

EMERITUS

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Thoughts on accepting or rejecting a gift

MOST OF US ACCEPT GIFTS, even unwanted or unneeded ones. The latter are those

occasionally received for birthdays, weddings and landmark anniversaries. They are possibly unwanted for a variety of reasons: the recipient already has too many of the same thing; or perhaps could find no use for it; and, of course, bad taste – but that would never really be admitted. These orphan gifts are sometimes passed on to others when a forgotten gift is urgently needed. It's all part of the manners of gift giving and receiving.

Refusing a gift, however, is a political statement prompted by the nature of the gift, the possible motives of the giver and the ramifications acceptance would suggest. The Australian National University has recently been through the refusal process.

The following published reports explain the impact of the refusal and some of the comment prompted by the ANU's refusal to accept an offer from the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation, which had commenced discussions with The Australian National University (ANU) about collaborating on a new undergraduate degree in Western Civilisation.

The Canberra Times published an editorial on June 9 supporting the stance taken by the ANU (see below). An article by Professor Dirk Moses, Professor of Modern History at Sydney University, was published on the same day and was also supportive. To access more on-line comment, go to: <https://www.canberra-times.com.au/topic/university-63k>

VC's Update, 5 June

Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt AC said in a recent blog:

There has been a flurry of interest over the past few days in how the University partners with external organisations and potential donors, and I just wanted to reassure you of the approach ANU takes.

The decision to withdraw from negotiations with a generous philanthropic donor is never one taken lightly, but I did so after consulting with colleagues, and with the support of the ANU Council. As I said on Friday (June 1), we approached the opportunity offered by the Ramsay Centre in a positive and open spirit, and many staff here deserve thanks for the work they put into the project.

ANU has an outstanding reputation as one of the world's leading institutions for humanities. Our extensive programs in classics, philosophy, history, politics, economics, music, art and literature represent some of the very best scholarship of the western liberal tradition. The opportunity to augment our teaching and research in these areas in really interesting ways, along with a generous scholar-

ship program for students, was an attractive proposition for ANU and we were grateful to the Ramsay Centre for considering ANU as a partner. However, it was my judgement that ANU had a fundamentally different vision for the program than the Ramsay Centre, and that there was no prospect of us reaching agreement. In that context, the only responsible course of action was to withdraw and focus our University on our many other priorities. I understand this caused disappointment to some, but my first duty is to advance the University I am so proud to lead.

ANU is the recipient of generous funding from many different foundations, governments and individuals. While, of course, the nature of negotiations with individual donors is confidential, ANU approaches all partnerships and funding opportunities with the same core set of principles. In all cases, we retain, without compromise, our academic integrity, autonomy and freedom, and ensure that any program has academic merit consistent with our status as one of the world's great universities. These core principles drive our research excellence and are key to our outstanding global reputation.

ANU has had a unique national mission since its founding to advance both Australia's understanding of the world and the world's understanding of Australia. To do this, ANU houses many centres dedicated to the study of different regions of the world including the ANU Centre for European Studies, Australian Centre for Latin American Studies, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, and the Australian Centre for China in the World. We are also home to country and regional institutes that cover the vast breadth of the Asia-Pacific region.

I'm disappointed to see that our globally renowned Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (the Middle East and Central Asia) has been singled out today. The Centre is an important national institution that has received bipartisan support since its establishment. It makes a significant contribution to Australian knowledge of regional challenges and issues in the Muslim Middle East and Central Asia, including providing training to many of our federal government departments interested in the region. It does great work on behalf of Australia that should make us all proud.

ANU Centres have received donations from a range of countries in addition to funds from government and industry. In all cases, ANU retains control of both curriculum and staffing decisions.

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies received one-off donations from the private Al-Maktoum Foundation in Dubai, the Iranian Ministry of Education, and the Turkish Government in 2000-2001. All these donations were matched by ANU, enabling the Centre to have a dedicated building, establish four endowment supported positions in Arab and Islamic Studies, Persian Language and Turkish language and studies. All its activities, including appointments, have been under the exclusive control of the university. The Centre, which receives its operating budget from the University, is a great success story, with more than 1,000 undergraduate and over 200 graduate students, as well some 20-25 PhD students a year.

I am very proud of how this university has shown an unwavering commitment to our principles, which underpin every decision of the University Executive and Council. These core principles drive our research excellence, are key to our outstanding global reputation, and are sacrosanct. I will continue to defend them, like my predecessors, at all times.

Earlier, in a recent blog, the Vice-Chancellor wrote, "...you may have seen various media reports this week relating to partnerships and philanthropy in the university sector, including the ANU. In case anyone is in any doubt about where the University stands, let me make it clear that ANU approaches any partnership or funding opportunity with the same core set of principles. These include retaining, without compromise, our academic integrity, autonomy and freedom, and ensuring that any program has academic merit consistent with our status as one of the world's great universities. I am very proud of how this University has had an unwavering commitment to these principles, which underpin every decision of the University Executive and Council. These core principles drive our research excellence and are key to our outstanding global reputation."

Canberra Times, 9 June

In its on-line edition on June 9 *The Canberra Times* editorialised under the heading "ANU right to drop Ramsay Centre degree proposal." It said:

"What price academic freedom when two former prime ministers and the current PM are telling the ANU what sponsorship deals it should accept and how it should run courses?

Malcolm Turnbull has joined ranks with his two immediate Liberal predecessors in the office, John Howard and Tony Abbott, in giving the ANU a serve about its decision not to press ahead with negotiations with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation over an arrangement that could have offered 30 \$25,000 student scholarships.

"The trouble was, according to ANU Vice Chancellor and Nobel Laureate, Brian Schmidt, the price asked was too high. 'In this case the prospective donor (the Ramsay Centre of which Mr Howard is the head and Mr Abbott is a director) sought a level of influence over our curriculum and staffing that went way beyond what any other donor has been granted, and was inconsistent with academic autonomy,' he said.

“Mr Turnbull’s interest in the Ramsay Foundation is difficult to understand. Surely the victor in the Spycatcher trial would be strongly committed to the principles of academic liberty and intellectual freedom? While many were quick to pooh-pooh concerns raised by academics and intellectuals when the Ramsay Centre proposal was first aired that is no longer the case. This is because Mr Turnbull, Mr Howard and Mr Abbott have all made it clear they believe if somebody, in this case their cherished centre, turns up with a fistful of dollars the ANU should just roll over.

“This, in turn, suggests they need to do some homework on the Western intellectual tradition; that free and untrammelled spirit of inquiry that has given us everything from Pythagoras’s famous theorem to the atomic bomb; from parliamentary democracy to Marxist theory; from the great cathedrals of Europe to the horrors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald and a lot of other good and bad stuff as well.

“The Ramsay Centre, on the evidence of its activities to date, appears to have been founded on the dubious premise Western culture and civilisation is under threat and needs defending by a well-heeled think tank. That, in a word, is absurd. Western culture, in its best and broadest sense, does not need defending by paid advocates. It lives forever in sentiments such as Montaigne’s famous ‘what do I know?’; Socrates’s ‘an unexamined life is not worth living’; and the phrase ‘Know thyself’ that was inscribed in the forecourt of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi.

“These insights all served as signposts on a road that has given us our modern concepts of liberty, fraternity and equality, the scientific method and may yet take us to the stars.

What the Ramsay Centre seems to regard as an attack is actually an attempt, first articulated in the Reith lectures by Arnold Toynbee in 1952, to understand the complex world that grew out of the collision between the West and the rest of the globe. Given the great strength of Western culture has always been its underlying principle that everything is open to question why are its erstwhile supporters so agitated when it becomes a legitimate subject of inquiry?”

Negotiations over

On June 1 **Kirsten Lawson** writing in *The Canberra Times*, reported, “The Australian National University has pulled out of negotiations with the John Howard-headed Ramsay Centre to set up a controversial degree in Western civilisation. The university pulled out over concerns about the degree of autonomy it would have over the course, which academics feared was designed to push one narrow view of history, with the centre having too much influence over what was taught.

“Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt told staff on Friday (June 1) he had ‘taken the difficult decision’ that day to withdraw from contention for the program. He said ‘We approached the opportunity offered by the Ramsay Centre in a positive and open spirit, but it is clear that the autonomy with which this university needs to approve and endorse a new program of study is not compatible with a sponsored program of the type sought. The opportunity had been attractive, allowing the university to boost teaching and research in the humanities and social sciences and offer generous scholarships for students. But while negotiations were confidential, the university approached all partnerships and funding offers with the same principles.’ Professor Schmidt said, ‘These include retaining, without compromise, our academic integrity, and autonomy and freedom, and ensuring that any program has academic merit consistent with our status as one of the world’s great universities.’

“The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation, which includes Tony Abbott and Kim Beazley on the board chaired by former Prime Minister Howard, was set up last year with a bequest from healthcare magnate Paul Ramsay to promote Western civilisation. It called for interest from universities in a degree course in Western civilisation and began negotiations with the ANU in December. The bachelor degree course was to start at the beginning of next year, 2019 with 12 staff, funded externally.

“The university had already acknowledged the risks to academic independence that come from taking money from outside sources, and was trying to negotiate a legal agreement to address academic freedom and integrity.

“The National Tertiary Education Union welcomed the ANU’s decision. Branch President Matthew King said the centre had insisted on ‘unprecedented interference in curriculum and staffing’, but the ANU had stood up for the academic principles and autonomy which made it great. This decision makes clear that no matter the financial or political pressure powerful interests bring to bear, public universities are not and ought not to be for sale,’ he said.

“An article by Mr Abbott in *Quadrant* in April heightened concerns about the Ramsay Centre’s intentions, when Mr Abbott criticised an education system that no longer immersed students in the New Testament, Shakespeare and British history, but rather wanted ‘every element of the curriculum ... pervaded by Asian, indigenous and sustainability perspectives. ... Almost entirely absent from the contemporary educational mindset was any sense that cultures might not all be equal and that truth might not be entirely relative,’ Mr Abbott wrote, and added that the Ramsay Centre was ‘not merely about Western civilisation but in favour of it’.

“Academics at the ANU were worried that Ramsay Centre staff might try to exclude some people and political theories from the degree. But the Institute of Public Affairs decried the decision as ‘a terrible indictment on the state of our universities’. It reflected the fact that ‘the post-modernist ideology of identity politics trumps the study of Western civi-

lisation', the director of the institute's foundations of Western civilisation program, Dr Bella d'Abbrera, said, and added, 'Australians have once again been shown that there is a strong, anti-Western civilisation current that runs through our universities, and in particular through our humanities departments ... Students will not be given the opportunity to learn about and understand the essential features of our free society which they have inherited from Western civilisation. This is unforgivable.'

Kirsten Lawson is news director at *The Canberra Times* <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/>

Ministerial opinion

An AAP report published on June 3, after the ANU had rejected the offer, stated that the Minister of Education, Simon Birmingham, had tweeted, "This is disappointing. Our universities should embrace the study of the values that helped to create them and our modern society. I hope other unis resist politically correct objections and ensure this generous bequest enables study into the foundations of our society."

The same report added, "ANU student unions on Friday (June 1) welcomed the decision to prioritise their academic autonomy over external sponsorship."

Professor Simon Haines, of the Ramsay Centre made the following comment on June 4:

There has been a great deal of public comment and debate in recent days and weeks regarding the Centre and especially its possible partnerships with universities. The Centre is all in favour of robust debate: the freedom to make public comments and criticisms is after all a central pillar of our civilisation. But some of the recent media comment, from both ends of the political spectrum, has been deplorable. Holding up individual academics to scorn and ridicule for their research programmes or their leadership is completely unacceptable. We dissociate ourselves utterly from this kind of comment. As a Centre for civilisation we cannot condone such totally uncivilised behaviour.

We at the Centre have been very disappointed by how polarised this conversation has become, and how quickly. Australia needs reasoned public debate in the centre ground, not barrages from opposing trenches.

Negotiations between the Ramsay Centre and the ANU began in December, 2017. At the time, the centre issued a media release in which it said that the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation has commenced discussions with The Australian National University (ANU) about collaborating on a new undergraduate degree in Western Civilisation.

"ANU is the first university to be invited to enter into more detailed discussions with the Centre," said CEO Professor Simon Haines. "The study of the humanities is central to the mission of universities. This new degree will give students the chance to understand the extraordinary richness of our Western heritage".

According to the media release, the discussions came after a four-month interview process with a number of universities in NSW and the ACT, which culminated with an invitation to universities to submit Expressions of Interest to partner with the Centre in the creation of the new degree.

"A number of universities submitted EOIs, which have now been considered by the Board," said former Prime Minister John Howard OM AC, chairman of the board of the Centre. "The Board was most impressed by the quality of all the EOIs and delighted at the level of enthusiasm shown for the project. At this stage, the Board has decided to enter into discussions with one ACT university, The Australian National University, and is reflecting on a possible NSW partnership. I wish to underline that the Centre is still considering all of the NSW submissions," he said.

"ANU put forward a strong proposal," said Professor Haines at the time. "We now need to ensure that the degree meets the requirements of both parties and fulfils the vision of our benefactor. We hope to make an announcement about progress in this unique venture before the beginning of the 2018 academic year," he said.

According to the Ramsay Centre's website, the Centre was established in accordance with the will of businessman and philanthropist Paul Ramsay. "The degree is intended to promote a deeper appreciation of the manner in which the legacy of Western civilisation, in all its aspects, has shaped the successful nation that Australia is today," it states.

"The Centre will offer up to 30 Ramsay Scholarships each year, at each university it partners with, to students who enrol in the degree and who demonstrate academic brilliance and leadership potential. In due course, the Centre will also offer postgraduate scholarships for relevant studies at prestigious international institutions and it will hold summer schools and sponsor public lectures given by distinguished national and international speakers".

For other reports and views, access:

- <http://www.ramsaycentre.org/liberals-undermining-western-civilisation/>
- *The Weekend Australian* on ANU [cancelling negotiations with the Ramsay Centre](#)
- [Fury as uni dumps study of West](#) Rebecca Urban
- [Inclusiveness now beyond a joke](#) Chris Kenny
- [John Howard's letter to ANU](#)

Public comment

In a letter to the editor, published in *The Canberra Times* on June 1, Bill Deane, of Chapman, wrote:

With the likes of Tony Abbott and John Howard on the board of the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation, ANU students and staff are well justified in their concerns that a \$3 billion bequest by the charity to run a degree and scholarship program controlled by the board may compromise “the ANU’s core values” and “potentially damage the reputation of the university” (“Academics fear autonomy at risk” *CT* May 25, p10).

Student association president Eleanor Kay cites fears that “the language of ‘Western civilisation’ could ... prioritise Western civilisation over other cultures.”

How true. Many distinguished academics, including those who come from the ANU, have gone to great lengths to assure us so-called “Western civilisation” has brought nothing but death, destruction and oppression to the cultures of Chinese, Indians, the Middle East and the native peoples of four continents.

Why one particular culture, whose British converts were running around in blue paint while those elsewhere were enjoying the benefits of urban harmony or Arcadian rapture, should be raised to current prominence is a disgrace to everything the ANU stands for. There is evidence the maniacal rightwing Institute of Public Affairs is fostering the program.

The IPA’s bias against the ANU is on record in their Free Speech on Campus Audit 2017 where it sneers at the university’s eminently sensible Rule 2017, which prohibits behaviour that is “unwelcome”. How dare the IPA unfairly mark the ANU down for rightly limiting “dangerous” ideas on campus.

The ANU, and other like-minded tertiary institutions, can take great pride in their efforts to hold back such pernicious schools of thought and dubious socio-cultural constructs as logic, objectivity and truth.

These all pose serious threats to the colourful diversities of post modernism, neo-Marxism, deconstruction, neo-colonial theories and the like that have done so much to enrich the human experience.

Should the program proceed, the ANU academe must ensure arrangements for trigger warnings and intellectual space, as well as having stand-by counsellors in place should any ideas harmful to the ANU’s core values and reputation be propagated.

In a response to the above letter-to-the-editor, David Roth, of Kambah, replied on June 2:

The sarcastic response by Bill Deane to criticism of the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation (Letters, June 1) ill befits someone defending the values of “logic, objectivity and truth”.

Deane’s claim that the ANU and other universities are “taking pride” in holding back these values is evidence-free and deeply insulting to the work of researchers and to this researcher at least.

While Western civilisation is a valid course of study for which funding is to be welcomed, any objective analysis of the criticisms of the centre would surely recognise that they were not based on the promotion and financing of one particular field, but on the risks of having outside political interests dictating staff and curriculum decisions. Such external control would violate “core values”.

More letters to the editor for and against the ANU’s decision were published on June 9

Foreign influence and universities: change of heart

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED it will make amendments to its proposed foreign influence legislation that would safeguard Australian academics and their research. Universities Australia says this reflects concerns expressed about the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill’s potential to stifle innovation and valuable academic research.

Universities Australia’s Chief Executive Designate, Catriona Jackson, said researchers could have faced jail time for failing to register any global research partnerships with a policy-focus. “But the Government has listened attentively and looks set to address the university sector’s main concerns,” Ms Jackson said. “Universities Australia will work through the details of the amendments with the Government over the coming week, but there are encouraging signs the vast majority of university activity would not be included in the scheme,” she said.

“So much important research — from research into cancer testing to seat belt safety — aimed at improving the lives of everyday Australians through public policy change, relies on overseas collaboration,” she said.

Student entry to ANU changed

THE ANU HAS ANNOUNCED one of the most significant changes to the way it admits domestic undergraduate students since the University’s establishment, which will make it easier for students to choose ANU, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington says.

In a statement on May 29, she said, “As the nation’s university, we have a responsibility to provide educational opportunities to students from around Australia who have the capacity to succeed. Academically talented students come from all backgrounds and live in every town and city in Australia. In the new model, ANU will offer places to students from every senior secondary high school from across the nation who meet our application requirements, as well as students who have experienced long-term disadvantage who meet our application requirements.

“Our new model will also ask students to tell us about their contribution to family, to school or to their community through a transparent co-curriculum schedule that reflects the different levels of opportunities that students have. The strength of the ANU community is built upon generosity and leadership, and we will signal the value of these contributions to university life and beyond.

“We will also launch a new simplified process for new students applying to ANU. An early application process that combines program selection, accommodation and scholarships into one integrated system will make it easier for all prospective students. We will make conditional early offers to students. This will provide students with greater certainty around their degree of choice, where they will live and support available to them.

“From 2022, we will also require all new domestic undergraduate students to have studied maths and English as part of their senior secondary studies.

“The approach of this new model draws on admissions research from across Australia and the world. Together we can transform undergraduate university admissions to give more students access to the transformative power of an ANU education.

“These changes will make ANU a university that is truly representative of our nation.”

For more information about this initiative you can [read all about it here](#).

Mentors wanted to help budding scientists, engineers

GEOFF MCNAMARA HAS BEEN OPERATING A TEACHING PROGRAM called Science Mentors for the last 10 years at Melrose High School. He is looking to members of the ANU Emeritus Faculty to consider volunteering their time (averaging about an hour a week) to help him inspire students in science and engineering.

The program involves partnering scientists and engineers with students from Years 9 to 12. The students undertake six-month-long projects in a field of their interest under the guidance of their mentor. The projects culminate in referenced, refereed reports, the average length of which is around 5,500 words, based on the student’s work.

“At the moment, I am managing 43 partnerships across a wide range of sciences and engineering,” Geoff says. “The program has been so successful that, from Semester 2, I have been given the task of rolling out Science Mentors across the ACT. In order to cater for the anticipated increase in students over the coming months and years, I am building a pool of potential mentors. A number of people have suggested that ‘retired’ scientists would be a good match for the students, and from my experience this is entirely true.”

Geoff is ready to either write a more detailed description of the program, or to address AMUEF members, or meet individuals to explain the program further.

Mentors include Professor John Rayner, who mentored student Shamima Islam’s “Investigation of Peltier Cells as Batteries and Thermoelectric Coolers”; Estee Tee mentored student Sarah Robinson’s paper on plant stress; and Patrick De Deckker has worked as a mentor in palaeontology

For more information, email Geoff McNamara at Geoffrey.McNamara@ed.act.edu.au

Review on sexual assault and harassment

IN A RECENT COMMUNICATION TO STUDENTS, Professor Richard Baker, Pro-Vice Chancellor (University Experience), said, “Last year, the Australian Human Rights Commission’s (AHRC) survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities found that the majority of sexual harassment of ANU students occurred on the university campus, in a residential college or university facility.

“The AHRC Report made nine key recommendations which the Vice-Chancellor has accepted and is committed to implementing. This includes an independent review of the factors which contribute to sexual assault and sexual harassment in student residences.

“After an open tender process, I would like to announce that [Nous Group](#) have been contracted to conduct this review. The review will consider the following:

1. The model of supervision and support in a 24-hour university residential setting.
2. Residence culture and how the environment may contribute to or discourage those who perpetrate sexual harassment and sexual assault.

3. The impact residence 'traditions', including hazing practices, have on promoting or discouraging sexual harassment and sexual assault.
4. The methods perpetrators use in university residential and related settings, including alcohol and other drugs, to facilitate sexual violence.
5. The education and prevention strategies and interventions used in residences to promote a healthy and safe culture.
6. That response policies and procedures used by residential staff and student leaders are fair, equitable, trauma-informed and rights based and ensure student safety.
7. The quality and efficacy of training received by residential staff and student leaders to enable them to appropriately respond to a disclosure of sexual assault or harassment. This includes responses to victim/survivors, accused students, concerned individuals (e.g. student leaders and peers), as well as responder self-care.
8. The processes in place for students to provide feedback and how that feedback is acted upon.
9. The role of alcohol in facilitating a culture which may increase the likelihood of sexual violence.

“Nous Group is a leading management consulting firm with over 270 staff across six locations in Australia and the UK. The firm brings a wealth of experience in conducting reviews in a respectful and trauma-informed manner and a deep understanding of institutional restorative practices.

“The consultancy team has a strong background in the higher education sector and has worked on several projects involving extensive student consultation, including reviews of student accommodation services, student disciplinary processes and a university safety and investigation unit. They have designed cultural change programs for large organisations including the Australian Navy, and developed a strategy for Our Watch, a national not-for-profit organisation driving nationwide change in the culture, behaviours and power imbalances that lead to violence against women and children.

“The review is expected to take six months and the final report is due at the end of November 2018.

“The other activities that the University has implemented or are ongoing in response to the AHRC Report are outlined [here](#). Please feel free to contact pvc.ue@anu.edu.au for more information about this review or any other activities relating to this important work”.

Stars in their eyes

THE ANU NEWSROOM has reported that citizen scientists in every state and territory have helped The Australian National University (ANU) smash its own stargazing Guinness World Records title. They searched through thousands of telescope images online to find two exploding stars in space.

More than 40,000 people across hundreds of locations in Australia looked at the Moon at the same time last night to break the world record for the *Most people stargazing multiple venues*, five times greater than the number of people involved in the previous record. ANU held the previous Guinness World Records title for the *Most people stargazing multiple venues* - just shy of 8,000 participants across 37 locations in Australia looked up to the night sky at the same time on 21 August 2015.

Dr Anais Möller said citizen scientists searched through images from the ANU SkyMapper telescope to help astronomers identify two new Type Ia supernovae, which are exploding stars that scientists use to measure the Universe.

“SN2018bwq is around 1.1 billion light years away from Earth, and it is still getting brighter,” said Dr Möller from the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics. “SN2018bwp is around 900 million light years away and it is already fading away.”

Dr Möller and ANU astronomer Dr Brad Tucker lead the citizen science project, which was part of ABC's *Stargazing Live* broadcast from the ANU Siding Spring Observatory. “I'm amazed that more than 6,000 volunteers have helped us over three days to make more than 1,700,000 classifications in our search for exploding stars in the Universe,” Dr Möller said. “A professional astronomer would need nearly two years to do the same amount of work, so it's an incredible achievement.”

Dr Tucker said the fact that tens of thousands of citizens took part in the citizen science project and the stargazing world-record effort was amazing. “Events like the world-record attempt and asking for help with searching for new exploding stars just goes to show that science is really for everyone,” he said.

The ANU citizen science project results page, available at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/skymap/supernova-sighting/about/results>, lists co-discoverers for each new exploding star found through the project.

Also a [video interview](#) with Dr Brad Tucker about the ANU citizen science project is at youtu.be/NzSG9Ax_e_s

Commenting on the successful record-breaking attempt, Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt AC said, “More than 3,000 people attended the Canberra stargazing party on Fellows Oval and helped the ANU to [break the Guinness](#)

[ness World Record!](#) We would have broken our record if only 8,000 people across Australia had been stargazing on Wednesday evening - but as it happened, more than 40,000 people picked up their telescopes! Thanks and congratulations to you all. It's a great achievement for ANU and particular thanks have to go to the dedicated volunteers, staff and students for supporting this wonderful event. The team in SCAPA were terrific as always; our partners at ABC great to work with, and I think that Dr Brad Tucker and his colleagues have inspired many a budding astrophysicist - and you know I think that is an outcome worth celebrating! I was delighted to see the carnival atmosphere on campus before I headed up to Parliament House to help our political leaders with their stargazing. This was a special occasion and wonderfully bipartisan of our polities to unite in helping break the world record together."

Guts and old age: CSIRO-Singapore project

THE CSIRO AND SINGAPORE'S NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY are working on one of the biggest health challenges facing both countries today: healthy ageing. Both organisations are contributing equally to a seed fund of \$500,000 for joint research in precision health, with the first project to focus on the importance of gut health and exercise in healthy ageing. The research will look at the gut microbiome, which has an important role in countering the onset and progression of chronic diseases in the elderly.

"By having a more precise understanding of what a healthy gut microbiome looks like, we will be better able to understand what we need to do to promote healthy ageing," CSIRO Deputy Director Professor Lynne Cobiac said.

A range of factors contribute to older people's ability to remain healthy as they age including diet, behavioural, genetic and biomedical factors. This project will take these factors into account using cutting-edge technology to investigate the links between healthy ageing and a healthy gut.

"We will also be looking to understand if higher levels of usual exercise can have a positive impact on gut health," Professor Cobiac said. "Comparing the health impacts in elderly people across countries with the common goal of keeping people healthy for longer will give us new insights to develop tailored strategies. Ultimately the project will help inform how diet and lifestyle interventions in the older age groups can lead to a healthy gut microbiota, which in turn may reduce the risk of developing a chronic disease."

This is the first joint Australia-Singapore funded project announced under CSIRO's Precision Health Future Science Platform (FSP), which is centred on developing tailored solutions that help people live healthier lives for longer.

Chifley update

AN ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE has been formed for the reorganisation of the Chifley Library services and collection access following the flood on February 26. Its members are: Professor Paul Pickering, Director, Research School of the Humanities and the Arts (Chair), RSHA; Dr Ian Higgins, SLLL; Dr Mark Dawson, School of History; Professor Keith Dowding, CASS; Professor Kim Sterelny, School of Philosophy; Dr Paul Burton, SLLL; Professor Marc Oxenham, School of Archaeology and Anthropology; A/Professor Vladimir Canudas-Romo, School of Demography; and special adviser: Colin Steele.

Professor Pickering listed some key issues, which include:

- The Library aims to rebuild the collection replacing the material as far as possible;
- Any urgent requests for resources should be sent to Rebecca.barber@anu.edu.au;
- A bus runs to the National Library on weekdays - for more information access: <https://services.anu.edu.au/campus-environment/transport-parking/campus-traveller-free-shuttle-bus-on-acton-campus> ;
- Web pages are being developed to assist those seeking to donate books;
- *Bonus plus* can be used (click on the icon in the catalogue) to request books directly from 13 other university libraries without charge – this is available to all students and academics;
- The library is discussing purchase of material with publishers to ensure it is available when it can be accommodated; and
- Insurance advisers are helping to prepare a claim.

For more information contact a committee member or the University Librarian, Roxanne Missingham

Eat your greens – by phone

SMARTPHONE APPS COULD BE KEY to addressing Australia's significant under-consumption of vegetables, especially with men and people who are overweight or obese, according to the CSIRO. In a recent statement, it said

that despite evidence that eating vegetables can reduce the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer, it is estimated that more than 19 million Australians aren't meeting their minimum dietary guideline recommendation.

Launched last year, and commissioned by Hort Innovation, CSIRO's VegEze app uses game-like features to encourage Australian adults to eat more vegetables through a 21-day 'Do 3 at Dinner' challenge. More than 4000 people have taken part in the study and of those who have completed the challenge, over 80 per cent are having three vegetables with dinner.

CSIRO scientist Dr Gilly Hendrie said the findings of the research showed that adopting a "gamified approach", such as the VegEze app, was an effective way of helping improve Australia's poor vegetable score-card. "The app has helped tip the scales the most for obese people, with obese men consuming one extra serve and two extra types of vegetables per day, which is a significant increase," Dr Hendrie said.

"By the end of the challenge, the percentage of obese men that were meeting the Australian Dietary Guidelines vegetable recommendations had increased four times to 30 per cent. Men in general increased their vegetable intake by three quarters of a serve. This resulted in 10 per cent increase of number of men meeting the guidelines, but interestingly we only saw an increase of 1.4 per cent for women."

A report published by CSIRO last year highlighted that women generally eat more vegetables than men, which may account for the smaller increase. People can still participate in the research study by doing the 21-day Do 3 at Dinner challenge.

Download the free VegEze app via the Apple App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/vegeze/id1268951104>

New research will change understanding of Australian Aboriginal rock art

EMERITUS PROFESSOR ANDY [GLEADOW](#), of the [University of Melbourne](#), who leads the [Kimberley Rock Art Dating Project](#), delivered a recent Distinguished Lecture on a multi-disciplinary approach using a combination of dating technologies and analysis of very large data sets. It could change the understanding of Australian Aboriginal rock art found in shelters and its relationship to an evolving landscape.

Chair of the Kimberley Foundation Australia and distinguished philanthropist [Maria Myers](#) accompanied Prof Gleadow on his visit to ANSTO.

The Kimberley Rock Art project involves a large team of researchers with complementary specialties from multiple institutions ([University of Western Australia](#), [Universities of Wollongong](#), [Melbourne](#) and [Manchester](#)), including ANSTO dating specialists, who are working together with the [Indigenous Traditional Owners](#) to obtain a chronology for the extraordinary rock art sequence of the Kimberley. The work is supported by the Australia Research Council and the Kimberley Foundation Australia.



*An example of Aboriginal art found on rock shelters in the Kimberley
Image courtesy of Kimberley Foundation Australia*

"The project is uniquely focused on developing a deep time framework in which to better understand the art and the people who have lived in this vast region from the Pleistocene period to the present day," said Professor Gleadow. "We need to know just how old the rock art is in order to relate it to other things that have happened in Australia over long millennia, such as the environmental changes that have occurred since the Last Glacial Maximum to the present day."

Professor Gleadow said that the Kimberley rock art sequence is characterised by tremendous artistic skill, great abundance and a diversity of painting styles that occur in a relative time sequence that may well span the past 50,000 years—since the arrival of first Australians. Frequently a particular painting style is superimposed over an earlier painting.

"The art is part of the landscape and two dimensional images do not capture its wonder. You cannot separate the art from the rock surface upon which it is painted nor from the landscape where art is found within rock shelters," he said.

Establishing chronologies for the rock art has proved extraordinarily challenging, because most pigments lack constituents that can be dated with well-known and accepted methods, such as radiocarbon or uranium series isotopes—not to mention the vast distances and remoteness of sites where the rock art is found. Most of the intense Kimberley

work has been done in areas around the Drysdale River, King George River and along the coast around Doubtful Bay that contain ancient sandstone escarpments that appear to be optimum surfaces for rock art application. The sites are so remote that access is usually by helicopter.

“However, the concerted application of four different dating technologies to study rock art shelter evolution and associated rock art materials is now making strong progress to provide bracketing ages, a minimum and a maximum, for the associated rock art,” Professor Gleadow said.

The methods, which have produced hundreds of dates, include cosmogenic radionuclides to date rock art shelter formation and rates of landscape evolution processes; radiocarbon dating of organic constituents within mud wasp nests and oxalate mineral layers; optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating of large wasp nest complexes, and uranium-series dating of particular minerals within surface mineral accretions.

Just how the Kimberley rock art has been preserved over such long time frames is not well understood. Although the environment is very pristine, the area is subject to flooding and extreme climatic conditions.

“It is very important to determine how fast the rocks are eroding, that is quantifying the actual rates of landscape evolution over 50,000 years,” Professor Gleadow said.



(From left to right) Dr David Fink, Dr Reka Fulop, Dr Vladimir Levchenko, Chair of Kimberley Foundation Australia Maria Myers, Prof Andy Gleadow, Dharawal Elder Les Bursill, CEO Dr Adi Paterson and PhD student Gael Cazes

Cosmogenic beryllium-10 and aluminium-26 measurements in bedrocks, river sands and rock shelter surfaces at ANSTO’s [accelerator mass spectrometry](#) facility, conducted by Dr David Fink and PhD student Gael Cazes, from the University of Wollongong, have established that the average erosion rate of Kimberley rocks is about two to three millimetres every thousand years. This means that the pace of landscape change in the Kimberley is one of the lowest rates on earth.

“In some of the shelters with extensive overhangs, or less exposed to the elements, mineral accretion often protects the surfaces, making erosion rates probably an order of magnitude lower. Thus, one of our exciting discoveries is that such rock art shelter surfaces can persist for sufficiently long periods to allow preservation of the oldest rock art—perhaps as far back as 50,000 years.” said Dr Fink.

Radiocarbon measurements at the accelerator facility conducted by Dr Vladimir Levchenko and PhD student Damian Finch from the University of Melbourne have been most challenging due to the minuscule amounts of organic carbon found in the mud wasp nests overlying or underneath rock art. Exploiting state-of-the-art microgram-radiocarbon techniques established at ANSTO, they have successfully obtained minimum radiocarbon dates as far back as 12,000 years for some of the rock art.

“Although the picture of the timeline is still rather fuzzy, there has been significant progress in some areas,” said Professor Gleadow.

ANUEF Projects Symposium

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY EMERITUS FACULTY held its Projects Symposium on June 6 at the Molony Room during which participants were stimulated by presentations and sustained by a sandwich lunch and tea, coffee and biscuits for morning and afternoon tea.

The program began at 9.15am with **Ian Rae’s** presentation of “*History that can only be written as fiction.*” In his abstract, Ian stated, “The constraints of academic writing are meant to keep historical writing free of anecdotal or factually debatable material. Yet in unpublished discourse such material is frequent, and often advanced by the finest minds in the field. During my decades of research on the Jesuit missions in China under the leadership of Matteo Ricci SJ, I conversed with many eminent scholars. The fact that I had been given some standing in my area of research resulted in my being given comments that were controversial or speculative. I concluded that the comments were valuable, and should not be lost. The best way of presenting them was in a quasi-fictional medium. I have written what I call “an accurate historical novel” entitled *A Great Bell to China*. The title is from a comment by a mandarin in Ricci’s time that “he had a voice like a great bell”. The book has two counterpointed narratives. One is an accurate account of

Ricci's mission. It is not complete, for that would have occupied several volumes. My focus was to correct some of the errors that have become embedded in the history of the China Mission. The second narrative is a series of discussions between late 20th century scholars. The rendering of the opinions I have been given is accurate, and the only "fictionalisation" is the disguising of real characters.

This was followed by **Michael Walsh's** presentation, "*Raising languages from the dead*": some examples of Australian language revival." He prefaced his address in his abstract, "Currently I am involved to varying degrees in the revival of a number of Australian Languages. One challenge is the quantity of documentation of these languages. At one end of the scale is a language which supposedly has just 27 items of vocabulary while at the other end there is a language with copious documentation going back to the 1830s which is now being taught at a range of schools as well as at university level. This talk will present a general description of the activities involved in language revival and provide some examples of the techniques that can be used when rebuilding languages. Oh, did I mention that there is some politics involved?"

Jenny Goldie spoke on "*Population, climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals*". Her abstract noted, "In 2015, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeeded the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that the UN had agreed to in 2000. The SDGs included new goals and targets such as combating climate change and protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The SDGs fail, however, to specifically refer to the problems of population growth although they do advocate various means of lowering such growth. For instance, under SDG 5, there is a call for universal access to family planning. Unless the problem of population growth is directly addressed, however, and more radical targets for climate change mitigation are provided, there is little hope of achieving success in many of the goals by 2030."

After lunch, **Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe** asked, "*Is killing kangaroos the kindest option to over abundance in the ACT?*" His abstract stated, "From the mid fifties to the late eighties six long-term studies were conducted by four State departments of Agriculture, the University of NSW and CSIRO Wildlife into the population biology of the four commonest species of kangaroo. The main purpose was to find ways to diminish the competition between kangaroos and stock in the rangelands of Australia. In the controversy that has prevailed in the ACT for the past four years over the policy of culling Eastern Grey Kangaroos the knowledge gained from those six large studies and the conclusions drawn from them seems to be ignored in favour of strongly-held opinions. I will try to summarise the main findings and the reasons why shooting is the most humane response to overabundance."

This presentation was followed by **Nic Goldie** on "*Extreme Fire - a hot new paradigm*". His abstract stated, "Bushfires are part of Australian culture, but what the future offers is different in scale and in character. So-called 'megafires' in Australia, also in the USA Canada and Russia, have burned millions of hectares, destroyed thousands of buildings, and taken hundreds of lives. But are they 'extreme fires'? It's a question of definition, but fire scientists and fire managers are recognising a new and frightening phenomenon: the pyrocumulonimbus event, where fire and atmosphere combine to form a new kind of extreme existential threat. A primary driver of this phenomenon is climate change. Projections from physical climate studies indicate that by 2100, parts of Australia could see an extra 30 to 50 heatwave days every year as well as increasing drought. This is also true for Europe and the USA. Heatwaves are linked to extreme fire through their effect on atmospheric conditions (wind, temperature, atmospheric stability) and their effect on the flammability of fuel. Other factors include population increase and changes in land management, both of which have serious implications for the frequency of extreme fires. For the past century, fire science has steadily gained in understanding fire behaviour. Today's fire science builds on this understanding, but adds greatly improved technology and a new and timely theoretical understanding of extreme fire."

Prame Chopra addressed "*Understanding natural deformation of the Earth's crust: results from high temperature experiments with Carrara Marble*". The abstract stated, "Evidence abounds that over time, pervasive ductile deformation has shaped the rocks that make up the Earth's crust. Macroscopic features like bent layering and the folding that produces huge mountain ranges show clearly that in many cases, rock deformation has been ductile rather than brittle. Mesoscopic and microscopic textures give even clearer indications. In seeking to understand the mechanisms by which this flow behaviour of rocks occurs, geophysicists perform deformation experiments on suitable rock types and study both the mechanical behaviour and the resulting microtextures. Carrara Marble is eminently suitable for such studies because it is pure and monomineralic, and it is extremely consistent in appearance and internal characteristics. Indeed this is also why, historically, it has been a favoured material for sculptors (e.g. Michelangelo's David) and for architects (e.g. the external columns of the National Library of Australia). In this study, I report on a wide range of high temperature, high pressure deformation experiments carried out on Carrara Marble. Analysis and mathematical modelling of the mechanical results and detailed studies of the microstructures of the deformed specimens using an optical microscope have identified the key ductile deformation mechanisms in the rock and have framed a rheological flow law that can be used to model the deformation of similar rocks in the Earth under natural deformation conditions. During the course of the talk I will show a detailed series of beautiful optical microscope images of the deformed samples that are as much works of art as they are examples of scientific investigation"

BOOKSHELF



Indigenous Mobilities: Across and Beyond the Antipodes

Edited by [Rachel Standfield](#) 

Published by: ANU Press

Series: [Aboriginal History Monographs](#)

ISBN (print, rrp \$50.00): 9781760462147

ISBN (online - free): 9781760462154

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/IM.06.2018>

This edited collection focuses on Aboriginal and Māori travel in colonial contexts. Authors in this collection examine the ways that Indigenous people moved and their motivations for doing so. Chapters consider the cultural aspects of travel for Indigenous communities on both sides of the Tasman. Contributors examine Indigenous purposes for mobility, including for community and individual economic wellbeing, to meet other Indigenous or non-Indigenous peoples and experience different cultures, and to gather knowledge or experience, or to escape from colonial intrusion.

Heather Goodall, Professor Emerita, UTS, said of it, “While the volume overall is aimed at opening up new research questions, and so invites later and even more innovative work, this volume will stand as an important guide to the directions such future work might take.”

The Contest for Aboriginal Souls: European missionary agendas in Australia

By [Regina Ganter](#)

Published by: ANU Press

Series: [Aboriginal History Monographs](#)

ISBN (print; rrp \$50.00): 9781760462048

ISBN (online - free): 9781760462055

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/CAS.05.2018>

This book covers the missionary activity in Australia conducted by non-English speaking missionaries from Catholic and Protestant mission societies from its beginnings to the end of the mission era. It looks

through the eyes of the missionaries and their helpers, as well as incorporating Indigenous perspectives and offering a balanced assessment of missionary endeavour in Australia, attuned to the controversies that surround mission history. It means neither to condemn nor praise, but rather to understand the various responses of Indigenous communities, the intentions of missionaries, the agendas of the mission societies and the many tensions besetting the mission endeavour. It explores a common commitment to the supernatural and the role of intermediaries like local diplomats and evangelists from the Pacific Islands and Philippines, and emphasises the strong role played by non-English speakers in the transcultural Australian mission effort.

This book is a companion to the website *German Missionaries in Australia – A web-directory of intercultural encounters*. The web-directory provides detailed accounts of Australian missions staffed with German speakers. The book reads laterally across the different missions and produces a completely different type of knowledge about missions. The book and its accompanying website are based on a decade of research ranging across mission archives with foreign-language sources that have not previously been accessed for a historiography of Australian missions.



Transforming Hawai'i: Balancing Coercion and Consent in Eighteenth-Century Kānaka Maoli Statecraft

By [Paul D'Arcy](#)

Published by: ANU Press

ISBN (print; rrp \$55.00): 9781760461737

ISBN (online - free): 9781760461744

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/TH.06.2018>

This study examines the role of coercion in the unification of the Hawaiian Islands by Kamehameha I between 1782 and 1812 at a time of increasing European contact. Three interrelated themes in Hawaiian political evolution are examined: the balance between coercion and consent; the balance between general structural

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trends and specific individual styles of leadership and historical events; and the balance between indigenous and European factors. The resulting synthesis is a radical reinterpretation of Hawaiian warfare that treats it as an evolving process heavily imbued with cultural meaning. Hawaiian history is also shown to be characterised by fluid changing circumstances, including crucial turning points when options were adopted that took elements of Hawaiian society on paths of development that proved decisive for political unification. These watershed moments were neither inevitable nor predictable. Perhaps the greatest omission in the standard discourse on the political evolution of Hawaiian society is the almost total exclusion of modern indigenous Hawaiian scholarship on this topic. Modern historians from the Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa argue that political leadership and socioeconomic organisation were much more consensus-based than is usually allowed for. Above all, this study finds modern indigenous Hawaiian studies a much better fit with the historical evidence than more conventional scholarship.

Agenda - A Journal of Policy Analysis and Reform: Volume 25, Number 1, 2018

Edited by [William Coleman](#)

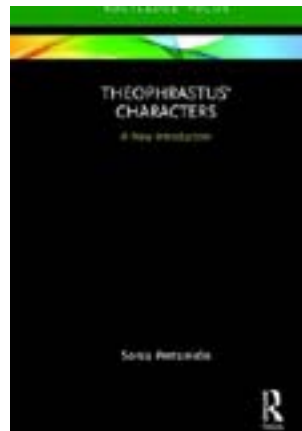
Published by: ANU Press

ISSN (print, rrp \$28.00): 1322-1833

ISSN (online - free): 1447-4735

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/AG.25.01.2018>

Agenda is the journal of the College of Business and Economics, ANU. Launched in 1994, *Agenda* provides a forum for debate on public policy, mainly (but not exclusively) in Australia and New Zealand. It deals largely with economic issues but gives space to social and legal policy and also to the moral and philosophical foundations and implications of policy.



Theophrastus' Characters: A New Introduction

By Dr Sonia Pertsinidis

Published by: Routledge

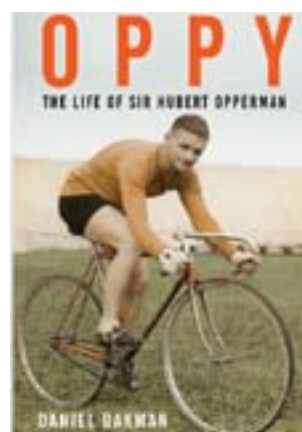
ISBN (print; rrp approx \$95): 9781138244436

ISBN (online - approx \$23): 9781315276922

Theophrastus' Characters: A New Introduction by

Dr Sonia Pertsinidis, Lecturer and Convenor of Ancient Greek, was launched in the Centre for Classical Studies, part of the ANU School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, on May 25. *Theophrastus' Characters* is Dr Pertsinidis's first published monograph. She is also an ANU alumna. Theophrastus was Aristotle's colleague, his successor, and head of his philosophical school for 35 years.

Publisher's link: <https://www.routledge.com/Theophrastus-Characters-A-New-Introduction/Pertsinidis/p/book/9781138244436> For more information contact Fiona Sweet Formiatti at the Centre for Classical Studies, Australian National University, email: fiona.sweet-formiatti@anu.edu.au



Oppy: The Life of Sir Hubert Opperman

by Daniel Oakman

Published by: Melbourne Books

Rrp \$39.95

Sir Hubert 'Oppy' Opperman was a sporting icon, a cycling phenomenon whose epic feats of endurance captivated the world. But Oppy was more than just a champion. During the Great Depression, he became a symbol of Australian fortitude. He became a politician, a household name and a legend—as popular as cricketer Don Bradman and the racehorse Phar Lap.

Author Daniel Oakman, curator Dr Susannah Helman, cycling advocate Stephen Hodge and historian Ian

BOOKSHELF

Hancock will be at the launch of this intimate portrait of an extraordinary Australian on 19 June at 6pm at the National Library. Book signing to follow. Bookings, which are essential, can be made on 02 6262 1424



Sorry Day

by Coral Vass, illustrated by Dub Leffler

Published by: National Library of Australia

Rrp \$24.99

Maggie and her mother await the long anticipated apology to the Stolen Generations. In the crowd, Maggie loses touch of her mother's

hand and is lost. As the prime minister's speech unfolds, Maggie is reunited with her mother. But the faces and memories of the Stolen Generation are all around them.

Author Coral Vass, Dub Leffler and writer and social commentator Dr Anita Heiss launched the children's book on National Sorry Day. It is published by the National Library.

Cage of Ghosts

by Jon Rhodes

Published by: Darkwood

Rrp \$45.00

In this richly illustrated and thought-provoking book, photographer and writer Jon Rhodes investigates Aboriginal ceremonial sites in south-eastern Australia, where the impact of European settlement has been the most intense. Rhodes continues the ethnological and anthropological work of the 19th- and 20th-century documenters of Aboriginal culture to piece together some of the intriguing puzzles and histories he encounters.

On May 29 Jon Rhodes and Professor Tim Bonyhady, of the Australian National University, launched this publication based on the exhibition of the same name held at the National Library in 2007.

MATTERS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

– access website or paste in browser

ANU admissions changes lead the nation, says Minister

Minister for Education and Training Simon Birmingham has welcomed the announcement by Australian National University (ANU) that it is introducing a new integrated, national admissions system. “ANU warrants its status as Australia’s national university with this commitment to welcome, educate and accommodate the best and brightest Australians, regardless of their background,” he said.

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/birmingham/anu-admissions-changes-lead-nation>

Consultation on draft Copyright Amendment (Service Providers) Regulations 2018

The federal government is seeking feedback on minor amendments to the copyright regulations to ensure the proposed changes to the Copyright Amendment (Service Providers) Bill 2017 will operate effectively.

<https://www.communications.gov.au/departmental-news/consultation-draft-copyright-amendment-service-providers-regulations-2018-implement-safe-harbour>

\$22 million for a breakthrough kidney disease treatment

An Australian medical breakthrough that could revolutionise the way kidney disease is treated, supporting millions of patients, will receive \$22 million.

<http://minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/cash/media-releases/22-million-breakthrough-kidney-disease-treatment>

Launch of Antarctic Science Foundation

Australians have the opportunity to contribute the nation’s scientific endeavours in Antarctica and surrounding ocean with the Federal Government’s launch of the Antarctic Science Foundation.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/frydenberg/media-releases/mr20180605.html>

Explaining the formation of China’s vertical sandstone pillars

Analysis of the cosmogenic nuclide beryllium-10 produced in bedrock and river sediment samples has contributed to an understanding of how the vertical sandstone pillars of Zhangjiajie China have evolved, according to ANSTO.

<http://www.ansto.gov.au/AboutANSTO/MediaCentre/News/ACS180396>

Professor Stephen Smith appointed to Resources 2030

Professor Stephen Smith has been appointed to the Australian Government’s Resources 2030 Taskforce.

<http://minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/canavan/media-releases/professor-stephen-smith-appointed-resources-2030-taskforce>

Protecting places of the past for the future

From Abbotsford Convent to Mawson's Hut, Fremantle Prison to Woolmers Estate, historic sites across Australia are set for improved conservation, restoration and promotion.
<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/frydenberg/media-releases/mr20180531.html>

SPY exhibition from the archives

National Archives SPY exhibition tells the story of Australian spies. Often cloaked in myth, the stories of spies are sometimes stranger than fiction. *SPY: Espionage in Australia* reveals the personal experiences of secret agents and the curious history of espionage and counter-espionage in Australia, from Federation through to the present day.

<http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/media/media-releases/2018/spy.aspx>

Australian students to gain language skills through New Colombo Plan

From 2019 the Australian Government will provide new opportunities for Australian undergraduates undertaking New Colombo Plan scholarships and mobility programs to gain proficiency in Indo-Pacific languages..

https://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2018/jb_mr_180228a.aspx?w=tb1CaGpkPX%2FIS0K%2Bg9ZKEg%3D%3D

Inquiry into the competitive neutrality of the national broadcasters

An expert panel is examining whether Australia's national broadcasters are operating in a manner consistent with the general principles of competitive neutrality.

<https://www.communications.gov.au/departmental-news/inquiry-competitive-neutrality-national-broadcasters>

Research facility to advance Australia's wine industry

New research training centre will focus on next-generation bioengineering devices.

<http://www.arc.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/support-research-facility-advance-australias-wine-industry>

Australian and US universities to collaborate on defence research

Four Australian universities have been selected to conduct joint research with US universities on priority defence projects under the US Department of Defence Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI). Griffith University, University of New South Wales and University of Technology Sydney, will work with Duke University, the University of Oregon and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on integrated quantum sensing and control for high fidelity quantum bit operations. Sydney University and the University of New South Wales will partner with the University of Tennessee, Ohio State University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute on a project in material sciences.

<https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/minister/christopher-pyne/media-releases/australian-and-us-universities-collaborate-defence-research>

DIARY DATES

ANUEF inquiries; to Craig Reynolds (creynolds697@gmail.com / Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au) or ANU Events (02 6125 4144 / events@anu.edu.au)

Thursday 14 June, 12.30pm: CHOGM update

AIIA Conference Centre, Stephen House, 32 Thesiger Court, Deakin.

This lunchtime briefing and seminar will be on the outcomes of the 2018 London CHOGM. Keynote Speakers will be HE Mrs Menna Rawlings CMG, British High Commissioner to Australia and Dr Justin Lee, First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The seminar is being presented by the Australian Institute of International Affairs ACT Branch and the Commonwealth Round Table in Australia. For more information email etheridge@netspeed.com.au or use *Registration link:* <https://aiaact.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/19726-the-commonwealth-in-london-a-summit-with-a-difference>

Wednesday 20 June, 12 for 12:30: Lecture with Peter Riggs, “Why Is There Anything At All?”

The answer to why is there anything at all has traditionally been thought to reside with religion. Whilst a theistic solution cannot be disproven, it has been claimed that modern physics offers an alternative (and verifiable) answer. The lecture will examine whether this is a legitimate claim.

ANU/Canberra Times Meet the Author events

Monday, 18 June, 6pm: Michael Mosley

Coombs Lecture Theatre, ANU

Medical author and British television personality, Dr Michael Mosley, will be speaking about his new book, *The Clever Guts Diet*, and taking questions on his other books, including the popular 5:2 diet. Free event. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

Wednesday, 4 July, 6pm: Bob Carr

Coombs Lecture Theatre, ANU

Bob Carr will be speaking on his new book, *Run for your Life. Tearing up the Rules on Political Memoirs*, a candid revelation of his life, dealings with the media, and the secrets of his political life. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

Thursday, 5 July, 6pm: Katharine Murphy

Molonglo Lecture Theatre, Crawford Building, ANU

Political editor of *The Guardian*, Katharine Murphy will be in conversation with Michelle Grattan on Katharine's new book, *On Disruption*, examining the impact of the 24 hour, seven day a week news cycle. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

Wednesday, 18 July, 6pm: David Christian

Molonglo Lecture Theatre, Crawford Building, ANU

Professor David Christian, co-founder with Bill Gates of The Big History Project, will be talking about his new book, *Origin Story. A Big History of Everything*, an epic story of the universe and our place in it, from 13.8 billion years ago to the far future. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

Wednesday August 1: Lisa Harvey Smith

Copland lecture theatre

Thursday August 9: Ellen Broad

Australian China in the World auditorium

Tuesday September 4: Sisonke Msimang

Australian China in the World auditorium

Wednesday November 7: Jane Harper

Copland lecture theatre

ADMINISTRATION

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>

FINDING THE MOLONY ROOM

The Molony Room is on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House. It is building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj> 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://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



The next edition of Emeritus, the ANUEF Newsletter, will be published in July 2018.