

Newsletter

Menzies Centre for Australian Studies

Issue 72 • April 2008

Head's message

The other day a thousand or so people, mostly Australians, crowded into the Peacock Theatre at LSE to hear Kevin Rudd speak on his first official visit to the UK as Prime Minister. He surveyed the world situation, paying much attention to security, the international banking crisis, China and climate change, but in a reply to a question at the end he appealed to the young Australian 'leaders of tomorrow' present to get qualified and experienced and then get home, as the country needs them! He need not be too worried: current research, including some by Monash Fellow Robert Crawford at the Menzies Centre, shows that these 'gold collar' professionals are boomerang workers who, statistically, return to Australia after two years or so. Furthermore, many of their British equivalents are travelling in the other direction. It's a very healthy brain circulation — not a brain drain — to the mutual benefit of each country.

This term we welcome from the University of Melbourne Rebe Taylor as Menzies Foundation Fellow and Joo-Cheong Tham as Rydon Fellow. Forthcoming Centre events include the fourth 'Digger and the Larrikin Live On' conference at the Imperial War Museum, the literary symposium 'Antipodean Animal', a Menzies-Advance briefing with Hugh Mackay and others on 'The Rudd Government, six months on', and a symposium on the regulation of state funding of political parties in Britain and Australia.

Carl Bridge

Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture

The Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture for 2008 was delivered on 29 January by Dr Simon Potter of the National University of Ireland, Galway on 'Elitism, the ABC and the BBC, c. 1922-1970'. Dr Potter, who is the author of *News and the British world: the emergence of an imperial press system 1876-1922* (Oxford University Press, 2003) is an Oxford graduate and a leading historian of the British World. His lecture traced the shared history of public broadcasting in Britain and Australia.

Public broadcasting was a product not only of the new technology that facilitated it, but the rise of a democratic form of government that seemed to demand equal access to the 'best in every department of human knowledge, endeavour and achievement'. Yet for the BBC's founding Director General John Reith and many of those influenced by him, democracy in broadcasting did not imply that the masses should play any role in deciding what should be broadcast. They were to be consumers of a product made available to them by an elite qualified to decide what would provide cultural uplift. Reith, promoted this Arnoldian view of culture.

Contents

Head's message.....	1
Reese Lecture.....	1
Staff activities.....	2
Conferences.....	4
Seminars.....	8



Dr Simon Potter, the 2008 Reese Lecturer

After the ABC was founded in 1932, it too was influenced by the Reithian ideal, but in Australia's particular circumstances — where the public broadcaster, unlike its British counterpart, lacked a monopoly — the consequences were rather different. Australia developed a hybrid system of broadcasting that combined US and British models and required the ABC to compete with commercial stations. The result was a distinctively Australian system, although one that reflected the nation's status as part of the British World. In these circumstances, Australian public broadcasting was only able to acquire limited market-share and the ABC's close relationship to the BBC, which involved not only a shared philosophy but also shared programming and even, notoriously, shared English accents — was seen as usefully leavening US cultural influence. Australian broadcasting's connection with the empire seemed to provide 'a bulwark against growing American cultural power, rather than a conduit for malign British influence'.

Dr Potter argued that the Reithian ideal, despite obvious flaws which included a deeply equivocal attitude to democracy, was a legitimate response to the problem of how to maintain standards in the context of the rise of democracy, mass culture and Americanisation. It revealed itself adaptable to the Australian environment and, in both Britain and Australia, to be sufficiently flexible to respond to the changed circumstances provided by a world at war and its aftermath. In an age when both public broadcasting

and the problem of 'standards' remain the subject of fierce public debate, we might still be able to learn something from the Reithian ideal. Certainly, many of the dilemmas with which Reith and those in Britain and Australia influenced by him were grappling, remain with us today.

The full published version of Dr Potter's lecture will soon be available from the Menzies Centre for £3. Enquiries to kirsten.mcintyre@kcl.ac.uk.

Staff activities

Frank Bongiorno

Jan presented seminar on the Russel Ward-Humphrey McQueen debate in the Menzies Centre seminar series; organised and led a class in Menzies Centre for Australian and New Zealand Politics students from University of Sussex, also hosting Mr Ian Campbell, the Australian Electoral Commissioner ; attended Australia Day function in High Commission; examined PhD thesis, University of Melbourne; gave vote of thanks, for Dr Simon Potter, Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture; submitted articles on Ward-McQueen debate and on Australian Election 2007 for publication in refereed journals; article on Australian Great War historiography co-written with Grant Mansfield published in *History Compass*. *Feb* met with Dr Robin Archer (LSE); interviewed by the *Scotsman*, *Dziennik* (Warsaw), BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio 4 *Today* Program and CNN on Apology to Stolen Generations; advised BBC Science Department team working on series looking at how homo sapiens spread across the world on early exploration of Australia; met with Kristyn Ohandja (Advance Global Professionals); advised on book proposal for academic publisher; met with Toby Haggith (Imperial War Museum) for planning session on Digger and Larrikin Live On event in April; submitted book chapter on the coming of the contraceptive pill to Australia to edited collection on crucial moments in Australian history to be published by UNSW Press. *Mar* met John Preston and Brendan Donnelly from Federal Union to plan event on Australian Federalism; met Dr Nick Brown (ANU/National Museum of Australia); interviewed by Ben Godfrey (BBC TV Midlands) and Tony Fisher on British migration to Australia in the 1950s. *Apr* submitted grant application to British Academy; attended Kevin Rudd Lecture at LSE; interviewed by media students from University of Lincoln on British migration to Australia; examined thesis for Monash University; attended Periphery Strikes Back seminar at Canada House; presented seminar on Russel Ward's *The Australian Legend* in Institute of Historical Research Imperial History seminar; met with Nigel Warwick, (New England) and Lynda Ng, (New South

Wales); gave paper at 'The Digger and Larrikin Live On' conference, Imperial War Museum.

Carl Bridge

Jan attended our student Katherine Haydon's successful PhD viva; attended Australia Day reception at the High Commission; introduced the Reese Lecturer. *Feb* lectured the Historical Association (Surrey Branch) on 'The Fall of Singapore'; interviewed by CNN on Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to the Aborigines; completed proofs of *A Delicate Mission: the Washington Diaries of R.G. Casey, 1940-2* to be published by the National Library of Australia; attended our student Roger Beckett's successful PhD viva; attended the High Commissioner Richard Alston's farewell tea. *Mar* met Katherine Campbell, Education Counsellor at Australia's Brussels Embassy; visited the University of Copenhagen for an editorial meeting with Assoc. Prof. Stuart Ward and Dr Stephen Ashton concerning the volume in the Documents on Australian Foreign Policy series on Australia-Britain relations, 1960-75 we are editing for DFAT; signed a contract with Haus Publishing to write a short biography of Billy Hughes. *Apr* attended lecture by the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the LSE; co-judged the Britain-Australia Society Arthur Phillip Essay Competition; published 'Capitalising on Cricket [on Bradman's Centenary] in *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, 2008*; spoke at the Canadian High Commission at a symposium comparing the Oxford History of the British Empire Canadian and Australian volumes; opened 'The Digger and the Larrikin Live On' conference at the Imperial War Museum; assessed a book proposal for Cambridge University Press Australia; attended Anzac Day services at the Cenotaph and Westminster Abbey and the reception at Australia House.

Robert Crawford

Jan book published – *But Wait There's More: A History of Australian Advertising, 1900-2000* (Melbourne University Press, Melbourne: 2008); interviewed by ABC Radio 702 Sydney, 2GB Radio Sydney, ABC Radio 105.7 Darwin, ABC Radio 594 Western Victoria, 2UE Radio Sydney, ABC Radio 936 Hobart, ABC Radio 891 Adelaide; met with Professor John Nieuwenhuysen (Monash), Associate Professor Kim Humphery (RMIT), Associate Professor Judith Smart (Melbourne); presented paper on the 'Holden' at 'National Symbols' symposium, University of Sydney. *Feb* interviewed by ABC Radio 774 Melbourne, Business Break Radio, ABC Radio 105.7 Alice Springs, 6PR FM Perth; met with Professor Graeme Davison (Monash), Professor Joy Damousi (Melbourne), Dr David Dunstan (Monash), Dr Tom Heenan (Monash), Dr Amanda Mcleod (Melbourne);

co-edited *Reviews in Australian Studies* vol.2 no.10. *Mar* interviewed by Triple J Radio, 3AW Radio Melbourne; article published – 'Latvians in Sydney', *Sydney Journal*, vol.1 no.1, pp.80-3; met with John Battersby (SA Marketing); presented paper on 'Advertising and Film' at Australian Film Symposium, Barbican; completed chapter 'Going OS for the OE: Australians, New Zealanders, and South Africans in Contemporary London' for Carl Bridge and David Dunstan (eds), *Australians in Britain: The Twentieth Century Experience*, Monash e-Press, Melbourne 2008. *Apr* interviewed by *Sunday Times*, www.24.co.za, *SA Times*; visited Monash South Africa; met with Professor Dina Burger, Professor Iain Edwards, Hester Stols, Dr Braam Van der Vyver, Priscilla Appama, Dr Pieter Duvenage, Dr Linda Venter and Dr Rose-Marie Bezuidenhout (Monash South Africa); met with Megan Woods and Martine Schaffer (Homecoming Revolution); co-edited *Reviews in Australian Studies* vol.3 no.1; attended public lecture by Kevin Rudd, Australian Prime Minister, at LSE, met with Kjarten Sveinsson and Anne Garmusch (Runnymede Trust).

Ian Henderson

Jan submitted three articles, on Rolf de Heer's and Peter Djiggir's *Ten Canoes* (2006), on Miles Franklin's *My Brilliant Career* (1901) and on Jack Davis's *The Dreamers* (1982); visited Science Museum for research on the early science of reading; attended Paul Sheehan lecture on animals and film at the Institute of Contemporary Art; interviewed by Colourful Radio on Tasmanian Stolen Generations compensation case; attended Australia Day reception at Australia House. *Feb* examined PhD from the University of Wales; convened Australian film symposium as part of the Barbican London Australian Film Festival. *Mar* spoke at English Department Open Day. *Apr* co-organised 'The Digger and Larrikin Live On' at the Imperial War Museum, giving a paper on Aboriginality and war in Indigenous literature and film; met with Dr David Clover (ICS) and Gavin Pascoe (British Library) in preparation for next ANZLAG workshop; hosted UK launch of John Kinsella's *Shades of the Sublime and Beautiful* and Alexis Wright's *Carpentaria*; hosted reading by Emily Ballou who read from her new Darwin poems.

Rydon Fellow

Joo-Cheong Tham

Dr Joo-Cheong Tham, Senior Lecturer at the Melbourne Law School, joins the Centre as the Rydon Fellow for 2008. He is undertaking a comparative study of Australian and UK court decisions dealing with control orders. Together with Professor Keith Ewing, King's College London and Jacob Rowbottom, Law Faculty, Cambridge, he is also organising an international workshop on political finance to be held in May 2008.



Dr Joo-Cheong Tham

Menzies Foundation Fellow

Rebe Taylor

Dr Rebe Taylor is Australian Research Council Fellow at the Australian Centre, School of Historical Studies at the University of Melbourne. Her project looks at the history of Tasmanian Aboriginal People in the scientific imagination, with particular focus on the early twentieth to early twenty-first centuries.

As a Menzies Foundation Fellow she will be turning her attention to the 19th century and will study two museum collections of Tasmanian artefacts and papers: the Tasmanian holdings in the British Museum, London and the Helder Wedge Collection in Saffron Walden Museum, near Cambridge. She also aims to survey additional Tasmanian holdings in museums in Cambridge, London, Oxford and Edinburgh.

Rebe did her PhD at the Australian National University, including six months in Oxford on exchange when she was a Menzies Australian Bicentennial Scholar (in 2000). She also wrote a book called *Unearthed: the Aboriginal Tasmanians of Kangaroo Island* (Wakefield), which won two national awards.

Conference reports

Barbican London Australian Film Festival

6-16 March 2008

The film festival was a great success as ever, and this year included the first of what we hope will be an annual symposium on Australian film co-organised by the Menzies Centre and taking place at the Barbican on Saturday 8 March. Dr Jonathan Rayner (Sheffield) gave a keynote paper on 'Adapting Australian Film: Ray Lawrence, from *Bliss* to *Jindabyne*'. Other papers were given by Silvana Tuccio (Melbourne) on *Home Song Stories*, Dr Robert Crawford (KCL) on links between the advertising and film industries, and Dr Cath Ellis on whiteness and Australian cinema. Dr Anna Cole (Griffith and Goldsmiths) gave an insightful paper on making collaborative cinema and showed a tantalizing section of her documentary on the Aboriginal debutant balls of the 1960s, a film which will be completed this year. Twenty attended. If you are interested in participating in next year's symposium, which will probably take place around 7 March 2009, please contact ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk



Dr Rebe Taylor

Forthcoming conferences

The Digger and the Larrikin live on

Anzac Weekend at the Imperial War Museum London 26-27 April 2008

A weekend of films, talks and readings exploring the impact of military conflict on the political and cultural identity of Australia and New Zealand.

In previous years (the programme was run in 2004, 2005 & 2006) we have re-examined the Gallipoli campaign and the Anzac legend that it inspired; looked at Australian war poetry; screened and discussed a range of Australian and New Zealand films and filmmakers; examined war memorials and Australian war art; and had readings from plays such as *Once on Chunuk Bair* and *The One Day of the Year*.

Along with our regular examination of the Gallipoli campaign itself, this year we are focusing on the ways in which the military experience of Australians and New Zealanders has been remembered in public and institutional arenas.

Topics and speakers:

- Helles: the Real Fight for Gallipoli (Peter Hart, IWM)
- The unknown protagonists: nursing and the Gallipoli campaign (Sarah Paterson, IWM)
- Battle dioramas in the Australian War Memorial (Anne-Marie Condé, AWM)
- Military iconography in the jewellery and decorative arts of New Zealand (Sarah Davy)
- Historical re-enactment in contemporary Australia (Stephen Gapps, Historica Ltd, Canberra)
- 'Aboriginality, Ethnicity and National Identity: War and Society in Australia.' (Frank Bongiorno, Menzies Centre)
- Behind Enemy Lines: Aboriginality and War in Jack Davis's *Kullark* (1982) and Sally Morgan's *My Place* (1987) (Ian Henderson, Menzies Centre)
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War memorial on Mount Ainslie (Anne Brennan, ANU)
- The New Korean Gallery at the AWM (Garth Pratten, RMA Sandhurst)

Further details of the programme and the final list of speakers can be found at

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/diggerlarrikin>

One-day tickets: £15.00 per day or £7.50 FIWM & concessions

Two-day tickets: £25.00 or £12.00 FIWM & concessions

Tickets can be booked by calling the Box Office on 020 7416 5439 or by email at boxoffice@iwm.org.uk

Federalism in Australia: How much have we learnt from experience?

6 pm 11 June 2008

The Menzies Centre, in conjunction with the Federal Union, invite you to a conversazione on: 'Federalism in Australia: How much have we learnt from experience?' The key speaker will be Dr Frank Bongiorno, Menzies Centre.

Venue: Australian High Commission, Australia House, Strand, London WC2B 4LA. The doors will open at 6 pm for a 6.30 pm start.

Enquiries: info@federalunion.org.uk

Antipodean Animal

7-8 July 2008

This conference explores animals and animality in Australian or New Zealand literature, theory, film, television, philosophy, history, and culture. It will enable researchers to consider how concepts of animality can energise research in Australian studies and to investigate the 'special case' of Antipodean animals in philosophies of animality.

Confirmed keynote speakers:

- Professor Steve Baker (Central Lancashire) on animals in contemporary Australian art
- Dr Libby Robin (ANU) on the emu in the Australian imagination
- Associate Professor Deb Verhoeven (RMIT) on Lewis Milestone's *Kangaroo*

Dr Catherine Bell will also discuss and screen her performance art work. Registration at door £40/£20

More information contact ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk



Changing Australia

2-5 September 2008, Egham
British Australian Studies Association Biennial conference

Australia is ever changing – culturally, politically, economically, artistically, historically, and geographically – and this conference seeks to investigate, and interrogate, some of those changes. How and why has Australia, and Australian culture, changed? What changes are in process now? And what changes are anticipated in the future? How has the international image of Australia changed, as well as the clichés and stereotypes? How have the lives of Australians changed, and how do they continue to change? How is the definition of what it is to be ‘an Australian’ changing?

For more information see

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/menzies/basa/conf2008.html>

Contact: Professor Elizabeth Schafer (RHUL)
E.Schafer@rhul.ac.uk

William Beveridge's *Voluntary Action* 60 years on

27-28 November 2008, London

In the 60th anniversary year of the publication of William Beveridge's *Voluntary Action* a symposium, with the Voluntary History Society, will be held to re-evaluate the ideas contained in the report and reassess its impact on the UK and other countries in the British World, especially Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Speakers include: Frank Prochaska (Yale), Jose Harris (Oxford), Nick Deakin, Pat Thane (London), Jill Roe (Macquarie), Margaret Tennant (Massey), Dan Weinbren (Open), Peter Elson (Toronto), Paul Smyth (Melbourne), Melanie Oppenheimer (UWS), Karl Wilding and Ann Blackmore (NCVO).

Conveners: Associate Professor Melanie Oppenheimer, UWS, m.oppenheimer@uws.edu.au; Georgina Brewis, Voluntary History Society; and Dr Frank Bongiorno, Menzies Centre, frank.bongiorno@kcl.ac.uk
Venue: Australia House, London, WC2
Registration fee: £50 waged; £35 unwaged.

Patrick White

January 2010
Call for expressions of interest

To note that the Menzies Centre will be hosting an international conference on Patrick White in January 2010, to mark the twentieth anniversary of White's death.

Expressions of interest in this conference are invited by Dr Henderson. Contact: ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk

Publications

Centre publications

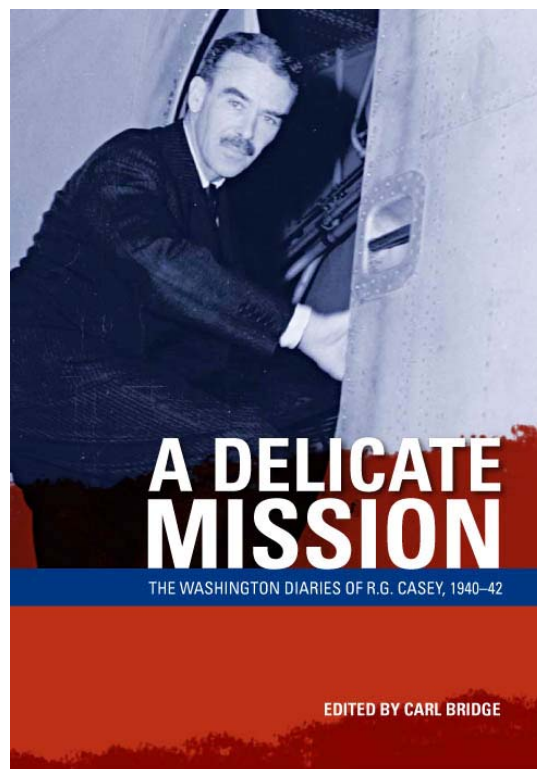
Available from the Menzies Centre office for £3.00 each (cheques payable to King's College London):

The 2007 Menzies Lecture, *Leigh Clifford, Bridging London and the Outback*

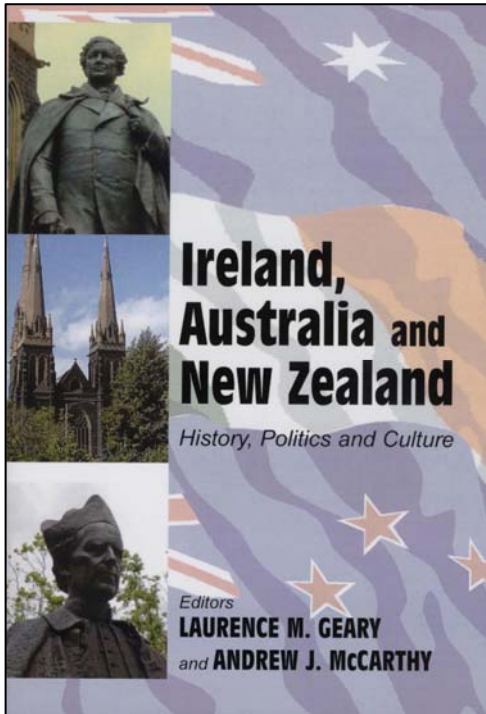
The 2007 Trevor Reese Memorial Lecture, Andrew S. Thompson, *Living the Past. Public Memories of Empire in the Twenty-First Century*

Other publications

A Delicate Mission: The Washington Diaries of R.G. Casey, 1940-1942, Carl Bridge, National Library of Australia, 2008, AUD\$29.95. This book, with its illuminating introduction and notes, traces the evolution of Casey's 'delicate' role as Australian Minister to the United States during a critical time in Australia's history. It reveals Casey treading a fine diplomatic tightrope for America's support of Britain and Australia in the war, without risking aggravation of America's many powerful isolationists. <http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/onlineshop/>



Ireland, Australia and New Zealand: History, Politics and Culture, Laurence M. Geary and Andrew J. McCarthy (eds), Irish Academic Press, Dublin, 2008. This volume represents a selection of the papers from the 14th Irish-Australian Conference, held in Cork in June 2005.



Menzies Centre Staff

Head Carl Bridge carl.bridge@kcl.ac.uk

Senior Lecturer Frank Bongiorno
francis.bongiorno@kcl.ac.uk

Lecturer Ian Henderson ian.r.henderson@kcl.ac.uk

Research Fellow Robert Crawford
robert.crawford@kcl.ac.uk

Secretary Kirsten McIntyre kirsten.mcintyre@kcl.ac.uk

Menzies Centre for Australian Studies
4th Floor, The Australia Centre
Corner Strand & Melbourne Place, London, WC2B 4LG
Tel 020-7240 0220 Fax 020-7240 8292
Email menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk
Web www.kcl.ac.uk/menzies

Seminars

Time (unless otherwise indicated):

5.15pm, Wednesdays

Venue (unless otherwise indicated):

Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, Fourth Floor,
Australia Centre, Corner Strand and Melbourne Place,
WC2B 4LG

All seminars are free, and all members of the public are welcome to attend. For security reasons please **RSVP** to menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk

Second Term 2007-8

23 April

Michael Hogan (Sydney)

How to create a modern political party: Early Labor in Australia

30 April

Leigh Boucher (Roehampton University/Monash)

Historical Knowledge and Colonial Rule in the 19th-Century British Empire

8pm Tuesday 6 May

Regina Ganter (Griffith)

Muslim Australians: the deep histories of contact

London House, Goodenough College, Mecklenburgh Square, WC1N 2AN. Contact frank.bongiorno@kcl.ac.uk

7 May

Stephen Wagg (Leeds Metropolitan University)

Holding Their Own: Australian Footballers in the UK

Tuesday 13 May

John Chesterman (Melbourne)

Rights Protection in Australia and Beyond: Do Bills of Rights Make Any Difference?

14 May

Menzies Centre/Advance London briefing

Advance Australia? The Rudd Government, six months on

Speakers: Hugh Mackay, Joo-Cheong Tham and Cath Bremner

6 p.m registration for start at 6.30 pm sharp

Edmond J. Safra Lecture Theatre, Strand Campus, King's College London

Bookings: <http://www.advance.org/en/cev/?557>

Tuesday 20 May

Andrew Dilley (King's College London)

Influence Stumped: London financiers and Australian federal politics, 1901-1913

Tuesday 27 May, 6.00 for 6.30pm

Tim Winton

Reading and launch of 'Breath' (Picador)

Venue: Downer Room, Australian High Commission, Strand, WC2B 4LA.

Cost: FREE but **RSVP**, Menzies.centre@kcl.ac.uk necessary for security reasons

28 May

Carl Bridge (Menzies Centre)

The Changing Public Face of Don Bradman

4 June

Joo-Cheong Tham (Melbourne and Rydon Fellow, Menzies Centre)

Australian Control Orders and the Logic of Pre-Emption

Contact: Dr Frank Bongiorno, frank.bongiorno@kcl.ac.uk

Tel 020-7557 7162. Please also check our website for the latest updates www.kcl.ac.uk/menzies/events