

Newsletter No 18

September 2008

Emeritus Faculty Australian National University



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Research training in Australia

"Research training is a leading driver of innovation and national economic performance", claims Universities Australia in its submission to the research training inquiry being conducted by the House of Representatives Industry, Science and Innovation Committee.

The Committee was scheduled to hold its penultimate public hearing on September 17 at which Dr John Clark, Professor in Art History, will talk about the "structure and funding of foreign language acquisition for Humanities' researchers" in Australia.

The inquiry is examining the adequacy of current research training schemes to support Australia's future needs for tertiary-qualified professionals in a wide range of disciplines.

Representatives from the National Health and Medical Research Council will discuss its role in fostering health and medical research and training in Australia, as well as the current challenges to the health and medical research sector.

The inquiry is also examining Australia's ability to compete internationally for high-quality researchers. The Committee held its last interstate public hearings in

Melbourne on 8 and 9 September. On August 27 representatives of the **Australian National University and Universities Australia** discussed the quality and adequacy of research training in Australia and the challenges that universities face in recruiting, training and retaining quality research staff.

The Australian National University describes "an unvirtuous cycle: too few research-trained people, an ageing workforce charged with training them, and too few of the trainers with research training in the first place. The cycle needs to be broken in Australia's interests".

Among those addressing the committee included Professor Arun Sharma (Chair, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research); Dr Alexander Maroya (Assistant Director, Policy); **Professor Ian Chubb**, Vice-Chancellor & President; **Professor Mandy Thomas**, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research). Committee Chair Maria Vamvakinou said, "This inquiry focuses on the adequacy and effectiveness of current research training schemes, the factors that determine whether new graduates pursue a career in research, and the opportunities for career advancement for research graduates and staff".

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Representatives of Australian Universities Quality Agency, Australian Council of Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies, National Tertiary Education Union, Australian Education Union, Australian Council of Deans of Education, and the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, as well as Dr Deirdre Barron and David Packham OAM, discussed the quality and adequacy of research training in Australia.

Representatives from Victorian universities (La Trobe, Deakin, Monash, RMIT, University of Melbourne, University of Ballarat, Swinburne University of Technology and the Melbourne College of Divinity) participated in two roundtable discussions focussing on the contribution that Australian universities make to Australian research training, and the challenges those universities face in recruiting, training and retaining quality research staff.

Details, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and schedule of public hearings can be obtained from the Committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/isi

For further information: contact the Committee Secretary on 02 6277 4594 or isi.reps@aph.gov.au

Beazley is new Chancellor

Professor Kim Beazley was appointed Chancellor of The Australian National University by the University Council on July 25. He will succeed Dr Allan Hawke, who has served as Chancellor since 2006.

Professor Beazley, currently Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Western Australia, has had a distinguished political career. In addition to serving as Leader of the Opposition, his Ministerial appointments included Education, Defence, Aviation, Finance and Transport. He was Deputy Prime Minister 1995-1996.

Professor Beazley will take up his appointment on January 1, 2009.

ANUEF Location Map

Nik Forminas reports:

Some time ago I changed the "Location" link on the ANUEF web site to show us on Google Maps. At the same time I registered with Google to have the ANUEF represented on the Google Maps site with a photo of the building and some information about us.

I have upgraded the links on our web site to show our presence on Google Maps. In addition, any person using Google Maps may now enter a search string such as "ANU Emeritus Faculty" and they will be directed straight to the ANUEF showing a photo and brief info as well as providing a mechanism to 'Get Directions' so they can get to the building.

Lene sends her love

Lene Lunde of Norway was the 2007 Emeritus Faculty Emerging Artist who was supported by our \$5,000 grant. She has sent us all her love and good wishes and is going very well in her career as you can see from her web site www.lenelunde.com

100th 'anniversary'

The ANUEF Committee held its 100th meeting on September 3 in Vivaldi followed by an anniversary dinner.

For no other reason than to make those who didn't go rather envious, the menu included, for entrée, trio of seafood - sautéed king prawns and smoked salmon on crab ravioli in a chilli, ginger and coconut broth and topped with caviar. This was followed by a main course of char-grilled eye fillet steak on roasted kipfler potatoes and asparagus spears, topped with herbed butter and a rich port jus. Then came cheeses and coffee.

Supervising theses

Professor Mandy Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), has indicated to the Chair that she would be happy to forward to the Deans of Colleges the names of those

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members of the Faculty possessing the necessary qualifications to supervise postgraduate theses. Anybody willing to offer their services to the University in this regard should, as a first step, send John Molony an outline of the areas in which they are competent to supervise.
john.molony@anu.edu.au

The Jade Harp

The Jade Harp is a new song cycle for voice and fortepiano composed by Emeritus Professor Larry Sitsky, to poems from the classical Chinese, and also one by A. E. Housman. It appears that no contemporary work has been composed for this combination. It was composed in 2005, and is dedicated to Dr Geoffrey Lancaster.

Larry Sitsky is a foundation member of the ANU School of Music staff, and a very distinguished Australian composer, with a large opus, including a number of mainstage operas, many of which have been staged by Opera Australia. He is also a highly-regarded scholar, with an impressive list of publications.

Geoffrey Lancaster is an Associate Professor at the School, and a performer and scholar of international standing. Mezzo-soprano (and member of the ANUEF) Angela Giblin has had a distinguished operatic career, with The Australian Opera, (now Opera Australia), and overseas in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. She was on the staff of the ANU School of Music for nine years, and for most of that time she was Head of the Voice Department.

Performances took place as part of a program of melodramas staged by Caroline Stacey, Artistic Director of the Street Theatre, and Dianna Nixon, entitled *The Wicked Voice*. Most of the four performances sold out. The performances were reviewed positively, and found enthusiastic responses among audiences. A recording for the Anthology of Australian Music is being considered for 2009, as well as further performances outside the ACT.

Two books and a Chair

Barry Ninham writes:

'I'm finishing my book for Cambridge University Press, called "Molecular Forces: in Colloid Science, Microstructured Fluids, Living Matter"

Then I'll start on my next one on connections between quantum mechanics, perception, number theory and the calculus. My research goes well and we have solved a key problem of Physical Chemistry extant these past 150 years. It represents the culmination of 40 years of research on my part, and is an eminently satisfactory denouement.'

A departmental international meeting in November or December will see the establishment of an ANU Chair called the Barry Ninham Chair of Natural Sciences. Although well into his retirement, Barry is the most cited scientist in ANU.

Emeriti under foot

(from Colin Steele)

The Chronicle of Higher Education, of August 19, 2008 carries a report, *Keep Your Emeriti Close* by Gary A.Olson, who writes, "An education dean asked my advice recently about how to "handle" retired professors. I was astonished to learn that she, and apparently some of the department heads at her institution, viewed emeritus faculty members as a nuisance.

"They're like the proverbial bad penny," she told me. "They keep coming back around, and they interfere in departmental business as if they still worked here full time"

Treasure trove of discovery

Derek Anderson of Paddington writes:
 I am not sure if many members of the Emeriti will remember me as an early member of RSBS (1968-72), but I left to take up the Chair of Botany at UNSW (1972-92) before completing my full-time academic career as DV-C (Academic and

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Staffing) and (briefly) V-C at Sydney, retiring from that University in 1999.

In retirement I have served as the chair of the NSW Research Scientists' Classification Committee, chair of the NSW Fisheries Advisory Body, as a member of the NSW Ministerial Council on Science in Primary Industries, as a member of the NSW Nurses and Psychologists' Tribunals, as an Official Visitor for the NSW Mental Health Act, and as a lay member of the NSW Bar Association's professional conduct committee.

Interesting and rewarding as these experiences have been, they do well to compare with my current position as the Purves Environment and Conservation Fellow at the State Library of New South Wales. The Fellow's principal task, within one year, is to annotate and put on-line the library's holdings in the fields of environment and conservation. Given those two keywords produce evidence of more than 30,000 items amongst the library's current holdings, the task is significant. (If it is an Everest-ascent-like task, the base camp is seemingly receding into the distance).

But what a treasure trove of discovery, not least to gain a detailed insight into the last four decades of governmental attempts to marry the needs of environmental (and especially biodiversity) protection against the clamour of developmental planning and the attempts of various (mainly commercial) interest groups to downgrade the significance of high quality science (including atmospheric/climate science) as potentially proper contributors to if not major determinants of political decision-making.

I have to say that as a one-time, very serious academic, after this current learning experience, I will be certain to die with a smile on my face!

Garnaut Report 'inaccessible'

Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes has criticised the Garnaut Climate Change Review secretariat for not providing the latest draft report, released on September 5, in formats that are accessible

to people with disabilities.

"I recently said that, if things did not start to improve, the Australian Human Rights Commission would have to start naming government publishers that are not taking the effort to make their documents sufficiently accessible for people with disability," said Commissioner Innes.

"The Garnaut Review Supplementary Draft Report, *Targets and trajectories*, was released a week ago, but many people with disabilities still can't access it because it is still only available in pdf format", said Commissioner Innes. "These sorts of documents should be published in RTF or HTML as well as pdf so that they can be read by all Australians."

The Commissioner said that all Australian governments have clear policies to comply with access requirements for publishing information and that the provisions of the federal Disability Discrimination Act also apply.

Law professor nominated

Professor Ron McCallum AO has been nominated by the Australian Government for election to the international committee to monitor implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Welcoming the nomination, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes AM, said Australia, as one of the first countries to become a party to this human rights treaty, is eligible to nominate a candidate for the committee election which will be held in New York on November 3.

Commissioner Innes said, "His achievements in the law, culminating in his term as Dean of the Law School at Sydney University, plus his lived experience of disability, provide him with excellent qualifications for this role."

Information on the Committee and the Convention can be accessed at www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crpd/crpds1.htm

Indigenous corporations

In the first public hearing of the spring parliamentary sittings held in Canberra on August 28, the Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs heard from experts affiliated with the **Australian National University's** Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR). Established in 1990 the CAEPR is a multidisciplinary centre with a mission to achieve better outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Its evidence based and innovative research aims to inform public debate and policy formation.

CAEPR foundation director Professor Jon Altman and Ms Kirrily Jordan advised on the competitive advantage that land owning Indigenous communities have to build traditional cultural practices, their customary economy, into viable industries in natural resource management. The hearings concluded with evidence from Professor Dennis Foley of the University of Newcastle and the CAEPR's Dr Boyd Hunter who focused on Indigenous business strengths and measures to support them in urban and regional areas, where most successful Indigenous owned businesses operate.

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia>.

For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or by email at atsia.reps@aph.gov.au

Indigenous mentors – the key ingredient

The House of Representatives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee has heard from mentors, academics and Indigenous business owners operating in South East Queensland.

Committee Chair Richard Marles said there was a high level of activity in Indigenous businesses in Queensland, with hubs of activity in the Cape region, mining areas and Brisbane.

"Research from the South East Queensland Indigenous Chamber of Commerce indicates that there are in excess of 200 businesses in South East Queensland that are either owned and/or managed by Indigenous Australians. There has also been recognition of the opportunities presented by the mining boom with the Queensland Government and Queensland Resource Council developing a formal memorandum of understanding to encourage Indigenous employment in the Queensland resources sector and Indigenous enterprise development," Mr Marles said.

At the Brisbane public hearing, the Committee heard from Australia's first published Aboriginal business author, Neil Willmett, who is also a successful Indigenous business owner. Mr Willmett recently launched "*How to Start a Successful Aboriginal Business in Australia*" and has big ideas for Indigenous business. In a roundtable discussion Indigenous business mentors highlighted some of the key issues for people in the including the idea that women are often the initiators of a business concept. The roundtable considered some of the barriers to setting up businesses and the possible role of a Minority Business Council.

Among those appearing at a public hearing and roundtable discussion on September 9 were the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (Qld), Craig Furneaux and Professor Kerry Brown, and Professor Paul Memmott.

At an earlier hearing in Canberra on September 4, the Committee explored the intersection between land title, environmental management and the role of government in building sustainable Indigenous businesses and communities. The Committee heard from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) about Indigenous program delivery. The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

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Islander Studies (AIATSIS) told the committee about the importance of land title to enterprise development, and Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO) scientists outlined the contribution Indigenous people make to the eco-management of Australia's fragile remote regions.

Further details on the inquiry are on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia>. For **background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or email atsia.reps@aph.gov.au

Indigenous Australians and books

Every effort should be made to improve poor literacy standards and overcome the educational disadvantage faced by Indigenous Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma said on Indigenous Literacy Day September 3.

Welcoming Indigenous Literacy Day and its efforts to raise money for books and other resources in remote Northern Territory communities and north-western NSW, Commissioner Calma said access to books was essential in turning back the tide of educational disadvantage.

"While governments are responsible for providing education, there is a role for business and individuals to contribute to the betterment of Indigenous and Australian society. Efforts such as Indigenous Literacy Day should be applauded," he said.

Mr Calma said Indigenous literacy outcomes were directly related to an individual's access to their own culture, history and languages. To this end, he said we should also be producing books in Indigenous languages for students whose first language was not English.

He said bilingual programs which establish literacy in the child's first language before developing literacy in English were crucial.

Mr Calma said he envisaged a future where Indigenous language and culture in this country was celebrated as the Maori language and culture is celebrated in New Zealand, where local languages are spoken and traditional land owners acknowledged with the opening of Parliament.

Gender based discrimination

The current review of the Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure a first-class national gender equality law to build a fairer and more equal Australia, according to federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick.

The Senate Inquiry into the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality is due to report to the Australian Parliament by 12 November.

Commenting on the Australian Human Rights Commission's comprehensive submission to the Senate Inquiry into the SDA, Commissioner Broderick said progress in achieving substantive gender equality in Australia had stalled.

She says the current Senate inquiry is a significant law reform opportunity to bring the SDA into line with the changes in Australian society which has occurred since the Act was introduced in 1984.

Ms Broderick said the submission called for a two-stage reform process over a three-year period. "We can improve some of the deficiencies in the Act with reasonable haste and minimal inconvenience but a second stage inquiry is essential to completely assess how best to create equality laws that prohibit discrimination and promote gender equality," she said.

Among more than 50 recommendations for immediate implementation is a move to better protect both women and men from discrimination based on family and carer responsibilities, a positive duty on employers to reasonably accommodate the needs of workers who are pregnant or have family or

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carer responsibilities, and a beefing up of protection against sexual harassment.

The submission also recommends expanded coverage of the SDA to include state instrumentalities, volunteers and students, as well as the immediate introduction of a three-year sunset clause on all permanent exemptions.

The submission can be found at
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/2008/20080901_SDA.html

Legislation to block same-sex discrimination

Human Rights Commissioner Graeme Innes AM has welcomed the introduction of legislation to remove discrimination against same-sex couples in Commonwealth Laws.

The legislation implements the recommendations of *Same-Sex: Same Entitlements*, the 2007 report of the Australian Human Rights Commission's National Inquiry into Discrimination against People in Same-Sex Relationships: Financial and Work-Related Entitlements and Benefits.

The removal of discrimination in areas such as workers' compensation entitlements, taxation, social security, veterans' entitlements, Medicare, aged care and migration will have a practical impact on the lives of thousands of Australians.

This legislation also removes discrimination experienced by the children of same-sex families.

HREOC becomes AHRC

From September 4, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) changed its title to the Australian Human Rights Commission. However, the Commission's legal name will remain the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

Its new corporate identity is at -
<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/>

[media_releases/2008/89_08.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/media_releases/2008/89_08.html)

The Commission's goals are outlined in its new vision and mission statements which can be found at
<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/index.html>

The Commission has updated its human rights web-pages on immigration, refugees and asylum seekers.
The updated pages are at
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/human_rights/immigration/index.html

Key to the House

There is a new website featuring the work of the House of Representatives and its committees – for those who cannot get enough of politicians...

About the House, the House of Representatives news and features website, is available at: www.aph.gov.au/ath

This website includes a range of video news items from parliamentary committee investigations, replays of recent Question Times, House highlights such as the Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples, plus a documentary on the people who built Parliament House 20 years ago.

Regular news alerts on the work of the House and its committees will be available on the website, including information on upcoming public hearings and the latest committee reports.

Another feature is the availability of audio clips as podcasts, in particular interviews with people contributing to committee inquiries.

For information: phone the Liaison and Projects Office on freecall **1800 139 299**.

Hearings on the efficiency dividend

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee will hold a further public hearing on September 19 in Canberra as part of its inquiry into the effect of the efficiency dividend on the service delivery, performance and staffing arrangements of smaller public sector agencies.

It held a day of public hearings in Sydney on September 8. Federal agencies to appear included the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, the Sydney-based federal courts and the National Maritime Museum; Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency; Australian Communications and Media Authority; Roundtable with the Federal Court, Federal Magistrates Court and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal; Australian Law Reform Commission.

For more information: contact the inquiry secretary on (02) 6277 4574 or at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpa/a/efficdiv/index.htm>.

Protecting whistleblowers

The Commonwealth Ombudsman's views on the establishment of a 'Public Service Ombudsman' with responsibility for investigating public interest disclosures was one of many issues the House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee discussed with the Ombudsman at a public hearing in Canberra on September 4. The hearing was part of an inquiry being conducted by the Committee into whistleblowing protections within the federal government public sector.

In Australia now, there are no uniform laws to protect whistleblowers. Some protections exist at both the federal and at the State and Territory level. At the federal level, the Public Service Act 1999 provides protection for Australian Public Service (APS) employees making disclosures in certain circumstances, and a Commonwealth Government employee who 'blows the whistle' is currently only protected in a narrow range of circumstances.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman has indicated a long-held view that Ombudsman offices have a role to play in any whistleblower protection. The Commonwealth Ombudsman, Professor John McMillan, gave his views to the Committee.

The Committee is to inquire into and report on a preferred model for legislation to protect public interest disclosures (whistleblowing) within the Australian Government public sector, addressing:

- the categories of people who could make protected disclosures
- the types of disclosures that should be protected
- the conditions that should apply to a person making a disclosure
- the scope of statutory protection that should be available
- procedures in relation to protected disclosures, and
- the relationship between the Committee's preferred model and existing Commonwealth laws.

For background information, including the full terms of reference, visit the inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/laca or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.

Geoscience Australia on climate change

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee heard from Geoscience Australia at a public hearing in Canberra on September 4 as part of its inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on Australia's coastal zone.

The terms of reference provide for the committee to inquire into climate change and environmental pressures experienced by Australian coastal areas. The inquiry will have particular regard to:

- Existing policies and programs related to coastal zone management, taking in the catchment-coast-ocean continuum

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- the environmental impacts of coastal population growth and mechanisms to promote sustainable use of coastal resources
- The impact of climate change on coastal areas and strategies to deal with climate change adaptation, particularly in response to projected sea level rise
- mechanisms to promote sustainable coastal communities
- Governance and institutional arrangements for the coastal zone.

Further details on the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccwea>.

For **background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4580 or by email at ccwea.reps@aph.gov.au.

Detainees 'pose little risk'

The positive impact of a shift to community and alternative forms of immigration detention was the subject of discussions at a public hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration on September 3. The hearing is part of the Committee's inquiry into immigration detention future polices and practices in Australia.

The Immigration Detention Advisory Group (IDAG) described the benefits of community and alternative forms of detention. They also noted that there is a perception that "releasing people from detention into the Australian community creates significant risks for the community at large". However, IDAG state that, 'the facts indicate otherwise'.

The advisory group says it knows of no case in which a person has escaped from a detention centre or has absconded from other forms of detention and created any major problems for the community at large.

IDAG was created in 2001 by Ministerial appointment. The group's submission, along with over 100 others received by the Committee, is available on the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/detention/index.htm>.

For background information, including the full terms of reference, visit the inquiry website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/mig/detention/index.htm> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or jscm@aph.gov.au

Women, Kyoto Protocol and Nuclear Cooperation with Russia

On September 15, the Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee was scheduled to hear evidence on three treaties tabled on August 26 including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The Optional Protocol to CEDAW will allow Australians to make a complaint to an expert United Nations committee about discrimination against women in political and public life, education, marriage, social security, health and employment, once they have exhausted all domestic legal avenues.

The federal government says it considers the Optional Protocol will demonstrate Australia's strong commitment to both promoting the elimination of discrimination against women and addressing global challenges such as the protection of human rights.

An Australian Defence Cooperation and Status of Forces Agreement with France will enhance overall defence relationship with France by facilitating a range of defence cooperative activities.

The Committee will also consider an agreement with the European Community on certain aspects of air services.

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This agreement addresses inconsistencies between EC law and Australia's existing bilateral air services agreements with 14 individual EU Member States.

The Treaties Committee heard evidence on September 1 on the Kyoto Protocol and on an agreement with the Russian Federation on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The Committee took evidence from the Department of Climate Change about how Australia will meet its Kyoto Protocol commitments and about progress towards a replacement for the Kyoto Protocol in 2012.

The Committee heard also from the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office in its final hearing into the agreement with the Russian Federation on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The treaty would allow Australian uranium to be used in approved Russian nuclear power plants, subject to strict safeguards conditions. It is also intended to promote cooperation between the two countries for the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Other treaties discussed by the committee included an Australian free trade agreement with Chile; and an agreement to enhance bilateral defence engagement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Further information is available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/jsct or for background: Committee Secretary (02) 6277 4002

Greenhouse gas storage

The House of Representatives Primary Industries and Resources Committee tabled its report into the *Draft Offshore Petroleum Amendment (Greenhouse Gas Storage) Bill 2008* on August 15, which provides for carbon dioxide sequestration in offshore Commonwealth waters.

The report's key recommendations are that the Bill be amended to establish a formal process to transfer long term liability from the greenhouse gas (GHG) operator to the Government, and that the responsible Commonwealth Minister be given the authority to direct parties to negotiate in good faith where there is overlapping greenhouse gas storage and petroleum titles, and to direct an outcome in such negotiations.

Copies of the report can be obtained from the committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pir/exposedraft/report.htm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing pir.reps@aph.gov.au

Protection of endangered fauna and flora

In its 93rd report, the Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee has supported amendments to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora subject to a number of recommendations. The Convention, known as CITES, provides for international cooperation to protect and conserve species of fauna and flora from over-exploitation due to international trade.

The amendments will alter the level of control imposed upon trade in a number of species that are either endangered or at risk of becoming endangered. In particular, the Convention now affords protection to Australian species of sawfish for the first time. The Committee examined the impact of this listing upon one species, freshwater sawfish, which is found in northern Australia and exported in small numbers to overseas aquaria.

The Committee has also recommended that Australia take binding treaty action in relation to the 2006 International Tropical Timber Agreement. This agreement succeeds similar agreements dating back to 1983 and will promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests. **Continued next page**

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Report 93 is available on the Committee's website:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/12march2008/report2.htm> or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

What did you say? Hearing awareness

Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, has called for cinemas to do their share for Australians who are deaf and hearing impaired.

"One in six Australians are affected by hearing loss, so it is about time major cinema chains reflected this market share in the numbers of screens showing captioned movies," said Commissioner Innes.

Captioned movies - those providing the dialogue and other sounds not heard by people who are deaf or hearing impaired - are shown two to three times a week on ten screens around Australia.

This number of screens, which show captioned movies, has remained the same for five years.

Commissioner Innes also noted that the Disability Discrimination Act, which makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the ground of their disability, has now been in force in Australia for fifteen years.

New Chief Executive of CSIRO

Dr Megan Clark has been appointed as Chief Executive of CSIRO for a five year term commencing in January 2009. She is currently the Vice President Health, Safety, Environment, Community and Sustainability at BHP Billiton.

The Australian Government will provide \$ 2.1 billion in direct funding to CSIRO over the next three years.

Dr Clark will succeed Dr Geoff Garrett who will complete his term as Chief Executive on 31 December 2008. She will also be a member of the Board of CSIRO.

ANUEF Lecture Series

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.

15 October

"Wood-carving in English Parish Churches"
By John Armstrong

17 December - AGM & Christmas Party

Lectures Series for 2009

18 February

The Committee has decided to follow the tradition and avoid holding Lecture Series events in January, February and December.

18 March

Brij Lal, "Fiji: Islands of Turmoil."

15 April

Neville Fletcher "Clouds, Rain and Rainmaking - the Possibilities for Australia"

Speakers and topics

Dr Ian Buckley is ANUEF Events Officer. If you wish to propose a topic for the lecture series you should contact him at ibuckley@cybermac.com.au

Weekend at Kioloa

This is a preliminary notice that ANUEF has booked from the afternoon of Friday, November 21 until the morning of Sunday November 23, 2008 at Kioloa.

The program this year will have a biological theme and will include a range of activities including:

Harvey Marchant's beautifully illustrated talk on Antarctica

Judith Caton on "Humans – Meat Eaters or Plant Eaters"

Pete Scardoni's Fishing Clinic
And

Bushfoods of the Campus

Places are limited to 34 people. Meals will be catered for by the Kioloa caterer, Don Stedman, and the charge will be \$100 per person for the weekend.

Accommodation is \$28 per person per night. For bookings please phone or email the Secretary on secretary.emeritus@anu.edu.au or phone 0411 186 199

Your benefits

1. Library borrowing rights (including access to e-journals) 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, Fellows Lane, ANU.

2. The right to buy a staff parking permit at the student rate, or packs of one-day parking scratchies which entitle members 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 Cottage car park, and in adjacent car parking spots if the membership card is displayed 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* if the member wishes.

4. An ability to get staff discounts from PCTech and purchase certain products (eg. software) at Academic/Education pricing from appropriate outlets.

5. The right to use University House Library facilities.

6. \$2 tickets for many concerts given by the Canberra School of Music.

ANUEF Newsletter out again in December 2008