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Postal address:
PO Box 6050,
O'Connor, ACT 2602
phone: 02 6125 5309 / fax: 02 6125 5262
website: <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/>

Meetings venue: Molony Room*
24 Balmain Crescent
Acton

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

* See http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/anuef_location_map.html for location map

Chancellor's awards

In a note to colleagues, the Chancellor of The Australian National University, Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC FASSA, has announced that the following members of ANU staff will receive Chancellor's Awards at the Conferring of Degrees Ceremonies:

The PETER BAUME AWARD is the University's highest award for exceptional staff members and alumni of the University whose contributions to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community have demonstrated distinguished service of the highest degree. It goes to:

Emeritus Professor Aidan Byrne is an ANU PhD graduate and has been a staff member of the University since 1991. He was Head of the Department of Physics in the Faculties from 2003 to 2007, and in 2007 he was appointed to the role of Dean of Science and Director of the ANU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Emeritus Professor Byrne is a highly published and cited researcher in nuclear science, and an extremely influential researcher in nuclear physics, both in Australia, but also internationally, and is well known for his groundbreaking research into nuclear structure. This award is in recognition of Emeritus Professor Byrne's research leadership and contribution to nuclear physics and his career at ANU in which he has been continually involved in science education, and been a passionate advocate for new and innovative approaches to science teaching. The award will be presented at the conferring of degrees ceremony for the ANU College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (Graduate and Research Students only) at 2pm on Thursday, 13th December 2012.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY

recognises distinguished service of a high degree. Staff, students and alumni of the university whose contribution to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community has demonstrated distinguished service of a high degree are eligible for the award. It goes to:

Professor Hilary Charlesworth AM, internationally, is considered to be a pioneer in feminist international legal scholarship. She works on the relevance of feminist theory to understanding international law, the structure of the international human rights system, and the protection of human rights in Australia and internationally. Within the University, Professor Charlesworth has served in formal leadership roles with great distinction, as Director of the Centre for International and Public Law in the College of Law and as Head of Program for RegNet – institutions that are synonymous with research excellence in law and social sciences at ANU. Most recently she established the School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy and was instrumental in the establishment the ANU-wide Gender Institute. She directs RegNet's Centre for International Governance and Justice. Professor Hilary Charlesworth AM is awarded the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Contribution to the University in recognition of her tireless dedication to excellence in research and academia at the University, which brings great pride and prestige to ANU. The award will be presented at the conferring of degrees ceremony for ANU College of Asia & the Pacific in July 2013.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY recognises outstanding contributions to the life of the campus community. The Award recognises voluntary and sustained contributions, over and above what might be reasonably expected in the course of duty, which enhances the general welfare and life of the campus and benefit the institution as a whole. Staff and visiting fellows who have volunteered their time, expertise, skills and knowledge over several years and who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and service to the campus community beyond the normal expectations of their position are eligible for the Award. It goes to:

Ms Diane Hutchens who, as the Administrator for the Postgraduate and Research Students' Association (PARSA), has been exemplary in her role and worked successfully with numerous Postgraduate Representative Councils for the past 23 years, working diligently to execute complex administrative tasks that are the purview of a student organisation. There are countless instances when Ms Hutchens has gone over and beyond what might reasonably be expected of her duties and responsibilities. Ms Diane Hutchens is awarded the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Service to Campus Community in recognition of her extensive contribution to the advocacy of postgraduate students and enhancing the general welfare and life at ANU. The award will be presented at the conferring of degrees ceremony for ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences (graduate and research students) at 5:30pm on Thursday, 13th December 2012.

More information on the Awards is available on the website: <http://hr.anu.edu.au/career/staff-awards>

And Chancellor as Dad...

In a recently circulated email, ANU Chancellor Gareth Evans wrote to "Friends and colleagues apologies for not individualising this message (which I'm sending to a multitude of personal contacts in Australia and Europe—some rather lapsed, which it would be nice to renew) —and feel absolutely free to ignore.

"If you happen to be looking for a Christmas stocking filler for someone, you might like to look at my son Eamon's latest book, *Lord Sandwich and the Pants Man*, a light, funny look at some of the people and places whose names gave us everyday words."

The publisher's publicity notes that "we all know that there was a ballerina named Pavlova and an earl named Sandwich, and goes on, "but there was also a Baron Lamington and a Queen Margarita, a Mr Booze and a Captain Fudge. Laszlo Biro invented the biro, Jules Leotard wore the first leotard, Charles Boycott endured the first boycott and Lord Cardigan loved a good cardigan. There really was a maverick named Maverick and a chauvinist named Chauvin. From literature we have *The Iliad*, which features a bully named 'Hector' and a wise teacher named 'Mentor'. From history we have Vandals, who were a destructive tribe, and the Zealots, who were an intolerant sect... Eamon Evans' humorous collection of common eponyms shares the stories behind words and phrases popular throughout the world. Insightful, witty and... mostly accurate."

Eamon Evans is a former radio host and freelance writer. His previous book, *The Godfather was a Girl*, tells the real-life stories of people who inspired famous and infamous characters.

The Chancellor's email is headed "Christmas suggestion from proud parent" and offers the following advice for excerpts and previews:

<<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/entertainment/books/its-a-mad-mad-world-20120831-254y6.html>>

It's available at Australian bookstores, and online at :

<<http://www.booktopia.com.au/lord-sandwich-and-the-pants-man-eamon-evans/prod9781742702599.html>> or <http://www.fishpond.com.au/Books/Lord-Sandwich-and-Pants-Man-Eamon-Evans/9781742702599>;

and on UK Amazon at http://www.amazon.co.uk/Lord-Sandwich-Pants-Man-Long-gone/dp/1742702597/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1354186559&sr=8-3

Shiny Happy Uni Periodicals

Fred Inglis *on the horn-blowing and the hoopla, the cant and the can-do spirit of the glossy world of official university magazines. His examples are English-based but readers can change the names and the universities to suit themselves.*

Professor Inglis asks: "What are they for? Does anybody read them?" They are left out conspicuously on low tables in assorted waiting rooms in university entrance halls, and you may see people pick them up idly, much as in Philip Larkin's hospital they "tamely sit...turning the ripped mags." But reading them, all the way through? Surely not.

Yet every academic institution publishes one, A4-sized mostly, a big shiny photograph on the cover, a happily smiling Jessica Ennis sporting the Union Jack (Sheffield), a medical research student intent upon his prosthetics (Bournemouth), deep sea crystals in deep sea blue (there's gold down there) (Southampton), seven sprinters bursting from their blocks (Essex)... They are all harmlessly trite, catch the eye for a second, hold your casual attention in the waiting room chair, leaning back, legs crossed—for a minute.

On the first page, you will invariably find the Vice Chancellor or a deputy, smiling in (mostly) his portly way out at you, assuring you in the unchanging, deathly phrases of his office, that "2012 has been a remarkable year for the University of Sheffield. Despite one of the most challenging contexts for higher education in over a generation, I have again been inspired by the energy and innovation of our students"...blah, drone, as the cartoonist Steve Bell would put it.

Or this, from the University of Bristol's vice-chancellor: "We are expanding teaching capacity...and investing in learning and living spaces. This is because of our commitment to retaining the quality of the student experience, and our belief that groundbreaking research must underpin our teaching. Growth is, in fact, 'business as usual' for Bristol University."

(Worth noting, as one passes by, the striking fact that learning and living spaces at Bristol, doubtless because of the advanced e-facilities, no longer includes a permanent bookshop.)

At Nottingham, the vice-chancellor essays a more personal note in the university's *Alumni Exchange*. Introducing the new fundraising campaign, called, inevitably, "Impact: The Nottingham Campaign", he writes, "Not only have I devoted most of my working life to the university, but I also want to be in the forefront of this campaign. My wife, Susan, and I have given a financial gift...but I also wanted to demonstrate my personal and genuine commitment to this campaign through a more challenging activity. In the summer I led a team of colleagues on a cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End, raising £221,000 so far."

You have to feel for the poor chap, especially as he has gone quite a bit further than the walk from official residence to official limousine. What is more general, however, in all these diffidently self-preening paragraphs is the assumption, which is later widely promulgated by their stooges in subsequent pages, that "innovative groundbreaking research is a fundamental feature" of their institution (this latter phrase, all too characteristically, Warwick's), and that - how can they use this language as though it meant anything? - the university (Bristol, again) will stick to its "core values" and "will continue to thrive and develop and we will do so by remaining true to our vision".

"Vision", of course, is, as they say, a must-have, along with "mission", "aspiration", "inspirational" (only recently transformed into an adjective), the frequent use of "challenging" (meaning damned difficult), "robust", research as invariably "cutting edge" or "groundbreaking", and, bless us all, "passionate" (a favourite of the [British] Prime Minister's). There are no prizes but that they are "prestigious", no collective spirit but that it is "enterprising", no meeting other people but that they "interact", no study but that it is "exciting", "fantastics" left around like litter.

Is my easy malediction any more than part of what Martin Amis called "the war against cliché", which it is always necessary to fight but which can surely find more significant targets than this pile of glossies extolling their universities to God knows what readership?

It is, it is. For these magazines betoken another advance by the corrupt and plague-poisoned armies of the professional advertisers, the public relations officers, the Mad Men, for whom propaganda tout court is the weapon of the fortune-hunter and whose deadly, unacknowledged business is to eliminate truthfulness as a measure of worth, and to give the image absolute precedence over the real. Even the amiable, slightly goofy officers in human resources are necessarily contaminated by these effluent tides, press-ganged as they are to describe the sack as reallocation of resources, and to present wage reductions as rationalisation of responsibilities.

The awful magazines make it all the harder for universities to fulfill their purposes, which are to find the truth and to imagine the common good. These exalted activities are still clearly to be discerned in such everyday stories of university folk as the training of infant teachers, of nurses, of solid-state physicists, of historians of medieval art, of social policy technicians. But it is the forward march of the managerial scientists that is routing the old, good vocabulary in the satanic names of enterprise, efficiency and profit. Nobody, nobody, would be so stupid as to pretend that universities should have no truck with counting the cash; what the dismal fact emerging from these journals, however, is that the dominant speech, the right way to talk if you want to be one of the grownups, is now that of business. (Remember the angry reverence with which, in *The Godfather*, Hyman Roth insists that business must not be polluted by mere human passion?)

One of the most crippling consequences of this hellish transformation is the severance of institutional memory. Short-term contracts, endless reorganisation, the stammering invention of new courses adjusted to possible constituencies in China and Brazil, have broken off continuity and shattered the traditions which ensure that a university maintains an identity and conserves its sense of itself, never more needed than in times of crisis. "All that is solid melts into air" the old man said. Even the little magazines could help with some minor repairs to this damage.

These truths being self-evident, it is still utterly lowering to hear one pro vice-chancellor (in a brochure called, dismally, *Making A Difference* with Plymouth University) fail to bring us out of our seats by writing "the word enterprise means many different things to many different people. To me it is mostly about being creative and innovative [what else?]. As a business school we seek to equip students with skills to enable them to adapt, think creatively and succeed despite risks and challenges." He is followed by half a dozen students saying the same sort of thing - "never say that something can't be done" - much embellished by the catch-all adjectives "fantastic", "challenging", "passionate", all beneath friendly, embarrassed photographs of themselves.

After a while, it just seems brutal to kick such inanition to death. Yet there are glimmers of what such publications might do on the side of good old life and liveliness in the contemporary university. I have beside me a copy of that admirable freebie, the *Chew Valley Gazette*, which, in perfectly decent and plain prose, commends to us the recent performance by local thespians in Wells, attends a beer festival in Ubley, reports the happy rejection of a planning application of a toxic waste dump in Stowey, and photographs schoolchildren in Chew Stoke bowling hoops, I'm pleased to say, down the (temporarily closed) high street. This paper, and thousands like it, keep the record of their locality, mark the seasons and respectfully commemorate the distinguished and the dead. There are glimpses of such excellent pieties in the mostly grim reading of the university comics.

There is a decent teacherly, if matey, effort from Southampton ("David" and "Anna" are the authors naturally, referred to by their first names only) about fibre optics; Bournemouth is enlightening on ecosystems 65 million years ago as guides to climate change; a delightful young woman at Sheffield has turned her degree in molecular biology to the noble service of brewing real ale; but even these fragments are rarely better than a 2:2.

Just one or two whole issues, as you'd expect, are much better than others. *CAM*, Cambridge's offer, includes serious articles, very well written, one by the impeccable Robert Macfarlane on his mighty topic of the old pathways of England, another by Daniel Wolpert on brain research into physical movement, half a dozen serious letters and local news about new appointments: all this, stylishly, perhaps expensively, produced. I fear that our other elite institution does just as well with *Oxford Today*, with a gritty article on US politics and

another on all that has been done for Cowley, an industrial area once the shameful secret of Oxford, by BMW's investment.

That's the sort of thing these publications should do. Without cant or swank, they should picture the best of their own little society to themselves and give a glimpse of it to passers-by. And just before someone says, "Oh yes, he would pick out Cambridge's, wouldn't he? They've got the money to outbid all of us", let me commend Sunderland's deliberately modest, pint-sized, untitled contribution, with a sensible, unpretentious introduction by the boss emphasising not just local roots but the importance of the university to the very strained economy of Wearside. He's followed by a forgivable parade of star supporters— the Lords Puttnam, Coe and Winston and Baroness Morris - commending the place to the reader; and that's it.

It's not much to ask, that a little termly publication putting on a bit of an air for the university in question should write respectable prose, should not borrow the puffed-up mendacities intrinsic to the language of public relations, and should, when it is needed, tell the truth to its institution about what is happening to it and its fellows.

Let us take the biggest topic of all, top of everybody's mind just now. By and large, nobody knows the facts about their universities' finances. The senior managers, mostly quite inadequate to the job, prevaricate, postpone and tell downright lies; the staff live off rumours until suddenly some have to apply for their own jobs and fail to get them.

Without muckraking, the university journals could explain, clearly and honestly, how matters stand. They could discharge this painful, necessary duty alongside little reports of successes in the neighbourhood and put up milestones of more national achievement. Naturally, they would retain cheerful photographs of hopeful students and accomplished alumni. I am not at all calling for their authors to become investigative journalists. But it is not only reasonable; rather, in a timely way, it is morally necessary to expect that the voice of a university talking to itself should speak faithfully, truthfully, plainly, and of subjects that come close to its heart.

When I told a senior administrator that I was writing this article, she said, "I do hope you won't be cruel to the people who produce these things. I know them quite well and they're very nice." In Iris Murdoch's admirable novel, *The Nice and the Good*, her sharp point is that niceness too often turns out to mean complying with bullies, quiet-voiced obedience, suffering the insufferable. Goodness is steelier, harsher; goodness, as she says, is sovereign.

Fred Inglis is honorary professor of cultural history at the University of Warwick and among his past appointments he was Visiting Fellow Humanities Research Centre, ANU.

Excellence in Research

The Vice Chancellor, Ian Young AO, in advice to colleagues, writes, "As many of you will be aware, the 2012 Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) results for all Australian universities were released [recently]. ERA assesses research quality at the Field of Research level (discipline) by assigning a score between 1 and 5. A score of 3 indicates performing at "world standard", 4 — "above world standard" and 5—"well above world standard".

"The results for ANU are remarkably positive. For ANU, 43.5% of our Fields of Research were rated as 5. The next highest performance in any university was 36.5%. Similarly, 88.7% of ANU Fields of Research rated either a 4 or a 5, compared to the next best result of 78.1%.

“The performance of ANU was also an improvement on our 2010 result, where 78% of our Fields of Research rated a 4 or 5. This is an increase of more than 10%, a very pleasing outcome.

“Within these results individual areas have both risen and fallen and your College will have more detailed results for your particular area. Overall, the results reaffirm the quality of research at ANU and I would like to congratulate all staff on this excellent outcome.”

Appointment of Pro Vice Chancellor

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Margaret Harding, told colleagues last month, “I am pleased to announce the appointment of leading financial and economic expert Professor Jennifer Corbett as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training).

With her extensive research experience, international standing and wide-ranging connections, Professor Corbett is ideally placed to help build on the university’s record of research excellence as a member of the University Executive.

“This is a key role that will position ANU as a leader in graduate and early career researcher training and ensure effective research relationships are established with the university’s international, industry and business partners.

“Professor Corbett is a highly distinguished researcher with an exceptional history of leading major research projects in Australia and internationally. Her expertise has been sought by some of the world’s foremost economic institutions, including the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Asian Development Bank and the European Commission.

“Professor Corbett has a long association with ANU, having first come here to study as an undergraduate. She has already made a significant contribution to furthering research at the University since returning in 2001, particularly over the last seven years, as Executive Director of the Australia-Japan Research Centre at the Crawford School of Public Policy. She has held the position of Associate Dean for Research in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific and since mid-September she has served as Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Research Training).

“Professor Corbett is also a Reader in the Economy of Japan at the University of Oxford, a Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (London), a Research Associate of the Centre for Japanese Economy and Business at Columbia University and a member of the Australia New Zealand Shadow Financial Regulatory Committee.”

New UK coalition fights university cuts

Sir David Attenborough, Sir Richard Dawkins and author and playwright Alan Bennett have joined more than 60 other academics and intellectuals to form a coalition against the government’s university reforms, according to a report in the *Financial Times*, London.

The Council for the Defence of British Universities was launched recently to campaign against a drive to make higher education more focused on producing economic growth and supporting the goals of business. The report goes on, “The campaigners, who also include Nobel prize winners, former vice-chancellors and former cabinet ministers, warn changes to

create more of a market in education are moving forward at a 'breathhtaking, reckless pace' and say this is a 'last-ditch attempt' to stop them.

Professor Howard Hotson, chair of the council and a professor of early modern history at Oxford, is quoted as saying, "The university system is being deliberately designed to subordinate everything to the economic imperative. This endangers the capacity of universities to help sustain in a far more holistic way the cultural, political and social integrity of this country." He is appealing to the public to take a longer-term view of education than politicians of the current UK government and previous administrations, who, he believes, are "very firmly committed" to the changes.

At a gathering at the British Academy in mid-November, the prominent group discussed how to turn their opposition into viable alternatives. *The Financial Times*, went on, "Academics from a range of disciplines, including scientists Sir Tim Hunt, Sir Paul Nurse and Lord Krebs and historians Peter Hennessy and Sir Ian Kershaw, will work with intellectuals from outside universities such as authors Sir Melvyn Bragg, Claire Tomalin and A.S Byatt, the former poet laureate Andrew Motion and barrister Baroness Helena Kennedy."

With tuition fees rising to up to £9,000 (\$A 13,850) a year this term, the campaigners are worried, according to the *Financial Times*, that students are being treated as "consumers" who choose subjects which will help them into well-paid jobs and who are taught as a "market transaction".

"The academics also fear intellectual activity without immediate economic benefit, particularly work which takes a long time, could be sidelined," the newspaper says, and goes on "They complain of a 'massive cultural shift' symbolized by giving oversight of universities to the business department which they say has seen funding councils become arms of government and administrative burdens grow.

The *Financial Times* quotes Andrew McGettigan, an education researcher whose work has been cited by the campaign, as saying, "Although things like the replacement of central grants to universities are presented as temporary budget measures to address the deficit, in fact, they are something quite different. It was always on the agenda to create a new market in education". He said the reforms were designed to bring the market into education.

A government spokesman is quoted as saying it has preserved the £4.6bn (\$A 7.07bn) science and research budget "including the balance between blue skies and other research and the balance between scientific and other disciplines. We share the commitment to academic autonomy. One recent survey found we have the most autonomous universities anywhere in Europe.

"Despite the deficit, we have avoided big cuts to student numbers and we have introduced a more sustainable student funding regime, which means universities have sufficient income to offer a high-quality student experience."

15 November 2012

Addendum

Blow up the Humanities?

David Sweeney, Director (Research, Innovation and Skills) Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), gives a British Perspective on University Futures

In *Blow Up The Humanities* (Temple UP), Professor Toby Miller has provocatively outlined an argument for a new model of humanities teaching and scholarship that will address the social, cultural, and economic crises it faces.

In England, the newly formed Council for the Defence of British Universities argues the university system is being deliberately designed to subordinate everything to the economic imperative, “a massive cultural shift”. Autonomy is said to be under threat, public fee support is being withdrawn and dissemination models face challenges from the push to open-access.

David Sweeney argues, the evidence in the humanities is bright - student are voting with their feet - and choosing to study the humanities. At a £9k annual fee the financial model for humanities departments is sound. Employers continue to hire good humanities graduates. He proposes that the humanities have a firm foundation on which to build and identifies strategies to face the future with confidence.

David Sweeney has been Director (Research, Innovation and Skills) since 2008. In this role he is responsible for developing policy on Research (including the Research Excellence Framework), Business and Community, and Employer Engagement. He is also responsible for the Strategic Development Fund.

Book review

***The Tiller of the Times* (2006) by Augerinos Andreou
English transl. by Connie Stamos
ISBN 978-1-291-12854-3
Lulu Press \$3.99**

Giles Pickford's Apologia

I have a strong tendency to accept things as they are and are not. Like Augerinos Andreou, I am

a poet, albeit a minor one and not a critic. Therefore instead of a critique, I have written an appreciation and an invitation to others to read. Also I do not read Greek, so I have written an appreciation of this translation.

The author of this book is an eminent intellectual of Athens who has a profound understanding of his heritage.

The poems faithfully capture the classic beauty of Greece spanning the millennia. The poetry can be simple and lucid on the one hand, and constructed with complex rhythms and concepts on the other, using both free verse and rhymed.

The poetry in the collection conveys the beauty and terror of the Greek story: from the siege of Troy from 1260 to 1240 BC (modern dating) through to the uprising of the Greek "kleftes" against the Ottoman Turks in 1821 in which Lord Byron fought, and finally to the struggle against the Axis powers of World War II.

It also touches on stories from the New Testament with Mr Andreou's insights into the best and worst of human nature. For example, in "Field of Blood" he touches on the subject of greed. Over generations people continue to rationalise their material gains when won by treachery or the betrayal of a friend—"an immoral" act with more far-reaching repercussions than people acknowledge. In the poem "Forgetfulness" and with reference to Judas (or "Judases, his endless progeny"), it is not the common theme of betrayal but ingratitude that he broaches.

What an amazing part of the world is the eastern Mediterranean! Augerinos Andreou accepts all of it, both the mythical and modern in his inner vision of reality.

"We have not come thus far alone, the actions and creation of our forefathers have brought us here, and we continue incessantly. A society that rejects and disregards its primeval source is condemned to continual spiritual deficit. To common, worthless, superficially impressive and often vulgar creation, which will immediately fade, as it is artificially created and not inspired."

Excerpt from *Tiller of the Times* (Instead of a Prologue).

Mr Andreou's critique of modern literature is an excellent one. It could have been written by the Australian art critic Robert Hughes himself.

With regard to **women** in his poetry, there are:

Women in ancient history (Olympias in "Passaron" Part I); the dark, mysterious creature ("To Woman" Part II); a muse ("Your Smile" Part II); a spiritual partner/soul mate ("You and I", "At the Arid Furrow" Part II); love ("The Gardener" Part III); a tireless worker whose contribution society does not acknowledge enough ("Women of Epirus" Part III).

Many of the poems in Part I humanise mythical/historical characters from Homer's *Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. For example in describing the torment and anguish of Ajax, the poet makes an eloquent statement on the essential injustice of our world:

*"Aeons have I spent howling from Hades
demanding justice
but you do not hear!
You speak of the unjust verdict of the kings
of the Achaeans
upon the mighty arms of Achilles,
the worthy,
fashioned by Hephaestos.*

*And I cry out to you that it was fraud
and the trial craftily contrived
by the mean, arrogant
and lesser in valor Atreides,
not by the harsh unfeeling Gods."*

Excerpt from: "Ajax" (*The Tiller of the Times*, Part I)

The fateful effects of Jokasta's choices on her people are set out in the manner of a (Greek or Shakespearean) tragedy:

*"'Twas slender Jokasta, all aflame,
that desired the forbidden by Apollo love
of her own husband,
mortally pricking fate
and, thus, willingly bringing divine ire down upon them.
'Twas that she seduced the drunken Laios
with the sweet wine of Orchomenos
and awoke the potent sleeping passions of the king..."*

Excerpt from: "The Curse of the Lamvakides (*The Tiller of the Times*, Part I)

Part II speaks of the trials of our lives and loves in modern times. Hear the poet speak of life in Athens in 2006:

*"How low the birds flew this evening at twilight!
Earlier, for no apparent reason,
restlessly they swirled
in the sunset,
which died away on the treeless, arid
hilltops of Attica,
as though anticipating the first morning mass
in centuries."*

Excerpt from: "Twilight" (*The Tiller of the Times*, Part II)

In Part III, Augerinos Andreou imitates the folk songs of his mountainous native land, Epirus. The translator has tried to use the same rhythm, metre, stanza length— quite a task, given that Greek words average three to four syllables, whereas English words probably average two syllables. Though for the poems in Part III these connections would definitely resonate strongly with a Greek native speaker, the style of the songs that he has transformed, imitated and made his own works of art flow naturally in the English translation. In Part III Mr Andreou's main contribution is that of being a curator of legends, myths and folk songs of Arta and Epirus, about which he has written several articles such as: *Dragons, vampires and ghosts* (published by Iamvos, Greece).

Augerinos Andreou hails from Epirus in the high mountains of Central Greece. His descriptions are so vivid that they could only arise by being seen through the eyes of a child—one of the qualities of a creative artist, poet and philosopher.

Part III contains poems which reach new lyrical heights by mimicking the highland folksong with such art that he has made it his own art form. Note how the translation makes a valiant attempt to reproduce line length, metre, rhythm and rhyming patterns (iambic decapentametre, or 15-syllable lines) as well as the poet's tone and diction (in a heroic style). The themes speak of the struggles of common people in the dark times of the 1821 Uprising and the Great War that followed:

*"What ails the town of Giannena that weeps and sighs lamenting?
Is it the hail that pelts the ground, the bleak blizzard that girds her?
It's not the hail that pelts the ground nor bleak blizzard that girds her."*

*It's news of a great bishop who's been battling Turkish soldiers
high in the mounts of Epirus, and down in valley gorges.
He's freed the towns of Kalama, and Souli and Filiati
and now sets out for Giannena, our liberty securing.*

*What ails the birds of Metsovo and skylarks of Grevena,
what ceased their song, and quashed their joy, and hinders their sweet mating?
Is it that fire has singe-d black their nests upon the branches?
Is it that hawks have snatched away their downy sightless children?
It's not that fire has singe-d black their nests upon the branches
nor that the hawks have snatched away their downy sightless children.
They mourn and cry with sorrow, the poor bishop all lamenting:
he's flayed alive, in Giannena, by still lake's glassy waters,
his head lopped off, and then dispatched back to Constantinople
and hundreds more to boot, they killed all those who joined him fighting."*

Excerpt from: "Death of the Skylosoph" (*The Tiller of the Times*, Part III)

Hear him write of the bravery of women and his love of the mountainous district of Epirus where he grew up (the scene of many a battle during World War II):

*"My mighty mounts of Epirus, divinely-built and comely,
there where loud thunder-claps contend and forks of lightning crackle,
there where the sun reposes and the yellow moon-sphere tumbles,
there where the lofty eagle sharpens up his gnarly talons,
there where the generation's found of Dorians,
whose women are of that same stout fabric of the mother of Alexander.
Women, of day's sheer sunlight born and brightly laced in moonbeams,
who as they pass, their footsteps ring round valleys and in gorges,
the fields all burst with wildflowers, and boughs hang with fruition."*

Excerpt from: "Women of Epirus" (*The Tiller of the Times*, Part III)

Epic poetry was invented by Homer in Greece, and the author of the *Epic of Gilgamesh* in Babylon. This is where it all began. Augerinos Andreou has written poems in that ancient tradition which Homer himself would have been proud to write.

This translation by Connie Stamos flows naturally in English. It has maintained the poetry's semantic integrity as well as its form to a great degree. Further, Mrs Stamos has made thoughtful linguistic choices that show both a deep respect for the poem's original source, but also for the modern reader of English. It certainly serves as a bridge between our two cultures, whose histories and literature are so closely bound.

Greece is still the ancestral home of poetry and its people always will be a source of culture, arts and literature.

Postscript: An aid to understanding the historical context of the poetry can be found in this book: *The Flame of Freedom: The Greek War of Independence, 1821-1833* by David Brewer.

Giles Pickford BA (Hons) W. Aust

Graduation ceremonies

The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on 12, 13 and 14 December 2012 at Llewellyn Hall.

ANU Emeritus Faculty members, who registered by December 7, are cordially invited to participate in the academic processions for these ceremonies.

It is the responsibility of each participant to provide their own academic dress. If a participant is unsure of the code of dress, the Examinations & Graduations Office (graduation.officer@anu.edu.au) may be consulted.

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

Please feel free to contact the Senior Graduations Officer – Judy Luyt (x54648) – if you require any further information.

Phone: (02)6125 4648
email: graduation.officer@anu.edu.au

Archives link

Maggie Shapley, University Archivist, writes: Our news has been updated on our website. Please click [here](#) for news of our recent activities or go to nbac.anu.edu.au and select 'News and events'. Please contact us at butlin.archives@anu.edu.au for any changes to the mailing list.

Maggie Shapley
University Archivist
ANU Archives Program (*Noel Butlin Archives Centre, University Archives and Pacific Research Archives*)
Menzies Building #2
Fellows Road
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200 Australia

+61 2 6125 9602
maggie.shapley@anu.edu.au
www.archives.anu.edu.au

Current Affairs

Room for improvement in literacy and numeracy

A major literacy and numeracy funding program was examined in the latest review of Auditor-General reports by federal parliament's Public Accounts and Audit Committee.

The committee's report, tabled on November 29, included a review of the government's administration of the \$540 million *National Partnership Agreement on Literacy and Numeracy*, amongst other programs. The agreement provides funds to states and territories to deliver literacy and numeracy programs, focusing on students who are falling behind.

Overall, while the partnership appeared to be having a positive impact, the committee identified design and implementation issues to be addressed in future agreements.

In particular, future partnerships would benefit from:

- implementation plans and reform targets being negotiated at the same time as the initial high level agreements are made;
- performance checking mechanisms being built into agreements; and
- more time being allowed for facilitation payments to take effect before reward payments are made to states.

"Australia must lift its literacy and numeracy standards", committee chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, said. "The withholding of \$64 million of Commonwealth-state funding raises the concern that results are still too low."

"For these results to be turned around, the performance of National Partnership agreements and the combined efforts of COAG must first be lifted", Mr Oakeshott added. "This is urgent and matters a lot".

The review also linked to the committee's earlier report on *National Funding Agreements*, which recommended more parliamentary scrutiny of funding agreements, particularly during their implementation.

An electronic copy of the report can be downloaded from the Committee's website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa> or directly at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jcpaa/auditgen8_12/report.htm

For general information: contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4615 or email jcpaa@aph.gov.au.

'Retired' scientists unmask bush graffiti artists

In a remarkable piece of detective work, a team of 'retired' CSIRO scientists have revealed the group of artists responsible for the iconic scribbles found on smooth-barked Eucalyptus trees in south-eastern Australia.

Previously thought to be the work of a single species called the Australian Scribbly Gum Moth, the scientists have uncovered at least eleven new species of moths responsible for the iconic bush graffiti.

“Although many Australians will be familiar with the distinctive scribbles on gum trees, very little was known until now about the artists that create them,’ said Dr Marianne Horak, a retired moth expert working in an honorary capacity at CSIRO’s Australian National Insect Collection. “Discovering that there are at least twelve species of moths behind the scribbles was certainly an exciting find. “We also found these moths have a link with the ancient supercontinent Gondwana.’

The scientists revealed that the relationship between the scribbly gum moths and their eucalypt hosts is a unique ecological interaction. The moths bore a tunnel through an under layer of the eucalypt bark in their larval stage, looping and moving back and forth along their tracks at different stages of their caterpillar life cycle to create the distinctive scribbles.

“In an attempt to replace the missing tissue, the trees refill the tunnels with highly nutritious, thin-walled cells,’ said Dr Horak. “This is ideal food for the caterpillars, so they turn around and eat their way back along the way they’ve come, growing rapidly to maturity, before they leave the tree to spin a cocoon and turn into a moth. Not long after the caterpillars leave the tree, the bark cracks off, revealing the scribbles below.’

The formidable collaboration of scientific heavy-hitters Marianne Horak, Ted Edwards AM and 96-year-old Max Day AO teamed up with botanist Celia Barlow—all Honorary Fellows at the CSIRO—in conducting detailed field and laboratory studies to determine the biology and life cycle of the moths. Other collaborators performed DNA analysis and microscopic studies to help confirm their findings and pinpoint these enigmatic moth species’ place within the insect world.

“This is a wonderful example of the passion our scientists have for their work, whether retired or not,” said Dr Joanne Daly, CSIRO Strategic Advisor working with CSIRO’s collections. “This research highlights that we still have so much to learn about Australian fauna and flora, even those species we see every day.”

The ‘retired’ research team embarked on the project after a schoolgirl made an interesting discovery while looking at the varying characteristics of the eucalypt scribbles with the help of one of the scientists. She found there were different and unique ‘dialects’ present in different scribbles, indicating that a range of species might be at work.

“The work of these bush scribblers has an important place in Australian culture and literary tradition, having inspired literary greats such as poet Judith Wright and May Gibbs, who wrote *Snugglypot and Cuddlepup*,” said Dr Horak.

The research was published in the journal *Invertebrate Systematics* on November 27 and was supported by the CSIRO and the Queensland University of Technology.

Have a word about your tax

The House Economics Committee will inquire into amendments to the tax treatment of fringe benefits, limited recourse debt and rebates for medical expenses among other changes contained in the Tax Laws Amendment (2012 Measures No. 6) Bill 2012.

Committee chair Julie Owens said on December 6 that the committee would examine the adequacy of the Bills in achieving their policy objectives and where possible identify any unintended consequences.

Schedule 1 of the Bill makes it clear that **native title benefits** are not subject to income tax, including capital gains tax. The financial impact of this measure is close to zero.

Schedule 2 updates the list of **deductible gift recipients**. This will cost of \$24.8 million over the forward estimates.

Schedule 3 extends the immediate deductibility of exploration expenditure, already provided to mining and petroleum explorers, to **geothermal energy explorers**. This is expected to cost \$5 million annually from 2013–2014.

Schedule 4 extends the interim streaming provisions for **managed investment trusts (MITs)**, in line with the government's announcement to defer the commencement of the new regime for MITs. The effect on revenue is not expected to be significant.

Schedule 5 applies an income-based means test to the **rebate for medical expenses**. It is expected to increase revenue by \$370 million over the forward estimates.

Schedule 6 restores the original policy intent of the provisions relating to **limited recourse debt**, following the High Court case in 2011 between the Tax Office and BHP. The provisions operate to reverse capital allowance deductions that, at the time the debt is terminated, are excessive having regard to the amount of the debt repaid. This measure is expected to protect a significant amount of revenue.

Schedule 7 removes concessional fringe benefit tax treatment for **in-house fringe benefits** accessed through salary sacrificing. This will increase revenue by \$360 million over the forward estimates. In-house fringe benefits are those where the employer provides the same or similar goods or services as part of the main business.

Schedule 8 makes **miscellaneous amendments**.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make **submissions to the inquiry by Thursday, 20 December 2012**. The Bill is available from the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/economics

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:
Phone: (02) 6277 4564, email: economics.reps@aph.gov.au or via the website.

Tax administration report tabled

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit has tabled its report on the Australian Taxation Office's administration of the tax system. Among the issues examined in the report, were:

- ATO interactions with small business;
- the ATO's approach to debt recovery;
- the lack of a 'tax gap' estimate; and
- the question of broader tax reform.

The report can be downloaded at the committee's website www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa by following the link '*Committee Activities —Annual Public Hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation*'

Report tabled on workplace bullying

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment released its report, ***Workplace Bullying: We just want it to stop*** on November 26.

According to the Productivity Commission workplace bullying costs the Australian economy between \$6 billion and \$36 billion annually.

The Committee received over 300 written submissions – mostly from individuals who have experienced bullying first-hand—but also from organisations, about the enormous human toll that workplace bullying takes.

The report contains 23 recommendations that focus on:

- defining what bullying is and is not;
- promoting and strengthening existing legislative and regulatory frameworks;
- ensuring that the requirements of the draft *Code of Practice: Managing the Risk of Workplace Bullying* are met, with guidance and support provided to employers;
- improving workplace cultures;
- and enhancing tools for the prevention and early resolution of workplace bullying incidences.

The Committee Chair, Ms Amanda Rishworth MP, said “Workplace bullying is happening far too frequently in Australian workplaces, and occurs in all sectors and industries. We started this inquiry with a focus on examining whether we should introduce a national equivalent of Brodie’s Law. We discovered throughout the inquiry that prevention and early intervention is critical. A chief concern of witnesses was the lack of clarity about what to do and where to go for help. That is why we recommend, in consultation with stakeholders, that the Commonwealth Government establish a new national advisory service to provide advice, assistance and resolution services to employers and workers alike. We hope that this report forms part of the national conversation we need to have on this topic and offers ways for moving forward. We all have a responsibility to stop bullying behaviour in its tracks.”

The report is available on the Committee’s website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=ee/bullying/report.htm

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>

Workplace Gender Equality Act

The Australian Human Rights Commission and the Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, have welcomed the passing of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill in Parliament on November 26, saying it is a strong step toward both improving women’s workforce participation and closing the gender gap in Australia’s workforce.

“This is an important piece of legislation that will provide a solid foundation for improving gender equality in employment and in the workplace,” Commissioner Broderick said. “It applies to both men and women in the workplace.”

To reflect its expanded scope, the *Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999* has been renamed the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*.

Commissioner Broderick said the principal objects of the Act have been amended to promote and improve workplace gender equality, with specific recognition that equal remuneration and family and caring responsibilities are central to improving the workforce participation of women.

"Recognition in the Act of equal remuneration strengthens capacity for closing the gender pay gap," said Commissioner Broderick. "Enabling greater participation of women in the workforce will also make a significant contribution to strengthening Australia's productivity."

Commissioner Broderick said, "Other improvements in this legislation include: the development of gender equality indicators and related industry-based benchmarks; a new reporting framework requiring relevant employers to report against gender equality indicators; improvements to the transparency associated with compliance and the consequences of non-compliance; and an extension of the agency's advice and education function to all employers," Ms Broderick said.

First Mental Health Report Card

The Australian Human Rights Commission has welcomed the production of Australia's first Mental Health Report Card produced by the new Mental Health Commission.

Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes said "this report card focuses on how Australians with mental illness can recover and live contributing lives. As such, it changes a medical focus to a focus on the whole person, and how they can become and remain a contributing part of our community. I strongly support this change."

Commissioner Innes also agreed that much work had been done on the cost of mental illness, and much more work was needed on the ways to achieve good mental health. He also supported the proposal to shift from the collection of data only on hospitals to the collection of data on the critical mental health activity that occurs in the community.

"I am pleased to have contributed to the development of this Report Card by the Mental Health Commission, and look forward to that partnership continuing in the future," Commissioner Innes said. "The Mental Health Commission's capacity - with input from people with lived experience of mental illness - to monitor progress, and report to government, will very much assist Australians with mental illness to recover, and live contributing lives."

The report card may be viewed at www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au

Australia's Indian Ocean Territories

The National Capital and External Territories Committee questioned the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport about current developments in Australia's Indian Ocean Territories at a public hearing on November 28 at Parliament House, Canberra.

This hearing provided an opportunity for the committee to follow up with the department on a number of issues raised by the communities on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands during the committee's recent visit to the Indian Ocean Territories.

Committee Chair, Senator Louise Pratt, said, "In particular, community members highlighted the impact on the island communities of the influx of boat arrivals, and the stresses and strains this placed on local resources."

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4355, email: jscncet@aph.gov.au, website www.aph.gov.au/ncet

Synroc in the news again

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) Nuclear Medicine Project. ANSTO states that the proposed facility will comprise a new nuclear medicine manufacturing facility and a co-located Synroc waste treatment plant.

Molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) is one of the world's most important nuclear medicines and allows the detection of life threatening diseases. In Australia, 550,000 people receive a diagnosis using Mo-99 each year. The proposed facility will also allow Australia to guarantee the future supply of Mo-99 to Australians, and will meet a significant proportion of the world's increasing demand for Mo-99 which currently totals around 45 million doses a year.

The Synroc facility is based upon ANSTO's proprietary technology and is a world 'first of a kind' facility able to treat a variety of wastes. The Synroc facility will provide a viable economic solution to consolidating waste which is a legacy of 50 years of Australian nuclear medicine production. The estimated cost of the project is \$168 million. Construction is expected to be complete by 2016. The facility will be located at ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in February 2012.

"This project aims to establish a new facility for the production of nuclear medicines. The current facility is ageing and must close by 2017. The new Synroc facility will treat the waste by-products of nuclear medicine production. The Committee will scrutinise this project to ensure that the works are fit-for-purpose and offer value for money for the Commonwealth" Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc
Submissions to the inquiry close on 24 January 2013.

Details of the public hearing program will be announced soon.

Forensic facility submissions wanted

Submissions to the federal parliament's Public Works Committee inquiry into the proposed new forensic facility for the Australian Federal Police (AFP) at Majura, ACT, close on January 24, 2013.

The objective of the project is to deliver a fit-for-purpose facility that will support AFP forensic and technical intelligence operations and projected growth of specialist disciplines over the next 20 years. The existing facility in Weston in the ACT no longer provides the necessary accommodation to support AFP forensic and technical intelligence activities.

The estimated cost of the project is \$106 million. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2015.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in February 2012.

"The proposed facility will have the capacity to house a best practice forensic and technical intelligence capability. Importantly, the new facility will cater for projected growth in the AFP's forensic activity. The Committee will examine this project to ensure that the proposed works will meet the need and provide value for money for the Commonwealth" Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Historians and new war memorial galleries

The federal parliament Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed redevelopment of the First World War Galleries at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Submissions to the inquiry close on 24 January 2013.

The AWM's proposal to redevelop the galleries responds to the Australian Government's ANZAC Centenary Program 2014-2018. Approximately \$83.5 million has been committed to this program over seven years. The galleries redevelopment is a key part of the program's commemorative events and initiatives.

The First World War galleries have not undergone any significant redevelopment since the 1970s. They represent one of the last remaining areas to be redeveloped as part of a process of major gallery renewal which began in 1995 with the establishment of the AWM's Gallery Master Plan. The exhibitions have been retained long beyond their useful lifespan. The estimated cost of the project is \$32.52 million. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2014.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in February 2012.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Further information, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.

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Democracy under scrutiny

Federal Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee will review the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Improving Electoral Administration) Bill 2012, which was introduced into the House last week.

The Bill implements the government response to Recommendations 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 29 and 30 of the committee's report entitled *The 2010 Federal Election: Report on the conduct of the election and related matters*.

The Bill contains provisions that will:

- set out the procedures to be followed when a ballot-box is opened prematurely, that is, before the close of the poll, other than in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Electoral Act and Referendum Act;
- require ballot papers included in a ballot-box that is opened prematurely to be excluded from scrutiny;
- remove the requirement under the Electoral Act and Referendum Act for an applicant for a pre-poll ordinary vote to complete and sign a certificate;
- provide that pre-poll voting cannot commence earlier than 4 days after the date fixed for declaration of nominations for any type of election or by-election;
- brings forward the deadline for applications for postal votes by one day from the Thursday before polling day to the Wednesday before polling day;
- provide for further fixed periods of time to be provided to the augmented Electoral Commission (as defined in section 70 of the Electoral Act) to complete its inquiries into objections against proposed redistribution of electoral boundaries;
- amend the Taxation Administration Act to allow the Commissioner of Taxation and other taxation officers to provide some forms of taxpayer information to the Australian Electoral Commission for the purposes of administering the Electoral Act and Referendum Act; and
- make a number of related minor and technical amendments.
- The Chair of the committee, Daryl Melham MP, said the committee will examine the adequacy of the Bill in achieving its policy objectives.

Stakeholders, members of the public and interested groups are invited to make **submissions to the inquiry by Friday, 21 December 2012**.

The Bill, Explanatory Memorandum and information on the inquiry are available from the committee's webpage: <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>.

For general information: Contact the secretariat on 02 6277 2374 or jscem@aph.gov.au.

Inquiry into constitutional recognition of local government

The Parliament has appointed a Committee to inquire into changing the Australian constitution to provide for the financial recognition of local government. Following the findings of an independent expert panel, the Committee has been charged with investigating the potential success of a referendum on this issue.

"This inquiry builds on the extensive consultation conducted by the expert panel. Our task is to establish the likelihood of success of a referendum on financial recognition of local government," Committee Chair Michelle Rowland said.

The expert panel's preferred amendment would be to Section 96 of the Constitution which would read (proposed new words in italics):

The Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State *or to any local government body formed by State or Territory Legislation* on such terms and conditions as the Parliament sees fit.

"The committee's final members were appointed on 28 November 2012, and the committee held its first meeting on 29 November 2012 and immediately decided to call for submissions," Ms Rowland said.

"The committee is keen to hear from stakeholders on the proposed amendment, and especially its wording. We welcome submissions on the amendment, as well as other issues related to the expert panel's proposal.

"The appointment of this committee is a sign that the Parliament is concerned to progress this issue in a way that would provide any referendum with the best chance of success. The committee will be meeting with state governments and local government representatives to assess the best way forward."

The full terms of reference are available on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jsclg and submissions addressing the terms of reference must be received by **15 February 2013**.

For information on the inquiry: contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4044 or, by email: jsclg@aph.gov.au

Science key to future of fisheries and aquaculture

The *Netting the benefits* report, released by the Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry Committee on November 27, has called for the development of a new national regional policy statement on fisheries, aquaculture and recreational fishing—along with 21 other recommendations.

Committee Chair Dick Adams MP said: "Investment in science is the key to driving our fisheries and aquaculture industries to new levels of efficiency, improving product quality and maintaining Australia's position as a leader of knowledge in this area."

In addition to the committee's call for a new national statement to be drafted to be the basis for all future policy development; some of the committee's other recommendations include that there be:

- improved national reporting of fisheries and aquaculture statistics;
- further study and analysis of climate change implications;
- development of a 'one stop shop' model for project approvals—including environmental assessments;
- drafting a new guideline on precaution that has input from all stakeholders and includes realistic risk assessments; and
- a Productivity Commission inquiry into the efficiency of the fishing industry and its governance arrangements.

The report has also called for fisheries management to be free from political direction. "The community was mobilised to oppose the super trawler based on unfounded fear, despite the fact that scientists in the field explained that its impacts would be no greater than for other methods of fishing," Mr Adams said. "We should not be managing fisheries by changing the rules in high profile cases through emergency measures."

Copies of the report can be obtained from the committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=arff/fisheries/report.htm

For background information: contact the Committee Secretary (02) 6277 4500, email arff.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/arff>

Australia and Uruguay sign Uni work and holiday deal

Young Australians and Uruguayans will now be able to enjoy an extended holiday in each other's countries thanks to a new work and holiday agreement, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, announced on November 27..

Mr Bowen and the Uruguay Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Alberto Fajardo, signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the work and holiday visa at Parliament House in Canberra.

'The agreement provides for university educated Australian and Uruguayan travellers aged between 18 and 30 years old to work and holiday in each other's country for up to 12 months,' Mr Bowen said. There will be an annual limit of 200 work and holiday visas for both countries.

Uruguay is the latest country to agree to a reciprocal work and holiday visa agreement with Australia, joining countries including Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Turkey and the US.

The work and holiday visa (subclass 462) differs from a working holiday visa (subclass 417). It requires an applicant to have the support of their government, hold or be studying for tertiary qualifications, and to speak functional English.

More information on work and holiday visas is available at: [Work and Holiday Visa \(Subclass 462\)](#)

Sri Lankan refugees v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Immigration & Citizenship)

Former President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Ms Catherine Branson QC, has found that ten Sri Lankan refugees with adverse security assessments from ASIO were arbitrarily detained in closed immigration detention facilities. The Commission's report was tabled in Parliament on 26 November.

The conduct has also affected three Sri Lankan children who have been granted protection visas but are residing in immigration detention with their parents.

"It appears that no comprehensive and individualised assessment has been undertaken in respect of each complainant to assess whether they pose any risk to the Australian community and whether any such risk could be addressed (for example by the imposition of particular conditions) without their being required to remain in an immigration detention facility" Ms Branson said.

Ms Branson did not express any view as to what the outcome of any such consideration in each particular case would be.

Seven of the complainants arrived at Christmas Island between June and July 2009. Five other complainants initially sought to enter Australia on board the *Oceanic Viking* and were eventually brought to Australia from Indonesia in December 2009. One child was born in immigration detention after arriving in Australia.

All of the complainants were found to be refugees, either by Australia or by UNHCR. All of the adult complainants eventually received an adverse security assessment from ASIO recommending that a protection visa not be granted.

Ms Branson found that the Department of Immigration and Citizenship failed to ask ASIO to assess whether six of the refugees were suitable for community based detention while they were waiting for their security clearance. Information provided by ASIO suggested that community detention assessments could be conducted within 24 hours. Instead, these six refugees were held in closed detention for between 5 months and 21 months while a security assessment in relation to the grant of a visa was carried out.

Ms Branson recommended that the Minister indicate to his department that he will not refuse to consider a person in immigration detention for release from detention or placement in a less restrictive form of detention merely because the department has received advice from ASIO that the person not be granted a visa on security grounds.

Most of her recommendations were not accepted by the Minister or the department. Her decision can be reviewed under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act.

Sri Lankan refugees v Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Immigration & Citizenship) is online at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/humanrightsreports/AusHRC56.html>.

Germany takes over ICRC's tracing archives

Geneva (ICRC) –The International Committee of the Red Cross is to hand over management of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen to the German Federal Archives after over half a century. The ITS was founded in 1943 to provide answers to millions of families who had lost touch with relatives during the Second World War.

Speaking at the ITS on 29 November, ICRC president Peter Maurer explained that "The ICRC is handing over management of the ITS, but we're not leaving it." He stressed that the ICRC would remain in regular contact with the ITS, through its Central Tracing Agency in Geneva, tracing agencies in ICRC delegations, and the tracing services of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world. The ICRC will continue to provide its technical expertise, helping the ITS serve the victims of Nazi persecution and their families.

The ICRC's tracing archives cover civilians detained in Nazi concentration or labour camps and people who had to flee their homes because of the Second World War. They house over 50 million card files relating to more than 17.5 million civilians persecuted by the Nazis.

As the mission of the ITS has now extended beyond purely humanitarian work to englobe research, management of the Service will be handed over on 1 January, 2013 to the German Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv) and the International Commission has appointed a new director, history professor Rebecca Boehling, who will continue and develop the work of the past five decades.

For further information, website: www.icrc.org or the website of the ITS: www.its-arolsen.org

Treaties Committee supports anti-piracy treaty

The Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee has recommended, in a report tabled in Parliament on November 29, that Australia ratify the *Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia* (ReCAAP).

ReCAAP is the result of efforts by countries which trade goods through the straits of Malacca and the straits of Singapore to address piracy and armed robbery in these waters. The straits of Malacca and Singapore have experienced an increase in the incidence of piracy and armed robbery against ships since the 1990s, leading to these waters being amongst the most heavily pirated in the world.

"The incidence of piracy in the straits of Malacca and Singapore has increased from 75 incidents in 2000 to 133 in 2011," the Committee Chair, Kelvin Thomson MP, said. "This represents a significant threat to the \$130bn worth of Australian trade that passes through these straits each year."

ReCAAP acts as a framework for cooperation amongst signatories. It promotes information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. ReCAAP also enables capacity building to improve responses to acts of piracy.

The Report also sets out the committee's support for three other proposed treaties:

- *the Treaty between Australia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Extradition;*
- *the Partial Revision of the 2008 Radio Regulations, as incorporated in the International Telecommunication Union Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12); and*
- *the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Kingdom of Spain for the Mutual Protection of Classified Information of Defence Interest.*

Report 131 is available on the committee's website:

www.aph.gov.au/jsct or directly
http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/11september2012/report.htm or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

Copyright and trademark protection

The Chair of the Treaties Committee, Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, has welcomed the government's response to the Committee's review of the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

ACTA is an agreement designed to strengthen intellectual property standards around the world. It focuses on trademark and copyright enforcement and establishes a legal framework for intellectual property enforcement.

However, the Committee concluded that the agreement contained a number of flaws.

"The Committee was concerned about the lack of clarity in the text, the exclusion of provisions protecting the rights of individuals, and ACTA's potential to shift the balance in the interpretation of copyright law, intellectual property law and patent law", Mr Thomson said.

The Committee made nine recommendations, including that the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement not be ratified by Australia until the:

- Treaties Committee has received and considered an independent and transparent assessment of ACTA's economic and social benefits and costs;
- Australian Law Reform Commission has reported on its Inquiry into Copyright and the Digital Economy; and the
- Australian Government has issued notices of clarification in relation to the terms of the Agreement.

The Committee's more detailed views on ACTA were covered in Report 126. It, and the Government's response, can be found on the committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/reports.htm or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders report tabled

The House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee tabled its report into Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) on November 29. The report, *FASD: The Hidden Harm*, which makes nineteen recommendations, is available at www.aph.gov.au/fasd

The primary recommendations are for a National Plan of Action for the prevention, diagnosis and management of FASD and for the establishment of a specialised FASD Reference Group to provide advice and oversight of the National Plan of Action.

As part of the Committee's focus on FASD prevention, recommendations have been made to:

- promote awareness of FASD and the risks of drinking alcohol when pregnant;
- improve the training of health professionals;
- immediately roll-out a national FASD diagnostic and screening tool;
- mandate health warning labels on alcoholic beverages and packaging;
- develop a National Alcohol Sales Reform Plan taking into account the impacts of current pricing, availability and marketing of alcohol; and

- include FASD in the List of Recognised Disabilities and ensure access to support services for those affected by FASD and their carers.

For more information, 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

Afghan Hidden Treasures

The *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures of the National Museum, Kabul* exhibition will tour Sydney, Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane in 2013 and 2014.

Comprising more than 230 artefacts dating from sites along the Silk Road between 2200 BC to AD 200, the exhibition attests to the role Afghanistan has played as a crossroads of the ancient world.

Foreign Minister Bob Carr said the items were feared destroyed after Soviet occupation and civil war in Afghanistan, and were kept hidden by museum staff during the period of Taliban rule.

“The exhibition illustrates the motto of Afghanistan’s National Museum - ‘a nation stays alive when its culture stays alive’,” and went on, “The human stories behind these artefacts add to their value as a cultural record of ancient Afghanistan.”

Arts Minister Simon Crean said the exhibition highlighted the important role cultural diplomacy and exchange played in strengthening Australia’s engagement with the rest of the world.

“The partnership between Australian and Afghan state museums and galleries is a fusion of cultures that will reinforce the strength of our identity and our engagement with Afghanistan and the rest of the world. As home to one of the oldest cultures on earth and also welcoming to greater diversity of cultures, we are thrilled to bring the *Hidden Treasures* exhibition to Australia.”

The Australian Government has provided diplomatic and financial support to bring the exhibition to Australian audiences, following successful tours of the Hidden Treasures to the United States and Europe. The exhibition will tour the Melbourne Museum, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Queensland Museum and the Museum of Western Australia.

2012 ANUEF activities

Lectures and diary dates

12 December The ANUEF Christmas Party at is at 5 pm in the Molony Room, 24 Balmain Crescent, ANU. More diary date details can be found here:

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

ANUEF room bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Judith Caton via email, and these will be forwarded to the committee for approval, and then entered into the diary. A return email will be sent to the organisation confirming the booking. The diary will be held in the office rather than being left on the table in the meeting room. Conditions for the use of the premises will be emailed to users and a copy is on the ANUEF website.

Contact Judith Caton on judith.caton@anu.edu.au

Returning Officer's Report - 2012 Annual General Meeting

In accordance with section 6 (b) of the Constitution, nominations for election to the twelve vacancies on the Committee of the ANU Emeritus Faculty were called for by post and e-mail on 9 November 2012.

The following thirteen valid nominations have been received from financial members:

Adrian Gibbs
Angela Giblin
Bari Hall
Brian Lees
Colin Steele
Darrell Tryon
Di Riddell
Jim Fox
Judith Caton
Mike Rickard
Peter Scardoni
Shirley Pipitone
Verna Rosling

In accordance with past practice it is recommend that the AGM declare 12 of the above elected and one co-opted.

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>

Next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in February 2013.