

## Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



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### Wind Farms near the ACT.

By John Sandeman

The possibility of a wind farm to be located on the Molonglo Ridge and near Tarago has prompted some argument within the local community concerning noise, bird kills, and "why not somewhere else".

After some prompting from the sub-editor of the *Bungendore Bulletin*, I have done some investigation of the issues of using wind power in an attempt to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In the space available here I cannot go too deeply into the issues involved but there are a number of facts worth noting.

- Australia is globally the second worst GHG producer per head of population and global emissions are still rising, as are ours.
- Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels in 2000 were at 370 ppm, compared with the maximum reached over the last 400,000 years of 280 ppm.
- In Australia the average ground level temperature has risen by 0.5 degrees since 1950 and coincident with that there has been a shift in the rainfall distribution across the country. It is less in the productive East and South through to Perth, and more in the North West, with the overall average roughly constant. Significantly the latest global climate models mirror the temperature rise

and its broad consequences with the increase in man-made emissions due to a significant increase in the burning of fossil fuels over that period.

- Climate model data from the US in April 2005 predicts another 1.6 degree rise by 2070 provided we can reduce emissions from the 2000 levels continuously, reaching 50% by 2100. Sea level rises by 20 cm from expansion but melting of polar ice adds a further unknown amount.

While the predictions of the consequences of these increases are always uncertain, the inference from present observations and models is that locally we can expect at least even more droughts and less available water.

Prudence suggests that we take measures now to reduce our emissions and we should encourage governments, industry and the community generally to do all they can. Wind technology is the most advanced and the most competitive economically of all the renewable energy methods available at present. Denmark now has 20% of its power from wind, enough to power 1.4 million homes, and wind power is growing rapidly throughout the world.

Here the Great Divide offers many hill top sites which are ideal, and with other windy sites across the nation can provide a network

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of sites connected to the grid which together, smooth out local fluctuations. Wind can produce significant savings of GHGs but needs to be coupled with a proper attention by the community to energy saving. For example, the proper siting and design of homes, schools and offices depending on the region, retrofitting older homes with insulation and adequate draft exclusion, the maximum use of solar hot water and the efficient use of all appliances can reduce the energy bill by 50% or so, certainly in this region.

The noise level from wind turbines has been measured and by a kilometre has fallen to lounge room levels. Birds are killed, but a study in the US showed that of the 166 million birds killed by all causes in a year, 3,000 birds and 4,000 bats were killed by turbines, about 2 per turbine per year. Similar data from Tarifa in Spain along the bird migration route has shown 0.03 per turbine per year.

Unightly? Perhaps, but they are not alone in many city and country scapes. So, yes, we do need wind farms and they must be coupled with methods of reducing local energy consumption and with other renewable sources as they become competitive.

We in the Emeritus Faculty will not see the long-term benefits of embracing renewable energy now, but our grandchildren may well thank us for taking the warnings of global warming seriously.

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### Honours elective on Sustainability

ANUEF Chair Peter McCullagh reports that the Science Honours Elective on 'Sustainability' is going ahead on July 29. The course was fully subscribed and staffed. There will not be a Humanities Honours Elective offered this year.

### Submissions wanted for 'fair use' of copyright material

Submissions to a Federal Government review on options for including new exceptions in the **Copyright Act 1968** close on 1 July 2005.

The Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock, announcing his department's review in May together with an issues paper, *Fair Use and Other Copyright Exceptions*, says the review will examine whether an exception or specific exceptions to copyright based on principles of 'fair use' should be adopted to make copyright law more flexible and relevant in the digital age.

"The Government is aware developments in digital technology are changing the way people use copyright material," Mr Ruddock said. "Many Australians believe quite reasonably they should be able to record a television program or format-shift music from their own CD to an iPod or MP3 player without infringing copyright law. However, this issue needs careful consideration," he said.

At present, Australia and many countries have specific exceptions in copyright law that allows copyright material to be used for a particular purpose (such as research or news reporting) without the permission of copyright owners.

The issues paper considers whether these exceptions should be amended. Along with other options, the paper examines an open-ended fair use doctrine operating in the United States.

The issues paper notes any new exception to copyright would have to meet Australia's obligations under international copyright treaties.

The then Acting Shadow Attorney-General Senator Joe Ludwig commented at the time, "It was always one the concerns about the way the Government implemented the US FTA that Australia adopted many of the tough parts of US copyright law but not their more flexible approach to fair use.

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“Getting copyright law right always means striking a fair balance between the rights of creators and the rights of consumers. After the US FTA, it is time to have a fresh look at whether we have that balance right,” he said.

The issues paper, and information on how to make a submission, is available at: [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au). Submissions will close on 1 July 2005. For more information, contact the Copyright Law Branch of the Attorney-General's Department on (02) 6250 6324.

## New ANUEF Constitution

The Committee of the ANUEF has recommended a revision of the Constitution written in 2000, parts of which need updating. It is suggested that sections which are mainly descriptive or historical should be moved to the new document called *'Introducing the ANU Emeritus Faculty'*.

The Committee believes that ANUEF should make a conscious effort to recruit members from the ANU retirees Diaspora and their friends in far off places. The faculty has always had members in Sydney, Melbourne, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong, Geelong and elsewhere. Lately there have been new members coming from as far away as Margaret River, WA.

*'Introducing the ANU Emeritus Faculty'* will include information about faculty aims, programs and the expanding membership drive. It will be produced in hard copy together with a map showing our location. It will also have a place on the ANUEF web site.

In order to adopt the new document and the revised Constitution a Special General Meeting has been called for **July 20, 2005 at 5.15 pm** in the Molony Room, Fellows Lane Cottage.

Both the 'Introduction' and the proposed amended Constitution are on the ANUEF website: <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/> look under 'Notices' in the right-hand column.

The 'Introduction' is in straight text. The revisions to the Constitution use the 'Tracking Changes' facility which shows you the changes that are proposed.

Among the changes to be recommended to the Special General Meeting are amendments to the Membership By Law.

There are no suggested changes to the categories for former Members of Council; former General Staff, and Visiting Fellows.

It is proposed that the category of Former Academic Staff, "All former ANU academic staff members, either full-time, or part-time or holding fractional appointments, of two years standing or more" be extended to include "or a substantial period of time as a Research Assistant."

Applications for the category for "former staff of other universities and similar institutions" must be brought to full Committee for eligibility as invited members to be determined.

## Speakers' program

**The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Chubb AO, is scheduled to give an address on Government 'Reform' of University Governance and ANU, on Tuesday, June 14**

Relations between the ANU and the Federal Government are multi-faceted. In different areas, at different times, they have moved through warmer and cooler waters, yet stayed basically buoyant. In 2003, the Government amended the ANU Act in ways that usefully clarify the responsibilities and flexibilities of the University. A new ANU Council was appointed from July 1, 2004 within the new framework. The Government tied part of its funding for universities to a set of conditions affecting workplace relations and institutional governance. ANU satisfied the new conditions without difficulty. However, finding the appropriate balance between university autonomy and Government direction continues to be a challenge.

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**Other future speakers in the ANUEF Lecture Series include:**

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

Sir Richard Baker, grandson of Henry VIII's Treasurer, a college mate of John Donne's at Oxford, MP, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, spent the last ten years of his life (1635-1645) in Fleet Prison because as a guarantor for his wife's family, he lost all his property. During that time he wrote 14 books, among which his '*Chronicle of the Kings of England*' was still popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. But most of them were meditational, notably on the Psalms and the Lord's Prayer. Such books were for the 17<sup>th</sup> Century what novels were for the 20<sup>th</sup>, and they were translated into other languages, reaching Germany by way of the Netherlands. His spirit was akin to that of the Metaphysical Poets, and it is a shame that literary history tends to ignore such works (with the possible exception of Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress').

**Hans Kuhn** was born in Switzerland, and has a PhD in Germanic Languages (with Indo-European). He has been a journalist, has taught in the US and was on the Swiss equivalent of the AVCC before coming to Australia in 1963. From 1965 – 1990 he was Professor of German, later Germanic Languages, at the ANU. Since then he spends roughly half the year here and in Europe.

**December 14: Linda Botterill on 'Drought Policy in Australia'**

In 1992 Commonwealth and State ministers for agriculture agreed on a National Drought Policy for Australia. In policy terms, it constituted a major paradigm shift from responding to drought as a natural disaster to recognising it as a normal feature of the Australian environment, to be managed by farmers along with the other risks inherent in agricultural businesses. Since the policy was introduced, billions of dollars have been provided in drought relief and political rhetoric and public debate surrounding this support suggest that there is still a strong tendency to

regard drought in disaster terms. This lecture will discuss the National Drought Policy and the problems that have arisen in its implementation. It will also discuss the very low level of critical analysis that appears in public discussion of drought, including the over expenditure of large sums of public money that results from current policy settings.

**Dr Linda Botterill** is a Lecturer in Politics in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at UNSW@ADFA. Dr Botterill has extensive experience in public policy having worked in the Commonwealth public service, as a ministerial adviser and as a policy officer in two industry associations before undertaking her doctorate in political science at the ANU. Her research interests include the role of values in the rural policy development process, structural adjustment in the rural sector and drought policy. She is co-editor of *Beyond Drought: People Policy and Perspectives* (CSIRO Publishing, 2003) and *From Disaster Response to Risk Management: Australia's National Drought Policy* (Springer, 2005). She has published in the *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, the *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, *Rural Society* and the *Journal of Public Policy* as well as co-writing opinion pieces on drought policy for *The Australian*, *The Weekly Times* and *The Australian Financial Review*.

**This Lecture will be followed by the ANUEF Christmas Party.**

**AVAILABLE LECTURE DATES  
August 17, September 21 October 19**

If you would like to give a talk please contact Giles Pickford, ANUEF Secretary & Events  
Tel: **0411 186 199**  
E-mail: [giles.pickford@bigpond.com](mailto:giles.pickford@bigpond.com)

**Parking arrangements – and a roster request**

Parking arrangements have now been put in place at ANU to assist members of the Emeritus Faculty have access to the Faculty Office and to the University generally.

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Three designated ANUEF parking spaces have been provided opposite the room in Fellows Lane. In addition, members have access to general ANU permit parking on the same basis as ANU permit holders. Competition for these spaces is often keen so there can be no guarantee that spaces will be available in proximity to Fellows Lane. In all cases, when parking at either one of the designated spaces or at a permit space the current ANU Emeritus Faculty Membership card must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard.

Now that parking is possible we are keen to try and increase the usage of the ANUEF Office facilities by members both as a place of work and as a place to meet and talk with colleagues.

To do this the Committee would like to put together a roster of members who would be prepared to be present in the office for a few hours either in a morning or in an afternoon so that in effect the office would be open at certain times on a regular basis and that this could be made known.

In particular it would be helpful to have afternoon volunteers as members of the Committee are often in and about in the mornings.

If you can help by being present on a regular basis please contact the Office Manager, David Walsh, by email at [dnawalsh@netspeed.com.au](mailto:dnawalsh@netspeed.com.au) or by phone at 6247 8228. He will then arrange access to the building (swipe card) and to the ANUEF Office (key).

## **The Australia Council Bigger and better, leaner and meaner**

*Mark O'Connor "represented" the ANU Emeritus Faculty at a gathering at Old Parliament House of about 80 arts enthusiasts who had assembled on May 23 to hear about the "new, exciting, far-reaching, innovative" changes at the Australia Council. Here is his report.*

The Australia Council CEO Jennifer Bott offered a 90-minute presentation (followed by questions). She followed the outlines of a recent article titled "*A New Australia Council*" in the Council's newsletter *OZCO NEWS*.

Everything, it seems, is now newer and better and even more transparent; but what exactly has changed? One solid point seemed to be that "The current role of artform manager will be elevated to artform director." In other words, the Manager of the Music Board will now be the Director of the Music Board, with enhanced responsibilities.

There will also be more emphasis on leveraging funds through appropriate partnerships with whatever appropriate partners can be found. Constant change and ever-renewed efficiency is to be the Council's watchword "since the arts never stand still". There will be "a new Strategy Section" and "a new Key Organisations Section".

You will be relieved to know that all the Council's top strategic priorities have been raised to yet higher levels of priority, and everything will be bigger and better, and also leaner and meaner. But what priorities and funding areas have lost out relative to others? On that, Ms Bott was resolutely uninformative. Questions from the floor about whether there should be more money for original creation rather than mere performance (from Vice Chancellor Roger Dean) were met with repeated assurances that all such issues were the subject of continuous "robust debate" within the Council; but it was clear that robust debate on such competing claims was the last thing Jennifer Bott wanted to offer on this occasion, or to hear from the floor.

My working hypothesis is that the council has been under pressure to put itself through a cycle of "reform", and has done so under circumstances it could control.

If I could detect in Bott's remarks any clear re-direction of emphasis it was towards more emphasis on Community Cultural Development and upon New Art Forms.

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From this a sufficiently experienced arts observer might deduce that these two areas have recently been trimmed back and had some of their functions re-allocated. The point of the rhetoric being to offer reassurance that these priorities had not been too much downgraded.

I have some sympathy with the political forces that require arts bureaucrats to go through these maneuvers; and I saw no signs that anything was seriously wrong with the Australia Council or its present management; but I cannot say that those who attended this meeting got much clear information in return for the time they invested.

**Mark O'Connor** was the *H C Coombs Creative Arts Fellow at ANU in 1999*

## Age discrimination at work

*Ever get the feeling somebody is talking about you? Those mature persons who attended a recent seminar on age discrimination in the workplace might have had the feeling.*

The Commissioner responsible for Age Discrimination, Pru Goward, and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission held the working age seminar in Sydney on May 16.

The federal *Age Discrimination Act 2004* aims to achieve attitudinal change by raising awareness that people of all ages have the same fundamental rights and by removing age stereotypes and barriers to participation. The Act seeks to eliminate discrimination on the basis of age in areas of public life, by investigating and attempting to conciliate cases of age discrimination

Responding to Australia's ageing population is one of the objects of the legislation. As the *Age Discrimination Act 2004* approaches 12 months of operation, it is appropriate to consider whether the Act is meeting its objectives, how business is responding to the legislation and what role the Act plays in the future of Australia's ageing workforce.

The seminar featured a number of invited speakers, including the Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, and explored the issues surrounding workplace age discrimination. The discussion was publicised as being "relevant for academics, business, unions, government, non-government organisations and the media."

For more information on the *Age Discrimination Act* visit:

<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/age>

For more information about the speeches call Paul Oliver at HREOC on: **02 9284 9880** or access [See the rest of the speeches at http://www.humanrights.gov.au/sex\\_discrimination/workingage/index.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/sex_discrimination/workingage/index.html)

## Opera at the House

ANUEF member Ralph Elliott was MC at a memorable operatic feast at University House on May 25.

Members of the ANU's School of Music gave a selection of arias, duets, and choruses from six Italian composers, with one German – Mozart – tagging along for the ride. More than 22 ANUEF members were among the capacity audience (and diners).

Possibly encouraged by the performances, ANUEF Secretary Giles Pickford says the Faculty is thinking about forming a Glee Club to sing at the Christmas Party on December 14. Jim Griffin is to be Lead Singer, Giles Pickford – double bass! Interested and in good voice, contact Giles Pickford Tel: **0411 186 199** E-mail: [giles.pickford@bigpond.com](mailto:giles.pickford@bigpond.com)

## ANU Civic Interface

A final report on the new developments in the City West Precinct has been produced and the proposed redevelopment has been well publicised in the Canberra media. The ANUEF, which has had an active input into discussions on the links between the city and the ANU, continues to have an interest in monitoring progress.

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