

THE ANU EMERITUS FACULTY

CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ANU Emeritus Faculty can report another full and eventful year but one tinged by sadness at the death of our Founder, John Molony and of other distinguished members of our Faculty. The Faculty places special emphasis on the collegiality of its membership and considers this one of the core values we uphold as members of the ANU community. Our gatherings – luncheon-talks and lectures -- have been both convivial and intellectually engaging and our membership has continued to increase. We now list over 276 members. This report recounts our activities for the year.

Collegiate Luncheons

Craig Reynolds has taken over from Adrian Gibbs in planning and organizing both our luncheon talks and our lectures. For our lunches, which are on the 1st Wednesday of the month, we gather around noon, then meet and talk as we have our lunches. The talk begins at 12:30 and usually goes on for 40 minutes followed by questions and discussion.

This year's talks were quite varied, and the overwhelming majority were given by members of the Faculty:

7 February:

Fyfe and Tricia Bygrave, "Journey to Easter Island, Cusco, Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands."

7 March:

George Quinn, "Indonesia's other Islam."

4 April:

Will Steffen, "The Anthropocene: Where on Earth are We Going?"

2 May:

Adrian Gibbs, "Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong about the World – and why things are better than you think." The swan song of Hans Rosling (1948-2017).

4 July:

Prane Chopra, "What Killed the Dinosaurs – Are We Next?"

1 August:

Keiko Tamura, "Growing Pearls in the Northern Territory."

5 September:

Fyfe and Tricia Bygrave, "Red Cedar: The tree that shaped the early history of Australia."

3 October:

Dorothy Horsfield, “Changing the World Economic Order? A Postscript on the 2018 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.”

7 November:

Peter Kanowski, “Forests near and far: issues in a warming world.”

5 December:

Fyfe Bygrave, “The Nobel and IgNoble Prizes 2018.”

Lectures

Our lectures, as in the past, were on a diverse and stimulating mix of topics. Lectures are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month. This year we experimented with the timing of these lectures. We began by having them at 4pm but opted later for lectures at 12:30pm. During the winter months, 4pm is often awkward but one of the main issues continues to be the unavailability of parking. There may be no simple resolution to these matters.

21 February:

Barry Osmond, “Making Plant Health Remotely Sensible.”

21 March:

John Giacon, “Yaama, it is ok to be me: reflections on the why and how of Yuwaalaraay Gamilararray language revival.”

18 April:

Vicki Luker, “Chiefly polygamy in early 19th century Fiji.”

16 May

Borge Bakken, “Crime and the Chinese Dream.”

20 June

Peter Riggs, “Why Is There Anything at All?”

18 July:

Tom Cliff, “Settler Colonialism and Ethnic Cleansing in China Today.”

12 September:

John Hewson, “Climate Change: Too Important to Leave to Politicians?” Joint meeting with Canberra Georgians, chaired by Julian Cribb.

17 October

Chris Gregory, “Why is the lotus the primordial symbol of the goddess of wealth in India?”

Projects Symposium

Six presenters provided a rich and varied array of talks at the well-attended Projects Symposium on 6 June 2018, chaired by Ian Keen. The program comprised the following presentations:

Ian Rae, “History that can only be written as fiction.”

Michael Walsh, “Raising languages from the dead: some examples of Australian language revival.”

Jenny Goldie, “Population, climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe, “Is killing kangaroos the kindest option to over-abundance in the ACT?”

Nic Goldie “Extreme Fire - a hot new paradigm.”

Prame Chopra, “Understanding natural deformation of the Earth's crust: results from high temperature experiments with Carrara Marble.”

Annual Emeritus Lecture

Simon Haines, the CEO of the Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation and formerly the Head of the School of Humanities at the ANU gave this year’s Annual Emeritus Lecture, entitled “Trivial Pursuits: Virtue and Truth in the Liberal Arts”.

Some idea of his lecture can be gleaned from his abstract:

The history of universities in the West from their beginnings in the late eleventh century, through the critical Romantic rethinking in Germany, and on to the modern models in America, Britain and Australia, shows several consistent binary features. Should a university be private or public? Is knowledge treated there as a means or an end? Is research or teaching its principal function? And most intriguingly, does it deliver to the student some kind of “virtue” (character, life-meaning), or some kind of “truth” (pure or applied knowledge): is it a place of value or a place of fact? To most of these questions, of course, one might answer “both”: but the binary still exposes some important fault lines, especially in the liberal arts, with their foundations in the medieval “trivium” (hence the title). Can we still discern these fault lines in modern Australian or international universities? Do they have any bearing on some of the more illiberal tendencies in recent student behaviour in the US?

His lecture focused on the development of distinguishing features of the liberal arts in western universities. He was introduced by Amin Saikal, Director of the ANU Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, who spoke of early antecedents of the western tradition in the Islamic centres of learning and he was given a vote of thanks by Richard Rigby who offered comparisons with traditions of learning begun in the ancient Chinese academies. The lecture, held in the Sir Roland Wilson Building, was well-attended.

Saturdays at the Opera

We have shifted the timing of our opera presentations from evenings to Saturday afternoons. Two operas were shown in the Molony Room. They are part of a series of films of previous ANU School of Music opera productions filmed by the late Michael Grafton-Green and remastered to Blu-ray.

On the 5th of May, Colleen Grafton-Green presented the 1998 performance of *Dido & Aeneas* by Purcell. Principal singers included Lorina Gore, Judith Crispin, Katrina Waters, Sharon Olde, Jeremy Tatchell & Carl Cooper. The opera was directed by Colin Forbes with the School of Music Orchestra conducted by Richard McIntyre.

On the 1st of September, Colleen Grafton-Green presented the production of Benjamin Britten's, *The Turn of the Screw*. This opera, from 1999, was produced by the Melbourne-based Tom Healey, the orchestra was conducted by Nicolette Fraillon. Principal singers included Sharon Olde, Lorina Gore, Kent McIntosh, Susan Ellis & Susanna Stone.

Annual Dinner

We held our annual emeritus faculty dinner at University House on Wednesday night, the 29th of August. We had a quota of 40 places in the Great Hall with students and other visitors. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

East Coast Project

Brian Lees has prepared a long report on the East Coast Project with a detailed account of its research. The following portion of this report highlights the research of the project and its future plans. Further details are included as an addendum to this Report:

“The year saw the gradual decline and eventual death of our Chair, John Molony. John remained active in the project until the end. One of his last meetings was with Nick Fominas who reported on the investigation at Bittangabee Bay. He is greatly missed.

During the year, Emeritus Jack Golson, Josephine Flood and Brad Pillans joined the project. The project held ten formal meetings in the Molony Room during 2018. The meetings were held on the third Tuesday of each month. Minutes were kept.

Highlights of the year were:

- Completion of an overview of the artefacts relevant to the possible presence of Portuguese sailors on the Australian coast before 1770.
- An investigation of the Bittangabee Bay ruins.
- Production of a display for the Kioloa Coastal Campus showing Cook’s passage along that section of coast.
- Continued work on 16th Century maps relevant to the possible presence of European sailors on the Australian coast before 1770.

Future Plans

Some parts of the East Coast Project have come to an end, other parts are being revived and revitalised. One of the benefits of the formal review of the artefacts and evidence gathered over the years by the ECP is that it provides a structure for moving forwards.

Given the emphasis on the Bittangabee Bay investigation, and his close involvement in it, Brad Pillans has volunteered to Chair the East Coast Project meetings in 2019. Brian Lees will continue as a member of that Project but is interested in setting up another project to assemble a Field Guide for the ANU Kioloa Coastal Campus. He proposes having the first meeting of interested persons in February, 2019. Like the ECP, this group will meet monthly in the Molony Room.”

The John Molony History Prize

This prize was established in perpetuity through a donation to the ANU by the Emeritus Faculty.

Scott Stephenson’s PhD thesis, entitled ‘Oligarchy Contested and Interconnected: The New South Wales Labor Party and the trade unions from 1910 to 1939’ was awarded the John Molony prize for 2018. The abstract of the thesis is:

The period from 1910 to 1939 was one of the most turbulent chapters in New South Wales labour history. It was defined by intense ideological conflict, winner-take-all factional warfare, widespread accusations of corruption and multiple Labor Party splits. Intertwined within these issues were questions of democracy and oligarchy within the labour movement. To what extent should members control labour institutions? Democracy within the unions and parties means control by the ordinary members and, where necessary, their accountable representatives. Oligarchy sits at the opposite end of

the spectrum and entails organisational domination by a small group of leaders. This thesis examines the tensions and struggles between democracy and oligarchy within three key labour organisations. Oligarchy predominated but it was always contested. Countervailing tendencies were continuously operating in some form, even when organisations were at their least democratic. My analytical framework comes from the sociological literature on trade union and political party democracy and I compare each organisation's community, rules, local autonomy, rank-and-file decision making, internal opposition, free communication and equality between officials and members. The key factor that separated the democratic Miners Federation from the oligarchic Australian Workers Union and Labor Party was that the miners worked and lived within united, stable occupational communities in which the majority of union members and officials believed in democracy and worked towards its realisation.

Oral History Project

This year Fyfe Bygrave recorded interviews with Prame Chopra and with Erich Weigold. He was joined by Don Anderson in interviewing Dick Johnson, These interviews along with past oral history interviews are available on the University's Open Research Repository website: <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/101004>.

Website

Our website has been of considerable concern for some time. It is regarded by those who know such things as a veritable 'antique'. Consequently, throughout this year, a consultant has been designing a new website for the Emeritus Faculty and various versions of this design have been submitted to University Marketing for approval. This iterative process with the necessary approval from Marketing now appears to be coming to an end and we have high hopes that our new website will be 'live' and functioning by January.

We expect that there will be teething problems. Those of us who will have to use the site regularly have a great deal to learn to be proficient, but the consultant who has designed the website has agreed to continue to assist us into the new year to deal with problems as they arise.

eTexts

Only one article was added to eTexts during the year: "A Short History of Beer" by Malcolm Whyte.

Summations Series and Publications Bursary

As in previous reports, I would like to call attention to the ‘Summations Series’ which the ANU Press has established 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. The Press is prepared to receive manuscripts that present collected works based on long-standing research (including previous published papers) by ANU academics. Anyone interested in preparing a manuscript can contact me at james.fox@anu.edu.au for further information.

The Emeritus Faculty Committee also offers an ANUEF Bursary Scheme of up to \$1000.00 to assist members to defray the costs of their academic publishing efforts. Our new website will have the details of the relatively simple application process required for this bursary. Members can contact Craig Reynolds at creynolds697@gmail.com who has agreed to oversee the application process. We dispersed two bursaries this past year.

Poets’ Lunch

The Poets’ Lunch at the ANU is an event that, through various incarnations, dates back to the time of A.D. Hope. Giles Pickford was responsible for bringing the poets to the Emeritus Faculty. The Lunch is hosted in the Molony Room. This year’s theme was “Like It Was Yesterday.”

The Emeritus

This is the ninth year of the publication of *The Emeritus*, a comprehensive monthly electronic magazine that canvasses the gamut of happenings in and around the ANU and the broader university sector. Ian Mathews, assisted by Kevin Windle, has produced eleven issues this year: February to December.

Obituaries

The Emeritus Faculty has been given the responsibility by the university for producing obituaries for our distinguished ANU colleagues. This year we published obituaries for the following colleagues in *The Emeritus*:

David Roderick Curtis
Colin Peter Groves
Diana Rosemary Howlett
Luise Hercus

Ken Inglis
Helmut H. E. Loofs-Wissowa
Igor de Rachewiltz
Ray Spear
Patrick Troy

Obituaries are now being prepared for other of our colleagues:

John Chappell
Bruce Kent
Ian McDougal
John Molony

In cooperation with the Department of History, the Emeritus Faculty is planning to hold a special Memorial in early March in honour of John Molony. We will keep you posted of these plans.

New Members for 2018

Prof Borge Bakken - China, criminology, sociology

Admiral Cristopher Barrie - Strategic Studies, Climate & Energy Change

Prof Diane Bell - Anthropology, Environmental and Feminist Studies

Ms Penelope Cilento – EFS

Dr Robin Erskine – Information technology

Dr Douglas Francis - Toxicology, Drug development

Dr Colin Hargreaves - Economics and Social Statistics, Climate Statistics

Prof Reynaldo Iletto – Asian history

Prof Toni Makkai, Centre for Social Research and Methods

Ms Lorraine Ovington

Prof Nicolas Peterson – Social and Cultural Anthropology

Prof Bradley Pillans - Geology, Geomorphology, Climate Change

Mr Russell Shepherd - IT, Computing

Dr Keiko Tamura - Australia-Japan relations

Dr Philip Taylor – Vietnam, Cambodia, Anthropology

Ms Jennifer Turini - Information Technology

Prof William Steffen - Earth Sciences, Climate Change

Prof Robert Wasson – Environmental Science and Management

Special Thanks

As Chair of the Emeritus Faculty, I want to thank all the members of our Executive Committee who have worked so diligently to make our collegial activities possible, interesting and engaging. I was away, off and on, from September to early November lecturing at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta where I have been appointed as Professor. The Committee adjusted the timings of our meetings and carried on activities without interruption or disruption. My thanks to: Fyfe Bygrave, Prame Chopra, Adrian Gibbs, Dorothy Horsfield, Brian Lees, Jan O'Connor, Craig Reynolds, Di Riddell, Verna Rosling, Larry Saha, Peter Scardoni and Erich Weigold. In particular, I would like to thank Craig Reynolds for his efforts in putting together a cast of excellent speakers for our luncheons and our lectures. I want to thank Larry Saha for sitting in for me as Deputy Chair during my travels; Jan O'Connor for her work as our Secretary and for the numerous other tasks she has undertaken; Peter Scardoni and Prame Chopra for keeping our accounts in order; Fyfe Bygrave for running the Oral History Project; Di Riddell for keeping our membership records intact; Ian Keen for organizing the annual Projects Symposium; Colleen Grafton-Green for arranging our 'Saturdays at the Opera'; Colin Steele for organizing our special lectures; Ian Mathews and Kevin Windle for their work in producing *The Emeritus*; Nik Fominas for responding promptly and capably to our minor crises; and Michael Cardew-Hall for his unwavering support of the Emeritus Faculty. John Molony provided us with wise guidance through much of the year and has left us with a clear sense of direction and purpose. We are fortunate in having a talented membership who have collegially committed themselves to the Emeritus Faculty and thus contributed to making this year a most successful one.

James J. Fox
Chair, ANU Emeritus Faculty
7 December 2018

ADDENDUM ON THE EAST COAST PROJECT

Overview of the Artefacts:

Since 2009 the East Coast Project team has noted, investigated and discussed many artefacts, or similar items, claimed to be evidence of the presence of European sailors on the East Coast of Australia prior to 1770.

By far the most significant of these are the maps that have dominated our discussion. The minutes of our meetings include many references to these maps, and several papers arising from these discussions have been prepared. Two are, at the time of writing, in review for journal publication. These are treated separately.

Our information on these artefacts has been assembled in a database consisting mainly of extracts from the minutes of meetings, but including in some cases brief written papers, newspaper items, photographs and email messages. It is intended that this will allow us to prioritise and focus our future research.

One group of ‘artefacts’ consists of dried plant specimens (*exsiccatae*) collected by Banks and Solander, and by other early botanists. These are not yet included in the database (but could be). In reviewing these plant specimens, it has been helpful to set out a rationale, or justification, for considering them in the context of the East Coast Project (ECP). The rationale is to try to identify plants which could be considered alien to the East Coast of Australia and may have been introduced by early visitors. We are in the process of assembling relevant evidence, information and related commentary, and seek to reach a conclusion based on the evidence.

A few pieces of ‘evidence’ have been mentioned in meetings of the ECP but not pursued further. One example is the possible infusion of European words into Aboriginal languages. These are not considered here.

The artefacts, or possible evidence, can be sorted into four groups:

Artefacts about which we can reach a conclusion based on clear evidence:

- ‘Anchor’ or Mill Stone found near Eden.
- Carronade Island cannons.
- Saints names on old maps.
- Lead sinker found on Fraser Island.
- Fauna introduced by Europeans.

Artefacts for which we are awaiting further information, after which we can probably reach a conclusion:

- Disaster Bay cannon.
- Disaster Bay cannonball.
- Eden Bay Portuguese vase.
- Northern Territory Portuguese flask.

Artefacts where our evidence is rather limited, but on which we could, fairly easily, assemble more information after which we *might* reach a conclusion:

- Mahogany Ship.
- Aboriginal rock art depicting European ships.
- John Winch artefacts.
- Gympie artefacts.
- Fauna depicted on old maps and engravings.
- 'Spanish' engravings near Botany Bay.

Artefacts about which little information is available, where gaining further information would be difficult, or need specialised assistance.

- Stone ruins at Bittangabee Bay.
- *Corpo Cronologico* (Portuguese archives).
- Pedro Nunes account of the Mendonca expedition.
- The presence of European genes in the Aboriginal population.
- Old copper coins on the Wessel Islands.

Itemising the results of the many years of inquiry in this way has helped us identify areas in which there may be some potential for further progress. The stone ruins at Bittangabee Bay were identified as being of post 1770 origin following a literature survey and field examination. No excavation, dating or examination by sensing devices had been carried out. It was decided to invite Jack Golson, Josephine Flood and Brad Pillans to join the project as they could provide specialised assistance in re-examining this site.

An Investigation of the Bittangabee Bay Ruins

In early September several members of the ECP visited the Bittangabee Bay ruins. The purpose of the expedition was threefold. Firstly, the expedition was to meet "Uncle" Ossie Cruise MBE AM, a very prominent member of the Bega Valley's Aboriginal community, and his son Ben, who is Chairman of the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council. It was hoped that this relationship would serve to aid us gain permission to conduct non-destructive examination of the site. Secondly, the party, in the company of Ben Cruise, to evaluate the possibility of conducting a non-destructive examination of the site using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). The aim of this would be to determine if any sub-surface structure exists. Finally, the party was to meet up with the curator of the Killer Whale museum to determine the status of a ceramic pot trawled up in a fishing net 18 miles SSE off Gabo Island on 14 October 1999. There was, in our research, still considerable confusion between pots found in the NT, pots found near Eden and their origins and age.

Following the first visit, the party contacted Amy Dougherty (a GPR specialist) to determine the feasibility of a GPR survey of the area. It turned out that Dougherty had plans to visit the

Eden area for another purpose and she carried out a preliminary GPR survey at the same time (early November). At the time of writing the ECP had not received the processed results of this survey and are awaiting to hear from her.

One of us (PB) is negotiating with the dating lab to explore the potential for C¹⁴ and TL dating of the mortar from the building at low, or no, cost. The next thing to do is to approach NSW NPWS for permission to collect small samples for dating.

Production of a Display for the Kioloa Coastal Campus showing Cook's Passage along that Section of the Coast

Interest in the voyage of Captain James Cook is growing as we near the 250th anniversary of his passage along the east coast of Australia. Captain James Cook, in his transit along the East Coast of Australia, made his first attempt at landing on the Australian continent on the beaches south of Murramarang headland. He was thwarted in this by large breakers driven by the strong southerly wind which prevailed during the early part of his transit. He judged it to be too risky to hazard his longboat in a landing. Nevertheless, despite his practice of moving along the coast at telescope range, 5 to 15 leagues offshore, he came in close to the beach at Kioloa and moved along it from the location of present day Kioloa to Racecourse Beach. He noted in his log "and were so near the Shore as to distinguish several people upon the Sea beach. They appeared to be of a very dark or black Colour; but whether this was the real Colour of their skins or the Cloathes they might have on I know not". That these first observations of Australian Aborigines by Cook were made at Kioloa are of great interest to the local Historical Society of Kioloa-Bawley Point. So, once this had been drawn to our attention by the ANU Resident at the Kioloa Coastal Campus, we prepared a large display showing Cook's track along that part of the coast, making his attempts to land clear, and extracts from his log. Copies were given to the ANU Resident at the Kioloa Coastal Campus for display and to the Chair of the local Historical Society of Kioloa-Bawley Point.

Continued Work on 16th Century Maps Relevant to the Possible Presence of European Sailors on the Australian Coast before 1770:

With the health of John Molony deteriorating it became clear that holding back the work carried out on the Dieppe Maps by several members of the ECP to become chapters in a book was probably unrealistic. These elements have been turned into journal papers and submitted for publication. One is in review, one is being revised and another will be submitted in the near future.