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Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



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Frank Fenner's contribution to the world



**Emeritus Professor Frank Fenner being interviewed by Dr Peter Stewart
as part of the Emeritus Faculty's Oral History Project**

The Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and the Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University Professor Ian Chubb AC were at the State Memorial Service for Emeritus Professor Frank Fenner AC CMG MBE held on Friday 17 December 2010, at Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music, Childers Street ANU

Professor Chubb said in a note to ANU colleagues, "It is with great sadness that I inform you that Emeritus Professor Frank Fenner AC, died this morning. [November 22] He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by academics, students and all of us at ANU, and many people elsewhere.

"His contribution, at and to ANU, to the nation, and indeed the world, is difficult to quantify because it is so wide-ranging."

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Obituary

FRANK FENNER

**December 21, 1914 —
November 22, 2010**

Frank Fenner was a member of The Australian National University over six decades. He filled a number of roles and achieved notable success in all of them. In a career characterised by self discipline, humility and relentless application to the task in hand he brought greater credit to the University than any other scientist.

Frank John Fenner was born at Ballarat, the second son of Emma and Charles Fenner. After schooling in Adelaide he studied medicine at the University of Adelaide, graduating in 1938. All male members of that graduating class subsequently enlisted.

Frank Fenner entered the Army in 1940, serving in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. He joined the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne in 1946 and, while there, was appointed Foundation Professor of Microbiology in the John Curtin School of Medical Research in 1949. He left this position in 1967 to become the first Director of the School and in 1974 he became the founding Director of the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies. On retirement from CRES, he returned to JCSMR to work with undiminished intensity.

Fenner's life may conveniently be considered in four periods, the first of which antedated his ANU association. A number of themes recurred throughout all four. An Adelaide newspaper reported in 1926 that Frank had tied for first place among the 8000 candidates sitting the qualifying certificate examinations for high school entry. It was observed that "He is a delightful specimen of Australian boyhood and is as efficient on the sports field as in the schoolroom". The reporter also commented that the 11 year old Frank was keen to be a farmer.

In another expression of environmental interest, he elected to take geology and

botany concurrently with the medical course subjects. This probably reflected a family interest as Charles, who was at that time Director of Education in South Australia and Lecturer in Geography at the University of Adelaide, had published extensively on that subject. One of his books, *South Australia: a Geographical Study, Structural, Regional and Human*, published in 1934, remained profitably readable at the end of the century.

As a university student Frank gained his blue in hockey, again presaging a lifetime of participation in sport, ultimately tennis.

His Army service was predominantly as a malariologist reflecting his completion of a tropical medicine course before enlisting. In the course of an interview in 2002, he recollected that, soon after posting to Palestine, he was considered to have erected an advance dressing station in an inappropriate location and was "transferred out of the field ambulance to Corps Headquarters because they thought that was probably a safer place for me".

Returning from the Middle East, he was responsible for treating malaria in servicemen returning from Papua New Guinea. As no cases of trauma were coming to the Hughenden Hospital in Queensland where he was based, and consequently there was no call for blood transfusion, the Transfusion Sister was reassigned to assist Fenner with his malaria laboratory work. The sister, Bobbie Roberts, and Frank Fenner were married days before he was posted to Papua for two and a half years. This began a 50-year partnership enduring until Bobbie's death in 1995. That partnership is commemorated in endowed Frank and Bobbie Fenner Conferences held annually in the JCSMR.

His extensive experience of malaria, recognised by the award of an MBE in 1944, decided Fenner that his future career would be in research on infectious diseases. In 1946, he left the Army for a fellowship at the Hall Institute. Whilst he remained a member of the Institute for only three years and part of that was spent visiting the Rockefeller Institute, the time spent with Macfarlane

Burnet had a major influence on his subsequent career interests. The lack of laboratories suitable for research with infectious agents in Canberra before the construction of the John Curtin School resulted in Fenner's remaining physically in the Hall Institute for three years after his appointment to ANU.

A landmark of Fenner's period as a member of the Hall Institute was the publication in 1949 of the monograph *The Production of Antibodies* co-authored with Burnet. The significance of this book, which was a revision of Burnet's 1941 edition, lay in its proposal that the exposure of a young, immature animal to foreign cells or tissues would confuse its immune system into regarding other foreign transplants from the same source as 'self'. This prediction of the phenomenon subsequently referred to as 'immunological tolerance' led to Burnet sharing the 1960 Nobel Prize. In discussion of this book, Fenner was to emphasise that he was the junior author ("I got the dates together and Burnet wrote the book"). Nevertheless, it seems unlikely that aspects of Fenner's thinking were without influence on the senior author.

Fenner's laboratory research during his period at the Hall Institute entailed a detailed study of the infectious processes leading to development of mousepox after infection of an animal with ectromelia virus. This early association with the manner in which a poxvirus infection evolved was to influence research in the Microbiology Department following Fenner's move to Canberra and, unpredictably at the time, to lead to his commitment to dealing with human smallpox on an international scale a quarter of a century later.

The second arbitrarily selected period extended over 1949-67 when Frank Fenner led the Microbiology Department in JCSMR. Whilst the School's permanent building was not opened until 1958, temporary laboratories had been established on the campus six years before this. Ian Marshall, an original member of the Department, has described Frank's arrival in Canberra early in November, 1952 in his Morris Minor (with the hood down) closely followed by Bobbie

in a Ford Prefect. Fenner's first major research project at ANU was directed to the study of myxomatosis (another pox virus) as a mechanism for biological control of rabbits. Coincidentally, the introduction of the virus into the rabbit population corresponded with unusual climatic conditions which led to an outbreak of Murray Valley encephalitis in the Murray Darling basin. Perceptions that the two events were associated gained currency and, in one of the legendary episodes in the history of Australian epidemics, Fenner and two CSIRO colleagues deliberately self-inoculated with myxomatosis virus to refute that association.

In reminiscing about his myxomatosis research many years later, Fenner explained that the placement of this 'pure curiosity-driven research' in a medical research, rather than a veterinary or agricultural, institution reflected the reality that there were no virologists in the latter. The outcome of this project remains one of the classic studies of the co-evolution of a virus and its vertebrate host. The relevance of this study has continued to increase over time, with the emergence of diseases such as AIDS, variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease and SARS caused by agents which had crossed from other species rather than co-evolving with human hosts.

As myxomatosis proved to be less than ideal for investigation of all aspects of pox virus biology, Fenner's research progressed to a third pox virus, vaccinia or cowpox, which was used clinically in vaccination against smallpox.

Fenner's growing reputation in the 1950s was reflected in his election as a Fellow of both the Australian Academy of Science and the Royal Society. In the light of the subsequent careers of its members, the Microbiology Department of this period can confidently be categorised as one of the strongest scientific groups in the ANU's history. Researchers such as John Cairns and Stephen Fazekas were close to Fenner in age and of independent minds which, by all accounts, made it a challenging Department to lead. Further recognition of Fenner's scientific standing came in the 1960s in the form of the Leeuwenhoek

lectureship of the Royal Society and the Britannica Australia Award.

Frank Fenner's third period spanned directorships of two institutions. With his appointment as the first Director of JCSMR in 1967, he left bench for books. Of these, the two most notable were *The Biology of Animal Viruses* (1967) and *Medical Virology* (1974). Shortly after his career transition, his experience of pox viruses led to an invitation to join an international scientific project to eliminate smallpox. This led in 1977 to his appointment as Chairman of the Global Commission for Certification of Smallpox Eradication. He nominated May 8, 1990, when he announced the eradication to the World Health Assembly as the proudest day of his life.

Fenner's second directorship, again as the first incumbent, was in the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at ANU and commenced in 1973. His environmental interests found expression in activities such as being Vice President of the Australian Conservation Foundation (1971-3) and a member of the Senior Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Environment Program. Recognition of his achievements, accorded during this period, included a CMG in 1976 followed in 1977 by election as a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Science.

Fenner's fourth period commenced with his retirement from the CRES Directorship at the end of 1979. It could be argued, notwithstanding the distinction of his previous accomplishments, that the example set for others in his 'retirement' was among his most notable legacies. Shortly before retiring, he wrote to the then Director, JCSMR requesting an appointment as a Visiting Fellow in the School for the following two years. His letter concluded: "I would like to believe that there was a possibility of extending the Visiting Fellowship after December 1981". As it turned out, he continued most productively in the Fellowship for more than two decades.

Perhaps the most visible aspect of his retirement was the succession of awards he received. Among these were the 1980

Anzac Peace Prize, the 1988 Japan Prize, an AC in 1989, the Copley Medal of the Royal Society in 1995 and the Prime Minister's Science Prize in 2002. Apart from a number of books dealing with historical aspects of science, he was co-author in 1988 of an encyclopaedic tome *Smallpox and its Eradication*. In an instructive illustration of the durability of scientific knowledge, he was co-opted more than 20 years after his nominal retirement to advise national expert groups on the potential for pox viruses in bioterrorism.

Apart from his more widely publicised achievements in retirement, two other aspects, namely his philanthropy and his unstinting accessibility to academics and students were notable. The Fenners and, following Bobbie's death, Frank made ongoing gifts to the University to encourage research and to assist students. These were not widely publicised but the naming of Fenner Hall in 1992 and of the Fenner Building in the ANU Medical School in 2004 will ensure that his name endures in the University.

As a Visiting Fellow in the JCSMR, Frank Fenner represented a repository of information on virology. If he did not have the required information at his fingertips, he could invariably tell one exactly where it could be found. An example of his retention of enthusiasm for information came in the early 1990s, when he sustained a pulmonary embolus following a flight from the UK. Soon after discharge from hospital, a cautionary email about deep vein thrombosis (long before this became a popular issue) was dispatched to School members. A decade later, when asked to give a two hour presentation on bioterrorism to a group of undergraduates, he promptly produced a power point presentation that he had delivered to a U3A class a fortnight previously. He attracted a capacity audience on the Friday of Bush Week - a day on which all scheduled lectures in the University are always cancelled.

Frank Fenner is survived by his daughter, Marilyn, his grandchildren, Sally and Simon, and his great grandson, Jasper and also by his sister, Winifred, and his brother, Bill.

The example that he set at all stages of his life will undoubtedly have influenced many. The Australian National University has been extremely fortunate to have had such a member.

Peter McCullagh

New Vice Chancellor chosen

Professor Ian Young has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University.

Chancellor of the Australian National University, Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AO QC, in a note to colleagues, said, "I am delighted to advise you that at a special meeting of the University Council this morning [October 1], Professor Ian Young has been appointed our next Vice-Chancellor, taking up his position on 1 March next year. ...

"Ian Chubb will be, as we all know, an almost impossibly hard act to follow. But I know that Council shares my belief that we have in Ian Young a new leader of really extraordinary quality, who will quickly win the confidence and affection of the ANU community and guide us through the many challenges that lie ahead."

Professor Ian Young is an Australian higher education leader and world ranking coastal and ocean engineer.

He has been Vice-Chancellor and President of Swinburne University of Technology since 2003, during which time it has entered international rankings for the first time, doubled its revenue, more than doubled its research citations, and increased significantly the number of staff with a PhD. He has previously held senior academic positions at the Universities of Adelaide and New South Wales, James Cook University, and at the Max-Planck-Institut für Meteorologie in Hamburg.

Long active in Australian higher education policy and administration, he was appointed by the then Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, as the sector's representative on the

Australian Qualifications Framework Council. He is also presently Chair of Education Australia Ltd and a Director of IDP Education Pty Ltd, the world's largest recruiting agency for international students, as well as a Director of Universities Australia, Open Universities Australia. He has written extensively on issues including international education collaboration, research funding, the linkages between vocational education and higher education and models for educational funding.

Professor Young is one of the most cited civil engineers in Australia, and the only serving Australian Vice-Chancellor to hold current Australian Research Council grants. He has published three books and more than 100 journal papers in the fields of coastal and ocean engineering, with research covering areas such as environmental design parameters, the physics of wind generated waves, satellite remote sensing of the oceans and global climate.

Professor Young also has strong industry links, acting as a consultant to the coastal and offshore industries in Australia, Asia, Europe and the United States, as well as to government bodies including NASA and the US Office of Naval Research. He has a strong track record of generating industry and business support for projects and programs at Swinburne University.

Professor Young has been elected as a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and a Member of the American Geophysical Union, and was awarded the Centenary Medal for Services to Australian Society.

Professor Evans said, "Professor Young was the outstanding candidate in a stellar field. He has a wonderful scholarly and professional reputation, and all the qualities of vision, judgment and management flair - and commitment to excellence in research, teaching and policy outreach - that this great national university needs to take it through its next stage of development.

"The higher education environment, both

domestically and internationally, is becoming ever more fiercely competitive, and for all our achievements until now, we know that ANU cannot just rest on its laurels. Ian Young is superbly equipped to lead us through the challenges ahead."

Present Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb, who has presided over an extraordinarily successful decade of growth and change at ANU, said of his successor:

"I warmly welcome the appointment of Ian Young. To be the Vice-Chancellor of ANU is one of the greatest honours and privileges academic life has to bestow. I am sure that Ian will come to admire the institution and enjoy his time here as much as I have."

Professor Young said following his appointment, "I am both delighted and honoured to have been selected as Vice-Chancellor of the ANU. This is an outstanding institution with an extraordinary resource of talented staff.

"I very much look forward to working with the Council and the staff and students of the university in continuing to build ANU as Australia's national university and a world-class institution of which all Australians can be proud."

For more extended biographical information on Professor Young see:

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/chancellery/vc/about-the-vc.html>

Giles and Peter – Co-workers in the ANUEF



Peter Scardoni (left) Faculty Treasurer and Giles Pickford, ANUEF Secretary

Peter Scardoni – ANUEF Treasurer was born in Berry, NSW on December 12, 1944. He spent his first years in Berry and the Upper Kangaroo Valley. He moved to Canberra in 1951 and has lived there ever since, working at the Australian National University in various roles in the Research School of Biological Sciences. He was Business Manager of the ANU Faculties from 1984-1998.

He has a Bachelor of Arts (Accounting) 1974 from the University of Canberra and has qualified as a Certified Practising Accountant.

He has held the following positions at the ANU:

Member, ANU Council

Chair, University Financial Information Systems Project Committee

Chair, Burton and Garran Hall Governing Body

Member, Edith and Joy London Foundation Management Committee

Treasurer, ANU Emeritus Faculty

He has assisted many community organisations including the Rotary Club of Canberra – Fyshwick and is also the auditor of several non-profit charities and associations including:

Treasurer and Public Officer of the Pegasus

Riding for the Disabled (ACT);

Deputy President and Treasurer of the National Brain Injury Foundation; and

President of the ANU Meningans.

Since retirement in 1999, he has worked in the Secretariat of the Association for Tertiary Education Management, and since 2008 in the Secretariat of the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association.

Giles Pickford – ANUEF Secretary works with Peter on three projects: the ANU Emeritus Faculty, the Association for

Tertiary Education Management and the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association.

Giles and Peter complement each other completely. Both admit that without the other they would be inoperative. Here is a summary of their complementarities.

| Giles | Peter |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Knows words but not numbers | Vice versa |
| Lives in Wollongong | Lives in Canberra |
| Likes whisky | Likes wine |
| Reads | Sudoku |
| Poetry | Fishing |
| Impatient | Patient |
| Tends to argue | Would rather not |
| Art | Music |

Giles was born in Bombay and grew up on a farm near Albany, Western Australia.

If he had not won a Commonwealth Scholarship he would still be there. He read English Literature at UWA and won a first class honours degree. He has worked at UWA, UNE, AVCC, James Cook, Australian Cancer Society, University of Wollongong and ANU. Instead of rocketing up in his career he has rocketed sideways. He says this was his preference.

He was an Alderman of the Wollongong City Council from 1985-88 and was a member of the ACT Cultural Council from 1991-96. He was awarded the ANU Council Medal for Excellence in 1997 and retired in 1998. He is currently a member of the Visual Arts Committee of the ANU Endowment. If you are interested in his ideas visit www.gilespickford.net

Both Giles and Peter are planning on retiring again in 2011, but not from the Faculty, only from their paid work.

Around the world, we all have to 'stand up' to short-termism

By Sarah Cunnane

The global higher education community needs to "stand up, shake a fist and shame political leaders" who are taking a short-term view over its future, according to the president of New York University.

John Sexton, who is also chair of the American Council on Education, issued the rallying cry in an interview with *Times Higher Education* after being appointed chair of the council's new Blue

Ribbon Panel on Global Engagement.

Given the pace of change in higher education worldwide, Professor Sexton said it was no longer enough to consider how decisions may affect future generations, but that consideration should be given to the impact on the sector five or 10 years down the line.

He warned that current government policies risked turning students into what he termed "I-shaped people: that is, people with very narrow focus and deep knowledge - sometimes not all that deep - in only one area". Instead, he said, universities should be producing "T-shaped people: students who have breadth and depth. We need to be educating people for life, to be citizens, as well as for one specific discipline."

As an example of current short-sighted policies, he cited the growing concern voiced by commentators and politicians in the US over rising tuition fees. "It's a sad thing to see our political and chattering classes directing fire at the tuition-dependent schools in a demagogic way," he said.

"What people fail to see is that if you tell a university like NYU to charge \$40,000 (£25,000) rather than \$50,000, you've just given a \$10,000 scholarship to Bill Gates' kid and prevented us from taking that extra money and using it as financial aid for poor and middle-class kids."

Professor Sexton acknowledged that there were "a lot of lamentable things" to be found within US higher education, among them an ethnocentrism that leaves the sector in some ways "not well positioned to talk about this exciting moment that global higher education finds itself in".

However, he said, the US sector was starting to become more aware of its position in a global context. "If US institutions want to be centres for the world's talent, they can't simply rely on the magnetic power that has existed for four or five decades to attract that talent and they can't be one-way participants. They can't expect to sit in their locations and have the world's creative classes gravitate to them."

The higher education community is at an "inflection point", Professor Sexton said. "The reality is that the world has miniaturised - travel, technology, communications, all have driven a sort of planetisation," he said.

"Leaders of higher education need to call themselves, their societies and their political thought leaders to a higher plane because there is a real opportunity here to advance humankind."

He added that the Blue Ribbon Panel, which includes representatives from the UK, mainland Europe, Australia and China as well as a variety of US institutions, will concentrate on "how we, within higher education, could be much more self-conscious about the way we could respond to the miniaturisation of the world".

He also said that the globalisation of higher education did not necessarily mean that there would be standardisation of approaches to teaching and research. "Difference multiplies the possibilities for research and learning," he said. "But we recognise that, because of that difference, not every institution will wish to go global, not every institution will have the capability to, and it may not be appropriate for some. One of the things the new panel will try to do is give suggestions and a variety of responses that may be taken by a range of institutions."

Times Higher Education Supplement
21 October 2010

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Uncertain Futures

Resilience & Transformation: Preparing Australia for Uncertain Futures is a new Australia21 book published by CSIRO, which provides key trends and actions related to resilience in areas such as organisations and economics; governance and security; energy and settlements; health and education; environment and society; and disaster preparedness and recovery.

A forum based on these policy issues was held on October 28 at the ANU and featured Dr Steve Cork, editor and a number of chapter authors to examine important implementation aspects of resilience theory.

Chapter authors included: Prof Douglas, Dr Nicky Grigg, Paul Barratt, Adjunct Assoc Professor Susan Nicholls; Richard Eckersley, and Dr Theresia Citraningtyas. Their presentations can be accessed at http://www.australia21.org.au/resilience_forum.htm

BERYL MARIE RAWSON

July 24, 1933 – October 22, 2010

A notable Australian woman, on reaching the peak of her career, is said to have remarked with justifiable glee: "Not bad, for a girl from Innisfail!"

It is the wettest town in Australia, but maybe there is something in the air besides rain, because Beryl Rawson, nee Wilkinson, was another girl of the highest achievement born in Innisfail.

Her achievements began early: a State government scholarship which covered her whole undergraduate course at the University of Queensland, and further scholarships during her course, followed by offers of two travelling scholarships, one for study in England, the other in the USA.

She chose to go to Bryn Mawr College, where she received her Ph.D. in 1961. As she later wrote: "I was fortunate to have as

my supervisor Miss Lily Ross Taylor". Fortunate indeed; at a time when most ancient history was focussed on political questions and the ruling class, Beryl's thesis under Taylor's guidance was a groundbreaking study on social conditions in the lower classes of Roman society – a field which Beryl was to make her own.

Her academic career had already begun at UQ where she had been appointed as Junior Lecturer in Classics immediately after taking her honours BA. After her doctorate she returned to UQ as Lecturer, and in 1964 came to the Australian National University as Senior Lecturer in Classics. The remainder of her career was spent at ANU, where she rose eventually to the post of Professor of Classics.

Even in these early years Beryl showed talents beyond her classical studies. She became involved in the administration of a hall of residence at Bryn Mawr, and again back at UQ. She revived and served as Secretary of the Classical Association of Queensland, which had been dormant since 1939. She organised conferences for that Association and for the International Federation of University Women – activities presaging some of her more extensive endeavours at the height of her career.

At ANU she came into a virtual "band of brothers", a small group of young men – only one over 40 – with a rather easy going head of department, none with a Ph.D. and all having studied in Britain after their first degrees in Australia or New Zealand. She may well have found it a strange environment, and certainly she brought a tone of academic rigour and scholarly seriousness which has marked the department ever since. She assumed responsibility for the extensive elements of Ancient History taught by the department, and for the promotion of postgraduate studies.

As a teacher at all levels she was painstaking, considerate and inspiring, as students consistently testified. As she advanced in seniority at ANU she became a regular mentor to younger women academics. She also involved herself with secondary schoolteachers in the ACT and

NSW, offering her expertise and stimulus to develop the relevant subjects at that level.

She was Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1981 to 1986. In those days it was possible for a Dean to do little more than attend innumerable meetings and sign approvals when required. Not for Beryl! ANU had a culture of regular reviews of the performance of departments; she instigated a review of the whole Faculty, its strengths and weaknesses and the way forward. Despite the commitments of time that such activities demanded, she won five research grants between 1979 and 1991 and continued a high level of publication. She was also much in demand for service to committees of the AVCC, the ARC and other bodies concerned with research in the humanities in Australia.

In her 20s she married the political scientist Don Rawson. After many years the marriage broke down, but she was well known as Beryl Rawson and decided to keep the name. In 1984 she married the historian Allan Martin and after his death in 2002 she endowed an annual lecture at the ANU in his name.

It was in the years from 1976 onwards that Beryl's career really took off. She had learned to use computers for storing masses of data and applying statistical measures to the data, and from the mass of funerary inscriptions commemorating slaves and freedmen and their spouses and children she built up a picture of family life in the early Roman Empire which was a revelation to scholars who had hitherto worked only from literary sources – which paid little attention to the lower classes.

As her writings drew attention to this stratum of Roman society Beryl was increasingly invited to conferences and university departments overseas; she then began organising such conferences on the Roman family and related topics (in 1981, 1988, 1994), and publishing the collected papers including her own contributions. She was still putting the finishing touches to yet another book (*A Companion to Families in the Greek and Roman Worlds*), when she was diagnosed

with cancer. She died within two months

Election as a Fellow of the Academy of Humanities and as President of the Australian Historical Association testified to her standing amongst her peers; the constant citation of her writings, the invitations from overseas universities and the success of the conferences she arranged are evidence of her international stature; and The Australian National University named one of its buildings after her.

"Not bad for a girl from Innisfail!"

This tribute was prepared by Richard Johnson with much help from Elizabeth Minchin, Graeme Clarke,, Toni Makkai and Stephen Foster

Henry Zapasnik

Born: November 21, 1957

Died: November 15, 2010

Eulogy in Memoriam

Family contact goes back to the beginning of the Department of Geology as Henry Zapasnik's Dad was in one of the first classes and he helped Henry's enthusiastic training in most aspects of laboratory techniques.

He aspired and reached his aim to become Head Technician, and in this role he served the Department well. He set up the lapidary lab with modern equipment sourced from overseas, and he developed new techniques for processing fossil samples for which he was awarded one of the first Honorary MSc degrees. He also led the team that set up displays, including a mine shaft, for public open days. He also managed the department's finances.

He played a leading role in designing and accomplishing the forced move of the department across the campus to the old Botany building where it was necessary to fit in staff and student desks, analytical labs and the extensive museum collection. When Buildings and Grounds delayed the promised repainting of the dull grey walls, Henry organised a student team to paint the walls a nice bright yellow!

So that visitors and students could find the new building he arranged to paint dinosaur footprints from the Union to Geology. They were supposed to be temporary but the water soluble paint lasted two years!

Everyone knows that Henry was a keen fisherman and his good fishing buddy Peter Scardoni regrets he is overseas at this sad time. Perhaps few know, however, of his serious fishing; he led our effort in liaison and cooperation for ANU to link with the new Aquarium. He also sponsored a family tank, and led an ANU fishing expedition to Queensland to capture rare lung fish to be used in comparative work with fossils.

On the opening day at the Aquarium a near disaster was forestalled; first a large trout jumped out of a big tank on the main stairs into the arms of a shocked old lady; then the outside entrance ponds were too hot and several fish died; Henry collected these up and swiftly transported them to his home smoker!

Henry also played an important role in supporting field camps; at Rangari north of Gunnedah he served up roast pig after a night out hunting with the local farmer; and he organised BBQs at several other field camps.

Henry supported me over my seven years as Head of Department and I remember him with gratitude.

Several members of the department are away on field camp at this time, and wish me to convey their condolences.

Dr Mike Rickard

Professor Johns appointed at Australian Catholic University

Historian and Arabic Scholar Professor Anthony Johns has been appointed Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University for three years. Since 1994 Tony has been a Visiting Fellow in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. He was Dean of the then Faculty of Asian Studies, ANU 1988-91.

Conferring of Awards

The Australian National University held *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on December 8, 9 and 10, 2010 at Llewellyn Hall.

Chair's report to the 2010 AGM

ANUEF Chair John Molony opened his report at the annual general meeting on December 15 by thanking the members of the Committee "who worked hard through the year on our many projects. They have given much to the Faculty and through that, to the ANU."

Support by and for the ANU

He went on:

The Faculty's main purpose is to support the ANU in as many ways as it can. Our link with the ANU is managed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Mandy Thomas who has met with us during the year and assisted us with her support and good advice.

The ANU has reaffirmed its commitment to the Faculty by continuing to provide our accommodation and by providing us with computing power. The computers allow members to access the Library and other sources of e-texts. The Association for Tertiary Education Management continues to support us by supplying other much needed equipment which is shared by both organisations.

10th Anniversary of the Faculty

The Faculty celebrated its 10th Anniversary on July 22 in the Fellows Bar, University House. The Chancellor, Gareth Evans, was our guest of honour. There were also many senior officers of the ANU and a large number of members. The Chair gave an Anniversary Address and the Chancellor responded in generous terms. Music was provided by Angela Giblin and members of the School of Music, sponsored by the National Australia Bank. It was a splendid

occasion, commemorated by a full colour illustrated edition of the *ANUEF News*.

The Oral History Project -

http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/oral_history.html

The ANU Emeritus Faculty Oral History Project was initiated in 2008 by an informal group of interested members (Nik Fominas, John Molony, and Peter Stewart) interested in exploring the origins and development of the university through oral narratives of academic and general staff of long standing.

The Emeritus Faculty intends to continue conducting interviews on a regular basis during coming years, adding these to the catalogue as they are completed. Written abstracts and audio DVD recordings are available for these interviews. Transcripts will be generated at a later date.

By the end of 2010, the project had accumulated the following interviews:

Don Anderson, Eric Bachelard, Ian Buckley, Fyfe Bygrave, Ken Campbell, David Craig, Frank Fenner, Adrian Gibbs, James Grieve, Jack Golson, John Molony, Barry Ninham, Beryl Rawson, Diana Riddell, John Sandeman, Peter Scardoni, Tony Johns.

The ANUEF E-Texts Project -

<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/e-texts.html>

This facility is maintained by Adrian Gibbs and Nik Fominas. It lists the titles and authors of documents such as lectures, papers, reviews and other items of interest produced by ANUEF Members. Once listed, you may click on the title to view the document. You may also view more formal texts held within the ANU Institutional Repository by visiting

<http://scholarskeep.anu.edu.au>

The East Coast Project

The East Cost Project, which meets each month, is an attempt by an ANUEF cross-disciplinary team to study the evidence contained in journals and charts written and drawn by pre-1770 explorers with genuine,

or alleged by serious scholars to have had, connections with the East Coast of Australia. In particular we are looking at Portuguese and Spanish material with some attention being paid to alleged Chinese contact. We have made a careful study of the journals written on the *Endeavour* by Cook, Banks, Parkinson and Matra which has resulted in a substantial body of written material as a working basis. A lecture on Cook was given at James Cook University in Cairns in April; we have addressed the matter at the Emeritus Faculty Collegiality Lunch, as well as at our annual weekend at Kioloa. Our eventual aim is to publish our material in book form in which we will explain and attempt to substantiate our conclusions.

Seminar on the End of an ERA?

The Faculty convened a group of academic and professional staff interested in the *Excellence Research Australia* process through which the Government assesses the value of academic work. The seminar was held in the Haydon Allen Tank on October 18, 2010. It was attended by about 50 people including many senior ANU staff and staff of government agencies. The audience was concerned about the lack of clarity in the explanation of the content and methodology of ERA, and noted that no evaluation of the processes involved had been undertaken, which is serious, given the enormous expense in time and money involved; and the recent announcement that ERA will be repeated in 2012.

It was agreed that the Faculty had filled a local and national gap in policy discussions and done well in opening up these issues which had received extensive coverage in *The Australian*, *Campus Review* and the *Canberra Times*. It was recommended that the Faculty keep a watching brief on this topic, particularly given the consequences for younger scholars.

Obituaries

The Emeritus Faculty assists the ANU with the writing of obituaries. This work of piety is managed by James Grieve. Here are the names of the dear dead of 2010.

Hans Adolf Buchdahl, Frank Fenner, James Griffin, Beryl Rawson

ANUEF News -

<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/news.html>

Ian Mathews, previously Editor of the *Canberra Times*, publishes *ANUEF News* quarterly. It knits the Faculty together by informing the members of the work of other members and of the various events and benefits of membership.

A major effort was made to transform *ANUEF News* in 2010. The ideas came from Barry Ninham who had suggested that the *News* should be used to publicise the life and work of the members.

Ian Mathews rose to the occasion and Giles Pickford continued to assist with proof reading. The *News* is now being produced in full colour as an e-publication and is circulated by e-mail as well as by post to those who request hard copy.

The ANUEF Public Lecture Series

The Faculty is indebted to Ian Buckley for his leadership in, and management of, the ANUEF Lectures Series.

The 2010 Lecture Series is listed below.

17 February – Alan Roberts *'The Academy of Science Building Story'*

17 March - Ron Wells *'How does latitude affect the human birth sex ratio?'*

21 April - Richard Dennis *'Sustainability'*

19 May - Andrew Blakers *'Solar Energy'*

16 June – The Vice-Chancellor, Ian Chubb *'The State of the University Sector'*

14 July – The Lindsay Pryor Memorial Lecture with Peter Kanowski *'Lindsay's legacy: sustaining Canberra's urban forest'*

18 August – Jack Waterford *'Have We Learnt Anything?'*

15 September - Don Anderson *'The Great Private/Public Schools Divide'*

20 October - Shirley Pipitone *'The Social Value of Lake Burley Griffin'*

17 November - Sue Wareham *'Nuclear Disarmament: how to achieve it and why now?'*

In many cases transcripts of these lectures going back to 2000 may be found here: <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events/PastEvents.html>

The Annual Kioloa Excursion

The annual weekend excursion to Kioloa on 4-5 November was, as usual, very successful.

Information Technology

This year has seen the installation of four new computers which replaced the old ones we had inherited when the Emeritus Faculty moved into our old Union Court office in 2003. They were very welcome and have provided us with the resources we need to advance projects such as our new e-Texts repository and the Oral History project. We are very grateful to PVC Professor Mandy Thomas and DOI for their support and assistance in obtaining these PCs and software.

Collegiality Lunches

During the year Barry Ninham suggested that as collegiality was a central aim in the Faculty's constitution some attempt should be made to give members an opportunity to socialise outside of the Public Lecture Series and the Kioloa Excursion. The first lunches were held in *The Fellows* at University House, but they soon migrated to the Molony Room, our home ground. At first the lunches were purely informal, but lately there has been a theme which is raised and discussed. The lunches are followed by the ANUEF Committee meeting.

Membership

Our current membership, which now stands at 188, Members can display their CVs on this webpage which assists in disseminating information about the life and work of members. We thank Di Riddell for her work as Membership Officer.

Global study

The L H Martin Institute on Higher Education Leadership and Management has reported on a global study on the academic profession. Academic work and its associated profession make substantial contributions to the socio-economic development of Australia. But rarely is the work or the profession itself front-page news. This needs to change, partly because of the growing significance of academic work, and partly because of diverse pressures facing universities and its professional workforce. The growing significance of the academic profession is juxtaposed, almost in perfect counterpoint, by its shrinking capacity. You can see the report here: <http://tinyurl.com/29kaw6>

Monthly get-together except...

Usually ANUEF meets monthly on the **first Wednesday of every month** for members to get together informally. However, **EXCEPT** in December because we have a Christmas Party after the AGM. Also, we don't have one in January as it is too close to New Year's Day.

The Collegiality Lunches will be held on the first Wednesday of each month next year from February to November.

The meetings are held in the Molony Room. Members can bring their own lunch, or buy one from Caterina's next door. Drinks are available for a donation of \$2 and tea, coffee and juice are available. There is a theme for each lunch. For the October lunch the theme was "The Boat People" which was introduced by John Molony.

Please come if you can. There is no need to RSVP.

ANUEF diary dates

<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus>
http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events/Past_Events.html

16 February 2011: Universities: the first 2,500 years *By Giles Pickford*

16 March 2011: A Theologian among Scientists *By Peter Stork*

Your benefits

Check this web site for a list of benefits enjoyed by members.

<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/benefits.html>

If you have an article, a notice or a letter to the editor for publications send it to ian.mathews7@bigpond.com by mid-February, 2011

Next ANUEF Newsletter out in March