

Official Welcome Lunch Comments

Ron Manners

Australia is going through an interesting cycle at the moment.

From my reading of history we have some similarities with the 1930s Roosevelt New Deal, which divided Americans into two classes.

Those two classes were described by political writer, H.L. Mencken as;

‘those who worked for a living

Vs

those who vote for a living’

These divisions are now so true of Australia.

Hopefully you will all go forth in your careers to become members of the former category where you actually work for a living, whether you work with your hands or your mind or a collection of both doesn’t really matter.

My concern is the growing percentage of those who actually ‘vote for a living’ and perpetrate the myth of it being possible to live at the expense of someone else.

So, with this backdrop our Mannkal Foundation was set up some 12 years ago to stimulate thinking and action on such things.

I hope that our visiting speakers, all remarkable people, all successful people, all of them are shaping our lives and culture and the thoughts they bring to today’s conference might assist us in refining our thoughts as we develop our own personal philosophies that will in turn shape our own lives.

Your great education will do little more than enable you to recognize opportunities that will occur during your lifetimes.

It is your own personal philosophies and belief systems that will guide you on your own life’s adventures.

So on behalf of my fellow Mannkal Foundation Directors, John Hyde, John Corser and Bill Stacey I welcome you here today and hope you will enjoy and challenge our speakers.