

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

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## V-C Bell defends university freedoms at Senate hearing

The Australian National University and other tertiary institutions were ‘places where we have and firmly support the notion of academic freedom’, the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Genevieve Bell, told the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee on 20 September.

Professor Bell was one of seven senior executives of Australian universities who appeared in Canberra for the hearing on a Commission of Inquiry into Antisemitism at Australian Universities Bill 2024 (No. 2).

Professor Bell was pressed by Senator Sarah Henderson, the Shadow Minister for Education and mover of the Bill, on the case of an ANU student who had voiced public support for Hamas and had been expelled, but had been reinstated and was now running for election as president of the ANU Students’ Association.

In response, Professor Bell told the committee that, for reasons of privacy, she would not comment on individual disciplinary cases, but insisted that processes had been followed.

‘There is an appeals process,’ she said. ‘When that appeals process is triggered, we constitute an appeals committee. They investigate and form an opinion about the decision that was made. That decision is then final for the university, as is again fitting in an independent administrative process. So it is the case that we will have disciplinary cases where there is an appeal, and one of the consequences of that appeal could be an overturning of the original decision.’

Senator Henderson asked how it was acceptable that a student who had ‘brought your university into disrepute’ could be permitted to run for office in the student association.

In response, Professor Bell said the student association had ‘an electoral process that sits inside their policy suite and regulations. It is managed appropriately, and many different people choose to run for political office inside that.’

‘I can't imagine a world in which we think it would be a good idea for vice-chancellors to determine who should run our student associations,’ she told the inquiry.

Senator Henderson sought a response to the idea that it was ‘not acceptable for our students to be out there unconditionally supporting a terrorist group’, but Professor Bell reiterated that ‘we have a set of academic freedoms and freedom of speech that sit at our university. We operate inside a legal construct from Australia. We have a disciplinary code of conduct.’ When that code and disciplinary rules were violated, ‘we pursue them’.

In her opening statement to the hearing, Professor Bell said ANU’s policies were designed to support students and staff, and to balance its commitments to freedom of expression with its legal responsibilities to provide a safe environment, including wellbeing and psychosocial safety. The university had learnt from recent experience and updated and reviewed a number of its policies and procedures ‘to ensure that, where individuals behave in ways that are contrary to their responsibilities, they can be held accountable’.

She insisted that ‘any form of prejudice, discrimination or racism is antithetical to what we stand for and strive for.’

‘Diversity underpins our core values of academic rigour, freedom of expression and service in the national interest,’ Professor Bell told the committee. ‘We see this as a strength and an attribute of our university. This strength is born of the innate challenge that comes from freedom and difference.’

Earlier, the committee heard from several witnesses who said that Jewish students had been traumatised or felt unsafe on campuses. Noah Loven, President of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, said his organisation supported the right to protest, but when those protests ‘glorify violence against Jews, insult or harass them and deface campus with swastikas, it crosses the line’.

‘This is not protest; it is intimidation designed to silence Jewish students and exclude them from university life,’ he said.

Associate Professor Efrat Eilam, Co-Director of the Australian Academic Alliance Against Antisemitism, said universities were ‘undergoing an antisemitic crisis, a crisis which they're failing to deal with’.

‘A judicial inquiry is essential to ensure that the true extent of antisemitism and threatening behaviour on campuses is asserted, with students and staff given a full opportunity to recount their experiences and university officials given the opportunity to explain their systems’ failure to address the crisis,’ he said.

In its submission, Universities Australia told the committee that its communities had been ‘deeply affected by the conflict in the Middle East’ and shared community concerns about the rise of anti-Semitic behaviour in Australia. The group had been working with members, parliamentarians and student groups to deal with antisemitism and Islamophobia.

‘There is no place for racism in any form in our universities, or anywhere else,’ Universities Australia’s Chief Executive Officer, Luke Sheehy, said in the submission. ‘As a sector we strongly oppose racism, threats to safety, hate

speech, intimidation, bullying or harassment. Unfortunately instances of these behaviours do play out on campuses, just as they do in the wider community.

‘University campuses are places where ideas are openly discussed and debated, no matter how popular or unpopular they may be. ... While these freedoms do not extend to hate speech or other unlawful forms of speech, they do provide substantial protection for the robust expression of differing views.’

In its submission, the National Tertiary Education Union told the committee it did not support the Bill in its current form. The NTEU ‘strongly supports the rights of all to freedom of speech and respects the rights of staff and students to engage in peaceful protests on campus. Challenging accepted wisdom and the status quo through protest is a long-standing characteristic of universities which are designed to encourage critical inquiry,’ it said.

‘While we are concerned about and oppose discrimination and bigotry in any form on our university campuses, the Bill potentially conflicts with other government initiatives against antisemitism, and at the very least will muddy the waters,’ it said.

‘The Bill also does not adequately recognise the existing instruments that regulate behaviour at universities, nor the centrality of institutional autonomy, freedom of speech, free intellectual inquiry and academic freedom to those institutions.

‘Finally, the Bill specifically includes investigation of staff representative organisations, and explicitly names the NTEU in the Explanatory Memorandum without any sound basis for this inclusion. All the evidence is that NTEU opposes antisemitism, and that the Union has no power to control the behaviour of students, the Vice Chancellors or the wider body of university employees,’ it said.

Its national executive had issued two statements on Gaza, opposing antisemitism and islamophobia, supporting a two-state solution, calling for an immediate ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, unrestricted access to humanitarian aid, and lifting the siege of Gaza.

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## Time to end universities being ‘political playthings’: UA head

Higher education belonged on the national policy agenda, not in the political playbook, the Chair of Universities Australia, Professor David Lloyd, told a National Press Club lunch on 11 September.

‘There is simply too much at stake for Australia’s future to be treating universities as political playthings rather than the critical national assets they are,’ he said in a wide-ranging address which examined the state of Australia’s higher-education sector, castigated the federal government for capping international student places, and called on political leaders ‘to put universities at the centre of the economic agendas they take to the next election’.

While the Universities Accord offered ‘a solid policy blueprint to build from’, Professor Lloyd urged political leaders ‘to make universities a policy priority instead of a political pawn’.

They should follow the examples of leaders like prime ministers Sir Robert Menzies and Bob Hawke by investing in universities for Australia’s greater good.

He understood the acute budgetary pressures on government, and recognised that it would cost money to develop and improve the higher education sector in ways that would meet the nation’s needs, but, he argued, ‘there is no greater investment than an investment in Australia’s future, particularly when every Australian benefits’.

Research funding needed to be addressed as a priority, he said, asking what good was a \$22.7 billion investment to build a Future Made in Australia without the research and development needed to spur the growth of new industries.

‘It’s fine for the government to commit to a strategic examination of the R&D system, but this only puts off what is already urgently needed — increased and sustainable funding for university research and development,’ Professor Lloyd said.

‘The government will need to come to the table, now that their actions mean that universities have less international student revenue to fund this important work.

‘We can’t afford to kick the can down the road, not when our productivity, economic growth and a major component of the government’s own agenda depends on this work.’

### ***‘... significant funding shortfalls for universities’***

‘The Labor Party has committed to growing investment in R&D and the Coalition would be wise to do the same.’

Professor Lloyd noted that government investment in higher education in 2020 was at 0.56 per cent of GDP, lower than 2008 levels and 60 per cent below the OECD average of 0.93 per cent. It reinforced his point about universities not being the subject of bipartisan support and encouragement.

‘The last seven years, the majority under a Coalition Government, have been particularly difficult, starting with the re-capping of university places in 2017,’ he said

‘Since then, other changes to higher education policy have resulted in significant funding shortfalls for universities to the tune of billions of dollars.’

The stark and frightening reality was that two-thirds of publicly funded universities were in deficit in 2022 and 2023, he said.

‘As if that isn’t enough financial pain, the Albanese Government and the Peter Dutton-led Coalition are now outdoing one another in their rush to reduce the number of overseas students studying at Australia’s universities.

‘The government, under pressure from the opposition, is currently seeking to pass legislation that would give it powers to limit overseas enrolments in a bid

to neutralise the perceived political damage it is suffering from high migration rates, despite ours being a migrant nation.

‘This is an extraordinary intervention in our sector to an extent not seen since the Morrison Government politicised Australian Research Council funding grants in 2021,’ Professor Lloyd said.

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## Cap on international students will ‘strengthen’ sector: government

The federal government’s projected National Planning Level (NPL) for international students would see Australia’s publicly funded universities, in aggregate, enrolling about 145,000 new international students in 2025 — around 2023 levels, according to the government.

The decision to cap student numbers has drawn strong criticism from the university sector, with the Group of Eight accusing the government of ‘building a wall to lock out international students’, and saying that it would ‘damage the sector for years to come’.

The government said in May that it would limit the number of international students that could be enrolled by international education providers. On 27 August it announced that, subject to the passage of legislation, the NPL for new international student commencements would be set at 270,000 nationally for calendar year 2025. This number encompasses both higher education and vocational education and training.

Limits for each university are set out in an indicative International Student Profile (ISP), which will see some universities permitted to take in more international students and others to face sometimes severe cutbacks. The Australian National University will have its intake cut by about 14 per cent, from 3,972 new overseas student enrolments in 2023 to 3,400 for 2025.

A statement by the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, the Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Tony Burke, and the Acting Minister for Skills and Training, Murray Watt, said the government was ‘strengthening the integrity and sustainability of the international education sector’.

The new NPL, divided between the higher-education and vocational education and training (VET) sectors, would restore the number of new international student commencements, across higher education and VET, to pre-pandemic levels.

‘Arrangements for 2026 and beyond will deliver sustainable growth in international student numbers to ensure the sustainability of the sector into the future,’ the ministers said.

# Seventeen ANU research projects gain ARC Discovery award funding

Projects by 17 early-career researchers at the Australian National University are among 200 that will receive funding under the Australian Research Council's ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) scheme.

Funding totalling \$92.9 million for new research projects was announced late in August.

'The ARC Discovery Program has an impressive track record in generating new knowledge that addresses a significant problem or gap in knowledge, and it offers exciting opportunities for Australia's promising early career researchers to develop in supportive environments,' the ARC's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Richard Johnson, said when announcing the grants.

'As well as boosting Australia's research and innovation capacity, DECRA projects result in new technologies and ideas, leading to new jobs, economic growth, and ultimately improved quality of life for Australians.'

Projects funded include one which will work to develop new catalysts to boost plastic recycling, and one to drive increases in crop productivity through more efficient use of nitrogen.

ANU researchers whose projects will receive three-year funding are Dr Aditya Balasubramanian (\$477,039), Dr Dylan Campbell (\$472,431), Dr Chaohao Chen (\$475,614), Dr Laura Davy (\$487,656), Dr Georgina Falster (\$438,335), Dr Siavash Ghelichkhan (\$474,781), Dr Courtney Hilton (\$486,231), Dr Melanie Kaasinen (\$484,931), Dr Kirill Koshelev (\$397,419), Dr Mathieu Leclerc (\$486,506), Dr Noelia Martinez Rey (\$480,121), Dr Fabian Muehlboeck (\$477,831), Dr Amit Seta (\$488,618), Dr Alexander Skeels (\$486,675), Dr Elise Stephenson (\$483,177), Dr Hendry Susila (\$484,087), and Dr Michael Taleski (\$467,603).

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## ANU translators shortlisted for academy's medal of excellence

Australian National University academics Kevin Windle and Elena Govor are among four translators who have been shortlisted for the 2024 Medal for Excellence in Translation, awarded by the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Emeritus Professor Windle and Dr Govor have been shortlisted for *Voices in the Wilderness: A Digest of the Russian-Language Press in Australia 1912–1919*, which was published earlier this year.

Professor Windle was Head of the ANU's School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics in 2003-04, and was formerly Convenor of Translation Studies and Russian. He has taught Russian language and literature at all levels, and inaugurated the university's Masters Program in Translation Studies in 2001.

His major publications include the biography *Undesirable: Captain Zuzenko and the Workers of Australia and the World* (Melbourne 2012), three co-edited volumes including *The Oxford Handbook of Translation Studies* (Oxford 2011), and numerous literary and scholarly translations. He is deputy editor of the Emeritus Faculty newsletter.

Dr Govor was born in Minsk and came to Australia in 1990. She received her Doctorate in History from the ANU in 1996. She has been widely published in Russia and Australia. Her research focuses on cross-cultural contacts between Russians and the peoples of Australia and the South Pacific, in particular the history of early Russian emigration to Australia. Her books include *Australia in the Russian Mirror: Changing Perceptions, 1770-1919* (1997); *My Dark Brother: the Story of the Illins, a Russian-Aboriginal Family* (2000, shortlisted for NSW Premier's Award); *Russian Anzacs in Australian History* (2005); and *Twelve Days at Nuku Hiva: Russian Encounters and Mutiny in the South Pacific* (2010).

*Voices in the Wilderness* draws on reports, letters and opinion pieces published in seven weekly Russian newspapers published in Australia between 1912 and 1919. The book reveals a small group of Russian immigrants struggling to establish themselves in what some had viewed as a 'working man's paradise' and adjust to a new life. It details the suspicion aroused among Australian officials after the Russian revolutions in 1917: by late 1919 most of the Russian journalists had left Australia or been deported.

The Medal for Excellence in Translation recognises outstanding achievement in translation and the vital role of translators and translation in Australian culture and scholarly discourse. Established in 2016, it is awarded biennially for a book-length translation into English of a work of any genre (including scholarship), from any language and period.

The other shortlisted translators are Stephanie Smee for *On the Line: Notes from a Factory*, by Joseph Ponthus (Black Inc. Books), and Josh Stenberg for *For a Splendid Sunny Apocalypse*, by Jiang Tao (Zephyr Press).

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## Prestigious award winner will use AI to unravel knotty problem in mathematics

Professor Geordie Williamson FAA FRS, Director of the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute, has become the first Australian to receive the Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award. The award, made for his use of algorithms in mathematics, will be presented in Berlin on 3 December.

The joint research award, endowed with €1.5 million (A\$2.4 million) from the Max Planck Society and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, has since 2018 recognised researchers outside Germany 'who stand out for their promising future potential and innovative research project'.

Professor Williamson, a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, uses artificial intelligence (AI) for his fundamental work in mathematics. He is a leader in the branch of mathematics exploring higher dimensional space using linear algebra, known as representation theory.

As part of the collaboration with researchers from the University of Bonn and the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, made possible by this award, Professor Williamson will tackle various mathematical problems with the help of artificial intelligence.

This includes investigating a problem in knot theory: the fact that it is often impossible to recognise whether knotted structures are actually knotted. This leads to the question: does the knot remain intact when you pull on the ends of the cord, or does it unravel?

One aim of the project is to identify these cases in a simple way so that uninteresting cases can be quickly filtered out and the researchers can focus on the real knots.

Professor Williamson became the youngest Fellow when elected to the Academy of Science in 2018 for his outstanding contributions to science.

## Obituaries

### **John Francis Morrison**

**11 June 1925 - 21 March 2024**

John Francis Morrison did his BSc (Hons) at the University of Sydney and his MSc at the University of Queensland. He then became an ANU scholar at Oxford University, where he completed his DPhil in Biochemistry in 1954. Following its completion he became a Research Fellow at the John Curtin School of Medical Research in the same year, 1954. He was promoted there to Fellow in 1956, Senior Fellow in 1962 and Professorial Fellow in 1968, this being the title he held until his retirement in December 1990.

In the period from 1954 John had become head of a group within the Department of Biochemistry at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, whose Professor was Sir Hugh Ennor, and I joined him there as a PhD student in early 1963. John had spent time previously at the University of Wisconsin with Dr W. W. ('Mo') Cleland, and this provided a foundation for the range of research led by John into the mechanisms of action of enzymes using kinetic techniques. He kept in contact with Cleland, who maintained interest in the work of the JCSMR group and visited Australia in the late 1970s as keynote speaker at a conference organised by John.

The Morrison laboratory at JCSMR had excellent technicians, notably two who were there long-term, Mrs M. Labutis (a refugee from Lithuania) and a little later Margaret Sneddon (from Scotland), and there were normally two research students, post-docs or research fellows who changed over time. John was usually working in his neat and well organised office, which was consistent with his own quite dapper personal presentation. He put on his lab coat for some of the more challenging organic chemistry in preparing compounds needed for experiments. He ensured the group had the best in spectrophotometers and could purchase chemicals from overseas whenever needed. The kinetic nature of the research required computer analysis and in 1964 John commissioned a



freelance programmer (Elizabeth Reid, who later became adviser to Prime Minister Gough Whitlam on Women's Affairs) to program an IBM 360 (the size of a substantial keyboard musical instrument) for the purpose of fitting a weighted regression line to experimental data – of course this could later be done on a hand-held calculator. Later, in the 1970s, the Biochemistry Department had access to a PDP 11 computer with a dedicated technician, which filled a small room, and the Morrison group would have been the greatest user from the Department.

John and I (as a research student) had undertaken the first steps in 1963-65 in a comprehensive kinetic study of the mechanism of the reaction catalysed by a phosphoryl transferase enzyme (adenosine triphosphate-creatine phosphate phosphotransferase, which catalyses a reversible reaction essential for the function of mammalian muscle). In the period from 1964 to 1971 more than 2000 research papers were published on enzymes that catalyse phosphoryl group transfer reactions. John's standing in this, his foundational field, was perhaps best acknowledged by an invitation to him to write a review of the field for the Annual Review of Biochemistry in 1972 and the review article covered a wide range of this work.

### *A supportive supervisor and group leader*

The research of the Morrison group continued over many years and expanded into reactions catalysed by a number of other enzymes, including aspartate transcarbamylase and inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase. New lines of research were sometimes inspired by the research being undertaken in other groups of the Department. This was particularly so after Professor Frank Gibson became Department Head and his group introduced some interesting multifunctional enzymes from bacterial sources, such as chorismate mutase-prephenate dehydrogenase, which was also noteworthy because it was inhibited by an end product of the synthetic pathway it lies upon, viz. tyrosine.

John Morrison supervised a number of research students over his career, including Bill O'Sullivan and Del Doherty before 1963, and Marie Louise Uhr and myself at around that time, plus others later including Paulina Dudzinski, Padmini SampathKumar, and Brigitte Perrot. Post-docs or research fellows who spent time in the group included Richard Christopherson (later Emeritus Professor, Sydney University), Ron Duggleby, Julian Rood, Jeff Williams, Rajinder Ghambeer, and Stuart Stone. John was a supportive supervisor and group leader who was always interested and ready to discuss issues, and who read draft theses with patience and careful attention. I was fortunate to have him arrange for me to do research part-time while I had children below school age, at a time when this was most unusual in science, and to provide support as a referee when I left the bench to work in the scientific bureaucracy.

In 1989, the year before his retirement, John was appointed as the initial Head of the Division of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the John Curtin School. This was a fitting acknowledgment of his standing as he approached retirement. He once told me that his father was a gifted cabinetmaker and wood worker who refused to let his son work with wood because he feared it would prove so attractive that John would become addicted to it and miss out on opportunities for a better career. I think John's father, as many others,

would regard John's career in biochemical research as a great success, a significant contribution to the understanding of enzymic catalysis.

— Beth Heyde



## **Patrick Rosh Ireland** **28 January 1934 – 29 May 2024**

Rosh Ireland, as he was always known, had a long career at the Australian National University. In fact he may well have been in contention for a record: he was appointed to the staff of Canberra University College shortly before it became part of the ANU, in early 1959, aged twenty-four, and remained employed or attached until 2014, making a total of fifty-five years. When the University instituted awards for long service, in 2009, these were for a maximum of forty years. No allowance was made for the possibility that a few, like Rosh, had been there for fifty. The Vice-Chancellor had to make special mention of that fact when he presented what Rosh referred to as his 'good conduct medal'. To many, especially those working in Russian studies and modern languages more broadly, he was a highly appreciated colleague and friend.

Rosh was born and grew up in Scarborough, on the North Yorkshire coast. His school career was a distinguished one, in sport no less than in academic study. He was school captain, boxing champion and captain of the school rugby team, as well as excelling in his chosen academic field, modern languages (French and German), for which he won an exhibition to Cambridge.

Before entering university, however, like all other men of his age at the time, he was required to complete two years of National Service. Rosh joined the Royal Navy, but having demonstrated outstanding ability as a linguist he was selected for training as a Russian translator and interpreter at the recently established Joint Services School for Linguists (JSSL). The language program was intensive and rigorous; regular tests ensured steady progress, and repeated failure meant relegation to more usual military duties. No such relegation threatened Rosh, who quickly mastered the language, along with the skills of translator and interpreter, which would serve him well in the future. The latter part of his naval career was spent on a posting to Cuxhaven, near Hamburg, as sub-lieutenant RN, eavesdropping on Soviet naval movements.

From National Service Rosh proceeded to Caius College, Cambridge. Having acquired a qualification in Russian from JSSL, he was now able to undertake a degree in Russian and French, graduating in 1957 with first-class honours. In that year he joined the Foreign Office's Research Department and was posted to the British embassy in Moscow as a translator. This was the ideal opportunity for him to extend his knowledge of Russia and Russian, at a time when Khrushchev was beginning to ease the tight controls of the Stalinist period and cautiously open the USSR to limited Western contacts. Rosh made the most of it and absorbed the excitement of the period. While working at the embassy he

also made the acquaintance of an Australian Soviet specialist employed by the Research Department, Harry Rigby, then on leave from his post at Canberra University College. Knowing that there was a vacancy for a lecturer in Russian, Rigby suggested that Rosh might submit an application. He duly did so and was appointed to take up the post at the beginning of the 1959 academic year. He quickly took to life in Australia, was soon married to Mari Jose von Huysen Muusze, known as Jo, and together they embarked upon a happy family life. The rest of a long and successful academic career would be spent in Canberra.

When Canberra University College was absorbed into the ANU, Russian and Soviet studies became firmly established, largely thanks to Harry Rigby's efforts, and an impressive team of experts was assembled. Rosh would have a vital role in the language and literature program, working closely with colleagues in other disciplines, such as political science, and able to contribute to courses in Russian history. His colleagues in the teaching and study of the language and literature included at various times Margaret Travers, Reginald de Bray, who broadened the field to include other Slavonic languages, and a former student who later joined the staff, Robert Dessaix. Together they fostered a friendly atmosphere, giving great encouragement to students, and Rosh and Jo laid on regular hospitality at their home. It was largely thanks to Rosh that Russian-speaking weekends, usually at Kioloa on the NSW coast, became a fixture in the life of the department, providing students with short-term immersion in the language. Rosh oversaw the studies of many outstanding students and supervised the undergraduate and postgraduate work of some who went on to achieve great academic and professional distinction.

Having specialised at first in the literature of the Soviet period, Rosh became a widely recognised authority on Russian drama of the 19th and 20th centuries. He was well versed in the plays of Chekhov, Alexander Ostrovsky, Eduard Radzinsky, Viktor Rozov and Evgeny Shvarts, whose work he taught, but his series of articles on the plays of Vasily Shkvarkin constituted his outstanding contribution to scholarship in the field. His store of general and literary knowledge, concealed by a modest manner, reached far wider, however, and he was always able to draw on a capacious memory and situate these writers and their plays firmly in their historical, literary and social context.

When the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) was established to ensure uniform standards in a previously unregulated field, Rosh took on an important role in matters pertaining to the translation and interpreting of Russian. For many years he chaired NAATI's Russian panel. In that capacity, as in so many others, he was always efficient and quietly effective, making sure things got done and done properly.

He also served for a period as sub-dean in the then Faculty of Arts at ANU, so he knew and understood the workings of the Faculty and the University extremely well. Internal reorganisation and restructuring in the 1980s brought amalgamation of small departments into larger administrative units. For some years, Rosh, as Senior Lecturer, presided as Head over a Department of Modern European Languages, which included Classics and Drama. In his unobtrusive way, he was a very capable manager of people: tactful, thoughtful, considerate, forceful when necessary and not afraid to take a stand on matters of principle. He was greatly appreciated by colleagues and students alike.

Rosh retired in 1998 but remained firmly attached to the University. As a Visiting Fellow, he continued to contribute in many ways, to give lectures very willingly whenever asked, present erudite seminar papers, and publish articles and scholarly translations. He and I collaborated on a number of substantial projects: they included four lengthy translations, from Russian and German, three of them for Oxford University Press, long after his retirement. In all of these, he was the ideal collaborator, painstaking, reliable, scholarly and scrupulous over detail, while never losing sight of the broader framework and context.

Rosh and Jo spent the earlier years of his retirement living happily at their rural property in Burra to the east of Canberra. Rosh enjoyed maintaining it and looking after their horses, while also earning local fame as a champion baker of fruit cakes.

In 2014, Rosh and Jo moved to Brisbane. There, in his late eighties, his health gradually declined, and he died on 29 May 2024. He is survived by Jo, his wife of 63 years, their children Rosh Michael and Louise, and Louise's daughters.

— Kevin Windle

With thanks to Jo and Rosh Michael Ireland

## Diary dates

### *Kin terminologies explored in lunchtime talk*

Indigenous kin terminologies will be the subject of Ian Keen's Emeritus Faculty lunchtime talk, 'Variation in First Nations Kin Terminologies: Cousins', at the Molony Room at noon on Wednesday, 2 October. The talk draws on some results from the latest iteration of the Austkin Project, which examines variation in First Nations Australian kin terminologies generation by generation. A study of variation in sibling terminologies has shown a significant degree of variation, with close to 100 distinct patterns distributed across nearly 300 languages. 'Cousin' terminologies are much less diverse however. Their forms are closely related to customary marriage arrangements, and variants reflect key differences in those arrangements where they persisted, as well as their social and economic correlates.

### *Meet the Author events*

**September 30, 6pm:** Virginia Trioli will talk about her new book, *A Bit on the Side*, with Allan Behm. Vote of thanks by Mark Kenny. Street Theatre, 15 Childers Street.

**October 1, 6pm:** Dr Karl Kruszelnicki will present his memoir, *A Periodic Tale*. Bobby Cerini will give the vote of thanks. Street Theatre, 15 Childers Street.

**October 10, 6pm:** Gina Chick will discuss her new book, *We Are the Stars.*, with Kate Grarock. Jeanne Ryckmans will give the vote of thanks. Street Theatre, 15 Childers Street.

**October 15, 6pm:** Andrew Leigh will talk with Lin Hatfield Dodds about the new version of his 2013 book *Battlers and Billionaires*. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

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

**October 29, 6pm:** Prizewinning Italian author Paolo Giordano will talk with Marco Lazzarino about his writing and his latest book, *Tasmania*. Brian Schmidt will give the vote of thanks. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 4, 6pm:** Benjamin Stevenson will discuss his new novel, *Everyone this Christmas has a Secret*, with Jack Heath. Karen Viggers will give the vote of thanks. 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:** John Saffran will talk about his new book, *Squat*. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 14, 6pm:** Ross Garnaut will talk about his new book, *Let's Tax Carbon: And Other Ideas for a Better Australia*. RSSL Auditorium, ANU.

**November 21, 6pm:** Peter FitzSimons will talk with Matthew Trinca about his new book, *The Legend of Albert Jacka*. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 27, 6pm:** George Megalogenis will talk about his Quarterly Essay, *Minority Report: The New Shape of Australian Politics*, with Niki Saava. John Warhurst will give the vote of thanks. Harry Hartog bookshop, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**November 28, 6pm:** David Marr will talk about his updated version of *My Country: Stories, Essays and Speeches*, with Andrew Leigh. Allan Behm will give the vote of thanks. 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](http://anu.edu.au/events). In line with ANU's Covid policy, masks are no longer required. Enquiries to the convenor, Colin Steele, at [colin.steele@anu.edu.au](mailto:colin.steele@anu.edu.au).

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

## Galleries and exhibitions

The National Gallery of Australia's exhibition 'Gauguin's World: Tōna Iho, Tōna Ao', will close on 7 October. The work of the influential French post-impressionist draws on painting, drawing, engraving, sculpture and the decorative arts to trace Gauguin's development. Also at the NGA: 'Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia', a survey of historical and contemporary

works of art by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, drawn from the national collection and Wesfarmers Collection of Australian Art (until 25 August 2025); and ‘Masami Teraoka and Japanese Ukiyo-e Prints’, which presents key examples of the Japanese-American artist’s *ukiyo-e* style works alongside historic *ukiyo-e* prints, delving into their visual, strategic and thematic connections (until 2 March 2025).

At the **National Archives of Australia**, works entered for the Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize will be on show at the Kings Avenue building until 27 October. The biennial prize recognises the long-running interplay between scientific research and the creative arts.

At the **National Portrait Gallery**, contemporary artist Joan Ross examines the consequences of colonialism in the exhibition ‘Joan Ross: Those Trees Came Back to Me in My Dreams’. Until 2 February 2025. Exhibitions covering the Darling Portrait Prize and the National Photographic Portrait Prize 2024 continue until 13 October.

**Canberra Museum and Gallery** offers ‘Reefinity: Material Science, Ecology, Ceramic Technology and Design’, a research project investigating material science (ceramic technology), ecology, digital design, and manufacturing by transdisciplinary designer Beth O’Sullivan. The project aims to support marine biology research by focusing on the needs of corals, such as the composition and topographies of the material they settle on. Until 3 November..

## Music

**Canberra Bach Ensemble**, recently returned from the Leipzig Bach Festival, will present four cantatas under the direction of Andrew Koll at St Christopher’s Cathedral on Saturday 5 October (7.30 pm) and Sunday 6 October (2pm). The program comprises the cantatas *Preise, Jerusalem, den Herrn* (BWV 119), *Bringet dem Herrn Ehre seines Namens* (BWV 148), *Nun danket alle Gott* (BWV 192) and *Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren* (BWV 137).

Also on 5 October, Musica Viva will present **Ensemble Q and William Barton**, which will explore the sonic possibilities that emerge when the traditional wind instrument, the didgeridoo, combines with instruments that were only fully developed in the past two centuries. Works by Barton, Paul Dean, Brahms and Ligeti. Llewellyn Hall, 7pm.

The work of Johann Georg Pisendel will be featured in the concert by **Salut! Baroque** at the Fairfax Theatre, National Gallery of Australia, at 7.30pm on Friday, 11 October. Pisendel, a leading light of the Dresden Court Orchestra for four decades, gathered work from contemporaries including Vivaldi, Telemann, J. S. Bach and Zelenka.

The **Canberra Symphony Orchestra** will give its audiences two years’ of seasons on Friday and Saturday, 18 and 19 October, at the Llewellyn Hall. Kirsten Williams, the orchestra’s director, will lead the orchestra in performances of Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons* and Leonid Desyatnikov’s arrangement of Astor Piazzolla’s *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. The concerts start at 7pm.

The CSO’s **Chamber Ensemble** will present a program of works by Dvorak, Josef Suk and Mendelssohn at the Albert Hall at 2pm on Sunday, 27 October.

## Events

Warm days might have arrived early, but **Floriade**, billed as ‘Australia’s biggest celebration of spring’, continues at Commonwealth Park until 13 October. The flower festival is celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> year.

The **Canberra Nara Candle Festival**, which celebrates Canberra’s sister city relationship with Nara, the ancient Japanese capital city, will be held at the Canberra Nara Peace Park, Lennox Gardens, on Saturday, 26 October, from 4pm. The festival celebrates Japanese culture and promotes peace and goodwill.

## Theatre

**Free Rain Theatre Company** will present *The Boy from Oz*, the musical biography of the Australian entertainer Peter Allen, at The Q theatre, Queanbeyan, from 1 to 20 October. Jared Newall has the lead role as Peter Allen. Martin Sherman wrote the music and lyrics from the book by Nick Enright.

**Tempo Theatre**’s production of Agatha Christie’s *Love from a Stranger* will open at the Belconnen Community Theatre on October 25. Newly rich Cecily Harrington rushes into marriage with a charming stranger but, as they say, ‘all is not what it seems’.

## Items of note

### *Academy welcomes Defence science strategy*

The Australian Academy of Science has welcomed recognition of the need for greater coordination across the national science system, set out in Australia’s defence Innovation, Science and Technology (IS&T) strategy.

The strategy, Accelerating Asymmetric Advantage – Delivering More, Together, is the Department of Defence’s 10-year vision for the defence IS&T ecosystem. It was launched on 17 September.

The strategy has determined that investing in innovation, science and technology is fundamental to equipping and preparing a modern fighting force in a technology-dominated world.

The strategy aims to foster emerging technology and help to develop disruptive military capabilities that will give asymmetric advantage for the Australian Defence Force.

It will enable significant investments to be made in the Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA) and AUKUS Pillar II Advanced Capabilities. A new nationwide Defence Research Centre model will stimulate cutting-edge research and development and link industry with researchers, Defence scientists and users.

The President of the Academy, Professor Chennupati Jagadish, said scientific capability and investment in research and development (R&D) would strengthen Australia's national security, sovereignty and diplomacy.

'The strategy's focus on the broader Defence innovation, science and technology ecosystem and how crucial collaboration across the sector will be in delivering these ambitions is important,' he said.

'The priorities articulated in the strategy send an important signal to the research sector on opportunities for coordination and collaboration, notably in the AUKUS Pillar II advanced capabilities areas.'

## *Student Ombudsman legislation goes to Parliament*

On 11 September the Federal Government introduced legislation to establish an independent National Student Ombudsman that will have the power to investigate student complaints and resolve disputes with universities.

'Not enough has been done to address sexual violence in our universities and for too long students haven't been heard,' the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, said after the legislation was introduced

'That begins to change with this legislation. Universities aren't just places where people work and study, they are also places where people live, and we need to ensure they are safe.'

The Ombudsman will allow all higher education students to escalate complaints about their higher education provider, including complaints about sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The Ombudsman will be able to consider whether decisions and actions taken by providers are unreasonable, unjust, oppressive, discriminatory or otherwise wrong; respond to a complaint where there are unreasonable delays, or the provider is acting unreasonably; recommend specific steps to resolve a complaint; and offer a restorative engagement process between a student and a provider.

The government will also set up a National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence. Addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment in universities was one of five priority actions to emerge from the Australian Universities Accord Interim Report.

The 2021 National Student Survey showed that one student in 20 had been sexually assaulted since starting university and one in six had been sexually harassed. One in two felt that they hadn't been heard after making a complaint.

## *Opportunities seen in UAE trade agreement*

A free trade agreement signed with the United Arab Emirates would help to unlock significant opportunities for Australia, according to the Chief Executive Officer of Universities Australia, Luke Sheehy.

'Closer connections with the UAE will only boost the significant contribution it makes to our economy and social cohesion,' Mr Sheehy said.



‘This development holds enormous potential for Australian universities, particularly in expanding educational exports and deepening international research efforts.

‘The UAE is already an important market for Australian education exports, with three Australian universities operating campuses in the region.

‘The UAE is a vital gateway for Australia’s presence in the Middle East and we welcome the opportunity to strengthen our engagement through education exports and research collaboration,’ he said.

## *Study confirms cancer risk from Mr Fluffy homes*

The latest edition of the ACT Asbestos Health Study, led by the Australian National University, has found an elevated risk mesothelioma and other cancers developing in men who had lived in a house containing loose-fill asbestos insulation, also known as Mr Fluffy homes.

Between 1968 and 1979, the company commonly referred to as Mr Fluffy installed loose-fill asbestos into the roof spaces of more than 1,000 homes in the ACT.

The ACT government has a registry of residences in the Canberra region that have been found to contain loose-fill asbestos.

Drawing on 35 years of data collected from residential address records, death records and the Australian Cancer Database, the study followed the almost 17,000 people who had lived in a Mr Fluffy home between 1984 and 2019.

It examined the rates of mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer that has been linked to asbestos exposure, among people who had lived in these homes and compared them to the rest of the ACT population.

The study found the risk of mesothelioma was elevated among men who had lived in a Mr Fluffy home.

‘We found that men who had lived in an asbestos-affected home at some point since 1984 were 2.7 times more likely to develop mesothelioma compared to the rest of the ACT male population,’ the Principal Investigator, Professor Rosemary Korda, said.

‘In absolute terms, there were seven to eight more mesothelioma cases among men who had lived in a Mr Fluffy home, compared with those who hadn’t, in the 35-year period between 1984 and 2019.

‘There have been too few mesothelioma cases among women in the ACT who had ever lived in a Mr Fluffy house to estimate with any certainty if there is an increased risk among women.’

## *Two coffees a day keep the doctors at bay*

A research team at the School of Public Health at Suzhou Medical College of Soochow University has determined that a regular moderate daily intake of coffee, tea or caffeine can reduce the risk of new-onset cardiometabolic multimorbidity (CM).

CM is an umbrella term for common and usually preventable cardiovascular and metabolic issues, including heart attack, stroke, diabetes, insulin resistance and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. These diseases account for more than twice the number of deaths caused by cancer. Obesity and hypertension are two main risk factors.

The findings, published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the Endocrine Society, were based on data from the UK Biobank, a longitudinal dietary study which draws on information from more than 500,000 participants who are between 37 and 73 years of age.

The study found that, compared with non-consumers or those ingesting less than 100 mg of caffeine a day, those who consumed a moderate amount of coffee (three drinks per day) or caffeine (200-300 mg per day) had the lowest risk for new-onset CM.

The authors concluded that habitual coffee or caffeine intake, especially at a moderate level, was associated with a lower risk of new-onset CM and could play important roles in almost all transition phases of CM development. 'Future studies are warranted to validate the implicated metabolic biomarkers underlying the relation between coffee, tea, and caffeine intake and CM,' they said.

The study, by Xujia Lu, Xiaohong Zhu, Guochen Li, Luying Wu, Liping Shao, Yulong Fan, Chen-Wei Pan, Ying Wu, Yan Borné and Chaofu Ke, was published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* on 17 September.

## Bookshelf

### *Preparing a Nation?*

#### *The New Deal in the Villages of Papua New Guinea*

By Brad Underhill

ANU Press, August 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466619, ISBN (online) 9781760466626. DOI <http://doi.org/10.22459/PN.2024>.

Based on extensive archival research, this book takes up perennial questions about Australian colonialism in Papua New Guinea. To what extent did Australia prepare the territory for independence? What policies and the ideologies lay behind colonial development after World War II? This book takes these questions from policy desks in Canberra and Port Moresby to the villages of four administrative areas: Chimbu, Milne Bay, Sepik and New Hanover. How successful were Australian planners in designing and implementing programs that could lessen the potential harm of market capitalism and develop 'new' socioeconomic structures that would bring a disparate people into an 'imagined community', capable of becoming an independent nation-state? Colonial intention is contrasted with indigenous experience. Underhill explores the Australian governmental tendency to prioritise colonial control over indigenous autonomy.

## *Made in China Journal*

*Volume 9 Issue 1 2024*

Edited by Ivan Franceschini, Nicholas Loubere , Andrea Enrico Pia and Christian Sorace

ANU Press, August 2024. ISSN (print) 2652-6352, ISSN (online) 2206-9119. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/MIC.09.01.2024>.

A new Chinese government textbook for university students, *An Introduction to the Community of the Zhonghua Race*, promotes President Xi Jinping's vision for governing China's diverse population. This shifts away from celebrating cultural differences and towards a Han-dominant identity. While the constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees minority rights and political autonomy through the framework of 'minority nationalities', the textbook suggests that Tibetan, Uyghur, Mongols, and other Indigenous groups should eventually assimilate into Han culture, raising concerns about the future of minority languages and traditions. The new approach to national unity faced significant resistance from both minority and Han officials, yet this prompted a more muscular response: revamping government departments, a harsh crackdown in minority-populated areas, and removing minority officials who oversaw ethnic affairs. In this issue of the *Made in China* journal, we ask contributors to reflect on the state of ethnic minority culture in the wake of Xi's new ethno-nationalist order.

## *From Borders to Pathways*

*Innovations and Regressions in the Movement of People into Europe*

Edited by Matthew Zagor

ANU Press, September 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466596, ISBN (online): 9781760466602. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/FBP.2024>

This volume examines the evolution of European migration policy, offering an analysis that extends beyond traditional border controls to innovative legal migration pathways. Contributors provide an in-depth exploration of the drivers shaping migration policies, including public opinion and the rise of populist discourses, the contrasting responses to various real and imagined migrant crises, and critiques of recent policy innovations such as refugee finance schemes, 'safe legal pathways', and migrant lotteries. The authors assess socio-political, legal, geo-political and cultural shifts to advocate a more inclusive, humane and sustainable approach to migration. *From Borders to Pathways* offers a comprehensive reflection on the complexities of migration in Europe, signalling a shift towards cooperation, inclusivity, and shared responsibility in global mobility.

## *Aboriginal History Journal*

*Volume 47*

Edited by Crystal McKinnon and Ben Silverstein

ANU Press, September 2024. ISSN (print) 0314-8769, ISSN (online) 1837-9389. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/AH.47.2023>

In the first article, Joakim Goldhahn, Sally May, and Jeffrey Lee's study of Badmardi artist Nayombolmi, best known for his rock art but here considered as an artist who produced a number of bark paintings for collectors in the 1950s and 1960s. Two articles explore the theme of negotiation in contexts of segregation. Sam Furphy describes Yorta Yorta memory activism relating to Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Yorta Yorta Country in 1954, considering memories of the fence that was erected to place Yorta Yorta people beyond the Queen's view. Cameron Raynes considers the health impacts of the exclusion of Aboriginal people at the Point Pearce Station from the nearby Wallaroo and Maitland Hospitals in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Relations between Aboriginal people and colonists in Queensland are considered in an article in which eight authors tell of Ewamian resistance to European invasion that contrasts to myths of Ewamian disappearance. Rebeka Manning and Sally Babidge read archives of Queensland pastoral stations for traces of Aboriginal women's and girls' domestic service, taking these hints as occasions for Aboriginal storytelling. The final article, jointly written by members of the Aboriginal History Archive, describes that archive's work to produce a historical understanding that might provide the basis for describing and enacting Aboriginal self-determination. The volume also includes reflections on the life and work of Niel Gunson and Gordon Briscoe.

*Dick Watkins*

*Reshaping Life and Art*

By Mary Eagle

ANU Press, September 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466213, ISBN (online) 9781760466220. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/DW.2024>.

Dick Watkins belongs to the generation of artists whose careers were launched at the end of American-based Abstraction, and almost immediately he faced up to the abrupt end of the Modern era: culture was no longer to be framed by 'progress'. In 1970, after taking stock, he announced that he was a copyist, there being no such thing as a new creation in art, shaped as it was by visual languages. Nor did he intend to limit his curiosity about the relation of art to life by restricting himself to a 'personal' style. There followed a long and passionately adventurous exploration into many subjects and styles, during which Watkins was often the first to signal changes taking place in Western culture. The result is that for half a century he has been a major, if controversial figure in Australian art.

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## *Administration*

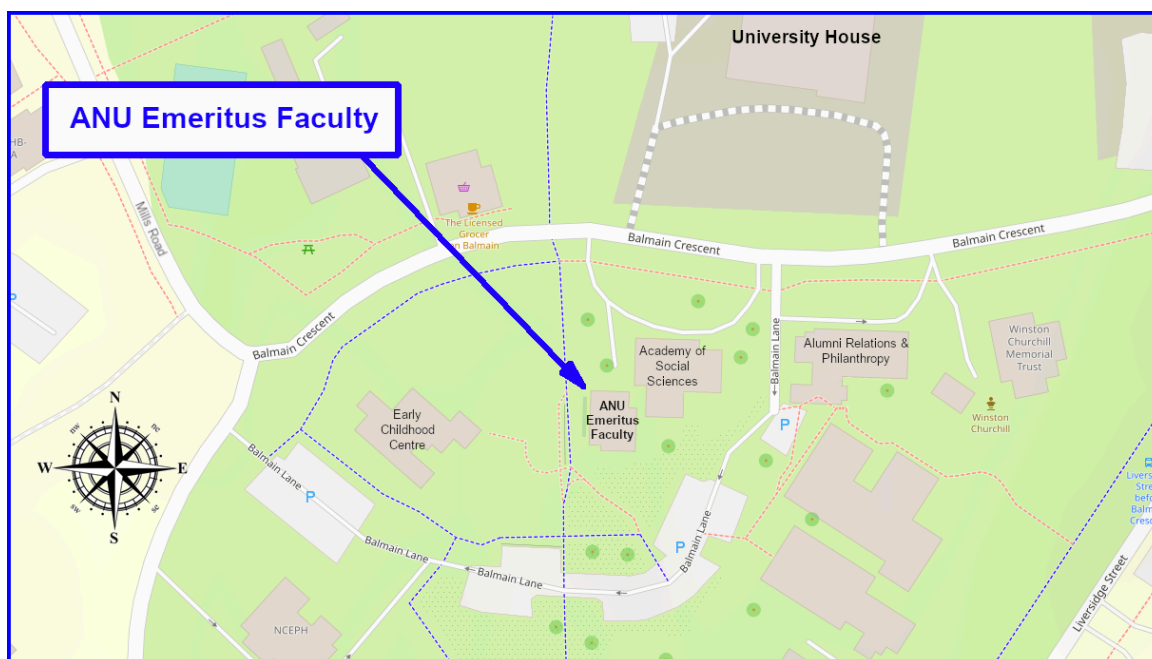
### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

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

### **Finding the Molony Room**

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

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



## *Editorial*

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