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Australian  
National  
University

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## ANU equal 19th in QS rankings

The Australian National University shares equal 19th place with King's College, London, in the QS World University Rankings for 2015-16. In the last rankings ANU was placed 25th in the world. ANU's highest ranking was 16th in 2006, a ranking it kept for three years. Since then it dropped to 17th in 2009; and 20th in 2010. ANU has not been in the first 20 universities in the world for the past five years.

In a message to students, ANU Vice Chancellor Ian Young AO writes, "I was delighted to receive the news that ANU has moved into [world's top 20 universities](#) and strengthened its position as Australia's top-ranked university, according to the latest QS World University Rankings ... ANU has rated as equal 19th in the world, up from 25 last year, and among the world's great research and education institutions including Oxford, Cambridge and the great Ivy League universities in the United States.

"The QS World University Rankings named ANU as the number one institution in Australia, based on a range of measures such as academic reputation, employer reputation, research citations and the ratio of staff to students. While rankings can move around from year to year, the latest results are a great endorsement of the hard work and commitment of our staff and students, who all contribute to make ANU one of best places in the world to study and conduct research."

## Diary Dates

ISAA Annual Lecture, highlight of the national conference, is also offered as a stand-alone event. This year it will be delivered on **Thursday, 1 October at the National Library at 6 pm** by Julian Disney. His title is *Independent and Integrity in the Public Domain*,

**Sept 16** David Horner "Telling the Secrets: writing the history of ASIO"

**Oct 21** Stephen Bygraves on "Zero Carbon Australia"

**Dec 2** Nobels and IgNobels

**Dec 3** Poets' Lunch (noon until 5pm)

Check the Events box on the ANUEF website, and report any errors to [adrian\\_j\\_gibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com).

**Dates listed on pages 17-19**

"This is an institution that places excellence at its core and continues to strive to deliver research and education that is equal to or better than any on offer in the world. Globally, ANU was ranked 12th in the world for Arts and Humanities, 18th for Social Sciences and Management, and equal 20th in the world for Natural Sciences. ANU was ranked 26th in the world for academic reputation, with an overall score of 99.6 out of 100."

"I would like to express my sincere thanks for your hard work and commitment and congratulate you all on this outstanding result."

The full list of rankings can be found at:

<http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2015#sorting=rank+region=+country=+faculty=+stars=false+search=>

## **ANU and countering violent extremism**

Violent extremism is a complex and rapidly evolving challenge facing many nations across the world. To better understand the threat and complexities of violent extremism, the Minister for Justice, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Counter-Terrorism, Michael Keenan, has launched the Australian Intervention Support Hub at the Australian National University.

The minister said that the centre would be an invaluable source of expertise and information for government and communities working to counter violent extremism, and the Australian Government had provided \$700,000 to support its establishment.

The Hub will work with community organisations to build their capacity to develop effective, community-oriented approaches to counter violent extremism, and support individuals who are at risk of radicalisation.

It will also identify evolving international best practice in countering violent extremism (CVE) and evidence-based research, and facilitate independent evaluation of CVE programs.

Two of Australia's leading universities, the Australian National University and Deakin University, will host the Hub to ensure that Australia's programs to counter violent extremism continue to be informed by evidence-based research and evaluation.

Led by Dr Clarke Jones and Professor Greg Barton, the Hub will bring together a broad range of skills and expertise from other institutions including Monash University, the University of Melbourne, Victoria University, UNSW, the University of Western Sydney, Curtin University and the University of Western Australia.

The Hub will also work with Hedayah, the international centre of excellence for such extremism in the United Arab Emirates. Hedayah is sponsored by Australia and other international partners through the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

The Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Federal Police have both provided funding towards the establishment of the Hub and its first year of operation.

## **Pyne seeks ideas for international education**

Planning how Australia can build on its success as a world leader in international education was the focus of the second Roundtable on International Education at Parliament House recently, joined by more than 100 education and business experts, students, as well as community and government representatives.

The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne MP, said, "This important forum builds on the highly productive June round table, and will help deliver Australia's first truly national strategy for international education, providing extensive economic and social benefits for Australia.

"International education is Australia's fourth largest export. International education services generated a record \$18.1 billion for Australia last year, and we should be aiming to do even better.

"This starts by focussing our collective efforts on addressing the challenges of boosting Australia's reputation for high quality and delivering the best possible student experience. We also need to focus on international links in research and applying new technologies to international education.

"I'm asking innovators, educationalists, business people and students to bring their ideas to the table to help grow Australia's reputation as a world leader in international education, and to set a clear path for further growth."

The forum was designed to help set the vision for Australian international education "moving forward and enable us to take a deeper dive on important issues shared with us by the sector," the minister said, and went on, "The government is determined to position Australia as the destination of choice for students and researchers and for our institutions to be preferred partners worldwide. Having a focussed national strategy in place will ensure international education continues to make a hugely positive contribution to our economy and society."

More information on the *Draft National Strategy for International* be found at: <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/International-network/Australia/InternationalStrategy/Pages/National-Strategy.aspx>

## **Australia-India relationship going from strength to strength**

Universities Australia has welcomed the progress made by the Indian and Australian Governments in further strengthening the education, training and research relationships between our two countries.

Speaking at the third meeting of the Australia-India Ministerial Dialogue on Education Cooperation in India, Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said: "It is clear that both countries see education and research as a core component of the strategic partnership and are committed to making progress on a number of key initiatives.

"Particularly, the announcement by the Indian Minister of Human Resource Development, the Hon Smriti Zubin Irani, that the government will give recognition to pathway/foundation courses is great news for both countries.

"Once Minister Irani's announcement is implemented, Indian students studying in Australia in pathway programs will have access to the Indian public service and further study at an Indian institution."

Universities Australia also welcomed the recommitment by Ministers Pyne and Irani to the Australia-India Education Council (the AIEC) as the principal body for guiding the strategic direction of this important partnership.

"The AIEC has been instrumental in progressing collaborative work in the critical areas of skills and employment, student mobility and welfare, higher education and research, quality assurance and qualifications recognition, and learning and teaching," Ms Robinson said.

Other positive developments include the announcement by Minister Pyne of a feasibility study for the establishment of an Australia-India consortium for 'in-country' India studies and the agreement by the Group of Eight universities and a number of prestigious Indian schools to pursue a series of joint activities and long-term engagement.

Additionally, the Global Initiative for Academic Networks launched by the Government of India, to enable eminent Australian academics to travel to India to exchange knowledge and teaching skills, further supports the expansion of the Australia-India education and research relationship.

"We look forward to seeing the commitment to vigorously pursue mutual understanding and cooperation on qualifications recognition being reflected in the negotiations and the final outcome of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperative Agreement," Ms Robinson said.

"Progress made over the past few days, due to the efforts of Ministers Irani and Pyne, and their government officials, is testament to the respect and regard that the Governments of India and Australia have for each other and their shared view that education and research is central to economic and social progress."

Access the joint communiqué at: <http://australiaindiaeducation.com/bilateral-agreements.html>

### **Gilchrist opens as an ambassador for education**

Adam Gilchrist AM has been appointed as Australia's inaugural ambassador to India on education. The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, announced Mr Gilchrist's appointment before attending the annual Ministerial Dialogue and third Australia-India Education Council meeting in India on 24 August.

"I am delighted to announce Mr Adam Gilchrist AM as the first Australia-India Education Ambassador," Mr Pyne said. "Adam will play an important part in supporting the growth in the strong bilateral education relationship between Australia and India, to help ensure that Australia continues to be seen as a high quality provider of education."

"Consistent with the pillars of the Draft National Strategy for International Education, the Australian Government is committed to reaching out to the world. I see Adam's appointment as helping to build on this, as he will help grow our already strong education partnership with India and raise Australia's profile and reputation."

"The Indian people recognise Adam as one of cricket's greats, and the values he espouses both on and off the field—excellence and integrity—are precisely those with which Australia aligns its reputation for high quality education, training and research," Mr Pyne said.

Mr Gilchrist said he was excited about his new role and welcomed the challenge ahead of him. "I am honoured to have been chosen to perform this important role in helping strengthen the education ties between our two countries," he said.

"For the past seven years, in my capacity as an ambassador at one of Australia's best research universities, I have seen first-hand the vital role education plays in the development of modern India. ...Being Australia's first education ambassador to India

will give me the opportunity to put so much back into that relationship through the all-important focus of learning and training.”

### **International education sector hits \$18b**

Figures showing that exports from international education services have hit a record \$18.1 billion in 2014-15 are an endorsement of the hard work of our universities in delivering an educational experience of uncompromising quality and standards, the Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Ms Anne-Marie Lansdown said.

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that despite fierce global competition, students are studying in Australia in growing numbers.

"The most important factors in choosing where in the world to study are the reputation of the course, the reputation of the institution and the reputation of the education system as a whole," Ms Lansdown said.

"The increased numbers of international students bring benefits to our economy and society including cultural diversity in universities, communities and the nation as a whole as well as forging crucial diplomatic links with other nations."

Universities Australia is working with the government on finalising the National Strategy for International Education so that Australia can identify and address the challenges and opportunities the sector faces in the coming decades.

"In finalising this vitally important strategy, we must ensure that the regulatory and policy settings supporting international education are sufficiently robust to continue delivering quality but not so onerous as to prevent innovation.

"It will be important to get the balance right so that the excellent education and research reputation currently enjoyed by Australian universities is supported well into the future."

Ms Lansdown said as well as the increased flow of international students to Australia, we are also seeing higher numbers of Australian students taking the opportunity to study offshore as part of their Australian degree.

"Whether through the New Colombo Program, Endeavour scheme or other exchange program, the growth in the number of Australians benefiting from the internationalisation of the student experience is very encouraging.

"It signals a growing awareness among students and employers of the benefits an international education experience brings," Ms Lansdown said.

### **Professor McCarthy heads to China**

Professor Gregory McCarthy has been appointed as the BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University. He is currently a Professor in Political Science at the University of Adelaide.

Congratulating Professor McCarthy, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, said:

"Professor McCarthy has worked tirelessly to strengthen ties between the Australian and Chinese academic communities. In his new role, announced by the Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC), Professor McCarthy will use his expertise to deepen understanding of Australia in China.

"Professor McCarthy will lead the Australian studies program at Peking University. He will also provide academic leadership for over 40 Australian Studies Centres at universities and institutes across China.

“The BHP Billiton Chair initiative has raised the profile of Australian studies within Chinese academic circles and increased the number of Chinese university students who have had the opportunity to learn about Australia.

“The Australia-China Council, led by the Hon Warwick Smith AM, is championing the role of private sector investment to strengthen our bilateral relationship with China. The Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University, which is funded by BHP Billiton and supported by FASIC, is an important part of this initiative.

“Professor McCarthy is currently a Professor in Politics at the University of Adelaide, and has been appointed Professor of Australian politics at the University of Western Australia. He will begin his assignment in Beijing in early 2016.

“I thank the inaugural BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies, Professor David Walker, for his contribution during his three year tenure,” she said.

### **Universities Australia appoints new communications’ director**

Universities Australia has appointed former senior journalist and communications specialist Misha Schubert as its new director, Strategic Communications.

An announcement stated, “Ms Schubert brings outstanding experience and expertise to the role with almost two decades working in both communications and the media.

“A Vice President of the National Press Club, she was the National Political Editor of *The Sunday Age* and has been a correspondent at *The Age* and *The Australian* as well as a regular ABC and Sky commentator.

“More recently Ms Schubert has been the Director of Communications for the RECOGNISE movement which is campaigning for the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution.”

Ms Schubert replaces Louise Dodson who has opted to move to head up Universities Australia's Copyright and Information Policy area on a part-time basis.

### **Grants to preserve maritime heritage**

The Federal Government has announced grants of more than \$135,000 to support projects that preserve and promote Australia’s maritime heritage. This may be of interest to ANUEF members involved in the East Coast Project.

According to a statement by Senator Brandis, Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts, the successful recipients of the Maritime Museum of Australia Project Support Scheme grants program will help collect, conserve and display objects from an important part of Australia’s history.

The scheme provides grants of up to \$10,000, as well as internships and in-kind support from Australian National Maritime Museum experts. This includes support for staff and volunteers from regional and remote organisations to teach them how to develop educational and public programs that help promote Australia’s maritime collections.

Senator Brandis said, “Maritime museums and historical societies play an important role in preserving and sharing Australia’s maritime heritage and these grants will ensure important maritime objects are available now and for future generations.”

In 2015–16, funding has been awarded to 19 organisations. In-kind support has been offered to 12 organisations and internships have been offered to three applicants.



Funding will support interactive projects including the production of story boards by Albury City Council to be placed along a riverside walk, the creation of a shipwreck walk by the Busselton Historical Society and the manufacturing of ten interpretive signs by Port Stephen's Historical Society to display photographic and factual information located along public walkways.

Funding will also support museums and historical societies across Australia to digitise their collections, carry out conservation work and collection assessments, conduct research and develop education programs.

The scheme which offers funding to non-profit museums, historical societies and organisations is supported by the Australian Government and administered by the Australian National Maritime Museum. The next round of funding will be open for applications in February 2016.

For more information about the Maritime Museum of Australia Project Support Scheme and a full list of grant recipients visit the [Australian National Maritime Museum website](#).

## **Wollongong and 'maritime enforcement'**

Maritime border security in the region will be greatly enhanced with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the University of Wollongong, according to a statement by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton

Under the terms of the MoU, research undertaken by the University's Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) will support the development of a world-leading curriculum to facilitate intensive training in maritime enforcement, civil maritime security policy development, research, and regional capacity building.

The Minister said both organisations would benefit from the arrangement with the training to be delivered to both Australian Border Force officers and students participating in the university curriculum.

"The government is proud to partner with Australian academic institutions to promote and enhance border security in Australia and our region," Mr Dutton said. "The Australian Border Force is a world-leading border protection and law enforcement body and partnerships such as these will ensure it keeps the capability edge. This MoU will provide a framework for the department to work with ANCORS on academic maritime security initiatives and directed research. It will also promote best practice maritime security competency and knowledge."

ANCORS is a specialist research and academic provider in the field of civil maritime security, Law of the Sea and fisheries management and has educated naval and coast guard officers from more than 20 countries.

## **School autonomy and student achievement**

New research indicating that higher levels of school autonomy are associated with higher levels of student achievement flow from research being driven by Professor Emeritus, Brian Caldwell, who is the Australian lead in an international study to track school autonomy and its impact on student achievement.

The Minister for Education and Training, Christopher Pyne, has welcomed the research saying, "Professor Caldwell's findings support what we have been seeing, internationally and

in Australia—that higher levels of school autonomy are associated with higher levels of student achievement, providing there is a balance of autonomy and accountability.

“The research also indicates that the focus of autonomy should be on professional practice, with the aim of making connections between the functions associated with school autonomy and actions that are likely to have an impact on student achievement.

“The Australian Government supports stronger school autonomy and is investing \$70 million through the Independent Public Schools initiative, in which all states and territories are participating. This initiative aims to give selected government schools more control of local decision making to help encourage stronger links between schools, parents and the local community.

“Great schools have leaders and teachers who have the independence to make decisions and deliver the education that best meet the needs of their students. And the research, including the findings by Professor Caldwell, tells us this is the right approach,” Mr Pyne said.

To read the research presented by Professor Caldwell visit:

<http://educationaltransformations.com.au/category/downloadable-papers>.

## **Imaginations let loose**

An ongoing conversation about the role of curriculum, co-curriculum, the residential experience, promoting research achievements and great places in the ANU campus life was held on August 25.

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) addressed those attending. A feature presentation and panel conversation followed with the Re-imagine Union Court design team on the current Union Court and University Avenue revitalisation proposal.

## **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.**

## **Ideas wanted for the Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements**

A review led by Dr Ian Watt AO and supported by an expert working group, have developed an issues paper to stimulate discussion on how to capitalise on the high quality and excellent research of Australian universities and translate it into economic advantage.

The terms of reference for the review and membership of the expert working group are on the [Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements](#) page.



This issues paper presents an overview of current arrangements relevant to the review and includes questions to stimulate discussion.

The review invites responses to the issues raised in this paper. Submissions can be lodged online through the department's [Submission](#) portal. Inquiries may be directed to [ResearchReview@education.gov.au](mailto:ResearchReview@education.gov.au).

Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements for Higher Education - Issues Paper

The deadline for submissions is 5 pm AEST, Friday, **18 September** 2015.

### Chronic Disease Inquiry holds first hearings

The first public hearings of a new parliamentary inquiry into Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Primary Health Care were held recently in Canberra.

Chair of the House of Representatives Health Committee, Steve Irons MP said:

"The Committee's initial hearings will consider a range of issues including chronic disease prevention and management in rural, remote and indigenous primary health care. The Committee will also hear from groups about the prevention and management of chronic mental health conditions, dementia, and cancer in primary health care.

"There are many stakeholders in the fields of chronic disease prevention and management and primary health care, and the Committee is interested in how these stakeholders work to improve health outcomes and avoid unnecessary hospitalisations.

"Bringing stakeholders together and finding ways to prevent chronic disease or improve the way chronic disease is managed in primary health care may deliver positive outcomes for all Australians at risk of chronic disease," Mr Irons concluded.

Public hearing programs and further information about the inquiry is available at: [www.aph.gov.au/chronicdisease](http://www.aph.gov.au/chronicdisease)

The inquiry is ongoing and still receiving submissions. 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 website: [www.aph.gov.au/health](http://www.aph.gov.au/health).

### Pharmacy Agreement under scrutiny

Parliament's Joint Public Accounts Committee has conducted a Roundtable Public Hearing into the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Report No. 25 (2014– 15), Administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Since 1990, the Australian Government and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have entered into successive five-year agreements, known as Community Pharmacy Agreements, to help maintain a national network of retail pharmacies as the primary means of dispensing Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines to the public.

To support community access to pharmaceutical services, the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) provided that the Australian Government would deliver some \$15.4 billion in funding from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2015.

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the purpose of the ANAO (Australian National Audit Office) audit was to assess the effectiveness of the development and

administration of 5CPA by the Department of Health. The audit also examined aspects of 5CPA that were implemented by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The ANAO found that, overall, the Department of Health's administration of 5CPA had been 'mixed' and there was a 'limited basis' for assessing the extent to which 5CPA had met its key objectives, including the achievement of \$1 billion in expected savings."

"This is a significant area of health administration where the public and the Parliament want to see improved outcomes, and there are a number of issues arising out of the ANAO report that merit further public scrutiny," Dr Southcott said.

Organisations attending the hearing included:

Australian National Audit Office; Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Veterans' Affairs; Pharmacy Guild of Australia; Consumer Health Forum

Further information about the committee's inquiry can be accessed from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa](http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa). For information about the inquiry: contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email [jcpaa@aph.gov.au](mailto:jcpaa@aph.gov.au).

### **'All our operators are busy'**

Parliament's Joint Public Accounts Committee held a public hearing on 20 August as part of its review of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report into the management of telephone services in Centrelink Smart Centres.

A large proportion of Centrelink's business with customers is conducted by telephone, with 43.1 million calls received in 2013–14. Centrelink provides these services through a network of 29 Smart Centres, where telephony and processing work are blended so as to improve customer service and allow staff to be deployed more flexibly.

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of Centrelink telephone services by the Department of Human Services "are of ongoing interest to both the Parliament and the community."

He said, "The ANAO concluded that, while the Department of Human Services is making progress in its transition to revised Centrelink service delivery arrangements, the average time taken to answer customer calls has increased in recent years and call wait times have been the largest single cause of customer complaint. This is an issue worth further scrutiny by the Committee.

"The Committee will also examine the effectiveness of the Department's performance monitoring and reporting framework to ensure appropriate visibility is being given to performance information on telephone services," Dr Southcott said.

The ANAO's findings and recommendations are set out in Report No. 37 (2014-15), *Management of Smart Centres' Centrelink Telephone Services*.

Further information about the Committee's reviews is available on the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa](http://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](mailto:jcpaa@aph.gov.au)

### **Submissions sought on anti-death penalty campaign**

Australia has a longstanding, bipartisan policy commitment to the abolition of the death penalty, and now the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has been asked by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to review Australia's efforts to advocate for its worldwide abolition.

Australia has been an active participant in the protection and promotion of human rights, including through its support of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

While there has been a global trend toward abolition, more than half the world's countries are yet to sign up to the protocol and in some countries the use of capital punishment appears to be increasing. Some of Australia's biggest trading partners and closest allies still impose the death penalty, including China, India, Indonesia, Japan and the United States of America.

Sub-Committee Chair, Philip Ruddock MP, says that as a nation we must renew our opposition to capital punishment, and find new and effective ways to advocate for worldwide abolition.

In a recent statement he said, "We need to go beyond an approach where our voice is loudest immediately prior to a planned execution. We need to shift the focus to ending the death penalty worldwide and ensure that our advocacy for abolition is effective in bringing about this change."

The Human Rights Sub-Committee acknowledges that this is an issue of deep concern to the Australian public, particularly in light of cases of Australians facing capital punishment overseas. While the sub-committee is concerned for the welfare of these individuals, this inquiry is a chance to explore options for strengthening Australia's anti-death penalty engagement and advocacy, rather than examining specific cases.

The sub-committee invites submissions addressing the terms of reference for the inquiry by Friday, **2 October**. The terms of reference ask the sub-committee to:

- review how Australia currently engages internationally to promote abolition of the death penalty;
- consider further steps Australia could take to advocate for worldwide abolition, including by:
- engaging with international institutions and like-minded countries;
- cooperating with non-government organisations;
- bilateral engagements and other diplomatic activities; and
- other appropriate means.

Further details about the inquiry and information on how to make a submission can be obtained from the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/deathpenalty](http://www.aph.gov.au/deathpenalty) or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au).

## **Innovation builds productivity**

Mobile Laser Scanning (MLS) is one of the technology innovations being examined by the Infrastructure and Communications Committee as part of its inquiry into the role of Smart ICT in the design and planning of infrastructure.

The committee met last week with representatives of BCE Surveying (a leader in MLS technology) to discuss the productivity benefits of technological innovation in the design and development of infrastructure. According to BCE Surveying, the resources required for completing surveys using MLS are significantly less than traditionally required using conventional survey methods.

In their submission, BCE stated that 'using traditional methods to survey a one square kilometre site would have taken up to 16 hours; while the MLS can complete the equivalent area in just 2 hours. The savings in time, money and manpower have substantial productivity benefits to all parties involved'.

Committee Chairman Jane Prentice MP (Ryan, Qld) said the work of organisations like BCE Surveying demonstrates the productivity benefits that can be achieved through using Smart ICT to design, build and manage infrastructure. "Australia is potentially on the cusp of a major transformation in infrastructure design and development, but it is up to government and industry to ensure this opportunity is not lost," Ms Prentice said.

At an earlier hearing, National ICT Australia (NICTA), the nation's largest ICT research organisation, said, 'Underutilisation of infrastructure assets is rife across Australia—in both the private and public sectors.'

NICTA believes that 'there are simple and specific steps (the) government can take that will greatly enhance the efficiency of Australia's infrastructure,' including:

- The harmonisation of data formats;
- The development and deployment of more innovative technology; and
- An examination of the productivity benefits of Smart ICT in transport and supply chains.

Further information on the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to prepare a submission can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/ic](http://www.aph.gov.au/ic) or from the secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

## **Religious Freedom Roundtable—call for submissions**

Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson, is calling for submissions in advance of an inaugural roundtable on religious freedom scheduled for November.

The Commissioner is particularly interested to receive submissions on the following issues:

- Government laws and regulations that limit the right to religious freedom.
- Preserving religious freedom when an organisation receives taxpayer's money to provide a public service.
- Balancing the right to religious freedom and equality before the law—what are the areas of shared agreement?
- Developing mechanisms to support religious inclusion and social cohesion.

"It is my hope that this will be the first of a number of roundtables that will stimulate much needed dialogue on exercising religious freedom in 21st Century Australia," Commissioner Wilson said.

"Religious freedom is not only central to human rights, it is inextricable from other fundamental freedoms such as freedom of thought, conscience, speech and association, as well as property rights. But religious freedom cannot be unlimited. It has to be exercised with a respect and mindfulness of the rights of others such as equality before the law and government, and the freedoms of those without faith."

The decision by Commissioner Wilson to hold a roundtable on religious freedom comes in the wake of his national consultation on rights and responsibilities, which was conducted in 2014.

"A central theme that emerged during these consultations was the importance of the right to religious freedom," said the Commissioner.

As a result, one of the priority recommendations outlined in the *Rights and Responsibilities Consultation Report 2015* (available at <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/publications/rights-responsibilities-consultation-report>), was to bring together representatives of different faiths to discuss how to advance religious freedom in Australia.

Given the number of faith based and other interest groups who will want to take part, the format of the roundtable will be designed to engage with a variety of stakeholders at different times to address issues relevant to religious freedom.

Before the first roundtable, Mr Wilson is keen to seek input on issues that should be considered and prioritised during discussions. This feedback will also inform future work by the Australian Human Rights Commission in this area.

If there are other areas of law and policy people believe should be considered, Mr Wilson suggests they be raised in submissions.

The Commissioner would also appreciate feedback on the 'Statement of Purpose and Guiding principles' that is [available on the Commission website](#).

Written submissions can be emailed to [rights@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:rights@humanrights.gov.au) by **25 September 2015**.

## Braille and crisis management

Three proposed treaties, covering a wide range of topics, were recently investigated by the Parliamentary Treaties Committee.

The Marrakesh Treaty, to facilitate access to published works for people who are vision impaired, is intended to enable access to books and other materials in formats that are accessible to anyone with a print disability.

Committee Chair, Mr Wyatt Roy MP, says that it is vitally important that those who are sight impaired have equal access to print material, not just to entertainment but to technical material as well.

The agreement between Australia and the European Union provides a legal framework to facilitate Australia's participation in international crisis management operations led by the European Union, and will make it easier to deploy Australian personnel for such activities as counter piracy operations in Somalia and civilian security reform in Ukraine.

Mr Roy said that Australia wants to make an effective contribution to crisis management operations undertaken by our international partners and this treaty will enable us to respond more quickly and efficiently.

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

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties) Alternatively, email [jsct@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsct@aph.gov.au) or phone (02) 6277 4002.

## Hearings into the Register of Environmental Organisations

The House of Representatives Environment Committee held public hearings in Perth on September 3 and in Adelaide as part of its inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Among those appearing in Perth were: Conservation Council of Western Australia; the Orangutan Project; Wildlife Asia; Asian Rhino Project Inc. and Silvery Gibbon Project Inc.; Painted Dog Conservation Inc. and Doctors for the Environment Australia.

Those appearing in Adelaide were: Conservation Council of South Australia; Public Law and Policy Research Unit, University of Adelaide; Nature Conservation Society of South

Australia; The Norwood Resource; Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia; Sustainable Population Australia; Nature Foundation SA; Worlds End Conservation.

Submissions to the inquiry, including those from the organisations appearing at these hearings, are available at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House/Environment/REO/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Environment/REO/Submissions).

Further details about the inquiry contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email [environment.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:environment.reps@aph.gov.au). For submissions received and the terms of reference, access the inquiry's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/req>.

## Committee reports on Australian Citizenship Bill

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security's report on Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015 was released on Friday, 4 September. The committee has held several public hearings attracting wide range of government and non-government organisations as well as the Commonwealth Ombudsman and Australian Human Rights Commission.

As reported earlier, among those who have made submissions (which are available online, see link below) are several academics who may be known to ANUEF members:

Ms Janine Truter, **Professor Ben Saul**, **Dr John Tomlinson**, Ms Jenny Rae, Mr Michael Evans, Mr Bruce Baer Arnold, Mr Paul McMahon, Australian Defence Association, Executive Council of Australian Jewry, **Professor Anne Twomey**, Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of NSW, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA), Australian Human Rights Commission, Australian Lawyers Alliance, **Professor Helen Irving**, **Dr Rayner Thwaites**, Ms Shipra Chordia, Ms Sangeetha Pillai, **Professor George Williams AO**, Blueprint for Free Speech, Mr Robert Hayward, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, Joint media organisations, Refugee Council of Australia, **Dr Alice Hill**, UNICEF Australia, NSW Society of Labor Lawyers, Law Council of Australia, Muslim Legal Network (NSW), Pirate Party Australia, Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Councils for civil liberties across Australia, Mr John Ryan, Islamic Council of Queensland, Commonwealth Ombudsman, **Professor Kim Rubenstein**, Immigration Advice & Rights Centre, Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Human Rights Law Centre, Migration Law Program, **ANU College of Law**, Amnesty International .

The Bill seeks to implement powers for the cessation of the Australian citizenship of dual citizens in the following circumstances:

- if a person acts inconsistently with their allegiance to Australia by engaging in specified terrorist-related conduct (proposed section 33AA)
- if a person fights for, or is in the service of, a declared terrorist organisation (proposed section 35)
- if a person is convicted of a specified terrorism related offence as prescribed in the Criminal Code (proposed section 35A).

The amendments would apply to a person regardless of how they became an Australian citizen, but would only apply to dual citizens who would not be rendered stateless if their Australian citizenship were to cease.



Further information about the inquiry, and copies of submissions, can be accessed via the committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis> or contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email [citizenship.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:citizenship.reps@aph.gov.au)

The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation).

## 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.

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

## Students and teachers at electoral education inquiry

The Electoral Matters Committee has continued its inquiry into electoral education with a full day public hearing in Melbourne where the committee heard from individuals and organisations including students and teachers from a local high school, which hosted the event.

The Deputy Chair of the Committee, Alan Griffin MP, commented that it was important that the committee identified opportunities to better coordinate programs and services to support teachers and students in the area of electoral education.

Submissions to the committee for the inquiry remain open. Further public hearings will be scheduled and advertised in the near future at [www.aph.gov.au/em](http://www.aph.gov.au/em) For information on the inquiry: contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 2374, email [em@aph.gov.au](mailto:em@aph.gov.au)

## On the website

ANU Emeritus Faculty's Oral History entry for **Professor James Fox** is now available on the ANUEF website: [www.anu.edu.au/emeritus](http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus) - go to home page then to Oral History Project button.

The next entry will be for **Professor Anthony Low** (Vice Chancellor 1975-82), prepared by Belle Low and Anthony's children.

## Make a date – or several

### **Canberra Region Languages Forum Update September 2015**

Mandy Scott, an ANUEF member and Canberra Languages Forum Convenor, has supplied some information about language-related activities and issues. For more information download the *Update*

[http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/forum\\_update\\_september\\_2015.pdf](http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/forum_update_september_2015.pdf)

#### **September Items and activities:**

ANU Language Showcase: What's in A Language? **Tuesday, 8 September**  
10am - 3pm

ANU Language Teaching Forum, monthly seminar on Mondays 4.15 – 5.15 pm  
Workshop: Supporting Primary and Secondary Teachers to Thrive in Mixed Ability Classrooms by Differentiating the Curriculum **Tuesday, 8 September**,  
9am-3pm

Pronunciation Workshop Saturday **19 September** 9.30am - 1pm

HSK Test Centre now open in Canberra

*Parrot Time*: a magazine covering language, linguistics and culture of the world around us.

Training course for community interpreters

A chance to teach English in China - Applications close **15 September** 2015.

#### **Articles/links of interest**

- ACT talks the talk on languages—is the ACT bucking the trend?
- Cognitive Advantages of Bilingualism
- Without a second language our kids are second class citizens
- Community languages and mainstream education
- Language and the law: NT judges 'on trial' in role-playing court lesson
- A link to several linguistic databases and datasets: <http://languagegoldmine.com/>
- How to join a Book Group
- Canberra Bilingual Families on FaceBook

For more information, contact Mandy Scott at: [languagesact@gmail.com](mailto:languagesact@gmail.com)

Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at

<http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>

## **Independent Scholars to meet in Canberra**

The Annual Conference of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA), *Celebrating Independent Thought: ISAA Twenty Years On*, is to be held at the National Library on **1 & 2 October**. Several ANUEF members are also ISAA members; some others who are not may well be interested in this event, which is offered to the public as well as to the ISAA membership.

The organising committee, which includes Dr Elizabeth Morrison, says the conference includes the ISAA Annual Lecture, which is also offered as a stand-alone event. This year it will be delivered on **Thursday, 1 October at 6 pm** by Julian Disney. His title is *Independent and Integrity in the Public Domain*, which will focus on the importance of constructive independence applying to presenting facts, expressing opinions, casting votes and many other actions that may affect public discussion and outcomes in the community.

It embraces conduct of parliamentarians and public servants, journalists and commentators, businesses and unions, academics and community leaders. The lecture will emphasise the need for due respect for the views and actions of others, including public figures, rather than persistent misrepresentation, abuse or suppression. It will also emphasise that governments, the mass media and other powerful forces in society should enhance access to information, diversity of opinion and freedom of speech for the general community, rather than principally for themselves.

The Independent Scholars Association of Australia (ISAA) was founded in 1995 through the initiative of science historian Dr Ann Moyal AM with the involvement of scholars and public intellectuals such as David Headon, Patricia Clarke, Doug Cocks, Humphrey McQueen and others, and with the generous and continuing support of the National Library of Australia. Incoming ISAA President Christine Jennett in 2014 described it as 'a community of scholars who discuss ideas and issues of importance, and who support each other in our research and writing'. It provides a productive forum for what Ann Moyal has termed the '*hidden intelligentsia*' — men and women pursuing research and writing independently of academic or other paid employment, and who make a vital contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of Australia.

The Association has held conferences annually since 1995 for its membership and they are open to the public. With its theme *Celebrating Independent Thought*, the 2015 Annual

Conference is an opportunity for critical examination of conceptual and practical aspects of independence. A panel, comprising founding members and chaired by David Headon, will reflect on ISAA's two decades of existence and activity in the light of its professed aims.

Another of invited experts led by Emeritus Fellow Colin Steele will discuss *Scholarship of the Future*, covering academic publishing, library and digital futures. Ten individual speakers will deal with independent scholarship and thought in the past and today, in contexts including journalism, language, art, pioneer science and socio-cultural issues.

The full conference program with registration form is at [isaa.org.au/conference/](http://isaa.org.au/conference/)

### Diary Dates on the website

ANUEF now relies 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](mailto:adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com).

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.

- 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)

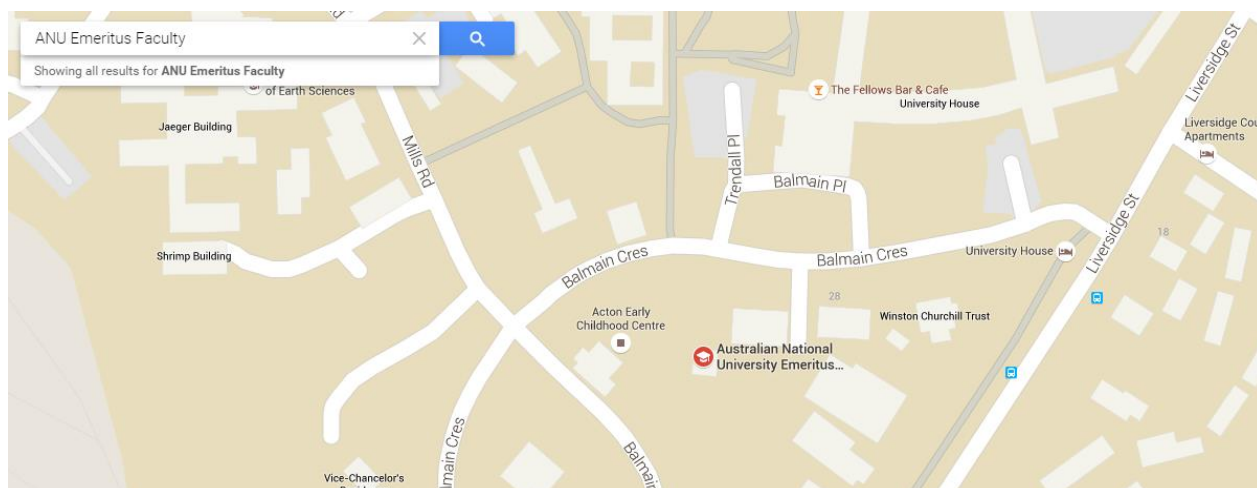
Unless otherwise stated, all ANUEF Events are in the Molony Room (Building 1c <http://www.anu.edu.au/maps#search=1c&show=11413>). Collegiate lunch discussions are on the first Wednesday of the month (noon for 12.30 start), and public lectures (4 - 5pm) on the third Wednesday of the month. All public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

**September 17** Tim Flannery

**September 23** George Megalogenis

**September 30.** David Marr on Bill Shorten

**October 30** University House literary dinner Kerry O'Brien

**November 3.** Peter Garrett

**November 5,** University House literary dinner with Matthew Evans

**November 23,** University House literary dinner with Annabel Crabb

Other authors to be scheduled include Andrew Leigh, Peter Doherty

Bookings: ANU Events or 6125 8451

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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>

### Items of interest in *On Campus* include:

- [Westpac Research Fellowships open for ANU applications](#)
- [New \\$53m student residence to be built on campus](#)
- [The new edition of ANU Reporter is out now](#)
- [Nominations for 2016 ANU Alumni Awards are now open](#)
- [Chemist Dr Colin Jackson named inaugural ACT Scientist of the Year](#)
- [Students supporting flood victims](#)
- [News from the ANU Council's 24 July meeting](#)
- [Creating a safe campus - a must read for students](#)
- [Centre for European Studies publishing prize - applications accepted until 30 September](#)
- [Italian Cultural Society revived](#)
- [ANU School of Art presents Rhythm and Blooms at Floriade 2015](#)
- [University House & Gardens survey](#)

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