

ANU Emeritus Faculty

Chair's Report to the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Introduction

Let me report that the ANU Emeritus Faculty has had a full and engaging year. In keeping with the principal aims of the Emeritus Faculty, we have continued 1) to contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of the University, 2) to enhance the reputation of the University and its values and, in particular, 3) to foster collegiality among our members. Our numbers have increased, our lectures have, for the most part, been well-attended and our luncheons have been both convivial and informative. We have been involved in a range of diverse activities which it is my privilege to outline in this Report.

ANU Parking Fee Issue

We were all taken aback at the beginning of the year when the University proposed to charge Emeritus Faculty members a parking fee of \$336.50 for on-campus parking. Like any number of other Emeriti, I raised the issue with the University administration. I did so through Professor Michael Cardwell-Hall who serves as our liaison with the administration. Michael is a good advocate for our Faculty and agreed to make the case for us.

On Wednesday, the 5th of February, he informed me in an email that: "I have followed up with EDAP on the points that you raised. It appears that charging Emeritus Faculty for parking was a mistake and that is to be reversed."

I believe we can conclude from the rapid resolution of this issue that the Vice-Chancellor and Senior members of the administration continue to recognize the value that the Emeritus Faculty contributes to the University.

Collegial Lunches

Adrian Gibbs was in charge of organizing collegial lunches this year. We followed the practice that we established last year to organize discussion at these lunches around a particular topic. Various members of our Faculty and others were called upon to lead these discussions. A list of these lunch discussions is as follows:

Mar 5 th	Jane O'Dwyer: "The social media".
Apr 2 nd	Geoff Davies: "Sack the economists".
May 7 th	Luis von Ahn: "Harnessing human time to address societal problems".
June 4 th	Liz Truswell: based on <i>The Conversation</i> article "Higher Education: the age of Pyne the destroyer begins".
Jul 2 nd	Will Steffen: "The climate wars: dispatches from the front line".
Aug 6 th	Bryan Furnass: "Do we need carbon for transport?"
Sept 3 rd	Tom Swann: Fenner School "Divestment - divesting ourselves of climate-damaging and unethical investments".
Nov 5 th	Patrick Troy, Don Anderson, John Molony: "Gough Whitlam's Legacy: some

Emeritus Faculty views".
Dec 3rd Fyfe Bygrave and Adrian Gibbs: "The Nobels and IgNobels 2014".

Monthly Lecture Series

Adrian Gibbs was also in charge of organizing our monthly lecture series which is held at 24 Balmain Crescent. The series had a rich combination of offerings. A majority of speakers were from our Faculty:

Jan 15th Colin Groves: "Georgia - yet another cradle of humanity".
Feb 19th Maureen Burdett: "The World of Poetry – from the Cradle to the Grave".
Mar 19th Bryan Furnass: "Half a century of health care in Canberra - a personal saga".
Apr 16th Barry Ninham: "Aqua Incognita: Why ice floats on water and Galileo 400 years on".
May 21st Prame Chopra: "Commercialising Research – a rollicking yarn".
Jul 16th Ian Cowan: "*Macropus portugalensis*; a kangaroo-like creature drawn in an early Portuguese manuscript".
Aug 20th Ron Wells: "False Paternity".
Sept 17th Elizabeth Truswell: "Early Antarctic exploration: intersection of art and science."
Oct 15th Cedric Mims: "The Next Pandemic".
Nov 19th Jenny Goldie: "The need for degrowth of population".

Research in Retirement Forum

On 30th of April, we held our Second 'Research in Retirement Forum' at which seven members of our Faculty – Derek Wrigley, John Sandeman, James Fox, Adrian Gibbs, Stjepan Marčelja, Maeve O'Collins and Mike Rickard – gave presentations on their current research. The purpose of this all day forum was to provide an opportunity for members to acquaint themselves with the variety of research that continues to be carried out within our Faculty. Given the success of the past two years, we plan to hold another Research in Retirement Forum next year.

Sponsored Lectures and Discussions

This year the Emeritus Faculty sponsored two special lectures: On March 12th in the Manning Clark Lecture Theatre, Iain McCalman, Research Professor at the University of Sydney, gave a talk entitled "The Great Barrier Reef – a passionate view" based on his award-winning book and, then later in the year, on the 14th August in the lecture theatre of the Roland Wilson Building, Professor Helen Small, Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford gave a talk entitled "The Value of the Humanities" which was based on her recent book.

The Emeritus Faculty also sponsored a panel discussion on the 29th of April on the topic: "Has journalism a future?" Taking part in this discussion in the Law Link Lecture Theatre were Caroline Fisher, Stephen Matchett, Matthew Ricketson, and Lenore Taylor. All of these events were arranged by Colin Steele and attracted considerable audiences.

The Emeritus Faculty has continued its tradition of support for the Poets' Lunch which members are always welcome to attend. This year the Poets' Lunch was held on the 4th of December.

Oral History Project

Peter Stewart has been in charge of this ongoing oral history project since 2008. Up until this year, he has recorded interviews with 32 members of our Faculty. This year Peter interviewed the following additional members: 1) Angela Giblin (musician and teacher); 2) Chris Bryant (biochemical parasitologist and science communicator) and 3) Michael Gore (engineer, physicist, and founder of *Questacon*). Another interview with Cedric Mims (epidemiologist and writer) is in preparation and will be released in the new year. These interviews are available at http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/oral_history.html

The John Molony Prize

The ANU Emeritus Faculty established the John Molony Prize for “the best PhD thesis, submitted in the School of History, as determined by a committee and informed by examiners’ reports”. This year the selection committee met on 6 November 2014 and decided to award the prize to Dr Shelley Richardson for her thesis, “Family Experiments: Professional Middle Class Families in Australia and New Zealand c 1880-1920”. A payment of \$500 was made by the Faculty to the ANU Endowment Office in support of this prize.

Fred Ward Room

Over a year ago, following on from a lecture on Fred Ward given by Derek Wrigley, the ANUEF Committee set out to obtain a collection of Fred Ward furniture and to dedicate its small meeting room to Fred Ward’s memory. Over the past year, with the help of the University Heritage Officer, Amy Jarvis, we have managed to acquire a matching set of four Fred Ward chairs as well as another of Ward’s ‘classic’ chairs. We also have copies of the drawing for these chairs which we plan to frame. We have also acquired a filing cabinet and a waste paper basket but we are still looking for a genuine Fred Ward table, which is one of the hardest of his pieces to obtain. With Derek Wrigley’s support, we will continue the quest next year.

The ANU eTexts

We had only one eText for the year: Bryan Furnass "Do we need carbon for transport? Challenges and opportunities".

The Emeritus: The ANUEF e-magazine

Ian Mathews, with the assistance of Giles Pickford and Connie Stamos, have continued to publish *The Emeritus* which is sent out to our membership. Vol. 5, No 11 was published on the 4th of December this year.

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 works of long-standing (including previous published papers) by ANU academics. Anyone interested in preparing a manuscript can contact me (james.fox@anu.edu.au) for information.

Technology: Upgrades and Purchases

2014 saw the Faculty enhance its capability with the purchase of a number of items of equipment as well as undertaking a major upgrade of our computing facilities.

Early in the year we purchased an Ashton TRANSPORTA 120 Watt Portable Wireless Public Address System for use in lectures and other events. This device will be utilised increasingly as our speakers become more familiar with its benefits, thus ensuring that our audiences are better able to hear their presentations.

Our aging and very slow computers were replaced this year with four new computers. The two PCs in the members' area were replaced with Standard Optiplex 9020 SFF PCs and P2314H 23" Professional Widescreen monitors. The two PCs in the Administration area were replaced with Optiplex 9020 SFF "High Spec" PCs and P2314H 23" Professional Widescreen monitors. All PCs are now running Windows 8.1 and have Microsoft Office Professional installed. The Admin PCs have both been equipped with the complete Adobe Cloud suite of software to facilitate the work done on the Oral History Project and similar projects.

Another important purchase was of a Zenius Classic ID Card Printer with CARDPRESSO XS Card Issuer Software which enables the Faculty to produce its plastic membership cards each year. The old method was very labour intensive and only resulted in a laminated paper card. The new cards are more durable and production is far more efficient.

Special mention must be made of the superb IT support provided to the Faculty again this year by one of our members: Nik Fominas. It is through Nik's efforts that all of the enhancements to our IT have been possible.

Nik has now informed the Committee that, after 11 years of continuous service to the Faculty, he will be stepping down from most of the many tasks that he carries out for us. We wish him well in his 'retirement' but we now need volunteers with IT skills from our membership to be able to carry on with our activities.

Our Premises: The Molony Building, 24 Balmain Crescent

We have been told informally not to expect the landscaping of the joint backyard that we share with the Academy of the Social Sciences, to be done at any time in the near future.

The books in our library have now been carefully catalogued by Ailsa Solley. These books are available for use by our members and we are happy to receive additions to the library, particularly of books written by our members.

The East Coast Project

The East Coast Project has been a continuing research project connected with the Emeritus Faculty for many years. John Molony, the Chair and Initiator of this Project, has provided the following account of the work of the Project.

The East Coast Project: John Molony

In 2008 a few members of the Emeritus Faculty joined together to form a research group which became known as the East Coast Project (ECP). Since then, a hard core of six has met each month while overall membership has varied from eight to ten.

The initial purpose was to examine evidence of European pre-Cook contact with the Australian east coast. Subsequently, we decided to include Cook's charting of that coast in 1770. The vast mass of Cook material prompted us to lay particular emphasis on the description and judgement of the land and relations with the Aborigines. The primary sources used have been the journals written on the *Endeavour* by James Cook, Joseph Banks, Sydney Parkinson and James Matra, with reference also to the account by Abel Tasman of his voyage around southern Van Diemen's Land in 1642 and by William Dampier, who was briefly on our west coast in 1688.

The evidence for pre-European contact based on numerous artefacts, ranging from the so-called Mahogany Ship near Warrnambool, Victoria, to an alleged Portuguese garden in Queensland, proved generally unrewarding and often extremely farfetched. An exception was the work done by a group of CSIRO and university, principally Wollongong, scientists, the results of which were published in *Archaeol. Oceania* 34, 1999. On an ancient beach at Fraser Island they had uncovered a lead weight, 11 by 6 cm, probably used in a fishing net. They concluded that the weight 'was originally in place at the level where we found it, was formed of lead mined in France...and reached this site some time between 1410 and 1627 AD.'

Recently we heard that an object closely resembling a stone cannon ball, found at Disaster Bay near Eden and in close proximity to some stone ruins at Bittangabee Bay, is under examination to determine, if possible, its authenticity and provenance. We are convinced that the Bittangabee ruins are eminently worthy of an archaeological dig to determine whether they date from the 1840s, as has been officially claimed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, or from an earlier period. Thus far we have established that all the stone on the site is of local origin, but lacking the means to embark on a dig, even were permission granted to do so, we cannot develop our interest.

We have given due consideration to the much disputed Dieppe maps, 1536-1566. Our conclusion is that, individually and collectively, these maps establish that Portuguese mariners visited and charted the Australian east coast some years before 1536. Our eventual publication of our work on the maps will assuredly result in a lively debate.

For Cook we concentrated on his week at Botany Bay and the seven weeks spent at the Endeavour River (Cooktown). The Botany Bay Aborigines were unwearied in resisting their visitors and strove to persuade them to 'go away'. Nonetheless a little knowledge was gained

of their lives, dwellings, weapons and food, but nothing of the language. Cook said, ‘we could know but very little of their customs as we never were able to form any connections with them.’

After a period of prudent hesitation, the Guugu Yimithirr at Cooktown gradually established friendly relations with Cook and his people. They were marred on one occasion over an argument regarding turtles, but reconciliation was rapidly achieved. A great deal was learnt of the customs of the Guugu Yimithirr people, as well as some of their language, including the name ‘kangaroo’.

Two visits and lectures given at Cooktown helped us establish strong links with the relevant people, including the Aborigines. We were able to contribute significantly to the naming of Reconciliation Rocks there, as well as to the work in progress of a statue of the ‘little old man’, the Aboriginal elder mainly responsible for reconciliation. We propose to maintain those links and support Cooktown’s right to be accepted as the first place of Reconciliation in Australia.

The East Coast Project will continue to function as a means of helping members of the Emeritus Faculty to maintain their academic work and foster collegiality among them.

Deaths and Obituaries

John S. Armstrong, John Ballard, John Eddy, Margaret Evans, Michael Grantham-Greene, David McKendrick, Tony McMichael, Geoffry Norman Mercer, Gough Whitlam, Leslie Zines,

Obituaries have already been published in *The Emeritus* for some of these members (Leslie Zines, Geoffry Norman Mercer, Tony McMichael and Michael Grantham-Greene). Others are in preparation.

The Emeritus Faculty held a special lunch meeting on the 5th of November to discuss the legacy of Gough Whitlam and we are currently looking for someone to write a remembrance of Gough Whitlam’s time at the ANU when he was a Visiting Fellow in Political and Social Change in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies.

The Emeritus Faculty gave its support to a Saturday Dinner in The Great Hall, University House on the 15th of November to honour the memory of Richard (Dick) Essex Barwick. The dinner by all accounts was a great success!

Since James Grieve stepped down as Obituary Officer toward the end of last year, members of the Committee have been involved in finding individuals to write obituaries for publication in *The Emeritus* and for deposit in our file. We are still searching for a new Obituary Officer.

New Members

Our numbers have now passed the 250 mark. This year, we admitted 29 new members to our Faculty. Their names are as follows:

Dorothy Broom Lynette LY Lim Rick Kuhn Roger Hillman

Paul Gatenby Bruce Kent Philip Rose Judith McDougall
Lawrence Cram David West Nigel Lendon Christine Campbell
Jeremy Shearmur David McDougall John Richards Peter McCawley
Duncan Campbell William MacCallum Christopher Mann Neil Trudinger
John Hutchinson Arvind Kalia Tezer Esat Gerlese Sachse-Akerlind
Harold Brookfield Michael McKinley Kevin Windle Linda Hort
William Compston

Special Thanks

I want to thank and congratulate all the members of our Committee who have worked hard to make our activities possible. In particular, I want to thank those members of the Committee who will be stepping down from their positions at the end of this year: Mike Rickard, Elizabeth Truswell, Shirley Pipitone, Judith Caton and Colin Steele. I would further like to thank Adrian Gibbs for his tireless efforts in arranging our lectures and luncheon discussions; Jan O'Connor for her diligent work as our Secretary; Nik Fominas for his exceptional work in keeping us technologically functioning; Derek Wrigley for all his considerable help; Amy Jarvis, the ANU's Heritage officer, for her help in securing the Fred Ward furniture for us; Ian Mathews, Giles Pickford and Connie Stamos for their work on *The Emeritus*; Ailsa Solley for the cataloguing of library books and Michael Cardew-Hall for his continuing strong support of the Emeritus Faculty.

James J. Fox
ANU EF Chair
11 December 2014