PROMOTING THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF AUSTRALIAN LEADERS

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIA’S
FUTURE LEADERS
MENZIES FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO ADDRESS AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES. JOIN US AS WE STRIVE TO RAISE THE PROFILE AND IMPORTANCE OF ‘OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP’ FOR AUSTRALIA.

Learn more
The Menzies Foundation supports leaders who have the capacity to make catalytic change to improve Australia’s future.

Established in 1979 to perpetuate the legacy of Sir Robert Menzies, Australia’s longest serving Prime Minister, the Foundation has a track record in backing outstanding leaders.

Over it’s first 40 years the Foundation awarded over 230 scholarships and made significant grants to support medical research. The impact of this investment is manifest in our Alumni who continue to tackle key community challenges – from mental health, cancer and autism, to global human rights issues and the climate change.

Following a strategic review, in 2018 the Foundation moved toward a more catalytic model of practice to raise the profile and importance of ‘outstanding’ leadership, build leadership capability and highlight the importance of service to the community.

VISION

Raise the profile and importance of ‘outstanding’ leadership for Australia

OUR FOCUS

// Build on the legacy of Sir Robert Menzies
// Develop a contemporary understanding of ‘outstanding leadership’
// Encourage Australians to reflect on leadership, build their own leadership capability and contribute to the community.

PURPOSE

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Learn more
AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

MENZIES ABIDING QUALITIES

Integrity
Strong Values
Humanity
Regard for all Australians
Pride in our nation
Service

Entrepreneurial
Adaptive
Purpose Led
Empathetic
Global disposition
Comfort in complexity
Resilient

CONTEMPORARY LEADERSHIP ATTRIBUTES
STRATEGY AND DIRECTION

The Menzies Foundation aspires to support leaders and leadership initiatives with the capacity to make catalytic changes to improve Australia’s future.

To achieve this, the Foundation identifies strategic areas of focus and support initiatives that:

// Build collaboration platforms to harness partnership expertise and resources for impact
// Build incubators to develop innovation pipelines
// Codify the insights and disseminate the learnings with others to develop systemic interventions to scale the initiatives.

Learn more

KEY FOCUS AREAS

// LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOLS
// ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SCIENCE
// GUIDING AUSTRALIA’S RESPONSE TO COMPLEX GLOBAL LEGAL ISSUES
// INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP
// ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN YOUTH
// CITIZEN LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
Leadership is contentious. As we strive to raise the profile and importance of 'outstanding' leadership for Australia, the Foundation contributes to the leadership discourse by garnering insights from contemporary leaders to inform this debate.

**MENZIES LEADERSHIP FORUM**

A virtual space of rich content including podcasts and videos, showcasing leaders as they reflect on their own leadership and the challenges they face as leaders.

[Learn more](#)

**SYSTEMS ENGINEERING FOR NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP**

The Foundation is partnering with ANU Distinguished Professor Genevieve Bell, Director of the 3A Institute, to develop an intensive leadership program for an AI future. Focused on the cutting edge of understanding the skills and capabilities required for this future, the program will focus on the type of leader and leadership attributes required to lead in an increasingly connected, complex and adaptive world.

[Learn more](#)

**LEADERSHIP HACKATHON**

Partnering with Swinburne University's Social Innovation Research Institute the Foundation is collaborating with Adam Jacoby, Director Global and Strategic Innovation, to develop an annual leadership hackathon to bring together 50 leading Australians from different sectors to consider Leadership Design in a Globalised, Digitised, Tribal World.

The 2-day Hackathon will focus on the current state of leadership, consider the leadership attributes and capabilities Australians require to lead in a global context and report out to inform the Australian leadership discourse.

[Learn more](#)
LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOLS

MENZIES SCHOOL LEADER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Education in Australia is falling behind other OECD countries and is failing to adequately prepare our young people for the future. School leadership is critical to making improvements to schools — and, yet, there is a critical shortage of school leaders. Why?

In partnership with the Collier Charitable Fund, The Menzies School Leader Fellowship Program is a high powered collaboration between the Menzies Foundation, Australian Centre of Educational Research, Clear Horizon Consulting, Angela Mina Consulting and Ernst & Young.

The Fellowship Program is central to a dynamic incubator process, directly addressing a critical leadership gap in education and is working to influence different parts of the system to create a pipeline of talented school leaders who have the tools they need to confidently build collective efficacy within their schools and across the education system.

Learn more

GUIDING AUSTRALIA’S RESPONSE TO COMPLEX GLOBAL LAW ISSUES

ANU NINIAN STEPHEN CYBER LAW PROGRAM

In 2019 the Foundation confirmed a 3 year partnership with ANU Cyber Institute and ANU College of Law to position the ANU Ninian Stephen Cyber Law Program to collaboratively build legal capability in the ASEAN and Indo-Pacific region to understand and apply norms for the responsible behavior of states in cyberspace.

The inaugural ANU NINIAN STEPHEN CYBER LAW PROGRAM includes the following elements:

• An immersive training platform based on real time, problem-centered cyber law challenges in ASEAN
• A research agenda to support the development of the training program and contribute to knowledge in the field
• A thought leadership platform to develop a community of interest and encourage discourse across the community of interested stakeholders
• An oration and speaker series

Learn more
MENZIES SCIENCE ENTREPRENEUR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In partnership with the Medtech Actuator, the Foundation is incubating a ‘talent investor’ approach which supports high potential science entrepreneurs to transition from institutional contexts and navigate the ‘funding and resource cliff’ between research and the development of investable enterprises.

The key objectives of the Menzies Science Entrepreneur Fellowship Program are to:

• Anchor a collaborative partnership to build a great understanding of what helps and hinders Australian science start-ups and share these insights to contribute to knowledge regarding the opportunities, barriers and impediments in Australian science entrepreneurship.

• Support outstanding science entrepreneurs in the early stages of commercialisation to take their science to scale

• Improve Australia’s innovation performance by helping aspiring scientists to build their entrepreneurial competencies and more effectively collaborate with industry and the broader innovation system

Learn more

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SCIENCE

INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MENZIES INDIGENOUS WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEUR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Indigenous issues continue to be one of the key leadership challenges for Australia.

In addition, there is growing international support for platforms focused on women’s economic empowerment to support women to help themselves, support their families and communities, connect to markets and access financial services.

Collaborating with Good Return, and others including Associate Professor Michelle Evans, Program Director MURRA Indigenous Business Class Program and Kimberley Jiyigas, the Foundation is delighted to be anchoring a collaboration to support entrepreneurial Indigenous women in the Kimberley.

Learn more
**YOUTH CONVERSATION**

The Foundation will launch the Menzies Youth Leadership Conversation, in partnership with The Ethics Centre in 2020. This initiative will use cultural probes to explore VCE students response to the ethical issues considered in the Year 11 and 12 English texts. A selected group of these young people and English teachers will come together to develop resources to support a deeper engagement with ethics and consider ways to develop the enquiry and action learning methodology to build insight and ethical capability.

Discussions are underway with Associate Professor John Bruce, Parson's School of Design. New University to bring global expertise to the use of cultural probes and design thinking insight to develop the artifacts and communication strategy to support this conversation with Year 11 and 12 students across Australia.

Learn more

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**CITIZEN LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

In partnership with Collaboration for Impact, the Foundation is delighted to collaborate on an initiative that supports the role of citizen leadership in building community resilience in bushfire and now, coronavirus affected communities.

Menzies Foundation is responding to this challenge by working with Collaboration for Impact to review and synthesize existing research on citizen leadership, work with bush fire and coronavirus affected communities to understand the impact of citizen leadership on community resilience and then developing a set of guidelines and implementation plans for empowering citizen leadership and enhancing community resilience to crisis and disaster. The initiative will develop a repository of resources to support citizen leaders and their communities more broadly.

Learn more
2018 was an exciting year for the Menzies Foundation. As we reflected on and celebrated the Foundation's first 40 years of operation, we continued to develop the strategic framework to build platforms for our work for the decades to come. Importantly, this process required consideration of the Foundation’s grant making philosophy. It also required a deeper understanding of our Theory of Philanthropy and its implications for the approach we will take to support our three strategic focus areas: entrepreneurship in science; school leadership to support improved student learning outcomes; and supporting law specialists’ responses to global issues. Our work in regard to these initiatives is discussed in this Annual Report.

An important focus for the year was the celebration of the Foundation’s 40th anniversary. A wonderful dinner was held at the Melbourne Museum to celebrate this milestone, attended by many who have been supported by the Foundation over its first 40 years, as well as partners who will shape and define the Foundation’s future. We were delighted to launch a video commemorating our first 40 years and an online resource called Taking the lead: 40 stories of impact, which showcased 40 stories that reflect on the achievements of our scholars and the initiatives we have supported over the past four decades.

Another very significant event was the relocation of the Foundation from Clarendon Terrace in East Melbourne to The Commons in South Melbourne. The Menzies Foundation has had a long association with Clarendon Terrace and careful thought was given to ensuring that memorabilia were housed appropriately. We were delighted that the University of Melbourne agreed to archive the Foundation’s records to ensure the organisation’s historical legacy is preserved.

During 2018 there were a number of changes to the Board of Directors. Peter Jopling AM QC was appointed as Chair of the Foundation in February. Chris Butler joined the Board in December 2017 as Treasurer and Company Secretary. Unfortunately, Chris retired in September due to ill health and sadly died in October. Chris did a significant amount of work to support the Foundation's transition to new investment management arrangements and the Foundation was very grateful for his contribution.

Diana Menzies retired from the Board after 10 years of dedicated service to the Foundation, and her uncle John Menzies joined the Board in February. Kathryn Greiner AO, Tony Surtees and Glyn Davis AC also joined the Board during the year, and the Foundation is delighted that the transition to our new strategic platform will benefit from the experience and wisdom of these eminent Australians. Additionally, there have been a number of staff changes. At the beginning of the year, Liz Gillies was appointed as CEO, replacing Sarah Hardy. Communications Manager Kate Nolan, who made a significant contribution to the 40th anniversary celebrations and the rebranding of the Foundation, resigned in July.

Most importantly, we would like to acknowledge our donors and supporters who continue to invest in our work. We very much look forward to working with you and future partners to support the leaders of tomorrow.