

THE ANU EMERITUS FACULTY
CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Introduction

This year's report on the ANU Emeritus Faculty will, regrettably, be brief. Although we got off to a good start at the beginning of the year, our activities from mid-March were disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak and continued, in only a limited fashion, for the rest of the year. The University campus lockdown and, later, the University's strict but necessary protocols on meetings curtailed the possibilities of normal gatherings. It became impossible to meet for collegiate lunches or lectures. Our Annual Emeritus Lecture could not be held. Nor could we hold our Projects Symposium. University House was closed because of hail damage and so we could not gather for our Annual Dinner. Nor could we continue with new interviews for our Oral History Project. Last year we held a series of book launches and we had hoped to do the same this year but that too proved impossible. So, in short, our ambitious plans for 2020 were frustrated and sadly curtailed.

Collegiate Lunches and Lectures

We began the year in good stride with an ambitiously planned series of collegiate lunches and lectures but managed only three before we were forced to close. At the end of the year, we held an experimental Zoom lecture in preparation for what we expect will continue to be a constrained 2021. The response to this lecture by Ian Keen was excellent. It sets a standard for future presentations which we hope to continue.

The short list of our 2020 lectures is as follows:

5 February Molony Room, Collegiate Lunch, Andrew Selth, "Aung San Suu Kyi at the International Court of Justice: Why Defend the Indefensible?"

19 February Molony Room, Collegiate Lunch, Prame Chopra, "Melting Ice and Rising Seas: How much? How fast?"

4 March Molony Room, Collegiate Lunch, Craig Reynolds, "Social History through Digital Technology: Filming the Life of a Southern Thai Policeman."

2 December via Zoom, Ian Keen, “Foragers or farmers? *Dark Emu* and the debate over Aboriginal agriculture.”

East Coast Project

Brian Lees has prepared this brief statement on the East Coast Project:

“Prior to the COVID shutdown, the EAST COAST PROJECT was planning to collect material for dating from the ruins at Bitangabee Bay. There was also correspondence with James Shulmeister, then Chair of the Fraser Island World Heritage Scientific Advisory Committee, about revisiting the site on Fraser Island where a lead fishing weight reputed to date to the 16th Century was found. This was another dating investigation. Both these projects have been on hold since before Easter. The paper published on the Rotz atlas has generated considerable correspondence, some of it well informed and interesting. Nothing new has been received. Given the progress with COVID-19, we expect to restart meeting early in the new year.”

ANU Emeritus Histories

An invitation earlier in the year soliciting short individual ‘memories’ from members for the website planned for the celebration of the ANU’s 75th Anniversary had only a limited response. Various members, however, suggested that they would be more disposed to write longer personal accounts on specific topics.

In response to this suggestion, the Emeritus Faculty has decided to establish a new ‘ANU Personal Histories’ project in which members’ accounts can be downloaded to the ANU Repository and be accessed through a designated section on the Emeritus Faculty website.

From the time of its foundation, the ANU Emeritus Faculty has been concerned to record and document the ANU’s history. The Faculty has already published and compiled an archive of over eighty obituaries of ANU staff and has, at present, recorded seventy-two interviews in its Oral History Project. This new ANU Emeritus Histories Project is calling upon members of our Faculty as the creators of ANU’s history to continue as the custodians of this history and thus, actively, to record its intellectual traditions.

We have already received a number of valuable historical accounts and we intend to open this site in the new year.

Summations and Bursary

Summations is a publications series that the ANU Press has established to allow senior academics at the ANU, including members of the Emeritus Faculty, to publish work of major importance that has taken years to carry out.

This year two members of the Faculty have published volumes that represent decades of scholarly work.

Campbell MacKnight, together with two of his Indonesian colleagues, Mukhlis Paeni and Muhlis Hadrawi, has published *The Bugis Chronicle of Bone*, which is the first full English translation of a masterwork in the historiographic traditions of South Sulawesi covering a period of three hundred years.

Andrew Selth has published *Interpreting Myanmar*, a collection of ninety-seven incisive essays on critical developments in Myanmar written between 2008 and 2019 that provide a record of historical events relevant to an understanding of present-day issues.

The Emeritus Faculty has a Bursary Scheme which offers up to \$1000.00 to assist members to defray the costs of their academic publishing efforts. Our website has the details of the simple application process required for this bursary. Craig Reynolds oversees the application process and can be contacted at creynolds697@gmail.com.

This year we disbursed just one bursary for:

Helen Bromhead and Zhengdao Ye (eds.), *Meaning, Life and Culture: In Conversation with Anna Wierzbicka*, which is forthcoming from ANU Press.

The John Molony History Prize

The John Molony History Prize was established in perpetuity through a donation to the ANU by the Emeritus Faculty. The prize is awarded annually to the student enrolled in the postdoctoral degree program in the previous year who has submitted the best thesis in History.

The recipient of this year's Molony Prize has yet to be decided.

Emeritus

This is the eleventh year of the publication of *Emeritus*, our monthly electronic magazine that covers a 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* publishes obituaries of recently deceased ANU staff. These obituaries are prepared by colleagues who generally focus their observations on the careers of fellow colleagues during their years at the University. Collectively these obituaries form an important archive of the university and its activities. It is hoped that we may be able to publish this historical collection electronically.

This year *Emeritus* published obituaries for the following ANU members:

Burgess Don Cameron

John Michael Arthur Chappell

Keith Alan Waterhouse Crook

Charles Ian Edward Donaldson

Bruce Kent

Lewis Norman Mander

Colin Max Mayrhofer

Mervyn Silas Paterson

Diana Betty Riddell

Merle Calvin Ricklefs

Mike Slee

Andrzej Stanisław Walicki

New Members for 2020

In a disrupted year, it was particularly welcome to continue to receive applications for membership even while our activities were limited. We are pleased to admit these new members with the hope and prospect of being able to offer more activities to them in the future.

Jeffrey Bennett

Christopher Blackall

Gordon Bull

Hui Han

Mehmet Ilhan

Colin Jeffcott

Lorena Kanellopoulos

Penny Lockwood

Vicki Luker

Anthony Milner

John Minns

Paul Pretor

Amin Saikal

Rosemary Shepherd

Membership

Our present membership stands at 283.

This year, for some unknown reason, a number of our members to whom we sent membership cards failed to pay their membership fee. The annual membership fee is \$25.00 - a small fee and perhaps why it might have been overlooked. Yet it is a requirement of our incorporation as an independent body that members be financial. Therefore, we are changing our membership renewal procedures for next year.

This year we sent out membership cards with a request for payment. Next year we will send an email with a request for the payment of \$25 and membership cards will only be sent when payment has been received. For members aged over 85, the fee is waived.

Special Thanks

On behalf of the Emeritus Faculty, I want to begin by thanking Michael Cardew-Hall for all the unwavering support he has provided to the Faculty as its official 'Mentor' over many years. We have appreciated all the help that he has given us – in things both large and small – and we hope that he will now, on his retirement, join us in this Faculty.

As Chair of the Emeritus Faculty, I thank all the members of our Executive Committee who have patiently done all they could to provide continuity through the year. My thanks to: Prame Chopra, Patrick De Deckker, Dorothy Horsfield, Ian Keen, Brian Lees, Jan O'Connor, Craig

Reynolds, Verna Rosling, Larry Saha, Peter Scardoni and Ailsa Solley. In particular, I would like to thank Craig Reynolds for his initial efforts in putting together a cast of excellent speakers and then trying to see if we can manage to operate in a new format in the future; Jan O'Connor for her work as our Secretary and for the numerous other tasks she has undertaken over the year; Peter Scardoni and Prame Chopra for keeping our accounts in order; Verna Rosling for keeping a close eye on the Molony Room Building and managing to get Facilities and Services to attend to minor repairs; and Ailsa Solley for putting our membership records in good order and preparing new methods for proceeding next year. I also want to thank Ian Mathews and Kevin Windle for their work in producing *Emeritus* and Nic Fominas for responding to numerous requests and for maintaining and continuing to improve our website. In conclusion, my thanks to all of our members and best wishes for the coming year. Let us hope that our various plans and ambitions are successful in 2021.

James J Fox
Chair
ANU Emeritus Faculty
7 December 2020