

# EMERITUS

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## What you can do with \$50 million

In the largest donation to an Australian university by an Australian citizen, ANU alumnus Graham Tuckwell and his wife Louise have given \$50 million to ANU to fund the new Tuckwell Scholarship program.

Beginning in 2014, the most transformational undergraduate scholarship program in Australia will award 25 Tuckwell Scholarships each year at a value of \$20,000 per annum for up to five years for expenses such as accommodation and living costs.

"The Tuckwell Scholarship program is aimed at providing scholars with a collegial and well-rounded campus experience," Mr Tuckwell said. "Both my wife and I benefited enormously from our formal education. Our university experience was life-transforming. We would like to give that opportunity to other young Australians."

The gift was given with the intention of enabling highly talented and motivated students to fulfill their potential and reinvest their knowledge, skills and experience in ways that positively benefit others.

"While at university, clearly there's a certain amount of high-quality academic work that's got to be done, but equally you've got to enjoy yourself and develop as a citizen. That's what we would like to see these Tuckwell Scholars do."

The Tuckwell Scholars will be selected from a cohort of school-leavers whose ATAR is 95 or above and who display a rounded set of attributes.

“This is a national scholarship program where we are aiming to bring students from diverse backgrounds from all around Australia together to a single university. That university is Australia’s best university—ANU. I can tell you it’s the best because I benefited enormously from the springboard of opportunities that it gave me in life,” Mr Tuckwell said.

ANU Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO says the University is committed to delivering on the Tuckwells’ vision. He said that the new Tuckwell Scholarship program was “born from a vision of one of our most distinguished graduates, Graham Tuckwell, and his wife Louise, and is supported by a gift of \$50 million through the Graham and Louise Tuckwell Foundation”. This gift is the largest ever to an Australian university from Australians and the largest gift ever given to an Australian university for the benefit of students.

The program has a focus on giving back to Australia and is the only one of its kind that nurtures Scholars to fulfill their broader community ambitions over and above the pursuit of an undergraduate degree. You can find out more information about the program at <http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au>

Professor Young said, “On behalf of the University and our community I would like to deeply and sincerely thank Graham and Louise for their most generous and visionary gift. It is unlike anything that has come before it. We really are very proud to count Graham and Louise as members of our ANU community.

“When Graham and Louise first suggested the possibility of a donation like this to support such a tremendous scholarship program, I was enormously impressed by their vision.”

“Universities are very much about people the staff, the students—and great universities are built by great people. The Tuckwell Scholarships will allow us to attract the best and brightest students from right across the country who want to give back in a whole range of ways. Through our on-campus residential experience and the quality of education we provide, ANU will be able to deliver the sort of full, rounded education that Graham and Louise envisage.”

Professor Young said the donation may also prove to be transformative for philanthropy in Australia.

“One of the important results of the Tuckwell donation will be to set an example of what people who have succeeded in business or other activities can do. I’m very hopeful that this will act as a catalyst for other philanthropists to make similar donations to Australian universities. It will begin a conversation about the magnitude of these types of contributions and the transformative nature they can have not only on universities but society more broadly.”

### **This is no ordinary scholarship**

In outlining the criteria for receiving a Tuckwell Scholarship its website states the scholarship “is not just about your intellect. It is about your desire and determination to use your natural abilities, if given the opportunity, to realise your full potential so that you can make a difference in the world”.

The Tuckwell Scholarship program has a focus on giving back to Australia. It is the only one of its kind that nurtures scholars to fulfill their wider ambitions over and above the pursuit of an undergraduate degree. As a Tuckwell Scholar you epitomise the [Tuckwell vision](#) to become the best you can be while hoping to make the world a better place. These characteristics are underpinned by integrity, humility and generosity.

Supported through the generosity of the [Graham & Louise Tuckwell Foundation](#), you will receive a scholarship of \$20,000 per annum (increasing with inflation) for the length of your undergraduate degree at The Australian National University for expenses such as accommodation and living costs.

The financial benefits are just the beginning—the [Tuckwell experience](#) will be life-changing.

**Applications for the Tuckwell Scholarship open to students from around Australia open on Monday, 4 March, 2013 and close Tuesday, 2 April 2013**

### Man of some mystery

Emma Macdonald, Education Editor of *The Canberra Times*, reported that Graham Tuckwell said he lived an ordinary suburban upbringing in O'Connor for the first 20 years of his life. He credits his education at Turner Primary, Canberra High, and, most transforming, the Australian National University with arming him intellectually and socially for life as a global tycoon.

He is a notoriously private character who will not discuss his wealth or family life in public and his particular brand of business was to pioneer electronically traded funds and exchange traded commodities—a complex way of buying and selling securities for commodities such as gold through the stock exchange.

With his company, ETF Securities, bringing in \$120 million a year, Mr Tuckwell, 56, decided to do something meaningful with the proceeds of his success. A \$50 million donation to his alma mater to set up the Tuckwell Scholarship will help the ANU try to create Australia's own brand of Rhodes scholars. *The Canberra Times* reported him as saying, "I supposed I could have bought a yacht, and then sat on it... Or I could have spent it on fancy holidays, and alienated myself from my friends, or bought half a dozen houses, but then how could I sit in church every Sunday?"

The article goes on to say that Mr Tuckwell is against passing his immense wealth on to his four children, saying he and Prime Minister Julia Gillard had discussed how inherited wealth had left the next generation "behaving rather badly".

"If you give them too much you destroy their lives," he said.

While he may live with wife Louise in the international business enclave of Jersey in the Channel Isles, where income tax is a flat 20 per cent, Mr Tuckwell believes the excesses of the ultra-rich can often make them look like "wallies".

Meanwhile, Mr Tuckwell has set his sights on encouraging Australia's most promising undergraduates to stretch themselves beyond just getting a degree. He wants them to become engaged with their communities and become well-rounded citizens. For five years of their undergraduate degree, or double degree, they will receive up to \$100,000 and the

personal mentoring of Mr Tuckwell who says the big difference between him and British mining magnate and De Beers diamond founder Cecil Rhodes is that he is young enough to engage with his scholars and influence the sort of program they will undertake.

"Leaving your money in a will means there is not much influence," he told *The Canberra Times*.

Having barely returned to Canberra since his investment banking career took off, Mr Tuckwell pledges to make the trip back each winter in order to help vet each new intake of 25 year 12 students who display the requisite personality traits, and to share his business acumen with the Tuckwell Scholars who will call ANU home.

## New appointments

Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO announced two new University appointments on 21 December 2012. He said:

**Professor Richard Baker** will take up the position of Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Experience) in April 2013. Richard will be well known to many of you. He completed his honours degree at ANU in 1981, and rejoined the University in 1993 as a lecturer. He has a strong career in education leadership, most recently as Director, Science Education in the Joint Colleges of Science, and he has driven the Vice Chancellor's courses on 'Creating Knowledge' and 'Unravelling Complexity'. Richard is both a national and ANU teaching award winner. His research interests relate to Indigenous Australian land management issues, in which he has published extensively. I very much look forward to Richard joining the University Executive team.

**Richard Robinson** is appointed as ANU Online Lead, a role that will work with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and the Chief Information Officer to develop online education strategies in collaboration with others across the campus. Richard Robinson joins us from Monash University, where he has been the Senior Business Analyst on the Monash Virtual Learning Environment. He will begin at ANU in mid February 2013.

## Bushfires near Coonabarabran

In a message to colleagues and students on 18 January, the Vice Chancellor said, "Members of our community and their families have been affected by the Wambelong fire that damaged the Siding Spring Observatory and continues to burn near Coonabarabran. For many in our community, it brings back terrible memories of the 2003 fires that caused so much damage to Canberra and Mt Stromlo.

"Along with the Director of the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Matthew Colless, counselling and human resources staff, I met yesterday [January 17] in Coonabarabran with affected ANU staff and their families, a number of whom have lost their homes.

"The University's priority at the moment is the wellbeing of our staff and the safety of the site. The Observatory will remain closed for the next two weeks".

Members of the ANU community can support affected staff and their families through a staff emergency relief fund from this [link](#). University House, with the generous support of its suppliers, hosted a Bushfire Appeal Dinner on 25 January.

Professor Young added, “The University will also make a contribution of \$25,000 to the Warrumbungle Shire Mayor’s Bushfire Appeal in recognition of the local community’s long and supportive relationship with the Observatory. I know that the wishes and support of the ANU community are much appreciated by our colleagues and their families affected by the fires”.

## **Death of Fulton Muir**

In a note to colleagues, Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO said the University, and indeed Canberra, had lost a great friend with the recent death of J. Fulton Muir.

“He gave long and dedicated service to the University community as a member of Council (1986 – 2006), Chair of the Finance Committee (1992 – 2006), and valued mentor to many. He will be missed,” the Vice Chancellor said.

“Fulton Muir was a great advocate of the importance of this University, engaging actively in the commercialisation of our research for the benefit of the nation. The ANU Enterprise building bears his name in recognition of his contributions in this area.

“Members of the ANU community are invited to honour Fulton Muir and his service to the University at a memorial service. The service will be held at 12 noon, Thursday, March 14 in The Hall, University House.

## **Current Affairs**

### **Improving electoral administration**

With the date of the next Federal election set for 14 September, there could be added interest in a parliamentary inquiry into hearings of the Parliament’s Electoral Matters Committee.

It held a public hearing on 4 February in Parliament House, Canberra, as part of its review of the Electoral and Referendum Amendment (Improving Electoral Administration) Bill 2012. The committee heard from the Australian Electoral Commission and other interested groups on key aspects of the Bill.

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

**For more information:** Contact the secretariat on 02 6277 2374 or [jscem@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscem@aph.gov.au).

### And a referendum too?

The preliminary report of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government was published on 24 January in Canberra. The committee recommends that the Australian Government hold a referendum at the same time as the 2013 federal election – now set for 14 September.

On that day, Australians would be asked to amend the Australian Constitution. If passed, the amendment would guarantee the ability of the Commonwealth Government to continue to directly fund essential community infrastructure through programs such as *Roads to Recovery* for building and upgrading regional roads. The committee has recommended that the Australian Government and the local government sector commence negotiations immediately to secure the support of state and territory governments for the referendum.

Committee chair Michelle Rowland MP says: ““The services now provided by local government far exceed their functions in the past and local communities rely on this level of service being maintained. Amending the Constitution to provide certainty for direct funding will ensure these services can continue.”

The committee has endorsed the form of words proposed by the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government to form the basis for the Australian Government negotiating state and territory support. The proposed amendment 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 also recommends a national civics education campaign, a referendum panel of experts and key public figures to oversee campaigning and funding for groups to participate in campaigns to ensure the success of the referendum.

“The committee has heard from constitutional experts that this referendum will correct the uncertainty currently surrounding the direct funding of important community facilities and services through local governments,” said Ms Rowland.

"Hundreds of community services provided by local government could potentially be under threat if the Australian Government cannot continue to fund local government directly. The proposal for a 2013 referendum is about ensuring that benefits to local communities can still be delivered by local government, but funded by the Australian Government."

The full report is available on the Committee's website:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=jsclg/localgovt/preliminaryreport.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsclg/localgovt/preliminaryreport.htm)

Submissions to the inquiry can be found at

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=jsclg/localgovt/subs.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsclg/localgovt/subs.htm).

The full terms of reference are available on the committee's website at

[www.aph.gov.au/jsclg](http://www.aph.gov.au/jsclg) and submissions addressing the terms of reference must be received by 15 February 2013.

### **Seniors need appropriate cyber-safety education**

On 6 February, Joanne Lambie, the managing director and owner of Stay in Touch Pty Ltd, discussed with a parliamentary inquiry into cyber-safety for seniors how her business helps people over 50 with a range of services so that they can get online and remain cyber-safe.

In her submission to the inquiry, Ms Lambie told federal parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety that in her experience there are many seniors who are totally exposed and at risk to cyber-threats due to a complete lack of awareness and education about cyber-safety.

Ms Lambie has found that seniors who are keen to embrace technology often feel "stupid" asking for help. They also may feel they are burdening busy children and grandchildren with their questions about technology. If they do ask their family for help, often family cannot teach them because they speak too quickly or assume a certain level of knowledge and get easily frustrated with the seniors. It is therefore essential that seniors can access cyber-safety education which is taught by people with patience and who have experience teaching seniors.

The committee heard also from Dr Cassandra Cross, a Churchill Fellow and lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology, who told the committee in her submission that while with the Queensland Police Service she researched online fraud victimisation, particularly as it relates to seniors. She notes that seniors are not the only demographic who are vulnerable to security threats from the internet, anyone can be a victim if targeted in the right way, but seniors are attractive targets for criminals because they generally own their assets and have access to superannuation and life savings.

For further information about the inquiry access the committee's web site at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/jscc>.

## Cruising and crimes at sea

The glossy cruise brochures don't mention crimes at sea but the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs is inquiring into the arrangements surrounding crimes committed at sea.

At its 1 February public hearing, the committee heard from the International Cruise Victims Association, formed in 2006 to represent victims of crime on cruise ships. Both Kendall Carver, the chair of the association, and Mark Brimble, president of the Australian chapter of the association, gave evidence to the committee about support that is available to victims of crime at sea and how crime on cruise ships affects victims and their families.

Before the Brisbane hearing Committee chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, invited victims of crimes at sea to make submissions to the committee. He was particularly interested in how crimes committed at sea have been handled on board ships without the presence of law enforcement authorities.

"I encourage other victims of crime at sea to make a submission to the committee about their experiences, if they feel comfortable doing so. Names or the content of submissions can be kept confidential," Mr Perrett said.

The committee is also accepting submissions that refer to the other terms of reference, such as the arrangements for reporting, investigating and prosecuting alleged crimes at sea, particularly under the *Crimes at Sea Act 2000*, and the interrelation of law enforcement or coronial jurisdictions.

For information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and advice on making submissions, see the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/crimesatsea](http://www.aph.gov.au/crimesatsea) or contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 2358**.

For background information, contact the Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs at: PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600  
Telephone: 02 6277 2358 Facsimile: 02 6277 4427  
Email: [spla.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:spla.reps@aph.gov.au) Website: [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla)

## Harmful and noxious cargoes under review

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee held a public hearing on 4 February, to examine a treaty regarding the transport of Harmful and Noxious Substances (HNS).

"The 2010 HNS Convention aims to ensure that compensation for damage or pollution resulting from the maritime transport of HNS is available", the Committee chair, Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, said.

As part of the Convention, a HNS Fund is to be established so that should damage or pollution from the carriage of HNS by ship occur, prompt, adequate and effective compensation will be available for those persons affected. This fund will be financed by contributions made by those entities that receive bulk HNS cargoes.

“The requirement to pay contributions to the fund will impose a new cost on persons and businesses that will be liable to pay the contributions; namely, the receivers of bulk HNS cargoes,” Mr Thomson said. “This is one aspect of the convention that the committee will want to examine to see if it is in Australia’s interests.”

The committee is also examining two other sets of treaties:

Six Air Transport Agreements between the Commonwealth of Australia and the United States, Japan, Kenya, Palau and Sri Lanka

The Convention and the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment (Cape Town, 16 November 2001)

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=jsct/under\\_review.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm).

For more information email [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

## **Sports programs to help Close the Gap**

The first parliamentary sitting week of 2013 focussed, among other things, on *Closing the Gap* on Indigenous disadvantage. On 6 February, The Prime Minister provided Parliament with an update on the *Closing the Gap Prime Minister’s Report 2013*. The following day the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs heard from two agencies on what programs they are running in relation to Indigenous sporting programs and how they are helping to *Close the Gap*.

Committee chair, Mr Shayne Neumann MP said, “Sport plays an important role in getting Indigenous community members involved in physical activity and at the same time mobilises Indigenous Australians to get together to talk about important issues such as health, education and employment.”

Mr Neumann added “The Federal Government has invested a large amount of money in utilising sport as a vehicle to improve outcomes for Indigenous people. The committee is keen to find out how successful these initiatives have been to date.”

The committee heard from the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), which is responsible for a number of programs which aim to improve youth engagement with education. Under the terms of reference DEEWR administers three programs relevant to the inquiry:

- the Sporting Chance program
- the No School No Play program, and
- Learn.Earn.Legend! program.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) discussed the ways that sport is being utilised to improve the wellbeing of

Indigenous Australians through initiatives such as the Youth in Communities, Respectful Relationships, Mental Health programs and a Sports Leadership for Women program.

For more information, see the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/sport](http://www.aph.gov.au/sport) or contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 4559**.

### **Native Title roundtable: on future reform**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs held a roundtable hearing on February 8 as part of its inquiry into the Native Title Amendment Bill 2012. The hearing included representatives of the National Native Title Council, the Human Rights Commission, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, the Minerals Council of Australia, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, Fortescue Metals, the National Farmers Federation and a range of other native title experts and stakeholders.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Shayne Neumann MP, said 'this is a rare opportunity to have such a range of organisations at the table together to discuss the current measures to improve the Native Title process. The committee will take this opportunity to have a discussion about how the native title process can be reformed for the future for the betterment of all who seek to enjoy rights and interests over land.'

The Native Title Amendment Bill 2012 reforms three areas of the Native Title Act:

- it clarifies the meaning of negotiating in 'good faith' and makes associated amendments to the 'right to negotiate' provisions
- it allows parties to agree to set aside the historical extinguishment of native title in areas set aside for the preservation of the natural environment, such as parks and reserves, and
- it broadens the scope and streamlines processes for voluntary Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).

The roundtable hearing, held in Redfern, Sydney, was to help the committee with evidence on:

- whether a sensible balance has been struck in the Bill between the views of various stakeholders, and
- proposals for future reform of the Native Title process.

For more information about the inquiry, visit the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/nativetitle](http://www.aph.gov.au/nativetitle) or contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 4559**. Submissions to the inquiry are available on the committee's website.

### **Rehabilitation better than prison, says report**

Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda has welcomed the release of a report prepared for the Australian National Council on Drugs which highlights that state governments may be able to save more than \$110,000 per person if courts ordered Indigenous peoples convicted of a substance abuse related, non-violent offence into rehabilitation instead of sending them to jail.

The report by Deloitte Access Economics also confirms that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are over-represented in prison and examines avenues to address this over-

representation.

“This is the second such report in days that confirms the importance of addressing the causal factors and not just the symptoms,” said Commissioner Gooda, referring to the New South Wales Ombudsman’s report on child sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities.

This report shows the great benefits, both financial and otherwise, of taking a justice reinvestment approach. This is not a soft on crime approach. It is about addressing the underlying issues which contribute to offending, such as drug and alcohol dependency,” said the Social Justice Commissioner.

This report adds further weight to the overwhelming body of evidence identifying justice reinvestment as an appropriate response to disturbingly high incarceration rates. Commissioner Gooda said, “It is evident that the current system is not working and we clearly need to use a different method to deal with this issue.”

“States like Texas in the US, not renowned for being progressive in their justice policy, have embraced justice reinvestment and are being rewarded with very promising results,” he said.

Commissioner Gooda looks forward to contributing to the forthcoming Senate Inquiry into justice reinvestment, and sees it as an important opportunity to embrace justice reinvestment at a national level as a way to reduce incarceration and crime rates.

### **Footie insults ‘lawful’—discrimination is not**

Days before she resigned as Attorney General, Nicola Roxon commented that free speech allowed insulting a footie team or somebody’s cooking—but not to the extent of discrimination.

“I want to be clear to the public that at the start of January I asked my department to develop alternative drafting for the sections of the draft bill that have raised freedom of speech concerns. Officials from the Attorney General’s Department will present these options to the committee at their next hearing for consideration. These options will include removal of section 19(2) (b). [which relates to freedom of expression.]

As I have said before, the main objective of this bill is to simplify and consolidate many discrimination laws into one. It has never been the Government’s intention to restrict free speech.

In Australia it should always be lawful to be offensive about a person’s football team or cooking—but not to deny service to someone because they are a woman or a particular race, for example.

The original wording of this section of the exposure draft sought to consolidate into legislation the decisions and precedents of the courts—that discrimination includes harassment. It was not an attempt to extend the laws to new areas.

There are many rights that are important in our society—including freedom of speech and the freedom from discrimination. The consolidation of these laws will not alter the delicate balance of these rights.

I know that this will not convince every commentator—as sadly, there are still some in our society who believe our laws should allow sexism, racism, and discrimination on the basis of disability, age or sexuality.”

She thanked stakeholders for their submissions and evidence to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee in relation to the Exposure Draft of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

“This is a complex piece of legislation and the Government has been careful to consult through each stage of its development, including through the release of the exposure draft,” Ms Roxon said. “I thank all of those that have been involved in the consultation and the Senate Committee inquiry. The recommendations from the committee will provide helpful advice as the Government finalises the legislation”.

## **National Human Rights Action Plan**

Australia’s National Human Rights Action Plan was released on 10 December—on International Human Rights Day—highlighting the steps Australia is taking to protect and promote human rights.

The Action Plan focusses on both the continuing and new priorities for Australia’s human rights across the Commonwealth, States and Territories.

“As we acknowledge International Human Rights Day, it is fitting that we release Australia’s National Human Rights Action Plan—a road map for human rights progress in our community,” Ms Roxon said in her final weeks as Attorney General.

“The Government has a vision for Australia that is free, democratic, just and tolerant, where people have opportunities to make a decent life for themselves, and a community that supports those who are disadvantaged.

“While we can be proud of our human rights record, Australians should know that this Government will continue working to better secure their rights, and meet our international obligations.

“The Action Plan follows detailed consultation across governments and in the community and clearly demonstrates that Australian governments are taking significant steps to protect human rights.”

These include:

- a new National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- an Act of Recognition acknowledging the unique and special place of Australia’s First Peoples as an important step towards holding a successful referendum to change the constitution to recognise Indigenous people;
- a new Federal Children’s Commissioner;
- ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture; and
- a review of federal legislation for barriers to older people participating in productive work.

The action plan was based on the first thorough and publicly available human rights baseline study to identify human rights priorities for Australia.

“We have listened carefully to the United Nations. We have also asked non-government organisations and the Australian community for their ideas and concerns,” Ms Roxon said.

“This action plan explains in detail how Australia will implement the recommendations accepted during its Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations in 2011.”

The National Human Rights Action Plan is an initiative under Australia’s Human Rights Framework. More information is available at <http://www.ag.gov.au>.

### **Inquiries: education and tackling job insecurity**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment is holding public inquiries into the following two bills inquiries:

- Australian Education Bill 2012; and
- Fair Work Amendment (Tackling Job Insecurity) Bill 2012.

The committee has called for submissions to the Education Bill inquiry to be received by **15 February, 2013**. Submissions for the Fair Work Amendment (Tackling Job Insecurity) Bill 2012 will continue to be received by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment until **28 March, 2013**.

**For information on the inquiries:** contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4573 email [EducationBill.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:EducationBill.reps@aph.gov.au) and [EEFairWorkAmendBill.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:EEFairWorkAmendBill.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>

### **‘Ask not ...’ but ASKAP**

The Public Works Committee held a public hearing in Sydney into CSIRO’s extension to the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) project on 31 January. The ASKAP project was originally approved by the Committee in December 2008. CSIRO is seeking approval for changes to the budget and timeline for scope elements from the original project.

Phase 1 of the new budget and timeline is to develop and install 14 phased array feed receivers (PAFs) on the antennas at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory in Western Australia, and to continue other works originally approved by the Committee in December 2008. This would mean that 18 of the 36 antennas would be fitted with PAFs by 2014. The cost of this would be \$25.8 million, which would bring the total project budget to \$164.3 million.

Phase 2 is to develop and install PAFs on the remaining 18 antennas and continue other project works. CSIRO has not yet secured funding for this phase. If funding is secured, this phase would also be completed by 2014. The cost would be \$23.7 million, which would bring the total project budget to \$188 million.

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

### **Nuclear medicine facility and Synroc inquiries**

The Public Works Committee held a public hearing on 1 February at Lucas Heights for the inquiry into the proposed ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Project. ANSTO (the Australian Nuclear

Science and Technology Organisation) 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.

Full details on the proposal are available on the committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

**For further information**, and copies of submissions as they become available, visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.

The Public Works Committee also held a public hearing on 8 February for its inquiry into the proposed new forensic facility for the Australian Federal Police (AFP) at Majura, ACT. 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 completed by the end of 2015.

Full details on the proposal are available on the committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc) or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.

## **Appointments to Australia-China Council**

Professor Stephanie Fahey and Mr David Olsson have been appointed as members of the Australia-China Council Board. Professor Fahey and Mr Olsson took up their appointments on 1 January.

Professor Fahey is currently Monash University's Deputy Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement. Previously, she was Director of the Research Institute for Asia Pacific and Acting Assistant Pro Vice Chancellor (International-Asia Pacific) at the University of Sydney. From January 2013, Professor Fahey is also Lead Partner for Education in Oceania for Ernst and Young.

She has served on the Foreign Affairs Council, the National Board of the Australia-China Business Council, Australia Korea Foundation, European Australia Business Council, and the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Committee.

David Olsson, a finance and debt capital markets specialist, is a senior partner in the Beijing office of international law firm King & Wood Mallesons. He was formerly a Managing Partner of Australian law firm Mallesons Stephen Jaques, heading its Hong Kong, Beijing and

Melbourne offices. He is the current Chairman of the China-Australia Chamber of Commerce in Beijing (AustCham).

In announcing the appointments, the Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, said, "Professor Fahey and Mr Olsson bring an outstanding track record in furthering Australian education and business links with China. They join the Council as Australia looks to further diversify our engagement with China, our largest trading partner."

The Australia-China Council was established by the Australian Government in 1978 to promote mutual understanding and foster relations between the two countries.

### **The Ludwig Leichardt year**

A year of celebrations to honour the birth of German-born Australian explorer Ludwig Leichardt, has been launched by Foreign Minister Bob Carr during a visit to Berlin. This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leichardt's birth.

"Leichardt was one of the greatest explorers and naturalists in Australia, but remains little-known in Germany," Senator Carr said. "To address this, Australia and Germany will collaborate to promote this great explorer through support for scientific research and discovery."

"I'm pleased that with the support of the German Bundestag, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will award Ludwig Leichardt bursaries to two Australian researchers to undertake research in Germany."

Senator Carr also unveiled a commemorative coin from the Perth Mint, to honour the anniversary of Leichardt's birth. Australia and Germany will also issue a joint stamp in time for Leichardt's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in October 2013.

Ludwig Leichardt was born near Berlin in 1813. He travelled to Australia in 1842 and conducted a series of expeditions into central and north-eastern areas, collecting and cataloguing thousands of specimens of native flora and fauna.

He vanished on the last of his journeys in 1848, in an attempt to cross the continent from east to west.

### **MPs review dementia services in outback**

Following the House of Representatives Health and Ageing Committee public hearing in Alice Springs and Broome as part of its inquiry into dementia, members met with the Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services at Parliament House on 8 February, as part of its inquiry into dementia: early diagnosis and intervention.

The committee will also hear from representatives of the Department of Health and Ageing, regarding how the Department will respond to the challenge posed by the expected increase in people with dementia, in line with population ageing. Representatives of the Minister's Dementia Advisory Group, formed to advise the Minister for Ageing on issues relating to dementia care, will also attend.

For more information contact the Committee Secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/haa](http://www.aph.gov.au/haa)

## 2013 ANUEF activities

### Lectures and diary dates

The 26<sup>th</sup> Collegiality Lunch was held on 6 February at 24 Balmain Crescent, ANU, with the topic being population growth.

If you have suggestions for the topic(s), or the TED talk(s) we should view, to lubricate the neurones, please contact Adrian ([adrian\\_j\\_gibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com)) and/or Shirley ([pipitone@grapevine.com.au](mailto:pipitone@grapevine.com.au)) ASAP.

### Public Lecture by Brian Kennett

The First ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture for 2013 will focus on current ANU research

It will be held on 21 February: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM in the Emeritus Faculty Building  
24 Balmain Crescent (opposite University House).

#### Imaging the Dynamic Earth

Abstract: Earthquakes are one of the symptoms of the internal activity in the Earth. The seismic waves they produce can be used to develop images of internal structure (akin to computer tomography) that help us understand the way in which the Earth works. With good knowledge of Earth structure, imaging can be used to examine the nature of large earthquakes, which turn out to be much more complex than we had realised.

**Biographical Note:** Brian Kennett, FAA, FRS, is Professor of Seismology at the Research School of Earth Sciences where he was Director from September 2006 to January 2010. He received his Ph.D. in Theoretical Seismology from the University of Cambridge in 1973. He was a Lindemann Fellow at IGPP, University of California, San Diego and then a University Lecturer at the University of Cambridge. He moved to Australia in 1984,

His research has covered a very wide range of topics in seismology. He has received recognition through numerous awards: the Gold Medal in Geophysics from the Royal Astronomical Society, the Gutenberg Medal from the European Geosciences Union, the Murchison Medal from the Geological Society of London, and the Jaeger and Flinders Medals from the Australian Academy of Sciences. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the Australian Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society (London) and was President of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior from 1999-2003.

### Lecture by Tom Holland

The Emeritus Faculty is co-sponsoring a talk by the British historian and commentator, Tom Holland, who will be visiting Canberra after attending the Perth and Adelaide Festivals.

In 2007, Holland was the winner of the Classical Association prize, awarded to 'the individual who has done most to promote the study of the language, literature and civilisation of Ancient Greece and Rome'. Holland's first book, *Rubicon: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Roman Republic*, won the Hessel-Tiltman Prize for History and was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize. His second book, *Persian Fire*, a history of the Graeco-Persian wars,

won the Anglo-Hellenic League's Runciman Award in 2006. Holland has recently completed a third book: *In the Shadow of the Sword: The Battle for Global Empire and the End of the Ancient World* that covers the collapse of Roman and Persian power in the Near East, and the emergence of Islam.

His talk will be in the Manning Clark Centre on Tuesday, 5 March from 6pm to 7pm

Bookings are essential for this free event. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

### **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](mailto:judith.caton@anu.edu.au)

### **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 March 2013.**