

**STOP the PRESS!!**  
New Board, New CEO,  
New Staff & Triple the  
Scholarships on offer!



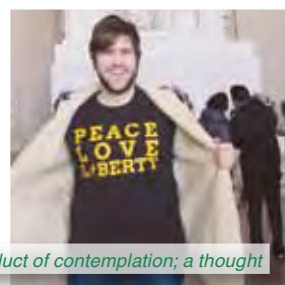
# Mannkal's Musings\*

MANNKAL FOUNDATION'S  
HALF-YEARLY REVIEW

**Oct. 2013** Vol. 6

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\*n. mus-ings A product of contemplation; a thought

# Events in 2013

This year, Mannkal has been involved in a multitude of events welcoming prominent speakers from around the globe and hosting informative discussions about free-market ideologies. The Mannkal team has been run off its feet continuing Mannkal's usual events and introducing some exciting new ones!

Freedom Factory  
Freedom to Choose  
Mannkal ECOMS Student  
Dinners ... and much more!

## Ron's Mannerisms

Each month Ron shares his thoughts on a range of topics in a section of our website entitled "Mannerisms". Ron has discussed everything from building houses, minimum wage laws, *complying with* versus *surviving* taxation, and giving *forward* rather than giving *back*. To read these and more, please go to: [www.mannkal.org/mannerisms](http://www.mannkal.org/mannerisms)

## Find us...

### On Facebook:

Mannkal's Facebook page has grown exponentially over the past year. It's definitely worth subscribing to as "Mannkal's Man in New York", Luke McGrath, is constantly updating the page with interesting articles and videos. It continues to grow, but the stats on the right speak for themselves! Check it out at: <http://www.facebook.com/Mannkal>.

### Facebook Stats:

**October 2013**  
**310** monthly active users  
**576** people like this  
**1204** visits this week  
Reaching **20** countries

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**Research Fellow**

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**Research Fellow**

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Brad Walmsley (Switzerland)

# Chairman's Report

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## How things happen around our office!

Just as Geneviève rushed into my office to urge me, “Ron we need your report so we can go to print”, a delightful email arrived from one of Sydney’s most respected business people.

“This was one of your best *e-Focus* editions and the *Forbes* article by Chafuen was an excellent survey of the Australian think tank milieu. And without blowing smoke up your kilt, the comments on you and Mannkal were on the money.”



So what better ‘opener’ could we have for my report?

The *Forbes* article he referred to was headed, “Intellectual Gold: How Australian Think Tanks Turned the Electoral Tide...” - <http://www.forbes.com/sites/alejandrochafuen/2013/09/18/intellectual-gold-how-australian-think-tanks-turned-the-electoral-tide-in-favor-of-tony-abbott/>

That article concluded:

“After studying and visiting think tanks in many regions of the world, one of the most positive characteristics of the Australian scene, as compared to other markets, is the amount of collaboration that exists among different friends of free enterprise. I am certain that much of the credit should go to those mentioned in this piece. Thanks to them we expect more good news to come from downunder.”

The writer, Alex Chafuen (President of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation in Washington DC) was right. There is a strong respect for ideas in Australia and even a respect for people who have ideas that differ from our own.

There is also a mounting curiosity about ideas, particularly from our fresh young generation who

watch on in amazement as some countries, under the spell of bad ideas, appear to be in a great deal of trouble, like Greece and the USA.

Is there a difference between Greece and the USA? I have not read anything encouraging about Greece but today I received a remarkable book titled, *America 3.0*, jointly written by James C. Bennett (one of Mannkal’s guest speakers to our 2010 Perth Conference – The Sun Rises in the West). Bennett and his co-authors put forward a theme that there are two Americas: one that works (where new and creative things happen and where excellence is rewarded) and one that doesn’t work, based on Washington and Wall Street.

Bennett and Co. paint a word picture of 2013 being potentially a transitional period for America, where their government is crushingly expensive, failing at its basic functions and unable to keep its promises. It does not work and cannot continue as it is.

However, this does not mean the end of America. It only means the end of V.2, shortly to be replaced with V.3, as it enters a new era of freedom and prosperity.

America has the ability to save itself by reinventing the spirit of independence and turning away from its current “entitlement mentality”.



Hopefully Australia is close to a similar turning point as we turn to new ideas to lift the national spirit.

As we say at Mannkal ... "because ideas matter!"

Some years ago Ralph Waldo Emerson explained "why ideas matter".

"Wise men put their trust in ideas and not in circumstances".

So, if you are a student, take a look at our 'For Students' opportunities' at [www.mannkal.org](http://www.mannkal.org). If

you are an ageless student/non student, please subscribe to our free monthly newsletter *e-Focus*: <http://www.mannkal.org/contact.php>



Ron Manners  
**Chairman**  
**Mannkal Economic Education Foundation**

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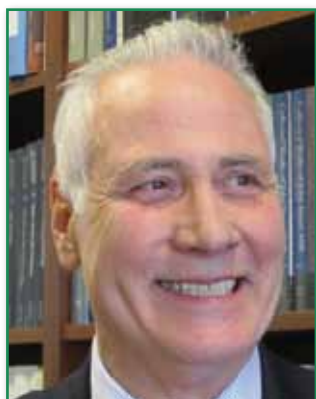
### Pleasant Growing Pains

To accommodate the recent arrivals and departures from the Mannkal team (see following pages), Geneviève Mitchell has moved up to the position of Publications & Events Co-ordinator.

We are also pleased to welcome Robyn Tissiman, who recently joined us as Research Assistant.

## Arrivals...

### New position of CEO created at Mannkal Economic Education Foundation



*George Bowen, M.A., D.Phil.  
(Oxon), F.Inst.D.*

Mannkal is pleased to advise of the appointment of Dr George Bowen to the newly created position of CEO for Mannkal.

George, working with Becky Vidler, our Scholarship Co-ordinator, will develop and execute strategies to expand our student internships to take advantage of the many Australian and overseas opportunities being offered to Mannkal scholars.

The quality of students over the past few years has been so good that it has resulted in these overseas organizations seeking more 'Aussie' interns, and that is a compliment to Western Australia's five universities and to the parents of these scholars.

Since Mannkal's inception, more than 640 students have benefited from our programmes and have played an important role as ambassadors for their particular universities and institutions.

Mannkal's Chairman Ron Manners said, "George Bowen brings to Mannkal a rare combination of academic, public policy skills and international business experience and has the ability to guide students toward the style of economics that will be of great benefit in their careers, whether that be in business, public policy or even politics."

This appointment was made following a thorough executive search, ably assisted by Lloyd Smith and Brad Kerin of Gerard Daniels.





## Rebecca (Becky) Vidler—Scholarships Co-ordinator

Recently the Mannkal team had the great pleasure of welcoming Becky Vidler as our new Scholarships Coordinator. Becky assumes the responsibility of handling Mannkal's ever-expanding scholarship programme. Earlier this month she conducted interviews to choose Mannkal's 2013/14 round of scholars.

Becky says: "I'm excited and feel privileged to be a member of the Mannkal team that aims to continue and extend the ongoing vision of our founder, Ron Manners. As a young man, Ron was serendipitously educated and influenced by free market and Libertarian ideas. Throughout his life, Ron has used his education and influence to successfully build businesses. He has never missed an opportunity to champion and support free market and Libertarian philosophies.

In establishing Mannkal, he has truly put his money where his mouth is. By offering scholarships, Mannkal gives eligible recipients the opportunity to experience, first-hand, international free market and Libertarian influences.

My role is to promote the existence of these Mannkal scholarships and to determine the successful applicants.

I also aim to:

- Develop and nurture existing relationships with international and Australian think tanks;
- Create new relationships with other international free market think tanks and institutions;
- Establish an ongoing effective alumni database; and
- Promote and develop networking for all Mannkal supporters and alumni.

I look forward to one day knowing that Mannkal scholarship recipients are holding down key roles in WA business, politics, government and community service. The main game is to grow the economic pie and to run the state competitively and efficiently so that all citizens may thrive and grow and receive their fair share for a happy life."



## The Reason Foundation

An exciting new opportunity is being offered to Western Australian students by the Reason Foundation in the United States. The Reason Foundation advances a free society by developing, applying and promoting libertarian principles, including individual liberty, free markets and the rule of law. The Reason Foundation has formed a new relationship with Mannkal, agreeing to offer a suitable Western Australian student a 10-week internship in video production or journalism in January/February 2014.

This is a tremendous opportunity for a Western Australian student who can choose to carry out the internship in either Washington DC or Los Angeles. As the relationship between Mannkal and the Reason Foundation develops, I hope that Mannkal can finally support Edith Cowan University students through the Western Australian Screen Academy. Associate Professor Andrew Lewis quickly grasped the significance of this opportunity and I am confident that, with this kind of support, Mannkal scholarship opportunities for Western Australian Screen Academy students will continue to grow.



*Pictured with A/Prof. Andrew Lewis (centre), four Western Australian Screen Academy aspirants for the Reason Foundation internship, from left to right: Brett Dowson, Gabrielle Cole, Daisy Benson and Jesse Laurie.*

# Departures...

## Au Revoir Andrew Pickford



After almost five years, Mannkal Senior Fellow Andrew Pickford said goodbye to Mannkal friends and former interns at a special function on 17 September 2013 as he embarks on a new journey in Canada. Andrew originally joined Ron Manners to organise a Freedom Factory event.

Following the success of this event, Andrew joined the Mannkal team to help grow and administer student internships. With Andrew's supervision and guidance, international scholarships have developed into Mannkal's flagship programme. Together with the Mannkal team, Andrew has highlighted the importance of freedom, individual choice and liberty to the next generation of Western Australians.

Reflecting on his time at Mannkal, Andrew said:

"Ron's passion for providing opportunities for students and young Western Australians made my job a simple case of connecting top students with internship opportunities. We do not seek to convert, preach or push a particular world view, but by exposing the next generation to free market thinking, we have given them the tools to improve Australia and the lives of all of its citizens."

Mannkal scholar, Alexander McVey, delivered a speech on behalf of all the Mannkal interns, past and present, to bid farewell to Andrew. As Alexander aptly stated:

"Whether we have been inspired by his hard work, his dedication, his enthusiasm or his resourcefulness, we are each better off after having had the pleasure of working with him."



Left to right: Judy Carroll, Paul McCarthy, Becky Vidler, Andrew Pickford, Matthew Lock, Donna Withers, Ron Manners, Felicity Karageorge, Geneviève Mitchell, Hannah Berdal, Michael Cooke

## Auf Wiedersehen Hannah Berdal



Hannah Berdal started working for Mannkal in June 2012 after completing an internship with the Lion Rock Institute as a Mannkal scholar. During her first few months, Hannah acted as Mannkal's Research Assistant. Towards the end of 2012, she assumed the role of

Publications & Events Coordinator. Hannah handled Mannkal's monthly newsletter, *e-Focus*, compiled

Volume 5 and the 15th Anniversary Edition of *Mannkal's Musings*, and oversaw numerous Mannkal events.

Although her time at Mannkal has been brief, Hannah has proven to be an integral member of the Mannkal team. Hannah is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Western Australia. She will be continuing her studies at the University of Vienna on exchange in 2014. The Mannkal team wishes her all the best with her future endeavours!

# Newly Appointed Directors

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## John Hyde



I am a director of Mannkal. With 77 years gone I have somewhat passed my “use-by date” but I bring the experience of nine years in the Federal Parliament where I was prominent in that group of classically liberal MPs who became known as the “Dries” and

another twelve years as chief executive officer of, first, the Australian Institute for Public Policy and then the Institute of Public Affairs.

I can think of no organisation that could afford me a better opportunity to raise the standard of government than Mannkal does; and, the truth is, I enjoy working with its people.

## John Corser



John has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Murdoch University (majoring in history and sociology with minors in politics and public policy) and has pursued a range of business, policy and political interests since then. He is a private property and equities investor,

holds a number of non-executive directorships 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 an intern at the Institute of Public Affairs States' Policy Unit. He considers himself a small “I” liberal and is a keen follower of free-market think tanks. John's involvement with the Mannkal Foundation was a logical follow-on from his earlier involvement with the Australian Institute of Public Policy and the Institute of Public Affairs.

## Bill Stacey



Bill Stacey was Mannkal's first scholar. With the assistance of Mannkal's resources, particularly Ron's personal library, Bill completed his Honours Dissertation entitled, “Libertarianism in Australia's ‘New Enlightenment’” at the University of Western Australia.

He is now the Chairman of Hong Kong's leading free market think tank, the Lion Rock Institute. Professionally,

Bill has been an executive with leading financial institutions in Asia and globally. During the 1997 financial crisis in Asia and subsequently, he led restructuring initiatives, strategic assessments and provided input to reform proposals. As a senior equity analyst with Credit Suisse, Bill led research on the three largest Chinese financial sector IPOs and is a leading commentator on the financial systems in the region. Bill served as Managing Director and head of the Asia equities business of Keefe Bruyette and Woods, a specialist financial services investment bank and is currently involved in a new financial services start up.

## Mac Nichols



Mac Nichols is a Mining Engineer who has pursued a range of private-sector mining, earth moving, information technology and economic geologic interests. He is currently an executive director of a junior exploration company. He is a

member of the Society for Mining Metallurgy and Energy.

Mac has worked in the exploration, mining and mine services industries and has been involved with Mannkal since its inception. He has lived and worked in Australia, the USA, and Papua New Guinea.



## Paul McCarthy



Paul McCarthy is a former Mannkal scholar, having attended the Centre for Independent Studies' Liberty and Society Conference in 2004. He first became involved with Mannkal when opposing compulsory student unionism on WA university campuses. Paul holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in economics and finance from the University of Western

Australia and professional qualifications in financial markets and LNG. Paul has built a career in the energy industry in Australia and the United Kingdom advising on major projects, regulation and energy trading and is also pursuing side ventures in currency markets and energy efficiency. His particular areas of interest within Mannkal include energy policy, financial freedom, the welfare state and enhancing Australia's international competitiveness through deregulation.

## Jenny Manners



Following 14 years as a primary school teacher, Jenny focused on teaching English to mature-age students at Kalgoorlie College. Then, after specialising in Property Management and Strata Title

Management, she commenced a career in Property Conveyancing and Paralegal services.

Jenny manages the "general philanthropy" (non-economic) aspects of Mannkal's programme.

## Steven Schwartz



Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM is a higher education leader with a proven blend of academic and commercial skills combined with a strong background in university governance and ethics. In addition to serving as the Vice-Chancellor (President) of three universities, Steven is a prize-winning researcher, teacher and public speaker.

He is the author of 13 books and 250+ articles and has made numerous television and radio appearances.

Steven is Chairman of the Fulbright Commission, Executive Director of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Science and has held governing board posts in Australia, Malaysia, the US and UK. In 2013, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to higher education.

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## Executive Assistant—Judy Carroll



Judy has worked with Ron Manners for the past 12 years and has witnessed the expansion of Mannkal over this period. She is a strong advocate for the free-market system and a believer in small government.

Her previous experience of working in both government and private enterprise has given her an insight into both areas.

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 the community. She feels privileged to have been so involved with the running of the

State and still maintains a great interest in current affairs.

Equally, Judy feels privileged to work for Mannkal with Ron, who is the most positive person she has ever worked for, and she strongly believes in the ideals of Mannkal.

"It's been so rewarding witnessing the hundreds of opportunities given to the scholars, via Mannkal's generous support, to the different universities in Western Australia. The experience usually results in the students returning as very different confident adults who are so grateful to have been introduced to so many 'ideas'. It can often result in them taking a completely new direction in life."

Judy's contribution to Mannkal has been immeasurable and she has developed into the backbone behind Mannkal's operations.

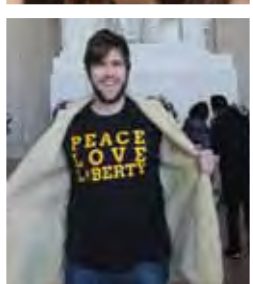


## Mannkal Scholars Abroad

Whether it's the icy prairies of Winnipeg, the seat of power in Washington, over the 'ditch' in London, eastwards to the sub-continent or to the hustle and bustle of Hong Kong, Mannkal sends its scholars to reputational think-tanks and institutions across the globe. Our scholars' reports on these life-changing experiences are detailed in the following pages ...



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## Atlas Network—Washington DC

### Report by Jiamin Lim



The five weeks that I spent at the Atlas Network in Washington DC were absolutely incredible. Washington DC, with its beautiful architecture and rich history, soon became home. It was amazing to be living in one of the most influential capital cities in the world and to soak

in the thirst for knowledge that characterises this city.

The Atlas Network aims to fuel the global freedom movement through supporting the start-up and expansion of free market think tanks around the world. With over 400 organizations in the network, Atlas works tirelessly to promote the ideas of liberty in all corners of the globe where political and economic freedom is potentially at risk.

During my time at Atlas, I worked on a range of projects, from grants to research. This gave me an insight into what think tanks around the world are doing to advance the free-market movement. What I enjoyed most was working with Dr Emmanuel Martin from Librefrique.org, which is Atlas's language platform for French-speaking Africa. Through Skype meetings with Dr Martin, I learnt about the free market approach to international development and how lack of information and incentives can render aid ineffective.

### Report by Alexander McVey



My time as an intern with the Atlas Economic Research Foundation was incredible to say the least. The five week programme gave me the freedom to explore the world of Washington DC and all the political knowledge and experience the area has to

offer. Most days were spent walking around downtown DC, going from one event to another, and listening in on speakers of all political persuasions arguing on a variety of topics. It is the most inspiring political experience I have had to date.

I managed to attend two events on the topic of International Aid that were presented from quite different sources. The first was a presentation by Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church who, though

Our conversations culminated in an opinion piece that I wrote about the relationship between property rights and economic development.

To complement what we learnt at work, we had the opportunity to attend a series of lectures at the Cato Institute, the world's largest libertarian think tank, on issues ranging from the Korean War to Public Choice Theory to Climate Change. The lectures were very insightful and shed light on how government intervention can lead to inefficient outcomes. One of the benefits of being in DC was being able to attend events at various think tanks that presented a diverse range of views.

I learnt about the fundamental role of think tanks in influencing policy reform in their respective countries around the world. I learnt about the importance of considering the incentives of all parties involved when creating solutions to a problem. I learnt about how to harness the power of the free market to solve the salient problems facing the world today.

I would like to thank the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation for this opportunity. It has been an amazing experience and it has challenged my views on many issues and has added a whole new dimension to my knowledge of economics and ideas of liberty, far beyond the realms of textbook learning.

a controversial figure, made some very interesting arguments about freedom of religion, especially in the case of aid in Africa and around the world. The second event was a short lecture from Dayna Brown of USAid who spoke about listening to those receiving aid from the US and other first world countries to see if our methods of aid are actually the most beneficial to those we assist.

One of the most exciting parts of the internship was the 2013 International Students for Liberty Conference. With over 1,400 attendees, the event hosted presentations from many different organisations. I attended presentations on Sound Money, the Welfare State, Criminal Law Reform and LGBT Rights.

Before finishing my internship, I was very fortunate to see how my legal studies and my interest in politics are blended together by the American libertarian movement. Nigel Ashford, from the Institute for Humane Studies,





organised a tour for me of the Institute for Justice (IJ), in Arlington, Virginia. There, several members of the IJ team introduced me to the concept of libertarian litigation, where government legislation is opposed on the grounds of impeding individual freedom. Mr Ashford then took me on a tour of the IHS's own offices. The day's experiences exposed me to a whole other side of libertarianism.

I must thank the entire Atlas office, the Students for Liberty Team, the Cato Institute and Nigel Ashford of the Institute for Humane Studies. I'd especially like to express my most sincere thanks to Ron Manners and the team at Mannkal for making these opportunities possible. I will always look fondly upon my time at Atlas and take my inspiration and experience further into my continued learning.

## Report by Kim Phan



There's no other city in the world like Washington DC. Not only is it the heart of American politics, it has the highest concentration of think tanks of any city in the world. Ideas matter, and there is no better place to be immersed in the battle of ideas.

For six weeks, I interned with the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, a non-profit organisation that connects a global network of over 400 free market organisations in over 80 countries to the ideas and resources needed to advance the cause of liberty.

One of the highlights was the privilege of shadowing Atlas President, Alejandro Chafuen, and having access to exclusive free market events. This included attending a luncheon at the beautifully appointed Willard Intercontinental Hotel hosted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, a German political foundation advocating individual freedom and liberalism. The keynote speech was delivered by Michael Theurer, a Member of the European Parliament for the Free Democratic Party, who provided an insider's perspective on the European sovereign debt crisis. Later in the day, we headed out of the city to George

Mason University in Virginia. Co-sponsored by the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, the event was a Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony honouring New York University Professor Emeritus Israel M. Kirzner for his pioneering work on the theory of the entrepreneurial market process and contributions to the Austrian School of economic thought.

Fellow Mannkal Scholar Alexander McVey and I also spent time assisting Alejandro Chafuen with research for his opinion editorials published in American business magazine, *Forbes*. Throughout my internship, I participated in a range of research seminars organised by the Cato Institute, one of the most influential libertarian think tanks in the world. The training provided me an opportunity to build on my critical thinking skills and develop a better understanding of public policies based on the principles of limited government, free markets and individual liberty.

Looking back on my time in Washington DC, I am so thankful to the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation and the Atlas Economic Research Foundation for organising this incredible learning opportunity. In particular, I would like to thank Ron Manners and Andrew Pickford from Mannkal, and Alejandro Chafuen and Kristina Crane from Atlas.

## Lion Rock Institute—Hong Kong

Report by Helen Le



My stay in Hong Kong was not only educational, aspirational and inspirational, it was a life-changing experience that would not be possible without Mannkal and of course, Ron Manners. During my stay, I learned so much about a city

I now call a home away from home. I was able to witness economics in action and to understand why they say Hong Kong is the freest city in the world.

As I stepped into the office for the first time, I was surrounded by brilliance and passion. Although intimidated at first, the welcoming arms of everybody in the Lion Rock Institute (LRI) office put me at ease. The quirky personalities and unforgettable moments made the invaluable lessons I learned enjoyable.

One of the main lessons I derived from the experience was that economic principles are not taught to society but sold to society. We live in a society in which the study of economics has not been provided to everybody, making it crucial to teach from the basics. I was taught to focus on the victim, showing the public how they have been harmed by the failure to adhere to correct economic policy. It is not what you know, but how you show what you know to the public. I was able to showcase this through a speech I made at the

Legislative Council as well as from article pieces I wrote based on my own research.

Whilst learning the history of Hong Kong, I learnt that Hong Kong's freedom has slowly evaporated since the handover to China. We see this through the influence of China, and the tension between Hong Kong and Mainland China. Although this freedom will not be taken away overnight, it is evidently being slowly taken away after each piece of legislation. I learnt that we are not only fighting for freedom in our economies but freedom amongst ourselves. This is what makes LRI vital to Hong Kong. LRI pushes the public to understand the benefit that the free market has created for them and tries to get the public to understand the consequences of its abolishment.

A couple of side projects I did for the Lion Rock Institute included the Friedman Legacy events celebrating the 101st birthday of the late Milton Friedman.

In conclusion, what can I say about my experience in Hong Kong? It was an amazing experience that cannot not be found in a textbook or watched in a documentary. I have learnt to look beyond the scope when I'm reading. I have learnt that one person can make a difference and that knowledge is only as strong as our ability to sell it. We live in a great society but every society can be improved and it is up to us, the minority, to not preach but to provide possibilities.



## Report by Conrad Karageorge



I touched down in Hong Kong in the beginning of December and worked with the Lion Rock Institute (LRI) as an intern for a period of two months.

For a young man who has spent his whole life living in Perth, I initially found this a rather

daunting task. Hong Kong was quite foreign to me with a different language, different foods and different traditions. However, the one important similarity that existed between myself and my adopted city, was our love of free market economics. Hong Kong stands as the freest country in the world under the Heritage Foundation's index of economic freedom and I certainly found this to be the case.

I believe that the LRI internship sets itself apart from others offered by Mannkal as it gives a student the ability to study a free market in action. In fact, a large proportion of my internship was devoted to studying the cultural and economic history of Hong Kong and how it adopted its free market standpoint. The more I learnt about Hong Kong's colourful history, the more I started to feel at home. I came to fall in love with Hong Kong and its diverse and exciting culture and will certainly be returning there in the near future.

In addition to learning about economic history, the senior fellows at LRI also taught me how to present economic ideas to the lay people of Hong Kong. I was taught by LRI founder, Andrew Sheun, to focus on the effects that economic policy has on ordinary people as opposed to focusing on dry economic rhetoric. I learnt that an economic theory is only as good as your ability to sell it to the wider population.

I was fortunate enough to put this theory into action when I was asked speak at two Legislative Council committees; the first on the issue of a Government enforced poverty line in Hong Kong, the second, on the issue of private education subsidies. I tried to ensure that each speech was directed towards the people of Hong Kong, as opposed to merely politicians. This was a real privilege as I am the first of Mannkal's LRI Scholars to be asked to speak at the Legislative council and the opportunity was a real highlight of my internship.

I loved the experience of working for an economic think-tank and cannot thank Ron Manners and the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation enough for this opportunity. I recommend this scholarship to any student interested in a different kind of internship experience and who has a passion for travel.







## Frontier Centre for Public Policy—Canada

### Report by Adam Vilica



My time at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy (FCPP) in Canada has been both a rewarding and interesting experience. I commenced my internship in the Winnipeg office. This was followed up with a week in Calgary where I had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the Canadian interns as well.

The primary project I worked on at FCPP was the Canadian transport policy, more specifically a policy and data analysis project relating to the Canadian fuel tax regime. Canada is similar to Australia in how its government is structured, in that the provincial (state) governments and the federal government both have revenue-raising capacities. However, Canada differs in that its system of government is far less centralised and the provincial governments have far more revenue-raising ability. While, in Australia, fuel is excised by the federal government, in Canada it is done by both provincial and federal governments. The idea of fuel excising is based on a user-pays way of raising revenue for the construction and maintenance of roads. Due to the far more complex method of revenue raising and transfer payments used in Canada, it is incredibly hard to analyse how much money is being raised and actually spent on roads. My job was to go through various sets of government data and develop a model which analysed where the money was coming from, and where the money was going.

Other smaller projects I worked on whilst I was at FCPP included: conducting data analysis on health expenditure in Canada, analysing the level of transparency of state-owned electricity providers versus private providers, developing fact sheets on environmental statistics that had recently been published by FCPP, conducting a comparative analysis on equalisation payments, and also writing a couple of columns. While at FCPP, I was able to attend a number of breakfast and networking events including meeting the Canadian Minister for Small Business and an American Consulate to Canada.

On the social and tourist aspects of my internship, one of the highlights was visiting the Canadian Rockies. I was given a day off to head up to Banff on the border of Alberta and British Columbia, which has to be one of the most amazing towns I have ever been too. I

also thoroughly enjoyed The Hermetic Code tour run by author Frank Albo. This tour provides you with a fascinating insight into the parliamentary building in Winnipeg, which was built by the Freemasons and has a whole range of mystery and interesting history attached to it. This tour is an absolute must do for anyone visiting Manitoba.

I finished my internship in Calgary, where we worked on a project relating to the FCPP's Local Government Performance Index. It was a great experience being able to use a bit of my local government background to work on a completely different project on the other side of the world.

Overall my internship has been a fantastic experience. I have been able to learn and experience a lot, make some lifetime friends and see part of a country that I hadn't been too. I want to thank Mannkal, especially Ron Manners and Andrew Pickford, for all their support and for giving me this opportunity.



## Report by Geneviève Mitchell



Embarking the Airbus A380 from Perth International Airport, I eagerly awaited my journey to the other side of the world. Touching down in the Canadian city Winnipeg, Manitoba, I was greeted by a vision of pristine white, iconic of the Canadian Prairies. The

warm and welcoming nature of the Canadian people meant that I immediately felt at home and despite the noticeable differences in climate, I was astounded by the similarities Canada and Australia share regarding their culture, people and economy.

My first days at the Frontier Centre for Public Policy (FCPP), Canada's leading think tank on the Prairies, were spent gaining insight into the Canadian economy and the role of FCPP. FCPP advocates three key components of public policy: transparency, neutrality and separation. In pursuit of the promotion of free market and libertarian ideologies, FCPP releases informed policy papers concerning pressing economic issues.

As an intern at FCPP, I worked primarily in conjunction with Policy Analysts Ben Eisen, situated in New York, and Peter McCaffrey, situated in Saskatchewan. I was entrusted the task of investigating fiscal equalisation at both a national and international level. It was particularly

interesting to discover the similarities shared between the Canadian, German and Australian equalisation systems. These systems are largely funded by a single state or province. In Australia, Western Australia contributes the most significant portion to equalisation payments; in Canada, Alberta is attributed the largest burden; and in Germany, Bavaria is accountable for the majority of the payments. Furthermore, the recent constitutional challenge undertaken by Bavaria and Hessen against the equalisation system in place in Germany is evidence of an endemic flaw in equalisation programs, which seems to be mirrored at a global level.

Another of my tasks at FCPP was to investigate Canada's budgetary position over the past several decades. This paper was primarily developed upon the perspective of Nobel Prize winning Economist, James Buchanan. It essentially provides an overview of Buchanan's critique of Keynesian economics, fundamentally grounded in the theory of "Public Choice", and its applicability to the Canadian economy.

I concluded my internship by attending the International Students for Liberty Conference in Washington DC. It was amazing to witness so many young, like-minded individuals from around the globe, congregating in a single location in pursuit of liberty.

My experience at FCPP was truly invaluable. The opportunity to become immersed in Canadian society and to develop an understanding of economics from a global perspective was enlightening. Words are not sufficient to articulate how grateful I am to Mannkal Economic Education Foundation for providing me with this life-changing experience. The knowledge I have gained I will apply to all areas of my life and will use to further the dissemination of ideas.



## Fraser Institute—British Columbia

### Report by Angus Duncan



For my internship I was fortunate enough to be sent to the Fraser Institute in Canada. The Fraser Institute is a non-partisan research and educational organisation that publishes peer-reviewed research into critical economic and public policy issues. It is unlike any other libertarian think tank that I am aware of. Although it certainly has a libertarian philosophy and background, it is also an organisation that accepts facts. If, during your research, you found facts that did not agree with a libertarian philosophy, the Fraser Institute was certainly willing to accept and publish those statistics. The importance that the Fraser Institute places on the power of statistics is reflected in its motto, *"If it matters, measure it"*.

I should preface this report by saying that the research I did at the Fraser Institute is subject to a strict confidentiality agreement. I will say that my research focused on mining and drew heavily upon the research outlined in Fraser's highly influential and widely published mining survey. More recently I have found out that my research will be used in a special report focusing on mining within British Columbia. It is exciting to know that my findings could have a positive impact on mining policy in British Columbia.

Turning to my time at the Students for Liberty Conference in Washington DC, it was here that my ideas about libertarian philosophy really began to change. The biggest thing I took away from the conference is that the libertarian movement needs to change.

For too long the socially progressive nature of libertarian ideas has been hijacked by those on the Left who want to take away economic freedom. Many of those on the right have claimed to be libertarian, but at the same have supported taking away personal freedom. So where does this leave the libertarian movement? Answering this question is what I hope to work on, but for now we need to claim back our principles and our ideas. Only then can we get the message out there.

Another instance at the conference that certainly had an impact on me was when I attended the presentation given by the National Rifle Association on the American right to bear arms. I found it to be incredibly thought-

provoking because it gave rise to a clash of ideas regarding the freedom to carry a gun and the choice to take life. I should say upfront that I am completely opposed to the carrying of guns, but in an audience that was overwhelming pro-guns I stood up and made my views on guns known. What followed were a series of heated exchanges. It was at that moment that I learned not to be intimidated by the masses and to stand up and be heard and fight for what I believe in.

I would just like to thank a few people. Firstly to Mr Ron Manners for giving me this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Secondly, to Mr Andrew Pickford for his support and advice. Next my thanks to Mr Niels Veldhuis, Miss Alana Wilson and Mr Bacchus Barua from Fraser for their advice and for the lessons they have taught me. A thank you also to the other interns for becoming a group of new-found friends.

Finally, a big thank you to my family for their on-going support. My time away was incredible. The contacts I made, the people I met and the discussions I had, will stay with me for life.





## ACE-CPPR—New Delhi

### Report by Emma Rowe



Earlier in the year I was given an incredible opportunity to go to India for five weeks to attend a public policy research course in Kerala and intern at a think tank in Delhi. The course was organised by the Centre For Public Policy Research, a renowned research organization

that Tom Palmer from the Atlas Foundation personally picked to run the course. There, I had the pleasure of meeting 15 other candidates from 14 different countries ranging from China to Bolivia.

The highlight of the course was meeting people from diverse backgrounds and learning about the economic and political issues surrounding their countries. The course made me more critical of the way I read research papers and where the data is coming from because it really emphasized how easy it is for researchers to present findings in a certain way in order to suit their needs. But above all, the course made me appreciate the difficulty of primary research. We had the opportunity to go to the field to collect data for our research paper and



throughout the day we encountered so many issues with the design—even after spending several days planning our questionnaire!

After the course, we all flew to Delhi for the very first Asia Liberty Forum. It was truly inspiring to hear about the recent projects and development of think tanks across Asia and it was definitely the highlight of the whole trip. The main message that stuck with me was the importance of communication. Innovative communication techniques can help to reach a wider audience and attract attention to your cause. One example was how the TaxPayers' Alliance distributed beer mats to pubs across the UK to show the public the facts about taxes on beer.

For the last two weeks of my trip, I interned at the Centre for Civil Society. They have been ranked 51st in the Top 150 Worldwide Think Tanks and are the only Indian think tank to feature in the top 100 list. Although I had already been in the country for three weeks, I still experienced a culture shock when I arrived in Delhi. It was as though I was in another country because the language, food and climate were so different between the two states. There are 22 official languages in India but hundreds of other languages and dialects have been identified. With such a diverse population, it made me question how a central government in Delhi could possibly cater to the needs of the entire population.

During my internship, I had the pleasure of working with the livelihood team on an article regarding the new Street Vendor Bill introduced in the last session of Parliament. Although the Bill was to be commended for taking the first step in protecting the rights of vendors, the Bill legally enforced the confiscation of property, which could lead to harassment and misuse of power.

Researching for the article and being in India in general showed me how regulations can hurt those most in need. This is definitely not a problem unique to India, but the problems there are so fundamental that they were more visible than some of the issues faced by developed countries.

The people I met at the CPPR course, Asia Liberty Forum and CCS exposed me to so many different issues and perspectives that I would not have even considered before. I have learnt so much more than I thought possible in five weeks and I would like to thank Mannkal for organizing this amazing experience.

## Institute of Economic Affairs—London

### Report by John Webster



Stepping off the plane into a 'warm' summer's day in the UK, I had no idea just how life-changing the next four weeks would be. I was about to participate in the summer intern programme at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), just a frog-leap from Westminster

Abbey and Big Ben.

The programme was made up of around 20 students from all walks of life. Whether they were from the UK, Poland, Lithuania, Morocco, or France, they all brought different ideas to the table and made for a great environment to enrich my understanding and passion for free markets. The programme was based around lectures, seminars, and the occasional debate, all involving many different scholars. Throughout our internship, we were also given the task of researching a particular topic. This gave us a great opportunity to improve our skills and look further into economics and the academic world.

One of the major events of the programme, and also the biggest event on the IEA calendar, was the Hayek

Memorial Lecture. Grover Norquist, the guest speaker, gave us a valuable insight into political strategies and the future of liberty in the United States' political scene. It was thrilling to hear someone so well known speak on such interesting topics. A member of the audience was Friedrich Hayek's granddaughter. It was an honour to be in her presence.

I had the privilege of attending a meeting with an IEA organisation, the Shadow Monetary Policy Committee. They are a group of independent economists who monitor the economic climate and critique the Monetary Policy Committee's bank rate decisions. My mind was buzzing trying to keep up with the array of terms and concepts flying back and forth.

We also had a talk by Fraser Nelson, the editor of the *Spectator* magazine. He talked about the possible devolution of Scotland, controversial due to the pending referendum in Scotland (giving them the option to leave the UK). It was eye-opening to be brought up to date on the UK's current affairs, and to hear so many different opinions from various backgrounds.

Another defining part of my adventure was being a part





of Freedom Week in Cambridge. Having the opportunity to stay in Sidney Sussex College was just the start of an unforgettable experience. The week consisted of non-stop lectures from a distinguished selection of scholars. I won't go into too much detail about all the lectures (I would go on forever!), but let's just say that you don't hear about how to relate markets to the environment or sweatshops or natural disasters every day! The other participants were also very passionate about free markets. Little did I know how engaging the discussions about economics could be; not exactly a topic I'd normally get such a fervent response from!

The UK internship was an amazing opportunity to extend my knowledge of freedom, and is an experience I will always cherish. As clichéd as it sounds, it really has been the trip of a lifetime. I have learned so much, not only about free markets, ideas and the UK, but also about myself. I cannot thank Ron Manners, Andrew Pickford and everyone else in the Mannkal team enough for this opportunity. They made this life-changing experience possible and for that I am forever grateful.

## Report by Timothy Lefroy



This year I was fortunate enough to be selected for the United Kingdom internship, an experience that changed both my understanding of economics and more broadly, my perception of society as a whole. The internship included two main elements: work as a research intern at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and the opportunity to attend the annual Freedom Week conference at Cambridge University.

### IEA

The walk from Westminster tube station along the Thames, past the grandiose Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and into the hidden (but misleadingly large) offices of the IEA became my favourite daily journey to work. During my time at the IEA I completed a research project and attended a number of educational events and seminars. I was asked by the Educational Director, Dr Stephen Davies, to compile a report of quotes and comments from leading figures and institutions that failed to predict the Global Financial Crisis. Aside from research, I was fortunate enough to attend the annual *Hayek Memorial Lecture* (hosted by the IEA) with



Left to right: John Webster, Fraser Nelson (editor of The Spectator), Timothy Lefroy.

keynote speaker, Mr Grover Norquist, Founder and President of *Americans for Tax Reform*. As part of the programme I attended a number of other educational seminars on a range of different topics including "Economic growth: where it comes from, where it goes", "The deadly effects of Keynesian economics", and my personal favourite, "Options for public policy and arguments among economists".

### Freedom Week

The Freedom Week conference at Cambridge University was an unforgettable experience. We were treated to a number of fascinating speakers, lecturing on a number of very interesting topics. The topics and discussions I was most interested in concerned open borders, mutual aid and voluntarism as alternatives to the welfare state, intellectual property rights, and the effectiveness of privatising certain markets (including education). One of the greatest parts of both the Freedom Week conference and the IEA internship was meeting other students and sharing ideas with equally passionate people. Both groups had great diversity, boasting students from all around the world.

The UK internship was truly a trip of a lifetime. I have a strong passion for economics and I'm very grateful that I was given such a unique opportunity. True libertarianism is an area that is frequently neglected in both secondary and tertiary education, and I valued the chance to develop my understanding of this area while still being a student. I made many friends and certainly had some very interesting conversations! Most importantly, my experience taught me more about my own beliefs, both political and economic. Many of the discussions and debates were enough to completely change my perception of some issues, while others just left me feeling more convinced with my existing viewpoints.



# Mannkal Scholars at Home

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This year Mannkal selected Vasili Hatzis, Stephen Puttick, Zach Cole and Mark Maciolek to attend the Australian Libertarian Conference in Sydney.

Mark shares his experience of his favourite lecture from the conference:

*The Myth of Market Failure in New Technology, Science and Innovation*  
by Professor Jason Potts, RMIT University.

Professor Potts is a Principal Research Fellow at RMIT University. His studies focus on the fields of evolutionary, innovative, institutional and cultural economics. At the inaugural Australian Libertarian Conference held over 6–7 April in Sydney, he presented a detailed lecture entitled “The Myth of Market Failure in New Technology, Science and Innovation”.

This was one of the many speeches that challenged contemporary ideas relating to government intervention in markets, and whether its presence is really all that necessary in order to achieve economic and social prosperity.

It is common in the twenty-first century for large first-world governments to spend big on research and development (R&D). Professor Potts developed his argument through looking at fundamental economic data. What automatically became problematic was the fact that there is no apparent correlation between the success of R&D and scientist’s wages in the sector. Associate Professor Potts separated his findings into three distinct categories:

- (a) The government uses “verification argument[s]” i.e. spending money and hoping something happens;
- (b) R&D funding is purely a rent transferal activity; and
- (c) Political gain from spending on R&D is significant.

My interpretation of Professor Potts’ discussion is that it is not economically viable to continue increasing R&D sector funding if the result has primarily been greater wages for scientists. We often talk about there being ‘no free lunches’ in the market and therefore it seems economically unviable to implement higher wages if the responsibility and accountability of scientists doesn’t increase.

Professor Potts went on to describe the issue as a “collective action problem”. He stated that unfortunately government R&D funding “ignores entrepreneurial desire”, which in turn leads to crowding out in the sector. This suggests that there is an imbalance

between promoting individual innovation and governmental innovation. Professor Potts outlined the fact that the government need not change the dollar figure they are pumping into the sector, but completely overhaul the way in which the funding is structured. Funding is always easy, but the government needs to change its attitude toward innovation and realise that the verification argument leads primarily to rent transferals and rent-seeking behaviour.

The harder but more effective solution is to alter funding structures and promote R&D through other means that are more efficient in promoting productivity and growth.



Left to right: Mark Maciolek, Donna Withers, Vasili Hatzis, Alexander McVey.



## Mannkal Events

Introducing a new round of bright young scholars, defending the *Australian Constitution*, welcoming renowned international speakers, and providing an avenue for informed and constructive discussion, are merely a few of the objectives that our events, highlighted on the following pages, facilitate.



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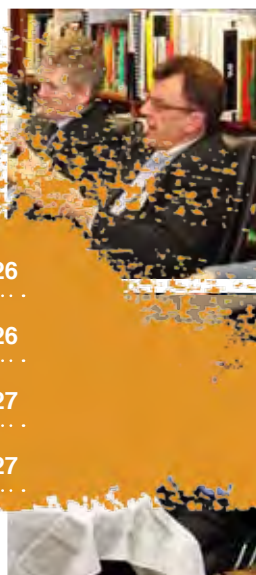
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## Year Ahead Cocktail Party

In February this year, Mannkal hosted its annual Year Ahead Cocktail Party to celebrate the achievements of the past year and to reflect on the exciting projects for the year to come. The evening was also an opportunity to hear from Mannkal Scholars who were part of our international internship programme. Returning scholars Angus Duncan, Geneviève Mitchell, Emma Rowe, Kim Phan, Conrad Karageorge and Alexander McVey, spoke of their experiences working for think tanks in the United States, Canada, India and Hong Kong.



Left to right: Tate Marston, Hel-lenna Tomshin and Stuart Hatch.



Left to right: Peter Philpot, Emma Rowe, Kim Phan.



Left to right: Michelle Jack and Donna Withers.

## Tom Palmer's Perth Visit

Mannkal and the Institute of Public Affairs welcomed special guest, Dr Tom G. Palmer, Executive Vice President of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation and Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, to discuss his most recent book, *After the Welfare State*. Dr Palmer provided several riveting presentations concerning the future of free markets and Libertarian Ideas. Mannkal also had the pleasure of gaining insight into Dr Palmer's extensive knowledge of think tanks and his ideas on the most effective ways to educate students in free market ideologies.



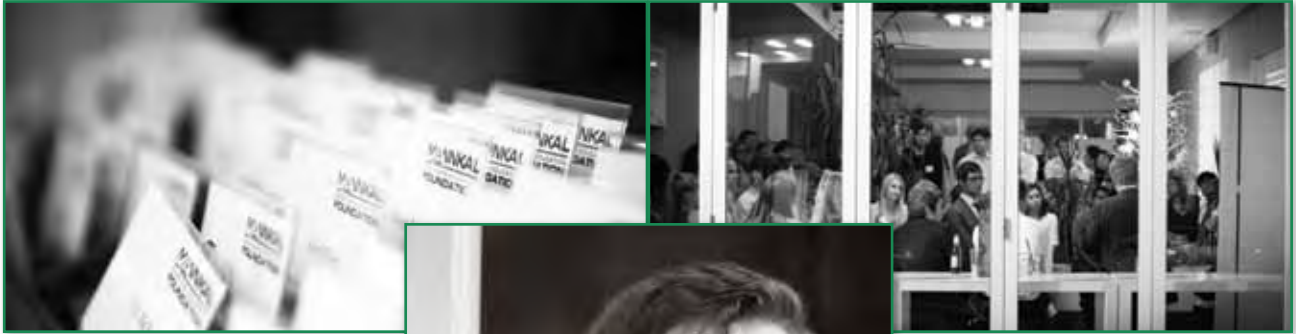
Left to right: John Hyde, Tom Palmer and Ron Manners.





## ECOMS Student Dinner

In April, Mannkal hosted its annual student dinner in conjunction with the Economics and Commerce Society of UWA (ECOMS), featuring renowned speaker Dr Tom Palmer, who participated in a thought-provoking discussion with the 75 student guests in attendance. The event was an overwhelming success and Mannkal looks forward to hosting the next Mannkal/ECOMS Student Dinner early next year.



*‘Equality of rights means that some people cannot simply impose obligations on others, for the moral agency and rights of those others would then be violated’*



*‘If an individual is born with the obligation to obey, who is born with the right to command?’*



Top: Dr Tom Palmer; Middle, left to right: Derek Lau, Hannah Berdal and Vikram Singh.  
Bottom, left to right: (1) Andrew Pickford, Charles Pym; (2) Ashley Klingenberg, Elselynn Leighton; (3) Angus Duncan.

## Australian Mining Productivity and Competitiveness Summit



In mid-April, Ron Manners was invited to chair the AMPAC Summit at the Pan Pacific Hotel. The Summit discussed Australia's slipping productivity and competitiveness, a topic that has dramatically increased in importance over the past few months. Unfortunately, the major advances made in the 1980s and 1990s are not being mirrored in

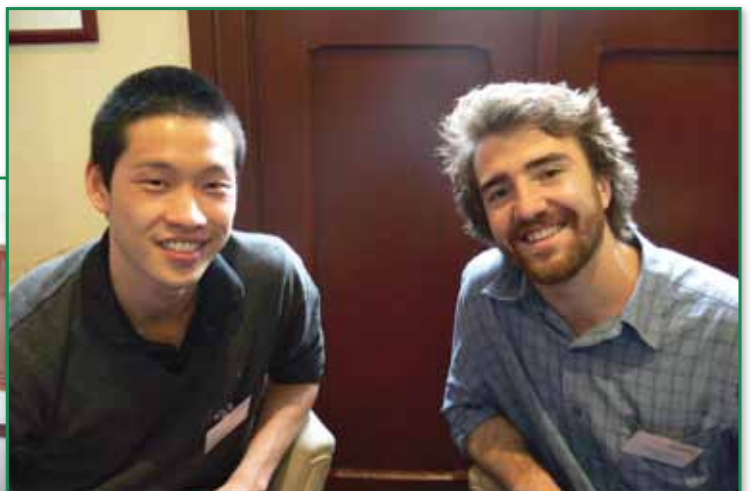


the present day. Rather, the soft option of appeasement has been utilised to the detriment of the Australian economy. Ron posed the critical question:

*"Where is the strong management and political will to steer Australia back to productive prosperity?"*

Against this backdrop, the speakers and delegates of the AMPAC Summit set out to compile a list of urgent actions required to get Australia back into business!

## Freedom to Choose



Above, left to right: Patrick Vu, Mark Hennessy

In July, Mannkal, in conjunction with the University of Notre Dame, hosted the annual Freedom to Choose Conference. Attendees were able to listen to a series of esteemed speakers discuss "The Economics of Government Failure" and its associated consequences. Professor Geoffrey Brennan, from the Australian National University, provided the keynote address on "The Theory of Government Failure: An Economist's View". The event provided much food for thought!

## History of Economic Thought Society of Australia

The University of Western Australia hosted the 26th annual History of Economic Thought Society of Australia Conference from 4–6 July. Eminent speakers from around the world attended to discuss a variety of topics concerning Economics, Law and History. Steven Medema, from the University of Colorado Denver, Geoffrey Brennan, from the Australian National University, and Robert Sugden, from the University of East Anglia, were the keynote speakers for the event. HETSA also welcomed special guest, Bob Gregory, from the Australian National University, to present “Some Reflections on the History of Australian Economics”.

Conrad Karageorge was selected to attend HETSA as Mannkal's representative this year. Although initially intimidated by being in the company of such distinguished economists, Conrad soon felt at home “engaging in lively debate and learning a great deal from the week's lectures!”



## Samuel Griffith Society Conference

The Samuel Griffith Society is dedicated to preserving the principles of the Australian Constitution. In pursuit of this objective, the Samuel Griffith Society will hold its annual conference on 8–10 November in Sydney this year. Mannkal is pleased to announce that it has chosen six scholars to attend the conference:

- Geneviève Mitchell;
- Catarina Cabrera;
- Stephanie Hughes;
- Murray Tennent-Brown; and
- Lauren Reed;
- James Illich



Their experiences from the conference will be published in the December edition of Mannkal's *e-Focus*.



## Freedom and Prosperity Club Meetup



The Freedom and Prosperity Club is a meetup group that hosts events discussing free markets, capitalism and the causes of market failure. The Freedom and Prosperity Club welcomes new members who can sign up via their meetup page, <http://www.meetup.com/freedom-perth/>

Paul McCarthy, Stuart Hatch and Samuel Marks introduced the Freedom and Prosperity Club in early 2012. With the assistance of Mannkal, the Freedom and Prosperity Club has hosted a variety of events. It has forged ahead in leaps and bounds with 123 members to date!

### John Hyde Oration

Welcoming in the New Year, Mannkal and the Freedom and Prosperity Club hosted Rafe Champion, a renowned author and philosophical blogger, to give the John Hyde Oration Address. His speech reflected on John's work as a tireless promoter of economic freedom.



Left to right: Henri Hitié, Helen Hyde, John Hyde, Mark Redman.



Left to right: Helen Hyde, John Hyde, John Roskam.

### Don Turkington



Ron Manners with Prof. Don Turkington.

Mannkal was pleased to co-host an event with the Freedom and Prosperity Club in August welcoming Professor Don Turkington. Professor Turkington discussed the controversial question, "Is Australia facing a financial black hole?" He brought to the forefront the fundamental flaws in Keynesian economics and emphasised the unsustainable debt that many countries around the world, including Australia, have succumbed to.

A concise summary of Professor Turkington's views on this matter features in the August edition of the Institute of Public Affairs' *IPA Review*.

## Dan Grossman

In August, Mannkal had the pleasure of welcoming to Perth, Dan Grossman, Chairman of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation in Washington DC. Dan spent time in the Mannkal office discussing a range of topical issues with past and present Mannkal Scholars and provided an interesting perspective on think tanks around the world. The Freedom and Prosperity Club, in conjunction with Mannkal, hosted an event at *Fire and Ice* in Subiaco where Dan discussed the recent efforts of Atlas Economic Research Foundation and some current pressing issues.



*John Webster*



*Jiamin Lim*



*Left to right: Ashley Klingenberg, Ron Manners, Conrad Karageorge, Helen Le, Kim Phan, Judy Carroll, Emma Rowe, Dan Grossman, John Webster, Becky Vidler, Alexander McVey, Jiamin Lim*

## Benjamin Marks



Earlier this month, Benjamin Marks, editor-in-chief of Economics.org.au, joined Mannkal and the Freedom and Prosperity Club to discuss how to communicate free market ideas to hostile audiences. The event generated ample discussion and left the audience with much to contemplate!

‘If democracy is a means of preserving liberty, then individual liberty is no less an essential condition for the working of democracy. Though democracy is probably the best form of limited government, it becomes an absurdity if it turns into unlimited government.’

— F.A. Hayek (1899–1992)

Joint recipient of the Nobel prize in economics in 1974. Hayek taught economics as well as social philosophy at the London School of Economics and was on the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. His book *The Road to Serfdom*, published in 1944 and dedicated to “The socialists of all parties”, began the revival of modern classical liberalism.

Mannkal works with universities and institutions to support:

- **Events** that allow individuals to exchange ideas defending free markets.
- **Seminars and student scholarships** to promote the greater understanding of the concepts that underpin free societies.
- **Policy papers** on relevant topics pertaining to Western Australia.

