

## **ANU Emeritus Faculty**

### **Chair's Report to the 2013 Annual General Meeting**

#### **Introduction**

Let me begin by reporting that ANU Emeritus Faculty has had a successful year in promoting our chief aims: 1) contributing to the intellectual and cultural life of the University, 2) enhancing the reputation of the University and its values and, in particular, 3) fostering collegiality among our members. I want to thank and congratulate the members of our Committee who have worked hard to make this possible.

This year we continued to maintain our established activities while attempting a number of innovations. At our Inaugural Emeritus Faculty Lecture, I was able to point out to the Vice-Chancellor that our Faculty is the largest Faculty on campus with well over two hundred and twenty members. Although for the moment, the term, 'faculty', is no longer in common use within the University, we in the Emeritus Faculty continue to hold to the values that it implies.

This year for the first time, we held a 'Research in Retirement Forum' at which a number of our members presented their current and continuing research. We plan to hold another such Forum early in the New Year. I hope in the coming year to be able to demonstrate to the rest of the University that our Faculty continues to be notably engaged in research and research publications. Therefore I propose to undertake a survey of members' research and publications that would cover the past three or possibly four years. It is my suspicion that the ANU Research Office is unaware of the extent of this research and its fundamental value and importance.

#### **Our Premises: The Molony Building, 24 Balmain Crescent**

We moved into these premises last year and were able to hold our AGM meeting here for the first time. This year we have been able to decorate the walls with art works provided from the ANU's art collection. This art work includes two stunning prints by Jörg Schmeisser, a former member of our august ANU fraternity.

We have also been able to enhance our meeting room with first-class computer and sound technology: a Hewlett Packard Ultrabook including wireless Keyboard and Mouse plus a Sony Blu-ray Home Theatre System that integrates with our 60in Digital TV to play audio CDs as well as Bluetooth audio streaming. Nik Fominas has been responsible for the installation and operation of this equipment and we are particularly grateful for his continuing support.

We have held discussions with the Academy of the Social Sciences about landscaping our joint premises. In consultation with Dr John Beaton, Executive Director of the Academy, Shirley Pipitone from our Emeritus Faculty Committee has drawn up an initial design sketch and has now drawn another distinguished member of our Faculty, Derek Wrigley, into this

planning process. With the support of ANU Facilities and Services, we hope to proceed with these plans in the coming year.

### **Emeritus Faculty Recognition of John Molony and Giles Pickford**

The ANU Emeritus Faculty decided to honour both John Molony and Giles Pickford for their service to the Faculty from the time of its foundation.

To honour John, we have established the John Molony Prize for ‘*the best PhD thesis, submitted in the School of History, as determined by a committee and informed by the examiners’ reports.*’ A committee of three ANU historians has met and awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> John Molony prize to Dr Chris O’Brien for his thesis: *Clockwork Climate? An Atmospheric History of Northern Australia.*

To honour Giles Pickford for his work as Faculty Secretary since 1999, we have worked with the ANU E Press to publish a volume of his poems. We did this in partnership with the ANU Poets Lunch. The publication by Giles Pickford is entitled: *The Muse as I Hear Her* and is available free for download via the following web address:

<http://www.eview.anu.edu.au/muse/index.php>

### **The Molony Bust**

The sculptor, Ante Dabro, created a bust of John Molony and donated it to the ANU Emeritus Faculty after it had been cast in the Sculpture Workshop of the School of Art by Nick Stranks. Ante Dabro, in fact, delivered it himself to the Molony Building where it awaits placement on a properly designed plinth. The Emeritus Faculty has been in discussion with Professor Jenny Corbett who chairs the University’s Public Art Committee. The Public Art Committee provided the funds for the casting of the bronze and is now deliberating on the funding for a proper plinth. The bust will be located prominently in the landscaped area to be created in the coming year.

### **Collegial Lunches**

Adrian Gibbs was in charge of organizing collegial lunches this year. We decided early in the year to give a focus to these lunches by organizing them around a discussion topic. Various members of our Faculty were called upon to lead these discussions. A list of these lunch discussions is as follows:

“Global Population Growth” TED talk by Hans Rosling

“Francis; Bishop of Rome” John Molony

“Health on a heating planet” Bryan Furnass

“Who controls the world?” TED talk by James Glattfelder

“Finding an Egress: a lighthearted look at the law” Fergus Thomson

“What can the ‘social media’ do for us?” Tom Worthington.

“How to Vote” Bob Douglas

“The Election: the sequel” Bob Douglas and James Fox

“The 2013 Ig Nobel Awards” Adrian Horridge and Jeff Wood

“Australia Indonesia Relations” James Fox

### **ANU Emeritus Lectures and Discussions**

This year we held a varied series of monthly lectures and discussions. The list of these lectures and discussions is as follows:

March: Brian Kennett: “Imaging the Dynamic Earth” Brian Kennett

May: Roundtable Discussion: Margaret Harding, Andrew Leigh, Aleks Sladojevic:

“How should we view the Gonski cuts?”

July: Book Launch: Kim Carr: “A Letter to Generation Next: Why Labor”. Introduced by Ian Young; Vote of thanks by Ian Chubb.

August: Derek Wrigley: “Fred Ward: designer extraordinary”.

September: Frank Bongiorno: “Writing about the sex lives of Australians”.

October: Inaugural ANUEF Annual Lecture. Simon Marginson: “Higher Education Futures in Australia”. Introduced by James Fox; Vote of thanks by Ian Young.

October: David Williams: “Public Art, Sculpture and Design at ANU”.

November: Larry Sitsky: “The forgotten/repressed Russian avant-garde 1900-1929”.

### **Research in Retirement Forum**

On 15 November, we held our First ‘Research in Retirement Forum’ at which seven members of our Faculty – Neville Fletcher, Eugene Gamaly, Ian Keen, Brian Lees, Margot Lyon, Alan Roberts, Andrew Stewart – gave presentations on their current research. This gathering provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Faculty to acquaint themselves with the variety of research that continues to be carried out within our Faculty. The next ‘Research in Retirement Forum’ is being planned for the first part of next year.

### **Oral History Project**

Peter Stewart is in charge of the ongoing oral history project associated with the Emeritus Faculty. To 2013, this project, initiated in 2008, has recorded interviews with 29 members of

our Faculty. This year Peter interviewed the following additional members: 1) Stephen Boyden (human ecologist and biohistorian); 2) Scott Henderson (psychiatrist and epidemiologist); and 3) Malcolm Whyte (clinical scientist and community health activist) bringing the total number of interviews to 32. These interviews are available for viewing at [http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/oral\\_history.html](http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/oral_history.html)

### **ANU Emeriti Oral History Video Project**

This year, in addition to our ongoing oral history project, the ANU Emeritus Faculty cooperated with Dr Paul Arthur of the History Department in organizing members who were interviewed and eventually video-recorded by students as part of the ANU School of History Summer Scholar Program 2012-2013 that focused on training in biographical research.

The emeriti who were interviewed were: 1) Desley Deacon interviewed by Katie Valentie; 2) James Fox interviewed by Nathan Gardner; 3) Adrian Horridge interviewed by Tamas Molnar; 4) John Mulvaney interviewed by Kathleen Jackson; 5) Marian Sawyer interviewed by Maanya Tandon; and 6) Deane Terrell interviewed by Taylor Hughson. All of these interviews can be viewed at: <http://historynet.anu.edu.au/summer-scholars-2012/anu-emeriti-oral-history-video-project>.

### **The ANU eTexts Project**

Adrian Gibbs is in charge of our *eTexts* project. This year saw the production of the following *eTexts*: 1) Ian Buckley “Origins of War in the context of International Trade”; 2) Bryan Furnass “Health on a heating planet”; and 3) Adrian Gibbs “..look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it – Lady Macbeth”

### **ANU E Press Summations Series**

I would like to call attention to the fact that the ANU E Press has established a publication series intended to allow senior academics at the ANU and in particular Emeritus Faculty “to re-address their own work and present the best of this work with retrospective insight”. The Press is eager to receive manuscripts that present collected work of long-standing (including previous published papers) by ANU academics.

### **ANU Emeritus Faculty New Members**

The following is a list of this year’s new members:

Geoffrey Hope	Rosemary Jennings	Kurt Lambeck	Robert Dunstone	Ian Keen
Larry Saha	Geoffrey Lancaster	Stephen Langley	Susanne Powell	Jeremy Evans
Andrew Pawley	Janet O’Connor	Anthony Reid	David Williams	Andrew Schuller

Peter Bellwood Barry Fordham Irene Hansen Prame Chopra Terry Hull

Bronwyn Douglas Campbell McKnight Yang Hi Choe-Wall

## **Deaths and Obituaries**

John Armstrong, Peter Biskup, Martin Canny, Joyce Fildes, David Shaw, Darrell Tryon, Pat White

James Grieve, who is responsible for obituaries that appear in *The Emeritus*, has so far arranged for the publication of obituaries for 1) Peter Biskup, 2) Darrell Tryon, and 3) Pat White. We are still looking for anyone who would be able to write an obituary for any of the other deceased members of our Faculty.

We are indebted to James Grieve who has been involved in organizing obituaries for the Emeritus Faculty for many years. He will, however, be stepping down from his position and we will be looking for his replacement in the coming year. As a Faculty, we express our appreciation and thanks for his efforts.

## **ANU Emeritus Faculty Research**

I include here a report from John Molony on the research carried out this year in the 'East Coast Project'. The Project is exemplary in that it has been carried out for many years under the auspices of the Emeritus Faculty. I would urge other members of the Faculty to consider initiating other research projects that could well be supported through the Faculty.

## **East Coast Project**

The nine members of the East Coast Project of the Emeritus Faculty have met regularly on a monthly basis throughout the year. Our main area of research is directed at the question of European contact with the East Coast of Australia. We do not address Dutch involvement. There is no evidence they or the Chinese visited the East Coast before 1770.

This leaves the French, Spanish and Portuguese. There is no evidence that the French and Spanish visited the East Coast before Cook. The Portuguese, by the first decades of the sixteenth century, had bases in India and Malacca and landings in Timor, a flourishing trade in spices, shipyards in India, appropriate vessels and highly competent masters. They also had an incentive to voyage south of Java in search of the so-called Isles of Gold.

The main evidence to substantiate the Portuguese claim is based on the Dieppe maps of the 1540s. We acknowledge that there has been much argumentation, some scholarly, refuting any claim to Portuguese priority. Indeed at a symposium at the National Library recently such arguments were presented.

It is our contention, based principally on the Dieppe maps, that the Portuguese charted our East Coast in the 1520's. John Molony presented part of our evidence at the National Library symposium. We propose to publish the relevant material in the near future.

Once this section of our research is complete we will move to the next step which deals with the charting of the east coast of New Holland in 1770 by one of the greatest of all mariners, James Cook. A remarkable decision, stemming largely from our proposal, has already prompted the citizens of Cooktown to advertise for tenders for a statue of the Aboriginal 'little old man' on the spot where Cook was reconciled with the Guugu Yimithirr people in 1770.

We are grateful to the Emeritus Faculty, which has met our only financial request in the form of several books needed in the course of our research, and to other members of the Faculty who have granted us use of their personal material. My personal thanks go to all members of our team and especially to our hard working 'secretaries', Verna Rosling and Di Riddell.

John Molony, Chair, 29 November 2013

### **The Annual Kioloa Excursion**

The annual weekend excursion to Kioloa on 22–24 November was, as usual, successful. The feedback from the people attending was positive in all respects. The self-catering worked very well and the talks were interesting and stimulating.

### **The Annual Christmas Party**

I would note again that our Faculty is a diversely productive group of individuals. In our celebration at the conclusion of 2013, we will have an opportunity to enjoy some of the fruits of this productivity: we will have the chance to sample some of Deane Terrell's prize winning wine!

Finally, in conclusion, I would like to express my particular thanks to Bari Saha-Hall, our Secretary, for all her efforts during the past year. Bari has decided not to stand again for membership of the Committee in 2014.

James J. Fox, Chair  
16 December 2013