

EMERITUS

March 2012

Vol 3 No 6 of the Australian National University Emeritus Faculty



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

The ANU Emeritus Faculty,
 Fellows Lane Cottage - Building 3T. [See www.anu.edu.au/emeritus for location map]
 Postal address PO Box 6050, O'Connor, ACT 2602. Phone: 02 6125 5309 Fax: 02 6125 5262

Elections to be held for Academic Board

ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young reports that the University Council has now formally approved the re-establishment of the ANU Academic Board. The Chair of the Academic Board is appointed by Council on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor who has called for Expressions of Interest for the role of Chair. These expressions of interest should be sent to the Vice Chancellor at vc@anu.edu.au by Friday, March 16.

The aim is to have the membership established by the end of April. Elections will be run within Colleges for College members and by the Governance Office (formerly the Council and Board Secretariat) for the members elected from amongst the Deans and Directors, and the general staff.

The functions and powers of Board include

- (a) operating with the assistance of specialist committees: Education, Research, Equity and Access;
- (b) accrediting and reaccrediting programs and changes to existing programs;
- (c) ensuring the maintenance of the highest standards in teaching, scholarship and research within the University;
- (d) approving Degrees and other awards;
- (e) discussing and developing policy recommendations in relation to the University's academic matters;
- (f) maintaining an effective overview of the academic activities of the University and advising and assisting in their coordination;
- (g) advising on the academic aspects and content of the University's strategic plan;
- (h) providing a forum to facilitate information flow and debate within the University and between the senior executive officers of the University and the wider academic community;
- (i) reporting to the University Council at intervals, and in the manner specified by the University Council, on the performance of its functions.

The Board may perform such other functions, undertake such other responsibilities or exercise such other powers as the Vice-Chancellor from time to time directs. The Board may appoint committees to assist it in carrying out its functions. In giving advice to the Council or the Vice-Chancellor, the Board may consult with University policy committees, committees of the Board or other University bodies or members.

Membership of the Academic Board will include:

The Chair appointed by Council on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor; the Deputy Vice-Chancellors; the Pro Vice-Chancellors; and the Registrar. In addition:

- The Heads of the ANU Colleges;
- The Dean of the ANU Medical School;
- Four persons elected from among the number of the Deans or Directors of academic schools or centres as mentioned in an Order made by the Vice-Chancellor for the purpose;
- Three academic staff elected from the ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences;
- Three academic staff elected from the ANU College of Asia & the Pacific;
- Three academic staff elected from the ANU College of Business & Economics;
- Two academic staff elected from the ANU College of Engineering & Computer Science;
- Two academic staff elected from the ANU College of Law;
- Three academic staff elected from the ANU College of Medicine, Biology & Environment;
- Three academic staff elected from the ANU College of Physical & Mathematical Sciences;
- Two members of the general staff;
- One postgraduate student appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the President of the Postgraduate and Research Students' Association Inc.;
- One undergraduate student appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the President of the Australian National University Students' Association Inc.;
- If there is no indigenous person holding a position on the Board, the Vice Chancellor, after consulting with the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre is to nominate one member of the academic staff who is an indigenous person to be a member of the Board.

The Chair of the Board, with the agreement of the Board, may appoint up to five additional members to provide a diversity of views if the Chair believes the current membership of the Board does not reflect the academic and cultural diversity of the University.

Each elected or appointed member of the Board is to serve for two years, but this may be renewed. The term of appointment of each postgraduate and undergraduate member of the Board is to be one year, but may be renewed.

Professor Young added, "I would like to thank all those who provided feedback on the draft Academic Board Statute and Committee Rules. The final papers contained a number of amendments to those drafts based on feedback received. Some of the changes to the Academic Board Statute were to ensure clarity of expression. The more substantive changes amended the membership slightly, included provision for increasing academic and cultural diversity, added the provision for alternates to attend meetings, and described (without prescribing) the expected frequency of meetings.

"Based on feedback received, amendments to the Committee Rules were also made to memberships and to the roles of the Committees."

The documents are available on the web:

Academic Board Statute

http://about.anu.edu.au/_documents/statutes/academicboardstatute.pdf

Academic Board Committees Rules

http://about.anu.edu.au/_documents/rules/AcademicBoardCteesRules.pdf

Don't ask about the weather

ANU Climate Change Institute seminar

Trends and tipping points in the atmosphere/ocean system: lessons from the past was the subject of an address by Andrew Glikson at an ANU Climate Change Institute seminar on February 24. It coincided with a visit by members of the House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts to the Snowy Mountains, where the Committee viewed some of Australia's rare and unique alpine ecosystems

and heard from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service officers about how these ecosystems are being affected by both climate change and other environmental stressors. And the CSIRO has reported that deep-diving ocean “gliders” have revealed the journey of Bass Strait water from the Tasman Sea to the Indian Ocean.

Deployed in 2010 and 2011, the gliders have also profiled a 200-metre tall wall of water at the core of long-lived ocean eddies formed from the East Australian Current. The study, by University of Technology Sydney and CSIRO oceanographers, revealed the value of new sensors being deployed by Australia’s Integrated Marine Observing System.

Dr Gibson’s paper examined deep-time perspectives of 20th century to early 21st century trends in the atmosphere-ocean system indicate the glacial-interglacial history of the last ~800 kyr is dominated by non-linear to abrupt climate shifts, including irreversible tipping points, driven by orbital insolation pulsations (~40-60 Watt/m²) triggering feedbacks from ice melt/water interaction and greenhouse gas (GHG) release.

The current rate of greenhouse gas (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, ozone) rise at ~2 ppm CO₂/year is the fastest recorded in the geological record, with the exception of events associated with mass extinction of species. This rate is higher by a factor of ~5 than that associated with the Paleocene-Eocene thermal event when a release of ~2000 billion ton carbon (GtC) was triggered an abrupt greenhouse event of ~5°C (deep ocean temperature) on a few decades time scale, lasting up to 10,000 years.

Temperature rise rates during the 20th century and since ~1975 exceed those of glacial terminations by factors of near -30 and are similar to rates of the ~1470 years-long intra-glacial Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles, where sharp temperature rises occurred in Greenland (~6C – 8C in few decades), extending to lower latitudes.

Current atmospheric radiative forcing reached over 50 percent of the ~6 Watt/m² forcing of the last glacial termination. Glacial termination events were preceded by low-variability lulls, followed by a response to peak radiative through irreversible shifts between distinct climate states. Current greenhouse gas forcing level of +3.2 Watt/m² since 1750, driven by carbon emission, fires and land clearing, is currently masked by the albedo enhancement effect of emitted SO₂ aerosol, estimated as - 1.6 Watt/m². At 393 ppm CO₂ and 470 ppm CO₂-equivalent, the atmosphere/ocean system is tracking toward the ~500±50 ppm CO₂ upper stability limit of the Antarctic ice sheet.

The currently rising greenhouse gas level would, in part, buffer the atmosphere in relation to solar orbital forcing, inducing a near-permanent El-Nino state and reaching conditions analogous to those of the Pliocene and mid-Miocene, when mean global temperatures were +2 to +4°C above the present, continental ice sheets were about half the present and sea levels were ~ +20 to 40 meters above present levels. Depending on the level of future greenhouse gas rise, elevated temperatures may delay or cancel the next glacial cycle.

On Friday, March 16, the ANU Climate Change Institute will be holding a PhD expo from 8:30am — 4:00pm for researchers working on climate change related studies at the ANU Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Lennox Crossing between. One of the goals of (CCI) is to build and support a cohesive, interactive community of climate change-related researchers and teachers at the ANU. Supporting ANU PhD researchers in climate change related fields is important to the CCI as they are the future researchers, science leaders and policy advisers, solving real-world problems and contributing not just nationally but globally to climate change solutions and to sustainability more generally.

For more information: http://cci.anu.edu.au/events/#day_16

Working Words

ISBN 978-0-646-55991-9

By Elizabeth Manning Murphy JP BA (Hons) FCES, FSBT (UK) AFAIM DE

Published by the Canberra Society of Editors, PO Box 3222, Manuka ACT 2603

Review by Giles Pickford BA (Hons) *W.Aust*

Elizabeth Murphy is a member of the ANU Emeritus Faculty. We try to review the books produced by our members when they have wide appeal and relevance. So it was impossible to pass up an opportunity to review a book for “editors, writers, teachers, students of English Grammar and wordsmiths all”. Such a descriptor would include all of our members and all their work.

This book explains from the beginning that it does not set out to replace the “formal reference works on English Grammar, editing, plain English, effective writing, or the business aspects of working from home as a freelance editor...” “Rather, it is a companion to all of them, to be picked up and dipped into at random for a somewhat lighter approach to these topics”.

Each part of this delightful work begins with an offbeat rumination headed “Itchypencils”. An editor is described as being an Itchypencil and the first Itchypencil discusses the search to find the collective noun for Editors. A number of suggestions are offered, including ream, galley, proof, punctilio, nitpick, barrage, column, stroke, pedantry, colophon, appendix, bracket, quire and chapter. [The editor of *Emeritus* adds that he has heard them addressed as an erudition of editors but also as an expense of editors.]

In my earlier life I was in that group of university administrators referred to as assistant registrars. For me there was only one collective noun that was fitting. It was a worry of assistant registrars. The worry being that they had all the responsibility and none of the power.

The first part of the book discusses the editor’s job, the most important part of which is to be the author’s friend but not his flatterer. Socrates told his pupils “Listen carefully to your enemies. They may be the only ones who are telling you the truth”. An editor, by Elizabeth Murphy’s definition, must tell the author the truth in such a way that the editor is perceived as a friend: a critical friend, but a friend none the less. Also discussed is accreditation, not an attribute that necessarily makes an editor better, but something that is coming soon. There is also an interesting section that asks ‘is an editor a teacher?’

The chapters that follow cover plagiarism and copyright, both highly technical areas where much is unfortunately open to interpretation. An editor needs to keep an eye open to these things and advise her client where possible. It seems an editor’s job is to assist the client avoid brushes with the law, and well as brushes with bad syntax and bad taste. A chapter on disclaimers follow, again a skill in avoiding brushes with the law.

Editing students’ work follows with all its joys (when an exciting new topic is discovered in well written prose) and all its pain (when the writing is so bad that the meaning is lost). “...there is nothing more rewarding than working with students...” says Elizabeth Murphy. We would all agree.

Part 2 closes with advice on the ethics of editing.

Part 3 is a tour de force across every business aspect of editing, including project management and definition, quoting, invoicing, office organisation and more. None of the business aspects mentioned above are editing, but they are essential skills of a professional editor.

An amusing Itchypencil section follows in which Elizabeth edits the road signs and store signs between Canberra and Melbourne. What a fun way of passing the time on the road!

The book now turns to the terrifying subject of grammar. It is here that Elizabeth's knowledge of the language comes to the fore: for she is a linguist as well as an editor. Grammar is not my strong suit so I will be buried in this section of the book for a long time. In fact there are parts of it that I will need to read more than once.

English is a beautiful instrument and it is changing all the time. When I was at school the split infinitive was forbidden. Over time the clumsiness of the un-split infinitive became too painful to endure, so now infinitives are split all over the place with the result that the language is permitted to be graceful again.

There are new words appearing daily. I recently became aware of the app, and discovered that I did not have one. After a brief mental struggle I decided to be apples. My spell check is telling me that I should have written apples. See how everything changes?

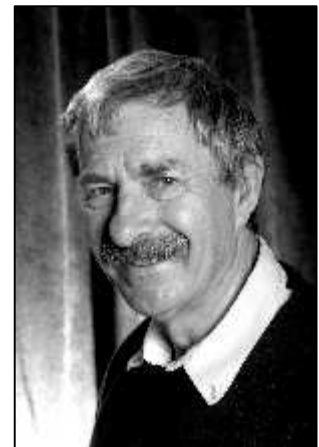
Good writing, however, does not change. We know when we are reading it, and a good editor is an essential part of the team that produces it.

ORDERING

'*Working Words* can be purchased from the Co-op bookshops (ANU and University of Canberra) and from Paperchain, Manuka (including online), for \$39.95.' Or direct from the Canberra Society of Editors by accessing <http://www.editorscanberra.org/resources/workingwords/>

HYLAND NEIL ('HANK') NELSON — A MEMOIR

(Born 21 October 1937; died 17 February 2012)



Professor Hank Nelson, who died in the Clare Holland palliative care hospice, Canberra, on 17 February 2012, was an historian who spent four decades working at the Australian National University (ANU). The best known historian of Papua New Guinea, Hank Nelson was a frequent public commentator on the history, politics and society of Australia's one-time largest overseas territory; however, his extensive published works covered military and educational history as well.

After training as a secondary teacher at the University of Melbourne in the late 1950s, Hank taught English and History in government schools for three years 1960–63. His last posting before taking up a lectureship in History and Politics at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in 1963 was at the Numurkah High School in north-eastern Victoria.

Hank spent two years at RMIT, 1964–65, before moving in early 1966 to Port Moresby as a tutor at the recently established Administrative College. 'AdColl' was a government educational institution in the then outer suburb Waigani which aimed to accelerate the careers of promising young Papua New Guinean civil servants by pushing them through an intensive program of managerial training. Hank taught at 'AdColl' for two years, 1966–67, before being recruited at the end of 1967 by Professor Ken Inglis, foundation Professor of History at the adjacent University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG). Like 'AdColl', UPNG was one of a series of tertiary training institutions hastily established by the Australian government during 1965 and 1966 to produce an indigenous Papua New Guinean educated elite before political independence was granted. Others were the Institute of Higher Technical Education near Lae, the Goroka Teachers' College and the Vudal Agricultural College near Rabaul, all of which subsequently became universities.

These were exciting times to be a tertiary sector educator in Papua New Guinea. The new and prestigious tertiary training institutions did much to foment the process of rapid political change in Papua New Guinea which made independence possible in 1975. Ken Inglis's team of able and ambitious young historians was at the forefront of the intellectual vanguard leading the emergent nation towards its future. All of them excellent teachers, they created intense interest in the new field of Papua

New Guinean history, which their department largely created and which helped foster a growing national consciousness. Hank quickly became the leading expert in this new field. He subsequently retained his eminence in the specialisation. His colleagues in the department included a series of outstanding historians who had or would later have ANU affiliations. Among them were Peter Bolger, Donald Denoon, Bill Gammage, Alan Gilbert, Jim Griffin, Diane Langmore and Sione Latukefu.

Hyland Neil Nelson was the younger son of a farming family near Boort in the Wimmera region of north-western Victoria. Born in Boort on 21 October 1937, his parents were John Hyland and Hilda Ellen Nelson. After schooling at the local primary and high schools, he passed the examinations for the Matriculation (Year 12) Certificate at the end of 1955 then moved to Melbourne in early 1956 to become a student at the University of Melbourne. Majoring in History and English, he graduated with a B.A. pass degree at the end of 1968 and completed the Dip. Ed. secondary teaching qualification the next year.

In 1960, his first year of teaching, he married a fellow teacher, Janet Diane Pallas. They produced a family of two daughters and a son; and eventually there would be three grandchildren. While teaching, he also enrolled as an external part-time student in the postgraduate B.Ed. coursework program at the University of Melbourne, which he completed in 1962.

After working out the three years of his bond, Nelson moved back to Melbourne to a lectureship in History and Politics at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in 1964. He and Jan settled in Greensborough, an outer north-eastern suburb. During the two years he lectured at RMIT he completed a M.Ed. degree by thesis at his *alma mater*, the University of Melbourne. His thesis, titled 'Early Attempts to civilize the Aborigines of the Port Phillip District', was his entrée into the world of the professional academic historian.

At RMIT Nelson also adopted the nickname 'Hank', by which he was soon universally known. Given its American origins, the name is somewhat ironic because despite his decades in academe he retained the broad Australian accent acquired through being Wimmera born and bred. He also remained committed to the traditional Australian egalitarian values which were then uncommon in the patrician university history departments of the era. A product of the government school system, he might well have felt out of place among his private school-educated colleagues; however, his professional achievements, absolute dedication to his profession, work ethic, rock-hard personal integrity, high moral and ethical standards, discretion, engaging personality, lively wit, magnanimity of spirit, generosity with his own time and loyalty to friends soon won over those from more privileged backgrounds who might otherwise have misjudged him. Few historians in Australia have ever been so widely liked and admired as Hank Nelson.

Even before arriving in Port Moresby in early 1966, Hank had begun producing the continuing prolific stream of journal articles, books, encyclopaedia entries, chapters in symposia and public comment that soon came to characterise his academic career. His first publication was an article in *Historical Studies* during his final year at RMIT. Derived from the research for his M.Ed. thesis, it had the title 'The Missionaries and the Aborigines in the Port Phillip District'. During his first year on the Waigani campus he published two articles on the development of higher education in Papua New Guinea. These appeared in the two learned journals which then specialised in Papua New Guinea studies — the recently founded Port Moresby-based *Journal of the Papua and New Guinea Society* and *New Guinea and Australia, the Pacific and South-East Asia*, published in Sydney from 1965 by the journalist Peter Hastings for the Council on New Guinea Affairs.

In the following years Hank's articles appeared in most of the prestigious Australian historical and literary journals, including *Meanjin*, *Labor History*, the *Journal of Pacific History*, *Oral History*, *Overland*, *Australian Cultural History*, the *Australian Historical Association Bulletin*, the *Journal of Australian Studies* and the *Journal of the Australian War Memorial*. He also produced 16 biographical profiles for the authoritative ANU-based *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. His diverse *ADB* contributions included the entries on the great pre-war governor of Papua, Sir Hubert Murray, and his famous brother Gilbert, who became the Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford. Other notable contributions were those on Sir John Gunther, the inaugural UPNG Vice-Chancellor, and Ida Standley, the schoolteacher for whom Standley Chasm near Alice Springs is named.

During his first year at UPNG, 1968, Hank published his first book, *A Short History of New Guinea*, co-authored with Peter Biskup, a colleague at the Administrative College. It was a school textbook which conveniently filled a large gap for secondary school history teachers in Papua New Guinea, who were obliged to teach the emerging nation's history but had few resources for doing so. Hank also developed and taught the UPNG course in Papua New Guinean history, the first of its kind in any university. This opened up exciting new horizons for the many 'national' (i.e. indigenous) and expatriate (mainly Australian) students who flocked to enrol. The national students included Rabbie Namaliu, who went on to complete a M.A. degree in History at the University of British Columbia and later became Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. Another was John Waiko, the first Papua New Guinean to graduate with a Ph.D. degree in History from ANU, who later became the first national to hold the UPNG chair in History.

Hank also greatly encouraged the steady stream of postgraduate students, most of them Australians, who took advantage of the opportunities presented by UPNG to research and write M.A. theses on Papua New Guinean topics. Although I was lecturing in Lae at the Papua New Guinea Institute of Higher Technical Education (later the University of Technology), I was among the first of these; and even though Hank was not my supervisor, he gave me generous advice and support throughout the two years of my M.A. qualifying course and the three years I then took to produce my thesis part-time. He remained a mentor to me; and in the 40 years after I finished the degree continued being a major influence on my development as an historian. Given his pioneering energy as a teacher, researcher and supporter of postgraduate students, no one could have been surprised when Hank was promoted to become UPNG's first senior lecturer in History.

Hank himself became one of the UPNG postgraduate students. He wrote his Ph.D. thesis on the early history of mining in Papua New Guinea and the impact of the mining on indigenous communities. Probably among the best theses ever produced at UPNG, it was published by ANU Press in 1977 under the title *Black, White and Gold: Goldmining in Papua New Guinea 1878–1930*. This was his fourth book. Five years earlier, in 1972, Penguin Books had published his second book, *Papua New Guinea: Black Unity or Black Chaos?* an assessment of Papua New Guinea's rapid transition to self-government. (A revised edition was published in 1974 in the months leading to independence.) In 1973 he had teamed up again with Peter Biskup and another former 'AdColl' colleague, Brian Jinks, to produce his third book, *Readings in New Guinea History*, published by Angus and Robertson.

By the time *Readings in New Guinea History* appeared, Hank had relocated to Canberra. Following his seven highly productive, career-shaping years at Waigani, he took up a research fellowship in History in the Research School of Social Sciences at ANU at the beginning of 1973. After two years in the position, he gained another research fellowship at ANU, this time in the Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History within the Research School of Pacific Studies. It was in this department that he consolidated his reputation as one of the leading historians of the Pacific region. During his second year in the department, 1976, he was promoted to Senior Research Fellow. In subsequent promotions he became a Fellow in Pacific and Southeast Asian History in 1976, Senior Fellow in 1981 and then Professor in 1993. In 1994, the year after taking up his chair, he was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. At his retirement in 2002, the year he turned 65, Hank was appointed as a Professor Emeritus of ANU. He also became a Visiting Fellow in the Division of Pacific and Asian History and Chair of the 'State Society and Governance in Melanesia' program. As such, his link with ANU continued in the decade after his retirement.

During Hank's four decades at ANU his interests broadened to encompass military and educational history. Although he remained the great authority in Papua New Guinean history, the diversification of his interests became obvious in the titles of the books and journal articles he published. The books included *Taim Bilong Masta: The Australian Involvement with Papua New Guinea* (1982 and 1990); *POW: Prisoners of War — Australians Under Nippon* (1985 and 2001); *With Its Hat About Its Ears: Recollections of the Bush School* (1989 and 1990); *Lines Across the Sea: Colonial Inheritance in the Post Colonial Pacific* (1995, edited with Brij Lal); *Report on Historical Sources on Australia and Japan at War in Papua and New Guinea* (1998); *'Chased by the Sun': Courageous Australians in Bomber Command in World War II* (2002); *'Fighting for Her Gates and Waterways': Changing Perceptions of*

New Guinea in Australian Defence (2005); *The Pacific War in Papua New Guinea: Memories and Realities* (2006, edited with Yukio Toyoda); *Australian Prisoners of War 1941–1945: Australians in the Pacific War* (2007); and *The Chinese in Papua New Guinea* (2007).

As well as writing his books and articles, Hank became co-director of two one-hour-long documentary films on Papua New Guinea — *Angels of War* (1982) and *Man Without Pigs* (1990). He was adviser to numerous Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio programs on Papua New Guinea, the Australian prisoners of war of the Japanese and one-teacher rural schools. He was the principal advisor for no fewer than 46 radio documentary programs. In addition, he appeared frequently on ABC radio and television news and current affairs programs as an expert commentator on Papua New Guinean history and politics. His journalism included feature articles and book reviews for various major newspapers — the *Age*, the *Australian*, the *Canberra Times*, *Nation*, the *National Times* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. For Hank, film, radio and journalism became an effective means for disseminating the results of his scholarly research. With the exception of Manning Clark and Geoffrey Blainey (one of his Ph.D. examiners), few Australian historians became as well known to the general public as Hank Nelson.

In addition to producing his published output, Hank always carried more than his fair share of the burden of academic administration. He served as a long-term member of the editorial boards of four learned journals — the *Journal of the Papua and New Guinea Society* (which he edited for two years), the *Journal of Labour History*, the *Journal of Aboriginal History* and the *Journal of Pacific History*. Through his committee work, he quickly developed into an accomplished senior manager at ANU. He served as head of department in Pacific and Southeast Asian History for various periods. He frequently acted as the Director of the School of Pacific Studies. He served as the Associate Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies 1990–1993 and of the Research School of Social Sciences in 1995. After the restructuring of the ANU research schools he became the Convenor of the Division of Pacific and Asian History. In addition he periodically acted as the Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies and as Pro Vice-Chancellor. In June 2008 he was awarded membership in the Order of Australia — the A.M. The citation stated that the award was ‘for service to tertiary education as an academic, researcher and political commentator on the contemporary history of Papua New Guinea’.

Hank’s many ANU and other scholarly involvements only lessened after his melanoma was diagnosed in mid-2008. He remained active, but successive sessions of surgery and chemotherapy progressively slowed his activity from a gallop to a canter and eventually a trot.

Hank Nelson was singularly blessed by his choice of life partner. His wife, Jan, loyally and diligently supported him in all his endeavours, sacrificing her own professional career to make his possible and taking on the role of his research assistant and home maker. She created a stable, happy domestic life in the family home in Kaleen that was the envy of many colleagues who were maritally less fortunate. Without Jan and his happy domestic arrangements, Hank might still have enjoyed an outstandingly successful academic career but it could hardly have been as fulfilling as the one made possible by Jan.

I will conclude this tribute to Hank Nelson on a personal note because our dealings with each other over many years say much about his qualities as a friend and colleague. We were almost exactly the same age, born within two months of each other. We both arrived at the University of Melbourne on Education Department studentships in 1956 to undertake pass B.A. degrees in English and History. We must have attended many lectures together, but I did not meet him until September 1967. I was then a history teacher at a high school on the far north coast of Papua New Guinea, outside Wewak in the Sepik District. He was concluding his two-year appointment at the Administrative College in Port Moresby on the other side of the island. He was among the team of university historians that Ken Inglis brought from Port Moresby to help run an in-service course for secondary history teachers, which the Education Department was conducting at the Goroka Teachers’ College. Hank and I immediately liked each other and would remain good friends throughout the following 45 years.

Inspired by Hank’s example, I decided to enroll in the M.A. program at UPNG, which I eventually completed five years later, thanks to much encouragement and guidance from Hank. After 16 months’ studying and teaching in the UK, I decided to continue my pursuit of postgraduate qualifications in history. With Hank’s backing, I secured a Ph.D. scholarship in his department at ANU. Mentored by

Hank, the late Oscar Spate and our departmental head, Gavan Daws, I somehow managed to complete the program within the allotted time despite the distraction of having three young children to raise. Regarding myself as a duly qualified historian like Hank at last, I began practising my vocation and have done so ever since, usually with encouragement and support from Hank in my successive projects. For instance, the grants I obtained to help me write my most recent books were gained after naming him as a referee; and he was always prompt and generous in writing his referee's reports. I certainly owe my historian's career to Hank and his example; but I am only one of many practising historians who will feel similarly obliged to Boort's most famous son — our generous friend, Hyland Neil Nelson, whom we all knew best as just plain Hank.

Hank is survived by Jan, his wife of 52 years, their three children, Tanya, Lauren and Michael, and their three grandchildren, Rachel, Jack and Eliza. To them and the members of their extended family I express my profound sorrow. In their grief, perhaps it will be reassuring to know that Hank will live on in the affections of the many grateful colleagues and friends whose lives he touched. His reputation will also survive in the corpus of his published work, which will remain an important source for Pacific historians for decades to come.

Ian Howie-Willis OAM
22 February 2012

Monthly get-together

The 17th Collegiality Lunch was held on Wednesday 7 March 2012 when the theme was ***To discuss the Faculty's 2012 Colloquium.***

ANUEF Collegiality lunches are usually held monthly 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, but be aware that neighboring Caterina's Cafe has closed permanently. 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.

The new **Room Bookings Diary** is kept on the Committee Room table. Those members who use the room are invited to come in and book what they want. The room is booked on a first-come-first-in basis. So don't leave it too late.

2012 ANUEF Lecture Series

Past lectures:

15 February Alex Ritchie, *'Fishing With a Hammer'*

28 February Gilles-Eric Sérélini, *'Everything You Need to Know About GM Foods'*

The next in the 2012 series

21 March: *From Anthropocene to Sustainocene - Challenges and Opportunities* by Bryan Furnass

18 April *Scholars and knowledge in the twenty-first century: new information needs* by University Librarian Roxanne Missingham.

Abstract: 2012 sees students and staff viewing the world through their iPads and mobile devices. Libraries and scholarly information are transforming to meet these new needs. For the new scholar the environment has to support their research journey in all its aspects - information skills, access to knowledge products, creation of data, publication of papers and dissemination of ideas. These new needs require a rethinking of the both the nature of services provided and the integration of services with learning and research. The presentation will cover some examples of new developments and

suggest areas that will see development such as data storage, data visualisation and new resource discovery approaches.

Diary dates

Fishing the River of Time – Invitation to a Book Launch

Faculty Members are invited to this book launch: 6.30pm Monday 19 March 2012 by **Ariel Books at 42 Oxford Street Paddington NSW 2021.**

At the age of 80 Tony Taylor journeys from Sydney to British Columbia to fish the Cowichan River with his eight-year-old grandson, Ned. This trip is an opportunity for Tony to return to a landscape that has had a profound effect on his life and his way of thinking, and to share this place with his grandson. As Tony teaches Ned the patient art of fly-fishing, a lifetime of memories, thoughts and stories unspool in peaceful reflections by the water's edge.

Fishing the River of Time is an elegant meditation on nature, life and family, written with warmth and wisdom. It inspires self-reflection, and an appreciation of the natural world and the fundamentals of our human experience. It is destined to become a classic work of simple living after Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*.

RSVP by **Friday 16 March**

email: stephanie.stepan@textpublishing.com.au t: 03 8610 4538 m: 0419 003 090

More Diary dates

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

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

Exhibition: Handwritten - Ten Centuries of Manuscript Treasures - A European-Australian exhibition project, ends on 15 March 2012, National Library of Australia, Canberra

Your benefits

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

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

Current Affairs

Coal and Margaret River

by ANU Emeritus Faculty member Peter Lane

For several years, Vasse Coal Pty Ltd, a US-backed Australian company, had been evolving plans to mine coal at Osmington, 15 kilometres north-east of the town of Margaret River, WA. This was widely known, but as the company, represented by their NSW based consultants LD Operations Pty Ltd, had

not put in an application to mine, on 11 October 2010 a community group under the heading of NoCoalition, filed an objection under section 38(1) of the Environmental Protection Act– to our knowledge the first time this section of the act had been used.

At the outset, the greatest threat to the environment appeared to be the potential impact on water resources, a view initially not shared, but later adopted by the state Department of Water. In May 2011 our view was verified by the EPA in their advice to the Minister but the process was challenged by the proponents and a lengthy appeal process begun. The Appeals Convenor supported the EPA's original recommendation and on 21 December 2011 the Minister announced that for environmental reasons the application to mine had been rejected ...almost!

There was yet another process to navigate, that of getting each of the relevant ministers to agree, at last achieved on the 7th of this month.

Despite there being evidence dating back almost 50 years of grossly unsuitable hydrogeological conditions for coal mining, residents have had to suffer – emotionally and in a very real sense, financially – a long and unnecessarily drawn out process. And despite the fact that future mine proposals in this region would present similar risks, this process could well be repeated many times over.

Led by a retired pilot (Brent Watson) there was extraordinarily strong community opposition to the mine, and while acknowledging the importance of this, should any Emeritus members like a DVD of the hydrogeological aspects, please let me know and I will send a copy over. Email me at petelane@westnet.com.au

Cheaper ACT rents for students

The Federal Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Robert McClelland, ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher and Federal Member for Fraser Andrew Leigh have announced the opening of Weedon Lodge which will provide more affordable rental accommodation for University of Canberra students in Canberra.

The ACT Chief Minister officially opened the new accommodation, delivering 175 new dwellings, which will house up to 220 students in the refurbished Cameron Offices building on Chandler Street, Belconnen.

Development of the property was made possible by support of both the ACT and Commonwealth Governments through the National Rental Affordability Scheme. Features include modern common areas and a shuttle bus service that connects residents to the University of Canberra campus centre.

“The addition of 220 new beds for students studying at the University of Canberra not only strengthens the position of the education sector as our second largest export, but will also benefit other Canberrans in the rental market by freeing up other rental properties,” the Chief Minister said.

The rental properties for students are leased at a discounted rent of at least 20 percent below market rates.

“We are really pleased to support this development as part of a larger plan by UC to build 1,000 new dwellings for student in Belconnen over the next four years,” she said.

Mr McClelland said, “The Australian Government recognises that there is a shortage of rental properties around the country and Weeden Lodge is part of a \$4.3 billion investment to increase the supply of affordable housing across the nation through National Rental Affordability Scheme.”

“This scheme will help build 50 000 new rental properties across Australia, which will allow households to save thousands of dollars every year in rent,” said Mr McClelland.

“Weedon Lodge will receive almost \$12.5 million in Australian Government support over the next 10 years,” said Mr Leigh.

In the ACT alone, 2695 affordable rental homes have been built under the scheme. The National Rental Affordability Scheme aims to build more affordable private rental housing, encouraging private investment in innovative affordable housing and reducing rental costs for low and moderate income households.

Delivered in partnership with state and territory governments, the scheme provides annual financial incentive payments to the business sector and community organisations to build and rent new homes at a minimum 20 per cent below market rate.

The National Rental Affordability Scheme is part of the Australian Government’s efforts to ensure that more Australians have an affordable roof over their head. Other investments include the \$450 million Housing Affordability Fund and the \$100 million Building Better Regional Cities program, which will deliver more affordable housing across the country.

Climate Change, biodiversity and the Australian Alps

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts held a public hearing in Canberra on March 2 as part of its inquiry into Australia’s biodiversity in a changing climate.

The inquiry is examining biodiversity and climate change in relation to nationally important ecosystems, with particular regard to terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems; the role of connectivity between ecosystems; impacts on human communities; and strategies for adaptation, sustainable resource use, and enhancing community engagement.

During a recent visit to the NSW Snowy Mountains, the Committee viewed some of Australia’s rare and unique alpine ecosystems and heard from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service officers about how these ecosystems are being affected by both climate change and other environmental stressors, such as invasive species. The Committee also met with representatives of the Great Eastern Ranges initiative and the local Kosciuszko to Coast group to learn about landscape connectivity programs underway in the area.

The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said “It was clear during our visit to Charlotte Pass that climate change will affect alpine species and ecosystems in complex ways. There will be winners as well as losers, and the precise interactions taking place are not thoroughly understood. What is certain is that the current distribution of species and ecosystems is changing, and the extent that species and ecosystems are lost forever will depend on how much resilience can be built into ecosystems through good management and control of both existing and emerging threats to biodiversity.”

Further details about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be obtained from the Committee’s website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccea> or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email ccea.reps@aph.gov.au

Submissions on Six-Monthly Review of NBN Rollout

The Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network has commenced its next Six-Monthly Review of the Rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and invites submissions relevant to its terms of reference from interested individuals and organisations.

Matters under review include: Rollout of wireless and satellite services, performance reporting, regulatory matters, national uniform pricing under the NBN, the E-readiness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the potential of private equity to fund the NBN, and Telstra workforce issues associated with the Retraining Funding Deed under the Telstra Agreement.

Submissions are due by 5 April 2012 and should be sent to:
 The Secretary
 Joint Committee on the National Broadband Network
 PO Box 6021
 Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
 email jcnbn@aph.gov.au

A public hearing will be held on Monday, 16 April 2012. Further information about the committee's Six Monthly Review of the Rollout of the National Broadband Network is available: by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2322 via email jcnbn@aph.gov.au or by visiting the committee's website.

Are men and women people?

The Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 and the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012 have been referred to the House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee for review and a report.

Both bills seek to remove all discriminatory references in the *Marriage Act 1961* and amend the definition of marriage. The Marriage Amendment Bill 2012 seeks to repeal the definition of marriage and substitute the words "a man and a woman" with the words "two people":

The Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 goes further in redefining the definition of marriage with the following:

Marriage means the union of two people, regardless of their sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

In addition both bills call for section 88EA to be repealed. Section 88EA currently states that same-sex marriages solemnised in foreign countries must not be recognised as marriage in Australia.

The Chair of the House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee, Graham Perrett MP, said that "the committee will hold a public hearing in Sydney in mid-April to discuss the legal implications of the two bills. The committee anticipates its report will be tabled on June 18, 2012."

The committee invites the public to have their say on the amendments being considered for the two marriage bills by participating in its online survey at www.aph.gov.au/marriage. This information will be provided to the committee as part of the evidence for this inquiry.

For further information visit the committee website www.aph.gov.au/marriage

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is receiving submissions into its inquiry into the Marriage Amendment Bill 2010 and is scheduled to table its report on May 25, 2012.

For more information on the Senate Committee inquiry visit:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=legcon_ctte/marriage_equality_2012/index.htm or contact the Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs: Telephone: 02 6277 2358 E-mail: spla.reps@aph.gov.au Website: www.aph.gov.au/spla

Amnesty law expert visits

Widney Brown, Amnesty International's global head of law and policy, will be pressing the Government to show global leadership in upcoming negotiations for a regulated arms trade, during a visit to Australia March 11-16.

Ms Brown will be discussing with parliamentarians the role of the international community in ceasing the civilian bloodshed, particularly by stopping the flow of arms into Syria. She will also report on findings from an Amnesty International research mission on the Syrian border.

Before joining Amnesty International, Ms Brown worked for nine years at Human Rights Watch. She was a lecturer at the Yale University School of Epidemiology and Public Health where she taught a course in Health and Human Rights. She is a graduate of the New York University School of Law where she was a Root Tilden Scholar.

As the Senior Director of International Law and Policy at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, Widney Brown is responsible for overseeing development of law and policy for the global human rights organisation. She has been particularly involved in work on:

- the draft Arms Trade Treaty;
- work on international justice including advocacy with the International Criminal Court;
- the Middle East and North African uprisings and the use of social media; and
- torture, terrorism and extra-judicial killings.

Complexity of Indigenous languages discussed

The Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Ms Denise Angelo from the Languages Perspective Group working in Northern Queensland appeared before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on March 1, in relation to the Committee's inquiry into language learning in Indigenous communities.

The Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations provides funding for several programs to support Indigenous languages in early education as well as providing programs to support education outcomes in communities where English is a second language. In addition DEEWR is funding a number of programs for adults aimed at improving language literacy and numeracy as well as a workplace English language program.

Denise Angelo has many years experience working as a teacher and linguist in the Northern Territory and Queensland with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and community members. She is currently working for the Language Perspectives Group (LPG) of the Northern Indigenous School Support Unit, Department of Education in Queensland. Ms Angelo discussed with the committee the complex Indigenous language situations that exist across Queensland and the need to understand the differences between traditional Indigenous languages and contact languages.

At an earlier hearing in February, Dr Nicolas Thieberger and Dr Margaret Florey from the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD) spoke to the RNLD's submission reviews the benefits of Indigenous languages to the well-being and identity of Indigenous peoples and ways in which Indigenous languages can contribute to Closing the Gap, including within health, education and employment targets. The RNLD supports bilingual schooling in situations where Indigenous children are learning their heritage language from their families and communities as their first language.

The RNLD is a network of 650 members with a common interest in supporting and sustaining Indigenous languages through documentation and revitalisation activities. RNLD's activities build from its four-pronged mission of training, resource-sharing, networking, and advocacy.

Information about the inquiry can be found at the inquiry's website: www.aph.gov.au/languages

Enrolling electors

The Electoral Matters Committee held a roundtable public hearing on February 29, in Canberra for its inquiry into the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Protecting Elector Participation) Bill 2012.

The major focus of the Bill is to extend the Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) enrolment functions. The AEC will be able to enrol eligible persons based on data received from third parties sources such as Centrelink and road and traffic authorities.

How declaration votes are treated will also change, providing the AEC with more flexibility to count these votes when a person has been removed from the roll by the objection process.

This Bill gives effect to recommendations 1 and 24 in the committee's report entitled *The 2010 Federal Election: Report on the conduct of the election and related matters*. Submissions to the inquiry were generally supportive of the proposed changes. However, the Australian Privacy Foundation is opposed to the Bill.

For submissions, more information and to follow the progress of the inquiry visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em> or contact the secretariat on 02 6277 2374 or jscem@aph.gov.au

Disaster insurance report released

The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee's report, *In the Wake of Disasters: Volume One: The operation of the insurance industry during disaster events*, was presented in Parliament on February 27. The report is available electronically at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=spla/insurance/report/index.htm

The inquiry was held in response to the deluge of complaints about the insurance industry that was falling on deaf ears. There are no regulations that compel insurance companies to do the right thing by their clients and resolve claims in a timely and satisfactory fashion, according to the chair of the committee, Mr Graham Perrett MP.

The report makes 13 recommendations to improve the insurance industry's response to and dealings with claims made in relation to disaster events. The recommendations call on the Australian Government to:

- introduce and enact legislation that increase consumer protections in insurance claims-handling and settlement;
- work closely with the Insurance Council of Australia to strengthen their Code of Practice, particularly for times of natural disasters, and to make the Code of Practice compulsory;
- empower the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to 'name and shame' insurers who breach the Code of Practice;
- allocate continuing funding for insurance law services to operate in areas affected by disaster events and for a consumer advisory position in the Financial Ombudsman Service; and
- address the rising costs and potential market failure of insurance premiums.

Additionally, the report urges the general insurance industry to review its procedures and contingency measures for large volumes of claims following natural disasters and conduct a consumer awareness campaign to raise awareness of the Code of Practice and of consumer rights.

For more information contact the Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs:

Telephone: 02 6277 2358 Facsimile: 02 6277 4427 E-mail: spla.reps@aph.gov.au Website: www.aph.gov.au/spla

Reassessing work/life balance

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment is inquiring into the Fair Work Amendment (Better Work/Life Balance) Bill 2012.

The Bill was introduced by Mr Adam Bandt (Member for Melbourne) on 13 February 2012. Under the current National Employment Standards, which are part of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, employees have the right to request flexible working arrangements to care for a child under school age or under 18 years of age who has a disability.

The Amendment Bill proposes to extend the right to request flexible working arrangements to all employees and to increase Fair Work Australia's power to determine and enforce reasonable requests under the legislation.

For more information, contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 email ee.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>

Next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in April 2012