

EMERITUS

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The Australian National University

ANU appoints new Deputy VC from public service

Professor Ian Anderson AO, a Palawa man from northern Tasmania, joined The Australian National University at the beginning of this month as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student and University Experience). Professor Anderson comes from the Australian Public Service, where he was Deputy Secretary in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Deputy CEO of the National Indigenous Australians Agency. He graduated as a doctor in 1989 and spent over two decades with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service as an Aboriginal health worker, doctor, Chief Executive Officer and board member. He received his PhD from LaTrobe University in 2006, and then moved to the University of Melbourne. After being appointed as Foundation Chair, Indigenous Higher Education, and Foundation Chair, Indigenous Health, he served as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement). Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt AC said Professor Anderson "... will now take the lead on creating a student experience that is distinctly ANU and equal to the best in the world, and ensuring our whole University is a respectful, equitable place to work and study.

“Despite just finishing his role in Government last week, Ian hit the ground running this week (first week in April), and played a leading role in the University's COVID-19 response in our residences. Ian's induction to ANU has been unusual to say the least, but he is making his way around virtually to meet colleagues. If he pops up in your team's chat feed or on Zoom, be sure to say hello. Let me also acknowledge Professor Tony Foley for his excellent work serving as PVC (University Experience) since last July. Tony will, thankfully, remain in his current role for the next several weeks to help Ian as he transitions into his new role.”

COVID-19 and the future

Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt has reported that, as of April 3, a total of eight members of the ANU community had contracted COVID-19. He added that “... our Community Wellbeing team is providing them with support. We wish all of them well. All the necessary contact tracing steps have been completed by ACT Health for the three people who were potentially contagious while in the ACT. To ensure everyone has full information, we will continue to post updates of any confirmed cases of our staff and students on our webpage [here](#).

“COVID-19 may feel like a sprint right now, but it will be a marathon. It has taken a whole-of-University effort to respond so far, and it'll take a whole-of-University effort to carry us strongly through to the post-COVID-19 era.

“The Easter/Autumn break is coming up, and I strongly encourage you all to take some additional annual leave over this period - I sure am! One of the reasons many of us need a break is that we are working with so much uncertainty about our roles and responsibilities while working from home, or just not knowing what the COVID-19 pandemic is going to throw at us next. Thanks for your patience and please seek support if you need it. While we are working things out, there are lots of things you might wish to do if you have some spare time:

- This is a really good time to complete your [CORE Cultural Awareness Training](#). This course is designed to enhance cultural capability across ANU and build greater awareness of the extraordinarily rich history and cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who have lived on this land for thousands of generations. It's a great program that I highly recommend.
- I'm looking forward to going online and catching up on all the little things that I want to learn, but just haven't had time. For me it is things like how to use Tensor Flow to do Machine Learning. Follow your own path...
- You might also want to do an admin 'spring clean'. This is a great time to get to all the things we never have time to do. File those emails, create and revise 'how to' guides, think about processes that work and don't work, and what we can do better in our areas.”

Anticus and the Union

Anticus, having read a blurb from the ACT Government boosterising ‘our beautiful city’, assures me that Canberra is not the ugliest capital city he has ever lived in, only the most nondescript. One of the reasons he gives for this lamentable drabness is that buildings are built not to last : many of them, as soon as they turn thirty, are demolished to make way for something new. It is the unrelenting use-by-dateness of the place that makes it so faddishly featureless, so ‘samesome’ (his word), as expressionless as an Australian actor’s face. Canberra is less a capital city than it is a developers’, an estate agents’ and a builders’ labour exchange. Rome wasn’t built in a day ; but at this rate, Canberra the ‘beautiful city’ will never be built. No city without a past can aspire to beauty.

‘I mean,’ says Anticus, ‘take the new ANU Union — this is the fourth one we’ve had in sixty years. That’s one every fifteen years. And one of them, the second one, was a distinctive and pretty little building, reminiscent of Fort Zinderneuf in *Beau Geste*. But they soon turned it into offices and it’s recently been knocked down too. Like its successor.’

He remembers listening to Robert Graves who spoke there one night in old age, a blue smock and a Tyrrhenian tan, under a great shock of white hair, about manna from heaven.

Anticus tells me too that Elektra, whom he had known as a student not long after the middle of last century, expressed some indignation at what purports nowadays to be the Union, which she had just visited.

‘In my day,’ she said, ‘the Union was all about politics! This place is a convention centre! It’s all about drinks and smarming waiters in shop-bought bow-ties who are clearly under instructions to ask me how my day has been!’

Anticus suspects that, even in her day, the Union was about drinks, as least for some of those for whom it was not about politics or about listening to Robert Graves. But he can certainly remember a time when political things happened in the Union, or were plotted there to happen elsewhere.

Well, the more international students you have, Anticus says, the less politics happens in the Union. International students do not have politics : they have teddy bears. Especially if most of them happen to be from China, a country where ‘politics’ and ‘harmony’ appear to be the same word, at least in the usage of the government. Yes, one can see why there has been harmony in Tibet these last seventy-odd years, harmony with Uyghurs in Xinjiang, harmony in the South China Sea. Chinese students in Canberra are so harmonious that, even when the road is clear, they do not cross without pressing the button. Perhaps they have not noticed the lack of face-recognising cameras. For Chinese IT is simplicity in multi-tasking : with a single ping, it notes a face, debits a bank card, marks a misdemeanour on a police record and deducts points from any future application for a passport. Harmony in motion. No wonder Mr Dutton is impressed by it.

ANTIQVITVS

James Grieve and the One-Stop *Fiche* Shop

James Grieve was apt to recount how an administrative error led him to a career as a teacher, translator, author and academic—a career crowned on 13 December last by the launch at the Menzies Library of his One-Stop *Fiche* Shop, an Advanced Student’s Guide to Writing Better Sentences in French.

James, who once described himself as “a Scot accidentally born in Ireland”, grew up in Glasgow and Belfast, where he was schooled after World War II. He was an idiosyncratic student, winning prizes in French and Spanish but having “abysmally bad” marks in English and History. The Northern Ireland education board told him that he had failed to matriculate—but the same post brought a letter from Queen’s University, Belfast, inviting him to enrol in the Faculty of Arts.

“This was a mistake, a clerical error,” James would say. “I was accepted, but shouldn’t have been.” But generations of students, past and future, will be grateful for the error that shaped a life dedicated to teaching, creative writing, the passionate advocacy of civil rights—and that led ultimately to the One-Stop *Fiche* Shop, which went “live” on the ANU Library’s online Open Access Repository a few days before its formal launch. The resource was immediately successful: by the end of January 2020, francophone scholars and students around the world had ‘viewed’ the site 1081 times and made 500 downloads.

The *Fiche* is a compendium of French language usage whose origins go back to James’s *Dictionary of Contemporary French Connectors*, which Routledge published in 1996. The first version of the *Fiche* was created in 1997, typed on A4 sheets placed in plastic sleeves. James continued adding to the paper *Fiche* over the years. Now, in its electronic form, it runs to more than 3000 pages.

The launch was an opportunity for around 100 colleagues and friends to celebrate James’s achievements and his contributions to ANU over six decades. He joined ANU in 1962, a little over a year after landing in Melbourne. After university he studied and taught in Paris before drifting into teaching back in Northern Ireland. But James, “an atheist who didn’t realise he was an atheist”, wanted to marry a Catholic girl—an impossible prospect in that divided province. Australia beckoned.

The launch proceedings were opened by Gino Moliterno, who recalled being “a very green Italian lecturer” and meeting James when they shared adjoining rooms in the old John Dedman building. Gino remembered James frequently talking about “the *Fiches* project”, which he saw as his intellectual legacy. After James was diagnosed with cancer late in 2019, “he became anxious about not having finished it. He then threw himself into it with his usual tenacity.” Gino discovered in early December that the work was not only finished but was available worldwide online.

“Given that James regarded it as his magnum opus, it seemed a poor coming-into-the-world to just appear online without any fanfare,” Gino said, “so together with the library and others we’ve organized this event as a sort of odd book launch—but it’s different, since you don’t have to buy the book but just download it.”

Matthew Dowling, a colleague and former student, told James that the One-Stop *Fiche* Shop was “born of your life as a teacher and a ‘corrector’.”

“You were of the generation when university lecturers used to correct students ... a lot. Weekly translations, *thèmes et versions*, translations French to English, English to French,

2000-word essays, *commentaires de textes*. ... You used to take the pain to type a page of comments about our essays. You were exigent, rigorous, thorough. But never in a punitive sense, always in a spirit to wishing to improve, to make better, more exact, more concise, more in keeping with the ruthless rigours of French grammar.”

Peter Fuller, a former literary editor of *The Canberra Times*, surveyed James’s literary adventures, from his translations of Robert Lacour-Gayet’s *Histoire de l’Australie* and the first two volumes of Proust’s *À la recherche du temps perdu*, to his fictional works, *A Season of Grannies*, *They’re Only Human* and *Something in Common*. Then there were the numerous reviews written for the newspaper over 47 years.

Peter had been struck by three things in James’s writing: his energy, the range of his work, and his readiness to challenge his readers. Energy because he had done so much, range because of his mastery of forms short and long, and challenge “because whether we think of an occasional piece or a novel, he is always prompting his reader to ask—why do we believe this, or think this way? Is our thinking based on facts or is it infected by prejudice and received ideas? Is there a more ethical, more humane way of approaching the question? Is there a better way to live?”

Karis Muller told the gathering how she felt reassured when she met James soon after joining the staff at ANU. With his straw boater and tricolour espadrilles, he looked as though he had come straight out of an Impressionist painting. It was obvious that the university was a place where individuality and eccentricity could thrive.

“Throughout my years at the ANU, you were the kindest, most helpful and most affectionate colleague,” she told him.

Zhengdao Ye, Convener of the Master of Translation Program, noted that in 2018 James had broken the record set more than 200 years ago by Immanuel Kant of teaching at the same university for 55 years. Aside from teaching French language and literature since 1962 he had also taught in translation studies in recent years. In other roles, he had been Research Secretary of the Humanities Research Centre and Assistant to its Director.

“In his 58-year service, he has been, and still is, a valued member of the Translation Program at ANU, teaching, mentoring and supervising generations of translators and scholars in the field of translation,” Zhengdao said. “For his lecturing and tutoring colleagues in translation studies, he is a source of insights, wisdom, experience and solutions to the most intractable problems facing translators.”

Matthew Dowling noted that the title page of the Fiches carried a quotation from François de Closet, remarking that “knowledge was not designed to be taught”.

“This resonates with all of us who love learning but do not necessarily appreciate the difficulty of teaching,” Matthew said. “But James, you love teaching and you know how to do it. Rabelais, Montaigne, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Flaubert, Zola, Gide – you had the keys to this knowledge and gave them to us to discover for ourselves.”

James Grieve died at Clare Holland House on the evening of 15 January 2020.

ANUEF members, please note that because of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a commemoration for James that was to be held on April 17 on the ANU campus will not now go ahead. Members will be informed if a subsequent commemoration will be held.

What ANUEF members are doing, reading or talking about: an occasional series

Keeping Busy

By Adrian Gibbs

Had my late Uncle Tony (Paul Brown - a potter or as-they-call-them-nowadays, a ceramicist), who considered science to be largely the work of the devil, been alive today, I am sure he would, by now, have sent me a simple message from Matthew 26:52: "those who live by the sword shall die by the sword". He had a lively and black sense of humour!

As the ANUEF's only virologist (I think), I spend a lot of 'lock-down' time on the WWW, TV and Twitter checking what is being said. The mail-outs of Chancelry are excellent, and I find that the comments of Norman Swan (ABC), and Ian M MacKay (Brisbane) are easiest to understand, and science-based with no politics or economics added. The strategy they all advocate is lock-down 'early and hard' to break chains of infection, and thereby confine each lineage of the virus to the smallest possible group of co-habitants where it will run out of susceptible people within days. This strategy will also, probably, least disrupt the economy, but some, notably Trump, do not understand this. Properly administered, and with 100% support, the lock-down strategy could eliminate the virus in 3-5 weeks.

In the meantime, I work over the Internet with colleagues (currently in Peru, UK, Iran and Perth) on where and when various potyviruses of potatoes, apples, citrus arose and spread. I also pray that Matthew 26:52 doesn't apply to virologists who have never abused a coronavirus; I did checkout the early conspiracy theory that the genomic sequence of the CoVID-19 virus showed evidence of HIV-like inserts, but it only took a few minutes in the Genbank database and search facilities to show that the inserts were merely evidence of its relatedness to a bat beta-coronavirus isolated several years ago.

Falling into place

By James Fox

Some key research that I have been working on for decades seems to be falling into place. Using basic social data I am beginning to chart the different specific migrations of Austronesian populations from Taiwan through Indonesia into the Pacific. We have known that this has happened. Now I think I can make these migrations more specific. It is quite surprising.

Obituary by John White

Lewis Norman Mander AC FAA FRS

September 8, 1939- February 8, 2020

Lew Mander, born on 8th September 1939, went to Albion Heights Grammar School in Auckland, thence to the University of Auckland and Sydney University to work with Professor C W Shoppee FRS on steroid chemistry. A colleague there then, said that Lew finished what he was asked to do in nine months - it was too easy. Moving to Professor Wal Taylor, his interest in the total synthesis of important natural products began. He died on 8th February 2020.

In periods at the University of Michigan, the University of Adelaide, and CalTech before coming to the Research School of Chemistry (RSC) at ANU in 1975 he displayed his chemical skills. With synthesis of progressively more and more complex structures he inspired a generation of students who were not frightened by complexity and who knew that deep knowledge of chemistry and persistent rational work overcomes the setbacks that we all experience in experimental science. It is that inspiration of confidence and rationality that Lew leaves us. Of his many triumphs, that of the gibberellin synthesis stands out with its 22 consecutive steps on minute quantities, giving a product whose action in plant growth was vividly demonstrated. He remarked wryly in print:

“In an attempt to convince a University to employ him, and granting agencies to provide him with funding, the author also proposed to carry out a synthesis of this intriguing molecule” – Mander (Nat. Prod. Rep. 2003, 48)”

For the Academy's 60th anniversary in 2014 he enunciated to me the *Rules for a good organic synthesis*: Novelty, Yield, Brevity, Convergence, Minimum of functional group changes (e.g. protection, deprotection, oxidation, reduction, migration), Selectivity (e.g. regioselectivity, chemo-selectivity, stereoselectivity (enantio- and diastereo-)). Of all these he was a master.

I was not at the RSC until 1985 but have heard that, in the late 70s and early 80s – whilst the School was flourishing academically with a combination of expert technical help to gifted academics, there were problems arising from the personnel structure. For example, there were not many PhD students. As the “founding fathers” Birch and Craig were nearing retirement, the rotating Deanship of the School fell to Lew Mander. He was Dean for two periods of five and three years. He addressed those problems with everyone's confidence.

He also kept up the battle to retain the “first among equals”, rotating Deanship against simplistic academic homogeny – as a fair process of distributing the research resources. The five-year Research Fellowships were one problem as many Fellows were so good that in other places they would have got tenure. A number did subsequently join the RSC staff but others went to important posts elsewhere. It was a problem of how to manage the opportunities for new people and justice for the best of the young colleagues in a new School. At that time, I recall that the rule in the still relatively young IAS was only a few promotions per year for the whole ANU. With Commonwealth legislation for internal promotion in the early 1990s, the matter disappeared.

Lew took a personal interest in the buildings of the RSC. He worked hard on the concept and design of the Craig Building, opened in 1995 to accommodate theory and biological chemistry, as well as a new tea room. When safety strictures threatened – because of fume

cupboard inadequacy - he championed construction of a less expensive addition to the Birch Building in the same style. This was to be a two-storey addition above the workshops.

Lew came to see me in Oxford in 1984 about whether I would be interested in applying for David Craig's chair of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry at the RSC. Though I was perfectly happy in Oxford, his picture of the School was persuasive as were the opportunities to start new X-ray work in Australia. I have never regretted coming to this community of scholars. Right from the welcoming barbecue of our whole family at the Manders' house until now - I have valued his advice and friendship. I and all of his colleagues were very glad of his recognition by the award of Companion of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list two years ago. He was a respected person whose scholarship, friendship and advice were available to all. His death is a loss to Australia and us all.

Vale Lew, our good friend and valued colleague. We honour you in your parting from us. You have been a most creative chemist, a loved and just Dean of the Research School of Chemistry and a personal friend of many of us.

Copyright Agency advises members

Members of the Copyright Agency have received advice on the impact COVID-19 will have on payments. The statement to members says, "We have understandably had enquiries about whether COVID-19 and the associated necessary public health measures, as well as their economic impact, will stop or delay payments to members."

The agency advises members who may be particularly adversely affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19 that the agency will do everything it can to ensure continuation of its distribution schedule with minimal interruption.

The statement goes on, "A significant portion of our revenue is locked in under executed contracts (such as the schools sector and Governments) or is covered by court orders setting out minimum distributions (such as the university sector). We have written to key licensees seeking assurances that they will be able to pay on time. None have yet indicated that they will not be able to do so. However, they are under pressure and we anticipate that some may face challenges for simple resourcing reasons.

"To be clear, we also have copyright agreements with many private sector organisations that will quite possibly be impacted. We will work with these organisations to bill them and collect monies to distribute to members, whilst recognising the challenges we all face in these times.

"To ensure we minimise risk to employees and contribute to 'flattening the curve' in the growth of COVID-19 infections, we have encouraged staff at the Copyright Agency to utilise our existing flexible working arrangements and, where relevant, work from home. Most of our employees are now doing so. Those who remain on site are practising social distancing. We do not currently anticipate that our work arrangements will delay distributions (with the exception of payments which have to be received from licensees that may have their own administrative issues, which are beyond our control)..."

CSIRO begins testing COVID-19 vaccines

The CSIRO has commenced the first stage of testing potential vaccines for COVID-19. The testing, expected to take three months, is under way at CSIRO's high-containment biosecurity facility, the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong.

To prepare for disease outbreaks, last year CSIRO partnered with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a global group that aims to combat epidemics by speeding up the development of vaccines.

In January, CEPI [engaged CSIRO](#) to start working on the virus SARS CoV-2, which causes the disease COVID-19. In consultation with the World Health Organisation, CEPI has identified vaccine candidates from [The University of Oxford](#) (UK) and [Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc.](#) (US) to undergo "the first" pre-clinical trials at CSIRO, with further candidates likely to follow.

The latest milestone builds on CSIRO's growing work to tackle COVID-19, which has included scaling up other potential vaccine candidates at its biologics production facility in Melbourne.

RIGHT: Scientists starting to test vaccines for COVID-19 at CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory. Credit: CSIRO.

CSIRO Chief Executive, Dr Larry Marshall said, "Beginning vaccine candidate testing at CSIRO is a critical milestone in the fight against COVID-19, made possible by collaboration both within Australia and across the globe.

"CSIRO researchers are working round the clock to combat this disease which is affecting so many – whether it's at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) or at our state-of-the-art biologics manufacturing facility – we will keep working until this viral enemy is defeated."

CSIRO is testing the COVID-19 vaccine candidates for efficacy, but also evaluating the best way to give the vaccine for better protection, including an intra-muscular injection and innovative approaches such as a nasal spray.

Professor Trevor Drew OBE, Director of AAHL and leading CSIRO's COVID-19 virus and vaccine work, said, "We have been studying SARS CoV-2 since January and getting ready to test the first vaccine candidates as soon as they are available. We are carefully balancing operating at speed with the critical need for safety in response to this global public health emergency."

CSIRO has a long history of developing and testing vaccines since the opening of the AAHL in 1985. It is the only high biocontainment facility in the southern hemisphere working with highly dangerous and exotic pathogens, including diseases that transfer from animals to people.

Dr Marshall said, "Tackling disease and supporting better health outcomes takes a one-health approach. In 2016 CSIRO created the Health and Biosecurity research group who work with



our scientists at AAHL to tackle our national and international health and biosecurity challenges together, so we can better protect the health of our people, environment, agriculture and industries and our way of life.

“This, combined with our data science and manufacturing capability in our biological production facility, means we were well prepared to help Australia in One Health with disease identification, prevention and management, to deliver the real world solutions that our nation expects from science.”

For more information on **CSIRO’s COVID-19 research** visit: www.csiro.au/COVID-19

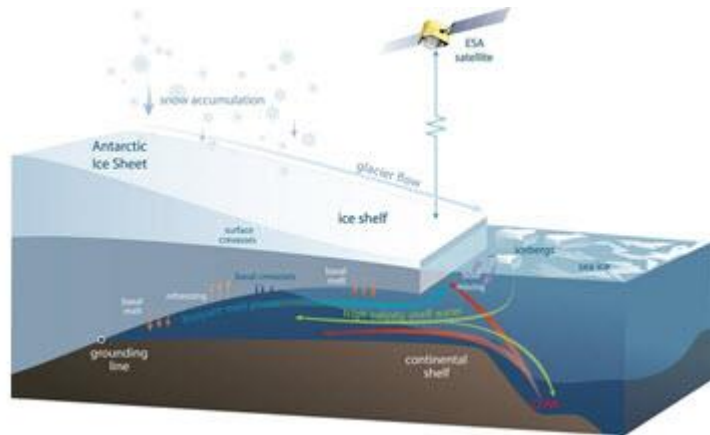
Antarctic floating ice walls protect against warming seas

A recent study published in the journal *Nature* has explored the physics behind the warming ocean currents around the Antarctic coast, finding floating ice walls offer some protection to the ice sheet by limiting the amount of ocean heat that reaches the ice. [The research](#) was led by the University of Gothenburg and used data and research from CSIRO.

Floating ice walls – the edge of the floating ice shelf – are connected to landmass. Icebergs detach from ice shelves to join the ocean. According to the CSIRO, the Antarctic ice sheet contains enough ice, if melted, to raise global sea levels by tens of metres. Thus improving the understanding of the stability of the Antarctic ice sheet - and the processes which could slow or speed its rate of melt - is of critical importance globally.

Researchers found that floating ice walls partly deflect warm ocean currents that would otherwise penetrate cavities beneath the floating portions of the ice sheet.

RIGHT: Diagram of an Antarctic ice shelf showing the processes causing the volume changes measured by satellites. Ice is added to the ice shelf glaciers flowing off the continent and by snowfall that compresses to form ice. Ice is lost when icebergs break off the ice front, and by melting in some regions as warm water flows into the ocean cavity under the ice shelf. Under some ice shelves, cold and fresh meltwater rises to a point where it refreezes on to the ice shelf.



CSIRO researcher at the Centre for Southern Hemisphere Ocean Research (CSHOR), Dr Laura Herraiz-Borreguero, said one important control on ice loss from Antarctica was what happened where the ice sheet meets the ocean, where a large amount of ice melts.

“The Antarctic ice sheet reaches the ocean through ice shelves, which are the floating edges of the ice sheet,” Dr Herraiz-Borreguero said.

“Like a dam wall, these ice shelves slow down the rate at which grounded ice is discharged to the ocean, where it melts and contributes to sea level rise.”

The question of how warm ocean currents made their way to the ice sheet, beneath the floating ice shelves, has been a long-unanswered question for researchers.

More knowledge has now been obtained by studying data collected from instruments that Dr Herraiz-Borreguero and her colleagues placed in the ocean in front of Getz glacier ice shelf in West Antarctica. The Getz glacier culminates in a vertical edge, a floating wall of ice that continues 300 to 400 metres down into the ocean. Warm ocean currents flow beneath this edge, towards the deeper grounded ice. The researchers found that the warm ocean currents were blocked by the floating ice edge, which limited the extent to which the warm ocean could reach the ice. The floating ice blocks about two thirds of the thermal energy carried by the ocean currents, which travels up towards the Antarctic ice sheet from the deep Southern Ocean.

RIGHT: *Getz ice shelf.*

Credit: Anna Wåhlin.

The results of the study have provided researchers with a greater understanding of how glacier areas like the Getz work.

“Our work highlights the importance of the floating ice shelves, and in particular, their ice fronts, as key areas that should be closely monitored,” Dr Herraiz-Borreguero said. “If the ice front walls were to thin and disappear, a much greater portion of ocean heat would be delivered towards the grounded Antarctic ice.”

Researchers believe the studies provided them with significantly better tools to be able to predict future sea level rise.



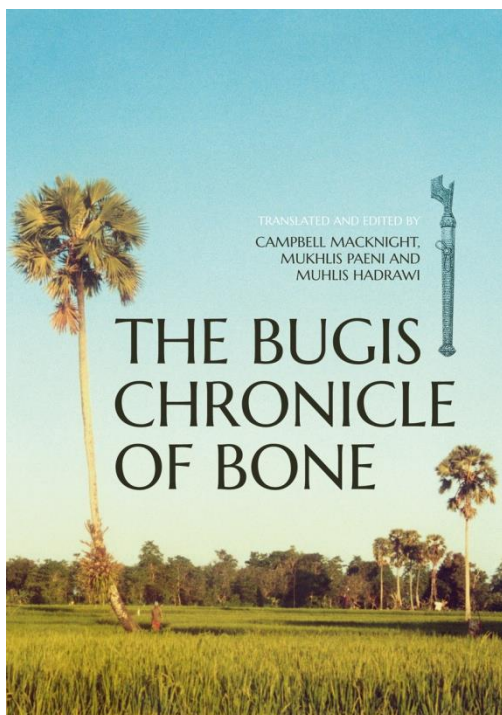
The Bugis Chronicle of Bone

Edited by: [Campbell Macknight](#), [Mukhlis Paeni](#), [Muhlis Hadrawi](#)

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ISBN (online): 9781760463588

ANU Press, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/BCB.2020>



The Bugis Chronicle of Bone is a masterwork in the historiographical tradition of South Sulawesi in Indonesia.

Written in the late seventeenth century for a very specific political purpose, it describes the steady growth of the kingdom of Bone from the fourteenth century onwards. The local conquests of the fifteenth century, closely linked to agricultural expansion, give way to the long conflict with the Makasar state of Gowa in the sixteenth century. Forced Islamisation in 1611 is dealt with in detail, leading finally to first contact with the Dutch East India Company in 1667. This edition presents a diplomatic version of the best Bugis text, together with the first full English translation and an extensive introduction covering the philological approach to the edition, as well as the historical and cultural significance of the work. A structure based on the reigns of successive rulers allows for stories about the circumstances of each ruler and, particularly, the often dramatic processes and politics of succession. The chronicle is a rich source for historians and anthropologists seeking to understand societies beyond Europe. It provides a window on to this Austronesian-speaking society before the impact of significant external influences.

A Cautious New Approach: China's Growing Trilateral Aid Cooperation by: Denghua Zhang

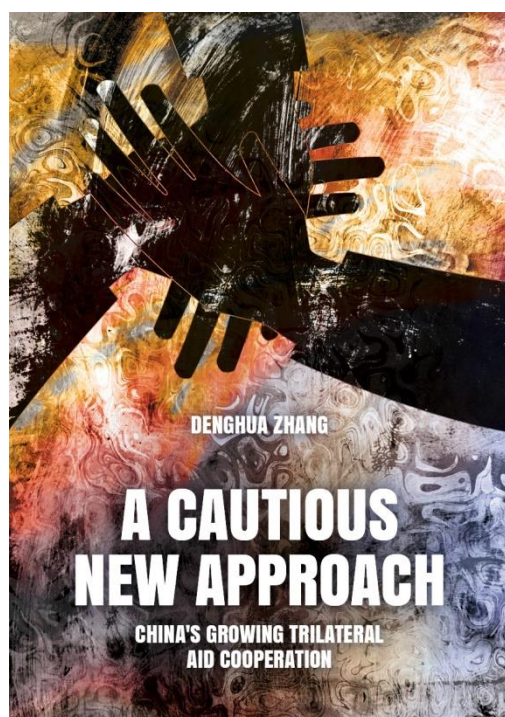
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‘As a student of international relations and a former diplomat, Zhang brings the insights of a practitioner and the eye of scholar to explain why Chinese actors choose to engage in aid cooperation with traditional donors in the Asia-Pacific. This book is among the first to take a holistic approach to understanding the motivations of the many agencies involved in China’s aid program, and it will challenge the expectations of many readers.’

—**Dr Graeme Smith, The ANU**

‘This book breaks new ground by examining a little-known dimension of China’s foreign policy: trilateral aid cooperation. Denghua Zhang sets this highly original analysis in the context of the new assertiveness of Chinese foreign policy under Xi Jinping, the China International Development Cooperation Agency established in 2018, and the Belt and Road Initiative, which now serves as the framework for Chinese overseas aid and engagement. At a time when the debate in the West about the rise of China has intensified, not always knowledgeably, this book fills an important gap in our understanding of China in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.’

—**Dr Stewart Firth, The ANU**

‘This thoroughly researched work examines trilateral cooperation as a new aspect of China’s growing international aid program, and as a window into its changing nature as well as the wider foreign policy in which it is embedded. The broad themes and topics are significant, touching on one of the most important issues of our time, the implications of the rise of China for a long-established Western-dominated international system.’

—**Prof. Terence Smith-Wesley, University of Hawai‘i**

DISCOVERING



JOY EADIE

PREFACE BY EDMUND CAPON

Discovering Charles Meere - Art and Illusion

by **Joy Eadie**, Halstead Press ACT, 2017

RRP \$65.00 ISBN: 978 1 925043 38 9

Reviewed by **Dr Susan Steggall**, art historian

In this well illustrated book Joy Eadie investigates Charles Meere's singular style – a fusion

of Neoclassical and Art Deco aesthetics underpinned by a sense of irony. Eadie's aim is to provide some long-overdue 'tentative dissent' to the entrenched view of Meere's popular painting, *Australian Beach Pattern*, as the representation of a kind of Aryan ideal, and the opinion of his work as static and academic. In the Preface Edmund Capon acknowledges that Eadie's understanding of Meere's imagery is at odds with the views of previous critics. Yet Eadie has invested considerable scholarship in her proposed alternative readings for Meere's oeuvre.

Charles Meere was born in London in 1890, studied at West Ham Technical Institute and later at the Royal College of Art, London. From 1914 he fought in France. Suffering from shellshock he was hospitalised where he met and married French nurse Denise Moreau. The couple lived in Dinan in Brittany, where their son Desmond was born. In 1927 Meere left his family and travelled to Sydney to work as a commercial artist before returning to London in 1930. In 1932 Meere arrived in Sydney with his second wife, Anne. They settled in Mosman and had three children.

Meere won the 1938 Sulman Prize with *Atalanta's Eclipse*. He entered *Australian Beach Pattern* in the Sulman in 1940. He won the 1951 Wynne Prize with *Never Never Creek, Gleniffer* and held a one-man show in 1952. His death in October 1961 was briefly mentioned in the press.

For Eadie it is too simplistic that *Australian Beach Pattern* be just about suntanned families at the beach and, as some have suggested, a fascist eulogy of idealised Australian physiques. An observation that the child in *Australian Beach Pattern* waving a spade resembled the boy signalling for help in *The Raft of the Medusa* (Théodore Géricault 1819), and that a hoisted surfboard mirrored the crossbeam on the raft's mast, gave Eadie a key to unlocking *Australian Beach Pattern*'s themes of vulnerability and sacrifice. *The Raft* depicts an event in 1816 when the French ship *La Méduse* ran aground on sandbanks near the African coast. The senior officers took to the lifeboats; the rest were left to their tragic fate on a hastily built raft. Eadie surmises that Meere imposes references to the dying men on *The Raft* on to boys playing at the beach as a statement about the loss of young men in war, now doomed to repeat the experiences of Meere's generation. Meere, Eadie writes, was 'hiding in plain sight' a tragi-comic vision of the human condition. She sees another example of Meere's potentially subversive iconography in *Atalanta's Eclipse* submitted to the Academy of Australian Art's inaugural exhibition in 1938. The painting depicts the race between Atalanta and Hippomenes as recounted in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. At left in this Art Deco work, a dark figure among an otherwise fair-haired assembly, raises an arm to urge on the contenders. In 1938 the South African team for the Sydney Empire Games was selected on a whites-only basis. Eadie asks: did Meere insert the cheering black figure into the European mythical scene as a protest against these racist attitudes?

Meere's landscape *The Viaduct, Dinan* (1941) depicts the 19th-century viaduct across the River Rance in Brittany leading to the town of Dinan. Meere's *Vue de Dinan* (1923), a view of this scene from the same spot, was painted from high on the steep bank of the river, looking down on the viaduct, and up to the walled town on the hill opposite. Eadie links the composition of Meere's two Dinan paintings to Pieter Bruegel's *The Procession to Calvary* of 1564 (in Vienna): a massive foreground rock, the falling-away landscape, and the walled city in the distance. Bruegel's work was painted in the Netherlands in a time of persecution. In 1941 France was under German occupation. The 1923 painting, a scene of illusory peace, was perhaps the basis for an expression in 1941 of what Eadie sees as Meere's anti-war stance. She might have been impressed by an animated film based on Bruegel's painting, but she provides no evidence that Meere ever saw the 16th-century

artwork; nor did Meere give any indication that he was influenced by it.

In *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend* (1959), Meere casts a 'gently mocking eye' over contemporary mores, through a playful take on the still life tradition. The title, in black on a kitschy, pink diamante-studded piggybank, is from Marilyn Monroe's song in the 1953 film, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. The pig shares a coffee table with a terracotta pot holding an upward-climbing philodendron tied to a piece of driftwood with a pink ribbon and draped with garlands of artificial flowers. Eadie suggests the bow, pig and flowers form a cornucopia, a symbol of abundance in a world that increasingly prized wealth above all else.

It is Meere's visual wit, his preference for the complex and oblique over the simple and obvious – the art of illusion – that, for Joy Eadie, make Meere unique in his time and place: a postmodernist *avant la lettre*. Her book, she hopes, will help secure him a respectable place in 20th-century Australian art.

Review published by courtesy of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia

Share your love of books

Penguin Random House is launching #BooksConnectUs, an initiative where readers can come together online and share their love of books. The company says this is "a home-grown endeavour, inspired by recently created employee outpost on Facebook where colleagues working remotely connect with one another and discuss what they are reading, streaming, cooking, and more." The company's statement invites potential readers to "join us and share your current and future reads using the hashtag #BooksConnectUs."

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Middle power game

C. Raja Mohan India's pivot to the United States

Nick Bisley Australia's incrementalist hedging in a fractured order

Aileen Baviera Is the Philippines moving to middle-power diplomacy?

Lauren Richardson The logic of Seoul's approach to Pyongyang ... and more

ASIAN REVIEW

Lex Rieffel and Michael Castle-Miller: Building Indonesia's new capital

This issue of *East Asia Forum Quarterly* is dedicated to Aileen Baviera

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ANU Press.

The changing geopolitical context compels middle powers to act. Countries have responded by forming explicit alliances, building upon hedging strategies or altering their leanings from one great power to another. The need for collective action is more urgent than ever to deal with emerging regional and global challenges.

This issue of *East Asia Forum Quarterly* looks at middle powers and the range of priorities they have. Some are focused on their domestic priorities while others are more eager to shape the political, economic and security dimensions in the region. Our contributors offer a variety of perspectives on the challenges that middle powers face and identify the call of middle-power vision in defending the rules-based order.

EAFQ 12.1 is dedicated to Aileen S.P. Baviera, founding president of Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress, who died on 21 March 2020, from pneumonia related to COVID-19.

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

Universities Australia

Government flexibility welcome

Universities Australia has welcomed the Government's decision to relieve the administrative burden on universities during the COVID-19 crisis by suspending activity on two initiatives. Universities had been working with Government on the Transforming the Collection of Student Information (TCSI) process and the Transparency in Higher Education Expenditure project.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson acknowledged the Government's ongoing engagement with the university sector and commitment to flexibility.

"Universities are making very rapid changes to the way they carry out their core functions of research and teaching, as well as putting in place new arrangements to support students and staff. The suspension of these projects will relieve some pressure. Government has listened to the concerns of the university sector and made the commonsense decision to temporarily suspend these projects," Ms Jackson said.

Universities Australia also welcomed moves by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) to provide further flexibility to universities in compliance and reporting activities to help manage demands on university resources. This includes providing extensions on Higher Education Provider registration renewals and additional flexibility on time frames for reporting. Universities Australia says it appreciates TEQSA's willingness to adapt its regulatory approach in this difficult time.

Matters of possible interest

Go to the National Library from home

The Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, says in the library's recent newsletter, "As you are aware, due to the need to contain the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the National Library building has been closed to visitors until further notice—this includes our reading rooms, exhibition galleries, bookshop and cafes. While our building may be closed, we are still working here at safe, socially-distanced desks, or from our new home-office locations, to make sure you can continue enjoying the library online." She suggests the Ducie collection of First Fleet art—56 watercolours of Australian plants and animals by skilled artist George Raper at [Ducie collection of First Fleet art](#)

[Watch digital Library introduction video](#)

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](#)

NGA closed but online

The National Gallery of Australia is closed until further notice, based on advice from Australian health experts, new guidelines for indoor gatherings and an increasing need to comply with social distancing. NGA will be providing refunds to people who have pre-purchased tickets for the Matisse & Picasso exhibition, and will be in touch with ticket holders.

For those looking for relief from the everyday, NGA hopes that art can still have a place in your new normal. NGA will continue to share its collection and exhibitions with you through Artonline and connect with you on Facebook, Instagram and nga.gov.au.

ANU's 75th anniversary plans

The Australian National University is gearing up to mark the 75th 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.

Diary Dates

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

Meet the author

All previously scheduled Meet-the-Author events have been cancelled in the present COVID-19 emergency.

Colin Steele is investigating the possibilities of virtual interviews/podcasts. 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

Administration

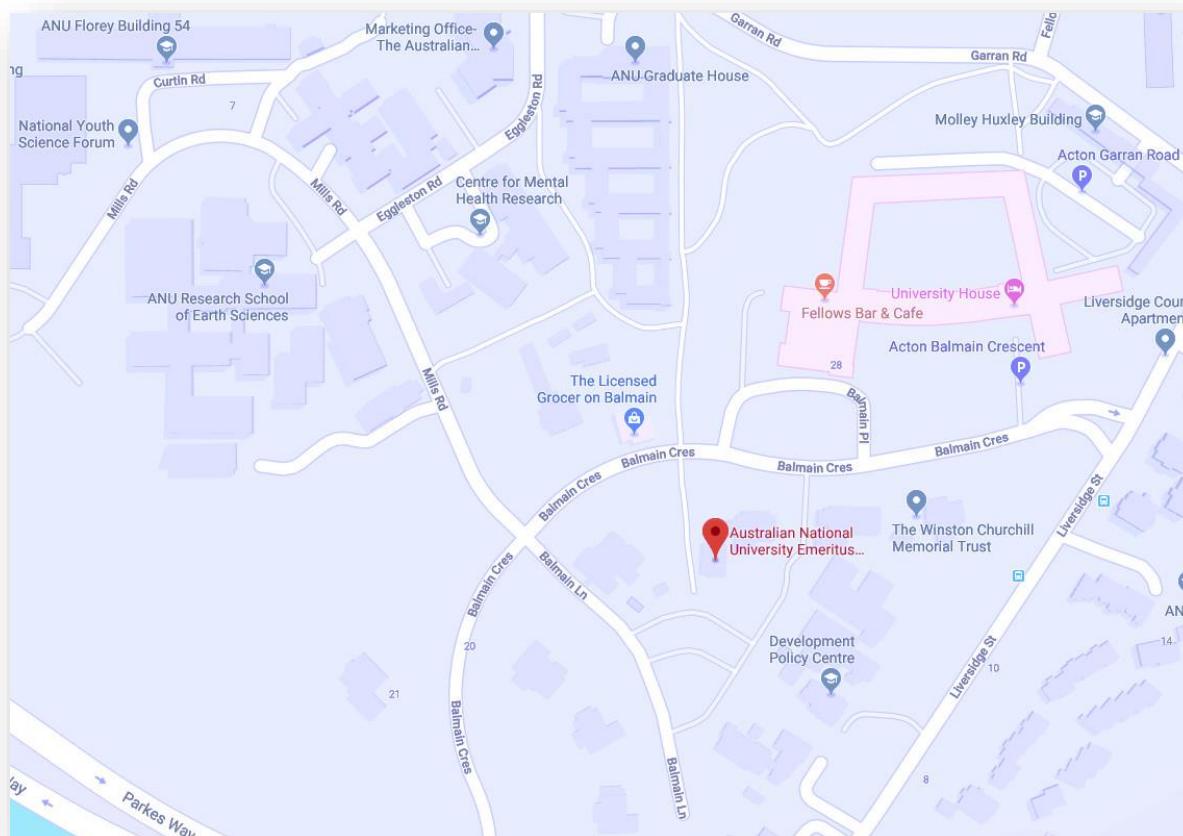
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Jan O'Connor at jantancress@gmail.com or Tel: 6247 3341

Finding the Molony Room

The Molony Room is at 24 Balmain Crescent, on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House.

It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj> set back between No 22 Balmain Crescent, which is the Acton Early Childhood Centre, and No 26 Balmain Crescent, which is the Academy of the Social Sciences. There are four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room. The room is marked on: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF e-magazine, will be published in

May, 2020