

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Government sees quality, equity at heart of Universities Accord

The Australian government wanted the projected Universities Accord to make Australian higher education “one of the most accessible, equitable, integrated, quality systems in the world,” the federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare, told the 12th National Conference on University Governance on 13 October.

In an address that ranged across government initiatives in higher education, Mr Clare told his audience that he wanted the development of the accord to be a partnership with tertiary institutions.

He planned to announce in November the details of the accord, the panel of eminent Australians who would be involved, and the terms of reference. The terms of reference would be broad, he said.

The minister reminded delegates that he had already announced an independent review of the Australian Research Council and its underpinning legislation.

The review is being led by Professor Margaret Sheil AO, Vice-Chancellor of the Queensland University of Technology, supported by Professor Mark Hutchinson of the University of Adelaide and Professor Susan Dodds from La Trobe University. They are to report by the end of March 2023.

In launching the review, Mr Clare said he had also issued a new Letter of Expectations to the ARC.

He was concerned that the operation of the ARC’s National Interest Test had caused problems, and while he believed such a test was needed, “I think we can make it clearer and simpler,” he said.

“When Brian Schmidt, the Vice-Chancellor of ANU, tells you the research he did that won him the Nobel Prize wouldn’t qualify under the current test, you know you have to make some changes,” Mr Clare said.

He believed that “we also need to take the politics out of research”. “When grants are delayed or rejected because the minister doesn’t like the title page, it’s harder for you to recruit and retain staff and it undermines confidence in our research system.

“That’s why I have said we need to make sure all future grant rounds are delivered on time, to a predetermined time frame.”

The government was also working to rebuild international education and cut delays in visa processing, he said. Initial steps had already reduced waiting times for offshore student visas.

In September the government announced that it would increase post-study work rights for international students who graduate in areas where Australia had skills shortages. Thus students with a bachelor degree would be able to work for four years instead of two in Australia, and PhD graduates for six years instead of four.

Mr Clare noted that the focus of the conference was on cyber security and foreign interference, and he commended institutions for the work they had done with the present and previous governments on the University Foreign Interference Taskforce (UFIT).

“It’s a great example of collaboration between government and universities,” he said. “The work we are doing together is helping protect the quality of Australia’s research and the integrity of our higher education sector.”

He had recently met the UFIT steering group, at which meeting it was agreed that the Department of Education would consult and work with universities to implement the Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector.

ANU among world’s top universities

Australia’s Group of Eight universities had again excelled in The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023, the Go8 said after the rankings were issued on 12 October.

Seven of Australia’s research-intensive Go8 universities were ranked in the top 100 of the global rankings. The Australian National University was placed 62nd in the comprehensive international listing, which provides an overview of quality in teaching, research, reputation, research impact and industry income.

Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson said that, collectively, Go8 universities had increased their overall score in the 2023 rankings and over the past decade had improved by more than 200 places in total.

“This is the largest THE ranking to date, with 1,800 universities ranked across the world. To have seven of our members ranked in the top 100 is an outstanding result.

“From Melbourne University leading at 34 to the University of Adelaide (up 23) at 88, the Go8 has demonstrated that despite the challenges of recent years, a commitment to research and academic excellence has upheld Australia’s international reputation as a quality provider of higher education.”

Ms Thomson’s comments were echoed by Universities Australia’s chief executive, Catriona Jackson, who said Australia’s rankings had propelled Oceania to the highest overall average score of all the regions.

The latest rankings “reinforced the strength of Australia’s university sector and its contribution to the economy and our prosperity,” she said.

“Australia’s universities are continuing to grow in strength and prominence. Our world-class universities are playing a greater role in our region, and this is reflected in the latest rankings as Oceania finishes top of the class.

“Today’s results confirm what the thousands of staff and millions of students at Australia’s universities already know — that our higher education sector is a global leader in teaching and research.

“This is an outstanding achievement and much-deserved recognition of the role our universities play in a modern economy, especially after the challenges of the last few years.”

The rankings place seven Australian universities in the world’s top 100, up from six last year, and 10 universities in the world’s top 200, making it the joint-fifth most-represented country.

Ms Thomson said all Australian universities that had increased their ranking deserved recognition and congratulations. “More Australian universities have gained ground rather than dropped in the rankings, which is testament to the overall quality of our higher education sector,” she said.

Food security aim of ANU’s Moon project

Scientists at the Australian National University are joining an international research project to grow plants on the Moon — a program that may also improve food security on Earth as climate change affects the natural environment.

The Australian Lunar Experiment Promoting Horticulture (ALEPH) project is a scheme of Australian space start-up Lunaria One. ALEPH is an international collaboration that also includes the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), RMIT University, the ANU and Ben Gurion University in Israel, as well as industry bodies.

ALEPH will be the first in a series of experiments to investigate whether plants can not only tolerate but thrive on the lunar surface. The project is an early step toward growing plants for food, medicine and oxygen production, which are all crucial to establishing human life on the Moon.

The researchers hope ALEPH’s lessons will also open new ways to boost sustainable food production on Earth and strengthen food security in the face of climate-driven weather disasters. It aims to grow plants on the Moon as soon as 2025.

Associate Professor Caitlin Byrt, of the ANU’s Research School of Biology and the ANU Institute for Space (InSpace), is a science advisor for Lunaria One. The mission was a unique opportunity for scientists to apply their knowledge of plant germination resilience to determine the types of plants that might tolerate harsh environments such as the Moon, the Australian Research Council Future Fellow said.

“Space is an exceptional testing ground for how to propagate plants in the most extreme of environments,” she said.

“The extreme conditions that Earth is facing due to climate change present challenges for how we manage food security in the future.

“This project is important for developing propagation systems relevant to challenges here on Earth. This includes the creation of controlled environments that enable communities to rapidly propagate plants after natural or climate related disasters.

“If you can create a system for growing plants on the Moon, then you can create a system for growing food in some of the most challenging environments on Earth.”

Plant types sent to the moon will be selected on how quickly they germinate and their tolerance to extreme temperature swings. One plant to be considered is an Australian native resurrection grass known as *Tripogon loliiformis* that can endure harsh conditions and survive in a dormant state for months without any water.

The seeds and “resurrection” plants will be transported in a specially designed chamber on board SpaceIL's Beresheet 2 spacecraft. The chamber will contain sensors, a camera and water.

After landing on the lunar surface the plants' growth and health will be monitored for 72 hours and data and images will be beamed back to Earth. Citizen scientists and school children from around the world will be invited to use the data to conduct their own experiments to identify which plant varieties have the best chance of growing on the Moon.

Professor Jagadish elected to royal academy

The President of the Australian Academy of Science, ANU Distinguished Professor Chennupati Jagadish, has been elected an International Fellow of the United Kingdom's Royal Academy of Engineering.

He is one of seven International Fellows elected this year, alongside 60 Fellows from within the United Kingdom and five Honorary Fellows.

Professor Jagadish was elected by his peers for his pioneering work in applying nanotechnology to semiconductor optoelectronic sources and detectors, as well as his significant contributions to semiconductor lasers, optoelectronic integration and nanowire devices.

His work is widely exploited in optical communication systems and infrared detectors used in the defence, biomedical and manufacturing industries.

Professor Jagadish said it was a great honour to be elected to such an esteemed body.

“I look forward to joining the Fellows of this national academy to champion excellence in engineering, both in practice and advocacy, and bringing its many benefits to the public,” he said.

The Royal Academy of Engineering is the UK's national academy of engineering, providing leadership for engineering and technology and independent expert advice to government in the UK and elsewhere.

Founded in 1976 with support from the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Royal Academy of Engineering is composed of a Fellowship of almost 1,700 eminent engineers.

Sir Jim McDonald FREng, president of the academy, said he was delighted to welcome an array of enormously talented people to the fellowship of the academy. “In an uncertain world, one thing is certain: engineering skills, vision and leadership will play a crucial part in addressing the escalating domestic and global challenges that we face today.”

Asia expert named to British Academy

Professor Evelyn Goh, Shedden Professor of Strategic Policy Studies at the ANU Strategic and Defence Studies Centre and Director of the Southeast Asia Institute, has been elected a Fellow of the prestigious British Academy.

She will be one of 85 new Fellows to be inducted this year by the academy, a professional body for international scholars in the humanities and social sciences. Its many distinguished scholars have included John Maynard Keynes, Isaiah Berlin, C.S. Lewis, Henry Moore, Dame Frances Yates, Sir Winston Churchill, Seamus Heaney and Beatrice Webb.

Professor Goh's expertise in strategy, statecraft, security and international relations is much in demand. She is widely published and cited and receives between 30 and 40 international speaking invitations annually. She serves on the editorial boards of 10 academic journals.

She says she will use her fellowship to help garner the bodies of knowledge from the non-western world to change existing theories and assumptions about international order, at a time when the world order is being challenged.

Professor Goh came to Australia via the universities of Oxford and London. Since joining ANU in 2013 she has helped to attract experts and train students — especially female scholars — in Asian security and international relations, especially female scholars.

The Fellowship recognises Professor Goh's international distinction, shown by her published work on US-China and China-Japan relations, historical and contemporary East Asian orders, and Southeast Asian security strategies.

“Unlike some other fellowships, nominees cannot be involved at any stage in the process, and are nominated by existing fellows and assessed based on the academy's knowledge of their published work and record of international engagement,” she said.

“This Fellowship is also an accolade for the ANU, and an explicitly recognised marker of excellence, so isn't that the best kind of recognition that your work speaks for itself?”

Current British Academy Fellows at the ANU include Emeritus Professor Tony Reid, Professor Nick Evans, Emeritus Professor Bob Goodin and Professor Philip Petit.

Obituary

Allan Douglas Hawke

18 February 1948 – 31 August 2022

Allan Douglas Hawke was born in Canberra Hospital on 18 February 1948, the second son of Lorna and Harold. A younger brother arrived later and the three boys — John, Allan and Phillip — grew up in their parents' two-bedroom, one-bathroom cottage in Bruce Street, Queanbeyan.

Allan attended Queanbeyan public schools and was the first in his extended family to complete high school. This was in 1965 and Allan was school captain at Queanbeyan High. He was also a keen sportsman, representing the school in athletics, rugby union and swimming, and was the 1965 NSW Royal Lifesaving Society's 'Iron Man' champion.

He went on to The Australian National University, graduating with a First-Class Honours Bachelor of Science degree (1970) and Doctor of Philosophy (1976), his thesis being about plague locusts.

Allan Hawke joined the Commonwealth Public Service in January 1974 through the selective Administrative Trainee Scheme with the Public Service Board. By 1982 he had been promoted to the Senior Executive Service and was making his mark on public management and public sector reform. He worked on the Reid Review of the Public Service for the Fraser Government in 1982, and on the Block Efficiency Scrutinies for the Hawke Government in 1987.

One outcome of the Block Scrutinies was the abolition of the Public Service Board, part of a massive change in the machinery of government, including new cabinet and ministerial arrangements and the establishment of "portfolio departments". Hawke moved to the Department of Defence, initially in the corporate management area, where he continued to contribute to APS-wide management reforms through his membership of the Management Improvement Advisory Committee of the Management Advisory Board.

Tony Ayers, who became Secretary of the Department of Defence in 1988, recognised that Allan's capabilities went much further than his undoubted management ability and by 1991 Allan was Deputy Secretary Strategy and Intelligence. He followed Professor Paul Dibb in this role, building on Dibb's influential 1987 "Defence of Australia" strategy. On Paul Keating becoming Prime Minister later in 1991, Allan was called upon to provide a one-on-one two-hour briefing on the US Alliance. Later meetings with the PM led to decisions to acquire more F111 aircraft consistent with strengthening the "Defence of Australia".

In August 1993, Hawke was appointed Paul Keating's Chief of Staff (interestingly, he had been offered but refused the position of John Howard's Chief of Staff as Opposition Leader in the late 1980s). This was at the suggestion of Mike Keating, Secretary of Prime Minister and Cabinet, after discussion with Ayers, recognising Hawke's people management and

networking skills and the PM's difficulties in working with colleagues and the Labor Party's Caucus. The arrangement did not work out, however: their contrasting personal styles and Keating's disappointment with the loss of his previous CoS (Don Russell, who had been appointed Ambassador to the US) proved to be insurmountable obstacles. Nonetheless, the six months as Keating's CoS involved Hawke in many significant developments, including the establishment of the APEC Leaders' Forum, the Mabo Indigenous land rights legislation, reform of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and Sydney winning the 2000 Olympic Games.

Allan went from the PM's Office back into the Department of PM&C as Deputy Secretary in March 1994 before being appointed Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. DVA was at that time undergoing major management reforms that Allan saw through to successful completion. These included the shift away from direct management of separate "repatriation hospitals" to contracts with State public hospitals and some private hospitals for the care of veterans. Amongst the innovations was the explicit priority given to veterans and their families, including with respect to car-parking, over the demands of hospital staff. Allan was also determined to improve the transition of military personnel into civilian life and to address associated mental health issues, a goal he also pursued when back in Defence later, but while the process was far better than Vietnam veterans had experienced, it was not as successful as Allan had hoped.

Following the 1996 election, Hawke was appointed Secretary of the Department of Transport and Regional Development (later renamed Transport and Regional Services), surviving the Howard Government's sacking of six secretaries. His first task was to re-orient the department to the new Government's priorities, which involved a less interventionist federal approach to cities and urban and regional development and a stronger focus on national transport infrastructure, regulation and services. He drew on his management capabilities to redeploy the large numbers of staff affected by the abolition of the previous Department of Housing and Regional Development with minimal redundancies, and to build a new corporate spirit.

In 1999, Hawke returned to Defence as Secretary, a role he had long aspired to and for which he had been groomed by Tony Ayers. His experience as a secretary gave him essential credibility both within the Defence organisation and with ministers and top officials outside Defence with whom the organisation had to work. Unfortunately, in line with the Howard Government's determination to control the public service closely, the appointment was only for three years. It was nonetheless a period of considerable change and development. One hundred days into the job, he gave an address to the National Press Club famously referring to the "learned helplessness" he had found in the Defence organisation. This concerned the passive reactions he saw to the excessive number of external reviews of Defence and the lack of confidence within the organisation to take charge itself and drive reform. He used corporate planning to identify a unifying mission and vision combined with clear business plans and a "plan on a page" for each individual to build motivation and enhance organisational capability. He forged strong partnerships with the Chiefs of the Defence Force, first Admiral Chris Barrie,

then General Peter Cosgrove, demonstrating by personal behaviour the mutual respect he expected between the civilian and military arms. He would frequently accompany the CDF to various Defence establishments and commands to hear directly from people on the ground.

This management effort was accompanied by a new major review, the *2000 Defence White Paper*, largely coordinated by Hugh White. This built on Dibb's "Defence of Australia" approach while taking into account more recent developments and experiences, including the multinational peacekeeping effort in East Timor. Hawke called on Dibb during this time for additional external advice and ensured the integration of management and policy formation. Following the 2001 terror attacks in the US on 9/11, Hawke and CDF Barrie advised the Government on enhanced security measures across the country.

The one issue that Hawke arguably handled less well was the so-called "children overboard affair". Hawke was insistent on the Defence "diarchy" under which the Secretary should not interfere with the military chain of command. Failures within the chain of command to provide timely and accurate reports contributed to not correcting the record about claims of children being thrown overboard by asylum seekers. Arguably, Hawke should have abandoned his strict position on the diarchy on this occasion and drawn on his superior political experience. But he certainly was not responsible in any way for the excessive responsiveness to ministers' partisan political interests that led others to mislead and not correct.

The then Defence Minister's obsession with detail and unwillingness or inability to seek a productive relationship seems the main reason for Hawke not having his contract extended. This was not the only occasion when the Howard Government failed to appreciate the skills and experience of senior public servants, but was arguably the one with the most serious of consequences. General Cosgrove showed how much the military admired Hawke by the unique honour of a Farewell Parade with full military honours in October 2002.

In early 2003, Hawke was appointed Australia's High Commissioner to New Zealand. He approached the job with great enthusiasm, recognising its vital importance to both nations and its historic basis in the ANZAC tradition. He formed a close relationship with the NZ Prime Minister, Helen Clarke, encouraging regular meetings with John Howard. More than many in DFAT, he was conscious of how close the ties are, the benefits they offer both countries and the effort needed to nurture them. He strongly supported RAMSI, the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, against advice from DFAT in Canberra. RAMSI was led by Australia and New Zealand at the invitation of the Solomon Islands' Government and endorsed by the South Pacific Forum. Beyond defence and trade, Allan was conscious of NZ participation in COAG forums, formal shared institutions such as Food Safety Australia New Zealand, and the newly established Australia and New Zealand School of Government. And of course, he appreciated sporting ties and contests.

With the completion of his three-year term in 2006, Allan Hawke's impressive APS career of 32 years came to an end.

On 28 February 2006, Allan Hawke was installed as ANU Chancellor by the Governor-General, Michael Jeffrey (a former Major-General when Allan was in Defence). This was the first time a former ANU student had become Chancellor. Drawing on his public service experience, Allan was actively involved in three senior executive retreats aimed at planning for “The ANU in 2010”. As Chancellor and Chair of the University’s Council, he contributed to a number of major developments while rightly leaving to the Vice-Chancellor, Ian Chubb, responsibility for driving the reforms. The relationship was not as successful as Allan had hoped, however, Chubb not being so keen to draw on Hawke’s experience and connections.

It was nonetheless a time of considerable change at ANU with the introduction of the college structure more closely linking teaching and research, the new building for the Crawford School of Public Policy (while conserving the historic Canberra House), the new John Curtin School of Medical Research building and the beginning of the new science precinct. Allan played a direct role in adjusting entry standards to ensure better access by local and regional students, the standards still being amongst the highest in Australia; he also championed stronger connections with the Commonwealth and ACT Governments and with business. More controversially, he initiated an honorary doctorate for Lee Kuan Yew, the founding Prime Minister of Singapore, aimed to strengthen ANU’s, and Australia’s, links with Singapore and the region.

Hawke’s Chancellorship ended in 2008, though his family connection with ANU continued as his daughter, Stephanie also graduated and gained a doctorate at ANU, in her case in clinical psychology.

Hawke was in great demand after leaving the APS to conduct various reviews and inquiries. Among the more than 20 exercises for the Commonwealth, ACT, NSW, Northern Territory and Victorian Governments were:

- A review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Protection Act;
- An inquiry into the Home Insulation Program (his report revealing far better understanding of the context of the “pink batts” affair than the politically based Royal Commission later established by the Abbott Government);
- An inquiry into the ACT Public Service;
- A review of the National Capital Commission;
- A study of the Woomera Protected Area;
- A review (with Helen Williams) of the Christmas Island Detention Centre.

The continued demand for his attention related in part to the approach he took. He would rely on a support team to identify and analyse the evidence and then draw upon his own experience and “end of nose” assessment, taking into account what those who commissioned the work might be willing to consider seriously. This combination of policy analysis and political judgment was a hallmark of the Hawke approach.

He also became heavily involved in a wide range of community and business organisations. Most prominent was his membership of the Raiders board which began in 2002 and led to him become Chairman from 2014, 20 years in total on the board, or half the life of the Raiders.

Other roles include:

- Board member of Actew Corporation and Icon Water;
- Board member of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA);
- Board of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI);
- Board of the MTAA Super Fund Trustees;
- Non-executive Director of Lockheed Martin Australia;
- Chair of Canberra University Campus Development Joint Venture;
- Chair of Trusted Systems and Solutions;
- Chair of the Southern NSW Local Health District;
- President of Barnardos ACT;
- Patron of Respite Care Queanbeyan;
- Patron of ACT Cricket.

Allan enjoyed people. He was a constant networker. Have lunch with him and half the restaurant would acknowledge his presence. He had a deep laugh that no-one could miss.

He was proud of his modest family background, never allowing his many top appointments to constrain his own style. Nonetheless, he enjoyed good food and good wine (as well as a beer), and fast cars. On becoming Defence Secretary, they had to lower the speed bumps into the carpark for his low-slung, red Holden V8.

He loved the horses and punting. He referred to the TAB as “the bank”: “I am just off to the bank, dear,” he would tell Maria. He was pretty successful too, the bank helping him to afford a smart car while at ANU.

His love of sport continued, becoming a regular golfer at Royal Canberra. He had also become aware of the role golf could play to cultivate connections from his time in Defence and New Zealand.

His pride in his Queanbeyan roots led him to do a lot of family research. His great grandmother, Rosie, was one of the children of Joseph Blundell, a former convict who came to the district in about 1827 and built Blundell’s Cottage. Blundell worked for Robert Campbell, whose farm was based around his house at Duntroon. Allan also delved into his father’s side, discovering links to local bushrangers!

His enthusiasm for the Canberra Raiders knew no bounds. He was instrumental in recruiting Raiders’ legend Ricky Stuart as coach. He loved the fact that he and the two previous chairs of the board had all lived in Bruce Street, Queanbeyan.

His attachment not only to Queanbeyan but also to the Canberra district continued as demonstrated by his role with so many local government, community and business organisations (as well as the ANU).

Hawke considered the management of people as the central ingredient to organisational capability and performance. He explained his “Results through People” approach as involving three components, each one flowing to the next:

- Achieving high levels of engagement, fairness and quality of life for employees as the organisation serves its clients, communities and stakeholders;

- Excelling at innovating and creating new products, services and operational processes that meet, and even exceed, customer expectations, ensuring productivity improvements and longevity; and
- Delivering sound levels of operational and financial performance.

He had an extremely positive view of what people could achieve if properly motivated and, particularly in the public sector, he saw employees' motivation to contribute to the public interest as the key driver. He was dismissive of performance pay, recognising the dangers to organisational cohesion and perceptions of fairness, and seeing the effort required to avoid the dangers as far greater than any possible benefit to organisational capability and performance.

At the same time, he was firm about lines of responsibility and holding people to account. His corporate plans set missions and visions to motivate while his business plans and "plan on a page" for each individual made clear his expectations. His approach to staff development also eschewed emphasis on comparisons with others, focusing instead on how each individual can improve themselves, learning from experience and finding opportunities for development.

Much of his philosophy came from his mentor, Tony Ayers. Allan kept a four-page leaflet of "Ayersisms" ('a collection of wisdom, wit and stories'), reminding himself and others of lines such as:

- "Good people select good people, bums recruit bums";
- "Imagine the result if we were all responsible for recruiting 2 or 3 people, each better able to do our job than we are";
- "My end of nose tells me" (analysis isn't everything); and
- "Now you're being logical" (a criticism that you are ignoring what "my end of nose is telling me").

Allan believed strongly in the role of the APS as an institution, merit-based, offering apolitical advice and administering government programs impartially in the public interest. He was concerned about the drift to politicisation and the impact on the capability of the service. More than most of his peers, he was willing to defend the public service in public speeches, including when he was President of the ACT Division of the Institute of Public Administration Australia in the 1990s.

He recognised the contribution a professional civil service can make to the national interest. It was his personal desire to be a part of that contribution that drove his ambition, not any of the trappings that senior appointments might offer.

Allan Hawke was made a Companion in the Order of Australia, the highest national award, in 2010 for 'his eminent service to public administration, particularly through the formulation and implementation of policy in the areas of transport, defence and education, and to the strengthening of bilateral relations with New Zealand'.

He was also a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Fellow of the

Australian Institute of Management (later the Institute of Leadership and Management).

Allan Hawke met Maria Senti at the Queanbeyan Rugby Club in 1973 and was instantly smitten. He married Maria in 1977 in Leeton, joining her extensive family of Italian and Sicilian heritage. It was a great marriage, Maria being Allan's rock who ensured his feet were firmly on the ground whatever eminent positions he held. As he told others, he learned the importance of two phrases: "I am sorry" and "yes, dear".

Their daughter, Stephanie, was their greatest collaboration and she brought her husband, Matthew, into the close-knit family. They added two grandchildren, Rosa and Harry, on whom Allan doted.

For over two years Allan suffered terribly from his cancers. All the time he kept up his spirits and looked positively to the future. Maria, Stephanie and Matthew provided extraordinary support. Release from his cruel illness occurred on 31 August 2022 but leaving a terrible deprivation for Maria and Stephanie and the wider family. And also for the extraordinary range of friends and colleagues whose lives he touched.

— **Andrew Podger, Paddy Gourley and Paul Dibb**

[The writers worked with Allan Hawke in Defence, for a time all together with Tony Ayers in the early 1990s. Paddy Gourley also worked with him previously in the Public Service Board. All knew him for decades. Andrew Podger was a fellow departmental secretary from 1994 to 2002. Each maintained close friendship with Allan until his death, including through many lunches of close friends of Tony Ayers.]

Diary dates

Meet the Author events

October 24, 6pm: Writer and broadcaster Richard Fidler will talk about his *The Book of Roads and Kingdoms* with Alex Sloan. *The Book of Roads and Kingdoms* is the story of the medieval wanderers who travelled out to the edges of the known world during Islam's fabled Golden Age, an era when the caliphs of Baghdad presided over a dominion that stretched from North Africa to India. Fidler is the author of the bestselling books *The Golden Maze* and *Ghost Empire*, and co-author of the bestselling *Saga Land* with Kári Gíslason. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

October 31, 6pm: Peter van Onselen will be in conversation with Mark Kenny about *Victory: The Inside Story of Labor's Return to Power*, which Peter has written jointly with Wayne Errington. *Victory* goes inside the campaigns in the 2022 election to reveal how Labor orchestrated its remarkable win. The win is seen as the most consequential in decades. As well as ending a "lost decade" of conservative rule and bringing Labor to power federally, van Onselen believes that it ushered in a new force in politics: the victory of the "teal" independents has changed both the face of the parliament and decimated the Liberal Party.

Women candidates and voters had their voices heard across the political spectrum.

November 2, 6pm: Frank Bongiorno will talk with Andrew Leigh about Frank's new book, *Dreamers and Schemers. A History of Australia*. In this compelling and comprehensive work Frank Bongiorno, Professor of History in the College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU, and President of the Australian Historical Association, presents a social and cultural history of Australia's political life, from pre-settlement Indigenous systems to the present day. He surveys moments of political renewal and sheds fresh light on the nation's democratic life. From local pubs and meeting halls to the Parliament and Cabinet, from pamphleteers and stump orators to party agents and operatives, his account looks at those in the halls of power, as well as the agitators and outsiders who sought to shape the nation from the margins. Frank is the award-winning author of the books *The Sex Lives of Australians: A History*, and *The Eighties: The Decade That Transformed Australia*. He is a regular contributor to media. Dr Andrew Leigh is the federal Member for Fenner and Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury. He is a former professor of economics at the ANU. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

November 8, 6pm: Chris Hammer will discuss his new crime fiction novel, *The Tilt*, with Michael Brissenden. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

November 14, 6pm: Raina MacIntyre will discuss her new book, *Dark Winter: Inside Pandemics and Biosecurity*, with Professor Russell Gruen. In the book, the leading epidemiologist and biosecurity expert examines the history of biological warfare, developments in genetic engineering and synthetic biology, and the potential for catastrophic laboratory accidents. She explores the debate around the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, investigates vested interests and looks at the shifting narrative since the pandemic began. She also looks at how we might avoid future pandemics. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

November 21, 6pm: Amy Thunig will be in conversation with Zoya Patel on Amy's memoir *Tell Me Again*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

December 1, 6pm: Katharine Murphy will talk about *Lone Wolf: Albanese and the New Politics*, her *Quarterly Essay* that discusses an eventful year in politics, offers a portrait of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and looks at future challenges. Katharine Murphy is the political editor of *Guardian Australia*, having worked in Canberra's parliamentary press gallery since 1996 for the *Australian Financial Review*, *The Australian* and *The Age*. She won the Paul Lyneham Award for Excellence in Press Gallery Journalism in 2008 and has twice been a Walkley Award finalist. She was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Canberra in 2019. *Lone Wolf* surveys the political balance and the national mood, and asks if the success of the "teals" and the Greens means that the centre of politics has shifted. Where could, and should, the Labor government be ambitious? Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

December 6, 6pm: Niki Savva in conversation with Kerry-Anne Walsh on Niki's new book, *Bulldozed: Scott Morrison's Fall and Anthony Albanese's Rise*.

February 6, 2023, 6pm: Chris Wallace will discuss her new book, *Political Lives: Australian Prime Ministers and their Biographers*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

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.

Cressida Campbell, inspired by the everyday

“My main inspiration comes from what is directly around me,” Cressida Campbell says of her approach to her art. “I remember combinations of colours I see in houses, pictures, gardens, buildings or sculptures here and round the world.” Campbell’s work as a painter and printmakers is the subject of a major exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia, which runs till 19 February next year. Combining keen observation with a delicacy of line, Campbell’s woodblock paintings and prints capture the often-overlooked beauty of the everyday. The exhibition shows the depth and virtuosity of Campbell's work, ranging from intimate interior views to panoramic coastal landscapes.

Jan Brown’s life, work at CMAG

A foyer exhibition of the work of Jan Brown at the Canberra Museum and Gallery is a tribute to the renowned Canberra sculptor who passed away in her 100th year in January 2022. Through her art, teaching and advocacy she played an important role in the city’s cultural life. The sculptures selected from the CMAG collection reflect Brown’s creative journey, beginning with the small Head of carved limestone from 1949 that reflects the intimacy of early motherhood. The birds of Australia’s bush capital became a source of fascination and inspiration for her sculptures, particularly those of magpies. Brown was also deeply committed to art in the public domain and this display features maquettes for two of her much-loved works, Kangaroo and Joey in Commonwealth Park and Icarus in Garema Place.

Five decades of Australian life

Shearers and sportsmen and women, politicians, migrants and celebrities, all have a place in *Viewfinder: Photography from the 1970s to Now*, an exhibition selected from the National Library’s extensive photography collection. The exhibition aims to show how Australia has changed over the past five decades, and how those who have seen Australia through the viewfinder have adapted to and used new techniques as photography has evolved, from film to digital. The exhibition also highlights the significant technological advances and increasing diversity of styles, approaches and techniques that photographers have used. The exhibition will run until 13 March 2023. Entry is free and booking is not required.

Items of note

Science 'critical' for nation, Kim Carr says

“Science has a critical role in restoring public trust in finding solutions to the big problems this country faces,” former federal science and technology said after he was awarded the Academy Medal by the Australian Academy of Science on 11 October.

Mr Carr was awarded the medal for advancing the cause of science and technology in Australia. He is only the second politician to receive the Academy Medal in its 32-year history. It is awarded to “a person outside the Fellowship who has, by sustained efforts in the public domain, significantly advanced the cause of science and technology in Australia or who has made a substantial contribution to the Academy, by means other than research.”

The President of the Academy, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said Mr Carr had been one of the most significant federal science ministers in recent decades.

“Kim Carr’s commitment to science was obvious throughout his nearly thirty years of parliamentary service,” Professor Jagadish said. “He committed a great deal of his political life, in government and in opposition, advocating for and defending public good research, science and technology, and education.”

When Mr Carr left parliament earlier this year, his contribution was recognised by people in higher education, research and politics. The Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, said the parliament had had no stronger supporter of Australian manufacturing and science.

Academy returns to refurbished home

Fellows and staff of the Australian Academy of Science returned to the academy’s headquarters, Ian Potter House, in early October, 989 days after it was extensively damaged during Canberra’s 2020 hailstorm.

The restored building was officially reopened by the President of the Academy, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, and Ngunnawal Elder and leader, Aunty Violet Sheridan, after a smoking ceremony. The building now known as Ian Potter House was built by the Federal Capital Commission in 1927. It was originally known as Acton Private Hotel, and later as Beauchamp House. The academy took possession of the site in 1985.

Both of the Academy’s historic buildings were significantly damaged in the 2020 hailstorm. Restoration of the adjacent heritage-listed Shine Dome including a completely new copper roof and improved energy efficiency. It officially reopened in June.

The Academy undertook a complete refurbishment and restoration of Ian Potter House to improve the building’s accessibility, reduce its environmental footprint and preserve its heritage values.

It had earlier been refurbished in 1986–87, when it was renamed in recognition of philanthropist and Academy Fellow Sir Ian Potter, FAA.

The most recent restoration was supported by a donation from the Ian Potter Foundation, which contributed \$500,000 to the works.

Exciton discovery could shape new data devices

Electrical engineers at The Australian National University have shown how to create exciton pairs in a new type of semiconductor structure, paving the way for next-generation technologies required for high-speed computing, information processing and data communication.

The research could lay the foundations for a new generation of smartphones and computers that are both exceptionally fast and also use much less energy than current devices.

The new technology has been developed by sandwiching together two sheets of bendable monolayer semiconductors and allows interlayer excitons to bind together and form pairs. The research is published in the journal *Nature*.

An interlayer exciton is a quasiparticle made by a negatively charged electron and a positively charged “hole” that are sitting in two different layers. Interlayer excitons form when light is absorbed in a bilayer semiconductor.

“Interlayer exciton pairs were predicted by theory decades ago, but we are the first to observe them in experiment,” lead author Professor Yuerui (Larry) Lu said.

The discovery could help the researchers achieve a process known as superfluidity, a condition where electrical currents can travel without any loss of energy.

New treatment in prospect for leukemia patients

Findings by researchers from The Australian National University (ANU) and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre might enable new and more effective therapies to treat people with the acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) blood cancer.

Researchers have found that AML can “switch off” a protein known as MHC class II, thus causing the leukaemia to become invisible to the immune system. This allows cancer cells to evade recognition and prevents the immune system from destroying them.

The researchers believe that drugs targeting this molecular switch could be used to restore MHC class II to the surface of the AML cells, so that the cancer is again visible to the immune system and can be detected and eliminated.

AML is a highly aggressive blood cancer that affects about 900 Australians each year. The findings could unlock therapies to treat AML patients who have relapsed after a bone marrow transplant. The principles of this research also hold out the prospect of serving as the foundation to treat a range of other cancers, including melanoma.

Associate Professor Marian Burr, Snow Fellow and Laboratory Head at the ANU College of Health and Medicine, said that hitherto it was not known how the leukaemia cells were able to switch off MHC class II and evade immune detection.

“Using cutting-edge CRISPR gene-editing technology, we were able to identify that a specific group of proteins, called the CtBP complex, were responsible for switching off MHC class II in AML and other cancers,” she said.

“Importantly, we found that inhibiting the CtBP complex using specific drugs restored MHC class II levels and enhanced the ability of immune system cells to destroy the tumour cells.”

Administration

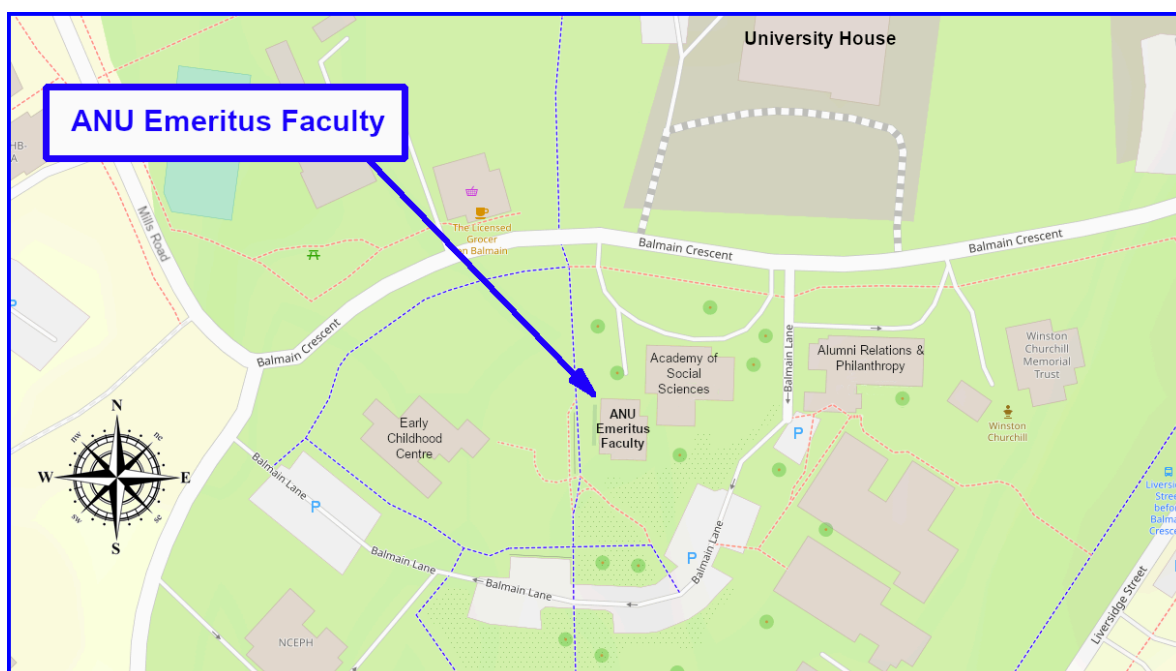
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

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

Editor: Peter Fuller

Mobile: 0416-02.12.06

Email: wordsnpix@netspeed.com.au

Assistant Editor: Kevin Windle

Email: Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au

Postal Address:

ANU Emeritus Faculty, PO Box 6050,
O'Connor ACT 2602

Web: emeritus.anu.edu.au

Meetings venue: ANUEF Office,
Molony Room, ANU,
24 Balmain Crescent,
Acton, ACT 2600

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