

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

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## Government seeks stakeholder guidance on universities accord

The federal government has committed to engaging with the tertiary education sector to set the terms of reference for the Australian Universities Accord, the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, told the audience at the Universities Australia 2022 gala conference dinner in Canberra on 6 July.

The accord would be “a reset” and an opportunity to build a long-term plan for the nation’s universities, Mr Clare said.

It would draw on the advice of leaders in tertiary education, on university staff, unions, business, students, parents, and all political parties.

It would examine everything “from funding and access, to affordability, transparency, regulation, employment conditions and also how universities and TAFEs and other higher education and vocational education providers and training institutions work together,” he said.

To this end, he proposed in the next few months to appoint a small group of eminent Australians to begin work on the accord.

### *Education central to Australia’s future*

“I want this to be a bipartisan effort,” Mr Clare said. “I want it to come up with reforms that last longer than the inevitable political cycle.

“I also want your help and guidance, and that starts with making sure we get the terms of reference for this right, and I’ll be engaging with you on these soon.”

Mr Clare told his audience that Australia’s future would be shaped more by education than almost anything else. The economic centre of gravity now lay in Asia: “Two-thirds of the world’s middle-class consumers will be on our doorstep by the end of the decade,” he said.

“It’s like another continent, rising out of the Pacific or the Indian Ocean; and the sorts of products and services that they will want from us require highly skilled workers, with all the hard and soft skills to help enmesh ourselves in Asia and win in an incredibly competitive environment.”

That future also included Australia’s efforts with international education, which he described as “an incredible national asset”.

Its importance extended to “more than just dollars”, because those who enjoyed living and studying in Australia took that affection back to their home countries, “and in the world we live in, that’s invaluable”.

Mr Clare recognised that some rebuilding was necessary: “COVID has smashed international education. Being told to go home or being left to rely on the kindness of charity also hasn’t helped,” he said.

The government wanted to work with universities to rebuild international education. “That starts with sending a clear message to students around the world that we want you to study with us.”

Mr Clare said universities had to diversify what they offered international students, and he believed that there was more than Australia could do to encourage those who studied here to stay on and fill “some of the chronic skills gaps in our society”.

He knew how highly regarded Australian research was around the world, and told his audience that delays and political interference in the allocation of competitive grants needed to end: “It damages our international reputation; it also makes it harder for you to recruit and retain staff.”

Mr Clare drew on a cricketing analogy, telling his listeners that to succeed, Australia needed to be a country that “bats down the order”.

The nation’s most valuable asset “isn’t the minerals in the ground. It’s what’s between our ears,” he said.

“But that on its own is not enough. Brain power is just like data. It’s how we use it that counts. If it’s untapped it’s unused. And if most of the new jobs in the world in front of us require a VET qualification or a university degree, we need to make sure that more of us have got them.”

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## Memorable lives on the menu at faculty dinner

The lives and work of three notable ANU scientists will be the subject of the occasional address by faculty member Prame Chopra at the annual Emeritus Faculty dinner at the Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla, on Tuesday, 6 September.

Dr Chopra, a former Reader in Geophysics at ANU, has framed his address in the spirit of the faculty’s *Life Celebrations* volume, for a talk titled *Memorable Lives: The Life Journeys of Three Remarkable ANU Scientists: McDougall, Paterson and Barwick*.

Attendance is restricted to 40 places. The dinner will cost \$80 per person and will begin at 6 pm with drinks and canapés, with main course to follow. Wines and soft drinks are included. Dress is smart casual.

Those wishing to attend are asked to contact the faculty Chair, Professor James Fox, at [james.fox@anu.edu.au](mailto:james.fox@anu.edu.au). Payment for the dinner will need to be made in advance by 29 August and should be made to: Bank Service One, BSB: 801 009, Account Number: 001087714. People who have particular dietary requirements are asked to make this known when booking so that the Commonwealth Club can be given advance notice.

# Singular honour for ANU scientist

Revolutionary contributions to our understanding of space-time have led the ANU's Distinguished Professor Susan Scott to be elected as a Fellow of the International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation (ISGRG) for 2022—the first Australian to be so honoured.

She joins an elite club of exceptional scientists, including renowned theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking and Nobel Laureates Roger Penrose and Kip Thorne.

Distinguished Professor Scott, from the ANU Centre for Gravitational Astrophysics (CGA), is also the Chief Investigator with the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery (OzGrav). Her ISGRG appointment recognises her groundbreaking contributions to understanding the singularities and the structure of space-time. Singularities are known as places in space and time where things go wrong—for example, if a travelling particle simply blips out of existence and has no future.

Much of her research involves investigating the properties of singularities related to black holes. Her work also seeks to understand the properties of systems of black holes and neutron stars by studying the gravitational waves they emit.

Distinguished Professor Scott is “deeply honoured” to be the first Australian Fellow of the ISGRG. “Election to Fellowship of the ISGRG is very prestigious, and there are only a few tens of Fellows across the world,” she said.

“In Australia, and also at ANU, we now have a very established and successful research base in many areas of endeavour in gravitational research, including the detection of gravitational waves, which help us to unlock many of the Universe's mysteries.”

In 2015 Distinguished Professor Scott was part of a 1,000-strong international cohort of scientists that detected gravitational waves for the first time. These waves are ripples in space and time caused by violent events in the universe.

This discovery scientifically proved Albert Einstein's theory that gravitational waves would be caused by a collision of massive objects in space, such as black holes. It also ushered in a new era of gravitational-wave astronomy and paved the way for a raft of discoveries, including the merging of two black holes, the collision of two neutron stars and the detection of black holes swallowing neutron stars—breakthroughs in which Distinguished Professor Scott played a key role.

Distinguished Professor Scott's contribution to the discovery of gravitational waves earned her and fellow ANU researcher Professor David McClelland the 2020 Prime Minister's Prize for Science.

She wants to use her newly obtained platform with the ISGRG to continue to champion Australian science and voice her aspirations for Australia to be a major player in the next generation of gravitational wave astronomy.

She hopes her appointment might give weight to calls to establish and operate a gravitational wave detector in Australia.

# Focus on First Nations opportunity

The Australian National University has formed a partnership with Charles Darwin University (CDU) to improve opportunity for First Nations people in the Northern Territory.

The Vice-Chancellor of ANU, Professor Brian Schmidt, and CDU Vice-Chancellor Professor Scott Bowman met in Canberra on 13 July to formalise the partnership, which will focus on building the leadership capacity among the territory's First Nations peoples.

Professor Schmidt said ANU was eager to work with CDU to deliver outcomes that would make a positive difference. "ANU is a university that serves the nation and all Australians," he said. "We were founded to deliver the knowledge and expertise Australian needs, as well as to meet the challenges and opportunities we face as a nation."

The partnership, which will run for five years, will also seek to support social and economic outcomes for the territory and support study outcomes for students at both universities.

It will allow students of each university to enter postgraduate programs at the other institution, support student exchange initiatives, expand capacity for joint research projects and help to develop shared knowledge and course curricula. It will also identify opportunities for staff secondments, and joint supervision, research publications, and development of learning resources.

Professor Bowman said the partnership would strengthen the capability of both institutions to deliver better outcomes for their communities and strengthen student and staff development.

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## Inaugural Indigenous professorship for Tjabal director

The Director of the ANU Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre, Anne Martin AO, has been appointed to the position of Professor in the Practice of Indigenous Advancement.

This is the first role of its kind at ANU. Professor Martin will also maintain her role as Director of the Tjabal Centre, which provides a meeting place and support base for Indigenous students and staff at ANU.

Professor Martin, a Yuin woman of the NSW South Coast, has long been a mentor and advocate for First Nations students.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Schmidt said the new role recognised Professor Martin's contribution. "Professor Martin has been Director of the Tjabal Centre since 2012," he said. "During that time, Anne has transformed Indigenous education and support at ANU, creating a culture of inclusiveness and improved experience and outcomes for Indigenous students."

Professor Martin said she was "truly humbled" by the appointment. In addition to leading the Tjabal Centre, she has co-chaired the University's NAIDOC committee since 2006 and co-chaired the National NAIDOC Committee between 2007 and 2018. In 2019 she was named ACT Senior Woman of the year.

## Harold Brookfield

9 March 1926 – 22 May 2022

Harold Chillingworth Brookfield had two periods at the ANU. He came to the Geography Department in the Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPaS) in March 1957 as a Senior Research Fellow and remained until 1969. He returned in August 1982 as the Professor and Head of the Department of Human Geography in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. Later he was the first Convenor of the Division of Society and Environment until his retirement in 1991. He continued after retirement in the Department of Anthropology in RSPAS as an emeritus professor and established the UN University-funded applied research project, People, Land Management and Environmental Change (PLEC), with participants in [Brazil](#), [China](#), [Ghana](#), [Guinea](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Uganda](#) and [Tanzania](#).

Harold Brookfield was born on 9 March 1926 in Stoke Newington, London. Chillingworth was his mother's family name. He attended a primary school at Palmers Green and from there won a position at Michenden Secondary School. The area was bombed from 1939 to 1941 but this did not prevent Harold from being introduced by a teacher at the school to Stanley Beaver, a lecturer at the London School of Economics (LSE). In 1943, aged 17, he began an honours degree course in geography at the LSE, which had evacuated from London to Cambridge. Harold took up residence there. In 1944 he volunteered for the Royal Air Force and was enlisted for ground crew training but was immediately placed on deferred service, so that he was able to sit his final exams and receive First Class Honours from the LSE. He applied for a postgraduate scholarship but the RAF finally called him for basic training in 1946 and then put him to work in RAF Records at Gloucester on the demobilisation of thousands of servicemen into civilian life. It was here that he learned that the government wanted all qualified people out of the services. He registered himself and shortly after was discharged and told to take up an LSE scholarship.

On his return to LSE, now back in London, Professor Dudley Stamp offered Harold a position as a student demonstrator. Stamp also introduced him to Oskar Spate, who was to be his postgraduate research supervisor. He wrote a thesis on the history of urbanisation on the south coast of England, extended his research to the west of Ireland, began teaching ex-servicemen at Birkbeck College and married Muriel Blight, whom he had met when she was a final year student at King's College, London. The LSE awarded his PhD in 1950. Just before the end of his contract at Birkbeck he was offered a lecturer position at the University of Natal. He and Muriel travelled there by ship in 1952.

The University of Natal was located on two campuses, only one of which, in Durban, taught non-white students. Harold did most of his teaching there, where he was left in charge: his professor was on a whites-only campus some distance away. As a result of a visit by the director of LSE, who knew that Harold was an LSE graduate, he was provided with funds to do fieldwork in Mauritius. From this work he published papers on demography and the sugar

industry in international peer-reviewed journals, as he had done from his PhD research and work in Ireland.

In Durban he and Muriel joined the anti-apartheid Liberal Party. Soon it became apparent that some colleagues who were also members were being deported, so in 1954 he accepted an offer of a position at the University of New England in Armidale—but first Harold and Muriel returned to the UK by ship. A fellow passenger was a young Desmond Tutu, with whom Muriel played numerous games of Scrabble. In 1955 Harold attended the ANZAAS conference in Melbourne where he again met Oskar Spate, who was now the Professor of Geography in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the newly established Australian National University. In 1956 Harold successfully applied for a position of Senior Research Fellow at the ANU and in March 1957 took up residence in Canberra.

The inclusion of a Research School of Pacific Studies as part of the new university was largely the result of recognition by the Australian Army's Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs that Australia needed to know much more about the territories in the region, especially Papua and New Guinea. Oskar Spate, the foundation professor of geography and the author of an outstanding report on India and Pakistan, had become an advisor to the Minister for Territories. He had begun to assemble information about New Guinea and wanted Harold to work there. After his arrival in Canberra, Harold met Paula Brown, a new appointment in anthropology who was being persuaded by S.F. Nadel, the Professor of Anthropology, to do fieldwork on social change in the central highlands, one of the most densely settled parts of Papua and New Guinea, which had local road access and was environmentally diverse.

### *Mapping land use and social relationships*

Harold and Paula created a field base at Mintima village, on the road just west of Kundiawa in Chimbu District. From there Harold mapped land use, land ownership and residence of the members of two clans and Paula studied their social organisation. Harold's detailed fieldwork at a local scale, including his use of aerial photography (taking his own photographs from a light aircraft) to create an understanding of the clans' land, and Paula's information about the social relationships between owners and users of the land, was highly innovative, both in their disciplines and in the papers and book they published together. It was in Chimbu that Harold first realised his abiding concern with "the adaptation of the use and management of land to variability and change in society, economy and natural environment", which he came to believe was the "soul" of geography. Back at ANU, from 1964 to 1969 he was a member of the New Guinea Research Unit management committee. His work began to attract postgraduate students who wanted to work in PNG and elsewhere in the Pacific and to use his methods. By 1968, when he left ANU, he had supervised nine students in the field, four in PNG, two in Fiji (one a Fijian), one in Vanuatu, one in Tonga and one who worked on trade between Pacific countries. In 1973 Harold edited *The Pacific in Transition* with chapters by all of them.

In 1968 Oskar Spate, Professor of Geography and soon to be Director of RSPacS, and the ANU Vice-Chancellor, Sir John Crawford, decided that the Department of Geography was too big and should be split, with the

geomorphology and biogeography streams separate from human geography. Harold, who thought geography should be the study of the associations between the physical and natural environments and human societies, opposed the idea. At around the same time, in the UK and the USA the quantitative revolution was underway in the discipline of geography, in which statistics and mathematical models were significant. Harold was sceptical that it would lead to anything new, but Professor Spate wanted it represented at the ANU. In both cases Harold vigorously maintained his argument that the discipline was the study of “structure, process and transformation within man-environment systems”. Then in what he later called a “colossal mistake”, instead of negotiating an offer of the chair of Human Geography in RSPacS, Harold accepted a professorship at the University of Pennsylvania and left Canberra.

There began 13 years in which Harold struggled to find an academic home, despite publishing *Melanesia: a Geographical Interpretation of an Island World* with Doreen Hart in 1971, described as “very influential” and “a classical regional text”; being a Guggenheim Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies at Brighton in the UK in 1973 and writing the very successful *Interdependent Development* in 1975 (republished in 2013). He spent a year in Pennsylvania, five years at McGill University in Canada, and two years on a UNESCO/UNFPA Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB) in the Eastern Islands of Fiji, followed by a year in Barbados on an unsuccessful MAB project and five years as Professor of Geography at Melbourne University. He came back to ANU in 1982 to take up the Chair of Human Geography in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies.

There, in 1983, Harold became leader of a new school research initiative on industrialisation on the Malayan Peninsula. This led in 1991 to a book on urbanisation around Kuala Lumpur, written with two Malaysian co-authors. He returned to Fiji as a consultant to the European Union’s Fiji Employment and Development Mission, and with Dick Bedford, Tim Bayliss-Smith and Muriel Brookfield revisited former MAB research sites using a Fiji government ship as transport. This work was reported in another book. In 1984 he returned to Chimbu in PNG with Paula Brown to update their 1974 fieldwork, as well as to give ANU’s house at Mintima to the local landowners. Harold took advantage of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software, which had been unavailable in 1974, and with cartographer Robin Grau entered all the Chimbu data into a GIS with what he called “spectacular results” on how and why people managed land use and land tenure. This was published in *Human Ecology* in 1990.

In 1984, Piers Blaikie, who was developing the new discipline of political ecology within geography, accepted Harold’s invitation to visit ANU. Blaikie argued that soil erosion and land degradation were not necessarily the results of poor decisions or ignorance by farmers but were frequently forced on them by political, social and economic circumstances beyond their control. He and Harold jointly hosted a workshop at ANU, from which contributions were published in 1987 as the co-edited book *Land Degradation and Society*. It has been twice reprinted. Harold also resurrected a number of unpublished studies of the 1972 frost and drought in PNG. He co-edited older and new papers into a special edition of *Mountain Research and Development* in 1989, which included an analysis of rainfall records, El Niño Southern Oscillation records, field reports and newspaper reports, with Bryant Allen and Yvonne Byron. When



invited to participate in a US-funded research project on environmentally critical areas in Malaysia and Borneo, Harold asked Lesley Potter, a McGill graduate whom he had supervised and who was then at Adelaide University, to join him. Together with research assistant Yvonne Byron, they published the book *In Place of the Forest: Environmental and Social Transformation in Borneo and the Eastern Malay Peninsula* in 1995. In 2001 Harold was involved in establishing the Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program in the School.

From 1985 Harold was Acting Director of RSPAS a number of times and was a leader in a move to divide the research school into four disciplinary divisions. He became the first Convenor of the Division of Society and Environment. In 1988 Roland Fuchs, formerly the Chairman of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and then the Vice-Rector of the United Nations University (UNU) with headquarters in Japan, asked Harold to organise the first of a series of regional international conferences on environmental sustainability at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta. With Yvonne Byron, Harold edited the proceedings into a book, *South-east Asia's Environmental Future: the Search for Sustainability*, published by Oxford in 1993. The UNU then asked Harold to lead a research program into how population growth caused land degradation, but he declined because he did not agree with the premise.

### *Small-farmer successes documented and shared*

Juha Uitto of the UNU then asked Harold what sort of program he would like to lead. He outlined an applied research program which was to become, after some fairly radical changes in UNU thinking, the People, Land Management and Environmental Change Program (PLEC). "Clusters" were established in Brazil, China, Ghana, Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Uganda and Tanzania, where the knowledge of the most successful small farmers at rural research sites was documented and spread to other farmers and to extension agencies. Meetings in China, Uganda and Brazil and a regular newsletter kept Cluster members in contact with each other. Their field sites were visited by a core group of advisors. After writing and rewriting his proposals and negotiating the fearsome bureaucracies of a multilateral organisation, Harold was successful in gaining support from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) for an extension of PLEC to 2002. From the PLEC work, Harold published three books: one with Christine Padoch, Helen Parsons and Michael Stocking, *Cultivating Biodiversity: Understanding, Analysing and Using Agricultural Diversity* (2002); one with Helen Parsons and Muriel Brookfield, *Agrodiversity: Learning from Farmers Across the World* (2003); and one with Helen Parsons, *Family Farms: Survival and Prospect* (2007).

Harold's last paper, "Raised fields and shifting cultivation: an essay" which he wrote in 2015, will be published posthumously in 2022 in *Farmer Innovations and Best Practices by Shifting Cultivators in Asia-Pacific*, a book edited by Malcom Cairns, an RSPAS anthropology graduate whom Harold helped to supervise.

By the end of his active research life Harold Brookfield's work had been widely recognised. He was a J.S. Guggenheim Fellow in 1973; received the Back Award of the Royal Geographical Society for Geographical Studies of the Pacific region in 1975; became a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in



Australia in 1977; was given a *Lauréat d'honneur* by the International Geographical Union in 1996; given the Robert McC. Netting Award by the Association of American Geographers in 1997; received the Australia-International Medal of the Institute of Australian Geographers in 2005; and was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 2009.

Harold Brookfield was a giant in his field; he had an important influence on geographical thinking which will continue long after his death.

— Bryant Allen

## Diary dates

### *Inaugural Chris Bryant lecture*

**July 25, 4pm:** Professor Alexander Maeir of the ANU's Division of Biomedical Sciences and Biochemistry will present the inaugural Chris Bryant AM Memorial Lecture in the R. N. Robertson Lecture Theatre, 46E Sullivan's Creek Road, at 4pm on Monday, 25 July. The lecture, "Sushi, Sex and Mind Control—Why Parasites (still) Matter", is being jointly organised by the Research School of Biology and Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS). Professor Bryant, who died in August last year, was a member of ANU for almost 60 years and a former Dean of Science. An eminent and much-published parasitologist, he founded the program that became the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. He also had a key role in the collaboration between the ANU and Questacon in the 1980s through the Science Circus, a partnership that began the formal extension of public science outreach activities by ANU science students. The event is free but registration is required. It will be followed by drinks and nibbles (in a COVID-friendly manner) in the Robertson Building's larger foyer. Further information: CPAS, web phone 6125.5394, email [cpas@anu.edu.au](mailto:cpas@anu.edu.au), web <https://cpas.anu.edu.au/news-events/events/inaugural-professor-chris-bryant-am-memorial-lecture>.

### *Meet the Author events*

**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.

**July 29, 6pm:** In an ANU/*Canberra Times* meet the author event, Dr Norman Swan will talk with Alex Sloan about his new book, *So You Want To Live*

*Younger Longer?*, the ultimate guide to what you can do at any age to stay young and healthy longer. Manning Clark Auditorium, Kambri Cultural Centre ANU. Registrations at [anu.edu.au/events](http://anu.edu.au/events)

**August 22, 6pm:** In an ANU/*Canberra Times* meet the author event, Professor James Curran will be in conversation with John McCarthy on James's new book *Australia's China Odyssey: From Euphoria to Fear*, which explores Australia's relationship with China through the prism of prime ministerships from Whitlam onwards.

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](http://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](mailto:colin.steele@anu.edu.au).

## *National Museum: connecting to Indigenous artists*

The works of 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. 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*, which runs till 9 October, features a soundtrack by Indigenous musicians including William Barton, Yothu Yindi, Gurrumul, Emily Wurramara and Archie Roach.

## *Nolan's search for paradise*

Canberra Museum and Gallery has opened *Sidney Nolan: Search for Paradise*, a major retrospective of the artist's career. The exhibition moves from Nolan's childhood in St Kilda, his childhood heaven, to his formative period at John and Sunday Reed's artist colony at Heidi in the 1940s, and the artistic influences and personal tensions that played out there. The exhibition, held in conjunction with the Heide Museum of Modern Art, runs until 22 October.

## *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.

### *Academy's 'home of science' reopens*

The Shine Dome, the home of the Australian Academy of Science, was officially reopened on 28 June by the Governor-General, General David Hurley AC DSC (retd.), and Ed Husic, the Minister for Industry and Science.

General Hurley told the Fellows who had been invited to the reopening that the dome was “an iconic building—its architecture and design inspires and befits those who make a unique and valuable contribution to humanity”.

“Yet its real power comes from within—from its people. As elected Fellows of the Academy, you are amongst Australia’s best and brightest,” he said. “Our nation relies on you, believes in you and is willing you to succeed.”

Mr Husic said the Albanese government wanted to “rekindle the respect for the role of science in helping develop good policy”.

The dome was damaged during a severe hailstorm in January 2020, with damage to the copper-clad roof and skylights exposing the building’s significant scientific archives to hail and rain. Restoration, including recladding of the copper roof, have improved the building’s longevity and energy efficiency.

The President of the Academy, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said the academy was proud of the Shine Dome “not only because it is the meeting place for Fellows, but because it is the home of science for all Australians”.

“As scientists, our efforts to make new discoveries, to share our knowledge and to see the never seen, is driven by a relentless quest to better your lives and to sustain this planet we all call home.”

### *ANU forum calls for better First Nations outcomes*

The First Nations Economic Development Forum held at ANU late last month has called for governments and industry to work with Indigenous people to develop new and better policies that address the “economic apartheid” facing Indigenous Australians.

That should include the creation of a national forum with a specific focus on economic development and wealth-creation for First Nations peoples, the Marramarra Murru (Creating Pathways) communiqué says.

“A new policy framework for First Nations economic development needs to be built by First Nations peoples and Australian governments, which focuses on economic self-determination and is part of the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart,” the communiqué reads.

“Key ingredients for the new policy framework include a strong focus on building trust, flexibility to respond to the diverse needs and priorities of communities across Australia, recognition and support for collective ownership of assets and building capability, particularly with respect to governance.”

The communiqué notes that a growing First Nations business sector, acknowledging Indigenous Australians' intellectual property, creating better

access to international trade, and building a First Nations workforce for the 21st century all provide fertile opportunities for economic development.

The ANU Vice-President for First Nations, Professor Peter Yu, said Labor's commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement provided the best opportunity to get economic policy for First Nations Australians right.

“The vast majority of policy interventions think of First Nations Australians as workers in the mainstream economy, not creators of economic value from assets and intellectual property that is uniquely theirs,” he said.

“It is incumbent on modern Australia to address this legacy of injustice and inequality.”

## *Global award for ANU partnerships initiative*

Three members of ANU staff, Karen Jackson, Lorena (Lori) Sciusco and Sejul Malde, have won the Outstanding Engagement Approach Award for their case study on the developing ANU Strategic Partnering Initiative (SPI) at the University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN) Conference in Amsterdam.

Conceived during the first Covid lockdown of 2020, the SPI aims to democratise research partnership building by supporting and recognising that strategic partnerships exist anywhere in the organisation.

Karen Jackson and Lori Sciusco have emphasised that establishing reciprocal partnerships is the key to effectively communicating research.

“Partners are critical in translating the capability of research discovery at ANU by helping build bridges between academics and their audiences,” Lori said.

The team created a set of criteria for successful strategic partnering at ANU, then tested them with academic staff, prospective and current partners to map out their objectives and methodologies to create the most beneficial relationship.

They also developed tools to establish stronger partnership foundations, such as articulating the values and culture of partnering at ANU to more easily attract potential partners, as well as creating a roadmap for tactical conversations. The team also created incremental measures of success for strategic partnering over the next five years.

## *Local efforts key to cutting beach pollution*

New research by the CSIRO shows Australian coastal plastic pollution has fallen by 29 per cent in the past eight years.

The discovery was revealed as part of a broad project assessing waste-reduction efforts. The study, published in the journal *One Earth*, builds upon CSIRO's extensive coastal litter surveys completed in 2013, and includes 563 new coastal surveys and interviews with waste managers across 32 local governments around Australia.

CSIRO's Chief Executive, Dr Larry Marshall, said the results showed what could be achieved with a Team Australia approach. “While we still have a long way to go, and the technical challenges are enormous, these results show that

when we each play to our individual strengths, from community groups, industry, government, and research organisations, and we take the field as Team Australia, then we can win.

“Through our recently launched Ending Plastic Waste Mission, we're each keeping a laser-sharp focus on bringing together the best of ourselves across science, innovation and technology, to clean up our oceans and beaches for all Australians.”

Lead researcher Dr Kathryn Willis said that around the world, waste control was driven at a local level, so the research focussed on identifying which local government approaches were most effective in reducing plastic pollution on beaches.

“We were really surprised and excited to also find that there was on average 29 per cent less plastic on our beaches than in 2013 when similar surveys were conducted,” she said.

“Whilst plastic pollution is still a global crisis and we still have a long way to go, this research shows that decisions made on the ground, at local management levels, are crucial for the successful reduction of coastal plastic pollution.”

## *Electric vehicles can handle the big country*

A new study by ANU researchers has found that electric vehicles can handle the distances required to travel to essential services in remote and regional Australia, countering the popular view that electric vehicles lack range over long distances.

Co-author Dr Bjorn Sturmberg said the results indicated that the use of electric vehicles in remote communities was more feasible than might be expected.

“We analysed the distances between people’s homes and the nearest service hub towns, where they might go to do the shopping, for example,” Dr Sturmberg, said.

“The vast majority of residents, or 93 per cent, could do those trips with even the lower-range of electric vehicles currently available on the Australian market. That's without needing to recharge en route.”

Dr Sturmberg said, given this, there was no excuse for leaving remote communities out of the discussion about the transition to electric vehicles.

“We need to do better, Electric vehicles shouldn't be left in the too-hard basket”, said. “It's an unequitable and unfair path forward if remote and regional communities are the last ones left driving diesel vehicles, especially as they will be some of the most impacted by catastrophic climate change.

“Yes , the barriers are obvious—large distances, unsealed roads. But the benefits are equally obvious. It's difficult and expensive to get diesel out to these communities, and electric engines are simpler and more robust than fuel engines.”

## Bookshelf

### *Capital and Inequality in Rural Papua New Guinea*

Edited by Bettina Beer and Tobias Schwoerer

Series: Asia-Pacific Environment Monographs

ISBN (print): 9781760465186

ISBN (online): 9781760465193

July 2022

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

That large-scale capital drives inequality in states like Papua New Guinea is clear enough; how it does so is less clear. This collection presents studies of the local contexts of capital-intensive projects in the mining, oil and gas, and agro-industry sectors in rural and semi-rural parts of Papua New Guinea; it asks what is involved when large-scale capital and its agents begin to become significant nodes in hitherto more local social networks. Its contributors describe the processes initiated by the (planned) presence of extractive industries that tend to reinforce already existing inequalities, or to create and socially entrench novel inequalities.

The studies largely focus on the beginnings of such transformations, when hopes for social improvement are highest and economic inequalities still incipient. They show how those hopes, and the encompassing socio-political transformations characteristic of this phase, act to produce far-reaching impacts on ways of life, setting precedents for and embedding the social distribution of gains and losses. The chapters address a range of settings: the PNG Liquid Natural Gas pipeline; newly established eucalyptus and oil palm plantations; a planned copper–gold mine; and one in which rumours of development diffuse through a rural social network as yet unaffected by actual or planned capital investments. The analyses demonstrate that questions around land, leadership and information are central to the current and future social profile of local inequality in all its facets.

### *Rethinking Social Media and Extremism*

Edited by Shirley Leitch and Paul Pickering

ISBN (print): 9781760465247

ISBN (online): 9781760465254

June 2022

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

Terrorism, global pandemics, climate change, wars and the major threats of our age have been targets of online extremism. The same social media occupying the heartland of our social world leaves us vulnerable to cybercrime, electoral fraud and the “fake news” that fuels the rise of far-right violence and hate speech. In the face of widespread calls for action, governments struggle to reform legal and regulatory frameworks that were designed for an analogue age. And what of our rights as citizens? As politicians and lawyers run to catch

up to the future as it disappears over the horizon, who guarantees the citizens' right to free speech, to free and fair elections, to play video games, to surf the Net, to believe "fake news"?

*Rethinking Social Media and Extremism* offers a range of perspectives on violent extremism online and how it can be stopped. As one major crisis follows another, a global pandemic accelerates and societies turn to digital technologies, attending to the issues raised in this book becomes ever more urgent.

## *Uncovering Pacific Pasts* *Histories of Archaeology in Oceania*

Edited by Hilary Howes, Tristen Jones and Matthew Spriggs

ISBN (print): 9781760464868

ISBN (online): 9781760464875

June 2022

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

Objects have many stories to tell—those of their makers and their uses, those of exchange, acquisition, display and interpretation. This collection of essays highlights some of the collections, and their object biographies, that were displayed in the *Uncovering Pacific Pasts: Histories of Archaeology in Oceania* (UPP) exhibition. The exhibition, which opened on 1 March 2020, sought to bring together both notable and relatively unknown Pacific material culture and archival collections from around the globe, displaying them simultaneously in their home institutions and linked online at [www.uncoveringpacificpasts.org](http://www.uncoveringpacificpasts.org). Thirty-eight collecting institutions participated in UPP, including major collecting institutions in the United Kingdom, continental Europe and the Americas, as well as collecting institutions from across the Pacific.

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## Administration

### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

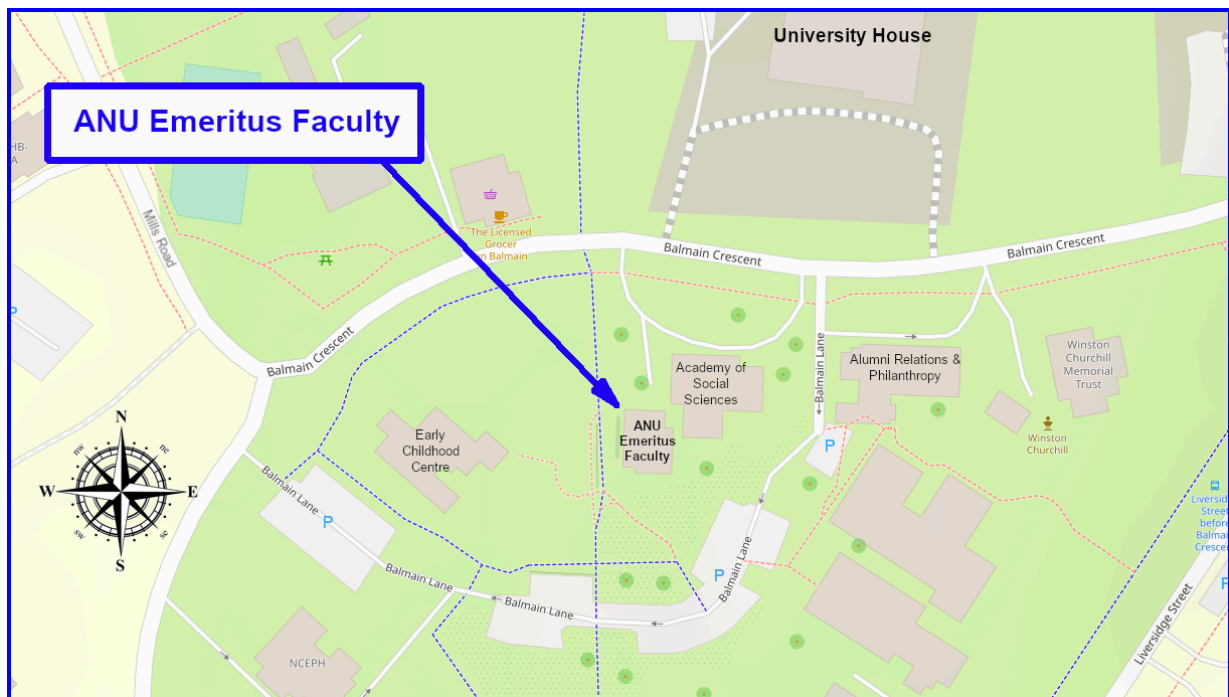
Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O'Connor, at [jantancess@gmail.com](mailto:jantancess@gmail.com) or 6247 3341.

### **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>





## *Editorial*

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