

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

## The Annual Emeritus Faculty Dinner is on July 24, 2025

The annual Emeritus Faculty Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, July 24 at the Commonwealth Club, 25 Forster Crescent, Yarralumla.

Professor Frank Bongiorno will be the after-dinner speaker. He proposes to offer both humour and enlightenment in his talk titled: “A revolution accomplished, or tracing the influence of divers fevers on Australian universities”:

The apocryphal attribution to Mao Zedong or Zhou Enlai of the remark that it was too early to determine the results of the French Revolution might equally have applied to the Dawkins revolution in Australian higher education – before Covid. After Covid, we know. The pandemic completed that revolution and disclosed, while also accentuating, its impacts. The story is not a pretty one. “All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way”: the *Anna Karenina* principle applies to the Australian university system – unhappy (as so many universities around the world are), but unhappy “in its own way”. So is the ANU.

Professor Frank Bongiorno is Professor of History in the School of History in the Research School of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Social Sciences. He is also the President of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS).

Timing for this occasion will be: 6.30pm for 7pm for canapés followed by a main course with coffee and tea afterwards. The cost of \$85 per person will need to be paid in advance and received by July 21. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Please send notification to [james.fox@anu.edu.au](mailto:james.fox@anu.edu.au) if you wish to attend, with information on any dietary requirements so that these can be passed on to the Commonwealth Club. Dress code is smart casual.

**Payments can be made to:**

**BENDIGO BANK**

**BSB: 633 000**

**Account No: 203 697 867**



## Diary dates

### ANU Meet the Author events

ANU/*Canberra Times* Meet the Author events are held in association with Harry Hartog Bookshop. Unless otherwise stated all free events are free and at 6pm in the Lowitja O'Donoghue Cultural Centre, formerly known as the Kambri Cultural Centre. 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/meet-the-author-series](http://anu.edu.au/events/meet-the-author-series). 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 cultural centre) will be open for dining after the events. No bookings necessary. Food and wine details at <https://unihouse.anu.edu.au/eat/symposium/>.

**July 2:** Michael Robotham will be in conversation with Chris Hammer on Chris'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 15:** Liz Cameron will be in conversation with Alex Sloan on Liz's new book *Cult Bride*.

**July 21:** Sam Guthrie will be in conversation with Mark Kenny on Sam's debut novel, the political thriller *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 on his new book *My Father Bryce*. with Alex Sloan  
Vote of thanks by Andra Putnis.

**August 6:** Bryan Horrigan will be in conversation on his new book *Corporate Social Responsibility* with James Edelman.

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

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

**September 11:** Marian Wilkinson will be in conversation on her new *Quarterly Essay: Profit v planet* with David Pocock.

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



**September 17:** Paula Gerber will be in conversation on her new book, *Sex, Gender and Identity: Trans Rights in Australia* with Kim Rubenstein. Vote of thanks by Fiona Jenkins.

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

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

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

**October 8:** Bri Lee will be in conversation on her new novel *Seed* with Richard Morecroft. Vote of thanks by Karen Viggers.

**October 13:** In conjunction with the Canberra Writers Festival, Chris Hammer will be in conversation on his new novel *Legacy*.

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

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

**November 6:** Sofie Laguna will be in conversation on her new novel *The Underworld*.

**November 12:** Robert Wellington will be in conversation on his new book *Versailles Mirrored. The Power of Luxury, Louis XIV to Donald Trump* with Matthew Trinca. Vote of thanks by Helen Musa.

**November 21:** TBC: Bryan Brown will be in conversation on his new novel *The Hidden*.

**December 2:** At 6.15pm, Niki Savva will be in conversation on her new collection of political essays with Kerry-Anne Walsh. Vote of thanks by Virginia Haussegger.

## **ANU Emeritus Faculty Wednesday Lunchtime Talks**

**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, a cottage at 24 Balmain Crescent, Acton, opposite the great hall of University House. 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 1.50pm.**

## **ANU School of Art & Design Gallery**

### **BACKBONE**

This group exhibition features work by technical staff at the ANU School of Art & Design who are makers, artists and creatives. They share their knowledge, ensure integrity of process and provide fundamental support for artistic exploration and research. This exhibition celebrates their work as professional creative practitioners. They are Emma Beer, Estelle Briedis, Sean



Booth, Chris “Walrus” Dazell, Louis Grant, John Hart, Mahala Hill, Cathy Newton and Emeierly Nucifora-Ryan. The exhibition is on from Tuesday July 8, 2025 at 10.30am until Friday, August 8 at 3pm. There will be a reception on Wednesday, July 23 at 5.30pm.

## Items of note

**Global warming is changing cloud patterns. That means more global warming.**

**By Christian Jakob, Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Weather of the 21st Century, Monash University.**

At any given time, about two-thirds of Earth’s surface is covered by clouds. Overall, they make the planet much cooler than it would be without them.

But as Earth gets warmer, mostly due to the rise in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from humans burning fossil fuels, clouds are changing too. And that might already be causing more warming – adding to the greenhouse heat boost, and changing clouds even more.

Continue reading this article at [theconversation.edu.au](https://theconversation.edu.au).

**Robot eyes are power hungry. What if we gave them tools inspired by the human brain?**

**By: Adam D Hines, Research Fellow, Centre for Robotics, Queensland University of Technology; Michael Milford, Professor, Director of the Centre for Robotics, Queensland University of Technology; and Tobias Fischer, Chief Investigator, Centre for Robotics, Queensland University of Technology.**

Robots are increasingly becoming a part of our lives – from warehouse automation to robotic vacuum cleaners. And just like humans, robots need to know where they are to reliably navigate from A to B.

How far, and for how long, a robot can navigate depends on how much power it consumes over time. Robot navigation systems are especially energy hungry.

But what if power consumption was no longer a concern?

Continue reading this article at [theconversation.edu.au](https://theconversation.edu.au).

## Bookshelf

**All these ANU Press books are available to download free at [press.anu.edu.au/publications/books](https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/books).**



## **Globalising Chinese Actors and Internalising the Belt and Road: Implications for Global and Domestic Governance.**

**Edited by: Miwa Hirono. ANU Press.**

The literature on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) points out either its negative or positive impacts on global and domestic governance.

However, such a dichotomy is too simplistic, not least because it tells us little about the complexity of change in the nature of the BRI as it is implemented.

This book argues that the BRI manifests an intricate dynamic comprising two contradictory tendencies: Xi Jinping's top-down and centralised approach to policymaking, with its focus on producing robust Chinese actors who can succeed in a competitive global economy; and a fragmented and decentralised reality made up of an expanding range of actors engaged in realising myriad BRI projects on the ground.

## **Military History Supremo: Essays in Honour of David Horner AM FASSA.**

**Edited by: Joan Beaumont, Garth Pratten.**

Professor Emeritus David Horner AM FASSA is one of Australia's greatest military historians and its fifth official historian of war and military operations.

Few who undertake research in the field can do so without consulting his prodigious, authoritative and definitive publications. Serving for 25 years in the Australian Army before joining The Australian National University, Horner is the epitome of the soldier-scholar and has played a key role in establishing military history as an academic discipline in Australia.

This volume honours Horner's long career of service to history and the nation. Authors pay tribute to Horner's legacy by engaging with his scholarship, applying his conclusions to new case studies and contexts, reflecting and expanding on the subjects he addressed and the methodologies he employed, and pushing the boundaries of the discipline he was instrumental in founding.

## **Strategic Imagination: Essays in Honour of Brendan Sargeant.**

**Edited by: Andrew Carr.**

This book examines the concept of "strategic imagination" developed by Brendan Sargeant during his distinguished career at the Australian Department of Defence and later as a scholar at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC), The Australian National University. His tragic passing has left this powerful idea awaiting a proper examination. This volume seeks to provide that scholarly account and carry both the concept and Brendan's legacy forward.

The book is organised in three parts. First, former officials like Dennis Richardson join leading scholars, including Mark McKenna, Anthea Roberts and Ian Hall, to explore the unusual conjunction of strategy and imagination, demonstrating its crucial role in effective scholarship and policy.

Second, analysts from Australia and worldwide examine how strategic imagination improves strategic practice by revealing hidden possibilities, catalysing essential conversations and challenging core assumptions.



The final section offers personal reflections from Brendan's colleagues at the SDSC, providing a fitting tribute to his life and contribution. The volume also includes selections of Brendan's own writing on strategic imagination, ensuring his voice continues to inspire scholars and officials to explore this rich and powerful concept.

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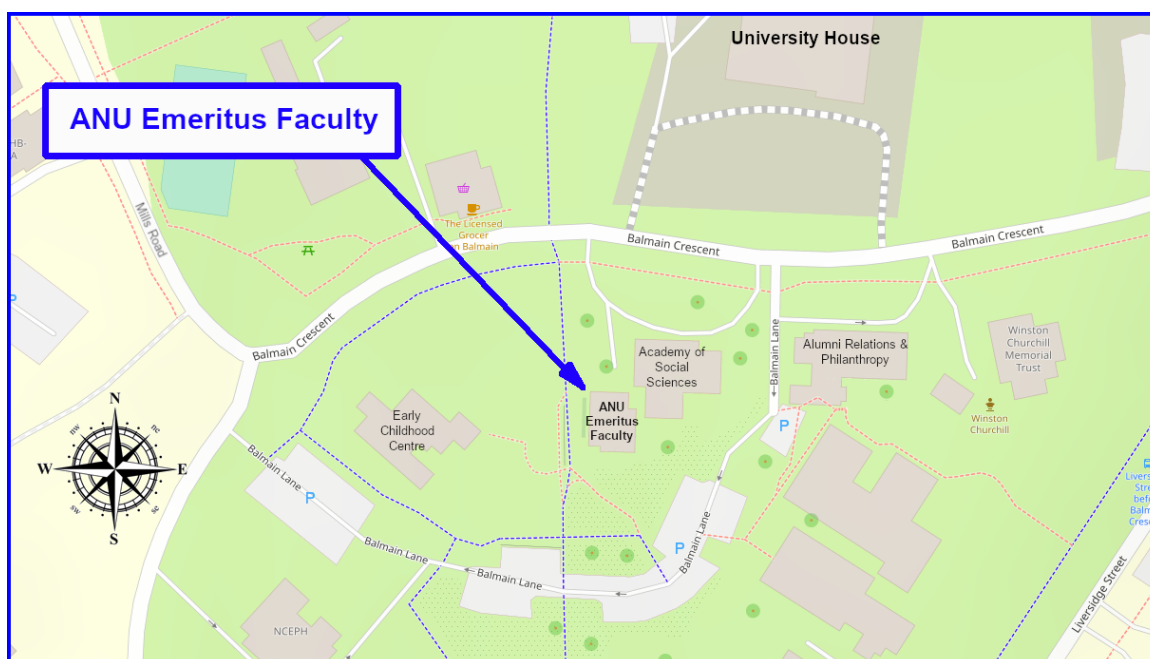
## Administration

### 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>



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