



Sustainable Australia: An Emeritus Faculty Course

A course on the topic 'Sustainable Australia' is being mounted by the Emeritus Faculty in the School of Resources, Environment and Society in the second semester of 2004. This course is included within the existing options in this School for an Independent Research Project.

The aim of the course is to provide students with an opportunity to undertake an interdisciplinary approach to a contemporary issue under the guidance of people with considerable practical experience of varied aspects of that issue who would not usually be accessible to students within the framework of conventional university courses.

An ancillary aim is to demonstrate the capacity of the ANU Emeritus Faculty to deliver a course that is unlikely to be available elsewhere in Australia.

The topic of 'Sustainable Australia' is one of four 'National Research Priorities' nominated by the Prime Minister in December 2002. Those priorities, as a group, formed the subject of the first Emeritus Faculty course offered in 2003. That course was very favorably assessed by the participating students.

The current course is centred on an inquiry into aspects of the 'sustainability' Research Priority that could frequently be taken for granted. For instance, the six participating students are questioning what is meant by 'sustainability' beyond its 'motherhood'

connotations, how that envisaged entity is to be measured and how it could be attained.

The course is examining a number of topics in some depth as examples of how the preceding questions might be addressed. Discussion leaders have included, or will include, people with extensive experience and practical involvement with social science, water, soils, introduced animal species, introduced genes, the formulation of national governmental policies and their implementation.

The course format is based on weekly sessions (with preparatory research) in which a speaker from ANU, CSIRO or the public service introduces the specific topic. Each session is being run in tandem with a Year 10 course on sustainability in a Queensland High School. This collaboration is achieved by email in each direction, with an exchange of questions and answers, before and after each session. At the time of writing, both groups of students have expressed enthusiasm for the course.

Peter McCullagh (Convenor)
pjdmccullagh@bigpond.com

Humanities 'portfolio'

The Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) has called for the incoming government to create a new portfolio of "Education, Research and Training". The council is also calling for: Membership for the humanities on the PM's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council;
Expanding the R&D tax concession for work in the humanities, arts and social sciences;
Adding a Fifth National Research Priority.

Eureka: Who cares? And why we should

Why is the story of Eureka Stockade so important to Australians? Or perhaps the question should be "Why aren't Australians overwhelmed by the importance of the Eureka rebellion?" Historian John Molony examined the facts and "the prerogative of the people" in an Occasional Senate Lecture on April 23, 2004. The excerpts are taken from the lecture with his permission.

In and about a flimsy defence line called a Stockade on the Eureka lead at Ballarat, government troops massacred about fifty civilians at dawn on 3 December 1854. The exact number is impossible to establish, but some diggers who were not counted in the original total unquestionably died in the aftermath of the affair. The day itself was chosen because the civilians, being of the Christian religion, did not expect to encounter work of that nature on a Sabbath. Yet, the government knew that it had to strike and do so quickly because, five days previously, the digger leader, Peter Lalor, [pronounced Lawler and spelt that way in government documents] had called for a meeting of the Ballarat Reform League. It was to take place in the Adelphi Theatre on Sunday, 3 December at 2 p.m. In the event, the chosen hour of 2 p. m. was beyond the reckoning of many who had intended to be present on that afternoon. By 6 a. m. they had died beneath their flag, the Southern Cross. The Stockade was a smouldering ruin and Lalor's life was in jeopardy.

Molony goes on to explain that the main grievance of the diggers was to be taxed on their labour, not on what they produced.

To force such men to produce a licence at the point of a bayonet, followed by immediate arrest and incarceration were they unable to do so, was an outrage of human dignity and civil rights, against which they reacted with determination. Many of the European miners had witnessed the presence of a standing army amidst a civilian population in their countries of origin, which was especially the case in the wake of the revolutions of 1848.

Understandably they were astounded when subjected to similar treatment in Australia.

The diggers had no civil status and were virtually non-citizens of Victoria. This meant that they were not permitted to stand for parliament or vote in parliamentary elections. Unsurprisingly it was not long before the old catchcry 'No taxation without representation' was heard on the fields. Moreover, it was evident that the gold would soon run thin and then there would be a need for another source of income. But the land was held by the squatters and the government refused to open it to the newcomers. In that way, their dream of acquiring land in this new country turned sour.

The Ballarat Reform League was started in an embryonic form by September 1854, reacting to the maladministration apparent at Ballarat. It had common cause and leadership with Eureka.

It is also useful to establish that none of those leaders was Irish so as to indicate the groundless and gratuitous nature of later judgements of Eureka as little more than a drunken Irish riot, with a goodly sprinkling from the sixteen nations present who the authorities called 'foreigners' or 'aliens'.

The background of the League was the British Chartist movement. Made up principally of artisans, labourers and small business owners, and supported by thousands of women, the movement had wanted a thorough reform of the British political system and had specified the steps towards reform in the 'People's Charter' of 1838. It was a simple document asking for universal suffrage for adult men, annual parliaments, the payment of members and the abolition of property qualifications for members of Parliament, and a secret ballot voting system. The British Chartists wanted an extension of the rights of citizenship and the development of a healthy democratic system, but their Charter was a thoroughly political document making no reference to other matters such as wages, social conditions or the economy.

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The movement attracted a wide following and the third petition to Parliament in 1848 was signed by at least three million people. By that year the movement had split into those who wanted to continue to use constitutional means to effect reform and those who, having judged such means as idle in the face of parliamentary intransigency, preferred to use some form of physical force to achieve their aims. As on several previous occasions, Parliament met the movement with brutal reprisals and the arrest of the leaders. In the wake of 1848, 102 Chartists were transported to Van Diemens Land but none of them was in Ballarat in 1854.

There were many Chartists who had come as free men to Australia in the gold rush years and their contribution to the formation of the Ballarat Reform League was crucial. John Basson Humffray, law clerk and a moral force Chartist from Wales, became the first president of the League while Thomas Kennedy, a Chartist of Scottish origin who became a Baptist preacher, was its secretary for a brief period. George Black and Henry Holyoake were former English Chartists whose involvement with the League from its origins was both public and noteworthy. No Irish digger was directly involved with the League in its early days. ...

The 'political changes' the League saw as necessary, but to be achieved over a period of time, clearly reveal the Chartist origins of the Ballarat document. Their first proposal was for 'full and fair representation' meaning that goldfield residents could stand for parliament. The others were manhood suffrage, no property qualifications, payment for members and a short duration of Parliament: a more realistic aspiration than the Chartist demand for annual parliaments. On a more local level the League wanted the immediate 'disbanding' of the Gold Commissioners and the 'total abolition of the diggers' and storekeepers' licence tax.' They also intended to issue 'cards of membership' of the League, divide Ballarat into districts within 'a few days' and to commence 'a thorough and organized agitation of the gold fields and the towns.' Whatever he made of the other matters set down in the Charter, Commissioner Rede was surely agitated

when he heard of the immediate proposals of the League.

The major development of the Charter of Bakery Hill from that of the British Charter went to the heart of democracy and had strong republican overtones. The League claimed that every citizen had an 'inalienable right... to have a voice in making the laws he is called upon to obey' and that, because the goldfield communities had been 'hitherto unrepresented' in Parliament they had been subjected to bad and unjust laws and thus 'tyrannized over.' This led to their 'duty as well as interest to resist and, if necessary to remove the irresponsible power which so tyrannizes over them'. Not content with a mere statement of the principles that underpinned their proposed future actions, the makers of the Charter moved to the ultimate source of their discontent – the British monarchy. The Charter spoke directly to Queen Victoria whom they warned of their intention to take firm action unless 'equal laws and equal rights' were 'dealt out to the whole free community' of the colony named after her.

The first action they proposed was to separate the colony from Great Britain, which they recognized as 'the parent country'. Separation as such need not have entailed a declaration of independence from the Crown, but the League did not hesitate to insist that it would take that step if 'Queen Victoria continues to act upon the ill advice of dishonest ministers and insists upon indirectly dictating obnoxious laws for the colony, under the assumed authority of the Royal prerogative.' The League reminded the monarch that there was another and higher source of power in a prerogative which was 'the most royal of all'. That prerogative lay with 'the people [who] are the only legitimate source of all political power.' They proposed to use that power if forced to do so and thus supersede the 'Royal prerogative' of the monarch.

Molony traces the democratic birthright embraced in the Charter, from Aristotle to the Chartists and sets out why the Victorian authorities believed such revolutionary ideals should be crushed. He concludes ...

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There are still anomalies and questions about Eureka that remain unresolved such as the exact spot on which the diggers took their stand. That matter is of little moment because the whole ground where they died and suffered belongs forever to them and to the nation. It is more to the point that the Southern Cross, under which they died, is in the Art Gallery, which stands on the same ground as the government Camp in 1854. At that place, the police danced, spat and urinated on it when they returned from their work at Eureka. One day that flag, a true symbol of democracy, will return to its rightful home at the Stockade. Recognition of the Southern Cross in the form of registration under the Flags Act is slow in coming, as is the erection of a monument in the National Capital to commemorate Eureka. These things will come to pass, but there is one work that will never be fully done, one ideal that will always need revivifying. Democracy is much more than a system. It is an ideal and a spirit born day by day in those who believe in it. Eureka had its brief and bloody day 150 years ago. Eureka lives on in the heart and will of every Australian who understands, believes in and acts on the principle that the people are 'the only legitimate source of all political power.'

For a full text of the Occasional Senate Lecture, e-mail: John.Molony@anu.edu.au

Faculty visit to Ballarat

Several members of the ANU's Emeritus Faculty are booked to visit Ballarat for the Sesquicentenary of the Eureka Stockade uprising.

The program for the festival is:

Saturday 4 December: Diggers' March re-enactment at 2pm

Sunday 5 December: Dawn March at dawn;
Eureka Stockade Luncheon at 12.30 pm
Emeritus Faculty chair John Molony will be speaking at various times during the ceremonies.

For more information, contact Giles Pickford on mobile m: 0411 186 199 or e-mail giles.pickford@bigpond.com

\$1m mirage or reality

Events of October 9 have either turned a statement by Labor MPs Kerry O'Brien and Federal Member for Ballarat Catherine King into a mirage or a reality. During the election campaign they announced that a Labor Government would commit **\$1 million** to a National Centre for Democracy based at Ballarat's Eureka Centre, to acknowledge the Eureka 150 anniversary.

Obituary

D. P. Scales, 1921-2004

Derek Percival Scales was born in England and came to Australia at the age of four. Having been an outstanding student of languages (first place in French in NSW at the Leaving Certificate of 1937, an Exhibitioner at the University of Sydney in 1938, a medalist and prize-winner in 1942), he became in 1952 the first Professor of French and head of the Department of Modern Languages at the then Canberra University College. In the mean time, he had spent the years 1942-46 in the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve, completed a doctorate at the Sorbonne (1950) and lectured in French at the University of Birmingham for two years. From 1960, once the College had become the School of General Studies (later the Faculties) of the Australian National University, he continued in both positions. His department, over the years, was to incur a variety of different names, including 'French & Russian' and 'Romance Languages', indicative first of the University's confident promotion of European languages, then of its dismaying ambivalence towards them.

Between 1965 and 1974, he acted also at different times as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, a professorial member of Council, Esquire Bedell and the Dean of Students. As a scholar, his best work was done in literary studies, especially on the nineteenth-century wit and satirist Alphonse Karr (the coiner of the quip *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même*

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chose) and on the francophilia of Aldous Huxley.

When he retired (early) in 1983, he had occupied his chair for 31 years, bar a few days. In 1984 he was appointed Emeritus Professor. Like some other members of the former Canberra University College, he served for years as a member of the Commonwealth Literature Censorship Board. He was an active member of the Alliance française, being for long periods the President of the Canberra branch, before being elected to the position of foundation President of the Alliances françaises of Australia. His contribution to the dissemination of French culture was recognized in 1973 by his being appointed *Officier* in the *Ordre des Palmes académiques*, then promoted *Commandeur* on his retirement, the first Australian to be awarded this honour.

In 1950, Derek married Yvonne Hampson; they had three daughters.

Derek always signed himself as 'D. P. Scales', as though he felt he belonged to a time before ours, more private than ours, in which gentlemanly scholars and courteous cricketers declined to reveal more than their initials in public. This helped make something of the impression of reserve and formality that Derek could give to those who did not know him well.

When one did know him, reserve and formality were foreign to him; in daily working together, one was struck by his temperate disposition, his good cheer, his patience, his considerateness, his occasional irreverence ('Take the piss out of them' was his description of a suggestion I once made about how we should greet freshers with a sudden onslaught of strenuous work and strange knowledge in their very first class of the year.)

He joyed in words and what writers can do with them, usually French writers; but he could also cap someone's reference to Evelyn Waugh by reciting with relish whole chunks of *Decline and Fall*: 'For two days they had been pouring into Oxford: epileptic royalty from their villas of exile; uncouth

peers from crumbling country seats; smooth young men of uncertain tastes from embassies and legations; illiterate lairds from wet granite hovels in the Highlands. . .'

As a head of department, he was a model of how to earn the respect of colleagues by transmuting headship into an exercise in getting on with people so as to bring out the best in them: he sought advice, he listened, and he attended to competing options, before making a choice which all concerned usually accepted as reasonable and fair. In 20 years, I saw him testy only twice. He also let us choose to do what we thought we did best and to do it in our own ways. He was gentle and careful in advising younger colleagues in whom a suspicion of their infallibility could conceal from them their own ignorance or fatuity: I having quietly boasted to him of the fact that I had only ever been seasick once, he quietly replied that he had spent years on a destroyer and been seasick every day.

Among ourselves, we called him *le patron*, an appellation which expressed the simplicity of our relations with him, made of respect, homeliness and amiable acceptance of his superiority and his willingness to do as much of the hard work as anyone else. There was never any notion that the head should have less teaching to do than the rest of us, that he should be a foreigner to first-years, that he should teach only the best classes.

Derek gave us the impression that, if he was first among equals, it was only by accident and that he knew the only authority worth having is the moral sort accorded by the affectionate esteem of colleagues. When asked, he had no hesitation in acting alongside students in productions of French plays and rolling about the floor when directed to; and among his performances, that as Monsieur Smith in Ionesco's *La cantatrice chauve* endeared him to an audience unaccustomed to seeing their Prof behave in such ways.

To a junior colleague, grateful to him for the belief in my ability that had led him to appoint me to a Senior Tutorship, he was also a model of the professor, in the most literal sense, of a subject: from his early days at the Canberra University College, of necessity,
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single-handed, he had had to profess the whole of his subject, which in those days was defined as French language and literature. Though I never had to do that (by the late 1960s, there were seven of us in French), it was admiration of Derek's easy proficiency in all branches of his discipline that eventually made of me the all-rounder which, thanks to his example, I had spent years in trying to become.

Decency, open-mindedness, tolerance, equableness, enjoyment of the job in hand, these were what made Derek Scales a just man to work for, an unassuming man to learn from and an easy man to like.

James Grieve

Correction

In ANUEF Newsletter No 1 published in June, the lecture dates in the PhB Arts (Honours) unit in Human Rights, related to the start of the week in which the lecture was to be held, not the actual date on which the lecture occurred. Corrections were published on the ANUEF website. The editor apologises for any confusion.

Making the most of the benefits

Emeritus Faculty members can use their Membership Card to enjoy the following benefits:

- Library borrowing rights for \$50 per annum.
- Purchase of packs of one-day parking 'scratchies' from Parking Administration in the Yencken Building for all day parking in Permit Parking spots at ANU for \$2 a day.
- Staff discounts from PCTech.
- Use of University House Library facilities.
- The right to apply for membership of one of the ANU National Institutes.
- Special \$2 tickets to concerts given by the ANU School of Music. (This does not apply to concerts provided by outside organisations in Llewellyn Hall.)

Members can keep abreast of developments in the Emeritus Faculty through its website, <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/> Please

ensure your details are up-to-date; in particular, advise if your e-mail address changes so that we can keep you informed of activities.

ANUEF Committee

Statutory Officers:

Chair:	John Molony
Deputy Chair	Peter McCullagh
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2005 Annual lecture

The ANUEF Committee is seeking ideas for possible topics and eminent speakers for the 2005 ANUEF Public Lecture. Please send suggestions to Giles Pickford.

Initial speakers in next year's Lecture Series include:

- February 16** Malcolm Whyte on 'Practical, useful lessons from Addiction'
- March 16** The Vice-Chancellor on 'University Governance: what does it mean to us?'
- April 20** A major Conference led by Don Anderson and Dick Johnson. Details later.

Send ideas to or ask for information from Giles Pickford m: **0411 186 199**
 PO Box 6050 O'Connor ACT 2602
 e: giles.pickford@bigpond.com

Talk to the Secretary

Members are asked to confirm their current e-mail addresses by sending a message, civil or otherwise, to the Secretary:
mac.boot@anu.edu.au

**The next edition of the ANU Emeritus
 Faculty Newsletter will be published in
 December**