

# *EMERITUS*

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

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## **Police, Security investigate loss of Emeritus's Molony sculpture**

ACT Policing and ANU Security are investigating the disappearance of the bronze bust of Professor John Molony from its plinth in front of the Emeritus Faculty building in Balmain Crescent.

The loss of the sculpture was discovered on 1 November, but it is not known when it was removed or by whom.

ANU Security referred the matter to ACT Policing, which has been given a full description of the artwork, photographs, its history and estimated value, and a timeline covering the period in which theft may have occurred.

The bust honours John Molony, a former Manning Clark Professor of Australian History at ANU and founder of the Emeritus Faculty. The bust was created by notable Canberra sculptor Ante Dabro and installed in 2015.



Emeritus Professor John Molony, pictured at the unveiling of his portrait bust at the Emeritus Faculty building in May 2015.

‘We in the Emeritus Faculty are all shocked at the disappearance of the bust, as indeed is the artist who created it and donated it to the Emeritus Faculty,’ the Faculty Chair, Professor James J. Fox, said.

Ante Dabro was born in Croatia and has lived and worked in Canberra since the 1960s. He taught at the ANU School of Art from 1971 to 2004.

Ante Dabro has only recently returned from visiting cities in Europe where his work is highly respected and is becoming ever more valuable.

His notable public works include the Royal Australian Navy memorial, *Sailors and Ships — Interaction and Interdependence* in Anzac Parade, unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II on the navy’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 3 March 1986, and the bust of the navigator La Perouse which overlooks the Seine in Paris, a sculpture unveiled by the then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, in June 1989 — a work that, he said, embodied ‘the common values and goals which link the citizens of Australia and France’.

Dabro’s other notable works include *Contemplation* (2002) in Judith Wright Court, created as a response to the poetry of Judith Wright; the bust of Sir Winston Churchill (2001), commissioned by the Churchill Trust; four bronze figures at water features at Brindabella Business Park; and *Resilience*, in Civic.

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## ‘Partnership’ sets framework for collaboration with India’s universities

More elements to strengthen links between the Australian and Indian tertiary education sectors took place in early November, when the federal Minister for Education, Jason Clare, and the Minister for Skills and Training, Brendan O’Connor, took part in the meeting of the first Australia India Education and Skills Council in Gandhinagar.

During his visit Mr Clare released *A Partnership for the Future – Australia’s Education Strategy for India*, a document that sets out a range of steps which are intended to deepen the Australia-India relationship through closer education and research partnerships, supporting student mobility and developing Australia-India alumni networks.

Noting the longstanding educational links between the two countries, Mr Clare, in his foreword to the strategy, says that Australia’s aim is ‘to deepen and broaden the Australia-India education relationship which has enjoyed decades of cooperation between our students and institutions since the original Colombo Plan scholars came to Australia in the 1950s’.

‘The Australian Government has created this education blueprint to encourage closer engagement and stronger ties while laying the foundations for future education cooperation and collaboration,’ he says.

‘We have worked with Indian and Australian stakeholders to create a plan which provides pillars, objectives and actions where Australia can support India’s education reforms under its *National Education Policy 2020* and build on the education aspects of the *India Economic Strategy*.’

The partnership document sets out five objectives under three ‘pillars’: strengthening education delivery to bolster India’s education reform agenda; enhancing innovative partnerships to strengthen Australia’s and India’s higher education capabilities; encouraging research partnerships in areas of shared benefit; supporting the mobility of students, researchers and academics of both countries; and preparing Australian and Indian students for the global workforce

Mr Clare and his Indian counterpart, Dharmendra Pradhan, also welcomed the imminent opening of campuses of Deakin University and the University of Wollongong in India’s Gujarat International Finance-Tec (GIFT) City.

Plans to open the two campuses were announced in March. The institutions are the first foreign universities to set up campuses in India, a step that, Mr Clare said, represented ‘a significant milestone in the Australia-India relationship’. Deakin University opened applications for students in the first week of November and both universities are expected to accept students from mid-2024.

In addition, Mr Clare said, six of seven Australia’s Innovative Research Universities had signalled their intention to collectively establish a consortium campus in India. Western Sydney University had also signalled its interest in establishing an Indian campus.

The skills council meeting also coincided with the signing of four new partnerships between Deakin and Monash universities and Indian counterparts.

Peak bodies welcomed the developments, with Universities Australia’s CEO, Catriona Jackson, saying that it marked ‘further solid progress to strengthen the education and research links at the heart of Australia’s and India’s bilateral relationship’.

‘Australia and India are united in using education and research to make our nations and our region stronger, safer, more sustainable and more successful,’ she said.

Mr Clare said the range of initiatives were ‘all about strengthening the education relationship between Australia and India.’

‘These developments also highlight that international education is not a one-way street, it is not just about international students coming to Australia, it is increasingly about Australian universities going to the world,’ he said.

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## **13 December for Faculty’s AGM, Christmas party**

The Emeritus Faculty will hold its annual general meeting and Christmas party at the As You Like It Café, in the foyer of The Street Theatre, 15 Childers St., at 5pm on Wednesday, 13 December.

The Faculty Christmas party will follow immediately after the meeting. To help with catering, those intending to attend are asked to advise the ANUEF Secretary, Jan O’Connor, by Thursday, 7 December.

Minutes of the 2022 annual general meeting have been circulated by email. Members who cannot attend can vote by proxy.

# ANU leads consortium to open doors to higher education for refugees

The Australian National University has taken the lead in creating a new consortium that will help to create pathways to higher education for refugees from around the world.

The Australian Refugee Welcome University Sponsorship Consortium (ARWUSC), announced on 6 November, brings together 12 universities that will work together to design a blueprint for an education-led pathway for refugee resettlement in Australia.

In addition to ANU, the consortium currently includes Charles Sturt University, Charles Darwin University, Curtin University, Deakin University, Griffith University, the University of Canberra, the University of Melbourne, the University of South Australia, the University of Technology Sydney, the University of Tasmania and Victoria University.

Professor Bronwyn Parry, Dean of the ANU's College of Arts and Social Sciences and co-lead of ARWUSC, said the consortium 'marks an exciting new chapter in Australia's refugee resettlement story'.

'ARWUSC aims to create life-changing resettlement and educational opportunities for hundreds of students who have been displaced by conflict in recent times, offering them the chance to re-start their educational journeys and to bring their skill and expertise to Australia,' she said.

The consortium intended to work closely with the Federal Government and other key organisations in the not-for-profit and business sectors, including the Refugee Council of Australia, to introduce global best practice models of refugee education into Australia, she said.

'No such coordinating body currently exists in Australian higher education, but it is essential — not only to secure the future of currently displaced students around the globe but also to help them to realise their full potential as future citizens of Australia.'

The establishment of ARWUSC follows the government's commitment to increase the annual refugee and humanitarian program to 20,000 places in 2023-24, and to welcome an additional 10,000 refugees over time through complementary pathways.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, said ARWUSC was a 'welcome response to a global call to action' that would benefit Australia for decades to come. 'Global displacement has reached the highest level on record,' he said. 'By mid-2022, there were more than 32 million refugees around the world.'

'Yet fewer than a quarter of refugee youth have access to secondary education and only 6 per cent are enrolled in tertiary education. Education is a fundamental tool for people facing forced migration: with it they can build skills and qualifications, options, and hope.'

# Research universities essential to nation's strategic priorities: Go8

It was clear that Australia could not deliver on its strategic priority goals without the research capabilities provided by the nation's universities, the Group of Eight said on 26 October.

The Go8 declared that it was 'in lockstep with our major strategic partners', as outlined that day in the Joint Leaders' Innovation Alliance statement that was issued by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and US President Joe Biden.

The Innovation Alliance, based on cooperation in science and critical and emerging technologies, recognised that high-quality research and the advances it brought underpinned the three pillars of US engagement, the Go8 said. Those pillars were: robust economic cooperation and trade; foundational security and defence ties; and climate and clean energy production.

'The Go8 has been a strong advocate for research as a driving force, not just of Australia's productivity and economic development, but of our critical strategic partnerships in this increasingly geo-contested world,' said Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson.

'This is why the Go8 recently signed a strategic alliance on research and innovation with the Russell Group — our counterpart organisation in the UK — which echoes the key thrust of the Prime Minister's and President's innovation statement,' she said.

'The Go8–Russell Group alliance is critical to delivering the advanced capabilities identified under Pillar II of AUKUS, including Artificial Intelligence, Undersea Capabilities and Quantum Technologies.

'We also have deep and strong connections into research-intensive organisations in the US and are looking to formalise this through a similar agreement to foster academic collaboration and innovation to support our defence and security priorities.

'We note the inclusion of the agreement between Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Australian National University in the Innovation Alliance — which stands as an example of the deep and substantive agreements already in operation amongst our members with their US colleagues.'

Australia's Go8 universities conduct 70 per cent of Australia's university research and invest some \$7.7 billion in R&D annually, about a fifth of the country's total research spend.

'Our Go8 universities stand tall on the world stage, with three members now ranked in the top 20 globally according to the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2024, Ms Thomson said. 'This gives Australia the asset it needs to take our place among the international discussion and alliances that will increasingly shape the world, as reflected in the innovation focus of this agreement.'

# Universities Australia seeks new CEO after ‘tireless’ Jackson resigns

Universities Australia has begun the search for a new chief executive, following the announcement on 18 October that the current CEO, Catriona Jackson, would leave the tertiary peak body on 22 December.

‘The decision to resign the leadership of Universities Australia was not an easy one to make,’ Ms Jackson said.

‘After seven and a half years at UA, including five as chief executive, it is time to hand the baton on, and the end of the Australian Universities Accord process is a good time to depart.

‘I have loved serving the Australian university sector and will continue to work in and around Australia’s great universities.’

Ms Jackson thanked those who worked with her to protect and promote the sector, and gave special thanks to the UA chairs with whom she had worked closely, including Professors David Lloyd, John Dewar AO, Deborah Terry AO, Margaret Gardner AO and Barney Glover AO.

The Chair of the UA board, Professor David Lloyd, paid tribute to Ms Jackson for her leadership.

‘Catriona has been at the helm of UA since 2018, and in that time she has done an outstanding job of fostering an environment in which universities can deliver for the nation,’ Professor Lloyd said.

‘She is a consummate professional and a principled advocate who has worked tirelessly on behalf of Australia’s universities to promote our significant value to the Australian community and policymakers.’

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## Market practices and public service: a need to reappraise and rebalance?

Though the term ‘neoliberal’ has often been used pejoratively, some measures that might be described as neoliberal have served Australia well. However, there is increasing evidence in Australia and overseas that societies now expect too much of public servants drawing on markets to deliver public services, applying private business practices in the public sector, and undervaluing the public-interest motivations of many who work in the public sector.

Professor Andrew Podger AO will touch on these questions in ‘A Post-Neoliberal Public Sector’, his Emeritus Faculty Annual Lecture at the Australian Centre on China and the World Lecture Theatre on Monday, 27 November.

His lecture will explore the term ‘neoliberal’ and its antecedents of 19th century liberalism. It will review the reforms of the 1980s and 1990s that

might warrant being described as neoliberal, including both benefits achieved and the failures to deliver what was intended. It will also discuss more recent developments highlighting the dangers of overreach and the need for more fundamental reappraisal.

That reappraisal should not involve throwing the baby out with the bathwater, but lead to a rebalancing, recognising the importance of the role of government in a thriving liberal democracy, the unique attributes involved in its management, the case for reinvestment in its capability and the importance of checks and balances, including the need for a degree of professional independence in public sector organisations to promote both good performance in service delivery and proper accountability.

Andrew Podger is Honorary Professor of Public Policy in the Research School of Social Sciences. A former Public Service Commissioner, he was Secretary of the Department of Health and Aged Care, amongst other senior appointments. He has published extensively on public service matters as well as on social policies. Earlier this year he provided a report to the Royal Commission on Robodebt. He is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and a Fellow of the (US) National Academy on Public Administration..

## Obituary

### **Warner Max Corden**

**13 August 1927 – 21 October 2023**

Professor Max Corden AC passed away in Melbourne in October, aged 96. He was arguably Australia's greatest economist and undoubtedly its greatest expositor of economic ideas. A world leader in the field of international economics, he also made major contributions to economic policy analysis in Australia and was widely known in Australia and elsewhere for his work on the analysis of trade protection. His writings had a significant impact on Australian economic policy, especially its trade policy.

His best-known single work, and the one he considered the most original, was his 1966 *Journal of Political Economy* article introducing the concept of the effective rate of protection. Its essence was that the trade protection provided to an industry depends not only on the protection of its final product but also the protection provided to the intermediate inputs it uses. His later work made major contributions to the analysis of exchange-rate policy and the macroeconomic policies of developing countries.

Max Corden (original name Werner Max Cohn) came from a middle-class Jewish family in Breslau, then part of Germany, now Poland. The family was granted visas to emigrate to Australia and did so in late 1938, arriving in January 1939, narrowly escaping the horrors that were to come. Others of their extended family did not escape them. Max later became part of a group of European Jewish emigres, mostly refugees, who made huge contributions to Australian intellectual life. In the field of economics that group also included



Professors Heinz Arndt, Fred Gruen and Helen Hughes, each of whom subsequently became Max's colleagues at ANU.

The family settled in Melbourne. Max excelled at Melbourne High School and then entered the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Melbourne. He had wanted to study history but his father insisted that commerce promised better job opportunities. There he discovered economics and found that he was very good at it. After graduating in 1949 with first class honours, he worked for a time at Melbourne's *The Argus* newspaper and wrote a part-time master's thesis on the economics of newspapers. His paper on that subject was published in the prestigious *Review of Economic Studies*, helping him to obtain a British Council Scholarship to the London School of Economics and to be accepted as a PhD student by James Meade, later a recipient of the Nobel Prize. While in London he married the Australian Dorothy Martin. He commented later that they were a perfect match. He was a non-practising Jew and she a non-practising Anglican. They were both Anglophiles.

After completing his degree, Corden worked for two years at the renowned National Institute of Social and Economic Research. He and Dorothy returned to Australia in 1958. He took up a lectureship at the University of Melbourne and worked intensively on Australian tariff policy. His students at that time included the ANU's Professor Bob Gregory and the late Professor Richard Snape of Monash University. In 1962 he moved to the ANU, joining the Department of Economics, newly established by Sir John Crawford within the Research School of Pacific Studies, itself part of the Institute of Advanced Studies. At ANU Corden continued his work on Australian protection policy and also wrote papers on economic policy in Thailand and Malaysia.

The nature of his research was now established. He was primarily an applied theorist, an unusual combination. He was a theorist in that he seldom collected data and undertook no econometric analysis. But his theoretical work was applied in that its motivation was always the clarification of current policy issues that he identified in the real world and not the theoretical debates found only in the economic literature. His work became well-known internationally for its relevance, its clarity of exposition and its avoidance of mathematics, in favour of simple diagrams. He was a master of clear, understandable writing, illustrated by geometry.

In 1967 Corden was offered and accepted the Nuffield Readership in International Economics at Oxford, previously held by Sir Roy Harrod. He loved the intellectual atmosphere of Oxford and was well-known for the quality of his teaching. Perhaps spoiled by Canberra, he hated the weather. During that time, he published his two best-known books, *The Theory of Protection* (1971) and *Trade Policy and Economic Welfare* (1974, second edition 1997), both of which, he later said, built upon work begun earlier at ANU. While at Oxford his research interests broadened to macroeconomic policy, especially exchange rate policy. He remained at Oxford until 1976, when he and Dorothy returned to ANU, partly for family reasons. He took up a chair in his former department, now headed by Professor Heinz Arndt.

Corden's second period at ANU was not entirely happy. There was pressure from Heinz to shift his research interests to more empirical work on the countries of Asia and the Pacific. Max resisted, on the grounds that this was not



his comparative advantage, leading to some friction. When Heinz Arndt retired in 1980, Corden became the head of the department. He later commented that accepting this role was a mistake on his part. He was not a natural leader, except in a purely intellectual sense, and was reluctant to engage in the infighting for positions and funding that was required. He considered that his time as head of department was unsuccessful, and he never accepted a position of that kind again.

Nevertheless, his own research continued to flourish. His most-cited paper, on ‘booming sector’ economics, published in *The Economic Journal* and co-authored with the late Peter Neary, his former student at Oxford, was written at this time. Its essence was that when a booming sector raises the output of internationally traded goods, the absorption of the resulting foreign exchange earnings produces relative price effects that harm other traded goods industries — the ‘Dutch disease’ — and benefit industries producing nontradable goods and services.

In 1982 Max was invited to join the highly select Group of 30 and he remained a member until 1990. In 1986 Max was offered a six-month Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard, followed by a two-year appointment as a Research Advisor at the International Monetary Fund, all on leave from ANU. He greatly enjoyed the IMF job because it gave him the opportunity to meet many good economists with expert knowledge of countries of interest to him. He had intended to return to ANU until he was offered a position at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University in Washington. Max and Dorothy both loved the excitement of Washington, so he resigned from ANU and accepted the SAIS job, remaining there from 1988 until his formal retirement in 2002, at 75.

At the IMF and SAIS his research extended to include macroeconomic policy in developing countries. Along with Ian Little of Oxford, Richard Cooper of Harvard and Sarath Rajapatirana of the World Bank he co-directed a major World Bank study on that subject, leading to their influential book *Boom, Crisis and Adjustment: The Macroeconomic Experience of Developing Countries* (1993). The quality of his teaching at SAIS was well recognised, earning the School’s best teacher prize four times. After Washington, Max and Dorothy returned to Melbourne and Max continued to write on a wide range of issues including immigration and university policy, along with his lifelong interests in Australian economic policy and the economics of the Asia-Pacific region. In 2002 he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia. In 2008 Max’s former department at ANU was renamed the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, in recognition of their pioneering contributions. Their enduring impacts were complementary. Arndt strengthened the country-specific expertise of the department and Corden strengthened the rigour of its economic analysis.

In his 2017 memoir, *Lucky Boy in the Lucky Country*, Max expressed his sense of gratitude at have grown up in Australia and his feeling of patriotism toward his adopted country. But he did not think a patriot must always necessarily support the policies of the government of the day. He also discussed the issue of personal identity, quoting with approval Amartya Sen’s comment that we do not have a single, stationary or even necessarily a dominant identity. Moreover, he thought personal identity is not so much a matter of discovery as of choice.

Max's sense of his own identity was multifaceted and evolved throughout his life, but he remained a lifelong social democrat — a small-l liberal.

Professionally, Max Corden was best known for the clarity of his thought and that of his subsequent writing and teaching. He reworked his writing extensively, always searching for the simplest and clearest way of expressing his ideas. He wanted to be read and be sure that his writing was understood thoroughly. Personally, he was known for his keen interest in others, especially junior colleagues and students, who loved him for it. A little-known example of his personal kindness derives from his second period at ANU. He learned that a student in his department, a member of the oppressed Tamil minority of Sri Lanka, was in immigration limbo because the Sri Lankan High Commission had impounded his passport. On his own initiative, Max made an appointment with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner and pleaded with him to issue new passports to the student and his young family. He knew what it meant to be a refugee.

Max Corden was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy, and their daughter Jane. He is survived by his nephews Simon and Martin Corden and their children.

— Peter Warr

## Diary dates

### *Bellwood lecture examines the human past*

The history of human populations will be the theme of Emeritus Professor Peter Bellwood's lunchtime talk, titled 'What do we think we know about the deeper layers of the human past, and how do we know it?', at the Emeritus Faculty's Molony Room on Wednesday, 6 December.

In his talk Peter Bellwood, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology at the ANU, intends to describe human population history in all significant times and places. What biological, archaeological and linguistic questions arise, and how are they currently being answered? He will mention briefly our archaic hominin relatives and cover the origins of *Homo sapiens*, the first settlement and Holocene prehistory of Australia, the settlement of the Americas, the early farming and language family dispersal hypothesis, the Austronesians, and other topics such as the origins and spread of the Sino-Tibetan and Indo-European-speaking peoples, if time permits.

In the past year Emeritus Professor Bellwood has published *The Five-Million-Year-Odyssey* (Princeton UP 2022) and a second edition of his *First Farmers* (Wiley Blackwell 2023). He is now working on a new version of *First Migrants* (Wiley Blackwell, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 2013).

The talk begins at 12.30.

## *A revolutionary life reconstructed*

Kevin Windle has used Australian, Russian and British documents to reconstruct the extraordinary life of Alexander Zuzenko, the subject of the National Centre of Biography's biography workshop on Thursday, 30 November.

Zuzenko, a sailor and veteran of the 1905 Russian revolution, arrived in Australia in 1911 and was soon involved in industrial and political agitation and radical journalism. He led the Union of Russian Workers in Brisbane and the red flag demonstration in 1919 before being deported to Soviet Russia.

He returned to Australia in 1922 as a clandestine agent of the Communist International before being deported to Britain, where he was interrogated by British security agencies. Released to the Soviet Union, he was executed in 1938, accused of spying for Britain.

Kevin Windle is an Emeritus Fellow in the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, and is a specialist in the early history of the Russian community in Australia.

The workshop will be held at 11am in Seminar Room 6.71, level 6, of the Research School of Social Sciences Building, 146 Ellery Crescent. The workshop can also be Zoomed (Meeting ID: 84900589945, password: 630803; Join Zoom Meeting: [bit.ly/BioWorkshop2022](https://bit.ly/BioWorkshop2022)).

## *Photographers in Focus*

The work of photographers who worked for Australian Government agencies over six decades is on show in 'Focus: Australian Government Photographers', at the National Archives' National Office in Kings Avenue. The photographers, many of whom worked for the Australian News and Information Bureau and its successor bodies, were commissioned from 1939 to 1996 to capture images of the Australia way of life. The exhibition delves into the lives and work of these talented individuals who helped to preserve our rich visual heritage, among them Harry Frauca, Max Dupain and Mervyn Bishop. The exhibition is open from 9am to 5pm Mondays to Friday, and from 10am till 4pm at weekends. The exhibition is free. In addition, free guided half-hour tours will run at 11am every Sunday from 3 December. Bookings are required for these tours. The exhibition closes on 10 June.

## *Kngwarray's life's work at the National Gallery*

The works of Emily Kam Kngwarray make up the National Gallery of Australia's major exhibition which opens on 2 December. The exhibition celebrates the art of the eminent Australian artist and will offer an extensive survey of her output, bringing together important works, from early batik textiles to later monumental paintings on canvas. The exhibition will also feature an audiovisual collaboration with the artist's community, with songs that informed Kngwarray's works woven through a series of immersive soundscapes and audio tours. A senior Anmatyerr woman, Kngwarray devoted her final years to painting, creating works that encapsulate the experience and authority she gained throughout her life.

In another event at the National Gallery, the Director of Tate, Maria Balshaw CBE, will deliver the 2023 Betty Churcher AO Memorial Oration in the James Fairfax Theatre on Wednesday, 29 November. The lecture is named for Betty Churcher AO, Director of the National Gallery of Australia 1990-97.

## *The Archibald: portraits and painters*

‘Archie 100: A Century of the Archibald Prize’ celebrates 100 years of Australia’s oldest and most prestigious award for portraiture. The exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery includes portraits of renowned and lesser-known Australians and delves into the triumphs and controversies that have accompanied the prize, while honouring the artists who have made it the most sought-after accolade in Australian art. The touring exhibition from the Art Gallery of NSW is open till 28 January.

## *Winning moments from Australia’s sporting tradition*

In time, Australia’s unanticipated victory in the cricket World Cup in Ahmedabad will take its place in the nation’s sporting tradition, and find a place in future exhibitions like the National Library’s ‘Grit & Gold: Tales from a Sporting Nation’, which runs till 28 January. The exhibition uses books, magazines, paintings, drawings, photographs and memorabilia to recall the events that have brought Australians the pleasure of winning and pain of losing in sporting contests from the Olympics to tournaments and test series. Entry is free, and booking is not required.

## *Getting to grips with transport at CMAG*

Transport of all kinds is featured in ‘On the Move’, a hands-on exhibition designed for children and families. It continues at the Canberra Museum and Gallery till 28 January. Created by the Museums of History NSW in collaboration with illustrator James Gulliver Hancock, the show offers ways to discover amazing journeys, unique inventions, extraordinary vehicles and intrepid explorers as it takes visitors on a journey around Australia. People can discover how transportation works in busy cities and how fuel choices can have a positive impact on the environment. Entry is \$7 (adults), \$5 for children, but children under three are admitted free. A family entry (two adults, up to three children) is \$22.

## *Meet the Author events*

**22 November, 6pm:** Clementine Ford will talk about her new book, *I Don’t*, with Amy Remeikis. Virginia Haussegger will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**4 December, 6pm:** Liz Hayes will discuss *I’m Liz Hayes: A Memoir*, with Alex Sloan. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**6 February 2024, 6pm:** Lisa Millar will talk about her new book, *Muster Dogs 2*, with James Glenday. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**22 February, 6pm:** Karen Viggers will talk about her new novel, *Sidelines*, with Alex Sloan. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**6 March, 6pm:** Andrew Leigh will talk about his new book, *The Shortest History of Economics*, with Genevieve Bell. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**25 March, 6pm:** Julia Baird will talk about her new book, *Bright Shining: How Grace Changes Everything*, with Katharine Murphy. Manning Clark Hall, 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](https://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/>.

## Items of note

### *Sail away on a working holiday*

Emeritus Faculty members can take advantage of increasing demand among cruise companies to enjoy a modestly priced holiday in return for giving lectures in specialty fields during a voyage.

The specialised Sydney agency Eventz Speakers places special-interest speakers and destination/regional speakers on board cruises travelling around Australia and Southeast Asia.

The agency says there is a demand for talented speakers who can lecture on cruise destinations and ports of call that highlight the cultures and peoples of regions that the ships visit. Lectures can also cover world affairs, global security, globalisation, famous people, history, archaeology, colonisation and Aboriginal and Maori cultures, as well as the metaverse, new technology, astronomy, geology, inventors, and marine biology.

In exchange for a seven, 10, 14 or 18-day cruise, a speaker will typically need to present between three and eight lectures during a voyage and pay an agency fee. Fees range from \$A70 to \$A110 AUD per night, depending on the level of cruise and amenities offered. The agent fee for a typical 10-day cruise on Royal Caribbean is \$700.

In return, all port charges, meals and the cruise fare are covered for the lecturer and guest. This means that a speaker can cruise for a fraction of the amount paid by other guests. For example, a speaker and companion recently placed on a luxury Crystal cruise for 17 nights paid an agent fee of \$1700 for a cruise that for full-fare guests was valued at \$28,000 USD.

More information can be found at [www.eventzspeakers.com](http://www.eventzspeakers.com), or by emailing [laureli@eventzinparadise.com](mailto:laureli@eventzinparadise.com), or Eventz in Paradise on Facebook.

## *Declining satisfaction with Australia's democracy*

Australians' satisfaction with democracy remains high, but has declined over the last two decades, according to new research from The Australian National University.

The findings, released as part of the 2023 ANU Crawford Leadership Forum, show that 77.4 per cent of Australians say they are satisfied or very satisfied with democracy, compared with 81 per cent in 2008.

Study co-author Professor Nicholas Biddle said that the biggest change was that, compared with 15 years ago, fewer Australians were 'very satisfied' with democracy — 14.2 per cent compared with 23.4 per cent.

'However, in 2023 more Australians said they were "fairly satisfied" with democracy, 62.8 per cent, compared to 2008, when 58 per cent of us voiced the same opinion,' Professor Biddle said.

'And the number of Australians who said they weren't satisfied with democracy "at all" has marginally declined as well — from four per cent in 2008 to 3.1 per cent in 2023.

'What this shows is that while Australians' overall satisfaction with democracy has dropped, our democracy remains strong and well supported. However, what this data shows is that we should not take this for granted.'

People born in Australia were the least satisfied with democracy, with 75.2 per cent reporting that they were fairly or very satisfied, compared with 81.6 per cent of those born overseas in an English-speaking country and 80.8 per cent of those born in a non-English speaking country.

Education was the clearest predictor of a person's satisfaction. Satisfaction was quite low among those who had not completed Year 12, with only 67.5 per cent fairly or very satisfied. By comparison, Australians with university degrees were more satisfied, with 84.0 per cent of those with an undergraduate degree reporting they were satisfied or very satisfied.

Professor Biddle says many Australians who hadn't completed school or post-school qualifications see themselves as having relatively low social status.

## *Climate change affecting global water cycle*

Human-caused climate change is changing the way water moves around Earth, according to a new study involving researchers from The Australian National University.

They say the changes to the water cycle could have worrying implications for Australia.

More than 40 researchers in 10 countries examined hundreds of years of climate data preserved in corals, trees, ice, cave formations and sediments from around the world.

From this, they were able to explore the Earth's climate history over the past 2000 years and examine how periods of warming and cooling have affected the global water cycle. The study is published in *Nature Geoscience*.

Study co-author Dr Georgy Falster from ANU said that as the world became hotter, it affected the behaviour of water that evaporates from the oceans, which is then transported high into the atmosphere and falls as rain, hail or snow over land.

The study's lead author, Assistant Professor Bronwen Konecky from Washington University in St Louis, says there will be 'winners and losers' from changes that influence where, when and how much water is available for humans to drink and use.

'Although it's too early to say who the winners and losers will be as a result of these changes to water flow, the study suggests that more water cycle changes are likely as global temperatures continue to rise as a result of climate change,' she said.

Dr Falster said changes to the distribution of water around the planet could spell bad news for Australia, where extreme climate events could become more common.

'As Earth continues to get hotter, the places where it rains in Australia are going to change. For example, climate models predict that Tasmania will get more rain in winter, while southern and eastern mainland Australia could experience more droughts,' Dr Falster said.

'The threat of more droughts could have dire consequences for crop growth and food security and could also impact people's ability to gain secure access to clean drinking water, particularly in regional and remote areas.'

## *Island scholars combine to establish Pacific academy*

A meeting at the National University of Samoa in Apia on 24 and 25 October saw more than 60 Pacific scholars from across the Pacific Island nations agree to establish a Pacific academy of sciences and humanities.

Participants agreed to set up an establishment group to take the next steps to design an academy that represents Pacific scholars and their knowledge. The new academy has the endorsement of the Prime Minister of Samoa, Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa.

The meeting was facilitated by the International Science Council (ISC) and its regional office, the ISC Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific, which is led by the Australian Academy of Science. The event had funding support from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the Richard Lounsberry Foundation.

The meeting was attended by the Australian academy's Foreign Secretary, Professor Frances Separovic AO FAA; Academy Chief Executive, Anna-Maria Arabia; Dr Petra Lundgren, Director of the ISC Regional Focal Point; and Salote Austin, Oceania Manager of the ISC Regional Focal Point.

They heard directly about the needs and challenges facing Pacific scholars, and learnt about the importance of incorporating the 'Pacific Way' and indigenous knowledge into decision-making.



At present there is no mechanism for Pacific scholars to convene and bring together their knowledge so it can influence regional and international decision-making, despite the region experiencing profound impacts arising from a changing climate. Decisions are often made by others, even though local scientists and indigenous communities have unique knowledge about their regions and inhabitants.

‘A Pacific academy, designed by Pacific scholars, will provide a systematic and permanent mechanism to bring together the region’s expertise, and empower local experts to be part of solutions in their region and unite as a voice for science,’ Ms Arabia said.

## *Report finds financial pressures undermining cohesion*

Financial and cost-of-living pressures are among the main issues affecting Australians’ sense of belonging, pride and social cohesion in 2023, according to a major study from The Australian National University and the Scanlon Foundation Research Institute.

The report, issued on 15 November, underlines findings that economic and social issues, compounded with growing concern about inequality, have seen social cohesion in Australia plummet to its lowest level in 16 years.

The *2023 Mapping Social Cohesion* study of more than 7,500 people found that 48 per cent of participants believed that economic issues were the most important set of problems facing Australia, followed by housing affordability and shortages (14 per cent).

‘This is comfortably the largest share of the population citing these problems since the question was first asked in 2011,’ lead researcher Dr James O’Donnell, from ANU, said.

‘With financial pressures heightened, the proportion of people who reported being satisfied with their finances dropped to 61 per cent in 2023, down from 64 per cent in 2022.

‘Twelve per cent of respondents in 2023 reported that they often or sometimes went without food, and 22 per cent often or sometimes could not pay for medicines or health care.’

The study also found that 41 per cent of people describe themselves as either poor, struggling to pay their bills or just getting by in 2023. This is up from 37 per cent in 2022.

Dr O’Donnell said Australians were increasingly concerned about economic inequality. ‘A record high 84 per cent of people believe the gap between those with high and low incomes is too large. This is up from 76 per cent in July 2020,’ he said.

‘People who are struggling financially are much less likely to feel a great sense of worth and belonging in Australia, and much more likely to feel pessimistic about the future. We know social and economic inequalities in Australia negatively impact social cohesion more broadly.

‘With more Australians under financial pressure in 2023, it’s perhaps not a surprise that our sense of belonging and connectedness to each other is also lower this year.’

## Bookshelf

### *Visions and Revisions in Sanskrit Narrative Studies in the Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas*

Edited by Raj Balkaran and McComas Taylor

ISBN (print): 9781760465896

ISBN (online): 9781760465902

November 2023

ANU Press (Asian Studies Series Monograph 19)

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

Sanskrit narrative is the lifeblood of Indian culture, encapsulating and perpetuating insights and values central to Indian thought and practice. This volume brings together 18 eminent international scholars, who accord these texts the integrity and dignity they deserve. The last time this was attempted, on a much smaller scale, was a generation ago, with *Purāṇa Perennis* (1993). The pre-eminent contributors to this landmark collection use novel methods and theory to meaningfully engage Sanskrit narrative texts, showcasing the state of contemporary scholarship on the Sanskrit epics and purāṇas.

### *The Road to Batemans Bay Speculating on the South Coast During the 1840s Depression*

By Alastair Greig

ISBN (print): 9781760466053

ISBN (online): 9781760466060

November 2023

ANU Press

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

This is the story of competing ventures to create ‘the Great Southern Township’ on the South Coast of New South Wales in the early 1840s. The idea of developing the furthest reaches of settlement was linked to the hopes of southern woolgrowers for a road from their properties to the coast, over the Great Dividing Range. The township proponents dreamed that having a quicker and cheaper connection to Sydney would allow them to open a port second only to Port Jackson.

The story begins with the proposed coastal township of St Vincent, in an age of optimism: settlement is expanding, exports are growing and land prices are soaring, generating Australia’s first land boom. Before long, however, the colony experiences a catastrophic economic depression whose ‘pestilential breath’ infects those with a stake in the coastal townships. Greig gives an insight into many aspects of colonial life, including the worlds of Sydney’s merchants, auctioneers, land speculators, surveyors, map-makers and lawyers,

as well as the maritime challenges confronting the young colony. *The Road to Batemans Bay* is a chronicle of how Australia first developed its land-gambling habit and how land speculation led to ruin.

## *The Compleat Busoni, Volume 2*

*Busoni's other music: A complete survey*

By Larry Sitsky

ISBN (print): 9781760465957

ISBN (online): 9781760465964

November 2023

ANU Press Music

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/CB02.2023>

*The Compleat Busoni* is the result of Larry Sitsky's lifelong focus on the composer Ferruccio Busoni. Over three volumes, Sitsky surveys Busoni's vast output, provides an ending to the unfinished opera *Dr. Faust*, and presents definitive realisations of the *Fantasia Contrappuntistica* in two-piano and orchestral versions. New insights into Busoni's style and aesthetics are an integral aspect of this work.

Larry Sitsky, professor emeritus at The Australian National University, is an internationally known composer, pianist, scholar, and teacher. His books are fundamental reference works on subjects such as Australian piano music, the 20th-century avant-garde, the piano music of Anton Rubinstein, the early 20th-century Russian avant-garde, and the classical reproducing piano roll.

## *Sisters in Peace*

*The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
in Australia, 1915–2015*

By Kate Laing

ISBN (print): 9781760465995

ISBN (online): 9781760466008

November 2023

ANU Press

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

Is preparing for war the best means of preserving peace? In *Sisters in Peace*, Kate Laing contends that this question has never been solely the concern of politicians and strategists. She maps successive generations of 20th-century women who were eager to engage in political debate even though legislative and cultural barriers worked to exclude their voices.

In 1915, during the First World War, the Women's International Congress at The Hague was convened after alarmed and bereaved women from both sides of the conflict insisted that their opinions on war and the pathway to peace be heard. From this gathering emerged the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), which to this day campaigns against militarism and nuclear weapons. In Australia, the formation of a section of WILPF connected political women to a worldwide network that sustained their anti-war activism throughout the last century. *Sisters in Peace* provides a gendered

history of this country's engagement with the politics of internationalism. This is a history of WILPF women who committed to peace activism even as Australia's national identity and military allegiances shifted over time — a history that has until now been an overlooked part of the Australian peace movement.

## *Adapting for Inertia*

*Delivering Large Government ICT Projects in Australia and New Zealand*

By Grant Douglas

ISBN (print): 9781760466091

ISBN (online): 9781760466107

October 2023

ANU Press

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

Despite decades of experience, large ICT software projects in the Australian and New Zealand public sectors have continued to experience poor outcomes or have fallen short of original expectations. This is so even though these projects operate within historically developed institutional frameworks that provide rules, guidelines and controls, and aim to consistently improve outcomes.

In *Adapting for Inertia*, Grant Douglas questions the effectiveness of these institutional frameworks in governing large ICT software projects in the Australian and New Zealand public sectors. He also gauges the perspectives of a large number of actors in projects in both sectors and examines two case studies in detail.

The main conclusion is that the institutional frameworks are in a state of inertia: they are failing to adapt because of various institutional factors. Sadly, Douglas finds, this inertia is likely to continue. If there is difficulty in changing the capacity to govern, he proposes that policymakers look at changing the nature of what is to be governed.

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## *Administration*

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

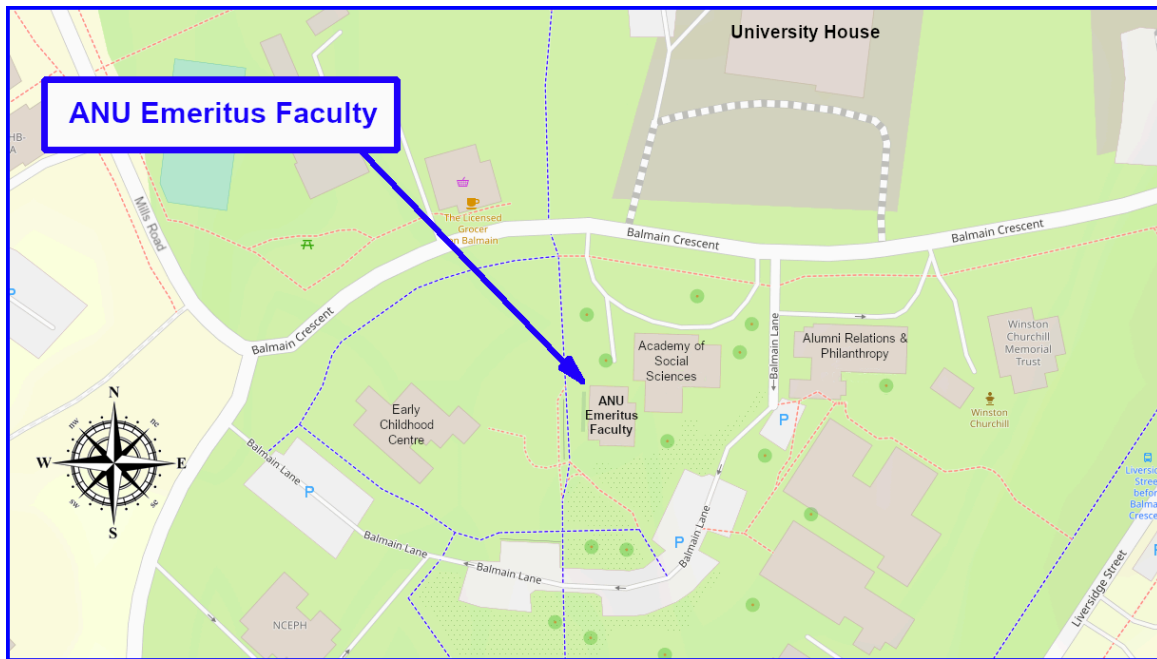
Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O'Connor, at [jantancess@gmail.com](mailto:jantancess@gmail.com) or 6247 3341.

### **Finding the Molony Room**

The Molony Room is at 24 Balmain Crescent, on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House.

It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj>, set back between 22 Balmain Crescent (the Acton Early Childhood Centre) and 26 Balmain Crescent (the Academy of the Social Sciences). Four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room. The room is marked on:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



## *Editorial*

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