

EMERITUS

The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine

Planning the future of ANU

Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Rebekah Brown presented a draft roadmap for the future of ANU during a community meeting at Llewellyn Hall on Thursday, September 18. Watch the presentation [here](#).

Donation saves Australian National Dictionary Centre

Nieve Walton in *The Canberra Times* reported that an anonymous donation will enable the Australian National Dictionary Centre to continue for another two years. Read more at canberratimes.com.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 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. 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 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/>.

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.

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

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 10: Julianne Schultz will be in conversation with Jacob Hickey on the updated version of her book *The Idea of Australia. A search for the soul of the nation*. Cinema ANU

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 19: Helen Garner, Chloe Hooper and Sarah Krasnostein will be in conversation with Beejay Silcox on their new book *The Mushroom Tapes. Conversations on a Triple Murder Trial*. Cinema ANU

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

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

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.

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February 26: Andrew Leigh will be in conversation on his new book *The Shortest History of Innovation*.

March 16: Peter Hartcher will be in conversation on his new book *The Age of Carnivores*.

April 1: Patricia O'Brien will be in conversation on her new book on Errol Flynn with Frank Bongiorno. Cinema ANU.

April 21: Susan Lever will be in conversation on her new biography of A. D. Hope.

Obituary

Dorothy Horsfield

December 16, 1948 - March 13, 2025

Dorothy Horsfield passed away suddenly in March. At the time of her passing, she was a member of the Committee of the ANU Emeritus Faculty Committee. First elected on December 14, 2016, she served continuously until December 13, 2022. After a year's break she was re-elected on December 13, 2023. She continued as a member of the Committee until her untimely death. Just a few days before she died, Dorothy walked from Yarralumla to the Emeritus Faculty building on campus to attend an afternoon party. She was very proud of having walked and was in a good mood to entertain fellow members with tales of her travels in Africa.

Dorothy had a remarkable and adventurous career, as a writer of fiction and poetry, and as a journalist. She published five books of fiction and non-fiction including two novels, *Dream Run* (1992) and *Venom* (2006). The latter is a tale of politics set in Canberra and its surrounds. MARION, the ACT writers centre, described her as "an accomplished journalist, writer and long-time member of Canberra's literary community". Her writing has been published in both newspapers and literary magazines.

In her later years, she was an academic at ANU, at the time of her death a Visiting Fellow in the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS). She had been a foundation fellow of the Centre for Australian Studies in CASS.

Dorothy was born in 1948 in Newcastle, NSW. Her family moved to Sydney, and she attended Cronulla High School. She graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in English and Philosophy. Dorothy attended university in the late 1960s, a time where university campuses were politicised by issues such as Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, conscription, and Aboriginal land rights. Journalist Paul Malone, a high school friend, wrote:

Dorothy and I go back a long way. We both went to Cronulla High and then on to Sydney University. I well remember her arrest at an anti-Vietnam protest in Sydney in 1967. We were linked arms trying to block [prime minister John] Gorton's exit from office when the police launched a "flying wedge". In the mayhem they arrested Dorothy and many others, but not me. I think they wanted to get their hands on a "good-looking girl". Dorothy was not opposed to the war, as such. She was opposed to conscription. I had the unenviable task to catching a train back to Cronulla and telling her brother, who supported the war, that she had been arrested.

Journalism took her to Berlin, Afghanistan, the Thai-Burma border, Moscow, Abu Dhabi, and London, where she met and married fellow ABC journalist Paul Lyneham. Dorothy worked for ABC radio and television, Channel 7, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, *The National Times*, and *The Canberra Times*. Following Lyneham's death in 2000 from lung cancer, she edited *Paul Lyneham: A Memoir* (2002) and fronted a national media campaign in 2002 to raise public awareness of the need for early diagnosis of lung disease. Dorothy is survived by their three children - Chloe, Joel and Mathew - and six grandchildren.

In her parallel academic career, she was awarded a Master of Strategic Affairs (Hons) from the Australian National University; a Master of Science (Hons) from the London School of Economics and Political Science; and a PhD in Post-Soviet Russia from ANU in 2015 which was titled *Liberalism's loyal opposition: contemporary attitudes to Russia in the wake of the Cold War*. This led to her book *Russia in the Wake of the Cold War: Perceptions and Prejudices*, (Lexington Books), published in 2017.

In Canberra, with Lyneham she was a member of Seven Writers - a group of seven Canberra-based writers whose work vividly portrayed life beneath the surface of Canberra. The group began with three members in 1980, growing to seven by 1984. In addition to Dorothy, they were Marion Halligan, Dorothy Johnston, Margaret Barbalet, Sara Dowse, Suzanne Edgar, and Marian Eldridge.

As part of this collective Dorothy contributed to *Canberra Tales* (1988), republished as *The Division of Love* in 1996, an anthology of short stories about life in Canberra. The work received an ACT Bicentennial Award.

Marion Halligan noted Dorothy's "adventurous spirit". In her rich and diverse career, she worked in Papua New Guinea as an information officer and in Zimbabwe as an anthropologist's research assistant.

Another member of the group, Margaret Barbalet, remembered her as “a gentle soul and a frequent visitor to our home. We shall miss her greatly.”

Barbalet read a note from her journal dated September 28, 1985 at Dorothy’s memorial:

“... [W]e applied for the collection of stories about Canberra ... surprise of the week was Dorothy Horsfield, seven months pregnant ... confessing an absolute acceptance of breast-feeding [her two elder children]. Dorothy and I became close friends, and those friendships endured through thick and thin. There was plenty of both.”

Barbalet noted:

“An American academic, Darcy Randall wrote an essay exploring ‘the role of gender in this 'Australian women's literary community' at a time when other writers' networks, especially in the major cities, were overwhelmingly masculine, and located in other sites of sociability, such as the pub and the writers' festival.”

Dorothy published articles about her visits to Afghanistan in 2012 through the Rotary Club of Canberra and became an adviser to UNIFEM Australia (the United Nations Development Fund for Women) in 2003.

At the memorial for Dorothy held in her Canberra home in April, Barbalet looked to Dorothy’s writing for an appreciative characterisation of her friend:

“I’m going to read a few lines [from her first novel, *Dream Run*] that emphasise her adventurous spirit, and her ability to travel, not only into Africa, but throughout her whole life - a life of generosity and change:

She cleared her backpack, then cashed a traveller’s cheque at the foreign exchange desk. Emerging through the doors of Embakasi Airport into the sweaty heat, dishevelled and speedy with sleeplessness, she felt elated. After London’s dull skies and watery sun, the world was strong and bright. She felt that familiar mix of belonging and strangeness that is part of the love affair travellers have with other people's countries.”

Kathryn Robinson

Items of interest

New entanglement breakthrough links cores of atoms, brings quantum computers closer

By: Andrea Morello, Professor, Quantum Nanosystems, UNSW Sydney

Quantum entanglement - once dismissed by Albert Einstein as “spooky action at a distance” - has long captured the public imagination and puzzled even seasoned scientists.

But for today's quantum practitioners, the reality is rather more mundane: entanglement is a kind of connection between particles that is the quintessential feature of quantum computers.

Though these devices are still in their infancy, entanglement is what will allow them to do things classical computers cannot, such as better simulating natural quantum systems like molecules, pharmaceuticals or catalysts.

Read more at theconversation.edu.au.

The Vera Rubin Observatory is ready to revolutionise astronomy

By: Lisa Grossman

At 3am on a crisp May night in Chile, all seemed well with the world's largest digital camera. Until it didn't.

Inside the newly built Vera C. Rubin Observatory, site project scientist Sandrine Thomas was running tests when a flat line representing the camera's temperature started to spike. "That looks bad," she thought. She was right. Worried scientists quickly shut down the telescope.

Read more at: sciencenews.org.

Tiny crystals in Earth's crust have captured the movement of the Milky Way's spiral arms

By: Chris Kirkland, Professor of Geochronology, Curtin University and Phil Sutton, Senior Lecturer in Astrophysics, University of Lincoln

When most of us think about what shaped our planet, we probably picture volcanoes, earthquakes, and huge continents slowly drifting apart (or back together again) over millions or billions of years. We also know meteorite impacts were important; our crater-packed Moon is clear evidence of that.

But what if Earth's geological story was also written further afield in the stars – specifically, in the spiral arms of our home galaxy, the Milky Way?

That's the bold idea that has been resonating behind some recent research that links astrophysics with geology. So far, these controversial ideas have been based on models, limited by gaps in Earth's geological record and the uncertainties in our Solar System's galactic path.

Read more at: theconversation.edu.au.

ANU Press books are available to download free at press.anu.edu.au/publications/books.

Deeper, Strategic Collaboration in the Securities Sector: India and Australia.

By: Sonia Khosa

In an era of globalised finance and increasing cross-border activity, regulatory cooperation has become essential for market integrity and development. This book examines the potential for strategic collaboration between India and Australia in the securities sector - two nations with distinct but complementary economic and legal frameworks. Through a comparative analysis of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), it evaluates alignment with the International Organization of Securities Commissions' (IOSCO) principles, focusing on supervisory powers, enforcement mechanisms and compliance effectiveness. The analysis identifies shared regulatory goals and governance principles, highlighting opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

Offering a road map for capital market integration and regulatory innovation, the book makes a timely contribution to international financial scholarship. It delivers practical insights for policymakers, legal scholars and regulators interested in forging resilient cross-border partnerships—both within the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

The book won the ANU Press Early Career Researcher Prize in Legal Scholarship.

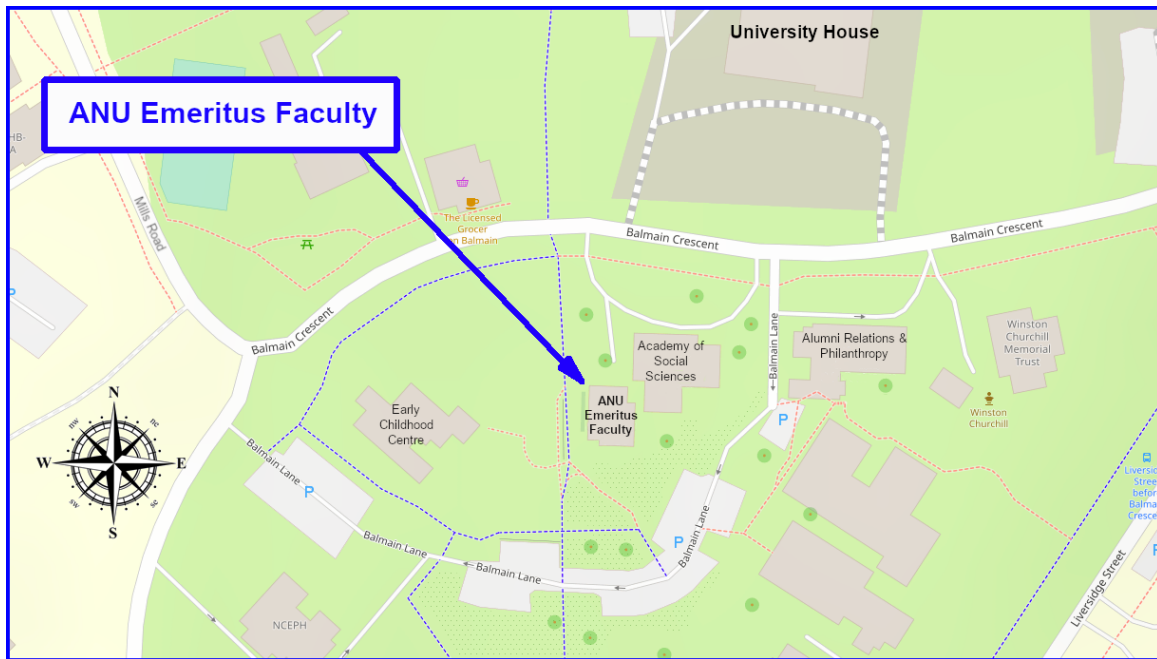
Administration

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>



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