

# EMERITUS Vol 5 No 2

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## University - business partnership to boost graduate employment

A new agreement between Universities Australia and business groups will improve the work-readiness of university graduates, expand their job opportunities as well as enhance outcomes for employers.

The agreement, formally announced during an address by Universities Australia Chair Professor Sandra Harding at the National Press Club in Canberra recently, comes as the Federal Government and G20 Ministers commit to a new target for growing the global economy by an additional two per cent.

Signatories to the agreement are: Universities Australia, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Business Council of Australia, Australian Industry Group, and the Australian Collaborative Education Network Ltd.

The plan is part of a broader effort, advocated and supported by the Chief Scientist and the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency among others, to deepen relationships between universities, entrepreneurs, industry and communities.

## Diary Dates

- March 5** Collegiate Lunch – Jane O'Dwyer "The Social Media"
- March 12** 6pm-7pm  
**ANU Emeritus Faculty Biannual Lecture** in Manning Clark Lecture Theatre – "The Great Barrier Reef – a passionate view" in which Iain McCalman discusses his new book  
More details page 14
- March 19** 4pm "Half a century of health care in Canberra – a personal saga" Bryan Furnass
- April 2** Collegiate Lunch – Geoff Davies "Sack the economists" ebook launch
- April 16** 4pm – "Aqua Incognita: Why ice floats on water and Galileo 400 years on" Barry Ninham
- April 30** Wed 10 am–4pm, 2014 Research in Retirement Forum

*More diary dates on page 14*

Chief Executive of Universities Australia Belinda Robinson said the agreement would intensify and widen the critical partnerships that will lift employment, productivity and international competitiveness.

“With jobs lost as the economy adjusts to the closure of some manufacturing plants, it is vital that we foster an environment that promotes entrepreneurship and innovation in lifting growth and expanding employment opportunities,” Ms Robinson said.

“The plan means university graduates gain the work skills they need to make best use of their up-to-date knowledge and prepare them for the workplace. Employers benefit by better utilising skilled productive workers. These are the practical elements that help foster a flexible economy able to generate and take advantage of the latest knowledge, innovation and research,” Ms Robinson said.

The plan involves universities and businesses continuing to identify, promote and disseminate further opportunities for Work Integrated Learning (WIL).

Work Integrated Learning includes activities such as work placements accredited for university course work, mentoring and shadowing programs, and internships.

Universities and business groups have agreed to establish a baseline of current practice, identifying further opportunities and a program of assessment for reporting progress.

Ms Robinson added that the Government’s plan to cut university red-tape is helping to create environments for initiatives such as these.

“The more confidence universities have that they can dedicate crucial resources to partnerships like this, rather than on productivity-sapping red-tape, means the more time that can be directed to such positive initiatives,” Ms Robinson said.

WIL and deepening relationships between universities and business is a major topic of Universities Australia’s Higher Education Conference held in Canberra on 26-28th February.

*A copy of the agreement is available from Universities Australia*

## **Teacher training ‘too theoretical’ - Minister**

Federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne has announced plans for a review of teacher training. Mr Pyne says the review is needed because of concern over the standards of teaching and the readiness of graduate teachers for dealing with students in classrooms. In an ABC interview Christopher Pyne said that all the feedback that he had received from the education sector over the last five years had been that teacher quality was the most important determinant for the outcomes for students.

“So we want to get our teacher quality as good as anywhere in the world and the surveys that we’ve received from students at university, from principals that are hiring staff, from Year 12 students who are choosing teaching, all points to a malaise in the teacher training in Australia that needs to be addressed.

Asked what the nature of the “malaise” was, the minister listed:

- courses are too theoretical and not practical enough;
- young people are not prepared or trained to actually teach;

- they spend a lot of time at university but not enough time in the classroom learning the practical skills that are required;
- there is an emphasis on primary school teaching; and
- there is a lack of specialists in science and maths in senior school.

“And these are all issues that I want my teacher education taskforce to advise me on over the coming twelve months,” Mr Pyne said.

Asked whether improving teacher standards required more money, Mr Pyne said, “Well that’s a matter for the states and territories because they employ the teachers. They own and operate the schools. So yes, that is definitely part of it but that’s a matter for each state and territory minister.”

Dismissing the importance of socioeconomic circumstances of students and the attitude of parents, Mr Pyne said that “...every survey or every study that’s done internationally and domestically indicate that the most important determinants for a student’s outcomes are the quality of the teaching, what they’re being taught and the autonomy in schools and parental engagements. And they are the four areas the Commonwealth is concentrating on and I’m not going to allow this debate to be distracted by another round of discussion about funding.”

He claimed that the Government had “sorted funding, we’ve delivered the national funding model. What this is about is teacher training, it’s about teacher quality and that is one of the - that is the most important determinant for a student’s outcomes”.

Commenting on Mr Pyne’s announcement of a Teaching Education Ministerial Advisory Group – Chaired by Universities Australia Board member and Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University, Professor Greg Craven – the Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson said that Universities Australia has been working on a high-level national agenda on teaching education quality for over a year to ensure that our school students receive the best possible educational experience.

“In particular, Universities Australia has worked closely with the Deans of Education and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership on national measures to support teacher education quality,” Ms Robinson said.

“Central to this work has been the contribution of Professor Greg Craven, who has done much heavy lifting in shaping the selection, professional experience and support for student teachers as part of a national bid to ensure high-quality teaching standards,” she said.

For all the latest from and about Australia's universities visit [www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au](http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au)

## **Federation University Australia**

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Senator Scott Ryan, has opened the Science and Engineering Precinct, and the Sports and Recreational Centre at the newly renamed **Federation University Australia**, the result of University of Ballarat’s acquisition of Monash University’s Gippsland Campus.

## **The new Colombo Plan: Building regional engagement**

In an [address](#) to the Universities Australia Higher Education Conference on February 27, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Brett Mason, underlined the importance of the Government's New Colombo Plan (NCP) in building broader and deeper institutional and people-to-people connections with Australia's Indo-Pacific neighbours and in enhancing the skills, knowledge and cultural understanding of Australian students.

Mobility funding offers made to 24 universities will support over 300 student experiences in the four NCP pilot destinations – Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia – in Semester 1, 2014. A second round of mobility grants will be awarded to universities later in the year, along with the announcement of the recipients of NCP scholarships.

“The opportunities under the NCP for Australian undergraduates to study throughout the region will create closer ties with our neighbours across business, government, education and cultural endeavours,” Senator Mason said. “And the skills that our students will acquire from their participation in the NCP, including mentoring and internship opportunities, will help to ensure that they are work-ready, have professional connections in the region and can link their study experiences directly to their future careers.”

Senator Mason emphasised that Australian universities are crucial partners for the Government in the implementation of the NCP. The key tasks for universities will be to expand their partnerships with higher education institutions in the Indo-Pacific and to develop innovative new regional study programs for course credit for Australian students.

In his address, Senator Mason also highlighted the need for universities, the business sector and the Government to continue to actively promote the NCP to students to build student interest in study opportunities in the Indo-Pacific.

“We need to change the mindset of Australian students to embrace study in our region as an integral component of their overall learning experience,” he said.

The wider roll-out of the NCP across the Indo-Pacific region will take place from 2015. “Through \$100 million in funding for the NCP, the Government is supporting learning opportunities for Australian students in our region and encouraging the development of close partnerships between governments, universities and business,” Senator Mason said.

## **Hadi Soesastro Prize awarded**

Mr Bimo Wijayanto and Ms Diana Setiyawati have been awarded the inaugural Australia Awards Hadi Soesastro Prize. The prize is awarded in honour of eminent Indonesian economist Professor Hadi Soesastro, who had abiding links to the Australian National University in particular. His son Albert Soesastro and friends, including Professor Hal Hill, Professor Peter Drysdale, and Professor Ross Garnaut attended the presentation event on his behalf.

The annual prize recognises the work of Indonesian academics completing their doctorates in Australia with the aim of developing young leaders and promoting people-to-people and educational links between the two countries.

Mr Wijayanto and Ms Setiyawati were awarded the prize for their contributions in the fields of economics and psychology respectively. The Australian Government will provide up to \$25,000 for each recipient to undertake post-doctoral work to deepen their expertise.

Australia invests in two complementary scholarship schemes to support the significant education cooperation and people-to-people links between Australia and Indonesia: the Australia Awards and the New Colombo Plan. With 3,000 scholarships awarded between 2007 and 2012 the Australia Awards support emerging leaders in the Asia-Pacific to study in Australia.

### **Inaugural Australia-Malaysia scholarships and awards**

The inaugural recipients of Undergraduate Scholarships and Executive Awards under the new Australia-Malaysia 'Towards 2020' Scholarship Program are:

- Mrs Nastassia binti Affendi, who will study a Bachelor of Commerce at Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus, and
- Mr Lee Siang Hin, who will study a Bachelor of Engineering at Monash University Malaysia.

The two inaugural Executive Award recipients are:

- Dr Masria binti Mustafa, who will attend conferences and undertake courses related to traffic management and crash investigations, and
- Mr Mohd Ridzwan Shahabudin, who will attend the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's International Participation in Graduate Training Program.

Designed to support Malaysia's economic reform agenda, the 'Towards 2020' Undergraduate Scholarships will assist Malaysian undergraduates to study at Australian universities located in Malaysia. The Executive Awards will support Malaysian civil servants to undertake professional development opportunities in Australia.

### **Diplomatic appointment**

Ms Sue Langford, a graduate of the Australian National University, has been appointed Australia's next High Commissioner to Samoa. Ms Langford is replacing Dr Stephen Henningham.

Ms Langford is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was until recently a Director in the International Security Division. Before that, she worked as a Senior Adviser to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Ms Langford has also served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian High Commission in Port Vila and as First Secretary at the Australian High Commission in Honiara.

Ms Langford holds a Master's Degree in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History from the Australian National University.

### **Language and writing in academe**

by Geoffrey Pullum

The sports section of *The Guardian* recently carried an article by Jamie Jackson about developments in the Manchester United soccer team, where a number of players are

apparently not sure they will stay. The article cited the opinions of one player who is probably not coming back from Fiorentina, where he is currently on loan; and then it continued with this shockingly uninformative sentence:

The futures of several senior players including Nemanja Vidic, the captain, Patrice Evra, and Rio Ferdinand are also in the balance.

The sentence leaves us completely in the dark as to who the captain might be (as a reader, Edouard Markson, pointed out to me by email). In fact its unpleasant case of unresolved ambiguity due to apposition and coordination does not even allow us to figure out how many senior players are referred to. Could it be (1) Nemanja Vidic, (2) the captain (not named here), (3) Patrice Evra, and (4) Rio Ferdinand, making four in all?

Or, if the answer is three (as I would guess that it is), then who is the captain? Should we read Nemanja Vidic, the captain, as a syntactic unit? Or is it the captain, Patrice Evra, who is the syntactic unit? The grammar of English would allow either. The conventional rules for comma placement are of no help here: adhering to them actually causes the problem.

Of course, if you have enough knowledge of the Premier League in Britain to know who is currently the captain of Manchester United, then you don't need no stinkin' grammar: You already know the answer. But I don't follow soccer (or, as you may recall, cricket: I'm not a very sportsy sort of person). If I were to begin caring, I would need to rely on *The Guardian* using the language unambiguously enough to tell me who's who. And the quoted sentence gives me no way for me to identify the captain, or even how many people's futures are in the balance.

You might be amazed that professional prose crafters (as opposed to our students, some of whom are still trying to reach the prose-crafting stage during their college years) could be blind to a writing defect this sharp and clear. But I'm not so sure I'm amazed. Things like this happen because expressing things in a language, whether by writing it or spontaneously speaking it, is difficult work, and we have little processing power left over for figuring out on the fly what the reader/listener's comprehension difficulties might be and making proactive changes to forestall them.

That's not an exculpation; it's just a fact of psycholinguistics. Languages themselves certainly don't strive to avoid ambiguity (I've never heard any linguist suggest that in some human languages there are no ambiguous sentences), and the psychological fact is that their users often aren't in a position to do much in that connection either.

The reader/listener's job is of course difficult, too. And sometimes the failure of a writer/speaker to head off ambiguity at the pass may make things even harder than it would have been. That is what happened here.

Part of what makes a really good professional writer or editor is having a highly developed ability to spot comprehension train wrecks and forestall them. In the case above, the newspaper's writer and editors failed in their duty. But that's not the point you or I should be focusing on. What we should be asking ourselves is, when will we next do likewise?

Have you, or for that matter I, written an unacceptably ambiguous sentence today without realizing it

**Reprinted from *The Guardian* February 6, 2014**

## **New director of the National Museum of Australia**

Dr Mathew Trinca has been appointed the new Director of the National Museum of Australia for five years. He has been the Acting Director of the National Museum of Australia since July 2013.

Dr Trinca is published in the area of Australian history and has a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in History from the University of Western Australia.

Having served at the National Museum since 2003, Dr Trinca and has been a key contributor to its development. Before becoming the Acting Director he was the Assistant Director, Collections, Content and Exhibitions from 2006 to 2013; and was Senior Curator of Collections and Gallery Development from 2003 to 2005.

Most recently, Dr Trinca has overseen the presentation of *Old Masters: Australia's Great Bark Artists*, an exhibition at the Museum of Indigenous bark paintings, and he is currently working with the British Museum on the upcoming *Encounters* exhibition that will open in 2015.

For more information about the National Museum of Australia visit [www.nma.gov.au](http://www.nma.gov.au).

## **Oral history addition**

ANUEF member Angela Giblin, musician and teacher, previously ANU School of Music, has been added to the ANU Emeritus Faculty's Oral History Project and is available at the EF website [interview audio, text synopsis, photograph].

ANU Emeritus Faculty began its Oral History Project in 2008, and by year's end had accumulated the interviews listed in the catalogue. Emeritus Faculty intends to continue conducting interviews regularly during coming years, adding these to the catalogue as they are completed. Abstracts and MP3 audio files are available for these interviews. Transcripts will be generated later.

## **Appeal to magazine hoarders**

Tegan Dolstra, editor of the *ANU Reporter* magazine, is appealing to magazine hoarders to search their collections. The magazine is binding together all the old editions of *ANU Reporter* to make sure they are preserved.

"Unfortunately I am missing the volume 34 No 3 (2003) and summer 2005 editions, and all of the 2002 editions," she writes. "I was wondering if you could ask your members whether they might still have a copy?"

If ANUEF members can find such copies, Tegan can be reached on 02 6125 6125 or email her at [media@anu.edu.au](mailto:media@anu.edu.au)

## **Judges chosen for CHASS prizes**

The Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) is inviting applications for the newly endowed CHASS Australia Prizes which, it says, "is an excellent opportunity to nominate women academics and gender research".

The four prizes are designed to honour distinguished achievement by Australian academics, practitioners, philanthropists and policy makers in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences areas. Winners will be announced at the annual CHASS National Forum Dinner, which will be held at Parliament House, Melbourne on 8 October 2014.

**CHASS Australia Prize for a Book in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (\$3500)**

The prize will be awarded to the author whose book, in the opinion of the judges, contributes most to Australian cultural and intellectual life. The judges are: Colin Steele (Chair), Catriona Mackenzie, Jo Lindsay, Max Coltheart, Tom Karmel

**CHASS Australia Prize for Distinctive Work in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (\$3500)**

This prize is for a performance, exhibition, project or policy development in any HASS field. The judges are Vicki Sowry (Chair), Lindy Allen, Chris Bowen, and Nigel Erskine.

**CHASS Australia Prize for a Future Leader in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (\$2000)** and the **CHASS Australia Prize for a Student in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (\$500 Co-Op Bookshop Voucher)** will be judged by Helen Sykes (Chair), Joe Siracusa, Edel McIvor, Peta Ashworth

Final date for submission of applications: **30 June 2014**. For more information, please contact CHASS on (03) 9925 3935 or [email](#). or access [Application details and forms](#)

**Have your say**

**Copyright recommendations**

The final report of the Australian Law Reform Commission's inquiry into Copyright and the Digital Economy has been tabled in Parliament. The inquiry examined whether exceptions and statutory licenses in the *Copyright Act 1968* are adequate and appropriate in the digital environment and whether further exceptions should be recommended. Among other things, the ALRC was asked to consider whether further exemptions should recognise fair use of copyright material.

The ALRC has recommended:

- The introduction of a flexible fair use exemption as a defence to copyright infringement;
- Retaining and reforming some existing specific exemptions, and introducing certain new specific exemptions;
- Amending the Copyright Act to clarify the statutory licensing scheme;
- Limiting the remedies available for copyright infringement to encourage the use of 'orphan works';
- Reforming broadcasting exemptions; and
- Amending the Copyright Act to limit contracting out terms.

The government expects these recommendations to be controversial and will give them very careful consideration, according to a statement by the Attorney-General, Senator George Brandis.

He said, "We are particularly concerned to ensure that no prejudice is caused to the interests of rights holders and creators, whether the proposed fair use exception offers

genuine advantages over the existing fair dealing provisions and that any changes maintain and, where possible, increase incentives to Australia's creative content producers.

"Australia's creative industries are not just a vital part of our culture they are also a thriving sector of our economy. The Australian screen production industry, for instance, contributes \$752 million and directly employs 13,000 people in full-time work. Our music industry contributes \$1.2billion to our economy and directly employs 15,000 people in full-time work.

"But those who create the great Australian films, the great Australian television dramas, the great Australian albums, depend upon robust intellectual property laws to protect their creative endeavours. Just like any other workers in our economy, they are entitled to the fruit of their efforts. Without strong, robust copyright laws, they are at risk of being cheated of the fair compensation for their creativity, which is their due."

The final report is available at <http://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/copyright-report-122>.

### **Report welcomed**

Universities Australia has welcomed the release of the Australian Law Reform Commission's report: *Copyright and the Digital Economy*.

In a statement Universities Australia said, "The present inflexible copyright exceptions, together with the educational statutory licenses, limit the ability of Australian universities to create and disseminate knowledge, and place the higher education sector at an international competitive disadvantage."

Chief Executive of Universities Australia Belinda Robinson called for the proposed reforms to be legislated to ensure a level playing field for Australian universities.

"Fair use would remove obstacles that currently stand in the way of Australian universities fully utilising digital technology, and would bring our copyright law in line with comparable jurisdictions", she said and went on, "Australian universities need to be able to compete as they seek to attract the best and brightest students and researchers in an increasingly globalised and competitive higher education market.

"Fair use would remove roadblocks to Australian universities competing with North American universities and would assist our academics to use copyright content in ways comparable to that of their peers in the USA and other fair use jurisdictions. This includes using innovative technologies such as data mining and text mining that in many cases would currently infringe copyright in Australia.

"Australian universities spend almost \$260 million on library resources each year so students and researchers can access published work. Because of Australia's out-dated existing educational copying regime, Australian universities are additionally paying for uses that do not attract payment in other jurisdictions."

### **TAFE inquiry wants additional submissions**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment has adopted an inquiry into the operation of TAFEs. The inquiry will allow the committee to continue the work of a previous Parliament in this area.

The TAFE sector is the largest education and training sector in Australia. Australia's TAFE network comprises more than 1000 campuses located across urban, regional and remote

locations, with many institutes offering further services throughout the Asia-Pacific and other offshore regions.

Committee Chair and Member for Herbert QLD, Mr Ewen Jones MP.

The terms of reference for the Inquiry are:

TAFEs have played a critical role in the training and development of Australians for more than one hundred years. For many Australians, TAFEs provide a critical pathway to training and skills which are increasingly needed to access employment. They also play a critical role in regions and in providing access for disadvantaged groups.

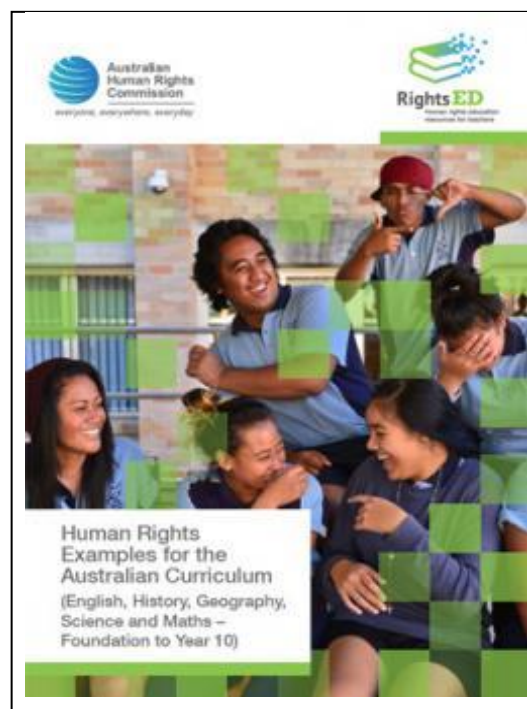
The committee will inquire into and report on the role played by TAFEs in:

- the development of skills in the Australian economy
- the provision of pathways for Australians to access employment
- the provision of pathways for Australians to access University education; and
- the operation of a competitive training market

The committee has accepted as evidence to this inquiry all submissions made to the previous inquiry. Additional submissions are invited by email to [ee@aph.gov.au](mailto:ee@aph.gov.au). Submissions are due by 9 April 2014.

**For information on the inquiry:** contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4573, email [ee@aph.gov.au](mailto:ee@aph.gov.au) or visit the committee website at [www.aph.gov.au/ee](http://www.aph.gov.au/ee)

## New human rights guide to the Australian Curriculum



The Australian Human Rights Commission has released a new tool intended to help identify many of the opportunities that the Australian Curriculum provides for teaching students about the promotion and protection of human rights, both in Australia and around the world.

“The Australian Curriculum provides a strong opportunity for children and young people to learn about their human rights and the importance of respecting the rights and freedoms of others,” said Commission President, Professor Gillian Triggs.

“Our new publication, *Human Rights Examples for the Australian Curriculum*, is a guide that will assist teachers in identifying practical opportunities in English, History, Geography, Science and Maths for teaching human rights-related content to students up to year 10.”

Professor Triggs said the importance of human rights education, which is a right in itself, is recognised in a number of human rights treaties including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“Educating students about human rights, and the laws that protect all people, ultimately helps them and us to address discrimination, as well as harassment and violence, and to protect fundamental freedoms, like freedom of speech,” Professor Triggs said. “It is a way of protecting human rights by changing attitudes, building empathy and motivating participation, all of which help to build a more equal, respectful and inclusive Australia.”

*Human Rights Examples for the Australian Curriculum* is available at:

<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/rightsed-human-rights-education-resources-teachers>

## **Harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs is seeking submissions to its inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by Friday 17 April 2014.

The chair of the committee, Dr Sharman Stone, said that “while there is no doubt that alcohol abuse has a significant impact on families and communities right across Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are between four and five times more likely to be hospitalised, and between five and eight times more likely to die as a result of harmful alcohol use.<sup>[1]</sup>(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012 Report, p. 105)”

“... We will also identify the strategies and programs which may have had some beneficial outcomes, comparing international experience”. The committee wants to hear from specialists and communities about what is working and why.

The committee will inquiry into and report on:

- Patterns of supply of, and demand for alcohol in different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, age groups and genders
- The social and economic determinants of harmful alcohol use across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Trends and prevalence of alcohol related harm, including alcohol-fuelled violence and impacts on newborns, eg Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
- The implications of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders being declared disabilities

- Best practice treatments and support for minimising alcohol misuse and alcohol-related harm
- Best practice strategies to minimise alcohol misuse and alcohol-related harm
- Best practice identification to include international and domestic comparisons

For the full terms of reference and advice on making submissions see the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/indigenousaffairs](http://www.aph.gov.au/indigenousaffairs) or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4559.

## House Environment Committee to examine 'green tape'

The House of Representatives Environment Committee will conduct an inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, 'green tape', and one stop shops for environmental assessments and approvals. The committee will accept submissions addressing one or more of the terms of reference until **Friday, 11 April 2014**.

Committee Chair, Alex Hawke, said, "One of the keys to driving productivity in Australia is removing unnecessary 'green tape' for businesses and the community, while still ensuring adequate protection of the environment".

The terms of reference for the inquiry will have particular regard to:

- jurisdictional arrangements, regulatory requirements and the potential for deregulation;
- the balance between regulatory burdens and environmental benefits;
- areas for improved efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory framework; and
- legislation governing environmental regulation, and the potential for deregulation.

Further details about how to make a submission can be obtained from the committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/environment>. **For further information call** the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email [environment.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:environment.reps@aph.gov.au)

## Submissions wanted on CSIRO's ACT Facilities Consolidation Project

The Public Works Committee has held its first public hearing into the proposed CSIRO ACT Facilities Consolidation Project. The CSIRO proposes a rationalisation and consolidation of its Canberra property portfolio by building two new science research and support facilities at its Black Mountain campus and refurbishing four existing buildings, as well as upgrading associated support infrastructure.

The new buildings will accommodate staff and functions that currently occupy buildings which do not meet current standards for health and safety, present operational risk and have high maintenance costs. The unsuitable buildings will be demolished.

CSIRO's ACT Property Portfolio accommodates 1,669 staff across six sites which house laboratories, technical support facilities, glasshouses and commercial office space. The Facilities Consolidation Project proposes to relocate staff from leased premises in Campbell, Yarralumla, and Acton to CSIRO's owned site at Black Mountain.

Works will be undertaken in two phases, with Phase 1 completed by 2017 and Phase 2 by 2021. The estimated cost of the project is \$195.6 million.

The committee is also inquiring into the **CSIRO Clayton Property Strategy, Victoria**, which proposes to relocate its staff and research from Highett, Melbourne to its Clayton site adjacent to Monash University. The project includes the refurbishment and fit-out of some existing facilities at Clayton and North Clayton; the relocation of staff and specialist science equipment; and the construction of the Factories of the Future Innovation (FoFi) Centre at Clayton. Construction is scheduled to commence in June 2014 at an estimated cost of \$32 million.

For information on the projects, including how to make a submission, public hearing times, 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.

## Arms, science and space

The Arms Trade Treaty is to be examined by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties at a public hearing scheduled to be held on Monday, 3 March in Canberra.

To date the agreement has been signed by 116 states, including Australia, and ratified by 11. It is expected to reach the ratification target of 50 states by mid-2014.

Committee Chair Wyatt Roy said, "Australia has played an important role in developing and promoting the agreement since it was first proposed in 2006. For the first time the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms - from tanks and missiles to small arms and light weapons - will be subject to common global standards. The treaty is aimed at curbing the multi-million dollar illicit arms trade which destabilizes global peace and security.

"The treaty will have an important impact on our humanitarian objectives and on international security," he said.

The committee will also examine an agreement to improve scientific cooperation between Australian and Vietnam, opening up opportunities for researchers in both countries, and examine an amendment to Australia's Agreement with the United States regarding space vehicle tracking.

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). Alternatively, interested parties may email [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

## Drones in the sky – technological marvel or threat to privacy?

Do drones pose a new threat to our privacy, or are they just innovative technology with benefits for governments and industry? This question was the focus of a roundtable on February 28 investigating drones and privacy held in Canberra this week.

Almost every week the media reports on innovative uses for drones (or unmanned aerial vehicles) – such as during bushfires, to monitor cattle remotely, or to deliver medical equipment in remote areas. At the same time, there is increasing concern about drones' potential to invade privacy and interfere with other aircraft.

The Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee is concerned that as this emerging technology is being rapidly adopted, the regulatory framework might not be keeping up.

Regulation must ensure that safety and privacy are not compromised by the expansion of drone use in Australia.

The roundtable had three focussed sessions:

- Drone regulation;
- Drone applications; and
- Drones and privacy.

Committee chair Mr George Christensen said, “Unmanned aerial vehicles are no longer the realm of science fiction or the preserve of military operations. Google has used drones in mapping, and Amazon has announced that it will deliver books with drones. There are many emerging applications for drones, including in the areas of law enforcement and commerce, and recreational use is growing very quickly.

“Soon drones will be everywhere – how can we provide a safe environment for drones and ensure that individuals’ privacy is protected? This is just one of the questions we are considering at the roundtable.”

For inquiry information, contact the Secretariat: (02) 6277 4969 | [spla.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:spla.reps@aph.gov.au) | [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla)

## Skin cancer inquiry seeks submissions

The House of Representatives Health Committee is conducting an inquiry into skin cancer. This is a continuation of the inquiry in the previous parliament conducted by the Standing Committee on Health and Ageing. The former Committee conducted a roundtable public hearing, a record of which is on the committee’s website

The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by Wednesday, 12 March 2014. In order to facilitate electronic publishing of submissions, the Committee would prefer them to be emailed to [health.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:health.reps@aph.gov.au) or sent on disk or CD-ROM to the [Committee Secretariat](#) in Microsoft Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF).

Further information on the committee’s inquiry, including the full terms of reference and more details on how to lodge a submission are on the committee’s website: [www.aph.gov.au/health](http://www.aph.gov.au/health) or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145.

## More Diary Dates (continued from page 1)

### ANU Emeritus Faculty Biannual Lecture

*The Great Barrier Reef: A passionate history* by Professor Iain McCalman AO  
This lecture is free and open to the public on Wednesday, **March 12 6pm-7pm**  
At Theatre 3, Manning Clark Centre, Building #26a, Union Court, ANU  
**Registration required**  
Email: [events@anu.edu.au](mailto:events@anu.edu.au)  
Telephone: 02 6125 4144  
Web: [apassionatethehistory.eventbrite.com.au](http://apassionatethehistory.eventbrite.com.au)

*The Great Barrier Reef: A passionate history* by Professor Iain McCalman AO who argues in his book that the Great Barrier Reef has been created by human minds as well as coral polyps - by imaginations as well as natural processes.

In his critically acclaimed, book he charts our shifting perceptions of it, from the terrifying labyrinth that almost sunk Cook's Endeavour to a fragile global treasure. *The Reef* is the first social, cultural and environmental history of this World Heritage-listed site.

"[McCalman] is a wonderful storyteller, his narratives propelled by lyrical writing, as anyone who has read his racy *Seven Ordeals of Count Cagliostro* and magisterial *Darwin's Armada* will know...Never for a moment does his literary skill falter in *The Reef*." **UK Guardian**

"McCalman's book reminds us that the Great Barrier Reef, a treasure that covers 348,000 square kilometres and includes about 1,000 islands and cays and 3,500 individual stretches of reef, is in our care, and that we might not be doing a very good job." **Saturday Age**

Books will be available for sale and signings will take place after the event at the University Co-op stand.

### 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>

**ANU Archives** supporters can find updated news on the ANU website at <http://www.archives.anu.edu.au/news-and-events-1>

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

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