

## **Daniel Hannan Luncheon**

On Monday 24 February, five UWA students, including myself, and a Curtin student had the pleasure of attending the Daniel Hannan lunch event at the Hyatt Regency hotel as part of Mannkal's events scholarship program. Daniel Hannan, who shot to prominence after delivering an impassioned critique of the British PM at the time Gordon Brown in the European parliament, was set to be the primary speaker for the event and he chose to speak about the fascinating topic of the critical role that the Anglo-sphere has had in creating the concepts of individual freedoms, and true representative democracy. He was also promoting his new book "Inventing Freedom".

For those of us who have heard Daniel speak before, we expected a powerful speaking style and some home truths, and we were definitely not disappointed. He began by tearing through what he termed "regressive political correctness" surrounding objective commentary regarding the role that the Anglo-sphere has had in shaping the world as what it is today. "Western Values", he said, "don't even deserve to be called so. They are traditionally values that stemmed from English-speaking countries, and then spread through the continent. He then began to explore the common bond that binds together English speaking countries. He adamantly stated that the reason English speaking countries supported each other during the Great War and WWII was because of a common link in values that upheld the freedom of the individual, and the rule of law that was above the rulers themselves.

Hannan was highly critical of modern school curriculums in English speaking countries that present a very dim view of the achievements that people of British descent have achieved around the world. He stated some of those on the left were actively trying to discourage the next generation from taking pride in the great achievements that their forefathers were a part of in order to develop the social structures we take for granted today. However, he also noted that this does not mean history needs to be glorified, but simply for it to be presented from a balanced perspective.

During the speech we were treated to a fine lunch prepared by the Hyatt staff, and had several breaks to converse with those on our tables, which lead to interesting conversations regarding the speech and how it related to Australia as a whole and WA in particular.