

Newsletter No 22

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Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



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Is Climate Change Opinion Changing?

A Conversation to engage Emeritus Faculty

A group of Emeritus Faculty members think it may be timely for a conversation about climate change within the Faculty. Are you a believer or are you a sceptic about any part of the idea? Are you not sure, but would like to ask questions? Do you have suggestions for our government or for the international community?

The Emeritus Faculty Newsletter will run a series of contributions over the next few issues aimed at provoking discussion on this timely, if seemingly perennial, topic. You are invited to contribute – as individuals or as groups, by way of short or extended statements. Nothing will be excluded, but may be edited for length (with the approval of the authors). We hope for thoughtful contributions, provocative if necessary, but couched in temperate language.

Please join in the conversation by emailing observations and arguments to the Editor of The Emeritus Faculty Newsletter (published quarterly). The opening voice in this conversation is provided by Professor Barry Ninham, who has, as you will see, a sceptical view of the idea of human-caused climate change. A link to a recording of Ross Garnaut's Lecture of 14 September is shown on page 12.

Reflections on the Emeritus Faculty public lecture given by Ross Garnaut 14 September 2009

By Barry Ninham,
ANU Emeritus Faculty and Department
of Applied Mathematics, RSPHysSE

I honestly listened to Ross Garnaut's lecture seriously, twice, and tried to keep an open mind.

I can't really circumscribe and define my concerns properly but want to try. My concerns go beyond whether anthropogenic "climate change" is real or not, and whether our Emeritus Faculty ought to be worried about it. My concerns are not about Ross Garnaut, his honesty, sincerity or an attack on him in any way.

Where I think everyone, everywhere goes off course is in the procedures we all adopt in policy formation. A problem arises of national or international importance and we are inclined to ask a committee

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or an eminent person to chair an investigation and make a report on it. Neither the committee nor the Chair need necessarily have the required expertise to deal with the matter adequately.

In this case Ross Garnaut quite reasonably starts with a disclaimer. He accepts that he is not a scientist and thus must rely on the advice of the leading "climate scientists".

This field is very new and has defined itself as a separate discipline only for a decade or two. On their advice he can set aside the doubts of those scientists who are sceptical of the accepted canon. This happens despite the fact that they might well be a majority of senior scientists in older more established fields if they were not too busy with their own concerns to bother.

To them and me there is unconvincing evidence that anthropogenic CO₂ is a climate change gas. Water is. And whatever happened to ozone by the way? All such evidence and that for global warming are based on measurements with serious uncertainties and lack of control.

Ian Plimer's evidence-based book, with 2000 references in top Journals, embraces such concerns: also articles like Freeman Dyson's essay [Available by email from me: bwn110@physics.anu.edu.au]. Dyson is the outstanding intellect in the physical sciences of the last century. When scepticism is expressed by such scientists it is often dismissed as not peer reviewed which is not true.

I came to my own views also by going to an Academy public lecture from a CSIRO leading expert in Climate Change which started with a slide featuring a photo of Arrhenius, the founder of electrolyte chemistry. The claim is made that it has been known since a paper he wrote in 1896 arguing that if CO₂ levels rose by a factor of two it would cause the earth to heat up by 2 degrees, whatever that means. Arrhenius knew nothing of pH or quantum mechanics or more importantly, the relevant microbiology. To call on his reputation and say the discipline has known this for 100 years is naughty or specious, or an

indication of ignorance of modern physical chemistry. I think that Arrhenius would disavow his paper in the light of modern knowledge if he knew what they impute to it. Showing his picture is a ploy to gain credence.

How is it possible to dismiss all the evidence from geology, particularly the role of the sun's variability, sunspots with which all climate change over the last 150 years and more can be equally correlated with known climate fluctuations? Also there is evidence on cosmic ray variability which affects rain, and many other identified galactic changes. Currently there is no theory of the sun's magnetic field. The standard solar model looks like being quite wrong. Even the present theory of particle physics, supposed to be responsible for the Sun's energy production, may also be wrong. The CERN experiment will solve the matter one way or another. Incidentally NASA is now worried about the sunspot problem as it affects their attitude to climate change: indeed it turns it on its head.

Ross Garnaut has also called in advice from the experts in modelling time series based on standard statistics. This advice is given to him, and necessarily accepted, even though such methods are conceded to not to be too successful in economics. This remains the case *a fortiori* when a host of known and unknown variables are known to exist.

Because the modelling predicts catastrophe, a seemingly compelling argument follows that it is better to err on the side of caution and proceed at once on the "balance of probabilities". But what happens if the fundamental assumption is wrong on CO₂?

At present we don't even know the solubility of CO₂ in salt water let alone what pH means.

Furthermore the analysis does not embrace modelling based on the statistics of extreme events which probably characterises our putative phenomenon better if one believes in computer models. These are the so-called Gumbel distributions.

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It is well known to engineers that every time anyone has built a dam, with cautionary extra strength to withstand a 1000 year flood, more likely than not, the dam is hit by a 1000 year flood in the next decade or two! The same kinds of statistical analyses underlie predictions of oil recovery or reserves. Fifty years ago it was common wisdom that the west coast of WA could never be a source of oil or gas, and the proponents of continental drift were laughed out of court by learned Academies. Such analyses get it so wrong that five years ago one could assert with confidence that the earth was running out of oil. It probably isn't. Recent harnessing of developments and in my own game indicate that soon we may be able to recover not just 10% of reserves, but more likely maybe even up to 90%, apart from the undiscovered deep oil that we suspect is there.

Add to that the fact that CSIRO "Flagships" and universities are expected to conform to government policies in order to be funded, they are necessarily advocates of new climate change research "technologies".

There is nothing logical or gradual about scientific progress. It makes giant totally unexpected leaps, but only after sustained long-term painstaking research unfettered by demands for relevance. e.g., Darwin, Newton, Planck, quantum mechanics, semi conductors, and much more altered matters so dramatically that the unpredictable and unanticipated results that followed were unimaginable.

At the present time science, in molecular biology, physical chemistry, astronomy, cosmology, particle physics, and optics is making such giant changes that it all amounts to a revolution as big as the Newtonian, Darwinian, Copernican, plate tectonics, microbiological revolutions all combined.

I think that this is what universities and CSIRO ought to be doing, unfettered fundamental research, with open minds, instead of focusing on and putting research money into yet to be developed directed technologies like burial of CO₂ motivated by

old, often flawed science, all assumed known.

I am all for reduction in energy consumption, or managing and purifying water, or planting trees, or reducing pollution and exhaust fumes from cars. I know about it from my work as foundation member of the UNESCO Commission on Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology. Of course these things should have priority. It's happening anyway. As for nuclear power: it is a political impossibility.

But to direct and possibly inhibit an economy on the basis of "logical" arguments and allegedly definitive evidence is to my mind taking the wrong path.

What worries me most are the vague shadows of Orwell, Lysenko, Copernicus, Zola and Dreyfuss, even the condemnation and death of Socrates on the grounds of impiety: all errors of the kind that we are still in danger of repeating even now.

In our own time we had the example of Derek Freeman (ANU) vs. Margaret Mead "Coming of Age in Samoa" controversy, the dismissal of his work for three decades by the totality of the US Anthropological community, and their later apology to him.

The whole formal structured review and policy formation process is politicised and badly flawed. It is immensely damaging to the more important issue of the freedom and protection of universities, with free enquiry into values by the next generations the highest priority.

That, not climate change, is what concerns me. I think this is what the Emeritus Faculty ought to be worrying about.

Climate change will pass. Universities will not.

I referred earlier to an article on the issue of climate change by Freeman Dyson, and refer you to this BBC website for more debate: <http://tinyurl.com/kofzx2>

16 September 2009

SUMMATIONS - A New Publication Series of the ANU E-Press

One of the main purposes of the ANU E-Press has been to make available as widely as possible, in electronic format, the principal research and scholarship of the ANU Faculty.

This series, *Summations*, is intended to further this objective. It will consist of the collected works of senior academics with long experience at the ANU. It is hoped that this will become an important new publication series – a significant record of critical research and scholarship.

Academics invariably publish in a wide range of journals and edited volumes. Over a career spanning several decades, this scattering of publications in a variety of sources can diminish the proper appreciation of the relationships among such publications and, as a consequence, lessens the impact of such work as whole.

The series allows the possibility for senior academics at the ANU to re-address their own work and present the best of this work with retrospective insight.

This series is not intended, however, as a simple repository of previously published articles but rather as a substantial publication of key papers of continuing relevance (and thus updated as appropriate) presented in a coherent fashion. The series will therefore only accept publications that are provided with a proper introduction and commentary.

Each manuscript will be subject to peer review, as are all ANU E-Press publications. Reviewers will be asked to comment, in particular, on the coherence and relevance of individual publications as well as the appropriateness of the publication as a whole.

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Obituaries

Charles Archibald Price 20 July 1920 - 2 August 2009

Charles Archibald Price was the founding scholar of immigration research in Australia.

Having completed a D.Phil at Oxford University, the young Charles Price returned to Australia to take up an appointment in 1952 in the newly created Department of Demography in ANU's Research School of Social Sciences. He was asked by W. D. Borrie to devote his time to the study of international migration with special emphasis on migration to Australia. He pursued this research agenda for the remainder of his professional life and beyond his retirement from ANU Demography in 1985.

Charles Price was the son of the distinguished Australian geographer and historian, Sir Archibald Grenfell Price, who produced books on the explorations of Mawson and Cook. Charles was destined for academic life as, from his early childhood; his father was Master of St Mark's College at the University of Adelaide.

Price was one of a highly distinguished group of scholars of international migration who came together in the 1960s in the Department of Demography at ANU. Others included such luminaries as Mick Borrie, Jean Martin, George Zubrzycki, Reg Appleyard, Frank Jones and Frank Kunz. Together this group led the world in their theoretical perspectives on the sociology and economics of international migration. They were responsible for such concepts as chain migration, assimilation, adaptation, integration and multiculturalism. They documented the importance of ethnic networks in the process of migrant adaptation. This work quite literally gave birth to the discipline of sociology in Australia. **Continued next page**

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Foremost among Charles Price's numerous publications is the classic book, *Southern Europeans in Australia*, published by Oxford University Press in 1963. This remarkable book stands until today as the model of scholarship in international migration studies. It combines rigorous statistical analysis, modern sociological concepts and a fine understanding of social history to tell the story of one of the most important immigration movements to Australia.

Price had a profound knowledge of the regions from which Australia's immigrants from Europe had come and, hence, a deep understanding of their histories and their cultures. In the 1960s, he published studies of German settlers in South Australia, Maltese migrants, the Greek communities in Toronto and Sydney, Dalmatians in California and Western Australia, Slav-Macedonians in Canberra and Jewish settlers in Australia. His students produced studies of several other groups in Australia including the French, Scandinavians, Chinese, Armenians, Italians and Latin Americans.

Throughout his career, Charles Price provided a considerable service to scholars of Australian immigration through the publication of the series, *Australian Immigration: a Bibliography and Digest*. The first of these bibliographies was published in 1966 and the final one in 1980.

As the locus of Australia's immigration shifted away from continental Europe in the mid-1970s, Price shifted his own intellectual focus more towards the demography of international migration. His best known work from this period was the estimation of the ethnic origins or ethnic strength of the Australian people, using data on intermarriage to allocate people to different ethnic groups according to their parentage. This division of people into fractions of ethnic origin by parentage was controversial at a time when self-identification was the prevailing concept in measurement of origins.

Self-identification was based on the notion that, for example, if I think I am Scottish because I have a Scottish name, then I am Scottish. Price came under even heavier fire when his calculations were abused 'to demonstrate the rapid Asianisation of Australia'.

Ironically, with the outburst of interest in genealogy and genetics in the 1990s, many Australians today would self-identify in much the same way as Price would have measured in his estimates — a bit of this and a bit of that. On this issue, Price himself wrote in 2001 in his final academic work, that 'the major ethnic community in Australia is the ethnic mix'. It was time, he said, to place emphasis on 'a truly Australian identity and ethos, on a deep and positive sense of Australian peoplehood': a fitting epitaph for a great scholar.

Price's contribution was not restricted to the academic. From the 1960s through to his retirement, he contributed tirelessly to immigration policy in Australia through membership of successive government advisory groups such as the National Population Council. For this work, he was held in high esteem by Ministers of Immigration and by government bureaucrats at all levels. He was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1983 for his public contribution to immigration research and policy. He was elected as a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 1967.

Beyond his professional life, Charles Price was a doyen of the Anglican Church. His childhood association through his father with university colleges led to his advocacy for a college also run under the auspices of the Anglican Church to be built at the Australian National University. As such, he was the founder of Burgmann College.

Charles Price was married to Elizabeth Price for 64 years. He is survived by Elizabeth and their children, Deborah, Susanna, Henry and Richard.

Peter McDonald

Graham George Cullum
6 August 1946 — 17 August 2009

The longest-serving member of the English Department passed away on 17 August 2009 after falling ill in his office a few days before. He had been a teacher in the Department for 37 years.

Graham Cullum was born in Sydney, the only son of Fred and Marge; his sister, Sue, was born four years later. The family, both immediate and extended, was happy and close-knit, and remained deeply important to Graham all his life.

He excelled at his high schools (Blacktown Boys' and Kingsgrove North) and became the first member of his family to go to university, which he did on a scholarship. Reading English at Sydney in the mid-1960s, he felt the posthumous influence of John Anderson, the Scottish-born Sydney philosopher who was one of Australia's greatest teachers. Anderson had died in 1962 but his libertarian ideas were still common currency within the Sydney intellectual and artistic sub-culture known as 'the Push'. Graham later edited two books on him; his lifelong passion for Greek philosophy was derived partly from Anderson.

A greater direct teaching influence, however, was that of the late and legendary Bill Maidment, of the Sydney English Department, who according to Graham 'showed him that art, history and human thought was vast, complex and worth engaging with'.

It was during these years that Graham discovered his other lifelong scholarly centre, in Renaissance poetry, drama and philosophy. He took his interdisciplinary interests further during his MA studies at La Trobe in 1968-71, where his research was in contemporary literary theory. At Sydney, Graham had also cultivated interests in music, mainly classical and early Renaissance but also jazz and blues; he was an excellent pianist (and was pretty serious about snooker, too).

In Melbourne he found a new extra-curricular passion: for the Carlton Football Club. He was never happier than when watching the Blues demolish some hapless opponent (preferably Collingwood) at the MCG. Well, sometimes he was: for it was also in Melbourne that he met Marie Boag. They were married in 1970, and their long-awaited son, Jonathan, was born in 1978.

Graham and Marie moved to Canberra in 1972, when he began his long association with the ANU. With occasional research and teaching sorties to Edinburgh, Sussex, Iowa or Bologna, he was to remain a pillar of the English Department until the day when he was taken from it to hospital; he never retired.

Both the Department and the ANU were different places in those earlier days. Much of Graham's Socratic discussion of books and ideas, with students as well as colleagues in English and Philosophy, was carried on in the Union Bar and the Staff Centre at Old Canberra House, often with Kim Lycos from Philosophy.

The life of the mind, as Graham's first students soon realised in his company, was a vocation in the true sense, not something pursued for career reasons during class hours. "The thinking man's thinking man" was what they called their apparently omniscient and carefully attentive teacher.

By the end he was teaching the children of those earliest students. He passed on to thousands of students his enthusiasm for Shakespeare and Montaigne, Wyatt and Raleigh, Scottish literature and Tolstoy, Plato and Wordsworth (and of course the great Alex Jesaulenko). He was formidably well-read with a remarkable memory and a wonderful sense of humour. His so-long-occupied office was a den of books, always with a mysterious aroma of tobacco.

He supervised many PhDs and MAs, and contributed to the academic community in numerous other ways.

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He was immensely and justly proud of his long periods of service with the ANU Staff Association, the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations and the National Tertiary Education Union, and of his time as Head of English in 2003-6. But undergraduate teaching was always the core of his life, and there is no doubt that he was much saddened in recent years by what he saw as the diminished value placed by the modern managerial university on undergraduate teaching in the core Humanities.

During his last eight years, however, Graham found much happiness and a new lease of life with the Korean academic and art historian Dr En Young Ahn. He became a mellower colleague, enjoyed his teaching more than ever and welcomed his Headship responsibilities.

Graham Cullum travelled a long, unique and memorable path down the corridors of the A. D. Hope building, where he had worked ever since they were built; they feel emptier for his passing. He leaves behind his father, Fred; his son, Jonathan; his partner En Young; and Jonathan's wife Veronica.

*'I do not strain at the position—
It is familiar—but at the author's drift.'*

Simon Haines

William George Craven

28 May 1938 - 1 February 2009

Bill Craven was born of William Edward Craven and Doris Elaine Miles at Randwick in Sydney. He was educated at St Ignatius College, Riverview. Having joined the Society of Jesus in 1955, he took out first class honours degrees at the University of Melbourne (BA, 1966, MA, 1972) and won several academic awards.

After teaching at Jesuit colleges, Bill decided, before priestly ordination, to return to lay life in 1970. He married Mary Adeline Smith in 1971.

Manning Clark appointed Bill to teach Renaissance and Reformation history in the Department of History at ANU in 1971. Over the next 27 years he taught mainly in that area, but added a course on Shakespeare's England in 1988. Together with John Merritt, Bill devised and jointly taught a new unit in history entitled History and Theory, mainly to final honours students. The course was widely appreciated and became fundamental to an understanding of their discipline by many motivated and intellectually gifted students.

Bill's research was centred on the intellectual history of Early Modern Europe and in particular the philosophy and humanism conveyed in the lapidary ideas and writings of the Italian Renaissance thinkers. Pico della Mirandola was one of the foremost philosophers of his age who mastered Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Syriac and Arabic before attempting to reach an understanding of the common ground linking religion and philosophy. He based his thought largely on Plato while not rejecting what he found good in scholasticism.

Bill's major book, later translated into Italian, *Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, Symbol of His Age*, was first published in Geneva in 1981. The book argued that, despite the condemnation of one of his works and his imprisonment under Innocent VIII, Pico's ideas were not subversive and that scholars had exaggerated the place of human dignity, freedom and potentiality in the Renaissance itself.

Bill was especially capable of making such judgments. Cultured, gifted with intelligence and perception, a lover of beauty in all forms and especially music, a man who eschewed extremes, impatient with the shoddy and second rate, Bill's presence had a humanising effect on those about him. In short he was a gentleman who, along with Pico who often sat there, would have graced Lorenzo il Magnifico's table in Florence with grace and equanimity.

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Among his colleagues Bill was regarded with high esteem both as a friend and as a fellow striver for the truth about the nature of things enjoined by the motto of the university. His students admired him for his knowledge, his incisive mind, his respect for them and for his gentleness. No one was ever reproached; rather they were encouraged to do better and to strive for excellence. His marking of examination scripts was a high act of justice tempered by mercy. Often his notes on the script, always written with a red pen in a fine hand, were longer than the essay itself.

From 1992 to 1994, Bill was head of the Department of History. He revealed gifts in administration and an ability to make decisions, while respecting the rights and dignity of others, which earned him the loyalty of all the members of staff in the Department. After his retirement in 1998, he remained at the University until 2003 as a Visiting Fellow, continuing his research and helping with postgraduate supervision. He was also on the governing body of John XXIII College. On a wider stage Bill gave a series of successful courses at the U3A.

Bill had a wide circle of friends whom he cherished, but the crowning joy of his life was to be with his wife Mary and to share their love with their daughter Emily, her husband, James Lawton, and the grandchildren. When he became aware that his life was drawing in, Bill expressed the hope that he would live to see the birth of Emily's third child. That wish was granted.

John Molony

Eric Bachelard died on September 14. He is widely remembered with respect and affection by many. The funeral service was held at All Saints Anglican Church, Ainslie, on 21 September. An obituary will be published in a future edition.

Racial violence

Race Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes has outlined some initiatives that the

Australian community could take in the wake of recent reports of racial violence.

"I am saddened to hear about the recent incident in Melbourne where four men from Indian backgrounds were assaulted apparently because of their race," said Commissioner Innes on September 17.

"Racially motivated violence is unlawful in Australia. It leaves a negative and lasting impression on the individuals that are targeted and their families and friends in Australia and abroad."

"I am also deeply concerned by public calls for retaliation. We learned from the Cronulla riots that retaliation leads to arrests, injuries and fragmented local communities. I strongly urge affected communities in Melbourne to remain calm at this time and to contact your local police if you have specific concerns."

Mr Innes said that attacks against Indian students, and other Australians of Indian descent, confirms his concerns that we - as a community - have dropped the ball on multiculturalism.

"We need a multi-layered approach to addressing this problem. First, we should show the 'race card' - that is, publicly acknowledge that racism exists in our society, as it exists in all societies, and then act to address it," Mr Innes said.

"Second, we need a clear and positive multicultural policy at a national level, which promotes respect and inclusion in the community. Changes to the Citizenship Test announced by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans, demonstrate good progress in this area.

"We need strong moral leadership to prevent the demonising of particular groups. The Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard's comments in August 2009 that the Australian Government has a zero tolerance of racism are welcomed and demonstrate the leadership required. However, this needs to be backed up by national investment in anti-racism programs and program infrastructure.

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"Finally, we need to strengthen the legal protection by making serious racial vilification and racial violence a criminal offence," Mr Innes said.

The Australian Human Rights Commission will be hosting the Australia and New Zealand Race Relations Roundtable meeting in Sydney on 4 November 2009. The meeting, which includes the Australian Human Rights Commission, New Zealand Human Rights Commission and members of the Australian Council of Human Rights Agencies (ACHRA), will focus on issues relating to international students, including intercultural violence.

The former **Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission** became legally known as the **Australian Human Rights Commission** from 5 August 2009.

The Disability Discrimination and Other Human Rights Legislation Amendment Act 2009 (Cth) has also changed the name of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986 (Cth) to the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth) and made some changes to the procedure for complaints of unlawful discrimination brought under that Act.

The amending legislation has also made a range of changes to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) that improve protections against discrimination for people with disability.

For further information see:

www.humanrights.gov.au

Kiss of life for Canberra office buildings

The Australian Parliament's Public Works Committee has recommended that the fitouts of Anzac Park West and Tuggeranong Office Park be approved. Each of these office buildings have been a part of Canberra's urban landscape for many decades, and the Committee has endorsed their refit and reuse by Commonwealth Government departments.

"Anzac Park West has an unfortunate history of being unused", said Committee Chair Senator Jan McLucas, "but the Committee is pleased to see the Department of Defence ensuring that this important part of Canberra's heritage is occupied."

Anzac Park West in Parkes is heritage listed and an important part of Canberra's National Capital Plan

Tuggeranong Office Park in Greenway has been occupied by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs since 1991 and is in need of substantial work. The proposed fitout will provide the highest level of disability access standards, as well as prolonging the life of the building and incorporating environmentally sustainable features.

The Public Works Committee has recommended to Parliament that the projects be approved. The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the approval motion on October 22.

New inquiry on the Rules for Referendums

The House Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is to review the effectiveness of legislation administering the conduct of referendums.

The *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (Cth) sets out the processes for preparing the Yes and No cases for referendum questions and restricts government spending in relation to referendum questions.

Chair of the House of Representatives Committee, Mark Dreyfus QC MP, said "The Yes and No Cases for referendum questions were first introduced in 1912. At that time, the pamphlets were innovative and necessary to inform the electorate about the proposal submitted to referendum. In 2009, it is appropriate to ask whether there is a more effective way to engage and inform people about the Constitution and proposed constitutional change."

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Submissions [which closed on October 9 – but committees tend to be considerate of late contributions] to the inquiry will inform the Committee in its assessment of the effectiveness of the Act.

Submissions closed on October 9.

For background information visit the inquiry website at www.apf.gov.au/laca or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.

Universities woo Asia, the Pacific and Latin America

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has been holding an inquiry into Australia's Trade and Investment Relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

The inquiry is seeking ways to help Australian companies, particularly those in regional areas, make the most of current and developing opportunities. On September 11 the Sub-Committee heard evidence from Universities Australia, the Law Council of Australia, Medicines Australia and government departments.

Submissions to the inquiry are still being accepted and may be emailed to jscfadt@apf.gov.au. Paper-based submissions should be directed to the Trade Sub-Committee, R1–120, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600 and accompanied by an electronic version on disk.

For all inquiries, including the full terms of reference, contact the Principal Research Officer of the Trade Sub-Committee by phone on (02) 6277 4547, via email at jscfadt@apf.gov.au or at website: <http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm>

Sex Discrimination Act Silver Anniversary

On October 1-2, the **Australian National University** was host venue for a conference

celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984.

In addition, the conference took stock of the Act in light of recommendations for change made by the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in 2008. It also considered the future of the SDA in light of other significant proposals mooted at the federal level, namely, an Equality Act and a Charter of Human Rights.

Speakers included the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner and Commissioner responsible for Age, Liz Broderick and Susan Ryan AO.

Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, says she is celebrating the crucial role of the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act, which turned 25 on August 1. However, she said the Act is now in need of serious reform if it is to contribute to gender equality in the future.

"Passing the Sex Discrimination Act in 1984 made it clear that, to live and work in an environment free of sex discrimination and sexual harassment is a human right - not a privilege," Commissioner Broderick said, "but 25th birthdays are about looking to the possibilities and challenges of the future as well as looking back."

Ms Broderick urged the Australian Government to progress the Senate's recommendations for amendment of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality.

"Enacting these recommendations will modernise the Sex Discrimination Act so that it can respond to the reality of discrimination and better promote gender equality in contemporary Australia," Commissioner Broderick said.

Last year, the Australian Human Rights Commission received 438 complaints under the Sex Discrimination Act. Women still experience sex discrimination at many points in their life-cycle.

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At home, one in three Australian women is affected by domestic and family violence; women undertake two thirds of the unpaid caring and domestic work in Australian households and women spend almost three times as many hours per week looking after children as men.

At work, 22 percent of women and five percent of men have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace and women currently earn 84.3 cents in the male dollar (full time adult ordinary time earnings).

When it comes to retiring, half of all women aged between 45 and 59 have a mere \$8 000 or less in superannuation.

"As the mother of a young daughter and son, I want both of them to grow up thinking that nothing will stand in their way,"

To mark the 25th anniversary, the Australian Human Rights Commission launched a commemorative website. The website provides a historical overview of the Sex Discrimination Act and gives women and men the opportunity to tell their stories of gender equality. See www.humanrights.gov.au/sex_discrimination/sda_25

Low paid women and super

The House of Representatives Employment and Workplace Relations Committee met with Treasury officials in September as part of the Committee's inquiry into pay equity and associated issues related to increasing participation in the workforce.

Some evidence has suggested that some 30% of women aged 45-59 have no superannuation at all." said Committee Chair, Sharryn Jackson MP.

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, background documents, membership of the Committee and on submissions at the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ewr>, by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewr.reps@aph.gov.au

Gender equality

Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, says the Survey into Paid Maternity Leave, Sex-Based Harassment Initiatives and the Gender Pay Gap, released in August by the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA), drives home again the need for stronger efforts to deliver gender equality in the workplace.

"This report shows that the number of organisations providing paid parental leave in female dominated industries like food services and retail is low; less than half of businesses are monitoring their gender pay gap; and there is a 40 percent shortfall in businesses that consider it necessary to train staff on sexual harassment in the workplace," said Commissioner Broderick.

"Let's face it, this report is not a ringing endorsement of gender equality in Australian business - there is more work to be done."

However, Ms Broderick said it was encouraging that since 2003 there has been an increase in the number of businesses offering Paid Maternity Leave.

Also encouraging, despite only 60 percent of businesses offering sexual harassment training for staff, was the finding that nearly all businesses surveyed had sexual harassment policies in place.

Ms Broderick said that the EOWA report reinforces the need for continued efforts in the workplace to prevent and manage sexual harassment, particularly given the Australian Human Rights Commission's 2008 findings that at least 22 percent of women are harassed in the workplace.

"Employers have a responsibility to have robust policies and procedures in place for dealing with sexual harassment," said Ms Broderick. Just as important is the need for employers to provide regular training on sexual harassment and foster a culture of zero tolerance."

Federal Discrimination Law on AustLII

The Australian Human Rights Commission says its publication *Federal Discrimination Law* is now available on AustLII:

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/HRLRes/2009/1/>

Federal Discrimination Law is still available as a free download from the Commission's website and readers can register to receive email notification of updates to the publication (generally made quarterly): www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/FDL

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 many concerts given by the **Canberra School of Music**.

What you might have missed

1 July - Bryan Furnass '*When we die - A Case for easier deaths and natural burials*'

15 July - Alan Roberts, - '*Thoughts on the Bicentenary of the Rum Rebellion of 1808*'

22 July – Adrian Gibbs on '*A Beginner's Guide to Swine Flu*'

19 August - Maev O'Collins '*Isles of Exile: Australia's Living History*'

14 September – Ross Garnaut on '*One year After the Garnaut Climate Change Review*'
The Garnaut Lecture recording is now online at:

http://www.anu.edu.au/mac/podcasts/Audio/Garnaut-Toyota_14092009.mp3 which is handy for people who missed it.

21 October - Hans Kuhn '*Rape in a Major Key*'

18 November - Peter Stanley '*Reflections of a Military-Social Historian*'

Diary dates

6-8 November Faculty Excursion to Kioloa

December 10-11 Conferring of Awards

Academic Staff are invited to join the Academic Processions at Llewellyn Hall. To register access web address:

http://www.anu.edu.au/sas/graduation/online_poll/

Registration is a two step process.

1 provide your University ID and HORUS password; 2 select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend, and the area that you will be representing. A schedule for each ceremony is included on the website.

Registration closes on **Friday 4 December** at 5PM.

If unsure of the code of dress, contact the Office of the Council and Boards Secretariat (x52113 or Head.Cabs@anu.edu.au)

Assemble at least half an hour the ceremony near the Graduands Robing Room; there will be signs on the day providing directions.

For information contact the Graduations Coordinator - Alice Sharrad (x54648) or Brendon Colquhoun, Manager,

Examinations and Graduations Office

16 December AGM at 5pm followed by ANUEF Christmas Party.

ANUEF Newsletter out again in December