anticipate it may be of special interest to many people with an historical interest and that it could benefit children researching the life of Sir Robert for school projects.

In a further development involving the Internet, the Foundation has entered into a joint agreement with Museum Victoria. As part of this project, several "hot buttons" to the Foundation's web site will be inserted into the Museum Victoria web site, including the home page which has on average 1,300 visits each day. It will make the Foundation a partner in a formal educational program accessible not only to Victorian schools but internationally. Other benefits to the Foundation include the development of a joint education program based around Federation in conjunction with the Museum's Australian Society Program. The Secretariat is looking forward to working on this project with Museum Victoria in 2000.

Sir Daryl has mentioned in his report the success of the lectures sponsored by the Foundation in 1999: Dr Laurie Garrett gave the ScienceNOW! plenary lecture on the increasing international threat of infectious disease to public health; Dr Mark Schena at the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine spoke on "Current and Future Trends in the Application of DNA Microarray Technology"; and Sir Guy Green at the University of Melbourne gave the Menzies Oration on "Governors, Democracy and the Rule of Law". These lecturers, all recognised leaders in their diverse fields, used the title "Menzies Lecturer/Orator" and we hope to be able to sponsor similar activities in future years.

Similarly, the Second Menzies Alumni Symposium on Tissue Banks was also successful and produced a CD-ROM and an important outcome for public health. The findings have been well received by the Minister's Office and the Health Advisory Committee of NH MRC will progress this matter further.

Prof John Coghlan, Dr Sue Meek, Sir Gustav Nossal

Sir Gustav Nossal (right) chaired the ScienceNOW! Menzies Foundation Plenary Lecture. He is pictured with Professor John Coghlan and Dr Sue Meek

1999 has been a year of change for two of the Menzies centres. The eminent scientist Professor Kerin O'Dea will take up the Directorship of the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin following the resignation of Professor John Mathews and the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies in London, long resident on Russell Square in a lovely old Georgian building, is on the move to King's College on the Strand. The Federal Government's \$5 million endowment, stronger links and financial support from Monash University and Professor Carl Bridge's seven year appointment as Director confers stability and allows longer term planning for the Centre.

I had the opportunity for a short visit to the Centre in June 1999 while on my annual endocrinology tour. It was a pleasure to present Professor Carl Bridge with three important additions to the Centre's Library from me: (1) "The Wreck of the Barque Stefano off the North West Cape of Australia in 1875" by Gustave Rathe; (2) "The Discovery of Tasmania" by Edward Duyker and (3) a CD-ROM "Endeavour - Captain Cook's Journal 1768-71."

I look forward to my continuing involvement with the Menzies centres in Darwin, Hobart and London as they and the Menzies Foundation move into the 21st Century.

Professor John Coghlan, AO

Executive Director

Report from the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin

1999 was a year of considerable change in the School with the departure of Professor John Mathews, the founding Director. John's huge contribution to the School was recognised by the award of an AM for services to medical research in 1994 and, more recently, by the award of a Menzies School of Health Research Medallion in 1999. Currently Professor David Kemp is acting as Director until Professor Kerin O'Dea takes up the appointment.

Prof John Mathews, Ms Annie Bonson, Mr Harry Giese

Professor John Mathews,

Ms Annie Bonson and

Mr Harry Giese at the 1999

Menzies School of Health Research

Oration which was delivered by

Professor Mathews.

We were saddened by the recent loss of Harry Giese in February 2000.

Harry initiated the events that led eventually to the formation of the Menzies School of Health Research. He was a strong supporter of the School and served on the Board of Governors for many years.

He was recognised by the awards of AM and MBE for service to the Northern Territory community.

He is remembered with respect by the School.

A highlight of the year was Louise Martin winning the NT Young Achiever of the Year award.

Louise was the first person of Aboriginal descent to be awarded a Science degree by NTU. She gained a first class honours degree through NTU at MSHR, studying variation in H. influenzae and is now studying Medicine at Flinders University.

Two major appointments this year have been that of Tony Barnes as Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health, and Grant Lindsay as Business Manager of MSHR. Both have rapidly come to terms with the wide range of issues facing them.

Louise Martin

Louise Martin was awarded the Northern Territory Young Achiever Award

Support for East Timor

The Menzies School of Health Research has been actively involved with the development of the new nation of East Timor. Australians will always remember the violent and destructive events that enveloped East Timor following the referendum on independence in August 1999 and Australia's response to the crisis. Darwin was particularly affected by the arrival of 1800 refugees from Dili in the first week of September. The response of the general community of Darwin was extraordinary. MSHR was involved on many fronts. The expertise, particularly in respiratory and infectious diseases, of many of the staff and students of the School was vital to meeting the health care needs of the refugees. In addition, the medical screening process was augmented by many volunteers from the School providing their time to assist with non-clinical work and an area of the School was converted into a reception centre for refugees being registered and receiving immunisations.

In October 1999, Dr Nick Anstey and Ms Kay Withnall represented the School on a tuberculosis (TB)/malaria emergency assessment mission to East Timor on behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO). From November 1999 to February 2000, Dr Paul Kelly was involved in converting the mission's preliminary findings into a wide-ranging programme of support for the national TB control programme of East Timor, based on internationally recognised protocols. Drs Nick Anstey and Bart

Currie have also continued to give technical advice on malaria, dengue fever and other infectious diseases to health care providers in East Timor.

Streptococcal Diseases, Malaria and Scabies

Extensive research is being carried out into malaria, scabies and streptococcal diseases. The malaria work on the clag gene of *Plasmodium falciparum* continues to prove exciting. We have generated a considerable body of evidence indicating that the gene is involved in cytoadherence. This suggests that it may be a candidate vaccine molecule.

The work on scabies is currently aimed at understanding its immunobiology. We recently found that antigens from our clones are expressed on the internal organs, including the gut. As there is precedence for a gut antigen to act as a vaccine molecule, we believe there is a realistic chance of developing a vaccine against scabies. Group A streptococcus can cause self-limiting infection or, if ineffectively treated, can lead to serious illnesses such as acute rheumatic fever and acute glomerulonephritis. Our recent findings also suggest that Aboriginal children are particularly at risk of severe invasive GAS diseases. Current work is aimed at assessing several different proteins for their potential as a vaccine candidate.

Public Health and Epidemiology

One of the major activities this year has been the follow-up of a group of 686 children who were measured by Dr Sue Sayers at birth 10-12 years ago. Anthropometric, respiratory, biochemical, nutritional and clinical assessments and renal ultrasound are being done to determine whether birth characteristics such as birthweight, symmetry of antenatal growth and preterm delivery are predictors of characteristics that indicate future risk of chronic disease in adult life.

Unit members have also been involved in a variety of other studies including evaluations of the Coordinated Care Trials, investigation of cancer rates in the NT and provision of advice to various nutrition reference groups.

March 2000

IN MEMORIAM:

HARRY CHRISTIAN GIESE, AM, MBE

1913-2000

by Dr Eric Wigglesworth, AM

Those of us who have been privileged to visit Fogg Dam at daybreak can readily attest the pioneering spirit and infectious enthusiasm of the late Harry Giese who died on 4 February, 2000. All of us can attest his loyalty to and affection for his adopted home in the Northern Territory and for his fellow Territorians. To walk with him through the streets of Darwin was a memorable event for, despite his lengthy stride and rapid gait, progress was slow. It seemed that every second person wanted to thank him for some kindness, to tell him of some family event or to seek his advice on some problem. He knew them all and, as the walk continued, he would describe the family, financial or other relevant details that underlaid each discussion. It was a humbling experience.

Harry Christian Giese was born in Greenbushes, Western Australia in 1913, and educated at the Universities of Western Australia (BA, DipEd) and Melbourne (MEd, DipPhys Ed). After a period of teaching, he volunteered for war service in 1939 but was asked by the Commonwealth Director-General of Health to become Director of National Fitness in Western Australia. Here he stayed from 1942 until 1944 when he transferred to Queensland as the first Director of Physical Education.

It was here that he married Nancy Wilson on 5 May, 1946. That marriage provided Harry with a happy and secure home base right up to his death. With "Nan" Giese becoming Chancellor of the Northern Territory University, this long working partnership brought great benefits to the Australian community. The Foundation expresses its deep sympathy to her and to the family.

Harry Giese speaking at the first Menzies Foundation National Seminar, 1980

In 1947 Harry Giese transferred to the Commonwealth Department of Health as a National Fitness Officer and in 1954 he moved to Darwin where he served as a Member of the Legislative Council from 1954-1973. During this period he completed a Churchill Fellowship and held the positions of Chairman of

Committees (1963 to 1965); Director of Social Welfare (1954-1970); and Director of Child Welfare (1959 -1970).

In 1974, after Cyclone Tracy, Harry Giese served on the Darwin Disaster Welfare Council, which played a large part in the relief of Tracy victims and in July 1978 became the first Northern Territory Ombudsman until his retirement on age grounds at the end of that year. His community activities were legion and are far too numerous to be listed here. However, many of us remember the way he spoke with pride of his work with the Marriage Guidance Council and the Spastics Association, for both of which he was the founding President. His community services were recognised by the award of an MBE in 1965.

In short, he had already completed a life of distinction before he joined the Foundation in 1979. In that year he accepted the invitation to become the founding (and, as it turned out, the only) Chairman of the Foundation's Northern Territory Committee from 1979 to 1985 (when the State/Territory Committees were discontinued). In addition, he was a member of the National Board and its Executive Committee during the same period and also served as a member of the Foundation's Research Grant Review Committee from 1981-1984. In 1985, following the change in structure of the Foundation, he used his experience as Chairman of the NT Oral History Unit to record a series of interviews which later became the starting point for the Foundation's History.

In all these honorary positions he made forceful contributions to the research aspects of the Foundation's work. Perhaps the strongest was at the first Menzies Foundation National Seminar in Melbourne on 2-4 October 1980 when he reiterated his view that the health needs in the Northern Territory required examination at the highest level. He suggested that the time was opportune to find a working relationship between the embryonic Northern Territory University and the Menzies Foundation. His idea was to develop some tertiary structure that would examine those matters which had a significant bearing on the health and wellbeing of the people living in the north and the things that could be done to improve the quality of life for the people in this region.

Partly as a consequence of that powerful speech, but also because of his continuing advocacy, persistence and enthusiasm, the Foundation held a seminar in 1981 and

a further Workshop in 1982, entitled respectively "Living in the North" and "Towards a School of Health Research in the Northern Territory". As a consequence of those meetings, the Menzies School of Health Research was created in Darwin and incorporated under its own legislation on 12 December 1985.

Harry Giese was a member of the School's Board of Governors from 1985-1995 and Deputy Chairman from 1987-1995. As recognition of his major contribution to the health of Australians who live in the North, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1997.

In any recital of the impressive litany of memorials that have been created to commemorate Sir Robert Menzies, the name of the Menzies School of Health Research will always figure high. Since its inception the school has flourished beyond all expectations, thanks largely to the high quality of the staff and in particular to the founding Director, Professor John Mathews AM.

Of relevance here is the fact that the continuing contribution made by that School to the health of Northern Australians is a tribute to the vision, the enthusiasm and the advocacy of Harry Giese who first identified the need for such a school and who later vigorously pursued its establishment and strongly supported its work.

We Australians owe him much.

Dr Eric Wigglesworth, AM

Report from the Menzies Centre for Population Health Research, Hobart

Prof Terry Dwyer, Director, Menzies Centre for Population Health Research

Professor Terry Dwyer,

Director, Menzies Centre for Population Health Research

1999 was an extremely successful year for the Menzies Centre in many ways. One of the important measures that we use for success is the number of competitive grants that are acquired. In 1999 five new National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants from eight applications were awarded to the Centre. This is approximately three times the national average success rate. The total sum of new grants from NHMRC was \$360,000, a very competitive achievement on the national scene.

The successful grants were in areas in which the Centre has been building a strong reputation, namely infant and child health and musculoskeletal research. In addition, grants were also acquired to research two new areas for the Centre, multiple sclerosis and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

The Heart Foundation has provided the Centre with a grant to study the association between cardiovascular disease risk and birth weight. A grant from the Clifford Craig Medical Research Foundation will fund a pilot study on childhood ocular conditions and a consultancy from the Department of Health and Human Services will fund a study into iodine deficiency in Tasmanian children. From outside Australia the Centre received a grant from the National Institutes of Health as part of an international collaborative grant on the genetics of melanoma.

During the year, the Menzies Centre also took important initiatives for future research growth. The appointment of Dr Michele Sale as Director of the Genetic Epidemiology Unit, followed by later appointments to key positions in that Unit, places the unit to make important contributions internationally to the field of genetic epidemiology. Already a number of projects are underway on diseases such as multiple sclerosis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and glaucoma.

As well as the work being undertaken here in Australia, the Centre's activities in association with the World Health Organisation have been expanding. In conjunction with the Western Pacific Regional Office, Manila, a Profile of Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes in the Western Pacific has been published. This will be a very useful resource for people working in the 37 countries of the Western Pacific region. Researchers at the Centre have also taken on more extensive field work and education programs in Vietnam through the WHO Collaborating Centre for Cardiovascular Disease. It is hoped that in the coming years that this area will become better resourced to enable expansion of activities in this much needed area.

While the majority of the Centre's staff are located in Hobart there are a number who are working on projects through the North and the North West of the state. In recent years a number of staff have been appointed outside Tasmania. Dr Anne-Louise Ponsonby is in Canberra, and Dr Ruth Morley, from the United Kingdom, has taken a position at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne as part of the Menzies Centre team. Both these appointments have worked very well despite their distance from Hobart. The new communication technologies available have made it possible for them to work very effectively on grants and papers and this year both were successful with NHMRC grants through the Centre, as well as with other grants and activities that they undertook.

All of the Centre's scientific activities, while funded by grants from external sources are also underpinned by infrastructure funding that the Centre acquires through the donations from individuals within the Tasmanian community. This year has been an exceptional year for donations having surpassed \$200,000 in general donations from the community for the first time. In addition the Centre has been fortunate enough to acquire two very large in memoriam gifts. The Arthur and Mary Paton Bequest has provided \$285,000 to the Centre's research programs and \$100,000 from an anonymous bequest has added to this.

Over twelve months ago the Centre was reviewed and one of the recommendations was that the Centre needed to develop greater depth in its scientific leadership. This goal has been pursued with the slightly increased resources that we have acquired principally through public donations. However, this process needs to continue. To achieve the critical mass needed to improve international positioning

of the Centre in the coming years, further money from the public, the government and University will need to be attracted.

The increased level of success the Centre has been experiencing is based on a very strong contribution from the staff in the Centre, but has also been greatly augmented by the contributions of the Board members who, over the years, have become very committed to the Centre. These individuals devote a great deal of personal energy to the Centre's development.

Report from the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, London

The 1998-99 academic year was a momentous one for the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies in London. The undoubted highlight was the announcement in the Federal Budget in May 1999 of a government endowment grant to the Menzies Centre of \$A5 million. This grant was contingent upon the Centre's becoming immediately self-sustaining, a circumstance made possible by the Centre's moving to King's College London from 1 August 1999. This move provides much-needed research and teaching income and also enables the Centre to share some of its teaching space with the new Monash University Centre in Europe, itself to be based at King's. The new financial arrangements mean that the Menzies Centre will serve the Australian, British and other European universities and the wider public better than ever before.

Professor Carl Bridge, Head of Centre, and Dr Susan Pfisterer, a cultural historian and playwright from Southern Cross University who came as Centre Lecturer in September 1998, both remain in post. Ms Meg Mitchell (of the Department of Family and Community Services) was Public Service Fellow from April 1998 to July 1999. In addition, Dr Craig Wilcox, formerly of the Australian War Memorial, was Rydon Fellow and Australian Bicentennial Fellow at the Centre from October to April, working on a history of the Australians in the Boer War.

Ms Edel Mahony completed her PhD on "A Place in England called Australia: British Perceptions of Australia between the wars", and two new M Phil/PhD students began work: Mr Richard Whittington on "The Politicisation of Australian Archaeology" and Mr Glenn Calderwood on "The Catholic Church in Australia and Quebec during the Great War."

The 1999 Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture was given by Dr Penny Russell (Sydney University) on "Displaced Loyalties: Vice-regal Women in Colonial Australia". Arrangements for the Menzies Memorial Lecture are still being made.

Conferences held included:

- * 'Australia's and New Zealand's Roles in Future Conflicts' (at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, sponsored by British Aerospace Australia)
- * 'The Federal Election'
- * 'Sydney 2000, Britain Nil?: Australian and British Sporting Traditions into the 21st Century' (with De Montfort University)
- * 'Australia and Britain: Comparing Two Democracies in Total War' (with the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst)
- * 'Recording the South African War' (with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London)
- * 'Australian Cultural Gatekeepers and Les Murray' (both with the British Australian Studies Association)
- * 'Securing the Future: New Partnerships in Social Welfare' (with the Department of Family and Community Services), and
- * 'Sir Joseph Banks and Australian Science, the 1999 Lincoln Dialogue'.

There was a lively weekly seminar, and Literary Links at Australia House included readings by Bernard Cohen, Tom Keneally and Angus Strachan. Two "Australia Updates" business briefings were held. Two Menzies Centre History Studentships were awarded, and, as usual, some fifteen scholars and fellows were appointed

under the Australian Bicentennial, Northcote, and Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts schemes.

Distinguished visitors to the Centre included Senator David Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), Senator Jocelyn Newman (Minister for Family and Community Services), Senators Bob McMullen, Margaret Reynolds, and Chris Schacht, retired US Ambassador Richard W. Teare, and Mr Gadgil Djerrkura, Chair of ATSIC.

Menzies Foundation's Executive Director, Professor John Coghlan, met with Professor Carl Bridge during his visit to London in June 1999.

The Menzies Foundation Lectures

In 1999, the Menzies Foundation sponsored two Menzies Lectures held conjointly with other organisations.

ScienceNOW!

The first Menzies Foundation lecture for 1999 was the ScienceNOW! plenary lecture held during Science Week on 6 May. The guest lecturer was Ms Laurie Garrett, a former president of the National Association of Science Writers who extensively covered the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic for National Public Radio. Ms Garratt is now a feature writer on Newsday, a daily paper in New York and the author of *The Coming Plague*, a well received book about emerging diseases worldwide. Her lecture centred on an analysis of deteriorating public health measures in modern-day Russia and our own complacency about public health. The Chair for the lecture was Sir Gustav Nossal.

Ms Laurie Garrett, ScienceNOW! guest lecturer

Ms Laurie Garrett

Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine

Dr Mark Schena and Professor Tony Linnane The second public lecture sponsored by the Foundation in 1999 was held in association with the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine on 19 October. The lecture entitled "Current and Future Trends in the Application of DNA Microarray Technology" was delivered by Dr Mark Schena from California.

Dr Schena is one of the pioneers in microarray gene technology and its application to functional genomics. He is the editor of DNA Microarrays - a Practical Approach.

Dr Mark Schena with Professor Tony Linnane, Director of the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine

The Menzies Oration on Higher Education

Sir Robert 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. Publication of each Oration is also an objective.

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

1994 The Honourable Nick Greiner

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

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 eighth Oration entitled "Governors, Democracy and the Rule of Law" was delivered on 29 October, 1999 by the Honourable Sir Guy Green, Governor of Tasmania and Chief Justice of Tasmania from 1973 to 1995. Through presentations and publications, Sir Guy has strongly defended judicial independence, the principles involved and the related questions of responsibility of courts for their own administration and their relationship with the Executive Government.

The Foundation was represented by its Chairman, the Honourable Sir Daryl Dawson and by Mr Alex Menzies, grandson of Sir Robert, who presented the Menzies Foundation Medal to Sir Guy.

Prof Alan Gilbert, Sir Guy Green and Sir Edward Woodward

The 1999 Orator, His Excellency, the Honourable Sir Guy Green, Governor of Tasmania (centre), with the Honourable Sir Edward Woodward, Chancellor, the University of Melbourne (right) and Professor Alan Gilbert, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Melbourne

The Menzies Memorial Scholars Alumni Association

President's Report

1999 was a year of consolidation for the Alumni. As was indicated in last year's annual report, the Alumni now occupy five of the 13 seats on the Board and are progressively building on the contribution they can make to the future of the Foundation. With the election of Associate Professor William Rawlinson to the office of President of the Alumni Association and his assumption of my seat on the Board, we now have three medical and two law scholars on the Board.

The Tenth Annual meeting of the Alumni Association was held at Clarendon Terrace on 25 November 1999 and was attended by 16 Alumni. The meeting saw a number of long standing items of work in progress for the Alumni brought to fruition including the finalisation of a Guide for New Scholars, agreement upon the constituent elements for a written constitution for the Alumni and the adoption of an Alumni Association Mission Statement. The text of the mission statement is reproduced below.

Other matters dealt with at the Annual meeting included a review of the destinations at which a Menzies medical scholarship might be taken up, the continuance of the Dimboola Prize and future plans for the next Alumni Symposium. Formal votes of thanks were extended to Professor John Coghlan and to Ms Sandra Mackenzie for their assistance to Alumni over the previous twelve months and an election of new office bearers saw Associate Professor William Rawlinson elected as President and Mr Simon Hannaford elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the Alumni Association.

Mark Darian-Smith then welcomed Sir Daryl Dawson, Messrs Mike Codd and Peter Henderson and Professor John Coghlan and the matters debated and agreed by the Alumni were outlined and discussed further.

My two year period as President of the Alumni Association has seen it grow in strength and really start to realise what all of the returned scholars fondly hope will be its active role in the life of the Foundation in the years to come.

Mark Darian-Smith

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 \$1,000 to the first year of study. This cost is met by the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholars Alumni Association.

This year the Prize was awarded to Rita Moore. Ms Moore attended the Dimboola Memorial Secondary College from 1997-1998 as a mature age student and was awarded the 1998 Year 12 Scholastic Award. Other awards have included the 1997 and 1998 Citizenship Certificates. Ms Moore made an outstanding contribution to the life of the College through her involvement in the College's musical production and a number of academic competitions. She has enrolled for a Bachelor of Arts/Science Degree at Monash University.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MENZIES MEMORIAL SCHOLARS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Menzies Foundation, an apolitical charitable enterprise, was established in 1979 to develop appropriate forms of national memorial in honour of Sir Robert Menzies, for the benefit of the Australian community. Its activities include supporting the funding and/or administration of many different activities with the aim of improving the lives of Australians.

The Menzies Alumni are part of the living legacy to the ideals embodied by Sir Robert Menzies. They are an apolitical group of professionals and ex-scholars who

support, and contribute to, the aims of the Menzies Foundation. They provide assistance to the Menzies Foundation in relation to the Menzies scholarships where necessary and provide support to new scholars. The Alumni aims to be an important part of the future of the Menzies Foundation, and to put the aims of the Menzies Foundation into practice within the community.

The Second Menzies Alumni Symposium

The Establishment of a National Tissue Processing Centre in Australia

The Second Menzies Alumni Symposium was initiated by Associate Professor David Morgan who was the Menzies Memorial Medical Scholar to the UK in 1985. Thirty participants gathered at Clarendon Terrace for the "summit meeting" which was held on 11 November, 1999.

The deliberations were helped by an international expert, Dr Michael Strong, Director of Operations, Puget Sound Blood Centre/National Tissue Centre, Seattle, who made an outstanding contribution. The participants were a good cross-section of the "Tissue Bank Fraternity" and there were some excellent presentations including one by Menzies Scholar, Dr Stephen Graves.

At the final session, chaired by Professor John Coghlan, the meeting reached a consensus view "that it was timely for more extensive collaboration and co-operation (networking) between tissue banks, and that central processing be explored as a high priority".

It had been shown at the meeting that the primary benefits of centralisation revolve around the avoidance of duplication of effort, the ability to purchase and maintain equipment of the highest technical calibre, the development of international excellence in terms of the processes being employed, and the manufacture of a much greater range of graft types and tissues. Whilst the cost benefit analysis was difficult, indications from the United States were suggestive that significant savings could be made. Available data confirmed the financial efficacy of increasing the size

of the central unit with a concomitant increase in donors being recruited and tissue processed.

Additional benefits were also identified. These included improved basic and applied research and development efforts in particular in biomaterials, the education and training of post-graduates in tissue banking, more effective national donor awareness and recruitment programs, and the formulation of a national graft data base. The subsequent export of technical experience and advice, and possible processing for overseas centres, were also addressed. Improved information flows in this fast evolving field, DNA data collection into national data base, better assessment of outcomes, better information sharing regarding new technologies would be encouraged.

The Foundation has recommended to the Minister for Health and Aged Care that a working party be established to progress tissue banks to the next stage through a proposal to the Health Advisory Committee of the NHMRC. The proceedings of the meeting are available on CD-ROM and on the Foundation's web site.

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