

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

ANU earns higher place in global university rankings

The Australian National University has been ranked 30th internationally in the 2025 QS World University Rankings for 2025, moving up from being ranked 34th the previous year.

Leading Australian universities performed well in the rankings, with all of the Group of Eight universities being ranked in the top 100 institutions.

Melbourne University (13th) was the top-placed Australian university, followed by Sydney (18) and the University of NSW (19). After ANU (30), the Australian rankings were Monash (37), University of Queensland (40), University of Western Australia (77) and University of Adelaide (82). The University of Technology, Sydney, was ranked 88, placing nine Australian institutions in the top 100.

Internationally, the 10 top-ranked universities were the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Imperial College London, the University of Oxford, Harvard University, the University of Cambridge, Stanford University, ETH Zurich, the National University of Singapore, UCL London, and the California Institute of Technology.

The QS World University Rankings measure universities' performance across a number of indicators, including research and discovery, employability and graduate outcomes, learning experience, global engagement and sustainability.

The ANU's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Lachlan Blackhall, was pleased to see the university jump four places, keeping ANU firmly in the top two per cent of universities in the world.

'ANU has a proud tradition of quality and distinctive research, education activities, and impact, and our ranking reflects this,' Professor Blackhall said.

'We are committed to ensuring that ANU sets new standards in higher education through fostering an environment of academic quality and distinction, innovative research and impactful change.'

ANU has improved in six of the nine indicators evaluated by the higher education analytics firm. This includes improvements in international research collaboration, employment outcomes, sustainability and reputation among employers.

As well as rising up the international rankings, ANU recorded a significant increase in sustainability rankings, from outside the top 100 up to 30th worldwide.

ANU says it is one of the few universities across the globe to set ambitious targets to reach below-zero emissions, aiming to achieve this by focussing on renewable energy, energy efficiency and moving away from the use of gas.

The QS World University Rankings is a portfolio of comparative university rankings. Its first edition was published in collaboration with *Times Higher Education (THE)* magazine as Times Higher Education–QS World University Rankings, inaugurated in 2004 to provide an independent source of comparative data about university performance.

The higher-education analyst company Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) company was founded by Nunzio Quacquarelli in 1990 to provide information and advice to students looking to study abroad. It then expanded to include a wider range of higher education-focused products and services before partnering with THE in 2004. The company has headquarters in London, with offices in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

THE and QS parted ways in 2009 to produce separate university rankings, the QS World University Rankings and THE World University Rankings.

Renewables lowest-cost technology for future electricity, report finds

Updated analysis in the 2023-24 GenCost report has confirmed that renewable energy sources, including their associated storage and transmission costs, remain the lowest-cost new-build technology for future electricity generation to 2050.

The report, issued on 24 May, also found that large-scale nuclear power would be more expensive than renewables and estimated a development timeline of at least 15 years, including construction.

This reflected the absence of a local development pipeline, additional legal, safety and security requirements, and stakeholder evidence. Long development times meant that nuclear generation would not be able to make a meaningful contribution to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

GenCost is an economic report for business leaders and decision-makers responsible for planning reliable and affordable energy solutions to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. It has been published annually since 2018 by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), in collaboration with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

It aims to offer accurate, policy and technology-neutral cost estimates for new electricity generation, storage, and hydrogen technologies. It is collaborative and transparent, drawing on the expertise of energy-industry stakeholders and involving extensive consultation to ensure accuracy prior to publication.

The latest report introduces a range of changes in response to stakeholder feedback, most notably the inclusion of large-scale nuclear for the first time. The change was prompted by increased interest in nuclear, following updated costings for small modular reactors (SMRs) in the 2023-24 consultation draft.

In examining large-scale nuclear, the report concluded that, although its deployment would require a significant increase in the reserve margin relative to small modular reactors and existing Australian generation plants, there was 'no known technical constraint to deploying generation units of this size'. It also concluded that, due to the current state of the 'development pipeline' in Australia, the earliest deployment would be from 2040.

'To source appropriate large-scale nuclear costs for Australia, it is necessary to rely on costs of large-scale nuclear deployed in other countries,' the report says. 'Such costs are not directly transferable to Australia due to differences in a multitude of factors including labour costs, workforce skills, governance and standards.'

It argues that the lowest costs occur in countries such as South Korea, 'which has delivered a continuous building program for many years'. Costs are generally higher in western countries, which have tended to have more sporadic building programs.

Based on South Korean costs, GenCost estimated that the expected capital cost of a large-scale nuclear plant in 2023 would be \$8,655/kW. 'This capital cost can only be achieved if Australia commits to a continuous building program and only after an initial higher cost unit is constructed,' it says. The first unit in a series in a continuous Australian program was expected to be impacted by higher costs.

Cost projections for wind power revised upwards

The report found that wind power was recovering most slowly from global inflationary pressures. Cost projections for both onshore and offshore wind power were revised upwards in the next decade.

'The COVID-19 pandemic led to global supply chain constraints which impacted the prices of raw materials needed in technology manufacturing and in freight costs,' the GenCost report says.

'Consequently the 2022-23 GenCost report observed an average 20% increase in technology costs. One year on, the inflationary pressures have considerably eased but the results are mixed. The capital costs of onshore wind generation technology increased by a further 8% while large-scale solar PV has fallen by the same proportion.

'Gas turbine technologies were the other main group to experience cost increases of up to 14%. The capital costs of other technologies were relatively steady. Technologies are affected differently because they each have a unique set of material inputs and supply chains,' the report says.

Despite this, GenCost modelling found that renewables remained the lowest-cost, new-build technology, their competitive position reflecting the decade of cost reductions experienced by wind, solar photovoltaics (PV) and batteries

before the pandemic, while costs of their more mature competitors have remained flat.

‘Globally, renewables (led by wind and solar PV) are the fastest growing energy source, and the role of electricity is expected to increase materially over the next 30 years with electricity technologies presenting some of the lowest-cost abatement opportunities,’ the report says.

CSIRO’s Director of Energy, Dr Dietmar Tourbier, said the latest GenCost consultation had attracted more than 40 written submissions and more than 200 industry webinar participants.

‘The feedback provided by the energy community each year is invaluable, given that cost forecasts of future electricity generation, storage and hydrogen production can fluctuate significantly and no single technology can achieve our transition to net zero,’ Dr Tourbier said.

‘Whether the input GenCost receives is highly specialised or simply advocating for a particular pathway, our considerations are policy and technology neutral.’

Contributions by ANU notables recognised in 2024 King’s Birthday Honours List

A public health expert who helped to lead Australia’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and leaders in the fields of Asian studies social research and public policy are among the members of the ANU community who have received awards in this year’s King’s Birthday Honours List.

Dr Stephanie Davis has been awarded a Public Service Medal for her outstanding contribution throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr Davis, who has now taken up the position of Deputy Chief Medical Officer with the Department of Health and Aged Care, was seconded from ANU in March 2020 to help with the Federal Government’s initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including preparing training for health care workers and the rollout of urgent care clinics.

Those appointed Members of the Order of Australia (AM) include Emeritus Fellow Dr Pauline Kerr, the inaugural Director of Studies at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy; Darren Pennay, Honorary Professor and founder of the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods; Talal Yassine, Honorary Professorial Fellow at the Crawford School of Public Policy; Alison Kitchen, a member of the ANU Council since 2021 and chair of its Audit and Risk Management Committee; and David Olsson, Chair of the ANU Foundation.

Yohanni Bey Johns, a lecturer in Indonesian studies from the 1960s to the 1990s and long-time ANU Medical School lecturer Chi Wing Lai were awarded Medals of the Order of Australia (OAM).

The newly appointed Governor-General, Samantha Mostyn AO, was named a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC). She is a graduate of ANU and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the university in 2018.

Birthday honours for three Academy Fellows

Three Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science were recognised for their contributions to science, innovation and mentorship by being awarded Officers of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours List.

Professor John Furness a research scientist at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne, received his AO 'for distinguished service to medical research in the field of autonomic neuroscience and neurogastroenterology'.

Elected to the Academy in 1989, Professor Furness is a leading expert on digestive and autonomic nervous system research and is responsible for identifying the intrinsic sensory neurons of the digestive tract.

Professor Thomas Maschmeyer, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sydney and Executive Chairman Gelion Technologies, received an AO 'for distinguished service to science as a researcher, innovator and educator, and business through pioneering commercial technologies'.

He was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation (2020) for translating his fundamental research into two pioneering technologies that address global challenges. He invented an efficient way to convert renewable and plastic waste into its constituent chemical materials for reuse, and has also reimaged zinc-bromide chemistry to develop a new solar energy battery technology, making renewable energy safer and cheaper.

Professor Kate Smith-Miles received her AO 'for distinguished service to tertiary education, to applied mathematical research, and as a role model and advocate for women in STEM'.

Professor Smith-Miles, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability) at the University of Melbourne, developed the mathematical methodology for stress-testing algorithms, providing a solution to the long-standing problem of algorithmic trust.

Elected to the Academy in 2022, Professor Smith-Miles has also developed the Instance Space Analysis tool for researchers to explore the strengths and weaknesses of their own algorithms.

Graduate outcomes survey underlines personal benefits of higher study

The 2023 Graduate Outcomes Survey shows that university graduates are securing higher salaries and full-time employment at record levels.

Employment rates for graduates in the first four to six months after graduation are at their highest level since 2016, the survey reports.

According to the survey, the undergraduate employment rate reached 79 per cent, while the overall employment rate increased to 88.9 per cent in 2023.

In addition, survey data indicated that the median salary in 2023 for undergraduates was \$71,000 per year, an increase of 4.4 per cent from 2022. The median salary for postgraduate coursework graduates was \$96,600 (up by 5.5 per cent from 2022), while the median salary for postgraduate research graduates was \$100,000, an increase of 4.2 per cent from the previous year.

The survey also shows higher full-time employment rates and median salaries for First Nations and regional graduates.

First Nations graduates had a full-time employment rate of 82.8 per cent and median salary of \$75,000, while undergraduates from regional universities had a full-time employment rate of 83.7 per cent and a median salary of \$71,400.

The Minister for Education, Jason Clare, said the survey highlighted the benefits of gaining university qualification, and supported the government's plans to increase the number of Australians getting a tertiary qualification.

'In the years ahead, more and more jobs will require a university qualification. More people going to TAFE or university will help give us the skills and the economic firepower we need to make Australia everything it can be in the years ahead,' he said.

His comments were echoed by Universities Australia, whose Chief Executive Officer, Mr Luke Sheehy, said the survey highlighted 'the immense value of a university education, equipping students for rewarding careers and fuelling our economy with essential skills'.

'With growing demand for graduates, expanding university access is crucial,' Mr Sheehy said.

'The Universities Accord told us we need to double the number of domestic students to meet Australia's skills demands. The Albanese Government's student support measures in the Budget are a good start.

'Now we need to ensure our funding models are right so our higher education system can grow to meet Australia's increasing skills needs. Needs-based funding is central to this.

'We must make every effort to support students and make university more affordable and more accessible to all Australians.'

Six ANU researchers elected to Academy of Science Fellowships

Six researchers from the Australian National University are among 24 Fellows elected to the Australian Academy of Science.

The new Fellows were announced on 23 May by the President of the Academy, Professor Chennupati Jagadish AC, who said it was a privilege to welcome new Fellows each year.

Among the new Fellows, Professor Mark Krumholz, an astrophysicist with the ANU's Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, said that from the time

he was a child being a physicist always seemed like the next best thing to being a wizard.

He has been elected to the Academy for his research on the way diffuse gas in the universe collects to form stars and galaxies—which may seem like magic but, according to Professor Krumholz, can be explained by mathematics.

‘As soon I grasped the basic concept of using maths to represent reality, I knew I was going to be a scientist,’ he said.

Other ANU researchers elected to the Academy are Professor Nerilie Abram, Professor of Climate Science in the Research School of Earth Sciences; Professor Andrew Blakers, Professor of Engineering in the College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics; solar energy researcher Professor Kylie Catchpole of the College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics; Professor Hrvoje Tkalčić, Head of Geophysics in the Research School of Earth Sciences; and Professor Shahar Mendelson of the ANU’s Mathematical Sciences Institute.

Professor Arthur Georges, an evolutionary ecologist at the University of Canberra, was also elected to the Academy. Professor Georges is an ecologist and herpetologist with research interests in the evolution ecology and systematics of Australian reptiles.

‘Nominated by their peers, Fellows of the Academy are recognised as leaders in their fields, having all made exceptional contributions to science throughout their careers,’ Professor Jagdish said.

‘The Academy brings the expertise of our Fellows together, to build a nation that embraces scientific knowledge, and benefits from it every day.

‘From the depths of Earth’s oceans to the edges of our galaxy, Fellows nominated to the Academy today represent the ground-breaking research happening in Australia.’

The new Fellows will be formally admitted to the Academy on 9 September and will make presentations on 11 September at the Shine Dome. The full list of Fellows can be found at: <https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/academy-announces-2024-fellows-for-outstanding-contributions-to-science>.

Presentations span humanities and sciences at Emeritus Faculty symposium

Nine speakers will give presentations on subjects as varied as historical family connections, plant viruses and the psychology of ignorance when the ANU Emeritus Faculty Projects Symposium is held at the Molony Room on Wednesday, 17 July.

Among the presentations, Patrick De Deckker will talk about his efforts to find the grave of an Aboriginal soldier who died in Belgium during World War I, and the commemorations that followed.

Adrian Gibbs will discuss research into plant viruses in Australia, and investigations to determine whether they are native, or whether they have been introduced over centuries.

Peter Grabosky, of the School of Regulation and Global Governance in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, will explore the uses of euphemism and dark humour in the application of excessive power by liberal democracies. The presentation will introduce these two forms and illustrate their use and misuse.

Michael Smithson will give a presentation on ‘The Psychology of Ignorance’, a project to explore what psychology has had to say about ignorance and how it relates to contributions from other disciplines to ignorance studies.

Andrew Stewart will discuss *The Claimant*, by Gordon Neil Stewart, which traces an attempt to use alleged illegitimacy to claim the estate and fortune of a major landholder in the Bathurst district of NSW in 1873, and the manoeuvres to resist the claim.

Alan Roberts will draw on his family history to recount the story of an 18th-century Anglican clergyman who fell out with the church hierarchy, and his family’s struggles to re-establish itself.

Bradley Pillans, chair of the East Coast Project, will give a presentation on the status of the undertaking, which was set up by John Molony to investigate early European (pre-Cook) exploration of Australia’s east coast.

In a presentation titled Forensic Bibliometrics, Lawrence Cram will talk about the manipulation of publications and citations, and the use of ‘reputable citations’ (RP) to understand the institutional, social, and personal factors that motivate universities, publishers, editors, reviewers, and authors to contribute to changes in publication integrity.

Professor James Fox will speak on a subject to be advised.

Each presentation is expected to run to between 30 and 40 minutes. The day’s proceedings begin at 9.30am. Further information is available from the convenor, Ian Keen, at ian.keen@anu.edu.au.

New member for Universities Australia board

Professor Zlatko Skrbis, Vice-Chancellor and President of the Australian Catholic University, has been appointed to the Universities Australia board for a two-year term. His appointment began on 30 May. He replaces Professor Steve Chapman on the board.

Announcing his appointment, Universities Australia said Professor Skrbis was a respected leader and advocate for higher education, having led the ACU since 2021 and having earlier held senior positions at Monash University and the University of Queensland.

The Chair of Universities Australia, Professor David Lloyd, said Professor Skrbis was joining at a crucial time for the sector. ‘His experience and knowledge will be invaluable as we work with government and all parliamentarians to bring certainty and stability to the university sector,’ Professor Lloyd said.

Graeme Wilber Clarke

31 October 1934 – 16 May 2023

It is significant that it takes three people to write this obituary as a document of Graeme's diverse and productive life that takes in his brilliant and original scholarship in the area of Patristics (and Early Christianity), his excavation of the Hellenistic site of Jebel Khalid in Syria, and his support, in several capacities, of classical studies and the humanities more generally.

Graeme Clarke, a New Zealander, began his tertiary education at the University of Auckland, where he graduated in 1957 with a BA (awarded the Fowlds Memorial Certificate for the most outstanding student in the Faculty of Arts) and an MA with first-class honours in Latin and Ancient Greek. Before beginning his studies at Balliol College, Oxford, where he was to read Greats, Graeme spent two academic terms teaching Classics at the Canberra University College (integrated into the Australian National University in 1960). Here his small senior Latin class comprised, as he described it, the 'Holy Family': an Ursuline Mother, a Sacred Heart Father, a Christian Brother, and a Sisters of Mercy nun. They read Virgil's *Eclogues*.

Graeme completed that second BA in 1959, graduating with first-class honours in the School of Literae Humaniores. He was awarded a College Prize by Balliol College and a Jenkyns Travel Award. He subsequently returned to Australia, to the ANU, where he taught once more, now as Lecturer, from 1961 to 1963. There followed appointments at the University of Western Australia (as Senior Lecturer, 1964-1966) and Monash (as Associate Professor, 1967-1968) before he became Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Melbourne (1969-1981).

When Graeme took up the University of Melbourne's chair of Classical Studies at the beginning of 1969, the subject was facing a crisis. Enrolments and the staff-student ratio were about the lowest of any department in the Arts Faculty, leaving the department extremely vulnerable. By the time Graeme left in 1982 the figures were the strongest. That improvement was very much due to Graeme's leadership and vision in adjusting the curriculum and introducing courses such as Beginners' Latin, Classical Studies taught in translation, and eventually Modern Greek, innovations quite revolutionary at the time. Postgraduate enrolments, previously almost non-existent, blossomed. Morale was high among the staff, who were encouraged to devise unit courses in their own areas of expertise, which they were happy to teach. Graeme encouraged collegiate activities and staff outings, such as Cup Day get-togethers and fishing trips.

Graeme was also largely responsible for the considerable expansion of the department's museum collection and Classics Library. The museum collection, already well established, most notably by the John Hugh Sutton bequest in 1926, had remained static. Graeme frequently gained funds that enabled the purchase of an ancient object, so adding a remarkable 52 vases and many coins,

all to be used for teaching, particularly in the newly-introduced Classical Art and Archaeology courses. The collection was housed, for all to see, in the Classics Library, which was open to students and, under Graeme's initiative, had grown to include some 20,000 volumes. So Classics not only became strong in numbers but its offerings were rich and diverse while still maintaining full pass- and honours-level courses in both Latin and Ancient Greek. Graeme's presence and the high status of the department would have been factors influencing a number of internationally-renowned scholars who chose to spend their study leave entirely in Melbourne.

In 1982 Graeme moved back to Canberra as Professor of Classical Studies and Deputy Director of the ANU's Humanities Research Centre (1982-1990). Under the directorship of Ian Donaldson, and subsequently under Graeme's leadership (from 1990 until his retirement in 1999), the HRC developed into a significant hub for humanities scholars from across the world, a place where visitors could conduct research and enjoy the company of others, and a focal point for Australian-based humanities scholars, who were able to attend the important conferences and seminars that were held there. Ian Donaldson describes Graeme at this time as 'an unfailingly alert and animating presence during this period of energetic debate and creative turmoil in the humanities, whose fundamental nature seemed so often, so excitingly, to be open to revision and refashioning'. In seminars and conference presentations Graeme was the most courteous of participants; yet his questions to the speaker were always probing and insightful. He was the engaged participant, open to new ideas and to fresh approaches. He drew on a deep fund of knowledge — knowledge that spanned the disciplines that the term Classical Studies embraces: history, literary studies, philosophy, early Christianity and patristics, and archaeology.

Letters illuminated life in third-century AD Carthage

On being appointed to the Order of Australia in 2009, Graeme was asked how history would best remember him. He nominated his published works, particularly his four volumes on the letters of Cyprian of Carthage, which had never been annotated before and which illuminated a dozen years of life in Carthage in the middle of the third century AD. That research established him as a world expert on the social background for early Christian studies, particularly through textual studies of the literary works of the early- to mid-third century in which Christians explained and defended their religion.

Graeme's first major book, a translation and commentary of the *Octavius* by Minucius Felix (New York, 1973) — for which, along with other published work, he was awarded a D.Litt. from the University of Melbourne in 1976 — was followed by the four hefty volumes of the *Letters of Cyprian* (Ancient Christian Writers, Mahwah, NJ, 1984–1989). A fifth Cyprian volume, on his *De Lapsis*, in French, with Michel Poirier (*Sources Chrétiennes*, Paris), was published in 2012. These works have all been widely acclaimed. In particular, they consider such topics as the more intimate and arresting details of the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor Decius, the relations of Cyprian in Carthage with Rome and other churches, and the problems of sacramental discipline, all matters of considerable importance in the study of the early church. After leaving Melbourne Graeme co-edited four valuable volumes from conferences he had initiated: *Rediscovering Hellenism: the Hellenic Inheritance and the English*

Imagination (CUP, 1989); *Identities in the Eastern Mediterranean in Late Antiquity* (Sydney, 1998); *Reading the Past in Late Antiquity* (Australian National University Press, 1990); and *Christianity in Roman Africa* (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2014).

In 1984, Graeme was asked to join the University of Melbourne's dig at El Qitar on the Syrian Euphrates, a salvage operation ahead of the flooding to be caused by the new Tishreen dam. There he studied and published inscriptions and early Christian tombs. In his search for such he wandered across a nearby plateau called Jebel Khalid and noticed a plethora of pottery on the surface. At first he thought this a Roman site but it soon became clear that it was Hellenistic and amazingly free of superimposed Roman structures. Graeme invited Peter Connor of the University of Melbourne to join him in setting up a campaign to survey and excavate the site. They began digging sondages in 1987, and the results led to full-scale excavation in ensuing years, 1989–2010, of the acropolis, the main gate, the north-west tower, a housing insula and part of a possible commercial area. Successive Australian Research Council grants recognised the importance of the site as a Seleucid settlement at a strategic point on the river. In 1996 Peter Connor died and there was a lull in excavation while study seasons were held to catch up on the immense amount of artefactual material uncovered. In 2000 Graeme returned to the jebel and began excavating the temple site, later moving on to the *palaistra*, a uniquely Greek institution in this part of the world.

As a field director Graeme was tireless, meticulous, and kind. Jebel Khalid is a large site with considerable distance between the areas being excavated, but no hill was too steep and no day was too hot to stop him visiting every part of the site once a week, to give encouragement to the workers and to engage in perceptive discussion with the trench supervisors. He never missed a day supervising his own area. His Bedouin workers loved him, as much as he loved them. There was always laughter coming out of his own trenches — with the odd baby being rocked to sleep nearby in a handy *zambil*, which was meant to be used for pottery. He respected the family values and loyalties they observed, so would agree to employ family members who were not always in their prime, such as old Turkiyya, who would sit on an island of dirt and dig around herself; he positioned her where she could do least damage. The local villagers converted his name to 'Karim', which means generous or hospitable.

The dig season was always carefully organised. As director, Graeme never claimed any special privileges but mucked in like everyone else, counting sherds, analysing pottery, clearing the drains and cleaning the toilet. Life was often hard, with electricity and water frequently being cut off. In study seasons, when no excavation took place, Graeme was first into the pottery compound in the morning and could be just seen in a cloud of dust as he swept the mats ready for work to commence. When, inevitably, tensions arose within the group, he would deal with both sides kindly and tactfully. He was sympathetic when team members became ill, as they often did in that environment. He could judge when a break was needed and would organise a trip upriver or to a nearby site on the Euphrates.

It was a great sadness to him that he could not attend what was to be the final season in 2010, when he developed heart trouble at the last moment. Perhaps

some other director would have cancelled the dig, but he generously allowed the team to proceed. No one then knew that the civil conflict in Syria would begin the following year.

It was that same generosity that was the key to his achievement in publishing final reports promptly. As series editor, he encouraged and employed selected specialists to pursue their own line of research without ever laying claim to anything except his own specialist areas. It is a rare achievement that seven volumes of final reports in *Jebel Khalid on the Euphrates*, published between 2002 and 2023, together with many articles, are now available for study, as they no doubt will be when others return to Syria and to the site of Jebel Khalid. A small part of it has been damaged by the conflict but there is still plenty to uncover, work which will have to be based on the prior work of Graeme and his team. That is a fine memorial to Graeme's enjoyment of what his children call his 'happy place'.

The former Director of Excavations and Studies at the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums of Syria, Damascus, Michel al-Maqdissi, wrote to the Academy: 'The death of Professor Graeme Clarke is a terrible loss for Near Eastern archeology and for Syria. The exemplary works at Jebel Khalid and the excavation carried out under his direction will remain one of the crucial stages for our national archaeology'.

Sustained contributions to the Academy of the Humanities

Graeme, deemed 'a historian of outstanding quality', was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1975. His sustained contributions to the work of the Academy are unparalleled: as Council member (1976-1977, 1986-1994); as Vice-President (1976-1977, 1985-1986); as Treasurer (1986-1994), and as Honorary Secretary (2000-2014). In recent years, he was a valued informal source of corporate memory and wisdom. His contributions to and support of Australian humanities scholarship extended beyond the Academy: he was, for example, President of the Australian Society for Classical Studies (1976-1978), and from 1982 he was a member of Council. From 2007 until his death he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens. Graeme was one of the good citizens in our broad field.

Just as Graeme tried to understand the troubled world of the bishop Cyprian through the rich corpus of letters that the bishop had left behind, so he used the architecture and the artefacts that were excavated at Jebel Khalid to investigate the way of life that produced them, and to understand that world. In an interview for the *ANU Reporter* (10 August 1990) on his becoming Director of the Humanities Research Centre, Graeme described his own research in these terms: 'I want to know how the ancient Greeks and Romans saw the world. To do that I have to use whatever I can — not just what they said in their literary [works], but their artefacts, their towns, cities, their daily routines, their political, social, and economic world, as well as their religions ... I'm interested in the history of ideas and all the other amalgam of evidence that exists. . . . This is a humane study, a study of men and women.'

All the above builds a picture of a successful and engaging academic, of a great and yet remarkably modest scholar, but it does not sufficiently represent

Graeme as a wonderful human being, a mentor and a friend, as so many have commented from their hearts. These are people with whom Graeme had collaborated, students he had taught, researchers he had helped and encouraged, friends to whom he had always been loyal. We pay tribute to Graeme's generous spirit, his innate ability to empathise, and his unfailing concern for the wellbeing of others. Our sympathy is extended to his family, his former wife Nancy, his daughter Brigid and sons Tom, Ed, and Bill, who always supported him and whom he loved deeply. He will not be forgotten.

— Heather Jackson, Elizabeth Minchin, Roger Scott

A full list of Graeme's publications are published in E. Minchin and H. Jackson (eds), *Text and the Material World. Essays in Honour of Graeme Clarke*, Astrom Editions, Uppsala, 2017, xiii–xviii.



Deryck Anthony Scarr

7 September 1939 – 29 March 2024

With the death of Deryck Scarr on Good Friday 2024, Pacific Islands historiography lost a leading practitioner. His association with The Australian National University extends back to 1961 when he arrived in from England, as a Research Scholar in Pacific History. He wrote his PhD thesis ('Policy and Practice in the Western Pacific') under the supervision of Professor J.W. (Jim) Davidson, with whom he struck up a close friendship. Deryck remained at the ANU, attaining the rank of Senior Fellow, until his retirement in 1997 and he continued to live in Canberra.

In a moving obituary to his mentor, Deryck asked: 'And how shall one write faithfully about Jim?', going on to mention that 'those closest to him [knew] that he took pride in his arrogance, loved a fight, and drew boyishly malicious pleasure from exercising his capacity for caustic comment'. And, indeed, how does one write faithfully about Deryck, in whom the elements were far more mixed than in Jim Davidson? As one of Deryck's former students said when notifying colleagues in the wake of his death, 'The world has lost a fine scholar. But let's face it, Deryck was not the easiest of men! I admired the way he didn't join any bandwagon, and he could be charming and generous.'

Deryck, who once described himself to me as 'a Berkshire boy', was born a week after the commencement of World War II. A family tragedy left him with a severe stutter which he never quite overcame. Graduating from the University of Exeter, and taking out a history prize, he contemplated writing a history of 16th century Plymouth at the Institute of Historical Research in London but opted instead to come to Canberra. Initially, I understand, he intended to write his thesis on the Royal Navy in the Pacific Islands — a subject that complemented his love of sailing — but soon settled for a related topic on the history of the Western Pacific High Commission (WPHC), the arm of British extra-territorial jurisdiction in the Pacific.

Davidson had long wanted one of his staff or students to write on the WPHC. Keith Penny had embarked on such a thesis in 1954 but was stymied by

difficulty of access to the primary source material and he switched to a quite unrelated topic. In 1958 Ann Moyal, as she explains she in her *Breakfast with Beaverbrook*, was offered a Research Scholarship to write a thesis on the WPHC, but decided instead to work for the fledgling *Dictionary of Australian Biography* instead. Neither was equipped to handle the size and complexity of the subject, and to absorb the sheer extent of the source material, as Deryck was.

Deryck submitted his thesis in 1965 and at about the same time was appointed Research Fellow in Pacific History. Normally, Davidson expected his students to do at least three years of undergraduate teaching before returning to the department, but he made an exception on grounds of Deryck's stutter and his undoubted competence and productivity as a researcher. Nonetheless the move caused a few raised eyebrows, especially in view of the friendship between the two. But Deryck more than justified his appointment with the revised version of his thesis (*Fragments of Empire*, 1967), the merits of which were immediately recognised; the book has aged gracefully. Among other early publications, Deryck also wrote a seminal and revisionary article titled 'Recruits and Recruiting: a portrait of the Pacific Islands labour trade' (1967) as well as bringing out a scholarly edition of William E. Giles's previously-unpublished *A Cruise in a Queensland Labour Vessel to the South Seas* (1968) and co-editing, with Davidson, *Pacific Islands Portraits* (1970).

Subsequent books rolled out in majestic sequence starting with a two-volume biography of John Bates Thurston (1973; 1980), a Governor of Fiji and one of the leading protagonists in *Fragments of Empire* for whom Deryck's admiration knew no bounds; he once described Thurston as 'grand panjandrum of the Pacific'. There were also biographies of the Fijian leaders Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna (1980) and *Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara* (2009), as well as a short history of Fiji (1984), an 'instant history' of the 1987 Fiji coup and its immediate aftermath (1988), and two substantial general histories of the Pacific Islands (*Kingdoms of the Reefs*, 1990; and *Passages through Tropical Time*, 2001). In between he also wrote monographs on the Indian Ocean (*Slaving and Slavery in the Indian Ocean*, 1998; *Seychelles since 1770*, 1999). His eleven books total some 3500 pages.

None repeated the initial success of *Fragments of Empire*, on account of Deryck's written expression becoming ever more opaque and gnomic. A reviewer of the first volume of Thurston, having praised its many virtues, went on to say that 'the work as a whole is marred by a quite extraordinarily florid, contorted, circumlocutory style'. Deryck's second history of the Pacific Islands (*Passages through Tropical Time*) demonstrates that the problem worsened rather than abated over time. There is no doubting the massive research underlying the book. Seldom can a general history have been so thoroughly researched, reflecting the fruits of almost 40 years of dedicated commitment and a corresponding love for the Pacific Islands. What negated the effect was an unduly Hobbesian view of human nature and an execrable writing style. Take the opening sentence into the chapter on the Second World War:

The fools' peace dissolving into 'drole de guerre', as people in isolated news-hungry Tahiti called the 1939–1940 phoney war, saw western Pacific trunk-line ships like Burns Philp's 6,267-ton sixteen knot *Bulolo* go via inefficient Simonstown naval yard to very active front-line service in the Channel as a fleet auxiliary in that tax-funded armed services sub-culture where discipline

was complete but twenty-one ratings could loaf under protective Admiralty Instructions and King's Regulations in her overmanned engine room.

This is by no means an isolated example of a prose style about which reviewers and colleagues alike despaired.

But Deryck was not going to change his ways for anyone. One consequence was that he sometimes experienced difficulties in securing a publisher. The Australian National University Press, which had handled his work to that point, declined to proceed with the second volume of the Thurston biography, and Deryck had to look elsewhere. *Passages through Tropical Times* was commissioned for Routledge's 'History of the Sea' series, but the editors were deterred by the finished product and, again, Deryck had to find another publisher. But made no mistake, *Fragments of Empire* is, in my view, a marvellous book. When I was helping to edit a collection of essays on the foundational texts of Pacific Islands historiography, *Fragments of Empire* was an automatic inclusion (*Texts and Contexts*, ed. Doug Munro & Brij V. Lal, 2006). I am in the process of giving away the bulk of my Pacific Islands library but my inscribed copy of *Fragments*, which I bought for a princely \$9.90 as an undergraduate in 1969, stays with me, and this despite its availability as a free download: <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/114893>.

Strong views firmly held 'and often vehemently expressed'

Deryck's strong convictions combined with independence of mind and a combative personality meant that his relations with others could be anything but harmonious. He did not suffer fools who, in his estimation, were all around him, and he was prone to denigrating individuals and their works. He also took a proprietorial stance with the *Journal of Pacific History*, with which he had been associated from its earliest days, and he could be difficult and pugnacious at editorial board meetings. His strong views, some would say prejudices, were firmly held and often vehemently expressed. A Scotland-based reviewer of the first Thurston volume told me that Deryck's criticisms of Thurston's Methodist Mission adversaries were so strident that he wondered whether Deryck was the son of a Methodist parson. Nor was Deryck always tactful. On the first day a PhD student arrived in the department in the mid-1970 to write on the Methodist Mission in Fiji, Deryck told the newcomer that his project, in the student's words, 'was less than important if not pretty much a waste of time'.

Deryck himself supervised numerous PhD theses, but not that one. The student-supervisor relationship can be perilous territory and Deryck did not relate well to his some of his charges. But he was exactly what was wanted or needed with others, who reciprocated his regard. He was enormously supportive of Peter Corris, who was writing on the Solomon Islands labour trade, and he took pride in the accomplishments of many of his former students who, he happily remarked, 'have included, among others, an historian-turned-novelist [Corris] as well as a very brave cabinet minister along with civil servants in the Pacific Islands states and a very essential advisor to the Australian Federal Government'. And I will be forever grateful to Deryck for the encouragement he gave to a painfully shy postgraduate student of mine at the University of the South Pacific — the late Asinate Mausio — which greatly bolstered her self-confidence and resolve; she too got her PhD from ANU. With similar

collegiality, on two occasions in the 1980s he took over John Young's teaching at the University of Adelaide so that Young could have connected time for his own writing and research.

As mentioned, Deryck was never a groupie, and he did not jump on bandwagons of any sort. That is to be admired. He was an unrepentant empiricist, and my lament is that there are not more like him in that regard. However, he was less than receptive to other approaches or what other disciplines might have to offer, on one occasion berating the 'fringe dwellers' and 'castaways in or from anthropological shallows', who were given to 'transcendentalising the trivial'. On another occasion, in the late 1991, he uncompromisingly told his audience at the inaugural Pacific History Workshop at ANU:

Surely, to be found clutching the straws of Neo-Marxism, deconstructionism, psychohistory, 'ethnographic history', at the latest or last but one literary, philosophical, sociological golden calf, or any other would-be over-arching illuminating but, as is unhappily more likely, reductionist if not tautological or obfuscating dogma, when for good reason out of one's intellectual depth in actual deep water, may result from natural instinct, like praying — to be politely overlooked by passing swimmers or the lifeboat crew in the hope that the art of swimming will eventually be learned. But to be found clutching at a straw in 18 inches of water is to invite expressions of surprise; and to be brandishing it as a flag — and the flag of an asserted vanguard and shouting 'follow me!' — is perhaps, again, to court derision, and certainly to risk being recognised as overly dramatic.

While the exact meanings in parts of these two sentences may not always be entirely clear, the underlying message most certainly is.

Never one to back down from his opinions, Deryck showed fortitude and intellectual honesty in swimming against the tide when it came to the rights and wrongs of political developments in Fiji. He took an unpopular stance in his support of the first Fiji coup and in his endorsement of Fijian chiefly paramountcy and Fijian ethnonationalism. In 1989 he was ostracised at a conference in Sydney on the coup but, undeterred, he continued to march to the beat of his own drum. He was never going to persuade his detractors but neither did he further his cause with *ad hominem* remarks and by adopting a 'rhetoric versus evidence' approach — asserting that their 'soi-disant academic writing' privileged rhetoric whereas he, of course, was true to the purity of the actual evidence.

The biggest setback in Deryck's professional career was not being appointed as Jim Davidson's successor in 1974. He said that the new professor would find him an unruly subject and he was. The tragedy of his personal life, which horrified us all, was the unexpected death in 1999 of his beloved second wife Marion Joy Erasito, leaving Deryck to bring up their young daughter, who is now herself a mother of two daughters. I well recall how shocked I was upon hearing the news, not least because it was an uncommonly happy marriage. In more recent times, and in contrast to some of our previous encounters (we got on very badly in the 1970s and 1980s) I greatly enjoyed the occasional meetings with Deryck, both in Suva in the late-1990s, where I met Marion, and later in Canberra. His charm and solicitude, so often suppressed in earlier years, were

there for all to see. When his gentler side came out, one could truly warm to him as a person as well as appreciating his sizeable contribution to Pacific Islands historiography.

He fell victim to dementia, a cruel disease if ever there was one and particularly saddening when a fine mind is brought low. His last book manuscript (*Gulliver's Other Islands: A New History of Fiji*) was scheduled for publication in 2019 but will probably never see the light of day.

Deryck was one of the last of the major ANU Pacific historians from the foundation years of the discipline in the 1950s; only Colin Newbury and Francis West have outlived him. Despite his convoluted prose, he was productive and influential, especially in the training of postgraduate students, and will be remembered as one of the greats of Pacific history.

— Doug Munro

Diary dates

Gauguin, from France to the Pacific

The work of French post-impressionist Paul Gauguin will feature in the exhibition *Gauguin's World: Tōna Iho, Tōna Ao*, which opens at the National Gallery of Australia on 29 June and runs till 7 October. Henri Loyrette, curator and former director of the Louvre Museum and Musée d'Orsay, draws on painting, drawing, engraving, sculpture and the decorative arts to trace the artist's development, from his impressionist beginnings to his Polynesian visions. Gauguin's life, art and legacy will be explored through talks, public programs, a podcast series and films. During the exhibition season there also will be a display of works by contemporary artists from the Pacific and further afield.

A gateway to Egyptian civilisation

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 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 5, 6.30pm: Michelle Arrow and Leigh Boucher will talk with Frank Bongiorno about their new book, *Personal Politics; Sexuality, Gender and the Remaking of Citizenship in Australia*. RSSL Auditorium.

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. Virginia Haussegger will give the vote of thanks. RSSL auditorium, ANU.

September 2, 6pm: Nina Jankowicz will talk about her books *How to Lose the Information War* and *How to Be a Woman Online*, with Van Badham. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre, 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 10, 6pm: Gina Chick will discuss her new book, *We Are the Stars*. Jeanne Ryckmans will give the vote of thanks. Street Theatre, Childers Street.

October 20, 6pm: Tim Winton will talk about his new novel, *Juice*. Presented in association with the Canberra Writers Festival. Llewellyn Hall.

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/>.

The art of the natural world

The National Archives of Australia will present the Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize exhibition at the Kings Avenue building from 28 June to 27 October. Since 2002 the South Australian Museum has invited established and emerging artists to enter the prize, named after the South Australian Museum's first curator, Frederick George Waterhouse. The biennial prize recognises the long-running interplay between scientific research and the creative arts. This visiting exhibition offers the only opportunity to view the artworks outside of South Australia. The exhibition invites audiences to explore works from illustrators and sculptors who help to describe and depict specimens, to contemporary artists who invite visitors to think about our environment and our impact on the natural 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 heats up faster, cheaper desalination

Scientists at the Australian national University have developed a simpler and more cost-efficient method for removing salt from seawater using a thermal desalination process.

In the new process, water remains in the liquid phase throughout. The research, published in *Nature Communications*, shows how the power-saving method is triggered not by electricity, but by moderate heat generated directly from sunlight, or waste heat from machines like air conditioners or industrial processes.

The process could help to counter projected large-scale global water shortages, with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) forecasting that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will likely face what it calls 'absolute water scarcity'.

Lead Chief Investigator Dr Juan Felipe Torres, said the phenomenon behind this technology, called 'thermodiffusion' or 'the Soret effect', had been discovered in the 19th century but had remained underused.

'We're going back to the thermal desalination method but applying a principle that has never been used before, where the driving force and energy behind the process is heat,' Dr Torres said.

'Thermodiffusion was a phenomenon first reported in detail in the 1850s by Swiss scientist Charles Soret, who experimented with a 30-centimeter water tube where one part of the water was colder and the other hotter.

The ANU researchers found that adjusting the conditions for separation could significantly increase the speed of the diffusion process to just a couple of minutes.

According to the ANU team, current desalination technologies, where salt is filtered through a membrane, require large amounts of electric power and expensive materials that need to be serviced and maintained.

'Eighty per cent of the world's desalination methods use reverse osmosis, which adds complexity and is costly to run,' Dr Torres said. 'If we continue fine-tuning the current technology without changing the fundamentals, it might not be enough. A paradigm shift is essential to sustain human life over the next century.'

With further testing, the researchers hope to produce the first commercial unit within eight years.

Group of Eight looks to stronger China links

Australia's Group of Eight Universities and the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) agreed to deepen cooperation when the Australia-China University Presidents' Forum met in Adelaide late last month.

The parties affirmed their commitment to working together to support high-quality research partnerships and education collaboration that were of mutual benefit to Australia and China.

Senior university representatives from 22 leading research-intensive Chinese universities, led by CEAIE Deputy Secretary-General Ms Fu Bo, took part in the forum. It was the first and the largest Chinese university delegation to meet with Go8 leaders since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Go8 and CEAIE signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Beijing in 2019, with the aim of strengthening university dialogue and collaboration between Australia and China in areas of shared interest. The MoU was renewed at the Adelaide forum to continue promoting the development of the China-Australia Research University Alliance.

In a statement, the partners said the Adelaide meeting noted that Australia and China were key research and education partners in the region, with complementary strengths and mutual interests.

It was agreed that research collaboration ‘should remain central to enhancing the longstanding bilateral relationship, and to driving science discovery, skills, trade and mutual economic growth in the 21st century knowledge economy’.

Electric-vehicle chargers power up on campus

Six DC fast electric-vehicle chargers located near the ANU’s School of Art and Design were inaugurated at a launch event on 4 June.

The chargers are part of the ACT Government’s first round of public funding to expand Canberra’s electric-vehicle charger network. A charging station with additional four units is to be installed on the Acton campus in the coming year.

They will be among 39 new charging stations that will be provided under a second round of funding, announced at the launch event by the ACT Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Shane Rattenbury.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and former Entrepreneurial Fellow and inaugural Head of the ANU Battery Storage and Grid Integration Program, Professor Lachlan Blackhall, said the chargers represented ‘one of many ways the university is working to support the broader community in the ACT to reduce our collective carbon footprint’.

‘This is an important activity because electrifying and decarbonising our transportation system is one of the key ways that we can address the existential challenges of climate change,’ he said.

According to the Electric Vehicle Council, the ACT is leading the uptake of zero-emission vehicles (21.8 per cent national uptake). Mr Rattenbury said that in November 2023, one in every four new cars registered in the ACT had been an electric vehicle.

New opportunities for Future Earth Australia

Future Earth Australia will be as Australia’s new representative on the Belmont Forum, an international body dedicated to funding environmental and sustainability collaborations. Membership was announced on 31 May.

Future Earth Australia, hosted by the Australian Academy of Science, is a national platform that connects researchers, governments, industry and society to support sustainability transitions.

Future Earth Australia's co-chair, Dr Jemma Purandare, said the group's membership of the Belmont Forum was a long-awaited strategic partnership that would see both organisations work collaboratively to drive progress in sustainability.

'This is an exciting new chapter for Future Earth Australia, and we are excited to be able to bring our members and partners along with us,' Dr Purandare said.

'It also opens the door to new funding opportunities for Australian researchers.'

As a member of the Belmont Forum, Australian researchers gain access to an international network that fosters transdisciplinary partnerships and amplifies the impact of their work.

The Belmont Forum was established in 2009 as a partnership of funding organisations, international science councils and regional consortia. It uses its global networks to mobilise the funding of transdisciplinary research and accelerate its delivery.

It has supported the commitment of \$A382 million across 177 projects, averaging \$13 million per collaborative research action call and \$1.26 million per funded project.

Dr Nicole Arbour, the Executive Director of the Belmont Forum, welcomed Future Earth Australia's membership of the Forum.

'Future Earth Australia will be taking on the responsibility from CSIRO, which has represented the invaluable perspectives and expertise of Australian researchers since the forum's inception,' Dr Arbour said.

Bookshelf

Defying Beijing

Societal Resistance to the Belt and Road in Myanmar

By Debby S.W. Chan

ANU Press, June 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466350, ISBN (online) 9781760466367, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/DB.2024>

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to construct a Sino-centric transcontinental infrastructure network in Asia, Europe, Africa and beyond. Within this initiative, the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) is a vital strategic component. *Defying Beijing* shows how Myanmar was able to capitalise on BRI ambitions to achieve its preferred outcomes during the country's political liberalisation in the 2010s, despite the asymmetrical relationship between these two nations. *Defying Beijing* argues that Myanmar was pressured to renegotiate terms with Beijing in the wake of social outcry in the country. The book shows how citizens can change the course of BRI cooperation despite oppressive political environments and an imbalanced bargaining structure. In

post-coup Myanmar, Naypyidaw's policy options were not conditioned by public opinion or protests; nonetheless, armed resistance has posed new domestic constraints in the CMEC's implementation.

China's New Era

China Story Yearbook 2023

Edited by Annie Luman Ren and Ben Hillman

ANU Press, June 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466336, ISBN (online) 9781760466343, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/CSY.2024>

According to Communist Party discourse, China's 'New Era' began when Xi Jinping was anointed Party boss in 2012. The shape of this New Era became clear in 2023 when Xi began his third five-year term as General Secretary of the Party, a fortification of one-man authoritarian rule unprecedented in post-Mao China. Under Xi, the party has expanded its influence over government, the economy and society. The party-state is now more party than state. The year 2023 saw other 'new eras' for China as well. Despite initial optimism sparked by the end of COVID-19 restrictions in late 2022, the Chinese economy was buffeted by continuing property-sector woes, record unemployment, and an unfolding local government debt crisis. Globally, China adopted a series of new and ambitious diplomatic initiatives to woo the Global South and amplify its voice on the world stage. The *China Story Yearbook 2023: China's New Era* provides informed perspectives on these and other important stories that will resonate for years to come.

Ginkgo Village

Trauma and Transformation in Rural China

By Tamara Jacka

ANU Press, June 2024 ISBN (print) 9781760466411, ISBN (online) 9781760466428, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/GV.2024>

Ginkgo Village provides an original and intimate bottom-up perspective on China's recent tumultuous history. Drawing on ethnographic and life-history research, the book takes readers into a village in Eyuwan, a mountainous region of central-eastern China. In the 20th and early 21st centuries, villagers experienced far-reaching socio-economic and political change. In the civil war (1927–1949), they were slaughtered in fighting between Nationalist and Communist forces. During the Great Leap Forward (1958–1961) they suffered famine. Since the 1990s, mass labour outmigration has lifted local villagers out of poverty and fuelled major transformations in their circumstances and practices, social and family relationships, and values and aspirations. At the heart of this book are eight tales that recreate Ginkgo Village life and the interactions between villagers and the researchers who visit them.

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Public Humanities of the Future: Museums, Archives, Universities and Beyond

Edited by Kylie Message, Frank Bongiorno and Robert Wellington

ANU Press, June 2024. ISSN (print) 1440-0669, ISSN (online) 1834-8491. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/HR.XX.01.2024>

This volume relaunches the *Humanities Research* journal. It explores the roles, responsibilities and challenges of the humanities in 2024 and beyond. It examines whether and how our public cultural institutions and disciplines engage ethically and meaningfully with the challenges of contemporary life, and sheds light on how the conception and practice of humanities research is developing institutionally as well as through collaboration with partners and communities beyond the university context.

This publication also discusses the rapid development of interdisciplinary, digital and public humanities over the last decade, and opportunities for international collaboration reflected in the post-COVID 19 resumption of international travel. It also marks the 50th anniversary of the Humanities Research Centre at the ANU.

Administration

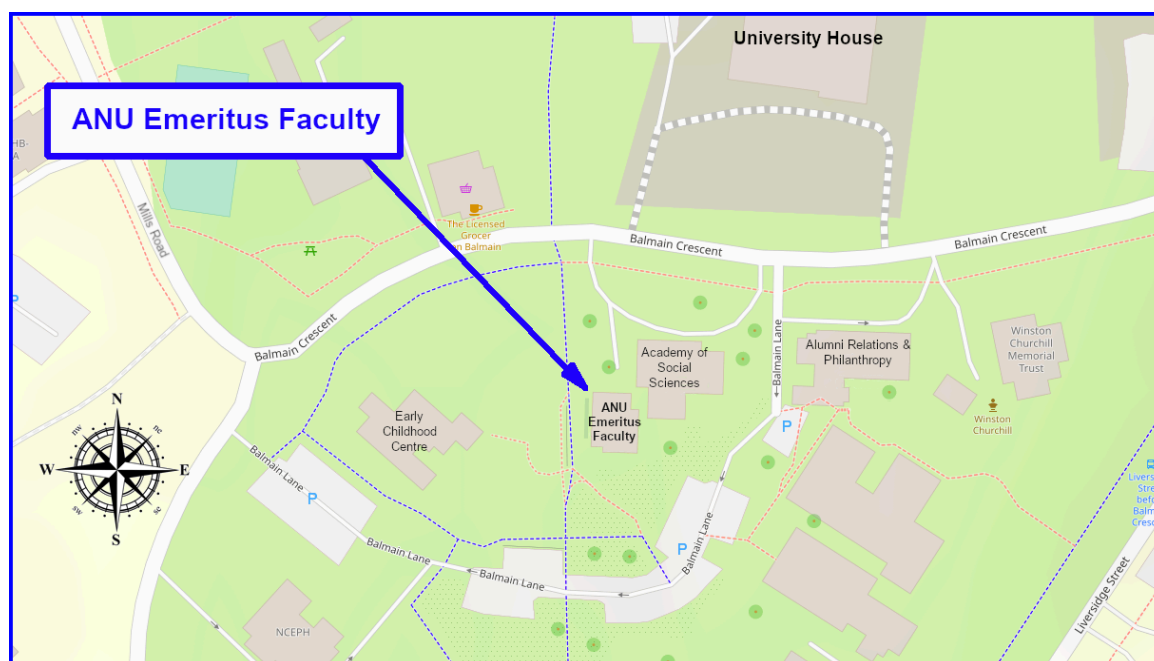
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O'Connor, at jantancress@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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