

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

## **\$18 million in federal funding to turbocharge ANU research**

Research looking at the governance of Indigenous cultural knowledge, turning waste into climate-friendly fertilisers, investigating our planet's core and finding new ways to save species from the brink of extinction are among projects led by researchers at The Australian National University (ANU) to receive about \$18 million in grants from the Australian Government.

Seventeen ANU researchers are among a cohort of exceptional Australian scientists to receive funding under a series of recent Australian Research Council (ARC) funding rounds.

Professor Hrvoje Tkalčić from the Research School of Earth Sciences is one of the Australian Laureate recipients to receive ARC funding.

His research using seismology to uncover the secrets of Earth's core has helped us learn more about the evolution of our planet and has even shed new light on other planets in our solar system, including measuring the size of the core of Mars and the discovery of an 'ocean' of water found deep underground in the Martian crust.

He has received \$3,888,099 under the 2025 ARC Australian Laureate Fellowship, which will enable him to lead a research group on deep Earth and planetary seismology over the course of five years.

Dr Ben Scheele has been awarded an ARC Future Fellowship to continue his research into reducing extinction risk for threatened animals. His previous research has included demonstrating the devastating impact of an emerging fungal disease on amphibians around the globe.

Dr Shimona Kealy is one of four ANU researchers who will receive an Early Career Industry Fellowship. Her project will build on her previous research exploring early human movements through Island Southeast Asia and into Australia, as well as her study of possum biogeography and phylogenetics in the islands east of New Guinea.

ANU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Professor Lachlan Blackhall congratulated all the grant recipients on their success.

“At ANU, we value the importance of research collaboration and a supportive environment for the future generations of researchers,” Professor Blackhall said.

“The ARC grants will support ANU to continue to foster strategic partnerships and deliver excellent and impactful research.”

Read more at [anu.edu.au](http://anu.edu.au).

## 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). Bookings: [anu.edu.au/meet-the-author-series](http://anu.edu.au/meet-the-author-series). 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 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. Vote of thanks by Ryan Goss.

**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. Vote of thanks by Mark Howden.

**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:** Chris Hammer will be in conversation on his new novel *Legacy* with Michael Brissenden. Vote of thanks by Anna Creer.

**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* with Karen Viggers. Vote of thanks by Sally Pryor.

**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 17:** Ita Buttrose will be in conversation on her new book *Unapologetically Ita*.

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

**November 25:** Sean Kelly will be in conversation on the 100th *Quarterly Essay: On belief in politics*.

**November 27:** Greg Haddrick will be in conversation on his new book *The Mushroom Murders*.

**December 2:** At 6.15pm, Niki Savva will be in conversation on her new book *Earthquake: Signposts to the election that shook Australia* 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.**

## **Items of note**

**The first video of Earth’s surface lurching sideways in an earthquake offers new insights into this force of nature**

**By: Jesse Kearse, Postdoctoral Researcher, Geophysics, Kyoto University.**

During the devastating magnitude 7.7 Myanmar earthquake on March 28 this year, a CCTV camera captured the moment the plate boundary moved, providing the first direct visual evidence of plate tectonics in action.

Tectonic plate boundaries are where chunks of Earth's crust slide past each other – not smoothly, but in sudden, violent ruptures.

The footage shows Earth's surface lurching sideways, like a gigantic conveyor belt switched on for just a second, as the fault slips.

What we're seeing is the propagation of a large earthquake rupture – the primary mechanism that accommodates plate boundary motion at Earth's surface. These shear fractures travel at several kilometres per second, making them notoriously difficult to observe.

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

## **New study peers beneath the skin of iconic lizards to find 'chainmail' bone plates – and lots of them**

**By: Roy Ebel, PhD Candidate in Evolutionary Biology, Museums Victoria Research Institute.**

Monitor lizards, also known in Australia as goannas, are some of the most iconic reptiles on the continent. Their lineage not only survived the mass extinction that ended the reign of non-avian dinosaurs, but also gave rise to the largest living lizards on Earth.

Today, these formidable creatures pace through forests and scrublands, flicking their tongues as they go.

A new study published in the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* looks beneath their skin. For the first time, it reveals hidden bone structures that may hold the key to the evolutionary success of goannas in Australia.

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

## **Why Does Matter Exist? Scientists Discover Unexpected New Clue**

**By: Science China Press**

Scientists have long been intrigued by one of the universe's most enduring puzzles: why matter vastly outweighs antimatter. A phenomenon known as CP [or charge conjugation parity symmetry: the combination of C-symmetry (charge conjugation symmetry) and P-symmetry (parity symmetry)] violation is widely believed to hold a key to solving this mystery. As Nobel Prize-winning physicist Tsung-Dao Lee once said, "Symmetry reveals the beauty of the universe, while asymmetry generates its substance."

While past studies have uncovered unexpectedly strong CP violation in the decays of charmed mesons, similar investigations involving charmed baryons have yielded less definitive results. To investigate this gap, Professor Xiao-Gang He and Dr. Chia-Wei Liu from the Tsung-Dao Lee Institute (TDLI) at Shanghai Jiao Tong University applied SU(3) flavor symmetry theory in combination with a process called final-state re-scattering. Their theoretical work suggests

that CP violation in charmed baryon decays may be significantly more pronounced than earlier models had predicted.

Continue reading this article at [scitechdaily.com](http://scitechdaily.com).

## Bookshelf

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

### ***The Wild Australia Show: The Story of an Aboriginal Performance Troupe and its Afterlives.***

**By: Paul Memmot, Maria Nugent, Michael Aird, Lindy Allen, Chantal Knowles, Jonathan Richards.**

**Series: Aboriginal History Monographs. Print \$69.95, download free.**

The Wild Australia Show was a troupe of 27 Aboriginal performers recruited from northern Queensland in the 1890s for a world tour that would culminate at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Those grand plans were ultimately dashed, and the troupe only performed in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne before disbanding.

This book tells the story of the Wild Australia Show from its inception to its afterlives. It traces how the performers were recruited, the places they came from, the repertoire they created, rehearsed and performed, their experiences on tour and the politics of their representation in word and image.

Drawing on an extensive archive of newspaper reports, government records, and court proceedings, richly complemented by photographs and other visual images, the authors seek to reconstruct the Wild Australia Show story from the perspectives of the performers themselves.

The book contributes to a growing literature on the history of Aboriginal performers and performances under colonial conditions, and the ways in which public performance could be a means for cultural survival and resurgence.

---

## Administration

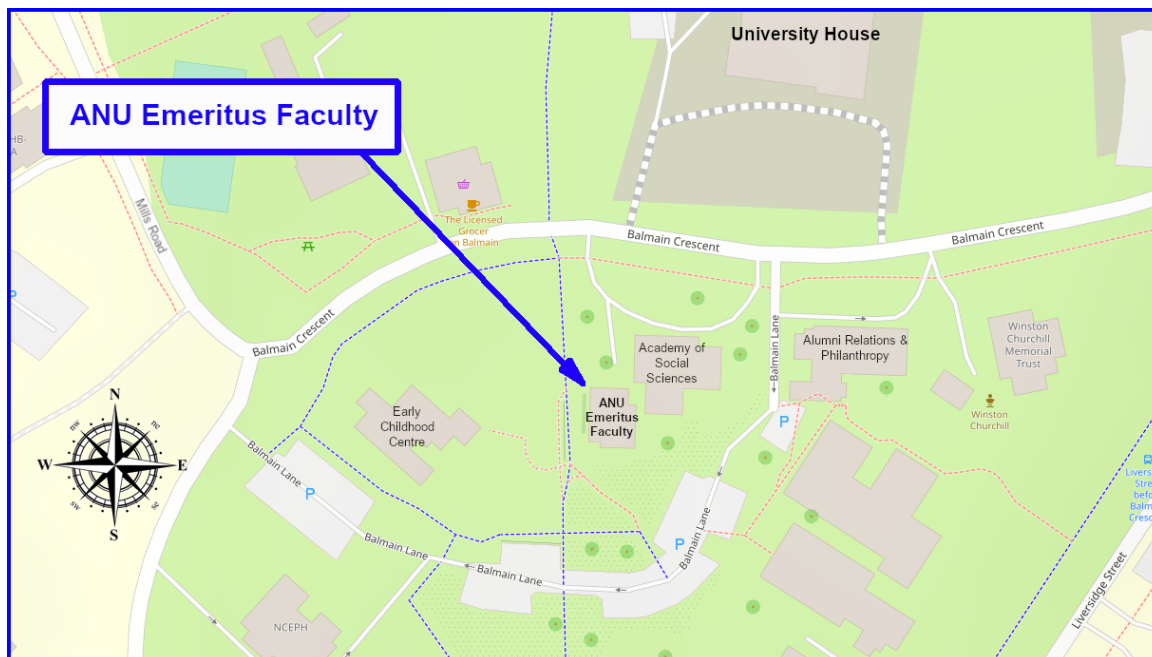
### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

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

**Editor:** Ron Cerabona

**Mobile:** 0418527239

**Email:** [ronaldcerabona39@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldcerabona39@gmail.com)

**Assistant Editor:** Kevin Windle

**Email:** [Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au](mailto:Kevin.Windle@anu.edu.au)

## Postal Address:

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

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

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

---

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