

# EMERITUS Vol 5 No 4

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## Tertiary Advisory Council named

The Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, has announced the establishment of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Advisory Council.

Its members are:

- Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair), Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney and former Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- Emeritus Professor Alan Robson AO, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, and Chair of the Higher Education Standards Panel;
- Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University;
- Ms Karen Thomas, partner of lawyers Fisher Jeffries with extensive experience in risk management; and
- Mr Phil Honeywood, National Executive Director of the International Education Association of Australia, with extensive experience of private and public higher education.

Under its Terms of Reference the Advisory Council will advise TEQSA and the Minister on all aspects of 'minimising regulatory

## Diary Dates

**April 30 Wed.** 10am–4pm – “2014 Research in Retirement Forum”

**10am** Derek F. Wrigley The need for a re-think of housing design.

**10.30** John Sandeman Heat transfer studies related to the Wrigley Ecosolar concept.

**11.30** James J. Fox The Master Poets, Ritual Masters of Rote in Eastern Indonesia.

**12 noon** Adrian Gibbs Origins of Viruses, the other life style.

### 12.30 Lunch

**1.30pm** Stjepan Marčelja, Warming of the Global Ocean

**2pm** Maev O'Collins What influences research choices before and after retirement?

### 2.30 Tea

**3.00pm** Mike Rickards The Australian plate its current position and activity and the history of its movement since Gondwana breakup

**May 7 Noon** for 12.30. Collegiate Lunch – YouTube led Discussion: Luis von Ahn “Harnessing human time to address societal problems” – Captcha and Duolingo.

**May 21 4pm** “Commercialising Research – a rollicking yarn” Prame Chopra

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intervention relating to Australian higher education, consistent with ensuring accountability for quality’.

The Minister said, “We must ensure the national higher education quality agency, TEQSA, is working as efficiently and effectively as possible in fulfilling its most important function of upholding quality across all providers, especially through provider registration and course accreditation. Creation of an advisory council for TEQSA was one of the recommendations of the Review of Higher Education Regulation undertaken by Professor Kwong Lee Dow and Professor Valerie Braithwaite. I have said that we will implement all the recommendations of the Lee Dow-Braithwaite Review of Higher Education Regulation and the PhillipsKPA Review of Reporting Requirements for Universities, and the Council will provide invaluable support and advice to me on this work...”

Universities Australia has welcomed the announcement of the Advisory Council. Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia Greg Evans said the TEQSA Advisory Council will have a vital role in both ensuring Australia’s higher education sector provides high quality education and at the same time does not suffer the cost of unnecessary regulation.

“Universities Australia looks forward to working with the Council to further the twin aims of maintaining the high quality education offered by the sector and making sure it is not subject to unnecessary and costly regulation.”

For more information on the TEQSA Advisory Council, including the Council’s terms of reference, visit: [www.education.gov.au/tegsa-advisory-council](http://www.education.gov.au/tegsa-advisory-council)

### **Welcomed by Universities Australia**

Extending Federal Government funding to for-profit non-university higher education providers – NUHEPs as they are affectionately known - as proposed by the Kemp-Norton review is a policy high wire act which, if not properly controlled, could endanger the hard won reputation of the Australian higher education sector, Universities Australia’s Chief Executive Belinda Robinson says.

Ms Robinson says that while Universities Australia strongly supports the central thrust of the Kemp Norton *Review of the Demand Driven Funding System* to retain the uncapped university system, she called for a cautious approach to be exercised in considering its recommendation to extend public funding to for-profit NUHEPs.

“Although universities are not opposed to even more competition, this represents a radical change to the ecology of Australian higher education and warrants further, deep and comprehensive analysis, including of any unintended or undesirable consequences,” she said.

“Before committing to such a huge gamble with what has been a highly successful and internationally regarded system, we would want to ensure that the odds of success were as short as possible. There are a number of complex issues that require careful consideration. First and foremost is the imperative of preserving the reputation of Australia’s higher education system. Australia’s universities are highly regarded around the world and have built their reputation for academic excellence and research ingenuity over decades.

“Without appropriate controls, expanding the demand driven system to profit-motivated higher education providers could pose a substantial risk to the reputation of the entire sector, with devastating consequences,” she said.

Australia attracts the third highest number of international students – after the United States and the United Kingdom – who are drawn by the record of achievement of Australian universities built up over a considerable amount of time.

Ms Robinson also pointed out the absence of a level playing field between universities and for-profit non-university higher education providers.

“Universities are statutory institutions subject to parliamentary oversight and, in serving and delivering in the public interest, subject to significantly more reporting and governance obligations. There is a question around the extent to which these same obligations would apply to for-profit NUHEPs (non-university higher education providers)...

“This potentially places an enormous additional burden on TEQSA, still in its early days, and may require a recasting of the current debate around regulation and the Federal Government’s welcomed efforts to introduce light touch regulation for low-risk university sector providers,” Ms Robinson pointed out.

“While there are excellent private providers, there is a risk that subsidies for for-profit NUHEPs would encourage others to opt for high volume, low cost courses. This would compromise one of the key achievements of the demand driven system as applied to universities and identified by the review – its success in matching skills to labour market needs,” said Ms Robinson.

“In considering this recommendation, serious analysis must be undertaken on the potential impact on educational quality, Australia’s international reputation, potential taxpayer dollar waste as a consequence of institutional failure, relative quality assurance safeguards (both internal and external) and the capacity for meeting future labour market needs. In these times of fiscal challenge, the Government is looking very carefully at the allocation of increasingly scarce public funds.

“To apportion these to re-engineering Australia’s higher education system in the absence of evidence to suggest that the fundamental structure of the system is broken, and in the face of universities and research programs already being under substantial financial pressure, would represent a head-scratching re-ordering of priorities,” said Ms Robinson.

## **The Gareth and Bob Show**

**This is the text of the recent launch by Professor Gareth Evans AC QC, Chancellor of The Australian National University and Foreign Minister 1988-96, of *DIARY OF A FOREIGN MINISTER*, the daily jottings of recently retired Foreign Minister Bob Carr.**

Bob Carr took on the job of Australian Foreign Minister believing, as he doesn’t hesitate to tell us, that it was highly unlikely that he would be there for very long. And although he doesn’t put this in quite so many words, it is clear that he approached the role, in these circumstances, with three basic objectives:

- to keep himself, and Australia, out of trouble;
- to have a ball; and
- to write up the whole experience for posterity in the most readable and colourful possible way.

On the evidence of our eyes and ears over the last two years, and now of his book, it is clear that, on all three counts, he succeeded admirably.

He slid effortlessly into the presentational role at home and abroad, and kept himself out of trouble with the media (even maintaining, miraculously, the adoration of Greg Sheridan

[Foreign Affairs editor of *The Australian*] for the whole of his tenure – not the five weeks maximum that I told him was the previous record).

He kept Australia's flag comfortably flapping through countless multilateral forums and bilateral exchanges; contributed significantly to our spectacularly successful UN Security Council bid (though he graciously acknowledges the central and critical role of our UN Ambassador Gary Quinlan in that success); saved us from at least one spectacular own-goal (on the Palestinian statehood issue, which I will come back to); and navigated his way through what has been, and will remain, Australia's biggest current and future foreign policy challenge by not offending either Washington or Beijing.

He obviously revelled being back in the middle of the action, and basking in the company of the world's great, good and glamorous (although it's also clear that he derived huge and genuine pleasure from his less obviously glamorous encounters in the South Pacific and the African Commonwealth).

And he has given us a book which, in describing all this, captures, as well as anything you'll ever read, both the crazily sleep-deprived, adrenalin charged, exhilarating and frustrating life of a contemporary foreign minister – *and* the crazy combination of excitement and despair, idealism and cynicism, that characterizes domestic Australian politics.

Cabinet diaries – a sub-set of the larger rather genre of *political* diaries, and the much larger one still of political memoirs and autobiographies – tend to fall into two distinct categories, as Bob himself noted back in 1999 reviewing Neil Blewett's diary of the first Keating Government<sup>1</sup>. One kind focuses on "providing the arguments and raw material for historians" (of which Richard Crossman's record of the Wilson Government in the UK in the 1960s is the daddy of them all,<sup>2</sup> and Blewett's a reasonably clear Australian example). And the other kind focuses on "providing episodic colour and personality" (of which the leading Anglo-Saxon example—until now—has been Alan Clark's wonderfully tasteless and entertaining diaries of the Thatcher years in the UK).<sup>3</sup>

Of course most such diaries try to do *both* to some extent: all policy debates and no egos, infighting and eccentricities would make for a pretty dull read; while all colour-and-movement, with no real policy substance at all, would be a little too much like daily journalism as it is now practiced to be worth putting between hard covers. But there *is* a noticeable distinction within the genre, and it is pretty clear on which side of the line Bob's diary falls. To the extent that he had any role model for his own diary, I think he would be the first to acknowledge that it was Clark rather more than Crossman.

There's plenty of *incidental* meat for analysts and historians to relish – how could there *not* be with so many encounters at such a high level on so many issues with such key players? But he doesn't pause very often or for very long to analyse in detail the multiple policy issues with which he wrestled, or to explain how they were resolved within government or advanced in international negotiations. It is not that kind of book. His primary target – and he has hit it - - is a general audience interested in reading a very skillfully written account of what it was like to be *there*.

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<sup>1</sup>Neil Blewett, *A Cabinet Diary: A Personal Record of the First Keating Government*, Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 1999

<sup>2</sup>Richard Crossman, *The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister*, Hamish Hamilton and Jonathan Cape, London, *Volume One: Minister of Housing 1964-66* (1975); *Volume Two: Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons 1966-68* (1976); *Volume Three: Secretary of State for Social Services 1968-70* (1977)

<sup>3</sup>Alan Clark, *Diaries*, Wiedenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1993

There are not many of us in Australian public life who have had that privilege, of being there. I was one of them, and a great many people, as a result, have been asking me over the last week how Bob's experiences, and his approach to the role, compared with my own when I was Australia's Foreign Minister. So I hope you won't mind me spending a little time telling you.

The short answer about the nature of our *experiences* is that they were remarkably similar, even if many of the issues we dealt with were different. I don't just mean here the manic pace of it all, the stresses of travel even at the front of the plane, the strain of constant tight-rope walking in one's public utterances, the pressures of meeting the expectations of domestic constituencies, the sense of exhilaration and excitement on the big occasions and when things go well, and the disappointment and despair when they don't.

I mean also that sense which we both had – although Bob has been subject to some pummelling over the last week for the way he put it (in terms of not feeling 'humble' in the presence of the great) – that Australia thoroughly deserves any place it can win at the top international tables, that competent Australian representatives can match it in any company, and that we can be justly proud of the contribution Australia has made and can continue to make as a good international citizen.

There is an issue, about which some in the Government have been particularly critical, about the propriety of putting those experiences quite so fully on the record so soon after the event. (I have to say that I feel something of a wimp in this respect, waiting nearly 30 years to publish – as MUP will in August – my own diary potentially offending my colleagues in Hawke-Keating Cabinet in the mid-1980s, rather than the less than 30 weeks it has taken Bob to potentially offend his colleagues at home and abroad.)

I don't think Bob has much to be apologetic about in this respect. No confidences of any consequence are revealed, and certainly nothing of any security sensitivity. Some of the exchanges he retails have the potential to be slightly embarrassing to the participants – and go further by way of revelation than I might have been prepared to as Foreign Minister 20 years ago. But times have changed, and much more is out and about in the media, and social media, than ever used to be the case. I don't believe that any of our relationships will be prejudiced, or future dialogue made more difficult, by what he has recorded.

On the question of Bob's and my approaches to the job, there are some evident differences between us, partly reflecting the difference in the circumstances in which we held office, and partly just because – although we have a number of literary/historical and other nerdy interests in common, have been friends for a long time, and he kind enough to describe me as his mentor in this book – we really are very different kinds of people, with very different personal and political styles.

As to the circumstances in which we held office I knew, like most of my predecessors, that in the absence of catastrophe I would have at least three years in the job, and hopefully rather longer; whereas Bob knew that only a political miracle would give him longer than 18 months. And having a longer time horizon certainly enables you to be patiently proactive in creating and building diplomatic initiatives, rather than essentially just reacting, however deftly, to events.

The other contextual difference was that I had the enormous good fortune of working to two Prime Ministers, Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, who each in their different ways had fine instincts for the issues and dynamics of international relations, and who instinctively understood the nature of the relationship which must exist between Prime Minister and Foreign Minister if things are not to end in tears, viz. mutually respectful, highly

communicative and interactive, and always willing to find common ground on sensitive issues and not to resolve them simply by the PM pulling rank.

Bob, by contrast, had much more difficulty in all these respects with Julia Gillard, although she did have many admirable prime ministerial qualities, including great professionalism in mastering complex briefs, and very effective interpersonal skills, evident in her international as well as domestic dealings, as I can personally testify.

But beyond the very different contexts in which we operated, we have also been very different in other ways. And I'm not just talking here about my total lack of interest in knowing what "steel-cut oats" are, let alone eating them, and my total lack of ambition – as will be apparent – in achieving "a *concave* abdomen", let alone one "defined by deep-cut obliques", whatever they might be.

There's a relentlessly pragmatic cast to Bob's approach to the world which comes through regularly in the diary – which I don't completely share, never having abandoned my belief that you can marry necessary pragmatism with a quite strong commitment to liberal, and indeed idealistic, principles. One example is the enthusiasm with which he embraced as a "masterstroke" Kevin Rudd's Papua New Guinea solution to the asylum seeker problem. We could all understand the need for a deterrent dimension to stop the deaths at sea of boat people, but I for one think that this needed to be accompanied by a huge diplomatic effort in the region to address the problem at source, which we never saw.

Another example is Bob's willingness to be, I think, much too kind – again for reasons related to stopping the flow of asylum seekers – to the Rajapaksa regime in Sri Lanka, which was responsible for some horrific violence against civilians in the course of its (otherwise entirely legitimate) military response to the terrorist Tamil Tigers, and has never made an atrocity-accountability commitment it hasn't breached. I guess Bob would go along in this respect with my friend Jim Baker, who said to me once when he was US Secretary of State, in that inimitable Texan drawl of his, "Well, Gareth, I guess you sometimes just have to rise above principle."

Moving to less fraught differences between us, an obvious one is that Bob is and remains – as he cheerfully acknowledges – a "media tart" of the first order, who absolutely revels in today's twittering 24/7 news cycle madness, and is never happier than when contributing sound-bites to it. I, by contrast – while not exactly, in my prime, a media recluse – can't help but regard today's environment as closely approximating Dante's ninth circle of hell

There is a more substantive dimension associated with this differing preoccupation of ours with the media. I saw set-piece foreign ministerial speeches, which I probably spent an inordinate amount of time developing, as really important tools of advocacy, record and instruction – crucial vehicles for articulating ideas about Australia's place in the world, and getting other opinion leaders at home and abroad to understand and wrestle with its complexity

Bob, by contrast, as he frankly acknowledges throughout the book, saw his speeches in less highfalutin' terms: primarily as vehicles for communicating his very engaging personality. Recognising, with his intimate knowledge of media attention-span, that no more than a few lines or sound-bites would ever be widely retailed, he took the view that there was not much point in taking substantive discussion much further than that. I think that was a missed opportunity, and that there is another one in this respect in this book, but it was an understandable call.

I think it's probably fair to say, while on the subject of presentation, that we also seem to have rather different senses of self-referring humour – albeit in neither case of a kind

sufficient to keep us out of trouble. I have always leaned to self-deprecation in this respect ('Whatever you do don't call me Biggles', the "Streakers Defence" and so on), being very slow to learn that this is very dangerous politically – not only in the world's irony-free zones like the US, but also locally, because there is always the risk that you will be taken literally, and regarded as being as big a dill as you say you are.

Bob, by contrast, learned early on that self-deprecation is for dummies, and there is plenty of evidence of his education in this respect in this diary. His preference now is for laying on his mastery of the universe so thick that the comedy ("I sing, I dance, I fly ...I am the master entertainer", "the wonderful one-legged Romanian deadlift" and all the rest) will be seen, as one commentator described it last week, as that of "a true satirist, a self-made grotesque". The trouble is of course, again, that even in the world's irony-receptive zone – in which Australia usually counts itself – there will be a lot of people out there who don't get the joke. But if he's cheerfully prepared to take that risk, that's his call.

All these differences duly noted, there is plenty on which Bob and I have agreed, and for which his efforts as Foreign Minister deserve attention and recognition, albeit not discussed in his book in the degree of detail I for one would have liked.

There was the new approach he pioneered to dealing with Myanmar, recognising that isolation and sanctions had largely run their course and there needed to be some greater international engagement with the military regime to edge it toward change.

There was the careful way in which he picked his way through the competing imperatives, in a rapidly evolving strategic environment, of keeping the US alliance alive and well but at the same time staying close friends with our major economic partner, China.

There was the role he played in overseeing the crucial last phase of the UN Security Council campaign, projecting an image of Australia as engaged with Africa and the developing world generally, committee to generous international assistance, and committed to global public goods like managing climate change and achieving arms control.

And there was what I regard as perhaps his signature achievement, his leadership role in ensuring, in November 2012, that Australia did not vote "No" on the UN General Assembly resolution to give Palestine observer status there. As Bob records me saying at the time, a No vote "would have been the worst Australian foreign policy decision for a generation", being not only wrong in principle, but leaving us totally isolated from every friend we had in the world apart from the US and Israel, and mortally wounding our credibility and effectiveness on the Security Council to which we had just been elected.

It's important to appreciate that while questions of eroding Labor support in Sydney's Western suburbs was a relevant factor in the debate for some NSW members, the argument in Bob's eyes, as in mine, was wholly about doing the right thing for Australia – and at the same time not acting against Israel's real interests but in fact very much in support of them. We had both come to share Bob Hawke's strong view – and no Labor leader had ever been a firmer friend of Israel – that the Netanyahu government, along with its rusted-on supporters in Australia who were lobbying fiercely for a No vote, was shooting itself in the foot with its intransigence.

On the question of those rusted-on supporters, in particular in the Victorian Jewish community, I don't think we should get as excited as the press has been in the last few days. This is a lobby group like any other, which wins some and – notwithstanding all the donations and duchessing – loses some. It influenced me to campaign vigorously against the Zionism as Racism resolution when I was Foreign Minister, which I was proud to do because the cause was just. But it also lost me – and my fellow Victorian Bob Hawke – when

it lost its way, as it has continued to do to this day, on the larger Palestinian issue. It certainly very strongly influenced Julia Gillard, but I am sure she made the judgments she did – clothed they may have been – on what she believed to be a principled basis,

Bob Carr took the view, as Bob Hawke and I had before him, and with the overwhelming majority of the Cabinet and Caucus agreeing, that pressure had to be mounted to achieve once and for all, and sooner rather than later, a two-state solution – without which Israel will be condemned either to lose its Jewish identity, or to maintain it at the price of ceasing to be an equal-rights-respecting democracy. And the UN vote was simply a legitimate way of increasing that pressure: it left full membership of the UN to be determined and final status issues to be negotiated, and contained no language remotely offensive to Israel. Forcing the issue in the Cabinet and the party room, and ensuring that the majority view prevailed, even if PM Gillard was deeply embarrassed in the process, was not about crude local electoral politics: it was about ensuring that Australia was not seen internationally as being on the wrong side of history.

The treatment of the Palestinian issue is about as detailed as the analysis and argument gets in this diary about the great substantive issues of foreign policy with which Bob and the Government – and indeed the region and the world – were wrestling during this period. And, whether or not he felt constrained by the rules governing Cabinet secrecy so close to the event, you won't find in the book anything very secret, and previously unsuspected, being disclosed.

But what you *will* find is, again, a wonderfully engaging account of what it's like to be *there*, where and when it's all happening, written with great flair and obviously huge enjoyment of life. This is a book which should fly out of the stores and on to the shelves of anyone with even a passing interest in politics and public affairs. And so it should. It's a great read.

**DIARY OF A FOREIGN MINISTER by Bob Carr, is published by Melbourne University Press**

### Youth suicide investigation

As latest statistics show young Australians including teenagers are more likely to die from suicide than car accidents, the National Children's Commissioner, Megan Mitchell, noted in opening submissions for her examination into intentional self-harm and suicidal behaviour.

Children and children's advocates raised the issue of intentional self-harm and suicidal behaviour with Commissioner Mitchell during her Australia-wide listening tour last year. The issue was also identified by teenagers who entered the [BackMeUp film competition](#), which the Australian Human Rights Commission ran in 2012 and 2013.

"This examination will look into why children engage in intentional self-harm and suicidal behaviour, as well the barriers which prevent them from seeking help," she said. "I urge interested individuals, government, private, and non-government organisations, to make submissions on the key issues.

"In the year 2012, intentional self-harm was the leading cause of death among Australian children and young people aged 15 to 24. And in the year 2011 to 2012, there were 10,009 hospital incidents involving intentional self-harm among children and young people in the same age bracket," she said.



The project will also involve a review of current research, targeted consultations and roundtables with experts, and hearing from brood and young people.

Commissioner Mitchell's findings from her examination will be in the 2014 Statutory Report to Parliament about the human rights of children in Australia.

To make a submission, go to [www.humanrights.gov.au/ssh-in-children](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/ssh-in-children). Submissions close **Monday 2 June 2014**.

### **Treasure Trove in sound and print**

Some of Australia's greatest stories, as heard on ABC's Radio National, and published in *The Canberra Times*, are now available through *Trove*, the National Library of Australia's award-winning free discovery service.

More than 54 Radio National programs can now be heard through *Trove*, with some content dating back to 1997. This includes every word of every segment from ABC Radio's flagship current affairs programs, *AM* and *PM*, from 1999 to today.

*Trove*, which was created by the National Library of Australia in 2008, gives users free access to resources collected by Australia's state, territory and public libraries, universities, cultural institutions, research centres and industry organisations. The material on offer ranges from raw data to books and theses, maps to photographs, music, artworks and diaries, postcards and sheet music to audio recordings as well as biographies. *Trove* also provides full text of major newspapers from 1803 to 1954, the *Australian Women's Weekly* from 1933 to 1982 and copies of some Australian websites which no longer exist online.

Manager of *Trove*, Tim Sherratt, said harvesting content from Radio National into *Trove* was a perfect fit for the National Library. "Trove is a unique discovery experience focused on Australia and Australians. By working with the ABC and making the Radio National content available via *Trove* we are helping to make Australia's great stories more discoverable," he said.

More than 190,000 records have already been added to *Trove*, with new program episodes indexed within hours of going on air.

To mark the digitisation of the 1975 editions of *The Canberra Times*, made possible by donation from the Friends of the National Library, the editor of *Emeritus*, Ian Mathews, a former editor and editor-in-chief of *The Canberra Times* 1972-1988, shared his memories of working at the newspaper in 1975 at a Friends of the National Library meeting in April.

### **First Australian to head international archive body**

In a first for Australia, the International Council on Archives (ICA) based in Paris, has elected David Fricker, Director-General of the National Archives of Australia, as its next president, the highest post in the ICA. He will take up the four-year position in October, when the current president, Martin Berendse from the National Archives of the Netherlands, vacates the role.

Mr Fricker has been with the National Archives since January 2012, before which he held a senior executive role in ASIO and, throughout his career, has worked for government and corporate organisations as well as running his own consultancy company.

He said, "I feel very privileged to have been appointed as president-elect of the ICA. It is recognition of the key role Australia plays in the international archival community and, in particular, our partnerships with Asian archival institutions. In this digital world, it is vital that archival organisations work collaboratively on a world-wide basis to face the challenges posed in preserving electronic records and making them available in a form that fuels the new digital economy. In recent years the ICA has transformed itself into a stronger, more focused and inclusive organisation and is poised to become even more influential across all spheres of industry, academia and government.'

## **PM's Science prizes**

Australia's best scientists and science teachers are being sought with the opening of nominations for Australia's pre-eminent awards for science and science teaching, the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science. With prizes across five key categories, this national annual award ceremony recognises outstanding achievement in science and excellence in science education. Nominations are open to Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents. Stage 1 nominations close on 29 May, 5pm AEST.

For more information and how to nominate a scientist access:

<http://www.industry.gov.au/Science/InspiringAustralia/PrimeMinistersPrizesforScience/Pages/default.aspx>

## **\$100m for Westpac scholarships**

Westpac is giving \$100 million private sector funding to promote university education, research and innovation to help shape the economy to come and create the leaders of the future.

To mark Westpac's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2017, the bank has announced it is setting up a fund of \$100 million to finance around 100 scholarships and awards a year from a wide range of disciplines for undergraduates, graduates and post-doctoral researchers. The scholarships will have a strong emphasis on innovation, technology, Asian study and assisting future leaders.

Compared with other similar countries, the level of collaboration between business and higher education and public research institutions in Australia is disturbingly low, according to Universities Australia which congratulated Westpac on its initiative.

## **Australia to sell uranium to Emirates**

The entry into force of a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia opens up new uranium sales opportunities for Australia, according to the Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb.

"This Nuclear Cooperation Agreement has been secured because Australia is a reliable supplier of uranium, and the UAE is a responsible user of nuclear energy for civilian purposes and this will open up a new long-term market for Australian uranium producers," Mr Robb said.

Australia exported 8,391 tonnes of uranium in 2012-13, worth about \$823 million. From 2020, the UAE would hope to import around 800 tonnes per year. Under the agreement, Australia will supply uranium for use in UAE's developing civil nuclear power program and cooperate in nuclear-related activities such as nuclear safeguards, security, safety, and nuclear science.

## **Horizon Scholarships awarded**

Sixteen undergraduate students from across Australia have each been awarded a Horizon Scholarship, designed to promote the career pathways that agriculture offers students entering tertiary education, while helping to address the chronic shortage of trained professionals entering primary industries.

Under the Scholarship, which is an initiative of the Rural Industries R&D Corporation, industry and government sponsors support the students throughout the course of their undergraduate studies by providing them with a financial bursary and professional support in the form of mentoring, professional development workshops and industry placement.

Two of the 2014 Horizon Scholarship students are from the ACT, Anne Warren, of Campbell, studying: Bachelor of Rural Science, at the University of New England whose scholarship is sponsored by Honeybee Program, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation; and Samuel Coggins, studying: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, University of Sydney and is sponsored by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

More information about the Horizon Scholarship can be found at [www.rirdc.gov.au/horizon](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/horizon)

## **Australian-Japanese Higher Education engagement**

Universities Australia is strongly backing the push by the Federal Government to accelerate and deepen university education, research and business engagement with Japan.

Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson recently travelled with the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott as part of a trade delegation to Japan and China. She said that while Australian universities have long had close relationships with their counterparts in Japan, a new strategy was needed to broaden and deepen higher education engagement between the two countries.

The New Colombo Plan includes Japan as one of four participant nations and is aimed at fostering broader and closer ties between Australia and the region. Ms Robinson said Australia and Japan were both looking at encouraging graduates who have the requisite knowledge, skills and work experience to be globally competitive citizens employable anywhere in the world.

She said, "Australian universities have a long history of engagement with Japan, but we cannot stand still; we must renew and reinvigorate the relationship. Australia must lift the number of students studying in Japan and encourage greater numbers of Japanese students to study in Australia.

"Just as Australia has the New Colombo Plan to encourage Australians to study in Japan, so the Japanese Government has tripled funding for study abroad. Australian universities are well placed to attract greater numbers of Japanese students. In particular, universities are committed to removing barriers that discourage students from achieving an international study experience", Ms Robinson said.

A higher education roundtable held during the visit was a "step up in deepening and expanding the relationship with the Japanese higher education sector", Ms Robinson said. Universities Australia is working on improving higher education engagement by exploring models for joint degree programs with Japanese universities identifying synergies in

respective research strengths and developing faculty and staff exchange programs. Australian degree programs offered to Japanese students often include English language and work placements to ensure a well-rounded study experience.

## **Have your say**

### **'Green tape' inquiry in Sydney and Melbourne**

The House Environment Committee will be holding public hearings in Sydney on 1 May and in Melbourne on 2 May to gather more evidence to its inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation, 'green tape', and one-stop shops for environmental assessments and approvals.

The committee encourages all interested groups and individuals to consider making a submission to the inquiry. The closing date for submissions has been extended to **Wednesday, 30 April 2014** to give interested parties more time to make a contribution. Submissions can address one or more of the terms of reference, listed below:

The committee will inquire into and report on the impact of 'green tape' and issues relating to environmental regulation and deregulation. 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/greentape>. For other information: contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email [environment.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:environment.reps@aph.gov.au)

### **Made in Australia? Truth and clarity in origin of food labels**

The House of Representatives Agriculture and Industry Committee is conducting an inquiry into country of origin food labelling. Committee Chair Rowan Ramsey says, "Despite an ever-increasing consumer desire to buy Australian-made food and produce, there is extraordinary confusion amongst the public over the 'Made in Australia' claim."

He says that recent data indicates widespread misinterpretation of the terms:

- Made in Australia,
- Product of Australia, and
- Made from Australian and Imported Ingredients.

He goes on, "Further, there have been claims that loopholes currently allow some importers of food goods to circumvent Australia's country of origin labelling requirements by staging imports in third countries. Such a practice could impact on Australia's bio-security and the competitiveness of Australian food in the marketplace. The committee is concerned by such reports and is seeking to address this issue in its inquiry" he said.

The terms of reference provide for the committee to inquire into and report on the following matters:

- whether the current Country of Origin Labelling (CoOL for food) system provides enough information for Australian consumers to make informed purchasing decisions;
- whether Australia's CoOL laws are being complied with and, what, if any, are the practical limitations to compliance;

- whether improvements could be made, including to simplify the current system and/or reduce the compliance burden;
- whether Australia's CoOL laws are being circumvented by staging imports through third countries; and
- the impact on Australia's international trade obligations of any proposed changes to Australia's CoOL laws.

The committee will accept submissions addressing one or more of the terms of reference until **2 May 2014**. Further details about how to make a submission can be obtained from the committee's website at: [www.aph.gov.au/agind](http://www.aph.gov.au/agind) or contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4500, email [agind.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:agind.reps@aph.gov.au)

### TAFE inquiry on the move

The Standing Committee on Education and Employment has now taken evidence in Sydney, Melbourne and Bendigo as it continues the public hearing schedule for its inquiry into TAFE and its operations.

The Committee Chair, Member for Herbert, Mr Ewen Jones MP says, "TAFE institutions in Victoria are currently facing significant challenges" with a focus on how the sector can be supported in its aim to provide high quality skills training and education opportunities, fundamental for economic health in the region.

Submissions to this inquiry have closed. Submissions received can be viewed on the committee website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>. 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 <http://www.aph.gov.au/ee>

### Adelaide public hearing for skin cancer inquiry

The House of Representatives Health Committee held a public hearing for its inquiry into skin cancer in Australia in Adelaide on 14 April.

Committee Chair Steve Irons MP said the Committee was keen to learn more about the innovative work of South Australian researchers, as well as the initiatives of community groups involved with either raising awareness of skin cancer or assisting people with the condition. Evidence was given by Representatives of the South Australia Health & Medical Research Institute, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Australian Melanoma Research Foundation and Cancer Voices SA.

The committee is investigating the awareness, prevention, early diagnosis and management of both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

"Melanoma is often called Australia's 'national cancer' due to the high incidence of this deadly disease in our community," Mr Irons said. "On top of this, non-melanoma skin cancer is an enormous burden on our health system, with well over 400 000 cases being diagnosed in Australian patients every year."

"The committee is interested both in the success of awareness campaigns in improving skin cancer prevention, and in the effectiveness of our health system in making sure skin cancer patients have access to the best possible diagnosis and treatment services."

The inquiry expands on concerns raised by the health committee of the previous parliament, which held a public roundtable hearing on skin cancer with selected national experts in June

2013. Amongst other things, this roundtable revealed that Australians have more than 12 times the global average rate of melanoma of the skin—the highest recorded incidence in the world—though our medical system is world leading in skin cancer treatment.

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

## **Women and girls in Indian Ocean-Asia Pacific region**

The parliament inquiry by the Human Rights Sub-Committee into challenges facing women and girls of the Indian Ocean – Asia Pacific region to improve their human rights is keen to hear the perspectives of women from across the region so it can make practical policy recommendations that will make a real contribution to women's empowerment and gender equality. The closing date for submissions is Friday 22 May 2014.

Further information on the inquiry, including how to lodge a submission, is available on the committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt) and from the Inquiry Secretary, on 02 6277 4318

## **The business of aid in the Indo-Pacific**

The Foreign Affairs and Aid sub-committee will receive written submissions until 8 May 2014 on opportunities to expand the role of the private sector in promoting economic growth and reducing poverty in the Indo-Pacific region. With the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade now also being responsible for Australia's overseas aid program, the inquiry will assess the relationship between the private and government sectors.

Details about the inquiry, including how to contribute, can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/jfadt](http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au).

## **Northern Australia inquiry returns to Queensland**

The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee is has held public hearings in Cairns and Thursday Island as part of its inquiry into the region's economic future.

In Cairns it heard from a range of stakeholders representing current industry strengths, such as tourism, and areas for development in agriculture, mining and tropical medicine. The potential environmental impacts of development proposals and the implications for resource management more generally were discussed.

On 29 April, the committee explored development proposals from the perspective of Aboriginal title owners. On 30 April, the committee held public hearings on Thursday Island to learn about challenges and opportunities across the Torres Strait. Torres Strait Islanders have traditional trade connections with Papua New Guinea and other regional nations but must now manage biosecurity risks presented by the close proximity of these neighbours.

Committee chair Warren Entsch said, "Northern Queensland is a dynamic part of Australia which is already attracting large numbers of international visitors as well as being a place in the sun for Australian retirees and those just wanting time to relax. But there is much more to the North than tourism: its proximity to key trade partners, richly diverse natural environment and resource wealth offers enormous opportunities that are still largely untapped."

The committee's inquiry has received over 200 submissions from regional communities and stakeholders from every sector, with many articulating sophisticated development proposals as well as identifying impediments to them. Submissions and other information on the inquiry are available on the committee website at [www.aph.gov.au/jscna](http://www.aph.gov.au/jscna). For more information: contact the committee secretariat: Phone: (02) 6277 4162 Email: [jscna@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscna@aph.gov.au)

### **Inquiry into the Business Innovation and Investment Program**

Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Migration is examining the Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) which is designed to increase entrepreneurial talent and diversify business expertise in Australia. The committee is keen to hear from individuals interested in the inquiry, and particularly those who have participated in the BIIP. The committee will accept submissions until 2 May.

Further details about the inquiry, including how to make a submission, can be obtained from the committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/jscm> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or emailing [jscm@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscm@aph.gov.au).

### **Foreign investment in residential real estate**

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will accept submissions to its inquiry into Australia's foreign investment policy as it applies to residential real estate. The deadline for submissions is 9 May 2014.

For the full terms of reference and advice on making submissions see the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/economics](http://www.aph.gov.au/economics) or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4587 or email: [economics.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.reps@aph.gov.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>

### **Additional Diary Dates**

**Privacy Awareness Week** (4–10 May 2014) is the primary privacy awareness and education event in the Asia Pacific region. For more information see <http://www.oaic.gov.au/news-and-events/privacy-awareness-week/privacy-awareness-week-2014>

**2015 Student Mobility Grants deadline:** Applications close at 11.59pm AEST **16 June 2014**. More information on [2015 Student Mobility Grants](#) on the Australian Education International website. Student mobility programs provide grants for Australian students to have a study experience overseas as part of their course. Grants are available for higher education and vocational education and training students to undertake short-term study or semester-long experiences around the world.

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

## The Flagship University

For those who want to immerse themselves further in higher educational matters, Karen MacGregor, Global Editor of *University World News*, offers this current edition's features.

In Commentary, **John Aubrey Douglass** presents the concept of the Flagship University – one focused on excellence and research but grounded in national and regional service – as an alternative to the World Class University paradigm.

**Richard Holmes** soothes fears in New Zealand that its universities are slipping down the rankings, and **Brianne Kent** contends that the publishing system is broken and academia should move to archiving and post-publication review to foster collaboration and free up more time for research.

In World Blog, **Roger Y Chao Jr** argues that improving higher education quality will be more important to internationalisation efforts of universities in the Philippines and Thailand than changing academic calendars. In Features, **Alya Mishra** reports on how universities in India have become embroiled in controversies during high-octane national elections. **María Elena Hurtado** looks at radical higher education reforms in Chile, and **Wagdy Sawahel** interviews Dr Marek Hrubec, a Czech philosopher who has become the first rector of a new university in Africa's troubled Great Lakes region.

On the 20th anniversary of South Africa's democracy, **John Goddard** calls on universities and funders to come out of silos and assume their rightful role as key institutions in building civil society, and **Annsilla Nyar** contends that far bolder steps need to be taken by universities if they are to do justice to transformative goals outlined in the country's National Development Plan.

And *University World News* reports on the **Mauritius International Knowledge Investment Forum 2014** held in London, aimed at advancing the Indian Ocean island's vigorous efforts to become Africa's leading higher education hub.

To register to receive this free, weekly publication, access:  
<http://www.universityworldnews.com/forms/subscribe.php?mode=subscribe&publication=UWorld>

## 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)

**The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in June, 2014.**