

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Vol. 11 | No. 6, July 2020

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Vice-Chancellors form working groups on research and industry

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson has welcomed the opportunity for the sector to join two high-level working groups which will advise on Australia's research capability and enhanced engagement between higher education and industry.

Universities Australia Chair and Curtin University Vice Chancellor Professor Deborah Terry will Chair the Research Sustainability working group. Professor Terry will work with a panel of seven vice-chancellors to explore sustainable funding for university research.

University of Technology Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs will chair the working group on co-designing the National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund, announced as part of the Government's universities reform package. Education Minister Dan Tehan has said the \$900 million fund aims to enhance engagement between higher education and industry, with a strong focus on STEM industries.

Ms Jackson said: "More than 450,000 students participate annually in industry-led projects, fieldwork, practical simulations, and work placements. We are keen to work with industry to provide

more of these opportunities. Students value them highly and they lead to jobs. The sector looks forward to working with the Minister to co-design the fund.”

Ms Jackson said the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted important issues with the way research is supported in Australia, and that it was time to examine the system with excellence and sustainability front of mind. She said, “Our challenge is to find ways of ensuring our world-leading researchers have the resources they need to contribute to Australia’s economic recovery. Every \$1 invested in higher education research and development is linked to a \$5 return to our gross domestic product.”

Other members of the Research Sustainability working group include: Queensland University of Technology Vice-Chancellor Margaret Sheil; University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor Duncan Maskell; University of New South Wales Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs; University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Rufus Black; Charles Darwin University Vice-Chancellor Simon Maddocks; Monash University Vice-Chancellor Margaret Gardner; and, University of Technology Sydney Vice-Chancellor Attila Brungs.

Other members of the National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund working group will include University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor Alex Zelinsky; Australian National University Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt; Federation University Vice-Chancellor Helen Bartlett; University of South Australia Vice-Chancellor David Lloyd; Western Sydney University Vice-Chancellor Barney Glover; Murdoch University Vice-Chancellor Eeva Leinonen; and, Universities Australia Chair and Curtin University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deborah Terry.

China’s National Security Law for Hong Kong ‘contrary to rule of law’

Michael Kirby AC CMG, co-chair of the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute, has, with several others, signed a declaration that finds “... the action of the Chinese Mainland legislature in enacting the new National Security Law in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), without proper consultation with Hong Kong SAR peoples and institutions, fundamentally objectionable.”

The statement goes on, “The new law is:

- contrary to the norms of international law;
- incompatible with the rule of law and fundamental human rights; and
- inconsistent with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR.

“The National Security Law in its present terms is a grave departure from the fundamental principles upon which the People’s Republic of China (PRC) agreed with the United Kingdom to govern Hong Kong after its transfer to the PRC. The National Security Law has been enacted by the PRC without meaningful engagement with the people of Hong Kong SAR in the legislative process. This bodes ill for the survival of even the attenuated conditions of democracy and human rights that have been practised in recent times in Hong Kong SAR.”

Other signatories are Horacio Bernardes Neto, President, International Bar Association; Anne

Ramberg Dr jur hc Co-Chair, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute; Mark Ellis, Executive Director, International Bar Association; and Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, director, International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute.

The signatories say, "We urge that the new law not be adopted or implemented without full and uninhibited consultation with the people of Hong Kong SAR who are affected by it. This may not be the law and custom of the PRC, however, it is a basic norm of universal human rights that is observed in democratic countries and expected in Hong Kong SAR.

"Furthermore, we are concerned that, despite the text of the National Security Law not being released to the people of Hong Kong SAR, in the few short hours in which the sweeping law has been enacted, the world has witnessed prominent Hong Kong SAR activists shut down their campaign groups and delete their social media profiles for fear of being arrested and sent to mainland China – where 'secession', 'subversion' and 'collusion with foreign forces' are criminalised – to be tried.

"In addition to the above, our other concerns include:

- the non-existent ability of legal experts to review the compatibility of the law with Hong Kong SAR's legal and constitutional framework, and China's international legal obligations;
- the purported imposition of retrospective legislation;
- reports that the National Security Law will take precedence over Hong Kong SAR law, and, should disputes arise, China's Standing Committee of the National People's Congress will adjudicate; where the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR will be given the power to appoint former judges and magistrates to particular National Security Law cases. Presently, it is senior judges who undertake such actions in assigning cases as enshrined in Article 85 of the Basic Law; and
- the opaqueness of criteria for identifying cases which will result in rendition to mainland China, and the insufficient safeguards to protect such individuals.

"Effectively, law is being used to curtail the democratic freedoms of the semi-autonomous territory. This is a sad and deeply worrying time for the people of Hong Kong SAR and for their friends across the globe."

A new report from the [International Bar Association International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law \(ICC & ICL\) Programme](#) calls for greater attention to be paid to the human rights of persons tried and convicted, or acquitted, by international courts and tribunals, and urges states to provide increased cooperation to such courts. Titled [*Seeing justice through: long-term issues in international justice*](#), the report is a summation of an eponymous roundtable discussion of experts held in October 2019 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. It summarises the input of the event's participants, including judges, senior officials and staff of international courts and tribunals, diplomats, civil society and academics.

For more information, access The [International Bar Association](#) (IBA), Or access through your browser: <https://www.ibanet.org/IBAHRI.aspx>

Obituary

Diana Betty Riddell (1929-2019)

A well known and respected figure on the ANU campus between 1966 and 1995, Di Riddell played a central role in the lives of thousands of students and also in the broader ACT community.

Di passed away peacefully on 9 June, 2019. Born Diana Betty Gould in Chelsea, United Kingdom on 24 October, 1929, she matriculated from Wimbledon Girls' Grammar then worked in a cancer clinic in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, before moving to Canberra in 1963 with her economist husband, John, and their two children, Christopher and Martin. John died in 2009, and Martin died in 2015.

Appointed to the role of Administrative Secretary in the ANU Students' Association in 1966, and over her three decades on campus, Di was a central figure in the ANU community and in the lives of its students. Her tireless activism did much to improve accommodation, health, welfare and financial services to students, supporting them in needs beyond the lecture theatre. In 1966, as ANUSA Administrative Secretary, she assisted students in gaining a place on the ANU Council.

Di's early years at the University were set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War and the radical and rapid change this brought about. It was a time of mass student protest, the opening up of University education to more Australians and the push for women's and indigenous rights. Di and her colleagues were key supporters of Aboriginal activists for the establishment of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in front of the then Parliament House, where it still stands today. She is held in high esteem by the Aboriginal Community.

A major contribution to the effectiveness of the ANUSA was Di's well-developed connection with the university administration and her personal relationships with senior University officers. These connections were important in maintaining a bridge between the administration and the ANUSA. She also had the respect and trust of the ACT Police, important during mass student protests and arrests.

In 1971 the Aquarius foundation of Australian Union of Students held the Aquarius Arts Festival in Canberra. Di was deeply involved in ensuring that the Union and the University provided relevant services in delivering a very successful festival.

After leaving the Students' Association in 1990 Di joined Valentine McKelvey at the ANU Arts Centre where she continued to apply her administrative and student-centred skills and commitment. She created a working hub for student and non-student theatre work and for many years was very active in the performing arts scene both on campus and within the Canberra community. She was a long-time board member of the Canberra Theatre Trust.

Di retired from the ANU in 1995 but continued to be active in the local Canberra community. She became an effective foundation board member of the Drug Referral and Information Centre, later known as Assisting Drug Dependents, for over 30 years. Allied to her social justice concern, Di gave her full support to the creation of Cura Casa, a halfway house for

women and families under pressure, especially those with mental health issues. She also became a Justice of the Peace in the Magistrates Court.

Di and her husband were staunch supporters and committed members of the Australian Labor Party. They helped found the Canberra Labor Club, which they saw as a resource for the Labor Party. Di was a member of the board of the club for many years. Following Gough Whitlam's reforms in 1973, permitting members of the public to act as marriage celebrants, Di was one of the first to take up the offer to become a celebrant. Her personality and reputation meant that many former students sought her out, including from interstate, to preside over their wedding ceremonies.

In retirement Di became a valued founding member of the ANU Emeritus Faculty and was elected to the Executive Committee in 1999. She later held the position of Membership Officer, a position she held right up until her death. She was also one of the original members of the East Coast Project, a sub-committee of the Emeritus Faculty formed in 2009 which undertook research into the possible early exploration of the East Coast of Australia.

In early 2019, within the new Kambri precinct on the ANU campus, Di was honoured when the Vice Chancellor named the Di Riddell Student Centre in honour of the contribution she made to ANU and its many students, and to the wider community.

Richard Refshauge said in his eulogy to Di, 'No one who had contact with Di was unaffected by her, she was gregarious, bossy, efficient, genuinely compassionate, dogmatic and a firm, firm friend.' He went on to say that '...although it is a bit of a cliché, but absolutely true that all who knew her were the better for it.'

Di is survived by her son, Christopher, her daughter-in-law, Donna, grandson Matthew and granddaughter Hannah.

Verna Rosling

Lab-grown 'lungs' help to fight respiratory viruses

CSIRO scientists have found that human airway cells grown in a laboratory can be used reliably to study respiratory viruses such as COVID-19, which could help to minimise animal testing and fast-track drugs for human clinical trials. CSIRO researchers found that lab-grown cells from the upper layer of the airway to the lungs – the human bronchial epithelium – reliably mimic a live person's airway's response to viruses.

CSIRO Research Scientist Dr Elizabeth Pharo, the lead author on the findings, published in the journal *Viruses*, says, "Clinical trials for new therapeutics can take significant time and money to establish, only for researchers to frequently discover that the treatment doesn't work in people. We found that our lab-grown airway cells mimic the human airway response to viruses and can be used to quickly test whether antiviral treatments might work against a virus in a real person. This way we can 'fast fail' antivirals before they get to the clinical trial stage, helping streamline the more promising ones through to human testing."

Dr Pharo said the airway model could potentially be used to screen up to 100 antiviral compounds within three months, and CSIRO is exploring ways to further accelerate screening, including the use of robotic technology. The model could also be used to help study the characteristics of a virus and how it affects airway cells, helping reduce the need for animal testing. However, it cannot be used to study the more complex immune responses.

Anticus and humiliation

A female student once asked Anticus whether he was related to Anticus Filius, who enjoyed some fame among students. When he owned to being the father of Anticus Filius, he saw glowing in her eyes a pale reflection from his offspring's glory. He heard some time later from Anticus Filius that she had told him his father had humiliated her. The occasion of this humiliation was, apparently, that an essay she had written in one of Anticus's courses had been returned to her with a comment, typed on his old Royal, which was longer than the essay itself.

One trouble that Anticus always had with students' work was that the better it was, the less one could say about it. Once one had expanded to a few fulsome sentences the sentiment that 'This is excellent in all respects, a pleasure to read — have a High Distinction', there was little to add. Whereas, with the weaker vessels, there was always much more to say. That his good intentions and attentiveness to the detail of the student's work passed for a humiliation was dismaying.

A colleague in another Department once asked Anticus to second-read and pass an opinion on a student's essay. He happened to know this student, who was Polish and had never mastered the art of using definite or indefinite articles with her English nouns ('I read book'). This inability was manifest in the introduction and the conclusion but utterly absent from the fifteen pages separating them. Having read the work, Anticus concluded that the student had written the beginning and the end and that the rest was a fluent put-up job. His colleague thanked him for his view, gave a grade of Credit and handed back the essay with one pencil mark on it.

There came a time when Anticus began to notice the name of Kommissarius in email decrees, when 'paperless' became a strange new word. The decree requiring all marking to be done on line allowed exceptions on two grounds, medical or, *mirabile dictu*, pedagogical. It was a time when students who never had to attend classes, whom teachers never met, could be granted a good result in a course. That marking by hand had its drawbacks none would deny; that marking by computer has none, few would agree. Agreement, however, with decrees issued by Kommissarius, was not required. Mere compliance sufficed. Anticus wrote the longest email he had ever written, requesting exception on both grounds, attaching documentation in support of his application. His temerity went so far as to hint that a teacher with decades of experience in teaching and assessing his subject might be a better judge of how it should be done than an administrator with none. He even walked over to the Humiliatorium to deliver further material, by hand.

Having received no reply (Kommissarius never reads long emails, he was told, and is far too busy attending meetings to be in his office), Anticus went on marking by hand, on paper, the work of students on all of whom he set eyes. One day he may even set eyes on Kommissarius.

ANTIQVITVS

COVID-19 and the sewage test

A comprehensive testing program has found no traces of SARS-CoV-2 in Canberra's sewage system. The testing, carried out by experts from ANU, examined Canberra's sewage water for traces of the coronavirus which causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2. Testing sewage is a rapid and inexpensive way of tracking the coronavirus and potential community transmission.

ANU environmental epidemiologist and project lead, Dr Aparna Lal, said the testing of daily samples throughout May found no SARS-CoV-2 in sewage from Canberra. "We tested 25 samples in May from Icon Water's sewage treatment plant, covering the whole of the ACT population, and found no traces of SARS-CoV-2 RNA," she said. "This coincides with the period that the ACT was declared free of any new coronavirus cases.

"These are excellent outcomes, and show the Canberra community are listening to and following health advice and that we are all working extremely hard to stop the potential spread of COVID-19."

The samples from Icon Water's sewage treatment plant were analysed using advanced genetic testing, to detect SARS-CoV2 and a range of other viruses. While genetic material for a number of viruses was identified, indicating the test worked, no traces of SARS-CoV2 were found in the ACT sewage system.

Dr Lal, based at the ANU Research School of Population Health, said sewage testing allowed health authorities to effectively track the potential spread of viruses like SARS-CoV2 outside of patient testing or hospital reporting.

"This shows us that we can actively monitor the presence of SARS-CoV2 through sewage and that, based on all the samples we have processed, there are no high levels of undetected community transmission in the ACT," Dr Lal said. "I want to thank Icon Water for allowing us to access samples from their sewage treatment plant. Without their support this important work would not be possible. It's great to have them putting the wellbeing of our community at the top of their priorities."

The samples collected by Dr Lal were assessed in laboratories at the ANU John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR). Professor Graham Mann, JCSMR Director, thanked all the collaborators involved.

Dr Pawan Parajuli, who is conducting the advanced genetic testing at JCSMR said: "We have validated the method behind this test and shown that it can work. We are now optimising it to make the test more sensitive so we can recover and detect even more viruses from each sewage sample."

The sewage program forms part of a comprehensive COVID-19 testing program at ANU leveraging the expertise of more than 30 researchers.

WFP expects to help 138m hungry people - but fears 270m

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has announced a massive rise in the number of hungry people it plans to assist around the world, as the devastating socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic push millions more people into food insecurity in low- and middle-income countries.

To tackle the rising tide of hunger, WFP is undertaking the biggest humanitarian response in its history, ramping up the number of people it assists to up to 138 million from a record 97 million in 2019. But sustained funding is urgently required to respond to the immediate

consequences of the pandemic on the most vulnerable, and support governments and partners as they curb the spread of the disease and deal with the fallout from the pandemic. WFP is appealing for US\$ 4.9 billion over the next six months for its life-saving work in 83 countries.

“The frontline in the battle against the coronavirus is shifting from the rich world to the poor world,” said David Beasley, WFP’s Executive Director. “Until the day we have a medical vaccine, food is the best vaccine against chaos. Without it, we could see increased social unrest and protests, a rise in migration, deepening conflict and widespread under-nutrition among populations that were previously immune from hunger.”

Earlier WFP projections on the number of people who would be pushed into food insecurity by COVID-19 have now been refined with real-time monitoring and assessments. WFP’s new estimates show that the number of hungry in the countries where it operates could increase to 270 million before the year’s end - an 82 percent increase from before the pandemic took hold.

For more information, access in your browser: <https://www.wfp.org/>

In similar vein, the **Commission for The Human Future** has issued a new report on Food Security, in which it states, “The Commission considers this to be a very important report that needs to be widely known in Australia. A second report which considers possible policy actions by our own government will be released shortly.”

The Commission states in its latest report, "We must all eat, every day, in order to survive and thrive. That adds up to more than 8 trillion meals a year. Present projections of demand by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicate a need for 60 per cent more food by the mid-century. However, failure to address the current shortcomings of the global food system could potentially result in a global food shortfall of up to 40 per cent. Our Second Round Table finds that the future of food cannot be taken for granted."

Paste CHF Food Report links in browser:

<https://www.humanfuture.net/sites/default/files/Final%20Report%20on%20Food%20Security.pdf>

www.humanfuture.net

Morrison's Miracle: The 2019 Australian Federal Election

Edited by: [Anika Gauja](#) , [Marian Sawer](#) , [Marian Simms](#) 



This book, the 17th in the federal election series and the ninth sponsored by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, provides a comprehensive account of the 2019 Australian election, which resulted in the surprise victory of the Coalition under Scott Morrison. It brings together 36 contributors who analyse voter behaviour, campaign strategies, regional variations, polling, ideology, media and the new importance of memes and digital campaigning. Morrison's victory underlined the continuing trend toward the personalisation of politics and the loss of trust in political institutions, both in Australia and across western democracies. *Morrison's Miracle* is indispensable for understanding the May 2019 Coalition victory, which surprised many observers and confounded pollsters and political pundits.

ISBN (print – rrp \$75.00): 9781760463618

ISBN (online): 9781760463625

ANU Press

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/MM.2020>

Matters of possible interest

Topics for discussion

Universities Australia e-publication, *Higher Edition*, covers how universities have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and makes the case for Government to prioritise investment in university research. It also looks into the Government's recently announced 'Job-Ready Graduates' package and explores some of the university research into COVID-19. The latest edition considers the safety of university students and staff now that much of our teaching and learning has moved online.

If these links are inaccessible, paste the underlined words in your browser or access Universities Australia.

Star-gazing: virtual and real

Mount Stromlo Observatory in conjunction with the Canberra Astronomical Society is inviting the public to (virtually) attend its next public observing night on July 17. Future dates are 21 August (hopefully in person, TBA), 25 September (hopefully in person, TBA). On offer are the craters of the moon, planets, and beautiful star clusters and nebulae. On the night, attendees will be taken on a 'tour of the universe' with talks by astronomers from Mt. Stromlo Observatory and telescope observations. This event will be done remotely through Facebook Live. There will be an opportunity to ask questions for each talk. In the event of cloudy/bad weather, stargazing will be cancelled (the talks will occur regardless of the weather). Check the weather at Mt Stromlo using [all sky camera](#). The observatory will also post updates on its [Facebook page](#).

The National Library

The National Library's Main Reading Room, Special Collections Reading Room and Petherick Reading Room are now open from 10am–5pm, Monday to Friday. The [National Library Bookshop](#) has also reopened from 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday, and 9am–3pm on weekends. For more information check the library's website or follow the library's [social media channels](#) for the for the latest updates and news.

Netting whales

A campaign to save whales from being entangled, injured or killed in Gold Coast shark nets, is being organised by **Change.org**. Petition organisers say the entanglements are predictable, occur every year and, most importantly, are preventable. Gold Coast Bay and Moreton Bay in the urbanised south-east Queensland are home to a large number of

marine mammals including the common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, dugongs, and the humpback whale. A recent study (https://www.humpbacksandhighrises.org/HW_behaviour.pdf) has confirmed that humpback whales use the Gold Coast as a resting area during their southern migration. Recent surveys show an increase of calving. In particular mothers and calves were found to spend hours or days on the surface to rest with their calves near the shore.

For more information, access: [Change.org](https://www.change.org)

WHO's news links

For members interested in news from the World Health Organisation the following updated links may be useful: **All previous situation reports are at:**
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>**Media assets and information on COVID-19**
<https://who.canto.global/v/coronavirus>

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.

VIRTUAL LIVE EVENT: Julia Gillard in conversation with Quentin Bryce

[ANU/The Canberra Times Meet the Author series](#)

July 15. 6-7pm In this virtual Meet the Author live event, Julia Gillard and Quentin Bryce discuss Julia's new book, co-authored with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, *Women and Leadership*. An inspirational and practical book written by two high-achieving women, sharing the experience and advice of some of our most extraordinary women leaders, in their own words. As a result of their broad experience on the world stage in politics, economics and global not-for-profits, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Julia Gillard have some strong ideas about the impact of gender on the treatment of leaders. *Women and Leadership* takes a consistent and comprehensive approach to teasing out what is different for women who lead.

The virtual Meet the author event will be introduced and chaired by **Professor Brian Schmidt** AC FAA FRS Vice-Chancellor and President of the Australian National University.

Signed copies by Julia Gillard of *Women and Leadership* will be available for sale from Harry Hartog bookshop ANU.

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

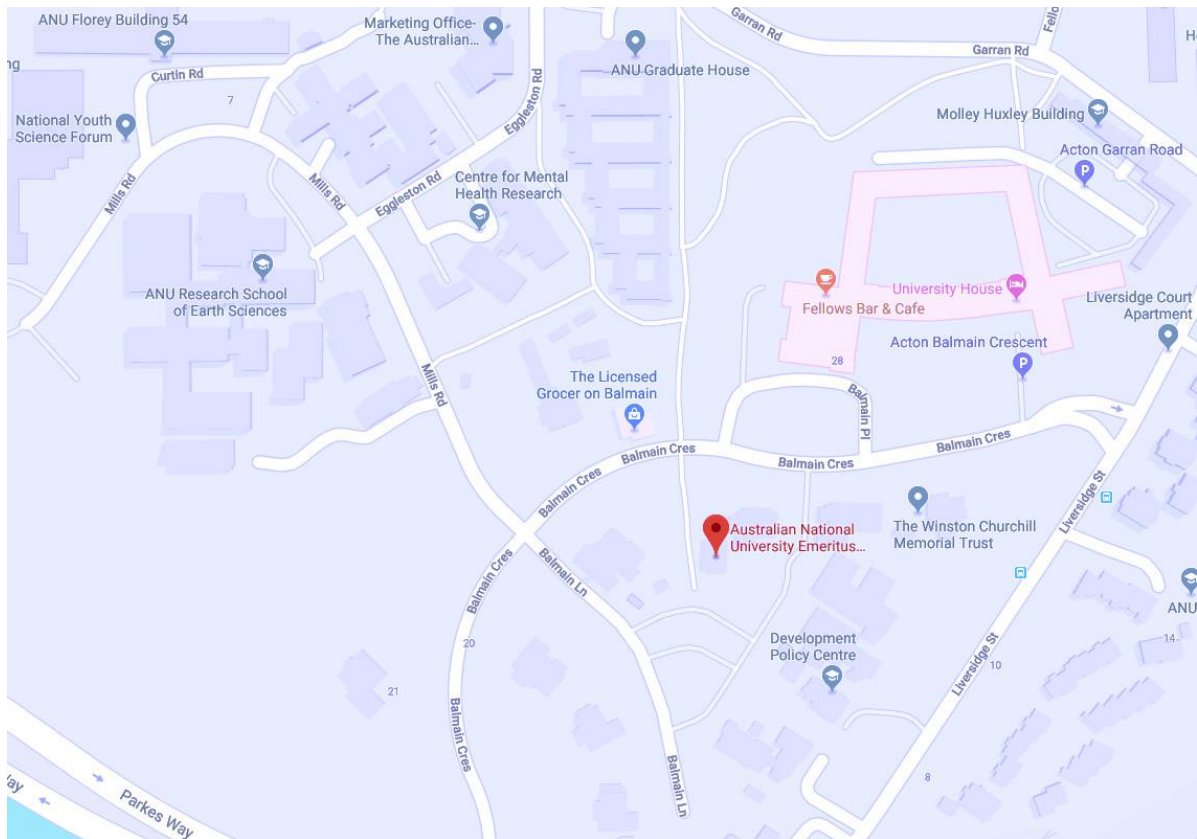
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

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

August, 2020