

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Vol. 9 | No. 6 July 2018

Editor: Ian Mathews
Ph: 02 6281 4025
M: 0412 487586
Email:
ian.mathews7@bigpond.com.au

Assistant Editor: Kevin Windle
Email: Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au

Design: Kimberley Gaal
Email: ksgaal@hotmail.com
Web: press.anu.edu.au

ANUEF Office
Ph: 02 6125 5300
F: 02 6125 5262
W: www.anu.edu.au/emeritus

Postal Address:
ANU Emeritus Faculty,
Building 1c, 24 Balmain Crescent
The Australian National University
ACT 2601 Australia

Meetings venue:
Molony Room
24 Balmain Crescent
Acton

ANU states its reasons on Ramsay rejection

In a joint statement published on June 25, the Chancellor of The Australian National University, Professor Gareth Evans AC QC, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, set out the ANU's position on the funding offer by the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. They write: On 1 June The Australian National University announced that it was withdrawing from negotiations to create a degree program with the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation. We took our decision for no other reason than the Centre's continued demands for control over the program were inconsistent with the University's academic autonomy.

We anticipated attacks from some for even contemplating introducing the degree, and from others for being anti-Western civilisation. What we had less reason to expect was the protracted media firestorm which has continued daily for nearly a month, in certain sections of the press, with ANU constantly assaulted for capitulating to pressure from those hostile to the Ramsay Centre, but without evidence or new information being offered. Scrutiny from the press is crucial in western democracies in holding public institutions to account - and universities should not escape it.

But does stating over and over again a false narrative make it true?

We have intentionally refrained from going into the details of the University's negotiations with the Ramsay Centre, partly because of our respect for what we had understood to be the confidentiality of those negotiations, partly to allow the Centre clear air to rethink its position after exploring options with other institutions, and partly because of our unwillingness to personalise the arguments in the way that others have been all too ready to do. But it has become obvious that we need now to further explain our decision "in the public square".

If ANU had withdrawn from the program simply because some people within our ranks were uncomfortable, for essentially ideological reasons, with the very idea of it, we would deserve all the criticism hurled at us. But that was absolutely not the case. There was, and remains, strong support across the University for a major enhancement of our teaching and research capacity in the area of Western civilisation studies. We are attracted by the wide-ranging liberal arts courses taught in some prominent American universities, and remain wholly willing to craft a similar degree course here. Designed to convey understanding and respect for the great Western intellectual and cultural traditions - albeit in our own way: analytically rigorous, not triumphalist, and open to comparisons being drawn, as appropriate, with other major intellectual and cultural traditions.

ANU has long been ranked number one in Australia in humanities disciplines, and we already teach some 150 undergraduate subjects addressing Western civilisation themes. The attractiveness of having major new resources to advance them is why an enormous amount of effort has been invested by our staff in developing a very detailed proposal, including a draft syllabus, in support of a Ramsay gift, and why negotiations for common ground continued as long as they did.

So what went wrong? We withdrew from negotiations because there were irreconcilable differences over the governance of the proposed program, not its substance. We were willing to accept the Ramsay Centre having a voice in curriculum design and staff appointments. But only a voice, not a controlling influence. From the outset, however, the Centre has been locked in to an extraordinarily prescriptive micro-management approach to the proposed program, unprecedented in our experience, embodied in a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of some 30 pages with another 40 pages of detailed annexures.

It has insisted on a partnership management committee to oversee every aspect of the curriculum and its implementation - with equal numbers from both the Ramsay Centre and ANU, meaning an effective Ramsay veto.

It has been unwilling to accept our own draft curriculum, and has refused to accept our preferred name for the degree ('Western Civilisation *Studies*'). While acknowledging that any curriculum would have to be endorsed by the ANU Academic Board, it has made clear that to be acceptable to the Ramsay Centre it would have to find favour with the joint management committee - with its representatives being able to sit in the classes that we teach and undertake "health checks" on the courses and the teachers.

It became clear that there are fundamental differences in our respective conceptions of the role of a university. The Centre has gone so far as to insist on the removal of "academic freedom" as a shared objective for the program: this remains in the draft MOU as an ANU objective, not a Ramsay one. For us academic freedom doesn't mean freedom to underperform or to teach without regard to the disciplines or agreed objectives of a particular syllabus. But it does mean appointment or retention of staff on the basis of their demonstrated academic merit, not political or ideological preference.

A continuing concern has been that the proposed Ramsay funding is provided short-term, up for renewal in eight years. A time-limited gift is not in itself problematic, but building a major program involving the hiring of a dozen staff, and then being held hostage to its continuation by a donor whose most senior and influential board members appear to have manifestly different views to ours about university autonomy, is not a happy position for any university to be in.

Ramsay CEO Simon Haines, in an interview in last weekend's Fairfax Press (*The Age*, 23 June), has now at last engaged in a little circumspect distancing from the Tony Abbott article in *Quadrant*, which was very explicit about the controls envisaged. But that dissociation has been a long time coming, and it remains to be seen whether there will in fact be a change in the Ramsay board's position. In successive conversations with the Centre, ANU sought public assurances that Ramsay's position had been misstated, and that the University's autonomy in actually implementing agreed objectives would be fully respected. But no reply we have received has given us any cause to believe that the MOU, with all its over-reach, would be fundamentally revised. In the result, it was simply impossible on our side to believe that there was sufficient trust and confidence for the project to proceed.

We withdrew from the negotiations for governance reasons of this kind. Boiled down, the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation simply did not trust the ANU to deliver a program acceptable to it, and consequently asked for controls on the University's delivery of the degree that ANU could not - and should not - agree to.

ANU, accepts gifts from individuals, foundations, groups, entities, government agencies, and foreign governments. In no cases are these gifts allowed to compromise the University's academic integrity, nor are they allowed to impose on our academic freedom, or autonomy. Regarding historical gifts surrounding our Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS), Australia's leading academic capability in its area, let us be clear: if the Ramsay Centre were to take the same approach to a gift to ANU as the donors to CAIS, we could reach an agreement in less than 48 hours.

The University has never accepted gifts with such restrictions as demanded by Ramsay, and under our watch as Chancellor and Vice Chancellor we never will.

Let us offer this frank assessment as things stand at the moment, as the Ramsay Centre seeks other partners: to succeed, either it will have to change its approach and trust its partners to deliver a program in Western Civilisation studies, or be limited to a university willing to make concessions on academic autonomy. If the Ramsay Centre and its board are prepared to understand and respect the autonomy of Australia's national university, our door remains open.

For comments on the above statement, published on the ANU website, access:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/vcs-update-our-viewpoints-on-ramsay> [paste in browser]

Chifley restoration

In a message to ANU colleagues Professor Paul Pickering, Chair of the Library Advisory Committee and University Librarian Roxanne Missingham say how contributions and replacements for the Chifley Library can be made.

They write, "Thank you for your support of the Chifley Library following the flood on Sunday, 25 February, 2018. Academics, Library staff and community members alike were

devastated by the loss of such an important part of our collection, which has been built over the last 50 years to support world-class research and study. On behalf of the Library Advisory Committee and Library, I can assure you that we are committed not only to rebuilding the collection, but also improving it.

“We are currently in the second stage of rebuilding the Chifley Library collection and are working with the community to replace lost or damaged books, journals and monographs. Although it will be some time before we can accommodate physical donations, we are grateful for your ongoing support and patience.”

For people wishing to support the collection the following options are listed:

- If you would like to donate a [monograph](#), please visit the Library website.
- For enquiries about donating other materials, please let us know by filing in your information [here](#).
- If you would like to suggest new material for the collection, please access the [Library web site](#) to leave your suggestions.
- If you would like to make a financial donation to assist in collection rebuilding please contact Roxanne.Missingham@anu.edu.au.
- You can also review the full list of books available to donate or replace [here](#).

Universities protected by new copyright laws

Universities Australia has welcomed the passage of new laws to give universities, schools and libraries similar copyright protections to companies such as Telstra and Optus. The Copyright Amendment (Services Providers) Act 2018, expands “safe harbour” protections, giving copyright holders an efficient way to get infringing content removed, while protecting institutions that work for the public benefit.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said the peak body had long advocated amending the law in this area. “The changes now mean universities have the same legal certainty and protection that has previously only applied to commercial internet service providers,” Ms Jackson said. “More than a million students and academic staff use university online platforms for their own education and research. These amendments are another important step in modernising Australian copyright law in the digital era.”

Record international student enrolments

Australia’s growth in international education has set another new record, with more than 548,000 overseas students studying here in the latest official numbers from April. New Government figures show a jump of 12 per cent from the same time last year. More than 50 per cent of these students are enrolled in higher education institutions, according to Universities Chief Executive Catriona Jackson, who said that Australia’s universities were key drivers of economic growth and this export income made a big difference to Australian prosperity.

“Australia’s international education sector generates more than \$30 billion a year for our economy,” she said. “International students come to Australia because they are drawn by the

quality of our education system. And the quality of our universities is a major drawcard in its own right. Students know they get a world-class education that sets them up for life, as well as great study experiences, global connections and lifelong friendships.

“These latest figures show it pays to be smart. Education is our third largest export sector and continues to power our economy and protect our prosperity. That’s why we need sustained investment in our universities. The income that Australia generates from educating international students directly supports jobs, wages and living standards in local communities right across our country.

“Australians also benefit from the powerful personal, cultural, diplomatic and trade ties that are forged when students from other nations spend their formative years here. This gives us a huge group of ‘informal ambassadors’ who return home with strong affection for Australia.”

New CSIRO app plugs into people power

CSIRO is calling on all Australians to be part of its energy research by providing information that will improve understanding of the way households consume, generate and interact with energy. By using the new CSIRO Energise app, “citizen scientists” will help to paint a clearer picture of contemporary energy use to guide research and decisions concerning Australia's energy future.

CSIRO Energy Director Dr Tim Finnigan says that by taking part, households across the country will provide valuable data to support the science that will ultimately improve our national energy systems.

"We know the way Australians use energy is changing, but it's important for us to know how quickly, and what's driving that change," Dr Finnigan said. "CSIRO Energise will help fill missing pieces of the puzzle with robust, objective data in areas where our knowledge is lacking. This will ensure that CSIRO can continue to drive the innovation that guides an affordable, sustainable and reliable energy system."

For example, solid data can help overcome information gaps around how much households pay for energy, what is driving these costs, and how to reduce these costs into the future. The app is a key component of CSIRO's Energy Use Data Model project, which is collating, centralising and enhancing various streams of energy data. Until now, this information has never been brought together, and the resulting platform will benefit researchers, government and industry. Over time, users of CSIRO Energise will receive a range of 'micro-surveys' covering general household characteristics, tariffs and power costs, energy-usage patterns, appliances, uptake of renewables, and more. The app will follow users' responses over time and ask questions in response to specific events, like how air conditioning is used on hot days, and how that can then improve understanding and management of peak energy consumption.

CSIRO Energise is intended as a two-way communication channel, with users receiving insights including tips for energy efficiency in the home, cutting-edge research updates, and short videos from scientists.

The future of Antarctica: there is a choice

Choices made in the next decade will have long-term consequences for Antarctica and the globe, according to research published recently in *Nature*. The study explores how Antarctica and the Southern Ocean will change over the next 50 years, and how those changes will impact the rest of the globe.

Two scenarios are considered: one in which greenhouse gas emissions remain unchecked, and one in which strong action is taken to limit emissions and to manage increased human use of Antarctica. In the high emissions narrative, by 2070 major ice shelves have collapsed, sea level rise has accelerated to rates not seen in 20,000 years, ocean acidification and over-fishing have altered Southern Ocean ecosystems, and failure to manage increased human pressures has degraded the Antarctic environment.

In the low emissions narrative, Antarctica in 2070 looks much like it does today. The ice shelves remain intact, Antarctica makes a small contribution to sea level rise, and the continent remains a "natural reserve, dedicated to peace and science" as agreed by Antarctic nations in the late 20th century.

Dr Steve Rintoul, lead author and senior scientist with CSIRO's Centre for Southern Hemisphere Oceans Research and the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre in Hobart, said, "Continued high greenhouse gas emissions risk committing us to changes in Antarctica that will have long-term and far-reaching consequences for Earth and humanity.

"Greenhouse gas emissions must start decreasing in the coming decade to have a realistic prospect of following the low emissions narrative and so avoid global impacts, such as substantial sea level rise."

Co-author Professor Steven Chown of Monash University's School of Biological Sciences and President of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research says, "The message from this work is clear: global sustainability depends on a rapidly closing window of opportunity. If we take action now, to limit greenhouse gas emissions, Antarctic environments will remain much as we have come to know them over the past 200 years. If we do not, they will change dramatically, and through their connections to the rest of the Earth System, result in global impacts with irreversible consequences."

The nine international authors, all winners of the prestigious Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica, are experts in a range of disciplines, including biology, oceanography, glaciology, geophysics, climate science, and policy.

Bookshelf

Island Rivers: Fresh Water and Place in Oceania

Edited by: John & [Jerry K. Jacka](#) | 

ISBN (print – rrp \$55.00): 9781760462161 ISBN (online - free): 9781760462178

Asia-Pacific Environment Monograph 13

ANU Press; DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/IR.06.2018>

Anthropologists have written a great deal about the coastal adaptations and seafaring traditions of Pacific Islanders, but have had much less to say about the significance of rivers for Pacific island culture, livelihood and identity. The authors of this collection seek to fill that gap in the ethnographic record by drawing attention to the deep historical attachments of island communities to rivers, and the ways in which those attachments are changing in response to various forms of economic development and social change. In addition to making a unique contribution to Pacific island ethnography, the authors of this volume speak to a global set of issues of immense importance to a world in which water scarcity, conflict, pollution and the degradation of riparian environments afflict growing numbers of people. Several authors take a political ecology approach to their topic, but the emphasis here is less on hydro-politics than on the cultural meaning of rivers to the communities we describe. How has the cultural significance of rivers shifted as a result of colonisation, development and nation-building? How do people whose identities are fundamentally rooted in their relationship to a particular river renegotiate that relationship when the river is dammed to generate hydro-power or polluted by mining activities? How do blockages in the flow of rivers and underground springs interrupt the intergenerational transmission of local ecological knowledge and hence the ability of local communities to construct collective identities rooted in a sense of place?

Popular Music, Stars and Stardom

Edited by: [Stephen Loy](#) |  [Julie Rickwood](#) |  [Samantha Bennett](#) | 

ISBN (print – rrp \$45.00): 9781760462123 ISBN (online - free): 9781760462130

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/PMSS.06.2018>

A popular fascination with fame and stardom has existed in Western culture since the late eighteenth century; a fascination that, in the twenty-first century, reaches into almost every facet of public life. The pervasive nature of stardom in modern society demands study from the perspectives of a range of distinct but thematically connected disciplines. The exploration of intersections between broader considerations of stardom and the discourses of popular music studies is the genesis for this volume. The chapters collected here demonstrate the variety of work currently being undertaken in stardom studies by scholars in Australia. The contributions range from biographical considerations of the stars of popular music,

contributions to critical discourses of stardom in the industry more broadly, and the various ways in which the use of astronomical metaphors, in both cultural commentary and academic discourse, demonstrate notions of stardom firmly embedded in popular music thought. Not only do these chapters represent a range of perspectives on popular music, stars and stardom, they provide eloquent and innovative contributions to the developing discourse on stardom in popular music.

East Asia Forum Quarterly: Volume 10, Number 2, 2018

ISSN (print- not for purchase): 1837-5081 ISSN (online - free): 1837-509X

ANU Press DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/EAFAQ.10.02.2018>

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. *EAFAQ* 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.

Matters of possible interest

*access website or paste in browser ****

\$33 million research funding to fight rare cancers and rare diseases

The Australian Government will provide \$33 million to researchers to continue the fight against rare cancers and rare diseases.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarelayr2018-hunt077.htm>

Research collaborations for new knowledge and discoveries

Dr Joseph Coventry of The Australian National University has received a grant of \$440,000 for—collaborating with Vast Solar Pty Ltd; Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico, USA; and Nano Frontier Technology Co Ltd—to advance the development of high performing, durable, low-cost light absorber coatings for Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plants, to support the development of CSP as a competitive technology for energy generation. More details about all Linkage Projects announced in June are available from the [ARC website](#) below.

<http://www.arc.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/research-collaborations-new-knowledge-and-discoveries>

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: PM's response

The Government will establish a National Office for Child Safety and issue a formal apology in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australian-government-response-royal-commission-institutional-responses-child-sexual-abuse>

Improving student success in higher education

The Government has released a report on ways to improve the outcomes and prospects of higher education students in Australia. The Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham, said the Improving Retention, Completion and Success in Higher Education report by the Higher Education Standards Panel sets out reforms to better support students.

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/birmingham/improving-student-success-higher-education>

ABC Fact Check wins award

RMIT- ABC Fact Check has won a major fact-checking award at Global Fact 5, the fifth international global fact-checking summit, held in Rome recently.

<http://about.abc.net.au/press-releases/croc-claim-award-winner-for-rmit-abc-fact-check/>

Diary Dates

Craig Reynolds is coordinator of ANUEF's Events' Diary (creynolds697@gmail.com also Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au).

First week in July: Dr Samuel Furphy, Convenor of the Australian Historical Association 2018 Conference says, "The School of History at ANU is hosting the Australian Historical Association annual conference in the first week of July. Although registrations are now closed, we are pleased to invite interested members of the ANU Emeritus Faculty to attend one or more of a number of stimulating roundtable discussions that will be open to the wider ANU community." All these sessions will be held in the Copland Theatre. The dates and topics are:

Tuesday 3 July, 11.00am Writing a national history on a global scale: a preliminary evaluation of A.G. Hopkins' American Empire (2018). Chair: Tim Rowe . Panel: John Gascoigne, Ian Tyrrell

Tuesday 3 July 1.30pm Rescaling the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Chair: Samuel Furphy. Panel: Melanie Nolan, Malcolm Allbrook, Karen Fox, Nicole McLennan.

Tuesday 3 July, 3.30pm Understorey – the campaigns to protect the south-east forests. Film screening and discussion. Chair: Tom Griffiths. Panel: Mark McKenna, John Blay, Fiona Firth.

Wednesday 4 July, 9.00am Knowledges of the Deep Human Past. Chair: Lynette Russell. Panel: Ann McGrath, Laura Rademaker, Ben Silverstein, Aileen Walsh.

Wednesday 4 July, 11.00am Discovering history at scale through Trove. Chair: Hilary Berthon. Panel: Katherine Bode, Garrick Hitchcock, Mark Finnane, Helen Morgan.

Wednesday 4 July, 1.30pm Museums and the Anthropocene. Chair: Andrea Gaynor. Panel: Martha Sear, Leah Lui-Chivizhe, George Main, Cameron Muir, Jenny Newell, Libby Robin.

Thursday 5 July, 11.00am Object Lessons: Australian Journey – The Story of a Nation in 12 Objects.

Chair: Rae Frances • Panel: David Arnold, Frank Bongiorno, Katrina Grant, Panel: Peter Read, Jayne Regan, Bruce Scates.

Thursday 5 July, 1.30pm The Future of Migration History in Australia. Chair: Joy Damousi. Panel: Jayne Persian, Andonis Piperoglou, Alexandra Dellios, Karen Schamberger.

Thursday 5 July, 3.30pm What Is International History Now? Chair: Glenda Sluga. Panel: Sarah Dunstan, Beatrice Wayne, Claire Wright, Ben Huf.

Friday 6 July, 11.00am Animals Count. Chair: Libby Robin. Panel: Nancy Cushing, Andrea Gaynor, David Harris, Rohan Lloyd, Julie McIntyre, Ruth Morgan, Emily O’Gorman.

July 4 Collegiate lunch, 12 for 12:30, Molony Room, **Prame Chopra**, “What Killed the Dinosaurs – Are We Next?” For 160 million years, the dinosaurs ruled the Earth - on land, in the sea and in the air. Then 65 million years ago, they disappeared. Rocks younger than this date contain no fossils of dinosaurs. Scientific debate about this extinction has ranged far and wide over the years without consensus. More recently, a clearer picture has begun to emerge and what looks like a persuasive view has developed. There are definite lessons in this extinction for humanity.

July 18, 12 for 12:30, Lecture by **Tom Cliff**, social scientist on China and expert photographer: “Settler Colonialism and Ethnic Cleansing in China Today.”

July 20, 9am-5.30pm Molonglo Theatre, Crawford School of Public Policy, 132 Lennox Crossing, ANU [China's 40 years of reform and development: 1978-2018](#) The China Economy Program will present the 18th annual China Update conference where leading academics, policy makers and government representatives discuss the latest research on the Chinese economy. Over the years, the China Update has cemented its status as Australia's premier forum for in-depth discussion and analysis of the Chinese economy.

Meet the author

July 4: at 6pm in the Coombs Lecture Theatre, ANU, in a free ANU/ *The Canberra Times* Meet the Author event, 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.

July 5: at 6pm in the Molonglo Lecture Theatre, Crawford Building, ANU in a free ANU/ *The Canberra Times* Meet the Author event, 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-days-a-week news cycle. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

July 18 at 6pm in the Molonglo Lecture Theatre, Crawford Building, ANU in a free ANU/ *The Canberra Times* Meet the Author event, 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.

Further inquiries: Colin Steele, ANU Meet the Author Convenor colin.steele@anu.edu.au

Administration

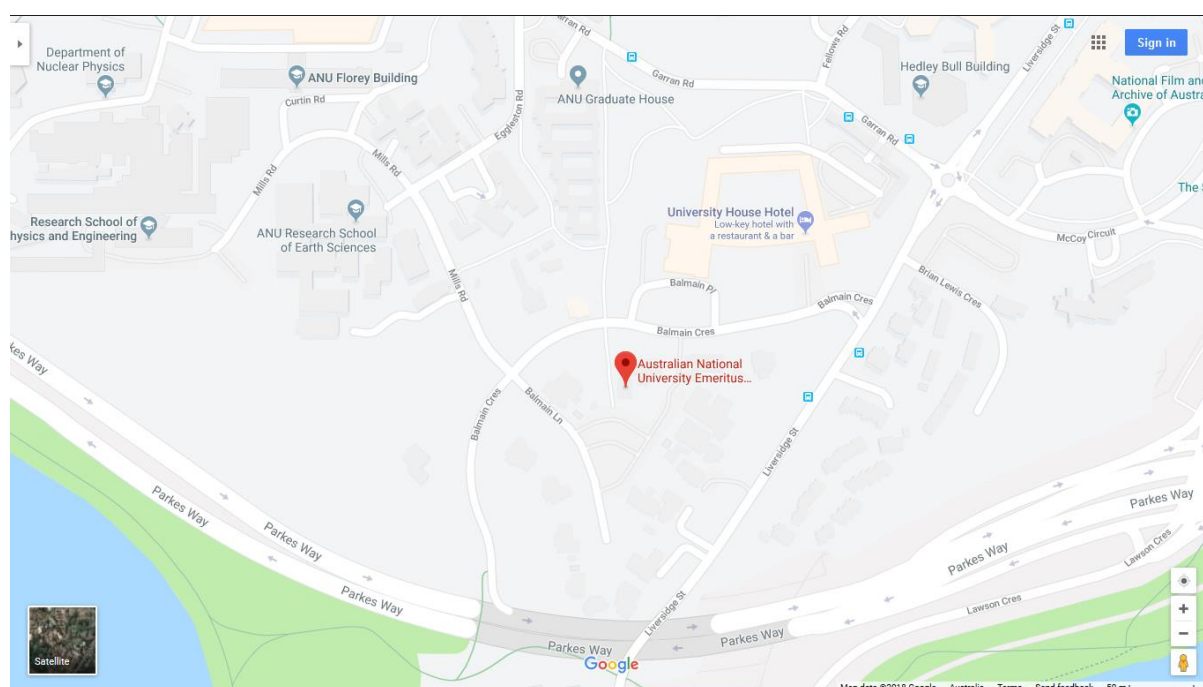
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

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

Finding the Molony Room

The Molony Room is at 24 Balmain Crescent, 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 e-magazine, will be published in August, 2018