

# **Separating Church and State**

**A Call to Action**

*Leslie Cannold*



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# With Max Wallace



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **SECTION 116, AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **BILL OF RIGHTS, US CONSTITUTION**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **MCCOLLUM V. BOARD OF EDUCATION – 1948**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

**“does not...manifest a governmental hostility to religion or religious teachings...the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rests upon the premise that both religion and government can best work to achieve their lofty aims if each is left free from the other within its respective sphere”**



# **THE DOGS CASE - 1981**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# US vs Oz

- **Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...**
- **...for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required...**





*Defence of Government Schools*  
High Court 1981

Justice Sir Ronald Wilson

[s.116 of the Constitution]

... cannot answer the description of  
a law which guarantees within  
Australia the separation of church  
and state.

Justice Sir Ninian Stephen

[s.116 of the Constitution]

... cannot readily be viewed as the  
repository of some broad statement of  
principle concerning the separation  
of church and state ...

# **DOGS-DAYS**

- **Public funding of religious events and canonisations**
- **Tax breaks for advancing religion**
- **Public funding of private religious education**
- **Public schools mission-fields for intolerant Christianity**
  - **Scripture classes**
  - **Chaplains**



**“I believe that this is the greatest mission field we have in Australia - our children & our students. Our greatest field for disciple making...There is an enormous amount of Christian ministry going on in our schools... but we must ask how much of that ministry is actually resulting in Christian conversion and...church growth. We must...see not only Christian ministry taking place but conversion...and commitment to a Christian faith community” – ACCESS Ministries**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **AUSTRALIA DOES NOT HAVE A SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **AUSTRALIA IS A SOFT THEOCRACY**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **WILLIAMS V. COMMONWEALTH - ?**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **PARENTS V. DEPT EDUCATION (VCAT) - ?**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

GUESS WHO'S COUNTING  
ON **God** TO GET  
HIMSELF  
ELECTED?



You don't actually have to believe...  
But you DO have to *pretend* you believe!



**WHAT CAN WE DO?**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

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*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **Today**

- **Like Australian United for Separation of Church & State**
- **Like Australian Freethought University Alliance**
- **Donate to Ron Williams**  
**[www.highcourttchallenge.com](http://www.highcourttchallenge.com)**
- **Sign the petition in the foyer**



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com

# **Today**

## **FoundationBeyondBelief.org**



*Leslie Cannold*

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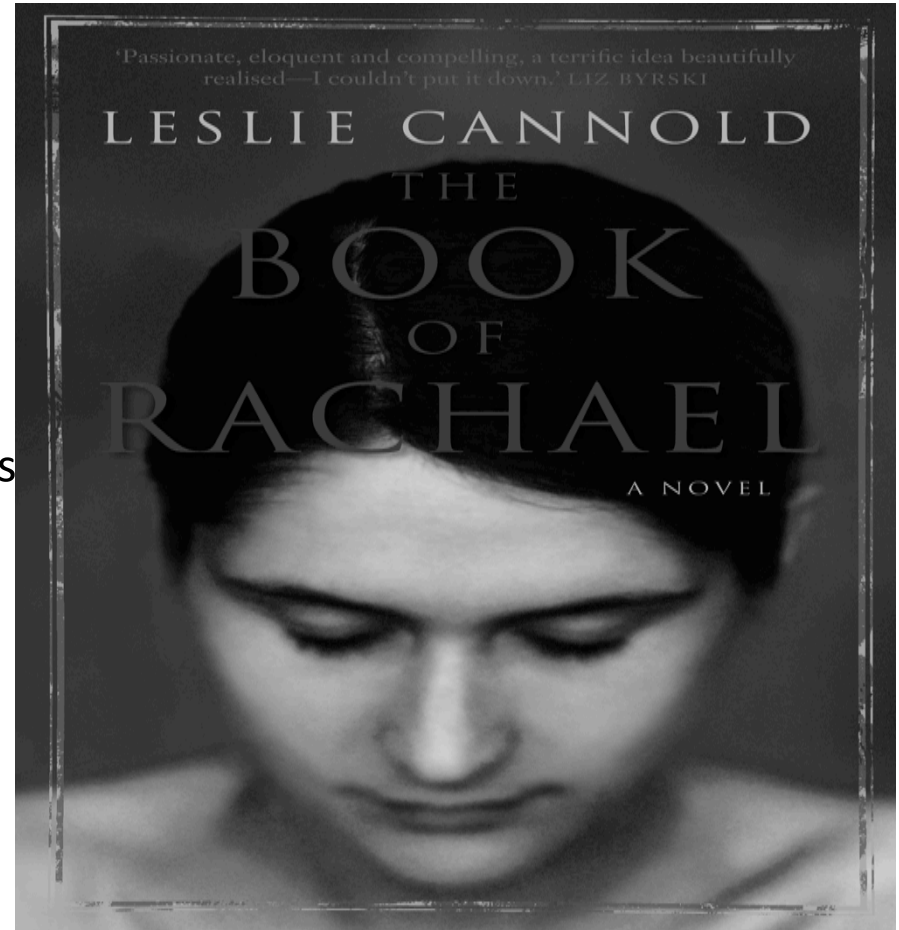
# **Effective Fighting Force**

- **Contemporary organisation with modern campaign methods**
  - **Web-based advocacy (= \$\$)**
  - **Diff Levels Involvement (= #s)**
  - **Alliance-building (Teachers!)**
- **Talk it up!**



- Cannold.com
- Leslie@Cannold.com
- @LeslieCannold
- Facebook/Google+

Trust



*Leslie Cannold*

cannold.com