

ANU Emeritus Faculty

Chair's Report to the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Introduction

ANU Emeritus Faculty has had a full and eventful year. As in years past, we have endeavoured to 1) contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of the University, 2) enhance the reputation of the University and its values and, in particular, 3) foster collegiality among our members. An emphasis on collegiality is indeed what distinguishes our association. I can report that our membership has continued to increase and that we have tried to diversify our activities to meet the interests of our varied membership.

Collegiate Lunches

Adrian Gibbs was responsible for organizing collegiate lunches. He was assisted in his work by Fyfe Bygrave. We followed the practice that we established two years ago to organize discussion at these lunches around a particular topic. Adrian and Fyfe did an excellent job in creating an interesting mix of topics and speakers. A list of these lunch discussions is as follows:

- Mar 4: Bryan Furnass, Ken Baldwin, Wojciech Lipinski: "Ammonia as a fuel"
- April 1: Paul Collins: "The Politics of Francis' Vatican"
- May 6: Don Anderson: "Just turn the tap: the invention of a new beehive"
- Aug 5: Amin Saikal: "The Middle East: a zone of conflicts within conflicts"
- Sept 2: Caroline Ifeka: "From Freedom to Fear: Some experiences of doing 'bushy' field research in Nigeria and Cameroon - 1960s compared to 2000s"
- Nov 4: Prame Chopra: "Are Humanity's carbon emissions really saving us from an Ice Age?"
- Dec 2: Erich Weigold, Fyfe Bygrave, Adrian Gibbs: "Nobels and IgNobels"

Monthly Lecture Series

Adrian Gibbs and Fyfe Bygrave were also in charge of organizing our monthly lecture series. The series featured a diverse group of colleagues who were all able to present exciting aspects of their research. These lectures were exceptionally valuable and engaging.

- Feb 24: Peter Collignon: "One Health and Superbugs: the ever growing threat from foods and water"
- March 18: Bill Gammage: "The Biggest Estate on Earth"
- April 15: David Ollis: "Evolving Proteins"
- May 20: Adrian Horridge: "The disgraceful affair of the bees and the flowers"
- June 17: Patrick de Deckker: "Tracking airborne dust in Australia and its impact on environmental health"
- July 15 : Chennupati Jagadish: "Semiconductor Nanowires for Optoelectronics and Energy Applications"
- Aug 19: Susanne von Caemmerer: "Photosynthesis innovations for food security"

- Sept 16: David Horner: "Telling the Secrets; writing the history of ASIO"
- Oct 21: Stephen Bygrave: "Zero Carbon Australia"
- Nov 18 : Nerilie Abram: "Antarctica's place in a warming world"

University House Dinner

On the 3rd of June, we revived a previous tradition and held a dinner for members at University House. Peter Kanowski, the Master of University House, allocated us 40 places for a Wednesday night dinner and all of these places were quickly taken up by our members. From the feedback I received after the dinner, I believe that we can consider the evening to have been a considerable success, so we plan to continue this tradition next year.

ANUEF Annual Lecture

On the 30th of June, we held our annual Emeritus Faculty Sponsored Lecture. Professor John Mattick, Director of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, gave a lecture entitled "Challenging the dogma". Professor Mattick's lecture was a tour-de-force of current genetic and epi-genetic research and its implications for present and future medical treatment. Regrettably, perhaps because the lecture was in the middle of the winter, we did not have the expected turn-out for this lecture that we had hoped for. In the future, we will give more attention to the timing of major lectures.

Symposium on Projects and Research of ANUEF Members:

On the 1st of July, the Emeritus Faculty held a Symposium directed to presentations on projects and research of individual members. This symposium was a rebranded version of our former "Research in Retirement Seminar" which we intentionally expanded to include members' projects, interests and activities as well as research. We had seven speakers on the day:

- Fergus Thomson: "The Apparent Success of One-on-One Tutorials: Concentrating the mind wonderfully, or just the 'Hawthorne Effect'?"
- Bob Douglas: "Community Organising: What does this Obama style activity have to offer a deeply disenchanted Australian electorate? Will it fly in the ACT?"
- Catherine Gross: "Fairness and justice in environmental decision-making"
- Caroline Ifeka: "Field research in African conflict zones: some anthropological issues of theory and method"
- Philip Rose: "Murder and Fraud: Evaluating Forensic Speech Science Evidence"
- Karis Muller: "Renewable energies in the EU's Pacific Overseas Territories"
- Shirley Pipitone : "Open Gardens Canberra: Establishing a new community association"

Special Lectures

Fr Professor Louis Caruana S.J., the Dean of the Faculty of Science at the Pontifical Gregorian University was a special visitor to the ANU. His visit was arranged by Barry Ninham and facilitated by Stjepan Marcelja. He gave three lectures at the Emeritus Faculty over a period of several weeks:

- Fri 14 Aug "Galileo and the Jesuits"

Fri 21 Aug "Science, religion and common sense"
Fri 04 Sept "Science, humanism and religion"

The Inauguration of the John Molony Bust

On the 7th of October we held a celebration to inaugurate the John Molony bust, which was created by Ante Dabro and donated to the Emeritus Faculty. The bust is set upon a plinth designed by Derek Wrigley. Dr Nicholas Brown from the History Department – someone who has known John for many years – gave the tribute to John. John replied emphasizing the importance of collegiality among members of the Emeritus Faculty. This lunch time gathering was well attended.

Meeting with the New Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor designate, Brian Schmidt, met with members of the Emeritus Faculty on the 28th of October for what was an open and wide-ranging discussion. The Molony Room was packed to overflowing and it would be difficult to summarize our varied discussion. The new VC expressed his hope that he would be able to call upon the Emeritus Faculty to offer a role in mentoring students. He spoke of his vision for the University and in particular, his goal of making the ANU a truly 'national' university. He made it clear that he is determined to foster excellence within the University. Everyone thought it was an excellent meeting and wished the new VC well.

Poets' Lunch

In keeping with a tradition started and supported by Giles Pickford, the Emeritus Faculty once again hosted the Poets' Lunch on the 3rd of December.

Oral History Project

Peter Stewart has been in charge of this ongoing oral history project since 2008. The technical support for these interviews is provided by Nik Fominas. To 2014, Peter has recorded interviews with 35 members of our Faculty. In 2015, he has added three more interviews to his collection: 1) Cedric Mims, 2) James J. Fox and 3) Anthony Low as provided by his wife Belle and daughters Angela and Penny. Anthony Low's 'interview' also includes the eulogy read by his son Adam at his funeral in February. These interviews are available at http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/oral_history.html

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 brief account of the work of the Project:

The East Coast Project: John Molony

The East Coast Project team met regularly throughout the year. Our main objective was to complete the book on Cook's first voyage on the *Endeavour*- 1768-71- which was brought to fruition. It is provisionally entitled *Captain James Cook Claiming the Great South Land*. The title recognizes the fact that Cook's major purpose was to go in search of the fabled great southern continent which had captured the imagination of many Europeans since the days of Ptolemy of Alexandria in the 2nd century A.D.

Although Cook, sceptical from the outset, diligently searched for the continent as he was ordered by the Admiralty to do, he failed to come across it. Instead he charted the east coast of what he called

'the largest island in the world.' Principally rejected as the longed-for continent by the Dutch who regarded it as totally worthless, Cook thought otherwise and claimed it for his Sovereign. In so doing he was claiming the true Great South Land which was later named Australia.

A stone object that, given its exact measurements, appeared to be a cannon ball found on the coast north of Eden turned out to be of local origin. This settled the matter. Likewise a huge object resembling an anchor and dredged up from the seabed, again near Eden, might again be of natural origin rather than fashioned by human intervention. These objects simply add to the numerous 'finds' on our coasts which, on scientific examination, prove to have no connection whatever to earlier visits to Australia. Nonetheless the team proposes to continue its study of pre-Cook maps, principally the so-called Dieppe maps, which, whatever else, are authentic although as yet not necessarily regarded as depicting the Australian continent.

We are grateful to the Emeritus Faculty which has permitted us to make use of its premises and from time to time has provided us with the means to procure several books pertaining to our research. We are happy to meet together, to maintain contact with each other and to pursue 'the heart of matter' as it is proclaimed in the motto of our University.

John Molony

The Emeritus: The ANUEF e-magazine

Ian Mathews, with the assistance of Giles Pickford and Connie Stamos, has continued to publish *The Emeritus* which is sent out to our membership. Eleven issues are published over the year. Vol. 6 No 1 appeared in February and Vol 6 No 11 appeared on the 6th of December this year. Copies of past editions of Emeritus are available for viewing (and saving) in the News section of the web site at <http://www.anu.edu.au/emeritus/news.html>.

The John Molony History Prize

Each year the ANU Emeritus Faculty provides funding for 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". The History Department has yet to announce the winner of the prize for 2015.

ANU Press Summations Series

The ANU Press 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 series is also intended to publish substantial work that has been produced over a long academic career. Next year the Summations Series is planning to publish the work of the East Coast Project: *Captain James Cook Claiming the Great South Land*. I also hope to publish a volume, *Master Poets, Ritual Masters*, a study of some fifty years dating back to 1965, that looks at the way the oral poets on the island of Rote in eastern Indonesia compose their recitations.

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.

University Parking

At a meeting on the 11th of September with Michael Cardew-Hall and the Director of HR, Nadine White, I was informed that Senior Management had decided to discontinue the privilege of free parking that had been accorded to the Emeritus Faculty for the past several years. These new arrangements are scheduled to apply for 2016. At our meeting with the incoming Vice-Chancellor in

October, we made representations about parking but it is far too early to know whether these representations have had any effect.

Emeritus Faculty New Members 2015

As of December 2015, the ANU Emeritus Faculty has 275 members.

Peter Bridgewater	CASS	Environment, conservation, heritage, UNESCO
Patrick De Deckker	RSES	Oceans, lakes, dust, climate change, environment
Leslie Fifield	RSPE	Accelerator Mass Spectrometry
Derek Robinson	MSI	Mathematics
Germain Kampowski	Library	Library & Information Science – German
Susan Briggs	Crawford	Ecological environments
Karen Fominas	ANU Edge	Art & Literature
Gavin Young	Geology	Vertebrate paleontology & evolution
Philip Bierwirth	Dep.Defence	Geoscience & Remote sensing
Mandy Scott	RSPAS	Language Policy
Julian Cribb	Journalist	Science communication
Alan McIntosh	Mathematics	Mathematics, harmonic analysis & PDEs
Phillipa Butcher	Psychology	Developmental psychology, neuropsychology
Wendy Mukherjee	RSPAS	Islam in Indonesia
Frank Jackson	Philosophy	Philosophy, Education Policy
Dorothy Horsfield	Arts & SS	Philosophy, History of ideas, Russian studies
Michael Walsh	AIA&TSS	Linguistics, anthropology, Australian languages
Klaus Matthaei	JCSMR	Stem Cells, Genetics, Molecular Biology
Cayl Hill	JCSMR	Hypertension
Ron Huiskens	CAP	Asia Pacific Security, US, China
Peter Warr	JC – Ag Eco	Asia & Pacific, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar,
Mark Mosko	CHL	Anthropology
Gert Stange	JCSMR	Neuroscience, computer vision

Deaths and Obituaries

Anthony Low, Laurie Nichol, Colin Plowman, Nicholas Tapp, David West.

Obituaries appeared in *The Emeritus* for John Eddy, Margaret Evans, Tony McMichael, Laurie Nichol, Colin Plowman and Mike Raupach. Other obituaries are in preparation.

Special Thanks

I want to thank and congratulate all the members of our Committee who have worked hard to make our activities possible: Jan O'Connor, Larry Saha, Adrian Gibb, Prame Chopra, Fyfe Bygrave, Diana Riddell, Verna Rosling, Craig Reynolds, Peter Scardoni, Brian Lees, and Caroline Ifeka (who left the Committee to return to Europe in September.) In particular, I would 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 continuing help; Ante Dabro for the gift of the Molony bust; Ian Mathews, Giles Pickford and Connie Stamos for their work on *The Emeritus*; and Michael Cardew-Hall for his understanding and continuing strong support of the Emeritus Faculty.

James J. Fox
ANU EF Chair
11 December 2015

Addendum to Annual Report

Following his presentation of the Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting on 16 December, Professor Fox was thanked for the enormous amount of work he has done for the ANU Emeritus Faculty. Not only has he been an efficient Chair of the monthly Committee meetings and a congenial host of the fortnightly collegiate lunches and lectures, but he has also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to represent the interests of members and to promote the Faculty within the University community.

Jan O'Connor
Secretary