

**Chair's Report to the 9th ANUEF Annual General Meeting
17 December 2008**

First I extend my thanks to the Committee for their time and generosity. Each member gave significant service to the Faculty.

Office Bearers

John Molony: Chair
Angela Giblin: Deputy Chair & Excursions
Giles Pickford: Secretary
Peter Scardoni: Treasurer

Members with portfolio

Peter Stewart: Incorporation (until June 2008)
John Sandeman: ACT Government & Industry
Paul Coker: ACT Business & Industry
Ian Buckley: Events Officer
Nik Fominas: ICT & Web Site Officer
Judith Caton: Kioloa & Brochure
Mike Rickard: Kioloa
Di Riddell: Membership Officer

Other Officers (not on the Committee)

Ian Mathews: Editor of *ANUEF News*
James Grieve: Obituaries Officer
Peter Stewart: Oral History Project

PROJECTS

1. Incorporation

At the 2007 AGM we agreed to incorporate under the ACT Associations Incorporation Ordinance. It was a long and complicated journey which it is not necessary to describe here as I can report to you that the incorporation has been accepted by the ANU and the ACT authorities and is now before the Minister for his final seal of approval. Most of the hard work in this project was done by Peter Stewart with assistance from Peter Scardoni. We are indebted to both of them for what they have done. It was not an easy job. We are also indebted to the ANU Legal Officers, especially to Catherine Hynes, as well as the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Mandy Thomas, who ensured that our new Constitution proved acceptable to the University.

2. Our New Brochure

We now have a brochure which is displayed at the front door and is being distributed all over the University. The Human Resources Division is using it in their mail-outs to people who are approaching retirement. The Colleges are helping in the distribution, and our own members have been asked to send it to friends. We can thank Judith Caton for this work. She has done a splendid job.

3. Oral History Project

Peter Stewart, with the technical assistance of Nik Fominas, has worked persistently and diligently on this Project which has assumed both important and massive proportions. Ken Campbell, Adrian Gibbs, Jack Golson, David Craig, Frank Fenner, John Molony, Barry Ninham and Beryl Rawson have been interviewed – all at considerable length and in some instances amounting to over four hours. The arduous task of editing and compiling the individual interviews is currently being undertaken.

To our delight we discovered that about fifty individual members of staff had been interviewed some years ago and the resulting material is held by the University Archives. The equally arduous task of transferring this material into a more lasting format from old floppy disks has been undertaken by the Emeritus Faculty for the Archives where they will be held.

4. ANUEF Eastern Australia project

We are considering taking a step towards a larger project which will begin by attempting to make an authoritative judgment on who charted the east coast before James Cook- if anyone. At least one ANUEF member, Keith Crook, is interested and it should be possible to gather a team together to carry out this investigation. The Committee has approved of the concept and noted that it might develop into a Colloquium at some point in the future.

5. Preservation of Artefacts

We have been considering the matter of preserving artefacts held within the university which has still to be addressed. The Committee agreed that this is not a local problem in fact it is a national problem. The Committee has agreed that the Chair should write to Professor Kurt Lambeck, President of the Australian Academy of Science and Penny Sackett, the Chief Scientist, seeking their involvement in finding a solution to the issue.

6. Excursion to Kioloa

We met again at Kioloa on 21-23 November. This excursion was also organised by Judith Caton and it was most enjoyable by all accounts.

7. ANUEF Web Site

More improvements have been made to the ANUEF Web Site, under the management of Nik Fominas. New features are being added regularly, including an enormous amount of work on the back end of the site through which members of the Committee can administer their own pages.

8. ANUEF Lecture Series

The ANUEF Lecture Series this year was painstakingly and successfully managed by Ian Buckley. It was very interesting and included these lectures:

19 November	Geoff Davies on "Structural flaws in the economic system".
15 October:	John Armstrong " <i>Woodcarving in English Parish Churches</i> "
17 September:	Professor Anthony H Johns " <i>The Sufi tradition in Muslim life and thought</i> "
20 August:	Howard Bradbury " <i>Tapioca, Cyanide and Konzo Control in Tropical Africa</i> "
16 July:	David Stevens " <i>Finding HMAS Sydney</i> "
18 June:	Gavan McCormack " <i>Australia Facing Northeast Asia: Thoughts on Prime Minister Rudd's Inaugural Visit to Japan</i> "
21 May:	Bill Owen " <i>Recollections of a Submarine Expedition Under the Arctic Ice in 1965 - and some thoughts on Climate Change</i> "
16 April:	Ian Buckley " <i>The Gallipoli Campaign: Aims, Options, Outcomes</i> "
19 March:	Bob Crompton " <i>Some Tales of Ball Lightning: Reports and anecdotes collected over many years - and some from the past</i> "
20 February:	Tim Curtin " <i>The Economics of Climate Science</i> "

9. ANUEF 'News'

Ian Mathews has done a splendid job with the quarterly 'News' in spite of some difficulties. The 'News' is serving a good purpose in communicating with the members and to a wider community in the ANU.

10. The ANU Obituaries

Some years ago the Vice-Chancellor entrusted the Faculty with the duty of honouring dead of the University with well-prepared and sensitive obituaries. James Grieve has willingly given a great deal of his time and energy to the project. Its success has been obvious with the publication of the ensuing obituaries, at times in several newspapers and in other publications, including our own Newsletter. This year obituaries have been written of Denis Carr, Greg Denning, Frank Gibson, Graeme Laver, Hugh McKenzie and Andrée Rosenfield. We are grateful to the writers of the obituaries who have generously undertaken their task in a manner befitting a work of high *pietas*.

11. OPERATUNITIES

Angela Giblin has been involved in offering musical excursions to events in the Music World's winter seasons in Sydney and in Canberra.

12. Relationships

We have relationships with some outside organisations.

- RAPLink, which has become even more useful with our involvement in a joint project called Rustic (Rural Students in the Community). Giles Pickford was recently elected Vice-President: <http://www.raplink.org.au>
- The ANU Poets' Lunch, which has now published all available poems on our web site. These poems go back to the early Poets' Lunch first held in the Staff Centre. They are now held here in the Molony Room: <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/poets>
- Other organisations use our rooms, including the Nature and Society Forum, the Meningans, The Association for Tertiary Education Management and the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association.

We also promote the programs of the Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens.

13 The Committee Anniversary

The Committee held an enjoyable dinner at Vivaldi on the occasion of its 100th meeting in September. Previous Committee members joined us and we had a feast (all at our own expense: Auditor please note).

John Molony
Chair

16 December 2008