

THE FREILICH FOUNDATION PRESENTS:



THE 2008 FREILICH FOUNDATION LECTURE ON BIGOTRY & TOLERANCE

## THE ELUSIVE, INCLUSIVE REPUBLIC

Marion Maddox

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Wednesday 22 October, 6pm

Conference Room, Old Canberra House, Lennox Crossing ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

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The calm before any returning Republican storm provides an opportunity to reflect on the kind of Republic we might want. My immediate contribution emerges from twin interests in religion and social inclusion. Discussions at the 1998 convention most visibly focused on the selection of a local head of state. Yet delegates also broadly agreed on retaining some constitutional place for an even higher authority, some kind of 'generic god'. The republic question is fundamentally about power. Historically, ultimate power resided with God, the monarch then ruling by divine right. However, the framers of a cosmopolitan Australian Republic need to look beyond eighteenth century anti-monarchism and anti-clericalism to a global ethos with its own economic, legal, cultural and environmental imperatives.

What meaningful god can now include all citizens? Muddling along with the old assumptions won't work. The lecture concludes with some modest suggestions towards an inclusive Republican vision.

Marion Maddox is Director of Macquarie University's Centre for Research on Social Inclusion. She holds PhDs in theology (Flinders 1992) and political philosophy (University of NSW 2000), and has taught Australian politics and religious studies in universities in Australia and New Zealand. As the 1999–2000 Australian Parliamentary Fellow, she interviewed some 50 serving and retired Federal Members and Senators about their views on faith and public life, resulting in *For God and Country: Religious Dynamics in Australian Federal Politics* (Canberra: Parliament of Australia 2001). Her landmark work, *God Under Howard: The Rise of The Religious Right in Australian Politics* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin 2005), was "an exemplary case study of the interaction between religion and politics in Australia today" (*The Times Literary Supplement*). Marion is currently researching religion-state relations and adjusting her sourdough to the Sydney climate.

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