

## Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



The ANU Emeritus Faculty,  
Fellows Lane Cottage - Building 3T. [See [www.anu.edu.au/emeritus](http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus) for location map]  
Postal address PO Box 6050, O'Connor, ACT 2602. Phone: 02 6125 5309 Fax: 02 6125 5262

### Community responsibility to the disabled

**Academic life, from undergraduates to members of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, has to take into consideration every aspect of the disabled in the community.**

The Federal Government recently made a 7,000 word response to last year's review of the **Disability Discrimination Act** by the Productivity Commission.

Australia is currently involved in further negotiations on the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. More meetings of the UN Ad Hoc Committee are scheduled for 2005.

Australia's written contribution a draft text for negotiation of the Convention focuses on accessibility – stressing the importance of taking appropriate measures to provide an environment which enables people with disabilities to access their fundamental human rights.

Last August Attorney-General Philip Ruddock said, "This is an important opportunity to ensure that people with disabilities can effectively access and exercise the rights they already have under existing human rights treaties."

He has now released the Government's response to recommendations by the

Productivity Commission, some of which have been accepted fully, in part or in principle, others have been rejected. Two specifically centre on areas of education.

The Government accepted, in principle, **Recommendation 10.2:** The cooperative arrangements between the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and State and Territory anti-discrimination bodies should be formalised and extended. This would be facilitated by:

- including HREOC in the membership of the Australian Council of Human Rights Agencies
- Broadening the Council's focus to cover disability issues, especially the development of education programs, information provision, research priorities and programs, and a shop-front presence in each jurisdiction.

The Government accepted **Recommendation 15.1:** The Australian Government should review the effectiveness of the various schemes it uses to subsidise the costs to organisations of adjustments needed by people with disabilities. This review should consider the merits of portable access grants that would contribute to the costs of adjustments required for participation in employment and education.

The Government's full response is at: [www.ag.gov.au/PCDDA](http://www.ag.gov.au/PCDDA)

## Submissions on girls' education wanted for UN

Vernor Munoz, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education on the UN's Commission on Human Rights, is seeking information for a substantive and updated report on the right to the education of girls, which he will present to the Commission on Human Rights.

Vernor Munoz says that while the gap between boys and girls receiving primary schooling is closing, that goal will not be accomplished this year, due to the ties of patriarchy, the existence of fees for the public education and because the structures of violence and social deprivation still keep millions of children from school.

Girls especially suffer this type of discrimination and are forced to live in conditions of indignity and inequity.

For more information, or to make a submission, contact Vernor Muñoz, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education on the UN's Commission on Human Rights. Ph. + (506) 248-2537, + (506) 258-8585, ext. 1192. Fax: + (506) 248-0991 Postal address: PO BOX: 1245-1007 San José, Costa Rica E-mail: [vmunoz@thr.go.cr](mailto:vmunoz@thr.go.cr) or [vernormu@yahoo.es](mailto:vernormu@yahoo.es)

## Parliamentary inquiries Balancing work and family

**Parliamentary Committee inquiries are one of several ways in which private individuals, academic groups and other non-government organisations can air their views about pending legislation, treaties and other government activity. The recently elected House of Representatives is undertaking several which may be of interest to members of ANUEF.**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family & Human Services is to hold a parliamentary inquiry into the balancing of work and family.

Committee chair Bronwyn Bishop, announced on March 2 that the public inquiry would examine a range of issues relevant to many Australians and the choices they make in relation to having children and raising families.

The Committee invites public submissions on:

- the financial, career and social disincentives to starting families;
- making it easier for parents who so wish to return to the paid workforce; and
- The impact of taxation and other matters on families in the choices they make in balancing work and family life.

"Australia's fertility rate is currently at 1.7 births per couple which is below that required to replace our population. This has been a major contributing factor to an ageing Australia and one that will see our population shrink over time", Mrs Bishop said.

"It has been estimated that around one quarter of Australian women in their reproductive years will never have children and we need to look at why that is."

Many Australian parents are faced with financial and other family and social difficulties when attempting to return to the paid workforce. In Australia, only 43 per cent of women with two or more children are in the workforce, compared with 82 per cent in Sweden and 62 per cent in the UK. This illustrates a need for enhanced family-friendly policies and workplace arrangements.

Mrs Bishop said that the Committee will explore how the Australian Government can better help families balance their employment and family responsibilities.

**To make a submission:** contact the Committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 4566** or e-mail [fhs.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:fhs.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs)

## ASIO inquiry

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD (PJCAAD) wants submission to its public inquiry into the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation's questioning and detention powers.

The Committee expects to hold public hearings in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne on dates to be decided in May and June. The deadline for written submissions and for notifying intentions to give evidence at hearings is March 25.

The Committee is seeking submissions from key government agencies including ASIO, the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security, the Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Federal Police, together with a wide range of legal organisations, legal experts, welfare organisations, civil liberties groups and anyone affected by the legislation

**For more information**, contact the inquiry secretariat **02 6277 4650** or visit the PJCAAD's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcaad](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcaad)

## Indigenous Australians and the law

Federal Parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee will continue its inquiry into the provision of legal aid services to Indigenous Australians and is seeking more submissions.

The Committee is reviewing the Attorney-General's Department Indigenous Law and Justice programs focusing on legal aid services and family violence prevention.

The inquiry was prompted by the Committee's statutory responsibility to examine reports from the Auditor-General, in this case *Audit Report No. 13, 2003-2004, ATSI Law and Justice Program* available at [www.anao.gov.au](http://www.anao.gov.au).

For more information, contact the inquiry secretariat on **(02) 6277 4615** or visit the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa)

## The uncertainty factor and the climate change debate

**In a world dominated by instant news, comment and reaction, what action should governments take, if any, in developing policy when the consequences are uncertain?**

The Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia has invited three scholars to present their view on the approach governments should take in developing policy when the consequences are uncertain, using climate change as an example.

The President of the Academy, Professor Sue Richardson, said "The Academy offers this *Occasional Paper* as an important contribution of the social sciences to public policy. The issue of climate change is one of the most challenging problems of our times."

The first paper by **Dr. John Zillman AO** FTSE, former Director of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, discusses the uncertainties in climate change science.

Dr Zillman, a former President of the UN's World Meteorological Organisation from 1995-2003, concludes that there "is little doubt, in my mind, that the scientific community now knows enough about the certainties and uncertainties of climate science to provide more effective input than has been achieved so far to the formulation of policy... The continuing challenge for the scientific community will be to provide that input in ways that are both rigorous and understandable/useful to those involved in policy formulation..."

**Professor Warwick McKibbin** FASSA, ANU Economist and a Professorial Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, proposes an alternative model to the Kyoto Protocol – the McKibbin-Wilcoxon Blueprint – that relies less on controls with their unbounded costs, and more on clear incentives for national governments, firms and households to manage the risks from climate change.

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Political scientist **Professor Aynsley Kellow** explores the politics of climate change and the policy-making process.

These papers, published as an *Occasional (Policy) Paper* are available on the ASSA website at: <http://www.assa.edu.au/climate>  
Or call Mark Pinoli, Assistant Director (Research, Policy & Advocacy), Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia  
Ph: **02 6249 1788**  
E-mail: [mark.pinoli@anu.edu.au](mailto:mark.pinoli@anu.edu.au)

### Revision of Constitution and membership rules

Amendments to the ANUEF Constitution are being considered. The changes, if adopted by the membership, would allow for, and encourage, a national approach in ANUEF programs and in membership, as befitting Australia's national university. Other administrative changes are also being discussed.

### Speakers' program

Topics and speakers for the start of this year's Lecture Series include:

**April 20** John Mulvaney on '*The significance of Australians before 1788 in world history*'  
To be held at the Molony Room, ANU Emeritus Faculty, Fellow's Lane Cottage at 5.15 pm

Australia before the Europeans has been regarded as a cultural dead end. In fact this is a total misunderstanding, as this talk hopes to demonstrate.

John Mulvaney was Professor of Prehistory in the ANU Faculty of Arts from 1971 to 1985. His *Prehistory of Australia* (1968) was the first book to trace Australian Settlement before 1788.

### Future lecture dates:

**June 14** The Vice-Chancellor on 'University Governance: what does it mean to us?'

**18 May** Ian Rae on 'From academic writing to fiction – where are the differences?'

**November 16** Hans Kuhn on 'Sir Richard Baker and his *Meditations and Disquisitions*'

### Nothing but the best

A conference of the best and most innovative people heading university research and education centres, organised by the Council of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS), is in Brisbane on March 17-18.

Universities in Australia and New Zealand were invited to nominate selected directors to discuss improvements to the operations of their centres, and then to look at the possibilities for expansion.

For more information, contact Toss Gascoigne, Executive Director Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) Ph: 02 6249 1995 OR 02 6230 7179 Fax: 02 6247 4335  
E-mail: [director@chass.org.au](mailto:director@chass.org.au)  
Web: [www.chass.org.au](http://www.chass.org.au)

### Residential complex on the drawing board

The ANUEF ANU/Civic Interface Committee met with the Director of Facilities, Mr Warwick Williams on 10 February to be briefed on the agreement signed on 21 December 2004 between the University and the ACT Government on the development of the area between the campus of the University and Civic.

The agreement relates to a Precinct described as the "ANU City West Integration Precinct" which is approximately that area between the University and Marcus Clarke Street. The City West Master plan covers a larger area, extending to Barry Drive in the North, Northbourne Avenue/Commonwealth Avenue in the East and Lake Burley Griffin in the South. The area could potentially generate an additional 180,000sq.m. of floor space which is approximately 40% of the current ANU floor space.

The first development planned by the University in the Precinct is a residential complex to be located at the northern end of the carpark between the Street Theatre and Hutton Street. The agreement states that the University must use its best endeavours to substantially complete the development of the whole Precinct within ten years.

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The Precinct is currently used by leased areas such as the Family Court, Street Theatre and the Workers' Club, Community groups ('The Rocks', Childcare Centre), and carparking areas

The ACT Government has already approved the construction of six-storey apartments on the Workers' Club site, adjoining University Avenue.

Key issues under consideration by the University include the identification of current activities which may be relocated to the Precinct (notably those with a commercial/professional character), the development of activities which will promote University/City links (eg. creative arts, community groups, ANU Marketing and Communications), transport issues and landscaping issues.

Any further parking facilities developed in the Precinct would be developed and operated by the ACT Government.

Committee Members are Beryl Rawson, Judy Slee, Ken Taylor and John Grant.

For more information, e-mail John Grant [j.grant@anu.edu.au](mailto:j.grant@anu.edu.au)

## Eureka Stockade revisited

**Extracts from a report by 21<sup>st</sup> century rebels, Giles Pickford and Don Dwyer, who were part of an ANUEF contingent at Ballarat's Eureka commemorations in December 2004. Full text is on the website 'News and Events' block.**

Standing on the corner of Sturt and Lydiard, Ballarat is seen in all its magnificence. The bells were pealing as the campanologists worked away on the day of the Diggers' March. The buildings all had that grace and power so typical of the gold towns of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We visited Craig's Hotel on Lydiard, a fine old pub with ornate ceilings and a carved oak bar with a dungeon underneath it which can be hired for birthdays. We visited the Mining Exchange and the Gold Shop, where the attendant would not tell us the value of the largest nugget on display.

Then we walked back to Bakery Hill, set apart from the power centre of town. It was here that the Diggers met to discuss their injustices. It was here that they convened on Thursday, 30 November 1854 to marshal themselves for the

march to the Eureka Lead where they would build their fateful Stockade.

The gathering 150 years later was interesting, large and diverse. While most of the people present were what you could call 'main stream democrats', there was a significant number of fringe groups, some of them clearly uninterested in democracy.

We were handed *Vanguard*, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist Leninist) which contained within its earnest pages an article complaining that the trial of Slobodan Milosovic was being conducted by a Kangaroo Court. We have never come across a kangaroo court which took four years not to reach a conclusion. Normally such courts take less than an hour to finish their business. The Communist Party of Australia (Maoist) was not present at Bakery Hill. The memory of Tienanmin Square may have had too many parallels to Eureka for its members to bear the thought of participating.

Another broadsheet came from the Anarchists, whose philosophy could be expressed as 'my freedom is more important than yours'. The banner said that it was published by the 'Anarchists Media Institute'. I accosted the anarchist, asking how an organisation which did not believe in institutions could have one of its own. He waved me away. Some questions are too hard.

A third broadsheet *Green Left* came from the Socialist Alliance. In these pages it was claimed that 'The US and Israeli rulers' worst nightmare is coming true – a unified Palestinian leadership.' Has not Palestine had a unified leadership for the last 20 years? Will the next one, or the nightmare, be any different?

Rising up over all this moronic babble, John Molony's voice called us to remember what really happened at Bakery Hill 150 years ago and to apply this knowledge to our present day situations. [The full text is published in 'Eureka Stockade Diggers' March' by John Molony, Eureka's Children, Ballarat.]

## The Dawn Lantern Parade

Don Dwyer has contributed these thoughts on the Dawn March, as Cecilia and Giles had a paralyzing attack of existential dread and were unable to get out of bed at 3am.

*Don writes:* The one thousand-strong Dawn Lantern Parade travelled four kilometers from the centre of Ballarat to the Eureka Stockade. It commemorated the 1854 march of three hundred

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troops who attacked the rebel diggers at the Eureka Stockade where thirty rebels and six soldiers died.

In the modern Aussie way, the 2004 marchers were a motley crew with one woman in evening dress who was wheeled in a shopping trolley by her male companion.

Marchers included Terry Hicks who was both booed and cheered. His supporters included a descendant of Eureka leader, Peter Lalor. Peter Lalor Philp said he saw parallels between the injustices his ancestor had fought and Terry Hicks's struggle to ensure that his son, David Hicks in Guantanamo Bay, was given a fair trial.

Some marchers declared that Terry Hicks should be acclaimed as 'Father of the Year' for his efforts on behalf of his son.

ANUEF participants Peter Pearson, Jill Waterhouse and I, saw the sun rise on a splendid Central Highlands day – a far cry from the floods which hit Ballarat the following weekend.

### Sesquicentenary Luncheon.

After the dawn tumult, the peace of noon prevailed in the heart of the Mining Exchange Building in central Ballarat. A huge crowd occupied every table, and every book on Eureka except (inexplicably) John Molony's, was on sale, along with other memorabilia.

Once again John Molony was the Master of Ceremonies. He spread the program out so that it covered lunch and the rest of the day.

The fare was excellent: Minestrone or Lentil Soup, Pollo di Cacciatora or Arrosto di Vitello and Tiramisù or Fragole alla crema. The menu seemed to be in honour of Carboni, one of the leaders of the uprising in 1854.

There was a Power Point presentation of all the people on the Honour Roll of ESMA, many of whom were amongst the guests. And then the newest member was inducted into the Honour Roll: Mr Frank Williams, Chair of ESMA, who had so steadfastly maintained on the TV news some days before that Terry Hicks, the father of David Hicks, should lead the Dawn Lantern March.

It seemed to us that whether you thought David Hicks was guilty or not, it seemed fairly clear that he was not getting a fair trial. The presence of his father at the head of the march had been most controversial in the media. But Terry Hicks is not on trial. On the contrary, it is us who are on trial in there with David Hicks in Guantanamo Bay.

After lunch we were regaled by an excellent address from Gough Whitlam who spoke sitting at his place at the dining table, being too frail to mount the dias. His talk was peppered with memories and observations of events and people long ago.

Kathy King followed with a toast to the women of Eureka, and she was followed by a talk from Professor Weston Bate, a historian of Eureka. We sorely missed our own Al Grassby who was to have spoken next, but who was ill with pneumonia and could not attend: but a letter from him to all of us was read out. The final speaker was The Hon. Giovanni Sgro, a local politician and a countryman of Carboni's, continuing the association of the Italians with Ballarat and with revolution.

### Conclusion

We (The Emeritus Faculty members and guests) had many debates in the pub and out of it on the question of the rights and wrongs of Eureka. We agreed that in the 150 years since Eureka, the sympathisers with the Diggers had sought to excuse the folly of an armed resistance to an overwhelming force. And that those who usually side with Law and Order had sought to excuse the Government forces on the grounds that someone has to be in control. Hence, there has never been an apology for the massacre, and there has never been an acceptance that the diggers could have won their war without first losing a battle.

We make no apology for using the word 'massacre'. The diggers were surrounded at dawn by a force which outnumbered them by three to one. The force was better armed. The diggers were unprepared because they had assumed that, being Sunday, the Government forces would be at prayer. The Government forces broke the law of the land by not waking the diggers first and reading them the Riot Act. Instead they opened fire on them. It was a kangaroo shoot, it was a cull. There is no other way to describe it. Calling it a massacre is actually a piece of masterly understatement.

There is no doubt that after the massacre, faced by juries that would not condemn any defendant brought before them, the Government began to realise that it had been wrong. Conciliatory gestures were made, everything except an apology.

Whatever we think, the events of 1854 are deeply worrying and must never be forgotten. We rest confident in the knowledge that the good citizens of Ballarat, and the rest of Australia, will never allow that to happen.

**Next edition of ANUEF Newsletter out in June**