

Newsletter No 9

May 2006

Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



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\$125m for ANU in Federal Budget

The Australian National University has received a Federal Government grant of \$125 million for infrastructure up-grades in this year's Budget.

The John Curtin School of Medical Research will get \$50 million of this amount for refurbishment, including the building of physical containment laboratories.

The balance of \$75 million will be spent on up-grading and repairing existing ANU facilities.

Broadening ANUEF's membership

With 80 of the 137 ANUEF members renewing their membership to date, the continuing need to broaden membership is being pursued by the executive committee.

The Chair, John Molony, will make approaches to CSIRO Retirees and a sub-committee of John Molony, Barry Ninham, Peter Stewart and Adrian Brooks will take the matter further.

ANUEF will seek membership from the other tertiary institutions in the ACT. It will also offer membership to retirees from other

national institutions such as the National Library, Parliamentary Library, and National Gallery, Botanic Gardens, and others.

ANUEF is leading the way to establish a Federation of Emeritus Faculties if sufficient new Emeritus Faculties are established in other institutions.

Universities to vie for US Studies Centre

The Commonwealth Government will contribute \$25 million towards the establishment of a United States Studies Centre at a "prestigious Australian university", the Prime Minister, John Howard, announced during his recent visit to Washington. It will be a joint initiative with the American Australian Association.

The Australian Government's contribution will be subject to sufficient funds being provided by the private sector and/or the state or territory in which the centre is located. The Government will work with the American Australian Association to select the most appropriate location for the Centre.

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According to the Prime Minister the centre will deepen the appreciation and understanding of the United States' culture, political climate and government and strengthen the relationships between both countries. It will offer a range of postgraduate research studies, facilitate professional academic exchange, undertake research and produce scholarly articles and reports.

He said its establishment "of such a prestigious and important organisation is timely given the US-Australia Free Trade Agreement and the E-3 visa allowing for greater development of people-to-people links. The establishment of the Centre also further supports the Australian Government's objective of increasing diversity within the current higher education sector.

"The Centre will increase the awareness of the study of American politics and government, promote collaborative research between institutions in Australia and the United States and operate as a think-tank for the Australia-America relationship."

Obituary

Noel Bede Nairn, AO, Scholar, Author and Historian

6 August 1917 — 21 April 2006

Bede Nairn, who died recently after a long illness, will long be remembered as one of Australia's leading labour historians, the leading authority on the New South Wales Labor Party, and as a notable editor and co-editor of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB), the largest historical project ever undertaken in Australia.

Born in 1917 at Turill on the Mudgee-Cassilis Road, the youngest of six children, he grew up in hard times which did much to shape his sympathies and vision as a historian of the labour movement.

His ancestry also underpinned his impeccable labour credentials. In the 1830s, one of his four great-grandfathers was a settler near Mudgee, one a convict who became a shepherd, one was an assisted migrant and the other a soldier. By the 1870s, all four families were gathered in the

Mudgee area—Henry Lawson country. His four grandparents, all born in New South Wales, were of Irish, English and Scottish (Nairn) origin, and all Catholic. His parents were active members of the Labor Party's 50-strong Turill branch representing the cause of the poverty-stricken battlers of the area.

In 1923 the family moved to Bathurst Street West in Sydney, 'almost a slum', close by the Trades Hall. His parents immediately joined the Millers Point branch of the party; Bede joined when he was fifteen.

Leaving St Mary's Cathedral School with his Intermediate Certificate, he joined the public service as a clerk at the Sydney Technical College—and by studying in the evening, he gained his matriculation and a good honours degree from the University of Sydney in 1945. He taught history at the Technical College from 1948 and then at the new University of Technology, now the University of New South Wales.

After taking a Sydney first-class MA, he spent the year 1957 at Balliol College, Oxford, on a Rockefeller grant studying British trade unions, and in 1961 was appointed associate professor of history at the University of New South Wales. All this time, his research into the labour movement and his activities as a party member brought him into contact with every prominent Labor politician in New South Wales.

He joined the ADB project at the Australian National University in 1966; and after the death of the founding general editor, Douglas Pike, in 1974, he became joint general editor with the late Geoffrey Serle for the next ten years. In addition to his exacting editorial duties, he also contributed about eighty articles to the project, writing mostly about Labor men; but he did also a few gems on sportsmen, including the cricketers Victor Trumper and Archie Jackson and the jockey Darby Munro.

He published many fine journal articles on 19th-century Australian political history, co-edited *Economic Growth of Australia, 1788-1821*, and wrote two significant books, *Civilising Capitalism: the Labor Movement in New South Wales, 1870-1900* (1973) and

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The 'Big Fella': Jack Lang and the ALP, 1891-1949 (1986). *Civilising Capitalism* tells the story of the part played by the trade unions in New South Wales in forming the parliamentary Labor Party in 1891 at a time when triumphant capitalism was lurching out of control. He wrote it to 'set the record straight' and in response to the charge that the Labor Party had failed as a revolutionary party and was fatally compromised as a party of reform.

The 'Big Fella' is a lively and definitive biography of the colourful and menacing Jack Lang, premier of New South Wales during the Great depression. In it, Nairn leaves us in no doubt that Lang was *wrong*: it was John Curtin and J. B. Chifley who were *right*!

A skilful teacher, writer and editor, he possessed the historian's necessary qualifications of thoroughness and accuracy and wrote characteristically with passion about the labour movement's achievements, 'from the bottom up', as he championed the Labor Party as the main civilising political force in Australia.

Humility and firmness of principle shine through his writings. He was critical of those historians who combined the search for truth with dubious constructs and fads derived from sociology, political science and psychology. These, he held, deflected historical research and writing away from their true purpose into arid problematical arguments about the definition of such concepts as 'class' inapplicable to Australia. He wrote history according to the evidence and not according to an ideology: his canons were integrity and common sense. To him, honesty was never old-fashioned, and certainly not to be abandoned to the pursuit of some post-modernist artifice.

A humble, gentle and lovable scholar, Bede Nairn was always willing to share his great knowledge of his craft with young and upcoming historians. A good cricketer in his day, he was an avid follower and student of cricket, rugby league (South Sydney) and the turf. He is survived by his wife, Jean, three sons, three daughters, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. - **Gerald Walsh**

SONYA WITHERIDGE

The death of Sofija (Sonya) Witheridge earlier this year is a reminder of the debt owed by this and other Australian universities to those part-time and occasional tutors and lecturers called in, often irregularly and at short notice, to help out with special knowledge or in time of need.

Sonya taught in the former Departments of Slavonic Studies and Modern European Languages over a period of years, sometimes full-time, sometimes part-time, after the University ended its generous practice of inviting a visiting lecturer from Moscow University to fill a native speaker slot.

Once only did she have the opportunity to apply for a continuing post, offering stiff competition to the eventual appointee.

Her ongoing role was as a native speaker, and as a female voice when, in language teaching, balance was needed. She had academic qualifications in Russian, Fine Art and Comparative Linguistics and native speaker competence in Serbo-Croatian as well as experience as a limited tenure lecturer at Melbourne University.

She moved to Canberra in 1974 where her skills sent her to the teaching front in elementary and advanced Russian, in Serbo-Croatian when the University boasted the first Slavonic department in Australia, and also in a first-year unit in Russian history and culture for non-language students.

For her, 'part-time' implied no limit on commitment. She kept up an interest in modern Russian writing, making contact with one of Russia's best war novelists, whom she had met when he was a junior officer in Yugoslavia at the end of the war, and filming an interview with the author of the first and greatest Russian second world war novel, *Stalingrad*, for the University.

She was a mainstay of the department's Russian-speaking weekends, held twice a

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year at various sites on the south coast for more than twenty years. Her talents as a cook came to the fore here, as at all our less serious activities. It was less well known that she was a gifted artist. Throughout her time in Canberra, she devoted much time and energy to serving the Russian community and its church.

Rosh Ireland, Margaret Travers, Kevin Windle (School of Language Studies)

Research quality framework

ANU staff attended an open forum to discuss ANU's approach to an Australian Research Quality Framework (RQF) on April 19.

Lawrence Cram, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), says, "There has been much discussion about an Australian Research Quality Framework. The government's appointment of a development advisory group will trigger further discussion. Even though implementation details remain unclear, it is nevertheless timely for ANU to move ahead with preparations for the RQF, especially since the process can be used to assist in ANU planning and evaluation."

A copy of the final advice paper is at URL: http://www.anu.edu.au/ro/data/RQF_Final_Advice_Paper.pdf

ARC report delayed

Legislation that will abolish the Australian Research Council (ARC) will be debated in the Senate when it next sits in June.

Tabling of the report of the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee into provisions of the Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2006, due on May 10, has been delayed. It contains dissenting reports.

The Bill reflects recommendations to the government in the Uhrig Review of governance arrangements for statutory bodies. It provides for the abolition of the ARC Board, and the assumption of most of its duties by the Chief Executive Officer, advised by designated committees. The bill

also updates annual funding caps, and makes other administrative provisions.

Julie Bishop Minister for Education, Science and Training and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues said in the second reading speech (Hansard, March 30) "The retirement of the ARC board will remove the potential for confusion between the responsibilities of the ARC board and those of the CEO. It will allow the ARC to act quickly in identifying and funding high quality research. It will ensure that the chief executive has both full power to act and full responsibility for the activities and operations of the ARC.

"The ARC will retain the peer review arrangements of its college of experts. The 75 members of the college of experts, and the thousands of Australian and international readers who commit their time to peer review, perform a vital function. Their contribution to the national innovation system will continue.

"The ARC's statement of intent will not replace its strategic planning processes, which will continue to cover a rolling triennium. ...

"The CEO will receive input on research matters directly from an advisory committee which I will create under the new provisions of the Act. The committee will have a broad membership and will focus on providing strategic advice about the ARC's operations. The committee will not look at individual grant applications.

"This will be the responsibility of the college of experts, which will make recommendations directly to the ARC CEO, who will in turn provide me with advice. This will expedite the ARC's funding processes, provide greater certainty to researchers about the future of their ARC funding and allow the ARC to respond quickly and flexibly to emerging priorities."

Commenting on the introduction of the legislation, Democrats' Higher Education Spokesperson, Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, the Democrats have repeatedly raised their objections to the planned

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abolition of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Board and will examine the views of witnesses including those from the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies.

Senator Stott Despoja said, "When this bill is debated in the Senate, the Democrats will seek to amend it to ensure, at a minimum, the College of Experts is not exposed to the same intervention by the Minister as the 'designated committees' proposed in this bill, and, that the ARC has the power to initiate inquiries into research matters."

Submissions to the inquiry were made by: The Australian Academy of the Humanities; Department of Education, Science & Training; the Forum for European-Australian Science & Technology Co-operation (FEAST); National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC); Federation of Australian Scientific & Technological Societies (FAST); Group of Eight; Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering (ATSE);

For more information and text of submissions access www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/research_council/submissions/

Women have their say on work and family

Patricia Apps, Professor in Public Economics from the University of Sydney, who is a leading authority on tax and labour economics, gave evidence to the House Families Committee at a public hearing for its Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family in Sydney on May 16.

Professor Apps has argued that Australia now ranks as having one of the least friendly work environments to families among comparable OECD countries. She has proposed reforms to increase fertility, female labour supply and GDP, and to improve the overall efficiency and fairness of the Australian economy.

The Committee is examining the financial, career and social disincentives to starting families, the impact of taxation on the choices families make and options for easing the transition for parents re-entering the paid workforce.

At an earlier public hearing on May 4, witnesses gave a women's perspective on issues such as:

- women being asked at job interviews about their intentions to have families;
- women being discouraged from talking about their families at work;
- whether effective marginal tax rates make it financially rewarding for women to take up part time work; and
- the lower levels of employment among single women, compared with partnered women.

For more information: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566, e-mail fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/workandfamily/>

Teacher education inquiry at University of Wollongong

The House of Representatives Education and Vocational Training Committee continued its inquiry into teacher education by visiting the University of Wollongong in April.

"An emerging focus of this inquiry is the way in which universities, schools and governments work together to address teacher education issues," said Committee Chair Luke Hartsuyker.

The committee heard about the University of Wollongong's partnerships, particularly the practicum component of teacher education from the University of Wollongong's partner schools.

So far the Committee has held public hearings in the ACT, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Tasmania during 2005.

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The Committee has also held a number of hearings in the ACT and New South Wales in early 2006.

The hearing included sessions on teaching, on professional experience; a student forum; on partnerships and programs of other faculties

For more information, contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 for the 160 submissions visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/evt/eachereduc/index.htm>.

Membership Renewal

Di Riddell, the Membership Officer, would love to hear from members renewing their membership for a mere \$20.

Welcome neighbours

ANUEF premises are well used as well as being shared with a number of other organisations.

For more information about use of the Molony Room contact Giles Pickford 0411 186 199
E-mail giles.pickford@bigpond.com

Conferences and lectures - past, present and future

Although not an ANUEF lecture, one that will interest ANUEF members will be given on May 26 by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education), Professor Malcolm Gillies, when he talks about how the ANU's educational mission might be changing to reinforce the global experience of both students and staff.

Titled "ANU Education: International, national or parochial?" Professor Gillies says, since its inception the ANU has seen itself as an international university. Recent rankings place it among the world's best. A quarter of ANU students and half the academic staff have an international background.

He will address such questions as: how local, national or international is the focus of our curriculum? How does the international

background of so many of our people contribute to our educational endeavour? How internationally aware is our pedagogy and learning strategy? How can we use our growing alliances with overseas universities to maximise the learning experiences of students from undergraduates to PhDs? If we are truly globally connected, should ANU education not run to a northern hemisphere timetable?

For further information about this lunchtime lecture from 1pm to 2pm, contact Dr Linda Hort, Director, CEDAM (ext 53840 or linda.hort@anu.edu.au)

On **June 21** Stephen Boyden will speak at an ANUEF lecture on "*Human Ecology, Bio-history and the Nature and Society Forum*"

Before talking about Nature and Society Forum (NSF) the speaker will say something about the work at ANU in human ecology and bio-history, and he will summarise some personal conclusions from this work that have led to his involvement in, and support for NSF. He will then discuss NSF's structure, aims and activities.

Stephen Boyden came to ANU in 1960 and initially carried out research in immunology in the John Curtin School of Medical Research. From the mid-sixties until his retirement at the beginning of 1991 he worked in human ecology and bio-history, most of this time in The Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies. Since retirement he has been an active member of NSF.

July 19 Patrick Troy on a topic to be announced

August 16: Iain McCalman will speak on "*Rejoining the Circle of Knowledge: thinking about the collaborations between the humanities and the sciences*".

He says for much of the last century our academic disciplines became increasingly specialised, isolated and professionalised – to the point where it has been difficult to understand each other's work, to cooperate in joint endeavours for the public good, or even to work together to achieve important common goals in the face of interventionist government policies. **Continued next page**

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He believes that it is important that we work in this new century to re-connect the circle of knowledge in the way that it was once espoused in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment. He will illustrate why this is important both intellectually and politically and will illustrate his talk with a few examples of recent cross-disciplinary collaborations that he has found especially stimulating.

Iain McCalman is a Federation Fellow at the ANU's Humanities Research Centre and Centre for Cross-Cultural Research. He is also a member of the Prime Minister's Science Engineering Council and chaired its recent inquiry into 'Creativity and the Innovation Economy'. He is currently working on several projects that entail collaborations with experts in technology, science and film-making.

September 27 The Lindsay Pryor Memorial Lecture will be delivered by the ANU Chancellor, Allan Hawke.

October 18: Beryl Rawson on *"The Roman Family; them and us"*

November 6 The November event will be held in Kioloa. It will be a day/night seminar and dinner. (Details will be announced later. A booking for a theatre plus 30 beds has been made in anticipation of a good enrolment)

December 13: The ANUEF sponsored Emerging Artist Lene Lunde from Tromsø, Norway, will exhibit her works of art in glass and talk about her Australian experience. This event will be followed by the ANUEF Christmas Party.

February 21, 2007 Angela Giblin on a musical topic

Lectures you might have missed

On May 17, Ben Callaghan and Lloyd Worthy gave a lecture on *"Outward Bound: Building Stronger Communities by Inspiring the Next Generation"*

For 50 years Outward Bound has been a pioneer in developing powerful personal

development programs for young Australians. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Outward Bound Australia led the way internationally in developing research tools and measuring the effectiveness of participants undertaking these outdoor experiential learning programs. Over the past five years OBA has ventured into the realms of community development, working with motivated regional communities across Australia to inspire the next generation of responsible, compassionate and service-oriented citizens and to create greater community capacity to achieve that goal.

Ben Callaghan first became involved in Outward Bound in 1999. He has worked with hundreds of young people in dozens of communities around Australia. His current role is Learning Partnerships Manager and he is passionate about working with schools and other organisations to create a lasting difference in the lives of young Australians.

Lloyd Worthy is a retired Police Commander who refuses to be disillusioned by the negative stereotypes levelled at the youth of today. Inspired into an active role with Outward Bound since 1998, his current role involves the fostering of Community Partnerships aimed at encouraging acceptance, within the wider community, that the future of our young people is a responsibility we must all share.

On April 19 Jeremy Clarke SJ gave a lecture on *"Images and Identity – Marian devotion in Chinese Catholic communities"*.

He explored the way in which European style representations have become the preferred devotional image for Chinese Catholic communities, even at the expense of more indigenised versions. In a more general way his paper showed how images help create a sense of identity, even if this identity might be a somewhat surprising one.

Jeremy Clarke is a candidate in the division of Pacific and Asian History, studying the contemporary Catholic communities in China. He is supervised by Professor Geremie Barmé. Jeremy holds degrees in Chinese language and theology and he is a member

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of the Australian province of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

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

Of nail clippings and climate change

The Nature and Society Forum, an affiliate of ANUEF, held a lecture by Cedric Mims, following Jeremy Clarke's lecture on April 19. Cedric Mims spoke on the subjects covered in his 2006 book *Fouling our Nest*. As the title suggests it was about the things we discard from our bodies into the environment and the impact, if any, on pollution and climate change.

He dealt mainly with human skin scales, sweat, nails, hair, corpses, placentas, urine, and faeces. He noted, "It turns out that some of these are of great biological interest but have no harmful effects on the environment, while others (sewage, corpses) can pose problems."

Cedric Mims, a leading medical scientist, teacher and author, was born in England. He spent his formative and productive years as a scientist at the John Curtin School of Medical Research from 1957 to 1972. He returned to London as professor of microbiology at Guy's Hospital Medical School and served on the Medical Research Council.

After retiring, he returned to Canberra, writing popular books based on medical science. *When We Die* tells about the biological processes of dying and afterwards. Published only two years ago, it won a British prize for best popular science book of the year. His great contributions to human biology are expressed in *The Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease*.

For more information, call Keith Thomas of the Nature and Society Forum (02) 6288 0760 (Weekday mornings only); 0412 487 625 (Mobile)

Advertisement

Home and pet-sitters

This is to introduce Bob and Kim Birks, mature and experienced home/pet-sitters. Bob is a retired teacher and current PhD student (History). Kim is a part-time special education worker. Former ANU luminaries amongst our regular clientele include Drs David Green and Geoffrey Brennan, both pleased to provide references. If you'd like further information about our services and availability, give Bob a call on 0410489797 or e-mail Edwin.Birks@anu.edu.au

Diary date

July 13 SHANGHAI Alumni Dinner hosted by the VC. Time and venue to be advised
From *Alumni*

ANUEF Members' Benefits

- 1 Library borrowing rights for \$50 per annum
2. Parking: the right to buy (i) A staff parking permit at the student rate, or (ii) Packs of one-day parking scratchies which entitle you to park all day in permit parking spots at ANU for a few dollars a day, and (iii) The right to park in the designated parking areas in the Fellows Lane Cottage car park, and in adjacent car parking spots if you display your membership card on the dash board. Also, the right to apply for free parking for special events such as Conferring of Degrees Ceremonies and other high days.
3. The right to be posted *ANU Reporter*.
4. Staff discounts from PCTech.
5. The right to use University House Library.
6. \$2 tickets to concerts given by the Canberra School of Music. This does not apply to concerts provided by outside organisations in Llewellyn Hall.

Ideas for other benefits that ANUEF could pursue? Contact. Giles Pickford, ANUEF Secretary & Events Tel: 0411 186 199
E-mail: giles.pickford@bigpond.com

Next edition of ANUEF Newsletter out in August