

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Peak bodies quick to commit support for federal government

Peak tertiary education organisations have quickly committed to working with the new federal government to develop the nation’s intellectual and economic capacity and to ensure that Australians can—in the words of Universities Australia—“access a world-class education and realise their full potential”.

The Group of Eight research-intensive universities, the Academy of Science and Universities Australia promptly declared their readiness to work collaboratively with the government, and made their cases for closer engagement in research and policy between higher education institutions and the federal ministry across its broad agenda.

Renewed focus was needed on Australia’s higher education sector after Covid to reposition it to better meet the needs of industry and the economy, the chief executive of the Group of Eight, Vicki Thomson, said. That would also “boost economic growth, foster foreign diplomacy and strengthen Australia’s national security,” she said.

Universities ‘critical’ to economic, social wellbeing

“Australian research universities are critical to all aspects of our nation’s future economic and social wellbeing,” she said. Research would be critical to finding effective solutions to such challenges as climate change, global pandemics, skills shortages and national security.

Covid had shown how much Australia relied on imports to supplement its local talent base. The nation faced challenges to maintaining capacity in critical areas of the workforce, including engineering and medicine, she said.

“The Go8 is in a strong position to make an important contribution to policy development in this area and looks forward to playing a key role in the Government’s upcoming Employment Summit,” Ms Thomson said.

The Group of Eight highlighted the policy recommendations contained in its *Essential Decisions for National Success* series, developed with business and industry, and promised to work closely with ministers to advance the agenda.

Ms Thomson welcomed the appointment of UNSW alumnus Jason Clare as Minister for Education, a sentiment echoed by the chief executive of Universities Australia, Catriona Jackson.

“Minister Clare understands that universities are an essential part of an optimistic, productive, modern economy and society,” she said.

“The nation is facing some big challenges, but it can also seize big opportunities. Universities are ready to play their part.

“As a nation we need more education and knowledge, not less, and more skilled graduates, not fewer, to fulfil the needs of a modern economy and society.

“Universities help meet the increasing demand for highly skilled people and conduct the research that underpins Australia’s prosperity, competitiveness and security. Universities can help address the skills shortages for degree-educated workers—from nurses to teachers, to data analysts and artificial intelligence engineers.”

Universities Australia also congratulated Senator Anthony Chisholm on his appointment as Assistant Minister for Education, and senior members of the Opposition on their election.

Members of the Albanese ministry were also singled out by the Australian Academy of Science, which welcomed the appointments of Ed Husic (Industry and Science), Chris Bowen (Climate Change and Energy), Mark Butler (Health and Aged Care), Jason Clare (Education), Tanya Plibersek (Environment and Water) and Murray Watt (Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry).

The president, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said the Academy looked forward to working with the Albanese government to help to secure Australia’s future economic and social prosperity “through a stronger focus on and investment in science”.

Science had been critical to Australia’s response to Covid and would be critical to Australia’s economic recovery too.

“Turbo-charging productivity growth will be needed for economic recovery and we know that stimulating R&D is the most promising source of future productivity growth,” Professor Jagadish said.

“Given the decline in immigration during the pandemic and the uncertain outlook for international mobility, Australia will be even more reliant on sovereign R&D to drive productivity growth.

“The Academy stands ready to assist with that task and will provide independent and authoritative scientific advice to the new government and the parliament,” he said.

“The Academy looks forward to working with the newly elected Albanese government and with the whole of the Australian parliament as we continue to bring science to the service of the nation,” Professor Jagadish said.

The Academy’s recommendations for the new government include securing the scientific base through a long-term investment strategy for science; establishing a parliamentary science office; undertaking a national, whole-of-government review of the science and research system; and advancing a cohesive, national approach to secure jobs through the translation of science to industry.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Age, education keys to victory

An election study by the ANU has shown that age and education were the two key demographics “driving Labor’s path to victory”, according to Professor Nicholas Biddle.

The joint ANUpoll/Comparative Study of Electoral Systems survey found age and education were “the two key areas where the Coalition government lost the most support in this year's election,” Professor Biddle said.

“More than one in three voters aged under 55, 34.9 per cent, who voted for the Coalition in 2019, ended up voting for someone else. Around one in five, 21.1 per cent, aged 55 or older did the same.

“The Coalition also lost more votes among people with higher levels of education. Around one in three people, 31.0 per cent, who had completed year 12 and voted for the Coalition in 2019 voted for another party in 2022.

“This is in stark contrast to former Coalition voters who had not completed year 12. We found only 14.8 per cent of this group changed their vote in 2022.”

The findings are drawn from a survey of more than 3,500 voters and issued ahead of the symposium *Realignment or Dealignment? Survey Perspectives on the 2022 Federal Election*, to be held at ANU on 24 June.

The survey compared voting intentions between April and May 2022, as well as how people voted in this year's election and the 2019 election.

The Coalition lost more voters in capital cities, with 30.7 per cent of former Coalition voters in the capitals changing their vote in 2022. This is compared with 23 per cent of former Coalition voters living outside capital cities who voted for another party.

Professor Biddle said the survey also found Australians were feeling more satisfied with the direction of the country after the election.

“We found a very large increase in satisfaction with the direction of the country, from 62.4 per cent of Australians being satisfied or very satisfied in April 2022 to 73.3 per cent in May 2022,” he said.

While there were quite different changes in satisfaction depending on whom the person voted for, “most Australians seem satisfied with the election and their decision,” he said.

The study also found that females were less likely to vote for the Coalition compared with males, but the largest difference in voting patterns by gender was for the Greens (22.5 per cent of females voted for the Greens compared with 16.4 per cent of males). Young Australians were more likely to have voted for Labor and substantially more likely to have voted for the Greens.

Coalition voters tended to be older, non-Indigenous, with lower education, live outside capital cities and with a household income that puts them outside of the bottom income quintile. More than one in 10 voters, 13.6 per cent, made up their mind on election day.

Academy lists year of achievements

Improving Australians' understanding of the benefits of immunisation and focusing on raising public knowledge about the risks of climate change are listed among the achievements of the Australian Academy of Science in 2021.

The Academy's recently released annual report for 2021 tells readers that the organisation created a range of information material—print, videos, online articles and infographics across websites, media and social media—in partnership with the Australian Government to support vaccination and other COVID-related health messages

It has also supported international collaboration by experts through a series of webinars, called for an RNA manufacturing capability to be developed in Australia, and convened a national RNA roundtable of experts.

With climate change in focus, it called attention to the risks Australia faced in a warmer world and published a “hub” of resources ahead of the international climate change meetings in October.

It also focused on improving diversity and inclusion in science, remained active in international and bilateral science activities, and prepared a decadal plan for space science ready for release in early 2022.

Its three innovative school education programs were awarded multi-year funding from the Australian Government to develop and extend education resources and program reach.

Among other achievements, the Academy hosted an expert roundtable on the World Heritage Convention and climate change, launched the STEM Women database to raise the profile of women in STEM, made major improvements to its heritage-listed buildings, called for the pardon of Kathleen Folbigg based on recent strong scientific evidence, and called on the NSW Government to remove all feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park.

In 2021 the Academy published a climate report on the risks to Australia in a warming world, an updated booklet on immunisation aimed at a broad audience, a 10-year strategy for sustainable oceans and coasts, and a summary for policymakers on Australia's digital future.

“Every major issue affecting our society today relies on scientific input. We are a community that promotes international and national engagement in science, supports and celebrates scientific excellence, and we are an increasingly prominent voice for Australian science,” the President of the Academy, Professor John Shine, said in his introduction to the report.

Academy Chief Executive Anna-Maria Arabia said the annual report showed “how the Academy strives to have science valued and strategically positioned to drive our economy, and inform decision-making in and between government, in our parliaments, our courts, our classrooms, in boardrooms and in the public square”.

“The work of the Academy continues to be an immense source of pride for me, made possible by the guidance and support of our Fellows and the generosity of our donors,” Ms Arabia said.

Obituaries

Michael Miles Gore AO

5 September 1934 – 8 January 2022

Visit the Questacon: fun, noise, colours, purposefully chaotic. Children, teachers, parents and grandparents exploring and learning about science and technology. This is a lasting legacy for the whole country and with international impact. Science communication that attracts the young at heart through hands-on experimentation and engaging science theatre in a setting that enthral and makes you smile.

This is what Mike Gore dreamt of, initiated, and created together with many others he attracted to his vision. Mike inspired generations of volunteers and professionals to build and develop this unique national institution. Hundreds of science communicators trained in Canberra and inspired by Mike's vision work nationwide and globally bringing the fascination of scientific discovery to the broader public. This is a living movement inspired by Mike Gore's life-work that forms an important pillar of his legacy.

Mike was born in 1934 in Lancashire, England. He received a solid education and, as a curious student, he embarked on his studies in electrical engineering. At the University of Leeds, he gained an excellent degree and later a PhD. Australia, and in particular the ANU, took his interest after inspiring tales from a visiting colleague. During a short post-doctoral position in the USA, he met his future wife, Joyce Klaber, who gave him a close connection to theatre production, a lifelong joy for both.

Together they arrived in 1962 at ANU, a small, emerging university by world standards but at the centre of growth of research and education in Australia. Mike joined the School of General Studies growing and expanding out of one building, now building #38 that houses the Department of Quantum Science on the ANU campus. He taught undergraduate physics courses that included legendary demonstrations. A small team was actively involved in various new areas at the time: solid state and surface physics, lasers, hypervelocity flows for vehicles in space, and nuclear physics. A whole Department of Theoretical Physics existed in parallel.

Teaching and explaining science were Mike's interest and strength. Demonstrations were always part of his lectures, some with very simple gadgets, some with specially designed and built equipment. As a young lecturer (Hans) and student (John) in 1980s, we enjoyed the challenging questions Mike would pose in class and in the tea-room. Mike's style was full of energy and enthusiasm, peppered with anecdotes and examples from real-world applications. This inspired us and many around us to explore underlying concepts more deeply and to find new ways to communicate.

Mike knew that exploring science was important in education, but that even his approach was not perfect. The engagement could be bigger and the learning more self-guided. A visit in 1975 to San Francisco, en route to a sabbatical in the Netherlands, led him to the Exploratorium which had opened in 1969, based

on ideas by Frank Oppenheimer. This was a formative experience. Mike and Joyce were travelling with their children and found them mesmerised, intrigued and fully engaged in this science centre, to Mike's surprise more so than he himself could achieve.

This set his goal: Australia needed the equivalent or better. Action followed swiftly from 1977. At ANU, demonstration equipment was designed. Mike found an unused location the Ainslie School. Most importantly, he attracted many supporters. His vision was so compelling that many volunteers just wanted to help, including young students, retired scientists and technical staff. Stuart Kohlhausen, who has been part of the project from the beginning, said: "Mike was not a leader, but one who others wanted to follow."

A famous photo shows the team around Mike in front of the building. One of us (John) was a member of that early team. Mike lit a fire in these young people to be part of this new venture. The skills John learned over a four-year period from 1981 to 1985 were instrumental in shaping his career as a physicist. Imagine in those early years, not a single extra salary was paid. As a young researcher, Hans noticed that the workshops which manufactured our custom-designed research equipment were preoccupied with building large items that were carted off to a location in Ainslie, the early incarnation of the Questacon, and everybody in the department supported this.

Together this team, inspired by Mike's vision and guided by his leadership, built the first incarnation of the Questacon. Within a few years it was buzzing and highly effective. In 1982, Mike Gore was honoured as Canberran of the Year. He continued to ask challenging questions, guiding the audience to find answers by self-exploration. He led by example and others adopted his style, following his motto:

"I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand."

A local science centre was just the beginning. Mike's vision was bigger and bolder. He wanted to reach all parts of Australia. A mobile science circus could have an impact across the nation. This had a moderate start in 1985, with the team first making trips to Yass and then Wagga Wagga. In the following year it travelled 8000 kilometres around the country. The national coverage has expanded ever since. This has grown steadily and become a truly national event that now, during more than 30 years, has reached tens of thousands of people directly.

A modern science centre was needed. Mike pressed his case to anybody who would listen—in the ANU, to federal politicians, public servants and even ambassadors. The funding target became \$20 million in 1985. One influential public servant thought that the idea of offering \$10 million, if he could match these funds, might quieten Mike down.

Not so. Mike eventually found the matching funds in the form of a gift from the Japanese government to the Australian government for the 1988 Bicentenary. With this support, it was decided that it should be built at a highly visible location, in the Parliamentary Triangle between the National Library and the High Court of Australia. This is still an amazing outcome.

With Mike Gore designing and directing the National Science and Technology Centre, known as Questacon, a new national institution came alive, a new attraction and focus point for students, teachers and families. Now with paid staff and volunteers and a professional workshop, the centre could handle big projects, including the science circus, and make international connections. Mike's own science shows remained a highlight.

However, working as a public servant was not easy for Mike, and he had to make many compromises. Eventually he returned to the ANU as an Honorary Professor and founded the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS). There with Professors Sue Stocklmayer, Chris Bryant and, now, Joan Leach, students were trained in a new profession: science communication. The Questacon Science Circus became the central project in this deliberately challenging and wide-ranging course, which includes theory, design and delivery to diverse audiences in regional and remote locations.

Over more than 30 years, hundreds of ANU-trained science communicators have enhanced Australia and sometimes global science outreach, education and public understanding. Graduates are working in the media, companies, schools and public institutions. Australia has become known as an innovator and driver in this field and the CPAS program has grown many international collaborations.

Each of these communicators has a large repertoire of stories, about specific shows and surprises on stage, about special audiences or new exhibits. There are great stories about outdoor adventures with Mike Gore, and most of all his love for explaining and encouraging an understanding of science through many interactive ways.

Mike Gore was unique in his vision and many recognised this. He received numerous awards in science, and in 1986 he was honoured as a Member and in 2015 as an Officer of the Order of Australia. He continued his mentoring role until June 2021, officially well into retirement, always creative, leading by example and supportive. He set high standards that assured great professional outcomes. A nod of approval was worth gold to his students and his colleagues, and we all knew that he cared so much about every single person.

Come to Questacon and have a look. The story continues, always in fresh new ways. The people inspired by Mike directly and through Questacon are a wonderful testament to an exceptional man who led a life well-lived.

—Hans Bachor and John Close



Brendan Sargeant

5 March 1959 – 13 February 2022

The Australian National University has been home to a distinguished line of what might be termed “scholar-practitioners”. These colleagues—who have spent part of their careers working on campus and other portions in government positions—include the likes of Sir John Crawford, Coral Bell, Stuart Harris, Glyn Davis, Paul Dibb, Gareth Evans, Hugh White, Heather

Smith, Ross Babbage, Chris Barrie, Michael L'Estrange, Allan Gyngell and Richard Rigby, to name but a few. Professor Brendan Sargeant belongs very much in this esteemed company.

Amongst his many exploits during a career in the Australian Public Service spanning 35 years, Brendan served as Associate Secretary in the Australian Department of Defence from September 2013 to July 2018, where he acted as Secretary on numerous occasions and, most significantly, oversaw the implementation of the April 2015 *First Principles Review: Creating One Defence*. He was a Deputy Secretary in Defence from 2010-2013, during which time he was also the principal author of the 2013 Defence White Paper.

Brendan was a prolific reader and an accomplished author. He completed two Masters degrees—one in English Literature in 1985 and a second in Creative Writing in 2009. He kept a substantial personal library to which he was always adding. In 2014 he published his first novel—*In the Path of the Elephant*—which is set in India and tells the story of a young boy and his pet monkey who rescue a herd of captured elephants. One of his short stories, “Lizard Boy”, was shortlisted in 2019 for the *Australian Book Review*’s Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize from a field of 1,340 entries globally.

Brendan joined the ANU as an Honorary Professor in February 2018. He was characteristically humble during the discussions leading to his appointment, which were facilitated by Emeritus Professor Dibb. Brendan initially shared an office in the Hedley Bull building with another Honorary Professor and retired senior Defence official, Richard Brabin-Smith.

However, the incoming Director of the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Professor Toni Erskine, quickly recognised Brendan’s formidable talents and considerable experience. In October 2018 he was appointed to lead the Military and Defence Studies Program, delivered under contract by the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC) to around 200 mid-level military officers studying at the Australian War College. By January 2020 he was appointed Head of SDSC in the Coral Bell School.

Brendan remained a generous mentor to many in the national security community and across the ANU. His appointment as Head of the SDSC coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. While this inevitably stymied some of the exciting initiatives he had planned for SDSC, colleagues across the campus benefitted immensely during this challenging period from Brendan’s expertise, calmness and wisdom—traits he had honed over decades while managing other major crises during his public service career. As the ANU Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, reflected following news of his passing: “Brendan was not only a leader in his field, he was a true leader on our campus and a great friend to his colleagues, peers, our university and to me personally.”

But Brendan’s association with the ANU was much deeper than the precious few years he spent here as a member of staff. While a senior Defence official, he frequently contributed as a guest speaker to the suite of executive training courses that the SDSC delivered in the mid-2000s and early 2010s for new entrants into the Defence Department’s graduate trainee program—first under Professor Hugh White’s leadership and then retired Admiral Chris Barrie.

When Defence funded a new Shedden Professorship in Strategic Policy Studies at SDSC in September 2012, Brendan found time amidst his impossibly busy schedule to meet shortlisted candidates and provide valuable input, as an external stakeholder, into the selection committee process. In July 2016, at only a week's notice, Brendan delivered a memorable keynote speech to SDSC's 50th anniversary celebratory dinner after the then-Defence Minister indicated her unavailability, and when the Defence Secretary was travelling.

Brendan had an enduring interest in the relationship between academics and practitioners. He regarded the higher education sector, and especially the ANU, as an important resource for the defence community. To be sure, he understood well the differences and often competing priorities and imperatives of these two worlds. But he also recognised that the gap between scholarship and policymaking was unnecessarily widened by misunderstandings on both sides and that the two worlds could ultimately reinforce and strengthen one another. In particular, Brendan saw value in policymakers gaining through education the broadest possible perspective which, in turn, might allow them to see more than others in crisis situations—including the range of possible futures that operational responses might create.

Brendan also maintained that the academic world could offer practitioners analytical frameworks which might be applied to a range of issues, thereby strengthening their capacity to develop 'out-of-the-box' solutions to challenging problems. He would often cite Dibb's work on the importance of strategic geography to Australian defence thinking as an exemplar of this approach. Brendan himself was one of the main champions—alongside the ANU National Security College's Professor Rory Medcalf—of the influential Indo-Pacific concept, which appeared officially for the first time in the 2013 Defence White Paper. Equally, however, Brendan was never dogmatic and was just as comfortable highlighting the weaknesses and limitations of the Indo-Pacific framework. In this regard, as in so many others, he had the open mind of a true scholar.

At his 60th birthday party, held at his home in March 2019, Brendan observed that he had essentially fulfilled his family obligations and was now entering the fourth and final stage of Hindu life (*Sannyasi*) where he would be free to devote himself entirely to spiritual growth. He anticipated spending the next two decades of his life working through a very ambitious research agenda, including a book on Australia-India strategic relations and, in time, a doctoral thesis on Australia's "strategic imagination". These plans were cut tragically short in February 2022, when Brendan passed away unexpectedly as the result of a swimming accident at the New South Wales coast.

Like most strategists, Brendan was fond of maps. His May 2021 public lecture, "Challenges to Australia's Strategic Imagination", and the SDSC *Centre of Gravity* policy paper carrying the same title which developed from it, provide an essential road map to which generations of Australian strategic thinkers will undoubtedly refer.

Brendan was the eldest of seven children. He is survived by his wife, Vaidehi, his five beloved children, Sita, Aditi, Vidya, Frances, and Gabriel, and his grandson, Lachlan.

— Brendan Taylor

ARE YOU A FINANCIAL MEMBER?

The Emeritus Faculty has noted that several members have not yet paid their 2022 membership fee, despite periodic reminders since payment fell due in January.

With the end of the financial year approaching, it would be timely for members whose \$25 payment is still outstanding to make their payment before 30 June. Members whose email address has changed, who are now aged over 85, or who wish to discontinue their membership are asked to contact Ailsa Solley at anuef.membership@gmail.com or ailsa.solley@gmail.com.

Diary dates

Meet the Author events

June 28, 6pm: Hugh White AO, Emeritus Professor of Strategic Studies, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU, will talk with distinguished security specialist Allan Gyngell about his new Quarterly Essay, *Sleepwalk to War: Australia's Unthinking Alliance with America*. White asks why both major Australian political parties have aligned with the United States in the Asia-Pacific. His essay examines AUKUS and the Quad, and discusses the ramifications of the Ukraine conflict. He argues that the US can neither contain China nor win a war over Taiwan. Where does this leave Australia? Allan Behm, director of the International and Security Affairs Program at The Australia Institute, will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

June 29, 6pm: Renowned Australian playwright and screenwriter David Williamson will be in conversation with Alex Sloan about his memoir *Home Truths* in this ANU/*Canberra Times*/National Film and Sound Archive event. The talk will be followed by a screening of *Travelling North*, for which Williamson adapted the screenplay from his stage play. The film stars Leo McKern and Julia Blake. Arc Cinema, NFSA. Tickets \$12/\$10. Bookings on NFSA website.

June 30, 6pm: Two-time world debating champion Bo Seo will be in conversation with Andrew Leigh on Bo's new book, *Good Arguments*, in this ANU/*Canberra Times* event. In his book, Bo argues that debate is central to human freedom at a time that the world faces dramatic challenges for human survival. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre ANU.

July 12, 6pm: Award-winning journalist and author Paul Daley will talk with Peter Fray, editor-in-chief of *Crikey*, on his new book, *Jesustown*, a multi-generational saga about Australian frontier violence and cultural theft. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

July 20, 6pm: Eminent historians Carolyn Holbrook, Joan Beaumont and Frank Bongiorno will be in conversation on *Lessons from History*, edited by Carolyn Holbrook, Lyndon Megarrity and David Lowe, in this ANU/*Canberra Times* Meet the Author event. *Lessons from History* is a collection of essays which examine

the challenges facing Australia and the world. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

July 26, 6pm: Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks AO will talk with Alex Sloan about her new novel, *Horse*. The novel examines the reckoning with the legacy of enslavement and racism in America. The Weekend Australian said the book brought to light “the way that race and power are encoded into everyday interactions”. Brooks was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 2006 for her novel *March*. Her novels *Caleb's Crossing*, *People of the Book* and *The Secret Chord* were *New York Times* bestsellers, and *Year of Wonders* is an international bestseller, translated into more than 25 languages. She is also the author of the acclaimed non-fiction works *Nine Parts of Desire* and *Foreign Correspondence*. In 2011 she presented the Boyer Lectures, later published as *The Idea of Home*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre ANU.

ANU/*Canberra Times* 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 can be made at Registrations at anu.edu.au/events. Conforming with ANU's Covid policy, those attending must wear masks. Enquiries to the convenor, Colin Steele, at colin.steele@anu.edu.au.

National Museum: connecting to Indigenous artists

The works of some of the nation's renowned Indigenous artists are featured in *Connection*, an event at the National Museum of Australia that is designed to bring to life the stories, art and culture of Australia's First Peoples through multi-sensory technologies and dynamic immersion. The show uses visual, audio and aroma technologies to recreate artworks by such Indigenous artists as Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Albert Namatjira, Tommy Watson, Gabriella Possum Nungurrayi, Anna Pitjara and Lin Onus. *Connection* is the work of Grande Experiences, creators and producers of *Van Gogh Alive*, the immersive art experience seen in Canberra earlier this year. The show, which runs till 9 October, features a soundtrack by Indigenous musicians including William Barton, Yothu Yindi, Gurrumul, Emily Wurramara and Archie Roach.

Final weeks for London gallery portraits

Only three weeks remain before the exhibition, *Shakespeare to Winehouse: Icons from the National Portrait Gallery, London*, packs up to return its 80 loaned works to their home near Trafalgar Square. The exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, includes portraits of the famous from the 16th to the 21st centuries, among them political figures like Churchill and Nelson Mandela, literary greats such as Shakespeare, Dickens and the Bronte sisters, 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. The exhibition closes on 17 July.

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

Eight presentations for Projects Symposium

Topics ranging from calcium and the function of the human heart to politics and sustainable agriculture will be discussed by eight speakers when the Emeritus Faculty's 2022 Projects symposium is held in the Molony Room on Wednesday, 13 July.

The day will run from 9.30 till 4.30. A boxed sandwich lunch will be provided, as well as morning and afternoon tea or coffee. Those attending are asked to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

The program is:

9.30–10.05, Fyfe Bygrave, "Calcium and its vital role in the beating heart";

10.05–10.40, Patrick de Dekker, "Australia was much wetter and warmer than today some 8.2 to 5.5 millennia ago: lessons for future climatic predictions";

10.40 morning tea;

11.10–11.45 Jenny Goldie, "Making Australian agriculture sustainable";

11.45 – 12.20 Ann Kumar, "Take My Word for It: Testing the Hypothesis of Asian Civilisations' Influence on Indonesia";

12.20 Lunch.

1.20–1.55 Kevin Windle, "Voices in the Wilderness: A Digest of the Russian-Language Press in Australia 1912-1919";

1.55–2.30, Jill Waterhouse, "'Did you know that you are placed on the same level as crooks and lunatics?' How and why the residents of the Federal Capital Territory, including the great constitutional authority Sir Robert Garran, lost the right to vote, a situation that has not been fully rectified to this day";

2.30 afternoon tea; 3.00-3.35, Larry Saha, "Who is a Populist in Today's Politics?"

3.35 – 4.10, James J. Fox, "Legal and Illegal Indonesian Fishing Research."

More information on the symposium is available from the coordinator, Ian Keen, at Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au.

ANU astronomers find enormous black hole

An international team led by astronomers at ANU have discovered an enormous black hole that consumes the equivalent of one Earth every second and shines 7,000 times brighter than all the light from our own galaxy, making it visible to well-equipped backyard astronomers.

Lead researcher Dr Christopher Onken and his co-authors describe it as a “very large, unexpected needle in the haystack”. It has the mass of three billion suns. Other black holes of a comparable size stopped growing so quickly billions of years ago.

“Astronomers have been hunting for objects like this for more than 50 years. They have found thousands of fainter ones, but this astonishingly bright one had slipped through unnoticed,” Dr Onken said.

“Now we want to know why this one is different—did something catastrophic happen? Perhaps two big galaxies crashed into each other, funnelling a whole lot of material onto the black hole to feed it,” Dr Onken said.

Co-author Associate Professor Christian Wolf said: “This black hole is such an outlier that while you should never say never, I don't believe we will find another one like this.”

The discovery was made as part of the Skymapper project. The black hole has a visual magnitude of 14.5—a measure of how bright an object appears to an observer on Earth. This means anyone with a decent telescope in a very dark backyard can see it comfortably.

Global health specialist is new ANU Dean

Leading global health and social medicine researcher Professor Bronwyn Parry has been appointed as the new Dean of ANU's College of Arts and Social Sciences.

Professor Parry joins ANU from King's College, London, where she is Vice President and Vice Principal for Service and also holds a Chair in global health and social medicine.

She previously established the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at King's College and was the Inaugural Head of the School of Global Affairs, a hub of multi-disciplinary scholarship designed to collectively address some of the world's most pressing societal challenges.

The Vice-Chancellor of ANU, Professor Brian Schmidt, said he was “delighted” that Professor Parry would be the new Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences and University Lead for Social Impact.

Besides her celebrated academic and research career, Professor Parry was the first female carpenter in the Australian film and television industry, working on films such as *Mad Max Beyond ThunderDome*, *Mad Max 2* and *Dead Calm*, as well as the opening of the Commonwealth Games. Professor Parry replaces Professor Rae Frances, who has been Dean of the college since June 2017. Professor Parry will commence her appointment in early November 2022.

Expertise, effort, brings Queen's honours

Professor Imogen Mitchell, an intensive care specialist, is among the ANU staff who have been recognised in the 2022 Queen's Birthday honours list.

Professor Mitchell, of the ANU Medical School, has been made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her significant service to intensive care medicine and to tertiary education. During the pandemic Professor Mitchell was also Clinical Director of the ACT's COVID-19 response.

Strategic and security thinker Professor Rory Medcalf, Head of the National Security College, has been made an AM for significant service to international relations and to tertiary education. Professor Medcalf recalled that his earlier work as a journalist helped to shape his career: "It emphasised the importance of engaging with people and not just with ideas," he said.

Honorary Professor Brendan Murphy was appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for his service to medical administration and community health, particularly as the federal government's Chief Medical Officer. His appointment also acknowledged his contributions to nephrology (the study of kidneys), to research and innovation, and to professional organisations.

Professor Phillip Cummins from the Research School of Earth Sciences received a Public Service Medal (PSM) for scientific leadership in pioneering and leading research programs to reduce risk from earthquakes and tsunamis in Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

Former members of the ANU community were also honoured, including members of the Emeritus Faculty.

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, who served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 2012 to 2019, was made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to tertiary education and governance as an administrator, leader and mentor.

Emeritus Professor Valerie Kirk, who led the textiles workshop in the ANU School of Art and Design, was made an AM for significant service to tertiary arts education, and as an artist and curator.

Emeritus Professor Angela Dulhunty was made an AM for significant service to medical research, and to professional organisations.

ANU law graduate Maria Doogan received a Medal in General Division (OAM) for service to the law, and to the judiciary, after serving as a prosecutor, coroner and magistrate for many years in the ACT.

\$50 million 'game-changer' with new Cairns campus

The creation of CQUniversity's campus in Cairns would be "a game-changer" for northern Queensland, the federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare, said when announcing a \$50 million commitment to expand the regional university's presence in the city.

Forty per cent of Australians aged between 25 and 34 have a university degree, "but in places like Cairns, it's about 20 per cent," he told an interviewer. Most jobs being created now required a degree or a TAFE qualification, so

government had to ensure that people were able to gain qualifications, wherever they lived.

“You’ve got to make sure that you’ve got the campuses and the courses where people live and where they want to study,” Mr Clare said. A campus like the new Cairns facility would encourage more young people to study without having to leave the area.

Economic analysis showed that the \$50 million invested in building the campus would create \$50 million of economic benefit every year after that for the next ten years, Mr Clare said. The influx of students and the university’s work would transform life in the local community, and bring enormous economic benefits. “What’s even more important than that is it changes people’s lives. And it can change people’s lives forever,” he said.

ANU goes ‘passwordless’

On 15 June ANU changed the way in which users log into and access ANU computer systems. Passwordless access replaces a user’s username and password with a phone app or token and adaptive multi-factor authentication. This is designed to provide the ANU community with world’s best security and greater ease. One benefit of the passwordless system is that users never have to remember their ANU password.

Melbourne next step for Chief Operating Officer

The university’s Chief Operating Officer, Paul Duldig, will be leaving ANU on 29 July to take up an appointment as Chief Executive of the State Library Victoria.

Mr Duldig joined ANU in 2019 and, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, his tenure coincided with some of the most challenging times that ANU has experienced. “A baptism of fire (and smoke and hail...) in January 2020 was followed by a global pandemic that completely changed our operating context. Planning and executing change in complex organisations is hard even in benign circumstances, but this tumultuous backdrop makes the contribution Paul has made to ANU even more impressive,” Professor Schmidt said.

Mr Duldig had been an architect of the university’s recovery plan that “set us on a path back to sustainability”, Professor Schmidt said, and among other achievements had led the development of one of the four “ANU by 2025” strategic pillars. He had also taken on the challenge of resolving “some major legacy issues in student accommodation that sit comfortably in the category of ‘wicked problems’ ”.

“Every step of the way, Paul has focused on our values as a context for making change and improvement in our services,” Professor Schmidt said. “One of his greatest strengths has been his determination that ANU should be a leader in what we do, and confront the difficult choices modern universities must make in order to be great. That determination, as well as the intellect, integrity and good humour Paul has always brought to his role, will make him an outstanding leader of the State Library Victoria.”

Bookshelf

ANU Historical Journal II: Number 3

ISSN (print): 2652-015X

ISSN (online): 2652-0281

June 2022

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

This issue of the *ANU Historical Journal II* brings together articles, reviews, lectures and artwork by historians from across Australia. It encompasses a wide range of subjects—local and foreign, modern and medieval—including Queensland politics in the 1960s and 1970s, the children's fiction of Victorian historian Margaret Kiddle, the moral lessons of Robin Hood tales, and the lives of Soviet 'displaced persons' in post-war Germany. It also includes a series of portraits of Australia's first eight prime ministers, as well as the short memoir of an ANU alumnus' experiences under the tutelage of Manning Clark. Reviewers discuss themes of colonialism, climate and transnational lives in recent published histories.

Australian Economic History

Transformations of an Interdisciplinary Field

By Claire E. F. Wright

ISBN (print): 9781760465124

ISBN (online): 9781760465131

June 2022

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

Economic history is one of the oldest interdisciplinary fields, with its relevance dependent on connection and relevance to disciplinary behemoths economics and history. *Australian Economic History* is the first history of an interdisciplinary field in Australia, and the first to set the field's progress within the structures of Australian universities. It highlights the lived experience of doing interdisciplinary research and how scholars have navigated the opportunities and challenges of this form of knowledge. These lessons are vital for those seeking to develop robust interdisciplinary conversations now and in the future.

“Australia proved a pioneer in the study of economic history, nurturing a discipline with innovative data and understanding of material trends. Yet by the 1990s economic history departments closed as senior scholars retired and the field was subsumed by conventional economics. In this absorbing study, Dr Claire Wright challenges the conventional account. She is tough-minded about financial and institutional pressures on the field, but cautiously optimistic about the future. It is a mistake, she argues, to see institutional representation as the benchmark of influence. Instead, the interdisciplinary nature of economic history has encouraged new research and teaching across the humanities and social sciences. With close attention to individual scholars and their university departments, and a deep sense of the trajectory of the field,

Australian Economic History: Transformations of an Interdisciplinary Field is an original and important contribution to Australian intellectual history.”

— Glyn Davis, Distinguished Professor of Political Science
in the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Australian Journal of Biography and History: No. 6, 2022

ISSN (print): 2209-9522

ISSN (online): 2209-9573

May 2022

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/AJBH.06.2022>

This special issue of *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, “Writing Slavery into Biography: Australian Legacies of British Slavery”, uses biographical approaches to explore how British slavery shaped the Australian colonies. It is the first stand-alone journal issue to feature an emerging body of historical work tracing the movement of people, investment and ideas from the Caribbean to Australia. Seven refereed articles and a roundtable discussion show how investment, imperial aspiration and migration turned towards Britain's ‘Second Empire’ in the aftermath of the *Slavery Abolition Act 1833*.

The feature section of this issue concludes with a roundtable discussion between Catherine Hall, Keith McClelland, Zoë Laidlaw, Jeremy Martens and Georgina Arnott on the topic of linking the legacies of British slave ownership to Australian colonisation. Hall observes that biography, when used in combination with prosopography (the investigation of the common characteristics of a group of people), reveals how the lives and family trajectories of slave owners were distinguished amongst imperial capitalists at large. This issue builds understanding of the precise ways that slavery shaped the Australian colonies.

Administration

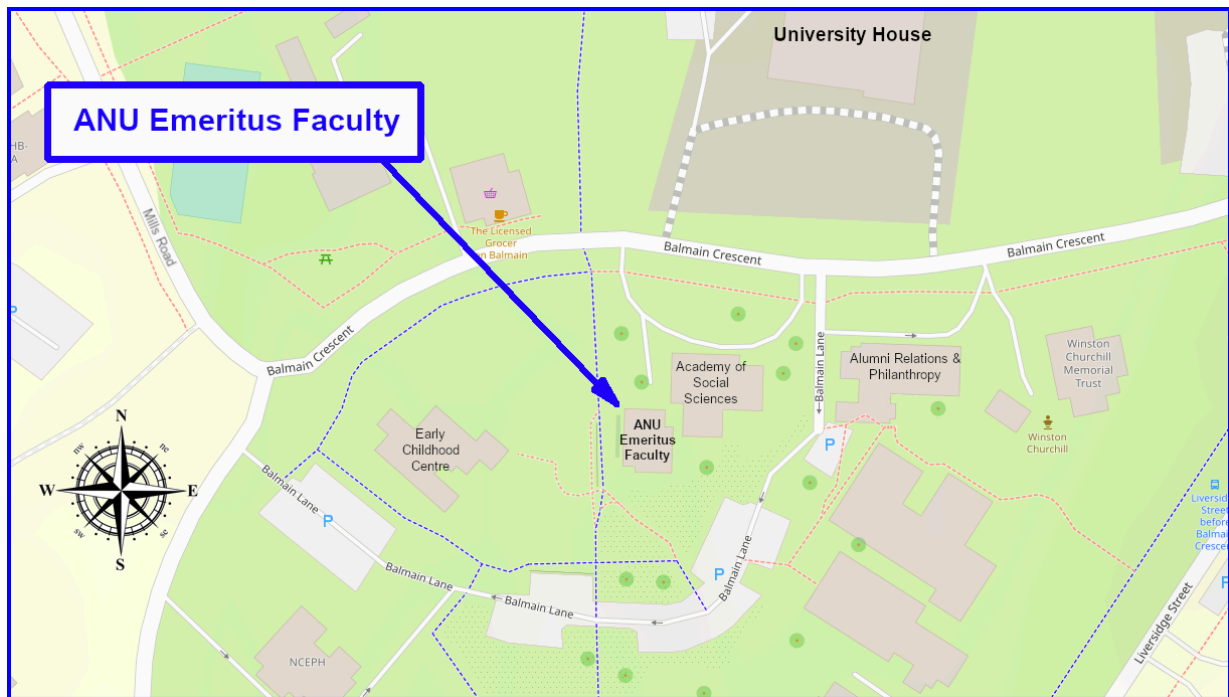
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

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>



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The next issue of the Emeritus Faculty newsletter will be published in July.