

# EMERITUS Vol 6 No 3

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine  
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## New hall of residence

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO, in a statement to colleagues and Students writes, "I am pleased to announce that the University will commence a feasibility study on building a new Hall of Residence on campus, with an aim to have an additional 500 beds available by the beginning of 2017.

"Demand for accommodation on campus is high, and expected to continue to grow in coming years.

"The feasibility study will be led by Mr Chris Grange, Executive Director (Administration and Planning).

"A User Group with student representation will be formed to provide input and feedback on the proposed new accommodation. Please contact [Lynda Mathey](#) if you would like to contribute ideas. Once the feasibility study is completed, a summary of its findings and recommendations will be put forward to the University Council for consideration and approval."

## Diary Dates

**April 15** - David Ollis on "Evolving Proteins"

**May 6** - 12 noon for 12.30 Discussion - Don Anderson "Just turn the tap: the invention of a new beehive"

**May 20** 4pm Public Lecture - Adrian Horridge. "The disgraceful affair of the bees and the flowers."

**June 17** - Suzanne von Caemmerer

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

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

## ANU celebrates its alumni achievements



(From left): Ben Duggan, Arjuna Mohottala, Henry Makeham, Robert Foster, Professor Michael McRobbie, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young, Phillip Williamson, Michelle Melbourne, Jessica Avalon, Robert Wiblin, and Bradley Carron-Arthur. Photo by Adam Da Cruz.

## Honour for global leader in higher education

The Australian National University has honoured alumnus [Professor Michael McRobbie AO FAHA](#), a global leader in higher education and President of Indiana University, by naming him the ANU Alumnus of the Year for 2015.

Professor McRobbie has built an international reputation as an information technology innovator since he graduated from ANU with a PhD in 1979. He held many roles at ANU, first as a researcher and later as a professor, and was chief executive of the CRC for Advanced Computational Systems. He has worked at Indiana University since 1997, and became the university's 18th President in July 2007.

Professor McRobbie said, "ANU allowed my research career to blossom and allowed me to develop skills in administration, entrepreneurship and global engagement with colleagues and mentors that have served me extremely well in my career in the US."

In its third year, the ANU Alumni Awards celebrate the outstanding alumni and their achievements since graduation. Along with the Alumnus of the year, 12 other alumni were honoured across eight categories.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO said this year's winners were all outstanding ambassadors for ANU both in Australia and abroad. "These awards are a chance for us to recognise those alumni who have not only reached great heights in their chosen fields but more importantly those who have freely given back to make the world a better place," Professor Young said.

"I am proud to know that each of the nominees undertook studies here at ANU and that this University played a role in shaping the people they are today. On behalf of the University, I

congratulate all of the award winners."

Businessman and philanthropist Graham Tuckwell was awarded the Alumnus of the Year in Philanthropy at a special presentation in February.

Other winners (and links to more information) are::

[Postgraduate Student of the Year](#) [Brad Carron-Arthur](#)

[Undergraduate Student of the Year \(joint recipient\)](#) [Jessica Avalon](#)

[Undergraduate Student of the Year \(joint recipient\)](#) [Ben Duggan](#)

[Young Alumnus of the Year \(joint recipient\)](#) [Henry Makeham](#)

[Young Alumnus of the Year \(joint recipient\)](#) [Robert Wiblin](#)

[International Alumnus of the Year](#) [Theresa Foo-Yo Mie Yoen](#)

[Alumnus of the Year - Research or Academic \(joint recipient\)](#) [Professor Paul Sanberg](#)

[Alumnus of the Year - Research or Academic \(joint recipient\)](#) [Professor Howard Morphy](#)

[Alumnus of the Year - Innovation & Entrepreneurship \(joint recipient\)](#) [Robert Foster](#)

[Alumnus of the Year - Innovation & Entrepreneurship \(joint recipients\)](#) [Phillip Williamson and Michelle Melbourne](#)

Some new categories were introduced this year, including the Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Alumnus of the Year in Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Young Alumnus of the Year.

Recipients of the VC Commendations were:

[Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Alumnus of the Year - Innovation & Entrepreneurship](#)  
[Dr Victor Pantano](#)

[Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Young Alumnus of the Year](#) [Dr Phoebe Williams](#)

[Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Young Alumnus of the Year](#) [Dr Lachlan Blackhall](#)

[Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Postgraduate Student of the Year](#) [Ariuna Mohottala](#)

[Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Postgraduate Student of the Year](#) [Gracia Billy Yosaphat Y Mambrasar](#)

View a [video of the 2015 award recipients](#). For more on the [2015 awards and recipients](#), visit the [ANU Alumni website](#). Nominations for the 2016 ANU Alumni Awards open on Friday 20 August 2015

Reprinted from *On Campus*

## **More bursaries to help young carers**

The Commonwealth Government will provide an additional 150 bursaries to help young carers further their education, the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, has announced. The Young

Carer Bursary Program allows carers up to 25 years old to continue study or vocational training.

Carers Australia received 800 applications for bursaries this year. In response to this high demand, the Government will provide a further 150 bursaries worth a total of \$450,000 – on top of the 150 bursaries already announced. The Commonwealth will also provide \$50,000 to Carers Australia to support the delivery of the bursaries.

The first 150 recipients were notified in February and have received their first bursary payments to support them as they began the 2015 academic year.

An independent advisory panel reviewed Carers Australia's recommendations before selecting the successful applicants.

There are more than 300,000 young carers aged under 25 years in Australia who look after people with disability, people with physical or mental health issues, or older people in need of help. These young people are likely to live in single parent, low-resource households. Many young carers come from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The initial program was established to help 150 young carers each year with the cost of their tuition.

## **Overcrowding and rebalancing addressed**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's (ACARA) will begin to implement key recommendations of the Australian Government's Review of the Australian Curriculum following the endorsement of their proposal by education ministers last month.

The Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, said, "With unanimous support from state and territory education ministers ACARA will now take action to address the issues highlighted in the Australian Government's initial response to the Review of the Australian Curriculum."

ACARA will address the overcrowding and rebalancing of the Australian Curriculum by:

- reducing the quantity of content, adding more depth and less breadth
- combining history, geography, civics and citizenship and economics and business into a single combined humanities and social sciences subject for primary schools
- improving clarity, reducing duplication and complexity – especially in the way cross curriculum priorities and general capabilities are presented
- strengthening the presence of phonics and phonemic awareness
- improving the accessibility for all students especially those with disabilities
- making the curriculum more parent friendly.

"These changes reflect the key recommendations of the Government's initial response to the curriculum review and I am pleased ACARA will begin the work to address them," Mr Pyne said.

"We want every student to have a quality education with access to the best teachers and with a national curriculum that is robust, balanced and relevant. The Australian Government and ACARA remain focused on achieving the best possible education outcomes for all Australian students."

The Australian Curriculum can be viewed at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au).

## **New centre's sights on robotic vision**

Australian Research Council (ARC) Chief Executive Officer, Professor Aidan Byrne, has welcomed the launch of a new ARC Centre of Excellence that aims to bring together the best researchers in computer vision and robotics. The ARC Centre of Excellence for Robotic Vision, based at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) will investigate new technology to create the next generation of robots that can see and respond as humans do.

The centre was officially launched by Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, assisted by QUT's own Baxter robot (aptly named 'Baxter'). QUT was awarded \$19 million in ARC funding for the centre, which brings together experts in the robotics and computer science disciplines to drive development of the underlying science and technologies to enable robots to see and comprehend their environment.

Professor Byrne said the centre's exciting and innovative research program would lead to the creation of technology that has real benefits in society. He went on, "This centre has identified a key challenge—that of uniting artificial intelligence and robotic vision—and it has brought that challenge into focus with a high-calibre team.

"The centre's partners comprise global leading investigators and organisations in robotics and computer vision, including: the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA; INRIA, the French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation; and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. The centre's director, Professor Peter Corke, is well-respected and well-known for his research in vision-based robot control, field robotics and wireless sensor networks.

"This Centre has funding security for seven years which allows researchers the time to nurture ideas from conception to reality—the reality being a robot that can see as humans do. The centre is also a training ground for students and will nurture a wealth of talent in robotics and computer vision giving students the opportunity to learn what it takes to be an entrepreneur," Professor Byrne said.

For more information about the *ARC Centres of Excellence* scheme, visit the [ARC website](#). For more information about the work of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Robotic Vision, please visit the [Centre's website](#).

## **Landmark strategy to make graduates more 'job ready'**

University and business leaders have announced a comprehensive, national strategy to build the productive capacity of Australia's workforce, improve graduate job prospects and meet the skills needs of employers.

Universities Australia, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Industry Group, the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Collaborative Education Network have collaborated to develop Australia's first ever [National Work Integrated Learning Strategy](#).

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) is about integrating theory with practical work experience in education. While WIL is well established in many areas, like health and teaching, it is under-used in many emerging industries - where jobs and future demand may be greatest.

WIL includes activities such as work placements, internships, shadowing programs and practical projects. Thousands of employers already partner with universities to provide

students with WIL experiences, but until now there has never been an overarching national strategy to guide its future growth.

Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Ms Belinda Robinson, said that student demand for WIL is increasing, often outstripping available opportunities. This strategy is about meeting this demand.

"The strategy provides the opportunity for industry to play a practical role in giving students the skills and experience they need to match employer expectations," Ms Robinson said.

"These invaluable 'hands-on' experiences help put a student's education in context and make a real difference to the skills and capacity they can bring to the workplace.

"Through the implementation of this strategy we can expect more places for students in industry, better prepared graduates and a workforce that is more able to meet the growth needs of industry.

"The strategy is both a call for collaboration and the result of it. It is designed to strengthen the partnerships needed to lift employment, productivity and international competitiveness.

"Given the global environment, Australia must leverage our strengths, diversify, develop and compete. It's a challenge, but an exciting one. The strategy is both strategic and practical. It draws on a strong evidence base and the many excellent examples that already exist," Ms Robinson said.

## **Obituary**

### **MARGARET HONOR EVANS (née Newell) 29 July 1927 – 19 June 2014**

From the standing-room-only attendance of people of all backgrounds and ages at Margaret's funeral at St John's Anglican Church in late June 2014, it might easily have been assumed that she had lived her entire productive 87-year life span here in the heart of the Canberra community. And it was clear from the comments of speaker after speaker at her service that it was close to their hearts that they kept her, and would continue to keep her memory.

In point of fact Margaret was actually an interloper – a mature and highly adaptive transplant from across the Ditch, as was her husband, plant scientist, Lloyd Evans. They settled in a raw, young Canberra in November 1956 following some years of advanced research and training in the UK and set about the usual practices of starting and raising a family, establishing careers, building an extensive home garden of fruit trees and vegetables at their house in Campbell, and putting out feelers into the wider Canberra community - where they flourished.

Lloyd became deeply engaged in his research in Plant Industry at CSIRO while Margaret, busy with children at home – first, Nicholas, and later the twins, John and Catherine – continued to pursue her intellectual and professional interests, first as a teacher in the Department of Psychology at ANU and, in time, through her appointment as the University's first counsellor to its staff and students.

A first in this respect, Margaret proved herself to be a consistent groundbreaker and innovator over the next four decades of her service within the University – most of it as Head of the Counselling Service. Wherever she identified a gap or need in support services for students or staff, she worked with vigour, and cunning, to fill or satisfy it. She charmed, harried, cajoled two generations of Vice-Chancellors, registrars and other administrators into supplying the necessary resources, and – once supplied – plied them with such warm



congratulations on their foresight that they came to believe that the whole initiative was theirs' in the first place and went about recommending its virtues to the rest of the campus.

By the mid-seventies a whole range of services were in place under Margaret's leadership: a Communication and Study Skills Unit, a Careers Unit, a Student Part-time Employment Office, a Mature-Age Student support Service. Later, when these services expanded with the growth of the University and were hived off into independent centres, Margaret was free to re-focus her energies once more on her special interests in personal and group counselling and therapy for students and staff in need of help.

The seventies and early eighties were a period of turmoil and change in universities throughout the world. Vietnam, feminism, student protest, struggles for control over curriculum all unsettled the Old Order. Other demographic changes were also at work, including a very noticeable rise in the number of mature age (predominantly female) students asserting their right to a tertiary education.

These were contexts in which Margaret's clear-mindedness, her native generosity, her communications skills and her constant attention to the rights and needs of individuals on all sides of sometimes bitter conflicts were often on display and in huge demand.

Above all, Margaret was an agent of inclusiveness in the ANU community. She was quick to spot the 'loner' and find ways to draw them in. Whether it was isolated PhD students at Mount Stromlo or the wives of overseas researchers and doctoral students in Garran or Turner flats, she found ways to set up strategies and social networks whereby they were offered some sense of attachment to campus life.

In her own professional practice, Margaret insisted that if she had any special skills or gifts – and she had them in spades – then it was her duty not just to develop them within herself but to pass them on. To this end, she supervised both trainee counsellors and other less specialised workers (including deputy wardens and tutors in the residential colleges, marriage guidance advisers, Lifeline and other service providers in the general community).

If these observations on Margaret's professional life paint a picture of someone filled with energy, intelligence, integrity and seriousness of purpose, then it wouldn't be inaccurate, but it would be incomplete, indeed misleading. For, as a human being, the last thing Margaret Evans was - for all her empathy – was a 'sober-sides'. She was funny, feisty, unfussy, enjoying laughter, verbal jousting and teasing. As someone who was given my first job at ANU under her leadership, I was always sure of her support and encouragement, but that never got in the way of her belting me mercilessly around the tennis court or, if I ever got 'over-sure' of myself, of reminding me that, though she was the one who had employed me, 'anyone was capable of making at least one serious professional mistake in their career'. This would invariably be followed by a warm hug and hoots of laughter.

All of those gathered at St John's to say goodbye on that sad, sunny June morning, together with so many who could not be there physically on the day, remain the richer for having known Margaret Honor Evans, and the poorer, of course, for having lost her – not least the immediate family who survive her: her husband Lloyd, her children Nicholas, John and Catherine, and her many grandchildren.

Vale, Margaret, friend and counsellor to so many.

**John Clanchy**

## Blueprint for International Education growth

The Government's draft National Strategy for International Education released on April 1 has the potential to lead to the development and growth of international education in Australia, according to Universities Australia.

"The strategy defines three pillars of international education and six achievable goals to underpin Australia continuing to be a destination of choice for students, teachers and researchers," said Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson.

Universities Australia particularly welcomes the broad reach of the strategy into all aspects of our global teaching and research engagement. "If we achieve the goals outlined in the draft strategy, all Australian university graduates will be true global citizens - able to compete for the best jobs all over the world," Ms Robinson said.

"We are particularly pleased to see a commitment to investment in collaborative research and research infrastructure and look forward to seeing this reflected in the coming Federal Budget. The ability to produce high quality collaborative research is critical for cementing our position as one of the best higher education systems in the world.

"The inclusion of a goal specifically focussed on improving the quality of the educational and living experience for international students is also strongly supported by Universities Australia.

"In particular we need to ensure international students have access to affordable accommodation, receive transport concessions equal to domestic students and have genuine opportunities to undertake relevant work experience."

Ms Robinson said it was important that the strategy also recognised the needs of Australian students in internationalising our education and research.

"We acknowledge the work of Australian universities and the Government through the longstanding Endeavour scholarship program and the flagship New Colombo Plan in supporting the international mobility of Australian students. This work has been supported by Universities Australia through the [World-Class](#) initiative."

"The sector also supports the strategy's ambition to broaden international engagement beyond traditional partner countries and would like to see an increase in support for the global education counsellor network with emerging regions such as Latin America and the Middle East," Ms Robinson said.

Universities Australia looks forward to working with governments, students and industry in refining this draft strategy to best support Australian international education and research.

## A no vote is no solution

The decision by Parliament to reject the amended higher education package opens the way for a national discussion on a long-term, sustainable and predictable funding model for university education and research, says Universities Australia.

"The almost year-long debate has achieved a remarkable political consensus on one critical factor - that the current state of public investment in universities is insufficient for



maintaining and enhancing the quality expected by students, employers and the community,” □ said Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson.

“The Parliament gives bi-partisan support for national security and defence in the public interest. This consensus should extend to the intellectual building blocks of our economic security. The defeat of the *Higher Education and Research Reform Bill* has created the opportunity for the Government to engage with all stakeholders in developing a robust funding framework that is durable, sustainable and predictable.

“We cannot continue to kick this can down the road,” □ Ms Robinson said.

In responding to calls for higher education to be fought out in an election, Ms Robinson said: “higher education policy is too important to be allowed to become a Frankenstein-ian by-product of pre-election political positioning. Our universities, and the hopes and aspirations of our children, can no longer afford to be treated as a convenient political football.

“By delivering the highly-skilled graduates and talented researchers our country needs, our universities are driving Australia’s transition to an innovative knowledge-based economy. With global competition intensifying, Australia can’t afford to be left behind. Unfortunately, if our universities continue to be sidelined, this is the reality we confront,” □ Ms Robinson said.

### **Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill ‘good for universities’**

Universities Australia welcomes the passage of the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Bill 2015 which addresses the concerns raised by universities and research organisations following the introduction of the original legislation. The Defence Trade Controls Act regulates the supply of technology relating to defence and strategic goods and covers universities and research organisations.

The amended Bill is the result of significant work by all stakeholders over the last two years and removes impediments to researchers publishing and corresponding in a global research environment.

Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia Anne-Marie Lansdown said Universities Australia was pleased that the Government had listened to the concerns raised by universities. “The amended legislation strikes the right balance between ensuring Australia’s security interests are protected and reducing the regulatory burden on universities, research organisations and industry,” she said.

“In particular, the additional 12 month delay to the commencement of the offence provisions will ensure universities are able to establish robust and practical compliance processes that address any implementation issues as they arise. Universities Australia would like to particularly acknowledge the crucial role of the Strengthened Export Controls Steering Group, chaired by Australia’s Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, in achieving this result.

“The positive approach taken by the Defence Export Controls Office (DECO) has also been instrumental to the final outcome in the Bill and we look forward to continuing to work with them during the next stage of implementation. There will continue to be a need for expert advice, as there is still considerable work and consultation to be undertaken during the next phase.

"The university sector stands ready to continue to play an active role in ensuring the best policy and operational outcomes for both the Australian Government and the research sector," Ms Lansdown concluded.

### **Key to future prosperity and quality of living**

Universities Australia welcomes a new landmark report commissioned by the Office of the Chief Scientist highlighting the magnitude of the contribution made by research and science to economic growth and employment.

The report shows that advances made in physical and mathematical sciences over the last 20 years contributed \$145 billion a year to the Australian economy. When indirect benefits were added this jumped to \$292 billion a year accounting for 22 per cent of economic activity, seven per cent of total Australian employment (about 760,000) jobs and exports worth around \$74 billion a year.

"The findings of the report are further evidence of the essential role played by research, innovation and science in underpinning Australia's future economic prosperity as global competition intensifies", said Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson.

"As we have seen around the world, investing in research, science and innovation is essential for securing the life-changing discoveries, jobs, industries and start-up companies of the future."

Ms Robinson said it was critical that universities were supported to continue delivering research. "Our universities are at the core of Australia's research effort and it is imperative that the important contribution research and innovation makes to our future is supported by a sustainable long-term higher education funding model", she said.

Universities Australia firmly supports the Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb's call for support for both applied and pure research. "Professor Chubb has made the case once again for support for both 'curiosity driven research' and applied research, calling for the framing of national science and research priorities", Ms Robinson said.

### **Government heeds UA concerns on 20 per cent cut and NCRIS funding**

Universities Australia has welcomed the Federal Government's response to the sector's concerns about research infrastructure funding and the 20 percent cut to university per student funding accompanying the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill.

The Education and Training Minister Christopher Pyne has announced the Government will move an amendment in the Senate to split the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill and set aside the proposed 20 percent cut in funding.

Chief Executive of Universities Australia Belinda Robinson said these important concessions improve fairness and clear the way for Senators to shape the change that all concede is needed for the maintenance of a high-performing university sector.

"In supporting the broader research community Universities Australia has welcomed the release of \$150 million to allow the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) facilities to keep operating while a more permanent solution is found," Ms Robinson

said. “The Government’s proposal to set aside the 20 percent reduction to the Commonwealth tuition subsidy for university students to be debated at a later time, is also welcome. Universities Australia has long held concerns about the 20 percent cut, arguing that it would put upward pressure on fees under a de-regulated system,” she said.

### **Resource for pedagogical leaders**

The Department of Education and Training has published *Leading Learning Circles for Educators Engaged in Study*, a national resource for pedagogical leaders to support their educators undertaking study. This national resource has been developed by the Child and Family Studies Team at Griffith University and it encourages educators to engage in reflective practice linking study to everyday practice and therefore improve learning outcomes for children and increase retention rates in the early childhood education and care workforce.

For a copy of the publication, access: URL: <http://education.gov.au/news/leading-learning-circles-educators-engaged-study-national-resource-pedagogical-leaders-support>

### **Australia-Korea Foundation seeks ideas – and applications**

The Australia-Korea Foundation (AKF) is seeking innovative ideas from Australians to work collaboratively with their Korean partners and promote a positive image of contemporary Australia. The funding round closes at 4pm AEST on Thursday, April 16.

Foundation Chair, Mr Peter Coleman, says “The Foundation is offering grants in education, business, sports, science and the arts. We look to support the creation of Korea-expertise among Australians, building cultural, economic and language knowledge to support engagement across a range of fields.”

The priority areas for the Australia-Korea Foundation in 2015-16 are:

- Korean language and literacy;
- Economic diplomacy;
- Science and innovation (with a focus on health, ageing and social change); and
- Sports diplomacy (deepening sports and business relations developed during the 2015 AFC Asian Cup and the forthcoming 2018 Winter Olympics).

“The AKF’s annual grants of between \$20,000-\$30,000 are intended as seed funding, catalysing financial and in-kind commitments from other partners and leading to longer term partnerships and sustainable outcomes,” Mr Coleman said. “We particularly encourage applicants from regional Australia to consider the opportunities for engagement with Korea.”

Australia and Korea have strong, complementary economies, vibrant cultures and an enduring commitment to supporting peace and prosperity in the region. Korea is Australia’s third-largest export market with Australian exports of goods and services worth more than \$22 billion in 2013-14. The Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement will further strengthen bilateral and people-to-people ties.

The Foundation has, since its establishment 22 years ago, encouraged deeper relations between the peoples of Australia and Korea, including promoting greater understanding of Korea by Australians and showcasing Australian excellence and innovation in Korea. The

Foundation welcomes projects enhancing Australia's profile as a dependable country with a unique and creative culture.

Further information: <http://www.dfat.gov.au/akf>

## **Seated Buddha returning to India**

The National Gallery of Australia has negotiated a settlement for an ancient Indian sculpture in its collection. Through its Asian Art Provenance Research project, the gallery has determined that the ownership history of the second-century sculpture Seated Buddha is unclear and has negotiated a settlement with the Nancy Wiener Gallery of New York, from whom the National Gallery originally purchased the sculpture. The National Gallery will also be working with the Nancy Wiener Gallery to return the sculpture to India where it can go on public display.

Cultural items from overseas continue to be an important part of Australia's national collections for the understanding and appreciation they bring of the many cultures in the region.

The Minister for the Arts, Senator Brandis, congratulated the National Gallery of Australia's commitment to sustaining a national art collection that meets high ethical and international standards.

To support Australia's public museums, galleries, libraries and archives when acquiring or borrowing objects or works of art, he released the Australian Best Practice Guide to Collecting Cultural Material in 2014. The guide outlines key principles and legal obligations that apply to Australia's collecting institutions when acquiring or borrowing cultural material.

## **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.**

## **Are eco-charity donations benefiting the environment?**

Tax-deductible donations to hundreds of environmental groups will be scrutinised in a new inquiry by the House of Representatives Environment Committee, which will investigate the administration, transparency and effectiveness of the Register of Environmental Organisations (the Register) in supporting practical action to improve the environment.

Committee Chair, Alex Hawke MP, said the committee looks forward to hearing from a range of environmental organisations, including those currently listed on the register, and other interested parties.

"Over 600 environmental groups are currently deductible gift recipients. This allows them to access tax-deductible donations to fund important, practical work to improve the natural environment. We need to ensure that tax deductible donations, which are a generous concession from the taxpayer, are used for the purpose intended and expected by the community," he said.

The inquiry will have particular regard to:

- the definition of 'environmental organisation' under the *Income Tax*

*Assessment Act 1997*, including under Subdivision 30-E;

- the requirements to be met by an organisation to be listed on the Register and maintain its listing;
- activities undertaken by organisations currently listed on the Register and the extent to which these activities involve on-ground environmental works;
- reporting requirements for organisations to disclose donations and activities funded by donations;
- the administration of the Register and potential efficiency improvements;
- compliance arrangements and the measures available to the Department of the Environment and the Australian Taxation Office to investigate breaches of the Act and Ministerial Guidelines by listed organisations; and
- relevant governance arrangements in international jurisdictions, and exploring methods to adopt best practice in Australia

The Committee will accept submissions addressing one or more of the terms of reference until the revised closing date for submissions: **Thursday, 21 May 2015**

Further details about how to make a submission can be obtained from the committee's website at: <http://www.apf.gov.au/reo>.

## New inquiry into governance in the Indian Ocean Territories

The Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories is inquiring into governance arrangements in the Indian Ocean Territories, reporting on the interaction between formal institutions and the Indian Ocean communities.

The committee will review:

- the role of the Administrator and the capacity (and appropriateness) of the Administrator taking on a stronger decision-making role;
- existing consultation mechanisms undertaken by government representatives, including the IOT Regional Development Organisation, and best practice for similar small remote communities' engagement with Australian and state governments;
- local government's role in supporting and representing communities in the Indian Ocean Territories; and
- opportunities to strengthen and diversify the economy, whilst maintaining and celebrating the unique cultural identity of the Indian Ocean Territories.

The Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP said, "The inquiry is a unique opportunity to take a close look at the different forms of governance in the Indian Ocean Territories". The Committee intends to visit Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands this month.

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

Phone: (02) 6277 4355 Email: [jscncet@apf.gov.au](mailto:jscncet@apf.gov.au) Website: [www.apf.gov.au/ncet](http://www.apf.gov.au/ncet)

## MPs examining cybercrime-fighting tool

Members of Parliament have met to discuss whether the use of Section 313 of the Telecommunications Act 1997 can and should continue to be used by government agencies to fight cybercrime.

The House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications, chaired by Jane Prentice MP, is examining whether past uses of s.313 were appropriate, legal and effective,

and whether changes should be made to the legislation to broaden or narrow the scope of its powers.

Issues to be addressed include:

- the efficacy of disrupting websites that host illegal content
- the legal basis of using s.313 in its current form
- whether other legislation provides for the disruption of illegal activity online
- whether the purpose of disruption has been adequately defined
- the need to better define the issues/offences against which s.313 is directed
- a potential role for ACMA as the principal reporting and oversight agency for use of s.313

Mrs Prentice said the Committee had considered a range of submissions relating to the use of s.313 to disrupt criminal activity online.

"This Inquiry has raised important issues about personal freedom and community protection. Wednesday's hearing will allow the Department of Communications to clarify its position on a number of issues and give the Committee a clearer view of the best way to achieve a balance between personal freedom and social responsibility when addressing the disruption of illegal online services," she said.

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](http://www.aph.gov.au/section313) or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352. email [ic.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ic.reps@aph.gov.au)

## **Committee: More needs to be done for Australian South Sea Islanders**

Australian South Sea Islanders still struggle to access Government services and little is being done to help them overcome severe social and economic disadvantage, according to the House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs which has recommended that the Australian Government form a taskforce to address the political, social and economic hardship faced by Australian South Sea Islander people.

Australian South Sea Islanders are the Australian-born descendants of the labourers brought here from the Pacific Islands in the 18th century. Although some came by choice, many were either tricked or kidnapped by recruiters and forced to endure difficult conditions working in Australia's primary industries. Those who remained in Australia after Federation faced ongoing racial discrimination and economic hardship.

Committee Chair, Mr George Christensen MP, said that Australian South Sea Islander people have faced a long history of injustice and that the Government's promises to address that injustice have so far gone unfulfilled.

"The treatment of Australian South Sea Islanders is one of the darker chapters in Australian history. Even today, Australian South Sea Islander people are not given the recognition and assistance that they deserve. Australia should be doing more," he said.

The committee's new report, "Revisiting Recognition: report on the roundtable with Australian South Sea Islanders", calls on the Government to follow through on the promises it made in 1994, when it recognised Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct ethnic group and acknowledged their unique culture and their history of disadvantage.

The committee's report follows a roundtable discussion held last year to mark the 20th



anniversary of Australian South Sea Islander recognition.

To further mark the event, the committee has published on its website a podcast and photo gallery featuring excerpts from the roundtable held in November last year and a sequence of historical photographs documenting the lives and experiences of South Sea Islanders in Australia. [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla)

The committee's report is available at this link:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Social\\_Policy\\_and\\_Legal\\_Affairs/South\\_Sea\\_Islanders/Report](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/South_Sea_Islanders/Report) .

## 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](http://192.55.98.146/resources/etexts/MalcolmWhyteLifting_the_lid.pdf)) or contact Adrian Gibbs on 6281 6971; mobile 0418 489 677

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## 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](http://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

**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.

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

## Arrangements for ANUEF Room Bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Jan O'Connor at [jantancress@gmail.com](mailto:jantancress@gmail.com) or Tel: 62473341. 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 May, 2015.**