EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

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SA COVID spike delays students' return

In the Vice-Chancellor's recent blog Professor Brian Schmidt AC noted that Australian news had been dominated by the COVID-19 outbreak in South Australia, coupled with some states rapidly closing borders.

He commented, "In South Australia, they've had to hit pause on their international student return pilot program, which is disappointing - for them and us - as it was paving the way across our sector to return international students to campuses for 2021.

"I remain hopeful we'll be able to run an ACT pilot as soon as it is safe and approved, using the experience of our COVID-Response lead, Professor Tracy Smart - who coordinated the successful AFL quarantine hubs up in Queensland.

"My goal is clear: we will do everything we can to bring all our students back to ANU during 2021. This is a complex logistical challenge, and will be affected by things beyond our control. However, we have access to many of the best people in the world here at ANU, the University of Canberra, the ACT Government and the Federal Government. We continue to work closely together to create a solution which is safe for our students, and will have the absolute minimum risk for those of us already here in Canberra. I'll update you on plans to bring our international students home as soon as I can."

The missing link in understanding COVID-19 and its mutations

A new study led by the CSIRO, has found 95.5 per cent of current entries in GISAID, the world's largest novel coronavirus genome database, do not contain relevant patient information — a critical piece of the puzzle to understand the virus and how it is evolving.

The researchers have used this finding to develop a standardised data collection template, which can be implemented on repositories like GISAID, without identifying the patient and making it easier for clinical teams treating patients to share more of their knowledge. This enables the scientific community to access important information including symptoms, vaccine status and travel history and in doing so build a more complete picture of the impact of COVID-19 on each patient. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is one of the most sequenced viruses in history, with over 200,000 sequences on GISAID as of 16 November, 2020.

The last 100,000 sequences of the virus were uploaded in the past two months, a global record. The study, a collaboration with GISAID and other academic partners, proposes a standardised data collection method to help scientists and clinicians around the world gather and share vital information in the fight against COVID-19.

CSIRO researcher and senior author of the paper, Dr S.S. Vasan, said it is critical to collect the 'patient journey' in as much detail as possible to understand the impact of virus evolution on the disease and its consequences. "We urgently need de-identified patient data associated with these virus genome sequences in order to decipher whether disease outcomes are due to a mutation, or multiple mutations, in the virus or host factors such as age, gender and comorbidities," Dr Vasan said.

"It's very likely this information is known to the clinical teams who treated the patient but does not make its way to public repositories such as GISAID, due to the number of steps involved."

Recognising this need for clinical data, GISAID made 'patient status' a compulsory field for uploading virus sequences since 27 April, 2020. However, the study showed that a lack of digital infrastructure for collecting clinical information has hampered progress. It also identified the need for a standardised vocabulary and mechanism for linking in with health systems as key factors for capturing the necessary information.

Lead author and CSIRO researcher, Dr Denis Bauer, said that with the adoption of the study's proposed data collection template, future sequences shared through the GISAID initiative could contain more meaningful de-identified patient information.

"We have identified steps in the clinical health data acquisition cycle and workflows that likely have the biggest impact in the data-driven understanding of this virus," Dr Bauer said. "Following the 'Fast Healthcare Interoperable Resource' implementation guide, we have introduced an ontology-based standard questionnaire consistent with the World Health Organization's recommendations."

Barwon Health's Director of Infectious Diseases Professor Eugene Athan welcomed the new data collection template. "Barwon Health is leading a study on the long-term biological, physiological and psychological effects of COVID-19, in partnership with CSIRO and Deakin University, and we intend to implement this mechanism for our data collection and reporting," Professot Athan said. "Having a simplified and standardised approach to sharing relevant patient information alongside genome sequences will enable critical research into

COVID-19 and comparisons between different studies and population sets.

"I encourage clinicians and scientists around the world to share, wherever possible, deidentified patient information and clinical outcomes using this template to support ongoing research efforts," he said.

The paper 'Interoperable medical data: the missing link for understanding COVID-19' was published in the *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases* journal.

The institutions that collaborated in this work include:

- **Agency for Science, Technology and Research** (**A*STAR**), Singapore's lead public sector R&D agency and a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore. www.astar.edu.sg
- **CSIRO, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation**, Australia's national science agency. www.csiro.au
- GISAID Initiative promotes the rapid sharing of data from all influenza viruses and the coronavirus causing COVID-19. Headquartered in Munich, it was set up in the Sixty-first World Health Assembly in May 2008. www.gisaid.org
- **Institut Pasteur** is a French non-profit private foundation since 1887, dedicated to the study of biology, micro-organisms, diseases, and vaccines. www.pasteur.fr
- Macquarie University, Sydney-based public research university. www.mq.edu.au
- **National University of Singapore**, established in 1905, is the oldest and highest ranked academic institution in Singapore. www.nus.edu.sg
- **Sorbonne Université**, established in 1257, is a public research university in Paris, France. www.sorbonne-universite.fr
- **University of York** is a collegiate research university that is part of the UK's Russell Group. www.york.ac.uk
- For details on the CSIRO's COVID-19 systems biology case-control study in collaboration with Barwon Health, see http://bit.do/ACDP-Barwon-COVID

ANUEF AGM and Christmas party

The AGM will be held at 5.00pm on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. In light of the current ACT Government COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting will be held in the outside area adjacent to the Molony Room.

Australia-Germany research collaboration boosted by \$1.2 million

Predicting falls among the elderly, making construction materials more durable, and using artificial intelligence to improve literacy programs in schools are among projects funded by the Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme this past year.

The \$1.2 million in funding announced in November will enable early career researchers from 19 Australian universities to partner with their counterparts in Germany on 32 projects.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said the Australia-Germany Joint Research Collaboration Scheme has resulted in significant investment in the innovation and research relationship between Australia and Germany.

"These early collaborations set the stage for deep and lasting cooperative work, the kind of

research that delivers in spades for both nations," Ms Jackson said. "If there was ever a time to recognise that, it is now, when research is so central to the global fight against COVID-19."

The Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme has been running since 2015 and is an initiative of Universities Australia and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) – Germany's national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. Ms Jackson continued, "Applications to the scheme have been consistently high – including this year, despite the COVID-19 global pandemic. This is a testament to the strength of the scheme and the value our researchers and universities see in collaborating with partners in Germany."

Since 2015, more than \$14 million in funding has been awarded to 398 projects. Projects awarded funding in 2018 and 2019 for research activities scheduled to take place in 2020 have had their funding carried forward to 2021 to account for current travel restrictions. Funding for the Australian researchers is provided by Australian universities and the cost of administering the scheme is supported by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. More information about the scheme is available on the Universities Australia website.

Obituary

Emeritus Professor Burgess Don Cameron 11 January 1922 - 22 July 2020

Emeritus Professor Burgess Cameron, former Professor of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Economics (now the ANU's College of Business and Economics), died in Canberra on 22 July, 2020, aged 98.

Burge, as he was known to his family, friends and colleagues, graduated with first class honours in economics from the University of Sydney in 1943 and was awarded the University Medal. He spent the next two years in the Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF) and served overseas. In 1946 he was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Economics at Canberra University College and was subsequently promoted to Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor of Applied Economics. In 1949 he was awarded the degree of Master of Economics from the University of Sydney.

He was an early recipient of an ANU Overseas Scholarship, supplementing it by winning the Rouse Ball scholarship awarded by Trinity College, Cambridge. At Cambridge he embarked on a doctorate, choosing inter-industry (input-output) analysis as the subject area for his thesis. His supervisor was Sir Richard Stone, later the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics. Burge's doctoral thesis, completed in 1952, was published by Cambridge University Press and won the Harbison-Higginbotham Prize awarded by the University of Melbourne in 1953.

Burge was first elected Dean of the Faculty of Economics in 1960 and was appointed Head of the Department of Economics in 1963 when Professor H. W. Arndt moved to the Research School of Pacific Studies. Meanwhile, he was publishing articles in local and overseas journals, including the *Review of Economic Studies* and the *International Economic Review*. He also published a number of books on Australian economic policy and wrote articles for the *Financial Review*. His formal training in mathematics and quantitative techniques led him

to develop within the Department of Economics a strong theoretical and mathematical approach to the subject. Gathering around him a number of distinguished colleagues with similar interests resulted in the department's recognition as the leading centre in the nation for mathematical economics.

On his return to the ANU from Cambridge, Burge was elected to represent non-professorial staff on the Council of Canberra University College. Later, as Head of the Department and Dean of the Faculty of Economics, he served on the Board of the School of General Studies. The then Vice-Chancellor, Sir John Crawford, invited him to take the position of Deputy Chair of the Board, in effect the Chair of the Board. Much to Sir John's disappointment, Burge declined the invitation on health grounds.

In March 1979, after several bouts of ill-health, including heart disease, the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer informed him that, at age 57, he "must retire immediately". At its meeting on 27 April, 1979, the Board of the School of General Studies recorded that Burge's "scholarly strength has been an ornament of the University." It acknowledged its "gratitude for Professor Cameron's services to the University," and its "regret at his early retirement." The ANU Council approved Burge's appointment as Emeritus Professor on 11 May, 1979. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor D. A. Low, wrote to him saying that at the meeting of Council "there were warm expressions of appreciation for all you have done over so many years." He added that the Economics Faculty's "strength owes so much to all that you have done for it over the years." The minutes of the Faculty meeting on 9 April, 1979 noted that Burge had "gained a reputation as a brilliant leader, and the author of many articles and texts, and played a prominent part in the development of the Faculty."

The great economist, John Maynard Keynes, held that economics was an "easy subject at which very few excel!" Burge would have agreed with Keynes on the second point but not on the first. His former students recall that, in the first lecture in Economics I, Burge would ask them to note the students sitting on their right and on their left because it was possible – indeed probable - that they would not be doing Economics II the following year. Economics I, he told them, was not a pushover and students would have to work exceedingly hard if they hoped to pass.

As well as a brilliant economist and academic administrator, Burge was a man of great personal style, always immaculately dressed, his hair carefully brushed, and his moustache neatly trimmed. Often he sported an elegant cravat. He was sometimes likened to a Hollywood movie star of the 1940s and 1950s. He helped to put the ANU on the map and deserves to be remembered by the University with abiding affection and gratitude.

Selwyn Cornish

Reserve School of Economics
College of Business and Economics

Two CSIRO scientists announced as 2020 fellows by AAAS

Professor Toby Walsh and Dr T.J. Higgins, both at CSIRO, have been named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

CSIRO Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley congratulated the pair on their recognition. "I congratulate Toby and T.J. on being internationally recognised for the quality and impact of their research, adding to CSIRO's more than 100 years at the forefront of global scientific excellence," she said. "Science at CSIRO is inherently collaborative, and this honour from our colleagues in the US recognises the importance of working with the best around the world to solve the planet's greatest challenges through innovative science and technology."

Professor Walsh has been recognised for his leadership and significant contributions to automated deduction, constraint programming, and fairness in artificial intelligence. His work in AI has focused on enabling computers to do tasks that require intelligence, ranging from how to route trucks more efficiently, to how to best allocate donated kidneys to patients.

"It is a wonderful accolade to join some of the best scientists around the world as a Fellow of AAAS," Professor Walsh said. "I especially value the work of AAAS in promoting evidence-based policy, as well as in encouraging diversity and inclusion in science. I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional colleagues at CSIRO's Data61 and other research labs around the world, whom I have had the privilege to work alongside."

Dr Higgins has spent the latter part of his career working with an international team of researchers to protect cowpeas from the damaging legume pod-borer. Cowpeas or black-eyed peas are a major source of protein for 200 million people in West Africa, sometimes referred to as "poor-man's meat". Through breeding the Bt gene into cowpea, Dr Higgins and his African colleagues have given the plant its own built-in insect protection. In late 2019 the first insect-resistant cowpea variety was approved in Africa.

Dr Higgins said, "This is a great honour from my US colleagues and recognises our combined efforts with the African Agricultural Technology Foundation to improve food security among some of the world's poorest farmers."

A total of 489 members have been awarded this honour by AAAS in 2020 because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. They will be formally inducted at a ceremony in early 2021.

CALD Assist app helps COVID screening for non-English speaking groups

A free mobile app developed by Western Health in Victoria and CSIRO will help support COVID-19 screening efforts with patients from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

The CALD Assist app was initially developed in 2017 to support communication between such patients and healthcare workers including nurses, dieticians, speech pathologists, podiatrists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. The Victorian Government contributed \$454,000 to the development of the app.

CALD Assist features more than 200 commonly used phrases translated into 10 languages: Arabic, Cantonese, Croatian, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Mandarin, Serbian, Spanish and Vietnamese – supported by images, video and pre-recorded audio. A new update to the app allows non-English speakers to be asked COVID-19 screening questions, where interpreters

are unavailable, and is designed for use by all health professionals involved with COVID-19 screening, including doctors.

Western Health Executive Director Operations Natasha Toohey said while the CALD Assist app was designed to complement – not replace – the work of interpreters, it had an important role to play. "Clear communication is vital to providing quality health care – at all times, not only during a pandemic," Ms Toohey said.

Dr Jill Freyne, Deputy Director of CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre said the app was trialled with allied health clinicians and nursing staff to ensure its clinical value. Dr Freyne said, "The beauty of the app is that is can be used in different settings including hospital patients and visitors and in COVID-19 testing centres. Patients also have the flexibility to choose whether to read or listen to the screening questions."

Western Health's Infectious Diseases, speech pathology and interpreting teams have combined to compose, translate and give voice to the COVID-19 questions on the app.

Book Shelf

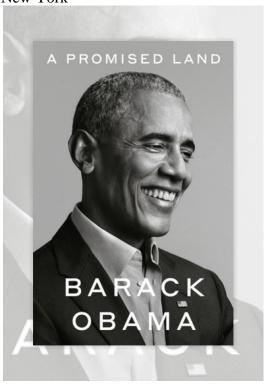
Book Shelf

Book Shelf

A Promised Land

By Barak Obama

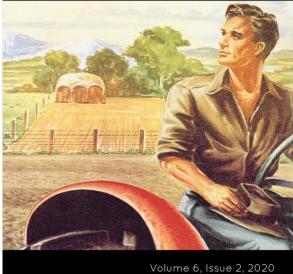
Published by Penguin Ransom House, New York



In the first volume of his presidential memoirs, Barack Obama reflects on his whirlwind campaign that caught lightning in a bottle and the early years of his presidency, navigating the great challenges facing the American nation. He shares indelible portraits of world leaders and Congress members—and also reveals his inspirations and quiet moments with family. This deeply personal, beautifully written account of history in the making is available now.

"Barack Obama is as fine a writer as they come.... It is nearly always pleasurable to read, sentence by sentence, the prose gorgeous in places, the detail granular and vivid." —Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *The New York Times*

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW of ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY



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International Review of Environmental History:

Volume 6, Issue 2, 2020 **Edited by: James Beattie**

International Review of Environmental History takes an interdisciplinary and global approach to environmental history. It encourages scholars to think big and to tackle the challenges of writing environmental histories across different methodologies, nations, and time-scales. The journal embraces interdisciplinary, comparative and transnational methods, while still recognising the importance of locality in understanding these global processes. The journal's goal is to be read across disciplines, not just within history. It publishes on all thematic and geographic topics of environmental history, but especially encourages articles with perspectives focused on or developed from the southern hemisphere and the 'global south'.

Australian Journal of Biography and History:

No. 4, 2020

ISSN (print - rrp: \$35.00): 2209-9522ISSN

(online): 2209-9573 ANU Press DOI:

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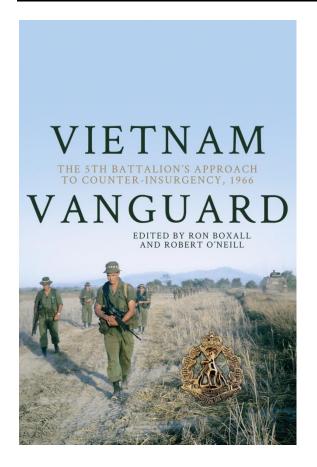
This issue of the Australian Journal of Biography and History includes eight peer-reviewed articles, and 12 book reviews. Each of the articles uses biography to illustrate historical themes and to add texture to historical episodes. Patricia Clarke examines the role of four women journalists who were recruited by the Australian Government to tour operational bases in eastern Australia during a critical phase in the Pacific War. In the field of journalism, women faced systemic barriers to employment; the women described in Clarke's article went to great efforts to attain equality in the workplace, yet they were often restricted to weekly publications while the dailies remained the province of men. Lyndon and Lyne Megarrity, in their article on the two wives of the Oueensland businessman and later premier Robert Philp (1899–1903, 1907–08), use the biographies of Jessie (née Bannister; 1856–90), and Mina (née Munro; 1867–1940) to illustrate the changes in the role of elite Queensland women over the relatively short period of a decade.

The next two articles consider the problems of constructing biographies of those who are essentially invisible in the historical record. Melanie Nolan, Christine Fernon and Rebecca Kippen discuss the 'first-fleeter' Sarah Bellamy's seemingly 'insignificant life' to illustrate various aspects of the British colonisation of the continent. The biography of the Boonwurrung man Kurrburra (1797–1849)

forms the subject of the contribution by Ian Clark, Rolf Schlagloth, Fred Cahir and Gabrielle McGinnis. By setting out to consider the whole of Kurrburra's life rather than only the moments of contact (or conflict) with colonial society, he can be re-presented as one who was respected and important in his Aboriginal community, and who managed, negotiated and sought to control his interactions with the colonising forces.

Sophie Scott-Brown, in her article on the British Marxist historian Raphael Samuel, considers the utility of biography in relation to intellectual history, and the relationship between what she terms 'cultural persona' and the empirical personality. By contrast, Michael Davis's biographical portrait of the anthropologist Leonhard Adam reveals a figure who some viewed as an outsider, but whose works on Aboriginal art were highly successful. In his study of the Australian delegation to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, David Lee looks at the men who between them forcefully asserted Australia's position, and thus contributed to the country's consolidation as an independent nationstate during the inter-war period. In the final article, Stephen Wilks argues that biography is founded on human agency, and that political history is 'rich in interpersonal interaction'. He concludes that biography provides scholars with 'a platform for exploring the tortuous chains of decision, chance and error that characterise the political past and the legacies it imparts'.

And for Christmas holiday reading from ANU Press

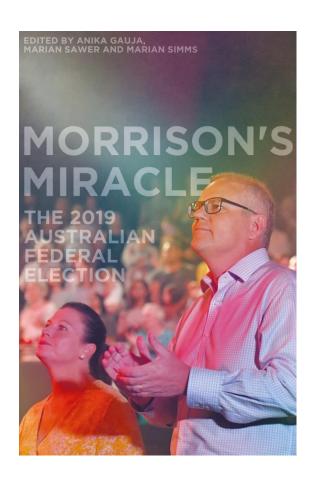


VIETNAM VANGUARD

Edited By: Ron Boxall and Robert O'Neill http://doi.org/10.22459/VV.2019

The pivotal role of Australian forces in the Vietnam War remains largely unknown to the Australian public. Providing a rare, vivid and personal account of 5 RAR, Vietnam Vanguard: The 5th Battalion's Approach to Counter-insurgency, 1966 offers a compelling insight into the realities of war.

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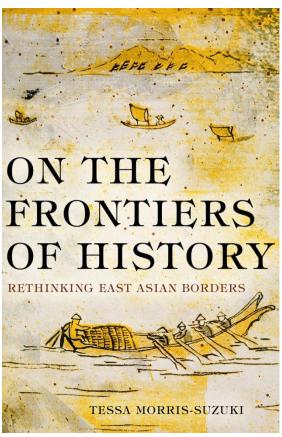


MORRISON'S MIRACLE

Edited By: Anika Gauja, Marian Sawer and Marian Simms http://doi.org/10.22459/MM.2020

Written by 36 of Australia's leading political analysts and scholars, *Morrison's Miracle: The 2019 Australian Federal Election* provides a definitive account of the 2019 election result. It provides a comprehensive analysis of voter behaviour, campaign strategies, regional variations, polling, ideology, media and the new importance of memes and digital campaigning. *Morrison's Miracle* is indispensable for understanding the May 2019 Coalition victory, which surprised many observers and confounded pollsters and political pundits.

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ON THE FRONTIERS OF HISTORY

By Tessa Morris-Suzuki

http://doi.org/10.22459/OFH.2020

Why is it that we so readily accept the boundary lines drawn around nations or around regions like 'Asia' as though they were natural and self-evident, when in fact they are so mutable and often so very arbitrary? On the Frontiers of History: Rethinking East Asian Borders offers a fascinating collection of essays that takes the reader on a journey from Renaissance European visions of 'Tartary', through nineteenth-century racial theorising, imperial cartography and indigenous experiences of modernity, to contemporary debates about Big History in an age of environmental crisis.

Buy Print: \$50.00 Free Download



COMMUNICATING SCIENCE

Edited By: Toss Gascoigne, Bernard Schiele, Joan Leach, Michelle Riedlinger, Bruce V. Lewenstein, Luisa Massarani and Peter Broks

http://doi.org/10.22459/CS.2020

How did modern science communication begin? How has it evolved from one country to the next? What social, political, and economic forces inspired those changes?

This collection charts the emergence of modern science communication across the world. Communicating Science provides a comprehensive look at the history of science communication across 39 countries. All continents and all cultures are represented. For some countries, this is the first time that their science communication story has been told.

Buy Print: \$150.00 Free Download

Matters of possible interest

BOM and CSIRO on climate

Continued warming of Australia's climate, an increase in extreme fire weather and length of the fire season, declining rainfall in the southeast and southwest of the continent, and rising sea levels are some of the key trends detailed in the latest *State of the Climate* report, released by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO. Drawing on the latest climate observations, analyses and projections, the biennial report provides a comprehensive and scientifically rigorous analysis of Australia's changing climate, today and into the future.

For report access through your browser: https://events.csiro.au

Views wanted by Human Rights Commission

Public consultation has begun on the Australian Human Rights Commission's independent review of the sport of gymnastics in Australia. Anyone who has been involved in gymnastics in Australia is invited to participate. Interviews and focus groups will be conducted over the next two months, and written submissions will be accepted until 10 January, 2021. The

Review will build an understanding of the sport's culture, athlete experience and barriers to reporting misconduct and abuse.

For more information access through your browser: www.humanrights.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 face-to-face in abeyance but occasional on-line events

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

Meet the author

The ANU/*Canberra Times* meet the author event held on November 27 is now online at: https://www.anu.edu.au/events/in-conversation-with-laura-tingle

Laura Tingle was in conversation with Don Russell on Laura's new Quarterly Essay, *The High Road. What Australia can learn from New Zealand.*

The browser link to a recording of Ian Keen's Zoom talk to ANUEF on December 2, 2020 is: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nTvA8nlaVCEnat71K23f-gOmGD5JtryncP7NPv-sl69L03s_CPB0GeB2k6iujREI.7BXycJgcePUxxHEH

At the NGA

Exhibitions at the National Gallery of Australia

Until July 4, 2021: *Know My Name - Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now*; open & free. This exhibition showcases art made by women. It brings together more than 300 works, drawn from the Gallery's collection and other collections from across Australia.

5 March, 2021 – 14 June 2021: *Botticelli to Van Gogh:* Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London. Ticketed

Spanning 450 years, Botticelli to Van Gogh: Masterpieces from the National Gallery, London presents 60 paintings by some of Europe's most revered artists. Exclusive to Canberra.

Opening 2021: *Skywhales: Every heart sings*. The Balnaves Contemporary Series. Free. The Gallery presents Patricia Piccinini's Skywhalepapa 2020, a monumental sculpture in the form of a hot-air balloon.

2021 National Indigenous Art Triennial; Free. The National Indigenous Art Triennial is the nation's first large scale recurring exhibition dedicated to contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and artists.

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



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