

Speaker's Biographies

Dr Steve Kates, Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, Finance and Marketing, RMIT University

Steve Kates has recently returned to academia and is now teaching economics at RMIT University in Melbourne. This was after a quarter century as the Chief Economist for the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry during which time, amongst many other things, he presented the employer submission in the National Wage Case. Over the past three years he has divided his time between the academic world and his appointment as a Commissioner on the Productivity Commission. Most of his research has been into macroeconomic policy, industrial relations and the history of economic thought. His most extensive area of expertise is in the classical propositions surrounding Say's Law, on which he has written many papers as well as two books: *Say's Law and the Keynesian Revolution* (1998) and *Two Hundred Years of Say's Law* (2003) and, with John Cunningham Wood as the general editor, put together a five volume set, *Critical Readings on Jean-Baptiste Say*. The lead article in the March 2009 issue of *Quadrant* dealt with "The Dangerous Return of Keynesian Economics" which looks at the importance of Say's Law in the development of coherent macroeconomic policies. He is currently writing a book on *Defending the History of Economic Thought* which discusses the unambiguously crucial role of HET in economic theory and policy formation. Most economists are unaware of this, in much the same way they seldom appreciate that when they speak, they are speaking in prose.

Dr William Coleman, Reader in Economics in the School of Economics, The Australian National University

William Coleman is a Reader at the School of Economics of the Australian National University, and has written extensively upon inflation, the history of economic thought and the contested position of economics in society. The book he authored in 2006, *Giblin's Platoon: The Trials and Triumph of the Economist in Australian Public Life*, won the Bruce McComish Prize for Economic History. His *Economics and Its Enemies, The Story of Two Centuries of Anti-economics* won an Outstanding Academic Title of 2003 award from *Choice: Current Review of Academic Books*. His most recent book *The Causes, Costs and Compensations of Inflation* has just been re-issued in paper back. He has also written extensively as a web columnist for the Social Affairs Unit, and as author of op-ed pieces for the *Australian*, the *Australia Financial Review* and the *Age*. He has been CEO of the History of Economic Thought Society of Australia, and is currently the editor of *Agenda: a Journal of Policy Analysis and Reform*, and President of the ACT Branch of the Economics Society of Australia.

Dr Jeremy Shearmur, Reader in Philosophy in the School of Humanities, The Australian National University

Jeremy Shearmur is a reader at the Australian National University. He obtained his B.Sc. (Econ), M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the London School of Economics (University of London), where he also worked for eight years as Assistant to Professor Sir Karl Popper. He taught at the University of Edinburgh, the University of Manchester, and at George Mason University, where he was a Research Associate Professor at the Institute for Humane Studies. He was also Director of Studies of the Centre for Policy Studies, in London. He was a Visiting Scholar at the Social Philosophy and Policy Center, Bowling Green State University, for the Spring Semester of 1997. His publications include, amongst many others, *Hayek and After* (1996) and *The Political Thought of Karl Popper* (1996) and he was an editor of Karl Popper's *After The Open Society* (2008).

Nathan Taylor, Economics Policy Manager, Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA

Nathan Taylor is the Economics Policy Manager at CCI, a position he has held since May 2007. Prior to this, Nathan was the Economist at the Western Australian Local Government Association, Senior Analyst at the Reserve Bank of Australia, a Consultant with Burow and Associates and a small business owner. Nathan has completed a Bachelor of Commerce and Honours in Finance with Bond University and a Masters Degree in Commerce with the Queensland University of Technology. He is currently the author of the behavioural economics blog, *The Naked Ape*, and is also the author of the book *Corporate Governance: From Compliance to Competitive Advantage*.

Mark Pownall, Editor at Large, WA Business News

Mark Pownall is editor-at-large, a senior writing role at *WA Business News* aimed at trying to provide a more in-depth look at news and views in Western Australia.

For seven years prior to this role, Mark was editor of the newspaper, charged with a brief to make the publication a 'must read' for the State's business sector. Mark has been a business journalist since 1991, mostly working in WA.

Dr Mike Nahan MLA, Member for Riverton

Dr Mike Nahan was elected as the Member for Riverton in the 2008 State Election. He is Chairman of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee in Parliament and is a Trustee of the Parliamentary Superannuation Board. He is originally from the United States and arrived in Western Australia in 1982. Prior to his role as a State politician, Dr Nahan was employed as Executive Director of the Institute of Public Affairs, which is Australia's oldest and largest private think tank.

Dr Nahan has been an academic, a consultant economist, a company director, a newspaper columnist and a public commentator. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University and was awarded a Centenary Medal by the Australian Government in 2000 for his contribution to public policy. He is married to Dr Nyuk Nahan and they have two children, Keavy and Key. Dr Nahan has a passion for ideas, debate and growth, and a keen interest in sport and sailing.

Organiser's Biographies

Ron Manners FAusIMM, FAICD – Chairman, Mannkal Foundation

Ron Manners is the Managing Director of the Mannwest Group. He is also Emeritus Chairman of the Australian Mining Hall of Fame Ltd. In 1955 Ron assumed management of the family mining/engineering business, W.G. Manners & Co. (originally established in 1895) which has evolved into the Mannwest Group. Between 1972 and 1995 Ron floated several Australian listed mining companies, before joining the board of a Canadian company with operations in Mexico, Brazil and Turkey.

In addition to his mining interests, Ron has pursued an interest in economic education, establishing the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation in 1997. He is an active member of the Mont Pelerin Society and is on the Coordinating Committee for the Commonwealth Study Conference. He is the author of four books - *So I Headed West*, *Kanowna's Barrowman* - *James Balzano*, *Never a Dull Moment* and *Heroic Misadventures: Australia; Four Decades - Full Circle* - as well as numerous papers and addresses.

John Hyde – Director, Mannkal Foundation

John Hyde held the Federal seat of Moore from 1974, when Whitlam was Prime Minister, until he lost the seat with the defeat of the Fraser Government in 1983. He remained on the backbench and was instrumental in the formation of that group of policy advocates that the press named the "Dries".

John and his wife, Helen, then formed the Australian Institute of Public Policy, which in 1991 was amalgamated with the Institute of Public Affairs, which he directed until 1995.

He was a columnist with the Australian Financial Review, The Australian and the Brisbane Courier-Mail, writing 745 regular articles for these papers, and has had many other articles published elsewhere.

John Hyde's recently published book "*Dry: In Defense of Economic Freedom*" is an account of how the momentary re-application of the proper conduct of public policy in Australia during the 1990s managed to reverse the long downward trend of Australia's relative living standards.

John Corser – Director, Mannkal Foundation

John earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Murdoch University in 1993 (majoring in history and sociology with minors in politics and public policy) and has pursued a range of business and economic interests since then. He is currently the Managing Director of a private investment company, SDC Pty Ltd and is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

John has worked in the home building, land development and funds management industries and was also an intern at the Institute of Public Affairs, States' Policy Unit. He is a member of the Liberal Party, considers himself a small "l" liberal and is a keen supporter of the IPA.

John's Mannkal Foundation involvement was a logical follow-on from his earlier involvement with the Australian Institute of Public Policy and the Institute of Public Affairs. He is a keen supporter of the work of the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation and considers himself fortunate to be able to work with fellow Directors Ron Manners and John Hyde.

Andrew Pickford – *Freedom Factory* Chair and Mannkal Fellow, Mannkal Foundation

Andrew Pickford is currently employed in the energy industry and works in the area of policy and strategy. He is acting as *Freedom Factory* chair in an independent capacity to voluntarily support a cause he believes in. Previously he was the Research Manager at FDI, where he was the Editor of FDI's *Weekly Global Report*. Before joining FDI, he was employed by KPMG and also completed a secondment to Chevron. Andrew is on the management committee of the Australia Day Council of Western Australia, the Australian Institute of International Affairs (WA Branch) and is a councillor on the Royal United Services Institute of WA. He has a Masters of Accounting from Curtin University of Technology and is completing a Masters of Strategic Affairs from Australian National University. In 2007, Mr Pickford completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Company Directors Course.

He was a co-author of FDI's major 2009 study, *Such a Full Sea: Australia's Options in a Changing Indian Ocean Region*, its 2007 study, *Australia 2050: An Examination of Australia's Condition, Outlook, and Options for the First Half of the 21st Century*, and of FDI's 2008 *Occasional Paper*, *Energy Security in the Indo-Pacific Basins: Looking at the Broader Context in a Time of Change*. He was also a co-author on the FDI major study, in 2005, *Australia's Energy Options*.

Judy Carroll - Executive Assistant, Mannkal Foundation

Before working for several private enterprise and publicly listed companies, Judy commenced her career in the public service where she worked for some 18 years. In 1994 she joined the staff at the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet where she was Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Premier - Western Australia. It was here that she realized her passion for politics and the outcomes it can have on our community. She believes it was a privilege to have been so involved with the running of the State and still maintains a great interest in current affairs & believes in the ideals of Mannkal.

Judy has worked with Ron since 2001 where she has witnessed, and enjoyed, being part of the expansion of Mannkal's activities and believes her breadth of experience in different workplaces gives her the ability to understand the free market system.

Melissa Rasmussen - Education Co-ordinator, Mannkal Foundation

Melissa is a secondary and tertiary economics educator who is taking a brief hiatus following the arrival of her second child. Melissa comes to us with a wealth of experience in the education sector specialising in curriculum instruction and implementation and is currently completing a masters in curriculum at UND. Her role as Mannkal's education co-ordinator will see her continue to develop the relationship between Mannkal and our universities. As a former Mannkal scholar Melissa shares the Libertarian vision.

Jessica Pental - Research Assistant, Mannkal Foundation

Jess is currently studying at the University of Western Australia where she has commenced her fifth year of a Law and Commerce degree. She has an active interest in economics, business and public policy and aspires to pursue these in her career on the completion of her degree. Jess is also a Mannkal scholar and was fortunate enough to attend the *Liberty and Society Conference* in April 2008 which is organized and funded by the Centre for Independent Studies.

Michelle Twigger – Research Associate (CRAE), Curtin

Michelle has a Bachelor of Commerce (UWA) and MBA (ECU) and is a member of the Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch). She has worked for the Curtin Business School (CBS), School of Economics and Finance since November 2003 as a sessional lecturer and tutor in Economics and, since 2006 as a Research Associate. Michelle became Coordinator for the Centre for Research in Applied Economics (CRAE) in 2007. From July 2002 until December 2005 Michelle was the Coordinator and Economics Lecturer for the School of Economics and Finance in the Curtin Program at AIUS Joondalup. Her past industry experience includes four years as Assistant Manager, Human Resources at HBF, and ten years lecturing experience in Management and Economics. Michelle's research interests include labour economics and social policy.