

# EMERITUS

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## ANU acts on climate change, travel-ban students

The ANU is providing students affected by the Australian Government's coronavirus travel restrictions with one-off financial assistance worth up to \$5000 - the ANU Travel Restrictions Relief Bursary. And the ANU Council has passed a resolution on climate change. [Details below]. Some China-based students, who have spent a fortnight in a country not subject to any Australian government travel restrictions, have arrived in Canberra to take up their first semester studies. The \$5,000 bursary is to assist with costs reasonably incurred due to the travel restrictions, including self-isolation, travel, accommodation and other related expenses. The bursary is open to ANU students impacted by the mainland China travel restrictions and who could not arrive at the University in time for the beginning of semester (24 February 2020) but are still enrolled on 3 June 2020.

Each grant application will be assessed on a case by case basis and the ANU “will continue to show the same generosity and flexibility that we have applied to all students affected by the travel restrictions,” said Professor Grady Venville, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

The bursary is in addition to previously announced tuition fee concessions for commencing and continuing students who were unable to arrive at ANU by 24 February, 2020. This includes hardship scholarships for commencing students and the option to re-take a failed course at no cost for continuing students.

Students with on-campus accommodation, can continue their Occupancy Agreement until able to arrive at ANU, and can use the bursary to help with costs incurred under the Occupancy Agreement.

Professor Venville added, “We are thinking of you all and can't wait to welcome you back to our campus. We are one community. We are one ANU, and together we will help each other work through these exceptionally tough times and circumstances.”

### **Climate change resolution**

ANU Council has passed a resolution on climate change. The resolution notes that the unprecedented and extreme weather events we have lived through this summer have been exacerbated by climate change, as ANU scientists, among others, have long predicted and warned. Most importantly the resolution commits ANU to taking action to help meet the growing challenge of climate change and that this action needs to happen now. There is no greater, nor more important, issue facing humanity than climate change.

ANU Council’s resolution, adopted last month states:

The ANU Council:

- Recognises that the ANU community has had to deal with multiple severe events this summer including bushfires, smoke and a hailstorm, that have threatened the health and lives of staff, students and our communities, and impacted our environment, while also affecting the operation of the University;
- Accepts that these unprecedented severe events have been exacerbated by climate change as ANU scientists, amongst others, have long predicted and warned; and
- Agrees that ANU needs to respond to these challenges with a continued focus on world-leading climate research, coupled with effective actions to minimise and adapt to climate change.

The ANU Council therefore recognises the urgency of action to address the growing climate challenge, to which the University will respond collectively, using the resources at its disposal, in order to:

- Ameliorate the impact of these events on staff and students;
- Adapt to and mitigate the changing climate and its consequences, including by minimising the University’s greenhouse gas emissions footprint through its own operations (in line with commitments to be greenhouse gas negative as soon as possible) and further reducing the emissions intensity of its investment portfolio;
- Further strengthen our world-leading climate research, and to deploy this to inform and support the development of policies and initiatives that will effectively deal with climate change at both national and international levels; and
- Speak strongly in public, and work with industry and government, to address the dangers of inaction on climate change and the benefits and opportunities of effective, strategic action on climate change.

## Vice-Chancellor to serve another term

In a recent blog, the ANU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, wrote:

I am very honoured to be reappointed as your Vice-Chancellor for another five-year term - it is an amazing privilege, even if it is the hardest job I have ever done. I hope that in continuing in the role, that I can use my skills and knowledge to help all of us advance ANU in its mission to serve Australia and the world. I am proud of what we have achieved together so far, but there is still more we can do. We have just started our journey to ensure ANU truly reflects Australia, and is a place every Australian feels connected to. ANU, through our staff, students and alumni can make the world better - and I want to ensure each of us have the skills, the resources, the opportunities, and the confidence to go and make that change real. We have such a great community which I'm very proud to be part of.

## Obituary

### James Alexander Grieve

**(Belfast 14 November 1934 – Canberra 15 January 2020)**

James Grieve, who died recently after a short illness, will be remembered by many people, for many reasons. In 2018, James was the joint-winner of the annual award for excellence in literary translation of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators. He is the translator of a wide range of titles, including scholarly works on ants, trade in the Roman world, the origin of language, autism, a history of Australia and the prehistory of Indo-China, as well as two books for children.

However, it is as a translator of Proust that James is probably best known. In 1982, with *Swann's Way*, he was the first since Scott Moncrieff in 1922 to do a completely new translation of the first part of Marcel Proust's novel, *A search for lost time*. This was followed in 2002 by his translation, as a member of a team working for Penguin, of part 2 of the novel, *In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower*. He was never a person to decline a challenge and he had strong views on how a translation should be done, with the guiding principle being to render the original work in a way that captured all its nuances in an English devoid of strangeness. Two examples will suffice. Plays on words or on set expressions are notoriously difficult to render. One way to say 'laugh uproariously' in French is to say 'to laugh so as to dislocate one's jaw'. A character in *Swann in love* who took set expressions literally, one evening had to have her jaw put back. There is no set expression in English which speaks of dislocating your jaw and so to talk of a set expression while retaining the jaw, as all the other translations do, makes no sense. James's solution was to have people's funny bone tickled which resulted in the lady of the house having to have her elbow put back. The second example is how to render people's speech. James used to say of Proust that he was a great comic author, and he had a tendency to push this characteristic gently in the direction of pastiche, so that any translation which gave a rendition in a neutral way risked losing the fun. The trickiest problem occurred when handling uneducated speech. James's solution for the servant Françoise was to give her Cockney idioms: 'Oh, good 'eavens! Dear me! sighed Françoise'.

James wrote two young adult novels, *A Season of Grannies* and *They're Only Human*, and a novella, *Something in Common*. Their characters' dialogue contributes greatly to giving them an identity and is often very funny, *Something in Common* in particular being hilarious. But the author is also the polemicist we met as the translator, and each book has its social conscience edge: euthanasia, animal rights, grooming, the blended family, incest, homosexuality...

James was also a teacher. In late 1961 he was appointed Senior Tutor in the Department of French in the School of General Studies. He spent his whole academic life at the ANU, being appointed Lecturer in 1964, Senior Lecturer in 1971 and Reader in 1998. When he was 'retired' in 1999 he stayed on as a Visiting Fellow. When I returned to Canberra in 2014 after spending thirty-one years in Townsville, he was still at his desk. He finished second semester 2019 still in full teaching fettle, and died a few weeks after. His cv states: 'Having taught at ANU from 1962 to 2019, broke the record set in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century by Immanuel Kant, of teaching at the same university for 55 years.'

The authors James taught over the span of his career included Rabelais, Montaigne, Mme de La Fayette, Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Laclos, Constant, Stendhal, Flaubert, Vallès, Zola, Maupassant, Dujardin, Gide, Colette, Chardonne, Sartre, Bazin. Many of these writers were close examiners of the human condition, often with a pessimistic, darkly realistic, critical, cynical or ironic eye. Voltaire and Gide can be singled out: James put on and acted in many French plays during his time at ANU, but only for Voltaire's *Candide* did he write a dramatization in order to include it in the repertoire, while Gide was the writer James chose to do his Masters' thesis on.

It was probably in Gide, in *Les Caves du Vatican*, that James found the notion of the adopted 'uncle', a term which he used in an intellectual sense, writing of Robert Louis Stevenson that he 'had learned much of his craft from his adopted uncles Montaigne, Voltaire, Stendhal et tutti quanti'. *A Season of Grannies* has, if not uncles, adopted grannies from all of whom the heroine learns lessons for life. James himself might have been considered in this light, through the strength of his finely articulated enthusiasms, suggesting aspects of life that were worth exploring, from Comice pears to *Der Rosenkavalier*. One former student says James communicated 'the excitement of learning', another refers to him as a mentor and several were grateful for his readiness to give guidance on cultural and language matters which arose while they were studying in France. Another former student tries to base his teaching of writing on the lessons he learnt from James, while yet another is a professional translator of literature 'because of James'.

When Antiquitus joined the French Department, it was still compulsory for all wishing to matriculate to have studied a language. This had as one consequence students from other faculties choosing to do at least an initial year of a language at university, and as another that all the students studying that language were reasonably proficient. It was only later with the abandonment of the language requirement that numbers dropped and that to survive university language departments had to start teaching beginners' classes. Those familiar with James's resistance to new-fangled inventions like semesterization and on-line lectures and marking will not be surprised that his strong preference was to work with the advanced stream, though as with many of James's stances, nuances are required. An ex-student, now a lecturer, recalls James saying in 2009 that because it was a university he always taught 'to the best and all students will get all they can from that approach', which is true for him only up to a point: the differences between his two major works on writing French described below show a growing willingness to treat basic errors as well as sophisticated ones and he himself said of marking work, 'You spend much more time with the ones who aren't the best'.

James taught students how to write French for all of the 57 years he was at ANU. As with Proust, so in lexical and grammatical work James did not stop at correcting students' errors, moving from handing out 'petites feuilles de papier' containing pearls of wisdom such as 'nom en apposition (Notre prof, vieux schnock)' to the creation of two major works, the *Dictionary of Contemporary French Connectors* (Routledge, 1996) and the online *One-Stop Fiche-Shop* (2019).

[A separate article on the *One-Stop Fiche-Shop* will be published in the April edition]

They are significant additions to the tools available for those wanting to learn how to write in French. Although aimed partly at native speakers of English, much of their material is valuable for a learner of any nationality. The *Dictionary* helps build an argument across a paragraph or even several pages; the *Fiche-Shop* concentrates on the writing of a sentence. As the *Fiche-Shop* has only recently arrived online, it is appropriate to spend some time with it. Running to over 3000 pages, it examines a wide range of lexical and grammatical problems, elementary and advanced, in great detail, analyzing differences with much sensitivity and an abundance of examples.

While its principal quality is its astonishing scholarship, it is an experience to be lived in other ways as well. Very frequently, the examples used are drawn from journalists' writings 'pregnant with intellectual stimulation', journalists who wrote socio-political books as well as articles in reputed weekly publications. They take up the baton carried by Voltaire, Zola, Sartre, who are themselves much quoted. These examples often have a small introduction giving an insight into turbulent episodes of recent French political history, are long enough to establish a proper context for the cultural and grammatical point they are illustrating, and are brilliantly translated, an object lesson in capturing a diversity of styles.

For many years James wrote book reviews for *The Canberra Times*, some of which were memorable for their ferocious demolition of authors he considered guilty of bad writing in its many forms. The same is true of the *Fiche-Shop* concerning recent French writers of fiction such as Michel Houellebecq, 'l'ignoble Houellebecq', 'le pornographe à succès', or Georges Perec, 'ce farceur fumeux que pas mal de Français prennent pour un écrivain de génie'.

Students recall the sound of James's laughter in the corridors, or in class his delivering 'witticisms with a poker face': within the respectable confines of a treatise on writing French, James creates a little world in which, as well as meeting authors both villainous or virtuous, we encounter a cast of characters from the *belle époque* revolving around Binks (588 mentions), notorious spy, duellist and lover, acquaintance of Phileas Fogg and Mrs Fogg. One of his loves is called Gaye de Siever, another, the novelist Widow Wilkes, reads Mâleplaisant and Binks himself meets the painter Pubis de Charlatannes. Indeed, if James's spirit imbues the *Fiche-Shop*, sometimes one has the impression that one is actually meeting him in person – a former student and colleague found the following example: 'À chaque réunion du département, il apportait son pain, son fromage et son vin', which another student recalls as James opening oysters at the back of a faculty meeting (When the legend becomes fact, print the legend). 'My examples' claims James, '[...] are mostly authentic'.

One other publication of James's should be mentioned not only because of the importance he accorded it but because of its value as illustrative of the teacher and the polemicist. At two points in his 2009 interview for the Emeritus Faculty's oral history, James describes discovering a connector which was already in use in spoken and written French but whose existence everyone denied. He likened this to the discovery of a 'planet' or a 'heavenly body', a comparison later modestly modified to 'a minor moon of a distant satellite of an even more distant star'. He spoke of the article in which he describes this discovery as 'one of

the most important publications that I ever produced'. The connector was 'au final'. The article, written in 1994, stated early in the piece that 'No dictionary appears to have recorded [...] the existence of the structure'. However, as he told me recently, some time after he sent off the article, he spoke of his discovery to one of his classes, adjuring them to remember that they had heard it first in that class, and promising them that if anyone did find the expression in a standard dictionary, he would give them a dollar. Lo and behold, in the very next class a student did indeed come forward, with the information that the expression was in the *Nouveau Petit Robert* of 1993. In a Postscript in the companion online journal to the one the article appeared in, *Cahiers*, James retracts the claim and acknowledges the student's role in the retraction. He explains the error by the fact that the Robert dictionary had placed the expression with the adjective 'final' rather than with the noun 'final', whose existence it had refused to accept. An entry in the *Fiche-Shop* made in 2007, reiterating these points, continues this running skirmish with the compilers. The smoke of battle should not however obscure the fact that the article does put forward a convincing hypothesis about how the expression came into being and the contexts in which it is now used: the planet had already been seen, but he has shown how it was formed and how it behaves.

If after his 'retirement' in 1999 James continued to teach discursive writing, he also taught in the Translation Studies course. A colleague says of him: 'James was a wonderful source of assistance, inspiration and support. [...] The fact that the postgraduate Translation Studies programme has been so successful, with able students taking the Masters, and some good PhDs, is in no small measure thanks to him.'

When one is a translator and a teacher of one language while having one's mother tongue in another, there is a propensity for displacement, for not quite fitting. The same may be said for actors in their parts. This seems to have been an early tendency with James: in his oral history interview he says 'I've taken to saying I was born in exile [in Northern Ireland of Scottish parents] and I've lived there ever since, in that I don't really have any feeling of affiliation with any particular society'. People speaking of James noted his straw boater, his bicycle, his bottle of wine, his cheese-paring Opinel knife, all of which evoked someone in a French village, or his welcoming students to his office 'with the serene demeanour of an eighteenth-century gentleman of leisure'. These attributes set him apart from a commitment to Australia - there is no doubt a certain freedom to determine one's own destiny in not having such attachments - and made a statement about the existence and attractiveness of other cultures, 'cultural relativism' as James calls it in his interview, as well as indulging a sense of mischief which was not altogether foreign to him, while still not being a firm commitment to France, the French culture being alluded to not being the French culture of today but some abstract notion of the eighteenth century or life in a French village some years ago, (where doubtless bikes were ridden without helmets, one of James's lesser causes). If there was an attachment of some stability, it would have been to the French intellectual tradition and the French language. When his French colleague Jacqueline Mayrhofer needed a male voice of native-speaker quality for the oral recordings for her course *A vous, maintenant*, she chose James.

James said he was lucky to have found a job which he liked so much: it was so absorbing that he did not really look forward to the weekends, or holidays, or retirement. As it happened, he never did have to retire. It is also the case that despite his dedication to his work, he was often willing to champion causes - euthanasia, abortion, gay rights, Amnesty International, the Orr case... - to which he generously contributed energy, intellect and money. In addition, he participated in the running of the university (as Research Secretary of the Humanities Research Centre, as Secretary of the Staff Association, as Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Arts, as Convener of French, as Obituaries Officer of the Emeritus Faculty).

This obituary being for the Emeritus Faculty has concentrated on James's professional life. Stephen, Christina, Ruth and Juliet who were with James in his last weeks have fond family memories of the sabbaticals they spent together in France. Echoes of one of them are in *Something in Common*, James's happiest book. His table-tennis and squash partners can testify to his never-say-die spirit. And there was his love of classical music. In the manner we have come to associate with him, he did something about it. Dr Nicholas Milton, the Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, writes: 'he was involved in planning with me several special performances of works for the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and he was kind enough to make some financial contributions towards our orchestra to make those performances possible. In particular, I recall he was keen that we program Beethoven's Leonore Nr. 3'. It is no surprise that Dr Milton continued: 'He had very specific interests, and I recall thinking, he was a man who had a clear idea of what music he felt was great, and what music was simply not interesting to him. I respected and appreciated his firm views.'

A member of James's wine-bottling circle (of course using corks), has said this of him: 'It seems to me he [...] had a very strong, but in my memory, not directly expressed principle: friends are sacred, and that trumped the more regularly expressed views. He had a genius for friendship. His care and respect for friends was rock solid, irrespective of any difference of opinion on matters that he regularly talked about.' The accuracy of this assertion is borne out by the number of respondents who have written in affectionately and whose contributions to this obituary are gratefully acknowledged.

Five years ago I asked James his opinion about the extent to which Robert Louis Stevenson's writing is referred to in Proust, who had read him in his youth. Part of his response was to talk of his own enthusiasm for Stevenson: 'As an artificer of the sentence, I think he was unsurpassed. However often I read the last three pages of *The Amateur Emigrant*, the coming of the immigrants to California at last, I am in tears.' The pages to which James, himself a great artificer of the sentence, refers, express compassion for people struggling to establish a new life. And the book ends in a flood of light, in a way that will reappear in Proust:

A spot of cloudy gold lit first upon the head of Tamalpais, and then  
widened downward on its shapely shoulder; the air seemed to awaken,  
and began to sparkle; and suddenly

*The tall hills Titan discovered*

and the city of San Francisco, and the bay of gold and corn, were lit  
from end to end with summer daylight.

**Chris Mann**

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## The Great *WORONI* Raid

In those dim days all but beyond recall, ‘student politics’ was an expression familiar to all at the University as it was then, whether students or academics. It usually amounted to rivalry between a left faction and the young Liberals. In the annual elections for office bearers of the Students’ Association, one of whom was the editor of *Woroni*, what was at stake was real power, the power to dispense funds. In dispute, by 1980, was the University’s system of compulsory payment of fees by all students to the Students’ Association and its subscription to the Australian Union of Students. The incumbent democrats of the *Woroni* Collective having declined to print a promotional notice for the young Liberals’ candidate for President of the Students’ Association, the Liberals decided to get the notice printed in the paper by hook or by crook. As it turned out, they succeeded in that, mainly by crook.

But teamwork, timing, daring, luck and ingenuity were of the essence too. If crookery is to succeed, it often needs all of them. The commando had to prepare a camera-ready back page of their own, trick the press operator at *The Queanbeyan Age* into removing the original from the proof copy (already in the hands of the printer), replace it by their page, have the new paper printed in its entirety, then collect the printed version and get it back to ANU for distribution at the usual points at about the usual time, all before the *Woroni* Collective tumbled to the tampering.

The spearhead pair reached Queanbeyan just before lunch, to be met with their first setback : the printer declined to replace the back page unless expressly told to do so by the editor of *Woroni*. They thought they could sense something in his tone, as he told them of the tight timing of the print run then went off to lunch. A little later, happening to find the shop unoccupied, they had time to locate the thirty-two pages of copy and swap the back pages. Meanwhile, back at the Union, by occupying available phones in the Students’ Association office, other accomplices disrupted communication between the *Woroni* Collective and the printer, in both directions.

Just after 2 o’clock, the barefaced Queanbeyan pair collected the printed bundles of *Woroni* and drove them to ANU to start circulating the paper at its usual points, working through the halls of residence down towards the Union Refectory.

By now, the left hand was on to what the right hand was up to : no sooner had the commando dealt out the copies of the new paper than the *Woroni* Collective and its cohorts picked them up and prevented distribution to any readership. The Students’ Association declared that it had sought an injunction against further distribution and that, if this was breached, the matter would be referred to the police. Young Liberals knew when they were beaten. They were beaten too in the elections that followed, albeit by a lesser margin than before. Forty years later, some have had greater success, as lawyers, as diplomats in the Department of Foreign Affairs, even as a member of Parliament. How much crookery, daring, luck and ingenuity this required of them history does not record.

*ANTIQVITVS*



## **Obituary**

### **Bruce Kent (15 February 1932 – 28 September 2018)**

The passing of Dr Bruce Eric Kent is an occasion to remember a remarkable man, a fine scholar and one of this University's most beloved teachers.

He was a scholar of Europe and then China. His magnum opus, *The Spoils of War* - long in germination and heavy on the bookshelf - remains a key text for European economic and political history between the wars.

After representing Victoria as a Rhodes Scholar from 1955, Dr Kent returned to complete his PhD at ANU in 1962. He never left, teaching modern history for the next 35 years. He was a key figure in the golden age of the Department of History which, under the leadership of Professor Manning Clark, forged an unwavering commitment to intellectual excellence and secured an outstanding reputation. Upon his retirement, Dr Kent found a new home at the National Europe Centre and was based there until 2011. In short, he was inextricably linked to Canberra and ANU for more than 50 years.

Dr Kent was the finest teacher I ever had. He inspired generations of students, including several future historians. His knowledge, kindness and rigour shaped my intellectual life.

By 1969 he was already a fixture at the ANU, both as a dashing young lecturer and Deputy Warden of Bruce Hall. However, in an article in *Woroni* that year, his teaching style came in for considerable stick. "Moving around the room, inspecting the windows and ceilings together with one's own fingernails, fails to capture the attention of the educated," wrote the student critic. In that article, Kent earnestly promised 'more polish and speed in deliverance'.

I can only imagine he had his tongue firmly in his cheek. By the time I arrived, 10 years later, nothing had changed, thank God. He was a teacher of infinite wisdom and impish wit. He was a great storyteller, an attentive reader, a dispassionate critic; he was the kind of man who makes you want to do better so as not to let him down.

If he spoke with patient deliberation, it fitted both his academic discipline and his temperament. Like Wittgenstein, he thought academics should salute each other with the words 'take your time'. His slow, careful approach to everything from the Tennis Court Oath to a joke, fooled us all into thinking that, like a turtle, he was going to live forever. Alas, no - he has been untimely ripped from us at the youthful age of 86.

But, in those early days when Canberra was so much smaller and the University therefore loomed correspondingly larger, Dr Kent was the indispensable man. He played violin in the early days of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. The main criterion for entry in those days, he once told me in his self-deprecating way, was a pulse and your own instrument. But his musicianship had many other outlets. I remember one lecture involving an elaborate metaphor in which he compared the French revolution (1789) to the finale of Mozart's *Jupiter* symphony (1788). We ended up singing it in two-part harmony, for the dubious benefit of what he thought of as the students (and I thought of as the audience). But to this day I cannot listen to it without recalling the *sans culottes*, the Bastille, and Bruce. If *that's* not teaching, I don't know what is.

At Oxford, he had played cricket and rugby with distinction. Back in Canberra, he was instrumental in founding the University Rugby Union Club and indeed captained the ACT representative side, another tribute to his remarkable abilities. In the 1980s, he was a stalwart

of the annual neighbourhood cricket match I used to organise way back then. I was in my 20s, he was in his 50s.

I distinctly remember him ambling up to the wicket, an old geezer lobbing down a harmless variety of leg spin. I thought to myself, 'here's a go' and had a good swipe at it but missed the ball abjectly and was comprehensively bowled. That was Bruce. There's many a student who has been deceived by his shambling demeanour into underestimating his steely purpose and forensic aim. If *that's* not teaching, I don't know what is.

Despite these many gifts, and a warmly generous spirit that imbued everything he did, it was another event that secured Dr Kent his place in Canberra's history - the long and courageous battle he fought to prevent the erection of what is now known as Telstra Tower, a small and now largely ignored episode of bureaucratic hubris. The Save Black Mountain campaign was led by some of the University's finest, many of whom now have buildings named after them: the Hancock Library, Fenner Hall and, of course, as careful readers must surely have guessed, Bruce Hall.

In his book on the history of Canberra, Sir Keith Hancock calls his chapter on the affair, *Bruce Kent & Others*. This was not only the name of the case against the government they famously won against all the odds in the ACT Supreme Court, but a fitting testimony to Bruce's role in it. He was really the engine room of the thing. Of course, although the government lost the battle, they won the war. They simply changed the laws and went ahead regardless. But the fight against the Awful Tower was a trial run, a miniature test case for a whole set of pioneering legal and community strategies that set the scene for the many environmental battles, both local and global, yet to come - and still to come. And Dr Kent was there, right at the start, his finger in that pie, too.

He was many things to many, many people: a legendary teacher, brilliant scholar, athlete, musician, activist and cyclist. In 1973 he was sent on secondment to become part of the University's first academic exchange with China. As I write this, I have a wonderful photo of him on that trip in front of me: young, beaming with pleasure, speeding along on a bicycle and sending scores of locals scurrying for cover. He is clearly more than a match for the bus he is overtaking, though they are both wearing similar shades of lilac. That is Bruce Kent to the life: indomitable, gentle, courageous.

He had a heart as big, as compendious, as welcoming, as a bus. It gave out, eventually - but not before blessing us with his love and compassion and intelligence and a radical spirit for many lucky years. Dr Bruce Eric Kent was a great man of this University, and a great Canberran too.

**Professor Desmond Manderson  
Australian National University,  
Canberra**

## **Universities Australia**

### **Student welfare the priority of all universities in epidemic**

Universities are well prepared for the further extension of travel restrictions on visitors from China due to the spreading coronavirus epidemic, according to Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson, who said such decisions by the government were based on expert medical advice.

"Universities will continue to adhere to that advice," she said and went on, "The priority of every university is the health, safety and welfare of their students and staff both overseas and in Australia. Universities have been in touch with every student who has been affected, offering their support and reassurance. For students who remain in China, they have been provided with a range of options including postponing course start dates, delaying assessments, offering fee-free deferrals and being able to access course content online."

Australia's university leaders have expressed deep compassion and concern for their students in China who have not yet been able to travel to start their studies in Australia this year. They affirmed the sector will always adhere meticulously to expert medical advice as the coronavirus epidemic continues to evolve rapidly.

Universities Australia Chair Professor Deborah Terry AO said the coronavirus was the overriding issue when Vice-Chancellors met in recently Canberra. "The depth of personal concern for the wellbeing of our students, staff and wider communities has been palpably clear in every discussion," she said. "As is the consistent commitment always to act in line with expert medical advice. Our utmost priority will always be the health, safety and wellbeing of all of our students, staff, and the broader Australian public."

### **Expertise and evidence best defence against future challenges**

After a summer of bushfires, floods, drought and coronavirus, the big challenges facing humanity are "at an alarming juncture" - and evidence and expertise will be crucial to solve them, Universities Australia Chair Professor Deborah Terry AO said in a recent speech to the National Press Club.

She noted that experts have been sounding the alarm for decades over threats such as climate change, and recent events had brought home the need for action. "Something is changing. That's not just the lived experience of everyday Australians over this longest of summers. It's also the evidence-based warning of our most informed experts. The expertise in our university communities is essential to find clever solutions to our biggest and most complex challenges." She urged Australians to act on the advice of fire chiefs, scientific researchers and public health officials because "their expertise is our best defence against future terrors...They have helped us understand more about what is happening across our country – and its implications for the future."

Professor Terry highlighted how university researchers had turned their expertise into practical tools to help Australians in their daily lives including:

- University fire experts teaching us about the changing scale and behaviour of fires.
- Social scientists sharing expertise to support our communities in grief and recovery.
- Conservation scientists sharing knowledge in the race to save endangered species.

- Water scientists helping to protect drinking water sources and dams from the risks that follow bushfire – when heavy rains risk flushing ash and pollutants into our drinking water.

“So, to the Government and to the Parliament, we say: we’re here to help,” she said. “The expertise of our university research community is a resource for the nation. And we want you to tap into that resource.”

Last year, new research found Australian university researchers and experts are the most trusted group in society to ensure facts and evidence are part of important public debates. University researchers were the single most trusted group on this question — rating higher than doctors, business leaders, politicians, journalists, and churches.

## **Uni-business collaborations best for investment returns**

Clever collaborations between Australia’s universities and businesses return almost \$4.50 on average to companies for each dollar they invest. And the total direct benefit to businesses was \$12.8 billion in 2018-19 – or an average return to each company of \$763,307. New modelling for Universities Australia by Ernst & Young, launched at the National Press Club, finds the number of businesses collaborating rose from 16,000 firms in 2016-17 to 16,867 in 2018-19 – or a five percent jump in two years.

Universities Australia Chair Professor Deborah Terry AO said the new figures made a strong “business case to business” that partnering with universities delivers impressive returns.

“These collaborations aren’t about charity or philanthropy – there’s a clear-eyed business case and a demonstrated return on investment to firms that partner with universities.

“Our universities are brimming with brilliant researchers, scientists, and experts who lead their fields and have a keen eye on global industry trends. Universities are reaching out to business once again today to say: we’re here to help. Come and talk to us about how we can help to solve your most complex business challenges.”

Key findings in the new modelling include:

The direct benefit to business of university/business collaboration in 2018-19 was \$12.8 billion;

Every dollar invested by business in university/business collaboration returns \$4.47 on average;

The benefit of this collaboration to the Australian economy in 2018-19 was \$26.5 billion; These collaborations help support 38,500 fulltime jobs.

## **Indigenous students increase at universities**

Further strong gains have been made in Indigenous students going to university, with enrolments up 3.6 percent in 2018 – compared to 0.4 percent for non-Indigenous students. Building on progress over the past decade, the latest growth means 19,935 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are now studying at university – up from 9,490 in 2008.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson says these gains are important to closing the gap, because having a university degree completely closes the gap in employment rates between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people. The data is published in an annual progress report under the Universities Australia Indigenous Strategy – drafted in partnership with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIHEC).

Ms Jackson warned that more remained to be done to close the gap in university enrolments, further strong progress had been made this year. “Indigenous enrolments have run at triple the rate of growth for non-Indigenous student enrolments in recent years – and that’s terrific,” she said. “But the youth population in Indigenous communities has also grown – so, in coming years, we’ll have to work harder to keep the gains made in the past decade, especially among young men.”

NATSIHEC President Dr Leanne Holt said it was important to acknowledge the strong progress, while also setting sights on the next areas where gains were needed. This included further work to develop Indigenous research strategies at universities and grow the pipeline of Indigenous academics rising through the ranks of teaching and research roles.

“Fostering Indigenous research and teaching talent in universities will help to create more of the visible role models who are crucial to Indigenous student recruitment and success,” she said. “And it creates a powerful cohort across the academy who bring their knowledge, leadership and research capability to the big challenges for our people and our country.”

This year’s report also highlights that gains have been made to embed Indigenous knowledge and content in more university courses and subjects for all students to study. Under the UA Indigenous Strategy 2017-2020, the UA Board and NATSIHEC executive meet each year to review progress and set priorities for their work together. This year, UA will consult across the sector and with Indigenous partners to refresh the targets and goals of the strategy, reflect the progress made, and identify areas for renewed focus and effort.

The second annual progress report can be found at:

<https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/>

or control/click [here](#).

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## **Termites show the path to low emissions future**

Hidden metal deposits needed to transition the world to low emission technologies can be discovered using metallic blue crusts in soils and on termite mounds as signposts, according to new research from the CSIRO.

CSIRO’s study in the southern Pilbara region of WA used advances in sample analysis to show how metallic blue crusts, known as manganese crusts, display unique zinc signatures that indicate the presence of other base metals in the surrounding area. The manganese crusts are also found in rock and cave varnishes, making them an easily accessible exploration tool for base metals including nickel and cobalt, which will support the world’s transition to a low emissions future.

Termite mounds are already being used in Australian exploration, following earlier CSIRO research that found termites bring up small particles from an ore deposit and store them in their mound.

“Australian exploration companies have been analysing samples from termite mounds in gold exploration in recent years, now zinc offers another technique for use in broader environments and to find a range of metals,” CSIRO research group leader, Dr Yulia Uvarova, said.

The research findings have been published in the journal *Chemical Geology*, and available for CSIRO’s partners to use in exploration.

***Learning from  
Fukushima:  
Nuclear power in East Asia***

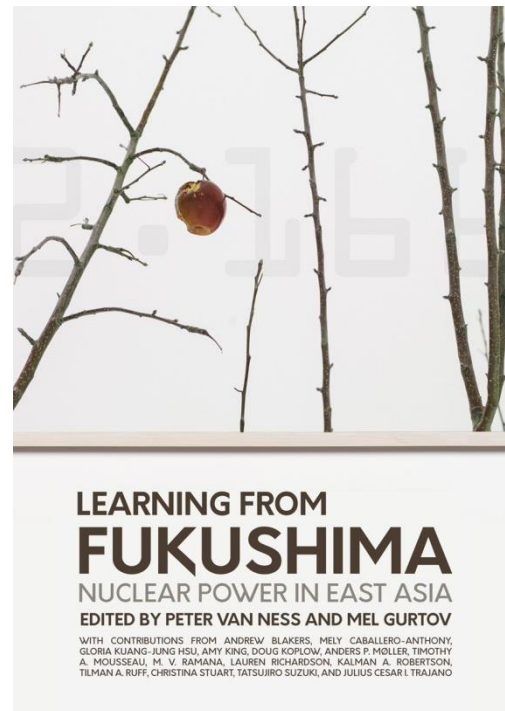
**Edited by:** [Peter Van Ness](#), [Mel Gurtov](#)

ISBN (print): 9781760461393

ISBN (online): 9781760461409

ANU Press; DOI:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.22459/LF.09.2017>

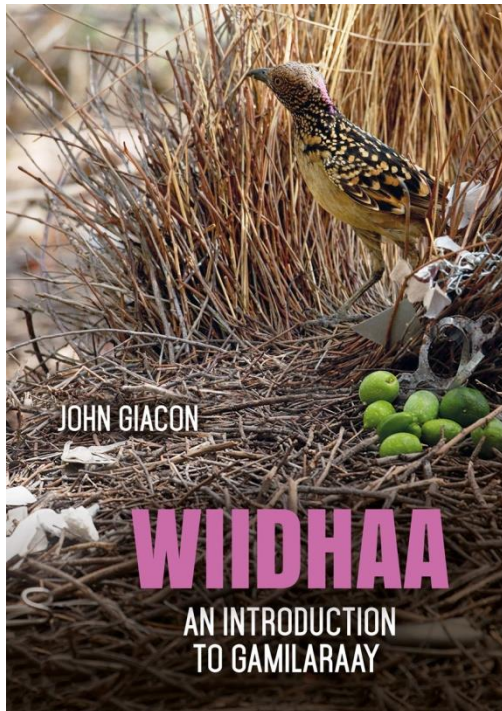


*Learning from Fukushima* began as a project to respond in a helpful way to the March 2011 triple disaster (earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown) in north-eastern Japan. It evolved into a collaborative and comprehensive investigation of whether nuclear power was a realistic energy option for East Asia, especially for the 10 member-countries of ASEAN, none of which currently has an operational nuclear power plant. The writers address all the questions that a country must ask in considering the possibility of nuclear power, including cost of construction, staffing, regulation and liability, decommissioning, disposal of nuclear waste, and the impact on climate change. The authors are physicists, engineers, biologists, a public health physician, and international relations specialists. Each author presents the results of their work.

The Japanese translation of this book is available for purchase on the [Ronso website](#).

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by: [John Giacon](#) 

ISBN (print): 9781760463267 ISBN (online): 9781760463274 ANU Press Languages DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/W.2019>

The Gamilaraay language declined in use for many years after the colonisation of Australia. From around 1990, Gamilaraay people and others have been working to revive the language. This book draws on recent research into previous records and analyses of Gamilaraay and of the closely related, and better recorded, Yuwaalaraay. It provides an introduction to many aspects of the language including verbs, the case system and the extensive pronoun paradigm, in a format that students have found very helpful for the last 12 years. Readers will need to download and open the PDF files in the [latest version Adobe Acrobat](#) to access and listen to the sound files within the book.

This textbook is used as course material in: Gamilaraay – an introduction to an Australian Indigenous Language [INDG2003](#) and [INDG6003](#)

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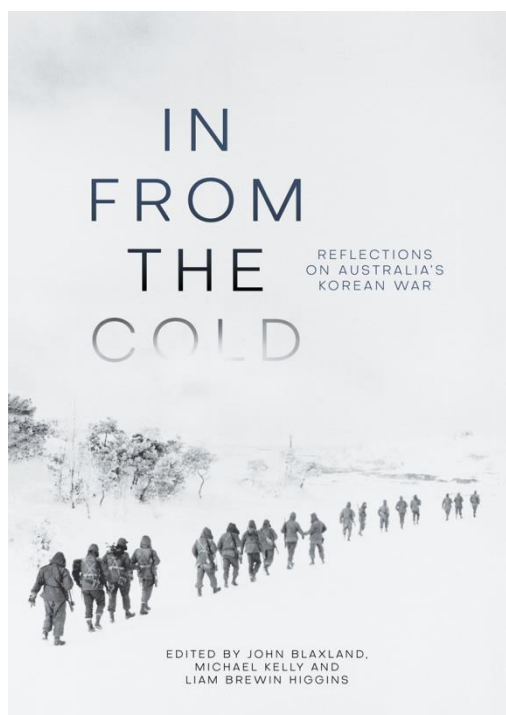
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## *Spinoza's Overcoat*

**By Subhash Jaireth** was launched at the National Library of Australia recently. It has an intriguing introduction - 'It starts to rain as I step out of my hotel ....' So begins Subhash Jaireth's striking collection of essays on the writers, and their writing that has enriched his own life. The works of Franz Kafka, Marina Tsvetaeva, Mikhail Bulgakov, Paul Celan, Hiromi Ito, Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza and others ignite in him the urge to travel (both physically and in spirit), almost like a pilgrim, to the places where such writers were born or died or wrote.

Author Subhash Jaireth, publisher and co-founder of Transit Lounge, Barry Scott, and Centenary Professor in Creative and Cultural Research, University of Canberra, Ross Gibson, recently launched this meditation on the lives of poets and the power of words across languages



## ***In from the Cold: Reflections on Australia's Korean War***

Edited by: [John Blaxland](#) , [Michael Kelly](#), [Liam Brewin Higgins](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$60.00): 9781760462727

ISBN (online): 9781760462734

ANU Press

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/IFTC.2019>

Co-publisher: [Australian War Memorial](#)

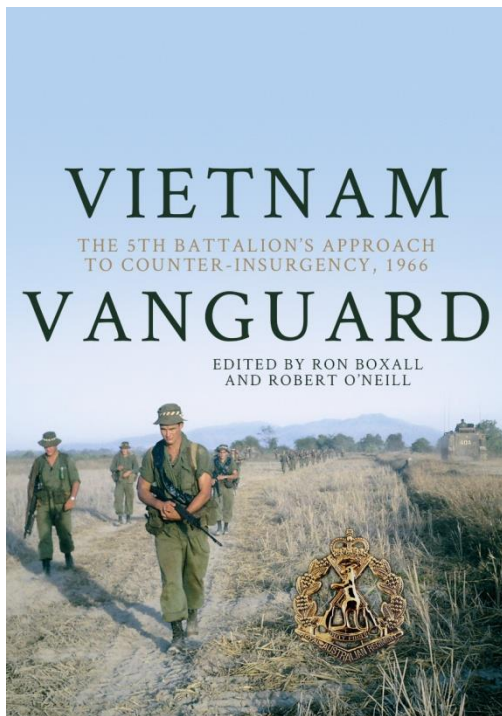
Open hostilities in the Korean War ended on the 27th of July 1953. The armistice that was signed at that time remains the poignant symbol of an incomplete conclusion – of a war that retains a distinct possibility of resuming at short notice. So what did Australia contribute to the Korean War from June 1950 to July 1953?

What were the Australians doing there? How significant was the contribution and what difference did it make? What has that meant for Australia since then, and what might that mean for Australia into the future?

Australians served at sea, on land and in the air alongside their United Nations partners during the war. They fought with distinction, from bitterly cold mountain tops, to the frozen decks of aircraft carriers and in dogfights overhead. This book includes the perspectives of leading academics, practitioners and veterans contributing fresh ideas on the conduct and legacy of the Korean War. International perspectives from allies and adversaries provide contrasting counterpoints that help create a more nuanced understanding of Australia's relatively small but nonetheless important contribution of forces in the Korean War. The book finishes with some reflections on implications that the Korean War still carries for Australia and the world to this day.

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***Vietnam Vanguard:  
The 5th Battalion's  
Approach to  
Counter-Insurgency, 1966***

Edited by: [Ron Boxall, Robert O'Neill](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$55.00): 9781760463328

ISBN (online): 9781760463335

ANU Press DOI:

<http://doi.org/10.22459/VV.2019>

The Vietnam War, and Australia's part in it, was a major military event, calling for willingness to face death and destruction on the battlefield, especially infantry battalions who formed the spearhead of Australian forces in Vietnam. The Australian public knows relatively little about what the Army did in Vietnam, particularly during the years of its peak commitment, 1965–72. This book attempts to make the true nature of the war clearer, emphasising how hard fought it was during major operations.

Twenty-seven of the contributing authors of this book were involved in the 1966 deployment of the 1st Australian Task Force into Phuoc Tuy Province. 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR), was in the vanguard as the task force's first element committed to operations to seize and occupy Nui Dat base and embark on establishing dominance over the enemy. The narratives in this book give rare insights into thoughts of the soldiers at the time and how they have come to view the Australian Government's hurried expansion of its initial commitment, the Army's state of preparedness for that wider involvement, and how those in its forefront adapted to get the job done, both in and out of operations, despite numerous shortcomings in higher level planning. Both professional soldiers and conscripted national servicemen have contributed viewpoints to these pages.

## *The Dragon and the Snakes: How the Rest Learnt to Fight the West*

**By David Kilcullen**, who will visit Australia from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> and again in July and September. He will also be back here in July and September.

Scribe Publications say in a media release: In 1993, a newly appointed CIA director warned that Western powers might have ‘slain a large dragon’ with the fall of the USSR, but now faced a ‘bewildering variety of poisonous snakes.’ Since then, the dragons (state enemies such as Russia and China) and snakes (terrorist and guerrilla organisations) have watched the US struggle in Iraq and Afghanistan, and have mastered new methods in response: hybrid and urban warfare, political manipulation, and harnessing digital technology.

Leading soldier-scholar David Kilcullen reveals what the West’s opponents have learned from twenty-first-century conflict, and explains how their cutting-edge tactics and adaptability pose a serious threat to America and its allies, disabling the

West’s military advantage. State and non-state threats have increasingly come to resemble each other, he argues, with states adopting non-state techniques and non-state actors now able to access levels of precision and lethal weapon systems once only available to governments.

**David Kilcullen** is a professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of New South Wales and a professor of practice in global security at Arizona State University. A former soldier and diplomat, he served as a counter-insurgency advisor during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dr Kilcullen is also the author of *The Accidental Guerrilla*, *Out of the Mountains*, and *Blood Year*.

### **Clarification**

The February edition of *Emeritus* stated on page 10 that the recommended retail price of *Human Ecology Review*: Volume 25, Number 2 was \$30. *Human Ecology Review* is free for members of the Society for Human Ecology and membership costs \$35 for retirees. See <https://societyforhumanecology.org/human-ecology-homepage/become-a-member/>

## *Matters of possible interest*

### **Researchers invited to apply for National Library Fellowships**

Would 12 weeks with Australia's national collection be a dream come true? Apply now for the 2021 National Library of Australia Fellowships program. When it comes to fellowship subjects, applicants are limited only by their imagination. Applications close on Friday 24 April at 5pm (AEST).

[Find out more about National Library Fellowships and apply online](#)

### **ANU's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans**

The Australian National University is gearing up to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, which takes place on 1 August, 2021. A new project called ANU75 is being launched to commemorate this anniversary, collecting stories and information from across campus that relate to the University's more recent history from the 1990s to the present day. To contribute or for more information contact Project Coordinator Dr Daniel Oakman, from the School of History at the ANU Research School of Social Sciences, ph. 6125 2722 or email [Daniel.Oakman@anu.edu.au](mailto:Daniel.Oakman@anu.edu.au).

## **Diary Dates**

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

**Wednesday, March 12 for 12:30**, Molony Room, Collegiate Lunch, **Craig Reynolds**, "Social History through Digital Technology: Filming the Life of a Southern Thai Policeman."

## **Meet the author**

**March 10**. 6pm. Manning Clark Theatre. Kambri Cultural Centre ANU. In a free ANU/*Canberra Times* Meet the Author event, Bernard Collaery will be in conversation with Andrew Wilkie on Bernard's new book *Oil Under Troubled Water. Australia's Timor Sea Intrigue*, which details the controversial history of Australian government dealings with East Timor, which Wilkie has called "Australian politics' biggest scandal" Bookings at [anu.edu.au/events](http://anu.edu.au/events) or 6125 4144

**March 19.** 6pm. T2 Lecture Theatre Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. In a free ANU/*Canberra Times* Meet the Author event, award-winning writer and human rights advocate, Arnold Zable, will be in conversation with [Kate Ogg](#) on Arnold's new non-fiction book *The Watermill*, featuring a global quartet of true stories of displacement, survival and resistance. Bookings at [anu.edu.au/events](http://anu.edu.au/events) or 6125 4144

**March 26** 6pm. T2 Lecture Theatre Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. In a free ANU/*Canberra Times* Meet the Author event, senior policy advisor Andrew Wear will be in conversation with Andrew Leigh MP on Andrew's new book *Solved!: How Other Countries Have Cracked the World's Biggest Problems and We Can Too*. Bookings at [anu.edu.au/events](http://anu.edu.au/events) or 6125 4144

**April 1** 6pm. T2 Lecture Theatre Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. In a free ANU/*Canberra Times* Meet the Author event, award-winning author Margaret Simons will be in conversation with Helen Sullivan on Margaret's new Quarterly Essay *Cry Me the River. The Tragedy of the Murray Darling Basin* documenting that the Murray Darling Basin plight is environmental but also economic, and enmeshed in ideology and identity. Bookings at [anu.edu.au/events](http://anu.edu.au/events) or 6125 4144

Bookings at:

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

For further Meet-the-Author information, contact Colin Steele, Emeritus Fellow,  
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

Ph. 6125 8983 or by email: [colin.steele@anu.edu.au](mailto:colin.steele@anu.edu.au)

## **Administration**

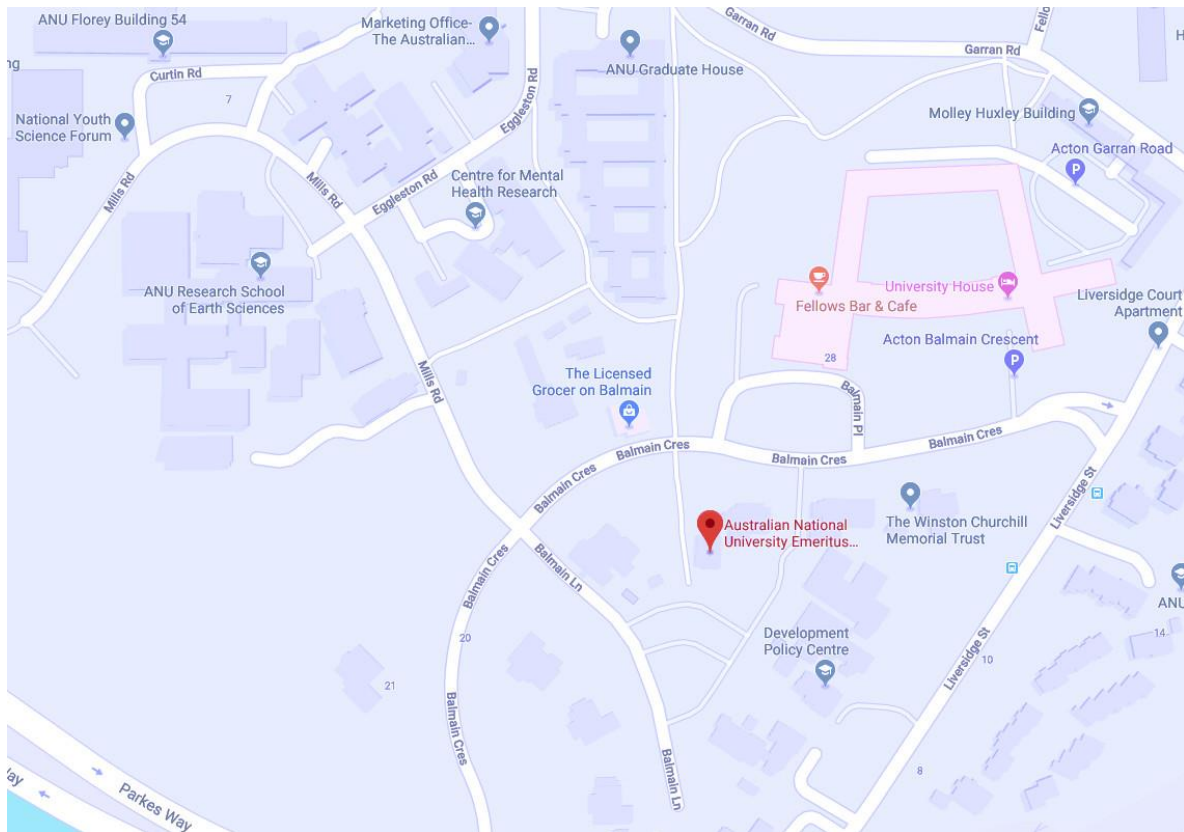
### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Jan O'Connor at [jantancress@gmail.com](mailto: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 April, 2020**