

ANUEF News No 5 – February 2002

MEMBERS' BENEFITS

We have been working hard on getting benefits for members. So far we have achieved the following. Some of our members already have these benefits under other relationships with the ANU; others have not until now. If you wish to take advantage of one or more of these benefits, a letter giving proof of membership can be obtained from the Secretary giles.pickford@bigpond.com

1. Library borrowing rights for \$50 per annum which is far cheaper than what it costs ordinary members of Convocation.
2. The right to buy one day packs of one day parking scratchies which entitle you to park anywhere at ANU for \$2 a day. Also, the right to apply for free parking for special events such as Conferring of Degrees Ceremonies and other high days. Ordinary members of the public are not entitled to these benefits. They have to park in designated areas and feed the metres.
3. The right to be posted ANU Reporter if you wish.
4. A place in the pages of the ANU Annual Report.
5. An ability to get staff discounts from PCTech.
6. Access to the University House library and all its facilities

If there are any other benefits that you would like us to pursue, please let us know.

WEB SITE

We have recently up-dated our web site www.anu.edu.au/emeritus. Please click on to it to check that all your details are correct. We are going to add a column for members who wish to display their own web page addresses. If you have your own web page, please send it to Gavin Byrne, our Web Site Officer at gfbyrne@pcug.org.au

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Both the Summer School for Science Teachers and the Summer School for Australian History went very well and received universal acclaim from teachers who came from all parts of Australia to attend. Reports on the programs and feedback are available from the secretary.

ANUEF LECTURE AND DINNER SERIES

Russell Doust, our Events Officer, has pleasure in announcing the following Lectures in the ANUEF Lecture Series for 2002. They are listed below:

- (a) 20 February, 4.45 pm – Ian Hancock will speak about his new book on John Gorton
- (b) 20 March, 4.45 pm - New member, Professor Barry Ninham will speak on 'Flaws in the Fabric: Why Physical and Chemistry and the Physical Sciences generally have

never contributed conceptually to the Biological Sciences.' The substance of this lecture was given by Professor Ninham at the special Nobel Symposium to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prizes held in Stockholm December 2001. It is necessarily technical but should be comprehensible to any first year science student. Note that this lecture will be in the Coombs Lecture Theatre, not in any of our usual venues.

(c) 17 April, 4.45 pm - Bruce Pollard (Warden of Bruce Hall) will give an overview of developments in the ANU Student Residences

(d) 15 May 2002, 4.45 pm - Tim Rowse (Senior Fellow in the History Program of RSSH) will talk about Nugget Coombs, including his influence on the development of ANU.

(e) 19 June - ANUEF member Eric Fry, who was one of the first post-graduate students in RSSH, will speak about "Early Days at ANU".

All meetings are in the Stanner Room unless otherwise announced beforehand. Dinner in the Hall at University House is a good way to meet friends after the Lecture.

ANU RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

The Human Resources Division at ANU has included information about the ANUEF in their packages of advice to intending retirees. Also ANUEF representatives will be asked to participate in retirement seminars organised by Human Resources.

AGM MINUTES AND ELECTION RESULTS

The second Annual General Meeting of the ANU Emeritus Faculty was held on 5 December 2001 following on after the ANU Poets' Lunch. A summary of the minutes follows:

1. Chair's Report

On behalf of your Committee I express a warm welcome to you all and our thanks to the outgoing Committee. In particular I refer to those few of its members who are not standing again. Rafe de Crespigny and Colin Plowman are among them. We owe a debt to both. To Rafe because he opened an avenue in University House which gave us geographical stability. He also acted as our first Treasurer. We are grateful to Colin because he was there from our earliest days, stayed with us and never ceased to help us by his deep knowledge of university life and its intricacies. Our deputy-chair, Jill Waterhouse, worked with Beryl Rawson on the University Gateway Project to which we, as a Faculty, have offered to make a modest contribution. Jill also maintained our relationship with Manning Clark House and promises to continue to do so. Bari Saha and Henry Zapasnik were unfortunately prevented from attending regular meetings but we remain grateful to them.

The Committee met each month, but the work done was much more ongoing. We now have an excellent website on the internet which I hope you will visit. For it, we are indebted to Gavin Byrne. Russell Doust cheerfully, and successfully, directed a series of well attended lectures. Giles Pickford was unfailing, and uncomplaining, in his role as Secretary and Peter Scardoni both assisted Giles and took over the Treasurer's position from Rafe.

It is important for us to accept that, without any place we can call our own, we lack a public image on the campus. I am happy to tell you there are good prospects that this situation will be rectified. You are all aware that, hitherto, we have relied upon the support, both in giving their time and the use of their resources, to Giles and Peter in their capacity as officers of the Association for Tertiary Education Management. Without that support it would have been well nigh impossible for us to continue our work as a committee.

As you know, we had hoped to set up a data bank of our members' resources this year. We were delighted with the ready response to the questionnaire and, while the data has been collected, lacking help, we have not been able to collate it and thus put it on our web site. Our finances do not run to paying for such a task but we hope to get some modest assistance from the University in that and similar matters.

Over the last few months much work has gone into the organization of two Summer Schools, one in science and the other in Australian history, which will be held in mid-January. Peter Stewart and Colin Plowman have given a great deal of their time to the Science Summer School and thoroughly deserve our thanks. The university, through the direct intervention of the Vice-Chancellor, has generously funded the Schools. They give promise of being very successful and reports on them will be made in due course.

At the last AGM I invited the members, then or later, to put forward suggestions for our activities. Few, if any, were forthcoming. I am not critical or defeatist but I am prompted to ask you to think on one possible reason for our lack of initiative.

None of us wants to waste time which, as it passes, becomes increasingly precious to us. I would be very surprised if any of you expected the Emeritus Faculty to resemble a club for the elderly in which we would sit

over our drinks and reminisce. Such organizations are for people who have lived their lives and have little more to say. It is not rash or imprudent of me to suggest that a Faculty such as our own should have a great deal to say. If we remain mute, I fear that we will wither into irrelevancy, and quickly. Our present problem is that, as well as saying nothing, we don't even argue.

In the 1960s the universities of this country were vibrant partly because, within them, there was a constant stirring of discussion, argument, dissension and disputation about many of the major issues of the time. Some of that revolved around the nature of the university itself. To the degree that such activity involved the right to protest against perceived injustice it was healthy. A society is sick when the sacred voice of protest is stifled. Is it possible that we are allowing our voices to be stifled and, at that, for specious reasons?

In the last few months Australia has faced a crisis in public consciousness unrivalled in its gravity since the Vietnam War. I am convinced that, in its outcome, the matter summed up by the Tampa incident has graver implications for our future than the White Australia Policy, about which there was scarcely any argument at its introduction. With the exception of a statement by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics connected with the Philosophy Department of the University of Melbourne, I am unaware of anything else on the Tampa and refugees coming from a university. While this incident and its aftermath were under way the Academies of the Humanities and of the Social Sciences met. They may well have said many useful things. On these matters they said nothing. Yet the universities continue to proclaim that their work and what they stand for lie at the very heart of our culture and civilisation.

Let anyone who wishes remind me that the above, and a myriad of other matters such as the lack of participation in government even by many of the parliamentarians, population levels, degradation of the environment, salinity of our river system, the grave decline in the humanities, as well as some aspects of the sciences, in our universities, are political. I answer that, if we turn our backs away who, then, will watch over the night?

Do not imagine that I propose the Emeritus Faculty should relinquish its scholarly pursuits. None the less,

we are constantly being urged to become relevant and perhaps some degree of successful relevance is the reason why a lecturer in business studies with an emphasis on the use of IT has been hailed as the Australian teacher of the year. All I ask is that the Emeritus Faculty begins to take its rightful place within the university and within society. Both need it and it is our duty to respond to their need.

RESOLVED

That the Chair's Report be received. (moved Dick Johnson seconded Helga Griffin)

2. Treasurer's Report

Peter Scardoni tabled the audited accounts of the Emeritus Faculty. The members noted that there was a surplus of \$840.81 in member's funds. The Chair thanked Allan Barton the Honorary Auditor for his contribution to the Faculty.

RESOLVED

That the accounts for the period 1 December 2000 to 30 November 2001 be accepted and that the annual subscription for 2002 be set at \$10. (moved Alan Barton seconded Peter Scardoni)

3. Report of the Returning Officer

The meeting noted that Dick Johnson had been appointed Returning Officer by the Committee. A call for nominations to the twelve positions on the Committee had gone out with the notice of meeting on 5 November 2001.

The Returning Officer reported that the following eleven members were nominated before, or during, the December Meeting of the Committee, which was held on the day of the close of nominations:

- Adrian Gibbs
- Anthony Proust
- Beryl Rawson
- Chris Bryant
- Gavin Byrne
- Giles Pickford
- John Molony
- Peter Scardoni
- Peter Stewart
- Russell Doust
- Stewart Turner

As all nominees had consented to serve, he declared them elected unopposed.

The Chair resumed his post and stated that the Committee would coopt a member to fill the twelfth position. He thanked the Returning Officer for his contribution. The Secretary stated that, in accordance with section 8 of the Constitution, the new Committee would meet at 4.00 pm on Monday 10 December 2001 to elect Office Bearers. *(Subsequently the Committee appointed Judith Slee to the Committee vacancy, and elected John Molony - Chair; Chris Bryant - Deputy Chair; Peter Scardoni – Treasurer; Giles Pickford – Secretary; Russell Doust – Events Officer; and Gavin Byrne – Web Site Officer)*

4. ANUEF Programs

Members discussed the scope of ANUEF Programs and generally agreed with the current arrangements. Some members offered to contribute to the Lecture Series.

5. Membership drive

The Chair stated that now that the web site is operational a membership drive would be conducted in 2002. He urged members to give personal invitations to suitable candidates for membership, using the web address to pass on information. The address is www.anu.edu.au/emeritus

6. Involvement with Other Groups

Elizabeth Murphy gave an account of RAPLink, an organisation which has links to the ANUEF and the National Farmers' Federation. Its aim is to provide assistance to rural and remote citizens in addressing their problems by offering expert advice.

(Visit <http://users.tpg.com.au/raplink> for more information.)

It was resolved that ANUEF continue its affiliation with this worthwhile community involvement project.
(moved Elizabeth Murphy seconded Gavin Byrne)

7. Assistance in Research Project

Don Anderson informed members of a new DEST funded project, which he, Dick Johnson and Larry Saha were working on, which aims to study the implications of the age structure of university staff, the changing role of academics, and options that arise from the findings.

He asked if the questionnaire could be given a trial run among members of ANUEF.

The meeting resolved to participate in the project.
(moved Don Anderson seconded John Molony)

8. National Institutes

Anthony Low raised the question about whether members of ANUEF should be invited to nominate for membership of the new National Institutes at ANU. The meeting noted that the University administration had raised this possibility and that the matter was under consideration. It resolved that the Chair follow through on this matter. (moved Anthony Low seconded Beryl Rawson)

9. Condolences

The meeting remembered with fondness and sadness our deceased member Maurie Weidemann and resolved to send condolences to Anna Weidemann. Maurie had been actively involved with the ANUEF Summer School for Science Teachers. (moved Peter Stewart seconded John Molony)

All the best for Christmas and New year

Giles Pickford
Secretary
ANU Emeritus Faculty