

May 2017



Australian
National
University

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Cuts not clever but measures not all bad: Universities Australia

Changes to higher education funding and policy announced by Education Minister Simon Birmingham on May 1 will see a further decline in revenue to universities, said Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of peak body Universities Australia. "However, the proposals also include a number of positive initiatives on access and equity that will be welcomed by the sector," she went on.

"These further cuts of \$2.8 billion in higher education are a false economy given the crucial role of universities in economic growth and job creation," she said.

"The proposal for two cuts of 2.5 per cent to public investment in universities in 2018 and 2019 runs counter to the Government's innovation and skills agenda which aims to keep highly-skilled jobs in Australia in a competitive global economy.

"Tonight's proposals come on top of \$3.9 billion in cuts borne by universities and students since 2011, and are in addition to a \$3.7 billion proposed cut to university infrastructure funding.

"The proposals would also shift the relative average contributions made by taxpayers and students from a 58/42 per cent split to 54/46 per cent."

The Government has estimated this would amount to an increase in student contributions, on average, of between \$2,000 and \$3,600 for a four-year degree by 2021.

The higher education announcements do, however, include several new initiatives that universities have welcomed, according to Ms Robinson.

“We are pleased the Government has not cut the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) and allocated \$985 for each student from a financially disadvantaged background. This payment will help universities continue to support those students who most need a little extra help to go to university and to complete a degree.”

Universities Australia has strongly advocated for HEPPP funding to be maintained – and protected through legislation from future savings-driven budget raids.

“We also strongly support the decision to expand the demand-driven system to university diplomas and advanced diplomas, subject to conditions,” she said.

Universities Australia also commends a proposed new payment for work integrated learning (WIL) placements that ensure students are as well prepared as possible for jobs after graduation. This will help to implement the WIL strategy developed jointly by Universities Australia, the Australian Industry Group, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Collaborative Education Network.

In other measures, the package also includes a proposal to tie 7.5 per cent of university funding for student places to university ‘accountability’ and ‘performance’.

“Universities are already highly accountable for their performance and heavily invested in the success of their students and alumni,” Ms Robinson said. “We have very high student retention and completion rates by global standards.

“This is a complex area that will need to be handled with great care so as to avoid unintended consequences and perverse outcomes. This is particularly true for universities that serve the most disadvantaged students and communities,” she said.

UA has long argued that HECS/HELP is a cornerstone policy that ensures the long-term sustainability, integrity and equity of Australia’s higher education system and will consult experts on the proposed changes to ensure they do not undermine the intent of the scheme.

Other measures include:

- A proposed change to the repayment thresholds for HECS/HELP loans;
- A \$1394 loading for government funding of vet science and dentistry places;
- Replacing subsidies for New Zealand permanent residents with access to FEE/HELP loans for all permanent residents;
- Teaching awards will be transferred to Universities Australia to administer;
- The creation of another six regional study hubs (in addition to the two existing hubs at Cooma and Geraldton);
- Reducing the number of post-graduate places in line with demand and the introduction of post-graduate scholarships from 2019;
- Enabling courses to be capped with a review on matching places to students’ needs to be undertaken every three years; and
- Replacing the \$3,271 enabling course loading with the ability for universities to charge the same as a fee to be covered by HECS/HELP

‘Study can’t be used to measure changes in university costs’

New data on university teaching costs cannot be compared with a 2011 analysis nor be used to draw conclusions about growth over time – a report commissioned by Government has cautioned. Media reports have suggested the Government will use a report from Deloitte Access Economics on the Cost of Delivery in Higher Education to justify further funding cuts to universities.

But the report prepared by Deloitte for Government specifically states:

“These figures cannot be compared as direct growth or decline in costs relative to funding over the five years to 2015, given the differences in the sample, and differences in cost collection approaches.”

Commenting on the reports, Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson says, “In any event, the report only examines the costs of teaching and does not take account of the costs on universities to meet their other legislative obligations to conduct research, maintain buildings and support their local communities.

“As the authors themselves caution, the report cannot be used to compare costs over time. It cannot be used to justify further major cuts to public investment in universities. Base funding to universities needs to do more heavy lifting than ever because of a decline in other sources of funding for university infrastructure and equity programs over the past six years. Universities and students have already contributed \$3.9 billion to Budget repair since 2011.”

Media reports have also suggested the Government will argue universities are posting ample operating surpluses and can afford to absorb further cuts.

“Universities are not-for-profit – but they shouldn’t for loss either,” Ms Robinson said. “Universities have regulatory requirements to maintain surpluses as a buffer against external shocks and to ensure they can maintain their facilities and assets. Published surpluses also include funds that are tied to multi-year research and building projects.

“Remaining funds are reinvested into educating Australians for skilled jobs in our changing economy, doing research that leads to new jobs and industries, and growing Australia’s prosperity by sustaining Australia’s third largest export – international education – worth \$22 billion a year.

“It’s hard to envisage the Government unveiling severe cuts to public investment in universities which would be at odds with its innovation, jobs, skills and home-grown talent agenda.”

ANUEF Bursary Scheme

The ANUEF welcomes applications from ANUEF members for its Bursary Scheme to assist in publication by a university or commercial press (i. e. not a “vanity press”). Grants of up to \$1,000.00 may be awarded and will favour projects at an advanced stage of completion. The published work should be “academic” in the broadest sense such as research in the sciences, humanities, the environment, personal memoir, community

interest (e. g. local history or heritage). Applicants are reminded that the university's ANU Press publishes scholarly works electronically. See <https://press.anu.edu.au/about/about-anu-press>

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Applicants should prepare a 1 to 2 page letter addressed to the ANUEF Bursary Scheme that includes information against the criteria below:
2. Title of the project and amount requested
3. Is the project nearing completion? Do you have a contract with a publisher or other firm understanding about publication? Submit documentation if available.
4. Other sources of funds for this project?
5. Be specific about what the funds are to be used for
 - Preparation of illustrations, figures, graphs, or maps
 - Conversion of files from analogue to digital
 - Scanning or editing scanned copy
 - Copy-editing
 - Other. Be specific
- 6 The committee administering the ANUEF Bursary Scheme may ask for additional details and will endeavour to approve the application (or not) within a month.
- 7 Further information is available from creynolds697@gmail.com where applications should be sent.

. Alumni of the Year

The ANU has honoured its distinguished alumni at the 2017 ANU Alumni Awards, naming prominent businesswoman [Ms Elizabeth Bryan AM](#) as recipient of the University's prestigious Alumni of the Year Award and [Ms Xiao He \(Helen\) ZHANG](#) as Young Alumna of the Year

Ms Bryan (BA '68) has had a distinguished career in business and is currently Chairman of the Virgin Australia Group and the Insurance Australia Group.

ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC said Ms Bryan had made an outstanding contribution to Australian society. "Ms Bryan is a powerful role model for women in corporate leadership where she has been praised for her rigorous work ethic, resilience and direct approach," he said.

Ms Bryan has been the Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Asset Management and served as a director of Westpac Banking Corporation and a large number of other Australian public, private and government-owned companies. She was the first woman to run a large financial institution in Australia when she was appointed to manage the New South Wales State Super and Investment Management Corporation in 1992.

"I am honoured and delighted to be named as [one of] The Australian National University's Alumni of the Year," Ms Bryan said. "My time at ANU enriched my knowledge and abilities, while also enabling me to develop unique perspectives that have supported me throughout my career. I am pleased to see that ANU is building on its strong legacy by fostering the next generation of Australian leaders."

Xiao He (Helen) Zhang (B Asian Studies (Specialist) '10, LLB (Hons) '10, GDLP '11) gave up a position with a commercial law firm in China to pursue a career in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Her Law and Asian Studies degrees at

ANU have been invaluable for her diplomatic career where she is able to use her extensive knowledge of international law and foreign affairs.

Early in her career at DFAT, she had the opportunity to travel to Beijing to be part of Australia's negotiating team on the Australia-China Free Trade Agreement. Her Mandarin skills, refined at ANU, were a valuable asset. Her Honours thesis on cyber warfare and international law, supervised by Professor Don Rothwell, laid important groundwork for the issues she currently deals with.

The Chinese-born Australian diplomat works in the challenging political climate of Israel and the Palestinian Territories, analysing the strategic realignments and socio-economic upheavals in the Middle East following the Arab Spring. As Second Secretary (Political and Economic) at the Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv, she is responsible for reporting on Israel's relations with other foreign powers in the region.

Her work varies from consulting with Israeli journalists, analysts and officials on issues relevant to Australia's strategic interests, to convening roundtables for the international diplomatic community on pertinent foreign policy issues, travelling to the periphery of Israel's borders (including Gaza and the Golan Heights), and promoting Australian interests in Israel through public diplomacy.

She helped create a month-long series of events under the 'Ozraeli' banner to widen the outreach of the embassy and celebrate the common features the two countries share and their strong diplomatic ties.

Helen has stayed in close contact with ANU since graduating.

In their fifth year, the ANU Alumni Awards celebrate the University's outstanding alumni and their achievements since graduation. Along with the Alumnus of the Year, eight other alumni were honoured and two received Vice-Chancellor's Commendations.

ACT Supreme Court **Justice Richard Refshauge** (BA Hons '72, LLB '75), was honoured by as Alumnus of the Year - Philanthropy, for his extensive volunteer work and support for disadvantaged and marginalised groups in society.

Museum curator **Dr Gaye Sculthorpe** (BA '77), who is currently the British Museum's Head of Oceania, was named 2017 Indigenous Alumnus of the Year for her work educating people about the complexity and diversity of Indigenous Australian culture.

Dr Dongxiang Zhang (MMgt '06) was named International Alumnus of the year for his distinguished career in international banking. Dr Zhang is President of the Bank of China Jiangxi Branch.

Businessman and adventurer **Creel Price** (BComm '92) was named Alumnus of the Year - Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Other recipients are:

Student Philanthropist of the Year (Undergraduate) Mr Benjamin Gill

Student Philanthropist of the Year (Postgraduate) Ms Kim-Marie Spence

Young Indigenous Alumnus of the Year Mr Robert Williams

Vice-Chancellor's Commendation - Student Philanthropist of the Year (Undergraduate) Ms Caitlin Figueiredo

Chancellor's Commendation - Indigenous Alumnus of the Year Mr David Johnston

For more information on the 2017 awards and recipients, visit the [ANU Alumni website](http://www.anu.edu.au/alumni/our-alumni/spotlight).

Nominations for the 2018 ANU Alumni Awards open in August 2017

Source: <http://www.anu.edu.au/alumni/our-alumni/spotlight>

Exporting university education to India

University leaders showcased the central role of higher education to Australia's relationship with the world's fastest growing economy, as part of the recent Prime Ministerial visit to India. During Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's and Minister for Education Simon Birmingham's visit to India, Universities Australia hosted a high-level roundtable aimed at increasing research and employability collaborations between Australian and Indian universities.

Over two days in Delhi, the leaders of more than half of Australia's universities met with their Indian counterparts to discuss collaboration in agriculture and mining, and ways to develop students' entrepreneurial skills. Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said the visit was a great opportunity to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries through respective skills, higher education and research interests. It's no coincidence that the first foreign education provider to set up operations in India was an Australian institution – Deakin University – in 1994," she said. With enrolments increasing to nearly 45,000 in 2016, India is now the second most common source country for students in Australian higher education.

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New CEO of the Australian Research Council

Professor Sue Thomas has been appointed CEO of the Australian Research Council (ARC) by Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham who said Professor Thomas would play an important role in shaping the future of Australian research and delivering on the Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA).

"I'm pleased that after an extensive search we have been able to find some of the best talent suited for the role right here in Australia," Minister Birmingham said. "Professor Thomas will be focused on ensuring Australia remains at the cutting-edge of research, innovation and global competitiveness, drawing on her distinguished career experiences to date.

"Professor Thomas is an experienced university leader with a strong academic background in microbial genetics, environmental microbiology and agricultural biotechnology and she will bring significant teaching, research and commercialisation expertise to the ARC. The ARC has a significant agenda ahead, including developing the new Engagement and Impact Assessment to accompany the internationally-recognised Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and the agency has a key role to play in delivering the Turnbull Government's record \$3.5 billion annual investment in research and measuring those outcomes."

Professor Thomas is currently Provost and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of New England, having previously held senior positions at Charles Sturt University, the University of Canberra and Flinders University. Professor Thomas will commence her role with the ARC on 3 July 2017. Leanne Harvey will continue in the role of Acting CEO of the ARC until then.

Further information is available at www.arc.gov.au.

Applications open for Australia-Germany research scheme

Applications for leading researchers in the early stages of their careers to go on research exchange between Australia and Germany close on 16 June 2017. Administered nationally since 2015 by Universities Australia with partner organisation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme has already funded over 170 collaborative research projects.

Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said that research was increasingly international and programs like this one were important to keeping Australia connected to the global research community.

"Germany is well-known as one of the world's leading research-intensive countries and has an excellent reputation for international research collaboration," she said. "After the United States and the United Kingdom, Germany ranks third for joint research publications with Australian universities, so it's vital for Australian researchers to make connections with their German counterparts," she said.

"The DAAD is the largest funding organisation in the world supporting the international exchange of students and scholars. The scheme funds travel and living costs, enabling Australian researchers to spend time in Germany working alongside their German counterparts and bringing German researchers to Australia to work in local research institutions."

The scheme is open to Australian researchers at participating Australian universities in all academic fields involved in a collaborative project with German research partners. The scheme acknowledges the support of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Further information including the application form, and terms and conditions is now available on the [Universities Australia website](#).

Apology

Due to carelessness and a lack of technological skills, the editor has overlooked several obituaries. These have now been resubmitted for publication.

Vale Colin Plowman

20 February 1926 – 10 June 2015

by Des Ball and Giles Pickford

Colin Plowman made a difference. He changed things that he touched. He was a good man, as well as a complicated man. He was not an easy man.

That is the core of Colin Plowman from our perspective. Here is the fabric of his eventful life.

Colin was born in his beloved Orange on 20 February 1926. Colin would have added that this was the year that Spearfelt won the Melbourne Cup in 3 minutes, 22.7 seconds. Naos came 2nd, Pantheon 3rd. It was three months before the General Strike of the British coal miners which shook the conservative government of Stanley Baldwin. It was between the wars. Three year after his birth the Great Depression would begin and cripple the world for the next ten years. Colin spoke often and with great affection of his Mother who cared for him during this difficult time. He said that she used to say to him 'Colin, you're not often right, but you were wrong that time.'

Towards the end of the Second World War, 1944-45, Colin was to serve as an Aircrew Trainee in the RAAF. We remember his yarns about flying at night between Melbourne and the South Australian border, navigating by the lights of towns such as Keith. 'We always turned back at Keith,' he said.

At the age of sixteen Colin joined the Bank of New South Wales as a clerk. He told us that he was ordered by the Manager of the Nevertire Branch to throw open the doors of the bank at 10.00 am and then, facing north towards Bourke he was to shout, 'I declare this bank open.' He was then to face south towards Nyngan and make the same declaration. It was only after a few days that he realised that it was all a joke, part of his initiation into Australia's oldest commercial institution.

He left the bank after five years to enrol at the age of 21 as a mature age, full-time student at the University of Sydney. Here, from 1947 to 1949, he studied for the degree of Bachelor of Economics, majoring in Economics and Government. He would return to his *alma mater* in 1953 to work for the Vice-Principal, W H Maze, as Secretary to the Faculty of Agriculture and the University Buildings and Grounds Committee.

However, between graduation and his return to University life he spent four years, 1950-53, with the Joint Coal Board as a member of the administrative staff.

From 1954 onwards Colin lived and breathed the atmosphere of higher education. This was the ground of his being, and he would have a major impact on academia in two States and the Australian Capital Territory. But his influence would spread far beyond these borders, as we will show.

His career in higher education was a steady progress upwards from Graduate Assistant at the University of Sydney to Faculty Secretary and then Assistant Registrar at the University of Western Australia. He arrived in Canberra in 1959 to become Assistant Registrar of the Canberra University College, then Registrar of the School of General Studies ANU in 1961, and then Academic Registrar in 1968. In 1974, with a painful wrench expressed vividly in his correspondence with ANU, he left Canberra to become Registrar of UNSW, but he was back two years later as Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the ANU: a post that he would hold until his retirement aged 65, in 1991.

Beyond the confines of any one of these campuses, Colin's creative ability to see the future and do something about it was made plain for all to see.

One of his great and farsighted projects was to assist his friends Maurie Blank (Caulfield Institute of Technology), Don Paterson (Canberra College of Advanced Education), Dan Dunn (University of Western Australia) and Ding Bell and Paul Morgan (University of Melbourne) to conceive and give birth to the Australian Institute of Tertiary Education Administrators in 1976, an organisation whose aim was to improve levels of skill and understanding amongst the General Staff. This project was opposed by some of limited vision, but they were no match for the men mentioned above. Colin's skill in winning arguments was more than valuable at this critical time.

His interest in training the next generation of university administrators developed further when the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee asked him to convene the first University Administrative Staff Course, in collaboration with Syd Derwent of UNSW in 1968.

Colin was always fascinated with the arts, particularly the dramatic arts. He was a member of the first ACT Arts Council and Chair of the Tau Theatre until it burnt down. He was appointed by Gough Whitlam as a consultant to the first Australian Council for the Arts in

1975. He created the ANU Arts Centre in collaboration with Val McKelvey and Di Riddell, and nurtured it through difficult times. His presence was felt at many performances at the ANU Arts Centre and at Repertory productions in Theatre Three. He had a huge impact on the ANU Drill Hall Gallery, aided and abetted by Johanna Owens, the founding Curator.

Other Australia-wide roles included President of the Graduate Careers Council of Australia (1973) in association with Keith Gravell, a man whose face was even rosier than Colin's; and Chair of the Council of the Australian College for Seniors, and the world-wide organisation Elder Hostel, in association with Barry Russell of the University of Wollongong.

In his retirement Colin became involved in smaller projects which were less demanding and more enjoyable. His lunch-time presence at Chat's Café in the ANU School of Art was central to his and many other people's days. He also travelled widely with Des Ball in south-east Asia and with Giles Pickford in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. He maintained a presence at the ANU as a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Continuing Education, collaborating with Peter Stewart and Maurie Weidemann in running an annual series of National Summer Schools for Science Teachers. He also worked with Don Anderson and Dick Johnson on various projects funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training.

His approach in these later years was always philosophical. On any given topic he would question and often adopt a contrary view. His friends and others would ask him where he stood on the issue, but like Socrates, he would say that where he stood was immaterial. The vital question for him was whether 'the other' in the conversation knew where they stood and why. In this way, which could at times be annoying, he helped to strengthen people in their minds and in their beliefs.

Colin had plenty of enemies, as is always the case for a person who was such an agent of change. But he had many close friends, and these people will join with his children Polly, Colin, Kerryn and Amy in mourning him. His going leaves an unbridgeable gap in many people's lives.

[An appreciation of Colin Plowman based on "words spoken at the funeral..." by Barry Ninham was published in *Emeritus*, July 2015]

Dr Howard Bradbury AM– 1927-2016

By Jan Elliott and Bill Foley

Dr Howard Bradbury, aged 89, passed away on Monday 28 November following surgery some weeks earlier. He is survived by his wife Ruth, daughters Meredith, Annette and Joanne and families, including 20 great grandchildren. His work on the prevention of konzo will continue through his many colleagues around the world.

"Right at the end of my career I've had this wonderful opportunity, by the grace of God, to be able to address a preventable disease in Africa. It's something I'd never thought would be possible."

Professor Bradbury followed in his father's footsteps, studying chemistry at Melbourne Technical College and Melbourne University, followed by a PhD in polymer chemistry at Birmingham University. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University he worked for 6 years at CSIRO Wool Research Laboratories before accepting a senior lectureship in chemistry at the Australian National University (ANU) in 1961. From 1961 to 1988 he pursued his teaching and research career at ANU, working on the structure of wool and NMR studies

of biological macromolecules. His work pioneered the use of NMR spectroscopy and led to the first detailed insight into the solution structure of proteins.

Many of his students have gone on to eminent careers in science, government and academia. He enjoyed sabbatical appointments at Cornell University and three occasions at Oxford University, and was awarded DSc degrees from Melbourne University as well as three research medals from the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and Melbourne University.

After speaking at a conference in India in 1974, he changed the focus of his research to food chemistry, analysing all the root crops of the South Pacific, where he confirmed that cassava, one of the most important crops, contained cyanide. In 1988 he took early retirement and joined the Botany and Zoology Department (now Research School of Biology), ANU, to continue his work on cassava in a major project funded by ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research).

He met Dr Julie Cliff, an Australian doctor working in Mozambique, at a workshop on cassava safety in Nigeria in 1994, who inspired his work in developing simple kits to determine the cyanide levels in cassava and thiocyanate levels in urine (a measure of cyanide intake). In 1996 he travelled to Mozambique to test his kits in the field, which spurred later work to find a way to reduce cyanide levels in cassava flour. He developed “the wetting method” that exploited the presence of active enzymes in the flour to reduce the cyanide levels before it was cooked. The simple treatments involved wetting the flour, spreading it in a thin layer on a mat for 2 hours and allowing the cyanide that was liberated by the action of the enzymes to escape safely as gas. It was trialled in Mozambique in 2005 to much success, and also rid the flour of its bitter taste.

In 2007 he was awarded the inaugural \$2-a-Day award by the Institute of Chemical Engineers; he was also appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

In 2008 he contacted Professor Jean-Pierre Banea, Director of the National Institute of Nutrition in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, to extend the reach of his “wetting method”. Using money raised from selling his kits to first-world countries, they were able to develop an intervention protocol in villages to teach the “wetting method”. In 2009 they were able to prevent the development of new cases of konzo, a crippling neurological disease caused by increased cyanide intake, in Kay Kalenge and 13 more villages since then.

Professor Bradbury was a prodigious networker and believed in encouraging everyone who showed an interest in his work. He founded the Cassava Cyanide Diseases Network, a free worldwide network and newsletter which today has over 700 members and is coordinated by Prof Fernand Lambein. <http://ipbo.vib-ugent.be/projects/ccdn>

In 2016 the ANU devoted their Annual Giving Day to Professor Bradbury’s work on the prevention of konzo. A tax-deductible fund has been setup to continue his work in preventing konzo in DRC. <http://www.anu.edu.au/giving/support-us/konzo-eradication>

At ANU, Professor Bill Foley, Jan Elliott and Ursula Wiedemann will extend his legacy through continuing the supply of his kits and collaborations. Email: konzo@anu.edu.au

Some reflections

“He was a man of great intellect, enthusiasm, charm, wit, humility and good will. He was also a great humanitarian. I learnt a huge amount from him and am deeply indebted to him.”

Former PhD student Prof John Carver, Director, Research School of Chemistry, the Australian National University, Australia

“We have just lost a great person. Howard combined the best qualities of a scientist – rigor and innovation – with a deep humanity. He truly used his science to help the poorest of the poor, in this case people living in communities afflicted by the paralytic disease, konzo.”

Dr Julie Cliff, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique

“Howard was one of the personalities who contributed much to make PRONANUT a great scientific institution, particularly in the fight against the konzo. His memory will never be forgotten and we will continue his work in DRC.”

Professor Jean-Pierre Banea, Director of the National Nutrition Program (PRONANUT), the Democratic Republic of Congo

“Aging could not stop his interest and his motivating enthusiasm to use science for the prevention of this unfair disease, konzo. His accomplishments are bigger than life, and will affect konzo research for a very long time to come.”

Emeritus Professor Fernand Lambein, International Plant Biotechnology Outreach (IPBO), University of Ghent, Switzerland

“It truly is a sad day - so many of us working on cyanogenic glucosides in cassava were connected to each other by Howard. His network was extraordinary. Howard was always a rigorous scientist and made sure he published everything so the knowledge would persist.”

Associate Professor RosGleadow, Monash University, Australia

“For more than 25 years, Howard worked tirelessly to translate science into effective actions to improve the lives of some of the poorest people in the world. He did it with humility and generosity but always insisted that the science underlying the interventions be the best possible.”

Professor William Foley, Research School of Biology,
the Australian National University

“Sometimes, as members of a University, we get caught up in the search for grants, in the need to publish or perish, and in the day-to-day ructions of a competitive environment. I think someone like Howard reminds us about the other side of our work – the joy of doing good things, the value of others, and the role we play as citizens of a broader community.”

Professor Allen Rodrigo, Director, Research School of Biology,
the Australian National University

Derek John Mulvaney AO, CMG

26-10-1925 — 21-9-2016

By Campbell Macknight

John Mulvaney's first contact with the Australian National University was as an applicant for a travelling research scholarship in 1951. With the help of referees from the History Department in the University of Melbourne, where he had graduated with both BA (Hons) and MA, he was duly awarded the scholarship and successfully argued the case to enrol in an undergraduate course in prehistoric archaeology at Cambridge. He liked to claim that he was the only holder of such a research scholarship to have been allowed to take an undergraduate degree. The story nicely reflects both his independence of mind and his vision for investigating the prehistory of Australia. All three universities - Melbourne, Cambridge and ANU - played important roles in his life.

John returned to Australia at the end of 1953 in the midst of family difficulties. His fiancée, Jean, had been severely injured in a road accident and his father in Melbourne was dying. Apparently there had been some talk of him joining the Department of Pacific History in the Research School of Pacific Studies - as it then was - to initiate archaeological research at the ANU, but he felt beholden to return to a lectureship at Melbourne. This involved teaching 'Ancient History' alongside his mentor and friend, John O'Brien. Over the next decade their joint first-year unit formed a staple component of History as understood in Melbourne, even if a good deal of archaeology pushed aside more usual approaches to the Greeks and the Romans. The effect of this teaching was profound on hundreds of students and, even more so, on the careers of some of those employed to tutor the large classes.

Almost immediately on his return to Australia, John also began to dig. In 1955 contacts in Adelaide introduced him to Fromm's Landing on the lower Murray River in South Australia and so began a series of excavations familiar to every student of Australian prehistory. Money was tight, technical equipment was often rudimentary, but John had a talent for attracting support and inspiring enthusiasm. A critical element in those early years was the willingness and capacity of the Royal Society of Victoria to publish his reports. In 1961, his first great summary, 'The Stone Age of Australia', appeared in the prestigious *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* in Cambridge. His leadership in Australian prehistoric archaeology was now established in the eyes of his English mentors.

In 1965 John moved from Melbourne to the ANU in order, as his former Head of Department stated, 'to pursue his hobby'. In Canberra, he joined Jack Golson, whom he had known in Cambridge, in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology in RSPaS. Freed from undergraduate teaching and with the wider interests and resources of the ANU, he recruited a group of PhD students of various backgrounds and led them into fieldwork in the Northern Territory and East Timor. In 1969, he co-operated with Indonesian colleagues in re-excavating sites in Sulawesi with the benefit of radiocarbon dating. In the same year, the first edition of his classic book, *The Prehistory of Australia*, appeared. It was a time of intense excitement and activity.

With the division of the RSPaS department into its three parts of Anthropology, Linguistics and Prehistory, John was, I think, disappointed not to be appointed to the chair of Prehistory, but pleased that it went to Jack Golson. Another future awaited John.

In 1970, the Faculty of Arts was booming and eager to embark on new areas of teaching and research, including prehistoric archaeology. There was also an interest in Aboriginal Australia. Since the past was involved, History seemed an obvious sponsor for Prehistory. An application from John was all the more welcome given that Manning Clark, who had taught him in Melbourne, was still Head of Department and, even more importantly, Mick Williams, his friend and contemporary from Melbourne, held another chair in History. John was appointed Professor of Prehistory in late 1970 and in 1971 he and I taught a unit with some resemblances to the old Ancient History in Melbourne, though he spent much of his time as acting principal of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (as it then was). In 1972 we taught a full first-year unit of Prehistory to a large class of enthusiastic students, many of whom have gone on to careers in the field. In 1973, the new Department of Prehistory and Anthropology was established with John alternating as Head, not very happily as it turned out, with the newly-appointed Professor of Anthropology, Anthony Forge.

In those heady days, John assembled a superb staff which made the department clearly the leading centre in Australia for prehistoric archaeology. He took a heavy share of administration and teaching, but slowly withdrew from significant archaeological fieldwork. Although keeping up with the rapidly developing understanding of Australian prehistory, his personal interests moved in other directions. He continued to play a major role in the affairs of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. Some early stirring led to his appointment to

the Committee of Inquiry on Museums and National Collections (the Piggott committee) whose report is a founding document of the National Museum of Australia. From the mid-1970s on, he was drawn into heritage matters more generally, eventually serving as a member of the Australian Heritage Commission. His energy and passion were invaluable, and often perhaps critical to success, in a huge range of specific campaigns. John was never afraid of having an opinion and expressing it in forthright terms to any audience. The range of his commitments and activities was remarkable and, as John himself admitted in retrospect, in this period from the late 1970s until the mid-1980s he was under extreme pressure. He formally retired from the chair of Prehistory at the end of 1982, but his output of publications and other contributions continued unabated, particularly during his five years as a Visiting Fellow in the Department of History, Research School of Social Sciences.

From the 1970s, his personal research interests came to be focused on the encounter of thoughtful Europeans with indigenous people. This concern can be traced back to early articles in the 1950s, but its most important expression was the definitive biography of Baldwin Spencer finally published, with John Calaby contributing a chapter, in 1985. This was followed by a string of works presenting letters and diaries of various individuals who had had dealings with Aboriginal people. In 1986 and 1987, he travelled widely around Australia to gather material for *Encounters in Place* (1989), which describes a wide variety of historic contacts and is still, in my view, the ideal introduction to the history of Aboriginal people over the last two centuries.

People remembered John and what he had to say about Australian prehistory and the importance of indigenous and natural heritage. No one has done more than John to bring the deep human past of Australia to the attention of the world. His reputation was established not just through his writing, but also by extensive travel and lecturing, especially in Britain, the USA and Canada. He had a great ability to speak clearly and directly about his material, always emphasising the human aspect of the past. He inspired and encouraged his students just as he commanded the attention of journalists and the respect of politicians. His autobiography, *Digging up a Past* (2011), gives a detailed account of his involvement with many people around the world.

John was not without honours. He was elected a member of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1969 - and later played a major role in its administration - although it was only in the following year that he graduated with a PhD from Cambridge on the basis of his published works. In 1982 he was awarded a CMG 'for services to education'; in 1991, an AO 'for service to Prehistory and Anthropology, particularly through the study of Aboriginal cultural heritage'; and in 2001 a Centenary Medal 'for service to the preservation of natural, cultural and Indigenous heritage in Australia'.

In February 1954 John married Jean Campbell and they had six children. Nothing mattered more to John than this happy family life. In Canberra from 1965, Jean played a significant role in many community organisations, not least in extending welcome and friendship to the wives of other ANU academics and visitors. She died in 2004. In 2006, John married Liz Morrison, to the great joy of family and friends; she survives him.

[A 'celebration' of John Mulvaney was contributed by the National Museum of Australia, and published in the October 2016, edition of *Emeritus*].

Professor Desmond Ball AO: The insurgent intellectual

20 May 1947 – 12 October 2016

By Nicholas Farrelly, November 2016

An arresting start

Des Ball arrived in Canberra in February 1965, fresh from Timboon in country Victoria. He was a National Undergraduate Scholar who had earlier topped his home state in three matriculation subjects. Des had never been to a university campus or spoken to an academic. When he arrived at the train station, he was met—accidentally but auspiciously—by Colin Plowman, who was then the Registrar of the School of General Studies. Colin brought him to the Acton campus in what Des remembers as his “old humpback yellow Holden”. Des’s academic journey had begun.

Before long, Des was making his mark on ANU, both academically and socially. Just before Christmas of his first year, Colin had the happy opportunity to write to Des notifying him that he had won the “Shell Company Prize [for] the best first-year student in the Faculty of Economics”. The prize came with the princely sum of £25. For Des, Canberra was a long way from home and, like many in his high-achieving cohort, he found himself ensconced at Bruce Hall. These were heady times, recently described in a newspaper article as “days of debauchery and high jinks at ANU”.

From this period, there is the story of Des’s arrest for offensive behavior at an anti-Vietnam War rally. Des, while still a member of the ANU Company of the Sydney University Regiment, became implacably opposed to military conscription. He considered it antithetical to the values of freedom for which Australians were supposedly fighting. Journalists loved the contrast: they never failed to call Des a “prize-winning economics student” when they reported his “offensive behaviour” charge.

To shed light on the case, all these decades later, it is worth turning to Bronitt and McSherry’s *Principles of Criminal Law*, the leading text in the area, now in its third edition. Across four pages of dense legal summary, the authors analyse the implications of the 1966 case immortalised as *Ball v McIntyre*. It hinged on whether Des’s behaviour, climbing onto a statue of King George V while holding a placard that read “I will not fight in Vietnam”, was offensive. Justice Kerr—who of course later played a leading role in the dramatic events of the 1975 Whitlam dismissal—held that “offensive behaviour” must be “calculated to wound the feelings, arouse anger or resentment or disgust or outrage in the mind of a reasonable person”. In Kerr’s judgment, the reasonable person would find Des’s protest “foolish and...misguided” but that the reasonable person would understand such conduct to be “truly political conduct” and thus would not “have his feelings wounded, or anger, resentment, disgust or outrage aroused”. Bronitt and McSherry note that Ball benefited from the advice of ANU law students who supported his cause, and he was able to present reasoned legal arguments in his own defence. He also had in his corner an ANU academic named Kep Enderby, who went on to become a Labor MP.

Throughout his student years, and beyond, Des became a “person of security interest” to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. The beauty of a system where secret documents are one day released to the public, even if they are redacted, means Des

eventually got a clear picture of what ASIO thought of his early years at the ANU. In one five-page briefing, the then Director General of ASIO, writing to the Secretary of the Department of Defence, clusters Des with a group of academics “the majority of whom have radical tendencies”. When Des began publishing material about the joint intelligence facility at Pine Gap alongside Robert Cooksey, an ANU international relations lecturer and one of Des’s mentors, ASIO paid close attention. Des, for his part, long disputed many of the inaccuracies in the security intelligence files, some of which he claimed were the result of confused identification with other long-haired young men. When asked in recent years about the ASIO surveillance, Des said he was surprised by “the extent of the resources that they had devoted to me. I think that ASIO had lost the plot by then”.

Academic star

Des was getting a very different sort of attention from the ANU’s academic leaders. Throughout his undergraduate career, Professor Fin Crisp, then the Professor of Political Science, conducted a sporadic correspondence with Des’s father, Jack. For a time, Jack was concerned about his son’s progress and no doubt wondered about his political orientation – which was explicitly anti-war in the leftist tradition. These letters are a striking insight into Des’s early years in Canberra and the enthusiasm that Professor Crisp felt for the young man’s prospects.

In Crisp’s letter of 15 December 1967, at the end of Des’s third year, he told Jack that his son:

...first took a labouring job after the examinations in extremely hot weather, but wisely gave it away after a couple of days. I persuaded him to have a good hair-cut at that point because, as I told him, he would not get any sort of worthwhile employment while he looked like one of the Apostles. This time I, teasing him, succeeded and he is looking quite spruce at the moment. This worked very well because he met the incoming Vice-Chancellor...recently and he (Sir John Crawford) has taken Des on for some vacation employment digging up some material in the libraries...This experience, and this close interest on the part of Sir John Crawford, could be the making of Des, provided he does a good job for Sir John, and I am sure he is fully capable of doing it.

At the same time Professor Crisp wrote to Des directly saying: “I will eat my hat now if you do not chew up a First for us next year...I have been tremendously bucked with your results, and was particularly proud to parade your results at the meeting of the Economics Faculty this afternoon.”

In the end, Professor Crisp did not need to eat his hat. With a thesis titled “The anti-ballistic missile and international stability”, Des’s honours triumph came with a clutch of awards, including a University Medal and the Tillyard Prize, the ANU’s top honour for an undergraduate student.

A scholar’s scholar

From then, Des made quick progress towards the completion of his ANU PhD, awarded in 1972, for “The Strategic Missile Programme of the Kennedy Administration, 1961-1963”. Under the stewardship of Professor Hedley Bull, and a number of the other leading figures in US nuclear strategy, Des came to understand the dynamics of nuclear escalation, and command and control, which led to some powerful conclusions. Des determined that the notion of “limited” nuclear war was fanciful and that after the exchange of a modest number of detonations, escalation was inevitable and irreversible. With his newly-minted PhD, he had a short stint teaching at the University of Sydney, before he returned to Canberra to take

up a research fellowship in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre. These were busy and productive years, where Des made some of his most significant contributions to the understanding of global strategy.

It was that work, along with his studies of American facilities in Australia, and particularly *A Suitable Piece of Real Estate* published in 1980, which first made Des famous. He had developed his early career under the watchful supervision of his close friend, Professor Bob O'Neill. Bob saw Des's great potential and provided the resources and crucial political support for his research activities. Some of his great collaborations also began back then, including with Jol Langtry, a retired Australian Army officer, with whom Des shared his many trips to northern Australia where they measured rivers, mountains and beaches to understand the nitty-gritty of the defence of the vast Australian continent.

But Des was still looking to understand other issues of global concern. In July 1986, the front-page of the *Cobden Times*, his home region's newspaper in country Victoria, ran the astonishing front-page splash: "Timboon link with Soviet spy claims". In a report that spilled over onto page 10, Des was credited with claims that the Soviet Embassy in Canberra was listening to sensitive Australian communications. The report talked of Des's parents, Mr and Mrs Jack Ball, and his sister Raelene, and declared that they were all "justifiably proud...but take no credit for his achievements".

As the head of the ANU's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre from 1984 to 1991, Des was also receiving attention from universities abroad, eager to lure him away from Canberra. Happily, a tranche of new ANU professorial posts was being advertised to commence in 1987 and Des was encouraged to make a bid. Beyond his academic endorsers, Des's referees from the policy world were a serious group: former US President Jimmy Carter, former US Secretary of Defence Robert McNamara and then Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley. In his letter of reference, Beazley argued, "Desmond Ball's work on global strategic issues is acknowledged internationally as outstanding."

The official summary of that pivotal professorial appointment quoted an esteemed global scholar who suggested: "Dr Ball is one of the most creative and significant students of international security in the world. Only a handful of people are his peers, and I would not place anyone clearly above him." Des's appointment to his special professorial post did not slow down his output. He continued to write and research with unstoppable passion, while teaching occasional seminars and supervising a growing stable of talented PhD students.

In the late 1980s he was also working on what would remain one of his only un-published works. And like so many things in Des's career, it is a ripper of a story. The manuscript was called *Diplomatic Ears: A guidebook to Russian diplomatic establishments and their antenna systems*. At 528-pages, it was a systematic, global survey of the era's Russian signals intelligence capabilities. Des accumulated the materials by travelling all over the world and meticulously mapping relevant facilities, in Africa, Asia and Europe. The work was compelling and comprehensive. The big pity was the timing. Once the giant manuscript was completed, the Cold War was over, and that horse had bolted. *Diplomatic Ears* never did see the light of day.

After the USSR

As the Soviet Union collapsed, and Des put that manuscript in a drawer, he was not going to rest on his laurels. Other international problems still needed resolution. He worked conscientiously to help establish the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific. It is still the premier second-track forum in the region, bringing together academics, policy makers and military personnel to discuss the most pressing issues of the day.

Des also sought out new research topics with relish. From the mid-1990s he produced a unique set of studies of sensitive security matters in Thailand and Myanmar. His focus was paramilitaries, and particularly the shadowy groups that fight Thailand and Burma's civil wars. His time on the Thai-Myanmar border also saw him develop a passion for ballads about Thailand's storied Border Patrol Police. Over the years he fanatically pulled together what is probably the world's only comprehensive collection of these songs. It fills three large boxes.

How did Des manage to publish such a huge volume of high-quality scholarship? Those who worked closely with him can testify that he never wavered from his methodical and comprehensive treatment of his research projects. His paper files are beyond legendary. It has been said that he never wrote a sentence that he could not improve with an extra footnote, and he assiduously monitored the citation practices of colleagues and students alike. His heavyweight books on Thailand's paramilitaries testify to this approach.

Such academic work was founded in the careful accumulation and weighing of evidence, of all sorts. The contradictions and complexities of the evidence informed his analysis. In many cases he was prepared to leave readers to draw their own conclusions about the subject at hand. To meet his own high standards, he worked hard, whether at home, in the office, or on the road. He often only paused to follow the fortunes of his beloved Collingwood Football Club.

For Des, scholarly effort was also a profoundly social activity. During his career he accumulated a remarkable circle of friends, collaborators, admirers and critics, and, yes, a few enemies too. With correspondence and interactions with Presidents, Governors General, Prime Ministers, Ministers, spy chiefs and military leaders, his circles were as wide as they were deep. Perhaps the most important connections in his professional life were with his global network of co-authors. A perusal of his list of publications, which stretches to more than 24 tightly-packed pages, indicates that he worked closely with scores of other academics, journalists and analysts.

In his research, Des took calculated risks, all in the interest of better serving the peaceful and democratic values that formed his personal ideology. Writing in 2012's *Insurgent Intellectual*, a volume that paid tribute to Des's immense academic contributions, former United States President Jimmy Carter explained that:

Desmond Ball's counsel and cautionary advice based on deep research made a great difference to our collective goal of avoiding nuclear war...The fundamental lesson learned was that nuclear war is inherently uncontrollable, and that our fundamental goal must be to reach a world without nuclear weapons, and to eliminate every single nuclear weapon from the face of the earth.

So, what did Des, the strategist, make of war? With his life-long study of its consequences, he once described himself as "almost a complete pacifist". He was pragmatic and idealistic in equal measure, and found great stimulation in considering contrarian views. His enjoyment of discussing projects and publications was contagious. For Des, the life of the mind required constant attention to detail and a capacity to see connections in every possible direction. His career demonstrated a remarkable mix of intellectual stamina, logistical determination, and boundless creativity.

It was fitting that in his final years he received the Peter Baume Award, the ANU's highest recognition. He was also made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2014. At the same time, Des fought valiantly, for many years, against the cancer that eventually sapped his strength. He was proud that he managed to keep up his output of publications right to the end. Yet he was prouder still of his family and the untiring support they offered. With his

passing, Australia has lost one of its finest public intellectuals, a humble man and original thinker whose scholarship will offer great lessons to future generations.

Professor Des Ball AO is survived by his wife, Annabel, their children, Katie, Matthew and James, and his sister, Rae.

Ralph Warren Victor Elliott AM
Born August 14, 1921; Died June 24, 2012

By Colin Steele
From The Canberra Times
July 5, 2012

The term "A scholar and a gentleman" is often over-used but Ralph Elliott epitomised that phrase. Elliott was born Rudolf Ehrenberg in Berlin in 1921, which, as he recounts in his 2009 memoir, *A Kilted Kraut*, was not a wise time to be born, given the social and economic turmoil in Germany. He was born into a distinguished family, which traced ancestors back to Martin Luther, while more contemporary relatives included the 1954 Nobel Laureate physicist Max Born, Olivia Newton John and comedian Ben Elton.

Elliott attended the Bismarck Gymnasium in Karlsruhe from 1931 until 1936, when the family experienced increasing anti-Semitism. Elliott was therefore sent, in 1936, to stay with his uncle Max Born in Edinburgh, where he remembered Born's many scientific contacts, including Albert Einstein and Max Planck.

Elliott attended St Andrews University in 1939, but in 1940 he was interned as an alien, first on the Isle of Man and later in Canada. Within a year, he was back in England in the Aliens Pioneers Company, which led to him being offered a place at Sandhurst, where he won the Sword of Honour. Wartime shortages meant he only received a medallion rather than a sword. The medallion and Elliott's father's World War I German Iron Cross are now held in the Australian War Memorial. Elliott subsequently served in the British Army in Germany, where he was badly wounded in 1945.

In 1943, Elliott changed his name from Ehrenberg to Elliott. In October 1944, he married Liselotte Spiro, but the marriage later broke down. Elliott's two children from the marriage, Oliver and Christine, pre-deceased Elliott.

After the war he graduated from St Andrews University, where he subsequently lectured in medieval English language and literature, and then at University College, Keele. In July 1958, Elliott married Margaret Robinson, whom he had met at Keele, and who is well known in Canberra for her piano accompaniments. Elliott and Margaret had two children, Francis and Hilary.

In 1959, Elliott emigrated to Australia to become a senior lecturer at Adelaide University. In 1963, he joined Vice-Chancellor Peter Karmel at the new Flinders University, where Elliott was Professor of English.

In January 1974, Elliott was appointed Master of University House, a position he held for 13 years. Elliott reinvigorated the House, as documented in Jill Waterhouse's history of University House. He also encouraged members of the wider Canberra and diplomatic communities to congregate at his "academic hotel".

Elliott's many cultural initiatives included launching the Music at Lunchtime series with students from the School of Music. Elliott was president of the School of Music Friends when he was Master. He continued the University House wine symposia and chaired the university convocation lunches. He worked with Alison Broinowski and myself to establish the National Word Festival and was particularly pleased his long-time friend, the British writer Alan Garner, was the guest of honour at the first University House Word Festival in 1983.

Elliott made many contributions to Canberra's cultural life. He was a regular reviewer for *The Canberra Times* and, for 10 years, had a regular fortnightly linguistic talkback session on ABC 666. He served on the council of Canberra Boys Grammar and was chairman of the Gabriel Foundation at Canberra Girls Grammar.

His love of books and reading was profound. He served as chair of the ANU library committee and was honorary librarian of the ANU Humanities Research Centre. Elliott donated signed book collections both to the ANU Library and University House. He was able to combine significant academic achievements along with his stewardship of University House. His main fields of interest were English language, medieval English literature, Thomas Hardy and children's literature. He published numerous scholarly articles, as well as books including *Runes: An Introduction* (1959, second edition 1989), *Chaucer's English* (1974), *Thomas Hardy's English* (1984, 1986) and *The Gawain Country* (1984). He was an inspirational teacher both at the undergraduate and doctoral level.

His last publication, *Chaucer's Landscapes* (2010), dedicated to his wife, collected his essays, speeches and reviews from 1951 to 2009. His 116-page memoir, which he said was neither a family history nor an autobiography, came about after Garner introduced him to a publisher as a German who grew up in Scotland. The publisher's response was "A veritable kilted kraut! You ought to tell your story someday." Elliott subtitled his memoir, *The Recollections of Rudolf Ehrenberg, as Narrated by Ralph Elliott*.

Elliott's considerable achievements were recognised in 1990 when he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of "service to the community and to education". In 2001 he was awarded the Centenary Medal for "service to Australian society and the humanities in the history of the English language". He guest lectured at many Australian and overseas universities.

Elliott was a foundation fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and served as its treasurer and deputy secretary. He was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and honorary doctor of letters of Flinders University. He remained intellectually active, although in his last years he was hampered by his deafness. His long-time love of a local restaurant, Maestral in Weston Creek, was commemorated in a tribute wall to mark his nearly 300 meals there over the years. Elliott commented: "I can't hear very well now, but I can eat very well." Elliott similarly concludes his memoir, to his "dear reader, while reaching for a glass of my favourite Merlot".

Ralph Elliott will be long remembered in the university and in the Canberra community for his scholarship, his conviviality, his humour and his friendship with a wide range of people. A true scholar and a gentleman.

Lena Karmel
1923-2017

Jan O'Connor, Secretary, Australian National University Emeritus Faculty, writes:

Dear members,

It is with sadness that I forward to you the text of an email I received from David Williams:

"My email is to let you know that yesterday [April 8, 2017] the Karmel family telephoned to advise that Mrs Lena Karmel had died peacefully in her Saturday afternoon sleep. She was 94 years old.

Her funeral service has been scheduled for noon, Tuesday 18th April at the Mitchell Crematorium.

I have accepted the family's invitation to speak at the service about Lena's support for the University and especially the Schools of Art and Music students and staff who were part of the Institute of the Arts (1988-2004). Peter Karmel (1922-2008) former ANU Vice Chancellor (1982-87) and Lena Karmel were enthusiastic visual arts and music supporters and generous patrons. They regularly attended concerts and exhibitions acquiring works for the its extensive art collection. Lena had a particular interest in the glasswork produced in the School of Art Glass Workshop. In the ANU Jubilee Year, 1996, Peter and Lena very generously endowed the Peter and Lena Karmel Anniversary Scholarship for outstanding graduating students each year in music and art. In 2014, a Kingsley Street student accommodation building was named in honour of Lena Karmel. For ANU, the Karmels have left a significant philanthropic legacy."

Book Shelf

Override – my quest to go beyond and take control of my mind

By Caroline Williams

Publisher: Scribe; Melbourne, London, 2017

ISBN 9781925321906 Paperback rrp: \$32.99

Reviewed by: Paul Gatenby, Emeritus Professor, Australian National University

This is an interesting but ultimately disappointing book that does not achieve its stated aim of trying to understand and enhance the process of learning in a number of different domains. This is due both to the state of current knowledge turning out to be less developed than the author expected, but also a lack of synthesis on part of the author.

The issue of neuroplasticity, particularly in adult brains is a hot topic that has received a lot of attention in both the popular and scientific press. This has arisen from observations on the recovery from brain injuries as well as advances in neuroimaging that suggest expansion of certain parts of the adult brain after learning and mastery of a particular task. Put crudely claims have been made that the brain can be trained in a fashion analogous to the conditioning of skeletal and perhaps cardiac muscle. As a medical educator I have long had an interest in mastery of psychomotor skills and was hoping this book would provide support for changes in brain physiology or even anatomy as mastery in these kinds of tasks was achieved.

The author chose to visit a substantial number of neuroscience laboratories where research on different aspects of learning is carried out. She offered herself as a short-term experimental subject to explore how to enhance learning and memory, including before and

after brain imaging on a number of occasions. The author chose to try and improve her attention, creativity, navigation, time perception and number sense and to try and diminish worrying or stress. After the introduction the reader is taken on a tour of each of these areas in turn with visits to specialist, largely psychology laboratories. She experienced a variety of techniques including exercise programs, relaxation, meditation, electrical stimuli, a magnetic guidance belt with each chapter concluding with some general comments and a table of self-help advice.

A final chapter attempting some sort of synthesis completes the book. This was disappointing in that there was little evidence to support neuroplasticity in the studies examined and undertaken. The investigators interviewed and worked with appear to have been appropriately cautious in their conclusions about this. The author did not really reach any, or at least not many general conclusions about improving performance in the domains outlined above although from reading of her experiences there were some generalisations apparent. Unfortunately for the author and reader most fall into the category of assumed fact. Anxiety or stress, particularly if any more than mild is counterproductive to all aspects of learning examined. Physical exercise more convincingly than mental exercise is good for brain function. This may be due to stress reduction, but the benefits of physical exercise almost certainly go beyond that. Exercise is anti-inflammatory and one of the few things that appears protective against dementia. Meditation received mixed reviews, perhaps because, the author admits, most of us are not very good at it. It would be of interest to know if meditation produces physiological changes similar to exercise or just empties the mind, another useful anti-stress mechanism. Various forms of electrical stimuli, EEG controlled meditation and computer-based enhancements appear at this stage of limited value.

The book is touted, particularly on the back cover, as a self-help guide to improve learning. This it is not and the author states clearly she did not set out to write a self-help guide. This seems to have been added by editor or publisher, and is misleading. The author clearly understands the dangers of drawing conclusions from experiments involving one subject and wonders if any benefit could be a placebo. It could be but a placebo response must involve some sort of mental process and interaction between the brain and other parts of the body.

Dilthey's Dream: Essays on human nature and culture

by: [Derek Freeman](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$43.00): 9781922144805 **ISBN (online - free):** 9781922144812

First published 2001 by Pandanus Books.

ANU Press; DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/DD.04.2017>

With great eloquence, Derek Freeman takes the reader on an intellectual journey through the complexities of philosophical anthropology. Even while the controversial Nature–Nurture debate raged, Freeman contended that the crucial fact that humans had the capacity to make choices was ‘both intrinsic to our biology and basic to the very formation of cultures’. Thus the scene was set for his widely publicised criticism of Margaret Mead’s book *Coming of Age in Samoa*. Publishing her research in 1926, Mead concluded that all human behaviour was the result of social conditioning. Freeman refuted this assumption in 1983, urging closer interactions between the biological sciences and cultural studies to bridge the ever-widening chasm threatening all studies of humankind.

Dilthey's Dream is an engagingly powerful set of essays depicting the depth of one man’s thinking on issues, which consumed a lifetime.

Vocational Education and Training: The Northern Territory’s history of public philanthropy

By [Don Zoellner](#)

ISBN (print – RRP \$50.00): 9781760460990 ISBN (online - free): 9781760461003

ANU Press DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/VET.04.2017>

Co-publisher: [Charles Darwin University](#)

This book represents the first consolidated history of vocational education and training in the Northern Territory. Not only does the story present a chronological account of events, people and institutions, it also offers an explanation of how the system actually works and this has application well beyond the Territory. The mix of historical accounting and operational analysis comes from a unique perspective. It is proposed that the best way to understand the behaviour of the government ministers who have responsibility for vocational training is to compare their decisions and actions with those of wealthy philanthropists.

Tides of Innovation in Oceania: Value, materiality and place

Edited by: [Elisabetta Gneccchi-Ruscone](#) & [Anna Paini](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$55.00): 9781760460921 ISBN (online - free): 9781760460938

ANU Press, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/TIO.04.2017>

Series: [Monographs in Anthropology](#)

Tides of Innovation in Oceania is directly inspired by Epeli Hau'ofa's vision of the Pacific as a 'Sea of Islands'; the image of tides recalls the cyclical movement of waves, with its unpredictable consequences. The authors propose tides of innovation as a fluid concept, unbound and open to many directions. This perspective is explored through ethnographic case studies centred on deeply elaborated analyses of locally inflected agencies involved in different transforming contexts. Three interwoven themes—value, materiality and place—provide a common thread.

Making Mala: Malaita in Solomon Islands, 1870s–1930s

by: [Clive Moore](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$68.00): 9781760460976; ISBN (online - free): 9781760460983

ANU Press; DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/MM.04.2017>

Series: [Pacific Series](#)

Malaita is one of the major islands in the Solomons Archipelago and has the largest population in the Solomon Islands nation. Its people have an undeserved reputation for conservatism and aggression.

A grounding theme of the book is its argument that, far than being conservative, Malaitan religions and cultures have always been adaptable and have proved remarkably flexible in accommodating change. This has been the secret of Malaitan success. Malaitans rocked the foundations of the British protectorate during the protonationalist Maasina Rule movement in the 1940s and the early 1950s, have heavily engaged in internal migration, particularly to urban areas, and were central to the 'Tension Years' between 1998 and 2003. *Making Mala* reassesses Malaita's history, demolishes undeserved tropes and uses historical and cultural analyses to explain Malaitans' place in the Solomon Islands nation today.

Dymphna by Judith Armstrong

Dymphna Lodewyckx was a brilliant prize-winning linguist. In 1939, she married Manning Clark, subordinating her own intellectual life and opportunities to her roles as wife, mother, research assistant and unofficial editor for her husband.

Author Judith Armstrong took guests into ‘a daring biographical adventure and a judiciously affectionate celebration of a remarkable woman’ at the launch of her book on April 26 at the National Library of Australia.

Reassurance on new visa rules

Universities Australia has held constructive discussions with senior Government representatives on universities’ concerns about proposed changes to 457 work visas. The Government acknowledged the concerns raised and has committed to work closely with Universities Australia – which is leading the sector’s advocacy on this matter as a matter of priority.

In particular, universities are seeking the removal of work experience requirements for PhD recruits and to restore university lecturers and tutors to the medium-term skills list. UA has been assured that the changes are not intended to deter the best and brightest academic talent – including the world’s leading new PhD graduates – from contributing their unique and special skills to Australia’s innovation agenda and future national prosperity.

Education Minister Simon Birmingham has confirmed that international student visas remain unchanged.

Earlier Universities Australia Deputy Chief Executive Catriona Jackson emphasised that it was vital that any changes did not damage the strengths and vibrant international character of Australia’s university sector.

“Australia has a competitive advantage right now amidst uncertainty in many other parts of the world. We need to safeguard that advantage and not undermine it in any way,” *she* said. “The ability of our universities to bring brilliant minds into Australia is crucial to the global research collaborations that will help us to create new jobs and new industries for Australians.

“It’s also crucial to ensure we continue to attract many of the best and brightest international students, who contribute \$21 billion to Australia’s economy every year. This is now Australia’s third-largest export and a mainstay of many regional Australian economies. We are concerned to ensure that the changes would not inhibit free academic movement, which other competitor nations enjoy.”

Universities Australia has sought urgent clarification from Government to avoid unintended consequences for university recruitment of world-leading global researchers and academics; the existing post-study work rights for international university students; and whether the proposed changes would impede the ability of universities to hire brilliant newly-graduated PhD scholars from other nations, as well as the ability to recruit global research and development managers and global leaders in the social and physical sciences into academic research and teaching jobs.

The UK newspaper, *The Independent* reports that UK Prime Minister Theresa May is under pressure over university places for foreign university students in the lead-up to Brexit. Access: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-theresa-may-immigration-student-numbers-uk-universities-damage-impact-a7700056.html>

[Have your say](#)

There goes the neighbourhood!

For the first time land has been offered for sale within the Parliamentary Triangle.

Announcing the sales of Anzac Park East; Anzac Park West; and West Block, the Minister for Finance, Senator Mathias Cormann, said, “The approach to market provides significant development opportunities, and contributes to the revitalisation of key areas within the Parliamentary Triangle precinct, consistent with the National Capital Plan”.

The Government will now seek expressions of interest for these properties following completion of pre-sale preparation activities: The sale process for East Block will commence by mid-2017.

“Private investment will support urban renewal, revitalisation of heritage buildings, reopening of the former restaurant building next to Anzac Park West and the overdue rebuild of Anzac Park East, which has been unusable for decades,” the minister said.

Jumpstart the electricity conversation

Written submissions to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy’s inquiry into the electricity grid have closed but the committee is still interested to hear from stakeholders by accepting answers to an [online questionnaire](#), which asks households and businesses to share information about how they currently interact with the electricity grid, and about their expectations of the grid into the future.

To assist stakeholders the Committee has prepared a brief [discussion paper](#) expanding on the terms of reference. Further information about the inquiry—including the terms of reference, the discussion paper, and the online questionnaire—is available on the [inquiry webpage](#).

For background: House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy (02) 6277 4580 moderngrid@aph.gov.au

[Matters of possible interest - Access the websites to read more](#)

Review of Aged Care Quality Regulatory Processes

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2017-wyatt032.htm>

The Australian Government is commissioning an independent review of the Commonwealth’s aged care quality regulatory processes to determine why they did not identify the extent of recent failures of care.

\$310 million of new vital drugs available for Australian patients

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2017-hunt040.htm>

The Australian Government is continuing to subsidise more life-changing and life-saving drugs on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

New Cities Reference Group brings expertise to the table

<http://ministers.dpmc.gov.au/taylor/2017/new-cities-reference-group-brings-expertise-table>

The Australian Government has announced the establishment of a Cities Reference Group to help advise Government on cities policy.

Further consultation on copyright safe harbour legislation

http://www.minister.communications.gov.au/mitch_fifield/news/further_consultation_on_copyright_safe_harbour_legislation

The Federal Government will undertake further consultation with stakeholders on the extension of the safe harbour provisions of the Copyright Act before introducing legislation.

Australian universities 11th on collaborative international patents

<http://minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/laundy/media-releases/australian-universities-ahead-israel-and-switzerland-collaborative>

A new report from IP Australia shows Australian universities are ranked 11 in the OECD, ahead of countries like Israel and Switzerland, ranked 12 and 14 respectively, for university-industry collaboration resulting in international patent applications.

Nangen Zengzhangsu capsules | Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

<http://www.tga.gov.au/alert/nangen-zengzhangsu-capsules>

Safety advisory - Nangen Zengzhangsu capsules pose a serious risk to health and should not be taken.

Bionic Vision Australia delivers significant health and economic benefits

<http://www.arc.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/bionic-vision-australia-delivers-significant-health-and-economic-benefits>

Bionic Vision Australia delivers significant health and economic benefits to Australia, according to the Australian Research Council.

Insights from collaborative research help in production of carbon fibres

<http://www.ansto.gov.au/AboutANSTO/MediaCentre/News/ACS131086>

Infrared (IR) imaging technology at the Australian Synchrotron, developed specifically for

carbon fibre analysis, has contributed to a better understanding of chemical changes that affect structure.

Minister for Defence announces new visiting fellowship

<https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-releases/minister-defence-announces-new-visiting-fellowship>

The Minister for Defence, Senator Marise Payne, has announced the creation of the Minister for Defence Visiting Fellowship in Women, Peace and Security at **UNSW** Canberra, located at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Speaking at the Women in National Security Conference at the **Australian National University National Security College**, Minister Payne said the establishment of the Fellowship supports Defence's active participation in the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

ANU Emeritus Faculty **Diary Dates on the website**

ANUEF relies on '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 when the required information is available, and the most immediate events will appear in *Emeritus*. So, please, check out the Events box on the ANUEF website, and report any errors to anuef.events@gmail.com

Unless otherwise stated, all events are in the Molony Room (see directions below). Collegiate lunch discussions are on the first Wednesday of the month (noon for 12.30 start), and public lectures (4 - 5pm) usually, but not always, on the third Wednesday of the month.

Diary Dates

May 17 Lecture Rod Little, Co-Chair National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. 'Reconciliation'.

June 7 Collegiate lunch to discuss the proposed update of the ANUEF website.

June 21 Projects Symposium - now is the time to submit the title and short abstract of your proposed talk to Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au. There are still a number of empty spaces in the Projects Symposium program for the 21st of June. If you would like to contribute please send a title and abstract to Ian Keen on Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au (See his invitation below)

Dear Colleagues,

You are invited to contribute a presentation on your current or recent research, or other projects, at the Projects Symposium Day (formerly "Research in Retirement") planned for June 21st. All types of projects are included, not just those you might strictly consider to be "research". Please send a title and short abstract to me at lan.Keen@anu.edu.au. Thirty minutes will be allocated for each presentation. If you need slides please prepare a Powerpoint presentation. - Ian Keen

See the Calendar on the ANUEF WWWsite for Abstracts.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are in the Molony Room.

We also now seek speakers for the remainder of the year; please contact Adrian (adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com) or Craig (creynolds697@gmail.com) with suggestions. Please also nominate to the Events Committee, which we contact by email at irregular intervals throughout the year seeking inspiration.

Meet the authors

Monday, 8 May, 6.30pm, Manning Clark Lecture Theatre 2. ANU/*The Canberra Times* meet the author. Co-founder and Creative Director of the Mama Mia Women's Network, Mia Freedman, will be in conversation with Genevieve Jacobs on Mia's new book: *Work, Strife, Balance*. Free event. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144. Pre-book signings at 6pm.

Monday 29 May, 6 pm, Copland Lecture Theatre, ANU. ANU/*The Canberra Times* meet the author. Robert Dessaix will be in conversation with Professor Nicholas Brown on Robert's new book, *The Pleasures of Leisure*, a guide to work and play in the 21st century. Free event. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144. Pre-book signings at 5:30 pm. Vote of thanks given by the Dean of CASS, Prof Paul Pickering.

Tuesday 30 May, 6.30pm, Copland Lecture Theatre, ANU. ANU/*The Canberra Times* meet the author. Chloe Shorten will be in conversation with Anna-Maria Arabia on Chloe's new book, *Take Heart: A Story for Modern Stepfamilies*. Free event. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144. Pre-book signings at 6pm.

Wednesday 7 June 6.30 pm, Copland Lecture Theatre, ANU. ANU/*The Canberra Times* meet the author. John Safran in conversation with Kim Hunyh on John's new book *Depends What You Mean by Extremist. Going Rogue with Australian Deplorables*. Free event. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144. Pre-book signings at 6pm.

Tuesday June 27 Eat Drink and be Literary dinner, Julia Baird in conversation with Alex Sloan on Julia's recent acclaimed biography *Queen Victoria*. 7pm University House Hall 6.15 Common room pre-signings. Two course meal and wine. \$70 per head. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

For details of Colin Steele's "Meet the Authors" series go to

<http://www.anu.edu.au/events/anu-the-canberra-times-meet-the-author-series>

ANU film nights

[Silence](#) on May 12. Scorsese's latest, the second longest (161 minutes) on the program about two Catholic missionaries going to Japan in the 17th century.

A Japanese double – [Your Name](#) + [Shin Godzilla](#) on May 13.

[The Fencer](#) from Finland, introduced by the Finnish ambassador on May 16. Think schoolteacher inspiration like Mr Chips and Dead Poets Society with lots of snow. (Not really but still a beaut film).

[Life Animated](#) + [Zero Days](#) (yes, we do documentaries too) on May 19.

[The Red Turtle](#), a delightful animated film with no dialogue in the Studio Ghibli style followed by [A United Kingdom](#) on May 20.

Then we have our Best Foreign Film Festival as mentioned earlier between June 2 and July 14 – [Toni Erdmann](#) (Germany), [Chevalier](#) (Greece), [Stefan Zweig: Farewell To Europe](#) (Austria), [The Age of Shadows](#) (Korea), [Mother](#) (Estonia), [The Salesman](#) (Iran) and [Julieta](#) (Spain). Free nibbles and drink courtesy of the Spanish embassy after Julieta. Also in this period we have [Queen of Katwe](#) (June 3), [A Monster Calls](#) + [Loving](#) (June 10) and [Jasper Jones](#) + [Paterson](#) (June 17).

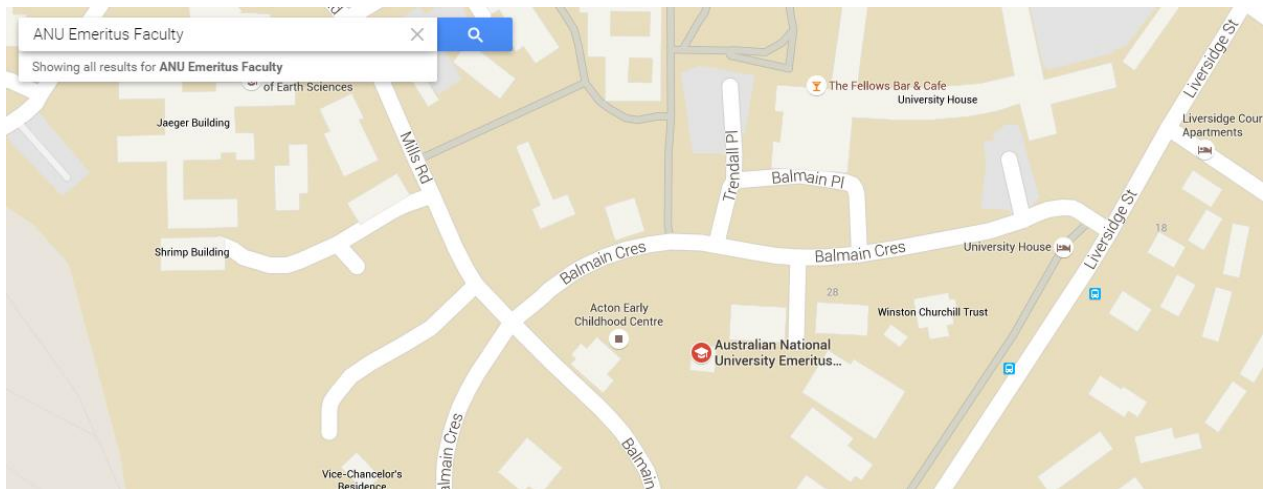
An extra benefit for parents (and grandparents) is that there is no restriction on how many films you can bring children to – two per member allowed subject to film classification. Some that might appeal are [Sing](#) (February 18), [Rogue One: A Star Wars Story](#) (February 25), [Red Dog: True Blue](#) (March 11), [Moana](#) (March 25), [The Lego Batman Movie](#) (May 6) and [Beauty and the Beast](#) (June 3).

For more information, call Brett Yeats 02 6281 7684

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 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>



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: 6247 3341

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

The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in June, 2017