

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Systematic research plan essential for future: Go8

The Australian government should develop a systematic and coherent strategy to fund university research to strengthen the nation for future challenges, the Group of Eight universities argues in a report released this month.

The report, *Essential Decisions for National Success: Supporting Australian Research*, also argues that current settings for government funding of research “distort rather than support a sustainable research funding model”, a situation that has led to universities, as research providers, becoming research funders.

The report is one of a series of pre-election papers developed by the Go8 to help frame the policy of an incoming Australian government. A “cohesive” research funding strategy would help to ensure that Australia’s universities could provide world-class education, solutions to new and existing global challenges, and contribute to building “a more sovereign nation”.

The COVID-19 pandemic had exposed the inadequacies of Australia’s research funding system for our universities, Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson said.

“On conservative estimates, Go8 universities make a 45 per cent loss conducting public research commissioned through government funding bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Medical Research Future Fund and the Australian Research Council,” she said.

“As not-for-profit bodies conducting research in the national interest, we make up this loss by cross-subsidising from non-Government sources of income—mainly international student fees.” The Go8 institutions, which include the Australian National University, conduct 70 per cent of Australia’s university research.

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Ms Thomson said current funding settings had led to universities, as research providers, becoming the research funders. “The Go8 undertakes \$6.5 billion of research annually with only 36 per cent of that funded by the Commonwealth Government and 48 per cent from General University Funds,” she said.

Research capacity mattered, she added, because research underpinned the creation of new products, new services, new industries and new high-value jobs. It drove skills development, productivity, economic growth and competitiveness; it equipped Australia “to address our greatest challenges”.

“Our ability to manage challenges such as COVID-19, or to work as an equal in key alliances such as AUKUS, while at the same time addressing economic growth and key social issues, is increasingly at risk unless an incoming government acts to redress a deterioration in research support,” Ms Thomson said.

The solution to address this structural funding shortfall was to adopt international best practice in the form of an evidence-based Full Economic Cost (FEC) approach.

An incoming government should link research funding to the full costs of the required research, she said, so ensuring that research capacity is not subject to the variabilities of the international student market. Go8 universities would work with an incoming government to address the problems highlighted in the paper “in order to future-proof the nation’s economy”.

The paper also recommends increasing support and recognition for basic research, boosting Australian Research Council funding with an independent review of the ARC, reversing declining investment in R&D across all sectors, increasing support for humanities and social sciences, and enabling Australian researchers to access Horizon Europe, to the world’s largest R&D funding program.

Universities boost outlays on research

Recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics confirms the important role Australia’s universities play in research. According to ABS data issued on 6 May, the nation’s universities increased their expenditure on research by 4 per cent, up from \$12.2 billion in 2018 to \$12.7 billion in 2020. They contribute more than 36 per cent to Australia’s total R&D effort.

Peter Chesworth, Deputy Chief Executive of Universities Australia, said the increased investment demonstrated the commitment of universities to drive Australia’s prosperity, competitiveness, wellbeing and contribution to global knowledge.

Universities undertake 90 per cent of the nation’s basic research. In 2020, 53.2 per cent of university expenditure on R&D was funded from internal university resourcing, while 30.7 per cent was funded from Australian Government grants, Mr Chesworth said. The remaining 16.1 per cent was funded from other sources, including state and local governments, business and philanthropic donations.

“We acknowledge the government’s recognition of the vital importance of research through a one-off \$1 billion injection at a very crucial time – this saved jobs and research capacity,” Mr Chesworth said.

“Encouragingly, we have seen a 15.5 per cent increase in funding sourced from business. The stronger our collaboration is with business, the bigger the economic and social benefits for the nation. We know that if Australia lifts investment in university R&D by just 1 per cent, the economy would be \$24 billion bigger over 10 years.

“Importantly, the data shows the slowest growth in university expenditure on research since 1992, highlighting the impact of the pandemic on the sector.” Universities were committed to working with government and industry to determine how best to support and commercialise Australian research, he said.

ANU high-tech ‘spin-out’ bought in \$40m deal

Vai Photonics, an ANU spin-out company whose technology could help future moon landings and lead to flying cars, has been bought out by Sydney-based robotics and artificial intelligence company Advanced Navigation, one of Australia's leading navigation firms in a deal worth \$40 million.

Vai Photonics was established in 2021 by Dr Lyle Roberts from the Research School of Physics and PhD graduate James Spollard from the Centre for Gravitational Astrophysics. Its technology, which has been developed at ANU over 10 years, will be used to help drive Advanced Navigation's work on sensors for navigation and robotics, as well as autonomous applications across land, air, sea and space.

Vai Photonics team of seven engineers builds sensors that enable vehicles to navigate with precision and confidence when GPS is either unavailable or unreliable. The technology is based on lasers used to hunt down gravitational waves.

The Vai Photonics team has been integrated into Advanced Navigation's research and development team, based in a new Canberra research facility.

Dr Roberts said the acquisition was "a huge win for the Vai Photonics team". “Together with Advanced Navigation we are able to bring our product to market much faster than originally planned,” he said.

“We now have access to leading research and development facilities along with strong distribution channels. We couldn't have asked for a better outcome and look forward to navigating the future with Advanced Navigation.”

ANU’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, congratulated the Vai Photonics team. “Vai Photonics is another great ANU example of how you take fundamental research—the type of thinking that pushes the boundaries of what we know—and turn it into products and technologies that power our lives,” he said.

“We are proud to have backed Vai Photonics through our Centre for Gravitational Astrophysics and business and commercialisation office.”

Vai Photonics received seed funding from the ANU Research School of Physics Technology Development Fund; the ANU Connect Ventures Discovery Translation Fund; OzGrav, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery; and EQUUS, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Engineered Quantum Systems.

Mr Spollard said Vai Photonics technology, based on photonics, or the measurement and detection of light, was improving precision navigation. “Our emerging photonic sensing technology will enable positioning and navigation that is orders of magnitude more stable and precise than existing solutions in these environments,” he said.

ANU immunologist elected to Royal Society

Professor Carola Vinuesa, an immunologist at the John Curtin School of Medical Research and Co-Director of the ANU Centre for Personalised Immunology, has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

She is one of four Australians elected in 2022 to the Royal Society, founded in the early 1660s under the aegis of Charles II. It is Britain’s national academy of sciences but its membership is international, comprising distinguished scientists, engineers and technologists from the UK and the Commonwealth. It aims to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science for the benefit of humanity.

Professor Vinuesa has been recognised for her work in identifying cells, proteins, and genes that control antibody responses and prevent autoimmunity, paving the way to develop targeted therapies for immune diseases. Her work at the Centre for Personalised Immunology (CPI) has involved sequencing whole genomes from patients with immune diseases, to uncover rare gene variants that change protein function and illuminate disease mechanisms.

“Being elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society is a huge honour,” she said. “It also recognises the extraordinary team members and colleagues that I have had throughout my career, to whom I am very grateful.”

The other Australian Fellows are Professor Jamie Rossjohn, a structural biologist at Monash University, Professor Richard Robson, a professorial fellow at the School of Chemistry, Melbourne University, and Professor Bob Pressey, from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University. They are among 62 individuals worldwide who have been recognised this year by the Royal Society. All are Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science.

“Besides the extraordinary opportunities for networking and career advancement, being a Fellow of the Royal Society involves a responsibility to bring our science to the benefit of humankind, and to help solve some of the most pressing problems of today's world,” Professor Vinuesa said.

“We also have a responsibility to educate our communities and governments on the value of science, as well as to mentor the next generation.”

‘Bold reform’ needed to avert health crisis

An incoming government should move quickly to avert a looming medical crisis as Australia’s depleted healthcare workforce coped with increasing demand and pressure in a post-pandemic world, the Group of Eight say in a pre-election policy paper.

The argument for “bold reform” is put forward in *Essential Decisions for National Success: Securing the Future of Australia’s Medical Workforce*, one in a series of papers that aim to shape policy to meet future challenges.

The Covid outbreak had exacerbated the burn-out rate among healthcare workers, according to Vicki Thomson, the Go8 Chief Executive. Australia could no longer rely on international medical graduates to fill gaps in its workforce, while to fully train a medical professional took between 10 and 15 years.

While addressing medical workforce issues was complex, this must not be a barrier or an excuse not to reform, she said. “We have taken advice from a wide range of stakeholders, including experts from state, territory and Commonwealth health departments, public and private health services, medical profession and student peak bodies, rural, regional and remote health bodies,” she said.

“They agree that delivering Australia’s future medical workforce will require a step change and bold reform. The Go8’s starting point is an immediate increase in the national supply of domestically trained medical practitioners.

“The Australian community needs certainty around health services and a secure supply of domestically trained medical practitioners will assist this greatly. To increase our sovereign capacity—even without increasing the total number of doctors in Australia—requires at least an additional 1,000 domestic graduates per year.”

“We also need to adopt a formal sovereign capability charter for Australia’s medical workforce.”

International medical graduates would always play a critical role in the medical workforce, particularly in regional areas, Ms Thomson said. At present, each year Australia recruited as many international medical graduates as the number graduating from Australian medical schools. “This is not sustainable,” she said. “Nor should it ever be a preferred option of any government.”

Australia’s major political parties were aware of the impending crisis, and both had announced funding commitments and programs to train more doctors and allied health professionals.

Ms Thomson said the Go8 was adamant that securing the future of Australia’s medical workforce required a long-term commitment that had at its core a national medical data strategy and a commitment to address the geographic maldistribution of the medical workforce.

She noted that health and access to healthcare were top issues of concern for Australians. “The demand on Australia’s medical workforce will increase, as Australia’s population is growing older, faster than expected, putting increased pressure on our health system,” she said.

Obituary

Geoff Hope

27 May 1944 - 21 December 2021

The news that our friend, colleague, and Australasian Quaternary Association Life Member, Emeritus Professor Geoff Hope, passed away over the Christmas break after a long battle with cancer has been met with great sadness. Geoff was a close friend and mentor to many of us and contributed enormously to the disciplines of palynology, botany, palaeoecology and biogeography.

Geoff began his career in Quaternary research and palaeoecology at the Botany Department, University of Melbourne, where he investigated the modern pollen-vegetation relationships and Holocene vegetation history of Wilson's Promontory, for which he was awarded a B.Sc (Honours) and M.Sc in 1966 and 1968, respectively. In 1969 he moved to Canberra at the invitation of Professor Donald Walker, who was then the Head of the Department of Biogeography and Geomorphology, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (RSPAS), Australian National University, to begin a PhD on the vegetation history of Mt Wilhelm, Papua New Guinea. Geoff completed his PhD in 1973 after pioneering a remarkable study on the influence of climate and human interaction with the alpine zone and montane forests in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. Thus began a life-long devotion to research, always conducted in consultation with local communities, on the human history and landscape evolution of New Guinea.

In 1974 Geoff was awarded a prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship at the ANU by the Australian Research Council to continue his work on the palaeoenvironments of New Guinea. He was able to complete a range of remarkable surveys of the botany, palaeoecology, glaciology, palaeontology and archaeology of the highland landscapes of both West Papua (then Irian Jaya) and Papua New Guinea, as well as extend this work across south-eastern Australia (e.g. Hunter Island in Bass Strait, Tasmania), northern Australia and the Pacific (e.g. Fiji and Vanuatu). His early surveys of the botany and glacier/tree-line elevation in the Mt Jaya region of West Papua remain crucial benchmarks and glimpses into an environment that is rapidly transforming, and in some cases disappearing, under global warming and ever greater human exploitation. His multi-faceted interests represented a truly ground-breaking conceptualisation of research—an approach that we now recognise as transdisciplinary scholarship.

In 1978 Geoff was appointed as a lecturer in the Geography Department at the ANU, where he enthralled many undergraduate and graduate students (including myself) with his distinctive and often laconic lecturing style, and where he is responsible for training generations of Quaternary researchers and igniting the curiosity of many in the field of natural history. His sense of adventure combined with a jovial and calm demeanour inspired many as they accompanied him into the field—often bringing his partner Bren and son Julian along for the ride. He led many undergraduate field trips to iconic locations such as Lake Mungo, Mt Kosciuszko and the highlands of NSW and Victoria,

where he demonstrated the importance and effectiveness of doing field-based research with a minimum of technology and an abundance of enthusiasm.

He became Head of the Geography Department between 1987-1989 before moving back to the Department of Biogeography and Geomorphology (later to become the Department of Archaeology and Natural History in the School of Culture, History and Language), where he was also Head from 1999-2003. Over his academic career Geoff published around 200 journal articles, reports and book chapters and supervised 32 PhD students, conducting fieldwork in countries as diverse as Indonesia, Myanmar, New Guinea and a number of Pacific islands. In 2000 he was awarded a D.Sc for his research on “Environmental and anthropogenic change in the late Quaternary of the Southwest Pacific region” (University of Melbourne). Geoff also played an active role over many years in the Australasian Quaternary Association. He served as its president from 1991-1994, organising the Nerriga meeting in 1994, and was a regular attendee at the other meetings. His recent award of Life Membership in the Australasian Quaternary Association is but a small reflection of the enormous contribution that Geoff made over the years to the Quaternary research in our region.

After more than 40 years of academic life at the ANU, Geoff retired in 2009, but he continued to contribute to the ANU as emeritus professor through generously teaching, researching and mentoring staff and students. He devoted much of his time over the last decade to the conservation of peatlands in montane ACT, NSW and Victoria, where he wrote a number of significant reports on the state of peatlands in south-eastern Australia and continued to monitor peatland recovery after recent bushfire events across the region. A Festschrift, *Altered Ecologies*, published in Geoff’s honour in 2010, details the legacy of Geoff’s enduring contribution as an inspirational research leader, collaborator and mentor.

Geoff was always keen for fieldwork opportunities and continued to accompany many of his friends and students at ANU and in Canberra into the field when he could, even up until a month before he passed away. His yearning and love for fieldwork as well as for home lasted throughout his life and is beautifully reflected in the acknowledgements section of his 1973 PhD Thesis (p.12) where he writes,

After a few months in the field in New Guinea one tends to think back to dry, rolling plains with scattered trees and clear blue afternoon skies, with the luxuries of the straight smooth roads, hot water on tap, shops and libraries. One may vow never to walk again along muddy tracks, dreaming of a day without wet feet. But within a short time of returning to the laboratory bench, a reversal of attitudes takes place. One thinks instead of the unbelievable tangle of ridges rising up to mountain peaks, of grasslands and the gleam of ice, with clouds swirling down over sombre still lakes clinging to sheer rock walls and deep green forests. The pleasure of being so fit that a 1500 m climb is of no more concern than a walk over level ground is remembered when all the discomforts of any walking in New Guinea are forgotten. Although the contrasting pulls of New Guinea and Canberra will always remain with me, I am very grateful to the people who have introduced me to both worlds.

As are we very grateful to Geoff for generously sharing his knowledge, insights and friendship throughout his life. His keen wit, wisdom and gentle encouragement for everyone with a curiosity for the natural world will be sorely missed. Vale Geoff.

— Simon Haberle

Diary dates

Music for Ukraine

The ANU School of Music, Canberra International Music Festival and Canberra Symphony Orchestra will hold a special Music for Ukraine concert at Llewellyn Hall at 7pm on Tuesday, 31 May. The event will be held to share music in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and raise funds for humanitarian aid.

Artists appearing include Larissa Kovalchuk (bandura and voice), William Barton (didgeridoo), Andrew Goodwin (tenor), Roland Peelman AM (piano and conductor), Kim Cunio (voice), Miroslav Bukovsky and Friends, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble, the ANU Chamber Choir, Oriana Chorale, Kompactus Youth Choir, and the ANU Orchestra. Music will include works by Brahms, John Taverner and Valentin Silvestrov. Tickets are \$75 and \$55 and can be purchased online through <https://cimf.org.au>. Proceeds will go to the Australian Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal and Médecins sans frontières.

Meet the Author events

May 23, 6pm: Elizabeth Tynan will be in conversation with Frank Bongiorno about her new book, *The Secret of Emu Field*. Emu Field was the first mainland site where the British tested atomic weapons in October 1953. The book documents the scramble to set up the site in the South Australian desert, the nuclear tests, and their aftermath. Tynan uncovers previously unknown details of the tests, despite the fact that “the British government still keeps its Emu secrets suspiciously close”. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. Registrations at anu.edu.au/events.

May 31 6pm: Thomas Keneally AO will be in conversation with Alex Sloan on *A Bloody Good Rant. My Passions, Memories and Demons*, which draws on the author’s lifetime of engagement with the great issues of Australian and international life. In *The Australian*, Troy Bramston wrote that Keneally “relishes a chance to offer opinions, ask questions and raise concerns about a smorgasbord of subjects ranging from history and culture to climate change in economics, refugees and Aboriginal Australia, women and homosexuality, anti-Semitism and the church, being a grandparent and even the prospect of death”. Venue: Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU. Registrations at anu.edu.au/events.

June 13, 6pm: Robert Dessaix will talk with Andrew Leigh about his new book, *Abracadabra*. Part memoir and personal record, *Abracadabra* is an engrossing collection of observations and ideas which also brings together for the first time some of Dessaix's favourite short works. Dessaix is the recipient of the 2022

Australia Council Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature. He taught Russian language and literature at ANU for many years. His work encompasses autobiography, novels, essays and short stories, and travel memoirs. His last book, *The Time of Our Lives*, on growing older well, was published in October 2020. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre ANU. Registrations at anu.edu.au/events.

Meet the Author events are held in association with Harry Hartog Bookshop. Books are available for purchase before and after each event. Registration is required and, conforming with ANU's Covid policy, those attending must wear masks. Enquiries to the convenor, Colin Steele, at colin.steele@anu.edu.au.

The Bard, Brontes, Beckham and Beatles

The faces of the famous from the 16th to the 21st centuries will be on show at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, till 17 July. The exhibition, *Shakespeare to Winehouse: Icons from the National Portrait Gallery, London*, draws 80 gems from the London gallery's extensive collection of portraits. Visitors can make the acquaintance of great writers—Shakespeare, Dickens, and the Bronte sisters among them—political figures like Churchill and Nelson Mandela, and entertainers like the Beatles, David Bowie, and Amy Winehouse. Bookings are essential, with prices ranging from \$25 for adults to \$5 for 15 and under.

National Library: spotlight on performing arts

Some of the greatest names in the history of Australia's performing arts—Dame Nellie Melba, Robert Helpmann, the Bangarra Dance Theatre and Peter Allen among them—have their place in the National Library's *On Stage: Spotlight on Our Performing Arts* exhibition, which runs till 7 August.

The exhibition is drawn exclusively from the National Library's collection and features items never before displayed. Highlights include the earliest surviving Australian printed document, selections from the JC Williamson theatre archives, and contemporary live music and theatre posters. *On Stage* also looks at action behind the scenes, showcasing perspectives on stage direction, costume design, scripts, contracts and musical scores used by performers. The exhibition has been curated by Dr Susannah Helman, NLA Curator of Rare Books and Music. Entry is free, no booking required.

Items of note

A half-century of computing at ANU

ANU recently celebrated a half-century of computing at the university—the first computer course was held in 1971, when more than 200 students enrolled. The university linked up to the World Wide Web in 1992—one of the first 20 sites in the world to do so. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, said computing science's first 50 years had made it “one of the strongest programs in the world”, and he looked forward to what the next 50 years. David

Hawking's *The History of ANU Computing: A Cast of Characters, An Array of Machines, A Record of Achievement: Celebrating 50 Years of Undergraduate Computer Science Teaching 1971–2021*, can be downloaded as standard or high-res PDFs at <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/237793>

'Trailblazer' liftoff for Australia's space sector

The Australian National University will help to launch Australia's space sector and manufacturing capabilities through its involvement in a new research hub at the University of Southern Queensland.

ANU is a major partner in the USQ's Innovative Launch, Automation, Novel Materials, Communications and Hypersonics (iLAUNCH) Hub, announced this month by the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, as part of the Australian government's \$362 million Trailblazer Universities initiative.

The new hub, which also involves the University of South Australia and industry partners, has received \$50 million in federal government funding and will help to commercialise space research and development.

The hub will support industry partners in developing a space manufacturing precinct in regional Queensland for rocket manufacturing and associated supply-chain development, servicing civil and defence requirements. It is expected to generate over \$3.65 billion in economic benefits across the region and Australia.

The Director of the ANU Institute for Space, Professor Anna Moore, said Australia had enormous capability to offer the global space industry. "Key to success is working with each other across states to offer our best efforts in a focused and purposeful way," she said. "That's what makes this project so special. That's what it takes to create sovereign capability and to educate our next generation of Australians who will be excited and proud to grow our space industry."

Pottery find sheds light on great Pacific migration

The discovery of pottery from the ancient Lapita culture by researchers at The Australian National University has shed new light on how Papua New Guinea served as a launching pad for the colonisation of the Pacific—one of the greatest migrations in human history.

The new study, published in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, makes it clear the initial expansion of the Lapita people throughout PNG was far greater than previously thought.

The study is based on the discovery of a distinctive Lapita pottery shard, a broken piece of pottery with sharp edges, on Brooker Island, 200km east of mainland PNG, in 2017. Lead researcher Dr Ben Shaw said it was "like finding a needle in a haystack".

"Lapita cultural groups were the first people to reach the remote Pacific islands such as Vanuatu around 3,000 years ago, but in PNG, where people have lived for at least 50,000 years, the timing and extent of Lapita dispersals are poorly understood," Dr Shaw said.

"For a long time, it was thought Lapita groups avoided most of Papua New Guinea because people were already living there," he said. However, a series of expeditions from 2017 to 2019 showed how the initial expansion of the Lapita people throughout PNG was far greater than previously considered.

Lapita people introduced pottery to PNG that had distinct markings. They also introduced new tool technologies and animals such as pigs. Through archaeological, linguistic and genetic research, it is now well understood that the first Pacific peoples migrated from an ancestral Asian homeland.

Later Lapita dispersals through PNG and interaction with indigenous populations profoundly influenced the region as a global centre of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Dr Shaw said Lapita people colonised the Pacific islands 3,000 years ago. He said the paper explained why they colonised the islands at this time and the role that indigenous populations in New Guinea had in Lapita decisions to look for new islands to live on.

"It is one of the greatest migrations in human history and finally we have evidence to help explain why the migration might have occurred and why it took place when it did," he said.

Call for Projects Symposium presentations

The Emeritus Faculty is calling for expressions of interest from those interested in giving presentations on recent or current projects to the 2022 Projects Symposium. The symposium this year will be held at the Molony Room before a live audience, although the usual Covid precautions will apply and the size of the audience will be restricted.

The symposium will be held from 9am on Wednesday, 13 July. Those interested in giving a presentation are asked to email a topic and short abstract to Ian Keen at Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au.

Bookshelf

Youth in Fiji and Solomon Islands Livelihoods, Leadership and Civic Engagement

By Aidan Craney

April 2022. Pacific Series

ISBN (print): 9781760465148

ISBN (online): 9781760465155

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/YFSI.2022>

Fiji, Solomon Islands and the wider Pacific region are experiencing a "youth bulge" that means pathways to livelihoods for the youth in these countries will be a key determinant of their social, political and economic futures. *Youth in Fiji and Solomon Islands* details some of the ways that young people in these two countries are emerging as leaders not just of the young, but of their

communities. A small but influential cohort of both young people and adults are creating spaces for today's youth to help to shape the developmental futures of the great ocean states of the Pacific.

Aboriginal History Journal: Volume 45

Edited by Crystal McKinnon and Ben Silverstein

April 2022

ISSN (print): 0314-8769

ISSN (online): 1837-9389

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/AH.45.2021>

Among the essays in this volume, Fred Cahir, Ian Clark, Dan Tout, Benjamin Wilkie and Jidah Clark re-read colonial records to narrate a 19th-century history of Victorian Aboriginal relationships with fire, strengthening the case for the revitalisation of these fire management practices. Book reviews include Greg Lehman's review essay concerning Cassandra Pybus's recent award-winning *Truganini: Journey through the Apocalypse*, which considers the implications of our relationships with history and how they help to think through practices of researching and writing Aboriginal history.

Persons of Interest

An Intimate Account of Cecily and John Burton

By Pamela Burton and Meredith Edwards

April 2022

ISBN (print): 9781760465087

ISBN (online): 9781760465094

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/PI.2022>

This story, set in the social and political landscape before and after World War II, tells of the lives of Cecily and John Burton. John, private secretary to H. V. Evatt, was appointed secretary of the Department of External Affairs at the age of 32. A would-be politician, he was also an innovative farmer, bookseller, entrepreneur, arts patron and writer. He was acclaimed internationally for his later work in conflict analysis and resolution. Cecily saw her role in life as creating a better world through John. Her personal story is one of love, duty and betrayal that exposes the complexities of relationships. In a world that overwhelmed her, Cecily searched for "wholeness" and strove to find herself and emerge from John's shadow. Their combined stories of courage and achievement unfold amid political intrigue and psychological trauma. ASIO surveillance, love triangles, loyalty, infidelity and tragedy all played their part in the Burtons' lives.

Contradiction

Edited by Linda Jaivin, Esther Sunkyung Klein, Sharon Strange

May 2022. Series: China Story Yearbook

ISBN (print): 9781760465223

ISBN (online): 9781760465230

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/CSY.2022>

“Contradiction”: the ancient Chinese word for the concept holds within it the image of an unstoppable spear meeting an impenetrable shield. It describes a range of phenomena that might be expressed in English with words like conflict, clash, paradox, incongruity, disagreement, rebuttal, opposition, and negation. In this year’s China Story Yearbook, the theme of contradiction plays out in different ways across the different realms of society, culture, environment, labour, politics, and international relations. Seemingly irresistible forces of authoritarianism, patriarchy, and technological control come up against energised and surprisingly resilient means of resistance or cooptation. *Contradiction* offers an accessible take on this complex and contradictory moment in the history of China and of the world.

Honiara

Village-City of Solomon Islands

Author: Clive Moore

May 2022. Series: Pacific Series

ISBN (print): 9781760465063

ISBN (online): 9781760465070

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/H.2022>

Nahona`ara—means “facing the `ara”, the place where the southeast winds meet the land just west of Point Cruz. Nahona`ara became Honiara, the capital city of Solomon Islands. With a population of 160,000, it is the only significant urban centre in a nation of 721,000 people. *Honiara: Village-City of Solomon Islands* views Honiara in several ways, from Tandai traditional land, through the British protectorate (1893–1978), the war years 1942–45, post-war developments, until the city became the capital of the independent nation of Solomon Islands in 1978 and the headquarters of Guadalcanal Province.

The book argues that over decades there have been four and sometimes five changing and intersecting Honiara “worlds” operating at one time, each of different social, economic and political significance. The importance of each group—British, Solomon Islanders, other Pacific Islanders, Asians, and more recently the 2003–17 presence of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI)—has changed over time.

Administration

Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

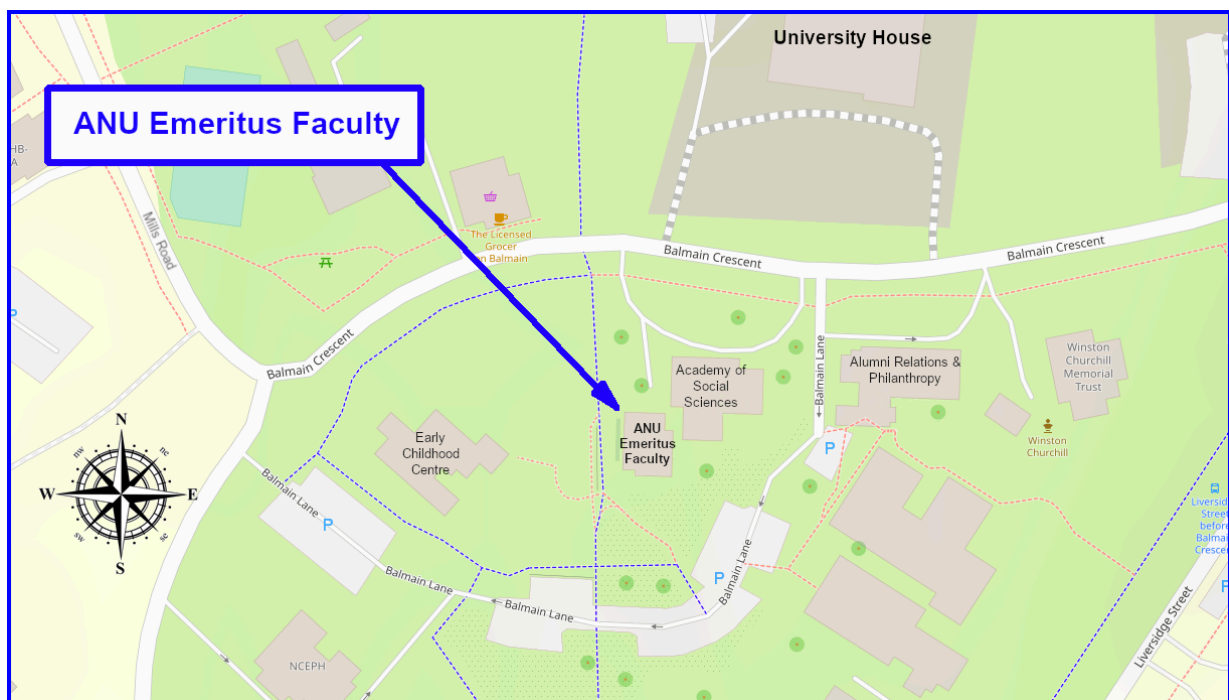
Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O’Connor, at jantancress@gmail.com or 6247 3341.

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 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 June.