

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

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## Free tertiary education mooted in Accord, HECS discussion

Making university education free for Australian domestic students would be a radical but beneficial change, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Duncan Maskell, told students and staff on 20 June.

In comments reported in *The Guardian*, Maskell said he suspected that ‘the prospective burden of significant debt is still a big factor in people choosing not to go to university’.

His comments come in the context of the 7.1 per cent increase in the indexation rate of Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) repayments on 1 June, and consultations to develop the Australian Universities Accord.

The Minister for Education, Jason Clare, defended existing HECS arrangements on several occasions early this month, telling journalists in a doorstep interview at Parliament House on 2 June that there was ‘some confusion’ in the debate about how a HECS debt works, insisting that it is ‘interest-free’.

‘It's not like a loan from a bank,’ he said. ‘It's not like a mortgage, where the bank lends you money and they charge you interest and they make a profit. It doesn't work like that.

‘The taxpayer lends you money, lends you a dollar, and they get that dollar back at its real value. It's indexed to inflation. So the taxpayer doesn't make a profit at all. If there's a change to the way this works, the indexation, then effectively the taxpayer has to pay more.’

Removing indexation entirely would cost the taxpayer \$9 billion, he said, but university education was worth the cost: ‘Going to university costs you money to get a degree, but it's got real value too,’ he said.

‘The average income of someone with a university degree is about 100 grand. The average income of somebody whose last year of education is Year 12 is 70 grand. That's a 30 grand difference every single year. And the average HECS debt is \$24,000.’ Indexation didn't mean that someone's annual repayments increased automatically: ‘What you pay every year is based on what your income is.’

The minister's comments were echoed by the Chief Executive of Universities Australia, Catriona Jackson, in an interview on ABC Radio Far North Queensland on 1 June. ‘HECS debts are entirely different to all the other debts

we have for houses and cars and all those sorts of things,' she said. 'It's not that there's more money coming out of your pocket for your HECS debt this week or next week, it's that the term of the loan gets longer.'

Nonetheless, Mr Clare said, there might be scope under the Accord process to reform the way that HECS was applied. If someone with a \$20,000 debt paid off about \$2,000 in the next 11 months, the Australian Taxation Office indexed the debt based on the original \$20,000 rather than \$18,000. 'That strikes me as not right,' he said, 'and that's why I've said to the Accord team that are reviewing HECS and reviewing the higher education system, [that] I want them to look at that, see what can be done to fix that.'

When the Accord discussion paper was released in February, Accord Panel Chair Professor Mary O'Kane, AC, said that panel members wanted 'to hear big ideas. Think outside of the box ... Be bold and lateral in your suggestions.'

University education was free from 1974 until the HECS scheme was introduced in 1989.

Professor Maskell studied under the fee-free arrangement and said it was 'unequivocally true, coming from my background, that if I had been required to take out a loan I would not have gone to university'.

It had become 'sadly fashionable' to assume that students taking out loans to pay for university was a 'natural order of things', rather than a decision shaped by policy.

'I suspect that the prospective burden of significant debt is still a big factor in people choosing not to go to university,' he said.

One of the 'most important radical changes' that could be made to improve equity of access to tertiary education would be to make university free for domestic students, he said.

'Since the introduction of student fees we have not solved the problem of disadvantaged people having access to higher education,' he said.

'What we have done by normalising the business of the students paying their university fees, is to entrench in our culture the idea that university education is only of private benefit to individuals—not public benefit to societies. This is a gravely mistaken emphasis.'

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## **Green light for UNSW Canberra campus**

A defence and security innovation precinct will be a key element of the University of NSW's new \$1 billion campus on Constitution Avenue, Canberra. The city campus is expected eventually to attract around 6000 Australian and international students.

Approval of the master plan for the project was announced on 23 June by the ACT's Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, in conjunction with UNSW's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Attila Brungs, and UNSW Canberra Dean and Rector, Professor Emma Sparks. Approval means the development phase of the project can now begin.

Professor Brungs said having a second Group of Eight university in the national capital would strengthen Canberra's reputation as the knowledge and education capital of Australia.

'The new, state-of-the-art campus will be a hub for UNSW to deepen our existing collaboration with industry in the ACT, which is already exemplified by 350 staff co-located onsite,' Professor Brungs said.

The campus would strengthen UNSW's 'robust commitment to education, research and innovation' in Canberra, building on the strategic partnership of 55 years in UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

'Importantly, UNSW Canberra City will support capability growth in critical technologies and national priority areas such as cyber security and artificial intelligence,' Professor Brungs said.

Mr Barr said the city campus would help the further growth and diversification of the ACT economy through increased student numbers, research investment and the creation of additional jobs. It was estimated to generate up to \$3 billion in economic benefits for the ACT economy.

'The last three years have seen UNSW consult and work with the local community to ensure the master plan not only delivers educational and innovation outcomes, but also delivers a campus that revitalises the eastern edge of the Canberra CBD,' Mr Barr said.

Development planning for the campus has begun, with architects expected to be appointed in the coming months. It is hoped that building work will begin next year. The project is scheduled for completion in 2036.

The campus will comprise 14 buildings on the eight-hectare site. It will be built in stages to accommodate future growth. It is in close proximity to Canberra's Defence precinct—the Russell and Campbell Park offices, ADFA and the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

The campus will also be the home for UNSW Canberra's successful Launch initiative, a purpose-built precinct designed to host industry and entrepreneurs.

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## Eminent biologist to lead CSIRO

Eminent molecular and cellular biologist Professor Doug Hilton, AO, has been appointed Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). He will take up duties on 29 September.

Professor Hilton is the Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI), the Lorenzo and Pamela Galli Chair in Medical Biology and head of the Department of Medical Biology in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne. He succeeds Dr Larry Marshall, who has served as CSIRO's Chief Executive for eight years and whose third and final term ends this month.

Professor Hilton has led WEHI for the past 14 years. In this time, the CSIRO board says, the institute has become a multi-disciplinary organisation that makes fundamental discoveries and works with partners to translate these into

improved outcomes in cancer, infectious and immune diseases, developmental disorders and diseases of ageing.

A biologist investigating blood cell production and how cells communicate with each other, Professor Hilton maintained an active research program during his WEHI directorship. He and his team hold more than 20 patents and have translated their research through collaboration with venture capitalists and the biopharmaceutical industry.

The Chair of the CSIRO board, Kathryn Fagg, AO, said Professor Hilton would be ‘a great asset to CSIRO as the national science agency strives to solve our greatest challenges’.

‘Doug is a much-respected researcher, leader and communicator of the better outcomes science can deliver. His 14 years leading WEHI have been exemplified by his passion for research, mentoring and supporting young researchers, building the infrastructure to support the creativity of researchers and a dedication to translating research to improve the lives of Australians,’ she said.

Professor Hilton described CSIRO as ‘a unique national treasure, there to deliver science for the benefit of the community’.

‘The intent of CSIRO and my personal values are completely aligned, and I am looking forward to leading CSIRO as we work to solve our nation’s greatest challenges,’ he said.

Kirsten Rose, CSIRO’s Executive Director Future Industries, has been appointed Acting Chief Executive from 1 July.

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## Distinguished scientists launch ‘revolution’ in STEM teaching

Two Prime Minister’s Prize for Science winners have launched national teaching programs that they hope will revolutionise science education in Australian schools and help to reverse Australia's critical skills shortage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), especially among girls.

The Quantum Girls program and the Einstein-First program have been launched by the Australian National University’s Distinguished Professor Susan Scott and Emeritus Professor David Blair from The University of Western Australia.

The two programs are designed to modernise the teaching of primary and high school science in an effort to reverse critical skills shortage in STEM areas. Australian Government data from 2022 shows that girls' confidence in STEM subjects is generally lower than that of boys, and falls as they get older. The data also shows that women only make up 36 per cent of enrolments in university STEM courses, and just 16 per cent of enrolments in vocational

STEM courses. Only 23 per cent of senior management and eight per cent of CEOs in STEM-qualified industries are women.

Einstein-First has created a STEM education curriculum and teacher training program that introduces modern science concepts, giving children basic understanding of the science behind technologies that drive the modern world, as well as climate science and renewable energy.

‘Einstein-First has been so successful in Western Australia that we decided to offer it to schools all over Australia, said Professor Blair, who began testing the program in schools more than a decade ago. ‘Teachers and students love the program.’

The Quantum Girls program is bringing quantum science and quantum computing into classrooms across Australia as well as STEM clubs and hackathons that are designed to inspire girls. The program expands on the success of Einstein-First and aims to train 200 female teachers, who will then teach quantum science and quantum computing to girls aged 11 to 15.

The program is co-directed by Professor Jingbo Wang of UWA, who said quantum computing was predicted to contribute \$244 billion per year to the Australian economy by 2031.

‘We are at a critical time when it comes to developing our future STEM workforce,’ Professor Scott, an internationally recognised researcher in gravitational waves.

‘The challenges and opportunities are already here, whether it be AI, climate change or the future of computing, but at the moment our school system is failing us in what we need for the future. We can't afford to let that happen.

‘In Australia, we face a big problem of not enough school-leavers choosing to pursue a career in STEM fields, and this is especially true for girls. The Einstein-First and Quantum Girls programs are designed to ignite the interest and passion in science among primary and secondary school children.

‘Kids are introduced to modern concepts in physics like black holes and quantum computers through immersive, interactive, group activities. They love it, and we believe that this will translate into more kids choosing STEM careers,’ she said.

Dr Jyoti Kaur, who has a role in both programs, says the goal is ‘to capture students at that crucial moment when they begin to doubt their affinity for science. We transform their perception from “science is not my subject” to “science is my passion”’.

‘Equipping teachers with the tools of modern science and empowering them with hands-on activities is our mission,’ she said. ‘By fostering their expertise and enthusiasm, we unleash a wave of inspiration that ripples through classrooms, igniting a genuine interest in students.’

# Birthday honours for six academicians

Six Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science received an Order of Australia award in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List for their outstanding contributions to science.

Professor Glenda Halliday, an academy Fellow since 2021, was awarded the highest honour, Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), for 'eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or to humanity at large'.

She is internationally acclaimed for her research on neurodegeneration, improving our understanding of disease progression, and her promotion of neuroscience, mentorship and contributions to research evaluation.

She is Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Sydney, and has been a Research Fellow in the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Australian Research Council (ARC) systems since 1988. She was 2022 NSW Scientist of the Year.

Professor David Craik was made an Officer of the Order (AO) for 'distinguished service to science in the field of biological and medicinal chemistry, to tertiary education, and as a mentor'. He is a professor in the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience. He is a pioneer in the field of circular proteins and this year received the prestigious David Craig Medal and Lecture from the Australian Academy of Science for his research.

Four other Fellows of the academy were made Members of the Order (AM).

Professor Marcela Bilek, Professor of Applied Physics and Surface Engineering at the University of Sydney, is internationally known for contributions to the science and technology of plasma processes for surface engineering of materials.

Chemist Professor Maria Forsyth holds the Chair in Electromaterials and Corrosion Sciences at Deakin University. She is an expert in developing advanced materials for a range of energy and infrastructure technologies.

Emeritus Professor Peter Langridge, Affiliate Professor at the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide, is eminent in the development and implementation of cereal breeding technologies, in Australia and internationally.

Emeritus Professor Robyn Owens, a professorial fellow at the University of Western Australia, was recognised for 'significant service to science in the fields of computer vision and mathematics'.

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## Bruniges to lead national teaching body

Dr Michele Bruniges AM has been appointed as the new Chair of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), which promotes excellence in the teaching profession and school leadership. Most recently she has been Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment. She takes up her new role on 1 July.

## Seven presentations scheduled for projects symposium

Members will give seven presentations at the ANU Emeritus Faculty 2023 Projects Symposium at the Molony Room, 24 Balmain Crescent, from 9.30am on Wednesday, 12 July 2023.

Presentations will cover topics as various as the origins of the 2009 Mexican swine flu pandemic and the oft-repeated tale of a lost fish-hook across East and Southeast Asia.

The program is: 9.30–10.15 ‘From where did the “swine flu” pandemic emerge in 2009?’ (Adrian Gibbs, Mark Gibbs and Mohammad Hajizadeh); 10.15–11.00 ‘Voices in the Wilderness: A Digest of the Russian-Language Press in Australia 1912-1919’ (Kevin Windle and Elena Govor); 11–11.15 coffee; 11.15–noon ‘A Thai Buddha Image in the Cold War’ (Craig Reynolds); 12 noon–12.45 ‘Using equations as literary devices in “Iridio Ennui vs. the Boltzmann Brains” ’ (Daniel Martín); 12.45–1.45 lunch; 1.45–2.30 ‘A tale retold for a thousand two hundred hundred years’ (James J. Fox); 2.30–3.15 ‘Transferring Indigenous history and culture from garages to public archives for land claim claimants’ (Michael Walsh and Kathryn Wells); 3.15–3.30 afternoon tea; 3.30–4.15 ‘Mannar and Mantai’ (Aedeen Cremin).

## Diary dates

### *Touching the city's secrets*

‘How Cities Work’, a touring exhibition from Museums of History NSW, will run at Canberra Museum and Gallery until 8 October. This interactive family exhibition reveals the secret workings of our cities and allows visitors of all ages to traverse a spectacular cityscape full of tactile and sensory activities, including a lively hands-on construction site, a futuristic design station and a towering two-metre-high cityscape. The exhibition has been developed from the best-selling book of the same name, published by Lonely Planet Kids, and has been created in collaboration with the book’s illustrator, James Gulliver-Hancock. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children over three years of age; under three, free. Family membership (two adults and up to four children) \$32. CMAG members have free admission.

### *Australia's golden sporting story on show*

Australia’s rich sporting culture is the subject of the exhibition *Grit & Gold: Tales from a Sporting Nation*, which runs at the National Library of Australia till November. The exhibition celebrates the nation’s rich sporting heritage and its effect on our culture over the years. Through a collection of books, magazines, paintings, drawings and photographs, the exhibition retells the stories that have brought Australians the pleasure of winning and pain of losing. Memories and memorabilia of sporting events from the Olympics, tennis, swimming, cricket and racing will be on display. Entry is free, and booking is not required.

## Meet the Author events

**June 28, 6pm:** Bruce Wolpe, Senior Fellow (non-resident) at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, will be in conversation with Mark Kenny on his new book, *Trump's Australia*. Bruce is a regular contributor on US politics across media platforms in Australia. Allan Behm will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**July 19, 6pm:** Mikey Robins will talk with Alex Sloan about his new book, *Idiots, Follies and Misadventures*. Street Theatre, University Avenue.

**July 26, 6pm:** Nick McKenzie will talk with Karen Middleton about his new book, *Crossing the Line*, the story of the investigation into allegations of war crimes and murder by elite Australian soldiers in Afghanistan. John Blaxland will give the vote of thanks. T2, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**July 31, 6pm:** Ryan Cropp will discuss his biography *Donald Horne: A Life in the Lucky Country*, with Mark McKenna. The vote of thanks will be given by Allan Behm. T2, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**August 2, 6pm:** Anna Funder will talk about her new book, *Wifedom. Mrs. Orwell's Invisible Life*, with Virginia Haussegger. Sally Pryor will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**August 7, 6pm:** Megan Davis and George Williams will discuss their new book *Everything You Need to Know about the Voice*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**August 14, 6pm:** Albanian author and academic Lea Ypi will be in conversation with Allan Behm on her memoir, *Free. Coming-of-Age at the End of History*. Lea Ypi, a professor of political theory at the London School of Economics, was recently named as one of the world's top ten thinkers by the British magazine *Prospect*, and by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as one of the most important cultural personalities of 2022. The vote of thanks will be given by Kim Rubinstein.

**August 30, 6pm:** Melissa Castan and Lynette Russell will discuss their new book, *Time to Listen: An Indigenous Voice to Parliament*. Professor Castan is Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University and Professor Russell is Director of the Monash Indigenous Studies Centre. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**September 13, 6pm:** Leigh Sales will talk with Brian Schmidt about her book *Storytellers: Questions, Answers and the Craft of Journalism*. Sales takes her readers on a tour of the profession, letting some of Australia's best-known journalists talk about their work and their approach to the craft. Virginia Haussegger will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**October 3, 6pm:** Chris Hammer will be in conversation about his latest crime novel. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**October 9, 6pm:** Trent Dalton will be in conversation with Sally Pryor on his latest novel, *Lola in the Mirror*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**October 16, 6pm:** Isabelle Reineke will talk with Kim Rubenstein on her new book *Courting Power: Law, Democracy and the Public Interest*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.



**October 26, 6pm:** Kate Fullagar will talk to John Paul Janke about *Bennelong and Phillip: A Relationship Unravelling*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 2, 6pm:** Richard Flanagan will be in conversation about his new book *Question 7*, a blend of fiction and nonfiction. T2, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 7, 6pm:** Bryan Brown will be in conversation with Alex Sloan about his new novel, *The Drowning*. Cinema. Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 8, 6pm:** Christos Tsiolkas will discuss his new novel, *In-between*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 14, 6pm:** Wendy Harmer will talk about her memoir, *Lies my Mirror Told Me*, with Alex Sloan. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 22, 6pm:** Clementine Ford will talk about her new book, *I Don't*. 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. Pre-event book signings will be available from 5.30pm and again after the event. Registration is required and can be made at Registrations at [anu.edu.au/events](http://anu.edu.au/events). In line with ANU's Covid policy, masks are no longer required. Enquiries to the convenor, Colin Steele, at [colin.steele@anu.edu.au](mailto:colin.steele@anu.edu.au).

The Symposium by University House wine bar (Shop 13, 152 University Avenue, Acton, next to the Kambri cultural centre) will be open for dining after Meet the Author events. No bookings necessary. Food and wine details at <https://unihouse.anu.edu.au/eat/symposium/>.

## *Tradition, technology and creativity*

Objects made from glass, leather, ceramics, metal and wood feature in the exhibition *Material World* at the National Museum of Australia. The exhibition explores the story of design through objects shaped by both traditional and new technology and materials. The objects reveal the creativity of Indigenous peoples, early settlers, scientists, engineers, designers, artists and architects. Open till 15 April next year. The exhibition *Feared and Revered: Feminine Power through the Ages*, will close on 27 August. It features more than 160 exhibits that span 5,000 years of history, from 2800 BCE to the present. The exhibits, on loan from the collections of the British Museum, explore the power and diversity of female spiritual beings in cultural traditions and beliefs around the world, and shows how they have shaped understanding in a variety of cultures.

## *Expressing the notion of migration*

Four works that express different aspects of artist Haegue Yang's practice feature in the exhibition *Changing from From to From*, which runs till 24 September at the National Gallery of Australia. The exhibition title is taken from a poem by Chinese-British conceptual artist Li Yuan-chia and, the gallery says, evokes the notion of migration between locations. The four works featured express different strands of Yang's practice, linked by her interest in mobility and transformation. Yang describes her approach to art as a form of abstraction that is filled with personal and mystical connections.

## Gavin Willis Jones

**21 November 1940 – 27 August 2022**

When Gavin Willis Jones died in Perth, Western Australia, on 27 August 2022, we lost one of Australia's foremost scholars of demography, development economics and Asian Studies.

Born in Armidale NSW, Gavin built on his training as a star athlete to achieve academic success with First Class Honours in Economics at the University of New England. He came of age when demography was focused on international panic over explosive population growth and Australians were increasingly orienting their interests away from England and towards their Asian neighbours. He later recalled that his interest in demography was piqued by population lectures given by Eric Woolmington in the geography department. Despite pressure from his economics professor to cleave to that 'dismal science', Gavin was attracted to the relatively young and vibrant demography department in Canberra. Always an adventurer, he left Armidale to undertake a PhD under the guidance of Professor W.D. (Mick) Borrie.

His thesis topic was suggested to him by a recent graduate of the department, Jack Caldwell, who had completed his PhD on the *Population of Malaya*. Jack said Gavin might go the next step by studying the labour force of the newly independent Malaysia. Soon Gavin and his new wife, Margaret Donaldson, were off for half a year of fieldwork in dusty archives and conducting surveys across Malaysia (which at that time included Singapore). In a later memoir, Gavin related the story of how he and Margaret were members of Ken Rivett's Immigration Reform Group campaigning against the White Australia Policy. When they heard that the Immigration Minister, Hubert Opperman, was arguing that Asians felt no resentment over the policy, they decided to add a small survey to the fieldwork, approaching Malaysian secondary students and Malaysian members of the Australian Graduates Association to gauge their knowledge and attitudes about the policy. In an article they published in *Australian Outlook* ('Australia's Immigration Policy: Some Malaysian Attitudes', with Margaret Jones, *Australian Outlook*, 19(3), December, 1965: 272-286) they reported that Malaysians were both knowledgeable and resentful about Australia's racist law. Later they learned that an official of the Department of Immigration had complained about the publication to Professor Borrie. He never raised the issue with Gavin.

In the 1960s, the ANU Institute of Advanced Studies was emerging as an influential centre for Asian studies, attracting preeminent scholars across a wide range of disciplines. It was a magnet for bright students from across Australia and the world, all being well-supported with higher degree scholarships to undertake language studies and fieldwork. Gavin was in a cohort of demographers who would later become the foundation of many programs of population studies around the world, including D. Ian Pool, J. D. Allingham, M. V. George, Farhat Yusuf and Yun Kim. Later in life Gavin reflected on the decision to go to the ANU as the turning point in his life.

With a fresh PhD in hand, in 1966 Gavin was recruited by the Rockefeller Foundation-funded Population Council, following a recommendation from Professor Borrie. The Jones family spent three years in New York. Ever the athlete, Gavin entered a number of marathons. In 1967, in the iconic Boston Marathon which draws thousands of runners from around the world, Gavin came 30th with a time of two hours and 32 minutes. His CV doesn't, but should, list all the marathons and half-marathons he ran but we know from anecdotes that he pounded the pavement in many cities, including in the very hot and humid Bangkok and Jakarta races. Whenever a conference or meeting scheduled a 'fun run' you could expect to see Gavin in the front of the pack, chatting with colleagues all the way to the finish line.

During the 1960s the Population Council was spreading across the developing world, establishing offices in all continents (except Australia and Antarctica). For Gavin, this meant overseas projects with a team of professionals committed to population policy and demographic analysis challenges. It also led to overseas postings, where he laid the foundations of his expertise in Southeast Asia, first in Bangkok (1969-1972) and then in Jakarta (1972-1975).

In 1972, he teamed up with recent ANU demography graduate Peter McDonald to assist the Demographic Institute of the University of Indonesia to carry out Indonesia's first national survey of fertility and mortality. Their collaborative style with the Demographic Institute became a template for a generation of Australian demography graduates. Their professional links (and often their salaries) were from the ANU, channelling financial support from the USA-based Population Council or the Australian-Asian Universities Cooperation Scheme (AAUCS) respectively. But they worked under the supervision of the Indonesian directors of university population centres, and they formed strong collaborations and friendships with their Indonesian colleagues and students. At the same time their disciplinary ambitions grew across international institutions.

Caldwell came to be regarded as a fieldwork researcher of the first order. With his encouragement, Jones and McDonald spread the influence of the demography department across the ANU campus. McDonald managed a group of teachers and tutors to establish ANU's Master's degree in Demography, and Jones contributed to the program. They attracted a generation of Asian university and government employees for higher-degree coursework and this produced a steady stream of doctoral candidates and later the foundation for coursework requirements for demography PhD work.

In 1979, after Terence and Valerie Hull completed secondments with the Population Institute of Gadjah Mada University, they returned to Canberra to rejoin Caldwell's demography department. The group was approached by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to develop an outreach program for demographic research and teaching in Asian universities. They designed and established the International Population Dynamics Program (IPDP) to manage external funding for institutions from China and Indonesia to Vietnam and Cambodia. Over the years funding came from a variety of donors, including UNFPA, the Ford Foundation and AUSAID. The template remained strongly in the control of the ANU. Staff were hired by the university and seconded to local universities under common conditions, irrespective of the funding agency.

Gavin was an active participant in IPDP, recruiting and supervising students, contributing to the series of *Research Notes* published and distributed globally, and advising research fellows. Out of this activity arose the joint publication *Demographic Dimensions of Indonesian Development* (Hugo, Hull, Hull and Jones, 1987) which remains one of the most comprehensive treatments of Indonesian demography. During the period from 1987 to 1995 Gavin became the head of the demography group at ANU, steering the discipline through a time of growing challenges in higher education.

To the end, Gavin juggled a full schedule of consultancies, many of which were commissioned by UN agencies and national governments to feed into innovative population policies. He was particularly excited by the invitation to help then Prime Minister Imran Khan to supercharge Pakistan's family planning program. Ever the cricket fan, Gavin was delighted to be able to chat with the legendary fast bowler even as they pored over fertility rates and demographic projections. Khan's overthrow by a no-confidence motion undermined their innovative plans, but Gavin remained hopeful the report they prepared would eventually bear fruit.

Gavin drew great satisfaction from compiling one of the most lengthy and varied curriculum vitae in the discipline of demography. The document available to the authors of this note was compiled in 2021. The statistics on his publications over the period from 1964 to 2021 reveal a steady pace and varied range of topics. Four single-authored books were monographic in scope, covering issues of population, education and development (1975), the population of North Sulawesi (1976), population and development in Southeast and East Asia (1978) and marriage and divorce in Islamic regions of Southeast Asia (1994). Typically, Gavin preferred to work with collaborators. He produced ten collaborative monographs and 21 collaboratively edited collections of papers.

Most impressive is the list of over 240 papers published in journals and books. The typically modest apology is at the end of that list: 'Not listed are about 25 book reviews in scholarly journals, of which I have never kept a record.' Listed separately are conference and working papers covering five pages and associated with a plethora of institutions that Gavin visited or worked with over the years. All his friends and colleagues were aware of his productivity, and all marvelled at his ability to keep up this flow of serious academic work while supervising PhD students, examining PhD theses, travelling the globe on consultancies and conferences, and maintaining fitness through running, surfing and tennis. When asked how he maintained such productivity, he referred to his sporting training in his childhood in Armidale, where he had fostered a lifetime of driving energy.

More than that, his was a happy sociability that was infectious in forming friendships wherever work took him. He had no trouble finding a tennis partner, running mate or academic collaborator wherever he landed. Around the turn of the century, Gavin was at the peak of his international career, an indispensable pillar of stature and good sense both for reviews of academic bodies and the guidance of national governments in their population policy. He was in demand for his rare mixture of tactful congeniality, analytic clarity and technical mastery of data.

The boy from the Australian bush had come a long way when elected in 2002 to global leadership as chair of the Paris-based Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED 2002-2007). Peter McDonald was elected as the future president of IUSSP in 2005 but, following IUSSP practice, served as vice-president from 2006-2009 before being president from 2010 to 2013. What did the two Australians have that made them good candidates to head these international (European-dominated) organisations? Their answer is practicality and common sense but, more than that, like Jack Caldwell and Mick Borrie before them, they shared an Antipodean trait of a deep belief in global citizenship.

The ceaseless travel took a toll on Gavin's marriage to Margaret Donaldson Jones. It had broken down irretrievably by 2002, and Gavin found that making a move from Canberra was welcome. The ANU's loss was Singapore's gain. Anthony Reid had just agreed to lead a new Asia Research Institute (ARI) to boost the social sciences at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and seized the opportunity by encouraging Gavin to apply for the first advertised chair in the new institute. It may not have been a good look (wags suggested ARI was the *ANU Retirees Institute*), but he proved an immediate success. The generously funded institute had plenty of critics, but Gavin was the one social scientist that the engineers and medics could see was useful, even necessary, especially when he addressed the urgent problem of the flight from motherhood of Asia's urban women. Almost uniquely, he was at home in the whole of Asia, having advised governments, supervised students and written reports arising from everywhere from China and Japan to Iran and Pakistan.

In Singapore from 2003 to 2014, Gavin started a new family with Hennie Listianingsih, and a new circle of university, tennis-playing and family friends. He was a central figure in the Asia Research Institute (acting Director on Tony Reid's retirement), the sociology department and the National University of Singapore more broadly. He organised ARI's first public showpiece 'Asia Trends' conference on 'Ideal and Reality in Asian Marriage' (2004), and one of ARI's first Southeast Asia graduate student forums. Being at one of Asia's key hubs, he was in ceaseless demand for keynote lectures for conferences, which helps explain the switch in the ARI period from monographs to articles and book chapters arising from these conferences.

So central was he in the Asian population scene that his new journal, *Asian Population Studies* (2004–), appeared to arise seamlessly to become a major fixture by the time he laid down the editorship on leaving Singapore in 2014. Most of Singapore's 'ex-pats' are firmly shown the exit once they reach retirement age and the expiration of their contracts. But NUS just did not want to let Gavin go, inventing one responsibility after another until at age 74 he said 'enough'. He and Hennie chose Perth as a new and 'neutral' retirement base, close to Jakarta and Singapore. He continued to be exceptionally active there up to his death, with frequent consultancies in the region until COVID slowed travel. He found himself turning to Zoom to maintain consultancies and lectures.

Throughout his ANU career, Gavin was an active member of the ANU Indonesia Study Group and helped to organise some of the annual *Indonesia Updates* and advise the leaders of the Indonesia Project. Even after he left Canberra for

appointments in Singapore and Perth, he retained his links to the ANU as an Emeritus Professor in the School of Demography. Days before his death in Perth he spoke about plans for a visit to Canberra to attend the *2022 Indonesia Update*. He knew that the School of Demography had his name on an office door. The prospect of spending a week or so on campus with a new generation of PhD candidates was attractive and he said he would try to arrange a visit. Alas, that was an ambition that would not eventuate.

Gavin is survived by his first wife, Margaret Donaldson, and their children, Tanya Jones Tear, Andrew Jones and Gregory Jones; and his second wife Henny Listianingsih and daughter Stephanie Larasati Jones; and hundreds of close colleagues and friends who will miss his warm personality and good humour.

—Terence H. Hull, Anthony Reid and Peter F. McDonald

## Items of note

### *UNESCO applauds steps to protect reef*

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has welcomed decisions by the federal and Queensland governments to safeguard the Great Barrier Reef, including a ban on fishing with gillnets.

On 5 June the two governments announced funding to better protect threatened species along the reef, including more than \$160 million to significantly reduce net fishing and other high-risk fishing activities. This includes ensuring the Great Barrier Reef is gillnet free by mid-2027.

Gillnets are long rectangular panels of netting with diamond-shaped mesh that are held vertically in the water column and anchored to the ocean floor at either end. Fish swim into the net and are entangled by the gills, fins and spines. Gillnets are normally used in shelf waters less than 100m deep, according to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

‘We know one of the most immediate threats to the health of the reef is unsustainable fishing practices,’ the Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, said. ‘It causes damage throughout the reef, as threatened marine life like dugongs, turtles and dolphins are caught in nets and drown.

‘The removal of gillnets in net-free zones on the reef has already helped boost local fish populations. We want to see this happen right across the Reef.’

UNESCO’s Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, met Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in July 2022 and pressed for an implementation plan to protect the reef.

‘The Great Barrier Reef is a fragile jewel of world heritage,’ she said this month. ‘For many years, UNESCO has not ceased alerting the world to the risk of this site losing its universal value forever. We have proposed several concrete measures which provide a roadmap for tackling the problem. I am delighted that the dialogue between our experts and the Australian authorities has now resulted in a set of formal commitments.’

## *First microcredential courses announced*

The Minister for Education, Jason Clare, announced on 11 June that the federal government would back the design and delivery of up to 28 microcredential courses from 18 universities to help to meet skills needs in priority industries.

The courses have been selected in the first round of the government's Microcredentials Pilot in Higher Education program, which will provide some \$18.5 million to develop courses in such priority areas as IT, engineering, science, health, and education.

Microcredentials are short, focused courses in a specific area of study that are designed to teach and improve capability with targeted, job-relevant skills.

Institutions providing courses in the first round are the Australian Catholic University, Central Queensland University, Charles Darwin University, Charles Sturt University, Curtin University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University), Southern Cross University, the University of Canberra, the University of NSW, the University of Western Australia, the University of South Australia, University of Southern Queensland, University of Tasmania, Western Sydney University, University of Technology Sydney and University of the Sunshine Coast.

A second round of funding is planned within the next 12 months.

## *ANU facility watching gravitational waves*

A new facility at the Australian National University's Centre for Gravitational Astrophysics (CGA) has joined international work on gravitational waves that will place Australia at the centre of this field of science.

Gravitational waves are ripples in space and time that, when detected, allow scientists to study some hidden aspects of the universe, such as moments when the cores of massive stars collapse and the permanent distortion of space-time.

However, because gravitational waves are weak, they are extremely hard to detect. It needs the cataclysmic collapse of a massive star or the merger of two extremely compact objects such as black holes or neutron stars for the waves to be detected.

The ANU facility acts as a remote control room for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) in the United States, one of the leading gravitational wave observatories, and plays a major role in the latest global observing run.

Dr Bram Slagmolen of the CGA said the facility meant that Australian scientists could engage directly with the operation of the US-based gravitational wave detectors. 'This facility provides real-time information on the performance of the detectors, as well as notifications on detected events,' he said.

## *Folbigg: 'science has been heard', academy says*

The Australian Academy of Science has welcomed the finding on 5 June by former Chief Justice of NSW Tom Bathurst, AC KC, that reasonable doubt existed in the convictions of Kathleen Folbigg.

Ms Folbigg was convicted in 2003 of the murder of three of her children, inflicting grievous bodily harm on one child and the manslaughter of her first-born.

Commissioner Bathurst's findings enabled the NSW Attorney-General, Michael Daley, to recommend to the NSW Governor, Margaret Beazley, that Kathleen Folbigg be unconditionally pardoned.

The Australian Academy of Science acted as an independent scientific adviser to the Second Folbigg Inquiry. The President of the academy, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said he was relieved that an unconditional pardon had been granted, 'and that science has been heard'.

The representative of the Director of Public Prosecutions at the inquiry noted the importance of ensuring that the new scientific evidence it received was obtained from independent and reliable sources.

Mr Daley also noted that it was appropriate that NSW have the mechanisms to reconsider such matters in the light of new evidence.

The second inquiry into Ms Folbigg's convictions is believed to be one of the first times worldwide that a learned academy has acted as an independent scientific adviser during a public inquiry into an individual's criminal convictions.

## Bookshelf

*'Order! Order!'*

*A Biographical Dictionary of Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Clerks of the Australian House of Representatives*

Edited by Stephen Wilks

ISBN (print): 9781760465759

ISBN (online): 9781760465766

May 2023. ANU Press.

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/OO.2023>

This volume shines the first historical light on the men and women who have served in these national offices since Federation. They include Frederick Holder, whose campaign to embed a Westminster-style Speakership died with him when he collapsed dramatically in the Parliament; the much-loved Joan Child, Australia's first female Speaker, whose struggles as a widow with five children fostered her commitment to social justice; and Ian Sinclair, a warhorse of a parliamentarian who seemed to prove the poacher-turned-gamekeeper principle. The deputy speakers include the strange and bleakly serious James Fowler, who once hopefully mailed a film synopsis to American director Cecil B. DeMille and who ended his days warning of the perils of democracy. Amongst the clerks are Frank Green, who, at the height of the Cold War, indiscreetly befriended members of the Communist Party, and the popular Jack Pettifer, who grew up in an apartment in the building.



The book includes analysis of the kinds of individuals who typically filled these parliamentary positions, and the appearance of an Australian model of the Speakership based on pragmatic compromise. All three offices are typically more than creatures of political parties—a valuable quality at a time of increasing political partisanship.

## *Islands of Hope*

### *Indigenous Resource Management in a Changing Pacific*

Edited by Paul D’Arcy and Daya Dakasi Da-Wei Kuan

ISBN (print): 9781760465612

ISBN (online): 9781760465629

May 2023. ANU Press

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/IH.2023>

In the Pacific, indigenous communities live with the consequences of environmental mismanagement and over-exploitation but rarely benefit from the short-term economic profits such actions may generate. National and international policy frameworks ultimately rely on local community assent. Without effective local participation and partnership, these imposed frameworks miss out on millennia of local understanding and seldom deliver viable and sustained environmental, cultural and economic benefits locally.

This collection argues that environmental sustainability, indigenous political empowerment and economic viability will succeed only by taking account of local contexts and cultures. In this regard, these indigenous case studies offer ‘islands of hope’ for communities marginalised by increasingly intrusive and rapid technological changes, and by global dietary, economic, political and military forces with which they have no direct contact or influence.

## *An Age of Sanctions*

### *East Asia Forum Quarterly: Volume 15, Number 2, 2023*

ISSN (print): 1837-5081

ISSN (online): 1837-509X

June 2023. ANU Press

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/EAFQ.15.02.2023>

Global trade stands at a crucial crossroads. The multilateral trading system that underpinned globalisation for three-quarters of a century is being pulled apart by big-power politics and the way forward is fogged in mistrust. Global growth is projected to decline this year and remain anaemic. Inflation, the rising rivalry between the world’s two largest economies, and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine weigh heavily on the global outlook. The European war underscores how quickly the trading ties between nations might be undone and weaponised.

This issue of *East Asia Forum Quarterly* examines the impact of sanctions on the trading system well beyond the battlefield. It asks how far sanctions have succeeded in hobbling Russia’s war machine and questions their deterrent value, explores how supply chains have reshuffled around the reach of regulators, and asks how nations are probing opportunities created by the conflict.

## Administration

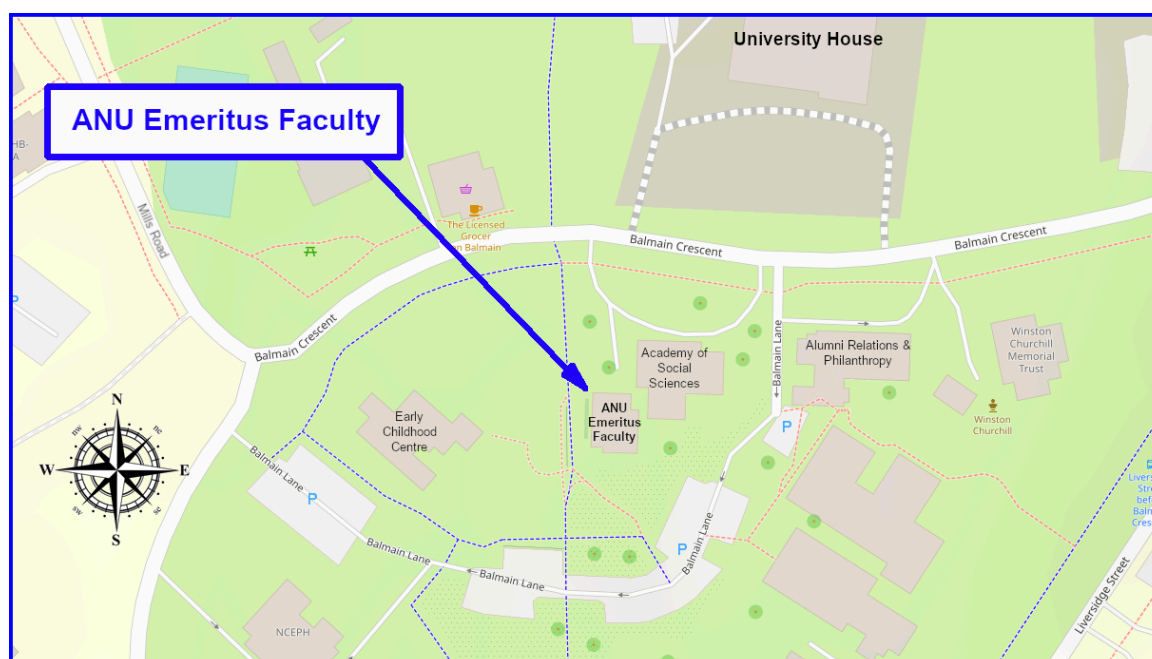
### Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

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 July.*