

## Emeritus Faculty Australian National University



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### Changes at Old Canberra House

Professor Andrew MacIntyre, director of the Crawford School of Economics and Government, provided background information on the Vice Chancellor's invitation to him to move his School to Old Canberra House (OCH), as an amalgamation on one site of the many parts scattered across campus.

In an address to ANUEF members on November 7 entitled 'Old Canberra House & the Crawford School: Plans & Moves' he outlined how the site was becoming available as a result of other relocations connected with the establishment of the College system at ANU. The HRC and the CCCR were to move out of Old Canberra House and the Stanner building to be closer to other components of the College of the Arts and the Social Sciences (CASS).

After discussion with colleagues, architects, and landscape and heritage consultants, it had been agreed that the OCH site could support and enhance the academic mission of the Crawford School, catering for international visitors and the large number of staff and students. The history of the use of OCH made it appropriate for the Crawford School, e.g. the seat of various forms of government and international relations.

Since at least 2005, there had been liaison with the NCA, the (then) Department of

Environment and Heritage, and independent consultants on vegetation, plantings, structures. The aim was to respect the natural site, to have as light a footprint as possible, and to ensure that any new structure did not overshadow OCH in any way. A new structure was to have a 'quietly Australian feeling' and leave the OCH as the dominant building.

After a competition, an architect was chosen (Tanners) who had an excellent track record in such matters (e.g. the Mt Stromlo rebuilding and the Glassworks).

Professor MacIntyre believed that the planned new building would provide for a cohesive academic community, in place of the present physical fragmentation of the Crawford School. The architecture would facilitate interaction and interconnections. It would also provide a space for a cafeteria open to the general ANU community and the general public. The School did not wish to be in isolation, and considered it vital to draw people to the site.

In discussion, the following points were raised:

The footprint was somewhat larger in area than might have been hoped for: 4000 sq. m. This was to avoid making the building higher, to preserve the roofline of OCH.

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Ecological implications: would this be a sustainable building? This was a high priority, and part of the Crawford School was heavily involved in Environmental Studies.

Provision of a community eating and drinking place was welcomed. The present fragmentation and lack of such a place were bad for staff morale, communication, and general effectiveness.

Difficulties were reported about the Vice Chancellor's provision of funds for the HRC-CCCR relocation. An ad hoc solution could jeopardise the aim of academic consolidation for CASS. It was difficult to obtain reliable information.

It was generally agreed that ANU communication mechanisms were not serving the community well. Secrecy and lack of information created an unnecessary atmosphere of distrust and suspicion which was counter-productive to the University's aims and wellbeing.

Professor MacIntyre reiterated his willingness to speak with people and make presentations wherever this would be helpful. Access text at:  
<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/>

## Parliamentary inquiries and reports in Limbo

It is ironic that pre-election policies are more likely to be read after the votes are counted than before. Perhaps this is because of a healthy distrust of political parties' promises. But now that a winner has been declared, that party's policies will be scrutinised in detail and measured against performance.

In the political and administrative vacuum, caused by the federal election, between the proroguing of Parliament and the first sitting in of the new Parliament in February old parliamentary inquiries and their recommendations are in limbo.

Some inquiries may be reconstituted, others abandoned, new ones instituted; and those that have already delivered their reports and

recommendations will now await the new government's decisions on them.

## Call for tally room retention

The Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee tabled its report, *Review of certain aspects of the administration of the Australian Electoral Commission*, in the House of Representatives and the Senate in September.

Electronic copies of the report are available online at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/em/aec/report.htm>

For a hard copy email the committee secretariat at [jscem@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscem@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 2374.

## Petitions can make a difference

In September the House of Representatives Procedure Committee tabled its report, *Making a difference: Petitioning the House of Representatives*.

To address petitioners' concerns that petitions are not considered, the committee recommends that Ministers be expected to respond to the petitions referred to them. The committee has also recommended that an electronic petitions system be introduced.

For background information and copies of the report: contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4670 or visit the inquiry website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/proc/petitioning/report.htm>

## Advancing sustainability

The House Environment Committee tabled its report *Sustainability for survival: creating a climate for change* in September, recommending the establishment of a national Sustainability Commissioner, Commission and Charter. The report argues that strong Australian Government leadership is required to advance sustainability.

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The report is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/environ/charter/index.htm>, or from the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or [environment.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:environment.reps@aph.gov.au)

## Home loan lending practices

The House of Representatives Economics Committee has released its report on home loan lending practices and the processes used to deal with people in financial difficulty. The key recommendation is that the Commonwealth Government takes over the regulation of credit from the states and territories. This includes the regulation of mortgage brokers and non-bank lenders.

An electronic copy of the report is available online at: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa/banking/report.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa/banking/report.htm). Hard copies of the report are available from the committee secretariat. To obtain a hard copy email [efpa.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:efpa.reps@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4587.

## Universities and defence

Flinders University is to establish of a new research centre to study explosives and other 'energetic materials' with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO).

The new Centre of Expertise in Energetic Materials will study the chemistry of energetic materials to support the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with new and improved explosives, pyrotechnics and propellants and methods for their handling and storage.

The amount of funding allocated by the previous government for the DFCTC Program was approximately \$30 million over seven years. The centre is expected to be operational by mid-2008.

Stage Two of the application process closed on November 2. Three proposals were received. The selection committee has

interviewed all applicants and will make its recommendation to relevant Ministers.

For more information visit [www.dsto.defence.gov.au](http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au), call 02 6240 5174 or email [dfctc@dest.gov.au](mailto:dfctc@dest.gov.au)

## The elderly and gadgets

Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes AM has called for more attention on access for older people and people with disabilities in the design of consumer electronics and appliances.

Launching the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's (HREOC) *The Overlooked Consumers* discussion paper, which examines accessibility of consumer electronics and home appliances, Mr Innes said design was a major concern.

The discussion paper researches access issues for blind or vision impaired people, the deaf or hearing impaired, people with physical disabilities and those with limited dexterity or fine motor control.

*The Overlooked Consumers* paper makes 15 recommendations to improve access, including: dialogue with industry, making access a feature of the Australian Design Awards and developing grants and tax incentives for manufacturers willing to develop accessible products.

The full paper is available on the HREOC website at [www.humanrights.gov.au/disability\\_rights/consumer/overlooked.htm](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/consumer/overlooked.htm)

## Older People and the Law

The *Older People and the Law Report* released in September by the Federal House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee addresses challenges faced by older people in relation to the law, particularly in areas such as fraud, financial abuse and discrimination.

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) has welcomed the

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Committee's recommendation to remove the 'dominant reason' test from the Age Discrimination Act 2004, (ADA),”

HREOC had recommended the removal of exemptions under the ADA relating to religious and voluntary bodies, or direct compliance with laws or court orders. The report did not address HREOC's recommendation to amend the Act to extend age discrimination to include relatives and associates.

For a copy of the report *Older people and the law* by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs [ISBN 978-0-642-79013-2 (printed version) ISBN 978-0-642-79014-9 (HTML version) ] access the inquiry website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca/olderpeople/index.htm> For more information contact the Committee Secretariat on **(02) 6277 2358**

HREOC's submission to the Inquiry can be found at [www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/2006/ADA\\_200612/older\\_people\\_and\\_the\\_law\\_dec06.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/2006/ADA_200612/older_people_and_the_law_dec06.html)

## Climate centre

A new partnership between the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and CSIRO was launched in Canberra on December 5 with the establishment of the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research

The new partnership will provide research to underpin the severe weather and climatic challenges that continue to confront Australia. Australia's leading atmospheric and oceanographic research agencies are cooperating to ensure that Australia remains a world leader in climate, weather and oceans research.

## Party, party, party

Tuesday 18 December (AGM and Christmas Party at 4pm)

## Clarification

In the last edition No 14 a transmission error between the author and the printer, had the names of the writers of the Peter Herbst Obituary appear at the head of the next column.

## Obituary

### Lo Hui-min 1925-2006

*[This is an edited obituary by Colin Mackerras who writes: I gratefully acknowledge much of the information on Lo Hui-min's life, especially his early life, to a telephone conversation with his widow Helen on August 28, 2007. In this obituary I use the pinyin romanisation system, but in his articles Lo Hui-min spelt this author Ku Hung-ming, according to the Wade-Giles romanisation system.]*

**Lo Hui-min**, a distinguished historian of modern China who was elected a Fellow of The Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1981, died on 28 April 2006 of complications resulting from Alzheimer's disease.

The official record states that he was born on 4 May 1925 in Shanghai, China. However, according to his wife Helen, his elder sister reports very clear memories that his birth was actually two years earlier, although she agrees that it was in Shanghai. Coming from a family of ten brothers and sisters, he spent most of his first years in a village near Quanzhou, Fujian Province, receiving his first education from a teacher especially hired by the extended family to teach its younger members. After his mother died (early 1930s), his elder brother took him to Malaya and sent him to Singapore to be educated at a Seventh Day Adventist school there.

During China's War against Japan (1937-45), he went secretly back to China through Hanoi, hoping to help in China's war effort, and ended up in Chiang Kai-shek's wartime capital Chongqing in southwest China.

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He got the chance to go to Yenching University, and it was there he acquired his lifelong and intense love of history in general and China's modern history in particular.

After graduating he worked for a time as a journalist in Manchuria (Northeast China) in the years leading up to the victory of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1949. Under the command of their famous military leader and strategist Lin Biao (1907-71), the CCP won their earliest major victories in Manchuria, capturing the whole region by the end of 1948. Lo Hui-min was strongly supportive of Lin Biao, and Helen still has photographs of the two together. Lo remained left wing in his political views all his life, but did not join the CCP nor wish to live in the People's Republic.

He went back to Singapore, but because he organised a workers' strike on the ship, he was arrested on arrival. His elder brother bailed him out, but insisted on his leaving Singapore immediately and paid for him to go to London and undertake further university work in Britain. He did his PhD at the University of Cambridge on Sino-European diplomatic history in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His supervisor there was the distinguished Sinologist Victor Purcell and he obtained the degree in 1953.

Failing to obtain residency in Britain, he taught for a year in Germany, and then decided to take up an offer of appointment at the ANU, which he did in 1963. The then head of the Department of Far Eastern History was the highly distinguished Professor C.P. FitzGerald (1902-92), Lo Hui-min's chief mentor at this stage of his life, and among several very good friends in Canberra made through his period in Cambridge. Lo Hui-min lived virtually the whole of the rest of his life in Canberra.

Lo Hui-min's main contribution to knowledge was his research on George Ernest Morrison (1862-1920). An Australian who lived, worked and travelled widely in China almost all the second half of his life, Morrison was from 1897 to 1912 the China correspondent for The Times; his name was

adopted for the Australian National University's and Australia's most prestigious series of China-focused lectures: the George Ernest Morrison Lectures in Ethnology. Morrison left hundreds of boxes and bundles of correspondence, diaries and memoranda, which were housed in Sydney's Mitchell Library. C.P. FitzGerald knew of these 'Morrison Papers' and it was he who suggested that Lo Hui-min work on them.

In 1976 the Cambridge University Press published two large volumes of The Correspondence of G.E. Morrison, edited by Lo Hui-min, with extensive comments on the correspondence by Lo. ...Lo Hui-min intended to follow up this study with further books based on the Morrison Papers, especially the diaries. He made a considerable amount of progress in this project, especially work on the diaries, but for various reasons never completed it. This was a matter of intense disappointment to Lo Hui-min and a great loss to the study of modern China and of Morrison, indeed to the humanities in general.

Another field of Lo Hui-min's main contribution was the role of archives and confidential papers in modern China's international relations, especially relations with Britain. His main publication in this field was Foreign Office Confidential Papers Relating to China (The Hague, Mouton, 1969). He also contributed a chapter on archives to a book I helped edit (jointly with Donald Leslie and Wang Gungwu), Essays on the Sources for Chinese History (Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1973), written in honour of C.P. FitzGerald shortly after his retirement from the Department of Far Eastern History in 1968. I recall that Lo sent his chapter in late, even though he was one of those admirers of C.P. FitzGerald who had initiated the project in the first place. When the chapter came, however, it was just brilliant and worth waiting for. Apart from being detailed and interesting, it showed a real sensitivity to all the problems of historical sources and how to use them.

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Of course, any decent historian must be aware of such issues, but the way he expressed himself and his immediate experiences with archival Chinese and non-Chinese material showed a sense of history and scholarly mind that I found unusual and admirable at the time. On rereading the chapter to write this obituary I reacted in precisely the same way.

A third research interest, which Lo Hui-min took up fairly late in his career, was the life and works of the writer and political philosopher Gu Hongming (1857-1928), who spent much of his life in the West and, when in China, was much sought after by distinguished Western visitors, a prominent example being W. Somerset Maugham. Lo Hui-min nearly completed a book on Gu Hongming. In the meantime, he had several articles on Gu in the journal *Papers on Far Eastern History* and its successor *East Asian History*, published at the ANU.

With these research interests and contributions, it comes as no surprise that Lo Hui-min was very interested in Western views of China. It was on this subject that he gave his own Morrison Lecture in 1976, entitled "The Tradition and Prototypes of the China-Watcher". ...

Lo Hui-min was quite nationalist about China, even apart from his general left-wing sympathy for the People's Republic. He was, for example, strongly supportive of China's territorial claims, especially its claim to sovereignty over Taiwan. I remember discussing this matter with him and his defending China's stand excitedly and passionately.

His enthusiasm for his native country is also obvious in the fact that he wrote a history of China especially for his son Bobo. Born from a marriage to a French woman, Monique, Bobo grew up mainly in Australia at a time when China had a very bad image here. Hui-min wanted his son to retain interest in China and wrote a children's book especially for him. Called *The Story of China* (Angus & Robertson, 1970) and decorated with beautiful illustrations, this book was "highly

commended" in *The Children's Book of the Year Awards* for 1971.

For this obituary I wrote to Professor Wang Gungwu, now of the National University of Singapore's East Asia Institute, but for some eighteen years head of the ANU's Department of Far Eastern History and thus closely associated with Lo. He summarized Lo Hui-min's career in the following terms:

Lo Hui-min was a man of artistic temperament with many creative instincts. He chose, however, to devote himself to historical research. For his work on modern Chinese history, he demanded the highest standards of accuracy. He worried over every fact and detail, always determined to provide his reader with the most complete information possible. Thus I know that everything he has written can be relied upon and only regret that he did not write more. His Herculean efforts to edit the *Morrison Diaries* earned him considerable respect.

I share Professor Wang's perceptive evaluation. I would add only that Lo Hui-min was a brilliant man, highly emotional and passionately committed to life, to scholarship, to his topic, and to values of social justice. ...

Lo Hui-min is survived by his widow, Helen, three sons, Bobo, Hsiao-niu and Hsiao-ti, and one daughter Hsiao-pin; all but Bobo being Helen's.

*[Full text is available ??????????????]*

**Colin Mackerras**

**Robin Allenby Gollan**  
**8 December 1917 — 15 October 2007**

The Depression was a formative experience for many Australians who came of age in the 1930s and never forgot the hardship and humiliation it inflicted. The Second World War was their time of sacrifice but also a time of hope for a better world. Post-war reconstruction implemented plans to banish unemployment, poverty and insecurity,

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including the Reconstruction Training Scheme that enabled these ex-servicemen and women from humble origins to pursue their studies and fulfil their talents. The Cold War dashed the earlier hope, and also exposed those on the left to intense suspicion.

In his book *Revolutionaries and Reformists* (1975) Bob Gollan gave the best account of this era of intense ideological conflict and rapidly changing political fortunes. Like all of his writing, it is marked by a breadth of perspective and clarity of exposition. His empathy for the subject is clear and so too is his objectivity. He does not evade the errors and excesses of the left-wing activists, for he seeks to learn from the past.

Furthermore, it is his own past. He was born just a few years before the narrative begins in the 1920s; his youthful experience of the 1930s led him to the Communist Party of Australia and the book ends in 1955, just as he was about to leave it. He was a beneficiary of the post-war expansion of Australian universities. And he was the senior member of the generation of radical historians — it includes Russel Ward, Ian Turner, Miriam Dixson and Eric Fry, who died just before his colleague — who broadened Australian history to incorporate the experience and aspirations of the labour movement.

Robin Allenby Gollan was born on 8 December 1917, the day news reached Australia that Jerusalem had fallen to the Australian Light Horse under the command of General Allenby. His father William's family came from north-east Scotland and settled Woodburn, on the Richmond River, following the Selection Act of 1861. His mother, originally Jeannie Maclean, was also of Scottish descent. Both were members of the Salvation Army and Jeannie worked for it on the Western Australian goldfields before marriage.

The family moved during Bob's childhood, first to a dairy farm at Dorrigo, later to a mixed farm on Cambewarra Mountain, inland from Nowra, though there were spells

shopkeeping unsuccessfully in Sydney. Bob was the last of five surviving children; his sister Myra became a Salvation Army officer and his brothers Bill and Ken schoolteachers. Their success — despite notoriety as a leading member of the Communist Party, Bill became a high school principal — helped Bob to pursue his own career.

His primary education began at a single-teacher bush school, and to get there he shared the back of a horse with Ken until his brother went to high school in Sydney. Bob undertook his secondary education at Wollongong, then Fort Street, and in 1939 completed an honours degree at Sydney University, where he shared the history medal with his academic and political antithesis, John Manning Ward. He undertook teacher training and taught in New South Wales schools until enlistment in the RAAF in 1942.

After wartime service Bob became a lecturer at the Sydney Teachers College, meanwhile completing a Masters thesis that would form the basis of his first book, *Radical and Working Class Politics* (1960), which traces the emergence of the Australian labour movement. He then won a scholarship to the London School of Economics where Harold Laski supervised his doctoral thesis.

Where next? One possibility was a career in the labour movement, for Bob had joined the Communist Party as an undergraduate and was prominent in the Teachers' Federation; its president, Sam Lewis, wanted him to accept a full-time union post.

Bob's preference was further research. This would be difficult to combine with his duties at the teachers' college, and the new Australian National University was offering a research post. But that was untenured and paid less, a risky step to take since he had married the historian and communist Daphne Morris, and they now had two children, Klim and Kathy.

The early ANU made scant provision for wives, no matter how well qualified, while ASIO devoted considerable attention to

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vetting its academic appointments. To its credit, the university resisted pressure to block Bob's appointment and eventually found a place for Daphne to teach.

Bob flourished in the Research School of Social Sciences, especially after Keith Hancock returned from London to direct it. The two men differed in their politics but shared a common enjoyment of bushwalking and fishing; Hancock valued the younger man as a historian of 'great integrity' and arranged for him to write a history of the Commonwealth Bank.

Apart from *Radical and Working Class Politics*, Bob also produced a history of *The Coalminers of New South Wales* (1963), the first research-based study of an Australian union and one that established a model for the genre. That led him to collect union records and, with the economic historian Noel Butlin who was gathering company records, he helped establish the archives at the ANU as the major national repository. With Eric Fry he also established the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History in 1961, and provided the contacts with its British and American counterparts. The Society's journal, *Labour History*, became the principal forum for a new kind of history, history from below, that enlivened the discipline.

He left the Communist Party following Khrushchev's admission of Stalin's atrocities and the Australian party's refusal to allow discussion of them.

"I joined the party in 1937", he wrote, "because it seemed to me the only party fully committed to a struggle for socialism and against fascism. I left it, with regret, in 1957, because that no longer seemed to be the case". He maintained those principles and his political activism revived in the 1960s with the campaign against the Vietnam war and subsequently in the peace movement. With Keith Hancock he protested against the construction of Black Mountain Tower.

Bob's marriage to Daphne ended in the early 1960s and he found the Research School uncongenial after Hancock's retirement. He was rescued from the personal unhappiness by a new relationship with Anne Ayrton, whom he subsequently married, and resolved the professional dissatisfaction by taking up a teaching post. Unusually among the members of the Research School, he had volunteered for stints of lecturing, at Melbourne, Sydney, the University of Papua New Guinea and even the Soviet Embassy. Now he applied for and was appointed to the chair of history in the Faculty of Arts.

He retired from the chair in 1981 and, with Anne, moved down to Armands Nook, near Bermagui, where with help from friends they built a house and formed new friends among the locals. They returned to Canberra at the end of the decade, travelled widely by campervan, and remained active in community life.

Intensely Australian in speech and manner, Bob Gollan was an instinctive internationalist. His first overseas trip was in 1941 to a left-wing conference in Mexico, rallying support for the war. The doctoral studies in London were followed by periods of overseas sabbatical leave, and wherever he travelled he engaged with the history and politics of his host country. He was always pressing new books on to friends and colleagues.

His mind was incisive and cut through cant. He was not impressed by academic preening, but his contributions at seminars and conferences were invariably telling. He was a gifted raconteur, who delighted in telling stories that deflated pomposity, and a lively drinking companion. His voice was seldom raised, though instances of bullying or humbug roused him. Above all, his patent decency and sincerity made him a bridge for scholars and activists seeking guidance and support; and through his own scholarship he created the bridge that allows us to understand his generation of activists.

**Stuart Macintyre**



**ERIC FRY**  
**21 August 1921 - 3 October 2007**

With the death of Eric Charles Fry on October 3, 2007, the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History lost one of its founders and most staunch supporters. Remembered by all who knew him as an unfailingly courteous and encouraging comrade, Eric played a major part in sustaining the society's organisation since its foundation in 1961 from his base at the Australian National University. He had a significant influence on the early transformation of the society's *Bulletin* into a serious scholarly journal.

His PhD research at the ANU into the Australian urban wage earning class in the 1880s provided inspirational foundations for many later studies. He supported a legion of students and colleagues in their work and applied his acute insights and gentle diplomacy to resolve many a spat between people who had lost sight of the larger issues. He was one of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History's foundation stones, and we are the weaker for his slow, sad decline and recent death.

Eric Fry was born in Broken Hill on August 21, 1921, the son of an engineer. Although his family endured some tough times, young Eric barely noticed, enjoying a country childhood that 'was straight out of the pages of Henry Lawson'. Their circumstances improved when his father found a job in Sydney, a city that Eric came to love and always thought of as his real 'home'. He attended state schools in the 1930s and, as he grew through adolescence, began to notice "the contrasts of wealth and hardship". He concluded his schooling at North Sydney Boys High where he was both a good scholar and very handy rugby player, going on to play for Gordon in his adult years.

After leaving school he worked as a junior clerk in the Customs Service and, having won a free place scholarship to the Economics Faculty at Sydney University in 1938, attended evening classes. In 1941 he entered the Army and later joined the Royal

Australian Air Force, serving as a flying officer in the Pacific region.

After demobilisation in 1946, he returned to Customs and then to the Commonwealth Office of Education, which, a year later awarded, him an ex-service training scheme scholarship to study Arts at Sydney. By this stage his sharp sense of the inequality and injustice of the capitalist system impelled him to join the Communist Party. Disillusioned with Andersonian Philosophy, he turned to the study of history, which grew from an interest into an avowed vocation.

He graduated with a first-class degree in 1950, and married a first-class wife, Sheila Williams on May 19 that year. They moved to Melbourne where he worked for a short while in the Department of Labour and National Service with another old comrade, Lloyd Edmonds. Eric and Sheila returned to Sydney where he completed a Diploma of Education at Sydney Teachers' College in 1951, and began serving his term of bonded employment with the NSW Education Department.

In 1952 he won a PhD scholarship to the newly established Australian National University. Inspired in part by Engels' writing on the English working-class and T. A. Coghlan's books on Australian conditions, he researched and wrote a thesis on *The Condition of the Urban Wage Earning Class in the 1880s*.

During the early stages of his candidature there were some changes of supervisor and department but, with the arrival of Bob Gollan, he found a sympathetic supervisor and congenial comrade who helped him shape and sharpen the thesis. A pioneering work of meticulous scholarship, it was accepted for the PhD degree in 1956 and, although it was not published as a book, became a foundational work for many subsequent researchers in the field.

His first academic job was a temporary lectureship at the University of Western Australia during 1956.

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He took up a post at the University of New England in 1957 and in 1959 was appointed a Senior Lecturer in History at Canberra University College, which was incorporated into the Australian National University in 1960. Promoted to Reader in 1967, Eric remained in the Department until his retirement in 1986.

During this long period at the ANU he left an enduring legacy with students and colleagues who benefited from his teaching, supervision and collegiality. He was a patient, methodical and encouraging teacher of undergraduates, a supportive and reassuring postgraduate supervisor with the capacity to challenge without deflating students' self-confidence, and a thoroughly congenial colleague. Eric's remarkable capacity for empathetic engagement with students was widely known and deeply appreciated. It went so far as a brief period in the Canberra lock-up in July 1972 for backing them in their protests against national service for the Vietnam War. This brush with the law did him no academic harm, despite his pp. 350 ASIO file. He was Dean of the Arts Faculty from 1973 to 1975. As the very first non-professorial Dean, his election to the Deanship confirmed the high regard in which his Faculty colleagues held him. And as Dean, though he had some excellent non-professorial successors, none of them ever bettered the standards he set.

When Eric returned to Canberra in early 1960 he continued his life-long love of rugby. When his playing days were over, he was not content to be a mere spectator (with a hip-flask of whisky for sipping and sharing during stoppages and at half-time). He served for many years as a fair and well-respected referee. Even when that, too, was no longer possible he continued to attend games with his old rugby mates who grew increasingly sympathetic at the sight of a collapsing scrum.

In 1961 Bob Gollan and Eric were the prime movers in establishing the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History. Over the years he held every position in the society, including being its first secretary

and president in 1984-86. He was a wise and measured advocate of the more progressive tendencies in history writing, encouraging feminist colleagues in their campaign to broaden *Labour History's* horizons and supporting the editorial board's decision to embrace social history, while all the time retaining a commitment to politically engaged scholarly rigor in research and writing. Eric helped build the society's fraternal links with like societies, particularly with the British, and especially at the University of Warwick. Up until his retirement, and for a while after, there was hardly a part of the ASSLH that had not benefited from Eric's constructive and unobtrusive work.

While he did not leave a large body of authored works, he maintained a steady stream of writing that ranged from an oral history monograph on *Tom Barker and the IWW*, numerous bibliographical studies, some of which were quite extensive in their coverage, and two edited collections of essays on *Rebels and Radicals* and *Common Cause: essays in Australian and New Zealand labour history*.

In retirement he wrote *An Airman Far Away*, a biography of Sheila's brother, who was killed in the Dambusters' Raid in 1943. But Eric's work is, more than most, to be found in other people's writing - in his nurturing, support and encouragement of their projects, completed in the secure knowledge that he cared about what they were doing and what they had to say. Indeed, one of Eric's great skills as historian, teacher and organiser was his ability to listen and hear what was being said, and implied.

When he retired as Reader in History at the ANU in 1986, he and Sheila rejoiced in the wide circle of friends they had attracted over the years, continued their golfing interests - and rugby in Eric's case; travelled a little, and enjoyed entertaining. Their most regular guests, however, were several generations of magpies and currawongs who maintained a continuing if uneasy relationship with a succession of the Fry's corpulent cats.

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In recent years their health declined to the point where they had to leave their Condamine Street home in Turner and move into Morshead veterans' nursing home where Sheila died on May 4 this year and Eric on October 3.

He graced the University with his learning, teaching, and quietly gracious collegiality. In many ways, Eric Fry personified all that is

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## Lecture Series – past and future

**Peter Stork** on “*The Ambiguity of Human Rights in the Face of Escalating Violence*”, said on October 17, “Rising turmoil confronts us with the inconvenient fact that the international human rights system is unable to immunise the world against escalating violence.”

His lecture addressed this ambiguity and asked the question of possible causes with the categories of Girard's mimetic theory. He argued that a Girardian approach explained why the nations in their ideological and geopolitical confrontations paid only lip service to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and misused what was to be the measure of their conduct as a cover for their own complicity with violence.

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On November 21 **Bryan Furnass** spoke on *Entropy, climate change and health – how shall we adapt?*

The emergence of plant photosynthesis around 3 billion years ago used the sun's energy to convert the Earth's atmosphere of CO<sub>2</sub> and water into complex organic molecules, releasing oxygen and decreasing the process of planetary entropy. Ancient solar energy became stored in plant and microbial materials as fossil fuels during the Carboniferous period.

*Homo sapiens* appeared on the scene some 200,000 years (8000 generations) ago, but our hunter-gatherer ancestors had little impact on the environment because of small

admirable about the Labour History Society in his self-effacing commitment to its common cause, his steadfast support of its various activities and, above all, in his loyal and congenial comradeship. He might be dead, but it will be a long time before he's forgotten.

**Peter Love**

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numbers and limited technologies. Deforestation and land clearing following the agricultural transition 10,000 years (400 generations) ago started a process of soil degradation and removal of photosynthetic sinks which had kept atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels in balance. The industrial transition which started 250 years (10 generations) ago with the use of fossil fuels resulted in an exponential rise in human population and entropy, accelerated during the hyper-consumption society of the past 50 years.

The balance of scientific opinion is that global warming and resultant climate instability are caused by an enhanced greenhouse effect, mainly from rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. Adverse environmental impacts include rising sea levels (estimates vary from centimetres to metres this century), increased extreme weather events including increased frequency and intensity of heat waves, droughts, fires and floods, melting of polar ice caps and glaciers, and loss of biodiversity. Human health is likely to be adversely affected both directly from weather impacts and indirectly by threats to food, water, economic and political security, and from the spread of vector-borne infectious diseases to higher altitudes and wider latitudes. At the personal level in affluent societies, imbalance between energy intake and expenditure is reflected in a rising incidence of obesity, Type 2 diabetes and associated cardiovascular disorders.

Mitigation of climate change will require an overall reduction in energy expenditure, with a transition from our high-consumption society, using low-carbon solar currency

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both directly and indirectly rather than fossil fuels. Energy-related personal health problems call for reduced consumption of fats and sugars together with increased physical activity. There remains a huge deficiency of political and social will to achieve these aims.

### **ANUEF LECTURE SERIES 2008** **Climate economics flawed**

**Wednesday. February 20 4pm** in the Molony Room. Tim Curtin on "*The Economics of Climate Science*"

Nobel winners Al Gore and the IPCC claim to base themselves on "climate science" (a category unknown to Darwin and Einstein), but their views and reports are based on economic models to the construction of which economists themselves have made little contribution as a result of being largely excluded from the IPCC process. This has meant that the application of the IPCC's science to the development of policies that will have profound economic implications has been seriously flawed.

This paper also shows that greater use of economic methods, both in the analysis of the stocks and flows that make up energy and carbon balances and in forecasting outcomes of climate change, would have helped the IPCC to avoid the many egregious errors in its latest Report (AR4). Those errors have led to policy proposals that if adopted globally will likely lead to global famine and a Little Ice Age starting as early as 2055.

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### **Poets' work on the web**

ANU Poets' Lunches, going back to the 1970s, produced a huge body of poetry and verse which has been attached to the ANUEF web site by the current generation of poets, led by ANUEF member and poet Davis Walker and Nik Fominas, ANUEF web master.

The site is going to be reviewed by ANUEF Member and poet Mark O'Connor for the literary pages of the *Canberra Times* and other leading dailies.

You can find the site at [www.anu.edu.au/emeritus](http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus) The story is the second item in the news column on the right.

## **ANUEF Members' Benefits**

Because access to e-Journals is restricted to Affiliates of the ANU anybody who has difficulties should use the computers in the Molony Room which are regarded as affiliates. The Molony Room is open most mornings, but it is advisable to ring to check that the doors are open. We are all volunteers, we have no employees. The number is 02 6125 5300.

### **Your benefits**

- 1 Library borrowing rights are free for financial members with a membership card. Also access to e-journals in the ANU Library system is available through the computers in the Molony Room, Fellows Lane Cottage, ANU.
2. The right to buy
  - i. 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 the right to park in the designated parking areas in the Fellows Lane
  - iii. 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 & buy certain products (eg, software) at Academic/Education pricing from Harris Technologies, Fyshwick.
  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 by outside organisations in Llewellyn Hall.
- Ideas for other benefits that ANUEF could pursue? Contact. Giles Pickford, ANUEF Secretary & Events Tel: 0411 186 199  
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**ANUEF Newsletter out again in March  
2008**