

## 4. DESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

The heritage values of the RG Menzies Building are largely embodied in the physical fabrics of the place, how the building is used, and how the building is positioned in the landscape. The following section provides a detailed description of the building and grounds, as well as information on the condition of the separate elements.

The RG Menzies Building is in the Late Twentieth Century style, featuring the cubiform shape reminiscent of the International Style, and bold shapes of the Brutalist Style. The smooth lines and brutalist form recall the work of Frank Lloyd Wright in the United States, emphasised by the use of textured stone and a copper roof.

The building is constructed on a textured raw concrete base with light-pink to grey stones that are set randomly in horizontal rustication. This plinth, an important 'connecting element' of the two distinct blocks, is set into the natural slope of the land and is separated from the upper section by an expressed metal channel. The building itself is formed of brick-infill walls that rests on a concrete pier base.



Front view



Southern façade

**Figure 4.1:** The Menzies Building is formed of two very distinct elements; the low southern block and the northern book stack block (above). The building is open to the north, west and south, with views of Black Mountain to the west.

The building is formed of two very distinct elements. The south block consists of a single storey structure, and the northern half provides four-levels of book stack space with study carrels and computer laboratories. Both halves sit on a basement/undercroft level.

The main entrance is from the eastern side of the southern block, and the rear entrance is from the basement level of the western side of the building.

### Southern Block - Exterior

The stone plinth is a major architectural element of the southern block and extends to the height of the roof. The fenestration is punctuated by large windows covered with the decorative Dadswell 'Screens' and other more narrow windows providing light for the lower ground floor on the southern and western sides of the building. The southern section sits beneath a concrete vault ceiling and copper roof with no eaves. The lack of downpipes, which are actually embedded in the structural columns, are a notable feature that provides for an unending run of the roof edge. The roof is clad in copper sheeting which is joined at the folded seams. A light artificial membrane has recently been affixed atop the copper sheeting in order to correct the design flaws while also protecting the original roof fabrics. The roof of the enclosed courtyard is formed of a lighter shade of galvanized steel and sits about 2ft. above the original copper roof. This element does not detract from the appearance from surface level, though is clear from the upper storey windows. The walls and roof of the southern block require only minor repairs; no damages were seen that detract from the architectural or aesthetic qualities of the place. However, the west side of the southern block has been stained; likely from nearby eucalypts.



**Figure 4.2:** Lyndon Dadswell was a renowned Australian artist. His 'Screens', used as both a sunscreen and decorative element, are one of the significant features of the Menzies Library.

Part of the rear (west) of the southern block has been left open to allow for goods deliveries and access to the plant and garbage bin enclosures nearby. This

aspect was originally part of the undercroft of the building; the remainder has been enclosed. The rear doors provide access to the basement level.

Three glazed sliding doors (original) in the centre of the southern wall lead to a cantilevered concrete verandah, accessed from the McDonald Room. A concrete verandah has also been added above the rear entrance, with access from the Archives Reading Room. This verandah is rarely used, and is lined by modern air-conditioning units. Both verandahs are tiled with identical stone as the front entrance flagging, stack area cladding and window sills. They are bordered by thin iron railings. Both show minor signs of wear, though are generally in good condition.

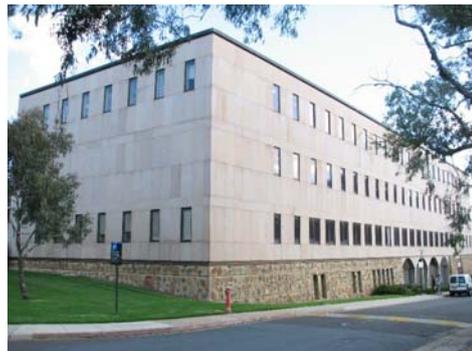
Elongated narrow windows provide an interesting feature on the southern side of the building. These punctuate the plum stone base, and are in stark contrast to the larger windows with the heavy decorative screens seen on the floor above. The frames and panes are all in good condition.

#### Northern Block – External

The northern block is a four-storey structure set on a stone base identical to that of the southern block. It is clad with sawn sandstone that leads to a copper pan roof with no eaves. The copper roof is in good condition; it has not been overlaid with membrane as part of the recent works. The stonework requires some minor cleaning, though generally is in very good condition.

A regular pattern of small vertical slit windows, framed in aluminium (or bronze?), line the north and southern fenestration, with some also added to the ground and second floor of the front façade (Figure 4.3). Heavy steel venting provides circulation for the lower ground floor plant room and the lower floor of the northern block near the rear entrance. The vents on the western wall provide a partition between the large air-conditioning tower, which is also screened in identical steel vents. The tower also services the buildings of the Chancelry and the Faculty of Law.

The windows found throughout the northern block are single panes with casement sashes, complementing the copper roof and screens of the southern block. The frames,



**Figure 4.3:** The northern block sits on the same stone plinth as the south block. Both north and southern faces are lined with aluminium or bronze framed windows. Views are of the front (above) and rear of the north block.

with bronzed appearance, blend well with the surrounding facing. The sealing around these windows must be examined and, if necessary, repaired.

A concrete ramp for disabled access has been added to the front of the building, on the northern aspect of the front steps. Steel railing has recently been installed to the south of the front entrance patio. The front flagging is in good condition, with some minor isolated instances of cracking and chipping in places.

#### Basement level/Undercroft - Interior

The lower ground floor of the Menzies Building has sustained some alterations, though the layout is similar to the original. The undercroft section was originally open to the west and north but has since been enclosed with glazed partitions. The basement runs between both blocks of the building.

The closed stack areas annotated on the original plans have been converted into the rare books repository and other book stack space. The electrical substation, switch-room and plant rooms have remained in their original configuration, although the actual equipment has been upgraded. The Bindery Room has been converted into the central staff common room/tearoom and the room originally set aside for University Publications has been converted into a computer laboratory. The amenities, including locker rooms and toilets, are similar to the original. The facilities and some services in these spaces have been upgraded.



**Figure 4.4:** The old Duplicating Room has been converted into the staff common room. The pavement sunlight fittings, still seen on the ceiling (right), were a cause of concern in the early design and were one of the reasons the courtyard was enclosed in the late 1970s.



Some original fittings, joinery and furnishings have been retained in the basement level, although there have been notable modern additions. These include new carpets and light fittings and carpet laid to the underside of the concrete vaults. The current staff tearoom was originally the Duplicating Room

(Figure 4.4). It still showcases the vaulted ceilings with vermiculite coating though any evidence of the original use has been removed. The size of the room itself has not been altered. An interesting remnant feature are the pavement light covers in the ceiling that originally provided sunlight from the courtyard; stains from the water that leaked through the pavement lights are still visible on the vermiculite.

Large open areas in the basement level, some formed by the enclosure of the undercroft, also showcase the vaulted ceilings and some original features. Modern partitions and fixtures have been added throughout. These spaces are largely used for book stack space on compactus shelving, with some computer and other study facilities interspersed.

Isolated instances of damages to walls were observed in the basement level, though none that threaten the integrity of the building or significant original features. Some 'traditional' furniture has been included in study areas, but do not appear to be Ward originals.

### Southern Block - Interior

#### *Ground floor*

The main foyer is the central focal point of the building. The double (oak?) doors lead to a small entrance vestibule that is lined with beaded boards and sliding inner doors that are framed in aluminium/bronze. A large circular bronze memorial plaque has been sunk into the flagstone base to commemorate the opening of the building by HRH Queen Elizabeth II in March 1963.

The foyer has recently seen refurbishments that have opened out the area. Semi-permanent display cabinets are set in the middle of the room, forming a separation between the entrance and exit doors. The display cabinets, part of the furniture collection of the building, are an arresting feature of the space. A large globe sits in the centre of the room; it was originally purchased for the Menzies Building, though has been a feature of the Chifley Library in recent years. The globe was returned to the Menzies Library as part of the refurbishment.

A large Pacific canoe sits to the west of the display cabinets and appears to be a permanent piece reminiscent of the Asian-



**Figure 4.5:** The foyer is the central point of focus of the Menzies Building and showcases many original elements. These include the concrete barrel vaulted ceiling and vermiculite coating, bronze and timber finishes and original Ward furniture.

Pacific subject matter of the collection. The foyer displays (and other displays in the building) hark back to the original exhibitions that were held there and are an interesting part of the building that other libraries in the Canberra region are unable to accommodate.



**Figure 4.6:** The loans desk (left) is a modern addition; the ground floor of the southern block (right) showcases original paneled timber cladding and in-built cupboards

Much of the foyer area has been filled with study carrels and computer terminals. There is also some relaxed break-out areas with (Ward?) chairs and desks, and a large central modern loans desk (Figure 4.6). The original loans desk sat directly opposite the main entrance, though was removed about eight years after construction. It has been gradually updated ever since. Timber glazed partitions, not original, have been installed behind the loans desk to provide semi-formal office space. The loans desk itself is in good condition.

It is in the foyer that Dadswell's decorative screens are most effective. The screens, and copper window frames, stand in contrast to the white walls and vermiculite ceiling. They block out most of the glare and provide distorted light at different times of the day. Stained wood paneling has been added to the free-standing support columns and complement low-impact timber book shelving for recent release volumes.

The doors are glazed panels set in copper frames. All appear to be in good, working order.

The rear of the south block consists of the McDonald Room, the enclosed courtyard stack space, offices and reading room of the Noel Butlin & ANU Archives.

The McDonald Room, seemingly built as a seminar room but used for exhibitions, is lined in timber. The west wall is a feature wall formed of the same strongly textured raw concrete and stone used for the building plinth. This feature was originally continued as the west wall of the courtyard, though has since been removed. Joinery is dark-stained timber, with brass fixtures throughout. The sliding doors leading to the external verandah are glazed panels set in copper frames. This room is today used mainly for seminars or meetings, with some

intermittent use for exhibitions. It is in good condition and, apart from modern furniture and audio-visual installations, is highly intact.

The enclosed courtyard room is a high, open space. The ceiling infill is of basic fibro panels that are a contrast to the barrel vault ceiling seen elsewhere in the building. The original doors and windows are formed of glazed panels in aluminium/bronze frames running the full height of the space. These are original features; early occupants often complained about the amount of glare penetrating their offices from the courtyard, as well as water entering the building beneath the door frames. The light modern bookshelves in this area are used for Asian reference books and some serial display cabinets, with room set aside for readers on more 'traditional' furniture.



The Noel Butlin and ANU Archives Reading Room is a large open space that originally formed the southern end of the serial stack area. It showcases a central supporting pillar that is again lightly clad in timber. The barrel-vaulted ceiling and window finishes are identical to those of the foyer and McDonald Room. The windows of the western side, above the verandah, are clad externally in Dadswell's screens. A large open office, tea-room and some office space has been formed with light modern partitions to the south of the reading room for the archives staff, and again showcases the barrel vaults of the ceiling and copper finishes. The reading room and office area is separated by a semi-glazed wall.



The Archives Reading Room has some traditional timber shelving as well as modern shelving. The more traditional chairs and tables do not appear to be Ward pieces, though are highly reminiscent of his style. The staff offices have been fitted with modern computer desks, with space set aside for compactus and other shelving for photographs and archives that are currently being used.



A notable feature of the Archives Reading Room are the regular exhibitions (changed about every 6 months) that are organised by the Archives staff. The exhibitions usually

**Figure 4.7:** Notable rooms of the ground floor include the McDonald Room with stone feature wall (above), the Archives Reading Room (centre) and the enclosed courtyard, showcasing an obvious departure to the barrel vault ceilings seen elsewhere in the building (below)

consist of Australian business documents, or displays concerning the history of the ANU. Similar display cabinets to those seen in the foyer area are used in this space and were designed by Fred Ward.



#### Northern Block – Ground floor

The ground floor/foyer area of the northern stack block has been left open and fitted with study carrels and computer terminals. This area is much more dark than that of the southern block, due largely to the lack of natural sunlight permitted to the space, the grey-green marble terrazzo affixed to supporting columns and dark-stained timber lining the western and southern walls near the central staircase (Figures 4.6 & 4.10). The supporting columns sit on octagonal bases with square capitals.



**Figure 4.8:** The ground floor of the northern block has been left open and fitted with office cubicles

Original in-built timber cupboards line the eastern wall of this space and are used for display. The doors are formed of the same beaded wood panels as the walls and blend into the background, providing for an uninterrupted timber-clad feature wall. The lift is dark grey and punctuates the stained timber at the southwest corner.

The remainder of the ground floor of the northern block is accessible only by Library staff. It consists of a large open area fitted out



**Figure 4.9:** Original features, including shelving and joinery, have been retained in the old Librarian's office, which has since become a meeting room

with office cubicles, banks of card drawers and shelving, with individual offices or meeting rooms towards the corners of the building. The open cubicle area has clean white square columns supporting a fibro panel ceiling lit by fluorescent fittings. This area reveals more modern fittings than elsewhere in the building.

The open area has been extended to the east of the main offices; this zone was once part of the serial reading and display room. The concrete vault and groin ceilings remain, and the

original timber finishes are clear throughout. Some modern partitions have been included in this space, although these are clearly obvious and able to be removed in the future, if necessary. This aspect also has immediate access to the old courtyard area through the high glazed sliding doors (Figure 4.8).

Original elements that have been retained include notable 'feature walls' of dark granite or timber and stained timber finishes in places, including fire hydrant cupboard doors and shelving.

### Northern Block – Stack levels

The central staircase of the building is highly original, though does display signs of wear and minor damages. The concrete stairs have metal treads and are flanked by glass and brass balustrades with angled and stained timber handrails. Arresting features of the staircase are the terrazzo finishes applied to the facing wall, matching that of the columns on the ground floor. This motif is continued for each landing (Figure 4.10).

The floors of the northern block were designed to carry the majority of the University's book stock. The uses have varied slightly, though the layouts remain similar.

The stairs lead to an open landing at each floor, from which space has been set aside for sorting shelves opposite toilets and other reader amenities. Some semi-permanent display cabinets, identical to those in the foyer (Ward designs), are used for basic displays of printed material on the second floor. The narrow windows in these spaces provide for views of the lower copper roof and of University House across the open landscape to the south. There are noticeable damages to these walls; likely a result of trollies.

The first floor of the northern block has changed little. The majority of the space has remained in use as book stack area, although the eastern end has been opened out to provide for desks with laptop connections and a computer lab separated from the main open area via modern semi-glazed partitions.

The second floor was originally used as book



**Figure 4.10:** The main staircase displays marble terrazzo feature walls (above), leading to the book stacks on the upper floors (below)



stack space and the eastern end was partitioned for the Government Publications section. Again, the present layout is similar to the original, with the eastern ends still partitioned and used as offices.

Some minor damages were observed in the stack areas. These include some wall cracking, mainly around the copper window frames and isolated instances of paint flaking.

### Landscape

The landscape to the south and west of the Menzies Building is highly significant. The majority of the trees are classified as having high or exceptional status for the University landscape; this may lie in their age, condition or relationship to the building. The landscape was an important consideration of the University site planner and architect; the fabrics of the building were chosen to sympathetically blend into the open Australian environment, with relatively uninterrupted views from the south, east and west. The landscape also serves as a convenient 'buffer zone' between the Menzies Building and other nearby developments, such as University House or the HC Coombs Building.

The landscape is formed of open (European) grassland with remnant indigenous trees and some introduced species. Highly significant trees are found to the south and east of the building (Figure 4.12). They mainly consist of Eucalyptus species, with some deciduous *Malus* in pockets to the south of the site. A number of mature black poplars are also visible, with a single example of a notable Banksia species.

The trees are listed below, along with information on their condition and Useful Life Expectancy (ULE). This information is regularly updated by the ANU Gardens & Grounds Division to inform future planning of the area. Any trees considered to be of high or exceptional value to the University are only removed when absolutely necessary. In most instances, the removed trees are replaced with similar species.

An interesting component of the landscape is the barbecue area to the southeast of the building. This space is formed of the identical stonework to that seen on the building and is regularly used by University staff.



**Figure 4.11:** The landscape to the west (left) and the small barbecue area to the south of the Menzies Building.

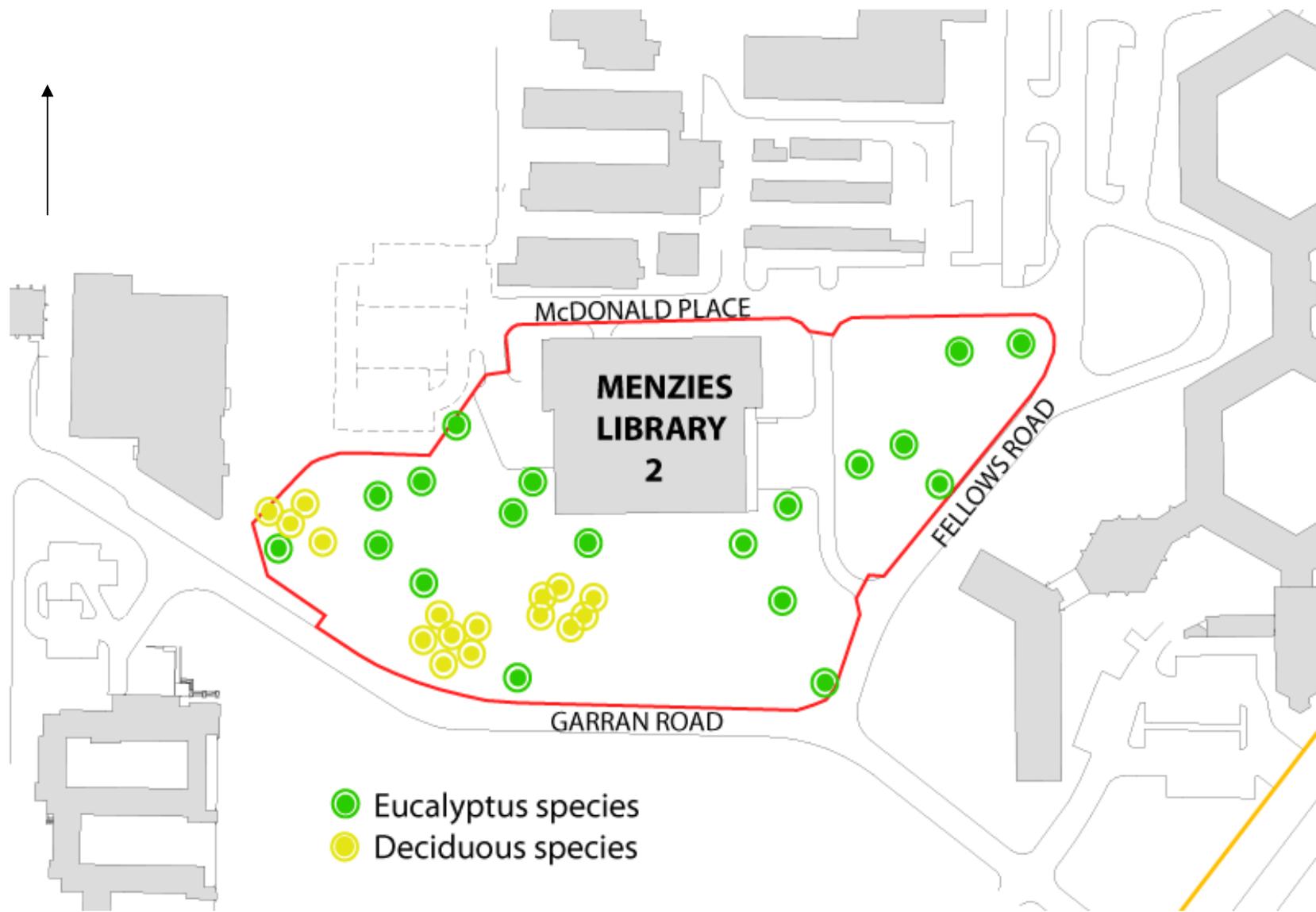


Figure 4.12: Notable tree species of the curtilage area (ANU Gardens & Grounds Division, 2010)

**Table 1:** Notable tree species (high or exceptional significance) of the curtilage area

ANU ID	SPECIES	HEIGHT (m)	AGE	SIGNIF.	HEALTH	STRUCTURE	ULE (YRS)	HABITAT	CLASS.	TREATMENT
3715	<i>Malus hupehensis</i>	5	Over-mature	High	Fair	Fair	1-5	No	Deciduous	Remove
3716	<i>Malus hupehensis</i>	5	Mature	High	Fair	Fair	5-15	No	Deciduous	Protect
3717	<i>Malus hupehensis</i>	5	Mature	High	V. poor	Fair	0-1	No	Deciduous	Remove
3718	<i>Malus hupehensis</i>	3	Mature	High	Fair	Fair	5-15	No	Deciduous	Protect
3722	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	19	Mature	High	Good	Fair	50+	No	Other euc.	Protect
3723	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	25	Over-mature	Excep.	Poor	Poor	1-5	No	Remnant euc.	Remove
3725	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	20	Mature	Excep.	Fair	Fair	15-25	No	Remnant euc.	Protect
3726	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	26	Mature	Excep.	Fair	Poor	1-5	No	Remnant euc.	Remove
3728	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	20	Over-mature	Excep.	Good	Poor	5-15	Yes	Remnant euc.	Protect
3732	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	22	Mature	High	Good	Good	25-50	No	NA	Protect
3733	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	15	Semi-mature	Excep.	Good	Good	50+	No	Other euc.	Protect
3735	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	18	Mature	High	Fair	Good	25-50	No	Remnant euc.	Protect
3737	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	20	Mature	High	Poor	Fair	1-5	No	NA	Remove
3738	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	21	Mature	High	Fair	Fair	5-15	No	NA	Protect
3739	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	13	Mature	High	Fair	Poor	1-5	No	Deciduous	Remove
3740	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	22	Mature	High	Fair	Fair	5-15	No	NA	Protect
3741	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	22	Mature	High	Poor	Fair	1-5	No	NA	Remove
3742	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	22	Mature	High	Fair	Fair	5-15	No	NA	Protect
3750	<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	18	Mature	High	Fair	Fair	25-50	No	NA	Protect
3751	<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	6	Mature	High	Good	Fair	15-25	No	NA	Protect
3752	<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	4	Mature	High	Good	Fair	15-25	No	Deciduous	Protect

3753	<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	5	Mature	High	Good	Fair	15-25	No	Deciduous	Protect
3754	<i>Malus sp.</i>	4	Mature	High	Good	Fair	15-25	No	Deciduous	Protect
3755	<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	5	Mature	High	Good	Fair	15-25	No	Deciduous	Protect
3756	<i>Malus x purpurea</i>	6	Mature	High	Good	Fair	15-25	No	NA	Protect
3758	<i>Eucalyptus bicostata</i>	22	Mature	High	Fair	Poor	25-50	No	Other euc.	Protect
3760	<i>Eucalyptus macarthurii</i>	28	Mature	Excep.	Good	Fair	15-25	No	Remnant euc.	Protect?
3761	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	22	Mature	Excep.	Fair	Poor	5-15	No	Remnant euc.	Protect
3766	<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	11	Mature	Excep.	Good	Fair	50+	No	Remnant euc.	Protect
3767	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	15	Mature	High	Good	Good	50+	No	NA	Protect
3769	<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	26	Mature	Excep.	Good	Fair	15-25	No	Remnant euc.	Protect
3770	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	25	Mature	Excep.	Fair	Fair	15-25	No	Remnant euc.	Protect
3773	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	18	Mature	High	Good	Fair	15-25	No	NA	Protect
3777	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	17	Semi-mature	High	Good	Good	50+	No	NA	Protect
3778	<i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>	16	Mature	High	Poor	Good	1-5	No	NA	Remove



## 5. HERITAGE VALUES

### 5.1 Method and Basis of Assessment

Assessments of the heritage values of the RG Menzies Building have determined that the site is a place exhibiting *high cultural significance* to the nation. Any existing assessments of places in, or around, the RG Menzies Building, as well as recent inspections of the site and relevant documents, have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this section.

The site's heritage 'significance' – that is, why the place is of value to present and future generations – derives from an understanding of its heritage values and forms the foundation upon which the conservation policy for the place is developed. The EPBC Act (S528) defines the 'heritage value' of a place as including the place's natural and cultural environment having aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance, or other significance, for current and future generations of Australians. This HMP includes statements of significance taken from the CHL entry for the RG Menzies Building.

#### **Previous assessments**

The RG Menzies Building was an Indicative Place on the Register of the National Estate, and was included on the Commonwealth Heritage List in 2005 (105685).

The RG Menzies Building was assessed as part of the Acton campus Heritage Study (Ratcliffe & Armes 1993-95). This short assessment included a historical overview, description and condition assessment of the building and surrounding landscape. The assessments and significance criteria in the Ratcliffe & Armes review are now relatively outdated, as the EPBC Act was not in effect at the time. In addition the building has since been altered, and internal ANU heritage policies have changed considerably. However, the values for the Menzies Building that were identified in the Study have changed little, and the Conservation Management policies are still very relevant.

No formal Heritage or Conservation Management Plan has previously been prepared for the RG Menzies Building.

## 5.2 Commonwealth Heritage List

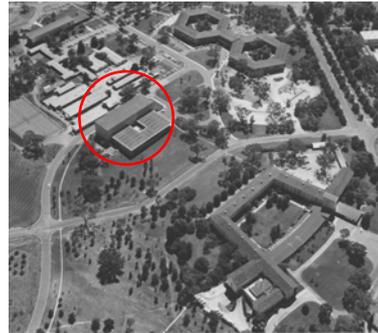
### Official Values

#### Commonwealth Heritage List

##### Criterion A: Processes

The RG Menzies Building was the first purpose built library on the Australian National University campus. The building is associated with the contributions of Sir Robert Menzies to the development of the Australian National University. He laid the foundation stone for the building in 1961, and Queen Elizabeth II formally opened the Library on 13 March 1963.

The RG Menzies building is one of 10 libraries on the ANU campus, housing some of the most significant collections on the ANU campus, and one of the largest collections of Asian language scholarly material in Australia.



The attributes are the two distinct architectural elements; a low-level pavilion and three-storey block of the RG Menzies building.

#### Commonwealth Heritage List

##### Criterion D: Characteristic values

The RG Menzies Building is a prominent feature of the ANU campus for its use of highly textured, contrasting materials and design to accentuate the interior function. The building is a Late Twentieth Century design; featuring the overall cubiform shape of the International Style and the strong, bold shapes of the Brutalist Style. The RG Menzies Building is representative of many of the architectural innovations of the time. The building is on the ACT Chapter of the Royal Australian Architects Register of Significant Twentieth Century buildings. The ANU was awarded the 2003 Clem Cummings Award for their contribution to architecture and the built environment.



The attributes are the two distinct architectural elements, a low-level pavilion and three-storey block of the RG Menzies building and the metal sculpture 'Screens' by Lyndon Dadswell located on the façade of the building.

#### Commonwealth Heritage List

##### Criterion F: Technical achievement

The metal panel sculptures integrated into the design of the building are significant as a major work by the nationally recognized artist, Lyndon Dadswell. Dadswell is considered a pioneer of Australian sculpture, in particular for his innovative use of metals. The sculpture acts as both a decorative element for the exterior and a functional sun shield for the interior space of the library.



The attribute is the metal panel sculpture 'Screens' by Lyndon Dadswell on the façade of the RG Menzies building.

#### Commonwealth Heritage List

##### Criterion H: Significant people

The RG Menzies building is significant as one of the major buildings designed by nationally recognised architects Collard, Clarke and Jackson and Scarborough and Partners. The building is on the ATC Chapter of Royal Australian Architects Register of Significant Twentieth Century buildings.

The metal panel sculptures are significant as a major work by the nationally recognised artist, Lyndon Dadswell. Dadswell is considered a pioneer of Australian sculpture, in particular for his innovative use of metals.



The attributes are the two distinct architectural elements, a low-level pavilion and three-storey block of the RG Menzies building and the metal sculpture 'Screens' by Lyndon Dadswell located on the façade of the building.

## **Summary Statement of Significance**

The building has architectural significance for its innovative structure and design. The library has a strong architectural composition with functional zones clearly distinguished in the massing and elevations of the building by change of materials, and is recognised as a significant Twentieth Century building by the ACT RAIA.

The RG Menzies is significant as the first purpose-built library on campus and as a commemoration of Menzies contribution to the development of the University. The building is one of the main University Libraries and features one of the largest collections of Asian language scholarly information resources in Australia.

The distinctive elevation incorporating the Lyndon Dadswell metal panel sculptures is a good example of artwork integrated into the design and functionality of the building.

### **5.2.1 Condition of Commonwealth Heritage Values**

The Menzies Building is valued for its role in the evolution of the built environment and planning considerations on the ANU's Acton campus. It is significant for its architectural composition, associations with notable people, the functions of the place and its association with the development of Australia's national university. The sculptural 'Screens' were fashioned by a nationally recognised artist, and also serve as a functional sunscreen for the south block windows.

Each of the values outlined on the Commonwealth Heritage List are today clearly represented in the RG Menzies Building.

### **5.2.2 Values of Adjacent Lands**

Plans for extending the RG Menzies Library were proposed not long after the building was constructed. These were tabled due to lack of funds or other priorities on the Acton campus.

Opportunities for developments exist to the north of the Menzies Library. As the identified values are based around the present state and configuration of the different elements of the place, future works should not impact on the fabrics or notable views of the Menzies Building.

The Old Administration Area is found across McDonald Road to the north of the Menzies Building. The complex consists of a number of elongated, low-impact weatherboard and brick structures that served as some of the first administrative buildings and University research laboratories on the Acton campus. Future plans for this area have not been considered – it is widely recognised that this complex has significance for the role it played in housing the early administrative and research staff. Any future plans for the area must not impinge on the aesthetic, or other, identified values of the RG Menzies Building.

A Heritage Study should be prepared for the Old Administration Area before any plans are formalised for this area.

No developments should be considered for the open landscape to the south, west or east of the RG Menzies Building.

## 6. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The RG Menzies Building is located on the Australian National University's Acton campus in the Australian Capital Territory. The ANU is the owner of the site, its structures and its objects. Responsibility for the protection, conservation and management of the site is vested in the University.

The RG Menzies Building is afforded protection under Australian legislation, the ANU Heritage Strategy and other internal University policies. The ANU's role is to ensure that the policies in the Heritage Strategy are implemented and the heritage values of the site are conserved, interpreted and presented to the Australian community.

### 6.1 Australian Legislation

#### Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The RG Menzies Building is situated on Commonwealth Land. It is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (105685) under Chapter 5, Part 15, Division 3A of the EPBC Act, and is therefore a Commonwealth Heritage Place.

Under Chapter 2, Part 3, Division 2 of the EPBC Act, Section 26 requires a person to seek approval for an action on Commonwealth land that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment (subsection 26(1)), or an action outside of Commonwealth land likely to have a significant impact on the environment on Commonwealth land (ss26(2)).

Section 28 requires a Commonwealth agency, such as the Australian National University, to seek approval for an action likely to have a significant impact on the environment inside or outside the Australian jurisdiction without approval.

Actions that may have a significant impact on the environment must be referred to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. An action that is deemed to be a 'controlled action', if taking the action without an approval, is prohibited under section 26 or 28 (section 67); a controlled action requires approval by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts. Deciding whether approval of actions is needed is covered by Chapter 4, Part 7 of the EPBC Act and approval of actions by Part 9. The departmental publication EPBC Policy Statement 1.2: *Significant Impact Guidelines; Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land, and actions by Commonwealth agencies* (May 2006) provides advice on the referral process.

Chapter 5, Part 15, Division 3A, Section 341Z of the EPBC Act requires a Commonwealth agency that owns or controls a place that has, or might have, one or more Commonwealth Heritage values to take all reasonable steps to assist the Minister and the Australian Heritage Council in the identification, assessment and monitoring of the place's Commonwealth Heritage values.

Section 341Z requires a Commonwealth agency that owns or controls one or more places to prepare a written Heritage Strategy for managing places to

protect and conserve their Commonwealth Heritage values, to give a copy of the Strategy to the Minister and to review the strategy every three years. Regulation 10.03E and Schedule 7C of the EPBC Regulations 2000 set out the matters to be addressed in the strategy.

Under section 341ZB a Commonwealth agency must conduct a program to identify the Commonwealth Heritage values for each place it owns or controls, produce a register that sets out the Commonwealth Heritage values of each place, and give the Minister a written report on the assessment process with a copy of the register.

Section 341ZB of the EPBC Act prohibits a Commonwealth agency from taking an action that is likely to have an adverse impact on the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place, unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to taking the action and the agency has taken all measures that can reasonably be taken to mitigate the impact of the action.

Section 341S requires a Commonwealth agency to make a written plan to protect and manage the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place it owns or controls. Regulation 10.03B and Schedule 7A prescribes the contents of a management plan.

The ANU has begun a system of identification and assessment of places that have, or might have, Commonwealth Heritage values. The University's Heritage Strategy includes information on the assessment program, as well as a copy of the ANU Heritage Register, information on heritage management at the University, and any foreseeable risks to the Commonwealth Heritage, and other, heritage values, of the ANU's Acton campus\*.

#### Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986

The Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Items Act regulates the export of Australia's significant cultural heritage objects. Cultural heritage objects that are identified in the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place, such as the RG Menzies Building, are also protected under the EPBC Act.

## **6.2 Agency Mechanisms**

The ANU has a corporate management framework that operates in accordance with a series of policies, rather than a corporate or business plan. The University has a number of internal policies that have relevance for the management of heritage assets. The role of each is examined in the ANU Heritage Strategy. They include the following:

- Environmental Policy
- Landscape Protection Guidelines

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\* <http://heritage.anu.edu.au/index.php?pid=20>

- ANU Campus Development Plan and Development Guide
- Permission to Excavate Policy
- Approvals Checklist for Alterations in or About Buildings
- Policy on Contractor Induction

In addition, the ANU has also prepared a Heritage Management Manual. The Manual outlines internal procedures to be undertaken by the ANU in the running of its Heritage Program. It presents a standardised set of heritage management practices that reflect ‘best-practice’. The manual is updated regularly to account for changes in legislation and any issues that arise. It includes the following:

- Site protection protocols for Indigenous and European sites
- References to the relevant legislation
- Classifications for heritage places on ANU properties
- Contact lists for relevant government departments, non-government organisations and Indigenous groups

### **6.2.1 Decision Making Process of Management of the Site**

Under the EPBC Act, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts is responsible for provision of advice on, and approval for, activities at the site.

The Australian Heritage Council advises the Minister on identification, assessment, conservation and monitoring of heritage, and in particular provides comment to the Minister on plans of management for listed sites.

The Australian National University is responsible for management of the RG Menzies Building within the context of the direction provided by the ANU Heritage Strategy, the EPBC Act and any advice from DEWHA.

The Director, Facilities & Services, is broadly responsible for heritage management policy and major planning activities related to heritage.

The Associate Director(s), ANU Facilities & Services, is/are directly responsible for approving proposed activities at the site under the provisions of the Heritage Strategy, ongoing liaison with stakeholders, coordinating referrals for proposed activities under the EPBC Act, and coordinating the implementation of this HMP, including conservation works at the site.

Works plans that are prepared by, or submitted for the approval of, the Australian National University, will adhere to the principles and protocols that are formalised in this HMP. In compliance with protocols outlined in the ANU Heritage Strategy, any future developments at the RG Menzies Building will require works plans and progress reports to detail how any works in support of the conservation of the site – including the monitoring and maintenance of building structures, repairs to internal fittings, reporting on the condition of the fabric or the site’s heritage values, and on-site or off-site assessment and conservation of material and artefacts – are in accordance with this Heritage Management Plan.

Where necessary, the Australian National University will consult with interested stakeholders and DEWHA when preparing works plans or reviewing draft works plans that have been submitted for its consideration. The ANU will address any feedback when recommending to the decision maker which elements of the proposed works should be prioritised and authorised and which conditions should be applied to the authorisation, or when forwarding its comments to DEWHA (should a referral under the EPBC Act be required).

### **6.3 Australian Capital Territory Legislation**

The RG Menzies Building has been Nominated for the ACT Heritage Register. The ACT Heritage Council have adopted a policy that any places on Commonwealth land in the Capital that are considered to have local heritage values will not be formally Registered for the ACT Heritage Register.

Within the ACT, developments in relation to external and landscape works on ANU land require the approval of the National Capital Authority (NCA). Before approval is given for any development or alterations to Registered or Nominated sites, the University must satisfy the NCA that it has adhered to all Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation enforced within the ACT. Within the ACT there are two major pieces of legislation that have relevance for heritage assets” the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* and the *ACT Heritage Act 2004*.

The University has established a relationship with the NCA due to its obligations regarding approvals for capital works on ANU land within the ACT. The ANU Heritage Office has also consulted with the ACT Heritage Unit concerning how the University’s requirements under the EPBC Act will affect those assets that are Registered or Nominated on the ACT Heritage Register.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **7.1 Goals**

The ANU's primary objectives for the RG Menzies Building are threefold:

1. The RG Menzies Building should be protected, valued and understood
2. Significant fabric should be conserved in its original context
3. Research and conservation partnerships are to be encouraged, particularly to enrich the interpretation and public awareness of the site

Methods of interpretation should be investigated to ensure that the identified Commonwealth Heritage, and other values, of the RG Menzies Building are properly presented and transmitted to all generations.

On-site, this involves managing access to and activities at the place appropriately, and ensuring that there is an appropriate program of works to conserve and present the historic building, landscape features and associated cultural heritage objects.

Off-site, this involves documenting and interpreting the place in a manner that encourages Australians to appreciate the heritage values of the RG Menzies Building and the role it has played in shaping the Acton campus. Innovative technologies should be examined to enable people to appreciate the site's values without having to travel to the place.

In implementing this HMP, the ANU aims to focus on sympathetic works to the buildings, conduct investigations into the movable cultural heritage in and around the buildings and continue to monitor the RG Menzies Building.

### **7.2 Proposals for Change**

This HMP does not envisage any alterations to the identified Commonwealth Heritage, and other, values of the RG Menzies Building. Potential locations for future development include land across McDonald Road to the north (Old Administration Area); any actions or developments at this place are to be sympathetic to the identified values of the RG Menzies Building or its separate elements. This Plan formalises existing management arrangements and aligns current University policies with Australian and Territory legislative requirements.

The ANU will continue to be responsible for authorising activities at the site in accordance with policies that it administers for the effective and sensible planning of the Acton campus. The University will continue to consult with DEWHA, the Australian Heritage Council, the National Trust and other interested stakeholders, as appropriate.

This HMP also finalises the management zones established by the Commonwealth Heritage List. The CHL entry for the RG Menzies Building does not include the surrounding landscape, though notes that the surrounding

landscape does contribute to the values of the place. Curtilage for the place may need to be reviewed in line with identified natural heritage values outlined in the HMP.

### **7.3 Pressures on Commonwealth Heritage Values**

The RG Menzies Building is located in the centre of the Acton campus. There are no immediate risks to the heritage values of the place.

### **7.4 Logistical Constraints**

#### Resources

The ANU is responsible for ensuring the site's conservation and management and the preparation and implementation of this Plan. The University will accord the conservation of the heritage values of the RG Menzies Building the highest priority within the capacity of its heritage management resources.

The ANU is not specifically resourced to undertake on-site conservation works within or around the RG Menzies Building.

### **7.5 Conservation Works**

Generally, the RG Menzies Building is in very good condition. The building is structurally sound, with a high degree of intactness.

No conservation works are planned for the RG Menzies Building within the next five years.

### **7.6 Risks to Cultural Heritage Objects**

#### Management and Documentation of Objects inside buildings

The RG Menzies Building currently houses a number of significant movable objects. These include the large Asian Studies literary materials, the rare books/theses room and exhibitions in the foyer or those organised by the Noel Butlin Archives repository.

These collections are invaluable for research purposes, and are an important part of the history of the building and library system at the ANU. As such, the information relating to these collections are kept in a heavily secure location in conditions suitable for their long-term survival. Any loans, transfers or decommissions of materials are recorded by the ANU Library or Archives.

For the purposes of the HMP, the sculptural 'Screens' clad to the south block windows are considered part of the building rather than movable items.

The Menzies Library contains a relatively large collection of furniture or fittings designed by the ANU Design Unit, under the command of the nationally

renowned designer Fred Ward. The original furniture is an important aspect of the University's history and must be maintained to an appropriate standard. Unfortunately an itemised database of the original furniture in the Menzies Building has not yet been prepared, although the items are recognised as part of the ANU Art Collection, and protected accordingly.

## **7.7 Current and Future Uses**

The RG Menzies Building was constructed as the first permanent library of the Australian National University. The building was designed largely as a repository for printed materials, with room set aside for reader's services, staff offices or exhibition space. Today these uses have continued, although space has gradually been given over to open reader areas, computer facilities or teaching space at the cost of book stack and exhibition space.

## 8. CONSERVATION POLICY

In meeting its obligations to conserve the Commonwealth Heritage values, and other values, of the RG Menzies Building, the ANU will ensure that the site is managed in accordance with the highest conservation standards.

The following policies are presented under various headings seen to be those of critical importance to the preservation of the heritage values of the RG Menzies Building and its setting. Each group of policies has been followed by an explanatory segment which is intended to highlight the intent behind the policy. This has been done to assist any future discussion of the merits of the policies and possible changes to their recommendations.

Management Policies will address legislative obligations.

### 8.1 Managing Change

#### Adoption of the Heritage Management Plan

- Policy 1.1 The Australian National University has formally adopted this Heritage Management Plan. It will become a standard requirement for works contemplated at, or adjacent to, the RG Menzies Building to be in accordance with its recommendations.
- Policy 1.2 This HMP will be submitted by the ANU to the Australian Heritage Council for approval, before being gazetted and tabled in Parliament as a legislative instrument in accordance with s341S of the EPBC Act.

It is a requirement of s341V of the EPBC Act that a Commonwealth agency must not contravene a plan made under s341S. In addition, s26 of the Act prohibits a person from taking an action on Commonwealth land that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, while s28 prohibits a Commonwealth agency from taking an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment on or outside the Australian jurisdiction.

#### Proper Use of the Management Plan

- Policy 1.3 The management of the site known as the RG Menzies Building will be informed by an understanding of the cultural significance of the place as described in this Heritage Management Plan.
- Policy 1.4 A management structure will be implemented which incorporates the following elements:
- Integration of conservation policies into the overall management of the place

- Provisions for the long-term conservation of the cultural significance of the place
- Dissemination of the aims and intentions of this HMP to appropriate officers
- An outline of the responsibility, at each staff level, for implementing the Heritage Management Plan
- Strive to reach a balance between proposed site functions and the conservation of cultural significance
- Maintenance of a permanent archive at the ANU

Policy 1.5 Heritage management expertise will be drawn upon to ensure that:

- Effective and consistent conservation practices are implemented across the whole site, including the continuous protective care of the grounds
- Areas to be managed are created on logical spatial units that maintain the integrity of the whole site and the various precincts within it

The RG Menzies Building is managed by the Australian National University.

This Heritage Management Plan has endeavored to identify the reasons why the RG Menzies Building is significant. The Statement of Cultural Significance and the significance assessments of individual elements within the site, the policies recommended and the options discussed throughout this report will guide future planning and works.

The conservation policies make recommendations regarding the conservation of the place so that any proposed future intervention will not result in inappropriate loss of cultural significance. It is intended to be of practical use to the managers of the place, enabling them to make decisions with due regard to the place's significance.

The effectiveness of this HMP depends on its being implemented. An effective management structure is required to ensure that the policies are acknowledged. The document will be made available to, and read by, all relevant officers. In addition, it is essential that all officers are made aware of the processes which are to be followed when proposing maintenance, or other work which involves the modification of significant fabric.

A person shall be nominated by the Director, ANU Facilities & Services, to be responsible for making all decisions relating to this HMP.

### **Statutory Considerations**

Policy 1.6 Works approval for demolition and for the external design and siting of any new building will be obtained from the

National Capital Authority (NCA) and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA).

- Policy 1.7 The NCA and DEWHA will be given opportunity to consider and comment on any proposals that may affect the cultural significance of the place. If necessary, the works will be formally Referred under the EPBC Act.
- Policy 1.8 Upgrading of buildings to comply with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) will be undertaken in a way which considers the cultural significance of the building and its setting.
- Policy 1.9 The descriptions and the Statements of Significance on the listings maintained by DEWHA (CHL) for the RG Menzies Building should be updated to reflect the findings of this report, and periodically reviewed to ensure the cultural values of the place are accurately represented in statutory listings.

Both the NCA and DEWHA have jurisdiction over works at the RG Menzies Building.

The Australian National University campus, including the RG Menzies Building, is Designated Land, and as such under jurisdiction of the NCA for external design and siting of any new development.

Works to upgrade the existing buildings to comply with the requirements of the BCA and DDA guidelines will consider the cultural significance of the site and the fabric.

The findings of this HMP have been based on extensive research and analysis of all aspects of the RG Menzies Building. The assessment of the place's cultural heritage values has not been undertaken lightly.

### **Approach to Maintenance of the Fabrics**

- Policy 1.10 Routine maintenance is undertaken by the ANU Maintenance Division, in sympathy with the identified heritage values in this HMP.
- Policy 1.11 The significant fabric of the building and its landscaped setting will be maintained to an appropriate heritage standard to safeguard the heritage values of the site.
- Policy 1.12 Work done to the significant fabric of the building and its setting will be undertaken in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter.

Routine maintenance inspections are undertaken on the RG Menzies Building in order that the significance of the items are retained for future generations and that it is fit for University occupation.

In general, the approach towards maintenance of the historic and culturally significant fabric will be in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, which is widely recognised by conservation professionals in Australia as the standard for conservation practice. Work done on items of heritage significance is generally required to be undertaken in accordance with the principles of this Charter. While the HMP provides an assessment of the condition of the place, the precise specifications of maintenance or restoration works are not detailed; each are examined on a case-by-case basis when works are proposed and align to the principles and protocols outlined in the HMP.

### **Approach to Changes of the Fabric**

Policy 1.13 While recognising the need for change, the approach to the building fabric will be one of sympathetic intervention.

The fundamental principle of the Burra Charter is one that requires the least intervention in the fabric as possible while achieving the desired results. The approach as applied to the RG Menzies Building would recognise the intrinsic value of the fabric and its ability to tell an important story. It is an approach that respects the existing fabric and intervenes, when necessary, in a sensitive way.

Policy 1.14 Retain, enhance and retrieve the culturally significant fabric as the opportunities arise.

This policy will be implemented when and as the opportunities arise and take into consideration the differing needs of the various future uses.

### **Recording of Changes**

Policy 1.15 Changes to the RG Menzies Building will be carefully recorded.

When decisions are made requiring changes to the building fabric a process of recording those changes will be immediately instituted. All changes to the RG Menzies Building, including change of use and occupation patterns and changes to the fabric of the site (building and landscape) will be recorded.

It is conceded that the fabric can tell an important story; this fabric will be carefully recorded to ensure that the story is not lost or diluted. Future generations of historians, scientists and archaeologists will be grateful for the adoption of this attitude. The record of these changes will become part of the permanent archive held by ANU Facilities & Services Division, in conjunction with ANU Central Records and University Archives at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre.

It is important to document all alterations to the place. Past alterations, even if unsympathetic, reveal an important chapter in the 'life' of the structure and the

changing attitudes and uses of the place. A full record of such changes will facilitate understanding of the building in the future, and provide the basis for comparison of any new works carried out.

### **Integration of the Services**

Policy 1.16 Upgrading of services to the RG Menzies Building will be undertaken in such a manner as to ensure:

- Minimal impacts on significant fabric
- The location of services in areas designed for, or previously damaged by, services
- The location of services in areas that are not visible, wherever possible
- The provision of services that are complementary to their surrounding
- The use of fixings that do not damage significant fabric, where practicable
- It is recognised that services of a specific nature may be required for future new use(s) of the buildings and that future upgrading of services will be needed. These will be designed with respect for the significant fabric and spaces.

### **Conservation Advice**

Policy 1.17 Conservation work undertaken at the RG Menzies Building will be carried out in consultation with qualified and experienced conservation consultants acting within the guidelines of the adopted HMP.

The conservation of a wide variety of items requires the expertise of professionals. The coordination and briefing of these professionals will be performed by a suitably qualified conservation consultant, such as a conservation architect, in conjunction with ANU Facilities & Services Division.

Policy 1.18 Prior to undertaking conservation, maintenance or demolition works on any part of the significant building's fabric or spaces, additional investigations may need to be carried out.

The purpose of additional investigations would be to:

- a) Assist in the determination of the impact of future works on the elements, spaces or components of significance.
- b) Assess the suitability of specific adaptive re-use works required for the accommodation of a new use, or for the upgrading of facilities for an existing function, and would include the assessment of impact of:

- Detailed alterations in relation to significant spaces, details and fabric
- Removal of unsympathetic additions which may or may not reveal or deface the significant fabric
- Additional investigations would be required to assist any proposed conservation works, including the examination of windows and door locations and original joinery details, colour schemes, etc.

## **Archaeology**

- Policy 1.19 The assessment of the likely impact on the archaeological resource of the area within the immediate vicinity of any proposed development, within the boundary of or adjacent to the HMP curtilage, will be undertaken prior to works commencing.
- Policy 1.20 An Archaeological Management Strategy will be prepared for any proposals that are likely to have an impact on the archaeological resource of any proposed development areas with the HMP boundary area.
- Policy 1.21 Any excavation works that may be required at the site shall be undertaken with care. Significant findings during excavation will be reported immediately and not be disturbed until the appointed ANU representative issues formal instructions.

Conservation, reconstruction, refurbishment or upgrading of works associated with any compatible future use proposal may result in the potential disturbance of, or uncovering of, the evidence of activities associated with earlier uses. In order that the history and significance of the building and its site may be fully understood and appreciated, the evidence shall be professionally recorded and assessed. The planning of works affecting the buildings and grounds is to consider the effect on the identified archaeological resource. Impacts will be minimised wherever possible.

Priority will be given to retaining the archaeological resource, if assessed to be of national significance, undisturbed. To this end, recommendations to minimise disturbance will be considered once details of specific works impacts are known. The discovery of major archaeological remains may require localised stop-work while the remains are recorded and advice sought. The ANU Heritage Management Manual outlines specific processes relating to the possible discovery of archaeological material, including Indigenous heritage consultation.

## **The Interpretation of the Site**

- Policy 1.22 Prepare an Interpretation Plan for the RG Menzies Building that examines the need for accommodating visitors to the site, while protecting the significant cultural fabrics of the place.
- Policy 1.23 The interpretation of the RG Menzies Building, including the surrounding landscape and archaeological evidence (any artefacts found on-site) will be seen as an important element of the conservation of the place.
- Policy 1.24 Any reconstruction of parts of the site will be on the basis of their ability to interpret key aspects of the cultural significance of the place.
- Policy 1.25 Retention of any unsympathetic alterations will be on the basis of their ability to interpret key aspects of the cultural significance of the place.
- Policy 1.26 The site's history has been documented in this HMP. The continued publication (via the ANU Heritage webpage), and revision, of this text will facilitate public appreciation of the RG Menzies Building in the future.

The following possibilities will be addressed in the interpretation of the site:

- The continued accessibility of the place by the public, with controlled access to certain areas, such as the Rare Books Room
- Publicity
- Presentation of a site map with a basic site history and key indicators of significant items and elements within the site
- A modest interpretive display at a key location
- Publication of an interpretive document (to accompany the published history).

Public access will be coordinated with the ANU to determine times that will not disrupt the research, or other, work in the RG Menzies Building. The frequency of open days will also be determined by an assessment of the anticipated nature and extent of the adverse impact on the fabric arising out of public visitation. The frequency shall be determined and subsequently monitored (and revised if necessary to minimise adverse impact).

- Policy 1.27 The Interpretation Plan will allow for the interpretation of all elements of the site, either current or 'lost'.

The interpretive displays and information will be prepared to enable the significance of each item to be understood by future generations.

For any proposed future use, adequate financial resources will be made available for the preparation of a professional Interpretation Plan, in order that the representation of the buildings to the site's users and occupants, the general public and the visitor is carefully planned to accurately and simply reflect the scientific, historic, aesthetic and social importance of the place.

Policy 1.28 The important phases of the historical development of the RG Menzies Building will be acknowledged in the future interpretation of the site, including:

- The role of the Library as part of the development of the ANU
- The role of the building as part of the evolutionary development of architecture on the University campus
- The location, size, mass, texture of fabrics and identification of the building as part of the built environment on the Acton campus.

The distinct phases of the RG Menzies Building will be acknowledged and interpreted in any future proposals. The historical development of the place is demonstrated through the physical development of the building and landscape setting.

### **Public Accessibility of the HMP**

Policy 1.29 A copy of the adopted HMP will be lodged with DEWHA.

Sections of the HMP (to be determined by the Director, ANU Facilities & Services) will be accessible to the public in order to raise and foster community awareness of the significance of the RG Menzies Building.

### **Review of HMP**

Policy 1.30 This HMP will be reviewed by the ANU as the need arises. The results of future studies will be kept up to date, regularly reviewed and revised as necessary. The adopted HMP must be reviewed every five years (EPBC Act s341X).

This HMP, and particularly the conservation policies found herein, may need adjustment to take into account discrepancies and unforeseen circumstances, to clarify intentions or as a result of uncovered evidence. It is a requirement of the EPBC Act (s341X) for management plans to be reviewed at least every five years.

## 8.2 Policies for Future Use/Development

- Policy 2.1 The site will continue to be used by the Australian National University
- Policy 2.2 The preferred new uses of the RG Menzies Building are those that enhance the appreciation of the significance of the place, ensure the conservation of the fabrics and landscape features, and serve as teaching or learning space for University purposes
- Policy 2.3 No new buildings are to be introduced in immediate proximity to the RG Menzies Building. Adjacent areas suitable for development should only be examined provided that they respect the significance of the heritage values of the Menzies Building, the pattern of historic development and the landscape characteristics of the place
- Policy 2.4 Any future use of the RG Menzies Building will acknowledge the significance of the land as a place facilitating University research and the associated activities, and have regard to issues of public access.

Principles for the adaptation of the RG Menzies Building have been discussed in Section 7.7. New future use(s) for the building would be acceptable provided that they adhere to these principles.

The management of the site will include careful siting of any adjacent future development so that it will enhance the appreciation of the cultural significance of the place.

While the RG Menzies Building is significant as an individual site, it is important to recognise the values of the place as part of the ANU's Acton campus. Distinct features of the place that set it apart from the other University libraries must be maintained. This includes, but is not limited to, the site, fabrics, internal functions and nature of collections befitting the importance of the building to the history of the campus.

## 8.3 General Treatment of the Fabric

- Policy 3.1 Significant elements such as fabric, relationships, spaces or vistas, as outlined in the HMP, will be carefully considered in any future proposals. This will ensure that the work will not reduce, but reinforce, the identified levels of significance.
- Policy 3.2 Appropriate conservation methods and processes will be used to guide future conservation of the building and site fabrics, features and artefacts.
- Policy 3.3 Surviving areas of significant original and early fabric and spaces of the original construction and design will be

retained intact and conserved unless otherwise stated within these policies and as funding provides for.

Policy 3.4 All conservation works will be preceded by thorough investigation, and monitored to assess their effectiveness.

Policy 3.5 Identified fabric, features and associated artefacts of contributory and little or no significance to the RG Menzies Building will either be conserved, through retention and interpretation, or recorded prior to adaptation or removal.

## 8.4 Specific Treatment of the Built Fabric

The RG Menzies Building is in very good condition. It has sustained some alterations commensurate with change of use and gradual evolution of library services over time, though is highly intact. The values of the building are largely intertwined in the fabrics of the place; it is important that the fabrics are maintained with due regard to the heritage values.

Policy 4.1 Undertake the following works:

- Examine air-conditioning/climate control systems; system should be re-balanced, if necessary
- Roof should be watertight and monitored to ensure artificial membrane is effective
- Examine nature of (eucalyptus?) stain on rear wall
- Clean stone plinth (and steel vents)
- Assess damages to stone flagging and stone window sills
- Repair minor wall cracks in stack area and repaint
- Clean stains on vermiculite ceiling in all major public areas (esp. foyer)
- Survey all original furniture in building and ensure items are well maintained
- Investigate feasibility of installing solar panels on upper copper roof, with due respect for original fabrics
- Prepare for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the construction of the building in 2013

## 8.5 Site Conservation Guidelines

Significant items, in particular the built fabrics, contribute to the place as a whole. The curtilage of the RG Menzies Building, as detailed in this HMP, has been developed as a management tool to assist in defining areas of specific

characteristics, and appropriate conservation guidelines for the different components of the place.

Extensions to the RG Menzies Building are not considered in the HMP, although opportunities do exist for sympathetic developments to the north of the building, across McDonald Place. The scale and character of any future developments should not compromise the particular characteristics or values of the place, or its connection to the RG Menzies Building.

Retention of open spaces in accordance with the historical context for each part of the curtilage area is important for the setting of the building within the campus landscape. In addition, the potential for future archaeological research is an important feature and should be considered in any new development, where the location permits. The following conservation objectives will have an influence on the development of planning controls:

- Conservation and/or effective re-use of the significant buildings and landscapes
- Maintenance of an adequate setting for the RG Menzies Building
- Maintenance of the major views of the site and the building, both from within and without the study curtilage
- Maintenance of the significant vegetation and landscape elements of the place

### **8.5.1 Conservation Guidelines for new developments**

The Australian National University will adopt the following principles to guide future developments at or near the RG Menzies Building.

#### **General Policies for new developments**

Policy 5.01 A Heritage/Environment Impact Statement will be prepared to address any new major development on the site and assess the likely impact on the identified Commonwealth Heritage values. If necessary, it will be prepared by a third party not directly involved with the development process.

Any proposed new buildings or developments at or near the RG Menzies Building will be carefully considered, and sited to respect the historic uses, important views and vistas and general character of the area. A Heritage/Environment Impact Statement will assess the proposed works in light of the identified heritage values of the place and policies as outlined in this document, and determine the likely impact of future works.

Any new development in adjacent areas to the RG Menzies Building will be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that the values are retained.

Policy 5.02 The relationship between the RG Menzies Building and the remainder of the ANU campus will be retained.

It is important to understand the development of the RG Menzies Building as part of the Acton campus. The early planning principles established in connection to the RG Menzies Building are still very relevant today, and should be perpetuated.

## 8.8 Development controls

The following development controls have been formulated to ensure the protection of the Commonwealth Heritage values of the RG Menzies Building, and will influence future planning in the area.

<b>Controls for new developments at or near the RG Menzies Building</b>	
<b>Bulk and Scale</b>	Any new buildings or extensions to existing buildings are to be complementary in bulk and scale to the existing building. New structures must not be of such a scale to dominate the existing structures or detract from their setting.
<b>Views</b>	Major identified views to, or from, the significant buildings (refer Section 3.4) are to be respected and not obstructed when considering proposals for new developments.
<b>Building Style</b>	The style of new structures will complement the existing significant buildings. Design of structures may be in the language of the existing buildings but will not attempt to replicate the original. The design of new structures will not conflict with the design of existing structures.
<b>Materials and Colours</b>	New materials will respect the existing materials of the building.
<b>Design details</b>	Experienced personnel with suitable architectural skills must be employed. A combination of heritage conservation and design skills is essential.  The location and design of new buildings will ensure that any significant views are retained, and any significant planning axes preserved.
<b>Access</b>	McDonald Place (from Fellows Road) will remain the primary entrance to the RG Menzies Building, and is to remain in its current form.  Future plans should ensure that the landscape to the east of the building is maintained, despite any future plans for the traffic island.
<b>Location</b>	The provision of new development may be permitted in the adjacent lands identified above. New buildings are not necessarily to have like functions to those of the Menzies Building.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES

It is vital that any future development of adjacent land is controlled. The Commonwealth Heritage values of the area must be safeguarded (this also includes heritage values at locations such as the HC Coombs Building, Faculty of Law Buildings and University House).

The siting of the building and landscape were important considerations of the planning of the place and must not become obscured. The RG Menzies Building is bordered by very distinct landscape areas, serving as 'buffer zones' from surrounding roads and buildings, as decorative examples or as notable remnant vegetation. Principles for the management of landscape and areas of biodiversity values are found in the ANU Environmental Management Plan and the ANU Biodiversity Management Plan<sup>†</sup>.

The RG Menzies Building has a number of important connections to the neighbouring buildings and landscapes. The views from and to the HC Coombs Building, Hugh Ennor Building (Australian Phenomics Facility) and University House must all be maintained. Each has affected the functionality or use of the RG Menzies Building since its construction.

### 9.1 Policy Implementation

This section sets out the strategic management approach for the successful implementation of the conservation policies and guidelines for the RG Menzies Building and landscape. The implementation is outlined in appropriate timeframes to coordinate with the Australian National University management and operations and the use of the site by the University, and wider community, for the long term. The ANU will prioritise the potential activities to suit available resources.

#### 9.1.1 Short Term (<1 year)

Short-term implementation strategies will be undertaken within a one-year timeframe. These works should include the following:

- Findings of the HMP will inform the future Masterplan of the Acton campus
- Identify a routine maintenance program to guide the future maintenance of the items
- Recording of any changes to the place, including recovered artefacts or movable objects
- Identify works required to upgrade the services of the building
- Identify works to upgrade the building to comply with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Disability Discrimination Act

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<sup>†</sup> Both the EMP and BMP are available from the ANU Heritage Office upon request

### **9.1.2 Medium Term (1-5 years)**

Medium-term implementation strategies are those which can or will be undertaken within the next five years. They recognize that some actions need to be planned and evaluated before they can be implemented, while others take some time to commence, given the available financial resources, and then continue for a few years. They include the following:

- Review/revise the HMP as necessary
- Ensure all works are properly recorded to provide a valuable archival resource
- Ensure maintenance program is continued
- Examine status of the air-conditioning/climate-control system; system should be re-balanced if necessary
- The roof should be examined to ensure the recently applied membrane is effective and the leaking has stopped
- Examine the nature of the stain on the rear wall; this stain appears to be the result of impact from nearby eucalypt trees. No trees will be removed to remedy this problem
- Clean stone plinth and steel vents to rear of building
- Examine nature of damages to stone flagging and any damages to stone window sills and walls in book stack block
- Clean water staining on vermiculite ceiling in public areas; staining to vermiculite ceiling in basement staff common room should be retained in association with pavement light fittings from enclosed courtyard
- Undertake a stocktake and condition report of any original furniture or fittings of the building, and prepare management policies for original University furniture
- Investigate feasibility of installing solar cell panels on upper copper roof; no original fabrics should be damaged
- Monitor condition of significant landscape elements in conjunction with ANU Gardens & Grounds Division
- (1-2 years): Prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the construction and opening of the building in 2013 (including interpretive materials)

### **9.1.3 Long term (5-10 years)**

Long-term implementation strategies are not expected to commence for up to five years or which need a major change in the overall situation of the place before they will become feasible or realistic. They also include the ongoing management and monitoring of programs.

- Review the content and policies of the HMP and revise as necessary
- Review condition of significant fabric and act in accordance with the Burra Charter and the principles for conservation
- Ensure all works to significant fabrics are recorded to build upon the archival resource
- Review extent of archival records prepared to date, and revise archival record program as necessary
- Ensure maintenance program is continued
- Continue to monitor the significant landscape elements in conjunction with ANU Gardens & Grounds Division
- Periodically monitor the building for service productivity and client requirements
- Periodically monitor building for BCA compliance
- Periodically monitor building for DDA compliance
- Monitor the condition of any interpretive materials

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