

EMERITUS

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Government flags move to ease HECS-HELP debts

The Australian Government has indicated that it will consider changing elements of the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) in the near future, perhaps including ways to limit the rate of student HECS debt indexation.

The move comes as the Independent Member for Kooyong, Dr Monique Ryan, launched a petition on 14 March, calling on the government to ‘change the way HECS debts are indexed’. Indexation will see HECS debts grow by more than 4 per cent this year.

Such a change would also be consistent with the findings of the *Final Report of the Australian Universities Accord*, issued in February, which recommended that the HELP system be ‘modernised to make it fairer and simpler’.

In a radio interview on 18 April the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, said announcements on the question would be made soon.

He noted that HECS had been a good idea, having led to a ‘massive expansion in the number of people being able to do university degrees’. Indexation of debts had been in place ‘for some time’.

However, he said, ‘I think there’s a range of areas where we need to do much better with the younger generation, basically, and HECS is one of them.’

‘We’re developing a Universities Accord, with all the universities across the board, and what that has said is the system can be made simpler and fairer,’ he said.

The government was examining the recommendations—‘and we’ll be making announcements pretty soon on that. We, of course, have a Budget coming up.’

The authors of the Accord report found that HELP had ‘served Australia well by sustainably expanding university well,’ but believed that some features were now outdated.

Higher student contribution amounts, particularly those imposed through the Job Ready Graduates package, had significantly and unfairly increased what students repay.

‘While the HELP system protects students by ensuring that the repayments scale with their income, cost of living pressures and higher than usual inflation rates have increased concerns about the HELP system,’ the report said.

‘Higher levels of HELP indebtedness, and the public debate about these developments, risk deterring some people from seeking higher education at exactly the time we need growth in participation.’

To achieve a fairer and simpler system, the report authors recommended reducing the financial burden of repayment on lower-income earners, particularly women and those just starting out in their careers; limiting disincentives to additional work; changing the timing of indexation so that compulsory repayments were deducted first; and ensuring that people’s HELP loans did not grow faster than wages.

Dr Ryan’s petition calls on the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, to change the way that HECS debts are indexed. The petition had attracted 268,473 signatures by 5pm on 20 April.

She prefaced the petition with the statement that ‘the HECS debt system is broken.’

‘Last year, over a million Australians saw their HECS debt grow faster than it was being repaid because of an unfair indexation system,’ she argues. ‘The government got more money last year from our HECS debts than it did from its main fossil fuel tax.’

‘We should celebrate students going to university, not straddle [sic] them with a lifetime of debt.

‘One option is for the government to apply the lowest indexation rate in a year, whether it’s wages or prices, so that no one’s debt rises faster than they can pay it,’ she said.

At the time of the Accord report’s release, Senator David Pocock (ACT) supported recommendations to ease the financial burden on students.

‘With the cost-of-living increasingly impacting students, I ... urge the government to act now on the report’s recommendations to change how HECS-HELP loans are indexed, increase the level of student income support and reform unpaid placements,’ he said.

These and other measures would mean that ‘students don’t have to live in poverty and will open up the possibility of tertiary study to more young people,’ Senator Pocock said.

Senior UN role for Chancellor

The United Nations has appointed the Chancellor of The Australian National University, the Hon Julie Bishop, as its Special Envoy on Myanmar.

The appointment was made on 6 April by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. Ms Bishop will continue as ANU Chancellor while undertaking the Special Envoy role.

The UN said Ms Bishop brings ‘extensive political, legal management and senior leadership experience to the role’.

‘Throughout her career, Ms Bishop has strengthened engagement with regional partners and led international negotiation efforts, including the first ever United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea conciliation,’ the UN said when announcing her appointment.

Ms Bishop was Australia’s first female foreign minister, a role she held from 2013 to 2018. She had earlier held several other high-level Australian Government positions, including Minister for Education, Science and Training, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women’s Issues and Minister for Ageing. She was a member of Parliament from 1998 to 2019, following a 20-year career in law.

She has won the Weary Dunlop medal for her contribution to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and been named a Kissinger Fellow for her work on significant global policy issues.

Ms Bishop said: ‘I am deeply honoured to be appointed Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Myanmar to help deliver on the mandate of the General Assembly and the Security Council Resolution of December 2022.’

Myanmar has faced nationwide conflict since the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi was ousted by the military in February 2021.

Ms Bishop succeeds UN undersecretary-general Noeleen Heyzer as Special Envoy.

Research team foresees risk of decades-long megadroughts

Australia could soon experience megadroughts that last for more than 20 years, according to new modelling by researchers at The Australian National University and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes, published in a special edition of the journal *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*.

The findings, which look at potential conditions before factoring in human impact on climate since the Industrial Revolution, suggest that future droughts in Australia may be much worse than anything in recent experience.

The team also found that 20th century droughts in southwestern and eastern Australia, including the Murray-Darling Basin, were longer on average when compared with pre-industrial times.

Megadroughts are exceptionally severe, long-lasting and widespread. They can last for several decades or even centuries. An example is the megadrought in the United States’ southwestern region that started in the year 2000 and has continued for more than two decades.

Co-lead author Dr Georgy Falster, from the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences, said that if a megadrought occurred in Australia today, the consequences would be made even worse because of climate change, as any drought would occur against a backdrop of hotter weather.

‘The combination of climate change on top of naturally occurring megadroughts that could last for 20 years means that, in the future, Australia could see droughts that are worse than anything in recent historical experience,’ Dr Falster said.

‘We must consider, and prepare for, the possibility that one of these multi-decade megadroughts could occur in the near future.

‘One of the problems with understanding protracted droughts in Australia is that our climate observations since the 1900s give us only a handful of examples to work with. This isn’t representative of the worst-case scenarios that are possible just through natural climate variations,’ he said.

The study paid particular attention to the Murray-Darling Basin, the nation’s largest agricultural area. It could experience a megadrought every 150 years or 1,000 years.

‘One of the confronting findings of our work is that it is possible for droughts in Australia to be much longer than any of the droughts that we’ve experienced in recent times,’ Dr Falster said. ‘Droughts that continue for 20 years or more are something that we should expect to happen.

‘Megadroughts are part of the natural variations in Australia’s climate. But, worryingly, we are now also adding human-caused climate change into the mix, and that is probably increasing the chances of the next megadrought here.’

Co-author Professor Nerilie Abram, also from ANU, said human-caused climate change was contributing to longer droughts in southwestern and eastern Australia, including the Murray-Darling Basin.

The research was jointly led by ANU and Dr Nicky Wright from The University of Sydney, and also involved scientists from the University of New South Wales, The University of Wollongong and Monash University.

‘Australia’s future’ project depends on depth, breadth of science sector

The ‘fundamental link’ between science and economic development ‘cannot be realised with a science system that is not fit for purpose and relies on decades-old settings’, the President of the Australian Academy of Science, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said on 11 April.

‘We cannot have successful industrial policy without a productive, innovative and sustainable science system,’ he said.

While welcoming the Australian Government’s intention to legislate a Future Made in Australia Act, Professor Jagadish said a ‘future made in Australia’ would be heavily dependent on the breadth and depth of Australian science.

Science underpinned innovation and industry, but over the past two decades we have seen incoherence in research and development policy and investment in Australia, he said.

He warned that Australia still had not identified the nation's science capability gaps, let alone planned to address them to meet national ambitions.

Internationally, Australia was well behind the pack in using science to secure sovereign capability and make the economy more resilient to shocks. By contrast, the United States was boosting science investment through the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS Act.

China was trying to achieve scientific self-sufficiency, while Japan, the Republic of Korea and countries in the EU were lifting their investment in science and diversifying their economies.

'We need a strategic roadmap and a decade of commitment to boost government investment in R&D and stimulate expenditure by other sectors, which is critical for Australian productivity and industrial capability.'

Research champion appointed Provost

Professor Rebekah Brown FASSA has been appointed Provost and Senior Vice-President of The Australian National University. She will take up the position on 17 June.

Professor Brown will join ANU after more than a decade in senior academic leadership at Monash University, where she championed equity and inclusion, drove significant increases in research revenue and performance, and started initiatives to ensure capability development and excellence.

Professor Brown has published 220 papers in renowned journals, including *Nature* and *Science*, and has served on the editorial boards of several research publications. She has attracted a career total of \$123 million in competitive external research revenue as chief investigator of multiple research projects.

A strong advocate for inclusion, equality, diversity and First Nations self-determination at Monash, Professor Brown pioneered programs and mentoring schemes, and set institutional conditions to ensure greater representation of women, Indigenous people, and other under-represented groups.

She leaves Monash having raised the university's standing as a renowned research institution in Australia and around the world. Under her leadership, Monash University's annual research revenue increased by 70 per cent over five years and was ranked first in the Group of Eight for research quality.

Announcing the appointment, the Vice-Chancellor and President, Genevieve Bell, said she was delighted to welcome Professor Brown to ANU.

'Rebekah is a highly accomplished academic and a strategic, analytical and compassionate leader, and I am thrilled that she is joining us here at the Australian National University,' Professor Bell said.

'My colleagues and I are very much looking forward to welcoming her into our community. I know she shares our commitment to being a university of quality and distinction and also to fulfilling our mission as the national university.'

Top CSIRO post for Kirsten Rose

The CSIRO announced on 15 April the appointment of Ms Kirsten Rose to the newly created position of Deputy Chief Executive. She will take up the role on 20 May.

CSIRO said Ms Rose would focus on how the national research organisation collaborates with innovation networks, while also working on ways to increase the impact of science.

Ms Rose has been CSIRO's Executive Director Future Industries since 2020, leading programs that include research in agriculture and food, human and animal health, biosecurity and manufacturing, as well as teams that deliver national scientific infrastructure and science- and innovation-based services.

She has held senior technical and innovation roles for over 25 years in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. Before joining CSIRO she was the Head of Innovation, Sustainable Operations at BHP, where she had global responsibility for handling sustainability related challenges.

Ms Rose is an Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) fellow, a member of Chief Executive Women (CEW), and an AmCham (American Chambers of Commerce) governor in Western Australia.

CSIRO's Chief Executive, Dr Doug Hilton, said Ms Rose has an impressive track record working at the nexus of industry, government, and research.

'Kirsten is an extremely well-respected leader and advocate for the power of innovation and technology to create prosperity for Australia,' he said.

Ms Rose said she saw the role and saw it as an opportunity to bring together her passions for purpose-led innovation, people, and partnerships.

Obituaries

Jack Golson

13 September 1926 – 2 September 2023

Emeritus Professor Jack Golson was a true pioneer in the study of Pacific archaeology whose legacy through teaching, mentoring and research is immense and ongoing. Jack was elected to the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1975.

In 1954 Jack was appointed to the first full-time academic position in Australasia dedicated to the archaeology of Pacific peoples, at what was to become the University of Auckland. He hit the ground running, teaching courses and directing excavations of Maori sites, and founding local and national archaeological associations. He realised that New Zealand's past could only be understood by extending his archaeological brief to the wider Pacific, with the first modern surveys and excavations in Samoa and Tonga in 1957. He then followed up in 1959-1960 with excavations of an important pottery site,

originally discovered in 1948, on the Ile de Pins in New Caledonia. It turned out to be associated with the foundational Lapita Culture, the earliest culture in Island Melanesia and Polynesia beyond the main Solomon Islands.

But Jack's archaeological career could have gone in an equally pioneering but very different direction had he not accepted that job offer in Auckland. He was, until that moment, one of the instigators of interest in the Deserted Medieval Villages (DMVs) of England, and had commenced a PhD project on this topic. It had to be abandoned when he headed for New Zealand.

Jack was born in Rochdale, Lancashire, in the United Kingdom. His father was employed in the administration of one of the local coalmines. At secondary school Jack was inspired by a brilliant history teacher to pursue an academic career. He took up a scholarship to Peterhouse College, Cambridge University, to engage with Preliminary year History in 1943, aged 17. At 18 he was conscripted by lot to labour in the Nottinghamshire coalmines — a 'Bevin Boy' as conscripts were called. He returned to Cambridge in 1948 to complete his degree, along with many others whose education had been interrupted by World War II.

Jack completed Part I of the History Tripos in 1949 and went on to take Part II Archaeology and Anthropology in 1951. His shift to archaeology was greatly influenced by the Professor of Economic History, Michael Postan, as was his early interest in the medieval period.

Jack was a staunch member of the Cambridge branch of the Communist Party and selling the *Daily Worker* was a regular Saturday morning duty. Jack was eventually to leave the Party in 1956 over the Soviet Invasion of Hungary, although his past membership prevented him from entering the United States until after the 1980s, and initially prevented him from working in what was to become Papua New Guinea. Clearly the intelligence services of more than one country were keeping tabs on him over many years.

Jack commenced a PhD in 1951 and took up various forms of employment to fund his research, including working at the Public Record Office in London and its equivalent in Lincoln. In 1953, however, the recently appointed Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge, Grahame Clark, strongarmed Jack into applying for the lectureship in archaeology at Auckland University College (as it was then known). Jack's solid fieldwork experience was surely a large part of Clark's calculation, although one cannot avoid the suspicion that the patrician Clark also wanted to be rid of a dangerous communist influence in British archaeology and to place Jack as far away as possible.

Jack was in New Zealand from 1954 to 1960, with a few subsequent research visits. He managed through persuasion rather than legislation to curb the enthusiasm of the many amateur curio-hunters who were busily ransacking Maori archaeological sites in search of artefacts for their private collections. Through the various field schools organised in Auckland and later through the New Zealand Archaeological Association, in 1957 and 1959, he did much to promote high standards in excavation and recording. He was also critical in shifting the emphasis of archaeology there from an almost exclusive focus on artefacts to a concern with sites, and sites within their wider landscape. This led to the development of a national site-recording scheme. Before leaving for

Canberra in 1961 Golson had transformed New Zealand archaeology, both in its professionalism and its public profile.

John Barnes, then Professor of Anthropology in the Research School of Pacific Studies at ANU, saw the need to include Prehistory in that institution, and consulted, among others, the late John Mulvaney FAHA, another Cambridge-trained archaeologist but at the time predominantly employed to teach history at Melbourne University. John, in mid-1959, was emphatic that Golson was ‘the key man to approach’.

In starting his Pacific research program in 1961, Jack saw the value in re-targeting previously investigated sites and placing research students at them. Early archaeology PhD projects in what was initially just a one-man section within the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at ANU included those following up earlier work in the then-Territories of Papua and New Guinea, and in Tonga and New Caledonia.

Jack began a significant collaboration with John Mulvaney in Australia’s Northern Territory, which produced several notable PhDs. The 1970s saw a broadening of Australian interest in the by-then-independent Department of Prehistory at ANU, Jack having successfully argued from the start that Australia should be seen within the ambit of ‘Pacific Studies’. Jack expanded the archaeology section of Anthropology and Sociology in the Research School of Pacific Studies to the point where it became a separate Department of Prehistory in 1969, with Jack, as Foundation Professor, becoming Australia’s first Chair of Prehistory. Jack retired in December 1991 after a 30-year career at the ANU and a first Festschrift was presented to him in 1993, with a second in 2003.

Jack’s own research at the ANU very largely concerned what was to become Papua New Guinea. From 1967 most of Jack’s publications were on New Guinea topics, particularly the emerging evidence for 10,000-year-old agriculture in the New Guinea Highlands that culminated with final publication of the results of excavations by himself and others at the Kuk Swamp near Mount Hagen in 2017, when he was 91. Jack was crucial in establishing Kuk as one of the earliest sites of agriculture anywhere in the world, necessitating rewriting of every general introductory text on archaeology. The long-term agricultural history at Kuk required a global rethinking of conceptual frameworks that had previously linked the early emergence of agriculture to the development of socio-political complexity, neo-evolutionary ideas of ‘progress’ and the rise of ‘civilisations’. Kuk is now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, based on Jack’s research and that of his students and colleagues.

Jack also played a significant role in the organisation of the department’s Kakadu Project in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, in the early 1980s. He also provided crucial institutional backing and encouragement to the ANU-National Geographic Society Lapita Homeland Project (1984-87), investigating the origins of what was the foundational culture for the settlement of Remote Oceania, the entirety of the Pacific beyond the main Solomons chain, about 3000 years ago. The project set the agenda for Lapita studies for much of the next 40 years.

Jack was a regular speaker at international conferences and brought Pacific archaeology to a much wider audience. Many of his non-specialist published

papers were broad syntheses of Pacific archaeology, and it is for these he is particularly remembered among the international archaeological community. These did much to spark worldwide interest in the Pacific as well as instilling a very justified national pride among Papua New Guineans in their past. This particular contribution was recognised in 1992 when Jack was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Papua New Guinea.

Jack had an advisory role in the establishment of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in the early 1960s and served on its committees. He started the Canberra Archaeological Society and was also closely involved with the establishment of the Australian Archaeological Association. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, the world's oldest archaeological society, in 1987. Further recognition came with his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1997 and Life Membership of the Australian Archaeological Association in 2002.

In 1990 he was elected President of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) for a four-year term and continued to be a regular participant in WAC congresses for many years, always accompanied by his wife, Clare. In 2009 they were jointly awarded the inaugural WAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout his career Jack was very much an ideas man, always open to interdisciplinary contributions, particularly from various science fields. His theoretical position was marked by a gentle and understated Marxism inherited from his Cambridge days although rarely identified explicitly as such. He was a charismatic leader of research teams, unselfish and generous with his time and encouragement. He always came across as a very modest, almost diffident, person and very rarely got angry, even when much provoked by a situation or person. His serene calmness is something that sticks in one's memories of him.

His wife, Clare, predeceased him in 2022. He is survived by his children Kate and Toby, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

— **Matthew Spriggs and Tim Denham**

This obituary is also published by the Australian Academy of the Humanities



Dr Alison Jane Murray
6 August 1961 – 20 October 2023

The late Dr Alison Murray was a Research Fellow in the Department of Human Geography in the then Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University (ANU) between July 1993 and 1998. Before featuring Alison's academic work at ANU during that period and reporting on her subsequent career, it is important to document her formative years as an undergraduate student at Oxford University, a doctoral student at the ANU and a post-doctoral scholar. Collectively, this array of activities provides important insights into how she launched into challenging conventional social science

discourses and injecting a feminist approach to supply a refreshing edge in the then male-oriented academic labyrinth.

Alison was the second child of John and Beryl Murray (née Williams). Her parents were both born in Leicester, England, but met in Aden in the mid-1950s when her father was on a tour of duty as a senior civil servant in the UK Ministry of Works and her mother was similarly engaged in the Women's Royal Air Force. Alison was born at the British Sovereign Base Area at RAF Akrotiri on Cyprus while her father was on a subsequent tour of duty. Later her parents returned to England and moved to Solihull in the West Midlands. Alison was educated at Cedarhurst Preparatory School in Solihull, and later at the prestigious King Edward VI High School for Girls in Birmingham before securing her place at Oxford University.

In 1979 Alison was among the top students in the Oxford Entrance Examination and was awarded a Geography Exhibition at Mansfield College. Once there, her dyed hair and army fatigues set her apart from the Oxford athletic 'hearties'. She teamed up with a fellow student to explore radical viewpoints that were heavily influenced by Marxian thought. This emphasis was manifest in a thesis on 'Ethnicity, territoriality and the police: a study of black youth', which was prompted by the initial 1981 Handsworth riot in Birmingham and a switch to the later abandonment of community policing. The topic, which led to her graduation, involved socialising with members of the Rastafarian community and gaining their confidence to comprehend their perceptions and attitudes.

This earlier exercise dealing with the most marginalised groups, coupled with a visit to Indonesia and seeing the government's repressive treatment of hawkers, squatters and trishaw pedallers, prompted Alison's application to undertake doctoral research in the Department of Human Geography at ANU. At the time the department was at the forefront of research into the informal sector in food, shelter and transport within major cities in Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, her proposed research offered a new dimension by focusing upon women exploited and ignored by policymakers. She saw the transition from matrilineal societies in rural settings to life in urban areas in Indonesia, occasioned by the intrusion of the capitalist relations of production and a sort of individuation, leading to the exploitation of women and relegation of their position in the family to hawking and selling. Her quick and sensitive responses to probing questions when interviewed by an Oxford academic on behalf of the department revealed a deep knowledge of the relevant literature and prompted the granting of a doctoral scholarship at ANU.

After studying the Indonesian language, Alison's initial focus in her four-year doctoral thesis was a series of in-depth case studies to explore the time-geography of a limited number of street sellers in Jakarta's working-class area of Kampung Manggarai. Discussion at the department's rigorous pre-fieldwork seminars and system of annual reports highlighted a concern with her limited number of respondents. In reply, she added to the number of respondents and emphasised other female occupations, including work in the formal sector and prostitution in Bangka within South Jakarta's middle-class suburb of Kebayoran Baru. Although the addition of self-employed women engaged in prostitution was confined to a single chapter, its inclusion had a remarkable effect on transforming her evocative PhD thesis, which was then titled 'No

Money No Honey: A Study of Street Sellers and Prostitutes in Jakarta', and helped shape her post-doctoral career.

After graduation in 1987 Alison drew on insights from French social philosophy to establish herself at the forefront of contemporary urban geography, especially in the new area of sexuality and space, and as an Indonesian specialist. The latter involved gaining mastery of educated and vernacular Indonesian to deepen her understanding of urban popular culture. In 1989 this focus gave rise to work as a consultant, organiser and musician with the performing company of the distinguished writer-director W.S. Rendra known as the *Bengkel Teater Rendra* (Rendra Theatre Workshop). By 1990 she had joined the Indonesian Rainforest Conservation Network. In 1991 her proactive doctoral thesis was published as a book by Oxford University Press (Murray, 1991). The publication coincided with her becoming a Research Affiliate and Part-Time Lecturer in the Department of Indonesian and Malayan Studies at the University of Sydney, where her lectures on 'Poverty, Urbanisation and Popular Culture and Islam: The Family and Literature', were major student drawcards. By 1992 her work took on a practical bent when she became the Education Officer for the Sex Workers Outreach Project in Sydney, which prompted her to create and workshop the best practice models of community development and peer support for marginal groups of sex workers in Australia. This array of activities enabled her to draw upon sources beyond academia, ranging from music through pop art and political activism to religion, while still being able to subject them to both the necessary logical rigour and approved professional standards.

By 1993 a review of Alison's book by Susan Blackburn in *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* (8 [2]: 361-363) suggested the need in Indonesia for 'a special kind of woman (and it does require a *woman*) to conduct research on prostitution'. There were also reviews by Sian Jay in 1993 in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* and in 1995 by Patrick Guinness in *Canberra Anthropology*. The proposition was that Alison 'seems to have what it takes' and required an opportunity to fulfill this task. This recommendation, coupled with the translation of her book into Indonesian and Japanese, contributed to Alison being appointed a Research Fellow in the Department of Human Geography to widen staff horizons as its only female member. Given her colourful post-doctoral career, Alison's mentor envisaged that she would arrive for the new appointment on a Harley Davidson, replete with a new set of tattoos and fresh from her early morning performance with the Dodgems in Balmain.

Once back in Canberra Alison continued her participatory work with subcultural communities, which was recognised as being innovative and influential in both style and theory. She continued collaborating on urban sexual subcultures in Indonesia with B J D Gayatri and Dede Oetomo but extended her interests to encompass other cities in Southeast Asia and Papua New Guinea. Besides co-operating on projects with Peter Jackson (ANU), Dennis Altman (Latrobe) and Gerard Sullivan (Sydney), she studied Thai sex workers in Sydney with Linda Brockett (Sydney) and teamed up with Tess Robinson (Macquarie) on sex work and peer education. This research had immediate practical implications for sex-worker organisations and prompted

Alison's inclusion on several government bodies addressing HIV/AIDS strategies.

Another dimension of Alison's work was the focus on changing iconography and gender in Southeast Asia. Research in 1994 and 1995 enabled her to extend an earlier investigation of the cultural production of the body among the former Kenyak-Kayan head-hunters in central Kalimantan, Indonesia (1990), by comparing them with their Kalinga counterparts in Luzon's Chico Valley in The Philippines. The broader study was embodied in her unpublished tattoo monograph 'Drawing Blood', which highlighted that past marks of inclusion among former headhunters had become marks of exclusion. This initial foray was followed by an incursion into an unplumbed topic: 'Female body and construction of deviance in the Asia-Pacific'. Her research centred upon the body — the female body marked by force (prison scars), lesbian crew cut, track marks or choice tattoos. The research question was on how these signifiers were used to exclude deviant society from mainstream society affected by urbanisation and globalisation. Who can forget Alison's enlightening conference presentation on this topic that began by taking off her jacket and starting the discussion with her own relevant tattoos?

Alison's research interests ranged across social geography, gender issues, sexuality, sex work, HIV/AIDS, clandestine urban subcultures and performance, iconography, the body, and cultural practice, which permeated her teaching and supervision at ANU. In 1995 she joined in a graduate program with Peter Jackson on 'Sexual Subcultures in Southeast Asia' and lectured in the then Faculties on the 'Anthropology of Southeast Asia'. She was involved deeply in the work of three successful PhD theses in Human Geography — Lisa Law's 'Dancing in Cebu: mapping bodies, subjectivities and spaces in an era of HIV/AIDS' (1996); Harriot Beazley's ' "A little but enough": street children's subcultures in Yogyakarta, Indonesia' (1999) and Yeh Chienwei's 'Colonial Taipei: a family caught in Japanese space and time' (2000) — and one in Demography, Fariastuti Djafar's 'Women, work and household dynamics in urban Kalimantan' (1997). Also, she supported two master's students — Dayaneetha De Silva on 'Hardcore punk in Singapore' (Southeast Asian Studies) and Anke van der Steeren 'STDS in Indonesia' (Anthropology) — and one Honours student — Colin Rundle on 'Linguistics: Language and sex in Indonesia'.

At the end of five years at ANU Alison was awarded a fellowship at the University of Leiden, which led to the publication of *Pink Fits: Sex, Sexuality and Discourse in the Asia Pacific* (Murray, 2001). Later she was a project officer in Port Moresby for PNG Friends Frangipani; a lecturer at Charles Darwin University; a consultant for the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation; a lecturer for both the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney; and a consultant for the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers in Bangkok and Sydney before becoming a freelance writer and shortening her first name to Aly.

Sadly, Aly's latter years were punctuated by ill-health, which brought about her passing at a relatively early age. Her engaging, independent, vibrant and warm personality, incisive and innovative intellectuality, and deep knowledge of *kampung* life in Indonesia will be missed by a legion of like-minded activists,

colleagues, and musicians. She is survived by her long-time partner, Tess Robinson, their son Jaka, and her brother, Andrew, in England.

— Peter J. Rimmer



Professor George Fane **14 January 1944–12 November 2023**

Retired Professor George Fane died suddenly at the age of 79 years on 12 November 2023.

George had a long association with the ANU, having been recruited by the Economics Department in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce in 1976. During 1988–91 he was seconded to the Economics Department in the Research School of Social Sciences. His next move was in 1992 to the Division of Economics in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies (now the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics in the Crawford School of Public Policy, College of Asia and the Pacific), where he worked until his retirement in 2006, having been appointed Professor in 2003. To our knowledge, no other economist can claim to have found an academic home in all three of ANU's rather diverse economics departments.

Although George was born into a relatively poor family, it was very important to his father that his son would grow up as an English gentleman, and sacrifices were made to send George to a boarding school at the age of nine. Perhaps as the first sign of the academic career to follow he won a scholarship enabling him to pursue an education at Wellington College, a prestigious boarding school initially established for orphans of army officers. At Wellington he met a teacher who encouraged him to be controversial and questioning, a habit he maintained all his life.

George did well at school and received a scholarship to study chemistry at Oxford. He began the Chemistry degree but decided it was not for him and eventually moved to Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He graduated with a first-class honours BA and then went to work at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, where he was part of a team developing a macro-model of the British economy. There he met his first wife, Marie Pennington, whom he married 1968. They soon set off to America for George to take up a Harkness Fellowship, studying for an Economics PhD at Harvard. His PhD supervisor was Professor Zvi Griliches, whose major fields of study included the diffusion of technological change in the economy, the role of education and its contribution to economic growth, methods for measuring the sources of economic growth, and the role of science in research and development. His influence can be seen in the title of George's dissertation—*The Productive Value of Education in Agriculture in the US Corn Belt, 1964*.

One of George's finest attributes was his intuitive understanding of economics, which was matched by few others. He loved thinking about and understanding economic issues, as was frequently evident from his insightful commentary at seminars and other academic presentations. Thus a great deal of his value to

ANU's intellectual environment was not recorded in academic journals; rather, he had a strong desire to help students, develop the economic strength of his colleagues and, through his presence, play a major part in developing the outstanding and widely accepted reputation of the ANU's then Faculty of Economics and Commerce as Australia's best place for good young people to learn economics. His influence was obvious to all those who knew his colleagues or visited the Faculty, and many of Australia's outstanding bureaucrats and economists remember George as an important influence in their intellectual development.

A hugely important contribution during George's time in the Arndt-Corden Department was his role in chairing the weekly PhD workshop. Here he played a firm but very constructive role in guiding the students. They (and their supervisors!) knew that once they had completed their seminar presentations, their dissertations could be expected to survive external examination.

A valuable by-product of his proclivity for helping people get to the bottom of any issue they were trying to understand was a stream of jointly authored publications on a diverse range of topics, with PhD students (Helal Ahammad, Changmo Ahn, Craig Applegate, Theodore Levantis, P. Nandalal Weerasinghe) and colleagues (Ross McLeod, Martin Richardson, Ted Sieper, Ben Smith, Peter Warr).

George enjoyed debating and struck up a great and long-lasting friendship with Ted Sieper and other members of his then new Economics Department—who spent hours debating economics at the nearby Workers Club and in the Faculty tea room. He always favoured rational and logical arguments supported by evidence. He hated political correctness and the emphasis on what he felt were empty words rather than practical deeds to further desirable outcomes. He strongly favoured consumer sovereignty and leaving decisions up to the market. His favourite question in debates about policy was, 'What is the externality we are trying to correct?'

One survivor from the Faculty's heyday in the 1980s recalled that George had the most thorough grasp of both micro and macro theory of anyone in the Department, and that he was incredibly clear in exposition. This recollection reminds us of George's amazing breadth of interests: at the same time the young Fane was grappling with David Laidler over monetarism (in the *American Economic Review*), he was sparring with Lester Thurow over public goods (in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*).

George's approach to both theoretical and empirical studies involved an insistence on analytical rigour, based on deep understanding of the economic issues involved. A good example of both was his acclaimed 2000 book *Capital Mobility, Exchange Rates and Economic Crises*, of which he was justly proud. Written in the wake of the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997–98, the book challenged the widespread post-crisis view that the best way to avoid such events was to control international capital movements. George used economic theory and empirical evidence to argue that avoidance of financial instability was best achieved by: raising the then-accepted minimum amount of bank capital from 8 to 16 percent of risk-weighted assets, and raising substantially the risk-weights for loans to emerging markets; fully opening the financial sector in emerging markets to foreign competition; greatly strengthening bankruptcy procedures in emerging

markets; and persuading central banks to adopt flexible exchange rates, backed by credible targets for inflation or monetary growth.

The last of these recommendations mirrored the advice given many years earlier by George and Ted Sieper to the Campbell Committee of Inquiry into the Australian Financial System, set up in 1979. The report advocated abandoning exchange controls and floating the dollar, which went against the strong advice of Treasury and the Reserve Bank. Although the committee's recommendations were ignored by the Fraser government (which had initiated the inquiry), they would form the blueprint for this and many of the economic policy reforms implemented by the ensuing Hawke and Keating governments. The removal of exchange controls and floating of the dollar—along with other financial reforms recommended by Campbell—reflected the general principle that the best results for the community will be achieved if the financial sector is subject to as little government interference as possible. This view arose out of a general predilection for free-market outcomes, but it was supported by a great deal of economic analysis.

Both Sieper and Fane were strong and consistent advocates of these views about the economic role of government, and the dramatic shift in exchange rate policy can rightly be seen as a rare and astounding achievement by academic economists, some of whom choose instead the safe option of arguing in support of policies they know to be politically popular. As both would have predicted, the sky did not fall following the shift in policy. George's work also had an impact on fiscal policy, which can be seen in citations of his work in the 'Henry Review' (*Australia's Future Tax System Review*, 2010).

George's consultancy work in 1991 for Australia's Economic Planning Advisory Council (EPAC) on taxation and inflation was influential for some time in the council's deliberations. The same can be said of a consultancy by George's close colleague Ted Sieper, for a 1995 EPAC Inquiry into Private Infrastructure Financing, where Ted's work—building explicitly on discussions with George—led instantly to major reform of the structure of tax concessions for such investments by the then Treasurer, Ralph Willis.

Along with a younger colleague, Martin Richardson, George also made important contributions regarding the (recently reemerging) issue of 'negative gearing' via papers in *Agenda* and the *Economic Record*. One aspect of these papers was an explicit demonstration that negative gearing is a feature, not a defect, of a tax system that correctly taxes (real) capital gains, and George articulated a very neat illustration of how negative gearing prevented the double taxation of investment income. He also showed that an approximation of an accruals-based capital gains tax (CGT), using information readily available to the Tax Office, could significantly reduce the lock-in and other distortions of a CGT based on realisations only.

George's move to the Economics Division of the Research School of Asia and the Pacific in 1992 was followed by a new concentration—albeit not exclusive—on economic policy in developing countries. His publications in this period often were engendered by consultancies undertaken for the World Bank, in particular, but also for the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, and Indonesia's Ministries of Industry and Finance. These

consulting assignments took George to a very diverse range of countries—in particular Indonesia, but also including Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Iran, Yemen, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, and Trinidad and Tobago. In 1997 his interest in developing countries led to Visiting Fellow appointments at both the Harvard Institute for International Development at Harvard University, and the OECD Development Centre in Paris.

George's academic interest in developing economies—perhaps not unrelated to having been borne in British India—can be traced back as far as 1971 when he was still a PhD student. He came into contact with Professor Hollis Chenery at Harvard, and this appears to have led to his first solo publication, on 'Import Substitution and Export Expansion', in the *Pakistan Development Review*. He would later produce a report (jointly, with Chris Phillips) for Indonesia's Department of Industry, resulting in the widely cited 'Effective Protection in Indonesia in 1987' in the *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*. This seems to have been an intellectually rewarding experience that perhaps provided the impetus for his eventual move to Economics RSPAS, the then home of ANU's highly regarded Indonesia Project.

George continued to engage with developing Asia for some years after his retirement in 2006, serving as Visiting Professor in the Summer School of Thailand's Chulalongkorn University.

The ANU, and all of us individually, have benefited enormously from our association with George Fane. He is greatly missed.

— Ross McLeod

Prepared with information contributed by William Coleman, Anne Daly, Bob Gregory, Hal Hill, Chris Jones, Martin Richardson, Peter Warr and Glen Withers..

Diary dates

Old sounds and new at Canberra music festival

Performances of J. S. Bach's six Brandenburg Concerti by Bach Akademie Australia are among the promised highlights at the Canberra International Music Festival, which begins on Tuesday, 30 April, and runs till 5 May at various venues around the city. This year the festival takes the title 'Mulanggari', which means 'alive' in the language of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people. As in previous years, the festival features both well-known and new works, performed by soloists and ensembles from Australia and overseas. More details are available at <https://cimf.org.au/2024-festival/>

Namatjira explores Australian identity

The National Gallery of Australia is hosting Vincent Namatjira: Australia in Colour, the first survey exhibition of work by the acclaimed Western Aranda artist. Namatjira has established himself as a celebrated portraitist and a

satirical chronicler of Australian identity. His paintings offer a wry look at the politics of history, power and leadership from a contemporary Aboriginal perspective. The exhibition brings together paintings, works on paper and moving image from public and private collections nationwide, and features a selection of watercolours from the national collection by the artist's great-grandfather, Albert Namatjira. The event is a Tarnanthi touring exhibition presented by the Art Gallery of South Australia in partnership with the NGA, supported by Tarnanthi principal partner BHP and the Government of South Australia. Until 21 July.

Portraits of the prominent and powerful

Portraits of Vladimir Ashkenazy, Dame Judi Dench, Queen Mary of Denmark, and King Charles III are among the studies of eminent people in 'Ralph Heimans: Portraiture. Power. Influence' at the National Portrait Gallery until 27 May. This is the first major exhibition of the work of the internationally renowned Sydney-born portraitist in his home country. Heimans's meticulously realised paintings are regarded as having revitalised the tradition of portraiture, besides providing insights into the lives of prominent and powerful people. Admission is \$20 (adult), \$18 (concession), 16 (Circle of Friends). No charge for children under 18.

A gateway to Ancient Egypt at the National Museum

A recreated ancient gateway—a full-sized facade of the Temple of Taffeh, a gift from Egypt to The Netherlands—gives a visitor entry to the 'Discovering Ancient Egypt' exhibition at the National Museum of Australia. Inside are sculptures, coffins, jewellery, stelae and mummies on loan from the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. The exhibition includes objects from the Predynastic period to the Roman era, and surveys the everyday lives of ancient Egyptians, including their social systems, religious beliefs, and the importance of the afterlife. Visitors are advised to book in advance. Entry is: adults \$25, concessions \$20, children 5–16 years \$12.50, families (two adults and two children) \$62.50, Friends \$17.50. Until 8 September.

Six decades of the nation's life in focus

Images of Australian life over six decades are on show in the exhibition 'Focus: Australian Government Photographers', at the National Archives' National Office, Kings Avenue, until 10 June. It draws together a selection of the work of photographers who worked for Australian Government agencies, including the Australian News and Information Bureau and its successor bodies. The exhibition is open from 9am to 5pm Mondays to Friday, and from 10am till 4pm at weekends. Admission is free.

Meet the Author events

April 30, 6pm: James Bradley will discuss his new non-fiction book, *Deep Water: The World in the Ocean*, with Beejay Silcox. The vote of thanks will be given by Tim Hollo. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

May 7, 6pm: Hugh Mackay will talk with Virginia Haussegger about his new book, *The Way We Are: Lessons from a Lifetime of Listening*. Frank Bongiorno will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

May 13, 6pm: Miles Franklin award winner Shankari Chandran will talk about her new novel, *Safe Haven*, with Karen Viggers. Sally Pryor will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

May 16, 6pm: Frank Bongiorno will discuss his new book, *A Little History of the Australian Labour Party*, with Jennifer Rayner. The vote of thanks will be given by Bob McMullan. T2, Kambri Cultural Centre.

May 22, 6pm: Bruce Pascoe will talk about his new book, *Black Duck. A Year at Yumburra*, with Bill Gammage. Tim Hollo will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre

June 13, 6pm: Jen Rayner will discuss her new book, *Climate Clangers: The Bad Ideas Blocking Real Action*, with John Uhr. The vote of thanks will be given by Adam Triggs. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

June 18, 6pm: Nick Bryant will discuss his new book, *The Forever War*, with Mark Kenny. Allan Behm will give the vote of thanks. RSSL auditorium, ANU.

June 19, 6pm: Kaaron Warren will talk about her new novel, *The Underhistory*, with Daniel O'Malley. Colin Steele will give the vote of thanks. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

June 25, 6pm: Michael Brissenden will discuss his new novel, *Smoke*, with Mike Bowers. Sally Pryor will give the vote of thanks. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

July 9, 6pm: Allan Behm will talk about his new book, *The Odd Couple: Re-Configuring the America-Australia Relationship*, with Mark Kenny. Coral Bell lecture theatre, ANU.

July 16, 6pm: Brigitta Olubas and Susan Wyndham will discuss their new book *Hazzard and Harrower: The Letters*, about the friendship and correspondence between the writers Shirley Hazzard and Elizabeth Harrower. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

July 22, 6pm: Cassandra Pybus will talk with Mark McKenna about her new book, *A Very Secret Trade: The Dark Story of Gentlemen Collectors in Tasmania*. Diane Bell will give the vote of thanks. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

August 7, 6pm: Paul Ham will discuss his new book, *The Soul: The History of the Human Mind*, with Hugh Mackay. The vote of thanks will be given by Allan Behm. RSSL auditorium, ANU.

August 13, 6pm: Andrew Ford will discuss his new book, *The Shortest History of Music*, with Malcolm Gillies. Robyn Holmes will give the vote of thanks. Larry Sitsky Room, ANU School of Music.

August 16, 6pm: Norman Swan will talk with Laura Tingle about his new book *So You Want to Know What's Good for Your Kids?* Hugh Mackay will give the vote of thanks. Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music.

October 29, 6pm: Joe Aston will discuss his new book about Qantas, *The Chairman's Lounge*.

November 4, 6pm: Benjamin Stevenson will discuss his new novel, *Everyone this Christmas has a Secret*, with Jack Heath. Harry Hartog bookshop, 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. In line with ANU's Covid policy, masks are no longer required. Enquiries to the convenor, Colin Steele, at 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/>.

Big story from small change

'Change: Stories from your Pocket, is a special exhibition curated by the Royal Australian Mint at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. The show reveals how the coins in your purse or pocket reflect Australia's changing history. Partly a tale of technical innovation, it also reflects everyday currency's celebratory and commemorative aspects. Until 31 August.

Items of note

Gaia mission finds massive black hole nearby

Astronomers working with the European Space Agency's Gaia mission have discovered an enormous black hole which formed in the aftermath of an exploding star a mere 2,000 light years from Earth.

The object, named BH3, is the most massive stellar black hole found in the Milky Way. Its existence was revealed through the powerful pull it exerts on a companion star that orbits the object in the constellation of Aquila (the Eagle).

Stellar black holes are formed when massive stars collapse at the end of their life. There are dozens in the Milky Way, most being around 10 times the mass of the sun. Among them, Sagittarius A has the combined mass of several million suns. It formed not from an exploding star but from the collapse of enormous clouds of dust and gas.

Researchers discovered BH3 in recent data gathered by the Gaia mission. The space telescope was launched in 2013 with the aim of compiling a 3D map of a billion stars.

As researchers were reviewing recent Gaia observations, they detected a wobble in one of the stars in Aquila, a constellation that is visible in the

summer sky in the northern hemisphere. The movement indicated that the star was being influenced by a black hole 33 times more massive than the sun.

Subsequent observations from the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile's Atacama desert confirmed BH3's mass and the orbit of the affected star, which circles the black hole once every 11.6 years. 'Only the central black hole in the Milky Way is more massive than this one,' said Dr Pasquale Panuzzo, an astronomer and member of the Gaia collaboration at the Observatoire de Paris.

'It's a complete surprise,' he said. 'It is the most massive stellar-origin black hole in our galaxy and the second nearest discovered so far.'

College to assess nation's security concerns

The ANU's National Security College (NSC) will lead a national consultation on Australians' views on national security and the major challenges the country faces in the 21st century.

The program, announced at the 'Securing our Future' conference in Canberra on 9 April, will see experts and affiliates from the NSC involved in community consultations on security priorities and issues.

'We want to help generate a clearer understanding of what Australians think when they think about national security,' NSC Head Professor Rory Medcalf told the conference.

'We will synthesise and frame that knowledge to help government and parliament as they consider policy choices into the future. Our team will hold consultations in a cross-section of locations spanning remote, rural and suburban Australia, as well as secondary cities,' he said.

Professor Medcalf said the program, titled Community Consultations on Australia's National Security, would invite submissions from individuals and organisations.

The program will also include in-person and virtual meetings and interviews around the country, as well working with ANUpoll to analyse quantitative surveys of public attitudes on national security issues.

Legislation will support AUKUS collaboration: Go8

The passing of amendments to Australia's Defence Controls Act would streamline the flow of defence trade between AUKUS partners and support critical research collaboration, underpinning Australia's national security, according to the Group of Eight.

In a statement on 28 March, Go8 Chief Executive Vicki Thomson said the legislation 'paves the way for collaboration in critical defence research with our AUKUS partners. It's a landmark moment for Australian research, it will facilitate and streamline the ability of the best research minds across the AUKUS partnership to continue to place us at the leading edge'.

Ms Thomson described the legislation as 'a game changer for university research'. She said it would enable collaboration in sensitive research areas to deliver the advanced capabilities identified under Pillar II of AUKUS,

including artificial intelligence, undersea capabilities and quantum technologies.

The Go8 had worked closely with the Department of Defence to ensure that the legislation was fit for purpose, and that it protected Australia's broader research partnerships while enabling researchers to pursue our AUKUS goals with the US and UK.

'The legislation successfully walks a finely balanced tightrope of ensuring national security whilst at the same time guaranteeing that ever-important international research collaboration is not compromised,' she said.

Gene discovery reveals psoriatic connection

ANU researchers have discovered a gene mutation that is responsible for causing psoriasis, a chronic inflammatory skin disease, and that can develop into the debilitating condition psoriatic arthritis.

Researcher Dr Chelisa Cardinez, of the John Curtin School of Medical Research, says if two copies of this mutated gene, known as IKBKB, are present, patients with psoriasis may then develop psoriatic arthritis, leaving them with joint pain, stiffness and swelling. The discovery means that scientists now know what causes the progression from a skin-only disease to a skin and joint disease.

It's hoped the findings will lead to improved diagnosis and treatment for patients with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis—conditions that patients say carry stigma in the community.

'Using a mouse model, we identified that this mutation led to an abnormal function in a group of immune cells known as regulatory T cells,' Dr Cardinez said.

'These cells are normally considered gatekeepers of the immune system. However, we found that this mutation alters the function of these cells, causing them to contribute to inflammation and promote the onset of disease.'

Psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are forms of autoimmune disease, which occur when the immune system attacks healthy cells after wrongly perceiving them as a threat. According to Arthritis Australia, three out of every 10 Australians with psoriasis develop psoriatic arthritis.

Although there is no cure for psoriasis, treatments can help to manage the condition. A new, subsidised drug for Australians living with severe psoriasis was listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) in October last year.

More than numbers in Indigenous mathematics

Indigenous societies often excel at non-numerical mathematics, according to Professor Rowena Ball from the ANU's Mathematical Sciences Institute, where she is leading a research and teaching initiative called Mathematics Without Borders.

The project aims to broaden and diversify the cultural base and content of mathematics.

'Mathematics is a universal human phenomenon, and students of under-represented and minority groups and colonised peoples are starting to be more

critical about accepting unquestioningly the cultural hegemony of mainstream European-based mathematics,' Professor Ball says.

'Mathematics has been gatekept by the West and defined to exclude entire cultures,' she says. 'Almost all mathematics that students have ever come across is European-based. We would like to enrich the discipline through the inclusion of cross-cultural mathematics.'

Numbers and arithmetic and accounting often are of secondary importance in Indigenous mathematics, she notes.

'In fact, as most mathematicians know, mathematics is primarily the science of patterns and periodicities and symmetries—and recognising and classifying those patterns.'

Bookshelf

Political and Social Control in China The Consolidation of Single-Party Rule

Edited by Ben Hillman and Chien-wen Kou

ISBN (print): 9781760466190

ISBN (online): 9781760466206

ANU Press, March 2024

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/PSCC.2024>

During the past decade Xi Jinping has reasserted the Chinese Communist Party's dominance of state and society, tightening political and social controls to consolidate the party's monopoly on political power. This volume brings leading China experts together to examine the changing mechanics of authoritarian rule in China, and the party's systematic efforts to neutralise potential threats. The book examines critical but little-understood changes which enable more effective top-down rule and the efficient operation of an increasingly professional bureaucracy. It also explores the policies and mechanisms the party has used to quash dissent and prevent criticisms.

Uneven Connections

A Partial History of the Mobile Phone in Papua New Guinea

By Robert J. Foster

ISBN (print): 9781760466251

ISBN (online): 9781760466268

ANU Press, March 2024

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/UC.2024>

Early in the 21st century, economic liberalisation began to transform telecommunications services throughout the Pacific Islands. Government regulators, corporate executives and everyday consumers hopefully imagined that opening mobile phone markets to competition would result in greater access, lower costs and accelerated development.

Uneven Connections examines the ways in which liberalisation took hold in Papua New Guinea when a unit of the Digicel Group Ltd took the opportunity to compete with the state-sponsored incumbent. The book highlights how mobile phones entered the lives of urban and rural Papua New Guineans after Digicel's arrival in 2007. In so doing, it describes a moral economy in which companies, consumers and state agents continually negotiate who owes what to whom. *Uneven Connections* advances understanding of how a so-called digital revolution in PNG unfolded, resulting in outcomes that often confounded the expectations of policy-makers and ordinary citizens alike.

Quaternary Palaeontology and Archaeology of Sumatra

Edited by Julien Louys, Paul C. H. Albers and Alexandra A. E. van der Geer

ISBN (print): 9781760466312

ISBN (online): 9781760466329

ANU Press, April 2024

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/TA56.2024>

Sumatra is home to unique and globally important tropical rainforests, a diverse array of rare plants and animals, and 60 million people who speak a range of Austronesian languages. 'Sumatra is a place which preserves a distinct and long-term human history, studies of which began in earnest with Eugene Dubois's explorations in the 1880s to find our ancestral "missing link",' according to Professor Michael Petraglia, Director of the Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution at Griffith University. This volume explores a range of topics, including the palaeontological study of fossil mammals and their environments, the routes that *Homo erectus* took during their wanderings across Indonesia, and the growth and development of more recent societies and empires.

India's Sweet Spot

East Asia Forum Quarterly Volume 16 No. 1

ISSN (print): 1837-5081

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ANU Press, April 2024

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/EAFQ.16.01.2024>

As India charts its post-colonial journey, its pursuit of great-power status intensifies. This issue of *East Asia Forum Quarterly* delves into India's regional and global positioning, exploring avenues to leverage its economic, demographic and geopolitical advantages. Key insights highlight India's subordinate role to China in the Asia-Pacific, the need to create jobs in manufacturing, revamp education and seize opportunities in global manufacturing. As India heads to the polls, its future trajectory hinges on addressing these complexities.

Administration

Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

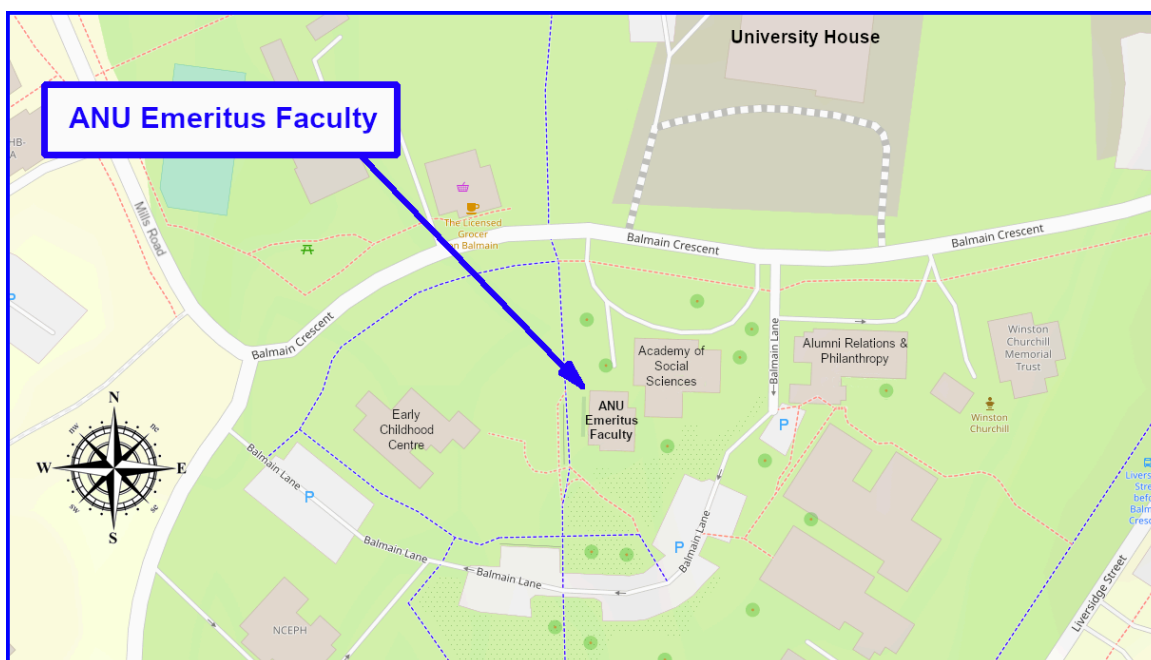
Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the

ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O'Connor, at jantancess@gmail.com or 6247 3341.

Finding the Molony Room

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

It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj>, set back between 22 Balmain Crescent (the Acton Early Childhood Centre) and 26 Balmain Crescent (the Academy of the Social Sciences). Four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room. The room is marked on: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



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