

Newsletter No 16

March 2008

Emeritus Faculty Australian National University



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Raising ANUEF's profile

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Mandy Thomas met several ANUEF members on March 5 to discuss ways of raising the faculty's profile among ANU staff and the wider community.

The ANUEF's Kioloa Seminar concluded that raising the Faculty's profile in the ANU was especially important, with a second aim being to raise its profile in the tertiary education community generally.

Topics discussed included

1. Ways and means of drawing the existence of the Faculty to the attention of ANU staff who are about to retire or who have retired.
2. Better consistent use of internal means of publicity. At the moment the only consistent publicity we get is the promotion of the ANUEF Public Lecture Series on the ANU web site.
3. Some use of external media such as the *Canberra Times* and *Campus Review*.

Discussion touched on the ANUEF's possible involvement in a range of ANU activities including a broadening of the university's secondary education program (the ANU Secondary College); a role for ANUEF in the use and preservation of research material and artefacts collected

and held by retired ANU staff; and closer links with activities at Manning Clark House.

The relationship between MCH and the ANUEF is explained by Clare Hoey, Director of Manning Clark House, and is governed by the contract between the ANU and MCH; ANU staff has priority in use of MCH, subject to consultation with MCH staff. They are not members of MCH, and are not on the mailing list, but subject to consultation (e.g. concerning availability), may use the House without charge.

Angela Giblin says, "I can confirm that it's an ideal venue for small-ish meetings and workshops. These can easily be self-catered. There is also the garden which is wonderful for larger gatherings, weather permitting. (Usually for these a marquee is erected.) The user would pay this sort of cost, or catering costs."

For more information, call Angela 02 6247 3841 or email angela.giblin@anu.edu.au

The Faculty members at the meeting were:
John Molony (Chair)
Angela Giblin (Deputy Chair)
Giles Pickford (Secretary)
Ian Mathews (Media Officer) – who produces the Faculty Newsletter quarterly.

New ANUEF members

The following people have recently become members of ANUEF. They are:

Senior Fellow J. Bruce Millar - RSISE CECS - his areas of special interest are spoken language; science & technology and, after 33 years on the academic staff, supervision and examination of post graduates; collaboration with other bodies. i.e. University of the 3rd Age.

Professor Bob Meyer –RSISE CSL whose area of special interest is Logic; with 10 years on the academic staff, supervision and examination of post graduate students. He would like to see the promotion of logic.

Dr. Cobie Brinkman - School of Psychology. His special interests are neuro science; non-human primates; lab animal science. A Lecturer with 20 years on academic staff, he would like to participate with University of the 3rd Age, convocation activities and university programs of outreach.

US universities 'exporting'

The American system of higher education, long the envy of the world according to *The New York Times* of February 10, is becoming an important export as more universities take their programs overseas,

Tamar Lewin writes, "In a kind of educational gold rush, American universities are competing to set up outposts in countries with limited higher education opportunities. American universities — not to mention Australian and British ones, which also offer instruction in English, the *lingua franca* of academia — are starting, or expanding, hundreds of programs and partnerships in booming markets like China, India and Singapore.

"And many are now considering full-fledged foreign branch campuses, particularly in the oil-rich Middle East. Already, students in the Persian Gulf state of Qatar can attend an American university without the expense, culture shock or post-9/11 visa problems of travelling to America.

"At Education City in Doha, Qatar's capital, they can study medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, international affairs at Georgetown, computer science and business at Carnegie Mellon, fine arts at Virginia Commonwealth, engineering at Texas A&M, and soon, journalism at Northwestern.

"In Dubai, another emirate, Michigan State University and Rochester Institute of Technology will offer classes this fall. ..."

Full report:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/10/education/10global.html?_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin

Canberra's water

The CSIRO invited Canberra residents to participate in a survey – which closed in February – on how they want their drinking water used.

"We want to find out what the Canberra community thinks about how water is managed in the region and how individuals and groups in the community could contribute to improvements in how we use our drinking water," says Dr Heinz Schandl, a social scientist at CSIRO in Canberra.

"The information will help the ACT Government consider ways to replace using drinking water for irrigation."

The ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services and ACT Planning and Land Authority are investigating alternatives to the use of drinking water, such as storm water, for irrigating parks, sports grounds and some businesses such as golf courses.

CSIRO is assisting the ACT Government by researching the social and environmental implications of employing storm water harvesting options.

Potential solutions include storing storm water in new and existing ponds and lakes, and in aquifers through processes like managed aquifer recharge and recovery.

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In addition to the survey, CSIRO social scientists have held focus group meetings in Weston Creek, Gungahlin, Yarralumla and Lyneham with representatives of the Canberra community to discuss social impacts of reusing water and identifying areas in which water management can be improved.

For more information call Dr Heinz Schandl, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems on 02 6242 1673 or email heinz.schandl@csiro.au

Earth System symposium

The CSIRO will host a symposium in May as a step toward a breakthrough in Earth System modelling, a new area of science requiring collaboration among many disciplines.

"The Earth System is basically a non-equilibrium system," explains Dr Alison Ord of CSIRO Exploration & Mining. "To understand how it works we need to couple diverse physical, chemical and mechanical processes which until now have been studied independently of each other.

"We are bringing together mathematicians, seismologists, geoscientists, and atmospheric and marine modellers to face the formidable challenges in understanding the proverbial butterfly effect of snowflake falling on Mt Everest resulting in an earthquake in Pasadena.

"Together, we need to come up with better and more efficient numerical models and theoretical concepts to tackle mind-boggling questions."

Five key themes will be addressed: geodynamics; seismology and damage mechanics; fluid dynamics including atmospheric and marine sciences and industrial mixing; material science; and the mathematical basis for complex systems and non-equilibrium thermodynamics.

The symposium, *Patterns in our Planet: Defining new concepts for the application of*

multiscale non-equilibrium thermodynamics to Earth System science, will be held from May 12 to May 16 at Whalers Inn Resort, Victor Harbour, South Australia.

Conference details:

www.csiro.au/events/csssymposium.html

ANUEF Lecture Series

March 19 Bob Crompton will speak on *Some Tales of Ball Lightning: Reports and anecdotes collected over many years - and some from the past*

He writes: There is as yet no satisfactory explanation of ball lightning (at least to me), yet the evidence for its existence is overwhelming. If you are sceptical about the reality of this natural phenomenon, I'll ask you to declare your hand before and after the talk! The presentation will include a video interview with a Canberra man made only two or three days after he witnessed ball lightning.

Bob Crompton is an Emeritus Professor and Visiting Fellow at the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering. His area of physics is low temperature plasma physics and the experimental investigation of very low energy electron impacts with atoms and molecules.

April 16 Ian Buckley will speak on *Gallipoli – aims, options, outcomes.*

He writes: Belief that motives for the Gallipoli Campaign centred on opening the Dardanelles to meet Russia's needs has long been contradicted by Winston Churchill's 1927 *'The World Crisis'*, his account of World War 1. Here Churchill makes clear the prime motivations were firstly, to recruit new allies for the war (Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania) through promises of Ottoman territory, and secondly to satisfy Britain's desire for Mesopotamia with its oil.

As Churchill wrote to PM Asquith in December 1914, "I wanted Gallipoli attacked on the declaration of war", wanting to employ Greece's offer of 250,000 troops.

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But there were difficulties. First, through its Naval Mission and an Armstrongs/Vickers' subsidiary company, Britain had since 1911 greatly strengthened both Turkey's Navy and its Dardanelles' defences. And secondly, the promised Greek troops were subsequently refused. Hence the plan for an all-naval attack.

When Churchill explained the details to the War Council meeting on January 28, 1915, success was estimated at four weeks. The naval assault began on February 19 with bombardment of Turkey's protective forts. But the mine sweepers were greatly slowed by the Dardanelles' continuous outflow. Nevertheless, when Admiral Carden reported that Constantinople should be reached in 14 days, the mood of Britain's War Council and Admiralty was one of elation.

September 17 Anthony Johns will speak on *The Sufi tradition in Muslim life and thought*

Tony Johns is a member of the Emeritus Faculty, having held a chair in the Faculty of Asian Studies from 1963 -1993. During these years he taught courses on Islamic History and Institutions, the foundation texts of Islam, and the vernacularisation of Islam in Southeast Asia. He has done research and taught in Toronto, Jerusalem, Oxford, Chiba, Cairo and Indonesia. He has published a number of significant chapters and essays on the Qur'an and Qur'an exegesis. A recent book is *Islam in World Politics*, Nelly Lahoud and A.H. Johns (eds.) 2005 Routledge, London and New York.

The first Lecture in the 2008 Lecture Series was held on February 20 when Tim Curtin presented his view of the *Economics of Climate Science*.

June 11-12 A seminar on *"Imagining the Real: a Life on a Greenhouse Earth"* - a Manning Clark House lecture - at Manning Clark House. Details on the web site <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus>

Dr Ian Buckley has taken over from Giles Pickford as ANUEF Events Officer. If you wish to propose a topic for the lecture series you should contact him at ibuckley@cybermac.com.au

ANU School of Music

Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb says the ANU remains committed to the School of Music and music in the ACT – and to our students.

He goes on, "But we have a problem. A 40-year-old model has led to an unstable and essentially unsustainable School of Music and it will stay that way unless the model is changed – or the School better funded. The latter is unlikely since it is already generously treated by contemporary university standards: in addition to the Commonwealth dollars (and HECS) it receives in direct proportion to the predicted (target) enrolment of music students (\$1.9m although its enrolments actually earn \$1.25), the School receives an additional \$1.5m of Commonwealth funding allocated annually since 1991 to compensate for problems of scale. And the ACT Government puts in another \$0.5m. The School of Music therefore receives roughly double the funding its enrolment justifies.

"The problem is not that the staff don't work hard, all ANU staff do; it is that fewer and fewer students, year on year, enrol in many of the courses of study. There has to be a better solution than a bail-out or cross-subsidy.

"Meetings have been held with staff intermittently over approximately four years. Staff who attended the whole of the most recent meeting would have heard me commit to more consultation focused on two proposals. The consultations are both serious and imminent.

"I expect that we will be able to sustain our School and build a firm foundation for the future that ensures we provide the highest quality experiences for our students."

Research Quality Framework

In a memo to academic staff, Lawrence Cram advised that the government had cancelled implementation of the Research Quality Framework and foreshadowed a new timeline and consultations for a less cumbersome and less costly process.

ANU responded:

1. Work on context statements, impact statements, 100-word summaries of best works, and the IT interface between ANU and DEST has been terminated.
2. Work on ANU's ARIES records of publications and other works, and on the ANU repository of research outputs, will continue to completion.
3. ANU's RQF Panels and Groups will be retained, membership will be finalised, and members "best works" identified in ARIES.

"Our reasons for completing (2) and maintaining (3) include the value to ANU's own research planning and evaluation, the potential to assist ANU's capacity to influence the government's new approach, and the availability of a DEST-RQF grant to fund administrative support staff."

Improving parliamentary committees

In a recent seminar on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the House of Representatives Committee System, former ALP member for Canberra, Professor John Langmore, traced the history of the present committee system.

He concluded by suggesting improvements. He said, "Others will evaluate how well the system has worked. Clearly the structure of the committee system has evolved during the last 20 years."

His six of the ways in which the effectiveness of the system could be improved are:

First, committees desperately need increased staffing and capacity to employ experts. Neither Labor nor Coalition Governments have so far been generous with funding. One test of the strength of

government commitment to democracy is whether they provide adequate funds to parliament. An effective model would be through the establishment of a Parliamentary Commission (like that in the UK) consisting of the Presiding Officers, three Members, three Senators and the Clerks of both the House and the Senate. The Commission would have responsibility for staffing and all services in Parliament House and electorates.

Second, remove the requirement that committees obtain ministerial approval for new inquiries. In the Australian political system where there is such a severe imbalance between the powers of the executive and the legislature a minimal move to correcting the imbalance is that committee members determine the issues they will study. The idea of citizen-initiated parliamentary committee inquiries has also been suggested.

Third, make legislation and estimates committees joint committees with the power to question both public servants and ministers from either House, to take submissions from the public and commission independent research.

Fourth, wherever possible introduce a process of pre-legislative consultation and development by committees which included opportunities for inputs from experts, interest groups and concerned community organisations, as do the Dutch.

Fifth, establish a democratic modernisation committee to study and propose ways of increasing the engagement of the public in political processes and of improving parliamentary procedures and practices.

And sixth, legislate for a requirement that ministers must respond to parliamentary committee reports within three months, to overcome not only ministerial inattention but also public service obstruction.

Address these committees

With the new Government coming to grips with its legislative program and a new Opposition privy to several skeleton cupboards, the parliamentary committee system is cranking up for a new session.

Although all committees ended when the election was called, their work is not lost. New committee membership will resurrect work already done.

For a full list of parliamentary committees go to:

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/info/curr_inq.htm

The Senate's legislative and general purpose Committees engaged in current inquiries include:

Community Affairs Committee

- Mental Health Services in Australia
- Cost of living pressures on older Australians

- Alcohol Toll Reduction Bill 2007

Economics Committee

- Australian Securities and Investment Commission (Fair Bank & Credit Card Fees) Amendment Bill 2007
- National Market Driven Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007

Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee

- Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee

- Review of reforms to Australia's military justice system
- Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations

Privileges Committee

- Whether false or misleading evidence was given to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee or any other Senate committee concerning the Government's knowledge of the rendition of Mr Mamdouh Habib to Egypt, and whether any contempt was committed in that regard. (referred 18 September 2007)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

- Climate Change and the Australian Agricultural Sector

Joint Committees administered by the Senate

Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services

- Shareholder engagement and participation

Senate Select Committees

Agricultural and Related Industries
Housing Affordability in Australia
State Government Financial Management

For more information, contact: Senior Clerk's Office

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600 ph 02 6277 3555 Email: seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au

For a complete list of all current parliamentary committees and their inquiries, access

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/info/curr_inq.htm

the earth moved for some

Just before Christmas ANUEF secretary Giles Pickford sent an email to members Colleen and Michael Grafton-Green following an earthquake near Gisborne, NZ.

The prompt reply was, "Hi Giles and other faculty members, We are OK. Last night [December 20] was a bit of a reminder for us all that we live in an earthquake zone. Michael and I felt our house swaying and creaking for about four minutes, but nothing fell down or was broken. For us it was a good earthquake drill. Gisborne is about three hours drive through some fairly steep country to the north, and sustained some quite severe damage in the CBD, with older, brick buildings falling down. Wooden buildings survive tremors much better than brick – which is why we live in a wooden house with an iron roof!

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"If you want to find out more about our "shaky isles" the site is: www.geonet.org.nz It also talks about our many volcanoes."

Publications

Islam and defence strategy

As this edition goes to press, Australia is witnessing its first trial in Sydney of a group of nine alleged terrorists charged with conspiring with each other, and others, to do acts in preparation for a terrorist act or acts.

To complement the daily coverage it would be worth revisiting an Australian Strategic Policy Institute Insight report, *Beyond belief: Islamism, radicalisation and the counter-terrorism response* [ISSN 1449-3993] Written by Anthony Burgin, director of Research Programs for ASPI; and by Queensland academics Dr David Martin Jones and Dr Carl Ungerer, this report was published last September.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute is a government-funded think tank which produces a number of publications related to the broader issues of defence.

In defining current terrorism - it is by no means new, as the Romans were well aware - the authors make the distinction between both state boundary wars as well as ideological wars.

They write, "Islamism seeks not only to expose the incoherence at the heart of secular modernity but to engineer an apocalyptic confrontation with it. ..."

They differentiate between violent, political Islam and the broader Australian Islamic community. Law enforcement agencies now have the difficult task of finding "home-grown terrorists" in a sea of law abiding Australian citizens who practise Islam. The answer, according to the authors, is for security, police and national leaders to reassure the majority of Australian Muslims that they can practise their faith freely and that they have a place within a pluralistic Australian society integrated into wider social networks. This way Australian Muslims are less likely to experience the rejection and alienation that Islamists seek to exploit.

History begins yesterday or earlier

We are constantly advised to learn the lessons of history, suggesting we hark back to some vaguely similar event to work out how we tackle a problem facing us today. The trouble is history begins yesterday when it's not considered history at all.

Rod Lyon, Program Director, Strategy and International with the government-funded Australian Strategic Policy Institute, asked last August "*Whither the Bush doctrine?*" in an ASPI Special Report No.8. [No ISSN number - access www.aspi.org.au] Dr Lyon is of the opinion that whoever occupies the White House after George W. Bush vacates it may well be forced to follow some of his policies on the war on terror - a vague, indefinite, catch-all description of security concern. Writing months before the current Turkish-Kurdish conflict and in the then belief that "the surge" of more US troops would lead to US withdrawal, Dr Lyon has this to say about the next US president:

"After the problems of Iraq, it would be no surprise if a follow-on president was more reluctant than Bush has been to commit US ground forces to open-ended missions in the name of democratic regime change.

"But given an on-going pattern of large-scale terrorist attacks around the globe, that succeeding president would be just as determined to pursue counter-terrorism, including through military options, and would not be prepared to disengage the US even from troubled regions like the Middle East..."

Access to e-Journals

Because access to e-Journals is restricted to Affiliates of the ANU anybody have 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.

Committee Vacancies Filled

Two vacancies on the ANUEF Committee have been filled by appointment: Judith Caton and Mike Rickard.

Security Concerns in the Molony Room

The Committee continued its discussion of a security upgrade in the wake of unknown users leaving the windows open all night.

Nik Fominas has purchased a small safe with a combination lock which will be secured to the internal wall next to the front door of the Molony Room. The safe will contain a key to the Molony Room. Members who do not hold a key will be able to ring in and get the combination code.

Access to the building will continue to be by swipe card. New swipe cards will be issued to a limited number of people.

Non-card holders who need access to the building after hours will be able to borrow a spare card.

Peter Scardoni was also asked to raise the question of an exit button for use by people who get locked into the building after 6pm.

It was agreed that any Faculty member booking the Molony Room must leave their name and phone number in the room booking diary. Non-members cannot book the room.

STOP PRESS - Late Final Extra! David Williams Honoured

David Williams, a member of the ANU Emeritus Faculty has been honoured by the award of the Emeritus Medal of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council. The Medal acknowledges and honours the special professional achievements of living curators, administrators and advocates of contemporary Australian art.

David Williams is a pioneer jeweler and arts advocate who was Director of the ANU School of Art from 1981 to 2006. He is now a Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre.

Previous winners of the Emeritus Medal were Alison Carroll 2006, Robert Bell 2005 and Barnard Smith 2004.

The Emeritus Faculty is proud that David Williams is one of its members.

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 Tel: 0411 186 199
E-mail: giles.pickford@bigpond.com

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