

EMERITUS

April 2012

Vol 3 No 7 of the Australian National University Emeritus Faculty



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

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Deadline for comment on \$40m cuts

ANU Vice Chancellor Ian Young is asking for comments and responses from all staff on his draft plan to save \$40 million. They can be made at: consultation@anu.edu.au until 5pm on 20 April 2012.

In a statement made on March 26, he said, "ANU will today begin a broad, consultative process aimed at reducing our activities to save \$40 million (5 per cent of revenue) in order to protect the health of this great University. We are not alone in having global and national financial circumstances cut into our bottom line.

"Investment returns have declined in recent years. The 2012 budget indicates investment returns will be \$30 million less than in 2011. This reduction directly impacts on the funds available to operate the University. In addition, the significant capital investments made in recent years mean that depreciation costs have increased by approximately \$10 million compared with 2011.

"A number of these issues were discussed in my 13 December 2011 email to staff on the 2012 University recurrent budget. These external factors, together with substantial wage increases (4.5 per cent in 2012) and services expenses (increase of \$26 million in 2012) have meant that the 2012 budget has a projected surplus of only \$14 million, or less than 1.5 per cent of total revenue. The sector average is 4 per cent, a figure which the Commonwealth monitors as a measure of financial health.

"We have now reached a point at which there is no option but to take bold action. If we do not act to reduce spending the University will be unable to invest in excellence, and will suffer a gradual decline in international standing and quality. That is not a future that any member of the ANU community wants.

"As part of the draft discussion paper released to ANU staff today, it is proposed that the \$40 million figure be reached by saving up to \$25 million in staff expenses, and up to \$15 million in improved business practices. It is proposed that cost reductions be strategic, with clear decisions made as to activities that the University can no longer support. Such decisions will be difficult, but will ultimately result in a stronger institution.

"I understand that change of this magnitude causes stress and upset for all, and we do not undertake it lightly. I would ask ANU staff to join with me to identify the best way to make these savings and ensure ANU can continue to live up to the expectations of our staff, students and the national and international communities we live in. The process we begin today will continue for most of this calendar year, and leave us in better health for 2013 and beyond."

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He added that the first step was to read and consider the draft document:

<http://about.anu.edu.au/strategy-reviews/financial>

Sydney University protest

In a delightfully lurid report of protests at staff cuts at the University of Sydney, **Jake Lynch** writes in *New Matilda*, "Staff and students at Sydney Uni are furious about impending job cuts. Yesterday's [April 4] campus protests exposed the gap between management and the rest of the university.

"Here's the scene: Activists are promising 'a campaign of escalating civil disobedience' as rulers push through unpopular policies regardless of widespread opposition. Due process is notionally provided for in ostensibly democratic forums of governance, but important issues are never, somehow, put to a vote. 'Representatives' are elected to the peak decision-making body but they turn out, somehow, not to be entirely representative.

"The University of Sydney, where Vice Chancellor Dr Michael Spence has cooked up a change plan that entails sacking a hundred academics, coercing another 60-odd into "teaching-focused roles" and either firing or not replacing nearly 200 administrative staff." The full report with photographs can be read at:

<http://newmatilda.com/2012/04/05/protests-disrupt-usyd>

Academic Board chair

Professor Fiona Wheeler of the ANU College of Law has been appointed as Chair of Academic Board, Vice-Chancellor Ian Young announced following the call for nominations for the position. "Fiona has an outstanding background in both teaching and research which equip her ideally for this important role. I am sure that the ANU community will join with me in congratulating Fiona on this appointment," he said.

Following nominations and elections, the aim is to have the membership of the board established by the end of April.

Professor Young has also announced that action is presently being taken around the University in Colleges and Divisions to share the results of the ANU staff survey. He has formed three working groups to address the key university-wide issues identified in the survey.

Further details on the working groups can be found at <http://about.anu.edu.au/strategy-reviews/staff-survey>

Overseas links with emeriti

Although the ANU Emeritus Faculty is still unique in Australia, we have made contact with an academic in Canada, Ken Rea, of the University of Toronto, who has been discovering the extent of similar activities around the world. He has made a You Tube video outlining his findings:

<http://tinyurl.com/88z2azz>

Ken writes:

Greetings from the Frozen North!

I am delighted to have the opportunity to send collegial greetings from the organized post-secondary retirees of Canada to our colleagues in Australia! Over the past decade retirees from Canadian colleges and universities have made great progress in bringing themselves to the attention of their former employers. Almost every university and most college retirees in Canada have become organized and we now have a well-established national umbrella organization, College and University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC), which represent some 34 local groups across the country, from Memorial University in Newfoundland to the University of Victoria on Vancouver Island.

In April, we will be holding our tenth annual national conference, as it happens, in Victoria. The CURAC website can be accessed at <http://www.curac.ca/>

Many of our local organizations are developing interesting programs and projects. My own, here at the University of Toronto, has brought into being a new, for Canada, kind of facility -- an Academic Retiree Centre, funded by the University which has, over the past few years, supported the development of a voluntary organization we call Senior College which supports a variety of activities involving retirees who wish to remain active in the life off the institution where they spent most of their lives. You can follow what we have been up to by visiting <http://www.faculty.utoronto.ca/arc.htm> and following the links.

We are also engaged in developing relations with the large US-based post-secondary retiree organization AROHE (Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education). They are accessible online at <http://www.arohe.org/>

And, of course, we are now seeking to broaden our community of interest by establishing contact with similar organizations in the UK, Europe, South America, India, SE Asia and beyond!

Why? Because we think sharing our experiences, problems and initiatives may be useful, or, if nothing else, interesting.

Comments and suggestions are welcome and I can be reached at any time by email sent to reak@chass.utoronto.ca

Ken Rea

Managing Cultural Landscapes

Professor Howard Morphy will launch *Managing Cultural Landscapes*, a new book edited by Ken Taylor and Jane Lennon, at 5.30pm, on Friday, 27 April, at Sir Roland Wilson Building, Building 120, McCoy Circuit, ANU.

Published by Routledge as part of its series: "Key issues in Cultural Heritage" *Managing Cultural Landscapes* celebrates and marks the 20th anniversary of the inception of World Heritage Cultural Landscape categories. *Managing Cultural Landscapes* contains contributions from an international group of authors and provides an examination of the management of heritage values of cultural landscapes from Australia, Japan, China, USA, Canada, Thailand, Indonesia, Pacific Islands, India and the Philippines. Emeritus Professor Ken Taylor AM is an adjunct Professor with the Research School of Humanities and the Arts and is a Heritage Advisor to the Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts. Jane Lennon is an adjunct professor at the Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia Pacific, Deakin University.

Are universities making the most of emeritus staff?

Emeritus Faculty member Colin Steele has forwarded this report on retired but working academics in the UK which begins by posing the question "Many academics continue to work after retirement but are they adequately supported by their institutions?"

Here are some links to those continuing their academic work.

Professor [Angela Thody's research](#) into how the wisdom of emeritus professors is used at English universities, found that about half of all retired professors remained active at their institutions, though they weren't always remunerated for their ongoing contributions. Angela writes: "Unlike their North American counterparts, hardly any have celebratory rites of passage to emeritus status, or emeritus associations that they can join. There was some disquiet among emeriti about their status and no university policy about using emeriti's contributions."

Aside from pay, there are the opportunities to be part of a community of learners, or even the fond attachment to one's office that can also be lost after retirement, as Robert Michael's blog on [becoming emeritus](#) shows.

But is support for retiring [academics](#) given enough thought by those who oversee faculty welfare? Are there lessons to be learnt from the system in the US? And, how do you sensitively encourage academics to pass on responsibilities to the next generation, when there might be resistance to doing so? Not everyone is willing to give up on their duties when retirement age comes around, as vice president for academic administration at Union University, [Gene C Fant Jr](#) explores in this blog post "You'll pry that course from my cold, dead hands."

On March 16, a panel of academics discussed what life is like as an emeritus academic, what support is available for to them and explore how everything from research to student experience can be improved by engaging academics in their golden years. Panel members were:

June Thoburn, emeritus professor of social work, [University of East Anglia](#)

June joined UEA's School of social work in 1979 and remained at UEA as lecturer, senior lecturer and professor (including 4 years as Dean) until retirement in 2004. In 2002 she was awarded a CBE 'for services to social work' and in 2004 June was awarded a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship to research children in care in 14 countries. She continues to give 'one-off' lectures at UEA.

Samuel Jay Keyser, emeritus professor of linguistics, [MIT](#)

Jay retired in 1998 but holds a part-time position as special assistant to the chancellor, where he performs a few functions held over from his time as associate provost at the Institute. He edits a professional journal, *Linguistic Inquiry*, and an associated monograph series and has also written books outside his field, including poetry and *Mens et Mania: The MIT nobody knows*. In his spare time, Jay waters his indoors plants. @sjkeyser

[Elspeth Jones](#), professor emerita, Leeds Metropolitan University

Elspeth was the international dean at Leeds Metropolitan University until July 2011, when she became emerita professor. She is also an international education consultant. She continues to research, write and undertake consultancy work around the world in internationalisation policy, curriculum internationalisation and transformational learning in international education. She has published widely and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Studies in International Education among others. @elspethjones

John Leslie Brennan, emeritus professor of higher education research, [Open University](#)

A sociologist by background, John directed the Centre for Higher Education Research and Information at the Open University for nearly 20 years until the centre was closed down last summer. He is still a visiting professor at the universities of Bath and London Metropolitan and has directed many research projects and published several books and many articles on the broad theme of the changing relationship between higher education and society.

The above article is from [Guardian Professional](#). To get more articles like this direct to your inbox, sign up for free to become a member of the [Higher Education Network](#).

Burning our fingers and climate change

In a paper entitled *The deep time blueprints of anthropogenic global change* **Andrew Glikson** writes:

The evidence for a rapid shift in state of the terrestrial atmosphere-ocean system over the last two centuries [1] (Figure 1 at end of article) requires a deep time perspective, beyond events of the day.

Of all life forms which ever existed only the genus *Homo* acquired the skill of igniting and transporting fire, allowing it not only warmth, protection from animals and cooking, but also a high degree of power over nature, manifested by burning large parts of the biosphere and, more recently, combustion of carbon and hydrocarbons derived from fossil biospheres at least up to 400 million years old.

The high intelligence underlying human inventions has been variously attributed to a large brain size (Chimpanzees ~395 grams; Australopithecus aphaerensis ~430 grams; *Homo ergaster* ~850 gram; *Homo sapiens* ~1350 grams [2]) and a high brain/body mass ratio (~1/40 [3]). However, sperm whales brains weigh ~8000 grams and elephant brains over 5000 grams [5], mice have a brain/body mass ratio similar to that of humans (1/40) and small birds a higher brain/body mass ratio (1/12 [3]). A more confident parameter of human intelligence is the large neocortex/medulla (lower part of the brain stem) ratio in the human brain (Lemurs ~10; monkeys and apes 20-50; humans 105 [4]).

Theories which try and explain the uniqueness of humans invoke its bipedal nature, language [5] and the use of stone and bone tools [6]. In these respects, however, pre-*Homo sapiens* hominids were hardly unique, as indicated by the bipedalism of many animals, use of tools by some animals [7], articulate design of termite nests [8], sophisticated language of insects (cf. the Bee's dance [9]), merkat calls [10], Whale echolocation calls [11] or birds navigation systems [12]. However, *Homo*'s ability to ignite fire constitutes an exclusive blueprint, with far reaching consequences. This facility was allowed by the potentially flammable terrestrial environment where hominids emerged, namely plant-rich land surfaces (surrounded by phytoplankton rich oceans) where photosynthesis produces an oxygen-rich atmosphere and plant decay results in formation of carbon-rich surface deposits.

The evolution of land plants in the late Silurian (~420 Ma: vascular plants: *Cooksonia*, *Baragwanathia*) and in the Permian (299–251 Ma: Cycads and Ginkgo) led to the accumulation of carbon as cellulose in trees and grasses, soils and bogs, methane hydrate and methane clathrate. During tropical eras (Silurian-Carboniferous - 443–299 Ma; early Mesozoic - 251–65 Ma) extensive fires from lightning, volcanic eruptions and underground peat fires are recorded by charcoal remains with diagnostic optical refractive indices, allowing estimates of fire frequency (Figure 2) [13]. In the Permian atmospheric oxygen exceeded 30%, a level at which even moist vegetation becomes flammable, represented in charcoal concentrations as high as 70% in coal [13].

The harnessing of fire by humans, elevating the species' oxygenating capacity by many orders of magnitude through utilization of the solar energy stored in plants and in herbivores, resulted in an increase in planetary entropy (in physics - a measure of the degree of disorder and chaos of a system) to levels approaching those triggered by the major mass extinctions in geological history [14].

Likely the mastery of fire was driven by necessity, mainly the abrupt environmental shifts when mean global temperatures varied during glacial-interglacial shifts by ~5 degrees C and local temperatures by larger amounts, when humans had to find refuge in relatively protected sub-tropical shelters, such as the East African rifts. It is not known when precisely Hominids first succeeded to kindle fire, by percussion of flint stones or fast rotation of wooden sticks. Convincing evidence of domestic fires by *Homo erectus* and *Homo heidelbergensis* is indicated at least 300,000 years (300 kyr) ago in Africa and the Middle East [15]. Proposed fire places as old as 750 kyr in France, 1.4 Ma in Kenya and 1.7-1.5 kyr in South Africa (Swartkrans) and China (Xihoudu) are more controversial. Early Paleolithic evidence for human-lit fires includes hearths containing charcoal, burnt bones and red clay shards heated to 400 degrees Celsius and higher temperatures. Widespread use of fire in the late Paleolithic is indicated by charred logs, charcoal, reddened areas, carbonized grass stems and plants and wooden implements hardened by fire.

A likely advantage of cooking was enhanced supply of protein, allowing an increase in brain size (*Homo ergaster* ~850 gram; *Homo sapiens* ~1350 grams [2]) [16]. Over hundreds of thousands of years, gathered during long nights around camp fires, captivated by the flickering life-like dance of the flames, humans developed curiosity, imagination, insights, cravings, fears, premonition, legends, aspiration for immortality and beliefs in deities and gods. Oldest expressions of cultural and spiritual creative minds may date back to 350,000 years ago [17], although this remains unconfirmed.

As climate conditions stabilized in the early Holocene ~8000 years ago, agriculture and production of excess food allowed these ideas to be manifested through both the creative and destructive activities of civilizations. The stabilization of climate allowed cultivation of crops, enhanced by smelting of metals and crafting of ploughs. Extensive burning and land clearing associated with agriculture from about 10,000 years ago culminated with the combustion of fossil fuels. Ruddiman (2003) suggests the rise in CO₂ in the mid-Holocene reflects land clearing, fires and agriculture, defining the onset of an Anthropocene era (Figure 3), stating, "A wide array of archaeological, cultural, historical and geologic evidence points to viable explanations tied to anthropogenic changes resulting from early agriculture in Eurasia, including the start of forest clearance by 8000 years ago and of rice irrigation by 5000 years ago." [18]. However, other authors [19] define the onset of the Anthropocene at the dawn of the industrial age in the 18th century, attributing the mid-Holocene rise of greenhouse gases to a natural perturbations during the interglacials, for example the 420-405 kyr Holsteinian interglacial [20].

Since the 18th century burning of fossil fuels and land clearing resulted in an increase in atmospheric carbon contents by 237 billion ton carbon (GtC), reaching 820 GtC at present, an increase of some ~40% [21]. Of the additional CO₂ approximately 42 per cent stays in the atmosphere which, together with other greenhouse gases, led to an increase in the atmospheric energy level of ~3.2 Watt/m² and of potential mean global temperature by +2.3 degrees Celsius (Figure 1) [24]. Approximately -1.6 Watt/m², equivalent to -1.1 degrees Celsius, is masked by industrially emitted sulphur aerosols.

Whereas gradual natural rates of change in atmospheric greenhouse gas levels and temperatures allowed most species to adapt and evolve, current changes occur at rates surpassing those of glacial terminations by more than an order of magnitude, an exception being fast temperature rises during the intra-glacial Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles (Figure 3).

The Earth's polar ice caps, source of cold air vortices and ocean currents such as the Humboldt and California current, which keep the Earth's overall temperature in balance, are melting at an accelerated rate [24]. Based on palaeoclimate studies, the current CO₂ level of 393 ppm and of CO₂-equivalent above 470 ppm commit the atmosphere to a warming trend tracking toward Pliocene-like (~2-3 degrees C above present), Miocene-like (3-4 degrees C above present) and, depending on long-term carbon emissions and feedbacks, toward ice-poor or ice-free Earth conditions.

Within a 15 km-thin biosphere, dominated by the carbon, oxygen and sulphur cycles, the dissemination of carbon and sulphur gases associated with exothermic combustion has already led to the largest greenhouse gas anomaly recorded by the ice cores and marine sediments since 55 million years ago (Figures 1 and 4) [22, 24].

The significance of human mastery of fire in terms of the consequences of enhanced entropy [23] has been underestimated. Whereas human respiration dissipates 2 to 10 calories/minute, a camp fire releases approximately 180,000 Calories/minute; the output of a 1000 megawatt/hour power plant expends some 2.4 billion calories/minute and nuclear fission orders of magnitude higher, with an increase in entropy on the scale of large geological events. While complexity increases in conurbations, the rise in atmospheric energy/heat due to the release of greenhouse gases associated with exothermic combustion results in droughts, floods and storms, degrading natural habitats. With this perspective, the forewarning by the ancients, whose legends regard fire as stolen from the gods, as in Greek Mythology, where the titan Prometheus stole fire from the gods, breathing it into human clay figures, acquires a special meaning.

It is unthinkable that a civilization which placed a man on the moon and explored the solar system cannot find the will to protect its own planet. No human tribal, national, religious faith or political system appears to be able to resolve the climate crisis, nor can the rationale of ongoing \$trillions-scale wars around the globe, which can only culminate in nuclear war, amount to more than a suicide pact. For a biological species to magnify its entropic effect on nature by orders of magnitude, developing cerebral powers which allow it to become the intelligent eyes through which the Universe explores itself, hints at yet unknown processes. Perhaps it is too much to expect a species to possess the degree of wisdom and responsibility which would allow it to control the release of such high levels of energy. Perhaps there is a price for biting the apple of knowledge. Where religions relegate the ultimate decisions to the gods, Darwinian evolution hinges on natural trends and modern western culture on human choice, the natural laws which govern the human phenomenon may never be deciphered.

References

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- [23] <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/189035/entropy>
- [24] <http://pubs.giss.nasa.gov/abs/ha00110y.html>

Figures 1 to 4 are published on the following pages

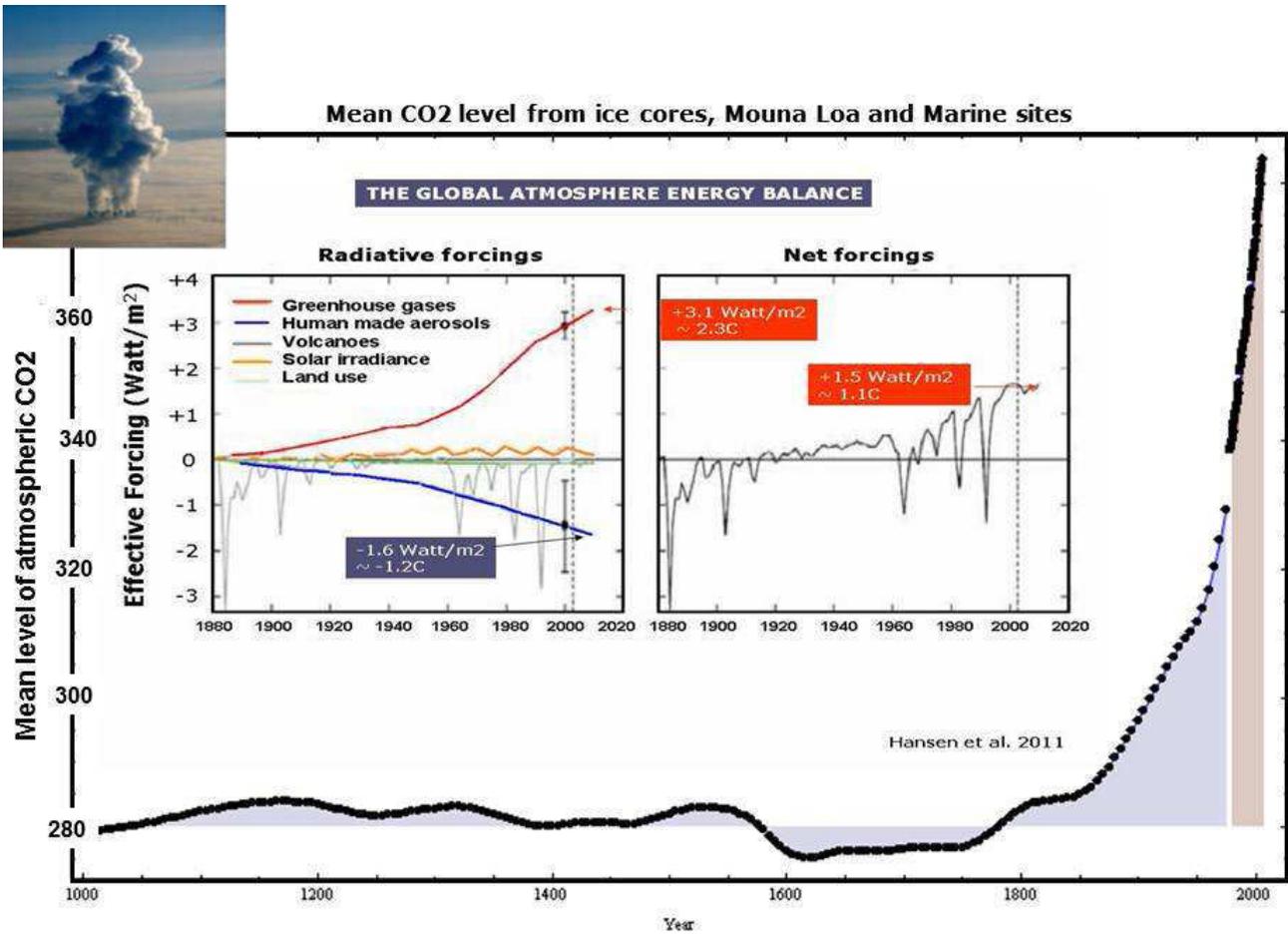


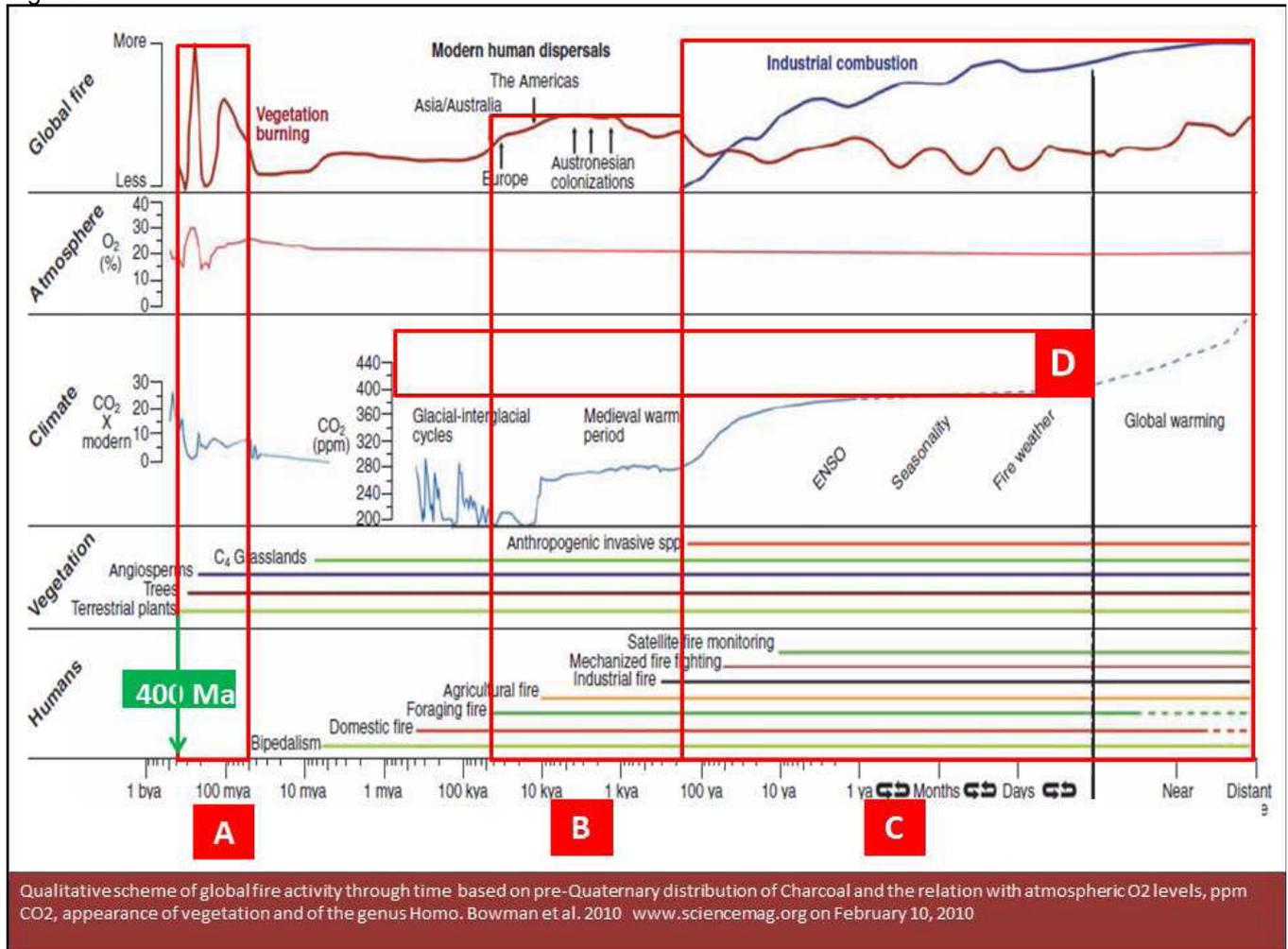
Figure 1

Mean CO2 levels from ice cores, Mouna Loa and marine sites.
 Inset (Hansen et al., 2011 [24]).

Left: Radiative forcings 2000 – 2011, including greenhouse gases (red), human-emitted aerosols (blue), volcanic eruptions (grey), solar radiance (yellow) and land use (green).

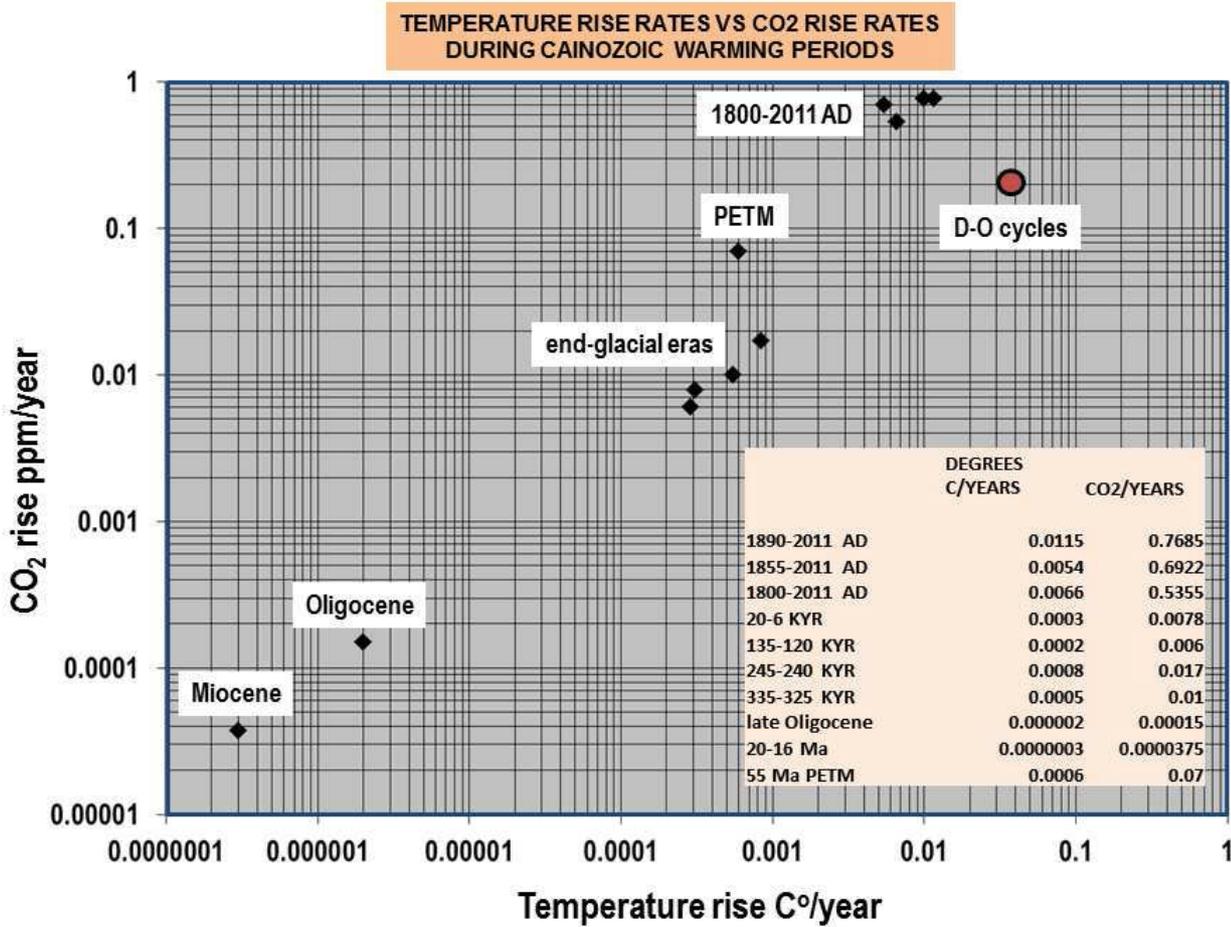
Right: net of the various forcings

Figure 2



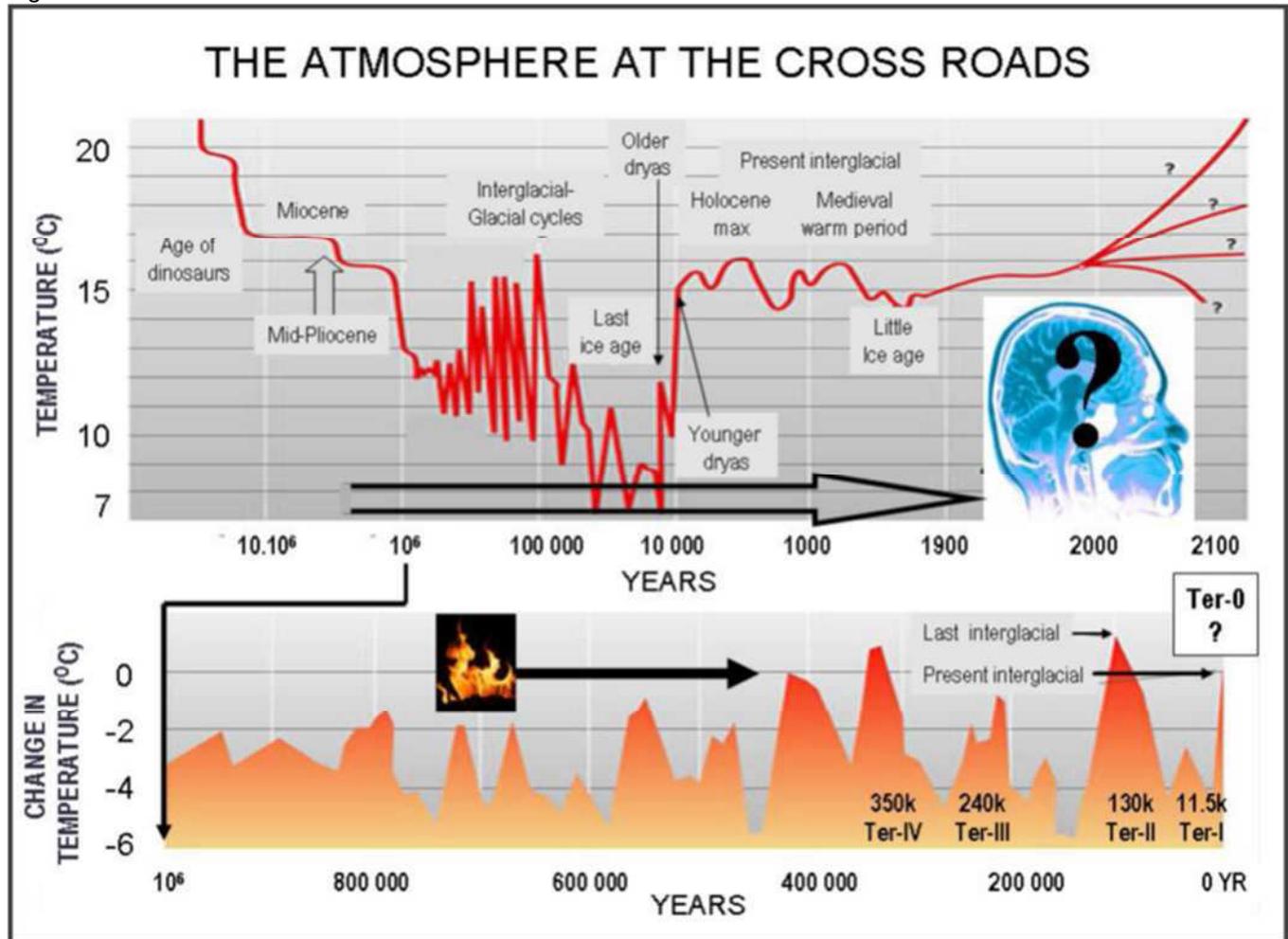
Qualitative scheme of global fire activity through time, based on pre-Quaternary, Quaternary and Holocene charcoal records and on modern satellite observations, correlated with atmospheric O₂ content, CO₂, vegetation types and the human factor. From Bowman et al. (2009) (with permission). Frames: (A) Palaeozoic and Mesozoic warm periods intervened by the Permian ice age; (B) Qualitative representation of the effects of prehistoric human-lit fires; (C) Effects of industrial combustion; (D) The interval between current CO₂ levels and the upper stability limit of the Antarctic ice sheet (~500±50 ppm CO₂).

Figure 3



Relations between CO2 rise rates (ppm/year) and temperature rise rates (degrees Celsius/year) during warming periods of the PETM (Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum – 55 Ma), Miocene (~20-16 Ma), late Oligocene, glacial terminations, Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles of the last glacial period (~110 – 20 kyr ago) and the last two centuries.

Figure 4



The atmosphere at the cross roads

Current Affairs

Have your say on copyright review

Draft terms of reference for an Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry into the operation of copyright exceptions in the digital environment were released on March 30 for public comment. Submissions and comments on the draft terms of reference will close on April 27

Attorney-General Nicola Roxon said the ALRC would consider whether the exceptions in the Federal Copyright Act were adequate and appropriate in the digital environment. The draft terms of reference reflect the fact that technology is constantly evolving and testing the boundaries of copyright law, she added.

"In our fast changing, technologically driven world, it important to ensure our copyright laws are keeping pace with change and able to respond to future challenges," she said. "We want to ensure this review has enough scope to look at the key areas of copyright so we're calling on stakeholders to provide us with their feedback before the ALRC begins its work."

The draft terms of reference ask the ALRC to examine the adequacy and appropriateness of a broad range of exceptions in the Copyright Act, including time shifting; and direct the ALRC to consider whether exceptions should allow the legitimate non-commercial use of copyright works for uses on the

internet such as social networking.

The Government has appointed Professor Jill McKeough, University of Technology Sydney Dean of Law, to the ALRC as a Commissioner to lead the copyright inquiry.

The draft terms of reference for the review can be found at www.ag.gov.au.

Committee examines international education

International education is the second largest services export sector, after tourism in Australia and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment held a roundtable on April 3 in Canberra to discuss the progress of recent reforms to the sector.

The Committee's Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth, said, "Last year, this Committee conducted a bills' inquiry into Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Bills amendments, which were part of the Government's response to the findings of the Baird review into ESOS services. We are interested to learn more about the progress of these reforms, and also those relating to the Knight review into student visa issues. More generally, we wish to gain a clearer picture of the general status of the industry and ways to ensure its sustainability into the future."

Roundtable participants included Commonwealth departments and agencies, peak bodies and advocacy organisations and academics.

For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4578 email ee.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>.

Anybody for simpler super?

The Parliamentary Economics Committee has recommended that parliament adopt new tax laws to improve superannuation arrangements and consolidate aspects of the tax system.

According to the committee, Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2012 Measures No. 1) Bill 2012 (the Bill) will simplify superannuation consolidation, give individuals relief from the excess contributions tax, increase the information about superannuation contributions on pay slips, pause the indexation of the superannuation concessional cap and provide the ATO with the discretion to withhold high risk tax refunds.

Committee Chair Julie Owens said, "The Bill makes a number of practical reforms to the superannuation system that will help individuals achieve higher retirement incomes," as it will allow super funds to access ATO information to help people find and consolidate their superannuation. This will be a consent based process. At present there are 5 million 'lost' super accounts with a value of \$20 billion.

To assist employees to understand their superannuation status, new reporting requirements on pay slips will be introduced. The committee has suggested that, if practicable, the industry should report actual super contributions on employees' pay slips by 1 July 2013. If this occurs, no interim measures are necessary.

The Bill will reduce the financial penalties to individuals who over-contribute to their superannuation. Individuals who breach the concessional cap by up to \$10,000 can apply to have the amount refunded to them, rather than being subject to excess contributions tax. This should benefit 30,000 people over the forward estimates.

The committee also considered the provisions that pause indexation of the concessional contributions cap. It is anticipated that the impact will be marginal on the small number of affected individuals, but the cumulative impact will improve Australia's fiscal position.

The Bill restores the policy intent of the GST in relation to some health supplies and internal government transactions. It also allows the ATO to withhold high risk tax refunds.

The report includes a Supplementary Remarks by the Coalition members of the Committee.

The report is at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=economics/superannuationlawsbill/report.htm or for background information: contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4564 Email: economics.reps@aph.gov.au Website: www.aph.gov.au/economics

Inquiry into dementia early diagnosis and intervention

An inquiry into dementia early diagnosis and intervention is being conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health and Ageing.

Under the terms of reference the Committee will focus on how early diagnosis and intervention of dementia can:

- improve quality of life and assist people with dementia to remain independent for as long as possible;
- increase opportunities for continued social engagement and community participation for people with dementia,
- help people with dementia and their carers plan for their futures, including organising their financial and legal affairs and preparing for longer-term or more intensive care requirements; and
- how best to deliver awareness and communication on dementia and dementia-related services into the community

In launching the inquiry Committee Chair and Member for Hindmarsh Mr Steve Georganas MP, said: "In 2011 there were an estimated 280,000 Australians with dementia. With 1600 new cases identified each week this number is growing rapidly. Dementia is already the single greatest cause of disability for Australian's aged over 65 years, and is now acknowledged to be the third leading cause of death among Australians after heart disease and stroke."

"With population ageing, the number of Australians with dementia is predicted to reach almost 1 million by 2050, making the inquiry's focus on early diagnosis and intervention all the more important," he said.

The Committee seeks submissions to the inquiry from interested individuals and organisations. Submissions, preferably by e-mail to haa.reps@aph.gov.au, should be received by **May 2**.

Further information on the Committee's inquiry, including the full terms of reference and more details on how to lodge a submission are now available on the Committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/haa

Learning difficulties with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

A public hearing to explore different aspects of preventing and managing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder was held in Sydney on April 13 when the House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee met with health professionals who run a FASD-specific clinic at Westmead Hospital. The clinic facilitates the assessment, diagnosis and referral of babies suspected of having FASD.

The Committee held a roundtable of health professionals covering various topics such as guidelines for alcohol consumption, intervention strategies and standardized national antenatal screening for FASD.

Committee members explored issues of FASD sufferers who come into contact with the criminal justice system as a result of the increasing trend of ‘criminalisation of care’ and the role of bail, and policing practices in relation to people with FASD. The Committee met foster parents about the challenges they face when caring for children with FASD. The Committee has received evidence which suggests that children with FASD may struggle with schooling and social interaction. However, as FASD is not a recognised disability, parents and carers of affected children are unable to access required funding, community and social services.

Information about the Committee’s inquiry is available on the FASD inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/fasd 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

New inquiry into fisheries and aquaculture science

The House of Representatives Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry Committee is seeking submissions for its inquiry into the role of science for fisheries and aquaculture. The inquiry will focus on scientific aspects of fisheries and aquaculture including species knowledge, fisheries management, biosecurity, and research and development. Submissions are due by May 3.

According to the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organisation’s 2010 report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, wild fisheries production has reached a plateau that will not increase until the world’s fish stocks are more effectively managed. Meanwhile, aquaculture is fulfilling demand in place of wild fisheries.

Committee Chair Dick Adams said: “Aquaculture has a considerable potential for growth, and will rely on continued research and development. Changes to the marine environment, especially through climate change, have the potential to cause a mixture of known and unknown impacts in relation to fish stocks and habitats. These factors will also pose uncertainty for the fishing industry and coastal communities that have traditionally relied upon productivity derived from the oceans.”

The House of Representatives Fisheries Committee will inquire into and report upon:

- the relationship between scientific knowledge of fish species, ecosystems, biodiversity and fish stock sustainability;
- fishery management and biosecurity, including but not limited to:
 - the calculation and monitoring of stock size, sustainable yield and bycatch, as well as related data collection
 - the effects of climate change, especially relating to species dispersion, stock levels and impacts on fishing communities
 - pest and disease management and mitigation
 - minimising risks to the natural environment and human health
 - cooperation among Australian governments on the above;
- research, development and applied science of aquaculture, including:
 - transitioning from wild fisheries to aquaculture in individual species
 - improving sustainability and lifecycle management practices and outcomes
 - pest and disease management and mitigation;
- governance arrangements relating to fisheries and aquaculture, including the implications for sustainability and industry development;
- current initiatives and responses to the above matters by state, territory and Australian governments; and
- any other related matter.

The committee would prefer submissions to be sent electronically to arff.reps@aph.gov.au. For more information contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4500, email arff.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee’s webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/arff>

New Australian Defence Force Military Law Centre

A purpose-built Australian Defence Force Military Law Centre has been opened at the historic Victoria Barracks, Paddington Sydney NSW, by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Dr Mike Kelly.

The Military Law Centre was established by the Department of Defence in 2001 to provide professional in-service training for Australian Defence Force legal officers, and forms the ADF component of the Asia-Pacific Military Law Centre (APCML). The APCML is a cooperative partnership between the Military Law Centre and the **University of Melbourne Law School** that offers military law courses to ADF and regional military officers.

Dr Kelly said the Government committed in 2008 to build a centre to house both the ADF Military Law Centre and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Military Law (military node). The centres will continue to educate and train future Australian Defence Force legal officers and officers from the Asia-Pacific region in facets of military and international law with a special focus on the Rule of Law.

Indigenous language inquiry on the move

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will hold public hearings in Broome, Halls Creek, Darwin and Nhulunbuy in early May. The Committee expects to table its report into language learning in Indigenous communities during the second half of the year. It held hearings in Adelaide, the Utopia Homelands and Alice Springs recently as part of its inquiry.

The Committee is taking evidence from a range of people including Indigenous language groups, principals and teachers, linguists and interpreter trainers from urban, regional and remote areas.

Information about the inquiry including programs can be found at the inquiry's website:

www.aph.gov.au/languages.

17th century contributor to atlas

Emeritus Faculty members involved in the East Coast Project will find interest in additions to the *Atlas of Living Australia* which added its 30 millionth species occurrence record recently, making it the largest collection of rich information on Australia's plants, animals and fungi.

The *Atlas*, a collaboration between all Australian museums, herbaria and biological collections, CSIRO, Adelaide and Southern Cross Universities and the Commonwealth Government, reached this milestone when over half a million records from *Birdlife Australia* were incorporated. Some of these records come from the diaries of 17th Century Dutch navigators, such as the record for a Brush Bronzewing dated 1629.

"The *Atlas* is a unique national repository for rich data on all Australian life forms – from bacteria to kangaroos, land-based to marine, native and non-native," says Dr John La Salle, Director of the *Atlas of Living Australia*.

"Together with information about the whole range of Australian species, the *Atlas* contains many different types of data, including photos, distribution, maps and mapping tools, DNA sequences, scientific and common names, conservation status, identification keys and heritage literature."

The *Atlas* provides access to over 350 large and small datasets, from the NSW Government's *Atlas of Wildlife* to the records of a community group who look after a local creek.

One of the applications in the *Atlas*, 'Explore Your Area', allows anyone to enter an address or location to find the recorded species nearby. At the click of a button it can create a list and map of species that have been found in any local area and photos of most of them.

“Local and traditional knowledge is invaluable for tracking where Australian animals and plants are distributed across the country. Even if a plant or animal is common in your area, it may never have been officially recorded there, only because no-one has conducted a technical survey of what’s there. If the species list is incomplete, it only takes a few minutes to add your own sightings and photos of Australian species.” said Dr John La Salle.

New Members of the Faculty March 2012

Dr George Quinn, Head, Southeast Asia Centre, CAP; 8 years in that position. Interests: Javanese language, literature & religion.

Dr Marjorie Curtis, Principal Geologist, CRA Exploration 1 year in that position. Interests: geology, climate, history.

Dr Elizabeth Truswell, Chief Research Scientist, Geoscience Australia 4 years in that position. Interests: history of Antarctic exploration; Art/Science relation.

Dr Josephine Flood, Assistant director, Australian heritage Commission. Interests: archaeology, rock art, Aboriginal studies.

Monthly get-together

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 on the Committee Room table from 1 February. 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

The next in the 2012 series

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

Wednesday 18 April, 1pm Public Lecture by Dr Jen Taylor [A completed reference genome and other genomic myths](#) at CSIRO PI, Lecture Theatre, Acton.

To Sunday 22 April: Exhibition on Display [Wildlife Art @ Discovery](#) Wildlife and Botanical Artists Incorporated (WABA Inc., established in 1997). Venue: CSIRO Discovery Centre, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain.

Tuesday 1 May @3pm Public Lecture by Dr Sharon Megdal, [*Meeting Arizona's future water demands under decentralised governance*](#) at CSIRO Land & Water, Conference Room, Acton. RSVPs essential by 16 April to rebecca.jennings@csiro.au (limited seats for Canberra lecture)

More diary date 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>

Your benefits

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

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

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