

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

NCI announces new Interim Director

The National Computational Infrastructure (NCI) has announced that Professor Andrew Rohl will join as Interim Director from March 24, 2025.

Professor Rohl is a distinguished leader in high-performance computing and computational science, with a career spanning academia, research infrastructure, and national collaborations. He has held key leadership positions, including Executive Director of iVEC, inaugural Director of the Curtin Institute for Computation, and Head of School of Electrical Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences at Curtin University.

Professor Rohl holds a D.Phil. in Inorganic Chemistry from Oxford University and a BSc (Honours) in Chemistry from The University of Western Australia.

He takes over from Professor Ute Roessner, who has served as Acting Director of NCI since 2024. Professor Roessner has played a pivotal role in strengthening NCI's position as one of Australia's leading supercomputing facilities, expanding research partnerships, and ensuring continued excellence in high-performance computing services.

Professor Roessner has been appointed CEO of the Australian Research Council (ARC) and will start that role on March 31.

Professor Rohl said he is excited to lead NCI at a time when supercomputing plays an increasingly critical role in scientific discovery, industry innovation, and global collaboration.

“NCI is a powerhouse of computational research and a crucial enabler of Australia's scientific success,” Professor Rohl said.

“The work being done here – across fields like climate science, medicine, and space exploration – is truly world-class. I look forward to working with the NCI team and our national and international partners to build on this legacy.”

Professor Roessner reflected on her time leading NCI and the strength of the team she is leaving behind.

“It has been an honour to lead NCI and witness firsthand the expertise, innovation, and dedication of our team,” she said.

“NCI is at the heart of Australia’s computational research ecosystem, and I have no doubt that under Andrew’s leadership, it will continue to thrive and make an impact on the national and global stage.”

NCI is home to Gadi, one of Australia’s powerful supercomputers, and provides cutting-edge computational services to thousands of researchers across academia, government, and industry. It plays a key role in supporting Australia’s research infrastructure through its collaborations with universities, national research agencies, and international partners.

For more information about NCI and its research infrastructure, visit nci.org.au.

Source: <https://research.anu.edu.au>.

Obituaries

Professor David Green (February 29, 1936 – September 6, 2024)

David Green was born in Tasmania and obtained his B.Sc. (Hons First Class) and MSc from the University of Tasmania. He obtained his PhD under the supervision of Professor C.E. Tilley at Cambridge University.

David’s meticulous mapping and petrologic studies soon demonstrated his exceptional powers of observation and deduction. He documented a high temperature peridotite core within a recrystallised lower pressure outer shell and proposed the controversial idea that the Lizard was an intrusive, high temperature peridotite, complete with contact aureole.

After the Second World War, the Australian government had realised the need for a national university to provide the highest standard of research, and the Australian National University was established. Upon completing his PhD, David joined the Department of Geophysics and Geochemistry at ANU, which soon after became the Research School of Earth Sciences (RSES).

Together with Professor Ted Ringwood, and ably supported by outstanding technicians, they quickly established themselves as world leaders in experimental petrology, principally with application to basalt petrogenesis, crustal and mantle phase relations.

At that time, conventional experimental studies elsewhere were systematically investigating simple system, sub solidus and liquidus phase relations. In what became a characteristic departure from convention, Green and Ringwood undertook experimental liquidus and subsolidus studies of natural, multicomponent basalt and peridotite compositions, with a view to defining the source mantle compositions, pressure-temperature-fluid controls on the origins of the complete spectrum of basalt types.

The key here was the constraint that a primary magma must be in equilibrium with mantle peridotite, having liquidus olivine and orthopyroxene. At the same time, they researched and published classic works on the gabbro-eclogite transition.

An examination of David's more than 230 research publications shows the extent of this work. After their early collaboration, basalt petrogenesis research was divided up between them.

Ted Ringwood examined subduction zone magmatism, and deep mantle phase transitions, and nuclear waste disposal, while David Green studied the origins of MORB, plume-related alkaline and subalkaline basalt petrogenesis, komatiite phase relations and crustal metamorphism.

David attracted numerous outstanding PhD students from around the world, a number of whom later went on to become professors themselves. After undertaking a PhD in experimental petrology at ANU with Ted Ringwood, David's brother Trevor went on to his own stellar career as a world leader in trace element partitioning between mineral and melts.

David Green also, with PhD students, undertook pioneering and novel research in major element exchange thermometry and barometry.

Green and Ringwood undertook experimental studies of lunar samples, again defining lunar mantle compositions and depth-temperature origins for such igneous rocks. It is a telling point that by this stage, scientists elsewhere were following the RSES lead and conducting liquidus studies of actual lunar compositions, rather than restricting themselves to simple system analogues.

The ANU and RSES superbly fulfilled the aim for establishing a national university. Research was funded through a block grant, unlike state universities that had to compete for funds through the competitive ARC grants system. Over time, RSES scholars assumed leadership roles in earth science at state universities. To mention just a few – John Lovering to Melbourne University, Alan White to Latrobe University, Bruce Hobbs to Monash University, Bob Pidgeon to Curtin University and in 1976, David Green to the University of Tasmania. There is no doubt that appointments such as these had a positive effect on the state university system.

David Green was fortunate that he was able to quickly establish an experimental laboratory in Tasmania, as the RSES technician Bill Hibberson also moved to Tasmania. Bill set up and ran the new experimental laboratory

for several years before returning to RSES and re-joining Ted Ringwood's group. David's leadership quickly established the University of Tasmania as a world leader in experimental petrology, funded through David's extraordinary success rate in gaining competitive ARC grants.

An examination of David's publications from this period reveals just what a world class research group he led – PhD students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting academics from overseas. He and his wife Helen welcomed students and visitors into their home as part of an extended family, a comfort to many students from overseas and interstate. Helen gave her own tremendous encouragement and support to students and their partners.

In 1994 David returned to ANU as director, RSES until 2001. His continuing research and his supervision of students and post-doctoral researchers, as well as his leadership and vision required as director, ensured that outstanding staff in geophysics, geochemistry, geochronology, petrophysics and petrology at RSES continued to excel. He saw the need for strengthening environmental science and made such outstanding leadership appointments as Professor John Chappell.

His own research continued to explore the origins of basalt magmas, particularly under different H₂O, CO₂, and CH₄ fluid and redox conditions. It is notable that even though he had published some of the classics in mantle trace element geochemistry (e.g. Frey and Green 1974), David conducted most of his research dealing with major element high pressure phase relations. He once said that the petrography of erupted basalts was “merely secondary alteration, compared to the importance of high-pressure phase relations for basalt petrogenesis”.

This did not stop him, of course, from publishing with Dallwitz and Thompson in 1966 the first description of terrestrial clinoenstatite bearing volcanics, in a rock type now recognised as boninite.

He was the author of more than 230 publications and numerous scientists around the world, in academia, research organisations and industry directly owe their careers to this outstanding scientist.

His capacity for sustained effort covering many responsibilities was exceptional.

David's interest in scientific matters beyond his academic specialisation of the petrogenesis of igneous and metamorphic rocks in the Earth's crust and upper mantle, and his career-long commitment to fostering excellence in science led him to make significant contributions to broader national scientific issues.

He served for various periods of time on many national science bodies and committees, including the Australian Research Grants Committee (1977–1981), the Australian Science and Technology Committee (1982–1985), the Bureau of Mineral Resources Advisory Committee (1985–1987), the Geological Society of Australia as council member then Vice President and President (1978–1981,

1990–1992), the Australian Space Council (1993–1994), the Richards Review of the Bureau of Mineral Resources (1992–1993), and chair of National Greenhouse Scientific Advisory Committee (1997–2001). From 1984 to 1990 he was also chair of the Steering Committee for the National Research Facility.

From 1991 to 1993 he was chief science adviser to the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories where he advised the Australian government on a wide range of matters including climate change, nuclear waste disposal, and Antarctica.

David recognised the significance of Antarctica as a laboratory for studies not only of geology but critically, of marine and climate science. He discerned an urgent need to develop a research program to support ongoing multidisciplinary and internationally significant Antarctica research.

Accordingly, he played a key role in establishing the Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies (IASOS) at the University of Tasmania in the early 1980s with initial funding from the Australian government. As well as being multi-disciplinary, IASOS was truly cross-institutional, involving the University of Tasmania, the Australian Antarctic Division and the CSIRO Marine Division, an ethos which owed much to the vision and foresight of David, its inaugural director. IASOS later evolved into the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Sciences (IMAS), which remains an internationally recognised centre for excellence in marine and Antarctic research based in Hobart, a lasting legacy to David's commitment to and vision for the conduct of research in Antarctica.

In 1994, David returned to the Research School of Earth Sciences at the ANU as director. Here he combined his research with further administrative and leadership duties until 2001.

For example, in 1995, an international team of experts was appointed by the ANU and the Australian Research Council (ARC) to review the block funding model to ANU's Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), which included RSES. They recommended continued separation of the block fund from ARC funds because this model was clearly enabling excellent research outcomes. They also recommended an increase in the size of the block fund.

Despite this, in 1999 the IAS entered the ARC at a cost of 20 per cent of the IAS research budget, with the first implementation scheduled for 2002.

Hence, David's tenure as RSES director coincided with a time of considerable change and challenge in the funding environment of the School. Despite this and other reductions in federal government funding for basic research, RSES prospered and continued to conduct world-leading basic research under David's wise and patient directorship.

His time as director saw the initiation of a number of key research initiatives, some of which exist to this day and remain highly influential in research innovation and excellence at RSES. For example, David facilitated the transfer of several academic staff and analytical facilities from the Research School of

Pacific and Asian Studies at ANU to RSES, enabling an outstanding program in Quaternary research led by Prof John Chappell. He oversaw the launch of the Australian National Seismic Imaging Resource (ANSIR), a national research facility managed by the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (now Geoscience Australia) and RSES.

Under his leadership, RSES secured funding from ANU's Major Equipment Committee to develop an innovative analytical technique, Laser-Ablation Inductive Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry, capable of quantitative determination of precise trace element abundances in geological materials to levels as low as parts per billions.

Of these initiatives, the last two continue to exist and evolve to this day and have been critical in maintaining RSES as a leading institute for basic and applied geoscience research.

From February to October 1998 David acted as deputy vice chancellor of ANU.

Upon retirement, he and his wife Helen returned to Tasmania, where they had raised their six children. Helen died in June 2024, and David on September 6, 2024. He is survived by his six children, Kathryn, Ronald, Elizabeth, Paul, Jeanette and Ian, their partners, 17 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Thank you, David, for all that you and Helen have done by nurturing your students, collaborating with colleagues and being a wonderful friend and mentor to so many.

— Gregory Yaxley and David Ellis



Dr Judith Pabian (May 18, 1948 – October 23, 2024)

Dr Judith Pabian was a scholar, supporter of scholarship, and life-long activist. Born in the United Kingdom, she migrated with her parents and one of her two older siblings to Australia where she completed her schooling.

She later returned for a time to Britain, where she became involved in the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camps, which were set up to protest against the presence of nuclear weapons at a local RAF base. She loved telling stories of her time there and the experience gave her a keen sensitivity to the challenges of mounting a resistance movement.

In Canberra, she campaigned energetically for child-care at ANU and was a very active member of the National Tertiary Education Union and a long-term

member of the Canberra Qwire. She indefatigably lobbied for refugee rights. Judith's unofficial office was the booth left to the front entrance at Tilley's Devine Cafe.

In 1999, Judith joined the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies as Grants Officer. ANU research staff had just been made eligible to apply for research grants from the Australian Research Council, but many academics struggled both with the rules and with the need to persuade assessors of the importance of their projects. With great patience (mostly) and through a close and canny understanding of ARC grant dynamics, she was instrumental in seeing many projects successfully through the application process. As submission deadlines loomed, she sometimes donned a large pair of busy-bee antennae to ensure that visitors knew things were serious.

After retiring, Judith enrolled in a PhD in the Department of Political and Social Change. She was intrigued by Ben Kerkvliet's ideas of everyday resistance and applied them to a detailed study of the Italian resistance to German occupation in a valley in Tuscany in the latter part of the Second World War. Her aim was a critique of male-focused models of armed resistance, the partisans, who dominated history and memory. She sought to explore the role of everyday resistance of women. She learnt Italian and spent two extended research periods in the valley, collecting oral testimonies and other materials. It was a difficult undertaking, with everyday tasks and women's stories both marginalised in the local memory culture. Alessandro Portelli, the great Italian scholar of oral histories, wrote in his afterword to Judith Pabian's published abridged version of her PhD translated into Italian, that she explored "the memory of a memory". Her writing, as she began to turn out chapters, was beautiful and lucid. Her account of a massacre of Italian villagers by German troops that did not happen — it was averted at the last moment by the intervention of a German woman and her Italian landowner husband — was a tour de force. Just after receiving the examiners' reports, Judith was diagnosed with cancer. She maintained her energy, however, to complete the relatively modest revisions requested and to graduate in December 2023. She was delighted to see an Italian translation of key parts of her thesis in April 2024. She organised for a revision of her PhD for a book manuscript to be undertaken posthumously.

Judith had a rollicking, cynical sense of humour and a generous spirit. We will miss her greatly. She is survived by her four children, seven grandchildren, and her older brother.

— **Robert Cribb, Marcus Pabian,
Tessa Morris Suzuki
and Christine Winter**



Richard Mulgan **(March 5, 1940 – November 15, 2024)**

Emeritus Professor Richard Mulgan passed away unexpectedly in November 2024.

Richard was born in Oxford, England, in 1940 and soon afterwards he and his mother moved to Wellington, New Zealand, for safekeeping with his paternal grandparents while his father was involved with Britain's Special Operations. His father died on active service in Greece in 1945 and Richard was brought up in New Zealand by his mother, who remarried another New Zealander.

He completed a BA in classics at the University of New Zealand (Auckland) before going to England where he completed postgraduate degrees in classics at Oxford. His interest in the classics continued for the rest of his life and included a book on Aristotle's political theory in 1987.

His main focus, however, shifted to politics while he was at Otago University and he is best known in New Zealand for his pioneering work on the nation's electoral system, the representation of Maori people and accountability of government.

He was a member of the New Zealand Royal Commission which recommended in 1986 the introduction of the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system. This successfully placed a check on executive government in New Zealand's unicameral parliament where, under the previous first-past-the-post voting system, the winning major party had excessive representation and power. MMP made it far more likely that minor parties would be represented and could have a say in the legislation before the parliament and ensure better accountability of government.

His publications in the 1980s also included books on Maori and Pakeha representation, and politics in New Zealand.

He joined ANU in the early 1990s, initially with the Federalism Research Centre looking at Australia from a New Zealand perspective. He subsequently became a key member of ANU's Crawford School, teaching accountability and leading the ANU Graduate Program in Public Policy. That later merged with the Development Administration Program to form the Policy and Governance Program, now the Department of Policy and Governance. He appointed many of the now senior staff in that group and also acted as director of the Crawford School for a period when Andrew MacIntyre became dean of the College of Asia and the Pacific.

Richard's publications while at Crawford were prolific, including a wealth of articles in the Australian Journal of Public Administration throughout the 1990s and 2000s.

His most cited publication is his 2004 book, *Holding Power to Account: Accountability in Modern Democracies*. This was particularly important as

Australia, along with many other countries, particularly Anglophone countries, had at that time embraced New Public Management, including the widespread use of non-government organisations to deliver public services.

A key insight was the importance of recognising the different values that underpin the way public service agencies, businesses and not-for-profit organisations operate. Appreciating these differences was central to deciding when to use each and how to ensure accountability for the public funds and public power they exercised.

This book also reflected Richard's lifelong interest in ethics and public sector integrity. These dominated his articles in the press, particularly his long association with the Public Sector Informant in The Canberra Times (in the days when it made a substantial contribution), and his subsequent articles in The Mandarin.

Richard had a very deep and broad understanding of public administration and public policy. He had a wonderful writing style - very engaging and to the point and always avoiding jargon. He could write for a broad audience and his work was widely appreciated by those in government and the public service, as well as in academia.

In May last year, he published a must-read research paper, "Ten Lessons from Robodebt", aimed at the Australian Public Service and the reforms needed to address the dreadful failings identified by the Robodebt Royal Commission.

Richard's exceptional academic record was combined with a determination to link research and teaching to practice. He was much liked by his students at Crawford who were mostly current public servants. He also contributed regularly to ANZSOG and IPAA forums.

A modest and private person, but also someone who was very thoughtful and considerate, Richard was always generous to others, whether colleagues at university or students or the public servants with whom he engaged.

He is survived by his wife, Professor Aurelia George Mulgan, his children from his first marriage (Nicholas, Timothy and Lucy), his stepsons (Richard and Nicholas), and his younger sisters, Angela, Felicity and Catherine.

— **Andrew Podger**

Diary dates

Meet the Author

ANU/CANBERRA TIMES MEET THE AUTHOR DATES 2025

All events are free and from 6 to 7pm unless otherwise noted. Registrations at anu.edu.au/events.

February 24: Misha Ketchell will moderate a discussion with Michelle Grattan, Frank Bongiorno and Mark Kenny on the new multiauthor book edited by Amanda Dunn, *How Australian Democracy Works*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

February 26: Geraldine Brooks will talk about her new book, *Memorial Days*, with Alex Sloan. Vote of thanks by Karen Viggers. Manning Clark auditorium. Kambri ANU.

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

March 7: At 7pm: Bettany Hughes will talk about her book *The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World* with Caillan Davenport. Vote of thanks by Elizabeth Minchin. Manning Clark Auditorium, Kambri Cultural Centre ANU.

March 12: Robert Dessaix will talk about his new book, *Chameleon: A Memoir of Art, Travel, Ideas and Love*, with Andrew Leigh. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm. T2, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

March 17: Vincent Fantauzzo will talk with Helen Musa about his memoir, *Unveiled*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

March 24: Jess Hill will discuss her new *Quarterly Essay: On Stopping Family Violence*, with Hayley Boxall. The vote of thanks will be given by Maia Aziz. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

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

April 10: Brooke Boney will discuss her new book, *All of It*, with Virginia Haussegger. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

April 15: Kate Grenville will talk about 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, ANU.

April 30: 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, ANU.

May 8: Steve Vizard will discuss his new book, *Nation, Memory, Myth: Gallipoli and the Australian Imaginary*, with Frank Bongiorno. Vote of thanks by Christina Twomey. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

May 14: Judith Brett will talk about 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, ANU.

May 19: Geoff Raby will discuss the updated edition of his book, *China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the New Global Order*, and *Great Game On: The Contest for Central Asia and Global Supremacy*, with Hugh White. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

May 27: Marcel Dirsus will talk about his new book, *How Tyrants Fall and How Nations Survive*, with Mark Kenny. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

June 4: Raina MacIntyre will discuss her new book, *Vaccine Nation: Science, Reason and the Threat to 200 Years of Progress*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

June 11: Toby Walsh will discuss his new book, *A short history of AI*, with Andrew Leigh. James Smithies will give the vote of thanks. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

June 17: Hugh White will talk about his new *Quarterly Essay* with Mark Kenny. Vote of thanks by Jeff Pople. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

July 2: Michael Robotham will discuss his novel, *The White Crow*, with Chris Hammer. Vote of thanks by Jeff Pople. Kambri Cinema, ANU.

July 8: Graeme Turner will talk about his new book, *Broken: Universities, Politics and the Public Good*, with Frank Bongiorno. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

August 14: Elizabeth Finkel will discuss her new book, *Proof*. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

September 23: Sulari Gentill will talk about her new novel, *Five Found Dead*, with Chris Hammer. Vote of thanks by Anna Creer. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

September 30: Virginia Haussegger will discuss her new book, *Genderquake*, with Frank Bongiorno. Vote of thanks by Michelle Ryan. Cinema, Kambri Cultural Centre, ANU.

Current and upcoming exhibitions

Gurindji Freedom Banners - Mumkurla-nginyi-ma parrngalinyparla - From the darkness into the light: These 10 banners retell the story of the historic Wave Hill Walk-off in 1966. The walk-off was led by Vincent Jurlama Lingiari with Gurindji, Ngarinyman, Mudburra, Bilinara and Walpiri workers from Wave Hill Station, located in the Victoria River District on the northern edge of the Tanami Desert. This strike was a response to the unfair working and living conditions for Aboriginal people under the station's management. The exhibition is on at the ANU School of Art & Design Gallery until March 28, 2025.

2025 ANU School of Art & Design Drawing Prize: The ANU School of Art & Design Drawing Prize showcases and celebrates the breadth and depth of drawing practice within the ANU School of Art & Design. The Prize is an annual event open to all current students enrolled in one or more courses in Semester 2 at the ANU School of Art & Design. The winner is awarded a cash prize of \$1,500. It's on at the ANU School of Art & Design Gallery from August 14 to September 11, 2025.

Theatre

Experience the heartwarming, hilarious, and utterly inspiring story of *Shirley Valentine*, brought to life by Australian stage and screen star Natalie Bassingthwaite. Written by Willy Russell and directed by Lee Lewis, this timeless West End and Broadway comedy will take you on a journey of self-discovery, laughter, and second chances. It's on at the Canberra Theatre Centre from March 19 to 23. See: canberratheatrecentre.com.au.

Bookshelf

Dictionary of World Biography. Tenth edition. By Barry Jones. ANU Press. Print edition \$139.95. The new edition of this reference book contains information about people in many fields including philosophy, literature, music painting, film, science and religion. Free download at <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/series/biography/dictionary-world-biography>

Administration

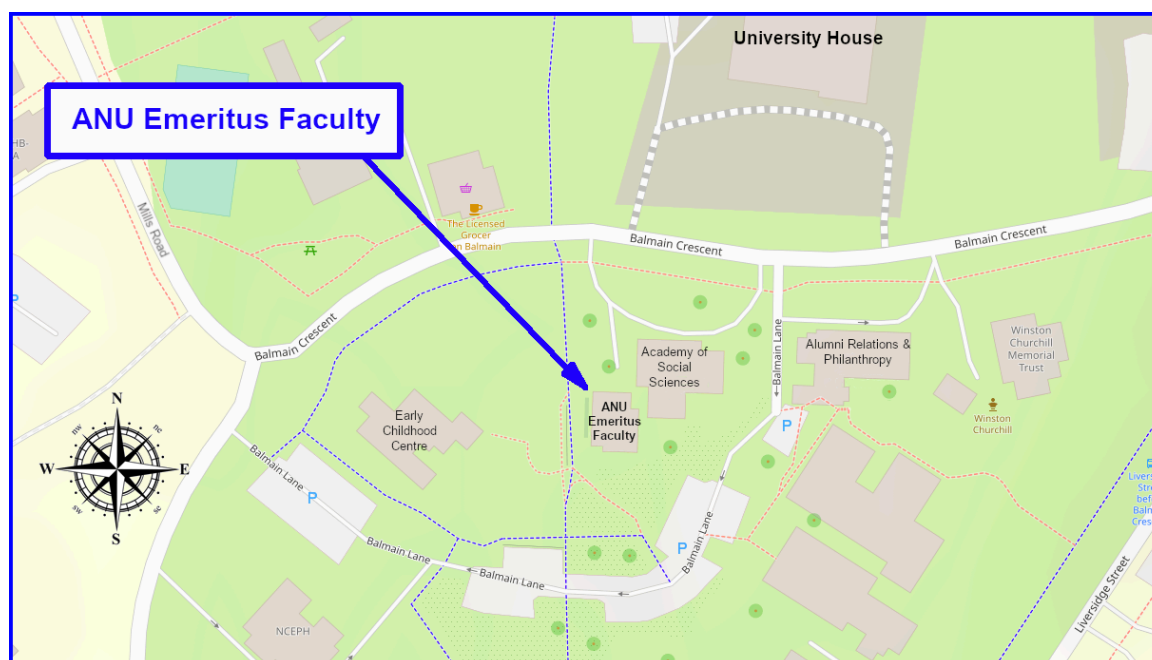
Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

Requests to book the Molony Room should be addressed to the Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty, Jan O'Connor, at jantancess@gmail.com or 6247 3341.

Finding the Molony Room

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

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



Editorial

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