

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

‘Enormous contribution’: newsletter editor retires

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It is with regret that Emeritus Faculty announces the retirement of the foundation newsletter editor, Ian Mathews, due to ill health.

“Ian has made an enormous contribution to the work of the faculty during the 12 years he edited the newsletter,” the Emeritus Faculty chair, Professor James J. Fox, said.

“The newsletter has developed under his skilful management to be an indispensable means of letting members know about faculty and university news and events, and other matters of importance in education, research, politics and international affairs. I’m sure all members will join me in wishing Ian well.”

Mr Mathews was born in England and trained as a journalist after a brief period of service in the merchant marine. He and his wife, Joyce, came to Australia when Mr Mathews took up a job in Adelaide. The family later moved to Canberra when he joined *The Canberra Times*, where he held several senior editorial positions.

Subsequently he was for many years a distinguished editor of *The Canberra Times* and, among other interests, was an active member of the United Nations Association of Australia. He is a graduate of ANU and believed passionately in the importance of education.

He is succeeded as editor by Peter Fuller, who has worked in journalism and public relations in the private and public sectors in Australia and Europe.

University prepares for on-campus study to resume

The “overarching goal” for the ANU was to provide a fantastic campus experience in 2022, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, said in a recent message to staff and students. His comments come as the university makes plans for on-campus learning to resume next year.

ANU has more than 11,500 domestic students enrolled in its study programs and has made more than 4,000 early offers to domestic students to commence studies in 2022. It will honour offers for any student who completes Year 12.

“We are working hard to make sure all our students, both domestic and international, can safely study on our beautiful and vibrant campus as soon as they are able to travel safely to Canberra,” Professor Schmidt said.

“After two years of massive disruption, we hope next year will be a time when we can all get back to doing what we do best; learning and working together.

“We are committed to bringing back all our amazing students from across Australia and it's great that there are now arrangements in place for students to come to the ACT from NSW and Victoria. We've really missed them.”

Professor Schmidt noted that many of the university's international students were still overseas studying remotely.

“We will continue to work with the ACT and Federal governments to bring all our students safely home as soon as we can,” he said. “There is much more work to be done and we will keep working with our local and national governments.

“I want to acknowledge the incredible patience and commitment of all our international students who have continued their studies in incredibly difficult circumstances. You've done an amazing job and we couldn't be prouder of you.”

ANU astronomers will sharpen focus on the universe

Researchers from ANU will help astronomers to see further into the universe with the announcement of new funding to develop the Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT), a project seen as one of the most significant programs in international astronomy.

The GMT has been listed as a top priority for funding in the newly released 2020 United States Decadal Survey on Astronomy and Astrophysics. This opens the door for major funding to construct the telescope, which is being built by an international team that includes researchers from the ANU.

The GMT is situated in the high Atacama desert in Chile and is the project of the GMTO Corporation, whose objective is to design, build, and operate the GMT to enable cutting-edge scientific observations that will revolutionise our understanding of the universe.

The GMT is one of a new generation in ground-based extremely large telescopes. It will use seven of the world's largest mirrors and the most advanced optics technology to see billions of light years away.

Researchers at ANU, a major partner in the GMT project, are involved in designing of the telescope's adaptive optics system, which removes atmospheric blur and gives the telescope the sharpest possible images.

Professor Matthew Colless, Director of the ANU's Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, a long-time member of the international GMT team, said Australian researchers were playing a major role “in making the GMT's unrivalled vision a reality”.

Anniversary volume celebrates lives of ANU luminaries

Life Celebrations, the 650-page publication that provides “an historical glimpse of the extraordinary men and women who gathered in Canberra from around Australia and around the world to create the Australian National University”, is now available as an e-book and printed volume.

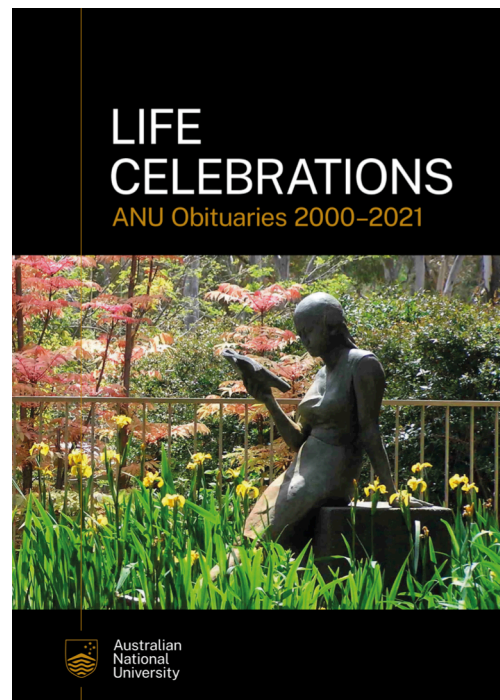
The work, the Emeritus Faculty’s contribution to the university’s 75th anniversary, is a collection of obituaries of 192 members of ANU who died during the two decades 2000-2021, and who made enduring contributions to the development of the university and its academic and public achievements.

“Each of the life celebrations in this volume offers a succinct portrait of the life, achievements and involvement of an ANU staff member in the work of the university,” the chair of the Emeritus Faculty, Professor James J. Fox, says in his preface. “Each of these portraits is a personal account written either by a colleague, research collaborator, student, friend or close relation who knew the person well and would have, in most cases, worked with him or her in the university.”

The longevity of faculty members, including that of some founders of the ANU, “gives this volume historical depth,” Professor Fox says.

“The volume is able to present a picture of the university at various different stages of its development. It is a portrayal of a community of individuals working together in the pursuit of knowledge and the communication of that knowledge within the university and throughout the world.”

Life Celebrations reflects the fact that the Emeritus Faculty has been, in Professor Fox’s words, “an active custodian of the university’s history and traditions”. From its foundation the faculty had insisted on seeing the ANU as a community where collegiality was paramount. Most of the obituaries had been compiled and archived by the Emeritus



Faculty. Many had been published in the faculty newsletter, but *Life Celebrations* has also drawn on other sources and the publications of other learned institutions.

The Emeritus Faculty was given responsibility for preparing and archiving staff obituaries by then Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb in 2004. The faculty’s founder, Professor John Molony, regarded the documents as “academic memorials”.

The volume can be downloaded from the Emeritus Faculty website under Publications: <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/250556/1/LIFE%20CELEBRATIONS.pdf>

Printed copies are expected to be available shortly and can be ordered from the Emeritus Faculty at a cost of around \$50. Members who wish to place an advance order should send an email to the Emeritus Faculty secretary.

Distinguished ANU law scholar elected to international court

Distinguished Professor Hilary Charlesworth, who leads the ANU's Centre for International Governance and Justice, has been elected to the United Nations International Court of Justice in The Hague.

She is the first Australian woman elected to the ICJ and only the fifth woman elected. Her two-year appointment is effective immediately. She replaces former Australian judge James Crawford, who died in May.

Distinguished Professor Charlesworth has worked with non-governmental human rights organisations on ways to implement international human rights standards. She played a leading role in developing human rights legislation for the ACT. She was appointed judge *ad hoc* of the ICJ in 2011 for the whaling in the Antarctic case.



Distinguished Professor
Hilary Charlesworth.

Analysis shows value of higher education

New analysis has shown the employment and income benefits of an Australian university education, especially during times of uncertainty, according to the Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Catriona Jackson.

She was commenting on data released by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) on 5 November, which identified the continuous growth of graduate incomes over the course of their careers and resilience in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

The report found that, immediately upon graduation, the median income for Bachelor degree graduates was \$51,200 in 2018. Median income for postgraduate degree graduates was 32 per cent higher, at \$67,500, while median income for sub-Bachelor degree graduates was 34 per cent lower, at \$33,800.

Graduates over 30 years of age were more likely to earn higher incomes than younger graduates, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates earned a 14 per cent greater median income compared to their non-Indigenous peers.

Ms Jackson said Australian Bureau of Statistics data had already shown that university graduates experience better employment outcomes compared with non-graduates.

"This analysis further demonstrates how a university qualification proved to be an important safety net during periods of economic uncertainty," she said.

"We can see that graduate income also made a reliable recovery in the years following the Global Financial Crisis."

Those with a Bachelor degree experienced steady growth in their income over the decade following their graduation, with the median salary increasing by 88 per cent over the period.

DESE's analysis found that, even as economic conditions changed, university graduates were less likely to be unemployed than non-graduates during economic downturn and ultimately find a secure footing in the labour market in a matter of years following their graduation.

"While there are variances between different fields of study, at the end of the day university graduates make a significant and growing contribution to Australia's workforce," Ms Jackson said.

\$5m funding for university's medical research teams

ANU medical research scientists will receive almost \$5 million in National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants for six projects that could help to resolve major health challenges, including offering more effective treatments for cancer, kidney disease and depression.

The research will be funded through the NHMRC's Ideas Grant scheme.

Dr Tatiana (Tanya) Soboleva has been awarded a total of more than \$2 million for two research projects—one that could lead to a more effective and less toxic treatment for the rare form of cancer, Hodgkin Lymphoma, and one that will seek new clues about the causes of male infertility by studying the processes that drive sperm production.

“We have the funds now to do experiments that hopefully can answer some very important biological questions and even maybe result in a novel treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma,” Dr Soboleva said.

Research conducted by Professor John Bekkers, Associate Professor Anselm Enders, Dr Simon Jiang and Dr Ashley Schram also received grants.

Professor Bekkers' research will help to guide the development of new NMDA receptor-targeting drugs that have fewer side effects. NMDA receptors are a key element in subtle brain circuit changes that are linked to such major psychiatric disorders as schizophrenia and depression.

A study led by Associate Professor Enders will investigate how different mutations in the molecule IRF4, which is essential to the function of the immune system, alter the interaction with DNA to create different tumours.

Dr Jiang and his team have identified six variants in a gene that are likely to be important in controlling the progress of kidney disease. The project could offer a novel treatment for Tiwi Islanders, who have the highest reported rates of kidney disease worldwide.

Dr Schram's project will focus on building new resources to evaluate the impact of policy reforms on health inequality. Her research team will study Australia's COVID-19 response to gather new evidence to help target the roots of health inequality both in Australia and abroad.

Dr Soboleva said the funding was “absolutely vital” for her projects. “It gives us more confidence and reassurance that our work is important not only for our group but for Australian society.”

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Vaccine decision gives certainty to international students

A decision by the Therapeutic Goods Administration this month to recognise Coronavac (Sinovac) and Covishield (AstraZeneca/Serum Institute of India) vaccines for incoming international travellers gives certainty to Australia's international students, Group of Eight Chief Executive Vicki Thomson has said.

“This is a major milestone in ensuring a smooth transition for their return to Australian campuses, when the Federal and State Governments deem it safe to do so,” she said. “We can now provide clear advice to our international students, who while continuing their studies offshore have had to rely on the vaccines made available to them.”

The Group of Eight has around 30,000 international students studying offshore. “They have stuck by our world-class universities during the pandemic with the expectation that they can eventually be back in Australia to resume their studies on campus,” Ms Thomson said.

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Total recall from the garden of memory...



The legal practitioners currently employed in various public enquiries/witch hunts, etc, rely on the widespread belief that the human memory is infallible, and that anyone who states that they "cannot recall" is clearly guilty of deliberate perfidy! By contrast most "academics" know otherwise as, when required to read their earlier masterpieces, they often find how imperfect their memories really are—the facts that I recorded in papers, some over 60 years ago, are often significantly novel!

The other day I was dreaming about those halcyon days of yore when I worked long hours at a research institution called the Research School of Biological Sciences—or at least I thought I had. But where now was RSBS? Had it disappeared without trace in one of those bureausaur-inspired reshuffles? Or maybe it was all a myth, a figment of my imagination, and had never existed at all. Fortunately, the next weekend, some friends suggested that a visit to Fetherston Gardens in Heyesen St, Weston, was worthwhile, and there, at the entrance, was proof that RSBS had once existed, if only in Weston! Phew!!

— Adrian Gibbs

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UA appoints head of strategic communications

Universities Australia has appointed Jenny Clark as its new Executive Director, Strategic Communications. A former media adviser to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Treasurer Joe Hockey, for the past four years she has led communications and government relations at the Business Council of Australia. Prior to that she was Assistant Secretary, Communications, in the Treasury. Jenny will take up her role with Universities Australia in February 2022.

ARC inaugurates cell and tissue training centre

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has launched a training centre to educate the next-generation workforce in regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, with an emphasis on connecting researchers with industry.

The ARC Training Centre for Cell and Tissue Engineering Technologies (CTET), to be led by Monash University, is to receive \$4.97 million in funding over five years under the council's Industrial Transformation Training Centre (ITTC) scheme to strengthen Australia's cell and tissue engineering industries.

Professor Sue Thomas, the ARC's Chief Executive Officer, said the ITTC scheme fostered close partnerships between researchers and research end-users to provide innovative Higher Degree by Research and postdoctoral training that was vital to Australia's future.

"Researchers at this training centre have created industry-specific training programs for PhDs and postdoctoral fellows with research carried out in industry-facing projects work," she said. "They will work with a range of partners to aid in expanding our biotechnology industries."

"The aim is to provide a highly skilled, 'industry-ready' workforce poised to consolidate and translate innovative technologies and to significantly improve and advance Australia's joint biomechanics industry."

Monash University will lead the project and will collaborate with 22 partners, including the Queensland University of Technology, CSIRO, the Centre for Commercialisation and Regenerative Medicine and the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation Limited.

The training centre also has international links with the UK-based Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, Newcastle University (UK), and the Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research, Dresden, as well Australian and international companies.

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Somogyi appointed to tertiary education agency

Stephen Somogyi has been appointed as a Commissioner of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) for a five-year term.

The appointment was announced by the Minister for Education and Youth, Alan Tudge, who said Mr Somogyi would bring a wealth of experience to the position, given his decade of involvement in tertiary education and roles within the financial sector. He would play a key role in overseeing the financial and governance aspects of TEQSA's regulatory role in the higher education sector as it emerged from the impacts of COVID-19, Mr Tudge said.

Mr Somogyi has been a strategic adviser to Monash University, Victoria University, the University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide, Siemens, Queensland Investment Corporation and the Australian Council of Education Research. He served for 10 years as chief operating officer at RMIT University and has held a range of senior roles in government and industry.

He holds a Master of Science in high-energy physics from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Science in Management, Sloan Fellow, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Australia, of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and of the Financial Services Institute of Australia.

Mr Somogyi joins Chief Commissioner Professor Peter Coaldrake AO and fellow Commissioners, Emeritus Professor Joan Cooper and Ms Adrienne Nieuwenhuis.

Items of note

Monash neuromedicines centre welcomed

Mind Medicine Australia has welcomed news that Monash University will establish a Neuromedicines Discovery Centre (NDC) to focus on psychedelic-assisted therapies to treat mental illness. The initiative was developed from a proposal put to Monash University by Mind Medicine Australia and its advocacy work with key stakeholders.

The NDC will be led by Professor Arthur Christopoulos and bring together the combined expertise and resources of researchers from Monash and collaborators from the University of Melbourne, Phoenix Institute and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health.

Unlike other centres working on the development of psychedelic-assisted therapies to treat key classes of mental illness, the NDC will span the entire medicines-development pipeline, from drug discovery and optimisation to clinical trials, new healthcare guidelines and public policy.

Group of Eight has nuclear subs expertise

The Group of Eight (Go8) universities are well placed to play a major role in developing Australia's nuclear-powered submarine capability, according to Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson.

The Go8 would engage with government to identify areas where Australia's research and education expertise could be developed and used to build future independent capacity and sovereign capability, she said.

"Australia's world-class researchers are well placed to support AUKUS in this endeavour, with outstanding expertise in the areas of cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies and undersea capabilities.

"In addition, Go8 universities have significant defence capability and have built solid defence research partnerships, problem-solving and advisory relationships around the world with governments and industry. We have been at the forefront of globally defining defence and security technology and systems advances for many decades."

In 2018, Ms Thomson said, Go8 universities collectively spent \$68 million, or 1.1 per cent of their total research and development investment, on defence. This was equal to almost half the total R&D expenditure on defence by the higher education sector.

Awards for communications, marketing programs

An electric Kombi van conversion, a university giving day and COVID-19 communications were among the work recognised on 28 October as part of the Universities Australia Marketing, Communications and Development (UAMCD) Awards.

The awards recognise excellence in marketing, communications and fundraising at Australia's universities.

In announcing the winners, Universities Australia's Chief Executive, Catriona Jackson, acknowledged the importance of this work to the university sector. "More than ever, the essential role you play is firmly recognised across the sector," she said.

The winners were: Best fundraising campaign – small team: *University of the Sunshine Coast*; Best proactive communications: *The University of Queensland*; Best real-time response communications: *Doherty Institute at The University of Melbourne*; Best marketing campaign: *Curtin University*; Best marketing campaign – small scale: *Southern Cross University*.

Diary dates

Literary lunches

December 1: In an ANU/*Canberra Times* meet the author event from 6pm to 7 pm, David Lindenmayer will be in conversation, accompanied by a visual presentation, with Alex Sloan on his book, *The Great Forest. The rare beauty of the Victorian Central Highlands*, a tribute to an extraordinary landscape now under severe threat. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. Registrations at anu.edu.au/events.

December 8: In an ANU/*Canberra Times* meet the author event from 6pm to 7pm, Chris Hammer will be in conversation with Michael Brissenden on Chris's latest book, *Treasure and Dirt*, an engrossing, stand-alone, outback noir thriller from the award-winning author of the international bestsellers *Scrublands*, *Silver* and *Trust*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. Registrations at anu.edu.au/events.

December 13: In an ANU/*Canberra Times* meet the author event from 6pm to 7pm, Andrew Leigh will be in conversation with the Vice Chancellor, Brian Schmidt, on Andrew's new book, *What's the Worst That Could Happen? Existential Risk and Extreme Politics*. Andrew looks at catastrophic risks and how to mitigate them, arguing provocatively that the rise of populist politics makes catastrophe more likely. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. Registrations at anu.edu.au/events.

Jeffrey Smart at the National Gallery

An extensive exhibition of works by renowned Australian artist Jeffrey Smart will be a highlight of the summer activities at the National Gallery. The exhibition will open on Saturday, 11 December. Tickets are on sale now.

To conform with ACT Government Covid19 guidelines, the gallery has a range of measures in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of visitors and staff. Face masks must be worn inside the gallery, and all visitors must check in upon arrival using the CBR app. The cloakroom is temporarily closed but the Art Store and street café are open, as is the members' lounge from 10.15am to 4pm.

Laura Dern season at the NFSA

The work of American film-maker and actress Laura Dern is the focus of the brief season "Wild at Heart" at the National Film and Sound Archive from 19 to 21 November. The NFSA re-opened to the public in the first week of November.

The seven films in the season range across almost 40 years of Dern's career, from independent films to Hollywood classics like *Jurassic Park*. The program coincides with the launch of Melissa Anderson's book on David Lynch's film *Inland Empire*.

The NFSA requires bookings for all ticketed events. All visitors must check in using the Check In CBR app, or with assistance from the archive's reception staff. Event details are available at www.nfsa.gov.au.

History Wars:

The Peter Ryan–Manning Clark Controversy

ISBN (print): 9781760464769 (\$55)

ISBN (online): 9781760464776

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

History Wars is an account of the controversy around the posthumous attack on Professor Manning Clark by Peter Ryan—the man who, as publisher at Melbourne University Press, had seen most of Clark’s *A History of Australia* through the presses.

As the University of Sydney’s James Curran recounts, “In 1993, Manning Clark came under severe (posthumous) attack in the pages of *Quadrant* by none other than Peter Ryan, who had published five of the six volumes of Clark’s epic *A History of Australia*. In applying what he called ‘an overdue axe to a tall poppy’, Ryan lambasted the *History* as ‘an imposition on Australian credulity’ and declared its author a fraud, both as a historian and a person. This unprecedented public assault by a publisher on his best-selling author was a sensation at the time and remains lodged in the public memory.

“In *History Wars*, Doug Munro forensically examines the right and wrongs of Ryan’s allegations, concluding that Clark was more sinned against than sinning and that Ryan repeatedly misrepresented the situation. More than just telling a story, Munro places the Ryan-Clark controversy within the context of Australia’s history wars.”

Doug Munro is a Wellington-based biographer and historian, and an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Queensland.

Power and Dysfunction:

The New South Wales Board for the Protection of Aborigines 1883–1940

ISBN (print): 9781760464721 (\$70)

ISBN (online): 9781760464738

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

In *Power and Dysfunction*, published in October, Richard Egan examines six decades of the work of the NSW Board for the Protection of Aborigines, from its creation in 1883 to its disbandment in 1940.

The board was tasked with assisting and supporting an Aboriginal population that had been devastated by a brutal dispossession. With little government direction, its initial approach was cautious and reactionary. However, by the turn of the century it was focused on a legislative agenda that sought to control, segregate and expel Aboriginal people.

Over time it acquired powers to control Aboriginal movement, remove children from their communities and send them into domestic service, collect wages and hold them in trust, withhold rations, expel individuals from stations and reserves, authorise medical inspections, and prevent any Aboriginal person from leaving the state.

Yet, despite its considerable influence, it failed to manage core aspects of Aboriginal policy. In the 1930s, when the board was finally challenged by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups seeking its abolition, it had become moribund, paranoid and secretive as it railed against all detractors.

COP26 outcomes ‘a compromise’: UN chief

The approved texts from COP26 were “a compromise”, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, said in his concluding statement to the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow on 13 November.

“They reflect the interests, the conditions, the contradictions and the state of political will in the world today,” he told delegates.

“They take important steps, but unfortunately the collective political will was not enough to overcome some deep contradictions.

“As I said at the opening, we must accelerate action to keep the 1.5 degree goal alive. Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread. We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe. It is time to go into emergency mode—or our chance of reaching net zero will itself be zero.

“I reaffirm my conviction that we must end fossil fuels subsidies. Phase out coal. Put a price on carbon. Build resilience of vulnerable communities against the here-and-now impacts of climate change. And make good on the \$100 billion climate finance commitment to support developing countries.

“We did not achieve these goals at this conference. But we have some building blocks for progress. Commitments to end deforestation. To drastically reduce methane emissions. To mobilize private finance around net zero.

“And the texts today reaffirm resolve towards the 1.5 degree goal. Boost climate finance for adaptation. Recognize the need to strengthen support for vulnerable countries suffering from irreparable climate damage.

“And for the first time they encourage international financial institutions to consider climate vulnerabilities in concessional financial and other forms of support, including Special Drawing Rights. And finally close the Paris rulebook with agreement on carbon markets and transparency.

“These are welcome steps, but they are not enough. Science tells us that the absolute priority must be rapid, deep and sustained emissions reductions in this decade. Specifically—a 45 per cent cut by 2030 compared to 2010 levels.”

The present set of Nationally Determined Contributions—even if fully implemented—would still increase emissions this decade in a way that would clearly lead to well above 2 degrees by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial levels, he said.

There was a need to build coalitions of support that included developed countries, financial institutions and those with technical expertise. This was crucial to helping emerging countries speed the transition from coal and accelerate the greening of their economies.

He closed with “a message of hope and resolve to young people, indigenous communities, women leaders, all those leading the climate action army”.

“I know many of you are disappointed,” he said. “Success or failure is not an act of nature. It’s in our hands. The path of progress is not always a straight line. Sometimes there are detours. Sometimes there are ditches.

“As the great Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson said: ‘Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant.’

We have many more seeds to plant along the path. We won’t reach our destination in one day or one conference. But I know we can get there. We are in the fight of our lives. Never give up. Never retreat. Keep pushing forward.

“I will be with you all the way. COP 27 starts now.”

‘Strengthened ambition’ in collective climate action

Delegates to the UN climate conference “forged agreements that strengthen ambition in the three pillars of collective climate action”, according to the concluding media summary from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat.

“Adaptation was the object of particular emphasis during the deliberations,” it reported. “Parties established a work program to define the global goal on adaptation, which will identify collective needs and solutions to the climate crisis already affecting many countries.”

It said the Santiago Network had been further strengthened by elaborating its functions in support of countries to address and manage loss and damage. Two registries had been approved to serve as channels for information for the global stocktake that is to take place every five years from 2023.

“Finance was extensively discussed throughout the session and there was consensus in the need to continue increasing support to developing countries,” the statement said. “The call to at least double finance for adaptation was welcomed by the Parties. The duty to fulfil the pledge of providing 100 billion dollars annually from developed to developing countries was also reaffirmed. And a process to define the new global goal on finance was launched.

“On mitigation, the persistent gap in emissions has been clearly identified and Parties collectively agreed to work to reduce that gap and to ensure that the world continues to advance during the present decade, so that the rise in the average temperature is limited to 1.5 degrees. Parties are encouraged to strengthen their emissions reductions and to align their national climate action pledges with the Paris Agreement.

“In addition, a key outcome is the conclusion of the so-called Paris rulebook. An agreement was reached on the fundamental norms related to Article 6 on carbon markets, which will make the Paris Agreement fully operational. This will give certainty and predictability to both market and non-market approaches in support of mitigation as well as adaptation. And the negotiations on the Enhanced Transparency Framework were also concluded, providing for agreed tables and formats to account and report for targets and emissions.”

Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change said finalising the rulebook meant that the Paris Agreement could now function fully for the benefit of all, now and in future.

Alok Sharma, the UK President of COP26 said: “We can now say with credibility that we have kept 1.5 degrees alive. But, its pulse is weak and it will only survive if we keep our promises and translate commitments into rapid action. I am grateful to the UNFCCC for working with us to deliver a successful COP26.”

With 197 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement. The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep a global average temperature rise this century well below 2 Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The UNFCCC is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

The ultimate objective of all agreements under the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a timeframe which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development.

* * *

Administration

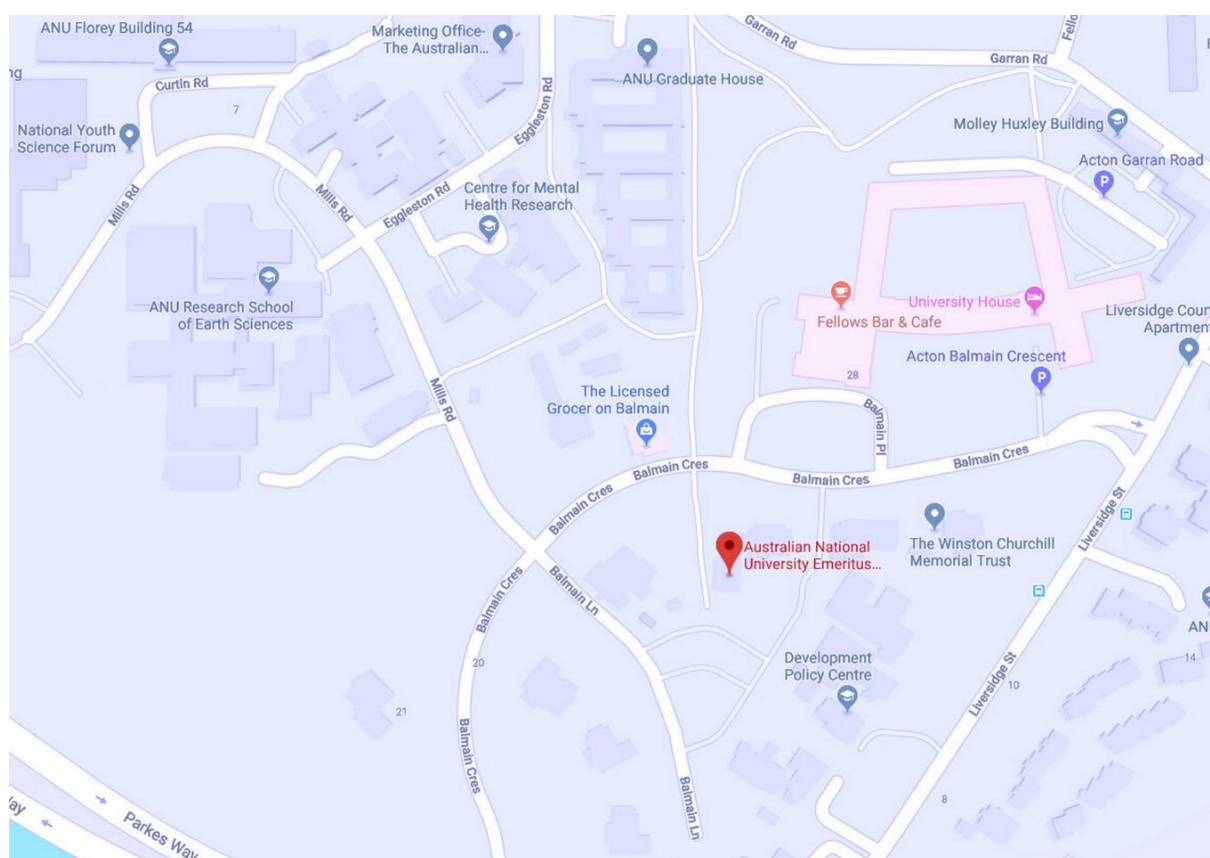
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

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

Finding the Molony Room

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

It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj> set back between No 22 Balmain Crescent, which is the Acton Early Childhood Centre, and No 26 Balmain Crescent, which is the Academy of the Social Sciences. 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 issue of the Emeritus Faculty newsletter will be published in December.