

CLAN MACLEOD LUNCHEON

We had as guest speaker at this year's premier function, David McLeod, son of Jean and Doug McLeod who was the foundation President here in 1957. David is more readily remembered as the lawyer for Guantanamo inmate, David Hicks.

After assuring us that we were all being surveilled, Mr. McLeod developed his theme of "David Hicks and the world of Dr. Strangelove", through analogous movie scenes and characters of *A Few Good Men*, and *Dr. Strangelove* and other Hollywood creations. His description of the political complicity, military process and personnel, was enthralling, humorous and frightening. He touched us with his evident dedication to justice, and a determination to steam our Aussie flagship "The Fair Go" into the USA Military minefield. Our guests were holding their breath, only relaxing for a laugh at the flawed real life which was funnier than its comic parody. That they prohibited McLeod from supplying reading material to Hicks, such as the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for it being subversive literature sums up their philosophy.

On a plea bargain of 'Guilty', Hicks, a person "of great insignificance", was given over to McLeod and Australian personnel for the flight to Australia in 2007, in a scene reminiscent of a *Jean Le Carre* (Bridge of Spies) story of the tense cold war prisoner exchanges at Checkpoint Charlie.



Surrounded by rank and military automatons, carrying a small nation's arsenal, the Australians immediately demanded that Hicks be released from the stooping 'short shackle' he had worn for 5 years. David McLeod was given the respect of devoted attention, enthusiastic

applause, eager insightful questions, and later, many personal greetings. It was a compelling speech.

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