

Chairman's Report 2007 Annual General Meeting

Our Major Event

Late in 2006 we began planning for our major event of 2007: the Colloquium and Public Forum on Water. This was planned to be part of National Science Week and was held on Friday 24 to Saturday 25 August. We were joined as things developed by the ANU Water Initiative, which became the major sponsor of the event, and later by the ANU College of Science which took on the Public Forum. Our Keynote Speaker was John Selborne, the 4th Earl of Selborne, who chairs the House Lords standing committee on Science and Technology.

The papers given were of very high quality, but the audience did not reach the levels of the previous year's Colloquium on Energy. We learned of the futility of holding a public gathering on a Saturday, when the numbers were thin. Friday's attendance was reasonable.

Nik Fominas recorded the entire event and the CD-ROM containing the PowerPoint and audio presentations is available from the ANUEF Office for \$20.

There was a lot of media attention around Lord Selborne, and sponsorships were good, leaving us with a small surplus in the ANUEF Education Fund.

Our Kioloa Event

This annual two-day Seminar will be held on 16-17 November, which is after the date of this report. I will give an account of the Kioloa Seminar at the AGM.

Our Lecture Series

The monthly Lecture Series yielded some very interesting talks on a wide range of topics, which are listed below.

- 21 February: Angela Giblin, *"Wanted: Schubert - dead or alive?"*
- 21 March: Derek Wrigley, *"Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through retrofitting of existing houses"*
- 28 March: Derek Wrigley, *"Could new houses be self-reliant?"*
- 18 April: Lene Lunde from Norway, ANUEF Emerging Artist for 2006 *"Lene spoke about her work in glass, and exhibited some of her work"*
- 16 May: Professor Anthony H Johns *"The Qur'an: drama, paradox, poetry and ambiguity: dynamics of a revelation"*
- 20 June: Darryl Bennet and Di Langmore *"A GIFT TO THE NATION: The Australian Dictionary of Biography and the ADB Online"*
- 18 July: Ian Buckley *"A Case History: Britain, Empire Decline, and the Origins of WWI: Or, Might the Lessons of the Boer War have 'Saved the Day'?"*
- 19 September: Maev O'Collins *"The Many Faces of Lebanon "*
- 17 October: Peter Stork *"The Ambiguity of Human Rights in the Face of Escalating Violence"*
- 7 November Professor Andrew MacIntyre *"Old Canberra House and the Crawford School"*
- 21 November Bryan Furnass *"Entropy, climate change and health – how shall we adapt?"*

Our Services to the University - Bootstrapping

A team led by Paul Coker is applying the discipline of "Bootstrapping" to assist the Australian Dictionary of Biography to meet its future financial demands. Ideas have been canvassed and

distilled into five key thoughts. These have been captured in a short paper which has, in turn, been sent to representatives of the ADB for consideration along with an offer of a face-to-face debrief.

Our Services to the University - Obituaries

The ANUEF was asked by the Vice-Chancellor in 2003 to take responsibility for the writing of obituaries of former member of staff. Since then, over fifty obituaries have been commissioned. Our Newsletter publishes all obituaries and this year Frank Fenner added three of early members of the staff of the JCSMR. Nine obituaries have been published in the *Canberra Times* this year and some of them have also been published in the *Australian* and in other metropolitan dailies. James Grieve takes principal responsibility for this important task.

Our Services to Members

The ANUEF provides a membership card, which attracts a wide range of discounts. One of our members was surprised and delighted when, on producing the card he was given free admission to the Rodin Museum in Paris.

The rooms provided so generously by the University are stocked with all the things members need to pursue their research, the main one being computers that are linked through to the ANU Library system, giving access to E-Journals.

We also provide an interactive web site where, through the Forums, members can discuss topics amongst themselves without having to come into our rooms.

Other benefits include:

- Library borrowing rights (including access to e-journals) for \$50 per annum which is far cheaper than what it costs ordinary members of Convocation.
- The right to buy
 1. A staff parking permit at the student rate, or
 2. Packs of one-day parking scratchies which entitle you to park all day in Permit Parking spots at ANU for a few dollars a day, and
 3. The right to park in the designated parking areas in the Fellows Lane Cottage car park, and in adjacent car parking spots if you display your membership card on the dashboard.
 4. Also, the right to apply for free parking for special events such as Conferring of Degrees Ceremonies and other high days. Ordinary members of the public are not entitled to these benefits. They have to park in designated areas and feed the metres.
- The right to be posted ANU Reporter if you wish.
- An ability to get staff discounts from PCTech at ANU Enterprise and purchase certain products (eg, software) at Academic/Education pricing from Harris Technologies, Fyshwick.
- The right to use University House Library facilities.
- \$2 tickets to concerts given by the Canberra School of Music. This does not apply to concerts provided by outside organisations in Llewellyn Hall.

Our Newsletter

We are very grateful to Ian Mathews who edits our newsletter four times a year. This is circulated beyond the ANUEF membership to university leaders, keep us all informed of happenings at ANU and elsewhere.

Things we need to do

There are some areas where we need to make more progress. These are listed below.

- Communicating with prospective members: at the moment our only opportunity to do this is when we are invited to address the UniSuper Seminars for retiring staff. The Privacy Act prevents us from reaching recently retired staff. However, we can see no reason why we should not be allowed to send printed material to staff who are still on the payroll and who are approaching retirement.
- We are not taking full advantage of the web site. The list of past lectures does not have many cases where the speaker has provided the text for publishing on the web site. Also we have a facility in the membership list for members to attach their CVs. Not many have chosen to do this. We believe that with these additions we would make us much more useful to each other and to outsiders who are trawling the site looking for information.
- Incorporation: we are of the view that we should incorporate in order to provide better protection for all members, especially the ones who are most active. This is the subject of a Motion later in the Agenda.

Membership

Our membership now numbers more than 155 and is regularly added to, which is very satisfactory..

Our Committee

I am very grateful to all the Committee members who have worked so hard to achieve what we have managed to do this year.

John Molony
Chair

7 November 2007