

First, to learn the nature of things

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Australia joins disease surveillance network

By TERESA BELCHER

The introduction of an education program about the use of condoms in Thai sexual establishments reduced the incidence of HIV infection from 10 per cent per month to 1 per cent, a guest speaker told the first Master of Applied Epidemiology (MAE) conference at the ANU.

Dr Taweasup Siraprasiri, from the Provincial Health Office of Lampang Province in Thailand, related to the conference his experiences of the AIDS epidemic in Thailand.

"This is a good opportunity for me to share some experiences that we've had from the epidemic in Thailand," Dr Siraprasiri said. "We don't want the same bad thing to happen to another country."

Dr Siraprasiri investigated the

extent of AIDS infection among sex workers during the 1989 epidemic in Thailand. He found there was a 10 per cent incidence of HIV infections each month when condoms were not widely used. After introducing a 100 per cent condom use program, that figure fell to 1 per cent in less than a year — a figure maintained today.

The implementation of total condom use in sexual establishments was a difficult task and required constant follow-up and communication with the sex workers.

"We use face-to-face education. At first we used a small publication but it didn't work on all of the women," Dr Siraprasiri said.

"Peer education seems to work. Those who know the problem should be the ones to teach each other."

The MAE conference at the Na-

tional Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), provided the ideal forum to officially launch the new Australian applied epidemiology network of alumni, MAENet.

The MAE is a founding member of a new global network for training in Applied Epidemiology. The Network of Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions (TEPHINET), formed at the invitation of the World Health Organisation in June 1997, aims to increase infectious disease surveillance around the world.

This will enable the early identification of problem sites and have in place a rapid response mechanism at a regional, national and global level.

"Essentially there are 40 countries that are participating in our

activities somehow or another," said Dr Mahomed Patel, the chair of TEPHINET and Fellow at NCEPH. "Most of them are in the developing world and they have a similar philosophy for education to the MAE, that the best place to train graduate students is being based within the working set-up."

The MAE program began at the ANU in 1991 and aims to train epidemiologists in the surveillance and control of communicable diseases in Australia.

There are now 63 graduates, most of whom are working in public health practice or universities. MAE scholars develop formal and informal networks in, and between, placements with governmental and non-governmental bodies, and with universities and other educational institutions.

"It is a fantastic program built on great tradition — not just sitting in an academic office, but going out to the field and investigating real outbreaks," Martyn Kirk, conference organiser and graduate of the program, said.

Program Director, Mary Beers said trainees and graduates are at the forefront of a global response to communicable diseases and in both emerging and re-emerging infectious disease.

"The members of the global network have been involved in investigating outbreaks of the key emerging infectious diseases around the world over the last five to 10 years. So they already form a global team that's really ready to move at any time when there is a disease threat to be investigated," Ms Beers said.

Caldwell reignites population debate

By CLARISSA THORPE

The world's population will peak at about 8 billion and Australia will suffer a population slump as fewer women choose to have children, according to predictions by ANU Emeritus Professor John C. Caldwell.

Prof Caldwell predicts that current international fertility trends will result in a population peak in about 50 years.

He told a luncheon at the National Press Club in Canberra last week that Australia will suffer a population slump as increasing numbers of women decide to have children later in life, or not at all. This could force federal government to increase immigration levels or offer financial incentives to women of childbearing age to prevent population decline.

"Pride may drive a movement to pay parents to populate, rather than just boost immigration," he said, reigniting the debate over Australia's sustainable population and its fertility rate of 1.7, which is well below replacement level.

Prof Caldwell also addressed the issue of increased immigration for Australia. "My guess is that we will raise immigration levels so as to sustain a modest level of population growth," he said.

The luncheon was held to launch a major fundraising campaign by the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) to ensure the vital research work of Prof Caldwell continues through the establishment of the John C. Caldwell Chair in Population, Health and Development.

CRES unveils plans for showcase 'green' building

By SEAN DALY

The ANU's Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES) has unveiled plans to build the most environmentally sustainable building in Australia, that will generate its own power, collect its own water, make the most of natural light and treat its own wastes.

The "Gateway Project" will be an exemplar for building construction into the next millennium and make a powerful statement about the ANU's commitment to the environment. Already potential industry partners have expressed an interest in joining the project.

The radical design, by Lionel Glendenning of Sydney architects HBO+EMTB, includes 30-metre wind generators, solar energy and other building systems that promote water conservation and the use of natural lighting, heating and cooling.

"This involves issues of land utilisation, building configuration, materials selection, construction technique, deconstruction options, use of technology and services, and flexibility for change," Mr Glendenning said.

The Gateway building, to be built on the corner of Daley and Sullivans Creek Roads, will house the School of Resource Management and Environmental Science (SRMES) which combines CRES, and the Geology, Geography and Forestry Departments of the Faculty of Science.

CRES director, Professor Henry Nix, said the ANU was hoping to attract partners from construction, building materials and energy companies to use the

Gateway Project to set example of sustainable construction

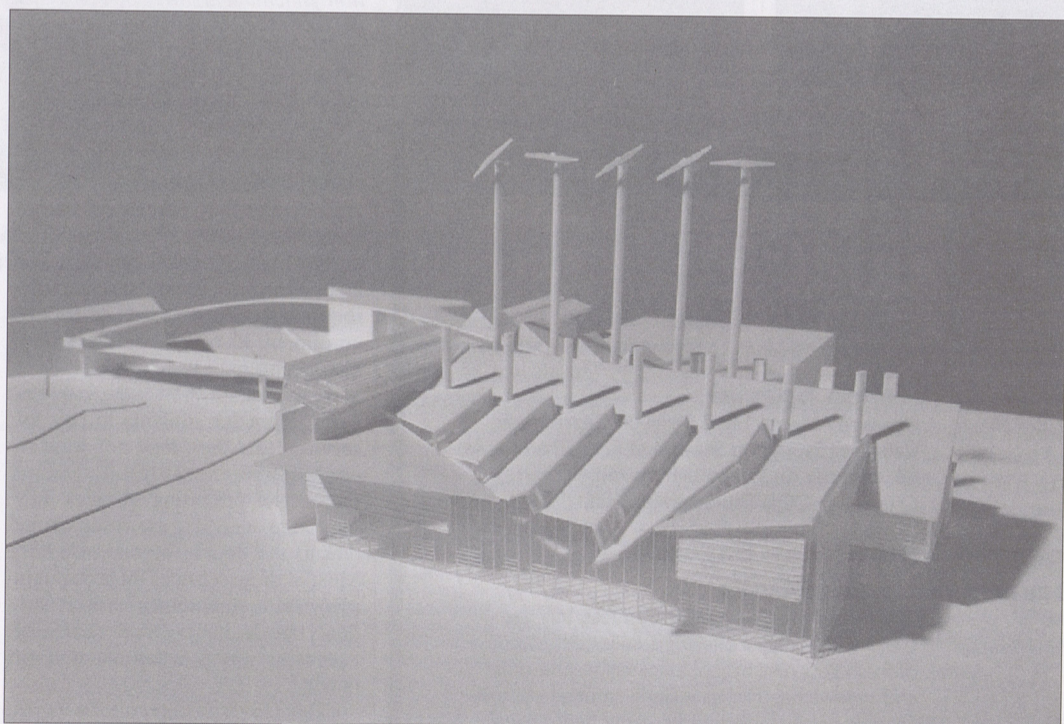


Image supplied by HBO+EMTB

Dramatic design: The Gateway building, which will feature 30-metre wind generators and solar energy, exemplifies the ANU's commitment to the environment.

building as a working test case for their products.

Prof Nix said the ANU was less concerned with financial rewards from these partnerships than in the results of their work on the building.

The Gateway building's design includes a large area of public space to take into account the changing nature of work and decreasing need

for separate offices for each person.

"There will be no traditional 'honeycomb' nor an open-space design. We are looking at new ways to present work space, with minimal private space for everyone, senior and otherwise," Prof Nix said.

Design guidelines for the Gateway building include a construction

approach known as "long-life loose fit". This means the building can be easily dismantled and re-assembled making it as flexible as possible for future use.

Plans for the building are expected to be finalised in April, with construction set to start in June. Prof Nix said the building was expected to be occupied by July next year.

Thai initiative paying dividends

For the record and as a postscript to the story of the pioneering physics workshop in Thailand (*ANU Reporter*, 17

February 1999) — the original visit to the ANU of those academics in Thailand universities involved in this initiative was not as part of an official delegation. It was a study tour for senior academic administrators organised by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation, the Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED) and the Centre for Educational Development and Academic Methods (CEDAM) in 1997.

The study tour arose from discussions between myself and the then Director of RIHED, Dr Tong-in (now

Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of University Affairs) following a conference on university education hosted by RIHED and the University of Chulalongkorn in 1996.

I am very pleased to see that this initiative has led to productive follow-up both in Physics and for the National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the National Thai Studies Centre in making the original visit so successful.

Margot Pearson
Director, CEDAM

Nothing to support sub-heading

One never knows who to blame for misleading headlines — the writer or the editor — so let me just bring one to your attention, without blaming anyone specific.

Shelly Simonds's piece on Deborah Cobb-Clark's study (*ANU Reporter*, 17 February) carried the headline "Women 'less likely' to be promoted", which properly reflected much of what was said in the article.

However, there was also a sub-heading: "RSSS study reveals significant discrimination".

There are numerous factors that

may determine one's promotion prospects. Productivity is one; discrimination is another.

Dr Cobb-Clark speculated, implicitly, that women's overall productivity was reduced by virtue of them taking on greater responsibilities than their husbands for looking after small children.

But no evidence was presented in the article of discrimination against women.

Ross H. McLeod
Indonesia Project

VC's VIEW

VSU — a serious threat

It is unusual for me to devote two consecutive columns in the *ANU Reporter* to the same subject and this indicates its seriousness.

The *Higher Education Legislation Amendment Bill 1999* reveals the extent of the threat posed by the government's voluntary student unionism policy to many services ANU students currently take for granted.

In his second reading speech, Education Minister David Kemp stated: "Choice about which goods and services they purchase is something expected by Australians. The compulsory general service fee charged on most Australian campuses requires students, as a condition of enrolment, to pay for services they may not want to use."

However, at ANU, the requirement is not for students to pay for services that they may not want to use but to pay a reasonable share of the cost of providing services they may want or need to use at some time during the course of their studies. Most of these services must be put in place on a community basis if students are to have a real choice of accessing them when wanted or needed.

The Government collects taxes and local governments collect rates to pay for services which people may not want now, but which they may want or need at some time in the future. This concept underlies the Government's revenue collection.

Making such payment voluntary does not lead to accurate measurement of the value attached to services. The individual often appreciates counselling or safety net services only when the need for them arises.

The safety net element is strong in the services provided by the General Services Fee (GSF). For example, far from creating an obstacle to higher education for students on low in-

DVC announces new Equity awards

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Richards, has announced the establishment of an annual *Equity and Diversity Award* (for areas) and up to two annual *Certificates in Recognition of Exceptional Performance in Equity and Diversity* (for individuals).

The award and certificates recognise the University's commitment to the development of a culture that encourages participation for both academic and general staff in activities and initiatives that incorporate EEO and diversity principles and practices.

The *Equity and Diversity Award* will be directed to a particular work area within the University that has made the most outstanding contribution towards progress in equal opportunity, or has achieved significant success in the promotion of an environment for staff where human diversity is valued.

The award will consist of a wall plaque, citing the reason(s) for selection, plus an allocation of \$4000 to support and encourage further equity and diversity initiatives.

The certificates for individuals will be awarded to those people who "champion" the principles of equity and diversity in the workplace.

The certificates will be signed by the Vice-Chancellor and will reflect work practices and performance which has exhibited a very high level of commitment to equity and/or diversity principles.

Recipients of the certificates will be highly regarded in both promotion and future Work and Performance Review processes.

Further information, application forms and judging criteria can be found at <http://www.anu.edu.au/hr/awards.html>



comes, the ANU's current system provides access to accommodation bursaries that are of particular benefit to students on low incomes. This is especially valuable for students from rural Australia, an area experiencing more than its fair share of economic hardship.

Some students will be honest and voluntarily pay for services. Others will choose not to pay for them but nevertheless come along for the free ride from time to time. It may be possible to control access to enclosed venues but for many on-campus facilities this cannot be done. In any event, it creates a them-and-us system of access and exclusion at odds with the egalitarian principles the Minister espouses in arguing that the GSF discriminates against students on low incomes. Low-income students would be faced with exclusion on a daily basis from facilities they will not be able to afford. Confining access to voluntary fee payers will restrict access to those who are better off because funding from the lower base will increase individual costs.

Few students find the ANU GSF of \$180 impossible to meet — and if they do experience difficulty, the ANU Student Association and the University jointly provide undergraduate student interest-free loans repayable at the student's convenience.

What the GSF recognises is that entry to the University is about more than simply the purchase of course modules off the shelf. It is about entry into a community. The GSF is how the community provides for joint facilities — just as rates and taxes function in the community at large.

At the ANU, the GSF is administered by a representative group of people, a Council Committee, just as taxes and rates are administered by a representative group of people. The Committee determines the distribu-

tion of the GSF in accordance with the provision in the ANU Act that requires all fees and all other money received by the University to be applied by Council solely for the purposes of the University. The process is a transparent one in which any individual can register objections.

The GSF is fully audited. Of the ANU Students' Association's \$398,000 total budget, \$386,000 is drawn from the GSF. The Association spends \$124,600 on staffing and administration while only \$85,000 is spent on clubs and societies, which students are free to join or not as they see fit. The clubs and societies are also properly budgeted and their funds allocated in a similar way to those of the student associations themselves. In the case of the Postgraduate and Research Students' Association (PARSA), \$128,650 of its total expenditure of \$134,126 came from the GSF. Staffing and administration cost \$67,083. Both organisations are run efficiently, responsibly and frugally. Both provide a range of important support services for students right across the spectrum of campus life.

The arguments in the second reading speech against the collection of fees not directly related to educational courses are not relevant to ANU. That is bad enough. But the Bill threatens to destroy a good model. What the Government should focus on is models that ensure that students will be able to exercise their choices fully and sufficiently when they need services. It should not insist that they only access those services that they have had the means to purchase in full through choices made in advance.

Deane Terrell

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ANU Public Affairs Division

Editor: Sean Daly
email: Editor.ANU.Reporter@anu.edu.au

Reporter: Tania Cutting
email: reporter@anu.edu.au

Science Reporter: Teresa Belcher
email: science.reporter@anu.edu.au

Public Affairs Division,
1 Block, Old Admin Area,
The Australian National University,
Canberra ACT 0200.

Editorial enquiries: 02 6249 4171
Facsimile: 02 6249 5568

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Address letters to:
Editor, The *ANU Reporter*,
1 Block, Old Admin Area,
ANU, ACT, 0200.
Fax: (02) 6249 5568
Email: Editor.ANU.Reporter@anu.edu.au

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The Buttery has closed for business, but the Cellar Café is now offering a delicious selection of fresh gourmet bagels, focaccia, lavache rolls and sandwiches. Fillings include smoked salmon, Spanish onion, capers and cream cheese bagel, or roast capsicum, sundried tomato, eggplant and camembert focaccia. Varieties change daily and orders may be made by 10.30am with Chris Ext 5289.

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Disused bases threaten Antarctic

By TERESA BELCHER

The seemingly unspoilt landscape and unique wildlife of the Antarctic could suffer from major contamination arising from past expeditions and abandoned bases of the late 1950s, ANU Technical Officer, Mr Garry Mayo, claims.

Mr Mayo, Head Technical Officer at the Department of Botany and Zoology, recently undertook a five-month posting as the Laboratory Manager at Casey, where he was responsible for the management and functioning of the laboratories. Much of his work was focused on the problems with chemical handling in the Antarctic.

"In the Antarctic, there are potential problems arising from chemical use where the disposal services we routinely use in Australia are just not available," Mr Mayo said. "A considerable effort is required to prevent chemicals entering the environment and indeed dealing with a legacy arising from past expeditions in the 50s and 60s."

One example is the abandoned Wilkes Base, which was built in 1957 by the United States and passed to Australia in 1959. Mr Mayo said the site has many food containers, fuel drums (some of which have leaked) and a large scattered rubbish tip. Much of this material has been buried by blizzards and is only accessible during the short summer melt.

Mr Mayo also worked with the Antarctic Division's Human Impacts Group on a monitoring program to assess the heavy metal concentration of Antarctic bivalves.

Researchers from the Antarctic Division are now discussing possible future collaborations with Mr Mayo. "There is some strong interest in trying to get me involved in some of the environmental impact work at the old tip at Wilkes Base, particularly from a chemical handling view. I can also see many wider opportunities for the ANU in this area," he said.

With the growing interest in the Antarctic by the tourism industry, there are significant decisions to be made



Photo supplied by Garry Mayo

Cold comfort: Field training included the building of shelters.

about the clean-up, management and restoration of historic sites and whether they should be classified as heritage sites, Mr Mayo believes.

Modern workers take far greater care in the storage and transport of chemicals and the general impact of all work on the Antarctic.

"With all the outdoor work, the experiments have to be designed to take into account what the environmental impacts would be for the chemicals," Mr Mayo said.

His trip included an initial field-training exercise in Tasmania and a voyage on *The Polar Bird* past Mawson, Davis and Casey Stations — during which 17-metre waves crashed over the boat and the ship became trapped in pack ice on several occasions.

During his training and work he saw unique Antarctic wildlife, survived 100-knot blizzards, used GPS tracking and radar to locate buried work sites, and learnt to build igloos.

Beazley praises new ANU book on India

Federal Opposition leader Kim Beazley visited the ANU recently to launch a new book, *Unfinished Journeys: India File From Canberra*, edited by Debjani Ganguly and Kavita Nandan of the ANU's Department of English and Theatre Studies in the Faculty of Arts.

The book, originally conceived as a commemorative volume for the golden jubilee of India's independence in 1997, is a collection of essays on the process of nation building.

Mr Beazley has a long and continuing association with the subcontinent, which began when he visited the country as an undergraduate student to do his honours research in the Gandhian Non-Cooperation movement. He also wrote a dissertation on superpower competition in the Indian Ocean region while at Oxford in the 1970s.

At the launch, Mr Beazley said he was encouraged to see the publication of books such as *Unfinished Journeys* that he believed promoted contact. He said it was regretful that Australia and India had not devel-



Photo: John Tucker

Indian connection: Opposition Leader Kim Beazley at the launch of *Unfinished Journeys* with (from left) editors Debjani Ganguly, Kavita Nandan and Vice-Chancellor Deane Terrell.

oped better ties and highlighted a section in the book, written by ANU Professor Alison Broinowski, that mentioned frequent meetings between past

Prime Ministers Sir Robert Menzies and Jawaharlal Nehru.

Mr Beazley said he found the book fascinating, especially the many small

details included in the essays, and believed it would be a great contribution to rebuilding relations between the two countries.

Library boosts PC services

The ANU Library has installed a number of new PCs to enhance the delivery of electronic resources. The newly installed PCs include Pentium II processors, high-resolution 17-inch screens and multimedia capability.

To assist with the amounts of data being downloaded from electronic resources, some of the machines have "zip" drives and all allow saving onto a user's file-server. The new machines have been installed in all of the Library buildings, including Siding Springs.

Of particular importance for users is the one-stop-integrated database facility providing access to a significant number of the Library's databases by a simple web page viewing screen.

The Library presently licences access to 123 databases and con-

nection to the information databases has been improved with a "smart" integrated browser-based entry point.

Behind the scenes the Library has upgraded its database servers to provide a seamless link to different database material, a move to simplify access to information for users.

E-mail fast-lane machines have also been installed near the entrance to each of the main Library buildings, providing a quick-access facility for users to readily keep in touch through electronic mail.

During 1999 the Library will continue providing access to electronic information particularly through web enhancements.

Information about the new facilities is available at service points in each building.

MTAA sponsors prizes for ANU public policy students

ANU Public Policy students will be in the running for new annual prizes and bursaries, following an agreement between the University and the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA).

It is the first time a major association has decided to financially support a series of prizes and bursaries in a single discipline.

The MTAA — representing the retail, service and repair sectors of the Australian automotive industry — will fund a number of prizes in the Master of Public Policy, the Bachelor of Arts (Public Policy), bursaries for the Master's program and the Australian National Internship Program.

"Public policy studies is obviously a key area for the ANU, located as we are in the seat of national government," ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor

Deane Terrell said at the signing of an agreement between the organisations. "The support of the MTAA will enable us to encourage students to aspire to our ideals of excellence in this important field."

The awards will be known as "The Presidents of the Motor Trades Association of Australia Awards".

Mr Michael Delaney, Executive Director of the MTAA, said his organisation reached every community in Australia and members were acutely aware of the grassroots effects of public policy.

"This is an important investment for the future," Mr Delaney said. "Our members employ over 226,000 Australians and our members collectively turnover over \$77 billion annually. Sound, well thought-out public policy is in everyone's best interests."

IN BRIEF

University Librarian Colin Steele has been invited to give the keynote speech (funded by the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries) on Coordination of Australia's Academic Libraries and Information Needs at a conference in Dublin later this month. He will also meet with international digital vendors before attending the American Association of College and Research Libraries Association meeting in Detroit and the Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance meeting in San Diego (funded by the Luce Foundation).

Professor Ann Sefton, University of Sydney Professor of Physiology and Associate Dean, Curriculum Development in the Faculty of Medicine, yesterday gave a public seminar on new approaches to teaching and learning. Prof Sefton won the 1998 National Teaching Award for the Use of Flexible Learning Approaches. Her visit was sponsored by the Centre for Academic and Educational Methods (CEDAM).

Professor James Richardson of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, retired at the end of 1998 after 23 years at ANU. Prof Richardson graduated from Oxford in 1961 and joined Harvard's Center for International Affairs as a Research Associate for two years, followed by another two years at Oxford before joining the British Foreign Office's Arms Control and Disarmament Research Unit in 1965. In 1967 he came to Australia, lecturing at the University of Sydney from 1967-1974. From 1975-85, Prof Richardson was Professor of Political Science in the Faculty of Arts at ANU and Head of the Political Science Department from 1975-81. In 1985, Prof Richardson moved to International Relations in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, where he remained until his retirement.

Odense University in Denmark will host a scholarly festival tomorrow (25 March) and Friday to honour ANU Professor Anna Wierzbicka, holder of a personal chair in Linguistics in the Faculty of Arts, and recipient of the 1996 Humboldt Prize. The "Anna Wierzbicka Festival" has been organised by scholars in Europe. Prof Wierzbicka will next week take part in, and give a lecture at, a launch in Warsaw of her latest book, *Language, Mind, and Culture*, just published in Polish. Another book by Prof Wierzbicka, *Semantic Universals*, was published this month in Russian, in Moscow.

French Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Dominique Gerard, will open the exhibition *Australian Painters—Seeing Cézanne* at the ANU's Drill Hall Gallery on 1 April. The exhibition presents about 60 works by some of Australia's most significant artists working during the period from the first World War until the 1960s, and for whom Cézanne was a profound influence. It presents both a chronological and thematic display of still lifes with interiors, portraits with bathers, and landscape painting by Australian artists influenced and challenged by Cézanne and provides insight into the evolution of modernism in Australian art practice.

New course asks the big questions

By TERESA BELCHER

What happened before the Big Bang? Is there life on other planets? What is science and why do we believe it? These are just a few of the questions posed by "The BIG Questions", a new course offered at the ANU for the first time last year.

The second-semester course aims to excite, challenge and stimulate both science and non-science students by discussing broad science issues. Students are asked to think about fundamental science and to question things they have taken for granted.

"The BIG Questions" was the idea of former Dean of Science, Professor Rick Pashley, who noticed the wide interest in popular science books but that no course catered for the same kind of interests and issues. It is coordinated by Dr Craig Savage of the Department of Physics and Theoretical Physics, Dr Sue Stocklmayer from the National Centre for Public Awareness of Science, and Dr Paul Francis who holds a joint appointment between the Department of Physics and the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics.

"The course covers a whole range of things that are interesting," Dr Savage said. "One of the things that often excites people is astronomical kinds of things, but also the issue of culture and gender in science. These kinds of general aspects of science — how they fit into people's lives."

The first course last year investigated four main areas — philosophy of science, fundamental physics, astronomy and constructs of science.

"One of the ideas was to try and explore what science is — which actually is something we don't generally do in a science course," Dr Savage said. "What is science? Why should we believe it? How do we know its right? What are we doing?"

"A typical first-year science course is all about closed questions — it is about questions whose answers are in a text book somewhere — whereas this was all about questions we don't know the answers to."

The assessment was quite different from conventional courses. One of the assessment items was to contribute to a computer-based bulletin board. "The students are free to discuss, comment and contribute their own ideas to this bulletin board, and they did, in considerable numbers," Dr Stocklmayer said.

Another section of the course investigates some fundamental physics looking at quantum mechanics, the origin of forces, and elementary particles. Paul Francis' segment on Life in the Universe had as its assessment, the design of an alien lifeform. "What we were trying to do was show people that there are constraints on how life must be," Dr Savage said. "The idea was to come up with a radically new design for life, but something that was nonetheless reasonable."

Students were also required to design a Web page. "Part of their education as scientists should be not only that they learn just facts and ideas but also that they learn certain skills that will help them later on in life," Dr Savage said.

"I think a lot of people got a shock as to what exactly was going on in this course," Dr Savage said.

Indonesia faces huge task to hold elections

By TANIA CUTTING

The June elections in Indonesia will be a massive logistical exercise that will make the Sydney Olympics pale in comparison, Michael Maley from the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) told a recent ANU seminar on the forthcoming Indonesian election.

"The election is being conducted under a new voting system, under new electoral laws and by a new administrative body which is yet to be appointed, and there are only around 90-odd days until polling day," Mr Maley said.

"You are looking at an operation that is going to be massively bigger than the Olympic Games in Sydney. How would anyone organise the Olympics in 91 days?"

Mr Maley was one of six speakers, including the Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Sastrohandoyo Wiryono, at the Indonesian Election seminar organised by the Centre for Democratic Institutions earlier this month.

The seminar focused on the challenges and opportunities presented by the Indonesian election and the role of the international community, including the part the AEC is playing, to help the massive operation run smoothly.

"The whole thing has to be seen as a fundamentally Indonesian responsibility and operation," Mr Maley said.

"Where the international community can help is providing some system which can be implemented to expedite some parts of the process. The Australian Electoral Commission has identified four key areas which it sees as critical in terms of trying to make the process work."

These included establishing a process to determine where the polling booths would be, the layout and configuration of the polling stations, producing and distributing ballot papers and compiling the results.

Mr Maley told the seminar audi-



Photo: Darren Boyd, Coombs Photography

Tough task: Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Sastrohandoyo Wiryono, addresses the Indonesian election seminar.

ence that one of the biggest problems facing the Indonesians was the sheer number of polling booths being considered. For federal elections in Australia, the AEC sets up about 8,000 booths. The Indonesian authorities are considering 200,000 to 320,000.

"Doing the mental arithmetic, and figuring out how long a list of just the names of those things would be, you get a sense of the scope of the operation," Mr Maley said.

Mr Maley said there were other critical factors that would influence the structuring of the electoral process, such as the number of political parties contesting the election.

"Three parties contested the last election, 48 are contesting this one. Think about that in terms of the size and distribution of the ballot papers," Mr Maley said.

"We are also looking at simultaneous elections for three levels of government, so there may even be three ballot papers."

The Indonesian authorities are facing two major challenges, Mr Maley said. One is to meet the deadline. The

second is to run a credible operation that, in itself, will involve a substantial voter education campaign to convince the people that this election will be different to past experiences.

"In Indonesia the people have been through voting processes and you can see the cynicism about the way it has been perceived in the past," Mr Maley said. "So, firstly, you have to get the people to believe in the actual election. You then have the problem of getting them to believe in this particular election."

According to Mr Maley, the Indonesian election will be the largest and most complex logistical operation ever undertaken in that country and quite possibly the largest one ever undertaken in South East Asia.

But, he said, if the Indonesians can pull it off it will be one of the biggest achievements in the pursuit of democracy in the world.

Equipment grants seminar

The ANU's Research Services Office (RSO) is holding a seminar next month to advise applicants for the University's and Australian Research Council (ARC) equipment grants, on how to frame their applications.

This year, 26 ANU projects were awarded a total of \$7.4 million from the programs, with the ANU's Major Equipment (ME) Program contributing \$2.9 million towards the cost of 24 projects and the ARC's Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) Program contributing \$4.3 million towards the cost of 11 projects.

The seminar for next year's grants, to be held on 8 April in the Research School of Chemistry Lecture Room, will include Professor Joan Dawes, Deputy Chair of the RIEF, as guest speaker.

Successful projects this year included Dr Chennupati Jagadish's Metal Organic Chemical Vapour Deposition Reactor at the Research School of Physical Sciences and Engineering which received \$330,000 from ME and \$1.1 million from RIEF.

Professor John White's study of molecular film structure and dynamics, a collaborative venture with the University of Queensland and the

Australian Synchrotron Research Program, will benefit from a millisecond "white beam" x-ray reflectometer supported by ME (\$30,000) and RIEF (\$100,000).

At the John Curtin School of Medical Research a multi-photon fluorescence microscopy facility will enhance studies on live cells, for which Dr David Jans was awarded \$67,000 by ME and \$126,000 by RIEF. Up to five times more sensitive than conventional microscopy, this facility will also be used by scientists from other areas.

Professor John Moore at the Research School of Information Sciences and Engineering was awarded \$80,000 by ME and \$492,000 by RIEF for a National Experimental Field Robotics facility — a collaboration by the ANU and the Universities of Sydney and Wollongong.

Applications for funding from both programs in 2000 close with the Research Services Office on Monday 17 May. Contact Judith Pabian at the RSO on 6249 4650 or see the RSO web site at <http://www.anu.edu.au/rso/>

Applicants should register for the 8 April seminar on 6249 8464 (email Carol.Sherman@anu.edu.au).

EVENTS

Professor Jim Allen will give the 1999 Mulvaney Lecture on "Hunter-gatherers as Colonisers: The First Humans East of Wallace's Line" at Manning Clark Lecture Theatre 1 tonight, 24 March, at 8pm. Prof. Allen was the Foundation Professor of Archaeology at La Trobe University. From 1993 to 1998 he held an Australian Research Council Senior Research Fellowship. He is currently a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Archaeology and Natural History, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the ANU. For further information contact ANU Public Affairs on 6249 2229.

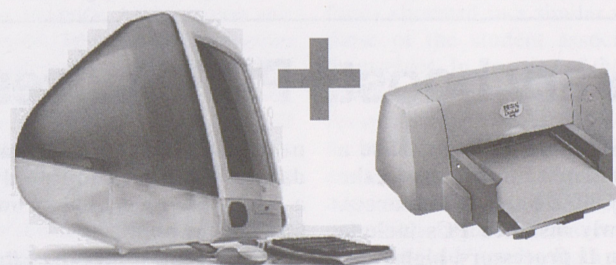
ACT Minister for Children's, Youth & Family Services, Bill Stefaniak, will attend a 30th Birthday Lunch at the ANU's University Preschool and Child Care Centre at 12 noon on 30 March. For details contact Norma Williams on 6249 4113.

Professor Joseph Camilleri, Professor of Politics at La Trobe University, will present a seminar on "The US-Japan-China Triangle: From Hegemony to Complex Independence" as part of the Millennium Seminars on Asia-Pacific Security. The lecture will be held in Seminar Room A, Coombs Building on Friday 23 April at 11am. For details contact Karen Smith on 6243 8555.

The National Portrait Gallery and the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research will present a one-day seminar on portraiture at the Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre on Saturday 27 March starting at 9am. Reflecting themes in the National Portrait Gallery exhibition *The Possibilities of Portraiture*, the seminar will be followed by a reception at the gallery in Old Parliament House, and an exhibition walk-through.

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Sane argument for reasonable immigration

The tide has recently turned on immigration. Until last year those who supported a planned intake at or above the current level were being attacked from all sides.

The Howard Government responded to these attacks by reducing the overall numbers. But consistent with Coalition policy for the past 10 years, they also shifted the emphasis away from family reunion and towards a more "economically rational" basis.

This treated immigrants as factors of production who would add skills and capital to the Australian economy.

Like its Labor predecessors, the current government continued to permit the entry of a small allocation of humanitarian immigrants and a large, growing and uncontrolled number of New Zealanders. Since 1996, these latter have exceeded the British in-



Immigration and Australia

Stephen Castles, William Foster, Robyn Iredale and Glenn Withers

Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1998 (\$29.95) (pb)

take for the first time since 1788.

While official policy shifted fairly gently, there were extremist attacks that gained considerable credibility in conditions of high unemployment and concern about the environment.

These argued, most powerfully through One Nation, that Australia was being swamped by Asians — or very strongly, as with many conservationists and ecologists, that Australia was "full up".

Both extremes argued that they were

unjustly accused of being racist when all they wanted to do was to "save Australia", presumably from itself. However, politics being what it is, the extremes increasingly met, with One Nation shifting its argument towards defending the environment, while some previous activists in Australians Against Further Immigration or Australians for an Ecologically Sustainable Population ended up as allies of Pauline Hanson or Graeme Campbell.

All this was very "political" and knockabout. But anyone who thinks that immigration policy can be decided purely on rational grounds is living in a strange world. This study is supremely rational. My only major criticism is that it tends to ignore political realities. Otherwise, it should be read by everyone who yearns for the "rational debate" which everyone, from the prime minister downwards, says they want but which we never seem to have. The authors were all closely associated with the Bureau of Immigration Research, which the Howard Government abolished in 1996 in a spiteful fit. Since then the running in the debate has been made by Pauline Hanson, Paul Sheehan, Tim Flannery, Mark O'Connor and other unduly excited opponents of immigration. Castles, Foster, Iredale and Withers are not as emotional as these popular commenta-

tors are. But they make more sense.

The economic arguments for continuing immigration are well documented by now and are presented in a comprehensible form by Glenn Withers and William Foster. These are: that planned immigration adds to the human capital of the host society; extends the market and thus employment; and produces a more cosmopolitan and flexible labour force. These arguments do not necessarily apply to the less tightly controlled intake of the United States or to the mass recruitment of British immigrants in the past, which had political as much as economic motives. There is no doubt that immigrants go towards the most viable sectors of the economy and thus avoid Tasmania and South Australia, which consistently have the highest levels of unemployment. These macroeconomic arguments may not have much political force for the unemployed who see "others" in jobs which they feel belong to "natives". Nor do they apply as equally to humanitarian immigrants or to reunited relatives. One policy area that all governments and most academics have ignored is the persistent failure to settle refugees after they arrive. This is touched on too briefly in this study, despite Iredale's major contribution to this problem area in other research.

The great value of this book is that it brings together two economists and two sociologists who have a long and fruitful association with immigration studies and who are able to transcend disciplinary boundaries. They survey the literature in a useful way for students wishing to go beyond the book itself, following in the

tradition of two critical bibliographies produced by the Bureau of Immigration Research in the past. All four agree that immigration at or about the present level is beneficial to Australia in many ways. Some of these benefits cannot be measured, but the authors prefer those that can be.

Critics will argue that none of them are natural scientists or ecologists. But their chapters on population, resources and the environment are sane and sensible. They do not accept the maximalist view that Australia's resources are without limits, which a handful of extremely irrational "economic rationalists" seem to believe. But they have little time for those like Tim Flannery or Professor Recher who believe the sky will fall if we do not get back to the population of fifty years ago as a preliminary for planning a century ahead.

The population of Australia will rise by at least 4 million in the next 20 years whatever happens. It seems very sensible to plan society, economy and environment at least to take account of this inescapable fact. This well-argued, well-documented and thoroughly sane book should be a valuable weapon in the hands of those who want Australia to prosper as it always has done in the past — by admitting a reasonable level of immigrants into an economy capable of absorbing and using them.

James Jupp
Centre for Immigration and
Multicultural Studies, Research
School of Social Sciences

ANU CONFERRING

www.anu.edu.au/pad/graduation.html

APRIL CONFERRING CEREMONIES

The Chancellor, Professor Peter Baume AO, invites members of the University staff to take part in the academic processions at the

Conferring of Degrees Ceremonies

in the Llewellyn Hall, Canberra School of Music

THURSDAY 22 APRIL AT 10.00AM

The Faculty of Economics and Commerce and
The Research School of Social Sciences

Speaker: Her Excellency Mrs Genta Holmes, US Ambassador to Australia

THURSDAY 22 APRIL AT 2.00 PM

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology
The Faculty of Science and Science Research Schools and NCEPH

Speaker: Dr A C Bennett, Pro-Chancellor

FRIDAY 23 APRIL AT 10.00AM

The Faculty of Asian Studies, The Faculty of Law,
Asia Pacific School of Economic Management and
The Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies

Speaker: Professor David Vines (Oxford), Adjunct Professor, APSEM

FRIDAY 23 APRIL AT 2.00PM

The Faculty of Arts

Speaker: Father Frank Brennan

The Council Medal for General Staff Excellence will be also be presented.

The ceremonies are followed by refreshments in the quadrangle at University House

To RSVP for 1999 April Conferring Ceremonies, please fill in your details below and fax to: **Anna Damiano, Public Affairs Division, fax no. (02) 6249 5568.**

I will join the procession for the ceremony on (please tick)

- Thursday 22 April at 10.00am Friday 23 April at 10.00am
 Thursday 22 April at 2.00pm Friday 23 April at 2.00pm

Name _____ Phone _____

Department _____

If you do not want to join the procession you will have to get tickets to sit in the auditorium. These are allocated at the very last minute after the graduands and their guests have taken up their tickets.



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PA0335



Photo: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

Glass class: Award winners (from left) Jane Morrissey, Jacqui Gropp, Mel Douglas, Nicole Chesney and Kirstie Rae.

The Canberra School of Art's Glass Workshop recently scooped all five awards at the biennial Association of Australian Glass Artists (Ausglass) conference.

The 11th Ausglass Conference, in Wagga Wagga, included 165 people from across Australia, New Zealand and the US. Glass Workshop teacher Kirstie Rae won the Vicki Torr Memorial Fund Members' Choice Award while former

Workshop student Jane Morrissey received The Emerging Artist's Award. Another alumnus, Jacqueline Gropp, won the professional category of the Thomas Foundation award while third-year Glass Workshop student Mel Douglas won the student category. Nicole Chesney, a MAVA research student at the Workshop, won the Ausglass Conference Student Award.

WHO WROTE IT?

Outside on the square it had stopped raining and the moon was trying to get through the clouds. There was a wind blowing. The military band was playing and the crowd was massed on the far side of the square where the fireworks specialist and his son were trying to send up fire balloons. A balloon would start up jerkily, on a great bias, and be torn by the wind or blown against the houses of the square. Some fell into the crowd. The magnesium

flared and the fireworks exploded and chased about in the crowd. There was no one dancing in the square. The gravel was too wet.

Jennifer Corby won last issue's Who Wrote It, identifying the excerpt from *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. The first entry identifying the above piece and its author, drawn after the close of entries on Monday, 29 March, will receive a \$30 voucher from University House.

ANU to host major chess tournament

The ANU will host Australia's premier chess tournament, the Doeberl Cup, at Fenner Hall from 2-5 April.

Last year the Cup attracted a record of more than 200 players, and the Champion was International Master Michael Gluzman from Melbourne.

This year the Doeberl Cup will be divided into three sections, with an internationally rated Open Division for the first time. This gives upcoming Australian players the opportunity to play top-level competition and become internationally recognised.

With recent winners including Australia's best player, Grandmaster Ian Rogers, and Australia's only other Grandmaster, Darryl Johansen, entered again this year, the 37th Open is expected to be more competitive than ever.

The event is run by the ACT Chess Association and will have cash prizes totalling \$10,000. The Open section this year has a first prize of \$2,200 in a prize pool of over \$5,000.

The Major and Minor divisions will feature beginner and amateur players, right up to strong players from around Australia. Last year's Major section was won by 1998 ACT Champion Dr Andrey Bliznyuk from the ANU. For entry or other information contact Roger McCart: 6251 6190(h), 6249 2041(w) or email: Roger.McCart@anu.edu.au.

Twin institution with two distinct missions

In 1997 the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) officially turned 25 and simultaneously underwent the most far-reaching change in its history. With the advent of the Australian Research Centre's awarding to the ANU a Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR), under the Directorship of Professor Nicholas Thomas (the first such award in the humanities field), the HRC was transformed into a twin institution.

The HRC and CCR, although operating as autonomous research centres in the humanities, became closely affiliated — we share an Executive Officer, Julie Gorrell (winner of the most recent Vice-Chancellor's award for administrative staff excellence); a fractional academic appoint-

ment; a new journal *Humanities Research*; and several conferences and visiting fellowships.

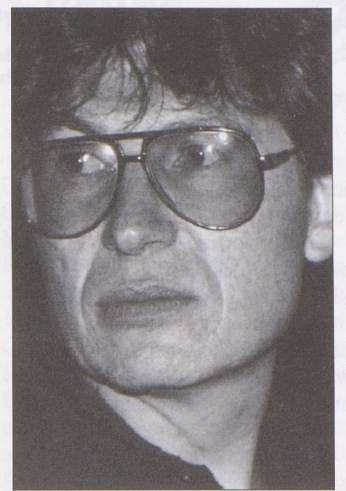
We have come to view the two centres as functioning something like the twin hulls of a catamaran, with the joint administration providing the centreplanking and keel. Within this overall framework each centre has distinct but complementary missions.

The HRC aims to be a catalyst for national and international research, debate and policymaking in the broad field of the humanities and works to achieve this primarily through a competitive, thematic annual conference and visiting fellows' program. Our success is attested by such tributes as Oxford University's public announcement in 1997 of its intention to develop a humanities research centre of the standing of the HRC.

The CCR aims to foster longer-term research projects, collaborations and graduate teaching programs within a more tightly defined, if interdisciplinary, field of visual and cultural history. The CCR lays particular emphasis on four programs — comparative colonial history, art history, ethnographic film, and contemporary art and culture — as well as on a few large-scale collaborative projects like the *Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art and Culture* and the multimedia Captain Cook project, but a very wide range of individual research interests are also accommodated, including Betty Churcher's dazzling recent ABC art series, *Take Five*.

Both the HRC and the CCR are independent University Centres, operating administratively outside the Faculties and the Institute of Ad-

vanced Studies but having close and valued links with each of these sectors. The HRC/CCR orientation is outward to the extent that both centres stage numerous collaborations with national cultural institutions within Canberra and the nation as a whole. Both centres pursue external grants energetically. At the same time they seek to stimulate research, intellectual exchange and teaching interactions with colleagues in the Faculties, the Institute and the university world at large. We are acutely conscious that at a time when teaching staff, in particular, are finding less and less time and resources for thinking, researching and writing, centres like the HRC can provide crucial opportunities for intellectual revitalisation. Staff from all quarters of the University are urged to apply



through our annual competitive programs for conference support and/or for three-month annual Visiting Fellowships.

Iain McCalman
Professor and Director, HRC

Unique journal keeps Centre at forefront of field

The HRC is a world-renowned leader in its field and one of the best examples of why it is so successful is its unique publication, *Humanities Research*.

The journal, a collaborative effort with the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR) and now in its third year of publication, is the only one of its kind in Australia and shares the international stage with one other similar volume published in the United States. Acting Editor, Dr John Docker, said the journal reflected the status afforded to the HRC and played an important role in the ongoing recognition of both institutions.

"The journal goes a long way to promoting the HRC's presence," Dr Docker said.

"It connects the HRC to the wider world of scholarship and is something we are very proud of. It also brings the HRC and CCR closer together by pooling energy, resources and creativity."

Humanities Research replaced the *HRC Bulletin* in 1997 after it was felt the Centre had outgrown the newsletter publication that had provided information to Fellows, visitors and former visitors. However, Dr Docker said the *HRC Bulletin* did not disappear entirely but became an integral part of the new journal.

"The journal was essentially an expansion of the newsletter," Dr Docker said.

"It was decided to expand it to have a journal which is very distinctive because it talks about very general issues to do with the humanities. So, instead of a very specialist journal that might talk specifically about history or literature or art or sociology, this one covers the spectrum of the humanities as a whole."

And that is why *Humanities Research* is unique. As a reflection of the HRC, the journal exists to encourage work that crosses disciplinary boundaries. It also presents original research by important scholars to a broad

humanities audience which, by all accounts, is appreciative of the opportunity to engage in more general humanities discussion.

"I think people think it is an extraordinary breath of fresh air to have a journal that is addressed to a general humanities audience and it doesn't use language that is too tied to one particular discipline," Dr Docker said.

"The essays are written in a much more general, interesting and entertaining language and they (the authors) can be much more free to speculate about general issues."

"People love the idea of writing for a much more general audience than the narrow audience they would usually write for."

Contributions to the journal come from around the world, a fact reflected in the journal's distribution. Some 2,500 copies of *Humanities Research* are sent free to humanities centres, libraries, universities and interested individuals in 52 countries ranging from Iraq to Jamaica.

Unfortunately with such a large print run, the costs of producing the journal are quite substantial and the financial commitment is becoming too great a burden for the HRC.

As a result, the Centre has decided to drop the number of issues from three to two each year with a view to expanding the publication to include a new section called "Fragments".

"That will be full of all sorts of little interesting quirky pieces like letters, or sometimes an obituary or someone might have a passionate interest in something on which they write a comment piece, or even stories or poems."

"It is unfortunate, but if we go down to two and expand it in terms of the new section, I think that's actually better in a way," Dr Docker said.

Whatever path the HRC decides to travel with *Humanities Research*, there is little doubt the journal will continue to fulfil an important role.

TANIA CUTTING

Oxford companion puts Romantic Age in new light

By TANIA CUTTING

Romanticism is more than just a few male poets and Jane Austen, according to Professor Iain McCalman, HRC Director and General Editor of a new major reference work, *An Oxford Companion to The Romantic Age—British Culture 1776–1832*.

The volume, to be launched in England in July, is one of the few major reference works on modern British culture and history produced outside Britain and has become a flagship for Oxford's Companion series.

"It is unique because it is the first really interdisciplinary work that Oxford University Press published in their prestigious Companion series," Prof McCalman said.

"It is also unique in its structure, which was our own design in fact."

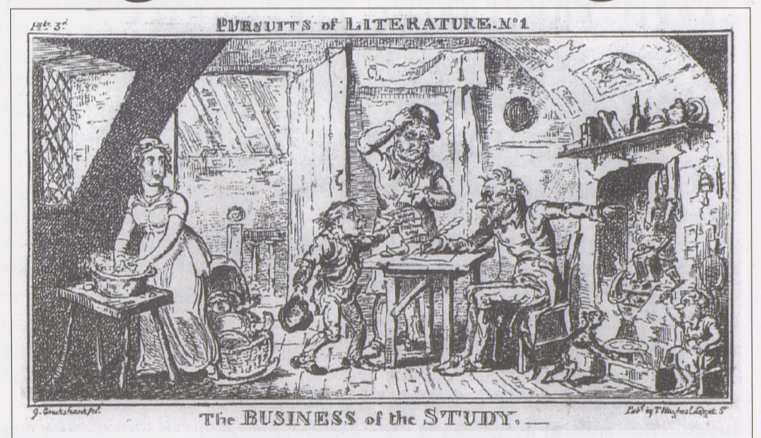
The *Companion*, six years in the making, is divided into two sections. The first half contains 40 short essays by leading scholars on particular subjects such as popular culture and music. These have been cross-referenced so that all the people and events mentioned constitute a separate alphabetical short-reference section in the second half of the book.

"It was quite difficult initially to persuade Oxford to go this way, but since then they have commissioned three others to be done this way," Prof McCalman said.

Another unique aspect of the book is the collection of contributors Prof McCalman persuaded to become involved and the fact that, of the 40 major contributors, not one dropped out.

"Most of the contributors are leading people in the world in their field, which is quite hard to get in a reference work because generally they couldn't be bothered," Prof McCalman said. "We had to persuade them that this was a different kind of operation, that this book was changing the paradigm, so that it was worth being in it."

He said all the contributors — who include Roy Porter, arguably the most famous medical historian in the world; Jerry McGann, America's most distinguished romanticist and Marilyn Butler, one of Britain's leading English literary scholars — were people who felt something uniquely exciting occurred in their fields during the book's period.



Pursuits of Literature: One of the prints in the book, "The business of the study" shows an engraving by the satirist George Cruikshank, showing the hardships of writing for money during the Romantic Age.

"They all feel that Romanticism is a much richer, more complex and often much more anti-canonical phenomenon than most studies have allowed," Prof McCalman said.

He said the book treats romanticism as a period of cultural revolution that swept across all aspects of society.

"One of our arguments is that romanticism, as it is conventionally treated, tends to focus on six male poets and Jane Austen. We want to say rather that something like a cultural revolution occurred in this period, which caught up every field — politics, art, language, architecture, music, design, law and so on."

"It was much bigger, much wider ranging than in the standard literary story. It spread to the colonies and was enormously influenced, if not driven, by people from the provincial and social margins, especially the Welsh, Scots and Irish," Prof McCalman said.

He believes the book, later to be made available as two separate volumes and on CD-Rom, is an important achievement for the HRC. "I think it is crucial for us to take on large collaborative projects, and it is nice to have some major monuments. But on the whole you don't really make money out of these. Our income is our intellectual credibility," Prof McCalman said.

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Demand high for short courses

By TANIA CUTTING

An innovative short-course teaching program offered jointly by the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) and the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR) has become so popular organisers have had to turn students away.

The Visiting Scholars Program (VSP), which commenced last year, has attracted students from around the world and although there is no official accreditation for the program, more than double the number of students have applied for the 20 places available in each course.

The VSP offers three, one-month courses each year for Masters' and PhD students revolving around a particular theme. For example, in April there will be a course on writing about histories and cultures, which will explore new ways of writing in the humanities. Course teachers are often eminent people in the field studied.

David MacDougall from the CCR believes there are three reasons for the overwhelming popularity of the courses. The topics covered, the teachers and guests conducting the courses and the reputation of the two centres, all influence students' decisions to apply to the VSP, he said.

"I think we realised from the start that we had an opportunity to put on a form of graduate teaching that wasn't tied to the academic timetable and it was a chance to create new ways of approaching graduate education," Mr MacDougall said. "I don't think we realised until the success of the first few programs how useful an approach it is, because it is one of the things that has grown in leaps and bounds."

Syrian dig reveals daily life of Greek conquerors

By TERESA BELCHER

For more than a decade, Professor Graeme Clarke, Associate Director of the HRC, has been involved in excavating a site in north Syria on the west bank of the Euphrates River, about 60 kilometres south of the Turkish border.

The site, Jebel Khalid, was a Greek military settlement from the 3rd to 1st Centuries BC, a period coinciding with the Greek occupation in the wake of Alexander the Great's conquest of the area.

"We got a pilot grant in 1986 to test the site to do soundings and we found that it was purely Greek," Prof Clarke said. "What we have been trying to do is see what it would be like to be a Greek colonist coming into a strange land and occupying it. How did they make a living out of it, what was their diet and how did they react with the indigenous population."

Surveying has revealed four kilometres of city wall and nearly 40 interval towers with a huge main gate and an acropolis palace in the centre. "What it turns out to be is a garrison guarding a river crossing. The river is the big highway in this area, so trading went all the way down to the Persian Gulf and out into the Arabian Gulf."

The domestic centre is laid out as a grid. A block of houses has been excavated to provide an insight into the living conditions, diet, domestic arrangements and economic contacts. The cemetery has also been explored to investigate the populations' health, causes of deaths, gender distribution and mortuary practices.

The massive defence structure was constructed to protect against cata-

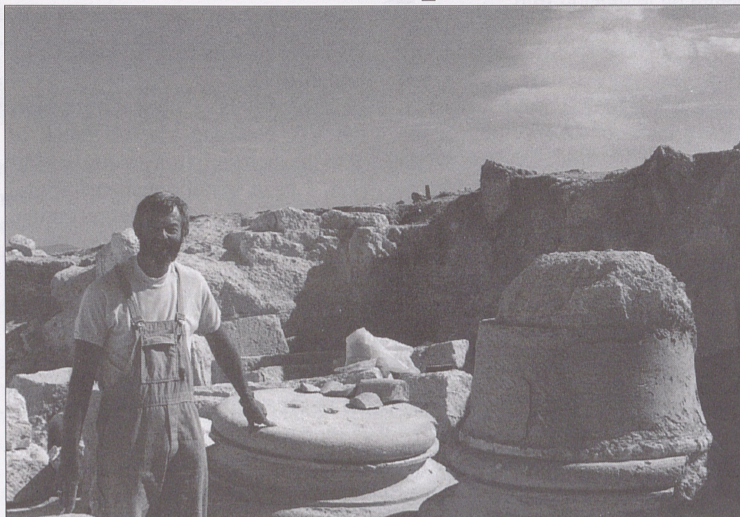


Photo supplied by Professor Graeme Clarke

Desert digs: Professor Graeme Clarke at one of the excavation sites in northern Syria.

pults. "In order to defend yourself against other people with that weaponry you need to put up these huge thick walls which are nearly three metres thick and you need to occupy high ground so that your missiles can keep their siege engines at bay," Prof Clarke said.

The 24-room acropolis palace had two very large reception areas and four kitchens and was designed to house the Governor and his garrison troops.

The site is thought to have been abandoned from 64 BC when the Roman troops came in under Pompey. "The Roman military arrangement

was quite different," Prof Clarke said. "What the Romans tended to do was have their legions way back with a series of watchtowers along the frontier so when the troops get alerted they can go in all directions. This was just too large for them to defend."

Prof Clarke said the dig was all about understanding humanity in its broadest sense. "The HRC is about understanding people and their creative lives and it doesn't matter whether its modern Australian cultural history or whether its ancient history, the techniques for understanding are in many ways the same."

Australia joins worldwide humanities network

Australia will join a worldwide association of humanities centres in July with the establishment of an Australian consortium of humanities centres engineered by the HRC.

The new consortium will mirror and formally link with the American based, Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (CHCI) which has 500 members. It will provide its Australian members with a collective voice for collaborative research, lobbying and policy debate.

HRC Director, Professor Iain McCalman, says the Australian consortium venture is vital to the survival of the scholarly humanities and will assist the country's national intellectual and cultural institutions to flourish.

"One of the aims of the CHCI is to connect up with national cultural institutions and grant bodies in the United States, and the more I've seen

of this, the more important I think it is for us to learn from this model," Prof McCalman said.

"It seems to me the scholarly humanities will, in the future, be relying less and less on government, necessarily so, and we must start to develop strategies that enable us to survive and to flourish."

The CHCI is holding its annual meeting in Brisbane in July. This will be followed by conferences in Canberra during which Prof McCalman will launch the new consortium.

The Australian venture will then look to its American counterpart for practical advice and assistance on establishing resources including an all-encompassing humanities Web site and access to the major American cultural establishments such as the Rockefeller and the Getty Foundations.

TANIA CUTTING

Bequest to boost research program

The constant threat of bigotry and intolerance in societies around the world has prompted a Sydney couple to sponsor work by the HRC on the subject.

Herbert and Valmae Freilich have promised a generous bequest to HRC dedicated work on bigotry and intolerance in society. And although the HRC is yet to receive the bequest, the Freilichs have already provided funds for activities such as the popular annual Freilich Public Lecture and a series of lectures by an eminent scholar every two years.

Once established, the Freilich Foundation's study of bigotry and intolerance will not be isolated to a specific discipline or single example of intolerance. The couple have ensured the Foundation's definition of "bigotry and intolerance" is all-encompassing.

HRC Project Officer, Dr Benjamin Penny, who oversees the program, said the Freilichs are interested not only in the historical study of bigotry and intolerance, but also how they exist in contemporary society and what can be done to eradicate them.

Dr Penny said the bequest allowed the HRC to undertake activities it would otherwise be unable to do. He said although the Freilichs were particularly generous, the issues of bigotry and intolerance would be of grave concern to most people.

"It is the kind of the thing I would have to say any warm-hearted and compassionate human is concerned about and they (the Freilichs) have just put their money where their mouths are," Dr Penny said.

"They have decided that this is something that they want to support and it is important and they are going to use their estate to do that."

The interest from the bequest will be used to establish the Freilich Foundation. It will then support a range of activities the HRC has already identified although not yet set in concrete.

"I think it is fair to say we look on this as a program that will still be going when we are all dead. As the Freilichs point out, bigotry is unlikely to stop. As such, we have taken the decision that it is not of primary importance to get everything off the ground in the first year, instead we are building slowly and solidly for the future," Dr Penny said.

There are plans for a sponsored visit by an individual, such as a journalist, from an area or environment where bigotry and intolerance are prevalent. The HRC would also like to set up an education program for schools and, further in the future, support academic research into the issues.

The Freilichs themselves are also very keen on the Foundation sponsoring exhibitions and small film festivals that highlight various topics related to their interest in bigotry and intolerance.

TANIA CUTTING

ANU EVENTS

www.anu.edu.au

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Supported by ABC Radio 2CN

Wednesday, March 24 at 8.00pm. Manning Clark Lecture Theatre 1, ANU.

The 1999 Mulvaney Lecture

"Hunter-gatherers as coloniers: the first humans east of Wallace's Line"

by Professor Jim Allen

These lectures are free and interested members of the public are invited to attend. Further information from ANU Public Affairs tel 6249 2229.

LITERARY LUNCH

The ANU and ABC Radio 2CN invite you to meet



HUGH MACKAY who will launch his new novel

The Spin (Pan MacMillan)

Wednesday, 31 March 12.30pm. The Hall, University House. Tickets \$25 from ANU Ticketing (02) 6249 5491 or collect from the Box Office, Foyer, Canberra School of Music.

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ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Visiting Fellows; Sabbatical Fellows; Visiting Academic and Conference Visitors.

FACT FILE

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

Humanities Research (three times a year).
Monographs and special issues of journals based on conferences.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Conferences
Seminars (including works-in-progress seminars)
Lectures (including public lectures).

New DVC brings unique expertise to role

Perhaps quite fittingly, the Australian National University's new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Richards, is an expert in the field of remote sensing — reading and interpreting information received from afar. His area of speciality, as an electrical engineer, is in the technology of the gathering process and how the information is extracted from the data gathered.

It is a skill that is bound to come in handy as the DVC. Even though he will receive plenty of information about the ANU directly through his office in the Chancelry, no doubt a lot more will come from other sources. Much of it will be filtered and plenty of it will be distorted — the challenge for Prof Richards is to sift the data for information or disinformation and put it to use.

Not that he is new to this. Before coming to the ANU, Prof Richards was Rector, or chief executive officer, of University College at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Prior to becoming Rector in 1996, he was Deputy-Rector for four years and coincidentally held the Chair in Electrical Engineering at the Academy since 1987. He also had extensive experience as the director of a postgraduate teaching and research centre in remote sensing on the University of New South Wales' main campus at Kensington.

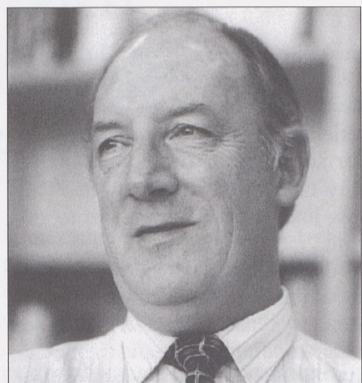
While this previous management experience has been helpful, Prof Richards says it has been a steep learning curve since arriving at the ANU last October.

Since arriving at the ANU late last year, the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Richards, has had plenty to keep him occupied. He tells **Sean Daly** about the challenges of the new position and some of the ongoing issues he is dealing with.

"The ANU is so different from any other university I have ever come across. It's different because of the two sides, because of the Institute and the Faculties, and that difference shows up not just in the structure of the organisation, but also in how things are done — the rules and procedures are not necessarily the same.

"But I must say, even though it is different, it is enormously impressive. One of the first things I did when I arrived here last year was to visit all the faculties and schools and centres and I have to say I was overwhelmed by the end of the tour at the excellence I witnessed."

Prof Richards' DVC role is a new one for the University and stems from recommendations made following a



review of the senior management structure in 1997.

"The new DVC portfolio shadows the VC, covering the full range of activities across the university. In addition, I have specific responsibilities, which include student administration, equity, international education, the research office and long-term IT policy and planning/development.

"The two Pro Vice-Chancellors also report to me; so through them I get a good overview of what is happening on finance, administration and information issues."

Part of his immediate duties includes the monitoring of some significant issues for the ANU and tertiary education.

These include Federal Government plans to introduce Voluntary Student Unionism.

Prof Richards has been working with student association representatives to identify what effect the proposed legislation would have on funding for services now provided through student organisations.

"The other big issue for the University is how the Government is going to respond in terms of research policy."

A government paper on research funding is expected to be issued some time this month and the DVC and the rest of the University executive have

been closely following reports on its progress.

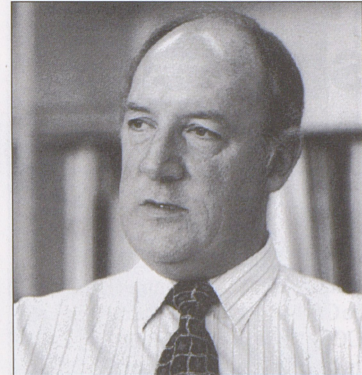
"That will be critical for the ANU because research is roughly 80 per cent of the ANU's business."

Probably the most difficult issue facing the ANU this year is a new round of enterprise bargaining and Prof Richards has a leading role in this process. As the University's chief negotiator with the unions, he has the unenviable task of trying to forge an agreement from widely disparate positions.

The University is offering a 1.4 per cent increase in the first year and similar safety-net adjustments in years two and three, with a commitment to pass on Government-indexed offers provided the University agrees to any attached conditions. The four unions covering the ANU have called for a 19 per cent salary increase over three years.

The DVC's role as chief negotiator in enterprise bargaining ties neatly with another of his prime tasks, the determination of a future strategy for the University. Prof Richards believes there is work to do on this.

"It does need to be clearer in defining its future role and a vital part of that is a planning and review cycle that will help us understand more what our role is internationally, nationally and indeed regionally."



Photos: Stuart Hay, ANU Photography

While juggling these issues will consume most of his time, Prof Richards is hopeful of continuing his research in remote sensing using the ANU's resources. He has recently completed a third edition of a university textbook and says there is plenty of expertise in his field at the ANU.

His area of speciality revolves around the use of satellite and aircraft imaging devices.

"I've been working in this area for about 20 years. Perhaps the highlight was involvement in a space shuttle program in 1984. It led to a big change in what I was doing, prior to that I was involved with the analysis of data, but in the past 10 years I have been working on the applications of radar remote sensing."

"Australia is a leader in this field. In fact there are some very well-known names on this campus — Brian Turner in Forestry was one of the pioneers of remote sensing."

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