

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

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## MYEFO brings in next steps in tertiary reforms

The Australian government announced a further series of commitments to achieve change in higher education when it issued its Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) on 18 December.

The commitments make up the next group of changes to implement the Australian Universities Accord, but they received a mixed welcome from tertiary-education peak bodies.

The MYEFO saw the government commit an additional \$2.5 billion over the medium term to establish a new Managed Growth Funding system and introduce Needs-based Funding for universities.

The Government also committed \$54 million over the medium term to establish the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) to drive reform of Australia's tertiary education sector. Subject to the passage of legislation, the commission will begin work from 1 July 2025 and be fully operational by 1 January 2026.

Managed Growth Funding is intended to provide universities with Domestic Student Profiles, giving them greater certainty about the number of Commonwealth-supported university places that are fully funded.

This is meant to deliver demand-driven funding to help qualified students from under-represented backgrounds get to university. The system is expected to provide an additional 82,000 fully funded Commonwealth supported university places in 2035.

To help students succeed, the government will also provide additional Needs-based Funding for academic and wrap-around supports, including scholarships, bursaries, mentoring, and peer learning, according to the Minister for Education, Jason Clare.

He said universities would receive demand-driven Needs-based Funding aligned with the number of students enrolled from under-represented backgrounds.

Support would be accessible for any student who needed extra help, with universities determining the range of supports available.

Mr Clare said the ATEC would provide independent advice to government on higher-education pricing matters, tertiary sector harmonisation and sector performance, and would implement enhanced mission-based compacts, new Managed Growth Funding and Needs-based Funding.

This new Managed Growth Funding system would be implemented in stages, with a transition year in 2026 and full commencement from 1 January 2027.

The ATEC would also support the implementation of Needs-based Funding for higher-education providers from 1 January 2026, supporting around 140,000 students from under-represented backgrounds in its first year.

Regional funding contributions would support the continued sustainability of regional campuses, benefitting an estimated 150,000 students.

‘We have set a target that by 2050, 80 per cent of the workforce will have a TAFE qualification or a university degree,’ Mr Clare said.

‘This will give us the economic firepower we will need in the years ahead.

‘To hit that target, we need to break down that invisible barrier that stops a lot of Australians from disadvantaged backgrounds, from the regions and the outer suburbs, from getting a crack at uni and succeeding when they get there.

## Peak bodies point to ‘critical role’ of international education

‘That requires big structural reform. Boosting the number of university places over the next decade will help more Aussies get to uni, and demand-driven Needs-based Funding will help them succeed when they get there.’

Universities Australia welcomed the MYEFO initiatives, with Chief Executive Luke Sheehy saying the commitments ‘recognise the vital role universities play in delivering the skills and knowledge Australia needs to drive prosperity and tackle workforce shortages’.

‘From helping more Australians from disadvantaged backgrounds access higher education to creating a funding framework that supports long-term sustainability, these investments will strengthen our universities across cities and regions, benefiting the entire nation,’ he said

He said ATEC had the potential to transform higher education by aligning funding and performance with the needs of students and the economy.

He noted also that the MYEFO highlighted the role of international education in Australia’s fiscal position, contributing more than \$51 billion annually to the economy and supporting thousands of jobs nationwide.

‘International education is one of Australia’s largest exports. Certainty and stability are now urgently needed to ensure its continued growth and global competitiveness,’ he said.

Vicki Thomson, Chief Executive of the Group of Eight, noted that the MYEFO showed weakening economic performance.

While applauding structural reforms to support a fair and equitable university sector, increase the number of domestic students from diverse backgrounds, and boost skills, it was important to ‘not lose sight of the critical role international education plays in Australia’s economic and social prosperity’, she said.

The ‘elephant in the room’ was that the Australian government’s own action on international student caps had contributed to weakening economic performance.

# New student visa procedure a ‘fairer’ approach: government

The Australian government has replaced Ministerial Direction 107, which prioritised visa applications from international students seen as ‘low-risk’, and replaced it with a new Ministerial Direction that it says will prioritise applications ‘in a fairer way’.

MD 107 had been the subject of consistent criticism by peak tertiary education bodies. It was replaced on 19 December after the Coalition decided not to support the government’s Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bill.

According to the government, it was designed to support education providers with strong recruitment practices for international students, and to support the Department of Home Affairs at a time of increasing volumes and of risk in the caseload. The government has acknowledged that arrangements with MD107 unevenly impacted education providers.

The new direction, MD 111, applies to on-hand, unfinalised student visa applications lodged from offshore, as well as those lodged on or after that date, and sets out priority categories for processing these applications.

Under MD111, high priority processing will apply to offshore applications associated with a provider in the higher education and vocational education and training sectors which has not reached its prioritisation threshold. When that threshold is reached for a provider, visa processing will continue at Priority 2 - Standard priority.

According to the Department of Home Affairs, the new approach creates ‘a more even approach to visa processing across a range of different provider types and locations, including for regional and small providers. MD111 will continue to support the well-managed and orderly processing of visa applications that supports the education sector equitably, while achieving Government’s wider international education objectives.’

In a joint media statement, ministers said the new Direction would give ‘a fairer go to regional and outer metropolitan universities and to TAFEs’.

‘This will prioritise the processing of visa applications for international education providers that are operating sustainably, supporting fair and reasonable access for providers looking to deliver to genuine international students,’ they said.

The new MD had involved consultation with the international education sector and was shaped by work within government to develop an approach that promoted quality and sustainability in the sector.

The decision to revoke MD 107 brought a mixed reaction from peak university bodies.

Luke Sheehy, the Chief Executive Officer of Universities Australia, said revocation acknowledged the financial pain, damage and uncertainty it had caused universities and the economy, but called the decision ‘a win for all Australians, paving the way for sustainable growth in the critically important international education sector’.

‘This is the commonsense decision that was desperately needed to deliver some of the certainty and stability our universities have been seeking,’ Mr Sheehy said.

The Chief Executive of the Group of Eight, Vicki Thomson, said that the government had ‘shifted the goal posts yet again’ by ‘replacing one flawed process with another – effectively a “slowdown in processing”.’

‘We run the risk of confusing the international student market with these constant changes to policy settings. For too many potential students, it makes Australia look too hard and too unwelcoming as a higher education destination,’ she said.

‘Once more Government policy seems designed to leave significant budget holes for Australian universities, without financial compensation.’

The National Tertiary Education Union has called for a guarantee that there will be no higher-education job losses resulting from the introduction of MD 111.

The NTEU’s National President, Dr Alison Barnes, said that while the change was welcome for regional and smaller universities, the union was focused on protecting jobs.

‘The NTEU has been crystal clear: the federal government must guarantee there will be no job losses stemming from changes to international student rules,’ she said.

‘We are calling for a transition fund to be put in place to ensure universities have no excuse but to protect their most precious asset — staff.’

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## ANU research projects win funding under ARC’s Discovery scheme

Twenty-two research projects within the Australian National University are among the 536 to be awarded funding under the 2025 Australian Research Council Discovery Projects scheme.

Nationally, the projects have attracted funding of more than \$342 million.

The ARC’s Acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Richard Johnson, said the Discovery Projects scheme supported excellent basic and applied research to expand Australia’s knowledge base and research capability.

‘Discovery grants support individual researchers and research teams in research projects that provide economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits to the Australian community,’ Dr Johnson said.

The projects represent research excellence in diverse areas, including better understanding cellular and molecular specialisation in plant leaves for more climate-resilient crops; developing 3D-printing techniques that could lead to safe, high-energy lithium metal batteries; and investigating how remote schools can better support First Nations students to complete school.

For this round of Discovery Project funding, the ARC implemented a two-stage approach for grant applications. The first stage involved a streamlined expression of interest, with an expedited assessment process. Shortlisted applicants were invited to complete a full application for the second stage.

‘By dividing the scheme into two stages, the ARC eased the burden on researchers applying for funding through a simpler and shorter expression of interest process,’ Dr Johnson said.

A full list of funded projects can be found at <https://rms.arc.gov.au/RMS/Report/Download/Report/1b0c8b2e-7bb0-4f2d-8f52-ad207cfbb41d/273>

# Academy calls for Earth-system institute to counter climate risk

Establishing an institute for Earth-system science is the priority among the recommendations set out in the Australian Academy of Science's *Decadal Plan for Australian Earth System Science 2024-2033*, released on 25 November.

The institute would be tasked to develop, coordinate and implement national strategies in climate-science research. It would require long-term investment by the Australian government, the *Plan* says.

Other recommendations identify the need to create a national strategy to integrate high-performance computing and data. That strategy must include a fully integrated plan to manage and retain data that will enable the effective use of new tools, including artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The creation of the institute would see Australia establish 'the science foundations for an evidence-based approach to climate risk, and partner with our allies to provide climate intelligence across our region', the *Plan* says.

'Without the establishment of a strong science-based foundation, we risk investments that lead to maladaptation, incorrect disclosure of financial risk by business, and erroneous assessments of national and regional risks associated with climate change,' it says.

The *Plan* has been developed by the Academy's National Committee for Earth System Science (NCESS), under the leadership of its chair, Academy Fellow Professor Andy Pitman AO.

Without coordination across existing research programs, Australia is building climate policies on crumbling foundations, Professor Pitman said.

'A unifying agency is needed to address the critical gaps in our understanding of Australia's climate and the impacts of change, and to support and engage the excellent individual researchers we have,' he said.

'Our knowledge is incomplete, and we cannot address the gaps if we do not reignite our ambition to excel in Earth-system science.'

'How can our land and ocean be used to support net zero ambitions?' he asked. 'Where in Australia is at risk of abrupt changes in weather and climate? Where is freshwater in Australia resilient to climate change? How do we manage the exposure of our cities to climate extremes?'

Professor Pitman noted that countries in the northern hemisphere, including Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom, had ambitious permanent research-focused organisations that provided coordinated long-term responses to critical issues.

'As a nation, we are uniquely positioned to lead the research required in the southern hemisphere because of our local talent, connection to the Pacific and our existing investment in the essential capabilities,' Professor Pitman said.

# Joint venture will tackle threat of mosquito-borne diseases in the region

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation has joined the UK-based Oxitec Ltd to set up Oxitec Australia to tackle the threat posed by mosquito-borne diseases in the Pacific.

Oxitec Australia will focus on two of the deadliest virus-carrying mosquitoes in the Pacific region, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, which spread diseases like dengue, Zika, and yellow fever, which claims hundreds of thousands of lives globally each year.

The venture draws on Oxitec's proven biological Friendly™ platform, where genetically engineered male mosquitoes carry a self-limiting gene that ensures only non-biting males survive, reducing pest females and overall mosquito numbers through sustained releases.

Professor Brett Sutton, Director of Health and Biosecurity at CSIRO, said Oxitec Australia was seeking partners to accelerate its activities and product development in Australia.

‘Oxitec Australia offers a unique opportunity to help combat the growing threat of invasive and exotic pests, some of which are on mainland Australia’s doorstep, like *Aedes albopictus*,’ Professor Sutton said.

‘Factors like climate change and growing pesticide resistance will only bring greater challenges to the health of Australians and our region via vector-borne diseases.

‘By investing in new and innovative solutions that complement existing control programs, we can reduce the public health impacts of these exotic and invasive mosquito species.

‘This technology platform could also be used to develop solutions for a wide spectrum of pests that threaten livestock and crops and our food systems.’

Mosquitoes in the Indo-Pacific spread such diseases as malaria, dengue and Japanese encephalitis, and cause over 23,000 deaths each year. Dengue alone infects more than 390 million people around the world every year.

*Aedes aegypti* is established in northern and central Queensland, although it has previously been present in New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. It can transmit such viruses as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

The Asian tiger mosquito *Aedes albopictus* is not yet established on the Australian mainland but is widespread in the Indo-Pacific. The most invasive mosquito species in the world, it is a major spreader of human viral diseases such as dengue, Zika and chikungunya.

Only female mosquitoes bite, and are capable of transmitting viruses to humans.

Grey Frandsen, CEO of Oxitec, said the launch of Oxitec Australia was a bold, strategic initiative to combat the region's most pressing invasive pest challenges, as well as a demonstration of what could be done when innovators come together to solve big challenges.

## Stuart Francis Harris

14 March 1931 – 5 October 2024

Emeritus Professor Stuart Harris died in Canberra on 5 October 2024. He was 93. Stuart made a significant contribution as a practitioner and scholar at the highest levels of public policy and academia, most notably as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1984-1988) and as Professor at the ANU, first in resource economics and sustainable development, and later in International Relations, specialising on China. These two roles enriched each other and made his contribution unique in cutting-edge areas of Australian foreign policy. In carrying out both roles, he was well-known for questioning fundamental assumptions and widely respected for his humility, warmth and support for emerging scholars. An egalitarian ethic permeated his approach to his professional life.

Stuart was born in Tottenham, London, in 1931. From an early age he was a curious child: a reader of history books, a stamp collector, and an observer of the world around him. He had an early awareness that societies, including his own, were divided, often around class and economic disparities. Nonetheless, and despite some harrowing experiences living in war-torn Britain, he completed his primary school education, won a scholarship to Tottenham Grammar and matriculated. His hope to go onto university was dashed: his working-class parents could not afford his university fees. Undeterred, he responded to a London newspaper advertisement supporting immigration to Australia through the Big Brother Movement (BBM). He could earn a living, and in a less divided society, and he liked cricket and the friendly Australian airmen he had met in London.

In 1947 he disembarked from the *Empire Star* in Melbourne and travelled to Sydney. After two years fulfilling his BBM obligations, often working on pretty rough manual jobs, he took up a position in the Sydney arm of what is now the Australian Taxation Office and started studying full-time at Sydney University. After graduating with an Honours degree, he and his new wife Pamela Manning, an Arts student also at the university, moved to Canberra in the late 1950s where Stuart worked in the ATO. Canberra soon became the place where Stuart's remarkable professional contributions to his adopted country began. His childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood had set in place many of his life-long attributes: intellectual curiosity, a hard-work ethic, quiet determination, a kind egalitarian disposition and a social conscience.

Stuart's promotions within Canberra's public service and government policy communities, as well as his economic and trade policy expertise, caught the eye of John (later Sir John) Crawford, already a beacon in Australian agricultural economics and education policies, and so began a long working and personal relationship between the two men. Crawford encouraged Stuart to apply for a public service fellowship at the ANU, where he studied import controls, which was a major issue in Australia in the late 1950s. When awarded a second fellowship, Crawford suggested that he turn this work into a PhD, which he did, while continuing to work full-time as a public servant. Much later Stuart commented that Crawford and Bob Hawke were two minds who greatly influenced his own thinking.

Stuart's quiet leadership of Australia's economic, agricultural, and environmental policies was recognised in his role as chairman of numerous policy committees, for example the Vernon Committee on economic policy growth, and in his government appointments, such as Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (1968-1971), and as a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Overseas Trade (1972-1975). To these appointments he brought his farsighted awareness and social conscience that Australian and international agricultural economic

policies and practices were having ominous impacts on present and future sustainable agricultural production, as well as adding to the decline of the global environment. His concerns led to later appointments, most notably when Stuart moved into academia around 1975. He took up the Chair of Resource Economics in the ANU's Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES) (1975-1981) and then led CRES as Director (1982-1984).

Stuart's early research and writing for the Australian Academy of Science was the start of many groundbreaking papers on global climate change and the need for an ecologically sustainable approach to economic development. For this, and his other academic publications, he was elected to the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia as a Fellow in 1982. As an ANU professor, he continued contributing to international economic policy developments by participating in global forums, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Stuart's foreign economic policy expertise was one reason why, in the mid-1980s, he was asked by a committee of public servants to consider becoming Secretary of the then Department of Foreign Affairs. His surprise at being offered the position, a sign of his unpretentiousness, was eventually overcome and he accepted the position. He guided the department through its minefield transition to include trade to become what is, to this day, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Stuart's interest and insights into foreign affairs more generally, and his views on what he thought 'foreign affairs is supposed to be', remain relevant today and are explained in his report *Review of Australia's Overseas Representation* (1986). For many, it continues to be the 'bible' for conducting Australia's foreign relations.

## Longstanding commitment to sustainable development

After his stint in DFAT Stuart returned, once again, to academia, joining the Department of International Relations (IR) in the Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPaS) at the ANU, initially as Professor of the new Northeast Asia Program. His fascination with the economic and foreign policy foundations of countries in this region, especially China, began in the early 1970s. Once diplomatic relations between Australia and China were re-established during Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's tenure, Stuart said that he knew that China's importance to Australia's economic and military security would increase. His keen inquisitiveness on this subject over the years led to many publications, among them *Asia-Pacific Security: The Economics-Politics Nexus* (1998) co-edited with Professor Andrew Mack, and 'Power and Order in Northeast Asia: A Review' in the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* (2008). This culminated in his final work, *China's Foreign Policy* (Polity Press, 2014), a book that he was mightily relieved to have completed. The book was launched by Bob Hawke.

Stuart's writings and lectures always reflected his scholarly intent to provide his audience with careful research and balanced analysis. He was relentless in politely disagreeing with others who took a more ideological approach to security predictions, especially of China. He took the same approach to his longstanding commitment to sustainable development. In 1989 he, along with two colleagues, chaired the Ecological Sustainable Development Process (ESDP) commissioned by the Hawke government, and produced nine sectoral papers and two reports on inter-sectoral issues. On 2 December 1991, Prime Minister Hawke tabled the reports in the Australian Parliament, saying 'I thank the Chairs of the ESD process, Professor Stuart Harris, Professor David Throsby and Dr Roy Green, for their work and guidance of the nine groups charged with drafting the reports.'

In addition to his other scholarly activities, for a time Stuart was a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies (later the Centre for Arab and Islamic



Studies) during its initial phase of establishment in the second half of the 1990s. He made valuable contributions to the centre's profile and PhD program. He was admired for his critical assessment of the students' work and for helping them to shape their diverse topics on Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies with a critical eye on their policy implications. He also travelled to Tehran to participate in one round of the centre-led Australia-Iran Dialogue.

From 1988 to 2011 Stuart was a popular teacher in the MA (International Relations) program, where he first taught a course on China and World Politics, and later one on Australian Foreign Policy. Until Stuart's retirement in 1996, and later as Emeritus Professor, he was a very positive influence in the corridors of the department. Stuart's office door at the ANU was always open to colleagues — Masters students, PhD students and academics — and his opening words were 'come in and sit down'. He was a generous mentor of emerging scholars in international relations. Former colleagues remember him as a 'true gentleman from the old school, always courteous to everyone, helpful to the best of his considerable ability, and generous to colleagues', while former PhD students recall his support and humble and warm manner. A comment from one of these students encapsulates Stuart's demeanour: Stuart was 'open to any number of ideas, was genuinely curious and supportive, and insanely smart and knowledgeable about the world. He didn't wait impatiently for his time to talk, but genuinely listened and pondered what was being said and responded accordingly.'

Stuart's most admirable scholarly aspects were that he was fearless in expressing his views and meticulously persuasive in assessing the work of others. As a scholar with a sharp and inquisitive mind, as well as his gentle attitude in dealing with scholars of diverse backgrounds, he was a rarity. He will be remembered very fondly for this and much more.

Stuart is survived by three of his five children — Jan, Michael and Richard — and their partners, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Sadly, two adult sons, David and Jeremy, predeceased Stuart, as did his beloved Pamela, who died on 5 August 2022.

— *Pauline Kerr, Greg Fry, Mary-Louise Hickey, and Amin Saikal*



## **Lawrence James 'Larry' Saha**

**July 1936 – 19 August 2024**

The ANU community and international sociology of education community mourn the passing of Professor Lawrence James 'Larry' Saha, whose sociological career and mentoring influence spanned over five decades. Larry's contributions to global sociology and sociology at ANU were foundational, blending pioneering research, tireless mentorship, and remarkable leadership to shape the study and practice of sociology and education around the world. His legacy is preserved in the many scholars, students, and colleagues whom he inspired and in the enduring body of work he leaves behind.

Lawrence James Saha was born on 9 July 1936 in Rosenberg, Texas, the first of three boys of James and Agnes Saha. Raised in a close-knit family, Larry's early life in the American Midwest shaped his values of hard work, fairness, and intellectual curiosity. From a young age Larry exhibited an inquisitive mind and a love of learning, traits that guided him through a lifetime of academic achievement.

He began his higher education journey at Notre Dame University in Indiana, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree. Here, Larry's passion for understanding societal structures and human behaviour began to take form, laying the groundwork for his later specialisation in sociology. His academic trajectory led him to the University of Texas at Austin, where he submitted his Masters Thesis on 'The Imputation of Mental Illness to Various Types of Deviants' in August 1966, before undertaking his doctoral thesis under a supervisory

board that included Leonard Broom and Frank Lancaster Jones. Taking advantage of their networks, Larry visited Australia, conducting fieldwork at the ANU and the University of Sydney.

He also immersed himself in Austin's vibrant intellectual community, honing his focus on social psychology, education, and social movements — areas that would become the cornerstones of his scholarly contributions. It was also during this period that Larry became an accomplished teacher. Another member of his supervisory committee, Bob Cushing, recalls that Larry had a reputation 'for being organised, a clear speaker with a sense of humour, generous with his time, and most of all, fair. Students loved him'. Larry completed his doctoral dissertation, 'Task Orientation and Professional Performance in an Australian University', in 1970.

During 1970, Larry met Leonard Broom's colleague, George Zubrzycki, who was a visiting fellow at Austin and the recently appointed foundational professor of the Department of Sociology in the Faculty of Arts at ANU. These meetings convinced George that Larry was the ideal person to develop the sociology teaching program at ANU. Larry's journey to Australia in 1971 marked the beginning of a transformative chapter in his life and career and, in turn, Larry shaped sociology at ANU. Being George Zubrzycki's first appointment, Larry was tasked with designing its foundational curriculum and delivering courses that would attract and inspire the first cohorts of sociology students at ANU. Colleagues recall Larry as a dynamic educator whose passion for teaching was evident in every lecture. His ability to explain complex sociological theories with clarity and humour made him a favourite among students.

While Larry's teaching abilities were exceptional, his research pursuits at ANU soon gained equal recognition. His earliest Australian research revolved around the sociology of tertiary education, but his work also reflected a keen interest in understanding Australia's shifting societal landscape. While educational sociology and later social psychology of education were Larry's main interests, he undertook studies on urban sociology and community dynamics, particularly within Canberra's burgeoning suburbs. In time, he became an expert also in social movements and political activism of youth.

Larry's career at ANU quickly expanded beyond Australian sociology to include work of global significance. Among his landmark contributions was *Education and National Development: A Comparative Perspective* (1983), co-authored with Swedish scholar Ingemar Fägerlind. This seminal work examined the intersections of education and societal development, positioning education as a critical force in shaping national trajectories. Brian D. Denman, Secretary General at Global Comparative and International Education, remembers that book as 'a groundbreaking contribution to the field of educational development which played a key role in elevating UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) on the global stage'. Another groundbreaking contribution was *Untested Accusation*, co-authored with Bruce Biddle, which drew on interviews with 120 U.S. school principals to challenge the view that principals rarely engaged with educational research to inform how to run their schools.

Larry's interests in political socialisation and youth engagement led to groundbreaking projects such as the Youth Electoral Study (YES). This major research initiative, conducted in collaboration with the Australian Electoral Commission, provided critical insights into Australian youth's voting behaviours, political attitudes, and civic participation. Findings from the study informed both academic debates and public policies aimed at fostering youth electoral participation.

## Influence transcended national boundaries

Jean Ballantine, a prominent professor of educational sociology from the USA, remembers Larry as 'a man of the world. Those fortunate enough to know Larry and share in or benefit

from his work admired and praised him for his contributions to shaping the field of international sociology of education and related areas. Talk about multifaceted!!! Larry contributed by writing books, articles, colloquia, proceedings, topical collections, encyclopedia entries, and through his editorial skills. The list goes on ...’.

Larry’s editorial work significantly shaped the field. As editor-in-chief of *Social Psychology of Education: An International Journal*, Larry oversaw for more than 20 years the journal’s evolution into a leading platform for interdisciplinary research. His editorial leadership also extended to field-defining encyclopedic works like the *International Encyclopedia of Sociology of Education*, which became a foundational resource for sociologists and educators worldwide.

Larry’s influence transcended national boundaries, extending into the global academic community. As a longstanding member of the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on Sociology of Education (RC-04), Larry played an instrumental role in fostering international collaborations. His leadership roles included two terms as RC-04’s Vice President for Oceania, working alongside leading scholars in Europe, Asia and North America to advance the sociology of education.

Larry’s international engagements included visiting fellowships at Carleton University, Stanford University, and UNESCO’s IIEP in Paris. He was also a resident fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Study Centre in Italy. He delivered lectures at institutions across Brazil, Canada, France, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the USA, forging partnerships that enriched the global discourse on education and society.

His influence extended into Eastern Europe, where his work on education systems resonated with researchers navigating post-socialist transitions. One testimony on the significance of his work comes from a prominent Hungarian sociologist, Professor Tamás Kozma, who credited Larry’s ideas with influencing the modernisation of educational research in Hungary beginning in the 1970s.

Another international network where Larry made significant contributions in the Asia Pacific region was the Australia and New Zealand Comparative Education Society (ANZCIES), which transformed into OCIES (Oceania Comparative Education Society). Larry was actively involved in the network’s conferences and contributed regular reviews to the *International Educational Journal: Comparative Perspectives*.

Larry’s leadership roles at ANU reflected his commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive academic environment. As Head of the Sociology Department and later as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Larry championed initiatives that enhanced research capacity, curriculum innovation, and student engagement. His colleagues recall his fairness, integrity, and genuine care for the academic community. Wendy Fitzgerald, a former staff member, described Larry as ‘a compassionate leader who valued and supported all the staff who worked with him. His sense of humour and kindness were unmatched’.

Larry’s commitment to mentorship was particularly impactful. He supervised numerous doctoral students, many from the Global South, who have since become prominent scholars in their own right. His former students fondly recall his ability to demystify complex theories and his use of creative teaching aids, such as hand-drawn diagrams on butcher’s paper. Rob White, a former PhD student and now an emeritus professor, described Larry as ‘the most wonderful of all supervisors. Never judgmental, always supportive’.

While Larry’s academic achievements were profound, his warmth, humour, and adventurous spirit left an equally lasting impression. He also made a notable impact on the sporting field, bringing his American passion for baseball and softball to Canberra, participating as a player, a coach and an umpire until a knee injury curtailed his career. Anecdotes from his friends and colleagues reveal a man who approached life with curiosity and joy. Whether observing student

protests from a rooftop or navigating unexpected encounters with wildlife, Larry's stories reflected his zest for life and learning.

One of these stories concerned Larry researching student activism. He went to observe a student demonstration at Sydney University. Larry climbed to the top of a tower overlooking the crowd to better understand events. The security guards below were alerted to the lone figure on the roof. Concerned it was a sniper surveying the demonstrators on the grassy knoll below, they rushed up the tower and apprehended Larry, who had to explain that he was just ... well ... data gathering.

Even in retirement Larry remained a vibrant presence at ANU. He served as Deputy Chairman of the ANU Emeritus Faculty for almost a decade. He also continued teaching, stepped in as needed to cover courses, and regularly attended seminars. His belief in the power of education to transform lives remained unwavering, as did his commitment to mentoring the next generation of scholars. Larry always treated students and graduate students as he did professors, for he saw the professors of tomorrow in them.

Larry's passing on 19 August 2024 marks the end of an era for sociology at ANU and beyond. Yet his legacy endures in the countless lives he touched and the scholarship he advanced. His ability to bridge cultures, disciplines, and generations has left an indelible mark on the field of sociology and education. As Bob Cushing recalled: 'Whatever the University has become, whatever it now takes for granted, Larry Saha made a difference over all his years of service. One thing is certain. Once Larry got to ANU, he never looked back.'

Larry Saha's life exemplified the highest ideals of academia: a dedication to knowledge, an openness to collaboration, and a deep commitment to human connection. His memory will continue to inspire and guide all who had the privilege of knowing him.

— *Joanna Sikora and Alastair Greig*

## Diary dates

### Meet the Author events

**February 10, 7pm:** Juno Gemes will talk about her new book, *Until Justice Comes: Fifty Years of The Movement for Indigenous Rights. Photographs 1970–2024*, with the former Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Linda Burney. Ann McGrath will mediate. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**February 18, 6pm:** Arnold Dix will talk with Alex Sloan about his new book, *The Promise. How an Everyday Hero Made the Impossible Possible*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**February 24, 6pm:** Misha Ketchell will moderate a discussion with Michelle Grattan, Frank Bongiorno and Mark Kenny about the new book *How Australian Democracy Works, and Why We Need it More Than Ever*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**February 26, 6pm:** Geraldine Brooks will talk about her new book, *Memorial Days*, with Alex Sloan. Karen Viggers will give the vote of thanks. Manning Clark Auditorium, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**March 6, 6pm:** Stan Grant will talk about his new book, *Murriyang. Song of Time*, with Mark Kenny. Manning Clark Auditorium, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**March 7, 7pm:** Bettany Hughes will talk about her book *The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*. Elizabeth Minchin will give the vote of thanks. Manning Clark Auditorium, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**March 12, 6pm:** Robert Dessaix will discuss his new book, *Chameleon: A memoir of Art, Travel, Ideas and Love*, with Andrew Leigh. T2 Kambri Cultural Centre.

**March 24, 6pm:** Jess Hill will talk about her new Quarterly Essay, *On Stopping Family Violence*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**April 7, 6pm:** Joan Beaumont will talk about her new book, *Gull Force: Australian POWs on Ambon and Hainan 1941 to 1945*, with Christina Twomey. Christine Helliwell will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**April 15, 6pm:** Kate Grenville will discuss her new book, *Unsettled. A Journey through Time and Place*, with Ann McGrath. Michelle Ryan will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**April 30, 6pm:** Dervla McTiernan will talk about her new crime fiction novel, *The Unquiet Grave*, with Chris Hammer. Anna Creer will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre.

May 14, 6pm (to be confirmed): Judith Brett will discuss her new book, *Fearless Beatrice Faust: Sex, Feminism and Body Politics*, with Virginia Haussegger Frank Bongiorno will give the vote of thanks. T2, Kambri Cultural Centre.

**May 27, 6pm:** Marcel Dirsus will discuss his new book, *How Tyrants Fall and How Nations Survive*, with Mark Kenny. Allan Behm will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, 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

People looking for a seismic adventure should make their way to *Pompeii* at the **National Museum of Australia**, an exhibition that promises an 'extraordinary new multi-sensory immersive experience'. That includes a recreation of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which buried the Roman city beneath layers of volcanic ash and pumice in 79AD. The exhibition includes some 90 objects recovered during extensive archaeological excavations, including casts of some of those who died in the eruption. The exhibition runs until 4 May. Ticket prices vary.

Rare prints, rare books and manuscripts dating from 17th to early 19th century Britain are features of the exhibition *The Excellencies of Musick: Highlights from the Jamie and Michael Kassler Collection*, in the Treasures Gallery of the **National Library of Australia**. The exhibition showcases highlights from the collection of musicologists and longstanding National Library patrons Dr Jamie Kassler and Dr Michael Kassler. The collection was assembled over 50 years. Admission is free: until 17 August.

The work of Ethel Carrick and Anne Dangar will be the focus of major exhibitions running until 27 April at the **National Gallery of Australia**. Carrick was a gifted painter and colourist

who was among the first artists to introduce a style of post-impressionism to Australia. This retrospective brings insights into her national and international artistic legacy. Anne Dangar's painting and pottery reflected Modernist and Cubist trends. Although she lived much of her life in France, she strongly influenced abstraction in Australian art.

The **National Archives of Australia** has two permanent exhibitions showcasing stories from the collection. 'Voices/Dhuni' leads a visitor through the creation of the Australian Constitution, while 'Connections/Mura Gadi' looks at often surprising connections between Australians and their government, and reveals aspects of the history of Australia and its people.

The work of one of Australia's most influential photographers is on show in *Carol Jerrems: Portraits* at the **National Portrait Gallery** until 2 March. This major exhibition draws together Jerrems' intimate portraits of friends, lovers and artistic peers, set against the backdrop of social change in the 1970s. Her work explores the rise of the women's movement, First Nations activism, youth subcultures of the time, and explores the music and arts scenes of the era. Admissions are \$20 (adult), \$18 (concession), \$16 Circle of Friends \$16, \$10 for under 30, free for under 18.

**Canberra Museum and Gallery.** For the first time in two decades, all 31 crayon pastel drawings that make up Sidney Nolan's series 'For the Term of His Natural Life' will be on show at CMAG. Nolan created the series in August 1978, based on the events of Marcus Clarke's 1874 convict novel, *For the Term of His Natural Life*. Until 23 February next.

## Music

The Canberra Symphony Orchestra's varied season gets underway at the Albert Hall at 2pm on Sunday, 16 February, when the **CSO Chamber Ensemble** presents Folk Melodies, a program made up of Joseph Haydn's *Piano Trio in G major* and Dvorak's splendid *Piano Trio No. 4 in E minor, Op. 90*, the 'Dumky'. The year will see the orchestra offer, among other works, Tchaikovsky's *Sixth Symphony*, the Mozart *Requiem*, and Holst's *The Planets*. More details are available here: <https://cso.org.au/concert-experience/2025>

## Theatre

'Where shall we three meet again?' At Auntie Louise Brown Park in Queanbeyan, where **The Q and Lakespeare** will present Shakespeare's *Macbeth* from 12 to 16 February next. Jordan Best directs this production. Three secret, black and midnight hags will be present.

**Canberra Rep** will stage Ed Wightman's adaptation of the Henry Farrell novel *Baby Jane* at Theatre 3 from 21 February to 8 March next. The play concerns two reclusive sisters who live together in a decaying Hollywood mansion. One sister is a former child star of early vaudeville who is desperate to reclaim her early fame, the other a successful Hollywood actress whose career tragically ended after a terrible car accident.

## Items of note

### Survey finds majority satisfied with country's 'direction'

More than three Australians in every five say that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the direction of the country, according to the first group of findings from the 2025 Election Monitoring Survey Series (EMSS).

The study, conducted by the Australian National University in October, found the satisfaction rate rose to more than two-thirds among those aged 18 to 34 years, even though cost-of-living pressures and high house prices disproportionately affect young Australians.

Two young Australians in every three, or 67.1 per cent, said they were satisfied with the direction of the country, although the survey also found that trust in the Albanese government had declined since 2022.

With Gen Z and Millennial voters projected to be a dominant voting force when the next federal election is held in early 2025, the study found almost half of respondents aged 18 to 34, or 47 per cent, had a good deal of confidence in the federal government. This fell to 42.5 per cent for those aged 35 to 54.

‘Just over 60 per cent of those who have not completed Year 12 are satisfied or very satisfied with democracy,’ said study lead author Professor Nick Biddle. ‘This rises to 62.6 per cent for those who have completed Year 12 but do not have a degree, compared to 69.2 per cent of those with a degree.’

The ANU study of more than 3,500 Australians formed part of the first wave of findings from the 2025 EMSS.

‘While dissatisfaction is not as low as in other countries, it is worth noting that dissatisfaction around six months out from the next federal election, if parliament goes to full term, is more or less the same as dissatisfaction was in April 2022, just prior to the Morrison government losing the subsequent election,’ Professor Biddle said.

With an election ahead, the study found the Liberal Party had the highest favourability rating of the four major parties.

‘Despite a lower favourability rating for the Labor Party compared to the Liberal Party, respondents rate Prime Minister Anthony Albanese significantly higher than Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, whereas the Greens leader Adam Bandt has the lowest rating of all party leaders,’ Professor Biddle said.

## ACT leads rise in uptake of electric vehicles

The ACT has continued to lead the country in the sales of electric vehicles, according to a recent report by Australia’s Electric Vehicle Council.

The annual *State of Electric Vehicles 2024* report found that EVs accounted for 25.1 per cent of new vehicle sales in the ACT to September, a result attributed to the Territory’s emissions-based registration system for all vehicles, a stamp duty discount, and a zero-interest loan scheme.

The rise is consistent with a general increase in the uptake of EVs in Australia, with almost one in every 10 vehicles bought in 2024 being electric. The Electric Vehicle Council expects sales to almost double over the next two years.

The report says the past 18 months has been ‘one of the most significant periods in Australia’s EV transition’. There had been a 150 per cent increase in sales compared with 2022, to the current sales share of 9.5 per cent of new light vehicle sales, covering both pure battery EVs and plug-in hybrids. The report expected sales to reach 110,000 units by the end of the year.

The report specifically covers vehicles that use electric motors for propulsion and can be recharged from an external power source. They include both those that operate solely on battery-stored electric power and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) which can run on electric power and switch to an internal combustion engine when needed. It does not cover conventional non-plug-in hybrid vehicles that recharge from regenerative braking and only run on their batteries at slower speeds before the combustion engine takes over.

However, despite reaching an annual record, the growth of EV sales slowed in 2024, with sales of plug-in types still lagging behind conventional hybrid vehicles. Sales of conventional hybrids rose to 16.7 per cent market share in the third quarter of 2024.

Looking ahead, the council foresees EV sales reaching between 15 per cent and 19 per cent of all new vehicles sold by 2026, spurred by an influx of new and cheaper models into the market, and increasing numbers of fast and ultra-fast charging locations. The latter nearly doubled in the past year.

The crucial change, the report says, will be the introduction of the federal government's New Vehicle Efficiency Standard, which will come into effect on 1 January and which stipulates that car companies must progressively provide more choices of fuel-efficient, low- or zero-emissions vehicles.

The council believes that the standard will help to lower the cost of EVs that will be cheaper to run.

## Political parties urged to ensure universities 'thrive'

Universities Australia has called on Australia's major parties to be ambitious in their vision and ensure that Australia's universities 'can thrive for the benefit of all Australians'.

In its 2025 election statement, launched on 12 December, the universities' peak body has outlined how universities can help government build a stronger, more prosperous Australia.

The statement outlines priorities major parties should take to the election, including ensuring financial stability for Australia's universities to support their growth; breaking down barriers so that tertiary education is available to all; investing in research and development; strengthening the foundations of the international education sector; and implementing Indigenous-related recommendations contained in the Australian Universities Accord.

'Universities matter to Australia's future,' Universities Australia Chief Executive Officer, Luke Sheehy, said.

'They're pivotal in preparing us for the challenges ahead – from rapid digitalisation and the adoption of new technologies to shifts in our industrial base and geopolitical change.

'The decisions made by the next federal government, and subsequent ones, will shape Australia's ability to manage and prosper from these big shifts underway in our economy.

'We need a bigger skilled workforce and more research and development to power Australia's progress so that no one is left behind.

'Our universities are national assets and should be treated as such, receiving bipartisan support to grow and succeed in the national interest,' Mr Sheehy said.

## Bookshelf

### *Ritual Voices of Revelation*

#### *The Origin Narratives of the Rotenese of Eastern Indonesia*

By James J. Fox.

ANU Press, November 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466572, ISBN (online) 781760466589.  
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/RVR.2024>

This is a study of a collection of oral compositions of the Rotenese of eastern Indonesia. Recited in semantic parallelism, these compositions require a strict pairing of all words to



produce correspondingly ordered verses. These narrative verses create an elevated discourse—a ‘scriptural voice’—intended to reveal the origins of Rotenese cultural life. The translations and exegeses of these origin narratives offer a work of world-class poetic imagination that recounts a dynastic contest between the Sun and Moon and Lords of the Ocean Sea and its epic consequences. As background, this study also provides a description of Rotenese life expressed in the complementary pairs that the Rotenese themselves use to categorise their world. A concluding chapter examines the Rotenese acquisition of Christianity and the subsequent retelling of the Biblical Genesis in Rotenese parallel verse, thus continuing the general examination of the use of parallelism as elevated ritual discourse. Gathered from poets from two domains on the island, most of these compositions date from fieldwork in 1965–66 and in 1973. The publication of these materials represents the summation of more than 50 years of research.

## *A Grammar of Warlmanpa*

By Mitchell Browne

ANU Press, November 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466633, ISBN (online) 9781760466640.  
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/GW.2024>

This volume is a descriptive analysis of Warlmanpa, an endangered language traditionally spoken northwest of the town of Tennant Creek, where most of the remaining speakers now live. This grammatical description is based on language work carried out by community members and linguists since 1952 and is the first published reference grammar of Warlmanpa. The major areas of analysis include phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax. This volume also describes typologically notable features, and lays the foundation for future Warlmanpa language work.

## *Enabling Learning Language Teaching for Australian Universities*

Edited by John Kinder, Nicola Frascini and Marinella Caruso

ANU Press, December 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466671, ISBN (online) 9781760466688.  
DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/EL.2024>

This work illuminates efforts by educators to facilitate the learning of languages at university level. The endeavours recounted in this volume address a range of specific aspects of the language-learning experience or language teaching within tertiary education institutions. Chapters offer an overview of learning approaches and experiences, from beginner to advanced level; of different learning environments, from the traditional to online and hybrid; and of different languages, from Indigenous to European to East Asian. This work foregrounds the relevance of improved accessibility to language learning in universities, presents innovative solutions, and asserts the importance of developing intercultural competence.

## *China: Regaining Growth Momentum after the Pandemic*

Edited by Ligang Song and Yixiao Zhou

ANU Press, December 2024. ISBN (print) 9781760466770, ISBN (online) 9781760466787. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/CRGMP.2024>

The slower growth of the Chinese economy after the Covid 19 pandemic has prompted the Chinese Government to adopt measures to boost domestic consumption and deepen structural reform, with the effectiveness of such policies beginning to be felt. However, China still faces challenges that will affect its growth dynamics. These include the slowdown of its real estate sector, the complex internal and external environments for macroeconomic policy, a high level

of income inequality, weak growth in private-sector investment, negative population growth, high levels of debt, deglobalisation, the inadequacy of its fiscal system and the need to decarbonise the economy. China must confront these challenges to maintain growth momentum and achieve higher levels of income and living standards.

This volume, the 2024 China Update, discusses some of the challenges and policy issues that are being watched by decision-makers and markets alike, including identifying and surmounting obstacles to economic growth, pinpointing key challenges and opportunities for China to move to the next level of development at a time of negative population growth, the challenges facing China's small and medium enterprises, and how trade conflict between China and the United States might affect the supply of semiconductors and other high-tech products.

## *Asia Minus the United States*

*East Asia Forum Quarterly*, Vol. 16 No. 4 2024

Edited by Shiro Armstrong and Maria Monica Wihardja

ANU Press, December 2024. ISSN (print) 1837-5081, ISSN (online) 1837-509X. DOI:  
<http://doi.org/10.22459/EAFQ.16.04.2024>

The global economy's trajectory toward instability has been evident since Trump 1.0. A second Trump presidency will likely amplify protectionism, strategic competition and global disorder. This edition of *East Asia Forum Quarterly* examines how Asia can respond, emphasising the region's role in defending multilateralism, addressing climate change and ensuring global stability.

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## Administration

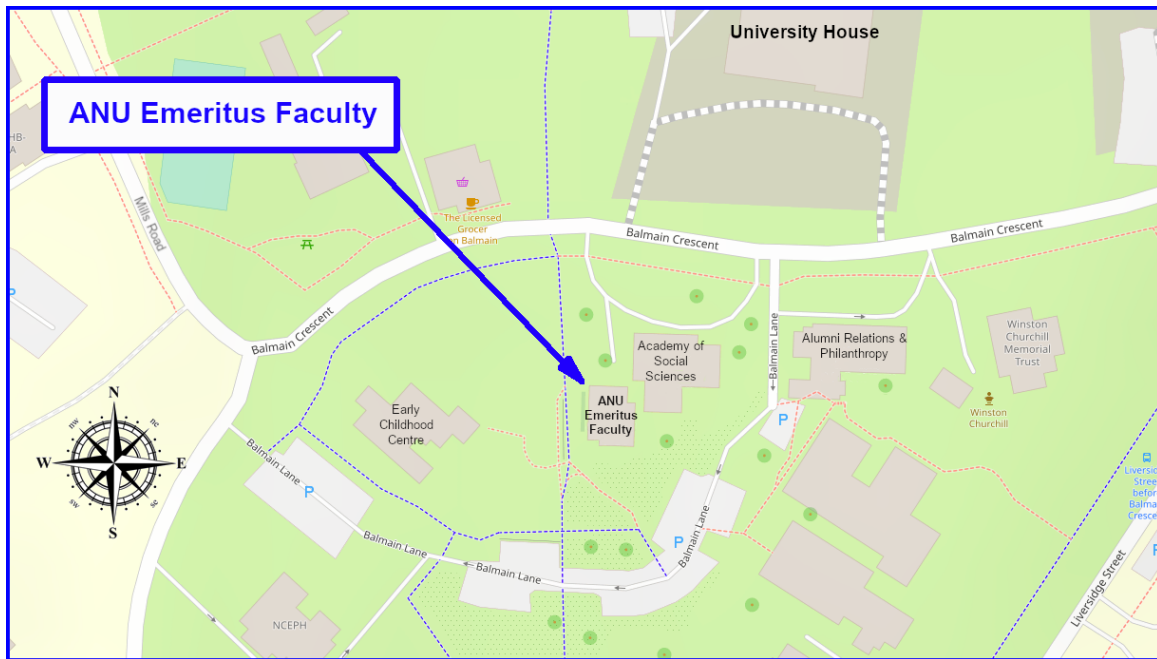
### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

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

**Editor:** Peter Fuller

**Mobile:** 0416-02.12.06

**Email:** wordsnpix@netspeed.com.au

**Assistant Editor:** Kevin Windle

**Email:** Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au

## Postal Address:

ANU Emeritus Faculty, PO Box 6050,  
O'Connor ACT 2602

**Web:** [emeritus.anu.edu.au](http://emeritus.anu.edu.au)

**Meetings venue:** ANUEF Office,  
Molony Room, ANU,  
24 Balmain Crescent,  
Acton, ACT 2600

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