

Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



The ANU Emeritus Faculty office is moving, on December 17, from its current location in Union Court to the Fellows Lane Cottage - Building 3T. [See website for location map] Postal address will remain unchanged as PO Box 6050, O'Connor, ACT 2602. Phone: 02 6125 5309 Fax: 02 6125 5262

Linking 'town and gown' - ANU and City West

Universities are communities within communities, separate and autonomous yet, at the same time, integrated and interdependent.

How does the Australian National University mesh with Canberra, itself a city with two roles – national capital and local community?

Beryl Rawson examines how the ANU Emeritus Faculty is contributing to that linkage.

The ANU-Civic Interface Project group, which is a sub-committee of the Emeritus Faculty (ANUEF) Committee, has a continuing brief to follow developments in City West and to liaise with the Director, ANU Facilities and Services, Warwick Williams, about the University's interests and responses.

Members of the ANUEF, through their long association with the ANU on this site, have a historical perspective to offer on such matters. They also have some experience of the interaction between physical and intellectual environment.

Mr Williams' willingness to liaise with the ANUEF, in addition to his other sources of advice, is welcome.

The ANUEF has had a group of this kind since 2001, when the then ACT Government had a Cultural Planner whose brief included the development of University Avenue and the concept of an ANU 'Gateway'. There has

been interest within both the ANU and ACT authorities, since at least the 1970s, in improving the interface between the ANU and the city, and various plans or sketches have been drawn up. Activity was revived in 2003, when the ACT Government released papers outlining measures to 'revitalise' City West.

The concept of a 'Gateway' on University Avenue to link the city and the ANU continues to be an element of such plans. This does not involve a monumental, formal structure, but a way to identify a major entrance to the ANU and to facilitate interaction between 'town and gown'.

This is the busiest entry point for pedestrians. Appropriate landscaping could enhance the perspective along the length of University Avenue, a perspective that has been a major element of the ANU's campus plan.

The Interface group has discussed how an identifiable entrance could provide the ANU with a form of 'shopfront', where information could be made available about the ANU's diverse activities and achievements. Permanent and changing exhibitions could illustrate some of these. A small selection of the University's artistic, cultural and scientific objects could (with proper security) be displayed. Visits by school students, tourists and others could begin here and receive orientation and information.

The University has many resources to help enhance the aesthetic quality of this area.

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Members of the Interface group share others'

concern that new buildings and developments on the city side of the campus should not be unsympathetic to the environment and functions of the ANU.

We do not claim planning expertise, but can present views, based on experience, on the best interests of the University. We are aware of the historical character of the School of Art front building (the old Canberra High School) and the road leading to it: new plans could take this into account.

Members of the ANU-Civic Interface group for 2004 have been John Grant, Beryl Rawson and Judy Slee. Membership for 2005 will be determined after the ANUEF Annual General Meeting (1 December 2004). Input from the general membership on these matters is welcome. Do contact us.
<beryl.rawson@anu.edu.au>

The National Youth Science Forum

John Sandeman examines an exercise in promoting careers in science, engineering and technology to year 12 students who not only demonstrate an interest in the subjects but also have interests across all important human activities.

For 22 years Mr Neville Whiffen who was Executive Director of the Canberra Development Board (CDB) felt that at that time:

- Australian students, at a difficult period in their lives, need to be reassured that our country has a future in technology;
- The National Capital was a centre which contained more than Government;
- A spirit of unity is needed in the nation; one's State of origin is less important than Australia as a whole.

With this in mind he convened a committee representing leading academic and research institutions in Canberra to discuss this theme and develop it into a practical scheme for appropriate students.

In 1983 that committee had progressed to the stage of organising a summer school for

students beginning year 12, appointing a Director, Dr Rodney Jory from CCAE, and running the first National Science Summer School (NSSS) for a two-week session in January 1984 for some 200 students..

That school proved to be a great success and in July 1984 the NSSS became incorporated in the ACT with a governing Council consisting of representatives from ANU, CCAE now the University of Canberra, CSIRO, Rotary International, the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Engineering and Technological Societies. In 1985 the Australian Industry Development Corporation became the first named sponsor with a representative on Council.

Today we bring a total 288 beginning year 12 students from across Australia and including six from overseas to Canberra in the first four weeks of January. The number is broken into two sessions of 144 each (set by accommodation limits at UC) of two weeks each.

The name has been changed to the National Youth Science Forum to better reflect the January program. We have moved from a single named sponsor, Rio Tinto being the last to join a group of supporters from the corporate, government and university sectors. This year we also appointed a new Director, Mr Geoffrey Burchfield, formerly of Quantum fame, who will take over executive control from Professor Jory in April 2005. Dr Jory who has moulded and nursed the Forum over the past 20 years will have a role which is yet to be finalised.

Students for the summer school are chosen by Rotary International from applications from year 11 students, following a process of targeted information fed to the schools across Australia from the central office.

The selection requires students to demonstrate:

- an aptitude for science,
- good communication skills,
- empathy toward others, and

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- an interest in non-science activities such as the arts (music, art, literature) and sport.

If they play a portable instrument they are asked to bring that with them to play in groups and provide performances on special occasions.

The program consists of visits to all the scientific institutions in Canberra for “hands on” experiments as well as interacting with practising research staff. They attend forums, discussions and debates on issues of vital interest in today’s world.

In addition they are asked to “apply” for a job they have seen advertised in a newspaper or journal. For this they prepare a suitable cv (with assistance) and are interviewed by a small panel of experienced volunteers. They receive feedback on their performance and suggestions for improvement.

The Forum program is run by 26 all-volunteer “staff” who are chosen for their suitability each year from the NYSF student population. They undergo a week’s “staff training” program at Easter and are then sent overseas for two to three weeks to attend a “session” of similar aims to the NYSF. Six go to the Canada Wide Science Fair, six to the London International Youth Science Fortnight, six to the Soyuz program in Moscow, six to the Science Forum in South Africa, and two to the Nobel Prize winning ceremony in Sweden.

The students themselves raise all the funds for these trips with some assistance if requested. These visits are also in year 12 and despite the period away, the final exam results are still in the top group. Eighteen of these 26 are finally chosen to become the junior staff for the next Forum. From those who have been previous junior staff, eight are chosen to come back the following year to act in a senior capacity. This use of ex-NYSF students, who have the day-to-day interaction, guidance and control of the attendees, has proved a major success. This is evident not only in the day-to-day running of the forum but also in the personal development of those chosen for the senior role. There are fun things to do during the Forum as well, of course.

The personal interaction with 144 peers of like mind, attainments and ambition, coupled with the variety of the program, ensures that the attendees go away with what is generally considered as the most memorable and life-changing experience they have had to that time.

While it is difficult to keep track of the majority after university, we do know that they go on to achieve success in a wide variety of chosen fields.

Our budget including the overseas program is now \$1,000,000 a year and while the Council members are all volunteers, the paid staff are the director, office manager, consultant accountant and part-time help as required. Unfortunately the Australian Tax Office refuses to acknowledge that we have charity status, which has limited our ability to attract tax-deductible donations. The ANU however has come to our aid.

The funds are raised by a fixed donation from the attendees - mostly paid on their behalf by the local Rotary clubs. Sponsorship funds come from a wide variety of organisations including corporate and government, and a small contingent of universities. Notable the ANU has been and still is our best supporter both in terms of its very considerable “in kind” support during the January visits, but also in direct monetary terms. That support is vital to the continuance of the Forum.

With over 20 years behind it and over 5,000 “graduates” spread across the globe the Council, with its new Director, is looking forward with renewed vigour to the further evolution of the NYSF over the coming years.

We have occasionally been accused of being elitist, but if that means we are helping talented Australian youth to become leaders in the community then we make no apology for our choices or the aims of the program.

For more information, contact
"John Sandeman"
john.sandeman@anu.edu.au

2005 Annual lecture

The ANUEF Committee is seeking ideas for possible topics and eminent speakers for the 2005 ANUEF Public Lecture. Send ideas to Giles Pickford. m: **0411 186 199**
PO Box 6050 O'Connor ACT 2602
e: giles.pickford@bigpond.com

Human rights: who qualifies and how

A humanities unit was offered as an elective for honours students in Semester 2, 2004

Following the success of the elective offered in the field of Science by members of the Emeritus Faculty, a group of Emeriti decided to offer a comparable one in the field of the Humanities. The broad unifying theme chosen was "Rights". For administrative purposes the unit was offered through the Philosophy Department, and the Head of Department, Dr Jeremy Shearmur, was closely involved in the course. Professor Hilary Charlesworth of the Law Faculty also contributed one session.

The members who took part and the topics they presented were:

Fred Langman - *Disputed Rights:*

In modern societies claims of particular rights for groups or special interests are often highly contentious, for example:

- land rights,
- women's rights,
- the right to bear arms,
- the right to life of the unborn and
- the right to die of the terminally ill.

Focusing on the last two, what are the common arguments for and against legalising rights to abortion and euthanasia? How are the issues analysed by philosophers, and how are they represented in works of literature and in public debates?

John Molony – *Eureka and the Prerogative of the People*

Concessions were quickly made to the diggers in the aftermath of Eureka, and the need to assert 'the Royal Prerogative of the People' was averted. Nonetheless, the fundamental principle of democracy was

proclaimed at Eureka. The seminar explored the meaning of the prerogative of the people in the context of Eureka.

Beryl Rawson – *The paterfamilias: family, household and rights in classical Rome.*

Roman law gave extensive rights to the male head of household (*paterfamilias*) over his children and slaves, less so over his wife. Modern demographic methodology shows that about a third of fathers died before their children reached puberty. Many slaves won freedom and citizenship. How to balance all the evidence to define rights?

Hilary Charlesworth – *Rights and international law*

The seminar was on the international human rights system and dealt with the development of the international human rights system since the UN Charter in 1945, and discussed the institutions and philosophies behind this system.

Dick Johnson – *Is education a right – or a privilege – or something else? Who has a Right to an education?*

This topic was examined through examples from the ancient world; the Middle Ages; Renaissance and after; the Industrial Age. Historically, people received an education to fit them for a place in contemporary society – but was it as a right, or was it to meet society's needs?

Tony Johns – *Human Rights in Islam.*

Fiqh, the name given to Islamic Jurisprudence, is divided into two categories: matters relating to divine worship, (*'ibadat*), and matters relating to inter-personal relations (*mu'amalat*). Both categories are founded on the Qur'an, the divine book revealed to Muhammad, and hadith, the words and example of Muhammad as a man. This session presented an account of human rights as documented on these bases, and offered examples of how they are articulated and implemented in various parts of the Muslim world.

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Thomas Mautner - *What are rights?* (two sessions)

For an answer, a study was made of ideas, proposed by the great Natural Law thinkers Hugo Grotius (1583-1645), "the father of international law", and Samuel Pufendorf (1632-1694). Their theories took for granted the ancient idea of the natural freedom and equality of every human being, together with a certain conception of individuals as having by nature a sovereign realm. It was left for other thinkers (Locke, Rousseau) to draw radical political conclusions.

Jim Jupp – *Rights of immigrants and asylum seekers*

Jeremy Shearmur - final reflection and evaluation, preferably with all participants and the students. Assessment by assignments was arranged and carried out by Dr Shearmur.

Student attendance varied between 12 and 14. Each session was of two hours, one of exposition by the speaker and the second of discussion.

Dr Shearmur had met the students for an hour before each session to consider the reading that the exponent had set and to prepare items for discussion. The discussion was at all times lively and intelligent.

The group hopes to meet to discuss final evaluation and end-of-course assessment when these are available.

Speakers' program

Topics and speakers for the rest of this year and for the early part of next year's Lecture Series include:

December 17 *The Future of the Book* By **Colin Steele** at 5.15 pm in the ANU Emeritus Faculty Room in Union Court.

The Death of the Book in the digital era has been proclaimed often. However, the book, Lazarus-like, shows no sign of disappearing. While new methods of electronic creation and production will increasingly be the norm for the book, the final product will still largely be in print through print on demand facilities (POD). Colin Steele will outline international trends in book publication and the

development of the new academic E-Presses and institutional repositories and place these within cultural frameworks.

Colin Steele was University Librarian at ANU from 1980 to 2002, Director of Scholarly Information Strategies from 2002 – 2003 and in May 2004 was named the first Emeritus Fellow of ANU. Colin is the author/editor of seven books and over 300 articles and reviews. He is a regular reviewer for a number of publications, including the *Canberra Times*. He has been an invited keynote speaker at academic conferences in nine countries and will be a speaker at the International Book conference at Wellington University in January 2005.

December 8 *Ballooning – hobby or obsession?* (An illustrated travelogue) By **Pat and Adrian Gibbs**

The Gibbs write: Our eldest son Paul took up ballooning in 1983, and once we thought he might be safe, we tagged along as his ground crew on many occasions. The result was unexpected adventures in many parts of Canberra, then the rest of Australia, and finally the world. When retirement loomed Paul insisted that we took the game up more seriously and, initially under his instruction, we have been flying our own balloon since 1997, but also crewing for him at some of the big events. We will outline ballooning, and some of the places it has taken us over the past few years.

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.

Faculty visit to Ballarat

Several members of the ANU's Emeritus Faculty visited on Ballarat in the first week in December for the Sesquicentenary of the Eureka Stockade uprising. Among them just-retired chair of ANUEF John Molony addressed the public at the Eureka Stockade

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after the Diggers' March, on December 4, 2004

Emeritus Faculty Members and guests who listened to his address included Peter Pearson, Tim Curtin, Jill Waterhouse, Giles Pickford and Pamela Swadling. Photographs of the events are on the ANUEF website.

On December 5 members joined the Dawn March and attended the Eureka Stockade Luncheon.

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.

The next edition of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Newsletter will be published in March 2005

New ANUEF Committee

At the annual general meeting of the ANUEF, held on December 1, the following positions were filled:

Statutory Officers:

Chair: Peter McCullagh JCSMR ANU
pjdmccullagh@bigpond.com

Treasurer Peter Scardoni
scardoni@bigpond.com

Secretary & Events Officer Giles Pickford
giles.pickford@bigpond.com

Assistant Secretary Chris Bryant CPAS ANU
chrisbry@ozemail.com.au

Other Officers:

Committee
ACT Government & Industry John Sandeman
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ANU Civic Interface Project John Grant
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Membership Officer Verna Rosling
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Office Manager David Walsh
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Talk to the Secretary

Please confirm your current e-mail address by sending a message to the Secretary and Events Officer by accessing:
<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/members.html>
Click on 'Start Search' without selecting any key words.

Scroll down until you can see your name. If any of your address details are wrong, please let Giles Pickford know.

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