

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Renew ANU: 2025 Implementation Timeline

ANU is committed to keeping staff informed and engaged by providing timely, clear and accessible information to help our staff prepare for and participate in change.

This page provides a summary of anticipated organisational change activity under the Renew ANU Change Principles Implementation Plan.

It will be updated regularly to reflect key milestones, decisions and the release of formal change proposals as planning continues.

We appreciate that change can be difficult. Help is available if you need it.

Staff and their family members can access free support and counselling through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) which can be reached on 1800 808 374 (this number operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week).

Read more at anu.edu.au.

Diary dates

Meet the Author events

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

ANU MEET THE AUTHOR DATES 2025

May 27: Marcel Dirsus will be in conversation with Allan Behm on Marcel's new book *How Tyrants fall and how nations survive*. Vote of thanks by Hugh Mackay.

June 4: Raina MacIntyre will be in conversation with Sanjaya Senanayake on Raina's new book. *Vaccine nation. Science reason and the threat to 200 years of progress*. Vote of thanks by Jane Dahlstrom..

June 11: Toby Walsh will be in conversation with Andrew Leigh on Toby's new book *A short history of AI*. Vote of thanks by James Smithies.

June 17: Hugh White will be in conversation with Allan Behm on Hugh's new quarterly essay *Hard new world. Our post-American future..*

June 19: Liz Cameron will be in conversation with Alex Sloan on Liz's new book *Cult Bride*.

June 23: Cheng Lei will be in conversation on *A Memoir of Freedom*.

July 2: Michael Robotham will be in conversation with Chris Hammer on Michael's new novel *The White Crow*. Vote of thanks by Jeff Popple.

July 8: Graeme Turner will be in conversation with Frank Bongiorno on Graeme's new book *Broken.: Universities, politics and the public good*. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm.

July 21: Sam Guthrie will be in conversation with Mark Kenny on Sam's new political/thriller debut novel, *The Peak*. Vote of thanks by Allan Behm.

July 23: Katherine Biber will be in conversation with Kate Fullagar on Katherine's new book *The Last Outlaws*.

July 31: Adam Courtney will be in conversation with Alex Sloan on his new book *My Father Bryce*. Vote of thanks by Andra Putnis.

August 6: Bryan Horrigan will be in conversation on his new book *Corporate Social Responsibility* with James Edelman. Vote of thanks by Ryan Goss..

August 14: Elizabeth Finkel will be in conversation with Joan Leach on Elizabeth's new book *Prove It: A Scientific Guide for the Post-Truth Era*. Vote of thanks by Anna Maria Arabia.

September 2: Michael Brissenden will be in conversation with Chris Hammer on Michael's new crime fiction novel *Dust*. Vote of thanks by Karen Viggers.

September 11: Marian Wilkinson in conversation on her new *Quarterly Essay, profit v planet*.

September 15: Tracey Lee Holmes will be in conversation with Phil Coorey on her new book *The Eye of the Dragonfly: A Life Seeing the World Through Sport*. Vote of thanks by Michelle Ryan.

September 17: Paula Gerber in conversation with Kim Rubenstein on Paula's new book *Trans rights, gender and sex*.

September 23: Sulari Gentill will be in conversation with Chris Hammer on Sulari's new novel *Five Found Dead*. Vote of thanks by Anna Creer.

September 30: Virginia Haussegger in conversation with Frank Bongiorno on her new book *Unfinished Revolution: the feminist fightback*. Vote of thanks by Michelle Ryan.

October 2: Omar Musa will be in conversation with Beejay Silcox on his new novel *Fierceland*. Vote of thanks by Karen Viggers.

October 8: Bri Lee will be in conversation on her new novel *Seed*.

October 13: With the Canberra Writers Festival - Chris Hammer will be in conversation on his new novel *Legacy*.

October 15: Kate Reid will be in conversation with Alex Sloan on Kate's memoir *Destination Moon*.

November 3: Hugh Mackay will be in conversation with Alex Sloan on Hugh's new book *Just Saying*. Vote of thanks by Frank Bongiorno. Cinema ANU.

November 12: Robert Wellington will be in conversation on Robert's new book *Versailles Mirrored. The Power of Luxury, Louis XIV to Donald Trump..*

ANU Meet the Author events are held in association with Harry Hartog Bookshop. Books are available for purchase before and after each event. Pre-event book signings will be

available from 5.30pm and again after the event. Registration is required and can be made at Registrations at anu.edu.au/events. In line with ANU's COVID policy, masks are no longer required. Enquiries to the convenor, Colin Steele, at colin.steele@anu.edu.au.

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

ANU Emeritus Faculty Wednesday Lunchtime Talks

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

ANU School of Art & Design:

Tracing the Grain: Locating the life of the tree in the woodblock.

Julian Laffan. Until June 6, 2025. See: soad.cass.anu.edu.au.

The grain of trees evident in both woodblocks and prints are an underacknowledged record of aesthetic co-production between human artists and more-than-human beings. Whilst there is literature centred on the relief woodcut print and the resulting visual communication, there is a significant gap in the consideration of the woodblock. Usually seen as a matrix for the dissemination of written language and imagery as prints, there has been little exploration of the woodblock as a vehicle to communicate the presence of our relationship with more-than-human counterparts. Analysing extant woodblocks to inform creative practice-led research processes of cutting, inking and printing, Laffan present new knowledge about the woodblock as a subject with agency inscribed with material histories. Tracing information of human and more-than-human mark-making within fragments can reveal multiple stories of life and wear over time.

1984. By George Orwell, adapted by Shake & Stir. Canberra Theatre Centre. June 5 to 7, 2025. See: canberratheatrecentre.com.au.

In a world of total surveillance, Winston Smith takes a dangerous step—he starts to think for himself. With a diary and a pen, he sets himself on a collision course with The Party, led by

the ever-watchful BIG BROTHER. Experience Orwell's masterpiece in this stage version by Shake & Stir, whose previous adaptations include *Frankenstein*, *Jane Eyre*, *Animal Farm*, and *Dracula*.

Obituaries

John White

April 25, 1937 – 16 August 16, 2023

Emeritus Professor John White, AO CMG FRS FAA FAIP FRACI CChem, passed away suddenly at home in Canberra on August 16, 2023. John was a very well-known and highly regarded member of the international scientific community, and his death has deeply saddened his colleagues, ex-students and friends around the world. John's spirited presence and polite and warm manner, coupled with seemingly boundless energy and enthusiasm, were known to all who interacted with him. John was a major contributor to the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, having been President from 2000 to 2002, and recipient of the H.G. Smith Memorial Medal in 1997 and the Leighton Memorial Medal in 2005.

John was originally from Newcastle and studied chemistry at the University of Sydney, receiving the Dixon Prize for Chemistry, a first-class Honours degree and an MSc. He won an 1851 Scholarship, which took him to Oxford University in 1959, where, supervised by Rex Richards, he worked on the new technique of nuclear magnetic resonance, which was being pioneered for chemistry. Even before finishing his DPhil, he was elected an Imperial Chemical Industries Fellow in Lincoln College, and in 1963 a fellow of St John's College Oxford, where he remained for 26 years. It was in the 1960s that John began his long and distinguished career in neutron scattering when many exciting developments were taking place.

During this time, John met Ailsa Vise, a microbiologist, who had also won a research scholarship to Oxford, and they married in 1966. This was to be a lifelong partnership. John and Ailsa even published an article together in the *Australian Journal of Chemistry* in 2011 on the discovery of the neutron as a legacy of the Curie family's work.

Within 10 years, he had risen to the top of the leadership in the field, serving as Neutron Beam Coordinator at Harwell and then Director of the Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble, France, where he proposed and led the "*deuxième souffle*" renewal program from 1978.

In 1985, John and his family returned to Australia where he was appointed Professor of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry at the Australian National University. His return greatly benefited Australia, as he was largely responsible for introducing the new experimental techniques of small-angle scattering and reflectometry to the Australian chemistry, biology and physics communities.

John was the most politically influential and effective advocate for neutron scattering in Australia through his roles as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, President of RACI and President of the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering.

Under the name of “Small Country Big Science”, he organised a crucial access deal for Australian scientists to the ISIS Neutron and Muon Facility in the UK. Over 20 years, this provided Australian researchers with access to the most powerful spallation neutron source, with scattering techniques unavailable in Australia. The growth of new scientific and engineering uses of neutrons in Australia through ISIS access provided a sound basis upon which the case for a replacement research reactor at ANSTO was developed, which was ultimately commissioned as OPAL in 2006.

John was instrumental in the development of the neutron scattering capabilities at the OPAL reactor, participating on the Beam Facilities Consultative Group (1997–1998), Beam Instruments Advisory Group (2000–2004) and the Bragg Institute Advisory Committee (2004–2010). He was also a major driver in building an Asia–Oceania neutron scattering community as a founding executive member and then President of the Asia–Oceania Neutron Scattering Association (AONSA).

John was a key figure in the international scientific community for more than five decades. Over the course of a long and distinguished career, through a combination of advances in experimentation and choice of paradigm examples, his work demonstrated how neutron scattering data could be analysed to provide precise details of molecular structure and dynamics for a wide variety of chemical systems.

He was awarded fellowships of the Royal Society of Chemistry (1982), RACI (1986), the Australian Institute of Physics (1986), the Australian Academy of Science (1991) and the Royal Society of London (1993). He was a visiting Fellow at Argonne National Laboratory in 1984. Among his many other awards, including the RACI awards, are the David Craig Medal and Lecture of the Australian Academy of Science (2005), the Archibald Liversidge Medal of the Royal Society of New South Wales (2010) and the AONSA (Asia-Oceania Neutron Scattering Association) Prize (2015). He was awarded the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1981 and the Centenary Medal in 2001 and appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2016.

John had a long involvement at the faith-science interface, from his days at Oxford with the Research Scientists’ Christian Fellowship to being a key player in the establishment of the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology in 1987 and serving as President from 1992 to 2006. It was his vision to establish the biennial Conference on Science and Christianity series, which began in 1997 and continues today.

Among John’s extraordinary list of achievements and contributions, perhaps most significant for many is that through a combination of his exemplary science and his promotion of scattering techniques, John has been responsible for launching the careers of many scientists across the globe. University departments and scattering facilities throughout the world are populated with John’s former students, postdocs and others whom he formally and informally mentored over more than five decades. The legacy of his leadership will be felt in Australia, the Asia–Oceania region and beyond for many years to come.

He is survived by Ailsa, children Sarah, Catherine, David and Rachel and their families, including seven grandchildren. John was farewelled in the church of St John the Baptist, Reid, Canberra, where John and Ailsa were long-standing and enthusiastic members, on August 22, 2023. He will be sadly missed.

Ian Gentle and Elliot Gilbert

This obituary first appeared in *Chemistry in Australia*: December 2023-February 2024: 26-27.

Roderic Girth Broadhurst

September 26, 1952 - April 18, 2025

Roderic “Rod” Broadhurst passed away on April 18, 2025, aged 72, after a two-year struggle following a stroke and extensive brain surgery. These final years were difficult for him and his family. We continued, nevertheless, to learn things intellectually important and insightful from him at his bedside up to his final few weeks. He always enjoyed our profound respect as a person and a scholar.

Rod was particularly renowned internationally as a scholar of cybercrime, such as malware detection, and organized crime and other forms of offending in China and Cambodia. His late career book, *Violence and the Civilising Process in Cambodia* (Cambridge) and follow-up article in the *British Journal of Criminology* on the decline in violence and crime since the Cambodia genocide, was brilliantly inductive sociological theory. It was utterly distinctive, a landmark contribution to genocide studies. That work was co-authored with Brigitte and Thierry Bouhours.

For over a decade while in the Sociology Department of the University of Hong Kong, Rod built one of the very best masters’ programs in criminology and criminal justice in Asia and the Pacific. From 2005, he served for a period as Head of the School of Justice at the Queensland University of Technology. He joined ANU in 2009. Rod headed and built a fine Criminology Department at the Australian National University. Before and after that period he served for more than a decade in the School of Regulation and Global Governance at ANU, including leadership of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security (and, for a period, with the Centre of Excellence at Griffith University).

When Rod’s former Hong Kong colleagues, Dr Laurie Lau, Prof. Eric Chiu, Dr. Chu Yiu Kong, and Prof YW Cheung learned of his passing, they asked for these words be shared:

“We honour the memory of a scholar, a dedicated professor, and a cherished friend for decades. His passion for sociology shaped countless minds, both here in Hong Kong and later in Australia, particularly in the evolving landscape of cybercrime. It shaped the discourse in both Hong Kong and Australia, if not globally, leaving a lasting impact on students, colleagues, and the academic community in these two places. Beyond his scholarship, he was a guide and an unwavering source of wisdom ... his legacy endures in the minds he shaped and the truths he uncovered.”

During Rod’s University of Hong Kong years, he also served as Secretary, then Chair, of the Hong Kong Society of Criminology. He was one of the original members of the Asian Society of Criminology, and became Founder, then Editor in Chief, of the *Asian Journal of Criminology*. It became a well cited journal that removed Asian research from its former international obscurity within the field. In China, as in Australia, Rod’s research and his thinking was always valued by policymakers: local, national and at the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. His first jobs as an educator, especially with Aboriginal prisoners, and then an evaluation

researcher, in the Western Australian Department of Corrections, forged him as a grounded, mature policy scholar.

In collaboration with Professor Ross Maller, early in his career Rod was one of the first, and one of the few, Australian criminologists to do statistical analyses of recidivism based on actuarial methods. Methodologically, his research was advanced, innovating forms of data analysis that those before him had not managed.

An example was his work on Dark Net markets, which among other major revelations, showed how Australians and people from other countries easily got access on the Dark Net to Covid drugs early in the pandemic, much of it illegally diverted from clinical trials. That is, if you were wealthy enough, it was easy to get COVID therapies before they were approved for marketing in your country. Or if your country was so poor that it was down the list of countries that would get early access because it could not afford to pay the monopoly prices demanded by Big Pharma, you could get them if you were willing to use the Dark Net as a wealthy individual. This was novel, high impact Broadhurst work on how actual drug markets work. Beyond the research on drug trafficking, his Dark Web research revealed new realities about the manufacture of homemade “ghost guns”, and imperatives for child protection from dangers of the Dark Net.

In both the ANU Cybercrime Observatory and the Criminology Department, Rod relished an open-plan approach, spending much time in the same space as students and junior scholars. They were enriched and attracted in droves to the excellence of this scholarly interaction. It was so much more supportive, hands on, and intensive than the mentoring of most professors. Rod was dedicated to his students, as he was to his beloved family, who in turn showed him such loving care in his final two years. He is survived by his partner Irene and sons Christian, James, Sebastian, and Julian.

John Braithwaite and Peter Grabosky

Hector Macdonald Boot

May 14, 1939 - April 18, 2025

Hector Macdonald Boot (1939-2025), economic historian and greatly respected teacher dedicated to academic life, died on April 18, 2025 at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife Val, their two sons and daughter.

Known to everyone as Mac Boot, he was born in Hull in the East Riding of Yorkshire, 25 miles (40 kilometres) inland from the North Sea, on May 14, 1939. His ambition upon leaving school was to become a school teacher. With the intention of pursuing that ambition he enrolled for a teaching certificate, completing the qualification in 1963. He then taught for three years while enrolled as an external student in the University of London, where he studied for a B.Sc. (Econ) degree specialising in economic and social history. He graduated with an Honours 2A result in 1965. Awarded a Reckitt’s Research Scholarship to the University of Hull in 1966, Mac embarked on a Master’s thesis, choosing as his topic The Capital Market and the Crisis of

1847. The thesis was subsequently upgraded to a PhD, which was awarded in 1979. It was published in 1984 with the title *The Commercial Crisis of 1847* by the University of Hull in its series of Occasional Papers in Economic and Social History. While undertaking research for the thesis he worked as a part-time tutor.

In June 1968, Mac applied successfully for a lectureship in Economic History at the University of New England. After 18 months working under RS Neale at UNE, he applied for a lectureship in the Department of Economic History at ANU, in what was then the School of General Studies, later The Faculties, and he was again successful, commencing at ANU in 1970. A reference from the University of Hull stated that Mac ‘impressed us as a young man of outstanding drive and determination with a most lively intellectual approach to his work ... In every way Mr Boot impressed us here as a very thorough young man, hardworking and deeply interested in his work. He is a good teacher, patient and yet lively.’ The report remarked that it was “comparatively rare for a young man to do so well in an external degree, and to continue to develop intellectually as Mr Boot has done”, adding that “there is no doubt in our minds that he was potentially an excellent university teacher and colleague.”

In 1991 Mac was promoted to Senior Lecturer at ANU. The appointments committee wrote in its report that Mac’s referees “commend him as an outstanding and gifted teacher and note the wide recognition given to his research and academic standing. His recent work on wages and human capital is seen as a key contribution to the understanding of the debate on pay structure and income distribution in industrialising economies.” Above all, it noted that “Dr Boot has made a substantial administrative contribution within the University and in the wider community and has initiated links with the public sector through consultancies and courses at the centre for continuing education.”

Mac taught several courses in economic history at ANU, including first-year courses in British and Australian economic history, and third-year and fourth-year honours courses in Business and Economy in the Asia-Pacific Region; Asian Giants: India, China and Japan: Alternative Paths to Prosperity; and Development of Capital Markets. He was highly regarded by his students for his strong commitment to teaching, his thorough preparation of lectures and tutorials, and for the time he devoted to assisting students. His popularity as a teacher was demonstrated in the impressive enrolment numbers in the courses he took, and in student surveys. On several occasions he was appointed Head or Acting Head of the Department of Economic History. As to his contributions to the discipline of economic history, Mac was a member of the Editorial Committees of the *Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Australia* and the *Australian Economic History Review*, the management committees of the Australian History of Economic Thought Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand. He also served as a referee for *The Economic History Review*, the *Australian Economic History Review* and *Policy*.

He spent two very rewarding study leaves, one at the University of Edinburgh, the other at Cambridge. At the latter, he was associated with the History of Population and Social Structure group in the Department of Geography. There he pursued research on clerical salaries and career earnings in the British East India Company’s home office between 1760 and 1860. Earlier, in Edinburgh, he gained access to the records of the Bank of Scotland, using them to compile statistical series of pay scales and other employment data from the late 18th century to the middle of the 19th century. This research formed the basis of several seminar and conference papers, and some highly regarded publications.

As well as a strong commitment to teaching and research, Mac was involved in a remarkable range of university and community activities. For the Centre for Continuing Education, he organised several conferences and study courses in economics for middle-level public servants, for the Trade Union Training Authority and for the small business community in Canberra. For many years he taught an evening course in economics for the CCE. He was a member of the executive committee of the Staff Amenities Fund, the Consultative Committee for the Australian Universities Superannuation Scheme, the University Co-operative Credit Union, and was Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the ANU Staff Association. For many years he was a member of the Conferring of Degrees Ceremony Committee and was the Esquire Bedell at conferring of degrees ceremonies.

Another very important aspect of Mac's career at ANU was his involvement in the life and administration of the university's residential halls. He was a member of the Governing Body of Garran Hall, serving on occasions as Deputy Warden, and later he was a Non-Residential Fellow and Tutor at Bruce Hall. But above all, he was Chairman of the Graduate House Management Committee for 10 years from 1993 to 2003, a major task being the management of the transfer of Graduate House from its original site in the city to its present site on the campus next to University House. The change in location brought Graduate House under the administration of University House. On Mac's retirement from Graduate House, Professor John Richards, the Master of University House, wrote that "By any measure his commitment has been outstanding and his attention to detail during the location and extension has meant that we now have a well-functioning on-campus Graduate house and community, with a waiting list the envy of all Halls and Colleges." As a tribute to Mac's contributions to Graduate House an internal walkway along a wrought iron architectural feature was named "Mac Boot Way".

Mac's activities were by no means confined to the ANU. At different times he was Secretary of the ACT Council for Civil Liberties, the Foundation President of the Canberra Labor Club and between 1975 and 1978 he was the Secretary of the ACT Branch of the ALP.

Mac retired as Senior Lecturer in the School of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, in July 2002. For some years after his formal retirement, he continued to undertake research and teaching as an Adjunct Associate Professor/Senior Fellow in the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute in the College of Arts and Social Sciences.

Selwyn Cornish

Bookshelf

“I buy this piece of ground here”: An Italian market-gardener community in Adelaide, 1920s–1970s.

By: Madeleine Regan. ANU Press. Print \$65 or download free at press.anu.edu.au.

This group biography examines the lives and work of a cohort of Italian migrant families from the Veneto region who arrived in Australia in the 1920s and formed a new community and identity as market gardeners in outer suburban Adelaide. Drawing on 65 oral histories with sons and daughters of the first generation, archival and published records, it considers the impacts of the Depression, fascism, World War II, the White Australia environment that excluded southern Europeans and, ultimately, the suburbanisation that overtook their community.

Made in China Journal: Volume 9, Issue 2, 2024.

Edited by: Ivan Franceschini, Nicholas Loubere. ANU Press. Print \$60 or download free at press.anu.edu.

The dramatic transformations in China’s media landscape over the past decade have led many to declare the death of quality journalism in the country. The Party-State’s tightening grip on information, the dismantling of once vibrant investigative outlets, and the growing precarity of media professionals seem to confirm this narrative. And yet, as traditional spaces for critical reporting shrink, new modes of journalistic practice continue to emerge, often in dispersed and unexpected forms. From citizen-led investigations and social media exposés to transnational collaborations, Chinese journalism has not disappeared—it has adapted. This issue explores the shifting terrain of journalistic production in and about China, tracing the resilience, reinvention, and risks that define the profession today.

War 4.0: Armed Conflict in an Age of Speed, Uncertainty and Transformation.

Edited by: Deane-Peter Baker, Mark Hilborne. ANU Press. Print \$34.95 or download free at press.anu.edu.

This volume explores the impact of technology and new domains on future warfare. It highlights the increasing complexity of the security environment and the uncertainty of future war. The sense of time and speed is being compressed by developments in quantum technologies, the cyber domain, artificial intelligence, the increased capabilities of sensors and data collection, as well as new propulsion technologies such as hypersonic designs. Concepts regarding the shape and extent of the battlefield are challenged by the notion of hybrid war and sub-threshold tactics, as well as new domains in which competition is increasing, such as space. Further challenging the shape of the battlefield is the increased development of remote and autonomous warfare. Commercial developments will affect how military production is owned and managed, and how military forces are composed. Thus, a confluence of new technologies exists, combining to create the potential of fundamental transformation at many levels.

Articles of note

AI is now used for audio description. But it should be accurate and actually useful for people with low vision.

By: Kathryn Locke, Associate Researcher in Digital Disability, Centre for Culture and Technology, Curtin University; and Tama Leaver, Professor of Internet Studies, Curtin University.

Since the recent explosion of widely available generative artificial intelligence (AI), it now seems that a new AI tool emerges every week. With varying success, AI offers solutions for productivity, creativity, research, and also accessibility: making products, services and other content more usable for people with disability.

The award-winning 2024 Super Bowl ad for Google Pixel 8 is a poignant example of how the latest AI tech can intersect with disability. Directed by blind director Adam Morse, it showcases an AI-powered feature that uses audio cues, haptic feedback (where vibrating sensations communicate information to the user) and animations to assist blind and low-vision users in capturing photos and videos.

The ad was applauded for being disability inclusive and representative. It also demonstrated a growing capacity for – and interest in – AI to generate more accessible technology.

AI is also poised to challenge how audio description is created and what it may sound like. This is the focus of our research team.

Audio description is a track of narration that describes important visual elements of visual media, including television shows, movies and live performances. Synthetic voices and quick, automated visual descriptions might result in more audio description on our screens. But will users lose out in other ways?

Read more at theconversation.edu.au.

For making stars, it's not just how much gas a galaxy has that matters – it's where it's hiding

By: Barbara Catinella, Professor and Senior Principal Research Fellow, International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR), The University of Western Australia; and Seona Lee, PhD student, International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, The University of Western Australia.

Galaxies are often described as vast star factories, churning out new suns from clouds of gas. For decades, astronomers have assumed that the more raw material a galaxy holds, the more stars it should be able to make.

But our latest study, published this month in the Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia (PASA), challenges that assumption. We found that when it comes to forming stars, it's not just the amount of gas in a galaxy that matters – it's where that gas is located.

Read more at theconversation.edu.au.

Boredom gets a bad rap. But science says it can actually be good for us

By: Michelle Kennedy, Youth Mental Health Researcher, University of the Sunshine Coast; and Daniel Hermens, Professor of Youth Mental Health & Neurobiology, University of the Sunshine Coast.

We have all experienced boredom – that feeling of waning interest or decreased mental stimulation. Eventually we lose focus, we disengage. Time seems to pass slowly, and we may even start to feel restless. Whether it be watching a movie that disappoints, a child complaining that “there’s nothing to do”, or an adult zoning out during a meeting – boredom is a universal experience.

Generally defined as difficulty maintaining attention or interest in a current activity, boredom is commonly viewed as a negative state that we should try to avoid or prevent ourselves from experiencing. But what if there’s another way to view boredom, as a positive state? Could learning to embrace boredom be of benefit?

Read more at theconversation.edu.au.

Nations ignoring the need for a just transition to zero carbon

By: Peter Sainsbury.

Eliminating greenhouse gas emissions is dangerously slow, but doing it in a fair, just and inclusive manner is all but non-existent. Climate change’s many harmful outcomes for women and girls include more child marriages. Fishing doesn’t have to kill mammals and birds.

What is a just transition? Is anyone doing it? A “just transition” refers to addressing climate change in a fair, just and inclusive manner. This means creating decent work opportunities for all, avoiding risks like unemployment and displacement, and taking an inclusive approach to managing challenges associated with the low-carbon transition. It seeks to balance the risks and benefits fairly, leaving no one behind.

In Australia, our minds tend to jump first of all to coal mining and coal-fired power station communities and ensuring that workers, communities and regions are helped to deal with closures. But a just transition is not just about jobs and economies. Particularly in developing countries, it might also include issues such as sex discrimination, land rights, health concerns, air pollution, land restoration and water access.

Read more at johnmenadue.com.

“The ecological revolution” How a new moral consciousness began to stir in Australia

By: Tom Griffiths

Although it often goes unremarked, a dramatic political revolution is underway. It is the ecological revolution: a phenomenon that escapes the attention of those who work at the scale of an electoral cycle. Even in the grip of a climate and biodiversity emergency, ecology is still neglected in cultural and political analyses, partly due to an entrenched science-humanities divide in education and public culture, and also because of a tendency to interpret environmental thinking as just “green politics.” But at a larger scale - the scale of a lifetime - we can clearly see there has been a generational change in ecological understandings of the Australian continent and the predicament of the planet.

It’s six decades since the publication of Donald Horne’s classic analysis of Australian politics and society, *The Lucky Country* (1964). Horne was blind, as were most others at the time, to the deep biological and cultural narrative of Australian earth, as well as to the enduring Aboriginal character of the continent. These insights have crystallised in our lifetimes and have transformed the way we understand the world and Australia’s place in it. This is not to criticise Horne for overlooking them; rather, it reminds us that if such a brilliant and edgy analyst didn’t

see them, then these things were not part of the Australian zeitgeist of the early sixties, hardly even at the edges of it.

Read more at insidestory.org.au.

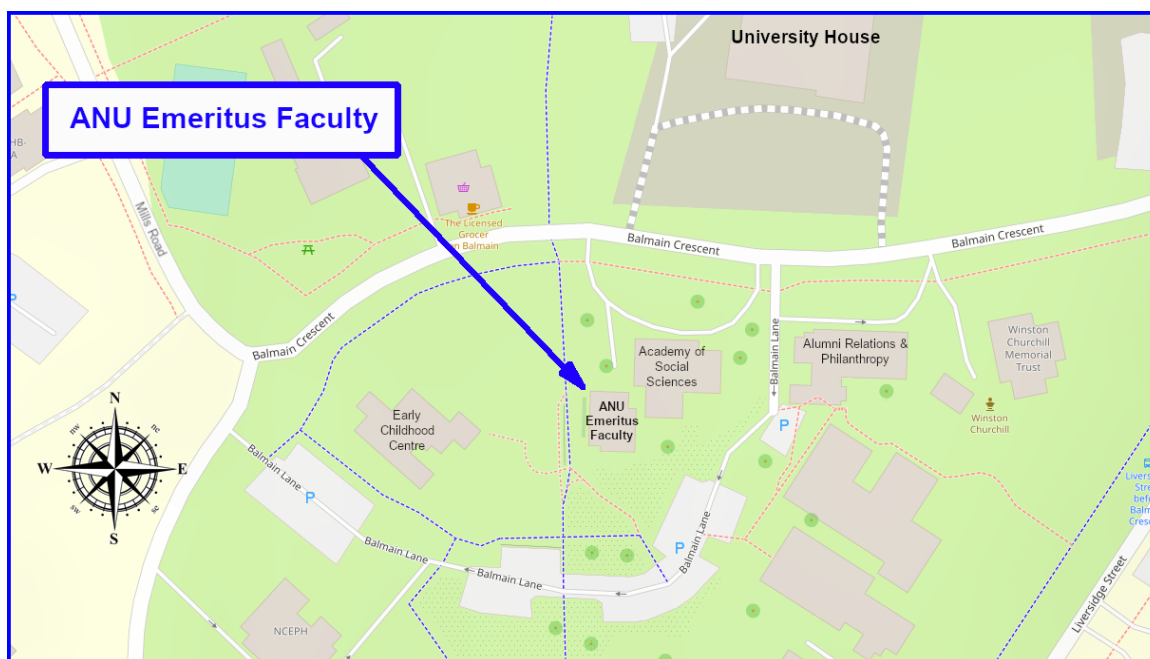
Administration

Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings

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

Finding the Molony Room

The Molony Room is at 24 Balmain Crescent, on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House. It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj>, set back between 22 Balmain Crescent (the Acton Early Childhood Centre) and 26 Balmain Crescent (the Academy of the Social Sciences). Four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room. The room is marked on: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



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2600

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