

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Veto-free research essential to national interest, VC says

The independence of the research grant process was “a core part of how liberal democracies work”, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, told the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee on 9 March.

“Research is critical to Australia’s economic and social development. This includes past research, which helps build cultural awareness and an understanding of our society. This is clearly in the national interest,” he told the committee during its hearings into the *Australian Research Council Amendment (Ensuring Research Independence) Bill 2018*.

“We argue that the minister should not have the power to veto an ARC grant that has been approved by the independent expert-led process within the ARC,” Professor Schmidt said. Research priorities were inherently long-term, and their value could take years or decades to emerge. They needed to be judged in context and in detail by experts who could apply their judgment.

Professor Schmidt recognised that politicians had to be accountable for the use of public money but, like his academic colleagues appearing at the hearing, believed that ministers’ decision-making “should in most cases stop at the point of deciding how much money and in what areas Australia will invest in research”.

“This is more fundamental than issues of parliamentary process,” he said. “It is about the health of Australia’s democracy and the vibrancy and resilience of our research system, which has been able to withstand the changeable political weather and deliver for Australia in the long term.”

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Professor James McCluskey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne, told the Senators that the peer review process was not without flaws, but “like Churchill’s view of democracy, it’s the best system we have. So it can be bitterly demoralising and utterly bewildering when a grant recommended for funding by the college of experts is rejected apparently on the basis of a 150-word national interest test. ... We completely agree with Brian Schmidt that the power of ministerial veto of grants should be removed from future legislation.”

Senator Mehreen Faruqi asked how the current ministerial veto power affected the integrity of the Australian research system. In response, Professor Schmidt said it affected the system in three ways.

First, academics “ultimately read the signs of ministerial interventions and end up colouring their research to match away from interventions. We see that within the academy already—for example, with respect to certain types of research being prohibited to certain countries. There is a big chilling effect across that whole spectrum.”

It also influenced the willingness of researchers to solve problems “that are focused not on today but on the future of all possibilities.” The ability to think across all possibilities was “foundational to our research system, being at arm’s length and basically expert-led”.

‘People around the globe ... have noticed’

Finally there was the “global talent issue”. “People around the globe who I talk to, trying to recruit them to come to Australia, have noticed what’s going on and have expressed their concerns, to the point of saying, ‘I am not going to come to Australia until you sort this out.’ ... It is literally affecting my ability to attract talent to Australia, and it will affect our ability to even assess the programs in the future.”

In response to a question from Senator Kim Carr, Professor Schmidt said it “didn’t make sense”, to him, that the ARC was maintaining “sensitivity files” on Australian academics. “I might expect ASIO to do that, but it did not seem like it was something that should occur within the ARC. I don’t think they have the expertise to do it.”

He had expressed “through every channel available” his concern about the way the ARC had looked at national security. “I have been a big proponent of the Universities Foreign Interference Taskforce, which is a much more sensible way to do it, where we can work collectively for the national interest in the way that we research,” he added.

The committee chairman, Senator Matthew Canavan, asked if Professor Schmidt was confident that no research being done at ANU would benefit the People’s Liberation Army in China.

He was “as confident as someone can be,” he replied. The university had very rigorous processes, worked with relevant Commonwealth agencies on the question, and kept it under continual watch. “It is something we take extraordinarily seriously, and our academics take it extraordinarily seriously. They do not want to get caught up in an issue.”

Lives celebrated in Emeritus Faculty volume

On 17 February the Emeritus Faculty was able to hold a belated launch of its publication *Life Celebrations*, a collection of ANU obituaries compiled to celebrate the University's 75th Anniversary. The launch was held in the Sir Roland Wilson Lecture Theatre and served as an occasion to celebrate some of the notable figures whose obituaries appeared in the volume.

Jill Waterhouse spoke about the lives and careers of two distinguished ANU Vice-Chancellors, Leslie Melville and Anthony Low. Colin Steele spoke about two eminent figures in the Humanities, Ralph Elliott and Ian Donaldson, while Elizabeth Minchin spoke about four members of the Classics Department: Dick Johnson, Beryl Rawson, Doug Kelly and Colin Mayrhofer. Linked to the obituaries in *Life Celebrations*, each of these presentations provided further insights and anecdotes of interest.

This was the first in-person Emeritus Faculty event of the year. Special thanks should go to Jan O'Connor for managing to deal with all the Covid protocols that allowed the event to be held and to Dorothy Horsfield for her considerable efforts in publicising the event. There were more than 50 attendees, which in a time of Covid is a substantial number.

Life Celebrations has 192 obituaries of distinguished members of the ANU and this launch touched on the lives of only eight of these individuals. The general feeling in comments after the event was that additional occasions to celebrate the achievements of more of our colleagues would be welcomed. Another event of a similar kind is being planned for the coming months. Kurt Lambeck, who was unexpectedly prevented from speaking at this launch, will be the first to speak at the next event.

Life Celebrations can be downloaded via the ANU Emeritus Faculty Website or directly from the ANU Repository at <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/250556>.

Panellists will recall influence of University House

A panel of distinguished alumni and community members will share their recollections of University House in a discussion in the McDonald Room, Menzies Library, on Friday, 1 April.

Dr Louise Moran, Ms Claire Sheridan and Dr Chris Wallace will discuss what the institution means to them, and the formative, enduring impact it has had on their personal and professional lives. The discussion will look at how University House's history will shape the next period of its activities, and suggest how the restoration of this heritage-listed precinct will ensure its future stays true to the very best elements of its past.

The panel session will run from noon to 1pm, and will be followed by a light lunch. Numbers are limited, and those wishing to attend in person must register with Alumni Relations. Virtual attendees must register to obtain access details.

Cutting Russian ties the right step, ANU leaders say

The Australian National University's decision to suspend indefinitely all ties and activities with Russian institutions following Russia's attack on Ukraine might seem tragically insufficient, but given the dangers of an escalating conflict "it is what we can and should do now", ANU's academic leaders wrote after the decision was taken.

In a formal statement on 3 March, the university strongly condemned the invasion and Russia's fundamental breaches of international law and the UN Charter, on which the rules-based international order is founded.

The statement, issued by the Chancellor, Julie Bishop, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, and the Chair of the Academic Board, Professor John Leach, said the invasion "threatens the peace, freedom and democracy on which freedom of inquiry and academic collaboration is based". The university was therefore suspending all links indefinitely and immediately.

"We identify with those brave Russian academics and students who oppose President Putin's unprovoked aggression. We stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people in their defence of sovereignty and freedom and offer our support for the universities of Ukraine," the statement said.

ANU acknowledged that this was a difficult time for its Ukrainian staff and students and for those who have family members, friends and colleagues in Ukraine. It committed ANU to supporting all those in its community who were affected by this aggression.

In an article published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* the following day, Professor Schmidt and five other senior academic staff recognised the significance of scientific and cultural exchange for international peace, cooperation and academic freedom, but said cutting ties was the right thing to do for several reasons.

First, it was important to recognise the historical magnitude of the conflict in Ukraine, given that President Putin had not only invaded but also denied the legitimacy of Ukraine's existence as an independent state. Second, the signatories were "humbled by the realisation that we—as individuals and collectively—could and should have foreseen the challenges facing Ukraine and the international community today".

Third, it placed the university in step with governments and civil society internationally to cut ties with Russia in a wide range of fields; and fourth, they were motivated by the fear that the worst of the conflict lay ahead.

"If we are to avoid further bloodshed and destruction on a catastrophic scale, we must collectively demonstrate to the Russian people the consequences of what Putin's government is doing in their name," the signatories said.

"The immediate material effects of our stance will be small. We do not inflict harm, merely disappointment, inconvenience and, we hope, a degree of shame. But we will add to the global pressure on the Russian people to consider individual and collective responsibility for what is happening in their name."

Obituaries

Leanne Armand (née Dansie)

20 February 1968 – 4 January 2022

It is with profound sadness and grief that we write these words in tribute to our remarkable and inspiring colleague and friend, Leanne Armand.

Leanne first came to ANU to do an Honours degree in Geology. She brought a fresh new perspective to the Honours Room, working on Quaternary vertebrate fossils in field sites in NSW. Importantly, she also brought lots of cake and fun into our lives.

After her Honours project, Leanne switched to micropaleontology working on diatoms with Professor Patrick De Dekker at ANU and spent time at the University of Bordeaux in France with the late Dr Jean-Jacques Pichon. Diatoms are tiny critters that live in water and provide intricate climate and environmental records in sediment from the bottom of the ancient seafloor and lakes. Her research recognised the role of specific diatoms in taking carbon from the atmosphere to the seafloor in a study that looked at fertilization of the ocean by iron. In other words, she showed how certain diatoms can trap carbon deep in the ocean if you feed them iron. She also came up with statistical methods to estimate the extent of past sea ice in the Southern Ocean using fossil diatoms. Her studies were the first to show the Antarctic Climatic Reversal known from land was also seen under the ocean. She did this by finding diatom species in underwater mud layers to map where ice used to cover the sea over time. Leanne was recognised for her skill as the “gold standard taxonomist” in an international paper that compared experts with machine learning to discriminate difficult species.

A long track record of advocating for more junior staff

After her PhD, Leanne was awarded a prestigious ARC Australian Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Tasmania. She was also the first Australian to receive a highly competitive European Union Marie Curie Fellowship that she took up at the University of Marseille. In 2007, Leanne won one of the top Australian Academy of Science young female scientist awards—the Dorothy Hill Award—for her work on Southern Ocean palaeontology and climatology.

Leanne spent much of her career in the Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University. A highlight of that time was as Chief Scientist on the first Antarctic voyage on the RV *Investigator*, which was an outstanding success, generating material that has been analysed by a collaborative international group and countless students. She also instigated an innovative and popular at-sea training course for Masters students called CAPSTAN.

Over her career, Leanne supervised more than two dozen students, postdoctoral fellows and visiting fellows. She led by example, cared deeply for others, and showed that to succeed in science you needed passion, curiosity, communication skills, and teamwork. She had a long track record of advocating

for more junior staff, running conferences/workshops and set up women's networking events. She mentored many women, including those who were to lead the 2022 RV *Investigator* trip to Antarctica, a trip in which she was supposed to be a participant. Sadly, the cruise was postponed because some crew members contracted covid-19.

At the Research School of Earth Sciences at ANU, Leanne took up a position as the Program Scientist for the Australian New Zealand International Consortium (ANZIC) for ocean drilling. She reformed the consortium's governance and financial documentation, and was the Australian face to international and national stakeholders. She worked hard to seek future renewal for ANZIC funding to allow Australians to continue accessing ocean drilling and received funding for a new vision for a Land-to-Sea scientific drilling program. She was also active in the National Marine Scientific Committee (NMSC) and was engaged in both postgraduate education opportunities and marine infrastructure developments. She helped to develop an International Ocean Discovery Program Code of Conduct and Anti-harassment policy.

Leanne's grace, honesty, and leadership shone. Leanne loved her career; she loved being able to do meaningful work, help change lives and be creative. She was an extraordinarily positive and optimistic person who was always looking for the win-win in any situation. She looked to improve herself and all of those around her in a strategic manner. She expected a lot and we strove to follow her! She was hard to keep up with, but at the same time always tried to make time for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. She was always up for a celebration—bringing cupcakes to work on her birthday, bringing people together, and always generous.

Leanne had many passions: 1) urban green spaces especially the park outside her house; 2) medical research into rare types of cancer; and 3) the advancement and inclusion of diverse groups of people in STEM, especially micropalaeontology.

Leanne is survived by her husband, Stephane, and two sons, Gaston and Maxime.

— *Penny King, Alix Post, and Patrick De Deckker*



Ian Richard Mathews

29 January 1933 – 28 November 2021

On public occasions Ian Mathews often reminded his audience that, behind whatever matter was in hand, there was “a story”. It was a natural observation from a man who spent his life among stories: as a storyteller himself, journalist, editorialist, editor; as a student of the wider world and in academe, observing or researching events, politics, policy and history; as a raconteur, regaling friends (like the “old fogies” who lunch at the Commonwealth Club on Fridays) with anecdotes from his career, his encounters and his travels — for he was a dedicated traveller, within Australia and abroad. Like a good storyteller, he was curious, open-minded and responsive. Experience, and perhaps an inherent

English tolerance, made him liberal by temperament and internationalist in outlook.

Ian Richard Mathews was born on 29 January 1933 at Mitcham, Surrey, at that time a community on the south-western edge of London, into which it has now been absorbed. His father was a marine engineer and frequently away. His mother fell ill during his early childhood and Ian and elder brother Derek went to live with their grandparents, Will and Maud Mathews, caretakers at 24 Walbrook, a street in the City of London that links Mansion House Square to Cannon Street and its railway station.

The Mathews soon found themselves living under the Blitz — Cannon Street station was a strategic target — and they celebrated Christmas Day 1940 in the basement at 24 Walbrook after their top-floor apartment had been burned out by incendiary bombs. Later in the war high-explosive bombs went down the lift-shaft at 24 Walbrook, gutting the building and imprisoning Will and Maud until they were able to dig themselves out.

By that time the brothers had moved away, though danger was often present. For a time Ian and Derek lived with their stepmother, Priscilla, at Grays in Essex, a town on the northern bank of the Thames near Tilbury docks, another target for the Luftwaffe. Later the brothers lived with their grandparents at Strood, in Kent. It was also a high-risk zone, the town on the Medway being close to the Royal Navy dockyards at Chatham and Gillingham. In 1944 a bomb exploded across the street from the Mathews' home and blew out the windows and doors of their house — but though shaken, they were unharmed.

But earlier in the 1940s the brothers enjoyed an idyllic escape when they were evacuated to Hartwell, a village in Northamptonshire. In later years Ian would recall with pleasure the 18 months he spent in and around the village. The brothers were billeted with an older couple whose family ran a nearby farm, where the boys spent most of their days. Perhaps it gave Ian a taste for country living, which he relished again in later life. But the Hartwell adventure could not last, and when Derek reached an age where he could no longer be billeted out, the brothers moved south.

Ian was 16 when he left Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School in Rochester and took up clerical jobs, first in local government then at Guy's Hospital in London, before following his father's example and going to sea. He joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary as a ship's writer, which made him responsible for the vessel's administrative records, logs and accounts. An early voyage brought him to Australia for the first time, stopping at Perth, Adelaide and Sydney, where he fell ill. His ship sailed, leaving him to convalesce — but it proved to be a happy misfortune, for it gave him the opportunity to become acquainted with Australian life. He liked the energy, optimism and informality of the place and decided to come back one day.

Ian returned to Britain determined to use his skills with language to become a different kind of "writer" and took up journalism, an interest sparked in his teenage years by a film about the exploits of an investigative reporter. He joined the *Kent and Sussex Courier*, which published various editions from Tunbridge Wells, and later the *Express and Echo* in Exeter. It was ideal training for a young journalist: novices quickly gain first-hand knowledge of parochial concerns, learn to deal with human types in all their variety, acquire the

flexibility and confidence to handle the unexpected — and, professionally, develop a “nose for news” and absorb what were once the essentials of the craft: accuracy, brevity and clarity. Of these, accuracy was paramount, beginning with surnames: one shouldn’t confuse Smith, Smyth and Psmith, nor Mathews and Matthews.

In the mid-1950s Ian met Joyce Morris, a Queen’s Nurse whose community responsibilities entitled her to a car. It was a boon to the young couple, giving them the freedom to travel around the country — though longer travels were in view after Ian and Joyce married in March 1957. Australia still beckoned, and in 1960 they committed themselves in the momentous decision of changing hemispheres. They came to Australia as “£10 Poms” — the tag came from the processing fee charged under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme. It was a huge move, but one the Mathews never regretted.

After six weeks at sea Ian and Joyce disembarked in Adelaide, where Ian joined the *Adelaide News* as a sub-editor and Joyce resumed her nursing career. They quickly settled in. Their daughter Deborah was born in 1962, and they bought a block of land in the Adelaide Hills. But Ian was looking further afield, and applied for a job on *The Canberra Times*. Did he have an inkling of the media battle that was soon to engulf the city? He certainly saw the capital’s promise, since Canberra had begun to grow rapidly as the Menzies government accelerated the city’s function as the seat of government. Ian and Joyce sold the Adelaide allotment and moved to Canberra in 1963, living first in Braddon, then Narrabundah, before eventually building the family home in Garran. Their son Paul was born in Canberra in 1965.

An increasingly influential journal

The paper that Ian joined was owned by the Shakespeare family and had been edited since 1962 by another former *Adelaide News* staffer, David Bowman. But in July 1964 the nation’s print media sector was shaken up when Rupert Murdoch’s News Ltd launched a new national daily, *The Australian*, working from premises in Mort Street, a few blocks from *The Canberra Times*’s offices. The Shakespeares quickly sold their masthead to the John Fairfax group, which built up its acquisition to prevent Murdoch pushing *The Canberra Times* out of its home market. Bowman stayed as editor, with John Douglas Pringle over him as managing editor. They became a formidable team.

Ian Mathews was successively chief sub-editor, news editor and deputy editor under Pringle, Bowman and John Allan, whom he succeeded as editor in 1972. He inherited a well-resourced and increasingly influential journal, and would preside over the paper’s golden years. Though reporting to Sydney, under Ian’s stewardship *The Canberra Times* maintained and developed a distinctive identity as an authoritative journal of record and enquiry. Its outlook was essentially liberal and progressive, reflecting the Pringle inheritance, Ian’s inclinations and, broadly, the expectations of its readership. It saw itself as serving a national interest, and was prized for its inside knowledge of the public service and public policy — areas where other papers soon followed. A team of overseas correspondents provided in-depth coverage of international affairs.

The paper was equally committed to covering the city and advancing the community's interests, a stance that made it a positive force in Canberra life. It was a long-term advocate for ACT self-government and supported more humane approaches in drugs policy, Aboriginal affairs, law reform and human rights — even such simple social pleasures as the legal right to enjoy a café meal and a drink outdoors. In the Mathews' years the *Times* was active in other aspects of community life. The first Family Fun Run was held in the mid-1970s, and continues today; the paper inaugurated a program of literary lunches with Australian and international authors, and ran a national short story competition with the Commonwealth Bank. In sport, *The Canberra Times* was an early sponsor of the Black Opal race. Ian also ensured that the paper had a sense of fun. It offered light-hearted competitions and diversions during the "silly season" from late December till the end of January, and for some years 1 April never passed without the publication of an elaborate, almost-credible story to tease the April Fools.

As editor, Ian's approach was to set standards but trust his people to do their jobs: though always approachable, he was in practice a guiding hand, not an overseer. "There's an expense account that goes with this job," he remarked when he appointed me literary editor in 1983. Really? What is the limit, I asked. "Oh," he said in his nonchalant way, "I'll let you know if you run over." He saw no need for staff booster sessions: when he thought advice was needed, it was given one-to-one. But he was a decisive staff manager — steely without histrionics, one colleague remarked — and did not hesitate to move people if he believed a job could be done better; or remove them if, finally, they did not measure up. Most did, and not a few of those who cut their journalistic teeth at *The Canberra Times* have gone on to distinguished careers. Ian appointed the first woman bureau chief in the Parliamentary Press Gallery. As editor, he held final responsibility for the paper and its contents, and late each night would return to the office to ensure that everything was correct before each edition was "put to bed". The paper's editorial line on any particular issue also rested in his hands: he would listen as his editorial writers argued the pros and cons of a matter before defining the position that *The Canberra Times* would take.

Ian left the paper after it went through a series of rapid changes of owner after 1987, when young Warwick Fairfax launched a debt-laden takeover of the family company. Warwick was forced to break up Fairfax in a desperate effort to service his loans, and within the next three years *The Canberra Times* passed first into the hands of Kerry Packer's PBL and then to Kerry Stokes. A sequence of editorial restructurings saw Ian, by then editor-in-chief, decide that it was time to go. He left the paper in 1988.

Though it ended Ian's career in mainstream media, it left him free to pursue other activities that were close to his heart. More personally, it also gave him time to care for Joyce, who was diagnosed with cancer around this time. She died in 2008. Professionally, he turned his longstanding commitment to the work of the United Nations into writing and editing *UNity*, the journal of the United Nations Association of Australia, with longtime friend Bruce Brammall: in the 1980s, under his watch, *The Canberra Times* had won several UNAA Media Peace Prizes. For a time he edited *Stand To* for the Returned Services League of Australia, and later *The Order*, the quarterly newsletter of the Order

of Australia Association. In recognition of service to journalism, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours list in 1992.

He might equally have been recognised for the time and energy he devoted to other causes and organisations, among them the Commonwealth Accreditation Committee for Advanced Education, the National Consultative Committee on Peace and Disarmament, the Social Issues Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and the NHMRC Education and Publicity Committee. He was an inaugural member of the Magna Carta committee that instigated the creation of Magna Carta Place in Barton. Drug law reform was a perennial interest, and in 1992 he joined Russell Fox, a former Chief Justice of the ACT Supreme Court, to write *Drug Policy – Fact, Fiction and the Future*, which set out alternative approaches to national and community drugs policy.

These years also gave Ian an opportunity to enjoy the *douceur de la vie*. He had time to savour the pleasures of country living, with Debbie and her family among the rolling hills around Mudgee, and with Paul and his family among the vineyards of McLaren Vale. Ian enjoyed helping on both properties. Closer to home, he shared many activities with his close friend Pamela Orr and spent time working on her farm near Bungendore. He didn't neglect the Garran garden: few could claim, like Ian, to have nursed an avocado tree through winters in Woden. It was a time, too, for socialising with friends and colleagues. Latterly, his week revolved around the Friday luncheons of the "old fogies" at the Commonwealth Club and Saturday morning coffee with journalist friends. The family remembers these as fixtures that nothing could interrupt.

The last decade also brought the consummation of Ian's passionate engagement with education. From 2006 he was involved with the ANU Emeritus Faculty, initially being named on the management committee for "media", and later as editor of *Emeritus*, the faculty newsletter, which he continued to edit until shortly before his death. It was a natural extension of Ian's interest and commitment: the university had been a source of news and informed commentary while he was editor of *The Canberra Times*, but Ian also made firm friendships with senior academics.

It was natural, too, that he should decide to pursue formal studies. He enrolled at ANU for the first time in the late 1990s "to keep his brain going", the family says, though Joyce's illness curtailed his studies. When he returned to lectures in 2011, he was committed to gaining a degree. He tackled literature, history, politics and Asian studies, and found it "a wonderful journey". "There was never a time when a lecturer said 'You're wrong'," he said. "They always said 'Have you thought this through?'" Younger fellow students were ready to lend a hand with uncooperative technology. Ian completed the final units for his Bachelor of Arts in the last semester of 2021, by which time it had become clear that he would not be able to attend the graduation ceremony in 2022.

Recognising Ian's achievement, and his special association with ANU, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, conferred the degree at Ian's bedside at his home on 25 November last year. Ian died three days later. Family, friends and colleagues farewelled him in a service at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Forrest, on 14 December 2021.

— *Peter Fuller*



Henry Nix

8 July 1937 – 2 February 2022

Henry Nix was a consummate environmentalist with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Australian landscape and an abiding passion for the conservation of Australia's unique flora and fauna. After a distinguished career at the CSIRO Division of Water and Land Resources, Henry served as Director of the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES) at the Australian National University (now the Fenner School of Environment and Society) from 1986 to 1999. His contributions to both CSIRO and the university leave an indelible record as a pioneer of computer-based methods of land resource evaluation and as an inspiring academic leader. He directly enabled the development of world-leading researchers and contributed mightily to the awareness of environmental issues across the ANU and the wider community.

Henry grew up in the industrial city of Ipswich in Queensland and developed a keen interest in Australian birds, watching the changes in their occurrence and abundance as the seasons changed. Indeed, in 1951 at the age of 13, he became a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, a predecessor of Birds Australia. Henry attended the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton before completing a degree in Agricultural Science at the University of Queensland in 1960. He joined the CSIRO Division of Land Research and Regional Survey in Canberra in 1964. Henry thrived in the practical, down-to-earth atmosphere of this division that took him to many parts of northern Australia, and briefly to Papua New Guinea.

Henry rapidly progressed, leading the Land Evaluation Group when the Division became the Division of Land Use Research in 1973. He came to the realisation that climate was a key factor in the agricultural landscape and built on this realisation in ways that set him apart from his peers. He became a leading participant in the International Benchmark Sites for Agrotechnology Transfer (IBSNAT) project that aimed to apply systems analysis and simulation to problems faced by resource-poor farmers in the tropics and sub-tropics, specifically in the area of evaluating new and untried agricultural technologies. This involved a collaborative network of an interdisciplinary team of scientists from more than 25 countries. This no doubt built the foundations for his advocacy for interdisciplinary approaches to addressing complex environmental issues during his later years as Director of CRES. Henry became a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science in 1979.

The realisation of the fundamental importance of climate inspired the development by his CSIRO colleagues of new quantitative methods for accurately describing climate across the Australian continent. These methods were world-leading at the time and Henry saw the potential to apply them to map the distributions of plant and animal species based on their dependence on monthly mean climate. Thus was born BIOCLIM in the early 1980s, a bioclimatic prediction system that revolutionised species distribution-mapping worldwide. It turned traditional practice on its head. In former times natural vegetation distributions were often used to imperfectly infer the climate of a particular region. The new paradigm delivered unprecedented spatial accuracy from minimally sampled species data. The bioclimatic prediction method and its key underpinning bioclimatic parameters are used to the present day. They

have become a key plank in multifactor assessments of landscapes in the now wide-ranging field of landscape ecology.

Henry maintained a wide range of interests, not least in Australian plants and birds. He maintained an impressive garden of Australian plants and was an active contributor to both the local branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) and the Canberra Ornithological Group (COG). He served as president to both organisations in the 1970s and made ongoing contributions to both well into his retirement. He was elected as President of Birds Australia Council in 2001. He is remembered for being able to rise above the details and minutiae to look at the “big picture”, believing that “A continental perspective on our birds and their habitats is a necessary condition for effective conservation.” He was awarded Fellowship, the highest honour of Birds Australia, in 2006.

Henry also devoted his annual leave, in full partnership with wife Katharine, and aided by various colleagues, to conducting an annual survey of fish and riparian birds and their habitats across Northern Australia. This annual survey continued for over a decade from 1985. It generated a unique set of Australian biological and habitat data and gave colleagues and friends warmly appreciated insights into outback life and the environment of Northern Australia.

Colleagues encouraged to publish in public journals

Henry brought a new energy to CRES when he moved to the Directorship in 1986. His wide-ranging knowledge enabled him to meet each of his new academic colleagues on their own terms and to offer valuable insights to each. It was often the case that Henry was more keenly aware of the wider implications of a person’s work than the person themselves. This was a source of great encouragement for colleagues and students alike. Henry encouraged his colleagues to publish their work in public journals rather than in the grey literature, and PhD numbers at CRES grew substantially. Henry, and his generous fund of ideas, led the way, maintaining a substantial supervisory load along with his duties as Director.

By the mid-1990s CRES regularly outperformed its fellow research schools in the Institute of Advanced Studies in terms of per capita academic output. CRES was plainly having an academic impact as well as an impact on public policy, particularly in relation to the natural environment and biodiversity assessment. This was reflected in substantial externally sourced research income earned by CRES academics and Henry’s membership of senior government advisory bodies and chairmanship of wide-ranging committees, including the UN Expert Committee on Climatic and Potential Physical Effects of Global Nuclear War and the National Greenhouse Advisory Committee.

As in his time at CSIRO, Henry led CRES with much good humour and sensitivity to the wider needs of staff and students. He was particularly understanding and supportive in times of personal need. His strong patronage of the “CREStaurant” as a venue for daily free-ranging interactions across the whole of CRES contributed to its multidisciplinary ethos and helped it to become acknowledged as one of the happier schools across the ANU. Henry was also sensitive to the challenges faced by early and mid-career staff and did his best to support them in their career aspirations. Henry extended his support

across the ANU by establishing an annual CRES prize for environmental art to a final-year student at the Art School. This was much appreciated by the school and selected works by these winners still adorn the walls of the Fenner School.

Another of Henry's missions was to take up the merits and achievements of applied and interdisciplinary research to the university, which was traditionally discipline-focused. This had limited initial success, but the mission was more successful in later years. Henry and departmental heads also promoted collaborations in teaching and research across CRES and the departments of Geography, Forestry and Geology in the mid-1990s. These predated the eventual merging of the Institute of Advanced Studies and the Faculties, and in particular the merger of CRES with its Faculties counterpart to form the Fenner School of Environment and Society in 2007. Though the earlier collaborations were short-lived, they contributed to the early success of the new Fenner School. Not surprisingly, Henry was the first to suggest invoking the name of Frank Fenner, the visionary inaugural Director of CRES, in choosing a name for an environmental school at the ANU.

Henry continued as a Professor at CRES until his retirement in 2002. During this time he chaired the management committee of the Kioloa property on the south coast of NSW which was donated to the ANU in perpetuity by Edith and Joy London in 1975. The "Kioloa Campus" provided an ecologically diverse landscape to support the university's teaching and field research programs. Henry led an eventually successful campaign to maintain university support in the face of rising budgetary constraints. This led to a renewed appreciation of the potential of the Kioloa property for a wide range of university applications, and patronage of the property strengthened over the subsequent decade. Henry also saw the potential of the Edge bushland property near Braidwood of poet Judith Wright, who bequeathed the property to the Australian people through the ANU in 1984. He provided unwavering support to Judith during the 16 years that Edge was in university hands.

Henry was Emeritus Professor at the ANU until 2010, when he and Katharine moved to Ninderry in their home state, Queensland, where he played an advisory role in setting up the Biodiversity Climate Change Virtual Laboratory (BCCVL). Henry received several prestigious awards over the years. These included the Urrbrae Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to Australian agriculture in 1988 and a Gold Medal from the Ecological Society of Australia in 1994. He is the only person to have been awarded both. He became an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2000, for service to the environment, particularly the conservation of natural resources, and to land management through the development and application of simulation models for ecologically sustainable land utilisation.

Henry died peacefully in his sleep on 2 February 2022. He maintained daily bird counts in his garden to the last. We, his many colleagues and friends, count ourselves fortunate for the time, the humour, the ideas and the dreams for a better future that we shared. He is sorely missed by his wife of 60 years Katharine Nix, his sons Simon, Garth and Jonathan, and his wider family.

— **Michael Hutchinson**

A version of this obituary appeared in The Canberra Times on 20 March.

More reports, disclosures of sexual misconduct

More individuals are coming forward to report and disclose episodes of sexual misconduct each year, according to the ANU's recent *Sexual Misconduct Reports and Disclosures* report, dated March 2022.

The report falls into two parts. The first provides information on formal reports of sexual assault or sexual harassment that have made by ANU students to the Registrar's Office that are followed by an inquiry. The second gives data on disclosures of sexual assault and/or harassment made by students and staff through the ANU Sexual Misconduct Disclosure Form. The difference is that a disclosure is not a formal complaint: the main purpose of the form is to provide support and guidance through dedicated case managers.

The report says that in 2021, all reports of alleged sexual misconduct that were heard at inquiry received a finding of misconduct. Most respondents were penalised with exclusion from the University.

Where confidential disclosures were concerned, most individuals who contacted the university did so to seek support through the ANU's specialist case managers or to inquire about formally reporting sexual misconduct.

Most incidents disclosed happened on campus in residential halls or colleges, or off campus, usually in a nightclub, bar or private residence.

In 2021, the University received 31 reports of sexual misconduct, a substantial increase over the nine reported under the university's Discipline Rule 2021. The report recognized that the increase might not indicate an increase in incidents, but rather reflect that individuals feel better equipped and have a better understanding of the reporting options available to them, and feel safe and able to lodge a report.

Of the 31 reports submitted in 2021, 21 went to inquiry and all respondents were found to have engaged in misconduct. Seven reports were still to be heard at inquiry at the time of writing, and three were deemed to be beyond the jurisdiction of the university, or proceeding was seen to be inappropriate.

Where a finding of misconduct was made in 2021, 10 per cent of respondents received conditions on their enrolment, 38 per cent were suspended or denied access to ANU for a specified period of time, and 52 per cent were excluded from the university.

A total of 366 disclosures were made in the period October 2020–September 2021, up from 250 in the corresponding previous period.

Disclosure aims to provide a victim/survivor with information and support, either directly or through the person lodging the disclosure. The disclosure form is available to victim/survivors, people offering support, witnesses, bystanders and support services. It can made anonymously or in a de-identified manner. Consequently, the report says, there may be multiple disclosures by the same person and/or multiple disclosures of the same incident by different people. Data on disclosures does not indicate the number of incidents of sexual misconduct.

Diary dates

Meet the Author events

March 23: Troy Bramston, senior writer with *The Australian*, will discuss his new book, *Bob Hawke: Demons and Destiny*, with political columnist Paul Kelly. Manning Clark Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre, 6pm.

March 30: Matthew Ricketson and Patrick Mullins will talk with Frank Bongiorno about their book, *Who Needs the ABC? How Digital Disruption and Political Dysfunction Threaten the ABC's Existence*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, 6pm.

April 4: Dr. Kylie Moore-Gilbert will talk with Professor Mark Kenny about her memoir *The Uncaged Sky: My 804 Days in an Iranian Prison*, in the Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, at 6pm. The book is the story of Dr Moore-Gilbert's fight to survive 804 days imprisoned in Iran's Evin and Qarchak prisons after she was sentenced in 2018 to 10 years' jail on unsubstantiated charges of espionage. Cut off from the outside world, she realised that only she had the power to change the dynamics of her incarceration. She began to fight back, adopting a strategy of resistance. On 25 November 2020 she was released in a prisoner swap deal orchestrated by the Australian government. Mark Kenny, Professor at the ANU Australian Studies Institute, hosts the Democracy Sausage podcast. The vote of thanks will be given by Dr Raihan Ismail, Senior Lecturer at the ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. The event is being held in association with Harry Hartog Bookshop.

April 11: Joe Hockey, a former Australian Ambassador to the United States, will discuss his new book, *Diplomatic: A Washington Memoir*, with Paul Kelly. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, 6pm.

April 19: Nobel laureate Peter Doherty will talk with Professor Brian Schmidt about his book *An Insider's Plague Year*. Llewellyn Hall, 6pm. Includes a session for book signings.

April 26: Aboriginal author, poet and activist Anita Heiss will be in conversation with Ann McGrath about her new book *Am I Black Enough For You? 10 Years On*. Manning Clark Theatre, Kambri Cultural Centre, 6pm.

May 10: Toby Walsh will talk with Andrew Leigh about Toby's new book, *Machines Behaving Badly: The Morality of AI*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, 6pm.

May 18: Dervla McTiernan will talk with Chris Hammer about her new crime novel, *The Murder Rule*.

May 23: Elizabeth Tynan will be in conversation with Frank Bongiorno about her new book, *The Secret of Emu Field*.

Enquires to the convenor, Colin Steele, at colin.steele@anu.edu.au.

Van Gogh's life in images, words and sound

Billed as “the most visited multi-sensory experience in the world”, *Van Gogh Alive*, installed in an enormous pavilion on the Parkes Place Lawns, has had its season extended till 10 April. The show follows the life of the great Post-Impressionist painter, using large reproductions of his paintings, moving images, sound and extracts from his diaries. More than eight million people around the world have seen this immersive celebration of the artist's life and work. The show is Covid-compliant. More information and tickets can be found at <https://vangoghalive.com.au/canberra/>.

Ancient Greeks at the National Museum

The National Museum of Australia's exhibition *Ancient Greeks: Athletes, Warriors and Heroes*, continues until 1 May. The exhibition, mounted with the collaboration of the British Museum, explores competition through sport, politics, drama, music and warfare, illuminated by more than 170 objects from the British Museum collection.

Jeffrey Smart at the National Gallery

More than 100 works make up the exhibition that spans the career of renowned Adelaide-born artist Jeffrey Smart. The exhibition marks the centenary of Smart's birth and features works from the 1940s to his last painting, *Labyrinth*, completed in 2011. Smart sought inspiration from the world around him — looking to the environment of urban and industrial modernity — and his powerful images have become emblematic of modern urban experience.

Shakespeare to Winehouse: National Portrait Gallery

Portraits of famous people from the 16th century to the present are on show in the exhibition *Shakespeare to Winehouse: Icons from the National Portrait Gallery, London*, at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. The London gallery holds the world's most extensive collection of portraits, 80 of which are on loan to Canberra while its central London building is renovated. Shakespeare, Dickens, Churchill, the Brontes, the Beatles, Bowie and Amy Winehouse — all these and more are on show. Bookings are essential, prices ranging from \$25 for adults to \$5 for 15 and under.

CMAG: Nolan in Central Australia

Sidney Nolan's desire to explore Australian landscapes and mythologies intensively is brought together in the exhibition *Finding the Dry Heart: Sidney Nolan's Early Travels in Central Australia*, at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. In the late 1940s Nolan and his wife Cynthia travelled extensively through Central Australia and Queensland, gathering material to be worked up in the studio in Sydney. The exhibition features paintings from the Nolan Collection, alongside some of the reading material that the Nolans used in their creative research, and a group of works lent by Duncan Reeder. Runs until 2 April.

Canberra International Music Festival

This year's Canberra International Music Festival begins on 26 April with a free lunchtime concert at the ANU Drill Hall Gallery. Under the title Pole to Pole, the festival runs till 8 May, with concerts and recitals at a number of venues across the city. For some, the highlight will be the performance of Haydn's oratorio *The Creation* at the Fitters' Workshop on 29 and 30 April. Information and tickets available at cimf.org.au.

Items of note

Australia could be Asia-Pacific 'powerhouse'

Australia is well placed to become a regional powerhouse for renewable energy, according to Professor Ken Baldwin, one of the authors of a new study of Australia's potential to supply zero-carbon energy to the region.

The study, *Contributing to Regional Decarbonisation: Australia's Potential to Supply Zero-carbon Commodities to the Asia-Pacific*, has been published by Science Direct as part of the Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific Grand Challenge at ANU.

The study by ANU experts shows that Australia could drastically lower carbon emissions in the Asia-Pacific region by exporting zero-carbon commodities such as electricity, green hydrogen and green metals. The study is the first to quantify the energy, land and water requirements of a new zero-carbon export model for Australia.

The study shows that Australia could reduce the Asia-Pacific region's greenhouse gas emissions by about 8.6 per cent if the current level of key commodity exports such as thermal coal, liquefied natural gas, iron ore, bauxite and alumina could be replaced by green alternatives. Doing so would require about two per cent of Australia's land area for solar and wind farms.

The International Energy Agency's *2020 World Energy Outlook* estimated that countries in the Asia Pacific contributed about half of global carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in 2019. The region is expected to account for almost two-thirds of global energy demand growth over the next two decades. Countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, India and Indonesia have already announced net-zero emission targets.

The lead author of the study, Professor Paul Burke of the Crawford School of Public Policy, says Australia has a big opportunity. "Becoming a clean commodity exporter could generate sustainable export revenues for Australia and play a useful role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions well beyond our border," he said.

Fellow authors Dr Fiona J Beck, Dr Emma Aisbett and Professor Baldwin say the way that Australia sourced and used energy was transitioning rapidly, which meant the country had an opportunity to lead the way globally.

Academy accolades for university researchers

Professor Richard Henley, a geochemist from the Research School of Physics whose research has shed light on how gold forms in hot springs around volcanoes, is one of four researchers at The Australian National University to receive honours from the Australian Academy of Science on 10 March.

Professor Henley received the 2022 Haddon Forrester King Medal for his contributions to the search for gold and other valuable metals during a 50-year research career. Many of the world's most valuable deposits of metals such as gold and copper were formed deep inside ancient volcanoes.

“Volcanoes release lots of gas into the atmosphere,” he said. “What I've been doing with a lot of good people is trying to understand how those gases move metals around so that you end up with minable deposits of copper and gold and silver and all those essential metals that we have in our economy today.”

His research, which has also helped to discover how mountain belts like the Southern Alps in New Zealand grow, has greatly enhanced exploration concepts and led to the discovery of major ore deposits internationally. Professor Henley and his colleagues at ANU have developed techniques such as X-ray microtomography to examine how rocks work and how fluids can move through them, and to find the best ways to extract valuable metals such as copper.

ANU received more honours from the Australian Academy of Science than any other institution. The academy awarded 20 researchers from around the country for their contributions to the advancement of science at the early, mid and career level. Among other researchers honoured:

Geophysicist Professor Andrew Roberts from the Research School of Earth Sciences received the 2022 Mawson Medal for his contributions to paleomagnetism. His work using geologic and fossil records has enabled scientists to use the geological record to reconstruct global plate tectonic movements and to understand variations in Earth's magnetic field through its history.

Physical chemist Professor Tim Senden has been awarded the 2022 Ian Wark Medal for his contribution to Australia's prosperity. Discoveries by Professor Senden and his colleagues have led to many applications, including 3D imaging techniques that visualise how fluids are retained within porous materials such as rock.

Statistician Dr Francis Hui from the ANU College of Business and Economics is developing tools to better monitor these growing threats to ecosystems around the world and to scientifically understand their impact. He has been awarded the 2022 Christopher Heyde Medal, an early-career honour, for his contribution to statistical methodology and its application.

Administration

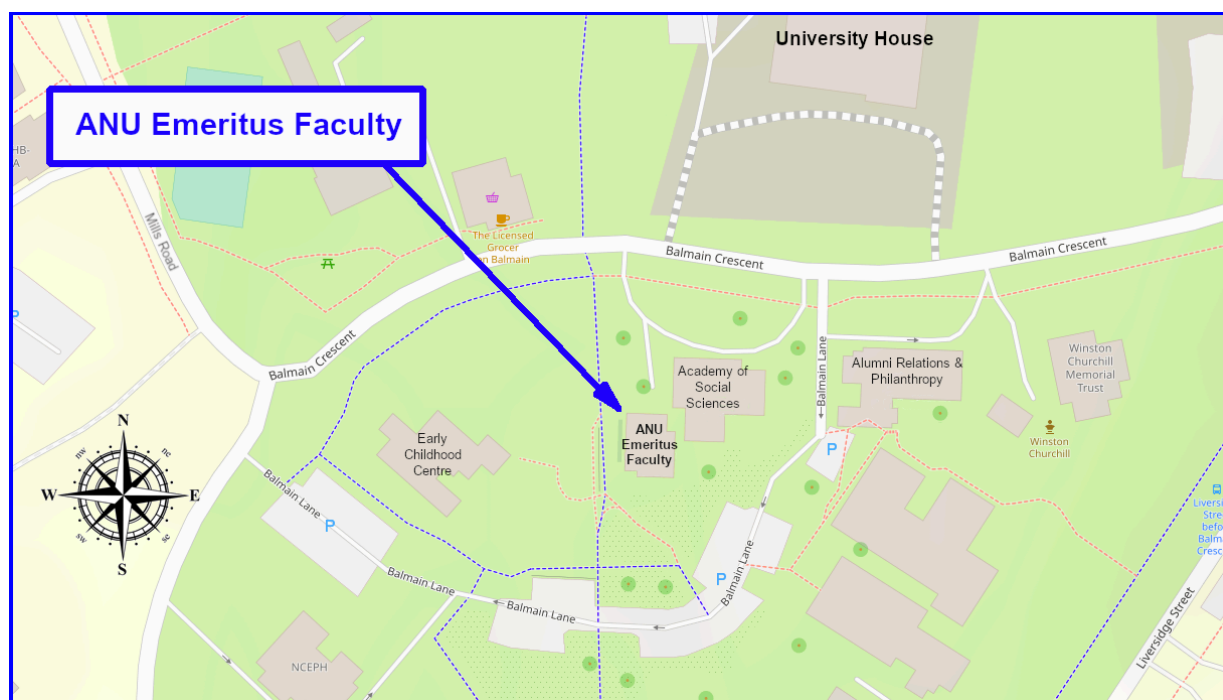
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O'Connor, at jantancress@gmail.com or 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 22 Balmain Crescent (the Acton Early Childhood Centre) and 26 Balmain Crescent (the Academy of the Social Sciences). Four free car parking spaces are 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 April.