

EMERITUS

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Excellence, research, vision: the ANU's plan forward

In a joint statement on the future of The Australian National University, to mark its 75th anniversary, the Chancellor, the Hon. Julie Bishop, and the Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt AC, said, "This plan is about the future. Here, we articulate bold ambitions for The Australian National University (ANU) and the nation we serve."

Their statement went on:

The future of ANU will be built on the success of our first 75 years. Our extraordinary graduates continue to lead meaningful change in every part of the world. Our scholars maintain global standards of excellence in their research and teaching activities, and many thriving companies and transformational public policy ideas have originated on our campus.

Creating ANU was a courageous and visionary response to a time of crisis - one that also focused on the future. Ours was the first new university in Australia for 40 years, the first research-led institution, and the first national university.

Prime Minister Ben Chifley, speaking in an election address in 1949 about the

value of Australia's new national university, said, "scientific research is a necessity for the maintenance of our standard of living and even for our survival."

The truth in those words has never been more evident than when ANU staff and students supported the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, using their expertise in service of our communities.

Uniquely, our ANU community is the entire nation. We engage with First Nations Peoples and Australia's modern multicultural society to help understand our nation's place in an ever-changing world.

Our community is again looking to their university to help navigate the disruption through which we live. We aim to partner with the Commonwealth and its people to continue the work of our founders in similarly challenging global times: national renewal supported by a national university.

At the heart of our plan is a simple principle, enshrined in our previous 2017-21 strategy: that we will invest in, and insist on, excellence everywhere. As Australia's only national university, in receipt of National Institutes funding, this is nothing less than our community expects and deserves.

We aspire to strengthen the bond that exists between ANU and Australia based on trust and engagement. We will use our expertise as a national resource, challenging orthodoxies to transform society in the spirit of fairness.

While our responsibilities are to Australia, our horizons are global. The legacy of our long-standing international engagement and expertise has delivered ANU unrivalled impact beyond our borders, particularly throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Our campus will be used to discuss the evidence and data underneath the most intractable issues. We will listen to, learn from and work with First Nations Peoples as we champion a just and meaningful reconciliation built on equity and engagement.

Our student experience will be equal to the best in the world. Our range of programs will respond to the needs of our nation and our students, and our institutional culture will distinguish ANU from other universities. We will innovate in the classroom: research-informed learning delivered seamlessly across physical and digital spaces.

Our research will be second to none in quality and impact. We will continue to attract the most exciting academic talent globally and support their success.

We will provide the platforms and investment to enable the co-creation of new approaches to interdisciplinary problem-solving and support our academics to realise the possibilities of their discoveries in society and business.

As we develop our research translation and business development activities, we will continue to champion the value of pure research as the building blocks of all new knowledge: *"first, to know the nature of things."*

We want our campus and community to be the best place to work and study in Australia, a welcoming and safe place for all.

It will be a magnet for talented people from every part of the world, built on a commitment to equity as the platform for excellence.

As we work to bring our vision to life, our values will guide and inform us, and we will continue to deliver on the mission set for ANU in 1946: *"bring credit to Australia, advance the cause of learning and research in general, and take its rightful place among the great universities of the world."*

Chancellor recalls some political reluctance

Reflecting on the establishment of The Australian National University in her electronic address from Perth, the Chancellor of the ANU, the Hon. Julie Bishop, noted its establishment was not all plain sailing. She quoted from a Parliamentary debate on 5 July 1946, which she described as “a lively debate” in the House of Representatives during the Second Reading of the ANU Bill.

“Then Leader of the Opposition, Sir Robert Menzies, acknowledged the need for additional universities in post-war Australia, yet he raised concerns about the ability of the proposed National University to attract eminent academics and scientists to the small and isolated town of Canberra. ^[21] He also argued that it should perhaps be a post-graduate university only and suggested that its title was somewhat pretentious for a fledgling institution yet to establish the necessary ‘esprit de corps’ among its staff and students.

“Well, the first MP on his feet to defend the ANU Bill was the young backbench Member for Fremantle, Kim Beazley, ^[21] who went on to serve as Education Minister from 1972 to 1975, and I quote:

I am very interested indeed in the whole project of the university at Canberra, and I am quite sure that if it is established on the lines recommended, it will add very considerably to the quality of research and education generally in the Commonwealth.

“Now, I feel sure Kim Beazley Snr would have been chuffed to know that his eldest son (born in 1948), one Kim Beazley Jnr, would not only have a significant political career but would also be appointed in 2009 as Chancellor of the very same university, that he, Kim Snr, supported at its creation. There were also concerns from existing universities in State capitals that funds for ANU would come out of their grants, which Minister Dedman assured the House would not be the case.

“Some things never change - ANU funding continues to be a source of discussion among other universities!

“The Act was passed by Parliament on 1 August 1946 and the focus then turned to building our university campus. The inspired choice for our first Vice-Chancellor was the visionary Sir Douglas Copland. His work as Australia's Prices Commissioner and economic consultant to the Prime Minister during World War II was described broadly as brilliant. His later work at ANU and as a diplomat, places him among the giants of his era. He was responsible for literally laying the infrastructure and academic foundations for what has become Australia's leading university.

“To avoid any diplomatic unease, I should acknowledge that he came from a town south of Christchurch in New Zealand. Born in 1894, he lived through some of the most challenging times in human history - with two World Wars and the Great Depression. The Copland legacy lives on through ANU and CEDA, that he also helped establish.

“Legendary scientist Sir Isaac Newton famously declared that his achievements came from standing on the shoulders of giants, and that is the good fortune of all of us at ANU as we build on the work of Sir Douglas Copland.

“The challenge set for ANU was to be an 'intellectual powerhouse' to help rebuild the nation after World War II, with a mandate to solve complex scientific problems, contribute to economic development and social cohesion, and improve Australia's understanding of itself and its region.

“So this raises the question today: "Has our institution risen to that challenge?" I say yes, and while there are many measures of success, allow me to highlight a few to demonstrate.

“Both Professors Peter Doherty and Rolf Zinkernagel spent time at John Curtin School of Medical Research during their outstanding careers, sharing the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine for their work on human immune responses to viruses - a subject of great interest to the medical research and broader community at present.^[3]

“An alumnus of the school, Sir John Eccles, was jointly awarded the 1963 Nobel Prize for Medicine for work partly undertaken at ANU into the study of human nerve cells. ANU also hosted Professor John Harsanyi, who was jointly awarded the 1994 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his work in the complex field of game theory. One of his collaborators and awardees was the brilliantly flawed Princeton mathematician John Nash, whose life and work was the subject of the movie *A Beautiful Mind*, starring Russell Crowe – ok, he's a New Zealander, so I won't claim him.

“Arguably the University's greatest contribution to Australia has been through its graduates, who have gone on to reach positions of leadership in organisations, communities and government throughout Australia and internationally. ANU officially began as a research university in 1946, although it was not until 1960 that undergraduates were enrolled. Those first undergraduates are still relatively young, just about to turn 80, and many remain active in their communities and careers.

“Specifically, ANU graduates have made a significant contribution to Australia through policy development and implementation as experts within the Australian public service. For example, many of the outstanding diplomats in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade are our graduates, and as Foreign Minister I relied on their skills, and wisdom and their insights.

“There is little doubt that ANU has provided an environment for personal and intellectual growth that has been of great benefit to its students and staff. However, one of its greatest achievements has been the early and ongoing development of its “esprit de corps” - its character - and that comes from the students' experience and our people.

“Thinking back to the times of our founding, it actually was an audacious idea to establish a new university on a greenfield site in the relatively isolated and small community of Canberra. Australia had a small population of 7.5 million and technology was only just starting to overcome the ‘tyranny of distance’.^[4] Women had only just been elected to serve in Federal Parliament - and that number was just two - in 1943. However, we can place the University's founding in the context of the optimism that prevailed in many parts of the world, that better times lay ahead after the horrors of World War II. The United States had emerged as the preeminent international power, leading the development of the United Nations and other organisations in an effort to bring greater stability to the world. There was a collective will to develop a rules-based international order to prevent conflict between

nations. In 1946, the first ever United Nations Security Council elections were held and Australia was elected as a member and as the first president of the Security Council. Australia was a more confident and independent nation, after establishing our first diplomatic post outside London, with an embassy in Washington in 1946. It was a time of inspiration and innovation for our national leaders, who dared to think big and act on big dreams and hopes.

“ANU is the embodiment of that vision. On the 75th anniversary, I also ask: Does our nation make enough use of its own national university? I think the answer is no - actually there's far more that can and should be done. ANU is a great national treasure, which must never be taken for granted.

“The world is entering a new era of great-power competition, most notably between the United States and China. The policy challenges for Australia in navigating the more difficult waters ahead will require insights and wisdom from our leading thinkers, policy makers and legislators. The fourth industrial revolution, the technology revolution, is transforming our lives and the greatest technological advancements and disruptions still lie ahead. Climate change is a global threat, both to Australia and the nations of the South Pacific. Government financial responses to first the 2008 global financial crisis and now the global pandemic are unprecedented in sheer scale, with longer-term implications difficult to forecast. So as these complex issues continue to challenge policy makers, they will need to rely increasingly on the intellectual support of institutions including universities.

“ANU was established for precisely that purpose, and I am confident that our people can and will rise to meet these current and future challenges. My hope is that in, say, 25 years' time, when we celebrate the University's centenary, we will be recognised even more broadly for our vital role in Australia's national development.

“So happy 75th anniversary to this great national institution - from its humble beginnings to the world-class university it is today.”

Earlier in her comments, the Chancellor said:

“I particularly welcome all our highly talented students and our hard-working academic and administrative staff, alumni and friends. I pay specific tribute to the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor [Professor Brian Schmidt AC] for he has kept our University focused on its mission during the recent challenges and disruptions - from bushfires to hailstorms and now a global pandemic. Brian deserves high praise for his unswerving commitment to maintaining excellence in our teaching and research as he has navigated the stormy seas of the past 18 months.

“We are proud that ANU is the only university in the world that has a Nobel laureate as Vice-Chancellor. And we have a track record in that regard - one of my predecessors, Lord Howard Florey, also a Nobel Laureate, served as Chancellor from 1965 to 1968. ...

“That the university has been tested during the last couple of years is without question. For a time we have been robbed of our students on campus and many students are still forced to learn remotely. While it has not been easy, our ANU community has demonstrated its resilience and resourcefulness. That undoubtedly comes from our remarkable culture that has been nurtured over many decades since the founding of this University in 1946.

“Our story begins somewhat modestly, with some early scepticism. Media reports around April 1946 quietly noted the introduction of legislation into the Federal Parliament by the

Minister for Post-War Reconstruction and Minister in charge of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, John Dedman. The Australian National University Act of 1946 was to establish the governance structures and the creation of Research Schools, including the John Curtin School of Medical Research and Schools of Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Pacific Studies”.

[1]<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=HANSARD80;id=hansard80%2Fhansard80%2F1946-07-05%2F0028;query=Id%3A%22hansard80%2Fhansard80%2F1946-07-05%2F0027%22>

[2]<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;db=HANSARD80;id=hansard80%2Fhansard80%2F1946-07-05%2F0029;query=Id%3A%22hansard80%2Fhansard80%2F1946-07-05%2F0027%22>

[3] <https://www.anu.edu.au/about/awards-achievements/research-achievements/nobel-laureates>

[4] <https://www.amazon.com.au/Tyranny-Distance-Geoffrey-Blainey/dp/0732911176>

Skilled migration: findings welcomed by Universities Australia

The report of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration’s Inquiry into Australia’s Skilled Migration Program, released on August 9, has been welcomed by Universities Australia.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said, “We welcome the report and thank the Committee for hearing and acting on UA’s suggested reforms. We support the aim of simplifying the system, boosting incentives for the best and brightest to stay in Australia, as well as exempting universities from the Skilling Australia Fund Levy. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, half a million temporary migrants have had little choice but to leave Australia, contributing to significant skill shortages across the country.

“We are particularly pleased to see extra incentives for very high-quality students to remain here. These are exactly the kind of highly skilled, bright students who will make a big contribution to Australian life and productivity.”

Among the recommendations are suggestions to:

- Develop a new occupation or skills identification system for the skilled migration program in consultation with industry to replace the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).
- Consolidate the Medium and Long Term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL) and Short Term Skilled Occupation (STSOL) into one list: the Skilled Occupation List (SOL).
- Introduce flexibility into labour market testing.
- Consider changes to post-study work arrangements for graduates who demonstrate study excellence and employer-supported pathways into an occupation with a persistent skills shortage relevant to their field of study.
- Exempt universities from the Skilling Australia Fund Levy.

The final report is available on the Committee’s website.

Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying

Scientists are observing changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, released in Geneva on August 9.

According to the report, many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea-level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.

However, strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change, the report says. While benefits for air quality would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize, according to the IPCC Working Group I report, *Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis*, approved on Friday by 195 member governments of the IPCC, through a virtual approval session that was held over two weeks starting on July 26.

The Working Group I report is the first instalment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022. "This report reflects extraordinary efforts under exceptional circumstances," said Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC. "The innovations in this report, and advances in climate science that it reflects, provide an invaluable input into climate negotiations and decision-making."

Faster warming

The report provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5° C or even 2° C will be beyond reach. The report shows that emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1° C of warming since 1850-1900, and finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5° C of warming. This assessment is based on improved observational datasets to assess historical warming, as well progress in scientific understanding of the response of the climate system to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

"This report is a reality check," said IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Valérie Masson-Delmotte. "We now have a much clearer picture of the past, present and future climate, which is essential for understanding where we are headed, what can be done, and how we can prepare."

Every region facing increasing changes

Many characteristics of climate change directly depend on the level of global warming, but what people experience is often very different from the global average. For example, warming over land is larger than the global average, and it is more than twice as high in the Arctic. "Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The changes we experience will increase with additional warming," said IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Panmao Zhai.

Of particular interest to Australia, the report projects that in the coming decades climate changes will increase in all regions. For 1.5° C of global warming, there will be increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons. At 2° C of global warming, heat

extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report shows.

But it is not just about temperature. Climate change is bringing multiple different changes in different regions – which will all increase with further warming. These include changes to wetness and dryness, to winds, snow and ice, coastal areas and oceans. For example:

- Climate change is intensifying the water cycle. This brings more intense rainfall and associated flooding, as well as more intense drought in many regions.
- Climate change is affecting rainfall patterns. In high latitudes, precipitation is likely to increase, while it is projected to decrease over large parts of the subtropics. Changes to monsoon precipitation are expected, which will vary by region.
- Coastal areas will see continued sea-level rise throughout the 21st century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas and coastal erosion. Extreme sea-level events that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen every year by the end of this century.
- Further warming will amplify permafrost thawing, and the loss of seasonal snow cover, melting of glaciers and ice sheets, and loss of summer Arctic sea ice.
- Changes to the ocean, including warming, more frequent marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, and reduced oxygen levels have been clearly linked to human influence. These changes affect both ocean ecosystems and the people that rely on them, and they will continue throughout at least the rest of this century.
- For cities, some aspects of climate change may be amplified, including heat (since urban areas are usually warmer than their surroundings), flooding from heavy precipitation events and sea level rise in coastal cities.

For the first time, the Sixth Assessment Report provides a more detailed regional assessment of climate change, including a focus on useful information that can inform risk assessment, adaptation, and other decision-making, and a new framework that helps translate physical changes in the climate – heat, cold, rain, drought, snow, wind, coastal flooding and more – into what they mean for society and ecosystems. This regional information can be explored in detail in the newly developed Interactive Atlas interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch as well as regional fact sheets, the technical summary and underlying report.

Human influence on the past and future climate

“It has been clear for decades that the Earth’s climate is changing, and the role of human influence on the climate system is undisputed,” said Masson-Delmotte. Yet the new report also reflects major advances in the science of attribution – understanding the role of climate change in intensifying specific weather and climate events such as extreme heat-waves and heavy rainfall events. The report also shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of the climate. The evidence is clear that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main driver of climate change, even as other greenhouse gases and air pollutants also affect the climate.

“Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO₂ emissions. Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate,” said Mr Zhai.

For more information contact: IPCC Press Office ipcc-media@wmo.int, +41 22 730 8120 or access <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

Australia's carbon capture and utilisation opportunity

Australia could turn carbon dioxide waste into a valuable revenue stream, according to a new report from the CSIRO. The CO₂ Utilisation Roadmap explores the opportunities presented by emerging carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) technologies for Australia to support new industries and reduce carbon emissions.

The Roadmap identifies how emerging CCU technologies could be used to support growth opportunities in Australia's food and beverages industry, the creation of zero or low carbon-building products and materials, and position Australia for the export of low-emission chemicals and fuels.

CSIRO Chief Executive Dr Larry Marshall said CCU technologies can help transition Australia towards a lower-emission future while creating economic growth. "No single technology will take us to net zero – the scale of our challenge in adapting to climate change and decarbonising our industries requires us to draw on every available tool," Dr Marshall said.

"The development and demonstration of high abatement technologies like CCU has the potential to have a significant impact, as part of our broader efforts to both reduce emissions and lift the competitiveness of our industries."

Currently, industries such as cement, steel, plastics and heavy transport still rely on fossil fuels or have inherent emissions in their processes and are traditionally 'hard to abate'. These industries are unable to rely on renewable technologies alone and account for about a sixth of Australia's emissions and around a third of global emissions.

CCU technologies capture CO₂ from the waste streams of industrial processes, or directly from the atmosphere, and convert it into useful new products, ranging from synthetic fuels to food and beverages, chemicals and building materials.

Associate Director of CSIRO Futures Vivek Srinivasan said Australia is well-placed to lead in CCU technologies. "Our analysis shows that Australia is well positioned to capitalise on the CCU opportunity and become a leader in this emerging area," he said. "Australia's advantages include capacity to implement the low-cost, low-emission electricity needed for CCU technologies, a track record for developing internationally competitive export industries, and established international bilateral agreements on low-emission technologies." The Roadmap draws on extensive national and international consultation, modelling and analysis to determine the key advantages, barriers, and considerations to support scale-up for identified areas of CCU opportunity for Australia.

By acting as a potential major user of hydrogen and helping to reduce CO₂ emissions, CCU complements CSIRO's investment in Australia's hydrogen and emission-reduction research through the Hydrogen Industry and Towards Net Zero Emissions Missions. CSIRO worked with government and industry to develop the CO₂ Utilisation Roadmap, including the Australian Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Woodside, Santos, BHP, Wesfarmers Chemicals, Energy & Fertilisers, APA Group, Mineral Carbonation International, the Victorian Government, KBR, Advisian, Australian Trade and Investment Commission and CO₂ Value Australia.

Download the CO₂ Utilisation Roadmap at the CSIRO website.

Obituary

Maev O'Collins

16 June 1929 – 3 July 2021

Maev O'Collins was born in Brighton, Victoria, on 16 June 1929 and died at her home in Canberra on 2 July 2021. In a memoir edited and published by her nephew, Les Coleman, in 2013, Maev recounts a chance encounter with Michael Somare at a New York restaurant in 1972. At that moment, Somare was the Chief Minister of what was still the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, an 'external territory' of Australia. Maev herself was about to conclude her doctoral studies at Columbia University, having previously spent several years as a social worker at the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau in Melbourne. Somare asked Maev to establish a social work program at the newly established University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG). Most of her professional and personal life beyond that moment was devoted to understanding how an Australian Catholic social worker like herself could make a meaningful contribution to the decolonisation of what had previously been an Australian colony. And that appears to explain the title of her memoir, *Last of the Lands We Know*.

Maev got to know PNG and its people very well during the 17 years that she worked at UPNG. During the first few years of her tenure, the university was a hotbed of political radicalism, as the expatriate staff and national students were both enthused by the prospect of dispensing with the Australian colonial legacy. Unlike some of her colleagues in the Faculty of Arts, Maev would never have thought of herself as a revolutionary activist, but she did believe that the theory and practice of 'social work' could be a vehicle for nation-building and social reform. The academic program that she designed placed very little emphasis on the role of social workers as counsellors to individuals and families in distress. It was all about social policies, social planning and community development.

The courses for which she took personal responsibility, and which gave her the greatest personal satisfaction, were the practical courses in which students were despatched to particular local communities – often their own communities – in order to figure out ways to deal with the social or economic problems that they were facing. Since UPNG had a generous budget for staff and student travel during the 1970s and 1980s, Maev was able to spend a few days in each of these communities in order to assess their problems for herself and help her students to do the same. And that is how she set a record for the number of Papua New Guinean communities in which an individual social scientist has managed to conduct some sort of fieldwork, even if only for a few days at a time.

While Maev was designing her social work program, she managed to convince the university's governing body that students majoring in this discipline should be awarded a special degree – the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW). This was a source of some irritation to colleagues in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology who were teaching courses in sociology, anthropology or archaeology. The students majoring in their disciplines, like most of the other students graduating from the Arts Faculty, were simply awarded a common-or-garden BA. And their irritation was compounded by the greater popularity of the social work program amongst the student body.

The popularity of the social work program with its component courses was not simply due to the pedagogical talents of Maev and her fellow social workers. It was also a political matter. Maev knew perfectly well why her students were not so keen to take courses in 'Melanesian

societies', which lay at the heart of the major in anthropology and sociology. Why would they want to know what foreign anthropologists had written about the diversity of Melanesian customs and cultures when they could be planning the future of their nation and finding out ways to make it a better country? Most of them wanted to look forward, not backwards.

When Maev was appointed professor and head of the department in 1979, she set about healing such disciplinary divisions by throwing regular parties at her modest apartment on campus. These parties became a legend in their own right, as the national staff who were slowly but steadily replacing the expatriates were set the task of figuring out where Maev had hidden the last carton of beer that was not immediately on offer. Eventually, despite the fun and games, it was the up-and-coming national staff who persuaded Maev that it was time to move on, since she was fast approaching the age of 60 at which expatriates were expected to go home. So, she spent her last two years at UPNG as head of the Staff Development Unit, hastening the process of localisation that she had actively supported for more than a decade.

But if there had been a battle between the social workers and the anthropologists-cum-sociologists, then Maev had already won it. By the time she left the university in 1989, the core courses in the anthropology and sociology program were no longer courses dealing with the diversity of traditional Melanesian cultures; they were courses in social mapping and social impact assessment. The latter subject, in particular, was one in which Maev took a great interest, since she had come to think that social work, in this national context, was just a form of applied anthropology. But she was gracious enough to let the anthropologists-cum-sociologists take ownership of a course that might just as well have been a key component of the social work program that she had designed.

By the time that Maev retired from UPNG as an emerita professor in 1989, she had already forged a relationship with the Australian National University (ANU). In 1983, while on study leave from UPNG, she had been appointed to a visiting fellowship in the Department of Political and Social Change in what was then the Research School of Pacific Studies. In that capacity. She produced three books in the Department's monograph series. The first, published in 1984, was a study of Youth in Papua New Guinea. The second, published in 1986, was an edited collection of papers on Youth and Society. The third, published in 1993, after she had become a full-time resident of Canberra, was a collection of papers that she had written while still at UPNG, entitled *Social Development in Papua New Guinea*.

Most of the papers in this last volume had not previously been published because Maev never cared for the academic rat race. If she had ever encountered the concept of an impact factor, she would instantly have dismissed it. She wanted to have an impact on the lives of ordinary Papua New Guineans, not an impact on her own academic reputation. Maev states in her own memoir that she spent so much time trying to understand what was going on in the many communities that she visited, as well as what was going on in the hearts and minds of her students, that she barely had any time left to devote to the production of academic publications.

Maev was one of the founding members of the ANU's Emeritus Faculty in 2000. But before that, in 1996, she had been appointed as an adjunct professor at the Australian Catholic University (ACU), with a mandate to use her experience at UPNG to inform the development of a new social work program. During the period of her association with the ACU, she established a social work scholarship fund, and her lifelong contribution to the discipline was finally recognised through the award of an honorary doctorate in 2019.

Maev's last book, *An Uneasy Relationship*, was published in 2002. Since this book dealt with the history of Australia's relationship with Norfolk Island, one might suppose that Maev

had finally lost interest in PNG. But nothing could be further from the truth. There is a multitude of Papua New Guineans who loved and respected Maev as their former teacher at UPNG, many of whom have since walked the corridors of power and influence, and some of whom have sadly died before she did. But even after she moved to Canberra, Maev kept up a remarkably wide variety of close relationships with PNG and its citizens -- as expert adviser, academic supervisor, counsellor, friend and host. It was the relationship between Australia and PNG that was by far the most 'uneasy' relationship in her life, but that was just because, as a devout Catholic and devoted social worker, Maev felt that it was her duty to dissolve the colonial legacy in new bonds of love and friendship.

Colin Filer and Michelle Nayahamui Rooney

Mike Taylor

20 February 1946 - 22 May 2021

Mike Taylor joined the Australian National University in 1979 and had an important impact on the Department of Human Geography in the Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPS). His interests broadly spanned the field of economic geography. He was widely liked and respected.

Born in the UK, Mike earned a PhD at the University College London in 1971. He followed up by accepting an appointment at the University of Auckland.

Mike was a leading international figure in human geography thanks to an expansive body of research undertaken over 50 years. With more than 15 books and over 100 papers, he made significant contributions to research on the geography of firms, multinational corporations, and local economic development. He held several key international roles, including with the International Geographical Union where he led initiatives in the field of economic geography. Mike and family moved to Canberra and, from 1979 to 1986, Mike worked in the Department of Human Geography in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. He commenced as a Research Fellow and was later a Senior Research Fellow.

Mike Taylor's list of papers and books, generally jointly with ANU colleagues, illustrate his productivity and insight into the changing economy during his time in Canberra. His books included *The Geography Multinationals: Studies in the Spatial Development and Economic Consequences of Multinational Corporations*, Croom Helm, London, 1982 (with N.J. Thrift); *Industrial Organisation and Location*, Cambridge University Press, 1982 (with P.J. McDermott); *Papers of the 7th Australian/New Zealand Regional Science Association, Canberra, 1983* (with C. Adrian, C.C. Kissling and N.J. Thrift); *Regional Impacts of Resource Developments*, Croom Helm, Sydney 1984 (with C. Adrian, C.C. Kissling and N.J. Thrift); *The Geography of Australian Corporate Power*, Croom Helm, 1984 (with N.J. Thrift); and *Multinationals and the Restructuring of the World Economy*, Croom Helm, London 1986, (with N.J. Thrift).

Following on from his work at the ANU, Mike took a role as Director of Information Services in the Office of Local Government in Canberra. This led him into a role as Assistant Secretary (SES Level 2) in the Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics located in the Department of Transport. His responsibilities oversaw land transport research. While at the ANU Mike overlapped with Chris Kissling, a geographer in the School of Human Geography. Mike contributed to Chris's attempts to develop, with the help of

Cartographers in the Department of Human Geography, an Atlas of the Asia Pacific Region using then innovative digital technology. While the Atlas never appeared, it sent a signal to geographers that the area of mapping was on the verge of a significant change. This connection was sustained over many years when Kissling moved back to Christchurch. They worked together as a team that contributed to a book on Fiji Future Imperfect with their joint work on transport. Mike's knowledge and experience with matters of transport helped with developments in South Pacific Islands.

After leaving Canberra, Mike and family moved to Western Australia where he joined the Department of Geography at the University of Western Australia. In 1989 he was appointed Chair and Head of the Department of Geography. He later returned to the UK where he was Head of the Department of Geography at Portsmouth, followed by a period at the University of Birmingham.

Mike was a gifted and dedicated teacher. He proudly noted that, when Head of Department and Professor at UWA, he continued to teach large first-year courses as well as carry a significant administrative load. Former students to this day recall his wit, good humour, and generosity as a teacher. As a colleague, Mike offered a boundless energy and enthusiasm that few could match. His opinions on politics and universities were always well observed and often hilarious and unrepeatable.

Mike had a great love of Australia, and after leaving the University of Western Australia he made many return visits to spend time with family and collaborate with colleagues. He longed to return to Australia on a more permanent basis, and in 2015 he and his wife Rosemary retired to the south-western region of WA. On his return, he maintained a link with the University of Western Australia as an Adjunct Professor and remained active in research on local economic development.

Mike was very proud of his wife, Rosemary, who supported him and his children. He will be missed by scholars interested in modern geographical studies.

This obituary was put together from material supplied by colleagues from Human Geography, ANU and the Department of Geography and Planning, UWA

David Michael Adams

26 May 1945 - 9 April 2020

David Adams, a Lecturer and then Senior Lecturer in Political Science for 33 years, died on 9 April 2020 at the age of 74.

He began life in the East Anglian town of Beccles in England and spent his childhood and youth there until he entered the London School of Economics in 1964. He graduated with a B.Sc. (Econ) in 1967 and, subsequently, with an M.Sc. in 1968. Even after four years in London and about to depart for Australia, David had not left his childhood roots behind him. His M.Sc. research paper was about local politics in Beccles, which may have been the only time this topic had been studied in a leading British university.

At LSE, David was exposed to the cream of the political science profession in the UK at the time. Many, including Michael Oakeshott, Ralph Miliband, Bernard Crick and Peter Self, were also outstandingly good lecturers. He learnt a lot of political science from them, but also absorbed the skills and techniques needed to deliver a quality lecture.

After completing his Master's degree, David spent a short time as a research assistant at the LSE during what was to be an eventful year in two respects. In December of 1968 he married Jill Croucher, also from Beccles, and, while at LSE, he applied for several academic vacancies, including one at the University of Queensland. Colin Hughes, then Professor of Government at Queensland, was in London on sabbatical at the time and offered David a three-year position. David accepted and he and Jill set off for Brisbane in 1969, where he took up the post of Senior Tutor in Government. Two years later, in 1971, he was promoted to a Lectureship in Public Administration and remained at the University of Queensland until 1973.

While in Queensland, David was contracted to come to Canberra to deliver an annual course on Australian government to the new graduates entering the Australian Public Service. On one of these occasions, he taught the course with Gordon Reid, then Professor of Political Science at ANU, and it was this connection that brought David to the then Department of Political Science in the School of General Studies at ANU. He was appointed to a Lectureship in Political Science in 1973 and subsequently promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1978.

Teaching was David's forte, and ANU had recruited an outstanding educator. This was evidenced immediately in the two upper-level courses he launched on his arrival - *Australian Government and Public Policy* and *Bureaucracy and Public Policy*. In both, he combined the fields of public administration and public policy to great effect and made those courses particularly attractive to the large number of part-time students then enrolled in the BA degree, many of whom were in full-time employment in the public service. He later developed and launched a pioneering course in the field of political psychology, which created an opportunity for political science students to explore what psychology had to offer to the study of political behaviour. It proved to be a popular course for political science students and it also attracted a significant number of undergraduates enrolled in the Psychology program in the Faculty of Science.

David also devised a brilliantly innovative fourth-year honours course, *Approaching Politics*. He taught this for the first time in 1997 and focused on what literature, drama, film, and the art of cartooning had to say about the study of politics. It was to be, in this writer's opinion, one of the most significant and cutting-edge courses ever developed in the history of the Department of Political Science at ANU.

In terms of the sheer numbers of students, David's major impact on teaching came when he took over the first-year introductory Political Science course in the late 1980s. He substantially reworked the subject matter of that course and brought to the teaching of it a level of energy and enthusiasm that engaged students in a discipline few had studied in high school. It also generated a significant increase in enrolments over the next few years and, by 1991, numbers for that course had reached almost 600, albeit creating additional management problems such as repeat lectures and a necessary increase in the number of tutors. It would be no exaggeration to say that David's first-year course was also a catalyst for the growth of enrolments in upper-level courses in Political Science through the flow-on from the first-year course. That helped to lay the groundwork for a much-needed increase in staff numbers in the 1990s.

David made the lecture into an art form. His preparation for every single performance was meticulous, assiduous, and organised. It was all on 5x3 file cards, but they were rarely needed. The structure and the material were firmly fixed in his head. The delivery was impeccable. There was humour, wit, anecdotes, passion - and flexibility if things were not going as planned. He once told colleagues a story about when he decided to omit some of his

prepared material because of time pressures, only for a student sitting in the back row of the Copland Lecture Theatre to ask a question about the very material that he been left out. David then reeled off details of 14 different referenda, to the amazement of the 400 students present. But, as he went on to say, “You only get that sort of luck once in a lifetime.”

At the end of his large, first-year lectures, David would emerge mentally drained. The Tuesday and Thursday classes were regularly followed by a lunchtime run around the lake. I accompanied him. We would run for an hour or more and often did not say anything. It was his way of recovering.

There were also a large number of honours and doctoral students who benefitted from the care and attention that David Adams gave to them. He instilled confidence. He encouraged and stimulated them to think creatively about the possibilities of their thesis topic. He met with them regularly, he prodded and helped and pushed. He read their drafts carefully and often several times. David firmly believed that supervision did make a difference. His certainly did and his services as a supervisor were in great demand.

It came as no surprise that David Adams was one of the early recipients of the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2001 and it was richly deserved. The following year, he was nominated by ANU for the National Teaching Awards.

Notwithstanding a growing reputation as a teacher at ANU, David kept a relatively low profile beyond the Department of Political Science for almost two decades until the 1990s when he became involved in the administrative side of university life. He was good at administration, probably not surprising given his academic interests.

It began with an eighteen-month period as Head of Department starting in mid-1992, a role he took on after a period of some instability in Political Science. He steadied the ship, managing the diverse range of views amongst the staff with sensitivity. He also skilfully prepared the way for a new incoming Professor to take over the headship in 1994. It was no mean achievement.

In the mid-1990s, David took on substantial roles within the Faculty of Arts serving as Deputy Dean over several extended periods between 1996 and 2004, a span which included significant periods as Acting Dean. His administrative service at ANU coincided with times that were exceptionally challenging, and he worked tirelessly, quietly, and discreetly to manage and resolve difficult and sometimes sensitive problems. Indeed, he did it so successfully that few of his colleagues in the Faculty of Arts even knew those problems existed.

Within and beyond ANU, David will also be known for a steady stream of publications in books and academic journals on Australian government and public administration. Perhaps his most memorable and enduring contribution was the twenty-three “Political Review” articles published in *Australian Quarterly* between 1975 and 1994. These dealt with many controversial issues and personalities over the years, particularly the 1975 crisis, and became an important record and reference source for scholars of contemporary Australian politics. David’s lively writing style, and his balance and objectivity were the hallmarks of these pieces, leading one Cabinet Minister to praise him for having “maintained a splendidly dispassionate stance” on the 1975 crisis.

What David wrote and taught while at ANU was just part of a much wider range of life interests. He not only read extensively in fields way beyond his academic specialisations, but had amazing recall of details, events, and stories. The cinema was one of his greatest passions. From the age of seven, he would be there weekly and, when he was a student at LSE, it would not be unusual for him to go to The Academy in Oxford Street three times a

week (wearing a large college scarf and a copy of *The New Statesman* rolled up in his pocket, as David liked to tell you). His knowledge of film, and his recollection of what he had seen was amazing - up there with David Stratton. Indeed, in his retirement, he played an active role in the Canberra U3A film group. He was also a great aficionado of mid-20th century British comedy. Tommy Cooper, Frankie Howerd, Ken Dodd, Tony Hancock, *Round the Horne*, and *Yes Minister* were favourites, and he never missed an opportunity to draw on the wit and foolishness of Sir Humphrey Appleby and Jim Hacker in his first-year political science lectures.

David was also an avid sports fan. That encompassed a life-long loyalty to the Norwich City football club, an addiction to basketball from the Canberra Cannons to the Los Angeles Lakers, total absorption for three weeks every July during the Tour de France, and, of course, test-match cricket. He participated as well. As a child he was a junior snooker champion. He played squash when he first arrived in Canberra and, later in the 1980s, he caught the running bug. He competed in several *Canberra Times* fun-runs and three Canberra Marathons which he completed in a respectable time (although he did not look so well when he crossed the finishing line).

David formally retired from ANU in 2006. "It was time to move on," he told an audience at The Grange in 2019. "The gap between students and me had grown," he said. And he had no regrets about retirement. He indulged his interests in films, literature and art, and he and Jill travelled overseas frequently "The last eight years have been some of the best years of our lives," he confessed. He did, however, continue lecturing to first-year students for a further three years on an adjunct basis, but by then it was quite apparent to him that most 18-year-olds at the end of the first decade of the 21st century had no idea who Sir Humphrey was. He finally ended his Visiting Fellow status in the then School of Politics and International Relations in 2013. Fittingly, an ANU prize for the best performance in the Introduction to Politics course was established in his honour and has been awarded regularly since 2007.

David Adams passed away in Canberra after a sudden and rare illness. His warm friendship, collegiality, and outstanding contribution to the life of ANU will be long be remembered by his colleagues and countless former students.

John Hart

Marian Jane Simms

14th December 1951 – 28th April 2021

The sudden death of Marian Simms earlier this year has meant that Australia has lost an outstanding scholar and academic whose career and research was influential across several fields.

Marian was a Canberra product. She was born in Canberra and grew up on the country margins to the north where she attended primary school, followed by Lyneham High School in Canberra.

Marian graduated with a BA (Honours) in History and Political Science from the Australian National University in 1974. Her Honours Thesis was entitled 'John Latham and the Conservative response to the Great Depression in Australia'. She commenced an MA at The University of Melbourne but converted to a PhD in Political Science at La Trobe University under the co-supervision of Professor Joan Rydon, the first woman appointed to an Australian

Chair in Politics. She graduated in 1979 with a doctoral thesis entitled 'The Menzies Government and Government Enterprise'.

Her initial full-time appointments were first as Lecturer, Politics Discipline, School of Management, Canberra College of Advanced Education (now the University of Canberra) 1980-85, and then as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in the Political Science Department of the Australian National University 1985-94. She was promoted to Reader in Political Science 1994-2002, and served as Acting Head of Political Science, ANU, and was Director of Women's Studies, ANU (1996-97).

Marian became the Chair in Political Studies at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2002-2009, the first woman professor in the department (of which she was the Head, 2002-2007).

Marian returned to Australia to become Professor and Head of the School of History, Heritage and Society at Deakin University 2009-2011. She also held the positions of Chair in Australian Studies 2011-2014 (on leave of absence) and Adjunct Chair, Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University 2014-2017.

In 2011, Marian became Executive Director of Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences at the Australian Research Council, Canberra, a position she held until 2017. She was also Acting Chief Executive Officer for various periods. During this time Marian had a rich experience working with Discovery Projects, Discovery Early Career Research Award, Australian Laureate Fellowships, Future Fellowships and Discovery Indigenous. She was involved in the establishment of the continuous Linkage scheme and in opening such applied schemes to the social sciences, as well as contributing to the development of government research and research integrity policies. At various times, she also contributed to the review and evaluation activities of research bodies in New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden.

Marian's last appointment was as Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra's Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis. Marian continued to be active in advising higher degree research students, early career researchers and other academic and administrative staff. Her advice covered a full range of research grant matters, from grant writing through to complex eligibility, post-award, rejoinder, and grant-transfer matters. Marian was a key contributor to building research strength in the Faculty of Business, Government and Law.

In terms of higher degrees by research, she supervised 25 honours, 14 masters and 12 doctoral students at the University of Canberra, Australian National University, University of Otago and Deakin University. Four ANU PhD graduates – Peter Chen, Peter Martin, Maria Maley and Diane Stone – have achieved senior academic appointments. Two Otago graduates have worked as academics in London and Tel Aviv. Many Otago and ANU honours and master's graduates have been policy researchers in public service organisations in Australia and New Zealand.

Marian was an active member of international and national associations, the most important being the Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) from 1979 and the International Political Science Association from 1988. She co-edited APSA's *Australian Journal of Political Science* for six years. She chaired IPSA's Research Committee on Gender, Globalization and Democratization from 2003 to 2006.

Several awards deserve to be mentioned. There was the Potter Foundation Doctoral Travel award, taken up at the University of Southern California Los Angeles campus, to study American politics, 1980. A Fulbright Fellowship was taken up at the University of Southern California campus at Washington DC, to research congressional campaigning, 1988-89.

Importantly, there was the award in 2003 of the Centenary Medal by the Australian government for work on the political history of federation.

Her major publications over forty years covered six authored and co-authored books (including one which ran to a second edition) and ten edited and co-edited books, plus several collections published through journals. There were also 33 articles and 56 scholarly book chapters and commissioned reports. Her research encompassed Australian and comparative foci and utilised a range of methods and techniques, including surveys, data analysis, content analyses, interviews with practitioners and use of primary and secondary source materials. From her early days as an academic she regularly worked with many colleagues on research projects and collective publications. Several themes stand out: women and politics, Australian democracy and elections and political parties.

Marian's active interest in women and politics dates from her involvement in the Women's Caucus of the APSA from its founding at the 1979 APSA conference in Hobart. Papers on women and politics presented at the APSA Women's Caucus were edited by Marian and published as *Australian Women and the Political System* (Longman Cheshire 1982). She co-authored with Marian Sawer, *A Woman's Place: Women and Politics in Australia* (Allen & Unwin, 1984; revised second edition 1994).

Marian's special interest in gender regimes was reflected in a range of publications on gender and leadership that explored the barriers to women's political engagement, including a comparative analysis of Margaret Thatcher and Helen Clark, published in *Public Leadership: Perspectives and Practices* (eds., Paul't Hart and John Uhr, 2008); and an article in *Signs: The Journal of Women, Culture and Society* (2008).

Publications on another specialisation, the emergence of Australian democracy, included an edited book on the 1901 election (2001); a book on the origin and evolution of democratic institutions, *From the Hustings to Harbour Views: Electoral Institutions in New South Wales, 1856–2006* (2006); her inaugural professorial lecture 'Empire and democracy? The view from settler societies', University of Otago (2004); and her co-edited volume *Political Parties and Democracy: Africa and Oceania* (2010), which both explained and critiqued political processes with particular reference to their limitations in terms of equal representation for women and Indigenous people.

Her long-term interest in political parties is exemplified by two books *A Liberal Nation: The Liberal Party and Australian Politics* (Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1982), followed by *The Paradox of Parties: Australian Political Parties in the 1990s* (edited) (Allen & Unwin, 1996), which recognises the durability of the party system; and a chapter on 'Political Parties' in Stuart Macintyre *et al.*, (eds.) *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, Oxford University Press, 1998 and 2001.

Australia's national elections were a regular subject for study from the mid-1990s to the last election. Marian was a team leader for the ANU post-election studies (with John Warhurst) 1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2019 and sole convenor 2010, and co-editor of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia Post-Election Workshop Volumes 1996-2010; 2019.

Recently, she was engaged in several research projects: analysing the 2019 Australian election campaign; comparative environmental politics and policy; comparative political party leadership; and contemporary integrity governance and research challenges, particularly as they relate to Indigenous research. In recent years, Marian continued to actively publish, including *Morrison's Miracle: The 2019 Australian Federal Election* (ANU Press, Canberra, 2020), co-edited with Anika Gauja and Marian Sawer. She was working on a book with Aynsley Kellow (University of Tasmania), *Drilling Down: Mining Industry Association at*

Multiple Levels of Governance, and had received an invitation to submit a book proposal from a British publisher.

Marian was notable for an unusual combination of qualities: her intellect, integrity, distinctive values, strength of character, generosity of spirit and warmth of personality and style. Marian will long be recalled for her exceptional contribution in offering time and sage advice to colleagues and higher degree students about research, but she will be remembered not only as a scholar, but as a warm and loyal friend and family member. Her devotion to her pets led to her supporting others working to rescue and rehome dogs. Her other passion was the investigation of her family's history in Australia and beyond. She researched genealogical history with the same discipline she applied to her work while taking great pride in her Australian heritage.

John Halligan

**Shirley Pipitone
3 April 1947 – 15 July 2021**

A memorial service for ANUEF member Shirley Pipitone (3 April 1947 – 15 July 2021) was held in the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion of the National Arboretum on August 10, restricted to 60 people due to Covid precautions. The service was followed, at 2.30pm, by a graveside service at the Natural Burial Grounds of Gungahlin Cemetery. Later in the day, family and friends gathered at Shirley's home in Millard Place, to share memories, stories and refreshments.

The Motional Improvisation of Al Wunder

By [H.R. Elliott](#)

ISBN 9781138194687 (rrp \$ AUD 252.00, e-book \$63.89)

Published by Routledge [Available on Taylor & Francis eBooks](#)

The Motional Improvisation of Al Wunder, by ANU alumna Hilary Elliot, takes readers on a journey through the life history, creative genealogies and unique working processes of one of the master teachers of Euro-American postmodern movement-based improvisational performance who has, until now, received scant critical attention.

The publishers say the book offers a long overdue examination of the significant impact made by an important figure on grassroots movement-based improvisational performance in 1960s-1970s America and in Australia from the 1980s onwards. It revisits the work of groundbreaking New York choreographer Alwin Nikolais, with whom Wunder trained and for whom he later taught in the 1960s; covers collaborations with founders of 'Action Theater' Ruth Zaporah and 'Motivity Aerial Dance' Terry Sendgraff as part of the explosion of improvisation in San Francisco in the 1970s, and tracks the consolidation of a unique pedagogy that would see hundreds of students learn how to map their performative creativity in Melbourne from the 1980s onwards.

It conducts a fascinating investigation into the wellsprings of Wunder's approach to improvised performance as an end in itself, covering teaching innovations such as his use of the Hum Drum, positive feedback, personal power sources and articulators. It includes valuable contributions from a number of ex-students and established Australian artists in dance, music and visual art who share the profound impact Wunder has made on their creative practices.

This book will be a valuable resource to movement/dance improvisation students and teachers at undergraduate and postgraduate level and independent artists drawn to movement improvisation as performance.

Hilary Elliott is a movement artist and educator who has performed and taught in Australia, Germany, the UK and the US. She has directed a large number of physical theatre projects and is currently an Affiliate at the University of Huddersfield in Yorkshire. Now living in the UK, she is the daughter of Professor Ralph Elliott and Margaret Elliott, both deceased.

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This special issue of the *Australian Journal of Biography and History* focuses on political biography. The 10 peer-reviewed articles and review essays collectively demonstrate that political biography is growing beyond just ‘one damned life after another’, and that there are new and productive paths open for practitioners, readers and critics of this genre. They offer a critical snapshot of the diverse approaches and attitudes to political biography in contemporary Australia.

Forty years after her first critical examination of the state of political biography in Australia, **Kate White** makes a bold call for academics to ‘rethink their approach’ by considering novel strategies to ‘move beyond the narrative form’. **Blair Williams** demonstrates that although increasing numbers of women are writing and practising political biography, there remain few good examples of feminist political biography; more can be done to develop a framework for feminist political biography in Australia. **Joshua Black** examines the political memoir and diary genres in the broader context of the rise of life writing in the twentieth century, adopting former minister Neal Blewett’s *A Cabinet Diary* (1999) as a case study. In a sweeping examination of prime ministerial portraiture, **Sarah Engledow** reconsiders the visual performance of leadership for posterity and, ultimately, questions the biographical utility of such performances. **Daniel Oakman** delineates the links that politics has to mainstream Australian life via that great staple of popular culture, sport. **Chris Wallace**, in her account of a quietly controversial and eventually abandoned biography of Robert Menzies early in his second prime ministership, demonstrates that life stories are powerful but risky commodities in the fast-changing political domain. Similarly, in a methodological reflection on his award-winning biography *Tiberius with a Telephone*, **Patrick Mullins** critically explores the concerted attempts of former prime minister William McMahon to control and manipulate the public and archival record of his life.

Robert Tickner, the only contributor who was also an elected political practitioner, uses his very personal article to call on others to write political and policy memoirs as a ‘public good’ that helps to encourage the ‘noble enterprise’ of participation in public life. In his analysis of backbencher memoirs, **Stephen Wilks** calls for more of the foot soldiers of politics—backbenchers, humble and otherwise—to write memoirs as an insight into the working lives of the typical politician, and to explore what wider significance they have as political players. And **Tim Rowse** and **Murray Goot** indicate in a powerful review essay that critically examines Warren Mundine’s political memoir *In Black + White*, that political life narratives are implicated in the difficult postcolonial politics of race, representation and recognition.

The Absent Presence of the State in Large-Scale Resource Extraction Projects

Edited by: [Nicholas A. Bainton](#) , [Emilia E. Skrzypek](#)

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

Standing on the broken ground of resource extraction settings, the state is sometimes like a chimera: its appearance and intentions are misleading and, for some actors, it is unknowable and incomprehensible. It may be easily mistaken for someone or something else, like a mining company, for example.

With rich ethnographic material, this volume tackles critical questions about the nature of contemporary states, studied from the perspective of resource extraction projects in Papua New Guinea, Australia and beyond. It brings together a sustained focus on the unstable and often dialectical relationship between the presence and the absence of the state in the context of resource extraction. Across the chapters, contributors discuss cases of proposed mining ventures, existing large-scale mining operations and the extraction of natural gas. Together, they illustrate how the concept of absent presence can be brought to life and how it can enhance our understanding of the state as well as relations and processes forming in extractive contexts, thus providing a novel contribution to the anthropology of the state and the anthropology of extraction.

‘The Absent Presence fills a major gap in our knowledge about the relationship between states and companies – at a time when resource extraction seems to be more contested than ever. Bainton and Skrzypek have curated an incredibly impressive volume that should be read by all those interested in exploring corporate and state power, and the ever-present impacts of extraction. A highly recommended read.’

— Professor Deanna Kemp, Director of the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, The University of Queensland

‘Countless books have been written on the sovereign state and how it imposes a particular kind of order on economic and social interactions. What is original and compelling about this collection is the portrait of how two very different states converge when it comes to “extractive ventures”. From the presumption of exclusive sovereignty over mineral resources, to the bargains that are struck with major (often global) corporations, and the relative indifference to environmental impacts, there is a remarkable consistency in the patterns that are referred to as “state effects”. These effects are brought from the background to the foreground in this book through the blending of creative and critical thinking with detailed empirical research.’

— Tim Dunne, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of International Relations, The University of Queensland

‘This brilliant and intriguing title provides a timely contribution to understanding the actual functions and strategies of state (and state-like) institutions in resource arenas. The dialectics of presence-absence and its refractions at different levels and scales of government allow the authors to go beyond stereotypes about the (strong, weak, failed

or corrupt) state, highlighting more commonalities than expected between Papua New Guinea and Australia, and even New Caledonia.’

— Dr Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Anthropologist, Senior Researcher, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development, Joint Research Unit SENS (Knowledge Environment Society).

Diary Dates

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

Wednesday, 1 September at 12.30 - The next Emeritus Faculty lunchtime talk will be held at the Molony Room, 24 Balmain Crescent, ANU. **Amin Saikal** will speak on *The Middle East: Current and Emerging Threats*.

The oil-rich and volatile Middle East region continues to experience threats primarily from violent extremism, inter-state tensions and disputes, national upheavals, and major power interventionism. This may remain so for the foreseeable future, unless there is a substantial reconfiguration of forces and world powers’ involvement in enhancing the prospects for wider stability and security at national and regional levels. Some leaders of regional states and the United States under President Joe Biden are cognisant of the need to engage in major policy actions to diminish the danger from the threat sources, but the conflicting geopolitical and geostrategic, not to mention sectarian factors, standing in their way are also formidable. This lecture focuses on analysing the sources of threat, elaborating on responses to them by states and outside powers, and assessing the prospects for what may transpire in the Middle East in the times ahead.

Please let **Ian Keen** know if you plan to attend the talk in person (Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au). Otherwise you can access the talk on Zoom with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4219033935?pwd=TXY2QjQxc1NZalV2bERiMENRVHhUdz09>

Passcode in case you need it: 771309

Meet the author

Colin Steele advises that it is worth booking ANU-*Canberra Times* meet-the-author events because if they are cancelled existing bookings will be moved to another date.

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

[Lockdown affected] **August 16 Richard Marles** in conversation with **Rory Medcalf** on his essay *Tides that Bind: Australia in the Pacific*. Venue: Kambri T2

August 27 Peter Doherty in conversation with **Tracy Smart** on *An Insider's Plague Year*.
Venue: Manning Clark Auditorium

August 31 Gabrielle Chan in conversation with **Genevieve Jacobs** *Why you should give an F*ck about farming*. Vote of thanks by **John Kerin**. Venue: Kambri Cinema

September 13 Colin Steele advises that the previously announced Meet the Author event with **Master Chef Judge Jock Zonfrillo** will be at this new date, Covid restrictions permitting, at Kambri's Novel Grazing! Harry Hartog Booksellers, in collaboration with aMBUSH Gallery Kambri, present Jock Zonfrillo in conversation with **Alex Sloan** on Jock's new book, *Last Shot*, a coming-of-age memoir of addiction, ambition and redemption in the high-stakes world of Michelin star kitchens. Bookings
<https://events.humanitix.com/jockzonfrillo>

September 20 Lisa Millar in conversation with **Alex Sloan** *Daring to Fly: Facing fear and finding joy on a deadline*. Venue: Manning Clark Auditorium

September 29 Delia Falconer in conversation with **Karen Viggers** *Signs and wonders*.
Venue: Kambri Cinema

Catch up with the authors

To access all Meet-the-Author conversations access

<https://www.anu.edu.au/events/all-podcasts>

At the National Library - Closed during Covid lock-down

At the NGA - Closed during Covid lock-down

Exhibitions at the National Gallery of Australia

Jeffrey Smart Exhibition Insights was introduced by the curatorial team on August 12, speaking about the preparations for the *Jeffrey Smart* exhibition. Dr Deborah Hart, Henry Dalrymple Head Curator, Australian Art and Rebecca Edwards, Sid & Fiona Myer Curator, Australian Art, shared their curatorial journeys researching the artist's practice and developing the themes of the exhibition. The talk included a visual presentation of a selection of images of works of art in the exhibition.

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

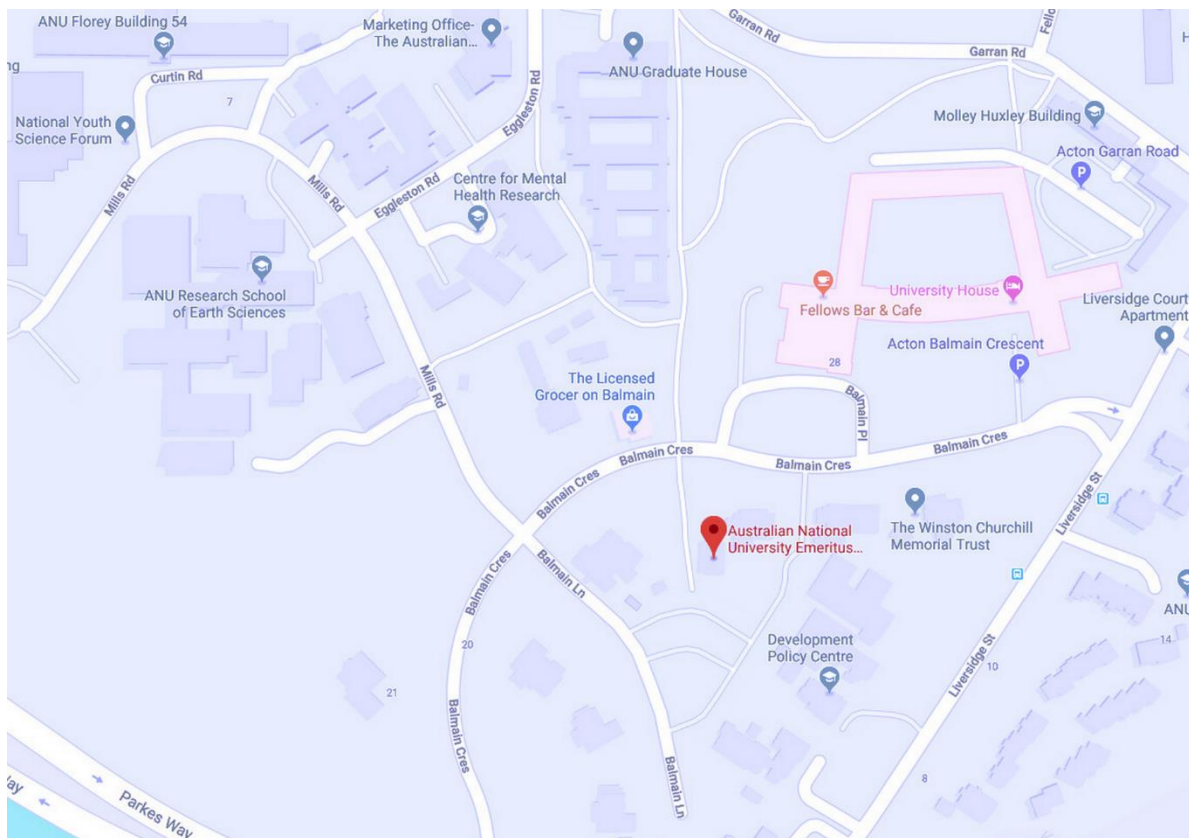
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty **Jan O'Connor** at jantancess@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 September.