

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

## Renew ANU: Change Principles Consultation Paper

### About the Consultation

Critical to the success of Renew ANU is strengthening the university's long-term sustainability. To achieve this, the university will continue to focus on refining its operating mode I— the combination of people, roles, structures, processes, and technology that underpins how it delivers value. This approach to university-wide improvement builds on the realignment activities completed in 2024. It is comprehensive and includes consideration of each service, academic activity and research activity to determine how best to deliver long-term financial sustainability.

### Consultation Paper

ANU staff, students, and union were invited to provide feedback on the Renew ANU 2025 Change Principles: Consultation Paper from March 6 to 21, 2025. This document outlined the strategic and operational challenges faced by ANU and the proposed responses which includes design principles for the proposed University Operating Model. It detailed the university's overall approach to university-wide improvements and provided the foundation for future discussions by providing an overarching view of the next phase of Renew ANU.

(April 16, 2025). You can read more on this at [anu.edu.au](https://anu.edu.au).

## ANU names Cultural Centre after Lowitja O'Donoghue

The Australian National University opened the Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre (formerly the Kambri Centre) on March 19, in recognition of Dr O'Donoghue's extraordinary life and ongoing impact, at an event attended by Her Excellency the Hon Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia.

The late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG, a Yankunytjatjara woman, is the first Aboriginal person to be recognised with the naming of a building at ANU. In 1995 she was also the first Aboriginal person to be awarded an honorary doctorate (Law) at the University.

ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Genevieve Bell said naming the ANU Cultural Centre honoured Dr O'Donoghue's life, leadership and legacy.

Dr O'Donoghue made a major contribution to the health and wellbeing, education and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to the nation.

"Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue was a woman of courage, grace and dignity. Her achievements were many but, as she would often stress to colleagues, she was never satisfied as there was always so much more work to be done," Professor Bell said.

"It's in this spirit of constant improvement and striving that we are honoured to bestow her name on our Cultural Centre here at ANU – a significant building at the heart of our campus which brings our community together."

The Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre is the third building named in honour of women as part of the ANU building renaming initiative. In October 2024, the Pauline Griffin Health & Wellbeing Centre was inaugurated followed by the Skaidrite Darius building in February 2025.

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## Diary dates

### Meet the Author events

**All events are free and from 6 to 7pm unless noted otherwise. All free events unless noted otherwise are in the Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre, formerly known as the Kambri Cultural Centre. Registrations at [anu.edu.au/events](https://anu.edu.au/events).**

**May 8:** Steve Vizard will be in conversation on his new book *Nation, Memory, Myth Gallipoli and the Australian Imaginary* with Frank Bongiorno. Vote of thanks by Christina Twomey Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**May 14:** Judith Brett will be in conversation on her new book *Fearless Beatrice Faust: sex, feminism and body politics* with Virginia Haussegger. Vote of thanks by Frank Bongiorno. T2, Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre, ANU.

**May 19:** Geoff Raby will be in conversation on 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. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**May 21:** . Ian Rankin will be in conversation with Chris Hammer. Vote of thanks by Anna Creer. Manning Clark Hall, ANU.

**May 27:** Marcel Dirsus will be in conversation on his new book *How tyrants fall and how nations survive* with Mark Kenny. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**June 4:** Raina MacIntyre will be in conversation on her new book *Vaccine nation. Science reason and the threat to 200 years of progress*. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**June 11:** Toby Walsh will be in conversation on his new book *A short history of AI* with Andrew Leigh. Vote of thanks by James Smithies. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema ANU.

**June 17:** Hugh White will be in conversation on his new quarterly essay *On Australia and the new world order* with Mark Kenny. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**July 2:** Michael Robotham will be in conversation with Chris Hammer on his new novel *The White Crow*. Vote of thanks by Jeff Popple. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**July 8:** Graeme Turner will be in conversation on his new book *Broken.: Universities, politics and the public good* with Frank Bongiorno. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm. . Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**August 14:** Elizabeth Finkel will be in conversation on her new book *Proof*. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**September 2:** Michael Brissenden will be in conversation on his new crime novel *Dust* with Chris Hammer. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU

**September 11:** Marian Wilkinson in conversation on her new *Quarterly Essay profit v plane.t* Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**September 23:** Sulari Gentill will be in conversation on her new novel *Five Found Dead* with Chris Hammer. Vote of thanks by Anna Creer. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**September 30:** Virginia Haussegger will be in conversation on her new book *Genderquake: is our feminist future written in the past?* with Frank Bongiorno. Vote of thanks by Michelle Ryan. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**October 2:** Omar Musa will be in conversation on his new novel *Fierceland* with Beejay Silcox. Vote of thanks by Karen Viggers. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**October 8:** Bri Lee will be in conversation on her new novel. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**October 13:** Kate Reid will be in conversation on her memoir. Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre cinema, ANU.

**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](https://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/>.

## ANU Emeritus Faculty Wednesday Lunchtime Talks

**May 7:** Anas Iqtait, “Overview of the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine and the wider Middle East.”

**May 21:** John Carver, “Protein aggregation: the common factor in Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and cataract diseases.”

**June 4:** Lucy Aplin, TBA.

**July 2:** Mitchell Whitelaw “Visualising environmental and biodiversity data”.

**July 16:** Projects Symposium.

**The talks take place on the first Wednesday of the month. The venue is the Molony Room, 24 Balmain Crescent, Acton. Talks are open to Emeritus Faculty members and their guests, as well as the speaker's guests. Attendance is free. The Molony Room is open from noon on the day of each talk, and talks begin at 12.30pm, usually finishing (including discussion) by 1.50 pm.**

## Items of note

Canberra Theatre Centre Open Day – Celebrating 60 Years.

To celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Canberra Theatre Centre is opening its doors on Saturday, May 10 from 10am to 5pm. Join in the fun of this free backstage access. As you wander the halls, you’ll be able to experience what it’s like to stand on The Playhouse stage, learn about how productions come to life behind-the-scenes and make your way through the dressing rooms which have played host to some of the world’s biggest names over the past six decades. The Open Day celebration will continue at the Canberra Museum and Gallery with 50th birthday festivities of the Sidney Nolan Collection that was gifted to the nation in 1975 and now exhibited at CMAG. Search out Nolan’s Ned Kelly and join in the family fun with a “Where’s Ned” treasure hunt, paint your own masterpiece station and get creative with Nolan inspired chalk art. There will be curator led highlight tours of the gallery. The first 50 customers at the CMAG Café will enjoy a free Nolan Ned Kelly cupcake. For more information and to register for the Canberra Theatre Tour, visit [canberratheatrecentre.com.au](http://canberratheatrecentre.com.au).

## Bookshelf

**Because COVID ...: Pandemic Responses, Rationales and Ruses.**

Edited by Shirley Leitch and Sally Wheeler.

ANU Press. Print \$40.95. Download free at [press.anu.edu.au](http://press.anu.edu.au).

**The norms of everyday life were often cast aside during the pandemic years. Across every sphere of life, “Because COVID” became an accepted shorthand, serving as both a response and rationale for previously unthinkable actions. Yet it is always a mistake to take such things at face value. Contributors to this book look beyond the rhetoric of**

**Australia's COVID-19 responses to consider where the pandemic has taken Australia as a nation. They examine economic policy, bioethics, freedom of speech, freedom of movement, global supply chains, public value science, violence against women, the experiences of Indigenous communities, news media practices, the arts sector, historical precedents, and more. What can we learn about managing future risks? What are the consequences, intended or not, of particular policy interventions? Are there new opportunities as normalisation kicks in?**

## **“We are a farming class”: Dubbo’s hinterland, 1870–1950.**

**By Peter Woodley.**

**ANU Press. Print \$50 or download free at [press.anu.edu.au](https://press.anu.edu.au).**

Notions of an arcadian farming life permeate settler-Australian understandings of themselves and their nation. Qualities of hard work, perseverance, resourcefulness, and a steady devotion to family and community are idealised in this nation. But the people from whom the legend is derived have rarely been studied in depth. They are more the stuff of myth and fond imagining than of concerted examination. To what extent is the legend built on lived experience? How have farming people thought of themselves and their contribution to a wider national mythos? This book examines the lives of people in the farmlands surrounding Dubbo in the New South Wales central west between the 1870s and the 1950s, from free selection and the establishment of agriculture to the dawning of postwar prosperity and change.

## **Articles of note**

### **The ocean can look deceptively calm – until it isn’t. Here’s what ‘hazardous surf’ really means.**

**By Samuel Cornell, PhD Candidate, Beach Safety Research Group, School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney.**

Over the Easter weekend, seven people drowned along the Australian coast. Most were swept off rock platforms – extremely dangerous locations that are increasingly prevalent in Australia’s coastal fatality data.

The weather was unseasonably warm, the surf at times looking calm and at others foreboding. And yet, despite warnings from Surf Life Saving, emergency services and meteorologists, many still entered the water – often unaware of how deceptively dangerous the conditions could be.

It was a tragic reminder that many people don’t understand ocean conditions and how waves and swells work. Current water safety warnings aren’t doing enough to change behaviour – but with simple improvements and better education around long-period swells, we could save lives.

### **The difference between waves and swells**

Waves on the ocean are caused by wind. Some, called sea waves, are generated by nearby winds. Others, known as swell waves, are created by distant weather systems, such as storms far away, and travel long distances.

Swells can travel thousands of kilometres and may still be present even if the local wind is calm. It’s estimated that up to 75% of wave action across the globe is caused by distant storms, not local winds. This makes the predicting of swells and waves a complex science.

A long-period swell refers to waves that arrive at longer intervals, typically 12 to 20 seconds apart. These swells carry more energy than short-period ones, travel greater distances, and tend to produce sets of larger waves when they hit the coast.

[Continue reading at the conversation.edu.au](http://theconversation.edu.au).

## **Fossil teeth show extinct giant kangaroos spent their lives close to home – and perished when the climate changed**

**By: Christopher Laurikainen Gaete, PhD Candidate, University of Wollongong; Anthony Dosseto, Professor of Geochemistry, University of Wollongong; Lee Arnold, Associate Professor in Earth Sciences, University of Adelaide, University of Wollongong; and Scott Hocknull, Senior Scientist and Curator, Geosciences, Queensland Museum, and Honorary Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne.**

Large kangaroos today roam long distances across the outback, often surviving droughts by moving in mobs to find new food when pickings are slim.

But not all kangaroos have been this way. In new research published today in PLOS One, we found giant kangaroos that once lived in eastern Australia were far less mobile, making them vulnerable to changes in local environmental conditions.

We discovered fossilised teeth of the now extinct giant kangaroo genus *Protemnodon* at Mount Etna Caves, north of Rockhampton, in central eastern Queensland. Analysing the teeth gave us a glimpse into the past movements of these extinct giants, hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Our results show *Protemnodon* did not forage across great distances, instead living in a lush and stable rainforest utopia. However, this utopia began to decline when the climate became drier with more pronounced seasons – spelling doom for Mount Etna’s giant roos.

[Continue reading at theconversation.edu.au](http://theconversation.edu.au).

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## **Administration**

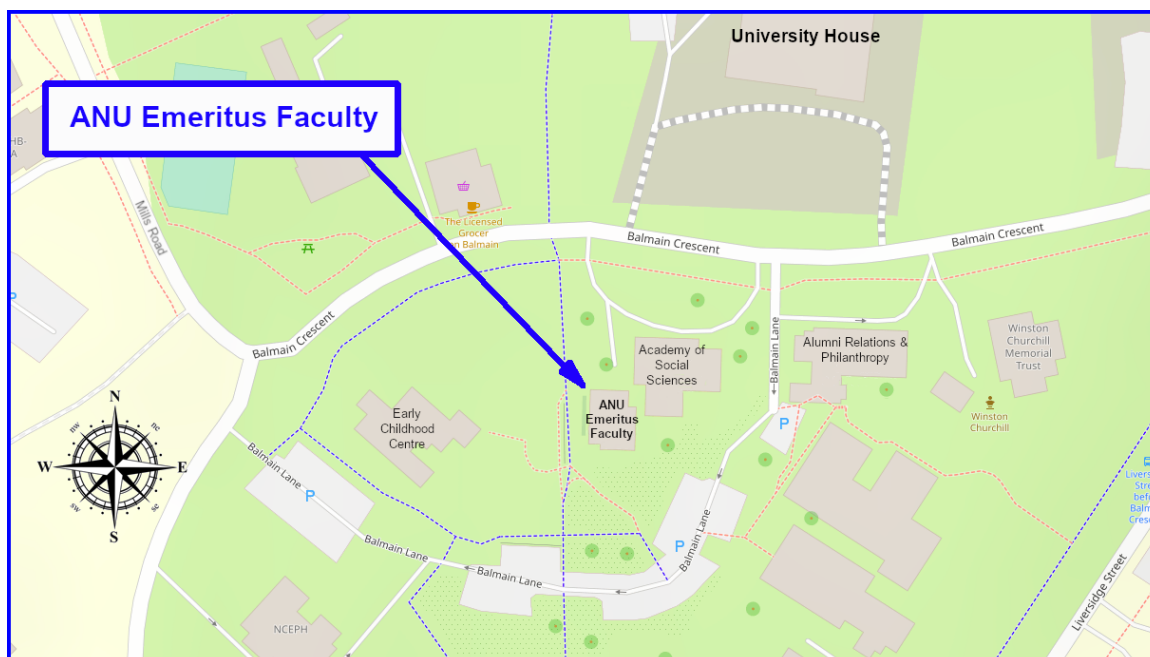
### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

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

### **Finding the Molony Room**

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

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



## Editorial

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