

EMERITUS Vol 4 No 9

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine
October 2013



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Meetings venue Molony Room*
24 Balmain Crescent
Acton

Postal address:

PO Box 6050,

O'Connor, ACT 2602

Phone: 02 6125 5300 / fax: 02 6125 5262

Website: <<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/>>

Editor: **Ian Mathews** | Assistant Editor: **Giles Pickford** |

Publishing consultant: **Connie Stamos**

Mr Pyne talks and then stops

There are several interpretations of comments made recently by the new Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne.

- That he intends to put a cap on university places and that he intends to make Student Union fees optional;
- That, on behalf of the government, he was firing a shot across the bows of future possibilities; or
- That he was suffering from verbal diarrhoea but has recovered with medicine from the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, who said the government had no intention of removing student union fees.

In the absence of transcripts usually supplied by ministerial offices, it is best to stick with the quotes reported in the media. Veracity of these is also difficult as ministers who regret a reported remark tend to say they have been taken out of context.

The Canberra Times reported him as saying, in the context of the demand-driven system of university places, "...It's a very important reputation to maintain and the poison that would undermine that reputation would be a diminution in quality.

"Quality is our watchword and we aren't bound by the previous government's policy decisions".

On the abolition of the compulsory student services and amenities fee, he described it as “compulsory student unionism by the back door.”

On student numbers and on disadvantaged students he promised, “... sensible, methodical reform.”

On teacher training, he was reported as saying, “One of the criticisms that principals, new teachers and the students at university make of teacher training courses and the teachers being produced is that they have not been trained in a practical way to teach students, that they’ve had too much emphasis on theory and not enough time in the classroom, and in some cases they’re under-prepared for what hits them when they’re in front of a class in charge of that group of pupils.

“The medical schools have got interviews with potential medical students, and we believe that an examination of a body of work from potential teaching students would be a good measure to introduce in terms of their entrance requirements. An interview that asked why they wanted to be teachers in the first place, why they’ve chosen teaching, I think, would be instructive.”

Mr Pyne said he wanted a ministerial advisory group on teacher training. However, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority which, at the moment, administers national testing and the My School website, would lose \$23 million in funding and restrict its activities to curriculum issues. Mr Pyne was reported as saying, “I don’t believe in handing over responsibility for government policy to third parties. The Westminster system of government requires ministers to take on a hands-on approach to matters within their portfolio.”

Mr Pyne was reported as being dissatisfied with aspects of the current history curriculum. He said, “Sure there are things we need to know about that in the past have been less than edifying, because that informs what we know about ourselves as a nation. But, equally we need to know about the things that formed our society and why it is the way it is today.

“I think there are some glaring examples in the national curriculum matters, particularly the history curriculum, where the non-Labor side of our history has been downplayed in favour of things like the union movement’s involvement and the Labor Party’s involvement. Given that the Coalition has governed for two-thirds of the last 60 years, it seems unusual that Labor would be in the curriculum, and the union movement’s role, but not the role of industry and the non-Labor side of politics in building our great country.”

Source: *The Canberra Times* September 26, 27, 28.

Congratulations all round

Universities Australia congratulates the new Abbott Ministry, in particular Education Minister Christopher Pyne, Assistant Minister for Education, Sussan Ley, and Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Senator Scott Ryan.

Having higher education represented in Cabinet gives effect to the Coalition’s [*Real Solutions*](#) plan that identified education as one of the five pillars supporting future national productivity and prosperity.

“Universities Australia has enjoyed a constructive relationship with Mr Pyne – one of the Coalition’s most energetic and experienced ministers – and we look forward to continuing

that relationship in Government,” said Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of peak body, Universities Australia.

“While portfolio responsibility for universities has yet to be determined, a single education portfolio characterises education as a life-long endeavour, a concept strongly supported by UA. Mr Pyne has oft-acknowledged the crucial role that university education and research play in securing Australia’s economic and social prosperity. As he said earlier this year:

‘I am certain a newly elected Coalition government and the universities can work together to be drivers of productivity and growth leading to a flowering of innovation and invention that raises the standard of living in Australia and improves the lot of everyone around the world.’” (Speech, 30 April 2013)

Ms Robinson said while there are distinct advantages in bringing education together, there is a risk of higher education policy being buried in such a large and diverse portfolio. “It is essential that the new Government’s policy framework and ministerial representation enables the development of the best possible university education and research system to stimulate national productivity, promote global engagement and international competitiveness and foster economic growth and industrial diversity,” she said.

Universities Australia will also welcome the opportunity to work with the Abbott government in making sure that the critical areas of science, research and innovation are not neglected. “We look forward to working with the Government on progressing the New Colombo Plan, further expanding international education, disentangling the sector from unnecessary red tape, and pursuing our common interest in further advancing Australia’s outstanding higher education and research system,” Ms Robinson said.

“We are also keen to discuss the Government’s position in relation to the higher education cuts made by the previous government, particularly the \$2,000 cap on tax deductible self-education expenses.”

Ms Robinson also congratulated former Shadow Minister for Universities and Research, Brett Mason, on his new role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Industrial action vote

In a note to colleagues, David Sturgiss, Acting Executive Director, Administration and Planning at ANU, said, “Notification has just been received from Fair Work Australia that a ballot of NTEU members has been resolved, with about 10 per cent of ANU staff voting for industrial action over enterprise agreement negotiations.

“This makes ANU the 16th university in the country to face industrial action. The University, however, remains committed to pursuing constructive engagement with staff and unions to reach an enterprise agreement.

“All Australian universities are managing tough budget challenges and only two universities have struck an Enterprise Agreement since the former Federal Government announced a 2% ‘efficiency dividend’ in April.

“The ANU community has worked together to identify a way through tough times by containing our spending and growing our income, while protecting education and research. We are very hopeful that the NTEU will not take any action that will disadvantage students, in particular our graduating students. We will continue to hold regular forums so

that you can raise issues and have your say. More than 100 people took part in the most recent forum on September 17.

"The next forum will be held on 10 October from 12:30pm – 2pm in the Law Link Theatre. In the meantime, you can still email suggestions and questions to suggestions@anu.edu.au

Year's study prize for international students

Seventeen universities, but not the Australian National University, are among the sponsors of a global online competition for new international students to win a year of study in Australia.

Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb launched, on October 1, the *Win your Future Unlimited* competition which asks students to design digital postcards about their future and how an Australian education could take them there.

The main prize winner will receive one year of study in Australia in 2014, including flights, tuition, accommodation, a stipend and an opportunity for an internship.

"The *Win your Future Unlimited* competition is a unique opportunity for one fortunate person to study in Australia and experience how an Australian education can help them realise their dreams," Mr Robb said. "Australia's high quality education and training sectors offer international students real benefits, helping shape their future professional and personal success."

He added that international students also bring benefits to Australia's education system, the community, and the economy. International education is Australia's largest services export, worth about \$15 billion a year.

The *Win your Future Unlimited* competition will run from 1 October to 18 November 2013. Before the winner is announced on 17 December 2013, seven finalists will also fly to Australia for a ten-day study tour, including visits to tertiary institutions across the country.

To enter, potential students should visit www.futureunlimited.com.au and complete four simple steps to create their own unique digital postcard.

The competition is supported by five gold sponsors -- Educational Testing Services (ETS), National Australia Bank, Qantas, Telstra, the University of New South Wales – as well as 21 of Australia's tertiary education and training providers.

Future Unlimited is described as Australia's brand for the promotion of Australian education internationally. The brand and the *Win your Future Unlimited* competition seek to highlight the quality, global outlook, research success and innovation of Australia's education institutions and the value of these to students for their future professional and personal success.

For more information:: FutureUnlimitedCampaign@austrade.gov.au

Arts for life

A joint study by the University of Sydney's Faculty of Education and Social Work and the Australia Council for the Arts has found that engagement in the arts benefits students not just in the classroom, but also in life.

In a statement on September 27, the Arts Council said, "Students who are involved in the arts have higher school motivation, engagement in class, self-esteem, and life satisfaction, researchers discovered.

"The results, published in the latest issue of the prestigious *Journal of Educational Psychology*, found students who participate in dance, drama, music, and visual arts showed more positive academic and personal wellbeing outcomes than students who were not as involved in the arts.

"Academic outcomes included motivation, homework completion, class participation, enjoyment of school, and educational aspirations, while personal wellbeing measures considered such factors as self-esteem, life satisfaction, and a sense of meaning or purpose.

"Some of the strongest effects were found for students who spent high amounts of quality time in creative and performing arts subjects at school. Positive effects also resulted from home influences, such as how often parents and their children talked about and participated in the arts. Active participation, more than simply being an observer or audience member, also yielded stronger positive effects on school and personal wellbeing outcomes in the study."

According to lead author, Professor Andrew Martin:

The study shows that school participation in the arts can have positive effects on diverse aspects of students' lives.

Whereas most previous research has been small-scale or focused on students' enjoyment in specific arts subjects, such as music, dance, drama, and visual arts, our research was large-scale and assessed outcomes beyond the arts domain," he said.

It shows that the arts can impact broader academic and personal wellbeing outcomes for young people."

The Arts Council statement went on, "At a time when different subject areas must compete for space in the school curriculum, the study's findings also emphasise the importance of the arts in the school curriculum, according to Associate Professor Michael Anderson, one of the study's co-authors: 'This study provides new and compelling evidence that the arts should be central to schooling and not left on the fringes,' he said.

Australia Council Acting Director Community Partnerships Dr David Sudmalis said the results raised significant policy implications for how arts-based learning is integrated into the school curriculum.

"Not only does this study demonstrate that the arts help deliver positive outcomes in engagement and motivation for students outside of the arts domain, it also shows that high quality, participatory arts education has the greatest impact," Dr Sudmalis said.

“These important findings show the significance of partnerships between the arts and education sectors, where artists and teachers work together to develop students’ expertise in and through the arts.”

The analysis was funded by the Australian Research Council, in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts. The study team, led by Professor Andrew Martin, included Associate Professor Michael Anderson, Dr Robyn Gibson, and Ms Marianne Mansour, all from the University of Sydney, as well as Dr David Sudmalis from the Australia Council of the Arts.

A copy of the research is available at the [Journal of Educational Psychology website](#).

Inaugural ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture ‘Higher Education Futures in Australia’

Simon Marginson, Professor of International Higher Education, Institute of Education, University of London (from 28 October) will give the inaugural ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture, “Higher Education Futures in Australia” on **15 October 2013 - 6:00 PM in the Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre/Tank, ANU**

Abstract: With the advent of the Liberal-National Government in September 2013, the framework for the future of Australian higher education and research could significantly change. Marginson argues “the obvious danger, given a conservative government, intent on maintaining itself as a small target while being all things for all people, is a combination of sketchy populism and benign neglect, coupled with intrusive regulation in selected areas that keeps the sector on the back foot, and a ministry that does not bother to engage seriously with the universities”.

“A rise in student costs looks almost inevitable, and in the longer term we may see more thoroughgoing neo-liberal reform. At the same time there is some chance of movement on research funding and on Australia's engagement with Asia. A Coalition government may change the balance between the research universities and other institutions, and may have implications for the fostering of the private higher education sector. At the same time the environment in which universities work is not standing still and there will be growing challenges in the global setting, in sustaining student engagement, and in the political economy of university costs.”

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Simon Marginson is an internationally renowned researcher and commentator on higher education. He is currently Professor in the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne. On 28 October he will take up the position of Professor of International Higher Education at the Institute of Education, University of London.

Professor Marginson will be introduced by Emeritus Professor James Fox, Chair of the ANU Emeritus Faculty and the Vote of Thanks will be given by the Vice Chancellor of the ANU, Professor Ian Young.

Retirement research

The ANU Emeritus Faculty is having its 2013 'Research in Retirement Forum' on Friday November 15; a one day meeting.

This initiative has been enthusiastically supported, indeed some who offered to speak have been asked to wait until the 2014 Forum. The speakers at the 2013 event will include Neville Fletcher, E.G. Gamaly, Ian Keen, Brian Lees, Margot Lyon, Maev O'Collins, Alan Roberts, Andrew Stewart, Derek Wrigley with John Sandeman. Titles and Abstracts will be circulated soon.

Global conference on almost everything

ANU hosted the First Global Conference on Research Integration and Implementation from September 8-11. The conference was supplemented by three co-conferences taking place in Germany, The Netherlands and Uruguay.

The conference brought together several professional communities that have intersecting interests, linking systems thinkers, implementation scientists, inter- and trans-disciplinarians, action researchers, project managers, complexity scientists, knowledge brokers and many more to share methodologies for addressing complex real-world problems, said Conference chair Professor Gabriele Bammer, who is also Director of the Research School of Population Health and leader of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security's Integration and Implementation Program,

Although the conference is now over, the video-on-demand proceedings and digital posters will continue to be on-going resources. All of the conference proceedings ([plenary talks](#), [plenary panel](#), [plenary debate](#), [digital poster tours and lightning talks](#), and [workshops](#)) were recorded and are freely available via the links above or on the conference website www.i2sconference.org by clicking on the purple "Live & on-demand video button". The digital posters can be viewed and commented on by clicking on the green "View digital posters" button. The [LinkedIn group "Global Network for Research Integration and Implementation"](#) remains active.

The conference had 16 plenary talks, a panel and a debate, focussing on methodology rather than any particular type of problem. Relevant cases come from fields as diverse as planning for cities of the future, obesity prevention and protecting marine resources.

Information about the conference proceedings is available at www.i2sconference.org

Appreciating the risks

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has released [Mobile privacy: A better practice guide for mobile app developers](#).

With 6 in 10 Australians choosing not to use a smartphone app because of concerns about the way personal information would be used ^[1], the Guide will assist mobile app developers to embed better privacy practices into their products, and to comply with Australian privacy law.

The Australian Privacy Commissioner, Timothy Pilgrim, said the growing app industry presented both potential benefits to people but also serious risks to how personal information is handled.

“Mobile app developers operating in the Australian market need to be aware of how Australian privacy regulation applies, otherwise they risk breaching the law,” Mr Pilgrim said.

“I’m recommending that app developers adopt a ‘privacy by design’ approach right from the beginning of an application’s development to help make sure it is privacy-friendly.

“It is ultimately in an app developer’s best interest to build strong privacy protections into their product. The mobile apps that take privacy seriously will be the ones that stand out from the crowd and gain user trust and loyalty.”

The Guide recommends that app developers use short form privacy notices instead of lengthy privacy policies that are difficult to read on a small screen.

“People are confronted with privacy policies that are increasingly lengthy, complex and time-consuming to read. Trying to read one of these on a smartphone screen is even more challenging,” Mr Pilgrim said, and went on, “People are increasingly expecting transparency about how their personal information is handled. It’s important to get informed consent from people so they can decide whether or not to install an app. Informed consent requires that users be told about the privacy implications of an app in a way they can understand. App developers should make it easy by using things like a privacy dashboard and in-text notices where you tell users what will happen with their information in real time.”

^[1]Office of the Australian Information Commissioner’s 2013 *Community Attitudes to Privacy survey*. Full results will be released on 9 October 2013.

457 Prize in Poetry

Poetry and politics have always been connected: poems have been commissioned for public events by politicians; poems are written about political events, both as praise and blame; poems and politics both have inventive uses of language at their core. This competition revivifies these ancient links between poetry and politics by calling for submissions on a topic that draws together many different and pressing political issues of the present: the Australian 457 visa for skilled immigrants.

Despite the emotions that can be raised in the political sphere, the competition and the poems do not rehearse party-political opinions or other existing ideas about this topic — for poetry precisely should speak otherwise and speak better than existing means if it is indeed to be true poetry at all.

To this end, the competition will ask people to submit a poem consisting of 3 stanzas with the first having 4 lines, the second 5 lines and the final 7 lines. Shortlisted poems will receive a cheque of AU\$457.00, and the publication of their poem on the Australian Poetry website.

The prize will be judged by an outstanding jury of 4 members, chaired by the eminent poet and academic Professor Chris Wallace-Crabbe. Other jury members are: Professor Kevin Brophy, The University of Melbourne; Dr Nicholas Chare, Lecturer, The University of Melbourne; and Grace McQuilten, Director of The Social Studio

Proceeds from the competition will be donated to The Social Studio www.thesocialstudio.org, which will invest the moneys in ongoing refugee education.

All applications must be received not later than COB on **Friday, 18 October, 2013**. The winners of the 457 poetry competition will be announced at a public reading at the Wheeler Centre, Melbourne University, on Wednesday 6 November 2013, 6-8pm.

The competition is presented by [The Australian Centre](#), University of Melbourne; Australian Poetry; [Lines to Time](#); and [The Social Studio](#)

Diary dates

From September 30 "Artefact and Translation" is an exhibition at the ANU School of Art Foyer Gallery. For this exhibition, Donald Fortescue collaborated with students to create a body of work arising from field research at the Edith and Joy London Foundation, ANU Kioloa Field Station.

Oct 2 – 12.00 for 12.30 Collegiate lunch discussion – “The election: the sequel” Bob Douglas and Jim Fox

Oct 10/11 – Fenner Symposium “Population, resources and climate change” (Australian Academy of Science).

Oct 15 Tues 18.00 – The Inaugural ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture “Higher Education Futures in Australia” by Simon Marginson, Professor of International Higher Education, Institute of Education, University of London. Introduced by Emeritus Professor James Fox, Chair of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, and the Vote of Thanks will be given by the Vice Chancellor of the ANU, Professor Ian Young. Haydon Allen Lecture Theatre/Tank, ANU (see report on page 6 above)

Oct 16 Wed 16.00 – Lecture. “Public Art, Sculpture and Design at ANU.” David William. – ANUEF Molony Room

Nov 6 Wed - Collegiate lunch discussion – “The 2013 Ig Nobel Awards”. Adrian Horridge and one other TBA

Nov 15 Fri – Research in Retirement Forum - Neville Fletcher, E. G. Gamaly, Ian Keen, Brian Lees, Margot Lyon, Maev O’Collins, Alan Roberts, Andrew Stewart, Derek Wrigley with John Sandeman.

Note that each of the Collegiate lunches is organised in the month before it occurs, so that topical subjects can be chosen.

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

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 November 2013.