

# EMERITUS

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Back numbers of *Emeritus* can be found here <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/news.html>

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## Exploration, landfall and food

Giles Pickford, Secretary ANUEF, recounts the Emeritus Faculty's weekend at Kioloa



*Left to Right:* Di Langmore, Don Anderson (out of shot), Di Riddell, Pat Gibbs, Dick Barwick, Adrian Gibbs, his son Paul Gibbs and Paul's wife Maaïke Bierma, Verna Rosling, Giles Pickford, Judith Caton

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## The East Coast Project: a discipline of freedom

Who discovered Eastern Australia? That was the burning question on the minds of those who attended the ANUEF's weekend of November 11-13 at Kioloa. Most arrived around 4pm and enjoyed afternoon tea, followed by pre-dinner drinks and nibbles at 6pm. Judith Caton then gave a talk on *The Endeavour Voyage, 1770: Plants & Animals of Southern NSW*. Judith is a member of the ANUEF East Coast Project.

This is a research project being conducted by a wide cross section of members who are bringing their varied knowledge to bear on the question of who discovered Eastern Australia, covering the period from 1400 to 1770, ending with an in-depth study of Captain James Cook and the members of his crew on *The Endeavour*. The disciplines which are represented in this cross-disciplinary group are history, geography, biology, agronomy, geology, oceanography, archaeology, cartography, surveying, and church history. This is possible because the ANUEF draws its members from every section of the University and is thus uniquely capable of undertaking such a piece of research.

The other aspects which make the project unusual are that no one commissioned the research, it has not received a research grant, there are no deadlines or other hampering devices found in normal research projects, and we report to no one except ourselves. It is a curiosity-driven project which will one day be published in a book.

Judith's talk was followed by a sumptuous and amiable dinner. Our honoured guests at the table were Steven and Robyn Teding van Berkhout - Farm Managers of Kioloa.

Saturday for me began with e-mails followed by breakfast. But others such as Dick Barwick went to the beach for a walk. There are beautiful walks through the rocks and dunes of this coast. At 9.30am there was a tour of the new Conference Centre followed by morning tea. The conference centre should be completed by March 2012. Lunch was preceded by listening to *Under Milkwood* read by Dylan Thomas in a recording lent to us by Mike Rickard. Only a few of us were there. Lunch was followed by a bush food walk for some, and by reading and relaxation for others.

We all came together for a quick afternoon tea followed by a trip to "the top of the mountain". I stayed behind to explain to the late arrivals that the others were not hiding from them. The pre-dinner talk by John Molony was cancelled because John had to pull out for John Eddy's funeral and because of his being exhausted by the trip to Cooktown for the East Coast Project.

Dinner was a beauty and speeches were made. The ATEM Treasurer thanked Judith Caton for organising the event which we had all enjoyed. Then Judith Caton thanked Steven and Robyn Teding Van Berkhout for the job they had done in preserving Kioloa for the future of ANU. She presented them with a copy of Bill Gamage's book *The Biggest Estate on Earth*. She said that it might have some useful ideas for farm management.

I opted out of breakfast on Sunday, choosing instead to hit the road and get back to Wollongong as quickly as possible. Sunday in our family is reserved for children and grandchildren and quiet contemplation of the nature of things, seen and unseen.

The total cost for the weekend was \$210.00 per person for accommodation and food. It was the best value for money I have had since buying shares in Sonic Healthcare for \$2. One of the other big plusses for Kioloa is that we were cut off from the world and blissfully unaware of the quantum entanglement and quantum turbulence that has overwhelmed the artificial semblance of order that we keep trying to impose on a world gone mad.

Members attending the 2011 excursion to Kioloa were: Judith Caton (Event Organiser), Don Anderson, Di Langmore, Adrian and Pat Gibbs, Dick Barwick, Nik and Karen Fominas, Paul and Sharon Coker, Di Riddell, Verna Rosling, Mike and Jan Rickard, Mark Cranfield, Peter Scardoni and Bari Hall, and Giles Pickford.

Continued next page

## The Earth has a finite capacity and humans have now exceeded it.

**By Bob Douglas**, Emeritus Professor and Visiting Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health ANU, Director Australia21 and Chair SEE-Change ACT.

Our planet is dying but our institutions are continuing to operate as though it is “business as usual”. That includes our universities. In his otherwise excellent recent address to the Emeritus Faculty about the future of the ANU, our own Vice Chancellor failed to address the circumstances that guarantee that “business as usual” must be discarded and that we must embark on transformative change of many of our human systems. Part of the University’s mission should surely be to prepare the national ground for such change.

A combination of exponential growth in both human numbers and the human economy is now hitting the wall imposed by physics, chemistry and biology. The dramatic increase in human numbers during the past hundred years, associated with our consumerist lifestyle and insatiable demand for more food, fresh water, resources and space, has now resulted in a demand for biologically active land and water that now exceeds the available supply by about 50%.

The complex systems, which enable Earth to adjust to demands made upon it, are no longer able to handle the waste products of the activities of 7 billion humans and we have exceeded a number of critical boundaries. (Rockstrom 2010) Yet, both the number of humans and the economic demands by each new individual on the Earth’s finite resources are continuing to rise.

We are entering an era that was confidently predicted in earlier times by Thomas Malthus (1798), Paul Ehrlich (1968) and The Club of Rome in its “Limits to Growth”. (1972). Our current human systems of economics and governance are frankly incapable of addressing them without transformative change in the way they operate.

Human innovation has served us wonderfully well through the green revolution to expand food production. Myriad technical advances have got us this far. But we have reached this point with assistance from a seemingly inexhaustible supply of fossil fuel based energy, which comes at the cost of carbon pollution and heating of the planet. This, in turn, is compounding the shortages of food, water and productive land. Revolutions in transportation, communication, trade and management have now made the human population of the world highly interdependent and most of the problems we now confront are partly global in scale and origin.

The world economy is managed by elite members of affluent countries in their own interests. (Korten 2010) It is built around money rather than the needs of people and the environment. The management of the money system has led to the gap between rich and poor, increasing dramatically, both within and across national borders. (Wilkinson and Pickett 2009) Conflicts and civil wars between the haves and the have-nots and between the overfed and the starving are increasing.

The signs of an impending and inevitable crisis are clear as we cross the boundaries of sustainability. The signs include extreme weather events, melting ice caps, thinning sea ice and social chaos in large areas of the world, as those who have been deprived of a fair share of the world’s resources, face the prospect of starvation and mind numbing impoverishment.

Paul Gilding (2011) likens the widespread denial of the significance of this gathering storm, to the period prior to the Second World War, when the population of the United States refused to recognise the seriousness of the threat posed by Japan until the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Overnight, the culture and economy of the United States were transformed to a wartime footing. Within weeks, the car industry was producing tanks and all of the assumptions that had driven the economy were on hold. Gilding says that humans are slow but not stupid and that there will be a trigger point for transformative actions in our response to the constellation of interlinked issues, which are now bearing in upon us.

Hopefully a not too disastrous trigger point will occur soon. In the meantime we need to prepare Australia for the kind of changes to our social and economic systems that will give our descendants a fighting chance to survive and prosper. (Cork, 2010)

We need to begin now to transform intentionally some of our human systems because in the long run we will have no alternative. Change will be forced upon humanity by an environment that is already transformed by human actions. A change in the human mindset and adoption of systems thinking may help us to cope better when inevitable shocks arrive and before apocalyptic environmental change makes human civilisation untenable.

Riane Eisler (2007) argues that the modern human economy needs to be altered in its purposes, structures, processes and outcomes. Eisler's seminal contribution is her presentation of the need to change the human mindset from what she calls the *dominator model* towards a *caring and partnering model*. For much of human history and across the world, men have taken for granted and devalued contributions that nurturing and caring make to successful societies. Because the nurturing and caring role was, in the past, largely a female function and because masculine activities such as fighting competing and winning were seen to be absolutely central to human survival, caring and nurturing were, and still remain, "soft" activities by contrast with "hard" objects like guns, tanks and computers. Throughout history, both partnering and dominator ideology have been present in all societies but some have assigned much greater economic weight and value to the caring, nurturing, sharing and partnering role. Building caring for people and the environment into our human economy is Eisler's mission. It has been firmly adopted by the Transform Australia group ([www.transform-australia.net](http://www.transform-australia.net)) as a central element of the transformation needed in Australia's economy.

Korten and Eisler have identified issues that are absolutely central to the human enterprise and which modern economic systems currently devalue or ignore. Gilding also presents a powerful argument for human economic systems in affluent countries like our own to abandon consumerist economic growth, building instead on economic activity, which enriches human experience and relationships.

Incremental adaptive change to the shocks arising from the gathering storm will not be enough to prevent the collapse of civilization as we know it. The role of a national university in these circumstances must surely be to provide intellectual leadership and research into the kinds of transformation that will be needed and how they can be expedited.

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## Profile

**Emeritus Professor Bob Douglas AO, MD, BS (Adelaide) MA (Penn) FRACP, FRACGP, FAFPHM**



**DOB 8<sup>th</sup> December 1936 South Australia**

Bob's forty-year medical career spanned work as a researcher into hypertensive vascular disease in New Zealand, as a specialist physician in Papua New Guinea, as an epidemiologist working on the development of a pneumonia vaccine in the United States, as a community medicine academic and general practitioner at the Adelaide Medical School, and as Dean of the Adelaide Medical School.

From 1982-1988 he chaired a Geneva based World Health Organisation Technical Advisory Group on the control of pneumonia in the developing world.



In 1989 he became the Foundation Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the ANU, a post he held until his retirement in 2001. The Centre included demographers, economists, statisticians, sociologists and epidemiologists and paid particular attention to the control of communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS, general medical practice, aboriginal health, gender and health, health inequalities and illicit drug use.

Personal research and publications spanned several phases, including the effects of treatment of hypertension, evaluation of health care systems, prevention and treatment of respiratory infections, the organisation and evaluation of general medical practice and health inequalities. He published more than 100 articles in peer reviewed journals and books and edited or co-edited three books.

Bob was honoured for contributions to medicine by the award of Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2000.

Following his retirement in 2001, with five colleagues from various walks of Australian life, he established a new body, Australia21 the board of which he chaired from 2001 to 2011. ([www.australia21.org.au](http://www.australia21.org.au)) Australia21 is building networks of thinkers and researchers on some of the large challenges, which face Australia and the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Arising from that experience, in 2006 he published a small book entitled "SEE-Change Centres, Grey Power and Hope" He currently chairs SEE-Change ACT ([www.see-change.org.au](http://www.see-change.org.au)) which helps to empower local communities to take action on climate change and their ecological footprint.

Since early 2010 Bob has worked closely with the evolving Transform Australia Network with which he is a "designated catalyst" [www.transform-australia.net](http://www.transform-australia.net)

Bob was a finalist for the ACT Australian of the Year for 2007 and in October 2008 shared the ACT Conservation Council's Supreme Green Hero award. In April 2011 he was named the ACT Environmental Volunteer of the Year.

He has recently published an online manual for use by teachers and senior students in schools in the ACT, entitled "Hope for Tomorrow's World" <http://www.see-change.org.au/sites/default/files/Discussion%20Manual%20Hope%20for%20Tomorrow's%20World%201.pdf>

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### **It's time to take off the blinkers - Stephen Boyden suggests "Facing reality"**

It is time to take off the blinkers – time to look around at what's really going on – time to wake up to the massive scale and intensity of humankind's activities on our planet.

The great surge in the number of people on Earth and the explosive intensification of resource and energy use and waste production are causing serious damage to the planet's ecosystems. Business as usual will mean the ecological collapse of our society. There is no shadow of doubt about this.

James Lovelock and the late Frank Fenner have stated that they believe it is too late and that we are heading for the end of civilisation and possibly the extinction of the human species.

But perhaps it is not too late.

Climate change is at present the most critical issue; but this is just a symptom of a deeper all-pervasive malaise of human society – the gross over-exploitation of the Earth's natural resources and the general insensitivity to the needs of the processes of life that underpin our existence. There are many other areas for serious concern, including:

- Worldwide loss of biodiversity – on land and in the oceans;
- Various severe forms of land degradation – involving large scale deforestation, biological impoverishment of soil, disruption of nutrient cycles, salinisation;
- Thinning of the ozone layer;
- Global pollution of ecosystems with persistent organic pollutants;
- Acidification of the oceans;
- The existence of thousands of weapons of mass destruction; and
- Hundreds of millions of humans are living under conditions of extreme deprivation.

## Some perspectives

The human population has increased around 1000 fold since the advent of farming 12,000 years ago – putting immense pressure on the food-producing ecosystems of our planet. More than 70% of this increase has occurred over the past 80 years.

A reasonable indicator of the scale and intensity of human activities on our planet is energy use by the human population. Energy use by humankind has increased some 15,000 times since farming began. Ninety per cent of this increase has occurred over the past 80 years. The per cent of the increase is due to population growth. Ninety per cent is due to industrialisation.

The following analogy brings home the massive scale and recent intensification of human activities on Earth.

Let us suppose that the beginning of farming was 12 hours ago (rather than 12,000 years), and that at that time humankind jumped into a vehicle it had invented. The speed of this vehicle is proportional to the total amount of energy used each day by humankind.

This vehicle set off at a speed of 1 km per hour 12 hours ago.

- So, 12 hours ago, the vehicle was travelling at 1 km/hr
- 4 hours ago it had picked up speed and was travelling at 25 km/hr
- 1 hour ago it was going at 85 km/hr
- 15 minutes ago – at 100 km/hr
- 6 minutes ago at 820 km/hr
- 3 minutes ago – 2,500 km/hr
- It is now travelling at around 15,000 km/hr

Visibility is not good and we, the passengers, don't have a clear view of where we are going. But among us there are some scientists who have made a study of the environment and they are warning that we are heading for a precipice. They are shouting out to us to slam on the brakes and change direction. But there are others, especially those in charge, who are trying to make the vehicle go faster than ever.

Carbon dioxide emissions from human society have also increased around 15,000 times since farming began – equivalent to the difference in weight of a small apple and one and a half tonnes of bricks. Over 90% of this increase has also occurred over the past 80 years

If energy use in developing regions were to catch up with that in affluent countries, the overall use of energy by humankind would be five times the present level – that is, 75,000 times the pre-farming level.

Hope for the future lies in a rapid transition to a society that is truly in tune with, sensitive to and respectful of the processes of life – a society that is in tune with our own biology and with the living world around us. Let us call it a *biosensitive society*. Biosensitivity will be the guiding principle in all spheres of human activity.

This will mean big changes right across the social system, including:

- Swift and drastic reduction in use of fossil fuels.
- Extensive forestation and reforestation worldwide to sequester atmospheric carbon.
- Rapid development of clean energy sources.
- A progressive decrease in the consumption of resources and energy in developed countries.
- Conditions which satisfy the health and wellbeing needs of all sections of the human population.
- Effective protection of biodiversity in all regional ecosystems and in the oceans.
- The return of nutrients in organic waste to farmland.
- Maintaining the biological integrity of soil (i.e. soils rich in organic matter).
- No release of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) or other harmful chemical compounds in quantities that interfere with human or ecosystem health.
- Eventual adjustment of global and regional populations to levels that do not cause progressive damage to the planet's ecosystems (1000 million globally?).
- Destruction of all weapons of mass destruction.

A shift to an economic system which:

- is based on economic theory that reflects a sound understanding of the processes of life that underpin our existence and of the biological limits to human activities on Earth;
- ensures the satisfaction of human health and wellbeing needs at much lower rates of energy and resource use and waste production than those typical of affluent societies today;
- does not result in a continuously increasing rate of use of material resources and energy;
- progressively reduces existing disparities in human wellbeing;
- The transfer of workers in occupations that result in undesirable impacts on the biosphere to jobs which are consistent with ecological health and sustainability.
- No creation of unnecessary jobs for the unemployed – but rather a slight reduction in the working hours of the rest of the work force – thereby making jobs available for the unemployed without increasing resource and energy use.
- The story of life on Earth and of the human place in nature and the essential characteristics of a biosensitive society a core theme in educational programs at all levels.

People's lifestyles will be:

- In tune with the universal health needs of the human species (e.g. clean air and water, healthy diet, plenty of physical exercise, convivial interaction with friends and family)
- Consistent with the health needs of the living environment. Emphasis will be activities that are not environmentally costly – such as growing food, making music, dancing, art, bushwalking, sport, art, convivial social interaction, in contrast, for example, to consumerism and fossil fuel dependent travel.

### Note

The transition to sustainability will not be possible without strong government action, supported by an informed and concerned electorate. However, at present the worldview, assumptions and priorities of the dominant culture block any such transition. There will be no transition unless this culture comes to embrace, at its heart, a basic understanding of the story of life on Earth and the human place in nature and of the major anthropogenic threats to the biosphere – as well as a unifying vision of an ecologically sustainable biosensitive society of the future.

Our first priority must therefore be to bring about such understanding, right across the community, and especially in the corridors of power.

For more detail see *Our place in nature: past present and future*, published by Nature and Society Forum  
GPO Box 11, Canberra, ACT, 2601.  
Email: office@natsoc.org.au

### Obituary

#### **Peter Loveday AM 28 December 1925 – 20 August 2011**

Peter Loveday, political scientist, historian and philosophy student, was distinguished not only by his own outstanding achievements as a political scientist but by the many high-achieving protégés whom he encouraged and mentored. His research and publications covered the full range of representative democracy and politics in Australia, from 19<sup>th</sup> century colonial self-government in New South Wales, the largest colony, to contemporary politics in Australia's smallest jurisdiction, the Northern Territory. They involved grass-roots empirical research, quantitative analysis and theoretical reflections that stretched conceptual boundaries as well as more traditional documentary research.

He always had an outstanding intellect, topping the state in chemistry in the South Australian Leaving Certificate in 1941 and then 15 years later, in 1956, graduating with first class honours and university medals in history and philosophy at the University of Sydney. Born in Renmark, South Australia, he had grown up in rural South Australia and worked in the industrial towns of Newcastle, NSW, and Port Pirie, South Australia.

His background meant that he was no ivory-tower academic. He had seen industry from the inside and had worked with his hands. He returned to this interest in government-industry relations years later in one of his major works, *Promoting Industry*. He was also a frequent and selfless collaborator who always enjoyed working with others. He worked in a variety of settings and made some brave, somewhat unconventional career choices

Peter's English-born father, Ron Loveday, became involved in trade union and Labor party politics during the depression. He was a Labor Member of Parliament in South Australia from 1956 to 1970 and Minister for Education in the Walsh and Dunstan Labor governments. Peter's mother, Lizzie Mills, came from a pioneering South Australian family; her father had been a Liberal Country Party MLC.

Peter was brought up, first, in testing circumstances on a soldier settler's block at Cungena, Eyre Peninsula; then in 1936 the family moved to a farm at Kernella, near Port Lincoln; later again the family moved to Whyalla, but Peter, who was already boarding in Port Lincoln to attend the high school there, stayed behind to complete his schooling in 1941.

Peter began his working life as a trainee metallurgist with BHP, in Newcastle, from 1942 to 1948. While there he attended the local technical college and graduated with a Diploma of Metallurgy from Sydney Technical College in 1947. While in Newcastle he attended several WEA courses and became interested in attending university to study humanities. Lack of the necessary financial resources led him to return to South Australia as a metallurgist with Broken Hill Associated Smelters in Port Pirie from 1949 to 1951.

Peter married Ruth Laing in 1953 and they had two children, Nicholas and Kate. That marriage was dissolved in 1986, and in 1988 he married the archivist, historian and former Mitchell Librarian, Baiba Berzins.

Peter undertook his undergraduate studies 1952-56, at Sydney University and then a PhD thesis, which was the first ever in Australian history at Sydney University, graduating in 1962, when the discipline of political science was still quite new. His thesis title, reflecting his life-long Australian interests, was *Parliamentary Government in New South Wales 1856-1870*. This research was supported by a General Motors Holden Research Fellowship in 1957 and 1958 and culminated in a major work, *Parliament, Factions and Parties, the First Thirty Years of Responsible Government in New South Wales, 1856-1889* (1966), co-authored with his great friend and colleague, Allan Martin. Later still he drew on this continuing historical expertise and wrote the definitive survey of 'Political History and Biography' in *Surveys of Australian Political Science*, (D. Aitkin, ed., 1985) for the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

He was on the staff at Sydney University as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Government from 1957 until 1965 and then, for a short time at Adelaide University as Reader in Politics, 1966-68. Characteristically he left Adelaide on a point of principle. During this early period most of his publications were in history journals, such as *Historical Studies* and *The Australian Journal of Politics and History*. He also co-authored a path-breaking article called 'Images of Politics', 1960, with his Sydney political science colleagues, Henry Mayer and Peter Westerway.

Peter then joined the Australian National University as a Senior Fellow, 1968-80. His major publication during this time was *The Emergence of the Australian Party System* (ed., with Martin and RS Parker, 1977). He also developed new public policy interests that led to *Promoting Industry, Recent Australian Political Experience* (1982)

His diversity of interests included political theory, which produced important articles including 'Group Theory and its Critics' and 'Corporatist Trends in Australia', Australian political thought and contemporary party politics.

His collaborators included Patrick Troy, his former student Patrick Weller, and Dean Jaensch from Flinders University (see *Under One Flag: The 1980 Northern Territory Election*, 1981). In the late 1970s Peter developed interests in the Northern Territory and in Aboriginal politics that led eventually to a move to Darwin as Field Director of the North Australia Research Unit, 1981-90. There he presided over what one younger colleague fondly called the 'Narrows Road Home for Ageing and Wayward Academics'. His vigour and enterprise quickly transformed the unit; making it what David Carment and Malcolm Brown have called a 'hive of intense intellectual activity'. His collaborators there included many colleagues and friends, young and old. The unit's research program was extremely varied and his own personal contribution covered elections, service delivery, Aboriginal issues, public administration and statehood. The move generated a huge burst of productivity and lots of field research, which he greatly enjoyed. Notably his 1982 presidential address, 'The Politics of Aboriginal Society', to the Australasian Political Studies Association, reflected on some of these new interests.

In the Northern Territory he was freed from the restrictions imposed by large, bureaucratic universities. He appreciated informality and disliked stuffiness in all its forms. He loved working on an intellectual and physical frontier, where he was able to lead from the front; he enjoyed getting his hands dirty and the new environment gave full rein to his skills in mentoring, editing and improving the work of others and in encouraging collaborative and innovative research. One young colleague from that time recalled that two of his great qualities were 'clear analytic thinking and astute, careful observation'; another valued most his 'conviviality and mentorship'.



After retirement he and Baiba returned to Sydney, but together they made a continuing contribution to Northern Territory history, including a commissioned history of the Northern Territory University and an account of the first territory election won by the Labor Party in 2001.

He was very much at home studying Australia, but he held numerous visiting international positions over the years, including Visiting Lecturer, Yale University 1964; Senior Fellow, Manchester University, 1965; Visiting Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, 1975; and Visitor, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 1979 and 1983. In the 1980s he visited Canada and New Zealand to study indigenous issues. Despite his extensive international connections and interests, most of his publications were on Australian topics and he rarely published outside of Australia.

His honours and awards included Fellow, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, 1977; and a Member in the Order of Australia, for services to education in the Northern Territory, 1992.

Peter was a role model, mentor, and supervisor to many younger political scientists, whose lives and careers he often transformed, as he did mine. As a supervisor he set high standards but always helped students meet them; his comments were described by one former postgraduate student as 'quick, focused, constructive'; involving 'more red ink than there was blue when the drafts came back'.

As a mentor, that same postgraduate student recalled, 'he was the person who made my career possible'; these words could be repeated many times over by others. Another young colleague recalled that 'his skills as a mentor were unrivalled'; this included his role as 'mentor in chief' of the big ANU public policy project that culminated in Hawker, Smith and Weller, *Politics and Policy in Australia* (1979). That same junior colleague's opinion was that 'His contributions were many, but the chief ones were interest and enthusiasm. He expected us to produce results and drove us along with inquiries and suggestions as well as well merited critique'. This was a common view. He made a lasting impression, and many junior colleagues continued to follow his path in their academic work.

Peter was a passionate man; that passion was normally bridled in academic settings, but, a colleague remembers, that at least in its immediate aftermath he was passionate about the unfair dismissal of the Whitlam government. Fairness was 'always one of [his] trademarks', remembered a young colleague. His relations with university bureaucracy could be strained; one protégé commented that he 'taught me to be constantly at odds with university bureaucrats'. But he was a skilled negotiator and, despite his known Labor sympathies, he got on well with and was respected by the CLP politicians and the bureaucrats in the Territory.

Carment and Brown have recorded that Peter 'played tennis, enjoyed classical music, was a keen bushwalker, enjoyed sailing, body surfing and photography'. Above all he enjoyed convivial conversation and the company of friends over a glass of wine.

He died in Sydney, survived by his wife, Baiba, his former wife, his children, four of his six siblings and his granddaughter.

**John Warhurst**

## **ANU gets \$34m in grants**

ANU scholars won over 10 per cent of all funding from the Australian Research Council's 2010 Major Grants awards. Some 102 projects from disciplines across the campus won a total of \$34 million from a total pool of \$310 million.

Vice Chancellor Ian Young said, "I particularly note that this year we have built on our traditionally high success rates with a very impressive 37 per cent of ANU applications under the Discovery Projects scheme awarded funding. This will see 90 projects begin in 2012, supported by \$31.5 million. This sets ANU at the top of the national scale for Discovery Project earnings.

"My warmest congratulations go to all who won ARC Major Grants, and my thanks to all staff who have worked so hard to achieve this terrific result," he said.

For a full list of projects go to: [http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp\\_outcomes.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_outcomes.htm)

## Conferring of Awards

The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on December 14, 15 and 16 at Llewellyn Hall.

ANU Emeritus Faculty members are cordially invited to participate in the academic processions for these ceremonies. Please register your intent to participate via the following web address:

[http://www.anu.edu.au/sas/graduation/Emeritus\\_Poll/](http://www.anu.edu.au/sas/graduation/Emeritus_Poll/)

You will be asked to select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend, and the area that you will be representing. A schedule for each ceremony is included on the website.

Registration will close on Sunday 4 December at 5pm.

It is the responsibility of each participant to provide their own academic dress. If a participant is unsure of the code of dress, the Office of the Council and Boards Secretariat (x52113 or [Head.Cabs@anu.edu.au](mailto:Head.Cabs@anu.edu.au)) may be consulted.

Assembly for all processions occurs near the Graduands Robing Room; there will be signs on the day providing directions. Registered participants are asked to assemble in this location, at least half an hour prior to the commencement of the ceremony.

For more information, call Narelle Jones (x54648) or if you are unable to complete the registration form.

## ANU on holiday

ANU Vice-Chancellor Ian Young has circulated the University's summer holiday arrangements. Consistent with normal practice, the Christmas closedown period will be from Saturday 24 December 2011 (Christmas Eve) until Monday 2 January 2012 (substitute holiday for Sunday 1 January - New Year's Day), with the University reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2012. The University will, however, effectively close from midday Friday 23 December 2011. Staff members working on this day may leave work from 12 midday onwards with the approval of their relevant Dean or Director. Staff on approved leave on Friday 23 December 2011 will need to apply for a full day's entitlement. Staff who are required to work on a University holiday in an organisational unit that does not close for operational reasons, will be given time in lieu or additional paid leave for time worked. Normal leave arrangements apply for any absences outside the closure period.

He writes, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for your contributions to ANU this year. ANU is only as good as we are because of the quality of the people we have here, and all the work you do. I wish you, your family and friends a safe and enjoyable break over the Christmas and New Year season."

## ANUEF Snippets

### Monthly get-together

The last Collegiality Lunch for 2011 was held earlier this month. The next one will be on **Wednesday 1 February**. Usually the ANUEF meets monthly for lunch on the **first Wednesday of every month** for members to get together informally. 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

### What's on at the 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>

## ...And elsewhere

**Encounter Europe – Visit Germany**, a DAAD Seminar for Students from Australia and New Zealand at the European Academy Otzenhausen - an introduction to the political, economic and environmental issues of European integration from 4 – 17 December 2011

Scholarships for a two-week course dealing with a variety of issues regarding the European Union (in English) [daad.australia@gmail.com](mailto:daad.australia@gmail.com) or <http://ic.daad.de/sydney/>

**Exhibition: Handwritten - Ten Centuries of Manuscript Treasures** - A European-Australian exhibition project, 26 November 2011 - 15 March 2012, National Library of Australia, Canberra

## ANUEF diary dates

**14 December** ANUEF AGM + Christmas Party at 5.00 pm in the Molony Room

Previous Public Lectures can be found here: [http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events/Past\\_Events.html](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>

## Current Affairs

### UN Academic Network needs a volunteer

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is seeking a volunteer Co-ordinator for the UN Academic Network in Australia.

The UN Association of Australia is a national non-profit organisation which aims to educate and engage the community in the work of the United Nations. The UN Academic Network was established in 2008, and aims to:

- (i) Build networks amongst academics around Australia with UN-related expertise and interests;
- (ii) Strengthen and enhance discourse through teaching and research on the UN in universities and other educational institutions; and
- (iii) Provide opportunities for academics to promote the UN within the broader community.

The Network has approximately 60 academic members across Australia and has met on several occasions, usually as part of UNAA National Conferences each year, where academics are invited to present recent papers on UN and related issues.

The UN Academic Network Co-ordinator will work with Academic Network founder Professor John Langmore and UNAA Executive Director Elizabeth Shaw to:

- (i) Develop a Strategic Plan for the Academic Network;
- (ii) Organise regular meetings of the Academic Network, new opportunities to bring members together and the Academic Network meeting as part of the UNAA National Conference;
- (iii) Engage new and existing members in the activities of the Network;
- (iv) Promote UN –related academia throughout the community.

Established in 1946, the UNAA is run by volunteer branches in each state and territory of Australia and a national board, led by former Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, Robert Hill. The UNAA educates the community about the work and goals of the UN through speaker events, panel discussions, award programs and model UN activities in schools and universities.

### Application Details

**Title:** UN Academic Network Co-ordinator

**Reporting to:** Executive Director Elizabeth Shaw

**Location:** Co-ordinator can work remotely but needs to be Australia-based

Hours: 5 – 10 hours per week

**Salary:** Volunteer. The UNAA will meet expenses associated with participation.

Please send a brief application, including CV and a cover letter to Elizabeth Shaw at [elizabeth.shaw@unaa.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.shaw@unaa.org.au) by 5pm EST on Friday 9 December 2011.

## Inquiry into Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or FASD as it is commonly referred to is the subject of a new inquiry by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs. The Committee received a joint referral from the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin and the Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon to inquire into the incidence and prevention of FASD.

The terms of reference highlights three main areas that the Committee will investigate:

- **Prevention strategies** - including education campaigns and consideration of options such as product warnings and other mechanisms to raise awareness of the harmful nature of alcohol assumption during pregnancy
- **Intervention needs** - including FASD diagnostic tools for health and other professionals, and the early intervention therapies aimed at minimising the impact of FASD on affected individuals, and
- **Management issues** - including access to appropriate community care and support services across education, health, community services, employment and criminal justice sectors for the communities, families and individuals affected by FASD.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is the umbrella term for the entire range of disabilities including birth defects and brain damage that may arise due to prenatal alcohol exposure.

Committee Chair Graham Perrett MP commented that “FASD is recognised as the one of the most common preventable causes of birth defects and brain damage in children which is why the inquiry will have a strong focus into prevention strategies including education campaigns.”

Intervention needs are also a priority area for people and their families living with the disabilities associated with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The Committee will investigate what is currently being done in this area to minimise the impact of FASD on affected individuals in addition to looking at management issues such as access to appropriate community care and support services.

“The Committee is also concerned that due to the lack of clear cut information available on FASD patients may not be receiving targeted and integrated support to meet their complex needs,” Mr Perrett said.

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry by **9 December 2011** however submissions will be accepted throughout the duration of the inquiry. For the full terms of reference and advice on making submissions see the Committee’s website at [www.apf.gov.au/spla](http://www.apf.gov.au/spla) or contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 2358**.

## Indigenous languages ‘disappearing’ committee told

Indigenous languages policy and programs were the focus of a public hearing in Sydney on November 18 in relation to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs’ inquiry into language learning in Indigenous communities.

The Australian Human Rights Commission and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) gave evidence to the Committee on the benefits of giving attention and recognition to Indigenous languages. ANTaR is deeply concerned that “Indigenous languages continue to disappear in Australia at one of the fastest rates in the world.”

Representatives of the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning addressed the Committee about the “strong role language plays in the cultural empowerment of Indigenous people across Australia and future generations.” The Australian Council of TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Associations presented its position that the “specific English language and literacy learning needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students must be acknowledged and addressed in educational programs and initiatives.”

John Hobson from the University of Sydney’s Koori Centre gave evidence about the importance of teacher training for improving education outcomes in communities where English is not the first language.

Committee Chair Mr Shayne Neumann MP commented that “the Committee is really interested in hearing about successful programs that are supporting Indigenous languages while at the same time improving well-being and educational outcomes in Indigenous communities.”

Information about the inquiry including the program can be found at the inquiry’s website:  
[www.apf.gov.au/languages](http://www.apf.gov.au/languages)

### **DNA evidence to be monitored**

Minister for Home Affairs and Justice Brendan O’Connor has welcomed the agreement of State and Territory Ministers to the recommendations of the final report by the Standing Committee on Law and Justice’s DNA Evidence Working Group.

Mr O’Connor told the Standing Committee on Law and Justice meeting that each jurisdiction had agreed to continue to monitor the use of DNA evidence in criminal proceedings and how it is understood in the court room.

The agreement by Ministers will ensure each jurisdiction considers how to promote fairness in criminal prosecutions involving DNA evidence. The DNA Evidence Working Group has also undertaken to work with the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency and the National Institute of Forensic Science (ANZPAA NIFS) and Standards Australia on the development of national standards for the collection and interpretation of forensic evidence.

Mr O’Connor also signalled his intention to introduce legislation to implement recommendations of the *2010 DNA Forensic Procedures, Further Independent Review of Part 1D of the Crimes Act 1914*.

The Review handed down 32 recommendations to:

- Improve the way DNA is collected, used and analysed for law enforcement purposes
- Increase accountability and privacy protections, and
- Improve processes for the role of DNA in convicting the guilty and exonerating the innocent.

The legislation will focus on the need to balance the rights of individuals with the public interest in using DNA for criminal investigations. The *DNA Forensic Procedures, Further Independent Review of Part 1D of the Crimes Act Report* is available at [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)

### **Digital Education Revolution – More than just a computer**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) appeared before the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit to discuss the findings in the ANAO Audit Report No. 30 Digital Education Revolution Program - National Secondary School Computer Fund.

The report suggests that while DEEWR’s overall administration of the program has been effective, important aspects of monitoring and evaluation were omitted in the rush to meet program deadlines.

The National Secondary School Computer Fund component of the program aims to achieve a computer to student ratio of 1:1 for all Year 9-12 students by 31 December 2011 and to sustain that ratio through to 2013-14.

“The committee is interested to see how well the department has responded to key areas of concern highlighted by the Auditor - General, particularly as the program end date is fast approaching,” committee chair Rob Oakeshott said. “We want to ensure students have benefited and that taxpayers have got value for money.”

The hearing was held on November 2, at Parliament House. Evidence was given by the Australian National Audit Office and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

### **Treaties Committee reviews the Baltic Sea Special Area**

It’s a long way from Canberra to the Baltic but Federal parliament’s Treaties Committee is examining a treaty that will prevent ships from releasing untreated sewage into the Baltic Sea.

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) defines certain sea areas as ‘special areas’ in which the adoption of special mandatory methods for the prevention of sea pollution is required.



Under the Convention, these special areas are provided with a higher level of protection than other areas of the sea.

Australia has a special interest in protecting sensitive sea areas. This treaty, although specifically about the Baltic Sea, is part of a broader series of agreements under MARPOL establishing 'special areas' in order to protect to maritime environment.

Ninety million people are estimated to transit the "enclosed" Baltic Sea on ships each year, making it the busiest sea in the world. Untreated sewage in the Baltic Sea cannot disperse and has been blamed for the growth of blue green algal blooms, and consequent significant fish deaths. .

This treaty will require all vessels of over 400 gross tonnes that sail in international waters to either treat sewage on board or store sewage to be offloaded when the vessel makes port.

The Committee is examining whether this treaty is being considered for other areas of the ocean at similar risk, according to the Acting Committee Chair Senator Birmingham. "All these issues will be of interest to the Australian Government in assessing the value of applying this treaty to an area within Australia's region of interest, should such a proposal be made."

A public hearing was held in Parliament House on November 18. Copies of the *National Interest Analysis* and treaty texts are available under Treaties tabled on 13 October 2011 at:  
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm>

Alternatively, interested parties may email [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

## European Dilemmas

*European Dilemmas: Internal and External issues facing the European Union, December 7-8, 2011*, University of Waikato, New Zealand. This is a multidisciplinary conference to investigate the broad phenomena which currently impact greatly on the EU, whether internally or externally. For more information go to [www.eucnetwork.org.nz](http://www.eucnetwork.org.nz)

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