

THE ANU EMERITUS FACULTY CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year was as disrupted as last year, possibly more so. Hence this report offers a brief summary of ANU Emeritus Faculty activities over the course of the year.

At the beginning of the year, Canberra had no locally transmitted corona virus. We were able to present lectures in a zoom mode and, briefly, in a hybrid mode, with some members in attendance. Our Executive Committee was able to hold its monthly meetings and we succeeded in holding our Emeritus Dinner and our Projects Symposium.

When, however, Canberra went into lockdown and the University followed suite immediately, we were restricted in all our activities. The lockdown punched a gaping hole in the academic year which proved frustrating and wearisome. At the very end of the year, however, we were given permission to organize an AGM and a low-key Christmas party.

Lectures

We offered lectures via Zoom from February to June and, thereafter, by Zoom with some members able to attend these lectures in the Molony Room. In May, Ian Keen took over the organization of these lectures from Craig Reynolds.

3 February: Patrick De Deckker, "Lake George, its relevance for the study of climate variability, its history and myths."

3 March: Kathryn Robinson, "The 'longue durée' view from the 'centre of the world': after (almost) 50 years of ethnographic research in an Indonesian mining town."

7 April: Dave Rowell, "Australian invertebrates: chromosomes, genes and ice ages."

2 June: Elizabeth Minchin, "The ANU Classics Museum: Past, Present and Future."

7 July: Ken Taylor, "New Lives, New Landscapes. Landscape, Heritage and Rural Revitalisation: Whose Cultural Values?"

4 August: Bob Douglas, "Pathways past the Precipice: 'Surviving and Thriving in a Threatened World' -- Council for a Human Future."

Projects Symposium

We were able to hold our Projects Symposium on Wednesday, the 21st of July, in the Molony Room. This all-day symposium provided a fascinating glimpse into a variety of projects by members of our Faculty.

Julian Cribb	<i>Earth detox</i>
Jennie Goldie	<i>Incorporating population numbers in climate change action</i>
Bob Burne	<i>Microbialites</i>
Peter Grabovsky	<i>Excesses of the state</i>
Elizabeth Trusswell	<i>Picturing the ANU</i>
James Fox	<i>The Master Poets Project</i>
Terry Hull	<i>The Indonesian census</i>

East Coast Project

Brian Lees reports that the East Coast Project has been on hold during the Covid outbreak and subsequent lockdown. When things return to “normal”, Brad Pillans intends to try to resample the Fraser Island site where an ancient lead sinker was discovered in the hope that newer geochemical technologies can provide better insights into its age and origin.

Annual Emeritus Dinner

Since University House was closed, we held our Annual Emeritus Dinner on Thursday, the 29th of July in a private dining room at the Commonwealth Club. Colin Steele, a Club Member, made the arrangements on our behalf. Our guest speaker was Jill Waterhouse who has been doing historical research on ANU’s Vice-Chancellors and Chancellors. Her talk was entitled: ‘A Question of Degrees: The Chancellors of the Australian National University’. We allocated 40 places for the dinner but were oversubscribed and ended with 49 attendees, which included members and their partners.

ANU Emeritus Personal History Project

From the time of its foundation, the ANU Emeritus Faculty has been concerned to record and document the ANU’s history. Our members were the creators of ANU’s history and, in their retirement, are able to serve as the custodians of its intellectual traditions. The Emeritus Faculty has already recorded seventy-two interviews in its Oral History Project.

Last year the Emeritus Faculty decided to establish a new ‘ANU Personal Histories’ project in which members’ accounts could be downloaded to the ANU Repository and be accessed through a designated section on the Emeritus Faculty website. This new section has now been created (<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/216046>) and has received nine accounts:

Jim Allen

The Context and Achievements of the Lapita Homeland Project 1985: A Brief History.

Heinz Arndt and Selwyn Cornish

Economics at the ANU.

Paul Gatenby

ANU Medical School.

Virginia Hooker

ANU and the Baby Boomer Indonesianists.

Elizabeth Minchin

The Classics Department.

Elizabeth Minchin

ANU Classics Museum.

Nicolas Peterson

A Short History of Anthropology in the Faculties.

Ian Walker:

Enriching the Experience and Intellectual Life of the University: An Overview of and Reflection on the Foundation and Role of Residential Halls, Colleges and Lodges at The Australian National University.

David Williams

ANU Art School.

All of these accounts – some of them mini-monographs – offer unique personal documentation of ANU's history and traditions. Indications are that many more accounts are currently being written by Faculty members. This may become a major historical resource for understanding the ANU.

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 Molony History Prize for 2020 was awarded to: Dr Alexandra Roginski for her thesis entitled:

A Touch of Power: Popular Phrenology in the Tasman World.

The brief abstract of this thesis is as follows:

‘Between the mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the cranial science of phrenology shone as a popular practice in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, mediating between bodies. Phrenologists offered private readings and staged chaotic performances for diverse audiences in what ultimately constituted commentary on the malleability of identity in the colonies.’

Emeritus

Ian Mathews has served as the editor of *Emeritus* since 2005. The newsletter was his special creation. Sadly, in October, due to illness, Ian was forced to step down as editor. He has kept us informed for over seventeen years. On behalf of the entire Emeritus Faculty, we conveyed to Ian our fullest appreciation and sincere thanks for his work on *Emeritus* over many years.

Ian had, for some years, been studying for an ANU degree and the Vice-Chancellor, Brian Schmidt, was able to confer this degree upon him at his home shortly before he died on 28th of November.

Peter Fuller, a former colleague of Ian’s at the *Canberra Times*, took over from Ian and has produced the November issue of *Emeritus*. He will continue as the new editor of *Emeritus*.

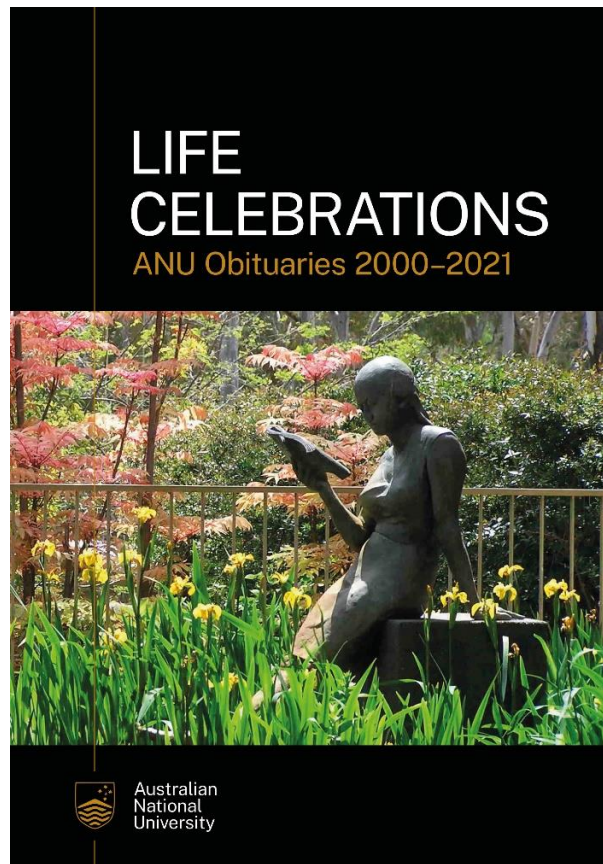
Life Celebrations

The *Emeritus* publishes obituaries of recently deceased ANU members. These obituaries are prepared by colleagues who focus their observations on the careers of their fellow colleagues during their years at the University. Collectively, these obituaries form an important archive of the university and its activities.

These obituaries served as the core of an enlarged collection of obituaries of ANU members who died between 2000 and 2021. This compilation of 192 obituaries, entitled *Life Celebrations*, was published in September by the ANU Emeritus Faculty as its contribution to the University’s 75th Anniversary Celebration.

The link to an electronic copy of this volume was sent to all members of the Emeritus Faculty and the volume remains available free-for-download from the ANU Emeritus Website under ‘Publications’. It can also be downloaded from ANU digital repository at

<https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/250556> or
<http://hdl.handle.net/1885/250556>:



A limited number of copies of this volume were printed and are available for purchase for \$50.00 from the Emeritus Faculty.

The university lockdown prevented us from holding a launch of the volume this year, but it is hoped to launch this volume in February 2022.

Obituaries

This year we published the following obituaries in *Emeritus* and/or *Life Celebrations*:

David Michael Adams

Christopher Bryant

Michael Dopita

Helen James

Isobel Low

Andrew Mack

Maev O'Collins

James L. Richardson

Mariam Simms

Derek Fuller Wrigley

New Members for 2021

It was encouraging to continue to receive applications for membership even though our normal collegiate activities were limited. We were pleased to admit these new members with the hope and prospect of being able to offer more activities to them in the future. Our current membership as of December 2021 is 282 members.

Bryant Allen

Premachandra Athukorala

Marconi Barbosa

Judith Cameron

Michael Cardew-Hall

John Carver

Liz Drysdale

Gareth Evans

Colin Filer

Peter Fuller

Amareswar Galla

Charlotte Galloway

Patrick Guinness

Brian Harrold

Allan Hawke

Christine Helliwell

Margaret Kiley

Andrew Podger

Michael Smithson

Matthew Spriggs

Deborah Veness

Special Thanks

As Chair of the Emeritus Faculty, I thank all the members of our Executive Committee who have struggled through this year with me. My thanks go to: Prame Chopra, Robert Burns, Dorothy Horsfield, Ian Keen, Brian Lees, Jan O'Connor, Craig Reynolds, Larry Saha, Peter

Scardoni and Ailsa Solley and to Patrick De Deckker and Verna Rosling whom we co-opted to join us on the Executive Committee. I also want to thank Nik Fominas and Brian Harrold for their invaluable assistance with our computer systems, mailout efforts, website maintenance, lecture zooming and other internet activities without which it would be impossible to reach our membership. We all acknowledge our debt to Ian Mathews for his long editorship of *Emeritus* and I thank Kevin Windle for the assistance he has continued to provide to this effort. In conclusion, my thanks to all of our members and best wishes for the coming year.

Let us hope that our plans and ambitions are more successful in 2022.

James J. Fox
Chair, ANU Emeritus Faculty
3 December 2021

Since this Report was submitted and approved at our Annual General Meeting, we have suffered the loss of more esteemed members of our ANU community:

Ian Mathews, the Emeritus Faculty's long-standing editor of the *Emeritus* newsletter.

Peter Bailey

Tom Dutton

Nigel Lendon

Bob Miller

Obituaries of all these individuals are currently being prepared.