Episode Eight: An Australian Way of Life

Extend your knowledge of post war Australia and contemporary Australian sport, culture and society

Four Texts to Read

- Stuart Macintyre, Australia’s Boldest Experiment: War and Reconstruction in the 1940s (Sydney: New South 2015)
- John Murphy, Imagining the Fifties: Private Sentiment and Political Culture in Menzies’ Australia (Sydney: UNSW Press, 2000).

Three Websites to Visit

- Menzies Virtual Museum  
- ‘Election of Menzies’, National Museum of Australia  
- ‘Australia in the 1950s’, My Place for Teachers  
Podcasts to listen to

- ‘Historyonics: Chifley’s Light on the Hill’, RN Drive, 4 September 2013
  — Summary: Ben Chifley’s Light on the Hill speech has become a seminal speech for the Australian Labor Party. Speaking at the ALP conference in June 1949, Chifley urged the Labor faithful to continue to fight for a better society for all.

- ‘ASIO files’ personal truths’, Late Night Live, 8 August 2013
  — Summary: A new four-part documentary series delves into four different ASIO files, asking the subject of each to explain the contents. The series premieres this weekend at the Melbourne Film Festival.
  — http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/latenightlive/asiо-files27-personal-truths/4873750

Film and Literature

- TV Series: True Believers, episode #1 (ABC, 1988)
  — Available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcBEylfaXgM

- Novel: Ruth Park, Poor Man’s Orange (Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1949)

A Primary Source

- Ben Chifley (1952), Things Worth Fighting For (collected speeches), Melbourne University Press, Parkville, Victoria

Links to the National Museum of Australia’s Defining Moments Project

- 1949: Election of the Menzies government – the longest serving in Australian history

- 1956: Television introduced in time for Australia’s first Olympic Games, Melbourne
  — http://www.nma.gov.au/online_features/defining_moments/featured/television_and_the_melbourne_olympics