Ron’s Report

Ron Manners is the Managing Director of the Mannwest Group, the Emeritus Chairman of the Australian Mining Hall of Fame Ltd. and is a member of the Advisory Council for the Atlas Network, Washington, DC.

Ron was born in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. As a fourth-generation prospector, he studied electrical engineering at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines before he assumed management of the family mining/engineering business, W.G. Manners & Co. (originally established in 1895) in 1955. He expanded and diversified the company which has evolved to become 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. Ron is also the author and editor of numerous books and articles.
When John Hyde speaks, we should listen.

I have learned that lesson over my many years of friendship with John.

On two occasions, when I was living in Kalgoorlie, John phoned with brief suggestions that I visit Perth to meet a significant person.

He simply said, “Manners, you should be in Perth next week, as there is someone here who I would like you to meet.”

He never mentioned who, but I responded positively on both occasions and it gave me the opportunity to have lunch with two very significant individuals.

On one occasion this was the noted British historian and author, Paul Johnson.

On the other occasion it was Lord Peter Bauer with whom, a year later, I spent several weeks in Moscow and St. Petersburg. We were joint participants in Russia’s Transition to Freedom Seminar, organised in 1990 by the Cato Institute.

During John’s nine years in Federal politics he was an intellectual giant amongst pygmies and one of the few who recognised Australia’s dangerous drift toward diminishing freedoms.

I recall the late Justice George Sutherland once saying...

“For the saddest epitaph which can be carved in memory of a vanished freedom is that it was lost because its possessors failed to stretch forth a saving hand, while there was still time.”

What an appropriate theme to connect with John Hyde. Those who know John appreciate how he has devoted many years of his life to doing just that, “stretching forth a saving hand while there was still time.”

If you want to discover the real character of a man, just ignore what he says about himself and look instead at his dealings with other people.

The same is true of governments; ignore what their extensive and expensive propaganda departments say about themselves, and judge them instead on how they deal with their own people. Do they steal from some and give it to others? Do they indulge in such acts that would be illegal for individuals?

John set a standard by which politicians should be measured.

In the late ’70s and early ’80s, John, with a small band (approx. 10 in number) called the ‘Dries’, became alarmed at the way government policies almost always resulted in impoverishing further the Australian public. They set about to devise ways of reversing that trend.

They orchestrated a range of policies to revitalise Australia but were astonished at how their own party, the Liberal Party, treated these ideas. The ideas were treated the same way that the human body treats strange proteins; it rejected them.

This agenda was ready-made and awaiting the Australian Labor Party (ALP) when they were swept to power in 1983. The ALP claimed these policies as a momentary alternative to their full-frontal socialism.

The details are well documented in John’s book “DRY: In Defence of Economic Freedom.”

American author Lew Rockwell wrote a similar book from the U.S. point of view – “Speaking of Liberty” – and in describing his book, he also accurately describes John’s book:

“What possible difference can another book make? Why should anyone care about
the message of one book as compared with its many millions of competitors? It comes down to this.

Though there is an astounding proliferation of words in our time, there is a drastic shortage of something that is essential to the survival of civilization: defences of property against its ubiquitous enemies and its main enemy, the State. Core principles contain within them the power to slice through billions of other words based on trivia and fallacy. Though we are out-numbered and out-gunned on every front, we believe in the power of ideas to make a difference. This is why we libertarians write."

John Hyde has made a difference, by bringing ideas to the threshold of people’s consciousness, with his book, with his 550 newspaper articles, but, more importantly, with his consistency in putting principle before politics.

I am personally aware of the very real outcomes of John’s reformist zeal. The outcomes arrived, in the midst of my business career.

Coming out of decades of economic stagnation, suddenly, to use the sailing ship analogy, Australia’s sails were filled with wind and we accelerated at full speed.

I was a beneficiary of these great years, so am personally grateful to John, and equally sad to see Australia, again, stuck in the doldrums!

In short, because of John Hyde, I enjoyed a ‘golden age’ in Australia’s economic prosperity. I would like to see future generations of Australians enjoy these same opportunities.

That simple goal is one of my main motivators.

Now, as John leaves our Mannkal Board, after being there from the first day, 21 years ago, he leaves us with three important gifts:

• His friendship;
• His residual wisdom;
• His book DRY: In Defence of Economic Freedom as an inspiration of how good policy can revive a stagnant economy.

Our challenge at Mannkal is to take on the task of developing fresh, courageous young minds who will take up the challenge of reinvigorating our nation and guiding its path to as yet untapped potential.

We wish John and Helen many more years of happiness together and assure them that their spirit of reforms will become contagious in future generations of young Western Australians.

Ron Manners
Chairman

Mannkal Foundation’s Bi-Annual Review Spring 2018

Lyndon is a professional company director with governance and executive experience in a range of industries including energy, airports, economic regulation and de-regulation, superannuation funds, education and employer organisations.

Lyndon’s career has involved either overseeing the merger of existing organisations or the creation of new organisations. Examples of this include as full-time Chairman of the newly created Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation T/A Synergy; as the inaugural Executive Chairman of Western Australia’s new Economic Regulation Authority; as an inaugural director overseeing the establishment of the superannuation fund Westscheme (now merged with AustralianSuper) and as the inaugural CEO of the, then new, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia (CCI).

MANNKAL WELCOMES LYNDON ROWE TO ITS BOARD

May 8th, 2018
Proponents of liberty in Australia will find 2019 challenging.

A resurgent and increasingly leftist Australian Labour Party will likely run a federal electoral campaign where large government projects are framed as the best possible solutions to apparent problems. Debates over the suitability of government involvement will give way to arguments over the level of support or so-called taxpayer “investment”.

Problems with the National Broadband Network (NBN) and the hidden liability for taxpayers should be ample evidence of what can happen when government is involved in delivering goods and services. Older readers note the common thread between mandated slow NBN speeds and the dismal Telecom fixed line telephony service.

Beyond the NBN, even well-meaning schemes such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) threaten to consume ever larger parts of the federal budget. Not only does this centralisation of services undermine traditional forms of community and faith-based support groups, but it also causes inefficiencies and creates a culture of dependency on government to address personal problems.

What will our political parties promise to the electorate to win votes this time? It certainly won’t be a call for resilience and or devolving decision-making to the local level. Neither will there be an explanation that a spike in prices is not a market failure, but instead is a signal to both producers and consumers. Very few politicians will talk about the benefit of risk and risk-taking, even if there are negative consequences.

The implications for a desire for stability in markets, government provision of goods and services, and cartel-like arrangements in key sectors of the economy should be clear. It results in lower economic growth, higher prices than in a more competitive economy and a larger tax burden for present and future generations.

Those favouring liberty need to find better ways to communicate the trade-offs from spending taxpayer money on NBN and NDIS. No one is against faster internet or helping people who are disabled. However, if you expect the government to do this effectively or efficiently, at best you are naive and idealist. At worst you favour bureaucrats making decisions that should be left to individuals and corporations. Venezuela is an example where the state dominates decision making and the economy.

While those favouring economic freedom made great strides in the 1980s and 1990s, the high-water mark has passed. We are now in retreat and there has been a return of big government and utopian schemes. Marxist language has been replaced by calls to be green and sustainable. These advocates, referred to as ‘watermelons’ by their opponents, now dominate the cultural institutions and are active politically through groups such as GetUp! and trade unions.

What is to be done? Emulating the tactics and approach is not the answer. Mannkal believes that young, budding Western Australia leaders will find new methods and strategies from drawing on classical liberal and libertarian ideas while interning in free market think-tanks across the world. By understanding how individuals and groups have restrained government in other countries, they will be able to apply these insights to Australia.

"By understanding how individuals and groups have restrained government in other countries, they will be able to apply these insights to Australia."

Andrew Pickford
Executive Director
MANNKAL’S SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

These fortunate Mannkal Scholars enjoyed the opportunity of spending a full afternoon with Mrs Gina Rinehart as she shared her experiences covering her wide spread of interests. Mining, cattle, agriculture, exports, private vs public companies, regulatory impediments to the nation’s future and philanthropy were among the topics of the wide-ranging discussions.

The Mannkal Scholars’ one-on-one discussions with Mrs Rinehart were of immense help with their future career choices. It was a remarkable afternoon and an incredible opportunity to share the thoughts of one of Australia’s most extraordinary and inspirational business leaders.

**Apply Now!**

Applications are now open for 2019 Mid-Year opportunities.
To apply, please submit your resume and cover letter to Scholarships Manager, Kate Wagstaff at scholars@mannkal.org. Our multi-step application process involves getting to know you through interviews, essays and reports, seminars and other events.

Don’t delay – get in touch with us today!

For more information and instructions on how to apply, visit www.mannkal.org
Our Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Hannah Pham [2016]

Hannah was awarded a Mannkal Scholarship to intern with the Institute of Economic Affairs in London at the end of 2016. She subsequently went on to complete her Economics Honours at the University of Western Australia, where she was also an research assistant, focusing on development economics in the labour market.

Since graduating in late 2017, Hannah has been working as an administrative assistant at The Wealth Designers, a boutique financial advisory company in Perth.

Connor Lane [2016]

Connor is a graduate of the Curtin University of Technology, where he has completed a Bachelor of Commerce, with a major in Finance and minor in Economics.

Connor travelled to London to intern at CapX on a Mannkal Scholarship. CapX is a libertarian online news portal, housed within the Centre for Policy Studies.

After completing his internship, Connor was fortunate to meet Mrs Gina Rinehart at a special Mannkal gathering. As a result, Connor secured a role in the Commercial Contracts team at Roy Hill, where he has been employed since May 2018.

Sally Hatter [2016]

Since completing her Mannkal scholarship at the Tax Payers' Union in Wellington, New Zealand, Sally was also awarded a Mannkal scholarship to complete an Economics research project at the University of Notre Dame.

Whilst completing this project alongside her law degree she has worked part time for the Terrace Initiative, a management consulting firm. Sally has found passion for change management consulting and is excited to commence full time work when she graduates.

Sally has had the opportunity to work on many different projects and has been exposed to large scale mining and rail projects in Western Australia. A particularly interesting project that Sally has worked on is the implementation of driverless trains at RioTinto. Whilst focussing on her career progression, Sally retains a keen interest in free market economics and that interest is something she will always foster, along with her involvement with Mannkal.
Our Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Tej Patel [2017]

Tej Patel is a former Mannkal Scholar from Curtin University. In May 2017, Tej was selected to attend the prestigious Mont Pelerin Society Conference in Seoul, along with six other Mannkal Scholars. Tej subsequently travelled to Atlanta, Georgia to intern with FEE. Throughout his internship, Tej assisted with FEE’s online content and strategic marketing.

Tej graduated just before embarking on his Mannkal journey and he returned to Perth to commence his career in investment banking. Tej is now an analyst at both BlueMount Capital and Ocean Reach Advisory.

Elizabeth Powley [2016]

During the 2016/17 intake, Liz interned at the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS) in Kuala Lumpur. Upon her return, she was fortunate enough to be an Economics Intern at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA; and says one of the highlights of her time at CCIWA was publishing the quarterly “Consumer Confidence Survey”.

At the end of 2017, Liz graduated from the University of Western Australia, with a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Economics and Law & Society. Since then, Liz has been working as a Procurement Administrator at Rio Tinto, with tasks ranging from drafting contract variations to analysing trends in the labour market.

James Walker [2017]

Since his internship at the Centre for Policy Studies in London, James has completed a 10-week internship in Westpac Institutional Bank’s leveraged finance team. After this internship James completed an advanced certificate in valuation at New York University’s Stern School of Business, a course tutored by legendary finance academic Aswath Damodaran.

James has also begun working part time at Australian Venture Consultants, a management consulting firm working with ASX 100, government and multinational clients. In September of 2018, James travelled to the Canary Islands to attend the Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting, thanks to the kind nomination of Ron Manners. He joined four other Mannkal Scholars to spend the week immersing themselves into the world of free market economics.
Ambassadors
Mannkal thanks and acknowledges its Ambassadors, who each contribute to our running costs. We couldn’t do what we do without them.

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Donors
Mannkal thanks its Donors who contribute vital funds to sponsor student opportunities.

| Mrs Gina Rinehart | Mr Willy Packer | Mr Peter Iancov | Mr Ron Manners |
Madrid Scholar, Emma Watson, out for dinner with her colleagues at the Fundacion el para al avanche de la Libertad in Madrid (July 2018)

London Scholars Camille Cross and Cian Hussey in Westminster (July 2018)

Talisien Nexus Scholar, Joshua Morgan, with former presidential candidate, Gary Johnson and Mannkal alumnus Phil Hancock at FreedomFest in Las Vegas (July 2018)

SCHOLARSHIPS

US Scholar, Gianni Rifici, on his first day at the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), in Atlanta, Georgia (June 2018)

London Scholar, Cian Hussey, crossing Abbey Road (July 2018)

Hong Kong Scholar, Michaela Gartz (right), with fellow students of the Asia Institute for Political Economy
This year, I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to live and work in London for seven weeks as a Mannkal Scholar. Working at the Centre for Policy Studies – a think tank established by Margaret Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph in 1974 – was an incredibly rewarding experience where I was able to work alongside a high-calibre research team to explore policy settings around the world, with a focus on the United Kingdom. While my working days were mainly filled with research, my evenings and weekends were used to explore London and other places in England, along with a weekend getaway to France.

After spending a year and a half studying politics and the various ideologies, aims, and challenges that come with the political process, Mannkal offered me the opportunity to put this learning into action. My time at the Centre for Policy Studies was spent mostly on policy research, with a particular focus on welfare programs and the tax burden on small and medium-sized businesses. This proved to be extremely rewarding work; I was required to undertake thorough and unbiased research into past and current government policies and proposals to determine their intentions and outcomes. My tasks were not only to research the facts and present them for someone else to interpret. I was also given the opportunity to express the merits and drawbacks of particular policies and present a case for why they may not have worked as intended.

This is one of the benefits of the scholarship I was offered through Mannkal: I didn’t spend my days making coffees and running errands. I was treated as a capable member of staff able to comprehend complex policies and discuss their implications. While this was, at times, a daunting task, the research team were there to guide and support me in my role.

Over the course of my internship, I further developed my ability to think critically about arguments and discussions, quickly noticing the contradictions and inconsistencies to be found in many government policies and their justifications. My experience at the CPS allowed me to develop a greater sense of independence as I researched various topics and sifted through analyses and cases both for and against different interpretations.

One highlight of my trip was the fast-paced and inspiring environment of Westminster. I often walked past the Palace of
Westminster, where the British parliament sits, on my way to and from work, and many a lunch hour were spent sitting in Victoria Tower Gardens in the shadows of the Palace. Being so close to the political epicentre of England provided a wonderful environment to work in, especially considering the number of MPs who contribute to CPS reports and the impact that many reports have had on shaping current government debate and policy.

Exploring the different parts of London and the wider country are some of my favoured memories. My trips to Liverpool, Lincoln, Paris, and Fontainebleau were wonderful. I was able to catch up with family and get out of bustling London for a time. Not that London is lacking in things to do! While the work kept me busy during the day, there was plenty to keep me up and out of an evening. I spent weeknights going to the theatre, listening to bands in jazz clubs and hanging out with fellow interns at local pubs and markets.

This is what made the internship experience so fulfilling for me. To be given the opportunity to spend a number of weeks not only working on meaningful policy, but also exploring one of the most exciting cities in the world. The Mannkal program offers a truly unique and rewarding internship experience, partnering with think tanks the world over to give Western Australian students an insight into policy and its real-world implications, allowing us to return home to actively work towards the promotion of liberty with a sound understanding of what that entails.

The Institute of Economic Affairs – London

Nick Todd - Juris Doctor (UWA)

"You find no man, at all intellectual, who is willing to leave London. No, Sir, when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford."

- Samuel Johnson

As I boarded my departing flight on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in London I could think of no truer words to be spoken about the city where I had just spent the last 5 weeks. It is full of spirit, of humanity, history and culture. It was therefore a demonstrably appropriate venue for me to hone in on the ideas of liberty during what is a crucial time for libertarianism. Walking past the Palace of Westminster on my way to work was a formidable reminder of how important Western Civilization and individual liberty has been to the flourishing of society. It was in these moments that I realised the gravity and opportunity of my Mannkal scholarship. The ability to be in London and immerse myself in the multitude of ideas that swirled around the city was an opportunity that honestly could not be grasped anywhere else in the world.

The magic of London certainly did not stop as I walked through the doors of the Institute for Economic Affairs each morning. The iconic golden letterbox bearing the think tank’s name in bold black letters caught my eye each day. After entering the building, you almost immediately notice a myriad of past outstanding thinkers and academics that have researched at the IEA and now have a plaque on the wall. To know that you will be researching within the same think tank as people like Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek is awe inspiring. It is even more special to be introduced to other notable people in the current free market thought sphere. One of the highlights of my trip in fact was meeting Nobel Laureate Vernon Smith just before he made a speech at an IEA Luncheon. The significance of researchers, past and present at the IEA creates such a rare work environment, one that is truly only accessible for a Perth university student through the generosity of Ron Manners.

Having to live up to the grandeur of the IEA’s significant history is no problem for the current staff that are working and researching there. Despite coming from almost literally the other side of the world I instantly felt at home and at ease with the lovely people around the office.

It is not only an insight that I’ve come home with, however. The think tanks which Mannkal sends Scholars to provide more than this. The CPS aims to combine both theory and practice to develop policies which are influential in government, along with communicating these policies to the body politic in an effective, engaging way.

Interning at the CPS has allowed me to develop the skills I need to also be an effective communicator. If I were to summarise the skills, they would be thorough research, effective reporting, and engaging outreach. I believe that these skills will greatly assist me in my studies and career, and it is the work of the Mannkal team and their fruitful program I have to thank for this.
This really goes from the top right through the organisation. The senior researcher who helped me with my report was a quick witted and interesting fellow who was incredibly easy to talk to. The person in charge of managing the interns was also great, often finding the perfect balance between having a laugh and getting things done. The interns themselves were excellent to be around. They came from all corners of the earth, some from India, others from the European mainland, from America and the UK. This in itself made the internship experience even more valuable as I could constantly and quite casually engage in sometimes heated debates over libertarian ideas which has expanded my thinking. At the end of the day have expanded my network by making more friends, both professional and otherwise, in my time at the IEA. Friends that I hope to remain in contact with over the years to come.

A Mannkal scholarship provides you with the unique opportunity to work and think about economic ideas at think takes on almost any continent in the world. Even when you’re not at work, there are always new and exiting experiences to be involved in. I took every opportunity I could in my spare time to explore London. In many of these instances the friends I had made at work helped unlocked these experiences for me. For example, I found myself being given an exclusive tour of the Palace of Westminster as well as being able to enjoy a cold beer on the Palace’s delightful terrace overlooking the Thames. A Mannkal scholarship really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, it is unique and immeasurably valuable, the scholarship truly is a well-rounded opportunity for self-improvement.

Foundation for Economic Education - Atlanta

Gianni Rifici - BComm, Finance and Economics (UWA)

The cultural differences between The United States and Australia were visible quite quickly after I arrived in Atlanta. I met people with concealed weapons permits and I saw fireworks for sales in shops. I found paper pamphlets of the constitution and posters of the pledge of allegiance. There is also a feeling of free enterprise and development in Atlanta that is not felt as much in Perth. For example, there are dozens of urban ride-share services including electric scooters and bikes that are not prevalent at home.

The United States demonstration of national pride was epitomised for me on the fourth of July. I celebrated Independence Day with the other interns on the Chattahoochee river. The river water is fed from the Blue Ridge mountains. The water is really cold but it was a refreshing relief from the Georgian Summer heat.

Lawrence Reed, the president of FEE, took the other interns and I for a trip down to Newnan after the fourth of July. He showed us the town courthouse and told us about the history of the Civil War in Newnan. Newnan was a hospital town during the war which helped confederate and union soldiers alike. This is one of the reasons why Newnan was spared destruction, even though Atlanta and other surrounding towns were destroyed after the war.

The following week I attended the FreedomFest conference in Las Vegas. The conference had influential speakers like Charlie Kirk and Larry Elder. Topics of discussion at the conference ranged from identity politics, the 2020 election, and even diet and...
education.

In the next week Larry invited Tyler, Jorge and I for a trip down to Ellijay. It was great timing as I had spent the last month in either Atlanta or Las Vegas. Both are big cities with congested traffic and lots of people. Ellijay is a peaceful country town though. We went and visited the Amicalola falls and climbed all the way to the top, where we found an amazing view of the North Georgia mountains.

The next weekend Tyler and I worked at a home-schooling conference representing FEE. We gave information to parents about FEE’s online courses and our publishing partners. We also gave away prizes to the kids and distributed libertarian literature—particularly copies of Leonard Read’s famous essay, *I, Pencil*, and Lawrence Reed’s *Real Heroes*. This week I also had the opportunity to visit Moss Pawn and Gun store, which is the home of the Iraq Veteran 8888 YouTube channel. I went and met some of the cast of the channel and they let me take a picture with some interesting firearms. We discussed the importance of the second amendment and the relevant contemporary challenges facing the United States Constitution.

These experiences have taught me a lot but the most influential element of my internship has been the people I have met. I met Jorge Jraissati, a Venezuelan political activist. The other interns were interesting to meet too because we could all talk about home—some came from Spain, others interstate from Oklahoma, Alabama, and Ohio. I feel like some of the conversations about their respective states and histories taught me as much as my academic experiences in the office did. I learned about how different states interact, and the particular state systems of government. I learned about this because some of the other interns have worked on political campaigns in their states.

I believe that the relationships I have formed with some of the other libertarians in the office are what have been the most valuable part of this experience. Building those networks and incorporating that personal element has made me excited to see what they and I will achieve in the future.

There has been no greater crossroad in my 22 years than becoming a Mannkal Scholar, flying to America and interning at a Hollywood production company.

It has been a unique and life-altering experience to intern at libertarian production company Taliesin Nexus and be in the thriving iconic city of Los Angeles.

In my time here, I have surfed Malibu beach, shot at a gun range, spent a week in Vegas at the Libertarian conference FreedomFest, co-organised an indie movie screening, attended a wild political protest, witnessed a wheelchair theft and pitched a surreal crime story to the guy who wrote *Liar Liar*, who in turn roasted me for my description of the story as “surreal”.

Through my experiences, I have gained perspective on the realities of the film business and the clash between art and product, the toxicity of partisan politics, the necessity for diversity in thought of opinion across all fields and what it truly means to find a great story.

Everything in life can be looked at as a great story. Our lives will have peaks and valleys, great changes and surreal, fantastic moments that change our course. And I think we take our stories and look at great movies, art, music and novels from that perspective.

When I look at my journey toward becoming a Mannkal Scholar it both makes sense to me and it does not. When I was in my bedroom, just a university student editing little libertarian idea-based videos and getting...
my friends to voice and co-write them, to barely any views, I could never have known what would lead from this interest in ideas of liberty. Looking back also, I can see how this hunger for ideas that dissented from the establishment thought that dominates education, media and the court of public discourse – did, in fact, lead me to the Mannkal seminars: where engaging ideas and those who care to explore them unite. And what a great union this has turned out to be.

We hear a lot about U.S politics, but I feel you have to be there to truly understand the viciousness of partisan left or right politics. People truly view things as good vs evil, and very few can take a middle ground position – even my admittance of not being left or right but being libertarian got me the occasional eye-roll or odd look. I hardly think it should matter what your political persuasion is; what should matter is that we foster a fully open discourse, maintain diversity of thought and to challenge rather than silencing ideas we disagree with.

One of the other biggest deterrents to this politically-fuelled American culture is the fall of comedy! You cannot watch a late-night comedy show without a serious, drab analysis of “what Trump did today”. It is a sad decline from Carson to Colbert after all the great 1970s talk show hosts where the likes of Johnny Carson and Dick Cavett created fascinating discussions and fun, hour-long escapes from the day-to-day grind. Our modern talk show hosts merely share the same left-wing politics and the same Trump jokes.

Anyhow, at the Taliesin Nexus office through script-reading and film-viewing, I have come to have a better grasp on what it means to tell the story of liberty, and how storytelling is crafted and the immense value it brings. Ideas are so powerful, but sometimes people turn their ears off and refuse to listen, they are blinded by their own side and the perceptions of politics as being good versus bad. Great stories are like capturing ideas and presenting them in a unique, awe-inspiring way. I do not know where the line between art and product is - maybe it is all subjective.

This journey has been an absolute thrill, and I have Mannkal to thank for this experience. I am not sure where the road will lead from here, but storytelling abroad in America was a fantastic way to start.

I had the experience of a lifetime working at the Adam Smith Institute (ASI), living in London and travelling around the English countryside. I have been able to gain experience writing, editing and organising while also learning the day to day aspects of the running of a think tank in Westminster.

The ASI is a great office to go to in London for a comprehensive view on Libertarianism and free markets. They are a smaller office but manage to cover many areas of politics and lifestyle economics tax reform and much more. I was able to learn and write about all different areas, my favourites bring, the economics of Love Island (a reality TV show), plastic straws and paid organ and blood donations.

When researching my first article, the economics of Love Island, I was introduced to a concept I had not heard of, the Security Dilemma. This is shown on Love Island when the boys were forced to move to another villa, Casa Amor, filled with six new girls. While the original boys were away, another six new boys were sent to the original villa to tempt the remaining females.

All islanders face the problem that their partner might recouple and leave them single before they are reunited. Individuals end up recoupling with new partners even if neither of them actually desired it to ensure their safety and security in the villa. In traditional political theory, this applies to countries. States increase their security by increasing military power. In this situation, both countries are unsure if the other is increasing their security. To combat this potential threat, they increase their own. This then heightens tensions between the nations even though neither country particularly wanted it.

I had not given much thought into plastic straws, but after the plastic bag ban in Australia, it will surely become next step as shown by the UK which banned plastic bags in 2012. The majority of the waste found in the ocean actually comes from 10 rivers mainly in Asia but also in Africa which have millions of people living among them. Knowing that Australian and British plastic bags and straws don’t make it into the ocean made me realise that

Adam Smith Institute - London
Camille Cross - BComm, Human Resource Management (Notre Dame)
we are actually hurting the environment further through the production and emissions released through the creation of these products. On another note, more than half of the plastic that is found in the ocean isn’t actually household waste or single-use plastics from individuals. More than half of the debris found is actually commercial waste including fishing nets, ropes, lines.

Another area that sparked my interest while in London was the idea of commodifying blood and organ donations. This all started when I looked into nudging where England wants to follow suit with Wales and introduce an opt-out system. When I think of blood donations I think of the advertisement saying 1 in 3 Australians will need blood at some point in their life but only 1 in 30 Australian donate. This statistic is quite scary when you consider that at least one person in every family will need blood at one point. Australia and Brazil and some of the counties that have an outright ban on paid blood, plasma and organ donations.

I had great fun on the weekends with my fellow Mannkal interns in London as well as some friends from back home who happened to be there. We had some great times with all three of us heading to the THINK! conference run by the IEA and a trip to the famous Portobello Road markets. As time was running out at the end, I managed to spend a day in Bath which has a fascinating history from the Roman empire to when it was a Georgian metropolis that rivalled London. Looking back at Bath from the hillside you can actually see the periods of economic downturn in the architecture and parks.

I decided to spend my last weekend visiting the one and only Windsor Castle where Prince Harry and Megan Markle recently got married. This was a great experience to stand exactly where they stood and also compare it to Buckingham Palace and other royal landmarks and buildings.

This opportunity has helped me in so many ways and opened lots of different doors. I cannot thank Mannkal and the ASI enough.

“We libertarians are not the spokesman for any ethnicity or economic class; we are the spokesman for all classes, for all the public; we strive to see all of these groups united, hand in hand, in opposition to the plundering and privileged minority that constitutes the rules of the State.”

- Murray Rothbard

I was extremely fortunate to be the first student to intern at Fundación para el Avance de la Libertad (Fundalib) in Madrid Spain. My six weeks as a Mannkal Scholar was perfect as the internship allowed me to explore libertarian ideas, form networks, attend a conference, gain experience working in another country, immerse myself in another culture, expand my ideas, and develop myself professionally and personally. Fundalib staff welcomed me into their homes and gave me my own Spanish libertarian family!

No day was the same at Fundalib, whether it was discussing libertarian ideas over lunch or dinner, writing papers or exploring the countryside the libertarian way - it was always exhilarating!
Fundalib allowed me to see that libertarian ideas can make significant change in countries around the world that are fighting for freedom. I experienced real advocacy, developed my ideas, engaged in rallies, and discussed thoughts with prominent libertarians who have lived in different countries and have seen how important these ideas are to human flourishing.

Fundalib allowed me to mature as a writer, fostering my ideas and developing my writing style. My internship challenged my ideas both intellectually and morally. I was exposed to a different way of thinking, a different culture and a different political atmosphere. This experience allowed me to become independent from the constraints of university opinions and enabled me to tackle new thoughts, cultures and lifestyles.

As well as exploring Madrid I was able to experience other parts of Spain including Toledo, Castile-La-Mancha, El Escorial, Segovia, San Ildefonso, Ayllon, Maderuelo, Riaza, Salamanca, Avila and Aranjuez. Viewing these places from a libertarian perspective enabled me to look beyond the tourist surface and see the role that people and events from the near and distant past are playing in today’s Spain.

Being a Mannkal Scholar has enabled me to meet so many people that have formed by views as a libertarian and allowed me to grow as an individual. I had many immersive experiences where I met and networked with a range of libertarians from Spain and across Europe and forged connections that would not have been possible without this internship. I vastly improved my communication and interpersonal skills and was compelled to get out of my comfort zone. I talked to lots of professionals who were mostly non-native English speakers and experienced the importance of non-verbal cues in communication. Since returning to Western Australia I sometimes catch myself gesticulating strongly as I make some point in a discussion!

My internship at Fundalib allowed me to grow intellectually and personally. For the first time I had the opportunity to work as an author. I co-wrote the World Index of Moral Freedom 2018 published by Freedom Press and wrote a paper on Western Australian secession, which is being published later. I certainly developed my thought on different aspects of libertarianism and built my confidence in expressing my views in this area.

I would not have been able to undertake the internship at Fundalib without the generosity of Ron Manners and the support and patience of the Mannkal team. Being a Mannkal Scholar has enabled me to develop my thinking and my professional style. I have been able to access a range of opportunities that have inspired me and challenged me and helped me achieve some of my desires for my future. I am forever grateful to Ron and the team for the time and energy they have given me.

After my internship experience with Mannkal I am able to take on anything!

Visit www.mannkal.org/internship-blog to read the Scholars’ weekly blogs!

**
Applications are now open for our 2019 Mid-Year Internships.
"How can I improve my chances of receiving a scholarship?"

As Scholarships Manager at Mannkal, I hear this question all the time. The bad news? There is no easy answer. The good news is that the skills and attributes necessary for a scholarship are also exactly those most keenly sought after in "the real world" by employers. The even better news is that, through the Mannkal Leadership Development Program, students can develop all these skills that will set them up for real life success.

When I am asked this question, my answer is always, annoyingly, "What do you think you can do?" Clearly this is not what students hope to hear. However, understanding how to think critically and independently, and developing an awareness of one's own shortcomings - as well as assets - are crucial qualities for success in professional and social environments.

To offset my irritating answer, there are a few key pointers that savvy scholarship applicants should note:

- Use your best manners, always. People notice;
- Desire to expand your mind and question conventional wisdom;
- Pay attention. Make notes. Follow instructions. Arrive early;
- Before you speak or act, consider the effect. Aim to create a positive impression during every interaction;
- Never, ever, miss a deadline. Be respectful of other people's time;
- Learn how to accept criticism graciously and turn it into a positive experience;
- Be your sincere self. People can detect if you are being disingenuous.

These skills may appear obvious and generic. In fact, they are essential and, surprisingly often, absent during the initial application stages. Happily, these basic attributes are easily learned, and will help students succeed in any context; effectively leading a group assignment, proceeding through a job application process, earning the respect of colleagues, impressing managers, achieving a promotion, establishing a strong professional reputation, launching a business... and of course attaining a Mannkal scholarship!

Students who realise that what they learn through their Mannkal experience translates to a larger, global context have a substantial advantage over their peers. Our graduate placements include:

**Australia:**
- The Wealth Designers
- The Terrace Initiative
- City of Vincent
- Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- ACIL Allen Consulting
- Australia Venture Consultants
- The Liberal Democratic Party
- WA Super
- Saults52
- Sansom Capital
- Phillip Morris International
- Roy Hill

**Global:**
- Latham & Watkins LLP, London & Dubai
- Cato Institute, Washington DC
- Competitive Enterprise Institute, Washington DC
- Adam Smith Institute, London
- Various investment companies, Hong Kong
- And many more!

Our graduate placements include:
Where in the World Do You Want to Learn?

The Mannkal Economic Education Foundation is looking for students to intern at a range of internationally recognised research foundations and think tanks. All internships are financially supported through the Mannkal Leadership Development Program and open to all enthusiastic university students. Opportunities are now open for the 2019 mid-year break.

Some of the opportunities on offer...
The Mannkal team with Tom Switzer (March 2018)

Loic Munso and Christian Bien in Jakarta for the 2018 Asia Liberty Forum

Mannkal Scholars visiting the Parliament of Queensland

Mannkal Scholar, Callum Hudson, with the IPA’s Renee Gorman at the 2019 ALS Friedman Conference, Sydney (May 2018)

Prof Werner Soontiens, Andrew Pickford, Ron Manners and Dr Mike Nahan MLA at our Freedom to Choose Conference at the University of Notre Dame (June 2018)

Australian Libertarian Society’s Executive Director, Stuart Hatch, with Mannkal Scholarships Manager, Kate Wagstaff at the ALS Friedman Conference, Sydney (May 2018)
Now in its 8th year, our annual Freedom to Choose Conference is held in partnership with the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle. On Friday, 29th June, more than 85 people convened at the old ‘Fremantle Hotel’ building to hear about Australia’s resource taxation woes and related government failures. We welcomed more than 65 students from all five universities in Perth, who got to network with the speakers, academics, politicians and business leaders. We look forward to our next Freedom to Choose conference, to be held in October 2019.

SPEAKERS

**Paul Kelly**
“Lessons from the Rudd-Gillard failed mining tax project”

**J.J. Pincus**
“If they really are rents, why not tax them at 100%?”

**Henry Ergas**
“Rents and democracy”

**David Gilchrist**
“Accounting for taxes: public sector reporting and the accountability conundrum”

**Peter Hartley**
“Virtual resource taxes: regulation and subsidy in the energy industry”
Scholarship Snapshots ‘17–’18

Have a look at some of our most memorable Scholarship opportunities! In the last 12 months, we have sent over 230 students on conferences and internships around the world.

**Held in conjunction with the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), our Western Civilisation Conference was a day full of riveting presentations and discussions. The stellar lineup of speakers included Silicon Valley entrepreneur, John Chisholm, and Australian academic superstars, Prof Wolfgang Kasper, Dr Bella D’Abrera, Rev Peter Kurti and Dr Jennifer Oriel.**

With over 120 attendants, including university and high school students, it was a fantastic celebration of our Christian-Judeo origins and why Australia has succeeded where many other new nations have failed.

This was the second instalment of our Western Civilisation conference series - stay tuned for the next event!

**The Sun Rises in the West II**
24 November 2017, Perth

![Prof Wolfgang Kasper, Dr Bella D’Abrera and Rev Peter Kurti](image)

**Asia Liberty Forum**
10 - 11 February 2018, Jakarta

Atlas Network’s 2018 Asia Liberty Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia, was co-hosted by the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS).

More than 200 people from 30 countries gathered at the Mandarin Oriental to attend the conference, which featured several thought-provoking sessions examining the trajectory of liberty, property rights, and technology in the Asia region.

Mannkal sponsored four students to attend. The Scholars also had the opportunity to intern at CIPS for the week prior to the event, helping out with the logistics and general organisation of the conference.

![Loic Munso, Harvey Diggens, Christian Bien and Sebastiano Rosati with Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips](image)

**Ottawa Enrichment Program**
4 - 11 February 2018, Ottawa

Each year, all North American-based Mannkal Scholars participate in our specially designed ‘Ottawa Enrichment Program’ which is led by Mannkal’s Executive Director, Andrew Pickford. This year’s participants were Jack Williamson (Atlas Network), Tej Patel (FEE), Louis Williams (Alberta Institute), Chris MacCarthy (Ayn Rand Institute) and Nick Marsh (Canadian Taxpayers’ Federation).

The week-long program included visits to the Institute of Liberal Studies, the Parliament of Canada and the Australian Embassy. Discussions and seminars were held on topics such as the Classical Liberal Tradition in Canada and the Program concluded with the Manning Conference.

![Tej Patel (FEE intern) and Jack Williamson (Atlas Network intern) at the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.](image)
Now in its 22nd year, The Liberty and Society Student Conference, organised by The Centre for Independent Studies (CIS, is an absolute staple on the libertarian calendar.

In 2018, the conference was held in Sydney and was a rare opportunity for free thinking students to gather for a weekend of discussion, debate and engaging conversations about topical and societal issues from a classical liberal and libertarian viewpoint.

Mannkal is a proud sponsor of this yearly event. This year, five Mannkal Scholars attended: Cian Hussey, Carl Schelling, Nicholas May, John Gray and Josh Adamson.

The Friedman Conference is the biggest and best pro-liberty event in the southern hemisphere! More than 350 activists gathered at the University of Technology in Ultimo, Sydney, for a 3-day bonanza of presentations, debates and social activities.

2018 saw Mannkal bring over its biggest ever contingent of university students to learn all about libertarianism and how it can solve the world’s problems.

Speakers included Jeffery Tucker, Dr Tom Palmer, Jo Nova, Sinclair Davidson and many more. We look forward to the next Friedman Conference with great anticipation!

The Asia Institute for Political Economy (AIPE) program is a 3-week intensive course organised by The Fund for American Studies. Every year, more than 60 students from all over the world congregate to Hong Kong to learn about all aspects of classical liberal thought. The curriculum is organised by George Mason University (Virginia, US), one of the absolute top universities for economics and political economy.

This year was the first time that Mannkal sponsored students to attend the AIPE program. Micha Gartz (Curtin), Loic Munso (Murdoch) and Delaney Bruce (UWA) were all succesful in their applications and spent three weeks in the bustling metropolis. Additionally, Micha and Loic also spent the week prior, interning at the Lion Rock Institute.
Scholarship Snapshots (continued)

The Samuel Griffith Society was founded in 1992. Its objective is to uphold the Australian Constitution and our country’s parliamentary institutions, and holds a clear position of support of the decentralisation of power and the federalist system. It does this through meetings, published papers and conferences.

The 2018 conference was held in Brisbane, and had more than 240 in attendance. Keynote speakers included the Hon. Peter Dutton, the Hon. Tony Abbott and John Roskam of the IPA.

Mannkal sponsored 14 students to attend from a diverse range of study areas.

Samuel Griffith Society Conference
4-6 August 2018, Brisbane

ImagineCon
10 - 11 August 2018, Singapore

The Imagine Conference is an annual event brought to you by the Adam Smith Center in Singapore, an independent organisation dedicated to promoting humanities education in the tradition of Adam Smith. Featuring both local and global thought leaders, this yearly conference explores the big ideas that will shape our future.

The 2018 theme was on the “Future of Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Progress.” Mannkal sponsored four students to fly to Singapore and participate in this great 2-day conference. Speakers included Dr Tom Palmer, Prof Sinclair Davidson and Prof Randall Holcombe.

LibertyFest
28 - 30 September, Brisbane

LibertyFest is a free-thinking speaker and entertainment conference operated by LibertyWorks. Now in its second year, the conference took place over two days and saw libertarians, conservatives, students and budding activists convene for presentations and debate on how to advance personal and economic liberty in Australia.

Speakers included Tom Switzer, Warren Mundine AO, Steve Baxter, Bettina Arndt, James Fox Higgins and many more.

The Mannkal team brought 14 enthusiastic students with them from across the Perth universities.
The Mont Pelerin Society’s 2018 General Meeting took place on the incredible island of Gran Canaria, the largest of the Canary Islands. The theme was “Competition, Discovery, and the Pursuit of Happiness”.

Ron Manners is a long-term member of the MPS and brought four Mannkal Scholars with him. James Walker, Mannkal alumnus, also joined the group to spend the week learning more about free-market economics and classical liberal philosophy.

The conference’s key speakers included Deidre McCloskey, Daniel Hannan MEP and Peter Boettke. The presentations spanned topics such as value investing & Austrian economics, evolutionary theory in the social sciences and the private provision of public goods.

We can’t wait for the next MPS meeting in Dallas, Texas in 2019!
In May 2018, the Mannkal Foundation and the Institute for Public Affairs co-sponsored an essay competition. Based on the Atlas Network’s “Doing Development Differently” initiative, university students were asked to analyse how this framework could help Australia’s poorest and most marginalised.

Mannkal ambassador and competition judge, Colin Agnew, explains further....

There are a number of studies which show that large foreign aid payments do not necessarily benefit citizens of the recipient countries. Barriers to economic development in these countries relate to:

- lack of economic and property rights
- restricted access to a transparent legal system
- little protection from corruption
- large barriers to entry into the economic system
- siphoning of aid funds to bureaucratic agencies

Despite the analogy with foreign aid, not much analysis has been undertaken about the efficacy of government funding to redress Aboriginal social and economic disadvantage. Despite substantial increases in welfare and infrastructure payments, the social and economic standards of Aboriginal people remain appallingly substandard. We’ve seen little change in health, education, life expectancy, employment opportunities, alcohol and drug abuse, high incarceration rates, domestic violence and child sexual abuse. This is not to say that these matters do not impact on non-indigenous citizens, only that the statistics show a significant difference in the two groups.

Warren Mundine says that combined federal and state expenditure on Aboriginal programs totals some $50 billion annually. The recent census had some 650,000 people identify as Aboriginal so that this represents some $77,000 annually for each Aboriginal person or say $300,000 for a family of four. We can imagine the lifestyle of other families with an after tax annual income of $300,000.

I note that the Atlas Network “Doing Development Differently” framework, in relation to overcoming the problems of foreign aid not benefitting the intended persons, also promotes a bottom-up approach where local organisations expand the economic rights of the poor, a similar framework of an “authorising body”.

I was proud to be the judge of this essay competition, wherein all entries focused on our own wasteful expenditure on welfare programs. Maybe the philosophy of who is impacted gets to make the decision about the nature of the impacts, could be extended to the full amount of $50 billion (or whatever the actual amount is). We could take the view that the “authorizing body” would sit at the top of the Aboriginal expenditure programs. The annual funding is theirs to spend as they wish, subject to existing legal restraints about fraud, malfeasance, corruption and the like. This body is not ATSIC – Version 2. There would obviously need to be various subordinate regional and community structures in place.

I can imagine the cry of the bureaucrats and politicians (as well as from the army of well-intentioned lifestyle and behaviour controllers) about the very thought of giving people control over their own affairs but we cannot continue to deny the most disadvantaged group, who have suffered appalling historic wrongs, participation in the benefits of our modern society.

The present system is indeed “fundamentally broken”.

WINNERS
1st prize $1,500
Cian Hussey
The University of Notre Dame

2nd prize $500
Alex Prindiville
Murdoch University

Read their essays on www.mannkal.org!
**The Year Ahead**

*We look forward to catching up with you at the following events...*

**7-8 Nov**  
Atlas Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner  
New York City

**15 Nov**  
The Lion Rock Institute 14th Anniversary Dinner  
Hong Kong

**17-20 Jan**  
LibertyCon  
Washington DC

**6 Mar**  
Mannkal’s Emerging Leaders Showcase  
Perth

**8-9 Mar**  
LibertyFest  
Perth

**23-26 May**  
ALS Friedman Conference & World Taxpayers’ Conference  
Sydney

**30 Aug - 1 Sep**  
The Samuel Griffith Society Conference  
Melbourne
Mannkal Student Opportunities in 2017-18

Mid-Year Internships
End-of-Year Internships

LibertyCon
Manning Conference
Friedman Conference
Mont Pelerin Society, South Korea
FEECon
Freedom to Choose
ANZSFL, Melbourne
THINK IEA
Liberty & Society Conference
HETSA
Samuel Griffith Conference
HR Nicholls Conference

2017  200 scholarships
2016  168 scholarships
2015  135 scholarships
2014  41 scholarships
2013  21 scholarships
2012  13 scholarships

Mannkal Scholarships will reach a record high in 2018

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