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University-guided admissions plan

Prospective students and their families will have better access to clear and consistent information on university entry requirements under a new higher education admissions plan announced on July 5. The result of close collaboration between Government and the higher education sector, the new plan will make it easier for students to get the information they need as they weigh up different study options.

“Choosing where and what to study at university can be one of the most important decisions of a person’s life,” said Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson.

“Changes will make it easier for students to compare entry requirements for similar university courses and understand more clearly what they need in order to be offered a place,

“Over the past decade, the number of pathways into university has broadened to reflect the diversity of student demand and where they are in their career cycle. Fewer than half of all commencing university students are school leavers.”

Universities Australia participated on the Implementation Working Group for the new arrangements, chaired by Victoria University Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Professor Kerri-Lee Krause. Much of the implementation plan reflects positions advocated by UA in its submission to the Higher Education Standards Panel, including the need for a common set of terms and comparable information, realistic timeframes for implementation, and content requirements for information sets.

The new benchmarks for universities when publishing their entry requirements include:

- The adoption of common admissions terminology and definitions;
- redefining ATAR thresholds;
- a common sector-wide approach to the publication of information on admission policies;
- a streamlined approach by tertiary admission centres across states and territories; and
- a new national admissions information platform.

The plan will be fully implemented by 2019.

Drought-busters congratulated

In a recent weekly blog, Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt AC wrote that a team from the ANU Research School of Biology has found a new way to help [plants better survive drought](#).

“This work could have long-term benefits for crops such as barley, rice and wheat - all crucial to world food supplies,” Professor Schmidt wrote. “Huge congratulations to the team, led by Dr Wannarat Pornsiriwong, Dr Gonzalo Estavillo, Dr Kai Chan and Dr Barry Pogson.”

The Vice Chancellor also attended the first [Future Shapers Forum 2017](#) run by the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation. He comments, “This event follows the model of the Crawford Leadership Forum and is all about helping the next generation of Australian leaders connect, learn and create their future. It was the University's first 'no-waste' conference - printed programs were replaced by a personalised app, “keep cups” were given out to participants and even name tags were printed on biodegradable paper that can be planted in a garden after they're used.

“By all reports the conference was a resounding success and congratulations are due for Forum organisers Sung Lee and Lauren Bartsch. Well done.

“It was great to join colleagues from the [ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance's \(REGNET\)](#) as they launched the School's new book *Regulatory Theory: Foundations and Applications* (ANU Press 2017). Officially launched by Former President of the Republic of Kiribati, His Excellency Anote Tong, the book looks at regulation and governance based on principles of social justice, environmental sustainability and human wellbeing. Well done to the School on producing this valuable resource.

“Earlier, I joined the presidents of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) at their annual meeting at UNSW. APRU are a group of more than 30 universities from around the region who look at how we can work together to address global challenges. The group is an important one for ANU given our strengths in Asia and Pacific studies. One of the key areas we focused on was the health of our oceans. Member universities have agreed to work together to address the science and policy challenges to ensure the long-term wellbeing of one of our most important resources.”

The Kyoto Prize

Earlier last month Professor Schmidt wrote, “I am delighted to announce that distinguished scientist Professor Graham Farquhar AO has won the [Kyoto Prize](#).

“To receive the Kyoto Prize is a huge honour and Graham is the first Australian to win the award in its 32-year history. It is the most prestigious international accolade for fields not traditionally recognised for Nobel Prizes. Graham has been acknowledged in the Biological Sciences category - all the more special as it is only given once every four years - for his life's work in plant biophysics and photosynthesis. He now joins Kyoto Prize laureates

including primatologist Jane Goodall, philosopher Noam Chomsky and "the father of Artificial Intelligence" John McCarthy.

"This award is another acknowledgment of the important work Graham is doing to help feed the world in a changing climate. His research into plant biophysics has been used to understand cells, whole plants and forests, and to create new water-efficient wheat varieties.

"One of the important attributes of receiving a Kyoto Prize is the person's contribution to advancing the betterment of mankind. I'm proud that we have a person of Graham's calibre working at ANU, tackling some of the most profound challenges facing humanity and the environment..."

The Vice Chancellor also congratulated those awarded honours in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. He wrote, "Several of our academics were recognised for their outstanding passion and commitment to their fields in the [Queen's Birthday honours](#). Winners included astronomer Professor Ken Freeman and Professor Ann McGrath, who was also one of three recipients from the ANU to recently win an [Australian Laureate Fellowship](#) from the ARC. I congratulate all members of the ANU community who have been recognised for their service."

Professor Schmidt also said that the University "celebrated its success with the latest QS World University Rankings rating ANU number one in Australia and 20 in the world, up two places from last year.

"The ranking reflects the unique role ANU plays in developing leading research and outstanding teaching. You should all be proud of the role you play in making us the extraordinary institution we are.

"I wanted to use this announcement to take a closer look at rankings because if we want to maintain our place as Australia's top university and improve our standing in the world, we must avoid complacency and continue to innovate and differentiate ANU from our competitors. While it's widely accepted that rankings are never a complete reflection of a university, they *are* important in shaping perceptions. We know that people take rankings into consideration when they are choosing where to study, work or whether to invest in a university.,,"

For more details paste in browser::

<http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/vcs-update-rankings-success-prestigious-awards-and-more>

or

<http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/new-honours-for-distinguished-anu-academics-and-alumni>

Pop-Up pops up

The Pop-Up Reunion Village began life on July 3 when retailers began move into the space. Vice Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt AC comments, "Over the next week or so we'll see the Student Commons, the Molo Live Bar, Sushi Smith, Zambrero, our two coffee vendors the Red Brick Espresso and Coffee Lab, and Zambrero all come online in the new space. The Pop-Up will also be home to four food trucks - Mr Papa, Brod Dogs, What the Pho and Mikebabz. I encourage you all to have a sticky-beak and check out this exciting new space."

Copy the link below and paste in browser to see what the new heart of The Australian National University will look like in 2019. The aim of the new Union Court precinct is to bring together the University's facilities and attractions to create a new learning, cultural, and social precinct in the heart of ANU. [Published on July 2, 2017]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZUDZaV-3sg&feature=youtu.be>

Cuts will force job losses at universities

Billion dollar cuts in higher education would force job losses, erode student support services and weaken universities at the very time the economy needs them to skill our future workforce and generate growth, according to Universities Australia's [submission on the higher education legislation](#), published on June 30. Universities Australia has told a Senate committee that the majority of Universities Australia's members oppose the Government's bill in its entirety.

"The proposed \$1 billion in cuts to university funding would come at a time when competing nations are investing heavily in higher education and research as a way of safeguarding their economies against profound economic, industrial and social upheaval," it notes.

The submission also warns the contraction in funding would take a toll on jobs and growth and student affordability across Australia – as cuts and job losses at universities would have a multiplier effect.

"The funding cuts proposed in the Bill will inevitably lead to job losses at universities ... (which) will have a flow-on impact in the local economy beyond the direct effect and will reduce employment and economic activity in the community broadly," the UA submission states.

Economic modelling by the University of Adelaide has predicted that up to 220 South Australian jobs would be lost directly as \$90 million is cut from the State's three public universities.

Contrary to a claim there had been 'rivers of gold' in Government funding over the last decade, funding per university place grew by less than two per cent each year from 2009 to 2016 in real terms. said Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson.

"The Government might think it has struck it rich for Budget repair but, in truth, they're panning fool's gold. These cuts will cost Australia way more in the long term than will be delivered in a short term Budget saving," she added.

If the committee were inclined to proceed with the legislation, the sector has urged it to remove the university funding cuts and student fee rises. It also wants a proposal to withhold 'performance funding' from universities excised from the Bill until detailed performance metrics have been designed and agreed.

"The proposal set out in the Bill provides almost no information on how performance funding would work," the submission notes. "That really would be putting the cart before the horse," said Ms Robinson.

As currently drafted, the legislation would hand the Education Minister unprecedented powers to set and change the metrics from year to year, creating dramatic new uncertainty over university funding – which is currently protected by a legislative formula. UA also notes the sector's concern that the proposed funding cuts would "further exacerbate a city-country divide in employment, productivity and innovation."

"The changes will hit hardest the universities and students that need the most support. Regional and outer metropolitan universities will have less money to support students from

disadvantaged backgrounds or to invest in their local communities, where they are often the biggest employers,” Ms Robinson said.

The submission notes Charles Sturt University, for example, faces cuts of \$9 million a year which would lead to 270 jobs lost in the broader regional economy.

The submission states: “The changes pose a real threat to quality, both of the standard of education that our domestic and international students expect and the student experience more broadly. They would also limit students’ options by driving sameness across the sector as institutions pursue the cheapest teaching options.

“In combination, cuts to university funding and increases in fees mean that students would pay more and get less and will weaken the capacity of our universities to support Australia’s economic and social development.”

In its submission, Universities Australia also countered the idea that universities could simply “absorb” cuts. “Universities reinvest any surpluses in teaching and research. Just under half of all universities are either operating at a deficit or on slim operating margins of less than five per cent,” it states.

The Government’s proposed cuts come on top of \$3.9 billion that universities and their students have already contributed to Budget repair since 2011. The submission also refutes the Government’s assertion that “Government funding for university teaching and research is expected to grow by approximately 23 per cent over the next four years”.

“This is not true, since the Government’s own figures show that HELP loans – most of which will be paid back by students – make up 87 per cent of that growth,” it notes. These HELP loans would increase because of the Government’s Budget decisions to make students pay more.

“Compared to current funding arrangements, the new package will reduce grant funding. It is a net cut in real terms. Funding for student places (will be) flat despite inflation and enrolment growth. In other words, funding per student falls,” the submission explains.

Government ‘relents’ on 457 visas for universities

Changes made on June 30 by the Federal Government show it has listened and acted on several key concerns raised by Australia’s universities about new visa rules, according to Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson

Having worked closely and constructively with Government representatives since the announcement, UA is pleased that university lecturers and vice chancellors (CEOs) will be restored to the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL), with a pathway to permanent residency.

In a second important shift, the Government has given Universities Australia a commitment that study towards a PhD will count as relevant work experience for the purposes of applying for new skilled visas. Also welcome is the addition of many scientific and technical disciplines to the medium list.

“This is very good news – the Government has listened to these key concerns and acted on them,” said Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson. “The global community of university lecturers and researchers is a highly mobile one. Australia needs policy settings that allow us to remain competitive, and ensure we are able to snap up the best global talent to work alongside our brilliant home-grown researchers,” she said. “The

changes also send an important signal of reassurance to an estimated 3,000 researchers and university staff on current 457 visas who had faced an uncertain future.”

The changes address several issues raised by Universities Australia on behalf of universities:

- ‘University Lecturer’ has been restored to 4-year Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL), with a pathway to permanent residency;
- ‘Chief Executive or Managing Director’ and ‘Faculty Head’ have also been restored to the MLTSSL;
- a wide range of scientific, technical and professional occupations have been added to both the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL) and the Short-term Skilled Occupations List (STSOL); and
- the Government has also given UA a commitment that time studying towards a PhD will be counted as work experience when applying for new skilled visas.

However, ‘University Tutor’ has been removed from all lists.

In a media statement, Universities Australia said, “While we warmly welcome the changes, Universities Australia remains concerned at a proposal to have universities contribute to a new trades training levy when they bring overseas researchers into Australia. It makes no sense to force universities to contribute to a training levy when they themselves deliver education and training. The changes made will ensure that Australia can make the most of an historic opportunity to recruit some of the finest global minds of a generation.”

EU-Australia continue climate focus

For the third year in a row, the European Union and its member states organised European Climate Diplomacy Week in Australia. Climate Diplomacy Week is a global initiative during which the EU and its member countries work together to build relationships with key local actors from government, business and civil society with a view to promoting and accelerating the global transition to a low emission, resilient and resource efficient economy. This year the focus was on climate resilience and adaptation policies to foster peace and stability worldwide. [An exhibition in partnership with UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy \(ADFA\)](#) has travelled from Germany and will be on display at UNSW Canberra to 13 July. The exhibition was launched by the Vice Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Ray Griggs, the Vice Chancellor of UNSW Canberra, UNSW Canberra Rector Michael Frater and EU Ambassador to Australia H.E. Sem Fabrizi.

Obituary

Professor Kenton “Ken” S. W. Campbell

September 9, 1927- June 17, 2017

By [John Long](#), Strategic Professor in Palaeontology, Flinders University

Professor Kenton “Ken” Campbell was an internationally respected authority on Australian geology and palaeontology for more than 50 years. Sadly he died recently, aged 89 years, and was farewelled at a funeral in Canberra on June 26.

But Ken’s legacy will live on through his immense body of published scientific work, and also by the many fossil species named in his honour. In palaeontology you never name anything after yourself. A researcher generally names a new species or genus after someone as a mark of respect for their standing in the scientific community.

Ken had a dozen new species and two new genera ([Campbellodus](#) and [Campbellicrinus](#)) of fossils named after him by scientists from Australia, the United States, China and Canada.

These include:

- five shellfish known as brachiopods (*Neospirifer campbelli*, *Fluctuaria campbelli*, *Kitakamithyris campbelli*, *Spinulicosta campbelli*, *Imperiospira campbelli*),
- a coral (*Lithostrotion campbelli*)
- a clam (*Inaequidens campbelli*)
- a starfish relative known as a crinoid (*Campbellicrinus compactus*)
- two trilobites (*Primaspis campbelli*, *Acanthopyge campbelli*)
- three fossil fishes (*Kenichthys campbelli*, *Campbellodus decipiens*, *Howittacanthus kentoni*).

A distinguished career

Ken was born in Ipswich, Queensland, on September 9, 1927. He later studied geology at the University of Queensland, where he was encouraged and mentored by the great geologist and palaeontologist [Dorothy Hill](#).

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science with first class honours in 1949. After completing a Master of Science in 1951, he spent the following decade working as a lecturer in geology at the University of New England (UNE) in New South Wales.

During this time he married the love of his life, Daphne Watson, whom he met during his university days in 1951.

He completed his PhD at the University of Queensland in 1958 and was appointed as a senior lecturer at UNE.

In 1961 he was appointed at **The Australian National University** through Professor David Brown and moved his family to Canberra in 1962, settling in the eponymous suburb of Campbell. In 1977 he became head of the Department of Geology; in 1978 he was made Dean of Science and in 1982 was promoted to Professor.

In 1983 he was elected to the Australian Academy of Sciences, which [referred to him](#) as “one of Australia’s most distinguished palaeontologists, and certainly the senior palaeontologist in Australia”.

Early encounters

I first met Ken in 1980 when I was an honours student at Monash University studying [Devonian period](#) fishes. At the time my supervisor worked on fossil birds, so I decided I must go to Canberra to meet Devonian fish specialists such as Ken, [Dick Barwick](#) and Gavin Young.

Ken and Dick had formed a lifelong working partnership, Ken being the great thinker and Dick the ardent artist and photographer who beautifully brought Ken’s ideas and spectacular fossils to life in their many published papers.

Ken was a kind, gentle and polite scholar, who always had time for a chat over a cup of tea.

As soon as I completed my PhD I was able to take up a postdoctoral position at the ANU, working with him in 1984-85. Our collaboration lasted for the next 25 years, including a memorable field trip collecting fossils at the Gogo sites in northern Western Australia in 1990. Ken had previously worked at Gogo in 1970. We searched the desert sites every day in the blistering sun and found many spectacular fossils. At night Ken, Dick and the rest of

our group sat around the campfire conversing deeply about palaeontology and science, solving many of the world's problems.

Two major monographs resulted from this trip, which described in intricate detail the anatomy of the Gogo lobe-finned fishes [Gogonasus](#) and the dagger-toothed fish [Onychodus](#). Ken and I decided to name a new species of the latter fish in honour of local Bunaba freedom fighter [Jandemarra](#), as *Onychodus jandemarrai*.

Ken's career as a palaeontologist began with his dissertation work in Queensland, solving basic industry-related questions. These centred around dating sedimentary rocks using fossil assemblages, and correlating sequences of rock with other sequences far away (called biostratigraphy). He achieved this by identifying and describing new species of invertebrate fossils such as [corals](#), [trilobites](#), [ammonites](#) (a kind of mollusc) and [brachiopods](#).

Working with David Brown and Keith Crook, Ken coauthored the seminal textbook [The Geological Evolution of Australia and New Zealand](#) in 1968. Later in life he turned his mind to questions about [evolutionary biology](#) and the fossil record.

Work on ancient lungfish

Once in Canberra, Ken began searching for fossils in the Devonian limestones around Taemas-Wee Jasper, near Yass. His discovery of a 400-million-year-old lungfish skull in the mid-1960s changed his research direction from that point. He became fascinated with fossil lungfishes and their evolution. The limestones of that area contain perfect, 3D-preserved skulls of the oldest known lungfishes. Ken's detailed studies of Australian fossil fishes described many new species from Taemas and Gogo, and provided some of the first detailed studies into how dental tissues first evolved.

Much of this work was a collaboration with Professor Moya Smith of Guy's Medical School, London. Their detailed papers revealed that there was much experimentation in the evolution of tissues, demonstrating that Devonian lungfishes had many different kinds of dentine in their teeth, and that some could even remodel their tissues through life. In later years Ken applied advanced techniques such as micro-CT scanning to study the histology and sensory systems of these ancient fishes.

A travelling man

Ken ventured far and wide to study fossils. In 1957 his award of a Nuffield Dominion Travelling fellowship led him to spend time in England at Cambridge University, working with renowned trilobite specialist Harry Whittington.

In 1965 he was funded by a United States science foundation award to work at Harvard University studying trilobites. In 1973 he received a NATO award to study fossil arthropods in Norway, and in 1981 he visited Chicago to study fossil lungfishes as a guest of the Field Museum's travelling scientist program.

Ken was a religious man, in later life he became an elder of the Presbyterian Church in the ACT. Although he held deep views about his faith, he never let his personal beliefs get in the way of his research on fossils and evolution.

He was recognised for his contributions by many accolades. These include winning the [Mawson Medal](#) of the Australian Academy of Science in 1986, and receiving the [Raymond C. Moore Medal](#) of the Paleontological Society in 2012, being the only Australian living in this country to have been given the award.

His most enduring legacy will be through his many students who have gone on to continue research in palaeontology and geology. There are too many to list here, but they know who they are and the contribution he made to their lives, both as a friend and professionally.

Republished from *The Conversation* of June 26, 2017. For a selection of photographs illustrating this obituary access <https://theconversation.com/au>

New President of Human Rights Commission

Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM will replace Professor Gillian Triggs as next president of the Australian Human Rights Commission. She takes up her seven-year appointment on July 30. Professor Croucher has been with the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) for more than 10 years, almost eight of those as President. During this time, she has led nine law reform inquiries, including inquiries on Client Legal Privilege, Secrecy Laws, Family Violence, Discovery, Age Barriers, Disability Laws and Freedoms. She recently completed the Elder Abuse Inquiry.

Professor Croucher has had a distinguished career in legal education prior to joining the ALRC, with 25 years in university teaching and management. This included working as Dean of Law at Macquarie University and Acting Dean of Law at Sydney University. She has lectured and published extensively, was made a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law in 2007, and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2015 for “significant service to the law as an academic, to legal reform and education, to professional development, and to the arts”.

Book Shelf

Global Allies: Comparing US Alliances in the 21st Century

Edited by: [Michael Wesley](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$40.00): 9781760461171 **ISBN (online - free):** 9781760461188

Imprint: ANU Press; DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/GA.06.2017>

ANU Press says: The global system of alliances that the United States built after the Second World War underpinned the stability and prosperity of the postwar order. But during the 20th century, the multilateral NATO alliance system in Europe and the bilateral San Francisco alliance system in Asia rarely interacted. This changed in the early 21st century, as US allies came together to fight and stabilise conflicts in the Middle East and Central Asia. This volume presents the first-ever comparative study of US alliances in Europe and Asia from the perspectives of US allies: the challenges, opportunities and shifting dynamics of these fundamental pillars of order. This volume is essential reading for those interested in contemporary and future regional and global security dynamics.

Australia, the European Union and the New Trade Agenda

Edited by: [Annmarie Elijah](#), [Don Kenyon](#), [Karen Hussey](#), [Pierre van der Eng](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$50.00): 9781760461133 **ISBN (online - free):** 9781760461140

Imprint: ANU Press. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/AEUNTA.06.2017>

Series: [Australia and New Zealand School of Government \(ANZSOG\)](#)

Co-publisher:

[The Australia and New Zealand School of Government \(ANZSOG\)](#)

Australia (together with New Zealand) is one of the few Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries with which the EU does not have a comprehensive trade agreement. Australia and the EU are entering a new phase in the bilateral relationship, and the push towards a potential trade agreement has been steadily

gaining momentum. This collection brings together diverse and deeply practical contributions to the forthcoming policy debate on the Australia–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), highlighting potential points of difficulty and possible gains from the agreement. This book makes two further contributions: it adds to the body of work reappraising the contemporary Australia–EU relationship; and provides a snapshot of current issues in trade policy—the ‘new trade agenda’—which is more complex and politically visible than ever. The issues confronting Australia and the EU in forthcoming negotiations are those confronting policy makers around the globe. They are testing public tolerance of decisions once viewed as dull and technocratic, and are redefining the academic treatment of trade policy.

Dr Mike Adams, Partner, Trading Nation Consulting, writes: “... this book is especially important because it is talking about a very different type of trade agreement than the ones Australia has concluded recently with our major trading partners in East Asia. An agreement with the EU inevitably will focus on issues like services, investment, government procurement, and competition policy. These are major issues in their own right, are key parts of the new trade agenda, and are critical to Australia’s successful transition to a prosperous post–mining boom economy. In the absence of generalisable unilateral economic reform in this country, trade policy hopefully will provide an external source of pressure for reform. If this book adds to that pressure while also suggesting some of the tools needed for reform, it will have made a major contribution.”

East Asia Forum Quarterly: Volume 9, Number 2, 2017

ISSN (print): 1837-5081 ISSN (online - free): 1837-509X

Imprint: ANU Press. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/EAFQ.09.02.2017>

Journal: [East Asia Forum Quarterly](#)

East Asia Forum Quarterly has grown out of *East Asia Forum* (EAF) online which over the past year has developed a reputation for providing a platform for the best in Asian analysis, research and policy comment on the Asia Pacific region in world affairs. EAFQ aims to provide a further window onto research in the leading research institutes in Asia and to provide expert comment on current developments within the region. The *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, like *East Asia Forum* online, is an initiative of the East Asia Forum (EAF) and its host organisation, the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER) in the Crawford School of Economics and Government in the College of Asia and the Pacific at The Australian National University.

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW of ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY



Volume 3, Issue 1, 2017

International Review of Environmental History: Volume 3, Issue 1, 2017

Edited by: James Beattie

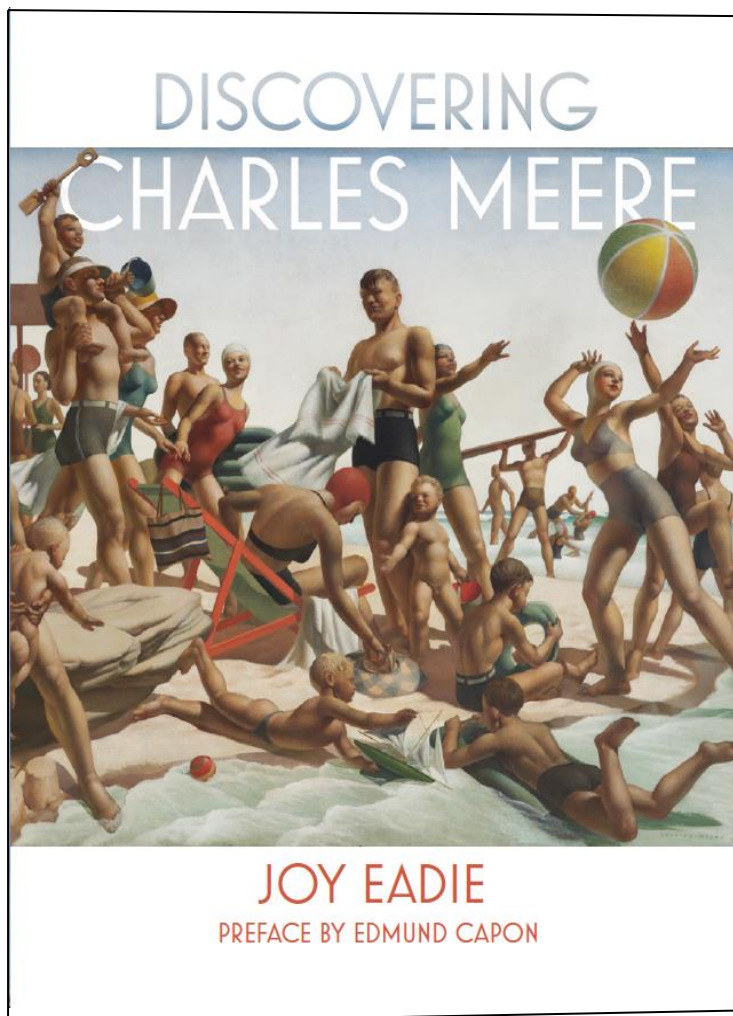
ISSN (print rrp- \$30.00): 2205-3204 **ISSN (online - free):** 2205-3212

Imprint: ANU Press DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/IREH.03.01.2017>

Journal: [International Review of Environmental History](#)

International Review of Environmental History takes an interdisciplinary and global approach to environmental history. It encourages scholars to think big and to tackle the challenges of writing environmental histories across different methodologies, nations, and time-scales. The journal embraces interdisciplinary, comparative and transnational methods, while still recognising the importance of locality in understanding these global processes.

The journal's goal is to be read across disciplines, not just within history. It publishes on all thematic and geographic topics of environmental history, but especially encourages articles with perspectives focused on or developed from the southern hemisphere and the 'global south'.



Discovering Charles Meere: Art and Allusion

By Joy Eadie

Preface by Edmund Capon

Published by Halstead Press

ISBN 978 1 925043 38 9 rrp - \$59.95

'Australian Beach Pattern' is the iconic image upon which much of Meere's reputation as an artist has been based. Dismissed by critics as fascist and portraying racial glorification of mid-twentieth century Australia, Meere's name is hardly known, whilst his famous painting has ironically become one of Australia's most recognisable artworks. Taking a fresh look at Meere's oeuvre, Joy Eadie makes a case for Meere as a nuanced and thoughtful artist whose works convey cutting social and political commentary through irony and sophisticated historical references. Joy Eadie is a Canberra art scholar and critic with degrees from Sydney University and The Australian National University.

[If you are interested in writing a review of any of these titles please contact ian.mathews7@bigpond.com]

From Olympic medals to the 'foreign' Shakespeare

Australian National University Emeritus Faculty Projects Symposium was held on June 21 from morning until mid-afternoon. Topics ranged from Olympic medal-winners and their origins to claims that Shakespeare was Italian. For those who missed a fascinating day, here are some of the abstracts.

Malcolm White spoke on *Rio Olympic Medals in relation to Population and Affluence*.

One form of analysis shows that athletes from countries with low populations and low national wealth were far better at winning medals than their counterparts from more populous and affluent countries. Does that surprise you? What is the explanation and what might be the implications?

Debbie Argue spoke on *Homo floresiensis* – the surprise from Flores – but what is it and where does it fit on the human evolutionary tree?

Thirteen years ago during archaeological excavations on Flores, Indonesia, a small partial skeleton and other comparable bones were discovered and attributed to a new hominin species, *Homo floresiensis*. The bones represent tiny bipedal beings of about one metre tall. At the time the species was dated to a very recent period and it seemed that it was living at the same time as modern humans in the region. This caused a sensation—headlines swept around the world, blog pages were crammed, controversy reigned. Now the dates have been revised and the latter scenario is most unlikely, but the species is no less intriguing and controversial. In this presentation I will explain the unique morphology of the species and examine the competing hypotheses for it, giving a tick for the most strongly supported one.

Adrian Gibbs on *Tobamoviruses are aboriginal*

The recently published phylogeny of Aborigines and Melanesians based on their mitochondrial genome sequences has confirmed that the Aboriginal narrative of a long-standing link with "country" is correct. The tobamoviruses have a similarly unusual phylogeny, only they have apparently been tied to host plants not geography. I will discuss and compare these data.

Ian Keen spoke on *Variation in Aboriginal systems of land tenure*.

There remains a widespread view that before European colonisation, Aboriginal people lacked concepts of property and were feckless nomads. Aboriginal systems of land tenure have been recorded, however, from early in the colonial period, with anthropological understanding gradually increasing through the last century, fuelled in particular by research related to Aboriginal land claims. Before varying degrees of transformation due to colonisation and the establishment of the Australian state, in Aboriginal land-tenure systems people were strongly tied to country through totemic ancestral beliefs, celebrated in art and ritual. The multiple bases of these ties, however, afforded the systems sufficient flexibility to accommodate varying degrees of mobility and settlement related to hunting and gathering strategies, from the rather settled modes of life on the coasts and major rivers to the highly mobile lifeways of the arid zone. The systems combined sufficient control of access to resources with the requisite flexibility of movement.

Common themes of spiritual and kinship connections to country have led commentators and popularisers to look for Aboriginal "commonalities", and understand Australia as a "single estate". Recorded systems vary considerably, however, in spite of common themes. Relations to land and waters across the continent are more usefully thought of, I have argued, as a "system of adjacencies", in which people have accommodated their local systems to neighbouring ones. With catastrophic population decline following colonisation, the aggregation of Aboriginal people on to missions, settlements and townships, and the

gradual loss of ritual knowledge, systems of land tenure have become simplified in many areas, with ownership of country often being vested in a language group or “tribe”.

Campbell Macknight

FD McCarthy's diary, 1937–8

In June 1937 Fred McCarthy, then on the staff of the Australian Museum in Sydney, set out on an extended visit to the Netherlands East Indies, Malaya and Singapore. He participated in prehistoric excavations in Sulawesi with Dutch archaeologists, visited numerous museums and attended a major congress of prehistorians in Singapore. For seven months he kept a detailed diary, supplemented by hundreds of photographs. The diary is full of interest on several levels: it has much specific detail on excavation methods and archaeological thought at the time; the personalities of several archaeologists and others with whom McCarthy came into contact are drawn in sometimes scarifying detail; rhapsodical descriptions of the natural world are mixed with penetrating observations of late colonial society; and through it all we see McCarthy himself as an observant and committed scholar dealing with the stresses of fieldwork, including serious illness and bouts of homesickness. He writes fluently and, occasionally, with real flair. The diary certainly deserves publication. McCarthy's visit to Sulawesi is also of interest as the starting point of collaboration between Dutch (later Indonesian) and Australian archaeologists in this area, which is the most sustained contact between Australia and Indonesia in any field. It continues to the present with spectacular results.

Alan Roberts

Writing the life of a convict woman (Esther Julian/Johnston) with ambiguous data

Esther Julian lived as the common law wife of a leading military officer, George Johnston, from around 1789 until they married in 1814. It was Esther's misfortune to be 'discovered' by the pioneer Jewish historian George Bergman and touted as the Jewish and female convict counterpart to Elizabeth Macarthur - i.e. a woman who successfully ran her husband's pastoral and agricultural affairs during his long absences in England, and who (after George's death) was cheated of her rightful enjoyment of her inheritance of his estate by their family.

The difficulty for the biographer is the tantalising paucity of records that would enable a definitive reconstruction of her life and experience. How much can be assumed? How much can be ventured speculatively on the basis of imaginative insight? How much charity is warranted? How to deal with her own unreliable testimony? This talk will focus on some of the principal issues I have encountered in writing Esther's life, even a brief life.

Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe

Memories of Geoff Sharman, 1925-2015

With Jennifer Graves I have just completed a memoir for Historical Records of Australian Science of our colleague of sixty years. Geoff Sharman was one of the most important figures in the post-war renaissance of research into the indigenous mammals of Australia. He discovered the remarkable phenomenon of delayed development, or embryonic diapause, in kangaroos. He also pioneered marsupial cytogenetics, and he inspired a whole generation of younger biologists to make the investigation of Australian mammals the primary objective of their professional careers. I will try to show what was so special about that first discovery of embryonic diapause and how it informed subsequent research on kangaroo ecology and physiology by Geoff and many other people.

Mark O'Connor

How Shakespeare became international

When Shakespeare died in 1616 his death seemed to pass unnoticed, outside his home town. Other writers, like the now forgotten William Drayton, had huge London funerals and massive outpourings of public grief (as Ian Donaldson has shown)—but not Shakespeare. In the C18th he was turned into Britain's great national poet and playwright, and has remained

so ever since. He has similar status in all English-speaking countries, but elsewhere his charms were at first resisted. Voltaire sneered at “Giles Shakespeare” as a foul-mouthed “savage” whose plays “could please only in England –and Canada”; and even Dryden was troubled by his breaking of classical rules. As late as 1822 a production of Othello in Paris was howled down with cries of “A bas Shakespeare!” Yet within a decade he became the idol of the French Romantic movement. The Germans had long since adopted “our Shakespeare”, as Goethe called him. By 1900 he began to displace Virgil and Homer as the great “classic” who looms behind modern writers. After 1900 centuries of dominance, Virgil vanished from the schools, along with Greek and Latin; and for many folk Shakespeare was now all the classic they needed. His eccentricities, or his exceptionalities, as Borges would call them, were now de-emphasised; and his strange tragedies were seen as classics, almost as norms. Yet now that Shakespeare defined British, or even European civilisation, he became a target for those wanting their own version of that civilisation. It mattered to prove that he was an aristocrat, or a democrat, or a revolutionary, even if this involved proving that he was not the man from Stratford—as academic scholars have always believed he was.

Today something different is happening. As English becomes a world language Shakespeare becomes a world author. His works are found to apply (and with the same profundity) to times and cultures he could scarcely have envisaged. He is more popular, according to a recent survey, in China, Brazil, and Turkey than in Britain. 400 years have made his language so unintelligible that many native speakers of English dislike reading him, whereas foreigners, who read him first in their own language, like him more. The Spanish-language novelist Borges suggested that Shakespeare must share the utter loneliness of God in that, being so intensely part of the beings he had created, he could have no personality of his own. Yet this high estimation has produced a desire to appropriate his work—and even his identity—for other cultures. He has been proved to be Catholic, Protestant, atheist, Anglican, Jewish, female, homosexual, monarchist, reformist, environmentalist etc. And now, bizarrely but logically enough, it has become necessary to show that he was not English at all. (If he was not Italian, some ask for instance, why did he set 15 of his plays in Italy?)

George Steiner has claimed he sounds better in German than in English. Many Italians now believe quite seriously that he was really Michelangelo Florio, or an Italian baron called Crollanza (Italian for shake-the-spear) who moved to England and anglicised his name. Is there any truth in such theories? And if not, what do they indicate—about Shakespeare, and about the modern world’s centre?

[Have your say](#)

Share your views on the future of the electricity grid

The [House of Representatives Environment and Energy](#) Committee is continuing its inquiry into modernising Australia’s electricity grid. As part of the inquiry, the Committee is encouraging members of the community to share their views on the electricity system via an [online questionnaire](#).

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Andrew Broad MP, said that input from individuals, households, and businesses is a valuable part of the inquiry.

Further information is available on the inquiry website, at www.aph.gov.au/moderngrid

Parliament reforms copyright law

The Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill, which was passed in Parliament on June 15, removes barriers to providing works in accessible formats to people with print and vision disabilities, fulfilling Australia's obligations under the Marrakesh Treaty.

It also updates and simplifies copyright licences that allow universities and educational institutions to use copyright material in return for payments to rights' holders, without affecting the interests of copyright holders.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Belinda Robinson said this was an important advance. "These changes respect the interests of copyright holders, while removing archaic provisions that currently impede universities from using copyright materials in the digital era," she said. "It will give flexibility for universities and copyright collecting agencies to negotiate agreements that aren't constrained by 30-40 pages of outdated, technology-specific rules that are no longer relevant in the internet age."

The changes reflect proposals brought to Government by universities, schools, libraries, cultural institutions, rights holders and collecting societies alike.

Universities Australia also congratulates the Government for continuing its program of copyright reform after further stakeholder consultation on extending 'safe harbour' protections for universities and others. Safe harbours provide a simple anti-piracy system that gives copyright holders an efficient way to get infringing content removed. Currently, institutions like universities and schools that work for the public benefit are not included in the safe harbour scheme.

According to Universities Australia, universities provide email accounts and internet access to over a million students and staff for educational purposes. Yet universities have no protection against being sued if a student posts materials that infringe copyright – even where the university moves swiftly to remove the content.

Universities Australia says it looks forward to seeing further reforms enacted in the near future, to give universities the same sort of 'safe harbour' protections as companies like Telstra and Optus.

Committee launches inquiry into Australia's Antarctic Territory

The [Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories](#) has begun an inquiry to consider the adequacy of Australia's infrastructure assets and capability in Antarctica with regard to:

- maintaining national interests;
- serving the scientific program into the future;
- international engagement, including collaboration and resource sharing with other countries;
- fostering economic opportunities consistent with the Antarctic Treaty System obligations; and
- environmental considerations.

Chair of the Committee, [Mr Ben Morton MP](#), said "The Committee's inquiry is timely, with 2017 marking the 60th anniversary of Australia's Davis Research Station in Antarctica". Mr Morton noted that "The last time the Committee considered Australia's role in Antarctica was in 2005. Significant advancement in scientific capability and technology since the Committee's previous inquiry provides an opportunity for renewed focus on Australia's Antarctic assets and capabilities into the future."

The Committee is seeking submissions from individuals, organisations and government stakeholders addressing one or more of the inquiry's [terms of reference](#), until 11 August 2017. Information about [how to make a submission to an inquiry](#) can be obtained from the Parliament of Australia webpage.

For background contact the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (02) 6277 4355 or jscncet@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into War Memorial object store upgrade

The [Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works](#) will conduct an inquiry into the Australian War Memorial's proposal to construct the Treloar E Large Technology Objects Store in Mitchell, Australian Capital Territory. The Australian War Memorial proposes to build a single-level storage facility on Commonwealth-owned land to accommodate the planned acquisition of a range of Large Technology Objects, including military aircraft, battle tanks and troop movement vehicles. Currently, the Australian War Memorial has a storage deficit of 1,807 square metres, and the proposed works will provide 5,288 square metres of total floor space. This proposed facility will both address the current storage deficit, as well as provide for future requirements for the next eight years.

Works are expected to begin in early 2018 and be completed by late 2018. The estimated cost of the project is \$16.1 million. It is anticipated that the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in August. Further information on the public hearing will be available soon.

Submissions will be accepted until 27 July 2017.

Full details on the project are available on the Committee's [website](#).

Of possible interest – access the link

National Health and Medical Research Council Statement on water fluoridation open for public consultation

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/releases/2017/public-statement-water-fluoridation-open-public-consultation>

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released for public consultation a draft Public Statement on community water fluoridation. NHMRC continues to support fluoridating water.

Centre of Excellence to examine Australia's unique biodiversity and heritage

<http://www.arc.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/centre-excellence-examine-australias-unique-biodiversity-and-heritage>

Gough Whitlam's Youth Revealed in New Exhibition – National Archives of Australia, Australian Government

<http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/media/media-releases/2017/09.aspx>

Diary Dates

ANUEF inquiries; Adrian Gibbs adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com

ANU Events 02 6125 4144 E: events@anu.edu.au

July 12, 13 and 14 The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies on at [Llewellyn Hall](#), School of Music. [See details below]

Tuesday, July 25 6-7 pm. The ANU Emeritus Faculty, in association with the Oxford University Society, ACT branch, invites you to a free public lecture by **Professor Maggie Snowling**, President of St John's College, Oxford and Professor of Psychology, University of Oxford on "*Dyslexia, Language and Learning to Read*" in the Finkel Theatre, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Garran Road. There will be a dinner with Prof Snowling and her husband, Prof Chris Hulme, afterwards in the Scarth Room, University House at 7 30pm, which will be open to members of the Emeritus Faculty and the ACT Oxford and Cambridge societies and their guests but numbers are limited.

Bookings <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dyslexia-language-and-learning-to-read-tickets-35500403663>

Inquiries to colin.steele@anu.edu.au

Abstract

Professor Snowling is specifically interested in the nature and causes of children's reading difficulties and how best to ameliorate them. Without the ability to read fluently with comprehension there is a downward spiral of poor educational achievement and career prospects. Dyslexia is therefore a major problem for society and a key question is whether it is possible to intervene early to ameliorate its impact. Studies following the development of children at family-risk of dyslexia reveal that it is associated with language delays and speech difficulties in the pre-school years before reading instruction begins. Literacy outcomes for children depend not only on the risk factors that predispose to reading difficulties but also on protective factors which mitigate the risk. Together current evidence places dyslexia on a continuum with other language-learning impairments.

Adrian Gibbs adrian_j_gibbs@hotmail.com

Wednesday 30 August 2017, 6–7pm at the Sir Roland Wilson Building, ANU. **ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture** in association with the National Scholarly Communication Forum and The Open Society Foundation. *Promoting Knowledge in the Age of Unreason: Toward the Internet of the Mind* by **Professor Jean-Claude Guéron**

Communication is the "essence of science," and thanks to the Internet, scholarly communication could be conceived as the distributed system of human intelligence. Now, with the rise of global computer networks, the next stage in the rise of distributed human intelligence is clearly in the offing. Open Access is an effective way to enhance the cross-fertilisation of scholarship with new technologies to create the optimal communication system that society needs in what has been called, following recent global political events, 'the age of unreason'.

Researchers are obviously crucial to the scholarly communication process, but they largely communicate through a system that they do not control. In evaluating researchers for promotion, tenure and funding, research councils and universities tend to rely on metrics that are deemed to characterise a "good" or "not so good" career. As a result, researchers are forced to publish "where it counts". All this reinforces the warped manner in which symbolic capital, visibility and prestige are currently generated in scholarship.

If the control of its knowledge is no longer with the research communities themselves, to what extent does that threaten to corrupt the very nature of knowledge distribution? Who controls publicly funded knowledge and, in the era of fake news, who ensures its validation

and reputation? Seen from the perspective of the developing or emerging countries, i.e. from the perspective of about 80% of humanity, the answer is clear. Unleashing the full power of the distributed system of human knowledge should become a fundamental objective of global scholarship.

About the speaker

Jean-Claude Guéron is Professor of *littératures et de langues du monde* at the Université de Montréal, Canada. His first degree was in chemistry before completing a PhD in the history of science at the University of Wisconsin. He has been a full Professor at the University of Montréal since 1987. Guéron's numerous publications reflect his interest in the global impact of the Internet on culture, law, language and society. He has been a particular champion of the open access movement, advising, in that capacity, governments, learned bodies and research councils around the world.

Jean-Claude is a globally renowned speaker with over 400 presentations to date including to the European Commission, the British Library, French Telecom and the US National Library of Medicine. He has been Chair of the Program Committee of the Internet Society three times, Board member of the Information Program of the Open Society Foundations and Vice President of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

This lecture is free and open to the public but registration is required on ANU events webpage. <http://www.anu.edu.au/events/promoting-knowledge-in-the-age-of-unreason-toward-the-internet-of-the-mind>

Enquiries to Colin Steele

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E: colin.steele@anu.edu.au

Mid-winter break. As in 2016, no speakers have been organised for the collegiate lunches (first Wednesdays of the month) in June and July. However the Molony Room will be opened by noon on those days for a dose of rampant collegiality before the Committee meets.

Very many thanks to the thirty members who replied to my survey on the timing of winter meetings; several members were overseas and, unfortunately, a few unwell. Twenty were in favour of lunchtime winter meetings, one in favour of 4 pm meetings, and nine had no preference.

Meet the author

Thursday, 27 July, 6.00pm, Finkel Theatre, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Garran Road. ANU. ANU/*The Canberra Times* Meet the Author. Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Mark Butler in conversation with Professor Mark Howden on Butler's new book, *Climate Wars*, on climate-change politics and policy in Australia. Free event. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144. Pre-event book signings at 5.30pm.

Monday, 14 August, 6.30pm, Molonglo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, Crawford School, 132 Lennox Crossing, ANU. ANU/*The Canberra Times* Meet the Author. Gail Kelly with her new book, *Live, Lead, Learn*. Free event. Moderated by Professor Helen Sullivan, Director, Crawford School of Public Policy. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144. Pre-event book signings at 6.00pm.

Conferring of Awards

July 12, 13 and 14 The Australian National University will be conducting *Conferring of Awards* ceremonies at [Llewellyn Hall](#), School of Music.

Academic staff are cordially invited to participate in the academic processions for these ceremonies; please register your intent to participate via the following link:

[REGISTER FOR ACADEMIC PROCESSION](#)

Please select the ceremony (or ceremonies) you wish to attend. A schedule for each ceremony is included on the registration website; registration will close on Friday, July 7 at 5pm.

Note: If you require Academic Dress, our regalia supplier will be happy to assist. This hire service is free-of-charge. To access the service, please register your requirements at <https://anu.reedgraduations.com.au/anu-academics> (please note, Academic Dress is mandatory for all staff participating in the procession).

Assembly for the Academic Procession occurs near the Graduation Registration Room; there will be signs on the day providing directions. Registered participants are asked to assemble in this location at least half an hour before the commencement of the ceremony.

Please contact the Graduations Office (x59862) if you require any further information or assistance.

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

For more information, please contact:

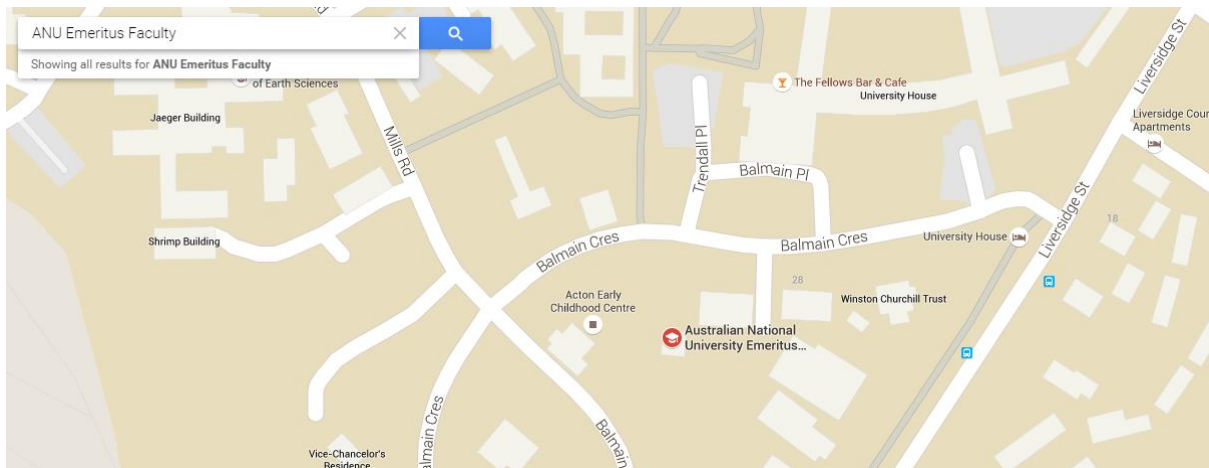
Emilia Ciampa

Senior Graduation Officer, Examinations, Graduations and Prizes Office, Division of Student Administration; Melville Hall (Building 12) I Ellery Crescent, ANU, ACT.

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 August, 2017