AUSTRALIAN LIBERALISM: THE CONTINUING VISION—PRESS RELEASE FROM THE LIBERAL FORUM (1986)

The political values central to the Australian liberal tradition are the theme of a new book to be launched in Canberra tomorrow [2 December 1986]. *Australian Liberalism: The Continuing Vision* is the first comprehensive anthology of the key speeches and writings of prominent Australian liberals, from the 19th century to the present day.

The work makes generally available for the first time the vital speeches which shaped the development of mainstream non-Labor politics. In particular, it revives a number of the long-neglected 1940s speeches of Robert Menzies, in which he outlined his vision of liberalism and laid the philosophical basis for a quarter-century of successful Liberal government.

One of the book’s editors, Tom Harley, said today: ‘At a time when the Deakin—Menzies tradition in non-Labor politics is under attack from interests which have never been our friends, it is important to remind ourselves of the values upon which successful mainstream non-Labor politics have been based. Those principles include a deep respect for the rights of the individual; personal freedom; equality of opportunity; acknowledgement of a positive but limited role for Government as one of the providers of those opportunities and unyielding antipathy to fanaticism.’

The book will be launched by Senator Chris Puplick at a reception at the National Press Club at 10.30 am tomorrow, Tuesday, 2 December 1986. It is edited by Yvonne Thompson, George Brandis and Tom Harley, and published by Liberal Forum.
This book is the first to be published by Liberal Forum, a group established to broaden understanding of liberalism and its continuing relevance as a reformist philosophy.