

# EMERITUS Vol 5 No 5

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## Picking up the pieces

There are various ways to describe the ramifications of the Federal Government's budget on the broad area of education and most stem from a variety of political vantage points. They include "devastating" or "constructive", "anti-science" or "pro-medical research", "HECS death duties" or "reasonable debt recovery".

This edition of *Emeritus* seeks to record or point to some of the views canvassed by critics and supporters of the budgetary measures taken as fairly as possible. These include comments from Universities Australia and various media reports.

The ANU Emeritus Faculty members are invited to join the debate at this month's collegiate lunch on June 4 when an article by Professor Simon Marginson, Professor of International Higher Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, will form the basis for a wide discussion on the future of higher education.

In his article, published in *The Conversation*, Professor Marginson writes, "In the short-term universities will sharply increase student contributions, to make up the gap in the funding of places resulting from cuts in the government subsidy rate, and to provide much needed extra resources. Also more private providers will emerge,

## Diary Dates

**June 4** The discussion at the collegiate lunch will be led by Liz Truswell based on recent events and responses to them, in particular, the article in *The Conversation* by Simon Marginson entitled "Higher Education: the age of Pyne the destroyer begins". So our homework can start with:  
<https://theconversation.com/higher-education-the-age-of-pyne-the-destroyer-begins-26483>

**June 18** 4pm "Calcium: a matter of life and death". Fyfe Bygrave

**July 2** Collegiate lunch. Noon for 12.30 pm. Will Steffen: "The climate wars: dispatches from the front line"

**July 16** 4pm "*Macropus portugalensis*; a kangaroo-like creature drawn in an early Portuguese manuscript". Ian Cowan.

Additional dates on page 17

cherry-picking cheap, profitable areas like business finance and health sciences. Because of the higher level of interest charged to tuition loans repaid through the tax system, plus the higher tuition rates, students will be hit hard. There will be much protest.

“In the long term, over a decade or more, a different system of higher education will evolve. The research mission will become concentrated on fewer providers, the word ‘university’ will break loose from the present requirement for research and become associated with many smaller teaching-only institutions offering no frills degrees, and some of the existing institutions will be struggling to survive....”

Full text at:

<https://theconversation.com/higher-education-the-age-of-pyne-the-destroyer-begins-26483>

**For those who want the education Budget detail see links to Budget papers on pages 6, 7 & 8**

### **Mr Pyne's non-sequitur**

In a letter to the editor of *The Canberra Times* of May 29, ANUEF member Adrian Gibbs wrote:

“In his article ‘My vision for higher education’ [[canberratimes.com.au](http://canberratimes.com.au), May 25] Christopher Pyne states that ‘university graduates benefit from a significant personal advantage, earning about 75 per cent more than non-graduates’ and concludes that ‘60 per cent of adult Australians who will never hold a degree are subsidising the other 40 per cent. It goes without saying that people who benefit so greatly from their university education should be making a reasonable contribution to the cost of it.’

“No, Mr Pyne, that is a self-interested non-sequitur. You and your cohort who paid nothing for your university education, and now earn 75 per cent more than non-graduates, should be paying the tax required to fund the next cohort of students. That is your investment in the future of the nation, just as your predecessors invested in you.”

In an earlier letter to the editor specifically commenting on the education budget, Adrian Gibbs wrote, “The 2014 budget reveals the intellectual poverty and deceitful mean-spiritedness of our neoconservative government. No-one disputes that a long term structural budget deficit has emerged from past tax cuts that had curried favour with electors by promoting personal greed, but what is the point in replacing it by a long term structural deficit of knowledge and skills by disabling science and education?”

“Creeping monetisation of everything (except, presumably, parliament and the armed forces) is not the answer, nor is a tax review that is as ideologically driven and narrowly focussed as the Commission of Audit. A good start would be a long-overdue national discussion on what is essential national infrastructure requiring full taxpayer funding. It is not just roads. Many of us would start by including all education to the Bachelor university level as well as healthcare. Why should we introduce, by stealth, American health and education standards just so that the government can buy second rate American aircraft, and line further the pockets of the wealthy?”

***Emeritus welcomes members' letters-to-the-editor published (or unpublished) in any publication***

## **‘Give us time’ says Universities Australia chair Professor Sandra Harding**

Universities Australia is calling on the Federal Government to delay the deregulation of course fees announced in the federal budget. It favours full fee deregulation but says there's not enough time to introduce the complex changes before next year as planned. In an interview Universities Australia chair, Professor Sandra Harding, said that while the new system takes effect ostensibly from January 1, 2016, "the decision was made that really there's a 14 May 2014 start date. So students enrolling from last week, effectively, to start their studies in the middle of the year can be subject to fee hikes from January 2016. And that means that universities now need to take implementation seriously at this moment because we need to be able to advise students about what it is they're going to be facing come January 2016.

"The challenge right now is that universities, therefore, are being asked to set fees in an unprecedented market environment. We just are not in a position to do that with any good sense. So there are couple of options. Universities might choose to match their domestic student fees with international student fees. That's the only undergraduate market at scale that we have experience of. Or, alternatively, we have to have a stab and make a decision about what we think the market might bear.

"Now the market, as you can appreciate, is going to have new players in it. There are new offerings. There are new conditions around debt repayment, new scholarship opportunities. There are so many moving parts here, it's going to be really a matter of some good fortune rather than good management if anyone lands precisely on the right market decision for their university.

"All universities will be having to figure out what their market position is and what fees they can and should charge to take account of the cut in the government contribution for student fees, but then also to express what it is the university itself wishes to be and the place it wishes to fill in the firmament of higher education.

"And for us to try and do that and give students entering from the middle of this year information about what they're going for, what lies ahead for them in 2016, we just can't do that in six weeks. This is a major change to higher education in Australia and what we need to do is make sure we get the design right. We shouldn't be rushing it."

Professor Harding added, "I think the Federal Government is listening hard at the moment. Clearly there's a lot of noise and excitement out there in the community about these changes. I think the sense is that if we are going to make a major change to higher education in Australia and this is major change, be in no doubt about it. This is a radical change in the true meaning of that word. We're going a place we have never been before. If we're going to do that, we need to take the time to get this right in everyone's interests."

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Before the Budget, Universities Australia outlined its position on higher education reform at a meeting on May 6, at which it agreed with the government that higher education and research drives economic and social prosperity, stating, "Public funding of higher education and research is an investment in Australia's future."

In the context of the reforms under consideration by government, UA agreed:

- It is critical that universities are funded appropriately and sustainably.
- In recognising the substantial contribution that Australian students make to investing in their higher education, the Australian government per-student investment in

universities should not decrease in real terms and the indexation formula should be at least maintained at existing levels to realise these investment benefits, in the national interest.

- In recognising the critical importance of research in underpinning national economic and social well-being and the reductions by government over time, investment in research should at least be maintained.
- Research infrastructure is an essential enabler of research and will require additional investment which should not be funded from per-student funding for teaching and learning.
- UA notes the debate around fee deregulation. UA acknowledges the case for price differences taking account of differing cost bases, and course and programme offerings.
- Should the government decide to pursue deregulation of fees, and in the absence of detailed information on the design of a deregulated fee regime, UA agreed that this required further consideration and analysis, recognising that Australia has one of the highest rates of private contribution to the cost of tertiary education in the OECD.
- UA supports the government's decision to retain the demand driven system and extend it to sub-bachelor places.
- UA is not opposed to greater competition.
- Extension of the demand driven system to non-university higher education providers should be predicated on ensuring the safeguarding of the integrity and reputation of Australia's quality higher education system; achieving competitive fairness and transparency; and the maintenance of per student funding to universities.
- The relative funding of universities compared with non-university higher education providers (NUHEPs) should take account of the obligation of universities to invest in research, public good and community engagement activities.

On **student financing** Universities Australia noted the government's intention to tighten up the Higher Education Contribution Scheme and FEE-HELP study assistance and agrees that continuing levels of unpaid debt and doubtful debt negatively affect the sustainability of the higher education system. "Any changes must not undermine the integrity of the internationally-acclaimed HELP scheme or act as a barrier to accessing higher education, UA says.

In seeking further consultation, Universities Australia said, "Without a full picture of the government's reforms it is not possible to understand all the implications of the government's reform trajectory. UA welcomes the opportunity to work with the government on a plan to deliver a world class higher education system for the future economic and social prosperity of Australia".

### **Sweeping changes to higher education**

Commenting on the budget, Universities Australia said the budget "puts higher education on a path of radical change that the Federal Government anticipates will deliver the twin aspirations of financial sustainability and the world's best higher education system".

"These reforms will fundamentally alter the shape of Australian higher education", said Ms Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of Universities Australia (UA). "Ongoing budget constraints and the fierce competition for public funds have seen public funding per student fall over time".

"There has been very little ability for universities to address the shortfall because the fees that universities have been able to charge have been capped. With full fee deregulation, this will no longer be the case," she said.

UA, however, has expressed deep disappointment that the government contribution to course fees will fall by an average of 20 per cent and the government payment will be indexed at a lower rate based on CPI.

It noted that while the reforms pave the way for an increasingly privatised higher education system, the impact on disadvantaged students will be cushioned by scholarships that universities will be required to offer should they increase student fees.

“By resisting some of the more severe recommendations made by the National Commission of Audit in relation to the higher education loans program (HELP), the government has sought to keep higher education affordable and accessible,” Ms Robinson said.

Although students will be required to make debt repayments earlier and at a rate that reflects the cost of borrowing, the changes are far less draconian than those proposed by the Commission of Audit.

“The changes to HELP represent a considered approach in striking the balance between student and taxpayer affordability without completely paralysing the price signal needed to drive the competitive market that the government hopes will emerge,” said Ms Robinson.

In deciding to extend the demand driven system and government funding to non-university providers, UA is pleased that further work will be done to ensure competitive fairness and that the relative government support appropriately takes account of the differing community expectations and public good obligations.

Having advocated long and hard for the continuation of funding for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy, the sector welcomes the continued funding of this critical infrastructure for a further year with ongoing investment to be the subject of a review.

UA said it was pleased to see the reinstatement of a long-term commitment to the Future Fellowships scheme supporting mid-career researchers.

“These programs are critical, not only for attracting and retaining the world’s best and brightest researchers, but in providing the infrastructure upon which Australia’s research capability is built,” said Ms Robinson. “In the face of change, our universities have demonstrated time and again their resilience, adaptability, creativity and ingenuity in delivering on their commitment to deliver a prosperous future for the country through quality education and research. While challenging for many, we’re confident this will continue to be the case.

“Given the magnitude and reach of the reforms announced in the budget, there will be a great deal of detail to be worked through. UA looks forward to working closely with the government to achieve our shared objective of creating a world’s best higher education system,” Ms Robinson said.

**The key elements of the reform package are:**

- Extending the demand driven system to sub-bachelor places and non-university higher education providers thereby admitting approximately 80,000 additional students into the system **(at a cost of \$820 million)**;
- Full deregulation of student fees from 1 January 2016;
- Commonwealth’s contribution towards course fees will be reduced by 20 per cent on average **(at a saving of \$1.9 billion)**;

- All higher education programs will be indexed at a lower rate based on CPI (**at a saving of \$203 million**);
- A scholarship scheme to be funded by higher education providers directing 20 per cent of additional revenue raised by higher fees;
- Ongoing funding for the Future Fellowships Scheme (**at a cost of \$140 million**);
- An additional year's funding for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (**at a cost of \$150 million**);
- Changes to the Higher Education Loans Program that would see the removal of the 25 per cent loan fee for undergraduate FEE-HELP, a slight drop in the HELP repayment income threshold to **\$50,638**, and the introduction of an interest rate equivalent to the 10 year government bond rate;
- The abolition of the Education Investment Fund with assets (**\$3.5 billion**) to be rolled into the new Asset Recycling Fund;
- Government funding for Research Training Scheme Doctoral Students to be reduced by 10 per cent (**at a saving of \$174 million**); and
- Efficiency dividend applied to Australian Research Council.

## Portfolio Budget Statements 2014–15

For those who want to check the fine print of the Budget, the following links take readers to specific areas of the education budget papers.

### *Education Portfolio Budget Statements*

- [2014 -15 Portfolio Budget Statements \(full version\)](#)

### *Department of Education Budget Statements*

- [Agency Overview and Resources](#)
- [Outcome 1 - Early Childhood and Care](#)
- [Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth](#)
- [Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research and International](#)
- [Budgeted Financial Statements](#)

### *Agency Budget Statements*

- [Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority](#)
- [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies](#)
- [Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership](#)
- [Australian Research Council](#)
- [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency](#)

### *Publications*

- [Overview of Higher Education Budget Changes](#)

## Education Portfolio Budget Statements 2014–15

- [Download Education Portfolio Budget Statements 2014-15 \(DOCX, 1.3MB\)](#)
- [Download Education Portfolio Budget Statements 2014-15 \(PDF, 2.9MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(Education Portfolio Budget Statements 2014-15\) details page.](#)

#### **Department of Education Budget Statements 2014–15 Section 2 Outcome 1**

- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 1 \(DOCX, 91.1KB\)](#)
- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 1 \(PDF, 0.6MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 1\) details page.](#)

#### **Department of Education Budget Statements 2014–15 Section 2 Outcome 2**

- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 2 \(DOCX, 107.4KB\)](#)
- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 2 \(PDF, 0.5MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 2\) details page.](#)

#### **Department of Education Budget Statements 2014–15 Section 1**

- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 1 \(DOCX, 147.4KB\)](#)
- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 1 \(PDF, 0.5MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 1\) details page.](#)

#### **Department of Education Budget Statements 2014–15 Section 2 Outcome 3**

- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 3 \(DOCX, 118.5KB\)](#)
- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 3 \(PDF, 0.6MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 2 Outcome 3\) details page.](#)

#### **Department of Education Budget Statements 2014–15 Section 3**

- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 3 \(DOCX, 184.4KB\)](#)
- [Download Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 3 \(PDF, 0.5MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-15 Section 3\) details page.](#)

#### **ACARA Budget Statements 2014–15**

- [Download ACARA Budget Statements 2014-15 \(DOCX, 112.3KB\)](#)
- [Download ACARA Budget Statements 2014-15 \(PDF, 0.5MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(ACARA Budget Statements 2014-15\) details page.](#)

#### **AIATSIS Budget Statements 2014–15**

- [Download AIATSIS Budget Statements 2014-15 \(DOCX, 117.3KB\)](#)
- [Download AIATSIS Budget Statements 2014-15 \(PDF, 0.5MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(AIATSIS Budget Statements 2014-15\) details page.](#)



### AITSL Budget Statements 2014–15

- [Download AITSL Budget Statements 2014-15 \(DOCX, 104.3KB\)](#)
- [Download AITSL Budget Statements 2014-15 \(PDF, 0.6MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(AITSL Budget Statements 2014-15\) details page.](#)

### TEQSA Budget Statements 2014–15

- [Download TEQSA Budget Statements 2014-15 \(DOCX, 133.2KB\)](#)
- [Download TEQSA Budget Statements 2014-15 \(PDF, 0.6MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(TEQSA Budget Statements 2014-15\) details page.](#)

### ARC Budget Statements 2014–15

- [Download ARC Budget Statements 2014-15 \(DOCX, 174KB\)](#)
- [Download ARC Budget Statements 2014-15 \(PDF, 0.7MB\)](#)
- [View this document's \(ARC Budget Statements 2014-15\) details page.](#)

## Human Rights and Ss18c and 18d

It appears that the government will amend its proposed changes to the Race Discrimination Act following widespread concern and criticism of its proposals.

The Attorney General, Senator George Brandis, was questioned recently by Linda Mottram on the ABC about possible changes to the Human Rights Commission. Asked if he would see the number of Commissioners changing as well as their subject titles, Senator Brandis replied, "All options are on the table but my approach to this is to broaden the focus of the Commission. It needs to have an anti-discrimination focus, no doubt about that because the right to be free of unfair discrimination is an important human right. But it needs a broader focus as well and my approach to the reform of the Commission will be informed by that ambition of the government to broaden the focus of the Human Rights Commission so it deals with all human rights, not just some."

Community groups have overwhelmingly opposed initial proposals to change sections 18C and 18D of the Race Discrimination Act. Asked what changes will he make to the initial proposal, Senator Brandis said, "That is something that is under consideration at the moment. When the public consultation period finished ... we had received more than 5,000 submissions, I think it was about 5,300 submissions. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the trouble of making submissions, whether they agreed with me or disagreed with me I want to thank them for taking the trouble to participate in that important process."

"Now, as you would expect, I am now going through that large body of submissions and that is a body of work that will some little time and on the basis of consideration of those submissions, as well as consideration of the earlier consultations I had face to face with a number of individuals, I will be taking something to Cabinet."

He added, "As I said in the interview with *The Australian* newspaper, the government didn't have a consultation period with the intention of not listening to what people have to say – so of course we will take the views that have been expressed. This is a very, very important debate. There is a large variety of views from all points of the opinion spectrum and we will take into consideration all of those views and we will arrive at a final proposal".



On the topic of his defence in parliament of the right of people to be bigots, Senator Brandis referred to former parliamentarian Pauline Hanson who “in anybody’s language, was a shocking bigot. Some of the things she said were really, in my view, dreadful things to say. Does anyone seriously suggest that there should have been a law to prevent her from saying what she said? ...I mean this is a person who led a movement that 15 years ago attracted at one stage in the State of Queensland the support of 23% of the electorate. Does anyone seriously suggest that the way to deal with the sort of social attitudes that Pauline Hanson expressed was to engage in political censorship?”

“The best way to deal with bigoted speech is to get it out in the open so people can see it for what it is. We had an example of this in the United States only a couple of weeks ago with Mr Sterling, the owner of the Los Angeles sporting team, who said some really, really offensive things. And President Obama’s response, if I may quote him, “with people like that let them talk, let them talk.” It’s much better to get offensive language out into the open and let it be exposed for what it is than to politically censor it and drive it underground.

“ By and large it’s what has happened but under the existing section 18C, the method that is adopted is a method that allows for the censorship of opinion and I don’t think - the Government doesn’t think - that that is the right way to tackle bigotry or racism.”

Asked if he was looking to make room for academic argument as opposed to uneducated, deeply racist slanderous comments? Was he drawing some distinctions there?

Senator Brandis replied, “I don’t think that in view of what I’ve already said about the consideration that I’m currently giving to the very large number of submissions that have come in from the public that it’s appropriate for me, as I’ve said before, state a conclusion about where this process might end up. But, you know, Linda, you reveal a particular attitude in the way you put that question when you say what about ill-educated people. Can I tell you, ill-educated people or poorly educated people have every much right to their opinions as everybody else”.

## **Human Rights Commission objects**

The Australian Human Rights Commission, in a submission to the Attorney-General’s Department about the proposed changes to the racial hatred provisions of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*, considers that the exposure Bill as drafted should not proceed. The Commission’s submission sets out concerns that any future draft Bill would need to address.

Commission President, Professor Gillian Triggs, said, “Any proposal to amend the law should involve extensive public consultation as it has the capacity to affect the human rights of all Australians, and particularly consultation with those communities whose members are most vulnerable to experiencing racial discrimination.

“Proposals to change the law are recent and it should be recognised that, in its current form, the Racial Discrimination Act as applied by the courts and administered by the Australian Human Rights Commission has successfully resolved hundreds of complaints about racial hatred over the past two decades. Any proposed change requires further justification.

“The Commission considers that the legislation could be clarified so that it more plainly reflects the way in which it has been interpreted in practice by the courts. That is, to confirm that Part IIA deals with profound and serious effects, not to be likened to mere slights”.

The Commission has identified key areas of concern with the proposed exposure draft, including:

- A narrow definition of vilification, which excludes conduct that is degrading; and limited definition of intimidation, which excludes conduct causing emotional or psychological harm;
- The Commission is concerned by the breadth of the exemption in subsection (4) of the Draft Bill. This provision is so broad that it is difficult to see any circumstances in public to which the protections would apply. Of particular significance is the removal of the requirement that acts be done reasonably and in good faith. The Commission considers that, at the very least, a requirement of good faith should be included. This would prevent racist abuse offered up in the course of public discussion being permitted.

[Read the Commission's submission.](#)

The Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson, has contributed to the Commission's submission but has provided [additional comment](#).

## **Obituary**

**Geoffry Norman Mercer**  
**June 1, 1962 (Adelaide) – April 12, 2014 (Canberra)**



Geoffry Norman Mercer, one of Australia's leading Applied Mathematicians, died suddenly on 12 April, 2014, at the age of 51. He was passionate about the sport of rogaining a rugged outdoor group activity involving navigation and endurance and suffered a heart attack while competing in the ACT Rogaining Championships with his partner, Alex Tyson. He is deeply missed by the Mathematics and scientific community, both in Australia and abroad.

Geoff Mercer's contributions to Applied Mathematics and Epidemiology were cut short at the peak of his career. If Geoff was to categorize his research area he would probably say that he was a "real applied mathematician" not just an "applied mathematician". The distinction was important to him as he liked to work in areas that were intimately linked to applications. This led him to publish papers covering a wide range of interests, resulting in over 100

journal articles, and the award of \$2.5 million in external grant funding, including ARC and NHMRC grants.

Geoff Mercer was born on 1 June 1962 in Adelaide to Nancy and Norman Mercer. Both his parents ended their formal education in primary school to go to work due to financial needs. However, they greatly valued education and Geoff went to the local state primary and high schools. Marion High was not renowned for academic achievement but he was lucky as his cohort had a small group of similar students with a desire to learn and sights set on University. Family life was simple paper round, gymnastics, roaming around the foothills with mates on their bikes (a passion that never waned), beach and caravan holidays and endless card games where he learnt how to bet and the fundamentals of probability. When convalescing after having had his appendix removed he completed the two weeks of maths work in a few days and just went on and completed the book. The teacher wisely provided another one and Geoff says he knew then that maths was what he wanted to do.

Geoff completed his BSc Honours in Mathematics (1<sup>st</sup> Class) in 1984 from Adelaide University and later his PhD (also from Adelaide University) under Tony Roberts working on shallow water waves and centre manifold theory (thesis title: *"On standing waves and models of shear dispersion"*). Geoff's PhD thesis was a substantial piece of work, with one examiner noting: *"This thesis deals with two distinct topics in mathematical fluid dynamics, each of which could constitute a slim but successful PhD. Together they comprise an impressive and substantial contribution."* Neither of the referees required any changes to the thesis.

### **Obituary assistance needed**

Sadly, Professor David McKendrick of the School of Management in the ANU College of Business and Economics died in April. Part of the brief of the ANU Emeritus Faculty is to assist the University in the preparation of obituaries of ANU staff.

The Secretary of the Emeritus Faculty would be pleased to hear from any member who knew Professor McKendrick and would be willing to write an obituary of about 750 words. If you are able to assist (or know of someone else who could), please contact [secretary.emeritus@anu.edu.au](mailto:secretary.emeritus@anu.edu.au)

### **'Failure in Latin' proved a boon**

Despite Professor Chris Bryant's considerable talents as a scholar in secondary school, failure in Latin precluded him from seeking entry to Cambridge or Oxford. Happily, his later career appears not to have been disadvantaged by this.

This is revealed in an interview with Professor Chris Bryant (previously Head of Zoology and Dean of Science in The Faculties, and Inaugural Director of the ANU Centre for Public Awareness of Science) now available on the Emeritus Faculty website: [www.anu.edu.au/emeritus](http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus) then go to the Oral History Project on the Home Page. The site contains an MP3 audio file, text synopsis, and jpg photo.

In 1955 Chris gained a County Award to Kings College London, where he graduated BSc with Honours in Zoology in 1958. In the same year, with a DSIR studentship, he enrolled for a PhD with Jim Danielli, the noted membrane biochemist. As a preliminary, Chris completed an MSc at University College London. He returned to King's but was so disenchanted with his research topic and conditions that in 1960 he transferred to King's College Hospital to work on the effects of anti-inflammatory drugs (such as aspirin) on subcellular metabolism in animal tissues, supervised by Mervyn Smith.

## Australia signs work, study and holiday deal with Greece

Young people including students from Australia and Greece will have the opportunity to visit and work in each other's countries, with the signing of a reciprocal work and holiday visa arrangement.

Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Scott Morrison, said, "This arrangement, when brought into effect, will enable up to 500 young adults from Greece and 500 young adults from Australia to enjoy a holiday in each other's country, during which they may engage in short-term work and study".

The one-year work and holiday visa differs from a working holiday visa as it requires applicants to have the support of their government, hold or be studying towards tertiary qualifications and to speak functional English.

Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator Michaelia Cash, said over the coming months, both countries would be working closely together to implement the necessary legal and administrative processes to bring this visa into effect.

## Scientists celebrated at Shine Dome

Awards were presented to some of Australia's leading scientists at *Science at the Shine Dome*, a three-day celebration of Australian scientific excellence from May 27 to May 29. This included the prestigious Academy Medal which this year was presented to two awardees, Australian physicist Professor Harry Messel and Australian of the Year Simon McKeon. Professor Jerry Adams was also presented with the Macfarlane Burnet medal for research in the biological sciences and delivered the Macfarlane Burnet lecture about his work in cancer research.

### New Fellows presentations

Professor Rose Amal FAA FTSE, of University of NSW, on photocatalysis — from material design to engineering reactor systems

Professor Ben Andrews FA A, of **The Australian National University**, on soap bubbles in spherical space

Professor Hans Bacher AM FAA, of **The Australian National University**, on using quantum optics concepts for new technologies

Professor John Bowman FA A, of Monash University, on evolution in the cycles of life

Professor Georgia Chenevix-Trench FAA, of Queensland Institute of Medical Research on the spectrum of breast cancer susceptibility genes

Professor Michelle Coote FA A, of **The Australian National University** on computer-aided chemical design — the future of chemistry?

Professor Matthew England FA A, of University of NSW on the ocean's overturning circulation: timescales, heat uptake, and impacts on global climate

Dr Elizabeth Jean Finnegan FA A, of CSIRO Plant Industry on DNA methylation: now and then

Professor Peter Gill FA A, of **The Australian National University** on quantum chemistry: the good, the bad and the ugly

Professor Barbara Howlett FA A, of the University of Melbourne on controlling plant disease: from genome to paddock

Professor Lisa Kewley FA A, of **The Australian National University** on oxygen: breathing the Universe

Professor Angel Lopez FA A, of South Australia Pathology and University of South Australia on mechanistic insights into cytokine signalling

Professor Stephen MacMahon FA A, of the George Institute of Global Health, on 'frugal' healthcare innovation — a global research priority

Professor Ivan Marusic FA A, of the University of Melbourne, on order in the chaos: towards taming turbulence

Professor John Miners FA A, of Flinders University on drug metabolism: from enzymes to rational therapeutics

Professor Craig Moritz FA A, of **The Australian National University** on understanding biodiversity responses to climate change — a critical role for museum-based science

Professor Margaret Reid FA A, of Swinburne University of Technology, on Einstein versus quantum mechanics

Professor Jamie Rossjohn FA A, of Monash University, on immune sensing of vitamin B metabolites

Professor Ingrid Scheffer FA A, of University of Melbourne and the Florey Institute, on shedding light on the sacred disease — epilepsy genes reveal novel mechanisms

Dr Brian Walker FA A, of CSIRO ECOSystem Science, on evolution and resilience in the anthropocene

**The 2014 Macfarlane Burnet Medal and Lecture** Professor Jerry Adams FAA FRS Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research on Control of cell suicide by the Bcl-2 protein family

### **2014 Academy Medals**

Mr Simon McKeon AO, chairman of CSIRO, and AMP Ltd  
Emeritus Professor Harry Messel AC CBE

### **Honorific and awards presentations**

2014 David Craig Medal Emeritus Professor Curt Wentrup FAA, of The University of Queensland on short-lived molecules: research on reactive intermediates and chemical reactivity

2014 Mawson Medal and Lecture Dr Gavin Young, **Australian National University** on Early vertebrate evolution — some contributions from the rocks of East Gondwana (Australia-Antarctica)

### **Early career Honorific awards presentations**

2014 Fenner Medal Professor Katherine Belov, The University of Sydney, on Genomes of Australian animals: the devil's cancer, defence and new elixirs.

2013 Ruth Stephens Gani Medal Professor Aleksandra Filipovska of Western Australian Institute for Medical Research on Regulation of mitochondrial gene expression.

2014 Ruth Stephens Gani Medal Winthrop Professor Ryan Lister of The University of Western Australia on Rewiring of the brain epigenome during development.

2014 Gottschalk Medal, Associate Professor Kieran F Harvey of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre on Control of organ size by the Hippo pathway.

2014 Nancy Millis Medal, Professor Emma Johnston, of University of New South Wales, on Stress ecology.

2014 Anton Hales Medal, Dr Julie Arblaster, of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, on the ozone hole and climate change.

2014 Christopher Heyde Medal, Associate Professor David Warton, of University of New South Wales, on ecology, statistics, and Rick Astley.

2014 Dorothy Hill Award, Dr Maria Seton, of The University of Sydney, on reconstructing vanished ocean basins.

2014 Pawsey Medal, Professor Geoffrey John Pryde, of Griffith University, on photonic quantum information science and technology.

2014 Frederick White Prize, Professor Chris Turney, of University of New South Wales, on using the past to understand and plan for abrupt future climate change.

### **Honorific Awards**

2014 David Craig Medal for research in chemistry, Professor Curt Wentrup FAA, The University of Queensland.

2014 Mawson Medal and Lecture, Dr Gavin Young, **Australian National University**.

2014 Fenner Medal for research in biology, Professor Katherine Belov, The University of Sydney.  
2013 Ruth Stephens Gani Medallist for research in human genetics, Professor Aleksandra Filipovska, The University of Western Australia.  
2014 Ruth Stephens Gani Medal for research in human genetics, Professor Ryan Lister, The University of Western Australia.  
2014 Gottschalk Medal for research in the medical sciences, Associate Professor Kieran Harvey, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.  
2014 Nancy Millis Medal, Professor Emma Johnston, University of New South Wales.  
2014 Anton Hales Medal for research in the Earth sciences, Dr Julie Arblaster, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology.  
2014 Christopher Heyde Medal for research in probability theory, statistical methodology and their applications, Associate Professor David Warton, University of New South Wales.  
2014 Dorothy Hill Award for research in the Earth sciences, Dr Maria Seton, The University of Sydney.  
2014 Pawsey Medal for research in the physical sciences, Professor Geoff Pryde, of Griffith University.  
2014 Frederick White Prize, Professor Chris Turney, University of New South Wales.

**For more details on the Fellows, awards, and topics access**

[http://www.science.org.au/sites/default/files/user-content/even-images/sats\\_2014\\_program\\_web\\_0.pdf](http://www.science.org.au/sites/default/files/user-content/even-images/sats_2014_program_web_0.pdf)

**Have your say**

**Foreign investment inquiry**

The House of Representatives Economics Committee held its first public hearing for the inquiry into foreign investment in residential real estate in Canberra on May 30.

The chair of the committee, Ms Kelly O'Dwyer, said that 'the committee is examining the existing investment framework as it applies to residential property and whether it still meets community expectations.

At this first public hearing for this inquiry, the committee heard from the Treasury and the Foreign Investment Review Board on the regulatory framework and also the current data for foreign purchases of residential real estate.

**For background information:** contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4587 email: [economics.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.reps@aph.gov.au) website: [www.aph.gov.au/economics](http://www.aph.gov.au/economics)

**Indigenous alcohol inquiry**

The House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs held a public hearing in Melbourne on May 30 as it continued to gather evidence for the inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The committee heard from groups and individuals including the Australian Drug Federation, Professor Marcia Langton, and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association and FASD specialists.

The Committee Chair, Member for Murray, Dr Sharman Stone said, "The Committee has been reminded by those giving evidence to the inquiry that recommendations must acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, both in and between communities and between individuals."



The committee is seeking help to identify amongst other things the many social and other determinants of harmful drinking, the different strategies to minimise harm and the role of pricing and access to alcohol (which influences consumption).

The terms of reference are available at [www.aph.gov.au/indigenoussaffairs](http://www.aph.gov.au/indigenoussaffairs)

**For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or [indigenoussaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:indigenoussaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au)

## New inquiry on defence industry exports

Opportunities to expand Australia's multi-million dollar defence industry exports are being examined in a new federal parliamentary inquiry by the Defence Sub-Committee of federal parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. The committee is seeking input from stakeholders including the defence industry as to how government can better facilitate export of Australian defence products and services.

Chair of the Defence Sub-Committee, Senator David Fawcett (SA), said the inquiry provides an excellent opportunity to identify barriers to the export of defence goods and services by Australian companies.

"The defence industry should be seen as a fundamental input to Australia's defence capability which means that we need it to be innovative and sustainable. One way to achieve this is for the government to encourage, and where appropriate facilitate, export to suitable nations" Senator Fawcett said.

The inquiry's terms of reference include examining government support for Australian defence industry exports, having particular regard to:

- identification of barriers and impediments to the growth of Australia's defence exports;
- how government can better engage and assist Australian defence industry to export its products;
- the operation of the Defence Export Control Office; and
- assessment of the export support given to defence industry by governments of comparable nations.

The sub-committee invites public submissions addressing the terms of reference for this inquiry. The closing date for submissions: **Friday, 11 July 2014**.

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

## Colombo Plan Mark II

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Brett Mason, has visited Jakarta as part of a regional visit focusing on the government's New Colombo Plan.

The New Colombo Plan is designed to increase the number of Australian undergraduate students studying in the Indo-Pacific region. The pilot phase of the New Colombo Plan, launched last December by Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, supports Australian students to obtain new study and internship experiences in the four pilot destinations of Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan. From next year, the New Colombo Plan will be rolled out more broadly across the Indo-Pacific region.

“The New Colombo Plan is about providing Australian university students with dynamic new opportunities to gain study and work experience in our region that will be relevant to their future careers, as well as to understand the cultures of our neighbours and to build new friendships and contacts,” Senator Mason said.

“By achieving these outcomes at the individual level, we are laying the groundwork to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific more broadly in Australia, to strengthen our people-to-people and institutional linkages, and to create strong and enduring relationships with our neighbours.”

### **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.

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>

### **Northern Australia inquiry**

The Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia held hearings and made inspections in the Northern Territory from May 19 to May 22 concentrating on the Northern Territory's trade and strategic potential in the pastoral industry, mining and defence support, in close proximity to Indonesia and South East Asia. It also held a hearing in Brisbane on May 30 at which the CSIRO spoke to its submission.

The committee's visit began in Alice Springs, the second largest urban centre in the Northern Territory, to enable discussion of key infrastructure needs and some innovative approaches to development in the central region. In Darwin, the committee noted that the Port of Darwin is the main outlet for Australia's live cattle export trade into South East Asia. As the service centre for mining, the offshore gas industry, tourism and horticulture Darwin also has Charles Darwin University with its many centres of expertise, including on tropical health, and its role in the delivery of education and training across the North.

The Chair of the Committee Mr Warren Entsch MP stated: ‘The Northern Territory has a lower population density than any other state or territory but, with its many natural assets and pro-development attitude, it has enormous potential to attract new residents and to expand and grow industries with benefits for all beyond the region.’

The committee also visited Nhulunbuy/Gove in Eastern Arnhem Land to support that community as it transitions from mining into a new economic model. Inspections at Bing Bong Station outside the remote town of Borroloola were followed by a final day of public hearings on May 22 in Katherine, a centre for grazing, mining, horticulture and tourism at the ‘crossroads’ of the North. Inspections of LNG developments in Darwin will conclude the visit.

Among the many individuals and organisations to give evidence were the Menzies School of Health and the Charles Darwin University

The committee's inquiry has received more than 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)

### 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

**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>

### 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 July, 2014.**