

EMERITUS Vol 4 No 10

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine
November 2013



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Meetings venue Molony Room*
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Diary Dates

Nov 6 Wed 12 for 12.30pm Collegiate lunch. 'The Ig Nobel Awards for 2013' Adrian Horridge and Jeff Wood. Molony Room

Nov 7 Thurs, 5.30 Public Lecture *Pat Jalland and the Tribes of Migratory Historians* by Emeritus Professor Eric Richards, at Common Room University House Balmain Crescent Acton. followed by a Reception. Eric Richards will talk about Pat Jalland's career and the context of her times, relating to the lives of migratory historians in Australia and beyond. RSVP Hist.admin.cass@anu.edu.au T: 6125 7049

Nov 15 Fri 10am – 4pm. '2013 Research in Retirement Forum'. Speakers: Neville Fletcher, E. G. Gamaly, Ian Keen, Brian Lees, Margot Lyon, Maev O'Collins, Alan Roberts and Andrew Stewart. Molony Room

Nov 20 Wed 4pm. Lecture. "The forgotten/repressed Russian avant-garde 1900-1929"? Larry Sitsky, Molony Room

Nov 22-24 – Kioloa weekend

More diary dates on Page 8

ANUEF's inaugural lecture

Professor Simon Marginson set out the state of Australia's universities in the increasingly competitive world of higher education. He was giving the Inaugural ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture on "Higher Education Futures in Australia"

Now Professor of International Higher Education, Institute of Education, University of London, his assessment of Australia's place in the higher education market and in the increasingly neglected research area suggested much needs to be done to keep up with what many see as competitors for the education dollar.

Accompanied by many graphs and statistical tables, Professor Marginson listed the state of Australian universities

- We look good in the global rankings but will slide;
- No hand on the tiller (= drift);
- Small tax politics, universities are marginalized;
- Public under-investment is worsening;
- Over-dependence on international students;

- One-size-fits-all national system settings and inability to elevate leading research universities
- Australian science is not as strong as in other English-speaking countries
- East Asia and Singapore racing past—we will miss the opportunity enabled by the ‘Asian century’
- It will look a lot worse in 10-15 years

He posed the question: Since 1990 China, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore have transformed their research and higher education. How? He suggested these answers:

- Economic growth and shared public/private funding;
- Focused State policy—invests growing resources, sets clear ambitious targets, achieves these, moves on to new targets
- Strong Confucian commitment to education in the family;
- World leading student achievement in PISA maths and science;
- Advance in tertiary participation towards universal levels;
- Coherent tertiary system design, World Class Universities;
- Internationalization—open doors, publishing in English, collaboration, going abroad, attracting Diaspora, paying global salary rates, drawing on ideas for institutional design

Full text and graphics are on the ANUEF’s website.

http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events/Past_Events.html

In-principle agreement on pay rise

In a note to colleagues, ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO and Stephen Darwin, Division Secretary, NTEU ACT Division, state, “The Australian National University and unions representing ANU staff have reached an in-principle agreement on a new 4-year Enterprise Agreement (EA).

“The proposed EA will be recommended for consideration by the University Council because of its budgetary implications, and the National Executive of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU). Subject to their final endorsement, the EA will be put to a vote of NTEU members and subsequently ANU staff for approval.

“The in-principle agreement proposes a 3 per cent salary increase per annum over four years backdated to 1 July 2013”.

Move to cut red tape: Pyne

The Government has confirmed its commitment to reduce regulation, reporting and red tape across Australia’s higher education sector. Minister for Education Christopher Pyne said on October 23 that he was determined to implement recommendations from the *Review of Higher Education Regulation*.

On the ABC’s Q&A program on October 28, he said that it made sense to look at privatising the HECs debt of \$23 billion but there was no government policy to take that path at present.

On red tape he said, “I have today directed the Chief Executive Officer of the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) to simplify the paperwork and deregulate. This includes improving how TEQSA consults with universities and more broadly across the sector.

“The findings of the review confirm my opinion that deregulation can happen across the sector without compromising quality standards. I know universities have raised concerns about the level of regulatory burden they face. We are committed to working with the higher education sector to reduce the burden of red tape, regulation and reporting so that it can innovatively and efficiently deliver high quality education.

“I want to ensure we’re reducing red tape and allowing universities and higher education providers to get on with what they do best—teaching our students and conducting research, not delivering excessive paperwork to regulators.”

Mr Pyne said the direction given to TEQSA means it has to focus on getting registrations and course accreditations done in a more timely way. Key aspects of the Government’s actions to decrease regulation throughout 2013–14 include:

- amending the TEQSA Act to reduce burdensome processes
- establishing a TEQSA advisory council to consult widely with the higher education sector and provide advice to the Minister
- reducing duplication by amending legislation that impacts on the work of TEQSA and other regulatory agencies
- ensuring the change starts immediately by making a direction to this effect under the TEQSA Act.

“This Government is also committed to ensuring that the wider higher education and university community is consulted on improvements to minimise red tape for the sector.”

Mr Pyne said the Government would respond to the *Review of University Reporting Requirements* in the near future.

Universities Australia has welcomed the Minister’s announcement, Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive, saying,. “In opposition the Coalition made very clear its intention, if elected, to reduce red tape across the economy. These commitments can take time to work through after an election but we are very pleased at the prompt attention the Minister is giving to this very important matter in accepting all eleven recommendations of the recent *Review of Higher Education Regulation*.

“Universities Australia estimates that universities spend approximately \$280 million a year on regulatory compliance and reporting” she said. “A typical university must report over 50 different datasets to the Department of Education, comprising 200 reporting instances per year, as well as over 50 data sets to other Departments. This time and effort could be better spent on the key function of universities – teaching, scholarship and research.

“A more efficient regulatory regime is also required to encourage rather than impede innovation and the ability for institutions to experiment with new business models in adapting to a more globally competitive environment and the opportunities created by digital technology,” Ms Robinson said.

She also welcomed the Treasurer reasserting the Coalition’s pre-election promise not to cut education through the Commission of Audit process.

The *Review of Higher Education Regulation Report* and its recommendations can be viewed at: <http://education.gov.au/review-higher-education-regulation>

Andrew Forrest follows the Tuckwell's example

There would be few ANUEF members who had not heard about the record \$65million donation to West Australian universities by mining magnate Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest in mid-October. It follows the earlier donation of \$50 million to the ANU by alumni Graham and Louise Tuckwell earlier this year.

In an ABC interview with James Carleton, on October 15, Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson agreed Australia was seeing a welcome trend in philanthropy. "It's absolutely terrific," she said "people criticise Australia for not having a philanthropic culture, but I think when these sorts of things happen, when some of our biggest, most prominent, wealthiest people in Australia give these sorts of amounts to things that are really going to deliver a dividend back to the country, then I think that we have to sit back and say, 'well maybe we are better than we think we are'.

The gift will be based on the Rhodes Scholarships to Oxford University, the size of the donation guaranteeing that the scholarships will be maintained in perpetuity.

Asked about the importance of such scholarships, Ms Robinson said, "Well they're very important. We talk a lot about the brain-drain in Australia and one of the ways that we can address that is by encouraging the best and brightest researchers around the world to come to Australia and those in fact who are in Australia to stay here – so it's very, very important that we recognise who they are, we encourage them to stay here and we encourage them to participate in lifting Australia's research capability, and this is what this will help do."

Asked whether WA universities were struggling, Ms Robinson replied, "That's right, universities all around Australia are struggling; and when it comes to research, of course, this is where the new industries come from; this is where the new products, the new services; this is where industrial diversification comes from. This is why research is so incredibly important and we are seeing the public dollar start to decline. It's incredibly important that we look to other sources of revenue and people [to] take the initiative to, I guess, invest themselves in Australia research."

Questioned on whether such donations could accelerate the decline in public funding, Ms Robinson said, "Well I actually see it as a way of leveraging the public dollar. There's no doubt that public budgets all around the world are constrained and the list of things that compete for the public dollar only ever seems to get longer, but whether or not this results in less public funding available for research remains to be seen but I doubt that. I think it will just help to encourage governments to really understand the importance of having a very strong research capability in Australia."

She said that the Tuckwell's donation to the ANU "... helped to provide optimism that Australia is starting to embark on a more philanthropic culture towards its public institutions. Whether this is sort of a new wave of philanthropy probably is a little bit early to say."

The Poets' Lunch at ANU

There are 120 Poets listed on our web page below ranging from Timoshenko Aslanides to Judith Wright. Each one of them has presented a poem, or many poems, at the lunch over a period of 40 years from the 1970s to the present. <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/poets> .

This page is one of the most heavily visited pages on our web site and the Emeritus Faculty is honoured by our association with such a distinguished group of people.

The Poet's Lunch is 30 years older than the ANU Emeritus Faculty, which was incorporated in 2000. Both organisations are entirely autonomous. We do not interfere with each other. But the relationship is symbiotic. The ANUEF gives the unincorporated Poets' Lunch its umbrella protection, a venue for its annual event, and a page in our web site. The Poets' Lunch gives us the halo effect of its undoubted fame.

Faculty Members are welcome to submit a poem to the lunch and thus gain entry.

The next lunch is on Wednesday 4 December at 12.30 pm. It is held on the same date every year because the marking of exam papers ends about then and the lunch allows people to kick their heels up and relax.

Giles Pickford

A Member of the Poet's Lunch and the ANUEF

Teacher training

On **World Teachers' Day** the Minister for Education, Mr Pyne, urged parents and students to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible and lasting impact a great teacher can have on a child's life and future career. He also announced that the Government will set up a Ministerial Advisory Group to look into initial teacher education courses and to advise improvements.

"It's important we recognise the outstanding work teachers do. Their dedication makes an extraordinary contribution to the lives of our young people" Mr Pyne said. "Evidence shows that student performance, and not just their achievement, but their overall engagement, depends on the quality of teaching.

"Improving teacher training, standards and professional development is at the heart of the Government's plans to lift the quality and status of the teaching profession. This doesn't just start when a teacher walks into a classroom but when teachers are gaining their qualifications.

"We want to encourage teaching students who are committed and motivated to become teachers as their first choice to enter university. We'll work with universities to make teaching courses more rigorous and attractive. This Government wants to put students first, but this can't happen without teachers and we're here to support them being the best at their job they can possibly be."

World Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5 October but because of Australian school holidays it is held on the last Friday of October.

New frontier in Australia's education exports to China

The opening of a Monash University and Southeast University Joint Graduate School and Joint Research Institute in Suzhou China is a further sign that education is one of Australia's great strengths, according to Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb.

"This is a very significant moment as Monash University is the first Australian university to be granted a licence to operate a graduate school in China," he said. "This is a testament to the strong and growing links between our two countries underpinned by education."

China is Australia's largest source of international student enrolments, contributing around \$4A billion annually to the Australian economy. The ties are based on 40 years of education exchanges and play a vital role in deepening the connections between the two countries.

"Education is one of Australia's key strengths and it offers enormous opportunity at so many levels from trade and investment through to the building of people-to-people linkages. Australia is extremely well placed to help meet growing demand in Asia for quality education," Mr Robb said.

Hong Kong and Australian student exchange

Hong Kong's Education Secretary, Eddie Ng, and Australian Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop, emphasised the importance of education links to strengthening the broader Hong Kong-Australia relationship at a meeting in Hong Kong on 19 October.

Ms Bishop and Mr Ng discussed the close education ties which exist between Hong Kong and Australia and the opportunity to deepen these through the Australian Government's **New Colombo Plan** initiative. The initiative aims to lift knowledge of the Asia Pacific in Australia and strengthen people-to-people and institutional relationships through study and internships undertaken by Australian undergraduate students in the region.

Hong Kong will participate in the pilot phase of the New Colombo Plan, which Mr Ng said "provided an excellent opportunity to boost the number of Australians studying in Hong Kong and raise Hong Kong's profile in Australia".

The New Colombo Plan, consisting of new funding of \$100 million (about HK\$740 million) over five years, will commence in 2015, after a pilot phase in 2014. In addition to Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan have been invited to participate in the pilot phase. Other regional partners will be invited to join the program from 2015.

Mr Ng said that Hong Kong had about 4,400 incoming and 4,200 outgoing students on exchange in its public institutions last year, about one out of four of undergraduate students already have the opportunity to spend a semester or so to broaden exposure outside Hong Kong,

University links with Korea

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop in a speech to the 600-year-old Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, on October 18 emphasised the remodelled Colombo Plan. Although much of her speech was devoted to geo-political affairs and trade, she devoted some of it to education.

She said, in part, “Korea’s strong emphasis on education, clearly evident in the 600 year old history of this University. Yours is now one of the most highly educated countries in the world and Australia has contributed to that through the many Korean graduates from our educational institutions ...

“Australia has a world-class education sector ... according to the latest *Times* education world university rankings, that were released this month [October], Australia has five of our 39 universities in the top 100, and 12 of our 39 universities in the top 300. ...

“Currently, there are around 24,000 Korean students studying in Australia and these students will graduate with globally recognised qualifications and return to Korea, hopefully to contribute to the ongoing success of this country....Australia also has much to learn from Korea’s focus on education, particularly in the area of school education, where Korea consistently rates highly in terms of world measures.

“I’m pleased to note that many universities in Australia are partnered with your university and other prominent universities in Korea. Recently a number of universities from both countries have joined forces to develop joint PhD, masters and research programs.

“We have announced that we will establish a student program we have dubbed the New Colombo Plan and it will be a national government backed scholarship scheme to provide opportunities to young Australians in their undergraduate year to spend at least a semester studying in a university in our region. And we’ve called it the New Colombo Plan because the original Colombo Plan ran from the 1950s to the 1980s and that brought students to Australia. In fact, over that 30 year period 40,000 students from the region came to live and study in Australia....”

“We want to be a rite of passage over time so that young Australian undergraduates attending an Australian university can assume they have opportunity to study in a university in the region. We’re conducting a pilot program next year to address all of the challenges that will inevitably crop up and we hope to invite Korea to join our new Colombo plan 2015.”

Universities Australia congratulates Shadow Ministry

Universities Australia has congratulated Bill Shorten on his election as Leader of the Opposition and all of those appointed to the Shadow Ministry.

Universities Australia’s Chief Executive, Belinda Robinson, said, “The appointment of science and research policy veteran, Senator Kim Carr, to the portfolio of Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Industry will bring experience, as well as a steadiness and stability to Labor’s approach to these critical policy areas that has been disappointingly absent in recent times.”

She went on “Universities are the engine rooms that power successful nations. They drive economic growth, productivity, innovation, global engagement and industrial transformation.”

For all the latest from and about Australia’s universities visit
www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au

The costs of university privatisation

- *Everything for Sale? The Marketisation of UK Higher Education* by [Roger Brown](#), with [Helen Carasso](#)
Routledge, 235 pp, £26.99, February, ISBN 978 0 415 80980 1 and
- *The Great University Gamble: Money, Markets and the Future of Higher Education* by [Andrew McGettigan](#)
Pluto, 215 pp, £16.99, April, ISBN 978 0 7453 3293 2

Stefan Collini, in his *London Review of Books* reviews of the above books, writes:
Future historians, pondering changes in British society from the 1980s onwards, will struggle to account for the following curious fact. Although British business enterprises have an extremely mixed record, and although such arm's length public institutions as museums and galleries, the BBC and the universities have by and large a very good record, nonetheless over the past three decades politicians have repeatedly attempted to force the second set of institutions to change so that they more closely resemble the first.

It's time for the criticism to stop. Whatever you think about the changes to higher education that have been made in recent years, in particular the decision in the autumn of 2010 largely to replace public funding of teaching with student fees, this is now the system we've got. Carping about the principle or sniping at the process is simply unhelpful: it antagonises ministers and officials, thereby jeopardising future negotiations, and it wins little sympathy from the media and wider public. This country [the UK] is in desperate need of jobs and of economic growth, and in higher education as in every other sphere we are now competing in a global market. So pipe down, and let's all focus on making this system work as effectively as possible.

[You are invited to read this free book review from the *London Review of Books*. **Subscribe now** to access every article from every fortnightly issue of the *London Review of Books*, including the entire LRB archive of over 12,500 essays and reviews.](#)

More Diary Dates (continued from page 1)

Nov 13 from 5.30pm – 7.30pm Launch of "*Last of the Lands We Know: Recollections of the Life and Times of Maev O'Collins* as told to her nephew, Les Coleman. Venue: The Hedley Bull Atrium, ANU. To register to attend email Kerrie.hogan@anu.edu.au T 6125 2167

Dec 4 Wed 12.30 pm - Poet's Lunch. Molony Room

18 December 2013 at 5:00pm Annual General Meeting Followed by the **Emeritus Faculty Christmas Party**

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 is held in the office. 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 December 2013.