

# EMERITUS

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## 20-year journey to the stars possible from ANU researchers' invention

Scientists from The Australian National University (ANU) have designed a new type of space craft propulsion system as part of an ambitious international project that aims to explore worlds surrounding Earth's second nearest star, Alpha Centauri.

The Breakthrough Starshot project calls for the design of an ultra-lightweight spacecraft, which acts as a light-sail, to travel with unprecedented speed over tens of trillions of kilometres to the star about four light years away, reaching the destination within 20 years.

The sheer scale and size of the interstellar distances between solar systems is difficult for most people to comprehend. Travel from Earth to Alpha Centauri using today's conventional spacecraft would take more than 100 lifetimes.

In a recent paper published in the *Journal of the Optical Society of America B*, the ANU team, with funding support from Breakthrough Initiatives, outlines their design concept for the laser propulsion system to be used to launch the probes from Earth.

Lead author Dr Chathura Bandutunga said the light to power the sail will come from the Earth's surface - a giant laser array with millions of lasers acting in concert to illuminate the sail and push it on its interstellar journey.

"To cover the vast distances between Alpha Centauri and our own solar system, we must think outside the box and forge a new way for interstellar space travel,"

Dr Bandutunga, from the Applied Metrology Laboratories at the ANU Centre for Gravitational Astrophysics, said. "Once on its way, the sail will fly through the vacuum of space for 20 years before reaching its destination. During its flyby of Alpha Centauri, it will record images and scientific measurements which it will broadcast back to Earth."

The ANU team has expertise in different areas of optics spanning astronomy, gravitational wave instrumentation, fibre-optic sensors and optical phased arrays.

The founding scientist who pioneered the ANU node of this project, Dr Robert Ward, said an important part of this grand vision is the development of the laser array - in particular, designing a system to have all the lasers act as one.

"The Breakthrough Starshot program estimates the total required optical power to be about 100 GW - about 100 times the capacity of the world's largest battery today," Dr Ward, from the ANU Research School of Physics, said. "To achieve this, we estimate the number of lasers required to be approximately 100 million."

Researcher and fellow author, Dr Paul Sibley, said one of the main challenges we tackled is how to take measurements of each laser's drift. "We use a random digital signal to scramble the measurements from each laser and unscramble each one separately in digital signal processing," he said. "This allows us to pick out only the measurements we need from a vast jumble of information. We can then break the problem into small arrays and link them together in sections."

To orchestrate the show, the ANU design calls for a Beacon satellite - a guide laser placed in Earth orbit which acts as the conductor, bringing the entire laser array together.

Professor Michael Ireland from the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics said the design of the laser "engine" requires compensation for the atmosphere. "Unless corrected, the atmosphere distorts the outgoing laser beam, causing it to divert from its intended destination," he said. "Our proposal uses a laser guide star. This is a small satellite with a laser which illuminates the array from Earth orbit. As the laser guide star passes through the atmosphere on the way back to Earth, it measures the changes due to the atmosphere. We have developed the algorithm which allows us to use this information to pre-correct the outgoing light from the array."

Dr Bandutunga said that just like the eventual light-sail, this research is at the beginning of a long journey. "While we are confident with our design, the proof is in the pudding," he said. "The next step is to start testing some of the basic building blocks in a controlled laboratory setting. This includes the concepts for combining small arrays to make larger arrays and the atmospheric correction algorithms. The work done at ANU was to see if this idea would conceivably work. The goal was to find out-of-the-box solutions, to simulate them and determine if they were physically possible. While this proposal was put forward by the ANU team, there is more work happening internationally to come up with unique and clever solutions to other parts of the problem. It'll be exciting to bring these solutions together to bring the project to life."

## **BACKGROUND:**

Breakthrough Starshot is one of the Breakthrough Initiatives, a suite of scientific and technological programs founded by Yuri Milner, investigating life in the Universe. Other Initiatives include Breakthrough Listen, the largest ever astronomical search for signs of

intelligent life beyond Earth, and Breakthrough Watch, a global astronomical program aiming to identify and characterise planets around nearby stars.

Source: ANU Media

## **Future batteries and bionic hearing: the next generation of researchers ‘pitch it clever’**

The next generation of batteries and bionic hearing are the two winners of the Universities Australia’s annual *Pitch It Clever* competition. This major research communications competition challenges early-career researchers to communicate their research to non-experts in short video pitches. Results were announced recently at the peak body’s major conference in Canberra.

Elise Ajay, a researcher from The University of Melbourne won the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for her presentation on the future of bionic hearing. The Universities Australia Award went to Diego Holanda Pereira de Souza from Curtin University for his pitch on safer, cheaper and longer-lasting batteries.

Ms Ajay said she was thrilled to win the Vice-Chancellor’s award, which is judged by eight university leaders. “Being able to share my research is always a joy, and being awarded for talking about it is icing on the cake,” she said. “Early career-researchers often drive change and innovation, and supporting them through opportunities like *Pitch It Clever* helps them to stay engaged with both the research and wider communities to achieve that.” Ms Ajay’s research explores how light and electrical impulses can be better used to improve the quality of bionic hearing devices. She has won a \$3,000 cash prize and a media internship with *The Conversation*.

Mr Souza, an international PhD student from Brazil, said he felt “honoured and extremely happy” to win the Universities Australia award, which includes \$1,000 in prize money. He went on, “As an international student who came from a non-English speaking country, it makes me remember how hard it was for me to learn the language. I can now say that I am the winner of an award that is judged on communication skills. Opportunities such as *Pitch it Clever* should be encouraged more to help scientists to improve their communications skills in non-scientific language.”

Mr Souza’s research examines ways to replace the liquid in batteries with new solid materials that could make batteries smaller, cheaper, lighter and last longer.

The 2021 *Pitch It Clever* competition is supported by *The Conversation*. The submissions to this year’s competition are on the *Pitch It Clever* website.

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## **CSIRO report confirms renewables still cheapest new-build power in Australia**

Solar photovoltaics (PV) and wind continue to be the cheapest sources of new electricity-generation capacity in Australia, even when the integration costs of renewables are included, according to the final 2020-21 GenCost Report, released earlier this month.

Each year CSIRO, and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) consult with industry stakeholders to estimate the cost to generate electricity for new power plants in Australia through their GenCost report.

This year's report used a new, more accurate approach for analysing the cost of renewables like solar and wind, to include additional 'integration' costs such as storage and new transmission infrastructure, and still found solar and wind continue to be the cheapest sources of new-build electricity generation.

CSIRO Chief Energy Economist Paul Graham said an early draft of the report, released to stakeholders in December 2020, had been improved to reflect feedback about the impact of weather variability on driving up these integration costs. "The final report addresses this feedback: our analysis of renewable integration costs now includes greater recognition of this year-to-year weather variability and the impact it has on electricity demand and supply," he said.

"We took the integration costs from the highest of nine historical weather years."

Stakeholders asked that the analysis recognise batteries are achieving longer lives before they need to be replaced and costing less, meaning the costs of storage from batteries is lower than previously thought.

This report concludes that:

- Solar and wind continue to be the cheapest sources of new-build electricity.
- Battery costs fell the most in 2020-21 compared to any other generation or storage technology and are projected to continue to fall.
- Lower battery-storage costs underpin the long-term competitiveness of renewables.
- Pumped hydro is also important and is more competitive when longer durations of storage (above eight hours) are required.

The new approach is a model of the electricity system that optimises the amount of storage needed, and also includes additional transmission expenditure. Previous reports added arbitrary amounts of storage costs and did not include transmission or other costs.

This report includes hydrogen electrolyzers for the first time and finds that hydrogen is following a similar trajectory to more established renewables. With increased interest in global deployment, and many demonstration projects worldwide, substantial cost reductions in hydrogen technologies are expected over the next decades.

The report is the third GenCost report, following the inaugural report in 2018.

Links to the report via your browser:

Read the final report here: [https://www.csiro.au/-/media/EF/Files/GenCost2020-21\\_FinalReport.pdf](https://www.csiro.au/-/media/EF/Files/GenCost2020-21_FinalReport.pdf) and an accessible version is available here: [https://www.csiro.au/-/media/EF/Files/GenCost2020-21\\_FinalReport-accessible.txt](https://www.csiro.au/-/media/EF/Files/GenCost2020-21_FinalReport-accessible.txt)

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## **CSIRO finds sticky 'fingerprints' reveal true origins of honey**

DNA testing of Australian honey can reveal where it was produced and its main floral sources, according to research published recently by the CSIRO and partners at the University of Melbourne and Curtin University.

The \$100 million Australian honey industry exports 4,500 tonnes of honey every year, and could benefit from the findings, which could be used for a honey certification program to confirm the floral composition and provenance of commercial honey.

Postdoctoral Fellow with the Environomics Future Science Platform at CSIRO, Dr Liz Milla, said the technique works because honey contains DNA from the pollen collected by bees.

"We tested 15 different honeys from across Australia and found most were dominated by eucalypts and related plants in the Myrtaceae family," Dr Milla said. "We detected the major

floral source on the label in all commercially produced honeys. In 85 per cent of samples they were found in the top five most abundant floral components. All of the honeys were composed of mixed florals, which reflects the diverse natural diets of honeybees. We found that honeys from eastern and western Australia were easy to tell apart and we could categorise most honeys according to Australia's 89 geographically distinct bioregions from which they came."

The researchers used a technique called pollen DNA metabarcoding, which is a way to identify plant species from their pollen by sequencing a short stretch of DNA and comparing it with a reference library. The libraries are built using reference DNA of plant specimens, curated by botanical experts at collections like the Australian National Herbarium.

The DNA-based method is a fast and accurate way to identify the floral composition of Australian honey. "The traditional method of using microscopy to identify pollen in honey is time-consuming, requires significant expertise because Australia has such diversity of unique plants, and often can't identify plants to species level," Dr Milla said.

CSIRO is working with partners to create a DNA barcode library for all of Australia's half a million plant and animal species. The library will enable fast, cheap environmental monitoring as well as projects to study bees. Not only can pollen DNA metabarcoding be used to check the composition and provenance of honey, it could be used to help honeybees by monitoring their diets. "Making sure that honeybee colonies have access to nutritious flora could help build resistance to colony collapse disorder, a phenomenon that has impacted honeybees overseas," Dr Milla said.

CSIRO researchers are also using the technique to survey flowering plants. "Honeybees are great field scientists. We can use them to survey plant species in remote or hard-to-reach places. Bees bring pollen from the plants back to the hive and we can identify the plants from the honey," she said.

CSIRO is working with partners to boost global export earnings from Australian-grown food through tools and technologies that verify our quality, safety and 'clean and green' credentials through a Trusted Agrifood Exports mission in development. More on missions is available at: <https://www.csiro.au/en/about/challenges-missions>. [Paste in browser]

The paper "Pollen DNA metabarcoding identifies regional provenance and high plant diversity in Australian honey" was published in *Ecology and Evolution* by authors Liz Milla, Kale Sniderman, Rose Lines, Mahsa Mousavi-Derazmahalleh and Francisco Encinas-Viso and is available at <http://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.7679>. [Paste in browser]

The Australian National Herbarium is part of the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, a joint venture between Parks Australia's Australian National Botanic Gardens and CSIRO.

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## Obituary

### **James L. Richardson**

**1933 – 10 May 2021**

Jim Richardson, formerly Professor of Political Science (1975–1985) and later Professor of International Relations (1986–1998) at The Australian National University passed away in a Hamburg hospital on May 10. He was 87.

There is an enduring tradition at moments like these of saying only good, positive and respectful things about the deceased. But in Jim's case there is no need to gild any lilies. He was a lovely man, a gentleman and a gentle scholarly man of the 'old school'. He was also a world-class scholar in the field of International Relations. His book *Crisis Diplomacy: The Great Powers since the Mid-Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 1994) is a classic work, albeit rarely acknowledged as such and, in more recent times, his thoughtful and rigorous examinations of contemporary Liberalism (e.g. *Contending Liberalisms in World Politics: Ideology and Power*, Lynne Rienner, 2001) remain works of the highest quality and of his abiding legacy to generations of students to come.

Jim was born in Childers, Queensland in 1933 and spent periods of his childhood in South Australia and in Sydney, NSW. He was an undergraduate student at the University of Sydney between 1951 and 1954, before being awarded a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, (1956-1958) to read PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). In 1958, he took up a two-year studentship at Nuffield College, Oxford (1958-1960), to pursue a developing interest in international politics and then, between 1961 and 1963, a research fellowship at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs, to help focus his thinking on the (Cold War) issues that increasingly preoccupied him – of a nuclear-armed world and its implications for international security; of the notion and efficacy of nuclear deterrence; of the prospects for arms control; and of the broader implications of a US-led strategic-studies template as the intellectual keystone of the burgeoning International Relations (IR) discipline. This period culminated in his first major book, *Germany and the Atlantic Alliance: The Interaction of Strategy and Politics* (Harvard University Press, 1966).

By the time of the publication of this book, Jim had left Harvard for a research fellowship at Balliol College, Oxford (1963-1965), where his analytical focus had shifted somewhat to questions of crisis diplomacy or, more precisely, how to prevent Cold War crises spiralling out of control. The Cuban crisis (1962) had prompted a spate of scholarly responses on this issue, primarily derived from the behaviouralist school of IR realism in the US. Jim sought to counter this approach via a broader historical and political frame of reference and a series of case studies of major international crises between the 1830s and 1962. The result was a superb piece of international relations scholarship, *Crisis Diplomacy* and a series of journal articles and book chapters associated with it that distinguished him as a major analytical figure of the British/Australian IR tradition.

The book created tensions for him nevertheless. It took a very long time in gestation, and it was not received by the US-dominated discipline in quite the way Jim had hoped for. The timing problem was not just due to the breadth and complexity of the book but also to a series of professional diversions Jim took along the way to its completion. Between 1965 and 1966, for example, he took the opportunity to experience life at the policy-making coal face, working within the Arms Control and Disarmament Research Unit, established by the

Labour government of Harold Wilson in the UK, and under the directorship of another ANU alumnus, Hedley Bull. And in 1967 he decided to return to Australia, to a lectureship in International Relations at the University of Sydney. Progress was slow on the *Crisis Diplomacy* book in this period, and it remained so after 1975 when Jim moved to the ANU, where he was appointed head of the Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Arts (1975-1985).

Alongside a heavy administrative load in an expanding teaching department, he taught courses on Australian and US foreign policy, an honours seminar on Third World issues and a broader course on Modern Political Analysis, to introduce students to the rapidly developing critical literature of the (post-Vietnam War) era. The anxieties over the *Crisis Diplomacy* book remained, however, and only began to be assuaged when in 1986 Jim took up a professorial position in the Department of International Relations in the Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPaS) at the ANU (1986-1998).

It was now possible to concentrate more fully on his large-scale historical analysis of crisis diplomacy, and finally to complete it in 1991. The book was well received in the UK and in Australia, but not in the US, where its (non-positivist) methodology was criticised, as was its lack of quantitative data. It was published, without such a critique, by Cambridge University Press. During the period in RSPaS at the ANU, Jim broadened the scope and range of his published works, particularly regarding questions of Australian security in the Asia-Pacific region. He also began to explore more explicitly theoretical issues following the end of the Cold War in 1990.

This was prompted by debates within IR circles following the collapse of the Soviet Union and in the wake of the intellectual and geo-strategic order that the Cold War had paradoxically engendered. The central question now was, what comes next? Jim's response was to argue for a serious reappraisal of the liberal-democratic tradition at the end of the twentieth century, as a way of reimagining international society and its democratic potentials, while illustrating some of the dangers of a 'triumphalist' liberalism and/or one grounded in a radical laissez-faire ideology. The book that emerged from this engagement with liberal theory and practice, *Contending Liberalisms in World Politics*, was an outstanding piece of scholarship that, like the earlier *Crisis Diplomacy* book, traversed a broad and complex historical and intellectual terrain. It has continued to educate and inform scholars and students in the age of neoliberal globalisation.

Jim retired from the ANU in 1998 and, with his wife, Ursula Vollerthun, left Australia for a new life in Germany. Sadly, Ursula passed away in 2011 and in the last decade of his life Jim was dedicated to what he considered his most important writing project, the development of Ursula's PhD thesis into a book published by Cambridge University Press, a task he completed in 2016 as his health, and particularly his eyesight (he was deemed legally blind during this period), was rapidly deteriorating. This was a monumental achievement in the circumstances and it illustrated that, his gentle nature and physical frailty aside, Jim was a man of great resilience and steely resolve and of great love for and commitment to his wife and to the intellectual principles they shared.

It has been my great good fortune to have seen something of this dimension to Jim's character over the years, albeit in the main at a distance via our conversations and correspondence since his ANU years and in two brief visits to his home in Hamburg.

I first met him in 1986 when I arrived at the ANU. Me, with a head full of (at best) partially formulated ideas about how international relations could/should be critically transformed; Jim with his tolerant, generous nature willing to listen, question and inquire as to the

coherence and/or significance of this enterprise. Over the years we continued to talk, about this and many other things, and we developed a genuine, if initially rather unlikely, friendship which actually grew and became more profound after he and Ursula left for Germany in 1999.

From this time on we connected by phone, about once a month, and we would send written work to each other by mail (Jim resisted 'modern' technology until very recently when he became vaguely internet-literate). I gained a great deal from these exchanges. Jim remained as unfailingly generous with his time as he was during his ANU years and, generally, as sharp and incisive with his feedback as he had always been.

His health was, however, becoming more problematic as he worked on the two projects most important to him - the tribute to Ursula's scholarship that he wanted to expose to a much wider intellectual community, and a secondary project, to write a memoir, mainly of his life as an International Relations scholar from the 1950s to the 1980s, with special reference to his time at the ANU during the 1970s and 1980s. He eventually wrote a truncated version of the work he originally envisaged, which was in many respects fascinating and entirely relevant to contemporary global affairs, not least the renewed concerns about great power jousting with nuclear weapons.

His final work of note was his tribute to Ursula, which became *The Idea of International Society: Erasmus, Vitoria, Gentili and Grotius* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). He was struggling during much of the time he spent on this project. His eyes were failing him and, in our conversations, it became clear that the physical and mental stress of the project was taking a heavy toll on him. Ursula's work is erudite, complex and very dense in parts. And Jim had the added pedagogical problem of maintaining the integrity of her thesis while significantly reframing it to meet the publisher's requirements. But he kept at it, working late into the night and with fading vision. When it was published in book form in 2017 Jim was exhausted, but he was as happy as I'd known him to have paid tribute to his wife and to her intellect, which he felt was under-appreciated during her life.

He was fading in recent times and news of his passing was not unexpected, albeit still shocking, as these things are. In this sad context it is thus entirely appropriate to say what others have already said and will continue to say as the news spreads, that Jim Richardson was a gem of a human being and a brilliant scholar. In a purportedly post-truth world, this is unequivocally the truth.

**Jim George**

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# **Helen James**

**13 March 1947 - 30 April 2020**

Helen James grew up in Queensland, the eldest daughter of a high school principal. At 17 she won an Oriental Studies Scholarship to the ANU, where she majored in Indonesian language and Southeast Asian studies and lived at Bruce Hall from 1964 to 1966.

Helen was small, quiet, fiercely determined and not given to doing things by half measures. She rose regularly at 4am to study; responded to her family's opposition to her proposed marriage by eloping to Thailand; led a team of 35 university teachers at Thammasat University in Bangkok before she was 21; had six children, two of them born while she obtained an MA and a PhD in just over three years; ended a career in the Australian public service by blowing the whistle on the agency responsible for air safety; and resumed an interrupted academic career by working largely as an independent scholar for 25 years. Helen's academic career began in Thailand, with an appointment at Thammasat University's linguistics department in 1967. She wrote a PhD thesis on the American writer James Fenimore Cooper at Pittsburgh University in Pennsylvania, where her husband Vinit (Tony) Phinit-Akson had won a Rockefeller scholarship. After they returned to Thailand, she worked in Thammasat University's Department of English Language and Literature, which she headed from 1977 to 1980. She also had an appointment at Chulalongkorn University. The family stayed in Bangkok until political unrest prompted a return to Australia in 1981. During this time the other four children were born.

After a short period teaching literature at ANU under Professor Bob Brissenden, Helen joined the Australian public service. In the ensuing seven years she served in the departments of Communications, Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister and Cabinet. After her marriage ended in 1984, Helen continued to work full-time while raising her large family. In 1988 she joined the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). It was in this post that her reserves of determination were particularly called upon. The CAA had become a statutory body, separate from the Department of Civil Aviation. In 1990 under new management, it underwent drastic cuts to staff, including the loss of some experienced safety regulatory officers.

In March 1992, amid concerns that safety was being compromised, a CAA Board Safety Committee was established with former Qantas pilot and CAA Board member Alan Terrell as its chair, and Helen as its secretary. In 1992 and 1993, Helen was involved in work to examine safety standards, including as coordinator of a group to investigate the CAA Safety Regulation Division. The group's report was given a tight deadline and the requirement that it be unanimous. Just as the report was being finalised in early 1993, the group heard that a plane deemed not airworthy by an engineer had had its assessment overridden by CAA staff. That plane crashed the next day, killing both on board. The report went to the Board for approval and was returned with substantial rewriting and the

omission of two crucial paragraphs about safety. A few months later, a Monarch Airlines plane crashed near Young, killing seven people. In October 1994 a third crash, of a Seaview Air plane en route from Williamstown NSW to Lord Howe Island, killed all on board.

Helen had meanwhile expressed her own concerns about CAA safety standards to senior people, but without result. Now colleagues were planning to go public. Helen was invited to participate in an interview on the ABC's 7.30 Report. By this time, she had decided to seek redundancy because of difficulties in her job and agreed to the interview. With her redundancy already approved, Helen found herself accused of misconduct and disloyalty; the redundancy payment would have been withheld but for the late intervention of the Minister, Laurie Brereton.

After her retirement from the Australian public service, Helen resumed her academic career, joining the University of Canberra (UC) in 1995 as a senior lecturer, Executive Director of the University of Canberra Asia Research and Development Institute (UCARDI) and Director of the Thai/Myanmar Studies Centre. She remained at UC until 2000. UCARDI was an interdisciplinary body established to 'foster regional co-operation in education and priority development areas, working through [UC's] partner universities in the region. It include[d] experienced researchers in the Asian field from every Division at the University of Canberra and its partners in the Asian region'. Part of Helen's work was to lead trips by Australian academics to Southeast Asia. Her extensive regional networks in academia and government were particularly helpful in this role.

In this period, she wrote her *Thai Reference Grammar* (2001) and a number of articles, and organised a joint conference between the University of Canberra and Thammasat University, entitled 'Crossing cultural frontiers: the communication industries in the Asia Pacific Region'. It was held at the Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, on 28–29 April 1997, with the proceedings published under the same title.

In the same year, Helen received the order of Benchamabhorn, Member of the Most Noble Order of the Kingdom of Thailand, from His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, for services to Thai history, language, education and culture.

Helen moved to ANU in 2001, holding several positions (some honorary) based in what later became the College of Asia and the Pacific and the College of Arts and Social Sciences. Her work at ANU fell into three categories: studies of Myanmar; studies of civil society, religion and governance; and disaster risk reduction studies. In 2002, while she was preparing one of two books on Myanmar, Helen spent time at the East–West Center at the University of Hawaii, as a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Politics and Security Studies. Her work on Myanmar continued in 2003–04, when she was a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for International Studies at Cambridge University. In 2004 she was elected a life member of Cambridge University's Clare Hall, and also visited the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

In 2005 Helen published the first of two authored books on Myanmar: *Governance and Civil Society in Myanmar: Education, Health and Environment*. Its sequel, *Security and Sustainable Development in Myanmar*, appeared the following year. These books were based on work begun while Helen was at the University of Canberra. Following her move to ANU, the project was housed within the ANU's then Asia Pacific School of Economics

and Management (which later became the Crawford School of Public Policy) and in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. In 2007 Helen published an edited volume, *Civil Society, Religion and Global Governance: Paradigms of Power and Persuasion*. This contained the proceedings of a two-day conference held at the National Museum of Australia in September 2005, supported by Australia's aid agency, the Canadian High Commission and the ANU.

In 2011 Helen published a short article in the *International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law* (13, 3: 5–11) on dissent, arguing support for those such as Julian Assange who feel compelled to publish material in the public interest that authorities would prefer remained out of the public domain. This is consistent with her own actions in 1994, which led to the end of her Australian public service career.

Helen did not shy away from controversial questions. A divide in Myanmar studies existed between those who opposed economic sanctions against the military regime, and those who supported them. Helen was of the first group, because of the hardship that sanctions imposed on vulnerable people. This was another instance of her support for a view unpopular in her working environment. She argued her case in 'King Solomon's Judgment', an essay published in 2004 as part of a collection in *NBR Analysis* 15 (1), entitled 'Reconciling Burma/Myanmar: Essays on US Relations with Burma', edited by John H. Badgley (National Bureau of Asian Research).

While she continued to write on Myanmar, the second decade of the new millennium saw Helen's broader focus switch to disaster risk management. In 2010 and 2011, she was Adjunct Associate Professor with the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute (ADSRI) in the ANU College of the Social Sciences (CASS). Between 2011 and 2016 she led a team of eight researchers from ANU, the University of Tasmania, Kings College, London, and the University of the Philippines that received an ARC Discovery grant for a project entitled 'Demographic Consequences of Asian Disasters'. This study of the long-term demographic consequences of Asian disasters was designed to contribute to the development of more effective governmental policies on disaster mitigation, preparedness and reconstruction/recovery, thus helping to reduce the human and material losses from natural disasters. From 2010 to 2013 Helen contributed to courses in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in ADSRI's Master of Social Research program, and in Population, Climate Change and Sustainable Development in the Environment Management Program of the Crawford School of Public Policy.

In 2013 she was involved in organising two international conferences. The first, in February, was held in Yangon, and was entitled 'Population in the Asian Century'. Speakers were from ADSRI at ANU, the University of Yangon and other Yangon institutes, and the conference was followed by two one-day workshops by ANU team members, one on Population and Development and the other on Mortality, Refugees and Migration. The second conference, in September, was on The Demography of Disasters: Implications for future policy on development and resilience. The proceedings were published in *The Consequences of Disasters: Demographic, Policy and Planning Implications*, edited by Helen and Doug Paton (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, 2016).

Between 2014 and 2016 Helen organised four two-week full-time intensive training courses for Myanmar scholars, using ANU demographers to teach social and demographic

research methods under a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded Government Partnerships for Development Program.

A joint conference between the ANU and the University of Yangon was held at the latter on 2–3 February 2017. This led to the publication of an edited book, *Population, Development and the Environment: Challenges to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia Pacific* (2019). Many of the authors were researchers from the University of Yangon who had participated in the research training program funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade between 2014 and 2016.

Helen was appointed to the Australian Research Council College of Experts in 2013 and served on the editorial board of the journal *Progress in Disaster Science* from 2018 until her death.

In 2018 she was appointed founding Director of the International Centre of Excellence for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Science (IRDR) in the School of Culture, History and Language of the ANU's College of Asia Pacific. This became the ANU's Disaster Risk Science Institute (DRSI), launched in November 2019. Its September 2020 newsletter said: "Our Founding Director Professor Helen James left us with a very clear vision for the Institute – to be a holistic, inter-disciplinary, cross-campus entity that leads in integrated research on disaster risk science and works across three domains – research, public outreach and education." This seems to sum up Helen's approach to scholarship: inter-disciplinary and collaborative.

During her time at the University of Canberra and ANU, Helen had a second scholarly home, the National Library's Petherick Room. Its staff are warmly acknowledged in her books. Also acknowledged is her beloved family of six children and twelve grandchildren. The acknowledgments of her books betray her warmth, and the very personal connection between her work and her beliefs. In her spare time, Helen enjoyed golf and tennis. She was a member of the congregation of St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Forrest and was active in its choir.

Helen had particular strengths in collaboration, leadership and outreach, and was a committed PhD supervisor. Her strong networks in Myanmar in particular facilitated collaborative research. She contributed substantively to academic development in Myanmar through the short courses she arranged for its academics at ANU, through her PhD supervision, and through the study tours to Myanmar that she facilitated for Australian colleagues. Engagement with counterparts in the region was always a strong part of Helen's way of working, and her close relationship with the University of Yangon's Department of Geography was central to this. Tributes appearing on the ANU website soon after Helen's death emphasised her strong commitment to graduate supervision, her personal warmth and her love for Myanmar.

**Liz Drysdale**

## ***Sound Citizens: Australian Women Broadcasters Claim their Voice, 1923–1956***

By: [Catherine Fisher](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$50.00): 9781760464301 ISBN (online): 9781760464318

ANU Press DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/SC.2021>

In 1954 Dame Enid Lyons, the first woman elected to the Australian House of Representatives, argued that radio had ‘created a bigger revolution in the life of a woman than anything that has happened any time’ as it brought the public sphere into the home and women into the public sphere. Taking this claim as its starting point, *Sound Citizens* examines how a cohort of professional women broadcasters, activists and politicians used radio to contribute to the public sphere and improve women’s status in Australia from the introduction of radio in 1923 until the introduction of television in 1956. This book reveals a much broader and more complex history of women’s contributions to Australian broadcasting than has been previously acknowledged.

Using a rich archive of radio magazines, station archives, scripts, personal papers and surviving recordings, *Sound Citizens* traces how women broadcasters used radio as a tool for their advocacy; radio’s significance to the history of women’s advancement; and how broadcasting was used in the development of women’s citizenship in Australia. It argues that women broadcasters saw radio as a medium that had the potential to transform women’s lives and status in society, and that they worked to both claim their own voices in the public sphere and to encourage other women to become active citizens. Radio provided a platform for women to contribute to public discourse and normalised the presence of women’s voices in the public sphere, both literally and figuratively.

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## ***Russian Energy Strategy in the Asia-Pacific: Implications for Australia***

Edited by: [Elizabeth Buchanan](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$55.00): 9781760463380

ISBN (online): 9781760463397

ANU Press

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/RESAP.2021>

Given Australia's lack of energy security strategy, it is not surprising that the country is void of institutional knowledge and know-how of Russian foreign energy strategy. The 'lucky country' as it were, relies entirely on sea-lines of communication to the north to supply fuel and to export Australian coal and natural gas. Australia has entered the 2020s as the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter; however, maintaining complacency in Canberra's current export activities will ultimately lead to a long-term security crisis. This book critically examines Russian energy strategy in the Asia-Pacific, with a view to determining the security implications for Australia.

Russia is important for global energy security chains because of its vast resource wealth and its geographical position – a pivotal position to supply both the European and Asian markets. Australia has no such luxury, geographically constrained as an island continent; it relies on the nearby Asia-Pacific import market to demand our energy and to facilitate the delivery of our national oil supplies. Understanding Russian foreign energy strategy in the region is crucial given the growing energy requirements in Australia's emerging Asia-Pacific arena.

### ***International Review of Environmental History:*** **Volume 7, Issue 1, 2021**

**Edited by:** James Beattie, Ruth Morgan, Margaret Cook

ISSN (print – rrp \$30.00): 2205-3204

ISSN (online): 2205-3212

ANU Press

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/IREH.07.01.2021>

Arising from the 'Placing Gender' workshop held in Melbourne in 2018, this collection brings together contributions that demonstrate different approaches to undertaking gender analysis in environmental history. Focusing on non-Indigenous women and men in the Anglo-world from the mid-nineteenth century, some adopt new tools to excavate familiar terrain, while others listen closely to voices that have rarely been heard in the field. This issue argues that recasting the making of settler places in terms of their gendered production and experience not only enriches their own environmental history, but also broadens the historian's enquiry to encompass the other lands implicated in the production of settler places.

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### ***Politics, Policy and Public Administration in Theory and Practice: Essays in Honour of Professor John Wanna***

**Edited by:** Andrew Podger, Michael de Percy, Sam Vincent

ISBN (print – rrp: \$70.00): 9781760464363

ISBN (online): 9781760464370

ANU Press; DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/PPPATP.2021>

Co-publisher: [The Australia and New Zealand School of Government \(ANZSOG\)](#)

This *festschrift* celebrates the extensive contribution John Wanna has made to the research and practice of politics, policy and public administration. It includes both personal acknowledgements of his work and substantial essays on the issues that he focused most closely upon during his academic career: budgeting and financial management, politics, and public policy and administration.

The essays address contemporary developments in public sector financial management in Australia and overseas, changing political processes in Queensland and the Commonwealth, and public governance and administration reform trajectories in Australia and internationally, including in China. A common theme is the importance of linking research to practice, reflecting John Wanna's own style and contribution. Essays include exploration of the interface between academia and practice, including from the perspective of practitioners.

The authors of the essays in this volume include eminent Australian and international scholars of public administration, experienced public service practitioners and younger scholars influenced by John Wanna.

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### ***Aboriginal History Journal: Volume 44***

**Edited by:** Crystal McKinnon, Ben Silverstein

ISSN (print – rrp \$38.00): 0314-8769

ISSN (online): 1837-9389

ANU Press

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/AH.44.2020>

In this volume, Charlotte Ward's narration of re-enactments of the *Endeavour*'s landing in Cooktown traces local processes of engaging with and producing histories that bring together stories of that landing with the much longer story of Guugu Yimithirr sovereignty. Heather Burke, Ray Kerkhove, Lynley A. Wallis, Cathy Keys and Bryce Barker analyse the extent of fear on the Queensland frontier through a historical and archaeological study of homes and huts and their fortification. In a collaborative article, Myfany Turpin, Felicity Meakins, Marie Mudgedell, Angie Tchooga and Calista Yeoh consider three performances of Puranguwana, a 'classical' Western Desert song that emerges from the death of Yawalyurru, a Pintupi man. Paige Gleeson offers us a new perspective on the well-known image of Warlpiri-Anmatyerr man Gwoja Tjungurrayi, known since the 1950s as 'One Pound Jimmy', an image featured on postage stamps and on the two dollar coin. And Gretchen Stolte's study of Queensland Aboriginal Creations situates the production of boomerangs for sale as work of cultural importance, enriching understandings of Aboriginal artwork and its production.

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## *Matters of possible interest*

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

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

### **Diary Dates**

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

**Wednesday 7 July**, Time: 12.15 for 12.30, **Ken Taylor** of the Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in CASS, will give the next lunchtime talk on "New Lives, New Landscapes: Landscape, Heritage and Rural Revitalisation in China: Whose Cultural Values?" at the Molony Room, 24 Balmain Crescent, ANU. There will be a live audience under ANU covid19 guidelines, and we will also conduct the talk and enable discussion on Zoom. For more information, email Ian Keen ([ian.keen@anu.edu.au](mailto:ian.keen@anu.edu.au))

The Zoom URL follows and, in case you need them, the meeting ID and passcode.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223823677?pwd=TnR1Z2dYa3VPaE93eXp2RkNEZWpKdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 2382 3677 Passcode: 513572

### **ABSTRACT**

Worldwide interest in the cultural landscape concept - covering rural and urban spheres - is now a major theme in considerations of the management of cultural heritage places. The roots of this interconnection lie in the social, political and economic relationships between people and landscape, which, in turn, is related to how human attachment to landscape plays a major role in determining our sense of place. Notably the fundamental actuality of place attachment through landscape is cross-cultural. Epistemologically it crosses the boundaries of differing values across diverse cultures underscoring the fundamental cross-cultural significance of landscape. Coincidentally, the phenomenon of the 'rise of cultural landscapes' (Jacques 1995) has been intimately interconnected with the way in which



thinking has changed – philosophically and professionally – on what heritage is. There is in effect a clear link between heritage and landscape. It is in this context that my talk addresses challenges of thinking and acting associated with China’s commitment to a rural revitalisation program.

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**Wednesday, 21 July, 2021:** 9.00 for 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. **Australian National University Emeritus Faculty - 2021 Projects Symposium.** At the Molony Room, Building 1C, 24 Balmain Crescent, ANU, Acton.

Prospective speakers are invited to contribute to this year’s Projects Symposium (formerly “Research in Retirement”), to be held on Wednesday 21 July 2021, from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Talks will be from about 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the number of speakers. The proceedings will be in accordance with the ANU’s regulations relating to the Covid19 pandemic. Numbers in the Molony Room will be restricted to fifteen including speaker and chair. However, the proceedings will be broadcast live on Zoom, allowing remote participation for questions and discussion. The meeting URL will be distributed in due course.

Please send a title and abstract for your proposed talk to Ian Keen, at [ian.keen@anu.edu.au](mailto:ian.keen@anu.edu.au).

## **Meet the author**

**June 21** In an ANU/*Canberra Times* meet-the-author event from 6pm to 7, Peter Sutton and Keryn Walshe will be in discussion on their new book *Farmers or Hunter-gatherers? The Dark Emu Debate*, an authoritative study of pre-colonial Australia that dismantles and re-frames popular narratives of First Nations land management and food production. Cinema. Kambri Cultural Centre ANU. Registrations at [anu.edu.au/events](https://anu.edu.au/events).

**Thursday July 8. 6-7 p.m.** ANU-CANBERRA TIMES “Meet-the-Author” event with JULIA BANKS at Manning Clark Auditorium Kambri Cultural Centre. ANU.

Julia Banks and Virginia Haussegger will be in conversation on Julia's new book *Power Play. Breaking Through Bias, Barriers and Boys' Clubs*, an honest guide for women who aspire to leadership in the workplace and in the world.

Having won the ‘unwinnable’ seat that secured the Coalition Government majority in 2016, Julia Banks shocked Australia when she announced she would stand as an independent MP in 2018, having experienced a toxic workplace culture in the country’s centre of power – designed by men for their dominance. Julia doesn’t just know what power looks like in a political sense; she made it to the top of her game in the legal and corporate sectors before running for parliament. And at every level, she had to navigate through the bias, barriers and boys’ clubs that aim to silence women or deter them from leadership roles.

*Power Play* reveals the unvarnished realities of any workplace where power disparities and gender politics collide: from the unequal opportunities, casual sexism and systemic misogyny, to pressures around looks, age and family responsibilities, and the consequences of speaking out. Julia shares personal stories, practical advice, and a resounding argument for

why women aren't the problem – but why more women in decision-making positions will help us find the solution.

**Julia Banks** has unique leadership experience spanning a career in law, the corporate business world and as a Member of the Federal Parliament of Australia. Julia graduated in Arts and Law from Monash University, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She worked in global companies for over twenty years, in senior executive director roles and as General Counsel. She was elected to the House of Representatives in 2016 as the only candidate to win a seat from the Opposition, resulting in the Coalition returning to government with a one-seat majority. Amidst controversy in 2018, she resigned from the Coalition Government's Liberal Party and stood as an independent MP. Julia is now the principal consultant in her own business and a public speaker in the areas of governance, workplace culture, and women in leadership.

**Virginia Haussegger** AM, a passionate women's advocate and communication specialist, is the former Chair and Founding Director of the 50/50 by 2030 Foundation, at the University of Canberra, where she is an Adjunct Professor. The Foundation has a singular focus on improving the representation of women in leadership and key decision making roles across all levels of government and public administration. Virginia anchored the ABC's flagship TV News in Canberra from 2001-2016. She was the 2019 ACT Australian of the Year. In 2020 Virginia launched the popular podcast series BroadTalk, which takes a deep dive into contemporary debate around Women, Power and the wayward World.

Award-winning author and ABC Insiders regular **Niki Savva** will give the vote of thanks. Niki was Peter Costello's press secretary for six years, and was on John Howard's staff for four. Her political columns have appeared in *The Australian* since 2010. Niki's book *The Road To Ruin: How Tony Abbott and Peta Credlin destroyed their own government*, won the 2017 best non-fiction book of the year by the Australian Book Industry Association.

Signings will take place, both before and after the event, at the Harry Hartog Bookshop stand in the foyer.

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## Catch up with the authors

For access to earlier Meet-the-Author conversations, access the ANU's Soundcloud website at: [https://soundcloud.com/experience\\_anu](https://soundcloud.com/experience_anu) then scroll down to a list of entries all beginning with the words "In conversation" followed by the name of the person.

**Recent Conversation:** Peter van Onselen and Mark Kenny podcast now available on Meet the Author website – "How Good is Scott Morrison?" Access: [https://soundcloud.com/experience\\_anu/in-conversation-with-peter-van-onselen](https://soundcloud.com/experience_anu/in-conversation-with-peter-van-onselen)

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## **At the National Library**

### **Women's march towards equality in their own words**

In a recent statement the National Library of Australia says it is committed to preserving and sharing the stories that have shaped Australia. The priority for this year is to highlight the voices of women who have championed equality.

The papers of the **Australian Federation of Woman Voters** are part of the long story of the march towards equality for women. This NGA collection features a treasure trove full of the letters, notes, names, stories and voices of Australian women who were instrumental in progressing women's rights in the post-suffrage world of the 20th century. Not happy with merely voting, they wanted to see women elected, to work for legislative change in areas that would improve the lives of women and their families, and to see women become leaders in their own right.

Established in 1921, for the 60 years until its disbandment in 1981, the Federation was a leading voice in progressing the cause of equality for women in Australia and across the globe. Leaders of the Federation included notable figures such as Ruby Rich, Jessie Street and Bessie Rischbieth, all of whom were tireless campaigners who believed that getting the vote was but a stepping stone in the pursuit of equality.

The papers include speeches and correspondence from dozens of women, their names pencilled into the margins of speeches, letters, forms and notes. These women are not widely known – but they deserve to be. By digitising this collection, the work towards equality undertaken by these women will not be lost.

The National Library is seeking public help in preserving the collection. It states, "With your support, we can bring this important archive online, ensure these women and their stories will continue to inform and inspire future generations."

## **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.

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.

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## National Film and Sound Archives

[Warwick Thornton Retrospective: Samson and Delilah + Tnorala: Baby Falling](#) – 18 June, 2pm

[Warwick Thornton Retrospective: Sweet Country + Black Chook](#) – 19 June, 2pm

[Doco of the Month: Slim and I](#) – 24 June, 6pm

[60th Anniversary Screenings: West Side Story](#) – 25 June, 10:30am

[Arc Out Loud: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion](#) – 25 June, 8pm

[NFSA Ghost Tour](#) – 25 June, SOLD OUT

[60th Anniversary Screenings: Breakfast at Tiffany's](#) – 26 June, 2pm

[60th Anniversary Screenings: Breathless](#) – 26 June, 6pm

[La Dolce Vita](#) – 27 June, 2pm

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## **Administration**

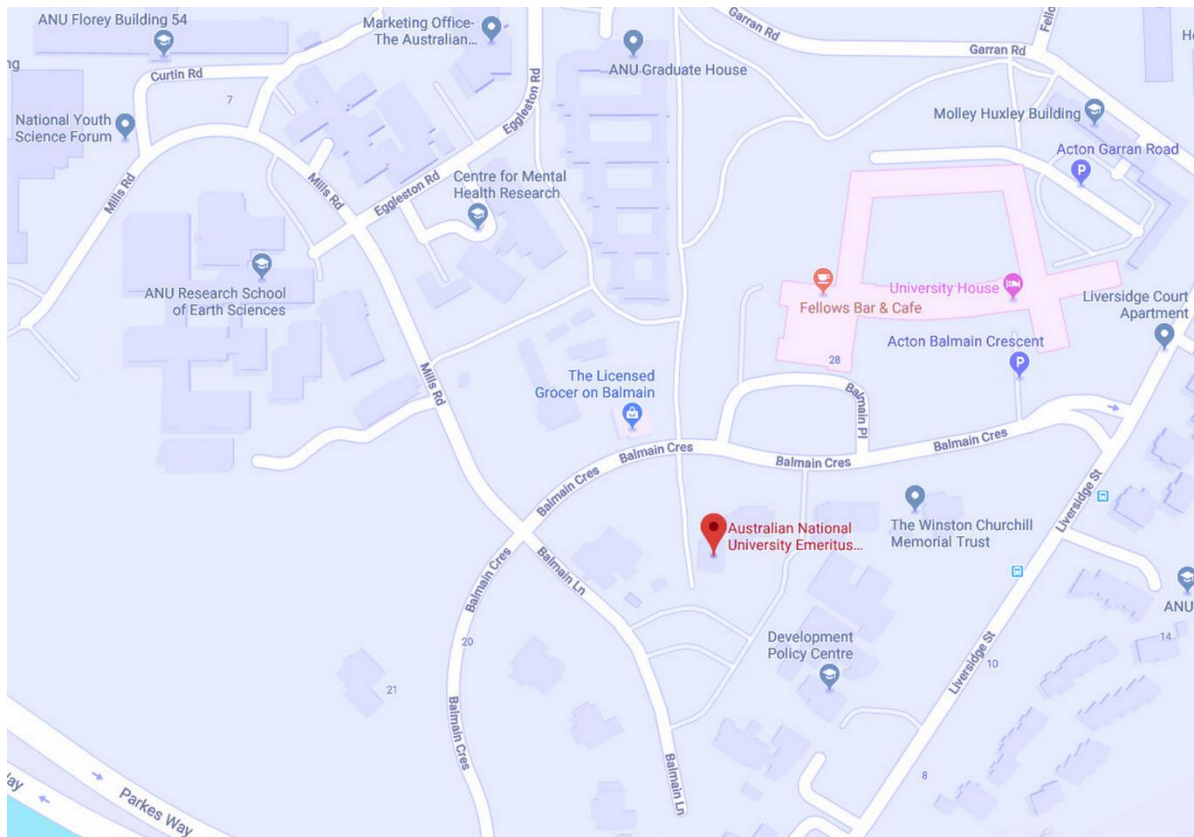
### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

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

### **Finding the Molony Room**

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

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



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