

EMERITUS

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Editor: Ian Mathews

Ph: 02 6281 4025

M: 0412 487586

E: ian.mathews7@bigpond.com

Assistant Editor: Kevin Windle

E: Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au

Design: Kimberley Gaal

E: ksgaal@hotmail.com

ANUEF Office

Ph: 02 6125 5300

F: 02 6125 5262

W: www.anu.edu.au/emeritus

Meetings venue:

Molony Room

24 Balmain Crescent

Acton

Location map:

www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/anuef_location_map.html

The Meaning and Purpose of a University

By the late Emeritus Professor John Neylon Molony, STL, JCL; Pont. Univ. Urb. Rome; MA, PhD. ANU.

SINCE THE RISE OF THE MEDIEVAL UNIVERSITIES at Paris and at Bologna over 900 years ago, the universities have always been a vital segment of the formative base and the guiding stars of every civilised society. A university has always been recognised and defined as a community of scholars bound together by a common purpose. That purpose is the cultivation of the intellect through the pursuit of knowledge. By virtue of their union in the bond of collegiality, staff and students work together towards that same end.

Universities have never willingly relinquished their right and duty to function without hindrance in order to achieve their purpose. Civilised societies have granted them their freedom to so act in recognition of their unique contribution to society at all levels, including the functional, the political and the economic. Societies in which that freedom is not respected have witnessed their own degeneration into totalitarianism, as well as the debasement of universities into institutions manipulated for the narrow, and temporary, purposes of the state.

Because the members of a university see knowledge as a whole, made up of parts bearing an essential nature to each other, they regard the theoretical and applied facets of knowledge as interdependent. The very nature of theoretical research makes it unaccountable because to demand its immediate application is to stifle its vitality. Pure research always strives to understand the nature of things. This is a high and irreplaceable act of the human intellect as the great truth of reality unfolds its mystery before the awakening eyes of the beholder.

Within the community of the University, research and teaching are intertwined in that the richness flowing from their blending involves collegiality at the core of its endeavours and thereby imparts a professional education for the service of the wider community. Thus no university can stand apart from the community upon which it depends for its existence. It discounts that accountability by the fruits of its research, by its mental formation of the professionals it sends forth to serve the community.

To demand relevance of a university is to ask that it be true to its essence because fundamental research, scholarship at the highest level and teaching based on equality of opportunity are parts of that essence. The wider community expects that of a university. A prudent government will ask no more. The administrative arm of a university has as its admirable purpose the high aim of assisting the staff and students to fulfil their own responsibilities.

Together with the value of a professional education, the students carry away from their university the ideals of freedom, truth, justice, toleration, calmness, moderation, wisdom and respect for the rule of law as the basis of a genuinely human community. To maintain and foster those ideals a university insists on the governance of its own internal affairs, while recognising

its responsibility to society. It is impossible to divorce human labour in its intellectual expression from the person and to make it merely another part of the process of productivity. To attempt to do so is to debase the intrinsic nature of a university and thereby negate its value.

Thus a university refuses to be governed and controlled in the manner of a corporation or a factory where productivity is the norm. John Henry Newman said that a university is an Alma Mater, knowing her children one by one, not a foundry, a mint or a treadmill. The shoddy and the second rate have no place in an institution that strives always to gain an insight into the truth about things.

The pursuit of the quick return is contrary to the painstaking pursuit of truth. The catch cry of equality echoes hollowly in halls where the only equality recognised is that of the opportunity to achieve the highest goals. The reduction of persons to numbers whose purpose is productivity has no place in a community where the interaction of individuals based on respect is the basis for the communication of truth.

These are the truths held by university. They cannot be gainsaid because they are at the core of humanity. No one can place barriers to the pursuit of knowledge or evaluate it in purely quantitative terms. To do so is to spell the death knoll of the striving of the human race and to debase the intangible, the refined and the beautiful. The university is a human institution with all the failings that the possession of humanity implies. Nevertheless its ideals, its meaning and its purpose will remain cherished in any society in which the higher things of the spirit retain their primacy of value.

John Neylon Molony: positions and books

Formerly head of the Department of History, ANU, Emeritus Professor and a Visiting Fellow of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Adjunct Professor of the Australian Catholic University. His 15 books range across European and Australian history.

Career:

- Foundation Research Professor, Australian Catholic University, Canberra, 1993-96.
- Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History, University College Dublin, 1990-93.
- Emeritus Professor of History, ANU, 1990-2018.
- Manning Clark Professor of Australian History, ANU, 1980-91.
- Professor of History, ANU, 1975-79.
- Head, Department of History, ANU, 1977-86,
- Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Tutor, Department of History, ANU, 1965-74.
- Visiting Lecturer, University of Rome, 1974.
- Member Governing Body, John XXIII College, ANU, 1976-83.
- Acting Dean of Students, ANU, 1976.
- Acting Lecturer in History, Royal Military College, Duntroon, 1965.
- Official Ecclesiastical Crt, Boston, USA, 1953-54.
- Assistant Priest Ballarat, 1954-63.
- Diocesan Chaplain, Young Christian Workers, Ballarat, 1954-63.
- Fellow, Pontifical Liturgical Academy, Rome, 1953.
- Ordained, Rome, 1950.
- President Australian Society for the Study of Labour History 1975-85.
- President, Indo-China Refugee Association 1986-90.
- Trustee, Eureka Stockade Memorial Trust, 1995-.
- Committee Eureka's Children 1994.
- President, Independent Community for Refugees to Australia, 1996-2007.
- President, Dante Alighieri Society, Canberra, 1976-90, 1994-98.
- President, Staff Association ANU, 1976-84.

- Co-founder, secretary, president, Belconnen Branch ALP, 1971-87.
- ACT delegate National Conference, ALP, 1973.
- President, ACT Branch, ALP, 1976.
- Chair, Australian Bicentenary Authority Historical and Political Democracy Taskforce, 1985-86.
- President, ANU Australian Rules Football Club 1978.
- President, Belconnen Football Club, 1988-90.
- ACTAFL Delegate, National Football League Australia, National Australian Football Council, 1986-90.
- Cavaliere of the Italian Republic 1990.
- Life member, Dante Alighieri Society, Canberra, 1990.
- Life member, Belconnen Football Club, 1995.
- Honoured by City of Ballarat, 2001.
- Chair, Emeritus Faculty, ANU, 1999--2004, 2005-2011
- Eureka's Children medal, 2001.
- Visiting Professor University of Pécs, Hungary, 2006

Books:

- *Towards an Apostolic Laity* 1960.
- *A New Age of the Human Person*, (ed) 1963.
- *The Roman Mould of the Australian Catholic Church*, 1969.
- *An Architect of Freedom: John Hubert Plunkett in New South Wales, 1832-1869*, 1973
- *The Emergence of Political Catholicism in Italy: Partito Popolare, 1919-1926*, 1977.
- *I am Ned Kelly*, 1980.
- *Eureka*, 1984.
- *The Penguin Bicentennial History of Australia*, 1987.
- *The Worker Question*, 1991.
- *A Soul Came into Ireland: Thomas Davis; A Biography, 1814-45*, 1995.
- *Eureka*, 2001, new edition.
- *Ned Kelly*, 2001, new edition.
- *The Native-Born: the First White Australians*, 2000
- *Luther's Pine*, 2004
- *Australia Our Heritage*, 2005
- *By Wendouree*, 2010
- *Captain James Cook: Claiming the Great South Land*, 2016

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, acknowledging John Molony's role at The ANU, wrote, "I am very sorry to hear of the recent passing of Emeritus Professor John Molony. Professor Molony was the founder of the ANU Emeritus Faculty. He was an incredible historian and a good friend of many at ANU. My condolences to his friends and family, he will be missed."

ANUEF member Barry Ninham adds that John's article (above), "...revised in the last few weeks before he died (the original was written when he was a visiting professor in Dublin), will appear as an editorial in a new journal called *Substantia*, published from the University of Florence which will be 700 years old in 2022. Boccaccio lectured there on Dante's writings in its first year -1322 - the year of Dante's death.

"*Substantia* is a journal on the History of Science including new discoveries. It is also sponsored by the Museum of The History of Science in Florence. It is a revival of the old *Accademia della Cimento*, founded by two of Galileo's students, and the second academy of science in the world. In times when universities have lost their way it is becoming an important worldwide voice for scholarship. John's article is at the core of these things".

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington resigns

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT of The Australian National University, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, has announced that Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington will step down as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on December 31 2018 in order to amplify her research commitments.

He writes, "Marnie has just signed a three-book contract and been awarded a distinguished visiting professorship to Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, for April next year. This means she will relinquish her role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor on 31 December 2018. Marnie will be welcomed into the College of Arts and Social Sciences as a Professor of History. She will maintain her role as the fifth national secretary of the Rhodes Scholarships in Australia.

"Marnie has served seven years in one of the most demanding jobs in the University. She has done great things as a champion for education and the creation of a work and study environment that is second to none. The reintroduction of Academic Board, the flexible double degrees, Tuckwell Scholarships gift, the distinguished educators and Educational Fellowships Schemes, academic promotions reforms, the rejuvenation of University House, the Admissions, Scholarships and Accommodation (ASA) project, national admissions transparency reforms, and Kambri all serve as legacy of her belief in the potential of people.

"In between all of these projects, Marnie found time to lead the Advancement function for 18 months and to hold two visits at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. She has also published two books: *Revisionist Histories* (2013) and *History as Wonder*, which will be released in December this year.

"It will not be easy to replace Marnie's energy, commitment and passion, but we will begin our search soon. In the interim, Professor Grady Venville will temporarily act as DVCA. On behalf of the whole ANU, I thank Marnie for her service to the University, and for the enormous contribution she has made to our community".

UK lessons underscore the need to nurture universities

BREXIT RISKS and a major boost to UK Research and Development spending are powerful reminders that Australia's world-class universities need the backing of stable policy and sustained investment, according to Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson. Recently in the UK for high-level talks with Government and universities, she said, "UK universities, like many others across the globe, are navigating a time of great uncertainty. Few of the challenges faced by the world's universities are more daunting than Brexit — with the UK preparing to leave the EU in March 2019.

"Negotiations about the post-2020 arrangements are centrally important. If existing strong reciprocal relationships with EU universities change, it could endanger two-way student exchange and research links."

However, the UK was forging ahead of Australia on R&D investment, with the UK Government's commitment to spend 2.4 per cent of GDP on R&D.

"This sits in stark contrast to Australia, where we spend 1.88 per cent of GDP on research and development," Ms Jackson said and went on, "Research is vital to create the future jobs and industries we will all rely on. But the most recent figures show that business investment in R&D has gone backwards in Australia for the first time in almost two decades. We need to see Australia's Government and businesses lift R&D investment so we can match countries like the UK. Otherwise we risk falling further behind the OECD average."

Ms Jackson said the UK and Australian university systems had a strong relationship and often looked to each other to share advances and innovations.

"There is keen interest in Australia's reciprocal arrangements that allow New Zealand citizens to study here as domestic students, the inclusion of student loans in trade deals, like we have with Japan, and developing a comprehensive

international education strategy that mirrors ours,” Ms Jackson said. “There are also mutual lessons both sectors can share about how universities are tackling sexual assault and sexual harassment,” she added.

Ahead of formal Brexit negotiations, Universities UK and Universities Australia will engage with stakeholders about the importance of higher education and research to both economies – and identify areas of shared interest that should feature in any future bilateral agreements.

Filling the aged care gap

UNIVERSITIES STAND READY to work with aged care providers to expand university student placements and deliver the skilled workforce needed to support Australia’s rapidly aging population, says Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson. She says Australia’s world-class universities have the talent needed to fill such placements.

It is predicted 3.5 million Australians will access aged care services every year by 2050. Expanding education and training placements across the aged care industry is one of several major recommendations made in a new strategy released recently, *A Matter of Care*.

Ms Jackson went on, “We are pleased to see the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce has heard our calls for more placements. Australian universities educate more than 100,000 health professionals each year. This covers vital services such as nursing, allied health, medicine and pharmacy – on which Australia’s aging population will increasingly rely. But we also know that if you provide these students with education and training placements, it helps the industry to develop a highly skilled workforce and aids recruitment and retention and it prepares students entering the health professions to work with elderly people in a range of settings, including in their home, in health centres as well as in aged care facilities.”

Another key recommendation in the strategy was to establish a new research centre that would apply aged care research breakthroughs directly into service delivery.

Ms Jackson said, “Australian universities are constantly unlocking discoveries that will fundamentally improve the quality of life for our aging population. This includes work that will help delay the onset of dementia. But research also informs best-practice care for people who already have dementia. Research is vital to improve the quality of life and care for people with this and other conditions.”

A Matter of Care was delivered by the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce, chaired by Professor John Pollaers and released by Ken Wyatt, Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2018-wyatt128.htm>

Universities and researchers not ‘political campaigners’

UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCHERS would not be classified as ‘political campaigners’ when they engaged in public policy debates, under sensible changes to proposed laws on electoral disclosure, Universities Australia says in thanking the Federal Government “for listening carefully to our advocacy and proposing these amendments”.

UA Chief Executive Catriona Jackson urged Parliament to support the amendments to the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017. “Under the previous draft legislation, universities and their researchers would have been branded ‘political campaigners’ merely for expressing views on public policy,” she said. “This would have forced universities to report on all commentary, research and philanthropy gifts which were never intended to seek to influence the result of an election. These amendments sensibly differentiate between ‘political campaigning’ that seeks to influence voters and non-partisan advocacy on important public policy issues. It is vital that our most talented academics continue to be able to bring the results of their research to inform public debate for the benefit of the community. From the latest breakthroughs in medical science, to the problems facing farmers in the bush – Australian university expertise is the bedrock of good public policy.”

The proposed amendments are currently the subject of a short Parliamentary Committee inquiry.

Financing cultural venues: tourists or history?

By David Stephens*

MOST VISITORS TO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES care little for how these places are funded as long as they deliver a “fulfilling visitor experience”, in the cultural-industry jargon. But Canberra’s national institutions — places like the National Library and the National Gallery — are in grave danger of *not* delivering that experience, and senior executives in any of them will tell you this is due to lack of money.

“We’re doing less with less because we have to operate with the capacity that we have and do the best that we can,” the director-general of the National Archives of Australia, David Fricker, [said](#) in March. “So without question we’re delivering fewer public services now than we were five years ago.”

And the response? Cue the [Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories](#), a 12-member parliamentary committee chaired by Liberal MP Ben Morton. The committee held three little-noticed [public hearings](#) in June and August, at which Morton and his deputy, Labor's Gai Brodtmann, did most of the questioning. (Only two other members attended on any day, and Morton himself was absent on August 24, when his party's leadership was being settled elsewhere in the building.)

Although one of the committee's functions is to "conduct inquiries into matters relating to Canberra as the National Capital," none of its 40 or so inquiries over the past two decades has explicitly covered the national cultural institutions. The last time Parliament looked at a comparable subject, in 2008, the Public Accounts Committee did nothing to alleviate the corrosive impact of the [efficiency dividend](#), the annual cut in running costs (introduced in 1987–88) that has forced departments and authorities to do more with less.

This time, Morton and his fellow committee members were asked to inquire into and report on the range of innovative strategies that Canberra's national institutions are using to maintain viability and relevance to sustainably grow their profile, visitor numbers, and revenue, including:

1. creating a strong brand and online presence;
 2. experimenting with new forms of public engagement and audience participation;
 3. conducting outreach outside Canberra;
 4. cultivating private sector support;
 5. developing other income streams; and
 6. ensuring the appropriateness of governance structures; and
- any other relevant matter the Committee wishes to examine, including the process for establishing new institutions.

"Canberra's national institutions are a major drawcard for the nation's capital, attracting local, interstate and overseas visitors," Morton [said](#) when the inquiry was announced. "They contribute significantly to the local economy and Canberra's culture." In other words, the inquiry is not primarily about funding at all — and certainly not about budget funding. It is about getting tourists into Canberra, "bums on seats" at travelling roadshows, and eyeballs in front of computer screens — and doing so while limiting as far as possible the calls on the budget.

The committee has no brief to look at whether the institutions are receiving enough *public* money. The message to institutions seems to be: given that there is not going to be much change in how the budget treats you, tell us what you are doing to make up the shortfall from other sources. Under cover of talking about tourism in Canberra, the inquiry really seems to be about pressuring institutions to bag more corporate dollars. Least of all is it about quality service and cultural heritage.

Surprisingly, neither the minister nor (as yet) the committee has defined which are "Canberra's national institutions." Nowhere in the committee's documentation or in the public submissions is there an authoritative list, though most observers would include (to give them their full names) the National Gallery of Australia, the National Library of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, the National Portrait Gallery, the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, the National Film and Sound Archive (all in the communications and the arts portfolio), and the National Archives of Australia (in the attorney-general's portfolio, with service as well as cultural functions).

While the Australian War Memorial (in Veterans' Affairs) has [escaped](#) some of the government's efficiency strictures, it, too, was on the committee's list. Other non-arts portfolio institutions, like the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (prime minister's portfolio) and Questacon, the science education facility (part of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science), counted themselves in by making submissions.

At its three hearings the committee heard from witnesses representing ten national institutions, eight Australian government departments and authorities, the ACT government, two ACT tourism promotion bodies, and the Community and Public Sector Union, (CPSU). Most national institutions' submissions came to grips with the inquiry's terms of reference but also ranged well beyond them. The other government submissions particularly stressed tourism aspects.

The hearings also focused sharply on visitor numbers (especially schoolchildren) and on Canberra tourism impacts and statistics, as well as on financial constraints (particularly from decades of the efficiency dividend) and what they were preventing the institutions from doing (digitisation of holdings, improved information technology, increased storage space, new buildings, generally providing optimal service). Private sector funding appeared only briefly in most submissions and was less often mentioned in the hearings, reflecting the relatively small amounts most of these institutions currently derive from private sources.

The Australian War Memorial has recently attracted fire for its receipt of corporate donations, particularly those from [arms manufacturers](#) and an [unindicted co-conspirator in a bribery case](#). Memorial representatives spoke (at length) about visitor numbers, new programs, expansion plans (\$500 million worth), financial constraints and digitisation. Director Brendan Nelson argued (as he often does) for the special status of the Memorial: "It is not until you come to the Australian War Memorial that you really understand who we are, what makes us tick as Australians". The Memorial, he added, was also a museum, an archive and "a sacred place".

In more than eight pages of transcript (about forty-five minutes' worth of testimony) Nelson uttered just two brief sentences on private funding. Nor did the committee press the matter, despite its terms of reference about "private sector support" and "other income streams". (The Memorial's eleven-page submission contained a couple of paragraphs on sponsorship and donations.)

Then there were the submitters who were *not* invited to appear at the hearings. The committee received seventy-six submissions, nine of them from national institutions and another six from friends' groups, volunteers or partners of the institutions. Three submissions came from other Australian government departments and authorities and another 16 from the ACT government, ACT tourism bodies, ACT community groups, ACT universities, and politicians - ACT and federal. Here, tourism and its impacts featured heavily. On the funding side, the ACT government and two Green members of the ACT Legislative Assembly opposed an excessive reliance on private sources.

Of these 39, just one, the CPSU, was asked to appear at the public hearings, where its representatives discussed the effects of funding constraints and the suggestion that significant private-sector donors sometimes influenced the direction of exhibitions. On the other hand, five of the Australian government departments or authorities that appeared had not lodged submissions at all.

Collectively, the 39 submitters presented the perspective of users and committed supporters of the national institutions, people who used to run them or work in them, and experts in delivering cultural product. Many of their submissions showed evidence of deep thought and years of involvement. They tended to say less about tourism and visitor numbers and more about national heritage and service quality.

Peak cultural bodies like GLAM Peak (GLAM standing for galleries, libraries and museums), and Museums Galleries Australia (MGA) criticised the effects of the efficiency dividend, and questioned whether it was appropriate for cultural institutions. Users of the National Archives complained of declining service quality. Given the War Memorial's recent record, the organisation I am involved in, Honest History, called for codes of practice to govern corporate donations, while MGA insisted that "diversifying income cannot replace an adequate level of operational funding."

Of course, whom the committee invites to a public hearing is entirely its own decision; and it might also draw evidence from its visits to institutions or from submissions that were not followed up at the public hearings. But it seems to have missed a great opportunity to probe user experience. And it will be interesting to see how far its report delves into those submissions that warn about the hazards of non-budget funding.

Can the committee find a way of balancing the responsibility of governments to fund institutions established by parliament in trust for the nation with the constraints imposed by an element of external funding? The direction of questioning at the hearings suggests that it doesn't see delineating the necessary safeguards as its main goal. And, of course, even if the committee strikes a wise balance, will government take any notice?

Ben Morton put an interesting question to a number of witnesses. Summarised, he asked: what is *the point* of national cultural institutions? The witnesses, senior executives from the institutions, mostly answered with words about keeping national memories, preserving national heritage, and maintaining national collections.

Worthy objectives all, but Morton's question sounds very like one a Department of Finance officer might ask in budget discussions, while noting the precedents for Canberra institutions — especially supposedly "sacred" ones — chasing the corporate dollar. For their part, Finance representatives appearing before the committee avoided answering questions about the efficiency dividend, saying it was a matter for government.

Even more important than the source of funding, though, is the purpose to which it is put. The submission from the Australian Society of Archivists made this point well: "The challenge for our national institutions, though, is not how innovative they are in overcoming funding shortfalls or boosting user numbers, but how they can create, protect and make accessible Australia's collective memory in the face of major digital and technological change and development, and not simply as a tourist attraction."

*David Stephens is secretary of the Honest History coalition, editor of its [website](#) and co-editor of *The Honest History Book* (NewSouth, 2017). Honest History made a submission to the committee's inquiry.

CSIRO launches ASEAN presence

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY will have an increased presence in the ASEAN region as CSIRO launches its presence in Singapore. The announcement was linked with Singapore-headquartered investment company, Temasek, becoming the third largest investor in the \$232 million CSIRO Innovation Fund, managed by Main Sequence Ventures.

The CSIRO Innovation Fund supports new spin-outs, start-ups, and Small and Medium Enterprises engaged in the translation of research generated in the Australian publicly funded research sector, including the CSIRO and universities. The move builds on existing partnerships in the region including in Singapore with Nanyang University, the National University of Singapore and A*STAR, and in Vietnam with the National Space Centre and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

CSIRO's work in the region covers a diverse range of projects, including boosting the Vietnamese prawn industry with [Novacq](#) feedstock, optimising supply chains through South East Asia with [TraNSIT](#) modelling technology, and a number of new partnerships in additive manufacturing, precision medicine, and futures modelling.

Digital innovation can deliver \$315 billion in gross economic value to Australia over the next decade, according to a new report from AlphaBeta Advisors, commissioned by [CSIRO's Data61](#).

To download the *Digital Innovation* report, visit: www.data61.csiro.au/digitalinnovationreport

For more information on the Challenge, visit: www.data61.csiro.au/challengeprogram

CSIRO aims for the Moon

THE LATEST INDUSTRY ROADMAP published by CSIRO encourages the growing domestic space sector to join with international partners to adopt the challenge of providing technological expertise to help to establish a human base on the Moon.

A sector-wide 'lunar challenge' is an exciting opportunity for Australian industry to contribute to a common goal aimed at growing the size of our domestic space industry to \$12billion by 2030.

It will also be used to inspire future generations with a new grand challenge, just as the Apollo program did in the 1960s and 1970s.

Meeting the challenge will involve building capabilities in:

- **Autonomous robotic systems:** Deep space exploration missions are hostile environments for humans, so developments in machine learning, AI and robotics are essential to gather data and supporting analytics.
- **In-situ resource utilisation:** Using local resources at the exploration destination could require mapping and prospecting, processing of new minerals and materials and additive manufacturing capabilities.
- **Habitat and life support:** Deep space exploration missions require innovative systems for all aspects of habitat and life-support including food, medicine, shelter and waste management.
- **Power and propulsion:** Technology solutions suitable for in-situ power generation, energy harvesting and storage, engine and fuel options for rockets and in-space propulsion.

An international coordination group already exists with the aim of expanding human exploration and presence in low Earth orbit, and on the Moon and Mars, over the next two decades.

For more information access: [Space: A Roadmap for unlocking future growth opportunities for Australia](#)

More healthy recipes

WITH A GROWING BODY OF RESEARCH linking gut health with conditions such as cancer, obesity, and auto-immune diseases, the CSIRO has launched a new diet focused on improving gut health. *The CSIRO Healthy Gut Diet* includes a series of meal plans based on whole foods with higher amounts of fibre, especially resistant starch, for improving gut health.

"After the brain, the gut is really the next most crucial and complex part of the human body," CSIRO Director of Health and Biosecurity Dr Rob Grenfell said. "Maintaining a healthy gut can lead to enormous benefits. Beyond digesting our food, it is the coal face of the nutrients our body absorbs, regulates hormones used throughout our body, and is a frontline of our immune response system."

CSIRO researcher and co-author of *The CSIRO Healthy Gut Diet*, Dr Michael Conlon, said having a healthy gut was not as simple as just increasing fibre intake. "There are many factors which influence gut health, but diet appears to have the greatest influence. Dietary fibre in particular is vital for a healthy gut," he said. "For years we've thought all fibre was good for was helping to keep our bowel movements regular, but we now know that fibre offers more health benefits than this, many of which support our gut bacteria in a healthy way. But not all fibres are equal. Our research shows resistant starch is real fibre gold and a major piece of the gut health puzzle that may be missing from many diets.

The recipes and meal plans have been designed with higher amounts of fibre and resistant starch to feed the gut bacteria. This includes a wide variety of whole foods that are as close to their natural state as possible – whole-grain cereals, fruits, vegetables, legumes and a few nuts and seeds.

The CSIRO Healthy Gut Diet book is available in stores and online. For more information or to buy the book visit: www.csiro.au/healthygut

Obituary

Patrick Troy

1936-2018

Patrick Troy joined the ANU in 1966, when he was appointed to the newly-established Urban Research Unit (URU) in the Research School of Social Sciences. He was still actively researching, writing, challenging, and encouraging all comers from his base in the Fenner School when he died suddenly on 24 July 2018. Throughout his long career, Pat remained a passionate advocate for policy-relevant research that was directed to making our built environments more sustainable, efficient, equitable and enabling. In that pursuit, he exemplified several dimensions of the ANU's distinctive mission.

Born in Geraldton in 1936, Pat's childhood was shaped by the political commitments of his father, a prominent official in the Coastal Dock, Rivers and Harbour Works Union of Workers, then full-time secretary of the Maritime Services Union and a member of the Communist Party, and by the determination of both parents that education would expand the opportunities of their five children. For Pat, this drive took him to the academically-selective Perth Modern School and then to the University of Western Australia. He had wanted to study medicine or law; engineering, however, appealed strongly to both father and son as something 'socially useful'.

Advancing through his course, Pat was excited by the attention given to urban planning in post-World War II Australia, remembered in particular for a lecture given by William Holford, of University College, London, travelling via Perth to advise on the planning of Canberra. Encouraged by Gordon Stephenson, who contributed to the Greater London Plan and provided the metropolitan plan for Perth, Pat moved to work on highway planning with the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works. He then undertook further studies in London, gaining more experience in large-scale planning—roads, bridges, power stations, dams—before returning to Australia.

After completing a Master of Engineering at UNSW, Pat was appointed to the NSW State Planning Authority in 1964, joining an energetic group working under Henry Wardlaw, testing new ideas on the fusion of housing, infrastructure, environmental and social policy. Debates among this group prompted Pat to write to Gough Whitlam, then deputy-leader of the Federal Australian Labor Party, who was including the state of Australian cities in a series of speeches outlining a broad reform agenda. Whitlam needed, Pat judged, some help.

At the same time, and in response to the same emerging interests, Wardlaw was invited, along with a group of academics, officials and professionals from around Australia, to attend workshops on urbanisation convened by Noel Butlin, professor of Economic History in RASS. This initiative was one of several ventures to support multidisciplinary research in the School. When Economics, Economic History and Political Science in RASS agreed to contribute to the creation of a unit to systematically address such questions, Wardlaw encouraged Pat to apply for a research fellowship. Canberra, at the peak of innovation under the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC), seemed to be the right place to pursue such interests, and RASS—with its origins in the idea of research applied to the challenges of social and political change—the right institution.

Throughout his time at ANU, Pat remained committed to these elements. Protesting that he was 'only an engineer', he maintained a clear focus on defining the practical problems to be addressed and identifying the mechanisms available to serve that purpose. But he also facilitated and practised a truly interdisciplinary perspective in understanding 'the system' and the context of these issues. He fostered a research-led engagement with public policy, correcting for the 'path dependency' (a favourite phrase for him) that was too often an obstacle to fresh thinking, and which needed to be understood in any concerted program for change.

The URU, later the Urban Research Program (URP), then the Urban and Environment Program, exemplified this inter-disciplinarity. At its core for many years were Pat, Max Neutze (an economist) and Peter Harrison (who joined from the NCDC). A series of shorter-term appointments (some 35 to 1996) added disciplinary bases including sociology, demography, law, history, geography, political science and psychology to a research culture and profile that insisted on making connections. Alongside its central remit, the URU provided a home for a series of focussed, multidisciplinary, research initiatives, built around themes such as 'Social Justice' and 'Compliance'. It provided a base for postgraduate students (over 30), and national and international visitors (over 70) that was, again, distinctive to the ANU. The productivity of the unit was impressive (over 650 books, chapters, articles to 1999) in its span and impact.

Pat's first advice to Whitlam led to deepening relationships with Labor's policy program in the late 1960s. As with several ANU colleagues, such participation was not only a matter of party sympathy, but more fundamentally of politicians (at last) courting expertise. Pat's connections would grow to encompass the political spectrum, extend to many government officials at all levels, and to networks beyond government. In 1972 he divided his study leave between the University of Reading, working with the eminent urbanist and geographer, Peter Hall, and the Environment Directo-

rate of the OECD. The election of the Whitlam government at the end of the year brought an invitation to head the new Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development (which he did much to design), but he agreed to an appointment as deputy secretary, signalling no intention to become, as he put it, 'a career bureaucrat'. He also directed the significant difference between his public service and academic salaries to an account at the ANU which would support future research initiatives. Pat was central to DURD's transformative work until it was disestablished following Labor's defeat in 1975. While his association with public policy development would never be so prominent again, this was not the end of that role. He was, for example, Deputy Chairman of the Australian Housing Corporation (1984-1992), a member of the Australian Housing Council (1995) and of the Board of Inquiry into the Administration of Leasehold in the Australian Capital Territory (2003-2006).

Always conscious of debts to his own mentors, Pat used his connections to support a rising generation of researchers. In 1992 funds from the Commonwealth Department of Education enabled him to launch the Federated PhD Scheme in Urban Research, an annual program of intensive residential workshops which brought graduate students from around Australia, and from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, to assist in ensuring that their work was supported and integrated into wider scholarly, professional and policy agendas. Ventures such as this built on, and built up, good will across the Australian university system, recognised the particular leadership role of the URP, and the ANU. The model was later adopted to support ANU programs in biography and environmental studies, including in collaboration with the National Museum of Australia. In these workshops, as in so much else, Pat was a generous host as well as astute, constructive critic. There was scarcely an idea or issue that did not interest him, and never an occasion that he felt should not be lifted in good humour and inclusiveness.

By the 1990s these roles seemed to find less favour with the leadership of RSSH, amid what others have termed 'the fad for managerial restructuring' and a narrower calculus regarding what the ANU should do with its privileges. The closure of URP by the end of the decade outraged Pat and many others. Moving to the Fenner School as an emeritus fellow, he actively supported the establishment of new programs in urban research at other universities, accepted honorary positions at the Griffith University, UWS and UNSW, and received honorary doctorates from Griffith and the University of Melbourne. His own research and writing never faltered, including in recent years major works on water management and conservation, energy consumption, the history of housing policy, equity in cities, the impact of technological change on urban forms, and incisive critiques of the state of urban planning—not least in contemporary Canberra. His energy for scholarship and its applications never faltered, even with his own recent decline in health.

Much more could—and no doubt will be said of Pat's work. His life was, as Frank Stilwell observes, 'that of a prominent public intellectual', and as 'Australia's greatest champion for seeking social justice through planning for better cities'. At the core of that work was a passionate commitment to the ANU, and a significant contribution to enriching what this university should be. In 1989 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his 'service to education and to urban and regional development'. Survived by his partner, Sandy McKenzie, and his two children, Patrick and Sally, he was farewelled with his own irrepressible injunction: 'Keep fighting, comrades!'

By Nicholas Brown

Professor Ray Spear

14 February, 1933 – 24 July, 2018

The Australian National University is mourning the death of distinguished nuclear physicist Professor Ray Spear. Ray graduated from the University of Melbourne in physics in 1953 and was awarded a PhD in 1959. His supervisor was Noel Dunbar who was a Fulbright post-doctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology, Kellogg Radiation Laboratories from 1952 to 1953. Dunbar was appointed as professor of Physics at Canberra University College in 1959 and subsequently served as ANU Deputy Vice Chancellor (1968-1977).

Nobel winner Willy Fowler of Caltech had formed a very favourable impression of Australian researchers from Dunbar and Dale Hebbard (later of ANU) which led to Ray being appointed as a Fulbright research fellow at Caltech (1960-1961) followed by a sabbatical during 1976-77. At the time (1976), Ziggy Switkowski (past Telstra CEO) was a postdoctoral fellow at Caltech working on reactions of astrophysical significance in supernova explosions and was about to return to Australia. Ray, together with his ex-student Tezer Esat, Caltech graduate students and Graham Sargood, of University of Melbourne, successfully took over and extended these studies.

On his return to Australia (1962), Ray was head-hunted from University of Melbourne by Professor Ernest Titterton, who was the head of the ANU Nuclear Physics Department and Ray arrived in Canberra during the winter of 1964 with wife Valerie and nine-month old daughter Jenny. While at Caltech (1960) Ray was involved in the design

and construction of a unique magnetic spectrograph simply labelled by its radius as the 24-inch spectrometer. In Canberra, Ray supervised the contract for building a version for ANU. A fan of the Collingwood Football Club, he got into the habit of painting parts of the magnet in black and white and at one point the whole toilet in his house.

During the early 70s, together with his ex-student and now postdoctoral fellow Doug Kean and newly arrived prospective PhD student Tezer Esat, Ray embarked on a new experimental program to measure the shapes of nuclei. This was a difficult and risky field, in particular, for a 3-year PhD. However, following initial difficulties the program was highly successful and resulted in numerous publications and PhD theses. The editor of *Physics Letters B*, Pieter Maarten Endt of Utrecht, would review the submitted papers himself and as a rule accept them without sending out to external reviewers. His expressed opinion in one case, the measurement of the “Quadrupole Moment” of carbon-12, was: “This is a tour de force”.

In a field littered with irreproducible results, one of the successes was deemed worthy of a news item in *New Scientist*: “The quadrupole moment of 3 state of ^{208}Pb , reported in *Physical Review Letters* of February 1977: A definitive study that resolved a perplexing discrepancy between experiment and theory while establishing the reliability of the technique” (Trevor Ophel in “*Fire in the Belly*”, 1966 ANU). This body of work, is still cited and has an average citation rate of ≈ 30 per paper, which is a very respectable number in the field.

The 24-inch spectrometer was later converted to a “thermal-ion mass spectrometer” for measuring isotope ratios of astrophysical interest in meteorites and is still in use for dating corals with the U-Th clock to investigate past climates and sea levels. Ray was a strong supporter of these projects and took an active interest in their progress.

Following the winding-down of the “nuclear shapes” experimental program Ray got interested in graduate student issues, in particular, in the quality of supervision provided in different areas of the university. In Nuclear Physics, contact hours with graduate students was essentially daily and intensive. In other areas, the student might interact with their supervisor on occasion, over months. While, this might be normal in some fields, in others it was inadequate. In May 1990 Ray was appointed the Founding Dean of the ANU Graduate School, a position which he held until his retirement in July 1998. Along the way he made significant efforts to resolve issues of supervision and thesis writing, often favouring the students versus some recalcitrant supervisors.

After his retirement, Ray collaborated with Tibor Kibèdi of Nuclear Physics to publish a compilation of “electric-octupole” transition rates in atomic nuclei. It involved extensive reviews of existing data and preparation of diagrams. Ray examined every single piece of information in the literature, working tirelessly and consistently; no details were left out. This work is well recognised internationally, attracting over 250 citations to date. It was followed by a compilation of “electric-monopole” transitions.

At Caltech, Dunbar was involved in the discovery of the existence of a particular energy state in the carbon nucleus - perhaps the most important finding ever by an Australian nuclear physicist. The Yorkshireman and theoretical physicist Fred Hoyle, a frequent visitor at Caltech, had predicted the existence of this state without which the nuclear cycle in stars could not produce the heavier elements starting from hydrogen and helium - a step-by-step process, which relied on specific resonances, to enable heavy element formation. Ray was familiar with this work and the subsequent efforts to reconcile discrepant results in the so-called “triple-alpha” reaction rate to form 12-carbon. He insisted that Tibor use his specialist equipment built at the ANU to tackle the problem. This has led to many successful experiments in Canberra and abroad searching for the correct answer.

During his retirement Ray kept up his interest in on-going research projects, discussing details and suggesting improvements. Discussions extended to families, his farm at Burra where he kept bees and Clydesdale horses, and the world. A host of cherished memories, for a life in science well lived.

He is survived by wife Valerie and daughters Jenny, Hillary and Lyndall.

By Tezer Esat and Tibor Kibèdi

Emeritus Professor Diana Rosemary Howlett

1934-2018

Emeritus Professor Diana Rosemary Howlett, who died recently, was the second woman to be appointed a full professor at the Australian National University. This was in 1982. She was born in 1934 and grew up in the remote town of Ceduna, in the arid southwest of South Australia and later recalled that the nearest building with a staircase was 130 kilometres away, and she “didn’t see a river until she was 20, or anything that could be called a mountain until she was 24”. She hoped to become a high school teacher and to complete secondary school had to move to Port Lincoln where one of her teachers for Geography and English was Colin Thiele, to whom she often referred with great appreciation. She also recalled that in Physics classes the boys could conduct experiments, but the girls could only watch!

For her final year at school she moved to Adelaide Girls High School, and then started a BA at Adelaide University, awarded with honours in 1956. Her honours thesis was on *Viticulture in the Barossa Valley*, and at that time she did not drink wine! She still had to complete a three year bond for her Diploma in Secondary Education and her time at university, and taught at several high schools, including Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Victor Harbour and Adelaide Girls High. She was also a part-time tutor at the University of Adelaide in 1958, where Sir Douglas Mawson and Professor Graham Lawton were important academic influences. Her graduate University career began when she was awarded a Commonwealth PhD scholarship and became a PhD student in 1959 in the Geography Department of the (then) Research School of Pacific Studies at the ANU, Canberra.

At the Research School, her supervisor was Professor Harold Brookfield (but Professor Oskar Spate was also an important influence) and she began to study Papua New Guinea and soon began field work in the PNG highlands. Her thesis investigated the impact on the indigenous socio-economy, after 1950, of the settlement of Europeans in a highland valley relatively near the town of Goroka. At the time it was fairly unusual for a woman to be working in such an isolated part of the highlands and she maintained contact with the people of the village and its neighbourhood for a long time. Her thesis, *A Decade of Change in the Goroka Valley, New Guinea: Land Use and Development in the 1950s*, led to her doctorate being completed in 1962 and conferred in 1963.

Her employment in universities began in 1962, as a research assistant in the ANU's New Guinea Research Unit and then as a Teaching Fellow in Geography at the University of Sydney. She was appointed a Lecturer in Geography at the University of Sydney in March 1963 and continued on the staff there until 1967. Her link to the ANU was also renewed in 1965 when awarded an ANU Postdoctoral Travelling Fellowship to travel overseas and make professional contacts, while on study leave from Sydney. This enabled her to visit several countries in Southeast Asia and Europe, and spend a term at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. It also included time spent in the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University. In 1968 she spent time at the Institute of Planning, University of the Philippines and later that year was appointed Associate Professor in Geography in the State University of New York, on the campus at Oneonta, northern New York State, USA.

Dr Howlett returned to Australia in December 1971 when appointed Research Fellow in the Department of Human Geography, Research School of Pacific Studies, and remained in Canberra at the ANU for the rest of her academic career. This meant that she was able to renew her interest in the geography of Papua New Guinea and most of her subsequent research writings concerned that country, although her first book on PNG, *A Geography of Papua New Guinea*, was published in 1967. A revised version of this volume was published six years later.

In 1979 she held a temporary post as Senior Lecturer in the Geography Department, followed by two years as Senior Research Fellow in the Development Studies Centre, R.S.Pac.S.

When the Foundation Professor of Geography, Basil Johnson, moved from the ANU to Britain in 1982, Diana Howlett was appointed Professor and Head of the Department. At that time, the Department was in the Faculty of Arts, but under her leadership it also joined the Faculty of Science, which added to its range of students. The Department's honours programme was also expanded during her time as Head and she was Head of Department when a number of now senior geographers in Australia and overseas graduated.

In her own research work during the 1970s and early 1980s she maintained her interest in Papua New Guinea, and for some years this included being involved in studies sponsored by the PNG Central Planning Office and the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, which led to the establishment of periodic markets in parts of the Highlands of PNG, and other development programmes. One unusual publication was a volume published by the Government of Papua New Guinea in Melanesian Pidgin English entitled *Simbu: long wanem rot?* [Chimbu: along what road?]. This was a translation, by herself, of a jointly authored monograph (with R. Hide and E. Young) on development issues in the highlands province of Chimbu. It remains one of the very few volumes ever published in Melanesian Pidgin.

During her years in the School of General Studies, Professor Howlett served on a very large number of ANU committees. This was due in part to the University's wish to involve women in more of its administrative activities at the time, and the relatively small number of women in senior positions in the 1980s and 1990s. She was also a member of the governing committees of several national organisations, including the Australian National Commission for UNESCO, the Rhodes Scholarship Committee, and the Australian National Committee for Man and the Biosphere.

After her retirement from ANU in 1999, she was appointed an Emeritus Professor of ANU, and maintained her interest in the University. Throughout her life in Canberra she remained in close contact with her family in South Australia. Her health deteriorated in recent years, but she continued to live independently, aided by neighbours and friends. She was in hospital for some months in 2018, and died peacefully during the night of 9 August, 2018 in the Calvary Hospital, Bruce, A.C.T.

By R. Gerard Ward*

*Note: This obituary has been written with much help from notes on her life kept by Emeritus Professor Howlett.

David Roderick Curtis

(1927-2017)

The first and final years which David Curtis spent at the John Curtin School of Medical Research were, arguably, the most significant in the School's first four decades. David, as one of the first JCSMR PhD students, was one of the last, perhaps the last, surviving individual, to have shared in its temporary accommodation, and the challenges and excitement associated with participating in the birth of an institution unprecedented at that time in Australia. In his three concluding years as Director of JCSMR he accepted, and fulfilled, the dual responsibilities of preventing its dismemberment and restoring a sense of community in a damaged institution.

In his first annual report as director in 1989 Curtis alluded to his association with the School:

I have been fortunate to see this School grow from a group of departments scattered widely over the world in the early 1950s through a stage when four departments occupied temporary accommodation on the University site, to the occupation of the existing building in 1957 and its subsequent growth to be now the largest and most complex biomedical research institution in Australia.

With the benefit of hindsight, David's career interests at the time of his graduation - MB BS - reflected his earliest ambitions. His father's expertise in telecommunication electronics led to his military secondment following the entry of Japan into the Second World War with the responsibility for supervising the transfer of the undersea telephone cable from Bass Strait to the Torres Strait to guarantee secure communication with Port Moresby. Faced with competing career interests, namely medicine and electronics, he opted for medicine, presumably without foreseeing the extent to which seemingly diverse goals were soon to coalesce. Apart from his scientific commitment, he was an excellent pianist.

David enrolled in the University of Melbourne medical faculty in 1945 graduating MB, BS in 1950, followed by two years as a resident medical officer and another as a registrar at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. In the course of his time at RMH he and Lauri, a senior nurse at RMH, were married.

In order to pursue his interest in clinical aspects of diseases of the nervous system, he relocated to the Alfred Hospital. Shortly after this move he attended a lecture by John Eccles who had been appointed to establish a Physiology Department at the foreshadowed JCSMR, although still researching at the University of Dunedin. On enquiring of Eccles after the lecture whether it would be possible to undertake a PhD in his laboratory, Eccles replied "How soon can you start?"

The background to this response was not that Eccles was desperate to recruit. Rather, it was likely to have been a response to the intervention of R. D. (Panzee) Wright, Professor of Physiology at Melbourne University, who was a vigorous supporter of ANU, a member of its interim Council and, no doubt, an enthusiastic recruiter on behalf of the JCSMR. At this time Eccles had yet to establish a laboratory in Canberra but he arranged for David and Lauri to spend a year in New York during which time Curtis was to work with a colleague of Eccles. The arrangement included accommodation and a season ticket to the Metropolitan Opera. Six decades on, he retained fond memories of that experience.

Having joined the JCSMR, Curtis's progress was exceptional. After completing his PhD in 1957, he was appointed to a Professorial Fellowship in 1962 and then as a Professor in the Physiology Department headed by Eccles in 1966. Eccles resigned in that year and David became Acting Departmental Head until the appointment of Peter Bishop in the following year. He was appointed to lead a newly created Department of Pharmacology in 1973. His research achievements were recognised by election to fellowships in the Australian Academy of Science (1966 and president 1986-1990) and the Royal Society (1974).

Several years before Curtis joined his laboratory, Eccles had fundamentally revised his beliefs about the functioning of the synapse, that is the junction between neurones through which they communicate with each other. As synaptic communication was associated with an electrical impulse, it had been assumed that the basic process was electronic, however it had recently been shown to be chemically mediated.

This change in understanding of synaptic function, shortly prior to the start of David's research career, raised the possibility that pharmacological intervention might modify abnormalities underlying some diseases of the nervous system. For three decades his goal was to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the nuances of the processes occurring at synapses. Whilst each year added to understanding of those processes, the overall goal remained consistent.

David Curtis categorised his research as long term, high risk. In this respect, it contrasted fundamentally with research now constrained by contemporary attitudes in relation to funding. With limited exceptions, such attitudes are likely to prefer projects which seek to validate, within short timelines, predicted outcomes. Expectations are that these be readily marketable and commercialised. This is fundamentally inconsistent with 'long term, high risk' research.

The specific aim of his research was to identify chemical transmitter substances responsible for excitation and inhibition at synapses. Such information could assist in identifying and synthesising pharmaceutical agents for treating medical conditions associated with manifestations such as spasticity and tremor.

Curtis's experiments were conducted on the spinal cord and brain of anaesthetised cats and frequently entailed extended periods in the course of which minute quantities of putative neurotransmitters, most commonly amino acids, were introduced into single cells accompanied by observation of electrical correlates, either stimulation or inhibition. Successful experimentation of this type was dependent on two complementary categories of research expertise. These categories entailed chemical synthesis of molecules for testing and high precision glass-blowing to construct equipment to permit the introduction of those molecules into individual nerve cells.

One such notable achievement was a cluster of seven glass pipettes, each of one to two micrometre diameter, which permitted introduction of test chemicals into, and sampling from, individual nerve cells. The location of the researcher among a plethora of electronic equipment inspired some to describe this as Curtis's TARDIS.

Throughout his career, David Curtis regularly acknowledged dependence on his technical support for high precision equipment not commercially available. Academic and technical staff had been, of necessity, closely integrated when the early School was compacted into temporary buildings. This was well illustrated in a 1953 group photo in which all members of the School were intermixed.

Nevertheless, those responsible for the internal design of the permanent building had other ideas which were reflected in a splitting of the tea room, by means of folding doors, into two separate spaces, 'academic' and 'technical', with discrete serving counters. A noteworthy intervention by an academic, Adrian Gibbs, brought an end to this separation.

In March 1989, following the resignation of Robert Porter as JCSMR Director, David Curtis was appointed as his successor, a role which, one suspects, he would not have coveted. Notwithstanding his priority of defending the School from external attack, an ANU history credited him with making: "considerable progress towards healing the School's bruised morale".

This writer recalls meeting David, flourishing the director's office keys, in a corridor on the day he assumed command of the School. One certainly gained the impression that he never considered himself to be an administrator. On the occasion, several years later, of the announcement of his award of an AC, he was quite bemused by a citation *for services to scientific administration*.

A prescient comment in his first director's report, referring to the foreshadowed review of the Institute of Advanced Studies, forecast that "the School faces an uncertain future". His appointment as JCSMR Director was not going to be a pre-retirement 'winding down' but was characterised by a succession of challenges.

The committee appointed by the Minister for Higher Education to undertake the review met on campus in mid-1990 and its report was released in October 1990. Apart from recommendations curtailing other components of the Institute, the review committee singled out the JCSMR for substantial downsizing to be followed by transfer of management of the rump to the National Health and Medical Research Council, hardly good news for a new director.

The review committee was notable (hardly the most appropriate word to describe it) for an entrenched hostility towards the School. Neither the committee nor the Vice-Chancellor extended the most basic courtesy to Curtis of consulting him about its plans for the School. The V-C confided to the committee that: "As a corporate entity the School does not have a sense of its own viability" (whatever that meant).

Notwithstanding the crass performance of the review committee and the ANU administration, Curtis invariably responded in an open and principled manner. That response was required both within the School and in the wider University.

Three separate influences antagonistic to the School can be identified when considering the review committee's report. The first, applicable to the IAS as a whole, was the recent refusal of the University to comply with a ministerial request to amalgamate with the (then) Canberra College of Advanced Education. On its third meeting day, the review committee chair reported on a meeting with the Minister for Higher Education, prompting discussion of merging parts of the ANU with the CCAE.

The second influence was the persistent media bad-mouthing of the School by members dissatisfied with their lot. The Senate inquiry commented that a disproportionate number of those known to be antagonistic to the School had been interviewed by the committee. There were 55 specific references to the School in the review committee minutes and a total of 10 for the remaining seven research schools.

A third long-standing influence was antagonism towards the School generated in a Melbourne research institution. Dr Coombs reported a conversation with its previous director acknowledging that "some of the lads" had organised a campaign against the JCSMR. Following this, Coombs undertook to speak publicly in the School's defence and subsequently did so to great effect.

As regards David Curtis's responses to the review committee, within the School itself, the first concerned the identity of the individual nominated to oversee the implementation of the review committee's recommendations. Curtis objected in the strongest possible terms to the appointment of the current director of the antagonistic Melbourne institution to formulate details of JCSMR deconstruction. This resulted in the nomination of a replacement.

The first visit of this replacement to the School in September 1991 elicited an immediate response from Curtis pointing out that he had operated beyond his remit as an external independent expert: "You have chosen to operate as

a facilitator for the conversion of this School to a NHMRC-funded institute, particularly by discussing with individual members of the academic staff their prospects of future employment”.

Apart from Curtis's defence of the School as described above, he worked through the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies (BIAS) to influence the University Council to defend the School. Following release of the review committee report in October 1990, the University senior administration, through its Council, steered perilously close to abandoning the School in order to rescue the remainder of the Institute of Advanced Studies. Both Curtis and the present writer, as elected members of Council, were invariably in a minority when these issues went to a vote.

The ANU Council meeting of September 1991 considered a paper from the V-C, one paragraph of which could only be read as rejecting the Government position on JCSMR, followed in the succeeding paragraph by an account of the process which was to be undertaken in the course of complying with that position. This statement could be used for teaching purposes to illustrate how a disastrous outcome can be presented in an optimistic light.

The following meeting, in November, constituted the tipping point with the acceptance, on the majority vote, of a claim that the school was to remain part of the ANU, under the control of the Council, despite its future funding being controlled by a government entity. As a reaction to this pronouncement, Curtis presented a contrary argument to the Board of the Institute.

Curtis wrote to the Chair of BIAS:

There is now a strong feeling in the JCSMR that these arrangements are inevitable given the Ministerial determination to transfer the funds, that further negotiations with NHMRC are unlikely to achieve significant alterations in the proposed arrangements.

Two days before the December Council meeting, a very large meeting of University academic and general staff expressed complete opposition to the Council's compliance with Government wishes. The position accepted by the November Council majority emphatically differed from that of the University outside the Mills room.

At its December meeting, the Council was presented with a report from the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies, initiated by Curtis's letter, highly critical of its November decision. The coordinated response from the top of the table which followed clearly reflected a dress rehearsal at the previous day's Council briefing meeting which would have done credit to NIDA.

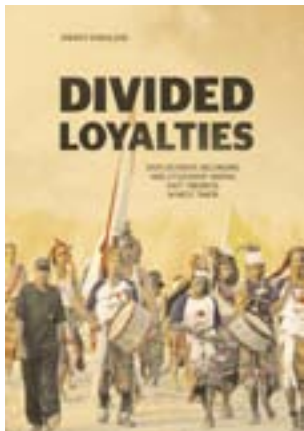
Each of the 'top of the table' speakers explained that he had not comprehended the meaning implied by the adjective 'academic' as employed in University negotiations with the NHMRC. None of the 'November minority' had any wish to question the plausibility of the explanation provided for the reversal of positions. Reversal of the November decision was accomplished by lunchtime. A subsequent Senate inquiry in 1992, in response to which Curtis organised an impressive array of testimonies, was highly critical of both the processes followed by the review committee and its conclusions.

Following his retirement as director in March 1992, David was appointed a University Fellow, a position which enabled him to return to his research for several years, an appropriate acknowledgement of his contribution to the School and, through it, to the University.

With the completion of his Fellowship, David Curtis's research career ceased. Whereas in some disciplines it is possible for a retired researcher to remain active long after formal retirement, the highly individual nature of David's experimentation and especially its dependence on ongoing high-level technical support precluded this. As there was to be no successor pursuing comparable research within the JCSMR, his equipment was presented to researchers in another institution. All that remained was to maintain his career interests by recourse to the scientific literature.

By Peter McCullagh

BOOKSHELF



Divided Loyalties: Displacement, belonging and citizenship among East Timorese in West Timor

By [Andrey Damaledo](#)

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Drawing on extensive ethnographic fieldwork, this study explores the ideas of belonging and citizenship among former pro-autonomy East Timorese who have elected to settle indefinitely in West Timor. The study follows different East Timorese groups and examines various ways they construct and negotiate their socio-political identities following the violent and destructive separation from their homeland. The East Timorese might have had Indonesia as their destination when they left the eastern half of the island in the aftermath of the referendum, but they have not relinquished their cultural identities as East Timorese. The study highlights the significance of the notions of origin, ancestry and alliance in our understanding of East Timorese place-making and belonging to a particular locality. Another feature of belonging that informs East Timorese identity is their narrative of sacrifice to maintain connections with their homeland and move on with their lives in Indonesia. These sacrificial narratives elaborate an East Timorese spirit of struggle and resilience, a feature further exemplified in the transformation of their political activities within the Indonesian political system.



Landlock: Paralyzing Dispute over Minerals on Adivasi Land in India

By Patrik Oskarsson 

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Landlock: Paralyzing Dispute over Minerals on Adivasi Land in India explores the ways in which political controversy over a bauxite mining and refining project on constitutionally protected tribal lands in Andhra Pradesh descended into a state of paralysis where no productive outcome was possible.

Long-running support for Adivasi (or tribal) land rights motivated a wide range of actors to block the project's implementation by recourse to India's dispersed institutional landscape, while project proponents proved adept in proposing workarounds to prevent its outright cancellation. In the ensuing deadlock, the project was unable to move towards completion, while marginalised Adivasi groups were equally unable to repossess their land.

Such a 'landlock' is argued to be characteristic of India's wider inability to deal with conflicts over land matters, despite the crucial importance of land for small-holder livelihoods and various economic processes in an intensely growth-focused country. The result has been frequent yet grindingly slow processes of contestation in which powerful business and state interests are, at times, halted in their tracks, but mostly seem able to slowly exhaust local resistance in their pursuit of large-scale projects that produce no benefits for the rural poor.

BOOKSHELF



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Human Ecology Review is a semi-annual journal that publishes peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research on all aspects of human–environment interactions (Research in Human Ecology). The journal also publishes essays, discussion papers, dialogue, and commentary on special topics relevant to human ecology (Human Ecology Forum), book reviews (Contemporary Human Ecology), and letters, announcements, and other items of interest (Human Ecology Bulletin). As of volume 20(2) *Human Ecology Review* will also publish an occasional paper series in Philosophy of Human Ecology and Social–Environmental Sustainability.

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

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

MATTERS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

– access website or paste in browser

APRA finalises new governance measures for private health insurance industry

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has released a package of prudential standards and guides aimed at improving governance and decision-making in the private health insurance industry.

<https://www.apra.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/apra-finalises-new-measures-enhance-governance-private-health-insurance>

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)

ANU/Canberra Times Meet the Author events

Further details and registrations available at <http://www.anu.edu.au/events/anu-the-canberra-times-meet-the-author-series> or 6125 4144.

October 25, 6pm: Kerry-Anne Walsh

China in the World Auditorium, ANU

Kerry-Anne will be in conversation with Karen Middleton on her new book *Hoodwinked. How Pauline Hanson Fooled a Nation*, which pulls no punches about Pauline Hanson, the woman and politician. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

October 27, 6.15 for 7pm: Eat, Drink and Be Literary dinner with Richard Glover

University House.

Richard Glover will talk about his new book *The Land Before Avocado*, a funny and frank journey to the way Australia used to be. Tickets are \$78 per person and include a two-course special 1970s 'retro' meal, wine, tea and coffee. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

October 30, 6pm: Elizabeth Kleinheinz

China in the World Auditorium, ANU

Elizabeth Kleinheinz will be in conversation with Chris Wallace on Elizabeth's new book. *Germaine, the life of Germaine Greer*, a revealing biography with many new insights on a globally iconic figure. Bookings at anu.edu.au/events or 6125 4144.

November 7: Jane Harper

Copland Lecture Theatre, ANU.

Jane Harper in conversation with Alex Sloan on *The Lost Man*. Venue:

November 12: Minette Walters

China in the World auditorium, ANU.

In conversation with Alex Sloan on *The Last Hours*.

November 16: Kerry O'Brien

Llewellyn Hall

In conversation with Karen Middleton on *Always a Pleasure*.

November 22: David Marr

China in the World auditorium, ANU.

In conversation with Frank Bongiorno on *My Country*. Venue: China in the World auditorium, ANU.

November 28: Eric Idle

Llewellyn Hall

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life. Bookings are open for a founding member of *Monty Python* and creator of *Spamalot*, Eric Idle, who will be in conversation with Alex Sloan on "Always look on the Bright Side of Life." Price \$50, including a signed copy of the book.

December 9, 7pm: Chat 10, looks 3

Llewellyn Hall

Annabel Crabb and Leigh Sales are bringing their podcast series, <http://www.chat-10looks3.com/> live to the Llewellyn Hall.

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/yckuknbnj> 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 November 2018.