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Australian
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Nobel Laureate is new Vice Chancellor

Chancellor of the Australian National University, Professor Gareth Evans AC QC, says he is delighted to announce that the 2011 Nobel Laureate in Physics, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, has accepted the University Council's offer to become the 12th Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University.

Chair of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Emeritus Professor James Fox, has also congratulated Professor Schmidt and invited him to address the Emeritus Faculty in due course.

Professor Schmidt will take up the position on 1 January 2016 at the conclusion of the term of Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO.

Professor Evans said, "From a stellar field of international and Australian candidates, the University Council has chosen an inspirational leader. Brian's vision, vitality, global stature and communication skills are going to take ANU to places it has never been before.

"I want to acknowledge the outstanding work done by our current Vice-Chancellor to modernise the operation and strengthen the reputation of the university. Ian has never been afraid of challenge or a difficult decision and he will continue his work over

Diary Dates

In future ANUEF will rely on the new 'Google Calendar' for events listing on the ANUEF website (<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/>) we will only email information directly to you for special events, or when there is a late change.

The Events Calendar on our website will be updated whenever new information becomes available. All monthly collegiate lunches and public lectures (including abstracts) will be advertised on our website, the public lectures will also be advertised on the ANU Events billboard. The most immediate events will appear in *Emeritus*.

So, please, check the new Events box on the ANUEF website, and report any errors to adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com.

Dates listed on pages 27-29



Professor Brian Schmidt AC and the Chancellor of the ANU, Professor Gareth Evans AC QC at the announcement of Professor Schmidt's appointment as Vice-Chancellor from January.

Photo: Stuart Hay

the next six months to ensure ANU is in good financial shape with an excellent academic reputation, well placed for its next era.

"These are exciting times for the university. I am sure that the ANU community will welcome the appointment of one of our most distinguished academics as our next Vice-Chancellor".

Professor Evans said, "Brian Schmidt is superbly placed to deliver on the ambition of ANU founders - to permanently secure our position among the great universities of the world, and as a crucial contributor to the nation.

"We had a stellar field of international and Australian candidates, and have chosen an inspirational leader."

Vice Chancellor Professor Young said Professor Schmidt would lead ANU with distinction.

"It is an honour to be Vice-Chancellor of such a tremendous institution, and a privilege to help build and nurture our great staff and students," he said.

"Professor Schmidt is an outstanding appointment and I look forward to working with him as I complete the final six months of my term."

Professor Schmidt said he was thrilled to be appointed Vice-Chancellor and to have the opportunity to lead the university where he has worked for the past 20 years.

"I've been at the ANU for some 20 years and it has given me some of the best experiences of my life. I really want to give back to the university that has given so much to me," Professor Schmidt said.

He would work not only to further improve the outstanding research at ANU, but also to ensure the university provided its students with an education equal to that of Oxford, Cambridge and the great Ivy League schools in the United States.

"We're nearly there, and we're going to get there over the next few years," he said.

"I am especially looking forward to connecting our students of today with the students of the past, our alumni, for their mutual benefit.

"We need to focus as well on outreach, devising policy for the nation, and working with business and institutions like CSIRO. In this way we can take the knowledge we create and give it back to the nation to make Australia even stronger."

Professor Young will continue as Vice-Chancellor until January 2016.

"Ian and I have a very good working relationship, and I'm planning to learn from him and to do a lot of listening over the next six months," Professor Schmidt said.

[Listen to an interview between Professor Schmidt and 666 ABC Canberra drive presenter Adam Shirley on 24 June 2015.](#)

Memorial gathering for Anthony Low

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Young AO has invited colleagues and friends to celebrate the life of **Professor Anthony Low AO**, former ANU Vice-Chancellor 1975-1982 to be held 10am, Friday 31 July 2015. Light refreshments will be served after the memorial at The Hall, University House, 1 Balmain Close, ANU, Acton
rsvp: Friday 24 July 2015 vc.events@anu.edu.au ph. 02 6125 0129

29 recommendations in ANU review

The report on the Review of the Australian National University (ANU) Act 1991 and the governance arrangements of the ANU (the Walker Review) has made 29 recommendations for the university's governance. ANU Chancellor, Professor Gareth Evans AC QC, said he welcomed Professor Walker's recommendations for both legislative and executive change, which the ANU Council had accepted with only minor qualifications.

"They will strengthen the university's already robust governance arrangements and ensure ANU continues to meet its full potential as a great national and global university", Professor Evans said.

In September 2014, in consultation with Professor Gareth Evans and Vice Chancellor, Professor Ian Young AO, the Australian Government commissioned a review to ensure that the ANU's legislative and governance arrangements remain fit for purpose, and to assist the university to maintain and enhance its status as a leading university, nationally and internationally, for the coming decades.

Professor (Emeritus) Sally Walker AM conducted the review. The review found that the ANU is a highly successful university, consistently ranking among the top universities in Australia and the world, and that there is much about the governance of the ANU that is exemplary. The review report makes 29 recommendations aimed at further strengthening the university's governance arrangements and ensuring that its legislative arrangements will allow the Council to govern effectively into the future.

Professor Walker is a distinguished lawyer and a highly experienced and respected university administrator, having served as Vice-Chancellor and President of Deakin University from 2003 – 2010 and before that Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. The government is considering Professor Walker's recommendations as it works towards ensuring that the ANU is a standard bearer for governance in the Australian higher education sector.

[The Review of the Australian National University \(ANU\) Act 1991 and the governance arrangements of the ANU.](#)

<http://docs.education.gov.au/documents/review-australian-national-university-anu-act-1991-and-governance-arrangements-anu>

Minister's comment

The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, welcomed the Walker Review of the Australian National University Act 1991 and the governance arrangements of the Australian National University.

Mr Pyne commissioned Emeritus Professor Walker of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu to review the Act and ensure the university's governance arrangements continued to meet best practice. The review, which commenced in September 2014, recognised the special role of the ANU as a leading research and education institution and as a valued resource for the nation.

Recommendations focus on the roles and composition of the ANU Governing Council and many other aspects of the university's corporate governance.

Mr Pyne said Professor Walker's recommendations provided a basis for modernised enabling legislation for the university (which would replace the ANU Act 1991), and would help make the ANU a standard bearer for governance in the sector.

To access the Walker Review click [here](http://docs.education.gov.au/node/37895). <http://docs.education.gov.au/node/37895>

Three important ANUEF meetings

The annual ANUEF Lecture was given by Professor John Mattick AO FAA FAHMS Hon.FRCPA, Director: of the Garvan Institute, on "Challenging the Dogma" at the Finkel Theatre on June 30.

Professor Mattick addressed the topic: "The genetic programming of complex organisms has been misunderstood for the past 50 years because it has been assumed that most genetic information is transacted by proteins. This zeitgeist has persisted despite the discovery that over 98% of the human genome does not code for proteins, that at least half of the human genome is derived from retroviruses and other mobile genetic elements, that all animals from humans to nematodes have a similar number and repertoire of conventional protein-coding genes, and that the genome is transcribed in highly dynamic and cell-specific patterns to produce huge numbers of RNAs that are not translated into proteins. It is now clear that these RNAs orchestrate the epigenetic pathways of differentiation and development, and modified in response to environmental signals, in mammals and especially primates, likely the molecular basis of physiological adaptation and cognition.

"Finally, it appears that there is RNA-mediated transgenerational inheritance, which may explain many genetic mysteries and expose others, and that, therefore, that Lamarck may have been (at least partly) right after all. Indeed, much of what we hold to be true in biology, and perhaps in science more broadly seems to be based on primitive preconceptions and ignorant generalisations, which need to be challenged, not cherished."

ANUEF annual symposium

On July 1 the ANUEF held its annual symposium of members' activities. Speakers and their topics included:

Fergus Thomson ~ "The Apparent Success of One-on-One Tutorials: Concentrating the mind wonderfully, or just the 'Hawthorne Effect'?"

He writes: "Australian universities have apparently abandoned the 'Oxbridge' approach of one-on-one tutorials. Were they merely a vestigial indulgence? Or did they serve some useful purpose? This talk has no acceptable research basis. In essence, it presents some idiosyncratic perceptions based on a series of observations, with no pretence to truly empirical status. Nevertheless, the phenomena observed were so striking that they seem worthy of being examined further and more closely: Law students who participated in one-on-one sessions with the author (who claims no especial capacity as a teacher or tutor) achieved very significantly more academically, and in their later careers, than other students who did not participate. . It is tempting to ascribe these outcomes to the one-on-oneness of tutorials, but obvious questions including causality (*post hoc ergo propter hoc?*) and correlation arise. They are addressed but not resolved in this brief talk. The emerging questions are:

1. If a student has to face the tutor, without the inevitable anonymity that goes with lectures attended by tens, sometimes hundreds of students, does this have a powerfully concentrating effect on the mind, much like the prospect of hanging on the morrow, or
2. is it a function of the "Hawthorne Effect" which increased a company's productivity, apparently and merely because special attention was given to the employees?
3. Whatever the underlying reason, assuming that the phenomena did result from the tutorials, what are the implications for students and universities.

Bob Douglas—"Community Organising: What does this Obama style activity have to offer a deeply disenchanted Australian electorate? Will it fly in the ACT?"

He writes: "Democracy in Australia is in serious trouble. In a book of essays about the public interest that I co-edited recently for *Australia21* the suppression of the "public good" by private interests and the needs of the corporate world was a feature of a number of the essays. I think there is, a wide feeling that our national Parliamentary system is dysfunctional and not addressing the real challenges to a human future. There is also a sense of hopelessness and frustration that there is nothing ordinary people can do about it.

"I am firmly of the view that despite the massive challenges, which now face humanity, all is not yet lost but that if our children are to have a viable future, we must urgently engineer a quite radical transformative change in society away from Anthropocentrism towards what I describe as eco-centrism. I am also satisfied that such changes must come not from our leaders but from the community at large.

"In the past 12 months I have become particularly interested in the discipline of community organising as a means of restoring some power balance to our democratic system. Our leaders will not change until there is strong movement for change coming from the community. Community organising is about empowering communities to act in their self-interest and to hold decision makers to account for the common good. It is about understanding power, which the movement defines as "the ability to act," and using the power of the people to influence political decision makers. The two centre-pieces of community organising are relational meetings and kitchen table or tabletop discussions. These identify leaders and issues that can result in carefully planned actions. Following the launch of a report of a series of kitchen table conversations in Canberra, auspiced by SEE-Change earlier this year, several public meetings have been held and a small group of volunteers has embarked on the development of a Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy."

Bob Douglas retired from headship of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at ANU in 2001 and much of his retirement has been spent on activities associated with *Australia21* (www.australia21.org.au) and SEE-Change (www.see-change.org.au)

Catherine Gross ~ "Fairness and justice in environmental decision-making"

She writes: "The notion of fairness is frequently referred to in a broad range of contexts, but getting to an agreement about what is fair in a specific setting is rare. In this talk I engage the audience in a discussion of what we mean by fairness and justice and why they are important. In the context of a proposed infrastructure project, such as a wind farm, we explore three distinct areas of justice: interactional justice (fairness in the way people are treated); procedural justice (fairness in the way decision-making processes are conducted); and distributive justice (fairness in the way public goods and burdens are distributed). We discuss how a lack of fairness in community consultation can lead to alienation and social conflict. The talk concludes with a brief overview of why fairness and justice are essential in three main areas. These are: 1) to reduce or avoid alienation and social conflict; 2) to achieve better decisions through greater participation and discussion of information; and 3) to gain greater social acceptance of difficult decisions.

References: Gross, C., (2014). Calling people NIMBYs won't stop development arguments, *The Conversation*, <http://theconversation.com/calling-people-nimbys-wont-stop-development-arguments-25715>; Gross, C., (2014). *Fairness and Justice in Environmental Decision Making: Water under the bridge*, Routledge, Abingdon, UK. <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415833899/>

Caroline Ifeka (CASS) ~ "Field research in African conflict zones: some anthropological issues of theory and method."

She writes: "In this brief presentation I outline some problems to do with challenges presented by on-going civil war in areas of Nigeria to in-depth field research on, and in, violent conditions. Problems concern the need for a dynamic theoretical framework geared to understanding modern/post-modern, as distinct from pre-modern, extreme physical (direct) and social (indirect) violence in economies impacted culturally by globalisation. Such a framework may shape anthropological practice in the field (ethnography) in Nigeria, and across African conflict zones, so outsiders (African and European), may give ethnographic voice to victims and perpetrators of socio-political and economic violence experienced by various communities, and classified by international organisations, as warfare.

Philip Rose ~ "Murder and Fraud: Evaluating Forensic Speech Science Evidence"

He writes: "Using two real-world cases crucially involving speech evidence – a murder and a \$150 million telephone fraud – I'll explain how quantified forensic evidence is correctly evaluated using the Likelihood Ratio of Bayes' Theorem. It is very different from the way most people, including legal professionals, envisage. Visit my website: <http://philjohnrose.net> for more information on forensic voice comparison".

Karis Muller ~ "Renewable energies in the EU's Pacific Overseas Territories."

"Renewable energies in the EU's Pacific Overseas Territories. For several years now the EU Commission and relevant EU Member State governments have been promoting their overseas dependencies as useful sites of environmental projects showcasing renewable energy. Taking as examples the four Pacific OCTs I ask:

1. How and why are the Pacific OCTs being 'sold' as exemplary of a 'green' Europe?
2. Does reality match the rhetoric?
3. How far and in what respects is there an imbalance between the general focus of EU energy policy and the promotion of renewables in the four Pacific OCTs?
4. What do developments in the Pacific OCTs and their EEZ tell us about how the EU's objective to ensure energy security? Can we conclude that there is also a wider geo-

strategic purpose, namely to enlist support for a 'Europeanisation' of the OCTs that some would regard as a consensual imperialism?

Shirley Pipitone ~ "Open Gardens Canberra: Establishing a new community association."



She writes: "Pursuing a passion, the issues involved in establishing a new community association and the difficult process of finding gardens to open will be the focus of my presentation. A huge range of questions confronted me. What kind of organisation? Is it possible to have an elegant Constitution? How do you create a committee in an organisation that isn't interested in meetings? The optimistic art of delegating—to whom? And finally the difficult process of finding gardens to open, and the benefits of being a member of Open Gardens Canberra.

"Open Gardens Canberra will commence opening gardens in the Canberra region to members and the public in Spring this year.

In July 2014 I first heard that Open Gardens Australia was closing down and I felt a great sense of loss. I had been selecting gardens for Open Gardens Australia for eight years, with a strong focus on native plant gardens. After a short period of grieving, I decided someone had to do something to continue the tradition of open gardens in the Canberra region. That someone ended up being me. My life and my own garden have been on hold for the past 9 months while I've been working to establish Open Gardens Canberra.

My presentation included photos of the 10 gardens we are opening in the coming season, and I'm sure there will be more! To view some of these photos, go to our temporary website at <http://www.designingbush.com.au/open-gardens-canberra.html> or you can also look for us on Facebook! For full details of Shirley's talk to members, access [http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events/docs/ANUEF_Symposium_July_2015 -
_Open_Gardens_Canberra.pdf](http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/events/docs/ANUEF_Symposium_July_2015_-_Open_Gardens_Canberra.pdf).

ANUEF's monthly public lecture

The ANUEF's monthly public lecture will be given by **Professor Chenupati Jagadish**, on "Semiconductor Nanowires for Optoelectronics and Energy Applications" on Wednesday, July 15, from 4pm – 5pm at the Australian National University Emeritus Faculty, Building 1c, 24 Balmain Crescent, Australian National University ACT 0200, Australia ([map](#))

He writes:

"Semiconductors have played an important role in the development of information and communications technology, solar cells, solid state lighting. Nanowires are considered as building blocks for the next generation electronics and optoelectronics. In this talk, I introduce the importance of nanowires and their potential applications and discuss about how these nanowires can be synthesised and how the shape, size and composition of the nanowires influence their structural and optical properties. I present results on axial and radial heterostructures and how one can engineer the optical

properties to obtain high performance optoelectronic devices such as lasers, THz detectors, solar cells. Future prospects of the semiconductor nanowires will be discussed.

**Words spoken at the funeral of
Colin Plowman
By Barry Ninham
At University House - June 23, 2015**

Colin's career spanned ten Vice Chancellors at ANU, from 1959 to 1991. No one knew more about the ANU. He was registrar on a Committee that appointed me to a new Chair in RSPHysS in 1970. We became close friends through the Staff Centre over the next 45 years.

Colin was stuck in the middle of a full scale war that went on for several years. I learnt that soon enough. I had no idea that the Vice Chancellor, Sir John Crawford, had tried to overturn my appointment in favour of a Cambridge friend mate, that Mark Oliphant, founding father of ANU, had just been unceremoniously kicked out. I took him into my Department.

The war was between Crawford and Ernest Titterton, my School Director. The cause of the war was simple although couched in the language of national interest. In fact it was pure hatred vs contempt between two little men with giant egos.

Crawford won, but only by calling in an artillery barrage from Sir Anthony Mason from the High Court, Gough Whitlam and Nugget Coombs.

RSPHysS was pretty dozy and needed to clean up its act. But it did spawn in succession RS Earth Sciences, of Astronomy, of Mathematics and then Engineering with considerable pain in giving birth and reducing resources all round.

After the Crawford wars, in 1974 Colin left town for UNSW, sort of last man standing with a reputation for wisdom and gravitas.

The Chancellery under Crawford had set up rigid barriers to communication. It was almost Stalinist in style. When he visited our Faculty Boards he came protected by a bunch of very severe *apparatchiks*. We could not even talk to the press without approval from Chancellery.

After a disastrous appointment from NZ, Tony Low became Vice Chancellor. Things started to look up. Tony was a distinguished scholar and gentleman with style, who knew what Universities were about. Tony, early on, went around testing an idea. His idea was that there should be a new DVC/ Registrar. He would open up communication between Chancellery and students and staff and make it human

Someone who could move easily between different and all levels, ease tensions fix problems, put out bushfires, lift morale; at the same time a man who could appear serious on committees and have respect from academics. In short a DVC Human Relationships.

An impossible job, and how did we think Colin Plowman would go? We told Tony that would be a very fine thing. So did everyone...

So, soon after, Colin came back with his new wife Ann, They were very much in love and while he took her early death ten years later stoically, it knocked him severely with two young girls, Amy and Kerin, to look after.

Colin hit the ground running and was a huge success. A genius in fact. The kind that Jonathon Swift, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the satirist of *Gulliver's Travels*, had in mind when he said:

When a true genius comes into the world you shall know him by this sign; that the Dunces are all in confederacy against him.

The ANU has had a large number of dunces.

Colin was everywhere: patron of this club and that, on the board of all colleges. If you needed a visa he would fix it; if you needed a place to stay or money he would fix it. He played tennis with the mighty, and was at home equally with judges or gardeners or journalists or politicians or students. At the Staff Centre or University House, or ATEM at and with the theatre. He knew everyone. Everyone loved him. Everyone admired him and called on him for help.

At the same time he managed to maintain a serious demeanour and deliver legal-sounding opinions to innumerable committees and academic boards with such grace that it was a thing to marvel at. There was even a committee to explore how to reduce the number of committee meetings. To their credit they abolished themselves as a good start.

On that topic of meetings Pat Moran, a very distinguished Professor of Statistics in the Institute, told me he refused to go to any selection committee or other meetings. And advised me to do likewise. The reason was that half the time they got it right and half the time wrong; so they could just as well toss a coin with the same possibility of a correct decision.

As for ARC and NHMRC, Colin was able to put up with it because he had a well-developed sense of the absurd. He told me he was well prepared for the boredom of academic meetings by his year in the Air Force peeling onions, the ideal training for an academic administrator.

It was a golden period under Low and Karmel. They shared with Colin the knowledge that leadership and morale depended on leaving things alone.

Then came the Universities as Saviours of the Nation through high-tech industries war: ANUTECH no less! There was a war against the Staff Centre which was a tragedy.

Then came the big one, the Dawkins wars. Dawkins wanted to abolish the Institute of Advanced Studies and amalgamate ANU with CCAE. The ANU was split. Colin joined with the angels, at risk to himself, and the ANU survived. The TAFEs did not. It was a pyrrhic victory.

Then came the foreign student fee education-as-an industry war which is still with us. For the ANU, this is death by a thousand cuts because we can no longer hire foreign research students. Administration grew and grew necessitating more and more overseas students to pay for them. Human Relations morphed back into Human Resources.

By then Colin had retired and involved in some ANU external education projects with Dick Johnson and Don Anderson and others. He told me that one thing that pleased him was that when he retired, Nugget Coombs gave a speech in which he said, "...we will miss you, Colin. You are the only one around here who is worth a cracker!" A big surprise to the stunned mullets of the Chancellery around him.

The Dawkins, the Universities in business and Overseas Students -as-an-industry policies have probably reached their nadir in the referral of Murdoch and Curtin Universities and probably UWA to the WA Commission against Crime and Corruption, and in the cases of two senior professors summarily fired that has been taken up by the former governor and senior Barrister in WA.

WA has also adopted a new motto—"Pursue Impossible" instead of "Seek Wisdom" and adopted a peacock as its emblem. This in the State of the Back Swan. Madness has come upon us.

The ANU has gone back increasingly to the original little Britain picture of the senior bureaucrats before the war, as a place to source policy advice and training for the Federal Government.

Through the decline Colin always managed to retain his infectious good humour. He never betrayed a confidence or spoke ill of anyone. Well, there are two exceptions: one ANU DVC and a managing director of ANUTECH. Both shall remain nameless.

In the face of adversity he exuded boundless confidence and optimism. How come? In Russia the universities are closing down and Academy of Science of Catherine the Great has closed.

His view was the African one: "After the rain the sun always shines". But it has been raining here a very long time.

Ultimately his optimism lay in his acceptance that, while the poor will not always be with us, the dunces most certainly will. We can't do anything about that. And he believed that however much damage we do to Universities the young will always enquire and their curiosity can never be extinguished.

That is Colin's legacy. It is a good one.

Colin would not have wanted us to grieve. He would have liked us to remember him, and to celebrate a life lived full.

So as an elegy for Colin, my choice is a quatrain that appears in the frontispiece of the last volume *Farewell the Trumpets* of Jan Morris's magnificent trilogy on the British Empire of which we were part, and its decline through which we lived.

It goes like this:

*Say farewell to the trumpets!
You will hear them no more
But their sweet and silvery echoes
Will call to you still
Through the half-closed door.*

ANU names among Australia Laureate Fellowships

The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, has announced 15 outstanding recipients of new Australian Laureate Fellowships, funded through the Australian Research Council (ARC).

The Fellows will receive a total of \$42 million over the next five years and will commence research programs exploring fields including: harnessing intellectual property to build food security; translating 'big data' to meet challenges in industry, environment and health; and exploring a new 'Pharming' industry that uses plants to deliver medicine.

Mr Pyne said, "The research programs of the 15 Laureate Fellows will deliver outcomes that will benefit our nation, its economy and our people," Mr Pyne said.

Since 2011 the ARC has also awarded two special female Laureate Fellowships. Recipients of these awards undertake an ambassadorial role to promote women in research, in addition to their research program. The 2015 awardees, both from the University of Melbourne are:

- Professor Leann Tilley—Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship—will conduct research on the malaria parasite to deliver new biotechnology and biomedical outcomes that may combat disease in livestock and humans.

- Professor Anne Orford—*Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship*—will investigate legal issues involved in decisions about intervention in civil war.

The full list of awardees is:

- **Professor Benjamin Andrews, Australian National University**
Geometric analysis of eigenvalues and heat flows: This fellowship project aims to build on Australia's leading position in the areas of nonlinear partial differential equations and geometric analysis to exploit new and highly innovative mathematical methods. It is expected that the methods will affect a range of related fields including stochastic modelling and finance, image processing, and the basic sciences. The project seeks to serve as a focal point for a developing community of Australian researchers in this field, providing a training ground for young researchers and students at the forefront of a vigorous and internationally active area of research, and bringing top international researchers to Australia to interact with the local research community.
- **Professor Matthew Bailes, Swinburne University of Technology**
Exascale astronomy: real-time analysis of the transient radio universe: This fellowship project aims to develop and deploy a generic supercomputing solution for the powerful square kilometre array precursor telescopes in Australia and South Africa. 'Fast radio bursts' are a new astronomical phenomenon of as yet unknown origin, with enormous potential to probe the cosmos in new ways — but only a handful is known. Concurrently, advances in computer graphics have enabled very low-cost parallel processors to be constructed that are revolutionising radio astronomy signal processing. The telescopes in Australia and South Africa will be used to discover new fast radio bursts, and will also be pursuing a pulsar timing program which seeks to probe the interior of neutron stars, search for gravitational waves and make new tests of general relativity.
- **Professor David Craik, University of Queensland**
Taking Australian from the farm to the pharm: This fellowship project aims to design novel drugs based on cyclic peptides that will be expressed in the seeds of plants to produce bio-pills — saving money for patients and the health care system. Plants produce unique cyclic peptides (mini-proteins) to protect themselves from pests and pathogens. This project aims to chemically redesign these peptides to produce stable protein-based pharmaceuticals that can be eaten. It is hoped that these designer pharmaceuticals will be inexpensive, effective, easy to ingest and without the side effects of traditional drugs. The outcomes of this project are anticipated to be high-value drugs and agri-chemicals which will open up new high-value crops for Australian farmers and a new Australian 'pharming' industry.
- **Professor John Gooding, the University of New South Wales**
The first generation of single entity measurement tools for analysis: This fellowship project aims to develop a new type of diagnostic device that measures single molecules or single cells. Such measurements seek to revolutionise analysis by allowing heterogeneity and rare events in samples to be identified, rather than the average information provided by existing tools. With single molecule devices, the heterogeneity in response enables the development of multiplexed, calibration free sensors. The outcomes of the project are hoped to be completely new thinking on performing measurements, new knowledge regarding heterogeneity in biology and the potential for novel

commercialised sensors. It is expected that this will be important not only in biological discovery, but also in providing far more robust sensors for applications such as environmental monitoring, disease prediction, personalised medicine or drug discovery.

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- **Professor Philip Hugenholtz, the University of Queensland**
Reconstructing the universal tree and network of life: This fellowship project aims to obtain 100 000 genome sequences and systematically organise these into natural phylogenetic relationships comprising both vertical inheritance and lateral transfers. One of the challenges in biology today is to reconstruct the complete evolutionary history of life on Earth. A major hurdle to this goal is our inability to culture most microbial species which comprise the bulk of evolutionary diversity. The framework developed in this project seeks to replace the current incomplete classification of microorganisms to provide fundamental insights into ecology and evolution. It is hoped that the outcomes of the project can be applied to manage risk and capture opportunities in important Australian industries including agriculture, mining and biotechnology.
- **Professor Lisa Kewley, The Australian National University**
The building blocks of life over 12 billion years: This fellowship project aims to develop new theoretical models and combine them with innovative observations from new Australian 3D technology to trace how the building blocks of life — carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen — formed and assembled from the infant universe to the present day. The elements transform the way new stars are born, the way planets are formed, the way stars explode and die, and the way stars assemble into new galaxies. The origin of the elements is an outstanding problem which is driving the establishment of new international telescopes; Australia alone has invested over \$480 million in astronomical infrastructure over the past 8 years. This project aims to provide the critical mentoring and training to the next generation of astronomers required to fully exploit Australia's major investment in astronomical infrastructure.
- **Professor Ping Koy Lam, the Australian National University**
Precision laser levitation for quantum metrology and gravitational sensing: This fellowship project aims to levitate macroscopic objects using only laser beams, to provide a new tool to test physics theories. Strong laser beams can exert sufficient force to counteract gravity and make an object levitate. In contrast to other forms of levitation, laser levitation is scatter-free and can preserve system coherence. It has superior optical and mechanical quality factors and complete information of the system dynamics is retained. This allows laser levitation to be turned into a highly controllable and ultra-sensitive device capable of detecting minute environmental changes. This research aims to probe the relationship between quantum and gravitational physics and develop laser levitation into a precision instrument for the sensing of gravity. Laser levitation has the potential to be developed into technology for mineral exploration and environmental sensing.
- **Professor Zheng-Xiang Li, Curtin University of Technology**
How the Earth works - toward building a new tectonic paradigm: This fellowship project aims to build on the latest technological and conceptual advances to establish the patterns of Earth evolution, and use this information to examine a ground-breaking geodynamic hypothesis which links cyclic plate aggregation and dispersion to deep Earth processes. Half a century after the inception of plate tectonics theory, we are still unsure how the Earth 'engine' works, particularly the forces that drive plate tectonics. The project involves extensive national and international collaboration to potentially create a paradigm shift in

our understanding of global tectonics, and hopes to contribute to an understanding of the formation and distribution of Earth resources to provide a conceptual framework for their exploration.

- **Professor Trevor McDougall, the University of New South Wales**
Ocean mixing processes and innovation in oceanographic models: This fellowship project aims to develop new oceanographic tools and thermodynamic variables to support a new generation of accurate ocean models more suitable for the prediction of changes in a warming world. The ocean's role in the climate system is predominantly to store and to transport heat and carbon dioxide, and the ocean's ability to do this is sensitive to the strength of mixing processes, which are quite uncertain. This project hopes to distinguish the vital role of vertical mixing from that of horizontal mixing by (i) developing algorithms to construct neutral density surfaces in climate models, (ii) formulating new inverse techniques to deduce the amount of vertical mixing in various ocean regions, and (iii) incorporating new approaches to ocean mixing processes and thermodynamics into ocean models.
- **Professor Kerrie Mengersen, Queensland University of Technology**
Bayesian learning for decision making in the big data era: This fellowship project aims to develop new techniques in evidence-based learning and decision-making in the big data era. Big data has arrived, and with it a huge global demand for statistical knowledge and skills to analyse these data for improved learning and decision-making. This project will seek to address this need by creating a step-change in knowledge in Bayesian statistics and translating this knowledge to real-world challenges in industry, environment and health. The new big data statistical analysts trained through the project could also create much needed capacity at national and international levels.
- **Professor Anne Orford, the University of Melbourne**
Civil war, intervention and international law: This fellowship project aims to answer the question of whether and if so when it is lawful for external actors to intervene in support of parties to a civil war. The urgency of this question and the difficulty of finding general principles to address it are illustrated by the intensity of debates about the legality of American intervention in Iraq and Syria and of Russian intervention in Ukraine. This project expects to build an interdisciplinary team to develop new legal concepts to make sense of the responsibilities of external actors in civil war, taking into account new norms and practices developed to protect civilians and to fight terrorism. It aims to provide governments, parliaments, and the public, with a framework for understanding the legal issues involved in decisions about intervention.
- **Professor Ronald Rapee, Macquarie University**
Development of emotional functioning during adolescence: This fellowship project aims to understand factors that increase risk and provide protection from the development of emotional distress during the adolescent years. Adolescence is a critical stage in the development of emotional functioning, and behaviours developed at this time can influence the entire life course. The research plans to follow a large group of teenagers over many years and will focus on risk and protective factors that are open to possible modification. The intended outcomes seek to support the development of prevention and promotion programs and public health initiatives to maximise positive emotional development in young people. It is hoped that these will lead to increased productivity and better quality of life.
- **Professor Bradley Sherman, the University of Queensland**
Harnessing intellectual property to build food security: This fellowship project

aims to maximise the benefits and minimise the costs of using intellectual property protection to improve agricultural productivity and food security in Australia and the Asia Pacific. Food security is a problem in many Asian Pacific countries, and in Australia there is an urgent need to improve agricultural yields, increase sustainability, enhance the breeding of new plant varieties, and to adapt to climatic and environmental changes. In addition, an unmet demand for food in the region provides an important opportunity for Australian agriculture. If a food-secure future for Australia and the Asia Pacific is to be achieved, higher agricultural yields must be produced from increasingly limited or degraded inputs. This project seeks to critically examine the role that intellectual property is able to play in meeting these interrelated challenges and opportunities.

- **Professor Steven Sherwood, The University of New South Wales**
Revisiting the physics of clouds: This fellowship project aims to bring new rigour to climate modelling by improving our understanding of key phenomena like clouds and storms. Earth's climate has taken a number of turns in the recent and geologic past that so far cannot be reproduced in models. Clouds and atmospheric turbulence are also a problem for weather and climate prediction, the conceptual understanding of which now has evident flaws. The hypothesis of this project is that these two problems are strongly linked, and that this link may be exploited to solve problems across disciplines. This project aims to systematically re-evaluate our conceptual understanding of cloud physics, and investigate how this affects our understanding of climate phenomena in Earth's past and future.
- **Professor Leann Tilley, The University of Melbourne**
Bio-metrology and modelling of a complex system: the malaria parasite: This fellowship project aims to develop a cross-disciplinary program to measure, model and manipulate a complex cellular system — sexual differentiation of the human malaria parasite. Combining life and physical sciences with powerful imaging techniques, the project seeks to develop quantitative biochemical, biophysical and modelling techniques to probe a complex system in a way previously not possible. It expects to integrate and correlate thousands of measurements of the dynamic processes inside cells and use these datasets to generate rigorous and sophisticated mathematical models that can predict drivers of commitment for transformation of the parasite to a sexual phase in preparation for transmission to mosquitoes. This holistic approach hopes to deliver new biotechnology and biomedical outcomes, including new ways to combat disease in livestock and humans.

A full list of new Australian Laureate Fellows and their project details is available from the [ARC's Funding Announcements web page](#). For more information about the Australian Laureate Fellowships scheme please visit the [ARC website](#).

Research Evaluation Committee Appointments

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

The appointments are:

- Professor Tim Murray, La Trobe University
- Professor Ross McKinnon, Flinders University
- Professor Doug MacFarlane, Monash University.

All distinguished researchers selected for the eight Research Evaluation Committees are drawn from Australia and overseas and will cover the following discipline clusters:

- Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences
- Humanities and Creative Arts
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- Education and Human Society
- Economics and Commerce
- Mathematics, Information and Computing Sciences
- Biological and Biotechnological Sciences
- Medical and Health Sciences.

A brief biography for each of the REC members is available on the [ARC website](#) together with further detailed information about ERA.

National literacy and numeracy test

The Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, announced on June 28 that the government would fund a trial Literacy and Numeracy Test for initial teacher education students that will be available from August this year for up to 5000 students across seven capital cities and two regional locations.

Mr. Pyne said the 2015 introduction will confirm that the test is fit for purpose before it becomes a course requirement for all initial teacher education students graduating from the end of the 2016 academic year.

To provide students with access in a wide range of areas, the test will be offered in metropolitan locations of Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra, Darwin and regional locations of Albury and Ballarat.

“Every teacher education student who graduates must pass the new Literacy and Numeracy test from 2016,” Mr Pyne said. “Testing key aspects of the personal literacy and numeracy skills of aspiring teachers will assist higher education providers, teacher employers and the general public to have absolute confidence in the skills of graduating teachers..

“For too long there have been public concerns about the variability in the quality of teaching graduates and in the effectiveness of existing programs in preparing new teachers.

“On top of the new test, there will be an overhauled accreditation process established from the beginning of 2016. All courses will have moved to the new approach by the end of 2017.

“Pre-service teachers must have a thorough understanding on how to teach literacy and numeracy, including phonics and have skills in data collection and analysis for student assessment and to be better able to engage with parents,” Mr Pyne said.

The new test is part of the Government’s Students First approach which focuses on four key areas that will make a difference to students:

- teacher quality
- school autonomy
- parental engagement
- strengthening the curriculum

For further information, visit www.studentsfirst.gov.au.

Australia part of EU's plans to deepen Asia Pacific trade strategy

European Union Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström says the European Union, the world's largest economy, needs to engage more with Australia.

Commissioner Malmström highlighted the importance of the EU's trade relationship with Australia at a speech given to mark European Trade Policy Day.

"We now need to deepen our Asia Pacific strategy," Commissioner Malmström said in Brussels. "That is the region where much of the world's growth is going to take place in the coming years, one third from China alone.

"Australia and New Zealand are also important regional players. We need to step up our engagement with the whole zone."

The comments come after data issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 22 June 2015 revealed the EU remained Australia's largest trading partner in services in 2014, representing 19.9%, or \$A26.0bn of Australia's total services trade (+4% on 2013).

The European Ambassador to Australia, Sem Fabrizi, said the trade results released by the ABS placed the EU ahead of the United States and China (see Figure 1) in service trade.

"The EU was the most important export market for Australian services last year, worth \$A9.9bn or an increase of 5 per cent," Ambassador Fabrizi said. "The EU was also Australia's largest supplier of services at \$A16.1bn or an increase of 4 per cent."

The ABS figures show travel services feature prominently and account for \$A13.6 billion (+2%), or more than half of the two-way bilateral trade in services.

Trade in education-related services formed an increasingly significant component at A\$1.4 billion (+12.2%), with the EU being Australia's third-largest partner, after China and India.

The full text of Commissioner Malmström's speech can be found here

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/june/tradoc_153543.pdf

Australia-India trade deal offers huge education opportunity

A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between Australian and India planned for finalisation by the end of 2015 is an historic opportunity for both countries to grow and prosper in the coming decades with aligned economic and trade interests, according to Universities Australia's Chief Executive, Belinda Robinson.

Speaking at the associated India-Australia CEOs Forum held in New Delhi she commended the Australian Government on its tenacious pursuit of a CECA with India and its heavy emphasis on service industries including education.

"India represents an enormous opportunity for Australian education and training providers in assisting India to address the challenge of ensuring that its 190 million people between the ages of 18-25 are equipped with the skills and education needed to accelerate national development and prosperity," said Ms Robinson.

"It was clear from yesterday's discussions involving Indian and Australian chief executives from the education, energy, mining, financial, manufacturing, infrastructure, telecommunications and services sectors that there is a great deal to be gained by both nations in forging stronger trade engagement.

"The key take-out from these discussions is the acknowledgment on both sides that the time is right for us to come together to take the next step in driving an even a stronger economic relationship which includes education services.

"These opportunities are once in a generation and the university sector is pleased to be working closely with the Australian Government in helping to spur the momentum needed to have this important initiative finalised by the end of the year", said Ms Robinson.

Governments support research collaboration between universities in both countries. The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (Australia's largest fund dedicated to bilateral research) helps Australian researchers to partner with Indian scientists in leading-edge scientific research projects. The Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced a \$20 million extension of the AISRF on 5 September 2014, bringing the total Australian Government commitment to \$84 million over 13 years.

Australian universities have over 300 agreements with their Indian counterparts to enable academic and student exchange and research collaboration. Many Australian universities have long term partnerships to facilitate engagement and encourage greater depth of understanding and collaboration with India.

While Australia exports \$2.1 billion in services to India (the bulk of which is education services), it is clear that this is far below the growing demand for higher education in India. "The CECA has the potential to deliver the strong leadership framework to expand trade in education services enabling Australian universities to contribute to India's great challenge of skilling up its population", Ms Robinson said.

For all the latest from and about Australia's universities visit www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au

Inaugural Brazil-Australia Higher Education Forum

The first Brazil-Australia Higher Education Forum, held in Brazil's capital, Brasilia, in June has resulted in a number of concrete actions that will further advance and deepen higher education and research engagement between the two countries.

The forum, involving Universities Australia and the Council of Rectors of Brazilian Universities (CRUB), brought together representatives from 10 Australian Universities, 12 Brazilian universities, relevant Brazilian and Australian government agencies and departments, and Brazilian business representatives.

"The event is part of Universities Australia's strategy for enhanced engagement with Latin America and is the first step to much deeper and more meaningful higher education engagement between our two countries," said Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson, who led the Australian delegation.

"The forum is the result of a growing appetite in Australia and Brazil to increase university and industry collaboration and further realise the benefits that higher education provides in driving economic and social prosperity in both countries," Ms Robinson said.

The forum allowed participants to explore opportunities for institutional cooperation; collaborative research projects; and student, academic and staff exchanges. Discussions focused on three main themes: mobility, industry engagement, and research and research training.

The two day forum (June 9-10) was supported by the Department of Education and Training, the Australian Embassy in Brazil and was facilitated by Professor Paulo de Souza from CSIRO.

Universities boosting the value of research through sharing data

Over 40 research data collections have been released - covering everything from cloud measurement to pavements and roads, ancient DNA, oral histories of Western Sydney and the changing coastline - at a national showcase in Canberra.

The Australian Open Research Data Showcase emphasised the many benefits from sharing and reusing research data and was hosted by the Australian National Data Service, and National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) facility.

"Securing the greatest benefit from our investment in research is a high priority for universities and for the Australian Government," said Ms Anne-Marie Lansdown, Deputy Chief Executive.

"A recently released national study showed that sharing and reusing data generated by publicly-funded research activities could boost Australian research output by between \$1.4 billion and \$4.9 billion.

"The report shows that a relatively small investment in data policy and infrastructure can lead to a significant increase in value to Australian innovation, research, and the broader economy."

Australia's position as a leader in open data has been made possible by investments under NCRIS.

Open data enables researchers to make connections never before possible to tackle the complex challenges being faced by Australia and the world.

Amongst the data collections being released are:

- Lifestyles of mosquitoes - the Vector-Borne Disease Network Digital Library at James Cook University supporting malaria eradication.
- Tracking floods with tweets - PetaJakarta.org Major Open Data Collection - Hydrological Infrastructure Network for Jakarta, Indonesia, made available by the University of Wollongong, which is enabling an effective response to floods.
- Mineralogical and geochemical data - Curtin University has collaborated with the Geological Survey of Western Australia, which is leading to new exploration and activity in Western Australia.

Universities Australia's 'Keep it Clever' campaign wins national award

Universities Australia's public awareness campaign '[Keep it Clever](#)', highlighting the importance of proper investment in university education and research, has been awarded the Government Relations Campaign of the Year 2015: Services Sector at an award ceremony in Canberra.

The highly contested prize, presented at the Government Relations Awards 2015, was awarded in recognition of how Universities Australia's integrated traditional and new media campaign had shifted perceptions about the value of universality education and research to the nation.

"When we launched this campaign last year, we said we wanted to turbocharge a national conversation about the role of a well-funded university education and research sector in securing Australia's future," said Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Belinda Robinson.

"For too long the immense economic and social contribution of our universities to our prosperity has flown under the national radar. Our campaign is designed to change that, and this national award is a tremendous validation of its impact."

Ms Robinson said that Australia's workforce will demand more qualified graduates, the economy will rely on the creation of new companies, industries, jobs and opportunities that can only come from a strong university sector.

"Our universities employ over 120,000 people and directly contribute more than \$24 billion to GDP. University graduates are worth an extraordinary \$198 billion to the economy annually," Ms Robinson said.

"Every day millions of people around the world rely on Australian innovations. We've produced 15 Nobel Prize winners and countless breakthroughs - think of the bionic ear or the cervical cancer vaccine.

"As the campaign argues, investing in universities is investing in our future. The campaign will continue to highlight the brilliant education and research coming out of our universities, so for those you who have not yet joined the tens of thousands of Australians who are part of the Keep it Clever community, it is certainly not too late," Ms Robinson said.

You can access the 'Keep it Clever' Campaign at <http://keepitclever.com.au>. You can also follow the campaign on [FaceBook](#) or [Twitter](#) (#keepitclever).

Roundtables and conversations

Over 100 education, business, industry and government representatives deliberated the [Draft National Strategy for International Education](#) at the inaugural international education roundtable at Parliament House on 18 June.

The roundtables are being led by the new [Coordinating Council for International Education](#) - consisting of senior Government Ministers with an interest in international education and education and industry experts.

The roundtables are seen by the government as an important step in ensuring the strategy represents a shared national vision and places international education at the heart of Australia's economic and social prosperity.

The next roundtable will be held on **13 August**, with the aim of finalising the national strategy by the end of the year.

For more information, see the Minister for Education and Training's media releases at:

- [Roundtable on international education – a shared vision for the future](#)
- [International education roundtable: next steps are set for Australia's largest services export](#)

Easier visas for international students

Assistant Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham, welcomed the June 16 announcement of a new, simplified international student visa framework (SSVF) to support Australia's international education sector.

“This new model will achieve greater equity in student visa arrangements, and delivers benefits to a broader range of education institutions, including VET providers,” Senator Birmingham said.

“The SSVF will support the growth of Australia’s international education sector by enhancing both competitiveness and integrity, while extending streamlined processing to all education sectors and all course types, including those in the VET sector.

“Across the sector, international education is already Australia’s most successful services export, worth \$16.3 billion in 2013-14, and supporting around 130,000 jobs across Australia.

“The VET sector accounted for 22.5 per cent of all of Australia’s international student enrolments during first three months of 2015, confirming that our international VET sector continues to deliver the highest quality education and training”.

The SSVF will replace both the Streamlined Visa Processing arrangements and the current Assessment Level Framework and will apply to all international students.

“The SSVF will contribute to the objectives of the *Draft National Strategy for International Education*, which is the subject of a roundtable on international education this week,” Senator Birmingham said.

Alcohol, hurting people and harming communities

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs has tabled its report ‘Alcohol, hurting people and harming communities’. The report is the result of an extensive inquiry by the committee into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, holding hearings around Australia and receiving a large number of submissions.

Chair of the Committee, Dr Sharman Stone MP, said “The social and economic determinants of harmful alcohol use such as unemployment, poor housing, racism, trauma, poor education and peer pressure mean that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are hugely impacted by the harm caused by alcohol abuse.

“Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) describe the brain damage and other disabilities which may occur when a mother drinks alcohol when pregnant. Tragically, the rates of FAS and FASD in some Aboriginal communities are amongst the highest in the world and yet FAS and FASD are still not recognised as a disability for social security allowances or in the education and criminal justice system.”

Dr Stone said. “We also know that early intervention can assist those with FAS and FASD, however the lack of official recognition of the conditions as a disability prevents timely intervention; so does the lack of diagnoses and help for alcohol addicted women.

“The harmful use of alcohol has become an intergenerational problem with tragic consequences. We need to treat this situation with a real sense of urgency. It is time to do more than try to patch up the victims of violence or neglected children.” Dr Stone added.

The committee’s report includes 23 recommendations which address the harmful use of alcohol through pricing and access, adding the harmful use of alcohol to Closing the Gap targets and implementing a justice reinvestment approach to spend the \$400,000 currently

spent on jailing alcohol abusers each year on ameliorating the causes of alcohol abuse. This measure should reduce numbers incarcerated as a result of harmful alcohol use.

The report notes that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community driven strategies to reduce the harmful effects of alcohol are a starting point and need to be supported. The report also found many alcohol treatment programs were short term, under resourced, with little follow-up in the community, and hence little long term impact.

The full report and background information from the inquiry, including copies of submissions and public hearing transcripts, can be found on the [committee's website](#). For more information contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or email indigenouaffairs.reps@aph.gov.au

The Silent Disease – Inquiry into Hepatitis C in Australia

The House of Representatives Health Committee has released its report entitled *The Silent Disease – Inquiry into Hepatitis C in Australia*.

Hepatitis C is Australia's most prevalent blood-borne virus, affecting an estimated 230 000 people. Hepatitis C can be difficult to diagnose, as its symptoms can be mild. Hepatitis C attacks the liver, and can lead to cirrhosis, liver disease, and eventually, liver cancer. Hepatitis C is also the leading cause of liver transplants in Australia. As part of its inquiry, the committee examined: prevalence rates, testing and treatment options, costs associated with treating the impacts of hepatitis C, prevention methods, and reducing associated stigma.

On release of the report, Mr Steve Irons MP, Committee Chair stated, "the committee understands there is a great deal of misinformation in the community about hepatitis C, and that many people living with the disease experience stigma as a result of their diagnosis. Early testing of people potentially exposed to hepatitis C is important, as early diagnosis can change behaviours and reduce the risk of an infection being transmitted."

The report's key recommendations include:

- Development of and reporting against key performance indicators to determine progress made in dealing with the challenges of hepatitis C.
- Development of targeted awareness campaigns, especially in relation to stigma.
- Improved reporting of testing undertaken and exploring ways of expanding rapid point of care testing.
- Providing language-specific services for people from targeted migrant groups.
- A national approach to formulating strategies to address the high prevalence rate of hepatitis C in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.
- Exploring ways in which the patient experience in general practice could be improved.
- Development of a national standard in reporting prisoner health in custodial settings, and a national strategy for blood-borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections in prisons.
- Development of national standards in prison health delivery being raised as part of the Council of Australian Governments Health Council process.

The report is available from the website. For more information contact the committee secretariat on: (02) 6277 4145

Historians, arise – your nation needs you

The compilation of the Official Histories of Australian operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the peacekeeping operations in East Timor took a significant step forward on June 16 with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) calling for expressions of interest from qualified historians to oversee the project.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Senator Michael Ronaldson said the recent federal Budget included funding of \$12.8 million to enable the AWM to complete the initiative.

"It is important that our nation recognises and authoritatively records the role of our Defence Forces in these operations," Senator Ronaldson said.

"The project will cover the aftermath of these operations on the countries involved and those who served. It will also focus on the role of the Australian Federal Police, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AusAid and other relevant agencies. We expect that the research, compilation and drafting of the Official Histories will take six years and will be undertaken by the AWM.

"The Official Historian we seek to engage will be responsible for overseeing the production of the Official History to a standard befitting the service of the men and women whose service it records.

"When complete, the Official Histories will provide all Australians – including scholars, Australian Defence Force personnel and policymakers – with a comprehensive account based on authoritative government and defence sources," Senator Ronaldson said.

The Director of the AWM, Dr Brendan Nelson, welcomed the commencement of the recruitment process, which will ultimately include a team of authors and researchers to support the Official Historian.

The AWM will conduct the independent expression of interest process and make a recommendation to the Australian Government on an appointment for the position.

It is expected that the Official Historian will commence the project by the end of 2015. Further information can be found on the AWM's website at www.awm.gov.au/employment

Magna Carta lives on

Australia's Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson, has launched new interactive educational resources to explain the importance of the Magna Carta on its 800th anniversary. He says Magna Carta has had an enduring legacy in shaping and advancing the principles of freedom, justice, the rule of law and government by consent. The sealing of the Magna Carta on 15 June, 1215, created a snowball effect that led to the modern idea of human rights.

For more information, access:

<http://www.humanrights.gov.au/news/media-releases/students-celebrate-800th-anniversary-magna-carta>

Have your say

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

Any opinions on tax concessions – super, for instance?

The Chair of the House Tax Committee, Bert van Manen MP, has announced an inquiry into the Tax Expenditures Statement (TES) which provides details of concessions, benefits, incentives and charges provided through the tax system (tax expenditures) to taxpayers by the Australian Government.

Total revenue in 2014-15 is estimated at \$352 billion. Grouping together categories, the largest tax expenditures for 2014-15 are estimated at:

- capital gains tax exemption on the main residence – \$46 billion
- concessional treatment of superannuation – \$29.7 billion
- GST exemptions (food, education etc) – \$21.6 billion.

The inquiry follows on from past reviews, including from the Auditor-General in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 audit found that some of the recommendations from the first audit had not been fully implemented or had been discontinued. The Auditor-General's recommendations cover:

- better integrating tax expenditures in the Budget process
- regular reviews of tax expenditures
- improving the quality of tax expenditure estimates.

The committee will inquire into the Tax Expenditures Statement, including the recommendations made by:

- the Australian National Audit Office in its reports of May 2008 and May 2013
- the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit in its report of June 2009
- the Australia's Future Tax System Review of December 2009 (recs 137-139).

The committee will not examine the policy arguments around individual tax expenditures.

The committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by **Friday, 24 July 2015**.

For information about the inquiry: contact the committee secretariat by telephone (02) 6277 4821, email taxrev.reps@aph.gov.au, or visit the committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/taxrev>.

New Parliamentary inquiry into Citizenship Bill

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has commenced an inquiry into the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015. The Bill seeks to implement the government's response to the threat of dual-Australian citizens engaged in terrorism.

It contains measures that will specify circumstances in which an Australian dual national is taken to have lost their Australian citizenship. In addition, the Committee has been requested to consider whether proposed section 35A of the Bill should apply retrospectively to prior convictions for terrorism-related offences.

The Chair of the Committee, Dan Tehan MP, said “The Committee will examine whether the measures contained in this Bill will effectively deal with dual nationals involved in terrorism. In doing so, the Committee will consider whether the powers to cease a person’s citizenship have appropriate safeguards in place, including how the Minister’s discretion might be applied and available avenues of review.

“Retrospectivity is used very rarely in legislation. Accordingly, the Committee will seek evidence from a range of experts, before considering whether these proposed laws should apply retrospectively to dual nationals who have previously been convicted of terrorism-related offences,” Mr Tehan said.

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry. Please email the secretariat at citizenship.reps@aph.gov.au by Friday, 10 July 2015, if you intend to make a submission. Submissions are requested by no later than Friday, 17 July 2015.

The Committee has been asked to report by 21 August 2015.

Further information about the inquiry can be accessed via the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>. The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation or contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email citizenship.reps@aph.gov.au

Older Australians willing to work: an inquiry

Earlier this year, the Human Rights Commission launched *Willing to Work: National Inquiry into Employment Discrimination Against Older Australians and Australians with Disability*.

The National Inquiry is now open for submissions and conducting consultations.

The submissions period opened on 26 June and **closes on Friday, 4 December 2015**.

To make a submission, visit: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/willing-work-how-make-submission>.

The call for submissions follows our release of two Issues Papers.

- [Issues Paper: Employment discrimination against older Australians](#)
- [Issues Paper: Employment discrimination against Australians with disability](#)

Consultations are being conducted in every capital city and some regional centres. Consultations will take place from July to November 2015. For details access <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/willing-work-consultations> for a list of consultation locations and dates.

The National Inquiry aims to consult as widely as possible with older Australians, Australians with disability and their carers and families, business, employer and employee organisations, advocacy groups and stakeholders in order to hear their views, experiences and suggestions for change.

The National Inquiry is being conducted at the request of Attorney-General, Senator Brandis, and is led by the Age and Disability Commissioner, Susan Ryan. The National Inquiry will report its findings by July 2016.

For further information visit the [Willing to Work](#) website.

Two inquiries into electoral matters

The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters is conducting two new inquiries: the first is on the delivery of **electoral education**. The committee will conduct its investigation focusing on the following terms of reference:

- electoral education services provided to schools, students and teachers
- the teaching methodology of the national Civics and Citizenship Curriculum; and
- evolving technology and new platforms for delivering electoral education.

The focus of the electoral education inquiry will include:

- what is being taught to students when they visit Parliament House and Canberra?
- what are the barriers preventing some schools from travelling to Canberra and what can be done about it?
- what resources and training are the teachers provided with to deliver effective electoral education?
- what are the electoral commissions delivering in terms of electoral education?
- how can the delivery of electoral education be improved?

The second inquiry is focused on **campaigning activities** and conduct at polling places.

The committee will inquire into and report on current rules and practices in relation to campaign activities in the vicinity of polling places, with particular reference to:

- the distribution of how-to-vote cards;
- campaigning by organisations other than political parties at polling places;
- allegations in relation to the conduct of, and material disseminated by, campaigners at state and federal elections in the vicinity of polling places intended or likely to mislead or intimidate electors; and
- any other related matter.

Submissions to the committee for both inquiries are now invited. The closing date for submissions is **Friday 17 July 2015**. Public hearings will be scheduled and advertised in the near future. For information on the inquiry: contact the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2374, email em@aph.gov.au or visit the committee website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/em>

Consultation on security of telecommunications networks

In a joint statement the Attorney-General, Senator Brandis, and the Minister for Communications, Malcolm Turnbull, say Australia's economic prosperity and social wellbeing are increasingly dependent on telecommunications networks and data that flow across them.

"It is vital that we maintain the security and resilience of these networks in a global environment of increasingly sophisticated national security risks," they say and go on, "That is why we are pleased to announce reforms to better protect Australia's telecommunications networks".

The government is seeking public comment on draft legislation to implement these reforms, prior to its introduction into the Parliament later in 2015. Submissions close on **31 July 2015**.

The ministers go on to say, "The reforms will ensure that businesses, individuals and the public sector can continue to rely on telecommunication networks to store and transmit data safely and securely—and to support other critical infrastructure sectors.

“The Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 provides for a security framework to strengthen our ability to manage national security risks to telecommunications networks by:

- Obliging all carriers, carriage service providers and carriage service intermediaries to do their best to protect their networks from unauthorised access and interference.
- Requiring carriers, carriage service providers and carriage service intermediaries to notify security agencies of key changes to networks and management systems that could adversely affect their ability to protect their networks.
- Providing the Secretary of the Attorney General's Department with direction and information gathering powers, enforceable by a civil penalty regime.

“This framework builds on existing obligations in the Telecommunications Act 1997 and will be implemented via a collaborative partnership with industry, involving increased engagement and information sharing with government agencies.

“Implementation will be based on a regime of industry consultation, advice and guidelines. The new regulatory powers of direction will only be used as a last resort, to protect the national interest.

“There has been consultation with some parts of the telecommunications sector on the reforms, and the proposed legislation reflects the approach that has been recommended by the bipartisan Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.

“The draft Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Statement have also been publicly released to provide more detail on the rationale for the reforms and proposed operation of the Bill. These are available from the Attorney General's Department website www.ag.gov.au/telcosecurity

New inquiries into grant administration

The Administration of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements by Emergency Management Australia and the Award of Funding under the Safer Streets Program will be the focus of new inquiries under the Parliament's Joint Public Accounts Committee.

The new inquiries, which began last month but is still taking submissions, have been initiated as part of the committee's role of examining Australian National Audit Office reports. Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the committee had an important role in holding Commonwealth agencies to account.

“Grants administration is an important activity involving a significant amount of public funds each year. The Committee's new inquiries are an opportunity to further inspect the framework supporting the administration of programs involving Commonwealth grants to improve transparency, accountability and, ultimately, public outcomes,” Dr Southcott said.

The committee is also inquiring into the Management of Smart Centres' Centrelink Telephone Services.

Public hearings will be held in the second half of the year.

The committee has selected three ANAO reports for detailed review:

- No. 34 of (2014-15) Administration of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements by Emergency Management Australia
- No. 37 of (2014-15) Management of Smart Centres' Centrelink Telephone Services
- No. 41 of (2014-15) The Award of Funding under the Safer Streets Programme

Interested persons and organisations are invited to make submissions to the committee's inquiries, addressing the terms of reference. Further information about the committee's

inquiries, including details on how to lodge a submission, are available on the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa. For information about the inquiry and public hearing: contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au,

Parliamentary inquiry deadlines

July 10 - Submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration examining the Seasonal Worker Program and its scope for expansion are due. Further details about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to make a submission, can be obtained from the committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/mig> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4560 or emailing jscm@aph.gov.au.

July 10 - Submissions to the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications on the role of smart information and communication technology (ICT) in the design and planning of infrastructure are due.

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/ic or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or email ic.reps@aph.gov.au

July 31 - Submissions due for the inquiry into better prevention and management of chronic disease by the House of Representatives Health Committee, particularly from general practitioners, allied health professionals, and other primary health care providers.

The committee is examining opportunities for Primary Health Networks to coordinate and support the prevention and management of chronic disease in primary health care, and will look at the roles of State and Territory Governments as well as private health insurers, in preventing and managing chronic disease.

Submissions addressing the terms of reference are invited by Friday, 31 July 2015. The preferred method of receiving submissions is by electronic format lodged online using a My Parliament account. For information contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's webpage: www.aph.gov.au/health.

Conferring of degrees

The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on July 15, 16 and 17 at Llewellyn Hall.

ANU Emeritus Faculty members are cordially invited to participate in the academic processions for these ceremonies. Please register your intent to participate via the following web address: https://anu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aW2LnYtXliEx99b

You will be asked to select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend. Please note: Registration will close on Friday 10 July at 5pm.

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

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

Please note: Deans, Directors and other members of the Chancellor's Party will be contacted separately about their participation.

For more information contact the Senior Graduations Officer – Emilia Ciampa (x54648) – if you require any further information (or if you are unable to complete the registration form).

Emilia Ciampa | Senior Graduations & Prizes Officer
Examinations Graduations and Prizes Office
Division of Student Administration
Melville Hall, Building 12
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
T: 6125 9862 E: Graduation.officer@anu.edu.au or Prizes@anu.edu.au

ANU smoke free from July 20

ANU announced on World No Tobacco Day 2015 that it will go smoke free from the middle of July.

The new policy will cover the entire ANU campus in Canberra as well as remote ANU campuses such as the Mt Stromlo Observatory and Kioloa coastal campus near Batemans Bay. Following extensive consultation with staff and students, ANU will go smoke free from the start of the second semester on July 20, but with a strong focus on support to help staff and students quit the habit.

To help staff and students adjust to the new policy, ANU will also provide support to staff and students who wish to quit smoking. ANU will pay for QUIT courses for staff and PhD students. Undergraduate students can contact ANUSA for details of how to access QUIT courses. Information on support programs can be found at <http://hr.anu.edu.au/smoke-free> or by emailing smokefree@anu.edu.au.

Smoking is already prohibited inside ANU buildings and within 10 metres of building entrances. The new policy prohibits all smoking, including electronic cigarettes, in or around any of the university's campuses.

However, smoking will be allowed in special designated smoking areas around licensed venues and residential colleges.

Diary Dates on the website

In future ANUEF will rely on the new 'Google Calendar' for events listing on the ANUEF website (<http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/>). We will only email information directly to you for special events, or when there is a late change. The Events Calendar on our website will be updated whenever new information becomes available. Thus, to summarise, all monthly collegiate lunches and public lectures (including abstracts) will be advertised on our website, the public lectures will also be advertised on the ANU Events billboard, and the most immediate events will appear in *Emeritus*. So, please, go check out the new Events box on the ANUEF website, and report any errors to adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com.

Our thanks to Nik Fominas for wiring us to 'Google Calendar'.

ANUEF Events Update - Unless otherwise stated, all are in the Molony Room (see directions below), and collegiate lunch discussions are on the first Wednesday of the month (noon for 12.30 start), and public lectures (4 - 5pm) on the third Wednesday of the month. The Annual Lecture which will be in the Finkel Theatre of JCSMR.

July 15	4pm Public Lecture Chennupati Jagadish on "Nanoparticles"
Aug 19	Susanne von Caemmerer on plants
Sept 2	Caroline Ifeka on 'Boko Haram Verities'
Sept 16	David Horner "Telling the Secrets: writing the history of ASIO"
Oct 21	Stephen Bygraves on "Zero Carbon Australia"
Nov 18	Nerilie Abram RSES ' Best Australian Science Writing for 2014'
Dec 2	Nobels and IgNobels
Dec 3	Poets' Lunch (noon until 5pm)

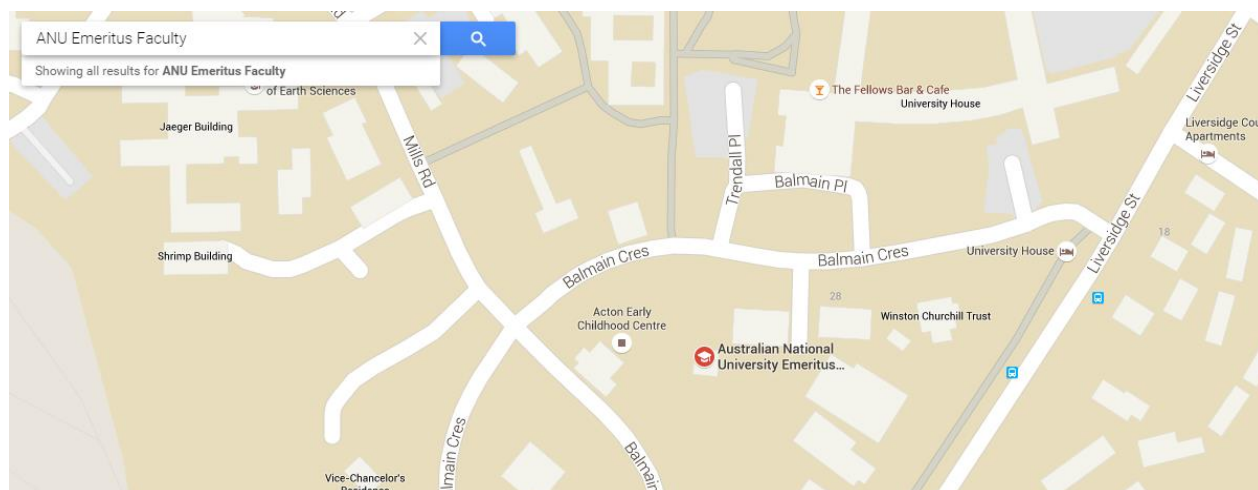
Unless otherwise stated, all ANUEF Events are in the Molony Room (Building 1c <http://www.anu.edu.au/maps#search=1c&show=11413>). Collegiate lunch discussions are on the first Wednesday of the month (noon for 12.30 start), and public lectures (4 - 5pm) on the third Wednesday of the month. All public lectures also advertised on the ANU Events board.

Finding the Molony Room

The Molony Room is on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House. It is building 1c on <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/displaymap.asp?grid=cd32>, set back between No 22 Balmain Crescent, which is the Acton Early Childhood Centre, and No 26 Balmain Crescent, which is the Academy of the Social Sciences. There are four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room, they are in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room.

The room is marked on:

<https://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=ANU+Emeritus+Faculty&hl=en&ll=-35.284925,149.117078&spn=0.003402,0.006947&sll=-31.203405,135.703125&sspn=59.04012,113.818359&t=h&hq=ANU+Emeritus+Faculty&z=17>



Meet the authors

Bookings: ANU Events or 6125 8451

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 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 August, 2015.