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**Postal address:**

PO Box 6050,
O'Connor, ACT 2602

Phone: **02 6125 5300** / fax: 02 6125 5262

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

Meetings venue Molony Room*
24 Balmain Crescent
Acton

Editor: **Ian Mathews** | Assistant Editors: **Giles Pickford** & **Connie Stamos**

*location map: <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/anuef_location_map.html>

Government promises 'round 2' on higher education

The Commonwealth Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, says the defeat of the Government's higher education reform package in the Senate on Tuesday simply means new legislation, including suggested amendments, will constitute "round 2" of the battle to change the higher education system.

Some cross-benchers, the Greens and the Labor Party all voted to defeat the Bill which had already been amended to meet some of the objections to student interest rates.

Earlier, Universities Australia said it welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that it would seek to move amendments to the higher education legislation but warned that these were insufficient to satisfy calls by the sector for substantial changes to improve fairness and affordability.

While the creation of a very modest structural adjustment fund, a guarantee that fees for domestic students will be lower than for international students, and changes to the Government's original proposal on student loans are a step in the right direction, these fall far short of what was required.

Diary Dates

December 4 Poet's Lunch. 12.30 to 4pm. David Walker (Lunch Leader) welcomes anyone who wants to come and listen. Everyone brings food and wine to share, but contact David in advance (dwalker@netspeed.com.au) to ensure that there are enough books.

December 4 *Aqua Incognita: why ice floats on water and Galileo 400 years on*. Launch by Professor Ian Chubb, Chief Scientist, Common Room, University House, ANU 4.30pm-5.30pm

Dec 17, 5pm ANUEF AGM and Christmas Party'. Agenda and details page 7.

More diary dates on page 20

In addition to the retention of the CPI interest rate for student loans, Universities Australia reiterates its position that a substantial moderation of the proposed 20 per cent cut to higher education funding so as to put downward pressure on fees, a \$500 million structural adjustment package, and the establishment of an independent expert panel to oversee the implementation of the changes are required.

Universities Australia welcomed concessions made by the Government after negotiation with Senators Madigan and Day which “demonstrate the capacity of crossbench senators to shape a new and fairer higher education package.”

The Government confirmed on December 1 that it would support key crossbench amendments calling for a five year interest rate pause on HECS for “new mums and dads” and retaining the interest rate at CPI (not at the Government bond rate).

Chief Executive of Universities Australia Belinda Robinson praised Senator Madigan and Senator Day for their constructive dealings with the Government and urged other crossbench Senators to work towards a new, fairer package.

"The elements that both Senator Madigan and Senator Day have put forward are very consistent with what Universities Australia considers to be a fair and reasonable compromise," she said.

"Universities Australia calls for reducing the magnitude of the Government's proposed 20 per cent cut in per student funding which puts upward pressure on fees and a \$500 million structural adjustment package to ensure regional remote and disadvantaged students don't get left behind," she said.

"By taking action this year and shaping a fairer higher education package, Senators can negotiate a compromise to benefit all Australians," Ms Robinson said.

Swiss and Australian researchers join forces with new agreement

The ability of scientists and researchers in Australia and Switzerland to collaborate on ground-breaking research and innovation has been significantly enhanced with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two countries.

The MOU, to encourage research cooperation through the exchange of researchers, was signed between the peak university bodies of Australia and Switzerland - Universities Australia and *swissuniversities* - in Canberra on November 27.

Signing on behalf of Universities Australia, Deputy Chief Executive Anne-Marie Lansdown said that Australia was honoured to sign the landmark agreement, which was the first international agreement for the recently formed peak body, *swissuniversities*.

"We are delighted to sign this new and exciting agreement with *swissuniversities*, an agreement that marks the next step in what is already a fruitful relationship between our two countries," Ms Lansdown said.

"Australia and Switzerland already have 74 formal agreements between individual universities in both countries, an increase of over 300 per cent in the past decade. While most of these of these agreements are for student exchanges, today's MOU will pave the way for a substantial increase in individual agreements focusing on research cooperation." •

The signing came just months after Australia agreed to work with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) on progressing another MOU on joint research partnerships expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"These partnerships not only lead to increased research output for Australia, but they allow our researchers to collaborate on frontier research and to translate this into domestic applications, Ms Lansdown said. •

The scheme will be open to all Universities Australia member universities with guidelines released in early 2015.

China-Australia FTA will further strengthen higher education ties

The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement recently signed in Canberra will foster an even deeper relationship with China in university education and research, according to Universities Australia. Attending the signing ceremony at Parliament House, the Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson said Australia and China already benefited from strong collaboration on university education and research.

"The Free Trade Agreement will further broaden and deepen an already close relationship on higher education and research between our two countries", Ms Robinson said. "In 2009 China became Australia's number one trading partner, in 2012 it became our number one knowledge partner and in 2014 we have taken this fruitful relationship to yet another level through the signing of this FTA. Since 2003, formal university agreements with China have grown by 171 per cent to 1,237 in 2014.

"The value of these agreements to Australia both in terms of productivity, trade, foreign relations and cultural understanding is immense. Today's FTA will help extend this partnership."

Ms Robinson said Universities Australia was pleased the agreement includes a framework to advance mutual recognition of higher education qualifications in both countries through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Education Minister Christopher Pyne.

"Universities will also support continued discussion of options for enhanced mobility of students, researchers and academics in both countries and increased marketing opportunities for Australian education providers in China", Ms Robinson said. "Our already extensive knowledge partnership with China shows just how strong our universities' desire and commitment is to doing business together - to teach each other's students and to collaborate in research and scholarship.

"The strong reputation for quality academic and student experiences in Australian universities has seen many thousands of Chinese students graduate from our universities both in Australia and through the delivery of our programs in China. These graduates are the basis of our future country to country engagement as they work in the Chinese government or enterprises with the benefit of their Australian education, research and networks."

The \$15 billion international education industry is Australia's largest non-resources export and third largest export overall.

Book Review

A History of the Modern Australian University

by Hannah Forsyth

Published by NewSouth, \$34.99 pb, 281 pp, 9781742234120

Reviewed by **Colin Steele**, Emeritus Fellow of the Australian National University. A former University Librarian at ANU

Hannah Forsyth, a lecturer in history at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney, begins her first chapter with the words: "In 1857 all of the Arts students at the University of Sydney could fit into a single photograph." Some neo-liberal critics of universities would argue that it has been downhill ever since. By World War II, Forsyth estimates that there were still only about 10,000 university students in Australia. Forsyth succinctly highlights the historical changes from a small élite higher education system, dominated by white male 'god' professors, to the current complex system, where more than one million students face major changes in higher education funding and settings.

Forsyth's book, written in an accessible and occasionally anecdotal style, fills a gap for those looking for a readable perspective of how we came to be where we are in higher education. The book, however, does need to be counterpoised with books that drill down in more detail into various historical aspects of the Australian university system, such as Stuart Macintyre's politically judicious *The Poor Relation: A History of Social Sciences in Australia* (2010). Margaret Thornton's *Privatising the Public University: The Case of Law* (2012), surprisingly not cited in Forsyth's bibliography, demonstrates, like Forsyth's book, how changes in funding régimes have altered the ways in which students approach higher education, as well as the way in which universities are governed.

The core of Forsyth's book derives from her 2012 Sydney University doctoral thesis, *The Ownership of Knowledge in Higher Education in Australia, 1939–1996*. Some interesting sections from her thesis have not been included in the published book, so the thesis is also worth seeking out online.

Forsyth's many vignettes remind the reader of key historical figures, such as CSIRO's Ian Clunies Ross, who played a major part in the 1957 Murray Report, which led to the expansion of universities under Prime Minister Robert Menzies. Forsyth's quotation of Menzies' 1959 confidential Cabinet comment that "money is the weapon by which oversight of universities will be secured" is particularly apposite today, given that it is the Liberal government's 20% projected funding cut that is partly driving the higher education deregulation debate.

Forsyth notes that the student revolutions of the late 1960s and 1970s helped the destabilisation of professorial, and thus university, authority and the process whereby universities became 'relevant' to the economy. The reforms initiated by the then Labor Education Minister, John Dawkins, in the late 1980s resulted in the greatest changes in higher education since the 1950s. A mass system of higher education could not be funded, as Dawkins and his academic 'purple circle' recognised, on the same basis as the historical 'élite' system.

If the universities then made a 'Faustian bargain with the economy', what will the current Faustian bargain over deregulation entail? Forsyth argued in a recent article in *The Australian*, "Vice-chancellors favour deregulation because they have lost their way." Whatever else, deregulation will not result in the creation of antipodean Harvards, as claimed in glib political statements.

Forsyth wants her book to be read by “intended, current and future students ... they too need a history of the university to understand the impacts of the current political discussions around the funding of universities”. Students, unfortunately, are the ones who have the least power in determining the outcomes of the current deregulation debate. They may protest, just as Joe Hockey and Christopher Pyne did in their student days, against higher fees, but it will be the politicians and university administrators who will determine the final outcome. The higher education debates in Parliament, in the first week of October, were essentially polemical and did not inspire confidence in rational long-term policy making.

In any final deregulated system, it will, however, be the choices of courses and the fees associated with them that will impact on future university frameworks. Even if most fees will be met retrospectively, students are surely going to expect more for their money. Universities will not be able to divert increased student fees to research, while increasing class tutorial sizes and relying on an ever-growing number of short-term contract lecturers. Forsyth highlights increased equity and diversity in the expansion of higher education, which must be preserved in market-driven outcomes.

One former Australian vice-chancellor has recently commented, “Students will pay lots more for the same old thing.” Forsyth hopes her book will show how universities “came to be all about money rather than knowledge and why students are the ones being squeezed”.

Forsyth adopts a wide interpretation of ‘knowledge’ to demonstrate “not only why universities look the way they do but also why the knowledge that they protected and promoted became so central to the world and the economy”. Her discussions of knowledge as a private or public good are framed within economic and societal changes. Forsyth’s exploration of knowledge takes her down some pathways which she does not have the space to explore fully. Thus, in her curiously titled chapter ‘Knowledge in the Age of Digital Reproduction’, she skates over complex issues relating to the creation, production, distribution, and access to scholarly knowledge.

Forsyth’s brief reference to the ‘publish or perish’ pressures, is shorthand for the dangers in the growing emphasis placed by politicians on the importance of university league tables, most of which rely significantly on publications and accompanying metrics. Stefan Collini, in his book *What Are Universities For?* (reviewed by Glyn Davis in the May 2012 issue of *ABR*), ironically observes, “Vice-Chancellors now keep as nervous an eye on league tables as do football managers.” Yet, most research publications are ultimately little read or cited.

Forsyth highlights the career problems for young female academics with children in keeping up with the demands of research evaluation exercises and grant applications. She also cogently documents a number of problems, such as the plight of short-term contract lecturers and postdoctoral fellows and the increasing fault lines between academics and university managers.

In the chapter, ‘The DVC [deputy vice-chancellor] epidemic’, Forsyth writes, “Scholars rarely feel their vice-chancellors represent them”, and later highlights the “DVC epidemic that extends into every area of university life, poisoning and corrupting the authentic, passionate pursuit of knowledge and learning.”

Forsyth makes it clear, on several occasions that she wants to rise above the many critical ‘Jeremiah’ writers on higher education. Yet, in the book, and, more particularly, in her blog and newspaper articles, she documents a number of higher education problems. It therefore comes as something of a surprise, in her short concluding chapter, that she states, “In many respects, higher education has never been better. Universities are no longer the small, narrow, elitist, male and unerringly white British spaces they once were . . . administrators

are no longer secretarial “girls” but respected professionals.” Historically, Forsyth proves that case, but the current debate has moved on. While Forsyth’s last words are, “Dwelling in the ruins is no solution”, she never really answers her final chapter header, ‘What Sort of University Do We Want?’ beyond short generalisations.

A History of the Modern Australian University effectively documents the development and evolution of Australian universities, but not where the system will end up. In that respect, however, Forsyth is far from being alone.

Published in [December 2014, no. 367](#) Australian Book Review

350-year-old forestry book donated to ANU

A 350-year-old book showcasing the tree-planting techniques in 17th century England has been donated to the ANU Library marking the 350th anniversary of author John Evelyn’s publication *Sylva, or a Discourse on Forest Trees*.

The book, which is estimated to be worth thousands of dollars, was donated from the personal collection of Emeritus Fellow John Dargavel, a forest history expert who taught and researched at the University for decades. The book contains information about raising and planting young trees for landscape purposes.

Evelyn composed the book during the Restoration period at the end of a brutal civil war in Britain, which saw King Charles II returned to the throne.

“I bought my copy of *Sylva* when I was a student in Edinburgh, and took it with me when I came to Australia half a century ago,” Dr Dargavel said. “It was once owned by General Sir Charles Pasley or his eldest son.”

Dr Dargavel says for tree experts, arborists and enthusiasts, the book is a fascinating insight into the techniques used in the 1600s – some of which could still be used today.

“People here in Canberra are addressing the same problem but with different trees and different soils. A lot of the techniques of the past have been changed and altered but the important drive and intention remains the same,” he said.

ANU Library has helped him with studies and research, Dr Dargavel said, and this influenced his decision to donate the book to the University. “I hope that this 3rd edition of *Sylva* published in 1679 will find a place on its shelves, and one day another reader,” he said.

University Librarian Roxanne Missingham said ANU was honoured to receive the only known copy of this edition of *Sylva* in an Australian library. “It is terrific to have it from John because he has used it as a resource with students for more than 30 years,” she said.

“It’s also a wonderful way of linking the history of ANU to the history of scholarly communication and then recording that and making that available to the students of the future.”

ANU has more than 26,000 rare books, and the third edition of *Sylva* sits in the oldest 10 per cent of the University’s rare book collection.

Sylva will go on exhibition at the W.K. Hancock Building for two months before it is moved to the Library's Rare Book Collection at the Menzies Building.

Agenda for ANUEF annual general meeting

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the ANU Emeritus Faculty will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 5pm in the Molony Room, 24 Balmain Crescent ANU. Members who cannot attend can vote by proxy. The meeting will be followed by the ANUEF Christmas Party.

The agenda is:

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies have been received from Josephine Flood, Jenny Goldie and Ken Taylor.
- 2. MOTION:** that the Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on 18 December 2013 be confirmed.
- 3. Annual Report:** The Annual Report from the Chair will be circulated to Members by email before the meeting. **MOTION:** That the Annual Report be received.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report and the audited financial statements for the year 1 December 2013 to 30 November 2014 will be tabled at the meeting. It is proposed that there be no increase to the annual membership fee for 2015.
MOTION:
 - (i) that the annual financial statements for the year 1 December 2013 to 30 November 2014 be adopted;
 - (ii) that the annual membership fee for 2015 be set at \$25.
- 5. Report of the Returning Officer:** A call for nominations for the election of members to the ANUEF Committee was sent to members on 11 November 2014. The Returning Officer will report. **MOTION:** that the Returning Officer's Report be received.
- 6. Appointment of Auditor:** **MOTION:** that Pauline Hore be re-appointed as Auditor and thanked for her pro-bono services.
- 7. Other Business:** The Chair will invite members to raise any other business.

The Warburg Institute 'safe – for now'

ANU Emeritus Faculty Secretary Jan O'Connor has updated details of a petition and subsequent events to save the Warburg Institute, London.

In a note to Friends of the Warburg Institute, Professor Margaret McGowan, Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Warburg Institute, wrote on November 6, "This past week the [English] High Court ruled that the Warburg Institute and its contents are not the property of the University of London, ensuring the Warburg Institute and the community it draws to together to be safe for the time being. However, the University of London has decided to appeal the decision, and this petition will be a space to watch for updates as these events unfold."

In a letter to Friends of the Institute, she wrote,
"I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Warburg Institute. As you know, the University of London is the trustee of the Warburg Institute, and holds it on charitable trust pursuant to the terms of a 1944 Trust Deed. We have been waiting for clarification from the High Court of what the trust comprises and what the obligations of the University of London are, and whether its conduct is and has been in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed...."

“The Advisory Council of the Warburg Institute is very grateful for the immense support it has received and continues to receive in regard to the case. We hope that the judgment will provide us with the opportunity to secure its long-term future”

An accompanying press release stated:

To the benefit and relief of scholars worldwide, the High Court has rejected the University of London’s claims that all additions to the Warburg Institute since 1944 belong to the University, and instead agreed that they form part of the Institute. Furthermore, the judge, Mrs Justice Proudman, held that the University is obliged to provide funding for the activities of the Warburg Institute.

Leticia Jennings, of Bates Wells Braithwaite, who advised the Advisory Council of the Warburg Institute, commented: ‘This decision ensures that the wealth of important material housed within the Institute will remain available, as before, in its entirety, and that the University will not be free to in any way restrict the access of the many scholars who use and rely on the Institute’s outstanding resources.’

The Institute grew out of the private library of the art historian Aby Warburg (1866-1929), who collected books in art history, literature, intellectual history, religion and the history of science and magic. As a Jewish institution based in Germany, the Institute was forced to close, and its very existence was threatened by the Nazi-organised book-burnings of April 1933. To escape destruction, the entire library of 60,000 books, as well as photographs, papers and furniture, were shipped to the safe-haven of London in December 1933. Many of the Institute’s staff also transferred to London.

After years of negotiation involving members of the Warburg Family, the University of London, distinguished scholars and philanthropists, the University of London became trustee of the Warburg Institute, to hold it on charitable trust pursuant to the terms of a 1944 Trust Deed. The Institute has since grown into a world class teaching and research institute, much respected and sought after by academics worldwide.

The Trust Deed obliges the University to maintain and preserve the Warburg library in perpetuity, to house it, and to keep it adequately equipped and staffed as an independent unit. Leticia Jennings stated: “The contemporaneous evidence leading up to the signing of the Trust Deed shows that the transfer to the University of London was on the condition that the University accepted these obligations. This judgment has confirmed that the University must maintain the Institute as ‘an independent unit’, and that the University is not entitled to use the name and prestige associated with the Warburg Institute to obtain funds, but to then apply those funds to the University’s general purposes.”

In recent years the University had charged a proportion of its total estate expenditure to the Warburg Institute, meaning that the once solvent Institute was left with a significant deficit as it was used, in effect, to subsidise the University’s corporate property. The judge held that the University’s conduct in this regard is not permissible and “flies in the face” of the terms of Trust Deed. The judge also clarified the important role of the University in relation to housing the Warburg Institute: whilst the University continues to own the building at Woburn Square, it has a binding obligation to house the Institute in a suitable building close to the University centre in Bloomsbury.

Despite the judge’s clear ruling, following a very detailed review of the evidence, the University has decided to seek permission to appeal.

In response to the judgment, Librarian and Acting Director of the Institute, Dr Raphaële Mouren, commented: “Whilst I am very pleased that this judgment appears to mean that the intellectual resources of the Warburg Institute, including its world renowned library, will be

preserved for future generations of scholars working in the humanities, I am very disappointed that the University has decided to focus on an appeal. I very much hope it will reconsider, and commit to working with us to strengthen the Institute for the benefit of the academic community and enhancing our corpus of scholars.”

The Chairman of the Advisory Council, Professor Margaret McGowan, commented: “The Advisory Council was pleased to receive the judgment representing years of hard work, and had hoped that the University would agree to enter into discussions and begin to work together in the best interests of the Institute and the University. We are frustrated that the University appears to wish to continue to spend its time and money on furthering the legal dispute rather than find a solution to secure the Warburg Institute’s long-term future. The Advisory Council remains very grateful for the immense support it has received regarding this matter, in particular from the American Friends of the Warburg Institute and from The Polonsky Foundation, without whom its successful defence of the matter would not have been possible.”

Conferring of Awards

The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on December 16, 17, 18 and 19 at Llewellyn Hall.

ANU Emeritus Faculty members are cordially invited to participate in the academic processions for these ceremonies. Please register your intent to participate via the following web address:

<http://students.anu.edu.au/graduation/emeritus-faculty-members.php>

You will be asked to select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend, and the area that you will be representing. A schedule for each ceremony is included on the website.

Registration will close on **Thursday 11 December at 5pm.**

It is the responsibility of each participant to provide their own academic dress. If a participant is unsure of the code of dress, the Examinations & Graduations Office (graduation.officer@anu.edu.au) may be consulted.

Assembly for all processions occurs near the Graduation Registration Room; there will be signs on the day providing directions. Registered participants are asked to assemble in this location, at least half an hour prior to the commencement of the ceremony.

Please feel free to contact the Senior Graduations Officer – Emilia Ciampa (x54648) (02) 6125 4648 or at graduation.officer@anu.edu.au – if you require any further information (or if you are unable to complete the registration form).

\$220,000 for Sir John Monash Scholarship

Dr Phoebe Williams, an ANU graduate, was named as the inaugural Sir John Monash Anzac Centenary Scholar at a ceremony in Sydney on November 26. The scholarship will fund her studies in Australia and internationally for three years.

The scholarship has been supported by a \$220,000 grant from the Anzac Centenary Public Fund and will fund Dr Williams' research into pediatric health in Kenya. Dr Williams is a distinguished scholar with qualifications from the University of Sydney, the Australian National University and Oxford University.

The Anzac Centenary scholarship recognises excellence and leadership in a range of disciplines. The Monash Foundation was founded to honour the life of Sir John Monash, who had great success in his military life and as a businessman, making important contributions towards the Australian community.

General Sir John Monash served in the Australian Imperial Force and served at Gallipoli. After the evacuation he commanded Australian troops on the Western Front and, in 1918, as Commander of the Australian Corps, won a famous and much studied victory at Le Hamel, before going on to lead the Australians through the costly but successful battles of the war's final months.

After the War, Sir John played a pivotal role in the repatriation of Australian service personnel from Europe and the Middle East to Australia. He became the General Manager of the Victorian State Electricity Corporation, held a number of other senior posts and led the push to establish Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. Upon his death, some 250,000 people lined the streets to honour the man widely regarded to be Australia's greatest soldier.

Beyond his military service, Sir John was a dedicated family man and a highly regarded scholar who dedicated himself to the service of his community and his country.

For further information on the Anzac Centenary Program and the Anzac Centenary Public Fund visit the Anzac Centenary website www.anzaccentenary.gov.au

Obituary

Michael Grafton-Green

1935-2014

Michael Grafton-Green died in Canberra on 8 October 2014, aged 79. He was a respected and contributing member of the Australian National University Emeritus Faculty and is sadly missed by his colleagues.

Music producer extraordinaire!

Keith Newman, producer for Radio New Zealand National wrote the following after an interview with Michael:

"Michael Grafton-Green walked into Abbey Road Studios in London in the late 1950s, and managed to score himself the best apprenticeship possible - as a technician in the recording industry, just as the music scene was moving into overdrive. He soon found himself in the studio working with a raft of rising stars from Cliff Richard and the Shadows, the Hollies, Cilla Black and Shirley Bassey to The Beatles. Employed as a tape operator, second engineer and disc cutter, a big part of the job was working closely with the artists and producers to determine which musical ideas could be accomplished using the early 4-track equipment. As recording technology improved, and artists became more adventurous, Grafton-Green worked on more experimental projects including The Beatles' *Abbey Rd* and *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* albums.

"In New Zealand from 1969 he manned the mixing desk at HMV studios in Wellington, editing tapes and cutting vinyl masters for local artists including Anna Leah, Quincy

Conserve, Blerta, Mark Williams, Rockinghorse and Lutha. These days Michael Grafton-Green specialises in restoring old recordings, including work for the Australian National University." *The audio interview can be accessed at the following link:*<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/musicalchairs/20130622>

Three of Michael's close friends recall his life and their time with Michael in the paragraphs below:

Dr John Wells, Auckland University Organist; NZ Director Australian & New Zealand College of Organists, writes:

"My first memory of Michael is of the two of us hunched over a Ferrograph in my flat, while he was splicing magnetic tape with a razor blade. We were editing – old style – the master of a vinyl disc recorded on the old organ in the Auckland Town Hall, then but recently rebuilt. That would have been in the early '70s. Recording equipment was bulky and heavy; a strong back was a prerequisite for a recording engineer in those days. I soon came to enjoy working with him, but his constant support and encouragement disguised an almost ruthless attention to fine detail.

"Michael was born in Hendon on April 10th, 1935, to Constance and George Grafton Green. He went to boarding school outside London during the blitz, then to King Alfred School in Hampstead. At the Aeronautic & Agricultural Engineering College he learned skills which were later to make him one of Abbey Road's best disc cutting engineers. His father, who was a film producer for J Arthur Rank and the editor of one of London's newspapers, arranged an interview with EMI who took Michael on as a disc cutting engineer and trainee music producer. He later moved on to the BBC Transcription Service.

"He began work at the Abbey Road studios in London in 1956, surely a most promising way to launch a career. He worked as a recording engineer and disc cutter (and that didn't mean compact discs then!). It seems that almost from the start he was catapulted into the most elevated company – von Karajan, Sargent, Schwarzkopf, Callas . . . but the list of musicians he worked with in light music and pop was hardly less impressive: Cliff Richard, The Beatles, Shirley Bassey and Ron Goodwin to name but a few.

"He began his career proper with the BBC Transcription Service and added festivals to his CV: Edinburgh, Aldeburgh (Britten), Bath (Menuhin) – this obituary is already sounding like some sort of *Who's Who*.

"Michael moved to New Zealand to work for HMV from 1969 to 1974. A special trip to EMI in Sydney, where he provided technical help with stereo disc-cutting machines and multitrack technology began what was to become a significant and long-standing relationship with projects and people in Australia. It was during this time that I first met Michael in Auckland.

"A short stint with TVNZ followed for Michael. I left NZ in 1975 and in the next year Michael moved to the Radio NZ Concert Programme as music producer, working in both Wellington and Auckland; he was Auckland's Executive Music Producer.

"In 1989, fate threw us together again as we worked together on a radio programme on the composer Alkan. It was his idea that we make a CD of this music on his Ribbonwood label after we'd done the radio project. I remember our first recording session at night in St Matthew's-in-the-City, Auckland: a storm was raging and after four hours, we had five minutes "in the bag". The next two nights went much more smoothly and the result was NZ's first ever organ CD. In those days he had to send the masters across to South Korea for processing.

"From 1994 to 2001, Michael worked in Canberra at the Australian National University School of Music. On January 25th, 2001, he married again: Colleen Rae-Gerrard, a long-time friend since he assisted her with her first LP in 1971. Freelance work then took him back to New Zealand and, for a second time, back to Canberra. He continued his passions

for sound consultancy, the restoration of old recordings and film production at the Wesley Music Centre.

“We went on to produce other CDs, none of which would have seen the light of day without Michael’s constant enthusiasm and generous support. The advances in recording technology during our time together were spectacular and editing techniques became vastly easier. The size of the machines shrunk almost unbelievably as computer and microphone technology improved. One of Michael’s anxieties in travelling with his gear was that he would leave some crucial component behind on the aeroplane seat, or that some minute pencil microphone would slip out of his pocket. These things may have been small, but the prices of replacements weren’t! I don’t imagine he missed the Ferrographs, although he was wonderfully recidivist in his love for enormous, old-style thermal valves, and Russian ones at that. He switched one on for me and watched with delight as the filaments heated up – it took a couple of minutes for the thing to be operational. But it wasn’t just sentiment – he maintained that they gave a more faithful reproduction; he preferred analogue (disc) over digital techniques (CDs) for the same reason. The valves, however, were kept at home.

“The only cloud over our working relationship was his great dislike of heights. This resulted in no little personal danger to myself on occasion, such as climbing inside the roof of the Timaru Basilica to let down wires to hang his microphones! There was also a particularly vertiginous experience pushing a ladder horizontally over the edge of the organ balcony at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Auckland. The microphone was to be placed on one end of the ladder, and not the safe end, either. The drop went straight down to the stone floor. “Would you mind . . . ?” he asked. I was tempted to reply that he might have to play the organ himself.

“He was a quiet but insistent perfectionist. He was always well dressed – very much the English gentleman and possibly slightly eccentric. He was an elegant man, not such a common quality these days, well spoken and interested in other people. I never heard him raise his voice despite the legendary frustrations and irritations about recording on location. The only time where our nerves approached the surface was in Rotorua, finishing up the last of four Bach CDs. We were completely exhausted from all-night recording sessions where we had to cope with a disco club just down the road and a church which creaked in the wind. We finished the last of three or four all-night sessions at 4.30am, just before the street cleaners came along in their noisy machines. An early breakfast (6am) at Macdonald’s beckoned but the final editing seemed endless . . .

“Being the organist and guests at his marriage to Colleen was a particular pleasure for Anne and myself, and it was great to be able to keep in touch when they lived in Hawke’s Bay and I used to come down for the Singing School. He was a long-time friend, a trusted colleague and mentor. I have many fond memories of Michael; I owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude and will miss him tremendously.

Tony Steinman, Retired post production manager Decca Record Co writes:

“In 1956 I arrived at Abbey Road recording studios in London to begin work as a young trainee recording engineer. Michael was one of the first people to greet and befriend me. He too had only recently arrived at EMI. We were of identical age and soon found that we shared many interests, some of these were of an eclectic nature such as railways, canals and organs. It was the start of what was to become a lifelong close friendship.

“After his initial training in the recording studio, Michael eventually became a disc cutter, a highly responsible job which involved cutting master discs for most of the top pop artists of the day, too numerous to mention by name. However, his own love was classical music, which he reserved for his personal enjoyment. Having duly served my own apprenticeship, I too became involved in disc cutting for a short while and was glad of Michael’s invaluable help.

"In the early 1960's I left Abbey Road to take up a post at their arch rivals, Decca. At about the same time Michael accepted a job at the BBC to take charge of their transcription department, but we still kept close contact. I have fond memories of meeting him at Broadcasting House where he introduced me to the delights of the BBC canteen. Whilst on a canal holiday together in 1968, Michael informed me that he had been offered a post at HMV New Zealand, which he had decided to accept and would be emigrating the following year.

"I received this news with mixed feelings. However, our friendship did not diminish and he would always come to stay on his UK visits, which were frequent in the early days. We enjoyed several more holidays on inland waterways. A few years later, he suffered an unfortunate break-up of his marriage but was soon to meet the lovely Colleen, a talented concert pianist who really turned his life around.

"By this time, I had been forced to take early retirement due to health problems and we decided to relocate to Scotland. My wife, Annette, and I have many very happy memories of the times that Michael and Colleen came to stay with us on their visits to Britain.

"Michael was a great friend who will be very sadly missed. His contribution to the world of music both recorded and live will be a lasting memorial."

In 1974 Michael was appointed Senior Technical Officer and Music Producer at the Australian National University School of Music. During his time there he pioneered direct-to-disc CDs for students' Graduation Recitals, handing them their CD at the end of the concert.

Larry Sitsky AM, Emeritus Professor ANU School of Music, writes:

"Michael always came across as the epitome of the English gentleman: a gentle man in every sense of the word. He spent a good number of years working at the School of Music, when it was still well-endowed and had funds for ambitious projects. Michael participated in producing many recordings with various members of staff, as well as recording students and various ensembles. Many of his productions appeared as part of the School of Music's historic *Anthology of Australian Music*, a milestone in the documentation of Australian music performed by Australian artists. Some of his recordings also made their way to the commercial market. The School was fortunate to have Michael when we did, after all his colossal experience in England.

"It was a pleasure to record with him, as he was invariably kind but with a critical ear, and always non-threatening, exhibiting infinite patience to get the result that he wanted. Sitting with him in the editing room, one could not fail to be impressed at his skill, akin to a Swiss watchmaker, as he honed the fine details and joined disparate bits, resulting in smooth flowing results often from quite problematic beginnings.

"There was a highly developed spiritual side to Michael which some of us were privileged to see and witness. I particularly remember a cleansing ritual which happened at the School of Music some years back, after a number of psychic disturbances in parts of the building. He was also a delightful companion over lunch or dinner and was inevitably warmly entertaining. He had his own brand of humour!"

Michael was the adored and loving husband of Colleen, father to Anthony, Suzanne and David; along with Kate and David; Papa to Charlie, Chloe, Logan and Hope; brother to Rosemary, Paddy and Prue; and Arthur Rae and Anthea Moller's brother-in-law.

For those of us who knew him well, his comforting presence will be sadly missed.

Emeritus Faculty Oral History Project

An interview with Professor Michael Gore (engineer, physicist, and founder of *Questacon*) is now available on the ANU website: www.anu.edu.au/emeritus, then choose Oral History Project on the Emeritus Faculty home page. Mike's entry contains an MP3 audio file, text synopsis, and jpg photo.

Have your say

New inquiry into Data Retention Bill wants submissions

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has begun an inquiry into the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014 and wants submissions as early as possible but by January 19 at the latest.

The Data Retention Bill seeks to implement a mandatory telecommunications data retention regime. It contains measures to require telecommunications suppliers in Australia to retain certain data for two years. The data would not include a person's web-browsing history, or the content of a communication, email or social media post. The Bill would also limit those able to access telecommunications and stored data to enforcement agencies with a demonstrated need and with appropriate internal procedures to protect privacy.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill states that data retention is necessary at this time as:

- serious and organised criminals and persons seeking to harm Australia's national security, routinely use telecommunications service providers and communications technology to plan and to carry out their activities, and
- agencies have publicly identified the lack of availability of data as a key and growing impediment to the ability to investigate and to prosecute serious offences.

The proposal for a data retention regime was considered by the Committee in Chapter 5 of its 2013 Report of the Inquiry into Potential Reforms of Australia's National Security Legislation. In that report the Committee recommended a number of features that should characterise any proposed regime and the oversight mechanisms.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Dan Tehan MP, commented that "Australia has recently introduced a number of counter terrorism measures to address emerging threats. The Committee has carefully scrutinised each of these measures and made a number of recommendations to ensure adequate safeguards and oversight are in place."

He added, "We will be considering the appropriateness of the data retention regime proposed in this Bill and its application to the investigation and prosecution of serious criminal offences and to countering threats to national security. Safeguards and oversight will be a key focus for the Committee."

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry. Please email the secretariat at dataretention@aph.gov.au by **Monday 8 December** 2014 if you intend to make a submission. Submissions are requested as early as possible, but no later than **Monday 19 January 2015**.

Public hearings will be held on December **17, 2014** and on **Wednesday, January 28 and Thursday 29 January 2015**, with the possibility of further hearings if required.

The Committee intends to report by 27 February 2015.

Further information about the inquiry can be accessed via the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjicis>. The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation.

For inquiry information, please contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email dataretention@aph.gov.au.

Education and more for Indo-Pacific development

Coffey International, a key partner of the Australian Government in delivering development aid in the Indo-Pacific region, gave evidence at a public hearing on December 1 as part of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry, which is considering how best to engage the private sector as partners in promoting economic development and reducing poverty in the Indo-Pacific region.

Coffey International is currently managing contracts in PNG, Fiji, the Philippines and Indonesia, Kiribati and Vanuatu covering services in health, education, financial management and governance capacity building. The company also delivers a major part of the Australia Awards scholarships program, which provides opportunities for regional leaders to study and train across 13 countries in the region.

The company has been working with the Australian Government in PNG since 2009. Much of the work done has been in partnership with the PNG Government including the internal revenue commission and customs. Coffey was also responsible for marketing and managing the Enterprise Challenge Fund for DFAT, which provided grants to stimulate business development in eight countries across the Asia Pacific over a six year period.

Further details about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, copies of submissions, and how to contribute can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jfadt or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

A focus on gender justice in the Indo-Pacific

Human Rights sub-committee took evidence on December 2 from Dr Helen Szoke, Oxfam Australia CEO, who addressed the hearing as part of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry into the human rights issues confronting women and girls in the Indian Ocean – Asia Pacific region.

Oxfam Australia is a secular international development agency whose vision is of a just world without poverty. The organisation has more than 500,000 supporters in Australia who contribute skills, time and financial support.

Oxfam's Submission to the inquiry stated that, "[a] focus on gender justice is at the heart of all of Oxfam's work. This means recognising the needs and rights of women and girls. It means supporting them to claim their rights and hold leadership roles in order to influence and achieve change. It means women and girls are: participating in the economic, political, social and cultural aspects of their lives; holding positions of leadership; accessing information, services and resources; and participating in decisions that affect their lives."

Issues under consideration by the Human Rights Sub-Committee the inquiry include:

- Violence against women and girls
- Women's leadership
- Economic opportunities for women
- Access to justice
- Education of girls
- Health and reproductive rights

Further information on the inquiry is available on the Committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/jfadt

For inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, on 02 6277 4318 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/jfadt.

Research on youth self-harm wanted

Data released on November 27 by the Australian Human Rights Commission highlights the need for further research about intentional self-harm, with or without suicidal intent, in children and young people.

In her statutory report to Parliament, National Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell has called for a national research agenda to underpin policies and interventions for children and young people engaging in intentional self-harm.

The report includes previously unpublished data from the National Coronial Information Service (NCIS) covering the period of 2007-2012, and the age ranges of 4-17 years.

This data shows a 657% increase in the number of deaths due to intentional self-harm when comparing the 12-13 year age range with the 14-15 year age range. There were 14 deaths in the 12-13 year age range and 106 deaths in the 14-15 year age range.

"The increase in the number of deaths in children aged 14-15 compared with those aged 12-13 tells us that we need to target our interventions much better," Commissioner Mitchell said.

"It is clear that we need to review the timing of interventions and support, and work with children much earlier to build resilience and encourage help seeking."

Data sourced from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) shows that between 2007-08 and 2012-13, there were 18,277 hospitalisations for intentional self-harm involving children and young people in the 3-17 year age range. 82% of these hospitalisations were for intentional self-poisoning.

"To find effective prevention and intervention strategies, we need regular and more detailed surveillance of death and hospitalisation due to intentional self-harm in children aged 4-17 years and a national research agenda", Commissioner Mitchell said.

"The type of data released in my report should be made available every year. Without comprehensive surveillance of intentional self-harm in children, our prevention and early intervention strategies cannot be properly planned or evaluated".

The report identifies a number of areas where empirical evidence is lacking, including how and why children and young people engage in intentional self-harm, with or without suicidal intent; the psychological mechanisms underlying suicide clusters; the impact of protective factors; the impact of current interventions and support programs; and the effectiveness of postvention services and gatekeeping training programs.

Commissioner Mitchell recommends finding effective ways to encourage children and young people to access appropriate help or support for early signs and symptoms of difficulties as a priority for the national research agenda.

“Strategies to promote help-seeking as a positive life skill and a sign of strength should be prioritised,” Commissioner Mitchell said.

The Australian Human Rights Commission *Children’s Rights Report 2014* is now available online: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/childrens-rights-report-2014>

To ensure responsible reporting of intentional self-harm, the Australian Human Rights Commission encourages media to contact Mindframe National Media Initiative via www.mindframe-media.info or call (02) 4924 6904.

Human rights teaching aids

The Australian Human Rights Commission has launched a series of new educational resources, designed to assist teachers in incorporating human rights issues into the classroom while covering core content from the Australian Curriculum.

The seven new *RightsED* resources address two important areas of the Commission’s work: promoting the rights of people with disabilities and raising awareness of racism and ways in which to combat it. The resources are targeted at students in Years 5 to 10 and cover the subjects of History, Geography and Health and Physical Education.

Speaking at the launch, Commission President Professor Gillian Triggs highlighted the importance of human rights educational resources. “It’s very important that young people have access to practical resources that give them a real understanding of how to put human rights principles into practice in their daily lives.

“These resources are mapped to the national curriculum and designed to give teachers easy to use, interactive, accessible teaching and learning tools to assist in introducing human rights into the classroom”

The new educational resources were launched at a RightsTalk event looking at the place of human rights in the classroom.

The event featured a panel discussion with panellists: Dr Phil Lambert, General Manager, Curriculum, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA); Justin Mohamed, Chief Executive Officer, Reconciliation Australia; Annabel Astbury, Head, Digital Education, ABC; Jim Asimakopoulous OAM, Manager, Abilities and Disability Awareness Program, Victorian Department of Education and Training.

Panellists discussed the role of human rights in the new Australian Curriculum and how to engage students with human rights concepts.

The events also showcased the ‘[Choose Your Own Statistics](#)’ website, coproduced by the Australian Human Rights Commission and the ABC. The website gives students the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of human rights through exploring statistics.

The new *RightsED* resources are available online:
www.humanrights.gov.au/education/human-rights-school-classroom

The resources are also available to teachers via the education portal ‘Scootle’.

Stronger role sought for the Parliamentary Budget Office

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit has tabled its report of the review of the operations of the Parliamentary Budget Office, which was established in 2012.

Committee Chair Dr Andrew Southcott said that the PBO had already made a significant contribution to transparency and accountability in the nation's finances. To build on the success, the Committee has made eight recommendations intended to strengthen the PBO's access to information and expand the functions of the Parliamentary Budget Officer to include medium term projections.

The Committee has recommended that the Parliamentary Budget Officer's right to timely and free access to information be specified in the Parliamentary Service Act 1999.

"A legal guarantee of access to information will support the cooperation that already exists under a Memorandum of Understanding and will bring the Commonwealth model into line with international best practice," Dr Southcott said.

The Committee also recommended the release of details of the Contingency Reserve and the removal of other barriers, caused by outsourcing or legislative provisions that prevent disclosure to the PBO.

"Full and timely disclosure to the PBO is important to ensure the reliability of its analysis. The PBO operates in a secure environment and Commonwealth bodies can feel confident that sensitive government information is protected," Dr Southcott said.

The Committee recommended that in future, the PBO produce detailed annual medium term projections and that the same 10 year timeframe be applied to the election commitments of the main parties.

"This will bring a more detailed and longer term view of government spending into the public arena. It will also apply the same rigour to the main parliamentary parties at election time," he said.

The inaugural Parliamentary Budget Officer, Phil Bowen PSM FCPA, has been praised for his leadership, especially during the early stages of setting up the Parliamentary Budget Office.

More information about the inquiry, including the full report, can be found on the Committee's website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au.

Government cool on Crimes at Sea recommendations

The Government has responded negatively to a landmark inquiry into crimes committed at sea, conducted in 2012 and 2013,

The inquiry was conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs, and looked at the arrangements surrounding serious crimes committed at sea. The inquiry focussed on serious crimes against the person, and followed from the coronial inquest into the tragic death of Ms Diane Brimble on a P&O (Carnival Corporation) cruise over ten years ago.

The inquiry made eleven unanimous recommendations aimed at better protecting Australians who take cruises, an urgent priority given the continued strong growth of the Australian cruising market.

The Committee has noted with concern that the Government response to a majority of recommendations was either 'not agreed' or only 'agreed in principle'.

The Committee will consider the response in detail over coming months, and will formally reply to the Government in early 2015.

Committee Chair George Christensen MP said 'The Committee is relieved that the Government has now responded to this crucial inquiry. However, Committee members are seriously concerned about the substance of the response. The Committee will consider the response in detail, and will have more to say about this extremely important inquiry in early 2015. This importance of serious Government action in this area is underlined by the recent disappearance of another individual from a cruise ship whilst off Australian waters.'

The inquiry report was tabled in June 2013, and the Government response was due by February 2014. The Government response has been published on the Committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs

The original inquiry report, *Troubled Waters*, can also be accessed on the Committee's website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=spla/crimes%20at%20sea/report.htm

Recent events

[Professor Barbara Norman](#), Foundation Chair, Urban and Regional Planning Faculty of Business, Government & Law gave a presentation, "**Transport options for Canberra**" on November 26.

The launch of the Applied Mathematics Endowment Fund and Technology Development Endowment Fund by **Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Ian Young AO**, on **2 December**, included an art display curated by ANU VC's College Visiting Artist Fellows.

On **December 3** ANUEF's Collegiate lunch discussion was on "The Nobels and IgNobels 2014" with Fyfe Bygrave and Adrian Gibbs

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>

More Diary Dates

Dec 5 Human Rights Commission launches Social Justice and Native Title Report 2014

Dec 8 Human Rights Commission launches Children's Rights Report 2014

Dec 8 Frank Fenner Foundation, in association with Sustainable Population Australia ACT branch and the producers from United Natures Media, will screen 'Surviving Earth' on at 7pm, in the Finkel Theatre at John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU.

Surviving Earth is an Australian documentary built around interviews with the late Prof Tony McMichael, Prof Tim Flannery, Prof Ian Lowe, Dr Ian Dunlop, Prof Paul Ehrlich and Bindi Irwin among others on the topics of resource depletion, climate change adaptation/mitigation and over-population.

The documentary runs for 95 min and will be followed by a panel discussion with Prof Ian Lowe, Julian Cribb, Dr Peter Tait, Dr Stephen Bygrave, the producer Peter Downey and David Holmgren. MC Jenny Goldie. Questions from the audience will be welcome.

Booking and other details below. Tickets will also be available at the door. \$12/\$10 concession.

Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/791851304210883

Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/GERG

Website: www.survivingearthmovie.com

Dec 8 at 2pm Professor Ian Young AO, Vice-Chancellor is host at the special ceremony to confer the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris casua*, on **Professor Steven Chu** at The Hall, University House, Balmain Crescent, ANU. The ceremony will be followed by a reception in the courtyard of University House.

Dec 15 Dinner with Shaun Micallef on *Eat, Drink and be Literary*, University House, 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Inquiries ANU Events on 02 6125 4144

Feb 10 Human Rights Commission, Sydney. Suri Ratnapala on the contested ideas of 'Right', 'liberty' and 'civilisation'. The nature of civilisation or its absence altogether in a given age depends critically on the kind of rights that prevails in that time. Many civilisations in the past were built on conquest, genocide, slavery and plunder. They produced wondrous monuments, great cities, immortal works of art and even profound philosophy but the condition of the ordinary person was one of abject poverty and servitude. One civilisation alone emancipated unprivileged persons politically and economically on a mass scale. That civilisation is our own. The author contends that liberty founded on a certain conception of right is what distinguishes this civilisation from those of the past. The defence of this achievement is a moral imperative.

ANZACS at National Archives

The National Archives of Australia has expanded the range of records beyond that available on *Mapping our Anzacs*. Postcards about love and war, photographs of internees and cultural aspects of the time provide a detailed picture of life beyond the official war history. *Discovering Anzacs* was launched at the National Archives of Australia on 28 October by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove.
<http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/media/media-releases/2014/46.aspx>

Supporters of **ANU Archives** 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

The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in February, 2015.