

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**1997-2023**

***Because ideas matter...***





## Welcome to Mannkal's 2023 Annual Report!

### OUR MISSION

The Mannkal Economic Education Foundation is a private, not-for-profit organisation. Our vision is to advance the principles of freedom, individual responsibility and free markets in Western Australia.

Our flagship activity is the Mannkal Scholarship Program, providing scholarships for Western Australian tertiary students to undertake seminars, attend conferences and courses, and volunteer for internships with our partner organisations both domestically and overseas.

### STAFF

Nicola Wright  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Kate Wagstaff  
*Scholarships Manager*

Nathan Cuthbertson  
*Research Analyst*

Jake McCoull  
*Media & Project Lead*

Doug Hall  
*Lead Ambassador*

Judy Carroll  
*Executive Assistant*

Jeanie Moulin  
*Accounts*

Stuart Banks  
*Advisor*

Matthew Lock  
*IT Consultant*

### BOARD

Russell Rieck  
*Chairman*

Ron Manners  
*Founder*

Mac Nichols  
*Deputy Chairman*

Neil Fearis

Jenny Manners

Lyndon Rowe

Bill Stacey

David Stevens

### TIMELINE

VIEW THE COMPLETE [MANNKAL TIMELINE](#) FROM 1997 - 2023







# RON MANNERS AO

## *Bowing Out – A New Journey!*

I express my gratitude to Mannkal's new Chairman, Dr. Russell Rieck. His leadership allows me the opportunity to delve deep into Mannkal's 26-year legacy, revisiting our achievements and refining our strategies. This exploration embodies the spirit of experimenting with ideas, and as I transition from the chairmanship, I'm reminded of an invaluable guide on this journey.

Dr. Petr Beckmann, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering, University of Colorado, for many years produced a magnificent monthly newsletter "Access to Energy" where he championed the essence of science, technology, and free enterprise. Over his two-decade editorial journey, Petr enlightened us about upcoming challenges, from the debates on climate to the current energy discourse.

Petr's visit to Western Australia, sponsored by Lang Hancock, showcased how vital rational thought and discussion are for progress. He once remarked, "It is the torch, not the torch bearer, that matters. The torch, the truth, shines on; the old torch bearer recedes into the darkness." This sentiment resonates deeply with me as I step back from the chairmanship and is symbolic of letting truth be our guide.

With Mannkal's 26 years under our belt, I've observed the changing dynamics in our educational institutions. Previously, the primary goal of universities was the holistic education of their students. These days, it seems they place more emphasis on climate action, diversity, equity and ESG considerations. In the face of these changes, it's essential for Mannkal to continue as a flagbearer for the principles of free-enterprise, self-reliance, and the importance of the common law system.

One crucial lesson we hope our Mannkal Scholars learn is the importance of "stewardship of other people's money".

In business, a transparent, accountable approach to finances can earn trust, leading to unwavering support from shareholders and supporters. When your big opportunity arrives, they will be there for you.

Over last 26 years we have faced many challenges along the way, but these challenges have been lessons in resilience and have been more than compensated for by the continual feedback we receive from so many of our almost 2,000 Mannkal Alumni. Many credit their success to the values and concepts of self-reliance they were exposed to during their time with Mannkal.

Over these years my main motivation has come from five individuals who I have accidentally encountered during my formative years. They are Leonard E. Read, Professor John Hospers, Prince Philip, F.A. Hayek, and Sir Antony Fisher. Their influence will be elaborated in my forthcoming book, *The Impatient Libertarian*.

Would I embark on this journey again? Absolutely! I always encourage our scholars to embrace new ideas, collaborate, and innovate. Embracing change and new opportunities is the way forward. I tell them, "You never know where it will take you as you step into your own future."

Meanwhile, thank you all for continuing to be active participants in this adventure.

**Ron Manners AO**  
*Founder & Director*







*Handover from former Chief Ambassador Russell Rieck to Lead Ambassador Dough Hall*

# DR RUSSELL RIECK

## *The New Journey Begins*

It is both an honour and a pleasure to prepare my first Annual Report as Chairman of the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation. It is not possible to replace the living legend that is Ron Manners, but it is the duty of the Mannkal community to honour his legacy by continuing his great work. We do this by promoting the cause of liberty through training the next generation of leaders and by gathering like-minded people to this cause.

As I write this report, the world is aghast at the horror that has recently unfolded in Israel, and the continuing nightmare that is the war in Ukraine was brought close to us when Ambassador Myroshnychenko visited Mannkal in August.

Here in Australia, our battles for freedom are more mundane as we tested the public's willingness to create a racial division in our Constitution. The fact that so many people want to immigrate to Australia shows how attractive our society is to others, but we can't become complacent if we want to at least retain and eventually improve what we already have. The continuing growth of Government and the crony capitalism that it generates is one of a number of forces that need resisting.

This is the goal of Mannkal - to increase understanding of the principles of Freedom with Personal Responsibility and Free Market Economics so that future generations can enjoy the wonderful life and liberty that is available to us in Western Australia. The Board has recommitted to this goal and to keeping our flagship Scholarship Program as the core of our efforts.

We are also looking at how to spread the word more widely on classical liberal and libertarian philosophies. Our seminar series has covered topics such as cryptocurrencies, investment philosophy, human rights, journeys of the mind, and e-residencies (among many others), and we encourage our Friends and Ambassadors to join us in both broadening and deepening their thinking.

This year has also seen us strengthening our relationship with like-minded travellers, including the Samuel Griffith Society, the Institute of Public Affairs and the Centre for Independent Studies, and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the coming years.

2024 is shaping up as another successful year for Mannkal as we welcome another group of Scholars through our doors. We look to reconnect with more of our Alumni and grow our network of Friends and Ambassadors. All in the name of Freedom.

**Dr Russell Rieck**  
Chairman







Matt Ridley visit to the Mannkal Office

# NICOLA WRIGHT

## Resilience and the Pursuit of Freedom

It brings me great pleasure to share with you the remarkable achievements of the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation over the past year. Under Ron's leadership we have developed a more nimble structure, delivering a leaner Scholarship Program that is fully focused on our Mission. In doing so, our drive and commitment have not wavered, underscoring our resilience and dedication.

The very essence of Mannkal is to foster a deep understanding of the principles of freedom, intertwined with personal responsibility and the cornerstone of free market economics. It is a mission that resonates profoundly, more so today, as the world seeks anchors of stability and enlightenment.

This year, we again showcased the strength of our Program by successfully delivering a comprehensive suite of student seminars, entrepreneurial training, and both local and interstate conference opportunities for our Scholars. We created platforms for growth, mentorship, and numerous learning avenues that have not only enriched minds but also fostered bonds of camaraderie.

Celebrating milestones, we sponsored the Adam Smith Tercentenary event at Curtin University, and the Public Choice Theory winter school and associated Freedom to Choose conference at the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle. We also welcomed esteemed guests like Tal Tsfany, CEO and President of the Ayn Rand Institute and Ukraine Ambassador Vasyl Myroshnychenko. These events served as intersections of thought, philosophy, and fellowship.

Our Scholars, the very heart of Mannkal, continue to make us proud. Four of them ventured internationally to the US and UK in July and August for enriching experiences, while seven are poised to globe-trot this summer, collaborating with our partner organisations. As we bid adieu to our 2023 cohort, the excitement is palpable as we welcome our 2024 cohort.

A heartfelt thank you to our friends at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation for their invaluable collaboration. Our successes are amplified by the synergy we share. To our dedicated Mannkal team - Kate Wagstaff, Nathan Cuthbertson, and Jake McCoull - your passion and commitment are the bedrock of our achievements. We also thank our Founder's executive assistant Judy Carroll for supporting our efforts.

To our Ambassadors, your unwavering support and mentorship of our Scholars are invaluable. Your faith and dedication to Mannkal's vision have been instrumental in our journey.

Embracing change is fundamental for growth. As our esteemed Founder Ron Manners AO steps down, passing the baton of chairmanship to Dr. Russell Rieck, we look forward to enriching and refining our Program, while staying rooted in our foundational principles.

In conclusion, as I reflect on the year gone by and look to 2024, I am deeply humbled and invigorated to be part of an organisation that champions the principles of free markets and free people. Together, let us march towards another successful year, building on our legacy and crafting new chapters of excellence.

**Nicola Wright**  
Chief Executive  
Officer







# ALS FRIEDMAN CONFERENCE

Sydney, Australia

July 8-9, 2023

**John Ogilvie**

The Australian Libertarian Society's 2023 Friedman Conference was fantastic. It is difficult to single out one session as being my favourite, as there were several that I found very interesting. The panel on the future of "freedom friendly minor parties" was highly engaging, and it was interesting to hear the different party representatives.

If I had to pick one favourite, I would choose the education panel with Maya Tesa, Mark Hornshaw and Moira Deeming. All gave compelling arguments for why the education system needs serious reform. Maya Tesa argued that parents need to take a more active role in their children's education and schools, and provided some anecdotes from her personal experience as a parent. Mark Hornshaw argued that public schools should be shut down, on the grounds that the public school system forces students to conform to a cookie-cutter mould that punishes intellectual diversity. Moira Deeming gave an excellent speech discussing her experience as a teacher, and how she eventually decided to homeschool her children after becoming disillusioned with the education system. I didn't agree with everything the panelists had to say, but they each made insightful contributions, and they collectively presented a strong argument that the education system as it stands is failing the next generation, and that it needs change.

Choosing a favourite speaker from the conference is an even more difficult task, as there were many speakers who impressed me. Melisa Albisetti spoke very well about the dangers of populism, Eric Abetz spoke well about the need for leadership change in the Liberal Party, and Topher Field gave a very insightful and heartwarming anecdote about a friend he made in Venezuela. Dana Pham's speech was also very good, and it took a lot of courage on her part to speak at the conference. Overall, I would say that my favourite speaker from the conference was Moira Deeming, particularly her speech during the education panel.

Her clear passion as an educator and the love she has for her children that came out in her speech almost brought me to tears. It's one thing to hear about the pain and challenges that the current education system causes for both students and parents from secondary sources. It is far more impactful to see someone in person describing their own experiences with the education system, and the pain it caused her and her children. While I do not agree that schools should be abolished, Moira's speech really drove the point home that the public school system needs reform.

I learned a significant amount at the Friedman Conference across a range of subjects. I learned from first-hand accounts just how dire the situation is with the public school system in Australia, and that parents getting more involved in their children's education can make a significant positive difference. I also learned more about the dangers of populism, and how the freedom friendly minor parties are seriously considering running as one bloc in future elections. It would be easier to list the things I didn't learn from the conference.

At the dinner on Saturday, Spike Cohen gave a speech where he gave three tips for how libertarians can better communicate their message and make progress going forward. The advice he gave was very insightful and is essential to ensuring that the libertarian/classical liberal message is successfully communicated to the general public.

I believe that there are several main takeaways for me personally from the conference. First, I have become more passionate about education reform in light of the panel discussion on July 8th, and particularly Moira's speech. I also believe that I will make a more conscience effort to be positive in political life, as per Spike's advice. I will also be more open about my beliefs, as self-censoring is highly counter-productive.



# CAPITAF AND AIER

Vermont, United States

June 25 - July 2, 2023

**Rhys Budge**

I believe much of our current public discourse on societal issues has its roots in how much freedom we think other people should be allowed to have. While it may be satisfying to enforce our preferences on others, we forget that the question also relates to ourselves – how much freedom will others allow me to have? As part of my Mannkal scholarship, I was given the opportunity to explore this question of freedom and more while in the east coast of the United States.

My first destination was “Capitaf” located in Fairlee, Vermont. The name is a nod to the 1962 book “Capitalism and Freedom” written by economist Milton Friedman. Dr Friedman and his wife Rose chose Capitaf as their summer home to serve as a reprieve from the busy lives they led in nearby Chicago. Upon my arrival, it was easy to see why. It is impossible for one to not feel inspired and reinvigorated while looking out at the stunning green hills, vast dense woodland, and thriving nature that surrounds the main residence.

With this remarkable backdrop, we spent the next week doing a deep dive into Milton and Rose’s work. Our discussions were facilitated by Professors Ryan Yonk and Steve Miller who helped translate Milton and Rose’s ideas into the modern day context. We had lively discussions on topics ranging from ESG in business, Medicaid, equality of outcome vs equality of opportunity, public vs private school systems, and more. The intuitive feeling that “something must be done” when we are faced with such challenges often results in us opening the door to government-proposed solutions. But Milton and Rose’s assertion is that we underestimate the power free choice and free markets have in producing better solutions.

A highlight of my time spent in Vermont was visiting the small town of Plymouth – the birthplace of former US President Calvin Coolidge. While receiving a tour of the 30th US President’s humble upbringing, I learned of the passionate belief he developed that free people should not serve the government, but that government should instead serve the people.

“I want the people of America to be able to work less for the government... to have the rewards of their own industry. That is the chief meaning of freedom”. It seems uncommon today to hear a government official say he wishes to give you less, so that you can give yourself more.

A generous invitation from Ryan Yonk to stay at the American Institute of Economic Research (AIER) in Massachusetts meant I was able to extend my time in the States for another week. I joined them for a trip to Boston, where we embarked on the popular freedom trail. It is here where I learned of Boston’s centrality to the story of American independence and about the brave main characters who were pivotal in forming the greatest experiment in freedom the world has ever known.

After returning to the AIER headquarters in Great Barrington, I had the privilege of sitting in on presentations and discussions around the history of the gold standard, the economics of deliberate value destruction within firms, and the Austrian perspective on entrepreneurship. The subject matter was compelling, and it was an honour to learn from some of the brightest people I have ever met. AIER have successfully created a place which attracts those who believe in being a force for freedom. It was truly a pleasure to spend the conclusion of my trip to the States in sunny Great Barrington.

Mannkal’s support through facilitating this journey has opened doors I never expected to be walking through. My visit to the US has coloured the way I view freedom back here in Australia and how our nation’s continued prosperity requires that we begin placing economic and political freedoms back at the forefront of our agenda. We should demand nothing less than leadership which upholds individual sovereignty, and we should reject that which wishes to increase control over our lives. Let us as a nation always choose freedom.







# THE SAMUEL GRIFFITH SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Melbourne, Australia  
August 25, 2023  
**Chelsea Wilson**

The landscape of constitutional law within Australia is as diverse and dynamic as the nation itself. As a foundational pillar of the Australian legal system, constitutional law plays a pivotal role in shaping the principles, rights, and governance structures that underpin our democracy. The Samuel Griffith Society is a think tank that dedicates its efforts to the promotion of conservative and classical liberal principles within the context of constitutional law and governance. Through research, publications, and events, the society seeks to advance discussions on constitutionalism, individual freedoms, and limited government, often focusing on issues of national and legal significance in Australia.

Few topics have garnered as much attention and debate within the Australian Constitutional Law realm as the proposed Voice to Parliament referendum, and it was definitely the focus of the 2023 SGS Conference. Other featured topics of the conference included the protection of private property rights, with the compulsory acquisition of the Calvary hospital, a historians truth telling about the esteemed Samuel Griffith and commentary on past referendums. The conference was certainly an experience that I had never encountered before and opened my eyes to another side of the world that I was unaware was so alive and active.

I think the most engaging speech was delivered by The Honourable John Anderson AC. With his extensive background in Australian politics, including serving as the Deputy Prime Minister, his insights into the intricacies of governance and policy-making are invaluable. He was a captivating presenter, letting his passion for the subjects he presented shine through in his delivery. John Anderson AC's speech was a testament to his exceptional presentation skills and his ability to weave a story out of anything. Whilst everything in his speech might not have agreed with, his ability and finesse for the presentation was undeniable.

The conference's attitudes and approach seems conflicted, as throughout the dinners the conference facilitators seemed very proud of the fact that 30 per cent of attendees were under 30. My generation has been brought up on change and diversity, it is all we know. From the rapid progression and development of technology and the internet leading us to have access to practically everything in the world, to the whole school system changing for multiple years during fundamental times in formative education career due to COVID-19 restrictions, all we know is change, and subsequently, we are very adept at adapting to it.

Participating in debates and discussions within private conversations surrounding the SGS conference was valuable to me. These exchanges allowed for a deeper exploration of the nuanced aspects of the topics discussed during the conference. Through these conversations, I had the opportunity to challenge my own viewpoints, and gain valuable insights from individuals with varying experiences and expertise. While the conference itself may have presented limitations in its coverage and balance, the meaningful dialogues that took place on the sidelines were undeniably enriching. These interactions not only expanded my understanding of the issues at hand but also reinforced the importance of respectful and open discourse in shaping well-informed opinions.

I look forward to the future iterations of the SGS conference with optimism and hope for a more diverse and respectful discourse. By promoting respectful exchanges and inclusivity, we can create a platform that not only benefits attendees but also contributes to a deeper understanding of complex issues within the realm of constitutional law and governance.



# IEA FREEDOM WEEK

Cambridge, United Kingdom  
August 21-27, 2023  
**Yasmyn Ware**

At the end of August, I had the privilege of attending the 2023 Freedom Week run by the Adam Smith Institute (ASI) and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA). Upon arrival in Cambridge, I found it surreal to be on the campus that had produced many respectable academics like Alfred Marshall, Thomas Malthus, Arthur Pigou, and Amartya Sen. Not to mention John Keynes, the famous self-proclaimed liberal socialist.

On the first day of the program, we received a warm welcome from the president of the ASI, Dr. Madsen Pirie. Following the formalities, we all promptly found our way to the Maypole Freehouse for a drink to kick off the week. It was a perfect opportunity to network and meet like-minded students from various backgrounds, including liberal arts, political science, economics, law, and international relations. The memorable first night set the tone for what was to be a great week.

As the week progressed, I came across various concepts and ideas I had not yet covered in my studies. Specifically, the potential for voucher systems to make publicly subsidised services more efficient. In Great Britain, the government allocates significant amounts of taxpayer money toward the National Health Service (NHS), their comprehensive public health service introduced in 1946. The NHS system covers virtually the whole population. Dr. Kristian Niemietz discussed how public funding squanders the competitive forces that drive innovation in the healthcare industry. In turn, this results in failure to achieve productive and allocative efficiency. Shifting to a social insurance system, supplemented by vouchers, would function to reward competitive health insurance companies.

Medical professionals must also outcompete others for insurance companies to include them as part of the eligible service providers. In this system, individuals can select their preferred service and opt in for premiums where they wish to do so. With much of the discourse relevant to the United Kingdom, it was

interesting to extrapolate and consider how such free-market remedies could apply in an Australian context.

Professor Victoria Bateman's discussion on the historical role of women in the British economy and liberal feminism was also fascinating. She briefly explained her book, *The Sex Factor*, which explores the role women played in the growth of the British Empire. Victoria explained the nuclear family structure unique to the United Kingdom, postulating that a smaller family unit contributed to higher productivity and the rise of the democratic system. Additionally, she discussed the reduction in inequality and increased prevalence of female workers following the plague. Following the pandemic, a lower population resulted in labour scarcity and job vacancies. In turn, the worker's bargaining power improved, reducing the power disparity between the lower/middle class and landowners. The high demand and improved conditions increased the incentive for women to enter the workforce. Later, she discussed her most recent publication, *Naked Feminism*, which explores the 'cult of female modesty'. It was refreshing to hear a liberal perspective on central feminist concepts with many mainstream viewpoints common to radical feminism.

Attending Freedom Week extended the scope of my knowledge and enabled me to meet esteemed speakers and build strong friendships. There were various opportunities for personal development, such as the debate, which helped to reinforce my public speaking, leadership, and critical thinking skills. Moving forward, I feel more equipped to contribute to conversations about classical liberal concepts and have gained confidence in my professional skills. I cannot recommend the program enough and I would like to thank everyone at the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation who enabled me to partake in this fantastic opportunity.





# CERI ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET BOOTCAMP

Perth, Australia  
February 6-7, 2023  
**Christian Zurkowski**

Going into the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation's (CERI) Entrepreneurial Mindset Bootcamp, I didn't expect it to be as valuable as it was, but I was pleasantly surprised.

I think the key takeaways were the importance of individuality and conveying what you as a person are. A bit of a convoluted sentence and one that seems obvious. But the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation demonstrated this through a commercial perspective. Many of the residents and speakers, in person and through video, all had a common theme of conveying their purpose, their "why" statement, and their values to others and the success that gravitated to them afterwards.

So my personal takeaway is being comfortable in telling people my dream, what I'm working towards and what I hope to achieve.

But as an extra, I remember having the thought of wondering why Mannkal would send its scholars to this program. My first answer was to see how business has developed. Capitalism has a bad reputation for incentivising someone to take advantage of another. I often hear that someone is rich because they don't pay their workers enough, evade tax, and cut corners for example. CERI challenged this as many of their startups wholistically work towards benefiting society. I say wholistically because even a biotech company, improving people's lives is also making their product healthy for the environment as well.

But I wasn't satisfied with that answer. So I kept thinking...

One of the most surprising things is the liberty that these startups bought to their entrepreneurs. Once again, a common theme was someone working in their industry, experiencing some sort of challenging time and they find a

solution and dedicate their life to their product or service. This newfound purpose frees them from working for the sake of working. Despite the challenges they convey to us, they still can laugh and keep moving forward.

Inspiring really.



CERI Founder & Executive Chairman  
Charlie Bass with Ron Manners AO



# FREEDOM TO CHOOSE CONFERENCE

Fremantle, Australia

July 4, 2023

**Nicholas Tan**

A one-day conference at the University of Notre Dame on the life and works of Geoffrey Brennan, an inter-disciplinary liberal economist – posed what seemed to me a complex jumble of words and ideas, but curiously I emerged from the conference with a newfound clarity and philosophy on how to approach the world around me.

Brennan, the scholar of philosophy, politics and economics (PPE), was able to closely apply his personal philosophy and ideologies to his work, and so stretch the boundaries of traditional economics, bringing an unshakeable optimism through which he viewed the world and demonstrating a true passion for his work which overflowed into his interactions with those around him – from students to co-authors. His presence in the Australian philosophy, politics and economics environment echoes to this day, with my own university of UWA hosting the PPE course he advocated so passionately for.

A highlight of the conference was Michael Brennan's talk reflecting on his father's life – from his impact as a teacher to his academic works. Bringing a personal perspective on Brennan's work, Michael outlined his father's three defining qualities – an epistemic humility, contrarian streak, and finally a general equilibrium outlook. These pillars emerged in his perspective on the role of an economist, with Brennan opting not to merely advise on an ad hoc basis but instead choosing to dive into the mechanics of the world around us and understanding how public policy rules could be changed to achieve better societal outcomes. Although an 'economist' in the most basic sense of the word, Brennan pushed disciplinary boundaries, pointing to a zest for constantly learning and discovering how the world operates and fostering the same love in those who came on that journey with him.

One of Brennan's works that particularly resonated with me was his investigation into the economy of esteem, and how the desire for prestige can drive behaviour.

Understanding an individual as inherently self-interested, Brennan sought to understand how esteem is allocated and the rules of exchange that the 'esteem market' follows. Topics like these may seem redundant to the casual onlooker, but in reality they pose questions that dig under the surface to the core of how our society functions. How much do we value our reputations? Why do we pursue certain career goals? These quandaries are tinged with philosophical undertones, reflecting a body of work that yearns to understand the ambiguity and to answer questions which only have "maybe" as an answer.

A key discussion raised was around the tension between economic theory and its practical application in public policy. Jeff Bennett in his talk on the optimistically named Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) demonstrated how the injection of economics into public decision-making is often much needed to expose rent-seeking and politically fuelled proposals. In particular, he highlighted how BCA provides a macroeconomic lens as an input to decision making on major projects, rather than a decision-making rule in itself, cautioning that it could be captured by vested interests. Economic tools such as these serve as the diving block from which the government can bravely jump in directing its public policy, aiming for an outcome which can only hope to effectively leverage the behavioural urges of its citizens into positive social action.

In fact, an unquenchable optimism and belief that a net benefit can emerge from social cooperation emerges from Brennan's writing, with the only question remaining – how can we, and the government, most effectively harness this general equilibrium? Maybe we'll never find out how, but it would be rash to never try.





# SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

## 2023 Mannkal Scholarship intern placements

Congratulations to our 2023 Mannkal Scholars undertaking summer internships with our partner organisations, both domestically and overseas.



**Yasmyn Ware**  
Atlas Network  
Virginia, USA



**Justin de Vries**  
American Institute for Economic Research  
Massachusetts, USA



**Hukambir Kohli**  
Centre for Independent Studies  
Sydney, Australia



**Christian Zurakowski**  
Menzies Research Centre  
Sydney, Australia &  
The Ray Evans Institute  
Melbourne, Australia



**Nicholas Tan**  
Institute of Economic Affairs  
London, UK



**Rhys Budge**  
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union  
Wellington, New Zealand



**Victoria Cuarteroz**  
Centre for Policy Studies  
London, UK







# AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

## OUR AMBASSADORS

---

Mannkal's Ambassadors come from a wide range of backgrounds: business, politics, public policy, academia, entrepreneurs, finance, mining, law, agriculture, and retail. There is also a range of life experience, from recent graduates, including Mannkal Alumni, to those now enjoying semi or full retirement.

## OUR PROGRAM

---

The Ambassador Program has three streams:

**A mentoring program for Mannkal Scholars** - a voluntary scheme matching Ambassadors to Mannkal Scholars which typically sees the Scholar and Ambassador meet for a discussion every 4 to 6 weeks to help with career and personal coaching.

**Direct involvement in the Mannkal Scholarship Program** - there is potential for Ambassadors to present student seminars to our Mannkal Scholars, sharing their professional expertise and wisdom.

**An education program for Ambassadors** - every 3 months we aim to host an informal education and discussion session for Ambassadors. The topics reflect the Mannkal philosophy of promoting liberty and free markets.

For more information, or to become involved as a Mannkal Ambassador, contact Lead Ambassador Doug Hall via [doug.hall@iinet.net.au](mailto:doug.hall@iinet.net.au)

***Mannkal thanks our Ambassadors for their  
ongoing support and assistance***



# Emerging Leaders

## *The University Club of Western Australia*

On March 9 we celebrated our annual Emerging Leaders event with our Scholars, Ambassadors and supporters. We were honoured to hear an address from Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price who inspired us all with her special message for our Scholars on leadership and courage. We were pleased also to present the John Hyde Scholar Award for outstanding performance in the Scholarship Program to Frances An who demonstrated personal growth and eager and industrious participation in our program throughout 2022.





# Adam Smith Tercentenary

## John Curtin Institute for Public Policy

On June 27 we celebrated the 300th birthday of Adam Smith at an event hosted by The John Curtin Institute of Public Policy supported by Mannkal. On the day we heard from leading academics celebrating Smith's contributions and his relevance to today. The room was filled with people keen to learn more about one of history's brightest minds. Speakers at the event were Professor Tony Aspromourgos, Professor William Coleman, Professor Lisa Hill and Professor Michael McLure.





# Vasyl Myroshnychenko Ukraine Ambassador

On August 15, we were honoured by a visit from Ukraine Ambassador to Australia Vasyl Myroshnychenko. We heard about the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the future of energy and markets in Ukraine and Australia's role in supporting the people of Ukraine. Discussing the economic, energy and infrastructure damage caused by invasion, Vasyl gave a message of optimism and hope for the future of his country.





# Tal Tsfany Ayn Rand Institute

On August 22, we hosted the President and CEO of the Ayn Rand Institute, Tal Tsfany, at the Mannkal office who presented on the topic of "Freedom and Happiness". Tal shared with us his own journey to learning and embracing Ayn Rand's philosophy. He explained how to apply it in living an extraordinary life, inspiring all who were present.





# Where Are They Now?

---



**Alex Jayasuria**  
**2021 Scholar**

---

I finished my Economics and Finance studies at Curtin University in early 2022. I then travelled to Singapore to learn more about the Southeast Asian political and business landscapes, studying at the National University of Singapore. I recently returned from the US, after undertaking my honours work in Sustainability at Stanford University. I have recently accepted a position at Fortescue, where I will work with their corporate team on Green Energy and Climate strategy. I hope to begin my postgraduate studies in public policy later next year.

---

---

My Mannkal Scholarship has been transformative, connecting me with a liberty-oriented community. Beyond the program, Mannkal continues to provide valuable opportunities. A Mannkal research internship in the US led me to the Public Choice Society's meeting in Seattle, where I met Professor Pete Boettke. He encouraged me to join the Mercatus Center and apply for their Don Lavoie Fellowship, which I secured. This fellowship expanded my understanding of public choice economics, and I connected with a global network of fellow students and scholars. As a Mannkal Alumnus, I'm grateful for these opportunities and look forward to further work in the liberty space after graduating.

---



**Larisa Jacono**  
**2022 Scholar**

---

The Mannkal Scholarship program equipped me with global experiences and critical thinking skills. I continue to draw on these as I begin my career as a corporate lawyer. As a Mannkal Alumnus, I consider myself a beneficiary of Mannkal, and the work of Ron Manners. The Mannkal Scholarship Program is a testament to Ron's generosity; both through Mannkal, and in his personal capacity - with his time, knowledge, and networks. Mannkal is uniquely predicated on providing international perspectives to global problems, with a view to benefiting the Western Australian community. This is invaluable to all areas of study; from commerce and law, to arts, engineering, philosophy, architecture, science, and beyond.

---



**Lucas Roosendaal**  
**2019 Scholar**





**Yannik Simkovics**  
**2021 Scholar**

The Mannkal Scholarship Program added immense value to my personal and professional development in two key ways. Firstly, Mannkal opened my eyes to the works and ideas of the greatest classical liberal thinkers and encouraged me to test and explore their relevance and practical applicability today by engaging in meaningful discussions with a wide range of distinguished friends of Mannkal, whether in the Mannkal office at a guest lecture, in Kalgoorlie exploring the roots of WA's prosperity or as a delegate to an economics conference in Zagreb, Croatia. Secondly, through the exposure to transformative ideas and a range of fascinating individuals and inspiring leaders, I learned that there are shared elements to the freedoms we enjoy today and success in life - assuming responsibility for one's journey in life, operating outside of the comfort zone as much as possible, building resilience and staying truthful along the way.

I went on to work for PwC's financial advisory division for a few years before deciding to go back to school to study law. In the meantime, I jumped at different opportunities, which taught me new skills and took me to new places, including Switzerland, for a few months. I also recently got married. She's a fellow Mannkal Alumnus!

I am currently working for a commercial law firm in West Perth, helping clients cut through the complexities of market regulation and aiming to provide the clarity needed to make sound business decisions. Along the way, I am seeking to learn the skills necessary to drive commercial excellence. One thing I can recommend to anyone interested in the Mannkal Program and classical liberal ideas is to go for it and lean into it. It's the same with everything in life; the benefits you take away directly correlate to your investment. You will never know what doors might open if you knock.

---

---

My time with Mannkal began with their 2020 Mannkal Scholarship Program; it culminated with an internship at the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union. From the politico-economic seminars to the psychological coaching, receiving a Mannkal Scholarship has had a profound influence on my life, not only through learning and training but also through friendships and character formation. Since completing the Scholarship Program, I was fortunate to also receive a scholarship from the Lachlan Macquarie Institute to participate in their 2021-22 Leadership and Civil Society Program. Additionally, I graduated from UWA in 2023 with Honours in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; I hope to pursue further studies in Japan in 2024. My advice to current and future Mannkal Scholars would be to make the most of the Mannkal Scholarship Program by actively engaging in all the opportunities and challenges it offers: overcoming adversity will sharpen your character like fire refines gold.

---



**Lloyd Hotinski**  
**2020 Scholar**





**Samuel Cruickshank**  
**2022 Scholar**

---

I discovered the Mannkal Scholarship Program while exploring the world of free market economics and classical liberalism during my Bachelor of Commerce at Curtin University. It appeared to be the perfect program for me, and it certainly went beyond my high expectations. It was a truly life changing experience. We engaged in fascinating seminars, went to conferences I never knew existed, and of course, were given the opportunity to intern at a think tank overseas.

I was successful in applying for a Mannkal internship at the Institute of Economic Affairs in London, which has the primary goal of spreading the ideas of free markets and classical liberalism. I found myself surrounded by some of the most intelligent minds I've ever met and was immediately welcomed as part of the IEA family. As interns, we helped with the general operations of the think tank including manning reception, running events, interviewing the next batch of interns, and most importantly, engaging with the department we had the most interest in. My interest was the IEA Internship Program itself, as I believe that it is with young minds that classical liberals are losing the ideological battle the most. I was fortunate at the end of my internship to be offered the position of Operations Manager, taking over control of the program I had just completed. My aim now is to take the best and brightest young liberal minds and provide them with the skills and opportunities necessary to succeed in their careers and hopefully, continue the spread of classical liberal ideas.

We have already implemented some exciting initiatives including seminars, debates, intern presentations, House of Lords debate viewings, and the opportunity to write for the 1828 blog. Future plans include a mentorship program, an official graduation ceremony and an enhanced alumni program. Much of this was inspired by the fantastic quality of Mannkal's Scholarship Program which provided me with the inspiration, skills and opportunities to build a career around my passion for spreading the ideas of Classical Liberalism.

---



**Wes J. Du Preez**  
**2021 Scholar**

---

Since leaving the Mannkal Scholarship Program in 2021 I have been officially offered a position in the 2024 Treasury Graduate Program and will be working at Treasury in Canberra for the next two years, and possibly longer. This is an incredible opportunity for a libertarian to work from within the 'belly of the beast', so I am overjoyed. Mannkal has given me the knowledge, confidence and connections to help me achieve this goal. I thank everyone at Mannkal for believing in me, supporting me and mentoring me towards my dream. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Manners, for all the work Mannkal has done and all the lives he has changed, and to Nicola and Kate for steering the organisation with such magnificent leadership and resolve, helping each and every Scholar who comes through the door to achieve greatness. Every lecture, event and program I attended during my Scholarship has made my life better.

---



# SPECTATOR | AUSTRALIA

*Mannkal Scholars and Alumni have been featured in the Spectator Australia several times this year!*

A liberal education? Universities must treat students as thinkers, not dollar signs

Nicholas Tan

One man's triumph over Malthusianism

Nathan Cuthbertson

Empowering consumers in the era of greenwashing

Christian Zurakowski

Dear Employer: leave my 'personal development' alone

Frances An

## Niamh Finneran Loader Prize

The Niamh Finneran Loader Prize is open to all Mannkal Scholars and Alumni. To enter, have an article published before December 31, 2023. Send your entry to [admin@mannkal.org](mailto:admin@mannkal.org) by January 15, 2024 and the best entry will receive a trip to Sydney to meet and have lunch with Spectator Australia Editor Rowan Dean!



# SPECTATOR | AUSTRALIA



# MANNKAL SUPPORTED EVENTS

*Mannkal was proud to support the following events in Perth this year hosted by our partner organisations*

## Institute of Public Affairs

### **IPA Forum on the Voice to Parliament**

August 9, The Westin Hotel

Distinguished Fellow the Hon. Tony Abbott AC and IPA Director of Legal Rights Program John Storey shone a spotlight on the Voice, one of the most significant changes ever proposed to the way in which Australia is governed.

### **Integrity in Climate Science**

September 12, The Ritz-Carlton

Featuring Professor William Happer, one of the world's leading scientists and climate realists, who has played a vital role in ensuring that there is integrity in climate science.



*Professor William Happer*

## Centre for Independent Studies

### **Does Australia Need an Indigenous Voice to Parliament?**

August 20, The Westin Hotel

Featuring Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and Nyunggai Warren Mundine.

### **Classroom Disorder: Strategies for Success**

November 20, The Novotel Langley

How can Australian schools better promote positive behaviour? What are the essential skills for effective classroom management? Featuring Matt O'Sullivan, Tim McDonald, Lorraine Hammond and Glen Fahey.

### **Cures vs Consequences: How Does Government Navigate the Science?**

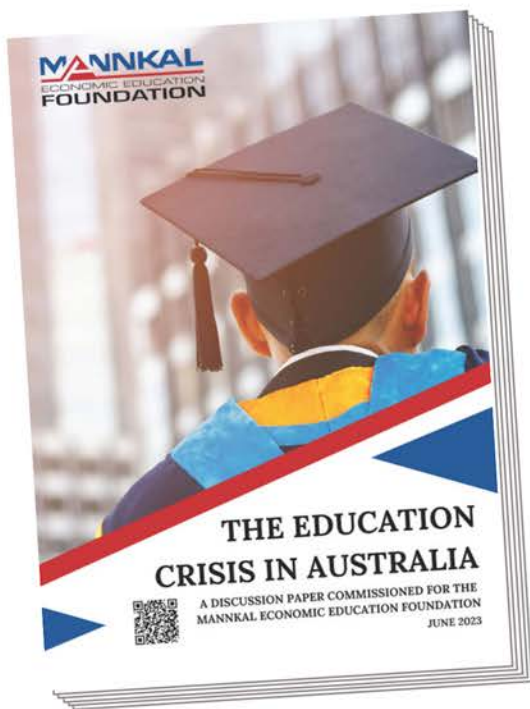
November 21, The Novotel Langley

Science is a flawed and all too human affair, but it can generate timeless truths, and reliable practical guidance, in a way that other approaches cannot. Featuring Matt Ridley and Peter Kurti.



Warren Mundine AO, Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, and CIS Executive Director Tom Switzer





# THE EDUCATION CRISIS IN AUSTRALIA

*A discussion paper commissioned for the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation*

In recent times it has been the observation of many, including parents, that our education standards have been slipping. This document incorporates two separate discussion papers addressing this concern.

*The Educational Crisis in Schools: What Must Be Done?* by Dr Rocco Loiacono

*Teacher Training and the Crisis in Australian Higher Education* by Professor Matthew Ogilvie

“ In Australia, governments of both political persuasions, at state, territory and federal levels, have a go-to policy to address problems: ramp up spending. Be it the NDIS, Snowy 2.0, or the NBN, governments in this country believe with almost fanatical fervour that there is nothing that more money can't fix.

— ”  
- Dr Rocco Loiacono

“ There is an expectation that teaching graduates should be 'classroom ready,' and that they will be competent and able to teach to the standards expected for Australian students. However, research confirms repeated personal accounts that teaching graduates are not classroom ready.

— ”  
- Prof Matthew Ogilvie

*To read more visit our publications page!*  
[mannkal.org/research-publications](http://mannkal.org/research-publications)



# MANNKAL

---

ECONOMIC EDUCATION  
**FOUNDATION**

-  [admin@mannkal.org](mailto:admin@mannkal.org)
-  +61 9382 1288
-  [www.mannkal.org](http://www.mannkal.org)
-  3/31 Hood Street, Subiaco,  
WA 6008

