

Newsletter No 30

June 2011

Emeritus Faculty

Australian National University



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What's in a name?

Well, for a start, most of us have one and find it quite useful for being identified or for identifying ourselves to others. The ANUEF Committee wants to give this newsletter a name and is seeking suggestions – serious, frivolous, even rude, although the latter are unlikely to be selected.

Publications take some pride in their mastheads, even if a large number are not original but copied or adapted from existing ones. For instance, both the *New York Times* and *The Canberra Times* and countless other Timeses have adapted their mastheads from *The Times*, first published in London under that masthead in 1788. *The Times* actually first appeared in 1785 as the *Daily Universal Register*.¹ While *The Times* suggests the immediacy of the moment, *The Age* (Melbourne and Queanbeyan) suggest they take the longer view. The ice age springs to mind.

Publication mastheads or titles have been chosen in the past to reflect something of the ethos of the publication. Those carrying such words as Herald, Courier, and Messenger suggest announcements of authoritative intelligence. Express, Telegraph suggest speed as opposed to Mail or Post, although speed of a by-gone

era. *The Observer* (first published in London in 1791) and *The Spectator* (London since 1828) both suggest watching from the sidelines, although like any good spectator or observer neither is shy of voicing an opinion. Chronicle and Journal both suggest recording history, Tribune suggests fighting for popular rights or a pulpit; and Argus, another common masthead, is adapted from a Greek giant with a hundred eyes although more accurately reflecting any observant person.

There are some quaint mastheads. *The Falmouth Packet* may still be published in Cornwall. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reeks of honesty.

ANUEF secretary Giles Pickford kicks off the debate with, "What about *Geras*?" and supplies the following Wikipedia's story: "In Greek mythology, *Geras* (Greek: Γῆρας, *Gēras*) was the god of old age. It was considered a virtue whereby the more *gēras* a man acquired, the more *kleos* (fame) and *arete* (excellence and courage) he was considered to have. According to Hesiod, *Gēras* was a son of Nyx. Hyginus adds that his father was Erebus. He was depicted as a tiny shrivelled-up old man. *Gēras*'s opposite was Hebe, the goddess of youth. His Roman equivalent was Senectus. He is known primarily from vase depictions that show him with the hero Heracles; the mythic story that

¹ Harold Evans, *Good Times, Bad Times*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1983 pp 189-190

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inspired these depictions has been entirely lost.”

Giles has been advised, though not eliminated, that any title that needs an explanation is likely to fall by the wayside. The editor, on the other hand, throws up *Emeritus* which speaks for itself or *Faculty*, being the only one left on campus. So what are your suggestions for a masthead? Of course, whatever is chosen, the newsletter is likely to remain “the newsletter” just as the most respected newspapers are still referred to as “the paper”.

Ian Mathews
editor and undergraduate
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The Future of Libraries

By Vic Elliott

Director Scholarly Information Services and University Librarian, who address the ANUEF Committee on May 4

What I thought might be useful is to talk briefly about some of the challenges that face academic libraries in a rapidly changing information environment. I don't think there is much point in trying to predict the future. That is a game for those who enjoy speculation in the knowledge that they will never be called to account for the worth or accuracy of their predictions. There is more value, I think, in looking at how academic libraries, here and internationally are responding to a range of current concerns and pressures.

There is little doubt that both the primary trigger for change within, and the overriding challenge for, academic libraries, over the last decade, has been the remorseless transition from a print to a digital environment. Whereas previously academic libraries, as collecting institutions, focused almost exclusively on physical collections which were held and curated locally, their preoccupation now is increasingly with digital resources which are not held or curated onsite but are for the most part accessed from and managed within remote facilities controlled by the content providers. It is this one fundamental environmental change that has spawned the set of

challenges that have bedeviled or at least confronted libraries in recent years. The responses have varied from place to place, influenced by local conditions, pressures and capacities, but there is a commonality of response that may be worth sketching quickly here. In painting this canvas or landscape, I'll take just three areas as representative of the nature of this response. First, current attempts to establish in reasonably objective terms the value of libraries and their services to their academic communities. Secondly, the vexed matter of electronic archiving, the way in which continuing access may be assured to digital content in the absence of their print equivalents on library shelves. And finally, the consolidation of libraries, the use of off-campus storage facilities, and the rationalisation of collections across groups or partnerships of libraries.

Value Frameworks

The emergence of a harsh and unforgiving funding environment, notably in the aftermath of the recent global financial downturn, has required institutions to look again at the role of libraries and the value of what they do. Not so long ago, in a print world, libraries probably saw themselves as indisputably at the centre or hub of what might be seen as an information network. Today there can be no such confidence. And so academic libraries, or at least some academic libraries, are starting to build value frameworks, to establish the value of their services in financial as well as qualitative terms. It is a difficult area, given the absence of market proxies for much of what they do. But there are methodologies such as contingent valuation, first developed for use in the environmental services area, which can help here.

We have to acknowledge, I think, that there is a new scepticism as to the real value derived from much of what we buy in support of research and teaching and also the acceptability of the high level of redundancy that is an essential characteristic of academic research library collections. In a curious way the transition to a digital environment, which in many disciplines has so enhanced the resources available to our academic communities, has

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also eroded that almost instinctive community belief in and support for considered collection development. In my experience, for example, there is little understanding of the distinction between the surface and deep web and a naïve faith in the promise as distinct from the reality of mass open-access digitisation initiatives. Like it or not, in this environment, it is outcomes not inputs that will be persuasive. And those outcomes, in terms of realisable value, are notoriously difficult to define and measure.

But measure them we must. We need to be able to respond when asked whether an extra million dollars spent on the collections will deliver greater value to the university than the same amount spent, for example, on additional research staff or much needed equipment for research laboratories. It is a disarmingly simple question which is notoriously difficult to answer. What I do know is that we will have to build frameworks within which we can measure the level of value our collections deliver to our academic communities and hence the local academic enterprise. And I also know that we will have to have such frameworks in place soon if we are not to lose yet further ground within our institutions.

It is a challenge which we are now taking up. Just two years ago, here in Australia, the Go8 Librarians group commissioned a US consulting firm, Outsell Inc., to conduct a cost-benefit study on the value of library-provided information resources to our research communities. Three universities, ANU, Adelaide and Queensland, were surveyed in depth and the survey outcomes validated by way of focus groups conducted at Melbourne, Monash, UNSW and Sydney. The results were positive and helpful.

In summary, in qualitative terms,

- 98 per cent of respondents agreed that the library provided access to information resources that were indispensable for their research
- 83 per cent of respondents reported that the range and depth of information resources provided met their needs at least adequately; and

- 92 per cent of respondents rated value for money relative to expenditure as at least good.

And in financial terms,

- the return on investment represented by the savings realised through providing information resources centrally, free at the point of use for all affiliated researchers, is at least 136 per cent – that is, for every \$1 invested in the provision of information resources, after recovery of the initial investment, a further \$1.36 is saved.

Inevitably, such findings are open to challenge as is the contingent valuation methodology Outsell adopted in undertaking the study. But evidence of this kind certainly strengthens our case and I am glad to be able to report that there does seem to be general acceptance of its validity.

Electronic Archiving

As I have already noted, the rapid transition from an almost exclusively physical collection environment to a largely digital equivalent has changed radically the way in which information resources are managed within academic libraries. Whereas previously libraries owned their collections, they now merely rent most of the digital resources they make available to their users. It follows that the responsibility that libraries once exercised for managing and curating the books and journals they acquired and made available has been ceded, especially in the case of electronic journals, to the content providers who control the facilities from which they are accessed. This new situation implies real risk since access to these resources may be discontinued at any time for a range of reasons including, for example, the corporate demise of a publisher or the catastrophic and sustained failure of a publisher's delivery platform. A mechanism has to be found to mitigate this risk and ensure continuing access to these resources over time just as, at present, libraries do with conventional physical materials. In the case of electronic archiving, this challenge offers libraries the opportunity to reclaim the role of managing and curating digital resources that

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necessarily in recent times they have effectively outsourced to the content providers.

In picking up this challenge, ANU has joined CLOCKSS, a community governed partnership of publishers and libraries which is working to build a sustainable and globally distributed archive of digital content. Sustainability in a very practical sense is achieved through the choice of host libraries or archive nodes on geopolitical grounds. The node for this part of the world, the South Pacific, is located here at ANU. The participating publishers deposit their electronic journal content into this distributed dark archive and all decisions on whether to provide access to archival content are taken by the CLOCKSS Board of Directors, a group representative of libraries and publishers. Such decisions are prompted by major trigger events of the kind I have already mentioned, the corporate demise of a publisher or the cessation of publication of a particular title. And when access is opened to endangered content, that access is not limited to CLOCKSS participants, or to current or former subscribers to that licensed content, but to everyone throughout the world. In effect the content is made available under open-access conditions. The CLOCKSS approach is, I think, a very promising solution to what is likely to be an enduring problem.

Consolidation of Libraries and Off-Campus Storage

The third challenge that I want to address this afternoon is the rather more controversial matter of the consolidation of libraries, the use of off-campus storage facilities, and the rationalisation of collections across groups or partnerships of libraries.

Given the changes in the manner of provision of academic library services in the last decade or so, characterised by the move from a print to an increasingly electronic environment, academic libraries nationally and internationally keep under continuing review their use of physical facilities or space. The purpose of a review of this kind is to ensure these facilities are used in the best interests not only of the

Library but also of the University and in a way that will allow the maintenance into the future of appropriate and sustainable library services.

At ANU this review has led to the consolidation of a number of special or branch libraries over the last five years, often in conjunction with major building projects. This year we have just closed two further science libraries, transferring their collections into the Hancock Library and to an offsite store at Hume. And consultations are continuing about a proposal to relocate the Music Library within the Art Library.

Another initiative to enable more efficient use of its on-campus facilities was a major project undertaken by the Library in 2007 and 2008 in which a third of the collection was transferred off campus to a store at Hume. This relocation project was designed not only to provide space to allow the expansion of the physical collection in on-campus libraries but also to return some space in Hancock to the University for alternative use and to increase the provision of flexible learning areas to accommodate changes in the way students study and learn.

In the future, I think institutional collaboration or partnerships will play an important role in meeting the challenge of providing continuing access to infrequently used print resources. A recent step in this direction is the last copy collection retention project which the libraries of the Group of Eight are currently undertaking. The project is concerned simply with devising an acceptable retention policy for print back runs of journal titles which are duplicated online. In this case, the demand for access to the print version is very low, given ubiquity of access electronically. However, the case for local retention of an archival set is also indisputable, at least for the immediate future. Under this distributed last copy model, individual libraries agree to accept responsibility for retaining and making available specific titles, thereby allowing the other libraries in the collaboration or partnership to dispose of their copies without prejudicing the interests of their user communities.

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My time at ANU

By Ken Campbell

In 1927 I was born in Ipswich Queensland, and with the onset of the depression in 1932, my father worked in small jobs to bring in some funds. I went to a number of primary schools. In 1939 he joined the army and the family moved to Brisbane. I then attended the Brisbane Grammar School. In 1945 I went to Queensland University, hoping to study Physics, but teaching in that subject was so poor that I decided to study Pure Mathematics and Geology.

In 1946 the influx of returned servicemen and women put pressure on the limited University staff.. There were no tutors and the lecturing staff were scattered across several buildings. Fortunately, in 1946 Dr Hill returned from being a Naval Officer. Previously, she had been in Cambridge and her research had won her a place as a Fellow of Newnham College. She took an interest in undergraduates, and encouraged us to think more widely about the subject. As a result I did an honours degree in Geology under her supervision.

An agreement between the Geological Survey and the University gave me the opportunity to use aerial wartime photographs of northern Queensland, to develop an outline map of the Geology at 40 miles per inch. This was a very interesting project, but there was no money to do field work to check the interpretations. I could see no future in continuing the project, and so I went to teach Mathematics in a secondary school in Albury, NSW. After one year of this I was informed that New England University College was seeking a temporary lecturer in Palaeontology, I applied for this and so I began my career in universities in 1952.

Nobody had the authority to develop new courses (we were a College of the University of Sydney), and so I had to develop a course on Palaeontology, Stratigraphy and Sedimentology, but was free to develop some aspects of my own. But although Armidale is placed in the centre of ancient rocks invaded by granites, the area to the

west from Tamworth to the north to the Queensland border, was a wondrous series of Devonian and Carboniferous fossil bearing rocks. Nobody was working in this region, and so the opportunity for me and my students was obvious.

But after nine months in this job, the other two staff members took temporary positions, one in the US, and the other as a post graduate scholarship in Cambridge. The Head of the Professorial Board said that we cannot have a department under the headship of the temporary lecturer, and so I was given permanent status. Just how fortunate can you be! Sydney University, could see our predicament, so they sent up staff to teach subjects such as petrology, mineralogy, economic geology, and I dealt with the rest.

Rapidly I gained the support of four or five outstanding students, and by the time the other staff returned from overseas and shortly afterwards, I had these students doing honours projects in the Western Belt. Incidentally three of these students became full Professors at other Australian universities, and the final one became Head of Research in a State Geological Survey.

The University of Queensland decided that I should be enrolled as an External PhD student provided that I spent the long vacations working in Brisbane. As a result of this work and the availability of the geology in the Western Belt, I had a dozen papers in press. I was then awarded a Nuffield Dominion Travelling Fellowship to Cambridge in 1958.

The experience in Cambridge opened up new horizons. Fossils ceased to be just the basis of stratigraphic correlation and they also became the record of functioning living organisms of the past. What is more, I became a member of a Palaeobiology group. This has affected all my subsequent teaching and research efforts.

After 10 years in Armidale, I applied for a senior lectureship in the ANU. This put me in a totally different environment. First there were another 12 palaeontologists in Canberra, and we had a support staff in the Geology Department that had four or five

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skilled people. The area had several folk interested in other aspects of geology; and finally some members of the Institute of Advanced Studies were interested in palaeobiology from a palaeomagnetic point of view. And what is more the Professor himself was a palaeontologist.

From a teaching point of view I was permitted to develop my own views of the breadth of the subject, and I could teach it not only from a stratigraphic tool, but also as a palaeobiological subject. We also broadened our approach by writing a new text book on the Geology of Australia and New Zealand and Brown, Campbell and Crook, published by Pergamon Press, came onto the market. Also, now being in an area where Silurian and Devonian rocks were wonderfully exposed, I had to learn the basics of new groups of organisms. I applied for a Fulbright Fellowship to work with Prof. Whittington, and so I spent a period in Harvard. I produced three major bulletins on North American Trilobites.

New research students came to Canberra. Five of these reached the leading edge of their subject, and they became major contributors to the International Treatise on Palaeontology. Other post-graduates from North America, China and New Zealand turned up and began to swell the potential of the Department. The discovery of a new specimen of the vertebrate lungfish at Taemas, added to my involvement with brachiopods, echinoderms and trilobites. This caused me to move into another field - the evolution of early jawed vertebrates. For the last 35 years working with Dick Barwick, originally from Zoology, I have studied the early evolution of lungfish.

Miklos, a geneticist in RSBS, became interested in the sudden appearance of lungfish in the Early Devonian and what this meant from the point of view of the genetic revolution. This interest and the discovery of new methods of understanding the internal structures of fossils by serial tomography by Senden in Applied Mathematics, has engaged my attention. It again started to attract a new group of researchers to be involved with the study of Vertebrate Palaeontology. A number of workers in Vertebrates became associated

with Barwick and myself, and field work and detailed morphology became an important part of research at ANU.

Although I was a Reader and Head of the Department pressure was applied to me to become Deputy Dean and the Dean of Science from 1979 -1982. These were administrative jobs I did not want, and which I did not enjoy. In those days Deans of all Faculties decided together on administrative matters and staffing, as well as the provision of resources. This put me in trouble with some Professors, but I had strong support from administrative staff, in particular Dick Johnston who was Chairman of the Professorial Board., George Dicker the University Registrar, Pat White, Jane Flecknoe, and Doug McAlpine, Secretaries to the Faculties

On the academic front I was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences. This raised new interests as I became a member and chair of Sectional Committee, a member of Academy Council, and had an interest in Science policy. I also raised money for an Award for Dorothy Hill for women under 40 years of age who had done serious research. As chair of that committee we have been able to encourage several young women researchers.

I was a member of a Review of the Senior Administration of the University, and was discouraged by the extent to which the devolution of responsibility was administered. The University has now gone in the opposite direction and is grossly over administered by bureaucrats.

Though teaching and research are the flag waving aspects of the University, administration now takes primary place and teachers and research are held in abeyance. To give a specific example, special pure alcohol was needed for an experiment but some administrator found that alcohol could be bought for half the price. Some academic staff took weeks to sort out the argument,

The extent to which the viability of an academic discipline at present depends on the number of undergraduates it can attract. This is catastrophic. Physics, Chemistry

and Maths are the fundamental bases of most Science degrees. Unfortunately they are not tackled by many students at present because other subjects that do not require such strong and continued application are preferred instead. This approach to staffing destroys the whole approach to Science in the University.

The attempt to unify the University by bringing the teaching (the Faculties) and the Research Institutes (the Research Schools) together, takes no account of the difficulties that are faced by some subjects. Students will be lost and the buoyant spirit in many departments is already being destroyed.

Finally, I would like to make the strong point that the University should give more attention to the conservation of materials that cannot be replaced. In fact, the University holds such material as a sacred trust after it has been worked on by staff and research students. A report of University Collections was instituted and published as a Cinderella Report in two volumes. The University should implement these reports.

OBITUARY

David Noel Ferguson Dunbar
25 December 1922 – 9 May 2011

His mother used to tell friends that her son was given the name Noel because he was born on Christmas Day. Certainly he was known as Noel in all his long and distinguished public life.

Born and raised in New Zealand, he was yet another of those many NZ scholars who spent their careers enriching Australian university life. After leaving school with a scholarship to the then federated University of New Zealand, he graduated B.Sc. in 1944 and then in 1946 M.Sc. with first-class honours in Physics while an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Otago.

In 1947 he was recruited to the University of Melbourne, where the Professor of Physics, Sir Leslie Martin, was building a school of young men of high promise in the field of

nuclear physics. Noel Dunbar combined this with a background in electronics; Martin also gave him responsibility for the control and distribution of departmental funds – an experience which was to mark Noel's career for all his future. Noel was at Melbourne as lecturer and senior lecturer from 1947 to 1958. He was a memorable teacher, and former students both from Melbourne and from ANU speak of him with respect and gratitude. He gained his Ph.D. at Melbourne in 1951, and in 1952 was awarded a Fulbright Travelling Scholarship to take up a Research Fellowship at the California Institute of Technology. He retained a warm relationship with Caltech for the rest of his life.

In 1958 the small Canberra University College, which was under the oversight of the University of Melbourne, decided to establish a Faculty of Science to supplement its offerings in humanities and social sciences. It offered Noel the Chair of Physics, which he accepted and took up in early 1959. He recruited an outstanding team of young lecturers, several of whom went on to chairs in universities in Australia and overseas.

The College was amalgamated with the Australian National University in 1960, and Noel's career thereafter was in this University and later in the Commonwealth's educational bureaucracy. From 1963 to 1967 he was Dean of Science, and from 1968 to 1977 he was Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the ANU; he was then recruited to be Chairman of the Universities Council of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission by the Commission's Chair, Professor Peter Karmel.

As Dean and then as DVC Noel served on a host of committees inside and outside the University, the most significant of which were: The Council and its Finance Committee; the Standing Committee of the Board of The Faculties; the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies; and the regular meetings of Deans and Directors. In these his participation was marked by rigour as to goals and standards, and flexibility as to methods of attaining them.

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He was a key figure in the reconstruction of The Faculties which changed its name from 'School of General Studies' with its implication of low-level academic work, and changed the office of Principal of the SGS to Deputy-Chairman of the Board of The Faculties (the VC was officially Chairman, but delegated the function to the Deputy Chairman). These moves raised The Faculties to the status of a mini-university within the wider University and brought the faculties a measure of autonomy they had not enjoyed before. He also initiated what became the University's housing scheme for staff, enabling them to borrow on advantageous terms from the University's own superannuation funds to buy a first house. Many remember that with gratitude.

As Chairman of the Universities Council in the Tertiary Education Commission from 1977 to 1986 Noel became responsible for the coordinated development of the whole Australian university scene. It was an uncomfortable position between the policies of first, Coalition and then Labor Governments on the one side and the ambitions of the universities on the other – not to mention the ambitions of the Colleges of Advanced Education, with their own Council within the Commission.

He firmly defended the unique status of universities and their research mission. It is a tribute to Noel Dunbar's good sense and tact that if there was friction it was never apparent; the Commission worked well and the universities continued to develop.

On retirement Noel served a period as chairman of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust with which he had been involved since 1976, and then became a Visiting Fellow in the Physics Department of the Science Faculty at ANU from 1991 to the end of 2003. In recognition of his distinguished public service the University conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on 7 May 1987.

All of that is the public record of an outstanding servant of the academy. It does not indicate what colleagues and friends warmly remember: the jovial *bon vivant*, the connoisseur who went year after year to tour

the major wine regions of the world, the pillar of Rotary, of the Commonwealth Club, the Royal Canberra Golf Club and Benchmark Wine Bar, the congenial host, the entertaining and lively guest, the good companion, the dutiful son. Noel cared for his mother until her death at an advanced age, and never married. Late in his own life he suffered serious illness; he died on 9th May 2011.

Richard Johnson

Murray Charles Groves **24 August 1926 – 5 May 2011**

Murray Charles Groves, anthropologist, was born in Melbourne, the eldest child and only son of William Charles and Doris Kathleen Frances, née Smith.

His parents had met in Rabaul, New Britain, where both were teachers, and his father went on to a career as educationalist and educational administrator in the Pacific field. This culminated in a long stint as Director of Education in the Territory of Papua New Guinea from 1946 to 1968, which covered the years of Murray's undergraduate and postgraduate education and profoundly influenced its direction.

Murray entered Melbourne University in 1944 to read History and Law, which he did brilliantly for the next three years, except for an inability to pass in Ancient History, then a compulsory part of a History Honours degree. He withdrew for two years to Port Moresby, where his parents were living, during which time he completed four Law subjects by correspondence and the University removed Ancient History as a compulsory unit.

In 1949 he returned to Melbourne to complete a combined Honours degree in History and English Literature, graduating with First Class Honours in both and winning the Enid Denham Prize for the study of poetry. From 1950 to 1952 he taught History at the University, aiming, when it was possible, to go on to do a D. Phil. in History at Oxford.

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He had been greatly influenced by his two years in Port Moresby, where he had worked as Judge's Assistant on the staff of the Supreme Court of Papua and New Guinea and taught English classes in Hanuabada, the collective name for a cluster of Western Motu villages on Port Moresby harbour hard by the developing town. When he was ready to move to Oxford in 1952, he elected to do a Diploma in Anthropology ahead of his History D. Phil., but by the time the Diploma was finished in 1953, he had decided to switch to Social Anthropology for his doctoral research. For this he made a comparative study of three Motu villages near Port Moresby where traditional life had been affected to different degrees by their varying distances from the town. He finished this work, for which he received his doctorate, in 1956.

Now on the point of entering on a professional career, he was strongly supported by his teachers as a scholar of well-disciplined, forceful and original mind, an imaginative teacher and an able administrator who combined efficiency and far-sightedness. Murray was to display these qualities in the contributions he made to the various institutions in which he served.

The first of these was the Australian National University, where he was a Research Fellow in the Department of Pacific History from 1956 to 1959, continuing his study of the Port Moresby region and its inhabitants. To this he brought, besides his recent experience of fieldwork there, a background of archival research in the history of Western Motu contact with Europeans from the 1870s. He engaged with a situation where after the end of World War II Port Moresby, now the capital of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, was the centre of increasingly rapid social change with population increase, the growth of wage labour and the appearance of new forms of association including labour unions.

These concerns remained with him when in 1959 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology (Associate Professor 1964) at the University of Auckland, where one of his graduate students wrote an MA

thesis on the Port Moresby Workers' Association.

At the same time he extended his knowledge of the Pacific with visits to Fiji, Tonga and Samoa, places about which he was now teaching. In 1960 he took over the editorship of the then 70 year-old *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, with two aims: by bringing it into the mainstream of contemporary professional discourse to make it the leading anthropological journal for the Pacific and by developing a new section called Pacific Commentary to provide relevant and informed notes and comment on current affairs in a region moving towards independence. Before he left Auckland for the University of Singapore in 1965, membership of the Polynesian Society had risen to above 1000, with overseas membership accounting for half.

Murray spent the rest of his career building and directing Departments of Sociology in Singapore and Hong Kong. He took up the Foundation Chair of Sociology at the University of Singapore late in 1965 and moved to take charge of a two year-old Department of Sociology at the University of Hong Kong in mid-1969. He was attracted by the opportunities presented by so professionally and culturally exciting a region. He became interested in promoting comparative research into problems of urbanisation, urban poverty and urban lifestyles in Southeast Asia and made reconnaissance trips to Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines to this end.

He bent his energies to the promotion and protection of his discipline in the competitive world of academic politics. He played a part in the broader educational life and work of the universities of which he was a member. He recruited his staff through serious negotiations with colleagues and prospective candidates in UK and USA. He saw his responsibilities as including service on the committees of the relevant university staff associations, at times in an official capacity, for example his chairmanship of the University of Hong Kong committee from 1979 until his retirement in 1988.

Murray stayed on in Hong Kong for a few years after retirement. He had become re-engaged with his Motu fieldwork, which he regretted not having published immediately after the D. Phil that was based on it, because he had never found the time for it since. This re-engagement concerned the most traditional of the three villages where he had worked, Manumanu, 50 kilometres up the coast from Port Moresby, and took place in the context of what he saw as the pernicious influence of post-modernism on contemporary social anthropology.

He wrote two articles on fishing and fishermen in Manumanu, whose subtitles indicated the direction of his thinking: 'some reflections on the nature of ethnographic enquiry' and 'in defence of empiricist ethnography'. He now proposed to follow up with a book on the ethnography of Manumanu and another on the aims, methods, achievements and epistemological foundations of social and cultural anthropology in the 20th century, based on a lecture course that he had given at the University of Hong Kong. In mid-1992 he spent four months working on his project as a Visiting Fellow at ANU, where there were many friends and colleagues from his past. Here he took a decision to move permanently to Canberra as an ideal location for what he wished to do.

Murray took up residence in Canberra in 1994, having been accepted as a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Anthropology in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. For the first few years he was able to make the occasional visit to Papua New Guinea and Southeast Asia in connection with his projects, but there were continuing problems with his health from around 1998 that interfered with their progress. These, plus the deterioration of an ankle broken some years before, increasingly impeded his attendance at lectures and seminars. The same was true of his presence at the regular and long-established lunchtime meetings of a fluctuating group of friends and colleagues, of which he had been a member since his return to Canberra, the venue then the former Staff Club at Old Canberra House and later Chats at the School of Art.

Of recent years he came to make longer and more frequent visits to Calvary Hospital and in mid-2008 moved into full-time care in the Calvary Retirement Community at Bruce, where he died peacefully.

Murray Groves was an eminent scholar whose contribution to our knowledge of South East Asia and the Pacific region is unique.

Jack Golson

Kenneth James Le Couteur
16 September 1920 - 18 April 2011
Foundation Professor of Theoretical
Physics at ANU

Kenneth Le Couteur was born in Jersey in the Channel Islands in 1920. It was there that he learnt carpentry from his builder father and acquired a taste for sailing and fishing, hobbies he was later to enjoy with his family in Australia.

He left the Channel Islands in 1938 to go to St. John's College (Cambridge), where he read mathematics and rowed for the College. After war broke out he was recruited to the intelligence establishment at Bletchley Park, along with many other mathematicians, notably Alan Turing. There thousands of people worked on decoding the German military messages sent via what we now know as the Enigma machine. The various German codes were given the names of fish: Kenneth was in a group led by Max Newman, working on the 'tunny' code.

Naturally, Bletchley Park was top-secret. In fact its vital role during World War II was not revealed until 1974. Until then, if you asked Kenneth what he did during the war, he would reply that he worked at the British radar establishment at Malvern. Presumably all those involved had similar cover stories. After the existence of Bletchley was declassified, he told me how the introduction of so many men into a small English town created various problems, one of which was that they sent so much washing to the local laundry that the residents had difficulties getting their washing done. They complained to their local Member of

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Parliament, who asked a question in the House of Commons on why all these young men were in Bletchley, somehow avoiding the call-up and straining the laundry facilities. One can imagine the government's embarrassment, and see the problems of running a democracy in wartime.

After the war Kenneth completed his PhD at Cambridge and then went to the University of Manchester, where he began his work on the evaporation theory of nuclear disintegration, work which was to be much cited in the scientific literature over the following years. This was an important move personally, for at the university he met Enid Domville, who was working in the library. In 1949 he moved to Liverpool and the following year he and Enid married.

Liverpool was particularly significant for his scientific career. He established a high international reputation for work carried out in several diverse areas of theoretical physics: relativistic wave equations, meson field theory, scattering theory and the statistical theory of nuclear reactions. The university had a synchro-cyclotron, which is a machine for accelerating atomic particles, sending them out in a beam and observing the effect of their collisions. Working with the experimental group, Kenneth perfected the 'regenerative' method of extracting the beam of particles from the machine. This collimated the beam, increasing the intensity of the particles available by a factor of more than a thousand, an enormous improvement.

In Canberra, with the support of the Prime Minister, Bob Menzies, the Australian National University was being set up as a national research centre. Mark Oliphant returned from England to found the Research School of Physical Sciences. Oliphant must have heard of Kenneth's achievement, for Kenneth was visited by Ernest Titterton and recruited to join the school. He arrived in 1956 to head the new Department of Theoretical Physics. At that stage it had just two members: Le Couteur and Fred Barker, who had arrived in the School in 1951. There were three other departments in the school: Particle Physics, Nuclear Physics and Geophysics, led by

Mark Oliphant, Ernest Titterton and John Jaeger, respectively

Everything was being built from scratch on bare paddocks. There is a film, I think, of the inauguration of the first Vice-Chancellor in the Albert Hall, which opens with a close-up of the university mace, then opens up a little to show the Vice-Chancellor in his ceremonial robes walking behind, and then suddenly pans out to reveal a small band of academics in their robes walking across an empty paddock! The Physics School was adjacent to the old Canberra racecourse, so in the early days one's theoretical contemplations could be disturbed by the sound of horses' hooves pounding past the building.

Kenneth was one of the first members of the Australian Mathematical Society and in 1960 was elected to the Australian Academy of Science, which was then only six years old and much smaller than it is now, with only 90 or so Fellows.

Over the years he built up the Department of Theoretical Physics until it included ten tenured theorists, working in atomic, nuclear, particle and plasma physics, as well as statistical mechanics and condensed matter. He was proud of its international reputation and believed that theoretical physics was a discipline in its own right. Members of the department were not constrained to pursue narrow areas of research, but were free to work on any interesting ideas, often with excellent results. In the sixties and seventies there was a steady stream of young people coming through the Department as students and research fellows, many of them from overseas. Most went on to pursue academic careers, but not all – one notable exception became the Public Service head of the Commonwealth Department of Industrial Relations. The Department, under Kenneth's leadership and with the encouragement of the early Directors of the Physics School, undoubtedly helped to maintain the ANU's role as a leader of Australian research and education.

He encouraged strong interactions with the experimental departments of the School, and himself at times worked closely with the

nuclear, particle and plasma groups. His research work covered a wide variety of topics, ranging from purely fundamental mathematical studies on a conjecture of Bessis concerning the partition function for quantum statistical mechanical systems, through linear relativistic wave equations, the statistical model of the nucleus and fluctuations in nuclear cross sections to the more practical considerations he commenced in Liverpool, notably the focussing and guiding of the charged particles by magnetic fields.

He played an active role in the development of the School, and once estimated that he had spent a total of four years as Acting Director (including most of 1974 and of 1978). He was liked for his graciousness and courtesy and could bring a sense of unity to the School. His first words as chair of a meeting or seminar were usually "Gentlemen" or "Ladies and gentlemen". He could also be a master of effective silence: one salesman is reputed to have reduced his price three times while waiting for a reply.

Le Couteur was instrumental in pioneering the development of computing within the University. The first computer in the Australian National University was an IBM 1620 computer, which Le Couteur obtained in 1962 for the department in order to perform large-scale numerical calculations. Brian Robson of the department was in charge of the computer, which was made available as a university resource from the beginning. In 1965 it formed the basis for a Computer Centre within the School. In 1968 this Centre became independent of the School, serving the whole University.

He had three daughters, Caroline, Penny and Mary (born in 1952, 1953 and 1957, respectively) and a foster daughter Marion Chester, who stayed with them during the holidays. He did not lose his love of the water – he used to fish off the rocks when holidaying at Lilli Pilli near Batemans Bay. When Lake Burley Griffin was filled in 1964 he built a boat (a Heron) in his garage so he could take his family sailing. For a brief period there was a ferry service from Yarralumla to the Acton peninsula, and Kenneth used to enjoy using it to travel to

work. He may have been one's image of an abstracted theoretical physicist, but there was always something very practical going on at the family home. His garden had been a bare sheep paddock: he turned part of it into a large productive vegetable plot and one seldom left there without having been given a lettuce, some tomatoes, or another vegetable. He built a large walk-in aviary in the garden.

To every new arrival in the Department, Canberra was a new city, often in a new country. Kenneth and Enid had a gift for entertaining them and quickly making them feel at home. In many generous and practical ways they provided the family support which was lacking in Canberra. Each year they gave a Christmas party (complete with home-made mince pies, Father Christmas and croquet on the lawn) for the entire Department and their families.

Le Couteur retired in December 1985 and for some years spent more time enjoying the south coast, where the family had acquired a house at Maloney's Beach. His contribution to the School and the University was recognised in 1996 with the naming of the former Mathematical Sciences Building as the Le Couteur Building. In 2001 he was awarded a Centenary of Federation medal for his contribution to Australian society.

Enid Le Couteur had a major stroke in 1988 and life changed for both Kenneth and Enid. However, she was in otherwise good health and they stayed in Hutt Street until 1997 when they moved to Ginninderra Gardens Aged Care Facility in Page. He died on 18 April 2011, basically of old age, and is survived by Enid, his daughters Caroline, Penelope and Mary (Avinashi), his foster-daughter Marion, his grand-children Abipsa (Ruth) and Jon-George, and his great-grandchildren Isabella and Leny.

Rodney Baxter

Thomas Henry Richard Rigby
13 April 1925 — 21 March 2011

A colleague's perspective
by Rosh Ireland

For the greater part of last century, the Soviet Union, with its satellites and allies, presented itself as a threat to Western powers, and also as the bearer of an alternative and better civilisation.

It was therefore vital that the changing reality of that civilisation, much of it deliberately and elaborately concealed, be studied and made known. Around the world dedicated research institutes were set up to investigate it.

The outstanding Australian student and analyst of the political structure of that social order was Professor T.H.R. Rigby, of the Australian National University. Born in 1925 in Melbourne, Harry Rigby described himself as 'a thoughtful lad brought up in a working class neighbourhood'.

After three years in the army, serving in New Guinea and the Moluccas, (and a brief encounter with the Communist Party) he enrolled in the newly established degree course in Russian, for him the most exotic of the languages offered, at Melbourne University, completed an honours degree in Russian and Political Science and wrote a Master's thesis on 'The Soviet View of South-East Asia'.

In 1951 Harry won a Melbourne University travelling scholarship and spent the next three years at the London School of Economics and Political Science, writing a ground-breaking doctoral thesis on 'The Selection of Leading Personnel in the Soviet State and Communist Party'. In 1954, following three months in the United States on a Rockefeller fellowship, he became Senior Lecturer in Russian at Canberra University College, which had begun teaching Russian not long before under the aegis of Melbourne University, and where for some of the next five years students were to learn their elementary Russian grammar from a leading Kremlinologist.

In 1956 he returned for a year to the LSE as Senior Research Officer, working with Professor Leonard Schapiro, who was to acknowledge that three chapters of his standard 'The Communist Party of the Soviet Union' were based on Harry's work, and that significant sections of Part Three, dealing with the Stalin period, owed much to his research.

He then moved to the British Embassy in Moscow, where, as Second Secretary, he was one of a small number of scholars whose careers rotated between academia and government service and who, in the Embassy's fiercely hard-working secretariat, studied and reported on the concatenation of political, economic and social changes under Khrushchev. In Moscow, he was tickled to find himself living on People's Street in Proletarian District.

In 1959 he returned to Canberra, to what would shortly become part of the ANU, as Associate Professor of Russian, and established the profile of Russian studies at the University which would be maintained for most of their fifty-year existence. He was also responsible for setting up a library collection which was the equal of any of the British red-brick universities which took up Russian studies at that time.

Three years later, however, having spent a decade and a half building up an empirical knowledge of the Soviet system during that extraordinary period from Stalin's last years to the coup which brought down Khrushchev, he moved into political science proper, becoming Professorial Fellow, then in 1987 Professor, in the Department of Political Science in the Research School of Social Sciences, where he would spend the rest of his academic career, regularly welcomed as a distinguished visiting scholar in many institutions from Moscow to Washington.

In the Research School, he was able to develop his definition of the Soviet socio-political system, which he described as a mono-organisational society, a system developed in two distinct stages, Stalinist and post-Stalinist, and diverging from more familiar bureaucratic and managerial systems.

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A major contribution was his concept of goal-rational legitimacy, an effort to apply Weber's concepts of legitimacy to the Soviet Union. The originality and insight he brought to the study of key aspects of the Soviet political system are illustrated and expanded in a *Festschrift* edited in 2010 by his colleague and former student, Stephen Fortescue.

Many within and outside the university enjoyed the privilege of regularly attending seminars at which he would present lucid and penetrating commentaries on current events. Undergraduates in History, Political Science and Russian also could hear him lecture in their regular courses.

His close interest in Russia and Eastern Europe persisted when the Soviet Union disintegrated, and he continued to observe and write on the social and political changes taking place. He was the author of five books, edited and contributed to five more, and published over a hundred short monographs, chapters and articles.

Harry was the devoted husband of Norma, née Robertson, father of Richard, William and Catherine (Kate), father-in law of Taifang and Robert, a grandfather and great-grandfather.

An undergraduate's perspective by Kyle Wilson

Over nearly four decades, from about 1960 to the mid-nineties, any serious student of Russia and the Soviet Union would sooner or later encounter the name Harry Rigby. They would probably first hear it pronounced with a blend of reverence and affection that struck one as unusual. This tone bespoke perceptions of the man which were virtually universal.

Reverence, because the depth and originality of his scholarship alone had put post-war Australia on the global map of Soviet studies – and kept it there. Harry was among the very first to find a formula to explain how the post-Stalinist Soviet Union worked. We students soon learned that we had in our midst a man who may have had

peers in his chosen field — a very few — but no master.

With very few exceptions, those Australians who have achieved distinction in the field of Russian studies came from under Harry's greatcoat — from Katerina Clark through Stephen Fortescue to Bill Maley and Bobo Lo, the head of the Russia program at Chatham House today. But so far no other Australian in the field of Russian studies has attained the unique status that Harry achieved. And it seems unlikely that anyone else ever will.

The accumulated body of scholarship is formidable, though easily accessible, because he wrote so clearly. Indeed, it was his capacity to distil the essence of complex webs of events, to illuminate the murky labyrinth that was Soviet politics, and to entertain as well as enlighten, that made him a great teacher. The depth of his scholarship was unusual but not unique. It was the profundity of his insight that put him in the most exclusive group. This was exemplified by his being among a very first of the few to foresee, and have the courage to predict, the upheaval that overtook the Soviet Union in the late 1980s. In this he swam against the tide of almost unanimous opinion.

The simple name he preferred — 'Harry' — is the key to the affection students felt for him. Having been daunted by the towering reputation, when students did encounter the revered scholar they found him to be utterly without pretension, genial, helpful and avuncular. And they immediately noted the slightly mischievous sense of humour, signalled by a giggle in which no professors concerned to preserve their dignity would indulge.

We sensed something else too: a reticence and modesty that seemed to hint not at self-confidence but rather at some kind of vulnerability. At seminars Harry would invariably position himself at the side or at the back, seeking to be unobtrusive if not actually to conceal himself. Like many others of his generation he had a weakness for tobacco, and would occasionally puff nervously on a cigarette. The stutter too, — which saved him from being pestered by radio and television to reduce some complex

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set of circumstances to a vulgar sound bite, betrayed a certain nervousness. It was probably this vulnerability that most endeared him to undergraduates. And it may help to explain why, in a milieu notorious for envy, Harry had a host of affectionate admirers yet no detractors. This combination of authority and popularity is achieved by very few.

But stature is stature, and so many of us remained in awe of him. If only we had known that he was also just an ordinary bloke, who would have been delighted if we had invited him to the student union bar for a beer.

The US influence examined

A Cohort of Pioneers: Australian postgraduate students and American postgraduates degrees 1949 – 1964. By Dr Sally Ninham Paperback 305 pages ISBN: 9781921421853 \$39.95

This book is based on extensive oral interviews and personal reminiscences with one hundred of Australia's most prominent scientists, academics, and intellectuals, all of whom were members of the first cohort of Australians to complete postgraduate study in the USA following the Second World War and up until 1964.

This book carefully considers the American postgraduate experience in the midst of the Cold War; while Australian students attended American universities, dominant characters like Fulbright, McCarthy, Eisenhower, Foster Dulles and the Kennedys trod a turbulent stage, coloured and complicated by political protest and grass roots activism.

The American experience provided a contrast to the complacent, very British place that was Australia in the 1950s. The reflections that are offered by these leaders on the impact that the American postgraduate experience held for their subsequent careers in Australia cast light not only on the value of the experience but also on how that experience influenced a redirection of Australian scientific, intellectual and social cultures toward the

United States through the 1960s and subsequently.

Available from Connor Court publishers
http://www.connorcourt.com/catalog1/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=7&products_id=156

Obituaries Australia

The National Centre of Biography's new website, *Obituaries Australia*, was launched by the ANU's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Young, on April 14, at a ceremony in the Hedley Bull Building, ANU.

An address by Dr Nigel Starck's was 'A Licence to Resurrect: The Newspaper Obituary as an Agent of Biography'

What's on at ANU

What's On at ANU. is a fortnightly email for staff and students that aims to highlight many of the interesting, enlightening and engaging public lectures, seminars and events happening around the university.

All of these events are open to the public. Please check if reservations are needed.

For more information on any of the events listed, or to see a calendar of upcoming events, go to
<http://billboard.anu.edu.au/events.asp>

Vatican art conference

Katherine Aigner, of the ANU, writes: I am a post-grad student at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (Director, Prof. Mick Dodson). Last year I co-curated an exhibition at the Vatican Ethnological Museum called *Rituals of Life* from their Australian Indigenous collection. If interested, you can hear an ABC Radio National show about it on;
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/encounter/stories/2010/3066418.htm>

The previously closed Ethnological Museum has been re-opened with Director Father Nicola Mapelli who has a great interest in re-

connecting with Indigenous communities and giving back agency and a voice to speak about contemporary issues they face such as environmental concerns. He is a great fan of Lynn White.

In October this year, there will be a conference at the Vatican's Ethnological Museum called *Religion, Nature & Art*. Details are:

Call for papers Date: 13-14 October 2011
Venue: Vatican Museums, Vatican City
Convenors: Fr. Nicola Mapelli, diretn.musei@scv.va
Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster, hoboster@southwestern.edu

This joint conference, sponsored by the Ethnological Museum of the Vatican Museums, headed by Prof. Nicola Mapelli, and the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, seeks to examine the complex intersections of religion, nature and art. Sessions will focus on broad cultural and geographic areas:

- Asian Religions, Nature and Art
- Renaissance Art, Religion and Nature
- Indigenous Religions, Nature and Art
- Spirituality-based Environmental Activism, Nature and Art

The conference will also include two unique opportunities to view art in the Vatican Museums, including the exhibit "Rituals of Life: the culture and spirituality of Aboriginal Australians" co-curated with the National Museum of Australia. On the concluding night there will be a tour of the Vatican Museums (one family member is invited to this tour as well). The two-day conference offers the opportunity, either preceding or following the conference, to collaborate with other scholars in this area or to engage in research (pre-arranged individually) at the Vatican.

Anticipated registration fee is 100 euro, 50 euro for students and others demonstrating financial need.

For more information contact Fr. Nicola Mapelli, diretn.musei@scv.va and or Katherine Aigner, katherine.aigner@anu.edu.au, or conference co-coordinator Dr. Laura Hobgood-Oster, hoboster@southwestern.edu

Monthly get-together

Usually the 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 sometimes a theme for these lunches. 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

More details can be found here:
<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events.html>

Your benefits

Check this web site for a list of benefits enjoyed by members.
<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/benefits.html>

Burst into print

If you have an article, a notice, or a letter to the editor for publication send it to ian.mathews7@bigpond.com by the end of June.

Next ANUEF Newsletter out in July