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Ideas wanted for Union Court

In a letter to colleagues, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ian Young AO writes,

“Over the coming months, you’ll be asked to have your say on the potential revitalisation of the Union Court precinct from Childers Avenue to Sullivan’s Creek.

“For many of us, Union Court is the heart of the ANU campus but a place with unrealised potential as a hub of campus life, learning and living.

“Over the past 18 months, there has been a preliminary exploration of options to revitalise and redevelop the Union Court precinct to create a true community centre. The University Council endorsed on 5 December last year the commencement of an urban design process to establish a preliminary design for the proposed redevelopment.

“Preliminary consultation with staff, student and community representatives confirmed significant desire for a revitalised heart for the campus and identified key elements that could transform the social and learning experience of ANU, including:

Diary Dates

March 11, 12 & 13 The Universities Australia Higher Education Conference at the National Convention Centre, Canberra.

March 18, Wednesday - Bill Gammage. “*The Biggest Estate on Earth*” Details page 13

April 15 - David Ollis (Topics to be advised)

May 20 - Adrian Horridge

June 17 - Suzanne von Caemmerer

June 30 - **ANUEF Annual Lecture**. John Mattick, Director of the Garvan Institute. Finkel Theatre of JCSMR

July 1 **The Research in Retirement Symposium** and collegiate lunch.

**More diary dates on
pages 20-21**

- an updated library,
- new teaching facilities and event spaces,
- a one-stop shop for student services,
- new shops, cafes, restaurants and services, including a new childcare centre,
- expansion of health and wellbeing services,
- a redefined Fellows Oval,
- more accommodation for students, including townhouses and apartments for postgraduate scholars and academic staff,
- facilities for ANU Enterprise, including a start up space for new projects, and
- extra administration space.

“Community consultation will feed into a master plan to be released in mid-2015 that will include design, cost estimates, possible external funding sources and an architectural design for the precinct.

“These tasks will allow the University Council to ultimately make a decision on whether such a redevelopment should proceed. The aim is to make a decision by the end of this year.

“There will be a detailed process for your input and suggestions during this design stage and further information on this process will be released next month. Your participation will be critical to successfully realising a renewal of the heart of our campus.”

Citizenship and the Constitution: join the conversation

A panel of Australia’s leading experts on the Constitution will gather in Canberra on **Friday, 20 March** to discuss what it means to be an Australian citizen in the twenty first century, and the community is invited to attend, listen on the Parliamentary website, tweet or submit video questions.

While changes to the Constitution are rare, a number of High Court decisions have challenged how we interpret our Constitution and the rights of citizens. In addition, a changing social and security environment may challenge how we confer or uphold citizenship.

The Social Policy and Legal Affairs committee will host a roundtable discussion to debate these and other issues surrounding citizenship and the Constitution.

The roundtable will begin at **9.15am** on **Friday 20 March** in the Main Committee Room, Parliament House, Canberra. There will be three sessions:

9.15am - Session One: *High Court decisions and their impact on the understanding of citizenship*, (introduction by Professor Kim Rubenstein)

11.00am - Session Two: *Rights and responsibilities of citizenship under the Constitution*

(introduction by Professor George Williams)

12.45pm - Session Three: *The Australian Constitution and citizenship in the twenty first century*. (featuring video and Twitter questions)

A full list of participants and a detailed program for the day will be published on the committee website (at www.apph.gov.au/spla) in coming weeks.

The roundtable will be live streamed on the Australian Parliament House website at www.apph.gov.au/live. You can also engage with the panel during the roundtable on Twitter using the hashtag **#auscon** or by tweeting at the House of Representatives Twitter handle **@aboutthehouse**.

Video Questions

Video questions should be framed around the theme of 'the Australian Constitution and citizenship in the twenty first century' and will be played in the third session of the roundtable. If you wish to submit a video question, please check the [Committee website](#) for criteria.

For further information about the Constitutional Roundtable and how you can participate, please visit www.aph.gov.au/spla or contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.

Action Now: Classroom Ready Teachers Report

The Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group Report, released on February 13, focuses on changes to initial teacher education that are practical and achievable, the Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, says on the ministerial website.

The proposed reforms centre on five themes:

- Stronger quality assurance of teacher education courses
- Rigorous selection for entry to teacher education courses
- Improved and structured practical experience for teacher education students
- Robust assessment of graduates to ensure classroom readiness
- National research and workforce planning capabilities

The Advisory Group's 38 recommendations seek to achieve improvements in both the content and delivery of initial teacher education courses in Australia.

To download the following elements of the report, access the following links:

[Action Now: Classroom Ready Teachers Report](#)

[Fact Sheet on the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group Recommendations](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions on the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group Report](#)

Government's response

The Australian Government has considered the *Action Now: Classroom Ready Teachers Report* and released its response. The [Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group – Australian Government Response](#) was released on February 13 and is available at:

[Fact Sheet on the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group - Australian Government Response](#)

Consultation process

The Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group, established on February 19, last year, was chaired by Professor Greg Craven and supported by Professor Kim Beswick, Mr John Fleming, Mr Trevor Fletcher, Ms Michelle Green, Dr Ben Jensen, Professor Eeva Leinonen and Professor Field Rickards.

The Advisory Group undertook an extensive consultation process, received over 170 submissions and reviewed wide-ranging evidence and international best practice to reach their conclusions and recommendations.

[Submissions](#) are now available online.

[Research commissioned by the Advisory Group](#) is also available.

[Download the Issues Paper \(DOCX 2.75 MB\)](#)

[Download the Issues Paper \(PDF 389 KB\)](#)

[Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group Members](#)

[Terms of Reference](#)

Universities Australia Open letter to the Prime Minister of Australia:

Public research infrastructure preparing for shutdown

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned members of the National Research Alliance are writing to alert you to the damage being caused to significant public infrastructure by the continued uncertainty over operational funding for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

Since 2004, NCRIS and its predecessor program has sensibly and successfully guided Australia's national research infrastructure investment; committing over \$2 billion of taxpayer money to 27 major research facilities. Together, these facilities:

- allow Australia's scientists to undertake world class research;
- enable significant science industry linkage, including the capacity for innovative Australian companies to access high-tech infrastructure; and
- facilitate international research collaboration, which provide substantial economic and intellectual value to Australia.

Over 35,000 Australian and international researchers use NCRIS facilities, and the 27 national facilities employ over 1,700 highly skilled scientists, and support and management staff. The facilities underpin much of Australia's \$30 billion annual spend on science, research and development at an operational cost of just \$150 million per annum (0.5% of total, and 1.6% of the Australian Government science funding).

As with any major public infrastructure, the NCRIS facilities depend on secure funding to enable forward planning and efficient operation. *However, with continued uncertainty over the 2015-16 operational funding included in the last budget, many of the NCRIS facilities are preparing to close.*

The damage to Australia's domestic and collaborative international research effort that will result from such closures is immense. Continuity and productivity of critical research programs will be set back by several years, with some innovative Australian companies will

be forced to take their operations offshore, many profitable international research collaborations will cease, and 1,700 highly skilled NCRIS staff could become unemployed.

Importantly, with just four months until the end of the financial year, the uncertainty is already having an impact. Many NCRIS staff have been put on provisional notice of termination, and the consequent exodus of highly specialised skills has begun and will only accelerate as the end of the year draws closer.

Furthermore, many of the facilities cannot be viably maintained if taken offline for significant periods. This means that if operational funding for 2015-16 is not confirmed in the next two months, the government will be effectively decommissioning high-cost public infrastructure that in many cases has years if not decades of productive working life remaining.

The National Research Alliance urges the government to fulfil its responsibility to fund the NCRIS program in 2015-16, and to use the NCRIS review that is already underway as an opportunity to find a long-term funding solution for research infrastructure in Australia.

If this does not happen, the locking of lab doors, the mothballing of world class facilities and the retrenching of specialist scientists and research staff will inevitably begin soon.

Yours sincerely,

- Dr Ross Smith, President, Science and Technology Australia
- Ms Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive, Universities Australia
- Professor Doug Hilton, President, Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI)
- Dr John Beaton, Executive Director, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
- Professor Andrew Holmes, President, Australian Academy of Science
- Ms Robyn Porter, President, Professional Scientists Australia
- Dr Phoebe Phillips, President, Australian Society for Medical Research
- Dr Margaret Hartley, Chief Executive, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering
- Dr Caroline Perkins, Executive Director, Regional Universities Network
- Elizabeth Foley, CEO and managing Director, Research Australia
- Mr Conor King, Executive Director, Innovative Research Universities
- Professor John Fitzgerald FAHA, President, Australian Academy of the Humanities
- Ms Vicki Thomson, Chief Executive, The Group of Eight
- Dr Tony Peacock, Chief Executive, Cooperative Research Centres Association
- Ms Renee Hindmarsh, Executive Director, Australian Technology Network

The National Research Alliance was established in 2013 as a broad-based grouping of Australia's scientific, university and public and private sector research organisations, each of which is concerned about the scientific and financial loss that would be incurred by the nation should the NCRIS program be discontinued.

Ambitious teacher education agenda will benefit students and parents

The Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group (TMAG) report and the government's response both outline a practical and ambitious teacher education strategy broadly supported by Universities Australia.

The report, *Action Now: Classroom Ready Teachers*, and the response cover five main areas:

1. Stronger quality assurance of teaching courses;
2. Teaching student selection;
3. Improvements to practical experience;
4. Assessment of classroom readiness; and
5. Research and workforce planning.

"Australia has a strong teacher education system but this report makes it clear that improvements are needed if we are to stand with the world's best," said Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson.

"The Advisory Group's practical, evidence-based report provides a solid basis for reform that will give assurance to students, parents and the community that our children are being taught by world class educators.

"The Advisory Group makes the strong point that creating great teachers isn't an isolated task, it requires strong partnerships between universities, schools and governments - both Federal and State.

"The decision to avoid imposing blunt, simplistic solutions to university teaching student selection is particularly applauded by the sector. By recommending that universities use a range of transparent academic and personal characteristics when selecting teaching students, the Advisory Group and the government have demonstrated a commitment to best practice in the interests of parents, children, students and universities.

"Universities Australia has been working closely with the Deans of Education and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership on national measures to support teacher education quality and looks forward to further developing these.

"The government has outlined a large and ambitious work plan and Universities Australia welcomes the opportunity to work with the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership and other bodies on its implementation."

Ms Robinson also expressed gratitude to Universities Australia Board member and Vice Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University Professor Greg Craven, who played a central role in the deliberations of the Advisory Group.

Professor Barney Glover elected new Chair of Universities Australia

The Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Western Sydney Professor Barney Glover, will become the next Chair of Universities Australia, the current Chair, Professor Sandra Harding, has announced.

Professor Glover was elected unopposed and will take up his new position on May 19. A seasoned academic leader with broad ranging experience across the university sector, Professor Glover holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics. He is also active in business and academic leadership through membership of boards including the Business Higher Education Round Table.

Educated at the University of Melbourne, Professor Glover held executive positions at an Australian Technology Network university, two Innovative Research Universities and started his career in a regional university in Victoria, now part of the Regional Universities Network.

"Professor Glover will make an outstanding Chair of Universities Australia. In his career Professor Glover has demonstrated a deep knowledge and executive leadership role in research and a passionate commitment to encouraging broader participation in higher education," said Professor Harding as she congratulated her successor.

"Indeed the University of Western Sydney is something of a microcosm of contemporary Australia with its hallmark diversity, inclusiveness and determined aspiration to improve the world. Professor Glover has been very much a part of that thrilling progression to wider participation in higher education, of which we are all proud", Professor Harding said.

Professor Glover thanked Professor Harding for her inspired leadership of Universities Australia over the past two years at a time of unprecedented change in higher education policy.

"As UA Chair, Sandra has displayed determined advocacy, leadership and an unswerving commitment to the strong ideals of the sector to serve students and contribute to economic and social progress.

"She has presided over UA at a time when there have been cuts in public investment announced by governments and the plan to deregulate university fees. As Co-Vice Chair of the New Colombo Plan Reference Group and a member of the Australia China Council Board she has driven deeper international engagement benefiting students, universities, researchers and the nation. Under her leadership UA has been able to overturn the proposed plan to cap self-education tax rebates and to lift awareness of the benefits of university education and research including research infrastructure. Through her unflagging determination to fully consult her colleagues at all times, she has ensured UA has built a strong platform of respect, leadership and advocacy.

"I am looking forward to building on her hard work and achievements", Professor Glover said.

Death of former Vice Chancellor

Emeritus Professor Anthony Low died on February 12, at Jindalee Nursing Home, Narrabundah. A packed funeral service was held at St John the Baptist's Anglican Church, Reid on February 19.

Professor Donald Anthony Low was previously Vice Chancellor of ANU (1975 – 1982) and Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies (1973-75). He also held senior positions in Cambridge University, the University of Sussex, and Makerere University (Uganda). He was African correspondent for *The Times* (London) during the late 1950s.

His two daughters, Penny and Angela, and son Adam, were with their parents at the time of Anthony's death. His widow, Belle, asked specially that ANU Emeritus Faculty be advised of the sad news. She and her daughters have been helping put together an oral history of Anthony's ANU years. That project will be completed in due course, as part of Emeritus Faculty's Oral History Project.

Obituary

Public Health Great: Emeritus Professor Tony McMichael AO

By Colin Butler and Bob Douglas

Professor Tony McMichael, the world's leading scholar and commentator on the relationship between climate change and human health, has died in Canberra aged 71. Many people aspire to make the world a better place, few have succeeded in this task as he did.

Following his undergraduate medical student days at Adelaide University McMichael was elected as President of the National Union of Australian University Students (now the NUS). After a short stint in general practice he undertook doctoral research studies on the mental wellbeing of university students under the supervision of Professor Basil Hetzel at Monash University.

Encouraged by René Dubos, the Pulitzer Prize winning visionary for planetary health, McMichael undertook postdoctoral studies in occupational health in Chapel Hill, North Carolina USA. In that context he achieved widespread recognition for his epidemiological work on the health of rubber workers, coining the term “the healthy worker effect”. He then returned to Australia to lead an epidemiologic unit in the CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition, which explored nutritional determinants of a range of health outcomes. With Hetzel, then head of that division, he published *The LS Factor*, an important text each of whose chapters were enlivened by cartoons.

McMichael, an epidemiologic all-rounder was becoming, by the early eighties, particularly interested in the application of epidemiology to the evolving crisis around climate change. He became the Foundation Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Adelaide in the mid-80s and in that setting he published *Planetary Overload: Global Environmental Change and Human Health* in 1993. This was quickly recognised as a classic, and it set the scene for his subsequent career.

In the following year McMichael accepted arguably the most prestigious chair in epidemiology in the United Kingdom, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He set a cracking pace on research into the relationship between human health and climate change and became the world's leader of this field of research, working closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Health Organisation and various other United Nations agencies.

We were both delighted when in 2001, Professor McMichael was appointed to become Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University (ANU), an influential position he held with distinction for five years. During that period, he was in constant demand as the pre-eminent international authority on health aspects of climate change. He maintained his administrative and leading scholar responsibilities at ANU and a punishing schedule of international travel, even after the Festschrift that marked his retirement from the ANU in late 2012. The book associated with the Festschrift, called *Health of People, Places and Planet. Reflections based on Tony McMichael's four decades of contribution to epidemiological understanding* will appear next year, it will be available for free download.

McMichael has long emphasized the central importance of human health to the environmental debate. In so doing, he has led an outstanding team of researchers not only at the ANU but globally. He has brought great distinction to ANU, including through his award of an Australia Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

His national and international standing has been recognised in many other ways, including by Presidencies of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiology, and the Public Health Association of Australia, in its formative years, a post to which he brought great distinction. In 2011 he was elected to the US National Academy of Science, not only in recognition of his founding role in linking human health impact to global environmental change, but also for his important role in documenting the harm that lead exposure causes to cognitive development. This was vital in leading to the now almost universal abolition of lead in petrol. Professor McMichael was also a wonderfully supportive leader and contributor, not only for members of his various research teams and his postgraduate students but also to many groups and institutions. He chaired the Board of the Australia Institute for several years. He contributed significantly to the Canberra-based Nature and Society Forum (now the Frank Fenner Foundation), the Sydney-based Climate Institute and Doctors for the Environment Australia, for whom he became the first scientific advisor.

Tony was a Fellow at Chatham House on Global Health Security and held honorary positions at the University of Copenhagen and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He played a significant role in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, especially by linking ecosystem change to human wellbeing, including health. He had many other Fellowships: including the Australian Academy of Technical Sciences and Engineering (2003), the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (1996) and the Public Health Association of Australia (2007).

His work has been recognised by several leading global journals, including a personal one-page profile in *The Lancet* which justly called him a visionary of the environment-health interface. He published many articles in *The Lancet*, and also in the *British Medical Journal*, the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Science*.

Shortly before his death he led an open letter, co-signed by eleven Australian public health leaders, calling on the Prime Minister to include human-induced climate change and its serious health consequences on the agenda for the forthcoming G20 meeting. Tony McMichael contributed massively to many phases of Australian, US and British academic life. He chaired and co-chaired numerous technical working groups across a very broad range of public health topics including for the Special Programme on Tropical Diseases Research. He remained in demand as a keynote speaker almost until his passing (for example to the International Epidemiological Association in Alaska in August 2014). He maintained a stunning publication output in peer-reviewed journals, books, chapters and other publications.

Tony McMichael was a truly distinguished Australian who has made an enduring contribution in many fields of endeavor. We regard him as one of Australia's intellectual giants, and in many ways the heir of René Dubos. His work, while honored, is far from complete, not least in Australia, where denial of Limits to Growth and other evidence Planetary Overload remains seemingly entrenched.

McMichael died less than a week after the largest global climate protest in history. US President Obama, assisted by the recent steep fall in price of solar and some other forms of renewable energy, appears to understand the job-creating, economy-saving and civilisation-preserving potential of a rapid transition to clean global energy. If we are to survive as an advanced, wise and compassionate species, the work of people like Tony McMichael will be seen as fundamental to the transition in which we are engaged.

We will miss his inspiration, humour, knowledge and leadership.

McMichael loved music and was an accomplished pianist. He is survived by his wife Judith, two daughters, Anna and Celia, brothers Phil and Robert, and four grandchildren, Lucian,

Darius, Elias and Erica.

Professor Colin Butler of the University of Canberra was one of McMichael's MSc students in London, and a long-term colleague. Emeritus Professor Bob Douglas, an even longer-term colleague, recruited him to the academic posts he held at University of Adelaide and ANU.

The Editor apologises for the delay in publishing this obituary.

Membership for ERA 2015 Research Evaluation Committees

Australian Research Council (ARC) Chief Executive Officer, Professor Aidan Byrne, has announced membership of the Research Evaluation Committee (REC) Committees for Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2015.

Professor Stephen Buckman, Director, Research School of Physics and Engineering Australian National University, has been appointed chair of the physical, chemical and earth sciences' committee for 2015.

Stephen Buckman is a PhD graduate in atomic physics from Flinders University (1979). Following postdoctoral positions at the University of Manchester and the University of Colorado, he returned to Australia in 1983 to take up a position in the Research School of Physics and Engineering (RSPE) at ANU and was appointed Professor of Physics in 1999. Between 1996 and 2000 Professor Buckman was Head of Department of the Atomic and Molecular Physics Laboratories within the RSPE. From 2006 – 2012 he was Research Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Antimatter-Matter Studies; and in 2012 he was appointed Director of the Research School at ANU.

Professor Buckman is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, a Fellow of the Institute of Physics UK and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics. In 2006, he was awarded one of 40 inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards by Flinders University to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. In 2008 he was awarded the ANU Vice Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Service to the University, and in 2012 he received the Flinders University Convocation Medal for outstanding achievement of Flinders alumni. He has published more than 200 refereed journal articles and book chapters on atomic collision physics and spectroscopy.

In 2013 he was awarded an AM in the Order of Australia for significant service to science in the field of experimental atomic physics as a leading researcher, academic and author.

A total of 149 distinguished researchers have been appointed; several from the ANU and other ACT universities. The REC members will assess and report on the quality of research in Australia as part of the ERA 2015 evaluations.

"These researchers are experts in their field and in research evaluation, and have been selected from a pool of more than 700 national and international researchers nominated by the sector," Professor Byrne said.

The researchers have been appointed across eight Research Evaluation Committees: Evaluations in ERA are undertaken by RECs comprising Australian and international researchers. The committee members are drawn from nominations submitted to the ARC from the sector. There are eight RECs for ERA 2015. Chairs for the ERA 2015 RECs have now been selected and details of committee membership can be accessed through the links below:

- [Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences \(PCE\)](#)
- [Humanities and Creative Arts \(HCA\)](#)
- [Engineering and Environmental Sciences \(EE\)](#)
- [Education and Human Society \(EHS\)](#)
- [Economics and Commerce \(EC\)](#)
- [Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences \(MIC\)](#)
- [Biological and Biotechnological Sciences \(BB\)](#)
- [Medical and Health Sciences \(MHS\)](#)

ERA is a comprehensive evaluation that considers the entire output of Australian universities' research efforts. The rigour of ERA is due to the expert interpretation of citation metrics, peer review and other indicators to make judgements about research quality.

Professor Byrne said he was delighted to have such a strong group from Australia and overseas participating in the ERA process in 2015. Collectively the committee members represent a broad range of expertise and experience, including a great deal of previous experience with ERA.

ANU graduates swap ambassadorial post

ANU graduate Mr Nicholas Coppel has been appointed Australia's Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He replaces another ANU graduate, Ms Bronte Moules, who was Ambassador from 2011.

Mr Coppel is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He was most recently Assistant Secretary in the People Smuggling Taskforce. Overseas, he has served as Special Coordinator of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands; Deputy High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea; and Deputy Head of Mission in Manila, with an earlier posting to Washington DC. Mr Coppel holds a Bachelor of Economics degree from the Australian National University and a Master of Business Administration from London Business School.

Education ties with Myanmar are expanding, including through the [New Colombo Plan](#) and [Australia Awards](#) scholarships.

Google Cultural Institute launched

The collections of fourteen Australian cultural institutions became available online to audiences across Australia and the world with the launch of Google Cultural Institute Australia.

The Minister for the Arts, Senator Brandis, launched Google Cultural Institute Australia with the creator and global Director of Google Art Project and Google Cultural Institute, Mr Amit Sood, at Parliament House on March 3.

Google Cultural Institute was launched in 2011 and today partners with more than 600 organisations in more than 60 countries. Through this project more than 60,000 of the world's most important and compelling artworks have been made accessible in high resolution online.

Australia boasts internationally acclaimed artists, art companies and cultural institutions. Over the past 12 months Google has worked closely with Australia's cultural institutions to bring some of the country's finest cultural and artistic treasures to the world.

Many of our national collecting institutions will now be accessible online including the National Gallery of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, Australian National Maritime Museum, National Archives of Australia and the Australian War Memorial.

A rich collection of artistic and cultural works from state-based institutions has also been captured including the Queensland Museum, Sydney Opera House and the State Library of New South Wales.

Google Australia is providing a generous gift to the Australian public through this collaboration with our museums, libraries and galleries – demonstrating what can be achieved when arts, business and philanthropy come together.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting artistic excellence, and providing access for all Australians to arts and cultural experiences in their own communities.

Google Cultural Institute will take Australia's world class art collections to the world stage and to the homes, schools and offices of Australians in every town, city and region.

\$500,000 for Islamic Museum of Australia Arts and Culture Education Program

The Australian Government will contribute \$500,000 for a new arts and culture education program to build social cohesion and cross cultural understanding. The national education program will be developed by the Islamic Museum of Australia.

In a joint statement, the Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts, Senator George Brandis and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, say, "The program aims to promote an understanding amongst children and the general public about Islam in Australia, including through the Museum's collection of Islamic art and culture. Online and printed educational resources will be developed from the collection and will support the school curriculum focus on Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia.

"Such education programs help build stronger communities by promoting understanding of different cultural beliefs and traditions, and developing a stronger appreciation of the positive contribution different cultures make to the rich fabric of Australian society.

"Partnerships such as the one between the Islamic Museum of Australia and the Australian Government are vital as we work together to promote social cohesion and expose the lies peddled by terrorist propaganda that seek to divide our harmonious society."

The Attorney-General visited the Islamic Museum when the government announced a \$200,000 grant to expand the AFL's Bachar Houli Academy. The Museum provides educational and cross cultural experiences that focus on the history, faith and cultural heritage of Islam and the contributions made by Muslims in Australia and across the world. We encourage Australians of all faiths to see for themselves all that it has to offer.

***Investigator* completes Antarctic cold water trials**

The new Marine National Facility research vessel *Investigator* has returned to Hobart after successfully completing its cold water trials, which took the vessel to 65°S 146°E, which is

about 2500 km south of Hobart. On board were scientists from the Queensland University of Technology, Melbourne University, CSIRO and the University of Wollongong, who were testing atmospheric research capabilities and equipment.

The Executive Director of the project to build and test the vessel, Toni Moate said the voyage to the ice edge tested out key capabilities of the ship, to ensure the vessel can operate in low water temperatures. The ship has been designed to operate in water temperatures of -2°C to +32°C, from the Antarctic ice-edge to the tropics.

"On this cold water commissioning voyage we tested everything from the winches to the dynamic positioning system, to make sure they were operational in very cold conditions," Ms Moate said.

The voyage left Hobart in late January and returned this week. Work that occurred on board included:

- Commissioning equipment in the Atmospheric and Air Chemistry Laboratories. *Investigator* is the first Australian research vessel to have laboratories dedicated to collecting aerosol data.
- Testing and opportunistic seafloor and sub-seafloor sonar mapping in areas not previously surveyed.
- Testing and opportunistic gravity meter readings, which will improve understanding of the crustal structure of the region.
- Operating on-deck scientific equipment handling systems such as winches, A-Frame, coring boom and CTD boom.
- Operating communications systems and video conferencing live from the ice edge. Testing cold water survival and ship manoeuvring systems.

Under direction of an independent Steering committee, the Marine National Facility is owned and operated by CSIRO on behalf of the nation.

Investigator's first research voyage is scheduled to leave Hobart on March 22 to deploy deep sea oceanographic moorings in the Southern Ocean. The voyage is a collaboration between the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre, the Integrated Marine Observing System, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, and will be led by CSIRO's Professor Tom Trull

Visas for tourism and students from Middle East

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection outlined its key role in making Australia accessible for tourists, students and business people from the Middle East at a public hearing in Canberra on March 4.

The Trade Sub-committee of the Joint Standing committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade wanted to hear from the department for its inquiry into trade and investment with the Middle East following concerns raised about the complexity of Australia's visa process by diplomatic representatives of Middle Eastern countries at a roundtable last month.

More than 80,000 visitors came from the Middle East to Australia as tourists in 2013 with over half from the United Arab Emirates. According to the Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF), international air services to Australia from the Middle East grew 27 per cent in 2014,

mostly due to the strength of Australian airline alliances with UAE-based carriers such as Emirates and Etihad.

The Middle East has been identified as a key growth market by Tourism Australia with estimates that visitors from the Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE have the potential to spend more than \$1 billion per annum as tourists in Australia. To promote this, the TTF is urging the government to streamline its visa system for the Gulf countries and also provide premium passenger services for passport control and customs for the high end visitors from the Middle East and offer similar services at business jet terminals.

The department was asked to explain Australia's student visa process and how it can be streamlined to help Australian universities and other education providers attract more students from the Middle East ahead of higher education competitors from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Europe and New Zealand.

For background information: Further details about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference 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.

Environment committee eases 'green tape'

Preserving Australia's precious environment can be done more efficiently and effectively, according to the House of Representatives Standing committee on the Environment, which has released the report of its inquiry into streamlining environmental regulation.

The recommendations cover a range of environmental regulation, including energy-related laws, the listing of threatened species, improving the consistency of environmental laws between the different states and territories, reducing duplication, making environmental data more readily available, and making reporting requirements more user-friendly.

Other recommendations relate to the government's 'one-stop shop' proposal for environmental assessments and approvals, which will see state and territory governments assessing and giving final approval to development projects that fall under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The committee Chair, Mr Alex Hawke, said that it was vitally important to protect Australia's unique, precious natural environment.

"That is something we all agree on. Australia has some very stringent environmental protection laws, and there is no suggestion that the preservation of the environment should be compromised in any way," he said.

"Throughout the course of this inquiry, the committee found several instances where environmental laws were duplicative, confusing, overly onerous, or were clearly not delivering any environmental benefit. This sort of unnecessary environmental regulation, or 'green tape', serves only to hamper business, slow down the economy, and reduce investor confidence. And that doesn't benefit anyone."

The committee's report is available online at:

www.aph.gov.au/GreenTapeReport. Further details, including submissions, terms of reference, and public hearing transcripts are on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/greentape. **For more information:** contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email environment.reps@aph.gov.au

A Perth focus on Hepatitis C high risk groups

Transmission of hepatitis C in high risk groups will be the focus of a public hearing by the House of Representatives Health committee on Tuesday 10 March in Perth.

As part of its inquiry into hepatitis C in Australia, the committee will again hear evidence from a wide range of organisations and individuals including Hepatitis WA, the WA Government, the Liver Foundation of WA, National Drug Research Institute and a health care professional.

Committee Chair Steve Irons MP said, "This hearing will provide the committee with further insight into the challenges faced by people living with and affected by hepatitis C, and the treatment options available."

In its submission to the inquiry, the WA Government identified the promotion of testing, the provision of information during testing, and the establishment of care pathways through health care services as ways to improve diagnosis and treatment.

Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, is available at: www.aph.gov.au/hepatitisc. For other enquiries, contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/health.

Have your say

Parliamentary Committees welcome submissions from members of the public, especially those with knowledge of the wide range of topics investigated in parliamentary inquiries. Committees set deadlines for submissions but are flexible.

Child safety and consumer protection

The need to balance personal freedom and community protection on the internet were examined at a public hearing in Sydney on March 6, as part of an Inquiry into the use of section 313 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

The House Standing committee on Communications heard evidence from representatives of the telecommunications industry, consumer groups, academics and community organisations, covering a wide range of views regarding use of section 313, which gives powers to government agencies to disrupt illegal online activity.

In its submission, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania of the Uniting Church in Australia strongly supports the use of s.313 by the Australian Federal Police to disrupt access to child sexual abuse material online.

While supporting the use of the section to limit access to child exploitation material, the Communications Alliance and AMTA are concerned that the section is being used to disrupt other online services and recommends that its use be confined to law enforcement and security agencies.

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights argues that only online services involved in serious crimes, or that directly incite serious crimes, should be covered by s.313 and that it should be established before a court or tribunal that a service is in breach of Australian law before any further action is taken.

Committee Chairman, Jane Prentice says the hearing offers, "...an important opportunity for the committee to test the views of a significant cross section of stakeholders and experts."

Witnesses were scheduled to raise many of the issues surrounding the use of section 313, including child protection, consumer protection, questions of law and the technical limits of disruption."

Scheduled witnesses at the hearing in Parliament House, Sydney, include: Internet Society of Australia; Communications Alliance & AMTA; Cyberspace Law and Policy Community, UNSW; Australian Communications Consumer Action Network; Associate Professor Katina Michael UOW; Uniting Church of Australia; Dr Rob Nicholls UNSW; and Australian Lawyers for Human Rights.

Further information on the Inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to prepare a submission can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/section313 or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the committee's webpage at www.aph.gov.au/section313

Earlier hearing

An earlier public hearing on March 4, as part of an Inquiry into the use of section 313 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, took evidence from Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA), whose members regard section 313 as a "dangerous impediment to Internet freedoms" and recommends that it be struck out completely, or, if retained, be restricted to law enforcement, national security agencies, and possibly oversight agencies such as ASIC.

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is opposed to section 313 in its current form and believes its misuse has an adverse impact on Australians' privacy. The APF says the section should be re-written to establish due process and appeal rights, and to remove conflicts and confusion between the diverse subject matter comprising law enforcement, crime prevention and national security.

Committee Chairman, Jane Prentice said, "The committee is conscious of the wide range of views within the community about the need for balance between personal freedom and community protection—especially in the internet age. The committee expects that by testing a range of views on the use of section 313, we will be able to find the right balance between the rights of citizens and the responsibilities of government agencies."

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Further information about the Inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to prepare a submission can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/section313 or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352; email ic.reps@aph.gov.au

Bipartisan report on data retention

Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee presented its bipartisan report on the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014 to Parliament on February.

The Data Retention Bill will implement a mandatory telecommunications data retention regime. It contains measures to require telecommunications suppliers in Australia to retain

certain data for two years, with web-browsing history and the contents of communications excluded. The Bill also seeks to limit the organisations able to access telecommunications and stored data to those with a demonstrated need and with appropriate internal procedures to protect privacy, and expands the role of the Commonwealth Ombudsman in overseeing the exercise of these powers.

The report recommends that the Bill be passed by the Parliament, and makes 38 further recommendations aimed at strengthening the regime and improving oversight and safeguards. These include:

- Including the proposed data set in the Bill rather than in regulations as proposed (Recommendation 2);
- Listing all criminal law enforcement agencies and enforcement agencies in legislation (Recommendation 17 and 21);
- Establishing emergency declaration powers, subject to safeguards, for the Attorney-General to include items in the data set, or declare an additional agency able to access data (Recommendations 3, 17 and 21);
- Prohibiting civil litigants, with appropriate exceptions, from accessing telecommunications data being held solely in compliance with mandatory data retention requirements (Recommendation 23);
- Strengthening the safeguards around the use of telecommunications data for the purpose of determining the identity of a journalist's sources by requiring agencies to provide a copy to the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) of any authorisation for access to such data. The Ombudsman or IGIS would then be required to notify the committee as soon as practicable and provide a briefing accordingly (Recommendation 27);
- A separate review by this committee of safeguards relating to the use of telecommunications data for the purpose of determining journalist's sources to be undertaken within three months (Recommendation 26);
- Additional funding for the Commonwealth Ombudsman commensurate with the Office's expanded oversight role (Recommendation 29); and
- Privacy and data security measures, including a mandatory breach notification scheme (Recommendations 35 to 38).

The committee has recommended that the government make a substantial contribution to the upfront capital costs incurred by service providers in implementing their data retention obligations. The committee also recommended that, when designing funding arrangements, the government ensure that an appropriate balance is achieved that accounts for significant variations between the services, business models, size and financial positions of differing companies (Recommendation 16). The committee recommended maintaining the proposed two-year retention period specified in the Bill (Recommendation 9).

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Dan Tehan MP, said "I am extremely pleased to present this bipartisan report. The committee has carefully considered the evidence presented on the necessity and proportionality of the proposed mandatory data retention regime, and concluded that it is necessary to support our national security and law enforcement capabilities.

"At the same time, the committee considers that appropriate limits, safeguards and oversight mechanisms must be in place", Mr Tehan said.

In a recommendation with particular significance to Parliamentary oversight of the data retention regime, the committee has recommended that it be enabled to look at operational matters in the limited area of authorisation of access to telecommunications data relating to

ASIO and the AFP, consistent with the committee's remit. Mr Tehan commented that "This recommendation represents a significant step in the evolution of this committee".

The committee received more than 200 written submissions from a broad range of sources and heard from 30 organisations over three days of public hearings, in addition to private evidence.

A full copy of the report is available on the committee's website at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>.

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

Government accepts all recommendations

The Commonwealth Government will support all 39 of the recommendations of the unanimous report by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) into the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Bill 2014.

In a joint statement welcoming the report, the government says this urgent legislation contains a package of reforms to prevent the further degradation of the investigative capabilities of Australia's law enforcement and national security agencies.

It goes on, "Access to metadata plays a central role in almost every counterterrorism, counterespionage, cyber security and organised crime investigation. It is also used in almost all serious criminal investigations, including investigations into murder, serious sexual assaults, drug trafficking and kidnapping.

"The Australian Federal Police (AFP) has advised that between July and September of 2014 telecommunications data was used in 92 per cent of counterterrorism investigations, 100 per cent of cybercrime investigations, 87 per cent of child protection investigations and 79 per cent of serious organised crime investigations.

"However, as the business models of service providers are changing with technology they are keeping fewer records. No responsible government can sit by while those who protect our community lose access to the tools they need to do their job. In the current threat environment we cannot let this essential capability deteriorate further.

"On behalf of the government we thank the committee for its valuable work and in particular the Chair, Mr Dan Tehan MP, and Deputy Chair, The Hon Anthony Byrne MP. The report provided a thorough consideration of the Bill and the issues raised in evidence by a wide range of stakeholders. We thank all those who participated in its inquiry and contributed to the report. We again acknowledge the continued bipartisanship of the Opposition on national security issues...."

Public hearing into circumvention of anti-dumping laws

The House of Representatives Agriculture and Industry committee is conducting a public hearing for the inquiry into circumvention of anti-dumping laws. At its first public hearing on March 5, the committee heard from the Australian Steel Institute and the Australian Forest Products Association.

Further details about the inquiry, including submissions received and the terms of reference,

can be obtained from the committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/agind. For further information please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4500, email agind.reps@aph.gov.au

Should Australia sell uranium to India?

The merits of selling uranium to India were examined by expert witnesses last month as part of the Treaties' committee's inquiry into the government's proposal. The government claims exporting uranium to India promises increased jobs and export income for Australia, but the proposal has attracted some criticism.

Witnesses discussed the benefits of the agreement for the mining industry, and Australia's improved bilateral relations with India, along with safeguards and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other government agencies appeared at a public hearing in Canberra.

Committee Chair Wyatt Roy MP says this is a complex matter. "The committee will be undertaking a diligent and comprehensive look at the proposal to make sure all the issues are fully explored and considered," he said.

Among those appearing at the public hearing on February 9, were Mr John Carlson AM, former director-general, Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office, 1989-2010 Mr Ronald Walker, First head of the Nuclear Safeguards Branch in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Minerals Council of Australia

At a public hearing on 12 February 12, also at Parliament House, witnesses included the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency; the Department of Industry and Science

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties

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

New protections for borrowed cultural objects

The Commonwealth Government has announced that the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Scheme is now open for applications. The scheme will help to attract loans from overseas of significant cultural items to display in Australian museums, galleries and libraries.

The Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Scheme provides legal protection for cultural objects on loan from overseas for temporary public exhibition in Australia and is designed to reassure overseas lenders that Australia is a secure destination for loans and ensures Australia continues to benefit from the significant social, cultural and economic benefits that international exhibitions deliver.

The scheme also aligns Australia with an emerging international standard to provide protection for cultural objects on loan. Many of Australia's leading museums and galleries are planning ambitious exhibition programs and this scheme will provide vital support to those activities.

Information about the scheme and how to apply for approval under the Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Act 2013 can be found at www.arts.gov.au/collections

Statue returned to China

The Australian Government has returned a valuable and culturally significant Qing dynasty statue of the Goddess Guanyin to Chinese authorities in a display of cultural cooperation between Australia and China.

The stone statue was exported from China in breach of Chinese cultural laws. After being purchased on eBay from a dealer in the USA, the statue was seized by Australian Customs and Border Protection when it arrived in Australia.

Under the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986, Australia can return illegally exported cultural heritage property to its country of origin if a foreign government makes a request.

The return of the Goddess Guanyin on March 5 follows previous returns of items of cultural significance including fossils and dinosaur eggs to China, Iron Age ornaments to Cambodia and antiquities to Peru and Egypt.

Further information about the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act is available on the Ministry for the Arts website.

On ANUEF website

In the e-texts folder of the ANUEF's WWWsite there is a new publication on drug use and abuse by Malcolm Whyte (http://192.55.98.146/resources/etexts/MalcolmWhyteLifting_the_lid.pdf) or contact Adrian Gibbs on 6281 6971; mobile 0418 489 677

Emeritus Faculty Oral History Project

An interview with Professor Cedric Mims (medical microbiologist and writer) is now available on the ANU Emeritus Faculty website: www.anu.edu.au/emeritus. Go to Oral History Project on the Emeritus Faculty homepage. Cedric's entry contains text synopsis, downloadable audio file, and jpg photo.

More Diary Dates

Speakers already booked for later in the year include Adrian Horridge, Suzanne von Caemmerer, Chennupati Jagadish and Nerilie Abram. Most titles to be advised.

March 11, 12 & 13 The Universities Australia Higher Education Conference (details below)

March 13: Canberrans will get their scare on at the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) on Friday, March 13, with a special ghost tour of its art deco building hosted by Tim the Yowie Man, and a screening of the acclaimed psychological horror film *The Babadook*. The NFSA building is renowned as one of the most haunted buildings in Australia.

<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/about/media/releases/2015/03/03/ghosts-and-monsters-nfsa-friday-13th/>

March 18 4pm Monthly Lecture Bill Gammage. "The Biggest Estate on Earth"

April 15 David Ollis

May 20 Adrian Horridge
June 17 Suzanne von Caemmerer
June 30 **ANUEF Annual Lecture.** John Mattick, Director of the Garvan Institute.
 Finkel Theatre of JCSMR

July 1 **The Research in Retirement Symposium** will be a morning of brief and lively reports (and updates) of the past, present or future research of ANUEF members, and will finish with a collegiate lunch before the committee meets in the afternoon—contributors please start planning your offerings.

July 15 Chennupati Jagadish
Aug 19 Patrick de Deckker
Sept 16 David Horner
Oct 21 Stephen Bygraves
Nov 18 Nerilie Abram

All lectures are at 4pm. All are in the Molony Room except the Annual Lecture which will be in the Finkel Theatre of JCSMR.

Universities shaping the new era: Higher Education Conference 2015

March 11, 12 & 13 The Universities Australia Higher Education Conference is the sector's must-attend event held at a time when university education and research is more critical than ever to securing an innovative and prosperous future. The Conference will be held on **11 and 12 March 2015**, at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. Satellite events will be held on **13 March**.

Against a background of unprecedented change in the sector in Australia, the conference brings together national and international university leaders, policy makers, experts and influencers to discuss the opportunities and challenges in higher education.

Themed **Future Sense: Universities shaping the new era**, this year's Higher Education Conference will have a focus on the critical role of innovation in fostering international competitiveness for a prosperous economy and society.

The conference includes speakers from around the world and around Australia, including Professor Michael M Crow, President, Arizona State University; Professor Alain Fuchs, President, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France; Dame Julia Goodfellow, incoming President, Universities UK; Ms Catherine Livingstone AO, President, Business Council of Australia; Professor Ian Chubb AC, Chief Scientist and Professor Sandra Harding, Chair, Universities Australia.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Universities: shape shifters
- Sense in our future: competitive advantage
- The new era: what do higher education reforms mean for students?
- Political sense: are there votes in higher education?
- Industry engagement and innovation
- International education and student mobility
- Work Integrated Learning

"The Conference includes sessions on how universities are engaging and collaborating with business to stimulate greater productivity, innovation and international competitiveness", said Anne-Marie Lansdown, Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia.

"It will examine policies to maximise the global reach of Australia's universities, academics, researchers and students as part of the accelerating world-wide integration of the higher education sector.

"The program will also focus on policies shaping the university sector as it seeks to meet the expectations of contemporary students and employers", Ms Lansdown said.

You can save by registering for the Conference before 23 January 2015. Register online now to enjoy the early bird rate of \$1850 (normally \$2100). You can register by clicking [here](#).

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

New arrangements for ANUEF Room Bookings

Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Jan O'Connor has replaced Judith Caton as the contact for room bookings for the Molony Room. Her contact details are:

Email: jantancress@gmail.com

Tel: 62473341

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Jan at the email address above. 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.

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>

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