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Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



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A Knowledge Society – The Opportunity is now!

**By Professor Ian Young, Vice-Chancellor,
 The Australian National University**

**In an address to the Council for
 Humanities, the Arts and Social Sciences
 at a Parliamentary conference on 22
 March, Professor Young said:**

Today I would like to talk about a unique opportunity facing this nation.

I believe we have a once-in-a-generation chance to fundamentally change our economy - to build a knowledge economy and a knowledge society. The opportunity will not last forever; we must grasp it now, whilst a window of opportunity exists.

Such a change would build on the investment in education made by the Federal Government in recent years, and I'd like to reflect on that for a moment.

The Labor Government came to office with a major plan of investment in, and expansion of, Australia's education system. This was a bold, nation-building plan and we should acknowledge and congratulate the Government for this foresight.

Implementation, particularly within the schools sector has, however, been problematic and controversial. Media comment still centres on the efficiency of the

BER capital investment, the accuracy of data associated with the *My School* web site and the challenges of introducing a national curriculum in a Federal system.

Within the tertiary education sector the proposed investment is no less significant. The Bradley Review recommendations, to raise degree-level participation to 40% of the population and ensure that 20% of our university students come from low SES backgrounds, represent the largest expansion of higher education in decades. This investment has been coupled with a major investment in infrastructure and the development of a national regulator (TEQSA) to underpin quality in an expanded system.

Execution of these initiatives will not be without challenges and there are risks - quality being the major issue. We should also recognise that there is still an opportunity to better build links across the whole tertiary sector - creating effective pathways across VET and Higher Education. This, however, brings with it a range of significant policy issues concerning the interaction of State and Federal activities.

As an educator I applaud such an interest and investment in education. However, two issues concern me. The first is that with

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challenges such as, returning the budget to surplus, the realities of minority government and implementation of an emissions trading scheme, the government may feel that educational reform is done. I'll leave detailed discussion of this concern for another day. We should however recognise that education reform is far from complete. My second area of concern, however, is the question: To what end are we developing a more educated society? Where are the jobs and the industries to satisfy such a well-educated population?

Without basic structural reform of our economy, we could end up with the best educated shop assistants in the world.

Calls for Australia to develop more knowledge intensive industries are not new. However, I believe now is both a critical and opportunistic time to couple the education investment with a broader knowledge and R&D investment.

We all know of the so called "two speed economy". Surging exports are underpinning a remarkable expansion of Australia's minerals industries and powering sectors of our economy, particularly in Western Australia and Queensland. Predicting the length of the minerals boom is challenging but, noting the growth rates of both the Chinese and Indian economies, it is reasonable to suggest this boom could last for a significant period. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) expects the jump in earnings to be sustained for at least the next five years and deliver in excess of \$1.5T to the economy over that period.

This will result in continued upward pressure on interest rates and an Australian dollar which will likely remain at historically high levels. The downside of a sustained period of high exchange rates will be the negative impact it has on other exports. Australia's already struggling manufacturing sector will be further damaged, as will agriculture, tourism and the stand-out export success in recent years – education.

The worst case outcome would see the resources boom eventually end and Australia discover that it has little else left.

To put all our eggs in the minerals basket is clearly a high-risk strategy.

I note the significant short-term issues facing government finances as it strives to return the budget to surplus following the Global Financial Crisis and the impact of recent natural disasters. However, whatever happens with a mineral resources tax, government income will still rise significantly over the next five years. If Australia is to embark on a period of structural reform, then this will be a period when the Federal Government may well have the resources to do so. It would be a tragedy if this opportunity was lost.

Using this period of the minerals boom to reinvest in a knowledge society is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

So, what form of investment do I propose? Australia could do well to emulate other relatively small economies which have prospered in periods of sustained high exchange rates. Good examples are the Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands. It is true that these countries have an advantage in that they are close to large markets in Europe and the United States. However, Australia has Asia at its door step with a massive growing middle class. Our geographic position, once regarded as a disadvantage, may soon be a significant advantage.

OECD figures show that the public spending on tertiary education in Australia is approximately 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Clearly, this will rise as the system is expanded in coming years. However, compare this value (0.7%) with Denmark at 1.6%, Sweden – 1.4%, Norway – 1.2% and the Netherlands – 1.1%. On average, the public investment in tertiary education in these countries is twice that of Australia. Similarly, Australia spends approximately 2% of GDP on Research & Development, compared to Denmark at 2.7% and Sweden at 3.8%. I would argue it is no surprise that these countries have been able to develop high value-added export industries, despite high production costs and high exchange rates. These countries also have high social cohesion.

Does such an investment really translate into high value-add export industries?

Where are Australia's equivalents of: Nokia, Ikea, Phillips, Bang & Olufsen, Lego, Ericsson or Electrolux. The four countries I mentioned (Denmark, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands) have a combined population of approximately 35M, compared to Australia with 22M. That is 50% larger than Australia, but I can think of very few comparable knowledge intensive industries which have developed in Australia.

An even starker result exists if we look at the standing of R&D itself. The University of Leiden ranks world Universities by the number of citations of the research works of institutions. The results are corrected for institutional size and for discipline differences. These four countries between them have 23 institutions in the top 200 – Australia has 2.

I believe the data is telling – investments in tertiary education and R&D flow through to quality research and high value-add export industries.

- Will Australia take the next bold step of following the investment in education with a similar investment in R&D?

The minerals boom should give us a window of opportunity and the required resources for such an investment.

- Is Australia positioned to have such a policy debate?
- Can the electorate be convinced that such an investment is essential or will the public opt for alternatives like short term tax cuts?

As a nation, we do not have a record of such long-term investments. This must change. In the present uncertain political environment it is unlikely political leaders will 'bite the bullet' and make the dramatic changes I, and many of us, seek.

How can we change that?

I believe it is our job to make the case for investment - not just in our own sectoral or institutional interests - but in the national interest - day in and day out.

It is time for a national public debate on these issues.

It is time for us to ask, as a nation: Are we up to investing in a knowledge future?

I sincerely hope that answer to that question is 'yes'.

Richard Barwick – from potato picker to legendary paleontologist



Richard Barwick and Ken Campbell on a field trip

I was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1929, the first-born of fraternal twins, one of four children in a non-academic family. Books, rather than money flowed through the house. We lived at the rural boundaries of the city in immediate contact with the delights of the natural world and were accorded a freedom to explore that world.

I attended Christchurch Boy's High School, a public school with solid academic standards. One third of my 30 final year classmates went on to hold academic posts around the world.

After the usual numerous student jobs from potato-picking, market gardening, labouring in glue-works and three years as a filing-clerk in the head office of the NZ Department of Agriculture I drifted into serious study.

I gained an MSc (Hons) in Zoology, beginning my research on the life histories and ecology of scincid lizards.

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In the student vacations an important period was three seasons carrying a pack in North Island rainforest with the 'National Forest Survey'. This summer-season field experience, in combination with a shiny new degree led to my appointment as a biologist-artist with the New Zealand Trans-Antarctic Expedition summer support party. This essentially private expedition was led by Sir Edmond Hillary nationally crowned by his then recent Mt Everest success.

As a demonstrator and junior lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington (actually in the fifties it was technically VUC (Victoria University College - a college of the University of New Zealand) I was seconded to for the next three summers in the Ross Sea, initially on the New Zealand Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

I drove Ferguson tractors as part of the team building Scott Base; and spending time in the second season carrying out limited oceanic work with a brief reconnaissance to the newly discovered McMurdo Dry Valleys with Ron Balham, Andrew Packard and Peter Webb.

This 2500 square kilometre area of ice-free country forms the largest inter-connected area of exposed rock in Antarctica. These valleys provided the focal point for the first 4-man expedition from VUW which has led to over 50 Antarctic Expeditions from that University. Bull and I made the initial survey maps of the valley system, Webb and McKelvey both MSC students made the first geological maps of the region. Bull, Webb and McKelvey all achieved major careers in Antarctic geology.

Fifty years later we assisted Colin Bull to compile accounts of that season in a book, *'Innocents in the Dry Valleys'*, which VUW Press published in 2009.

A few months after taking up residence in University House I met and married a young Canadian anthropologist after severe local competition. The best decision I ever made.

I completed an ANU PhD on the life history and ecology of the giant Cunningham's rock skink inhabiting the granite outcrops about Canberra. I was to spend the

future years in a steadily enlarging, very active teaching department, learning to juggle all the roles expected of one.

The Zoology Department, eventually to be merged with the Botany Department, was a convivial environment with some great colleagues. At merger ill-considered attempts were made to cram us into 'pint pot' buildings.

My many honours and graduate students researched the ecology and physiology of Australian 'lower' vertebrates - reptiles, frogs and fish, with excursions into mammals such as bats and monotremes. I still get great pleasure when I learn of their successes.

Ken Campbell and I have worked together in the study of the evolution and functional anatomy of Devonian fishes since 1982 and into our 'retirement years' resulting in about 40 papers. Ken's skills in palaeontology and my background as a vertebrate zoologist and graphic illustrator make our skills complementary. Our views in some areas of palaeontology have not always been accepted since we have preserved sceptical views in the face of some fashionable trends. However I am certain that our careful reliance on the information yielded by the fossils in front of us will stand the tests of time.

A major development in palaeontology is the 3D X-ray tomography developed in the ANU by Professor Tim Senden who has assisted us to gaze through rock at ancient fossil structures in recent years.

Fossil animals always must work successfully as animals whatever their geological age and stage in the evolutionary sequence.

My wife, Diane, died suddenly in 1986. It gave our daughter, Laura, and me great satisfaction to jointly edit and see the publication of one of her many anthropological studies *'Rebellion at Corranderrk'* by Aboriginal History in 1996.

I retired as a Reader in Zoology in 1994 and was accorded haven in the Department of Geology (now RSES) alongside Ken, the

former well-worn track between the Zoology and Geology buildings has slowly overgrown.

One of the greatest strengths of the ANU has been the superb technical staff supporting the research. They cannot be acknowledged enough. I can recall numerous accomplished academics who might have never attained their heights without the loyal support of the skilled technical staff.

As for hobbies: photography, woodworking, silver-smithing, sofa-rugby and, alas – procrastination!

February 2011

History of The Geology Department

Three members of the Emeritus Faculty have recently published, through e-press, a history of the Geology Department at ANU. The work titled *Geology at ANU (1959-2009) - 50 years of history and reminiscence* - was compiled by Dr Mike Rickard, a former Head of the Department, edited by Dr Judith Caton, and illustrated by Dr Richard Barwick.

The work deals with staff, research fellows, visiting fellows, buildings, teaching, research, administrative work, student activities, the new millennium, and a reunion dinner. Appendices list Visiting Fellows, Honours and Graduate theses. It concludes with career accounts from some 100 alumni.

Copies can be obtained as a PDF file free of charge at http://epress.anu.edu.au/geology_citation.html

Or paper copies with colour plates can be ordered from <orders.epress@anu.edu.au> at a cost of \$60 plus postage.

ERA: Excellence for Research in Australia or The Emperors' Renovated Apparel

The first national report of the ERA (Excellence for Research in Australia) scheme has been robustly defended by Kim Carr, the Minister for Innovation, Industry,

Science and Research ("ERA 'not' arbitrary or anti-academic", *Campus Review* 21 February, 2011).

As with most faith-based polemics, his comments are rhetoric-rich and evidence-free, but should be read, especially by academics, as he states that "in time" ERA "will inform every facet of university research policy and planning in this country" and "is here to stay".

Perhaps of most interest is what is absent from his comments, for despite spending at least \$35 million on the first ERA exercise, none of it, it seems, was spent on assessing the costs and benefits of the ERA process to working academics and their disciplines, and hence to the research the ERA claims to promote. Academics are merely that lowest trophic level responsible for the 333,000 research publications (i.e. papers, books, online material, etc), the metadata assessed in the ERA process. They rated no mention by the minister.

The origins of academic auditing embodied in the ERA are described in several Wikipedia items. It is an offshoot of econometrics and based on the belief that any human activity, even that of the intellect, can be measured. Over the past decade it has come to dominate universities in the UK and Australia but, interestingly, much less so in the US or continental Europe.

The underlying assumption of an audit is that the person being audited cannot be trusted. Once that bond of trust has gone, the cleverest minds will devise all kinds of ways to distort the data in a desperate attempt to retain their research funding. The best judge of an academic's honesty is not an audit: it's another academic working in the same field: peer review, tried and true.

The 2010 ERA audit was mostly based on "citation analysis" using, as raw data, the number of times each academic publication has been cited by other authors in the two years after it first appeared. Obviously it will discover which subjects are in vogue, because the more people studying and writing about a subject, the more likely it is that publications will cite one another. However, there is no *a priori* reason for the

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quality of a publication to be measured by its citation count, and the minister is silly to claim otherwise. For example, a publication of a really novel idea is unlikely to attract many citations within two years of publication, if only because it may take two years to repeat the experiments and publish a confirmation or contest the results. Ideas that really change the way we think about things generally take years to become accepted, and only then to generate citations.

The drive for ERA-style research auditing mostly comes from two groups with quite different aims. First, there are those who now run universities: the administrators and the funding agencies. The minister and his department clearly favour auditing because it provides them with a simple tool for controlling university funding and direction; it is easier to count publications than read them. University administrators welcome the ERA for similar reasons, especially if they can convince each other that citations - and other surrogates such as those measuring "esteem" - genuinely measure quality. A second group of ERA enthusiasts is the international publishers. It uses "impact factors" (average citation rates) for marketing journals, and for capturing niches in the rapidly changing communication landscape. It will sell these ratings, and also strive to increase the impact factors of journals by editorial screening of submitted manuscripts; fewer than 15% of submitted articles get through the editorial firewalls of the highest-impact journals to see the light of peer review! The publishers are in the business of selling information; its quality is irrelevant.

Squeezed between these ERA enthusiasts are the researchers, who stand by the simple dictum that until their research has been published, it may as well never have been done. They are caught between administrators and publishers - the administrators pursuing accountability and quality, aka control, and the publishers chasing market share. They are already afflicted by a cumbersome funding process. Most active research academics now spend at least 25 per cent of their time writing funding applications that, at most, stand a 25 per cent chance of success. Now

auditing erodes their research time even further.

ERA will undoubtedly ease the workload of the bureaucrats, but there is no evidence it measures quality or that bureaucratic control aids innovation. Quite the reverse. It will certainly have other serious, unintended, long-term consequences.

First, for example, is the increased time involved in publishing research results when academics attempt, but often fail, to publish in high-impact journals rather than in the most appropriate ones; more loss of time at "the bench".

Second, Australian research will increasingly ape the research fashions of Europe and America, rather than work of direct value to Australia.

Third, there remains the insidious influence of the unnamed editorial staff who guard the submission firewalls of the journals. Their role is to select citation-generating papers, but coincidentally they also determine the fashions and directions of science.

Clearly the minister and the ARC have found the traditional method of allocating research funds irksome, and distrust the good sense of researchers. Cambridge zoologist and observer of research metrication Peter Lawrence recently concluded that "these calculations have not only demoralised and demotivated the scientific community, they have also redirected our research and vitiated its purpose" ("Real lives and white lies in the funding of scientific research": PLoS Biology 2009). He reports international condemnation of ERA-like activities and support for block funding of research that was outstandingly successful in the old CSIRO and in the recently deconstructed ANU, and sustains the pre-eminence of Max-Planck Institutes today.

Lawrence also states that as a result of auditing, "scientists have been forced to downgrade their primary aim from making discoveries to publishing as many papers as possible - and trying to work them into high-impact factor journals. Consequently, scientific behaviour has become distorted and the utility, quality and objectivity of articles has deteriorated." ("Lost in

publication: how measurement harms science": Ethics in Science and Environmental Science, 31 January, 2008).

Does history support this belief? Last November Professor Frank Fenner died, aged 95. He is well known to most Australians for having been a world leader in poxvirus research. The myxoma work he led has saved Australian agriculture many billions of dollars, and the eradication of smallpox has saved many millions of lives, yet these outcomes were achieved without an ERA, without bureaucrats telling him what to do or who to appoint as colleagues. His story is fully recorded in more than 300 papers and 23 books, including an autobiography. Minister Carr would do well to absorb their simple message: that one way to get the best bang for the research buck is to minimise bureaucracy and leave decisions on the best directions for discovery in the hands of the discoverers. It will take years of effort to discover whether the ERA process can do any better, or whether Australia has now embarked on a journey to an academic Dark Ages.

Adrian Gibbs and Barry Osmond

ANU research quality

The ERA outcomes announced on January 31 confirm the exceptional quality of ANU research, Ian Chubb and Lawrence Cram said in a joint statement.

"More than 94% of ANU academics are active in research fields that were rated 4 (above world standard) or 5 (well above world standard). Almost 70% are active in fields rated 5.

More detailed analyses are ahead of us. And doubtless there will be questions to answer: how do we (where can we) get better, for example? The ANU is proud of its research achievements. Every member of our University should feel rightfully pleased by the achievement which reflects the dedication and hard work of so many of our staff."

Before and after artistry by technology



*Fresco by Fra' Beato Angelico, XV century, Museum of San Marco, Firenze. The two images (courtesy of Piero Baglioni) show the original, damaged by the Arno River Floods of 4 November 1966, and the restoration by Dino Dini. These photographs are on the cover of a new book *Molecular Forces and Self Assembly In Colloid, Nano Sciences and Biology* by **Barry Ninham** and*

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Pierandrea Lo Nostro published by Cambridge University Press.

The publishers write, "Challenging the cherished notions of colloidal theory, Barry Ninham and Pierandrea Lo Nostro confront the scientific lore of molecular forces and colloidal science in an incisive and thought-provoking manner.

"The authors explain the development of these classical theories, discussing amongst other topics, electrostatic forces in electrolytes, specific ion effects and hydrophobic interactions. Throughout the book, they question assumptions, unearth flaws and present new results and ideas. From such analysis, a qualitative and predictive framework for the field emerges; the impact of this is discussed in the latter half of the book, through force behaviour in self-assembly. Here, numerous diverse phenomena are explained, from surfactants to biological applications, all richly illustrated with pertinent, intellectually stimulating examples. With mathematics kept to a minimum, and historic facts and anecdotes woven through the text, combined with charismatic prose, this is a highly accessible, readable treatment for students and researchers in science and engineering.

Gerald Pollack, Bioengineering, University of Washington, says of the book, "Full of wisdom gained from a wealth of experience... a good deal of charm weaves its way through the fabric of the presentation."

Kåre Larsson, Camurus Lipid Research Foundation, Ideon Science Park and Lund University, says "Very few books have changed a field to such a level that they define a new paradigm. I consider that this book has done so."

Barry W. Ninham, a pioneer of modern theory describing molecular forces, interactions and self-assembly, is currently Professor Emeritus of the Department of Applied Mathematics at the Australian National University. He has been an active researcher for over 40 years, during which time he has authored or co-authored seven books and more than 400 technical papers. He has received numerous awards,

including the Ostwald Award of the German Chemical Society (2005), the SIS Nestle-Mittal Award (2004), and, in 2008, ANU created the Barry Ninham Chair of Natural Sciences Award to recognise his contributions.

Pierandrea Lo Nostro is a Research Fellow in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Florence, from where he received his Ph.D. in Chemical Sciences in 1992. His current research interests include macromolecular self-assembly (polypseudorotaxanes), self-assembly of biocompatible surfactants and specific ion effects (Hofmeister series).

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 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.



Talus slope, Isfjorden, Svalbard

The Angle of Repose
by Giles Pickford

A talus slope achieves the angle of repose
The younger the slope the steeper
The older slope has a much milder incline
Its mildness betrays that it's deeper

It takes a long time to reduce the incline
Memories go back much longer
Not on the move, the rocks rest in their groove
Immobile, they know they are stronger

Young rivers fly like arrows down their slopes
Impatient to rush through the scattered moraine
Old rivers, unhurried, find what they seek
Meandering carefully all over the plain

To live forever is to know more, not less
To arrive there we must be motionless

XI men in a team

Book Review

By Giles Pickford BA (Hons) W.Aust

Any Old Eleven by Jim Young (Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, August 2002)

Although this book was published nearly nine years ago, it does not seem to have been noticed yet. So in an attempt to share the joy, I have decided to review it.

In my view *Any Old Eleven* sits comfortably with *Three Men in a Boat* by Jerome K Jerome, and 'The Good Soldier Svejk' by Jaroslav Hasek, as the three funniest books I have read.

The humour is of that gentle kind which celebrates the ordinary and the failed, and places its run-of-the-mill protagonists up with the immortals in spite of the humdrum nature of their lives.

Three Men in a Boat tells us about three men and a dog who are rowing up the Thames (not the dog!). *The Good Soldier Svejk* tells us of the epic struggles of a one-time dog-snatcher to re-join his regiment in the failed Austro-Hungarian Empire. Both books are about nothing much at all, and their humour is side splitting.

Any Old Eleven is about that very Australian activity known as 'Park Cricket'. In particular it is about park cricket as practiced by the Naughton's Old Boys Club (NOBS) in the Northern and Combined Churches Cricket Association in that part of inner Melbourne which surrounds Victoria's first University. NOBS was graded as D1, because, as the author says, to be graded E 'would have been too humiliating for the participants'. The team valiantly fought its way up to D and then C grade. Not necessarily because its game was improving, but more because of 'the shrinkage in the number of clubs in the association'.

The team once boasted two Rhodes Scholars, a Professor of Philosophy, a Classics Professor, the local newsagent, and a postman, among others. It was the only team to appoint a Team Philosopher who was regularly called on to deliver

judgment on ethical dilemmas which frequently confronted the side.

Not all the clubs in the association were church based. NOBS was a pub team based on Naughton's Hotel, corner Royal Parade and Morrah St in Parkeville. A pub team is 'inevitably viewed with suspicion by the pew warmers'. So NOBs decided to get some theological depth to its side in order to 'avoid suspicion'. It looked anxiously at Habbakkuk 2:16 'Drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the Lord's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory'. But they rejected that text for the more 'benign and optimistic' Daniel 12:4 as its motto to underpin NOB's weekends in the park: 'Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased.'

The book can be read beginning to end as most books are, or it can be read by chapter, once the first three chapters are passed. The first three set the scene and prepare the reader for the disasters to follow. After that, the reader can dip in and out of the anecdotes that follow.

The ways in which the teams were selected at the bar on Friday night occupies an early chapter. The rules required players to register at the beginning of the season. However, many never completed and ring-ins had to be substituted, using the name of the recidivists. One such incident involved a 'future stalwart of the club who has played his first few games without incident before one of the opposition said, "Why's he down in the book as John French? That's Bob Speechley." It appeared he had worked with Bob a few years earlier and knew perfectly well who he was. Max Radcliff's response to this was to say that it was a hyphenated name, Speechley-French, and he used the second half at weekends...the bare-faced lie struck some of us a demeaning to a team that had always indulged in higher standards of deceit.'

One of the funniest chapters is 'With Respect to Umpires'. This chapter defines the psychology of umpires. 'The task is so thankless that anyone prepared to undertake it must be imbued with a sense of noble service to the great game...A team

like NOBs, intent on enjoying its Saturday in the sun, is never going to win the approval of the sort of person temperamentally inclined towards umpiring. Our attitude was an implicit rebuke to the sacrifice he felt he had made.' The gentle humour of Geoff Missen's illustrations is exemplified in this chapter, with the drawing of the aged D-grade umpire with his white coat, walking stick and eye patch.

Another chapter describes a game against Fairfield Salvation Army at a ground on Yarra Bend Road adjacent to the Fairlea Women's Prison. The players were distracted by a break out from the prison. 'The escapees seemed such a sad bedraggled and bewildered lot you could not help feeling sorry for them... After five minutes or so of talking among themselves some of the group came over to where we were sitting and asked for a lift to the main road' The cricketers made feeble excuses after which the girls sat down by the river, thus becoming invisible to the warders as they sped down the road about half an hour later. The rest of the game was disrupted by a series of bumble-footed attempts by the warders and then the police to capture the escapees, culminating in the Channel 7 helicopter and the journalist's need for eyewitness accounts. Only the good Salvationists made it to air – since they had been in the field, they had seen almost

ANUEF Committee

At the annual general meeting, held in December, the following members formed the committee for 2011.

John Molony	Chair
Don Anderson	Deputy Chair
Barry Ninham	Deputy Chair
Giles Pickford	Secretary
Peter Scardoni	Treasurer
Angela Giblin	
Di Riddell	
Ian Buckley	
Judith Caton	
Mike Rickard	
Nik Fominas	
Verna Rosling	

nothing of what had gone on. The only NOB on screen was standing to attention in front of his car. He explained 'those girls looked like they might have some fairly tough boyfriends and I didn't want any of them knowing my registration number'.

The conversational style of the book is punctuated by yarns, anecdotes within yarns, and the footnotes within anecdotes of related incidents in the history of sport generally, all told with gentle irony. Human error is the underlying theme of the book, unswerving human error as it relates to sport in general and cricket in particular.

It is a strange human phenomenon that enjoyment and comfort can be drawn from the hopeless struggle, the clumsy endeavour, and the failed enterprise. Our ability to live for the moment and enjoy it, in spite of spectacular under-achievement, fills this great work. It really needs to be made into a film, with a cast of 12 male leads and half a dozen female escaped prisoners, filmed on location in the capital of Australian Film.

PS. Some knowledge of cricket is essential for full comprehension of the events that unfold.

Monthly get-together

The 6th Collegiality Lunch was held on February 2 in the Molony Room, Fellows Lane Cottage ANU at which the topic was **University Libraries and their Future**.

Usually ANUEF meets monthly on the **first Wednesday of every month** for members to get together informally. The Collegiality Lunches will run until the last one for 2011 in 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. Please come if you can. There is no need to RSVP

ANUEF diary dates

The ANUEF Lecture Series is publicised here

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

The recordings of each Lecture can be found here

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

Membership 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 publication, send it to ian.mathews7@bigpond.com by mid-May.

Next ANUEF Newsletter out in June