

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

More to be done, but Budget education agenda welcomed

Tertiary-education peak bodies have welcomed initiatives in this year's federal Budget to reform and invest in the sector, to support students, and to strengthen research and development.

There was widespread endorsement of the federal government's Future Made in Australia program, recognising that universities would be crucial to ensuring its success by providing the knowledge, skilled graduates and research outcomes required. There was endorsement, too, of steps to implement the Universities Accord, and to provide cost-of-living relief for students. But there were also calls for government to move quickly and commit to ambitious, longer-term programs.

'Universities are partners in our national prosperity,' said Luke Sheehy, Chief Executive Officer of Universities Australia. 'Government support for our sector is crucial as we work to build our partnership through education and research for the benefit of all Australians.'

In a Budget-related statement, the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, said the government was responding to 29 of the 47 Australian Universities Accord recommendations, in part or in full, to deliver the skills needed 'for a future made in Australia, where no one is held back, and no one is left behind'.

He said reform in tertiary education was needed to deliver the large, skilled and productive workforce the economy would require. To that end, the government had set an overall tertiary education attainment target of 80 per cent of working-age people by 2050.

The Accord, 'a blueprint for higher education reform for the next decade and beyond' would add around \$240 billion in additional income to the economy to 2050 if its broader objectives were achieved.

Among its Accord responses, he said the government would establish the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) as an independent 'steward' for the tertiary education system. Its role would include implementing reforms to university funding, improve the integration of higher education with Vocational Education and Training (VET), and strengthen teaching standards.

It would also change the way that indexation was calculated under the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) system, wiping around \$3 billion in student debt from more than three million Australians.

In addition, it would introduce a Commonwealth Prac Payment for teaching, nursing and midwifery, and social work students doing mandatory placements, deliver 'FEE-FREE Uni Ready courses' to give more students a pathway into higher education, and develop a new Managed Growth Funding System for Commonwealth-supported places to meet student demand, maintain sustainable growth and increase opportunity for people from underrepresented backgrounds.

He said the government would also make needs-based funding a core component of funding for higher education teaching and learning, establish an independent National Student Ombudsman, and create a National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence.

Separately, the Minister for Industry and Science, Ed Husic, announced that the government would commission a strategic examination of research and development in Australia to determine how the nation could derive more value from taxpayer expenditure on research, and maximise the contribution of science and R&D to the broader economy.

Reforms need careful consideration, consultation

Mr Clare said reforms to reshape the higher education system had to be carefully considered and carried out in close consultation with the higher education and VET sectors, and the states and territories.

Surveying the government's initiatives, the chair of Universities Australia, Professor David Lloyd, said the '\$3.8 billion downpayment on the Australian Universities Accord' recognised the importance of university graduates and research to Australia's future.

'Support for university students is a key focus of this Budget as the government balances cost-of-living relief with future investment,' he said.

'Investing in our universities will ensure they are able to play a full role in delivering the Albanese Government's Future Made in Australia agenda as well as other national priorities.

'We can't have a Future Made in Australia without investment in research and development, so we must see some measures in the near-term to support the advancement of this vital work.

'We can't achieve these tasks without graduates, and with more jobs in the future requiring a degree, universities will be relied on to educate the skilled people we need to grow and prosper.

'This means we must open the door to university for more Australians, and the government's support for students will help by making higher education more affordable and more accessible,' he said.

Vicki Thomson, Chief Executive of the Group of Eight, said the Budget had rightly focused on providing cost-of-living relief for students, but looking to the long term and taking steps to boost productivity growth by investing in research and development would be critical to future prosperity.

Initiatives to reduce HELP debts, support nursing, teaching and social work students during practical placements and other equity-based initiatives would make a significant difference to students, she said, but the long-term legacy of the Budget, the Government and the Future Made in Australia initiative would be determined by ‘how it delivers on the challenges in Australia’s higher education and research systems’.

‘The Universities Accord has laid bare the structural deficiencies of research funding for Australian universities that are the backbone of Australia’s innovation system,’ Ms Thomson said.

‘This includes a significant reliance on international student fees to subsidise government investment in research that still leaves Australia’s national investment in R&D as a percentage of GDP less than half that of the US and well short of the target of 3 per cent of GDP advocated for by the Go8.’

‘First step on the road to major reform’

The Go8 looked forward to working closely on ATEC to drive reform for the system. ‘The challenge of putting university research on a long-term sustainable footing must be part of the broader remit of ATEC as the steward of an integrated and expanded tertiary education system for the nation,’ she said.

The National Tertiary Education Union saw the Budget as ‘a first step on the road to major reform universities desperately need’.

While the government had earmarked \$1.1 billion in funding over five years to implement recommendations from the Universities Accord, the NTEU National President, Dr Alison Barnes, said more investment would be needed by a sector in crisis.

‘This budget must be the first step on the road to the major reforms needed to combat the explosion in insecure work, rampant wage theft and a broken governance model,’ she said.

‘It’s clear the government takes the Universities Accord’s final report seriously, but we’ll need to see a much more ambitious response to properly address the deep problems in higher education.

‘Staff must have a seat at the table in overseeing what must be the most significant university reforms in a generation.’

Cook to lead implementation committee

The Secretary of the Department of Education, Tony Cook PSM, will chair the Implementation Advisory Committee that will consult universities about the legislative design of the new Australian Tertiary Education Commission and the new Managed Growth Funding System, including needs-based funding.

The appointments were announced by the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, as part of the suite of announcements around the 2024-25 Budget, brought down on 14 May.

Other committee members are Professor David Lloyd (Vice-Chancellor, University of South Australia), Professor the Hon Verity Firth AM (Vice-

President Societal Impact, Equity and Engagement, University of NSW), Professor Stephen Duckett AM (Honorary Enterprise Professor, University of Melbourne), Professor Julia Horne (University of Sydney), Professor Tom Calma AO (2023 Senior Australian of the Year), Professor Barney Glover AO (Commissioner of Jobs and Skills Australia), Ms Jenny Dodd (CEO, TAFE Directors Australia), Ms Natalie James (ex-officio, Secretary of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations) and Mr Ben Rimmer (ex-officio, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education).

Academy sees R&D analysis as ‘once-in-a-generation’ opportunity

The commitment to a strategic examination of Australia’s approach to research and development was ‘a welcome acknowledgement by the government that a stronger, more resilient nation cannot be built with a stagnant, siloed and atomised R&D system based on decades-old settings way past their use-by date’, the President of the Australian Academy of Science, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said when the move was announced in the federal Budget.

‘The Academy has been arguing the case for this long-overdue whole-of-sector analysis since 2018,’ Professor Jagadish said.

‘It is a necessary precursor to the creation of a strategic roadmap that can direct R&D in Australia and reverse the 14-year decline in investment that has left Australia well below the OECD average, uncompetitive and ill-equipped to meet our national ambitions.’

He noted that investment in Australia’s science and research system was spread over 227 programs and 15 federal portfolios, with multiple ministers and departments having key responsibilities.

‘A strategic examination of Australia’s R&D system is the first step to align national effort across the whole of government, industry, universities and philanthropy to create an environment where investment is effective, strategic and scaled,’ Professor Jagadish said.

‘The examination is cross-portfolio and cross-sectoral and is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create the necessary conditions for science and research to maximise its contribution to our national prosperity.’

He noted that earlier in May the Academy had announced its intention to develop a 10-year plan to explore ways to ensure that Australia had the scientific capability to meet an unpredictable future, and to consider how science needed to evolve to advance Australian interests. The plan, to be published later this year, would be a complementary and independent input into the strategic examination announced in the Budget.

Professor Jagadish said the Academy looked forward to working closely with the government on the strategic examination.

Legislation aims to ensure integrity, certainty for international education

The Australian government has put forward legislation to strengthen Australia's international education sector with the introduction of the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024 to Parliament on 16 May.

Introducing the Bill, the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, told the House of Representatives that the legislation would ensure the integrity and quality of education for international students, as well as providing long-term certainty and sustainable growth for the sector.

Mr Clare said the Parkinson Review of the Migration System and the Nixon Rapid Review into the Exploitation of Australia's Visa System had drawn attention to integrity issues in international education.

The government had acted quickly on the recommendations of those reviews, he said. In July 2023 it had re-introduced a cap of 24 working hours per week for international students, and the following month had closed the 'concurrent enrolment' arrangement whereby education agents and providers could shift international students from one course to another, cheaper course: 'From genuine study to no study at all. Another backdoor way just to work here,' he said.

Since then the government had increased the amount of savings needed to get a student visa, and also increased the English language requirement for students, introduced a Genuine Student requirement, and expanded the number of 'no further stay' conditions on certain cohorts of visa students.

Mr Clare said the new legislation would strengthen the integrity and quality of international education, providing the ability to prevent education providers from owning education agent businesses, and requiring new providers seeking registration to show a evidence of delivering quality education to domestic students before being allowed to recruit internationally.

It would also confer the power to cancel dormant provider registrations to prevent them being used as market entry tools, prevent providers under serious regulatory investigation from recruiting new students, and improve relevant data-sharing about education agents.

In addition, the government would ban agent commissions on student transfers between providers in Australia, thus removing an incentive for agents and providers to 'poach' students.

In the previous week, the government published the draft International Education and Skills Strategic Framework, a document designed to shape consultation on how a system of sustainable, managed growth in international student enrolments might best be implemented.

Mr Clare said the government would work with providers to limit the number of international students that can be enrolled over a particular period.

‘If universities want to enrol international students above that limit, they will be required to establish additional, new supply of purpose-built student accommodation to benefit both international and domestic students and free up pressure on the rental market,’ he said.

‘International students are an incredibly important part of our economy and our communities, and we need to ensure the sector is set up for the future,’ he said.

The Chief Executive Officer of Universities Australia, Luke Sheehy, said international education was ‘one of Australia’s great success stories’, but that certainty, stability and growth was needed in the sector.

He noted that international education contributed \$48 billion to the economy last year, accounting for over half of Australia’s economic growth.

‘We will be working closely with the government to co-design the policy settings needed to give the international education sector a strong and sustainable footing from which to grow into the future, Mr Sheehy said.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Group of Eight, Vicki Thomson, said that in moving to ensure quality and sustainability, any mix of policy settings must be considered, and nuanced. ‘If the problems are neither simple nor one-dimensional then the solutions won’t be either,’ she said. Needs and pressures differed between cities and universities.

‘The architecture already exists to manage issues around the volume, pattern and profile of international students, and we have recommended the use of compact negotiations — conducted by individual universities with the Department of Education — to develop targeted, nuanced programs and solutions that fit in with the circumstances of each state, territory, institution and community,’ she said.

The framework consultation process would be ‘extremely important as we seek to get the right balance of outcomes for the nation and our international students’.

ANU computer scientist elected FRS

Emeritus Professor Richard Hartley, a member of the Computer Vision Group in the ANU’s College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics, is one of four Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science who were elected to the Royal Society this month.

He was elected for his scientific contributions to the field of computer vision and image understanding. He has made important scientific contributions in three areas: low-dimension topology and Knot Theory; Computer-Aided Design of very-large-scale integration (VLSI); and Computer Vision.

His seminal work on the application of projective geometry to the analysis of image sequence initiated a new area of research that led to hundreds of papers by many authors in the past decade. This area became one of the major successes in Computer Vision in the 1990s. Professor Hartley’s research in

scene analysis led to the joint authorship of the influential book *Multiple View Geometry in Computer Vision* with Andrew Zisserman (FRS).

The other Academy Fellows elected are Professor David Komander FAA FRS, from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, elected for leadership in the field of ubiquitylation, a key molecular pathway derailed in inherited Parkinson's disease; Professor Douglas MacFarlane FAA FTSE FRS, from Monash University, elected for extensive contributions to the field of materials chemistry; and Professor Ivan Marusic FAA FTSE FRS, from the University of Melbourne, elected as an international leader in fluid mechanics, particularly for his discovery of 'superstructures' and uncovering the key role these large-scale motions play in wall turbulence.

Ninety Fellows from around the world were elected to the Royal Society this year, including scientists from Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico and Singapore in fields spanning all areas of science and technology, from biochemistry to artificial intelligence.

The Royal Society, the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence and a fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists, was founded on 28 November 1660 and granted a royal charter by King Charles II.

Loneliness, Indigenous wellbeing among \$10.2m health research grants

Six projects in the Australian National University have been awarded more than \$10.2 million in funding from National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Grants, the Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies scheme and targeted funding rounds.

The funding, announced earlier this month, will help researchers to tackle issues including loneliness, telehealth safety, and the specific health and wellbeing needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Professor Ray Lovett has received two grants addressing holistic wellbeing and cultural factors in Indigenous health: \$2.8 million to analyse the impact of settler-colonial risks on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, focusing on the role of culture as a protective factor, and almost \$1.8 million to create a world-first Indigenous quality of wellbeing utility index to shape policy, services and programs that meet Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' wellbeing needs.

Dr Sam Buckberry has received more than \$1.6 million to develop precision medicine biomarkers tailored for Indigenous Australians, with the aim of improving prediction, management and prevention of cardiometabolic diseases like type 2 diabetes.

Dr Uday Narayan Yadav won \$674,400 for his project on addressing social and cultural challenges to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Professor Tegan Cruwys received nearly \$2.8 million to develop effective community solutions to prevent and treat loneliness, while Professor Christine Phillips received \$602,998 to enhance the safety of telehealth consultations, especially for high-risk scenarios and individuals with limited English proficiency.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Lachlan Blackhall, congratulated the NHMRC grant recipients. ‘This funding success is a testament to the skill and dedication of our researchers here at the ANU, and I look forward to the positive impact it will have on our nation,’ he said.

Members invited to submit symposium presentations

Members of the Emeritus Faculty who wish to give a presentation about their current or recent research at the annual ANUEF Projects Symposium are invited to submit a title and abstract to the organiser, Ian Keen.

The symposium will be held on Wednesday, 17 July, at the Molony Room, 24 Balmain Crescent, ANU, from 9.30am.

Each presentation should run to between 30 and 40 minutes. Those wishing to make a presentation should send details to Ian.Keen@anu.edu.au.

Obituary

Jerry Robert Schwab

18 January 1955-19 February 2024

Jerry Robert Schwab was born in 1955 in Melville, Saskatchewan, of German heritage (his combined DNA count shows 82 per cent Germanic, Nordic Europe, and Russia). His family later moved to Portland in Oregon where he spent much of his younger days, gaining a BA in Sociology from the Southern Oregon College and a Master of Science – Anthropology from the University of Oregon. There he met Bob Tonkinson, a visiting scholar and former Professor of Anthropology at the University of Western Australia. Bob became interested in Jerry’s work and recommended he apply to do a PhD at the ANU under the supervision of Nic Peterson. Jerry followed this advice and was awarded a doctorate in 1992 for his thesis *The Blackfella Way: Ideology and Practice in an Urban Aboriginal Community* (Adelaide). Basing his thesis in an urban setting was quite unique: later his work focussed more on remote Australia and so his analyses could be informed by experience in both domains. In any event, Jerry’s pathway to the ANU can be viewed as a happy blend of serendipity and the ANU’s reach within the international academic community.

Jerry started his academic career in 1992 at the ANU’s Centre for Educational Design and Methods, then in 1995 he joined the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) as a Research Fellow. He subsequently progressed through the Centre, becoming Deputy Director in 2001, Acting

Director in 2013 and, in 2015, Director — a post he held until his retirement in mid-2018. This path is reflected in his research effort, which in the early period focussed on field research and publications, moving later to the responsibilities associated with being a senior member of the academy and a representative of the ANU both nationally and internationally. It resulted in him having two academic careers.

His research effort is best understood with reference to CAEPR's establishment in 1990, which resulted from a 1985 review of Indigenous employment and training programs that called for an increase in research related to Indigenous economic policies. The Centre's focus was to gather and analyse data to inform Indigenous policy, its intended audience being the relevant branches of government and the public service. The Inaugural Director, Jon Altman, built a multi-disciplinary team of researchers with expertise in anthropology, demography, statistics, substance abuse, health, housing, labour economics, political science and government policy, and whose members also had practical experience with Indigenous communities and their organisations. Although Jerry's primary responsibility was research associated with Indigenous education and training policies, he collaborated extensively on this with other team members. The Centre had its own publishing arm producing several types of publications: discussion papers, working papers, topical issues and research monographs. Jerry's publications mostly appeared in one of these formats.

Jerry's earliest publications were based mostly on secondary statistical data drawn from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) censuses and departmental sources. This was a feature common to CAEPR's work that also derived from the 1985 review, which had noted a lack of research papers that interrogated and analysed data specifically for policy-makers. In Jerry's case the subject matter of these papers included Indigenous educational status over time; participation in TAFE and ABStudy; training within the Community Development Employment Program; higher education; and early school leavers. Although these were predominantly stand-alone publications, the data and analyses in them also provided vital background information for his other research projects that were based more on primary research. For many of these early papers he collaborated with those colleagues with more statistical expertise, among them Boyd Hunter, Matthew Gray and Nic Biddle, formerly with the ABS.

A significant part of Jerry's primary research effort was in remote Australia, where most of the discrete Indigenous communities are found with the largest parcels of land over which Indigenous people have some rights. The potential for improving educational outcomes through activities associated with land management and with community control of education form two of his research themes.

Starting in 2006 and extending over several years, research with Bill Fogarty explored the innovative approach to education used in remote communities, based on linking improving levels of literacy and numeracy to Indigenous management of their lands and waters. In this work Jerry and Bill collaborated with the Northern Land Council, the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation in Maningrida and, subsequently, with communities throughout Arnhem Land. From the same year, with Adrian Fordham, the project complemented the

Australian research by drawing on relevant experiences from Indian communities in the United States. This element included collaborations with Indian researchers and administrators from the Oregon State Department of Education and the Office of Indian Education in the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In other research related to the novel theme of 'land and education' Jerry explored the potential for a Canadian 'Junior Rangers Program' to be reproduced in Australia, as an extension to the existing Indigenous Ranger program which is frequently applied on the lands and waters of remote Indigenous communities. A visit to the program in Canada was supported by a Canadian Studies Faculty Research Grant. This Australia-Canada research into the potential benefits of linking education to land management later resulted in Bill Fogarty receiving a \$2m grant from the National Indigenous Australians Agency to carry out further research aimed at expanding the method over more remote northern Indigenous communities.

In 1995 a National Review of Indigenous Education called for research and analysis of the complexities of building community-controlled education. Following this, in 1996 Jerry produced a research paper that explored some of these possible complexities, focussing on independent community schools. The research also engaged with the concept of 'both ways' education: a mix of elements of Western education and traditional learning. He concluded that a more effective approach to improving Indigenous education outcomes in communities would be to explore ways to bring the school 'into the community' and for teachers and administrators to engage with community members more fully about the community's educational needs. In 1998 Jerry continued work on this general theme through primary research with the remote community of Maningrida's Community Education Centre (CEC). This was a government facility comprising a hub school at the community and 13 homeland schools. His research found that although there was some ambivalence about Western education, people believed that its outcomes were important to them. However, there was increasing desire for people to have a role in steering education in their community. The CEC model appeared to facilitate this to a degree: it was more than a cluster of classrooms and in some way had become the centre of the community. In fact, the model had been devised to facilitate connections between the community and the school and vice versa, while maintaining a focus on education. This principle seemed sound, at least in the context of remote communities like Maningrida. This research project also drew on the experiences of American Indian community schools in the United States through collaboration with Indian researchers, the Oregon State Department of Education, and the Office of Indian Education in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Related somewhat to research into community-controlled education, in 2002 Jerry and Inge Kral were commissioned by the Hollows Foundation, in collaboration with the Jawoyn Association, to explore how social and economic life might be improved through a community-based literacy program. In association with Central Australian Remote Health Development Services and the Urapuntja Health Service, the research centred on the community of Wugularr and concluded that community members wished to increase their levels of literacy because they believed this would help them to negotiate their numerous interactions with government agencies and would generally benefit their social and economic future.

Between 2003 and 2022 Jerry and Dale Sutherland, a member of the Minjungbal people, wrote a chapter on education and training for editions of the *Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia*. They constructed and analysed maps that showed the national distributions of a wide range of Indigenous education and training topics, including attendance at pre-school, school, tertiary institutions, and universities; completion of years 10 and 12 schooling; and post-school qualifications and higher degrees. They also mapped and analysed the distribution of the Indigenous students who completed Year 12 education across each capital city. This work by Jerry and Dale effectively introduced spatial analysis to the realm of Indigenous education.

Jerry introduced several other novel approaches to research about Indigenous education. In 1998 he collaborated with Dr Ian Anderson to identify Indigenous participation in higher education in health to help relevant policy-makers shape their efforts. Ian is a Palawa man, and at that time was a Research Fellow with the Centre for the Study of Health and Society at the University of Melbourne. He is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Tasmania. In 2002 Jerry began a collaboration with Dale Sutherland to explore the opportunities to form linkages between philanthropic bodies, Indigenous organisations, and the academy. Later the research also involved Janet Hunt and Tony Dreise — a Guumilroi man — the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, and the Victorian Government. This project is ongoing.

Jerry supported several of his projects with Australian Research Council Linkage Grants, partnering successfully with the Northern Land Council, the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales, the Universities of Melbourne, Monash and Latrobe, the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and the Hollows Foundation as Linkage partners.

Over his time at CAEPR, and increasingly as Deputy Director and Director, Jerry collaborated internationally. In 1999 he carried out a consultancy in Egypt for the United States Aid for International Development (USAID) to work with Bruce Miller on evaluating programs promoting small rural schools for girls. Jerry and Bruce had been colleagues at the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory in the period before Jerry left Portland for Australia. Jerry also fostered several international links. In 2002 and 2005 he hosted Saami visitors and a delegation from the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Government and Administrative Reform. In 2004 he led a delegation to China to lobby for human rights before the 2008 Olympics. The delegation included the senior Indigenous representatives Tom Calma from Broome — now the Chancellor of the University of Canberra — and Joe Ross from Fitzroy Crossing. The group also visited Yunnan province to explore the possibility of collaborating on research regarding human rights and economic development. From 2009 to 2012 he and Inge Kral collaborated in research with representatives from the Malaysian Department of Minority Languages and Literature, the University of Teknologi, Petronas, and with the Indigenous Children's Literature and Schooling in Orang Asli Community. In 2016 Jerry facilitated a visit by Ken Coates from the University of Saskatchewan as a Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS) Visiting Fellow. Ken collaborated with Jerry and Bill Fogarty on research associated with Indigenous governance and education.

Jerry was generous in his involvement with students. While on staff he supervised a total nine PhD candidates from CAEPR, the ANU's National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS), and from Charles Darwin University. At the time of writing one of these former students, Bill Fogarty, was CAEPR's Acting Director, and another, Tony Dreise, who in 2019 became CAEPR's first Indigenous Director, went on to be Pro Vice-Chancellor 'First Nations Education and Research' at the University of Southern Queensland. Jerry also supported the careers of many CAEPR and NCIS PhD candidates by involving them as collaborators on his research projects. He also contributed to CAEPR's seminar series and to teaching in the Centre's undergraduate stream and graduate Program in Indigenous Policy, which is a specialisation in the Master of Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development. In 2018 Janet Hunt and Jerry developed a new course in the International Indigenous Studies Research Project. This will include a four-week study period at the University of Arizona to undertake research into a specific aspect of Native American Indigenous Studies.

Between taking on the role of Director to his retirement in 2018 Jerry contributed to the ANU's committees. In the early period some of these were external, including the Department of Education, Science and Training's Steering Committee, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research's Indigenous Advisory Group, and the Smith Family's Research Advisory Committee. Later he was involved mostly with ANU committees, including the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) Research Committee and the RISS Visiting Fellowship Committee. In 2015-16 he was a member of the ANU's Lowitja Institute's Reference Group, and in 2017-18 of the ANU's Climate Change Institute Grand Challenge Team. He also supported several NCIS Committees. From 2015 Jerry was on the production committee for the second edition of the *Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia*, a joint venture between the ANU, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Macquarie Dictionary. Jerry was instrumental in bringing those parties together. Post-retirement he continued to contribute as an advisor to CAEPR and NCIS PhD candidates.

Jerry was active in the ANU's social community. He went bushwalking and camping with me and Nic Peterson in the Snowy Mountains and the Budawang Range, cross-country skiing, and snow camping with us in the Snowies, and trout fishing there with Bill Fogarty and me.

He was also active in the wider Canberra community: as a board member, program producer and announcer at Canberra's Community Radio 2XX, as a parent representative on the Farrer Primary School Board, and as a member of the Rascal Lodge Committee and Central Park Executive Committee.

Jerry's brother Larry visited from Canada to attend a family celebration of Jerry's life.

Jerry leaves behind his wife, Stacey, their children Luka and Charli, their stepson Mischa, Jerry's daughter Gillian, and grandchildren Nora and Fintan.

— **Bill Arthur**

Diary dates

Turning the pages on Russian immigrant experience

Peter Tesch, a former Australian Ambassador to Russia, will launch *Voices in the Wilderness: A Digest of the Russian-Language Press in Australia 1912-1919*, at the ANU Centre for European Studies, RSSS Building, Lectorial Room 1, at 4pm on Wednesday, 5 June. The book, by faculty member Kevin Windle and Elena Govor, reflects the experiences of immigrants trying to establish themselves in Australia and adjust to a new life. The book is published by Australian Scholarly Publishing, Melbourne. More details are on page 19. All welcome.

An Aboriginal perspective on people of power

A request to remove the Gina Rinehart image from the portrait line-up has brought some unanticipated publicity for Vincent Namatjira's *Australia in Colour* exhibition at the National Gallery. This is the first survey exhibition of work by the Western Aranda artist, whose work takes a droll look at the politics of history, power and leadership from a contemporary Aboriginal perspective. The exhibition also features a selection of watercolours from the national collection by the artist's great-grandfather, Albert Namatjira. Until 21 July.

A gateway to discovering Ancient Egypt

Visitors to 'Discovering Ancient Egypt' at the National Museum of Australia enter the exhibition at a recreated ancient gateway—a full-sized facade of the Temple of Taffeh, a gift from Egypt to The Netherlands, the source of this rich assembly of sculptures, coffins, jewellery, stelae and mummies. The exhibition, on loan from the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, 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. 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.

Meet the Author events

June 13, 6pm: Jennifer Rayner will discuss her new book, *Climate Clangers: The Bad Ideas Blocking Real Action*, with Tom Lowrey. 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. RSSS 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*, with Julieanne Lamond. The book deals with 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.

August 20, 6pm: Hayley Scrivenor will talk with Chris Hammer about her new novel, *Girl Falling*. Anna Creer will give the vote of thanks. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

August 27, 6.30pm: Catherine Fox will talk about her new book, *Breaking the Boss Bias: How to Get More Women into Leadership*, with Michelle Ryan. RSSL auditorium, ANU.

September 3, 6pm: Don Watson will be in conversation on his Quarterly Essay, *The US Election*, with Mark Kenny. Allan Behm will give the vote of thanks. RSSL auditorium, ANU.

September 9, 6pm: Darren Rix and Craig Cormick will talk about their new book, *Warra Warra Wai: How Indigenous Australians Discovered Captain Cook, and What They Tell of the Coming of the Ghost People*. The vote of thanks will be given by Kate Fullagar. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

September 12, 6pm: Kevin Bell will talk with Kim Rubenstein on his new book, *Housing: The Great Australian Right*. In his book, Bell argues that governments have the capacity and the power to resolve the national housing shortage, and that the first step is for Australia to rethink its approach to housing policy and recognise access to having a home is a fundamental human right. RSSL auditorium, ANU

September 24, 6pm: Rebecca Huntley will talk about her new book, *Sassafras*, with Karen Middleton. Jeanne Ryckmans will give the vote of thanks. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

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.

November 6, 7pm: Shaun Micallef will talk about his new book, *Slivers, Shards and Skerricks*, with Andrew Leigh. Llewellyn Hall, ANU School of Music.

November 12, 6pm: Peter Fitzsimons will discuss his new book, *The Legend of Albert Jacka*. 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/>.

Picking up a mystery at Rep

A young woman drops into a café for a quiet coffee — but the man next to her won't answer his incessantly ringing phone. Exasperated, she answers the call, then discovers that the man is dead. That sets in train a tangle of mysteries in 'Dead Man's Cell Phone', by Sarah Ruhl, which Canberra Rep will stage from 14 to 29 June at Canberra Rep Theatre, Acton. Kate Blackhurst directs what the company calls a 'bizarre and biting comedy [that] explores contemporary connection in a technologically obsessed world'.

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

ANU team resets standard for brain tumour diagnosis

Researchers at the Australian National University have developed a new AI tool that resets the 'gold standard' to more quickly and accurately classify brain tumours.

Dr Danh-Tai Hoang, who helped to develop the application known as DEPLOY, points out that precision in diagnosing and categorising tumours is crucial for effective patient treatment.

‘The current gold standard for identifying different kinds of brain tumours is DNA methylation-based profiling,’ he said. ‘DNA methylation acts like a switch to control gene activity, and which genes are turned on or off.

‘But the time it takes to do this kind of testing can be a major drawback, often requiring several weeks or more when patients might be relying on quick decisions on therapies. There’s also a lack of availability of these tests in nearly all hospitals worldwide.’

To address these challenges, the ANU researchers developed DEPLOY, in collaboration with experts from the National Cancer Institute in the United States. It offers a way to predict DNA methylation and subsequently classify brain tumours into 10 major subtypes.

To do so, it draws on microscopic pictures of a patient’s tissue called histopathology images. It achieved an unprecedented accuracy of 95 per cent, Dr Hoang said.

‘Furthermore, when given a subset of 309 particularly difficult-to-classify samples, DEPLOY was able to provide a diagnosis that was more clinically relevant than what was initially provided by pathologists,’ he said.

‘This shows the potential future role of DEPLOY as a complementary tool, adding to a pathologist’s initial diagnosis, or even prompting re-evaluation in the case of disparities.’

The model was trained and validated on large datasets of approximately 4,000 patients from across the US and Europe. The researchers believe DEPLOY might also be used to help to classify other types of cancer.

International research team looks to the clouds

A major research project to gather atmospheric data from the Southern Ocean has begun in remote north-western Tasmania to help reduce uncertainty in climate science about the role of atmospheric aerosols.

Scientists from Australia and the United States will spend 17 months capturing pristine air masses traversing the Southern Ocean to better understand the role of aerosols in cloud formation and address gaps in climate models.

The project is a collaboration between the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Bureau of Meteorology, and the United States Department of Energy’s Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) user facility.

Called CAPE-k (Cloud And Precipitation Experiment at Kennaook), the project will complement decades-long measurements taken at the Kennaook/Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station.

Kennaook/Cape Grim is considered one of three premier global stations in the World Meteorological Organization's Global Atmospheric Watch program.

Aerosols play a vital role in the formation of clouds by acting as nuclei on which water can condense and then form clouds. The source of aerosol particles and

their distribution affects how and where clouds form, whether they exist as super-cooled liquid or ice, and how much moisture they can release through precipitation. The complex interactions between aerosols and clouds remain an active area of international research.

CSIRO Senior Principal Research Scientist Dr Melita Keywood said measurements taken during the project would help to close gaps in our understanding of cloud properties.

‘New data will help explain what’s happening between the surface and the clouds, and what’s happening within the unique “super-cooled” liquid clouds that are known to form in the region,’ she said.

‘These high-quality observations will help us to correct known biases in climate models, so that we have more accurate projections to understand Earth’s changing climate into the future.

‘Knowing approximately how much sunlight is reflected back to space over the Southern Ocean, an influential part of our global climate system, will help better understand how much heat is trapped in Earth’s atmosphere.

‘With Earth just recording its hottest year on record, better quantifying how much heat is trapped in Earth’s atmosphere has never been so important,’ Dr Keywood said.

ARC awards early-career researchers \$22.5m

On 6 May the Australian Research Council announced \$22.5 million in research funding for 50 Early Career Industry Fellowships across a wide range of disciplines.

The awards are of three years’ duration, and are made under the ARC’s Industry Fellowships Programs to help build innovation in the industry, community organisation, not-for-profit, and other government and publicly funded research sectors, and to encourage the adoption, translation and commercialisation of Australian research.

The ARC’s Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Richard Johnson, said that offering opportunities for early career researchers to collaborate in an industry environment was critical to ensure that Australia was capable of meeting future industry-identified challenges.

‘These early career researchers will help create pathways to support academic researchers in establishing careers in an industry setting, and industry-based researchers to work in a university environment. This plays an important role in increasing two-way mobility and skill-building in research collaboration, translation, and commercialisation,’ he said.

Among those awarded Fellowships, Dr Chantal Lanctot (Griffith University) was awarded \$488,648 to determine the ecological impacts of firefighting chemicals used to control bushfires, providing scientific evidence to manage the safe use of such chemicals around water catchments.

Dr Syamak Farajikhah (University of Sydney) will receive \$461,518 to develop a portable device for point-of-need detection of multiple pathogens in food to reduce the risk of food borne diseases, and Dr Sailin Liu (University of

Adelaide) has been awarded \$411,291 to develop all-temperature aqueous zinc ion batteries (AZIBs) for applications in renewable and stationary energy storage.

Cockroaches, happily at home with people

If you sometimes hear the scuttling of insect feet in the dark, you might ask yourself — where would cockroaches be without us? The answer, entomologists suggest, is ‘probably still scurrying around the Bay of Bengal’. It's human beings who have spread the so-called German cockroach (*Blattella germanica*) around the world.

An international team set out to unravel the mysterious origin of the species. This was considered ‘enigmatic’, in part, they say, because the cockroach was ‘ubiquitous worldwide in human-built structures but absent from any natural habitats. The first historical records of this species are from ca. 250 years ago (ya) from central Europe (hence its name)’.

Now, in a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, they have traced the insect’s origin back to Asia.

‘We found the ancestor of the German cockroach to be the Asian cockroach, probably living in human settlements, with two domesticated lineages (agricultural/peridomestic and building environments), around 2,100 years ago (ya) when human civilizations were thriving in South Asia,’ the authors write.

They determined that their global spread was initiated along two routes, west and east of the origin in India or Myanmar. The westward expansion was probably due to intensifying commercial and military activities of the Islamic Umayyad or Abbasid Caliphates, while the eastward expansion, about 390 years ago, was likely facilitated by European commercial activities between South and Southeast Asia.

‘As recently as the 18th century, the German cockroach was still mostly contained within Asia,’ they write. ‘Our estimated time for their entry into Europe (~270 ya) matches the earliest historical records in the 1760s. The German cockroach then spread to the rest of the world between the late 19th and early 20th century, consistent with the highest volume of first records.

‘Advances that accelerated transportation (e.g. steam engines) and thus globalization of trade, and increased comfort in housing (plumbing and indoor heating), allowed German cockroach populations to colonize regions that had been previously inaccessible due to high mortality during long-distance travel and poor cold tolerance.’

One author of the study, Associate Professor Theo Evans of the University of Western Australia’s School of Biological Sciences, says the species was named by the famous Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus after the area where specimens were collected.

‘And there are no known natural wild populations of this cockroach, so it is fully domesticated,’ he said.

Researchers sequenced the ‘barcode’ gene CO1 of the German cockroach and compared the sequences with an anatomically similar species from Asia. They

found the sequence almost identical to that of *Blattella asahinai*, a species native to the Bay of Bengal.

To discover how the cockroaches spread from there to Europe, researchers identified over 150,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms in DNA from cockroaches collected in 17 countries across six continents, and modelled how this variation could have appeared.

‘We estimated that German cockroaches arrived in Europe about 270 years ago, which matches the historical records from the Seven Years’ War,’ Professor Evans said. ‘From Europe the German cockroach spread to the rest of the world, around 120 years ago, probably from faster transportation on steam ships.’

Researchers concluded the rise of human civilisation triggered the evolution and spread of this now abundant species which has adapted to urban environments.

‘To survive, cockroaches have to avoid being seen by humans and German cockroaches have evolved to be nocturnal, avoid open spaces, and although it retained its wings it has stopped flying,’ Professor Evans said.

Bookshelf

Voices in the Wilderness

A Digest of the Russian-Language Press in Australia, 1912-1919

By Kevin Windle and Elena Govor

Australian Scholarly Publishing, April 2024. ISBN 978-1-923068-67-4.
\$49.95 (paperback).

Seven Russian-language papers were published weekly in Australia between 1912 and 1919. Today they are little known and the small but vocal community which produced them is largely forgotten.

Unlike the enthusiastic 19th-century Russian accounts of Australia seen in *From St Petersburg to Port Jackson* (ASP 2016), these newspapers show us a body of immigrants struggling to establish themselves in what some had viewed as a ‘working man’s paradise’ and adjust to a new life. Educated radicals and newly literate workers of various political persuasions expressed their opinions, along with representatives of the Russian Empire’s different ethnic groups, feeling increasingly that they were ‘voices crying in the wilderness’. With rising militancy in 1918–1919, the editors attracted enhanced scrutiny from Australia’s security agencies, and by late 1919 most of the journalists had left Australia or been deported.

The rich material presented in this digest is an unrivalled source of information on Russian settlement in Australia and the broader social history at a critical historical moment..

Dreaming Ecology

Nomads and Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, Victoria River, Northern Australia

By Deborah Bird Rose, edited by Darrell Lewis and Margaret Jolly

ANU Press, May 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466275. ISBN (online) 9781760466282.
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/DE.2024>

In the author's words, *Dreaming Ecology* 'explores a holistic understanding of the interconnections of people, country, kinship, creation and the living world within a context of mobility. Implicitly it asks how people lived so sustainably for so long'. It offers a critique of the loss of Indigenous life in the wake of white colonialism and the development of 'cattle country'. It offers a fresh perspective on nomads grounded in 'footwalk epistemology' and 'an ethics of return sustained across different species, events, practices and scales'.

Forty Years in the South Seas

Archaeological Perspectives on the Human History of Papua New Guinea and the Western Pacific Region

Edited by Anne Ford, Ben Shaw and Dylan Gaffney

ANU Press, May 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466435. ISBN (online) 9781760466442.
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/TA57.2024>

This volume spans the four decades of research by archaeologist Glenn Summerhayes into the human prehistory of the islands of the western Pacific, especially New Guinea and its offshore islands. Emeritus Professor Peter Bellwood notes that the area helped to shape and direct many ancient dispersal events associated with *Homo sapiens*, initially from Africa more than 50,000 years ago, through the lower latitudes of Asia, into Australia, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, and possibly the Solomon Islands.

Many chapters in this book deal with archaeological aspects of Austronesian maritime expansion, while others offer archaeological perspectives on trade and exchange, and on related topics that extend into the ethnographic era.

Summerhayes's research 'stands centrally amongst all these offerings, ranging from the discovery of some of the oldest traces of Pleistocene human settlement in Papua New Guinea to documentation of the remarkable phenomenon of Lapita expansion through Melanesia into western Polynesia around 3000 years ago,' Professor Bellwood says. 'This volume is a fitting celebration of a remarkable career in western Pacific archaeology and population history'

The Chinese in Papua New Guinea

Past, Present and Future

Edited by Anna Hayes, Rosita Henry and Michael Wood

ANU Press, May 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466398. ISBN (online) 9781760466404.
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/CPNG.2024>

This volume offers a comprehensive and nuanced examination of the Chinese in Papua New Guinea. Chinese, Papua New Guinean and Australian interactions are analysed in the context of shifts in colonial power, increased regional

engagement with China, and current political instabilities across the Indo-Pacific. The many ways in which the Chinese have been defined as actors in PNG's history and politics are analysed against the backdrop of a rapidly changing global order. The complexity of Chinese experiences within Papua New Guinea is given expression, here, with chapters that stress political and historical heterogeneity, the importance of language for understanding Chinese social relations, and that articulate rich personal experiences of race relations.

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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