ANU reporter
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2010

The new New World

Lessons from a tsunami

Dissolution and resolution

Australia's first Indigenous woman elected to a UN body

1970-2010: 40 years ANU Reporter

UNIVERSITY HOUSE

Functions & Conferences

AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Ceremonial heart of The Australian National University and one of Canberra's unique locations, the house is set in a leafy enclave and is the perfect place to relax or focus on business. The classic 1950s building has been carefully preserved and offers 105 rooms and suites in a perfect blend of heritage décor and modern facilities.

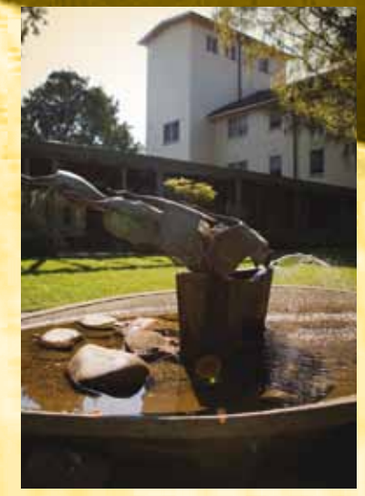
With a history rich in academic prestige and ceremony, guests are treated to a unique, club-like experience that was once the exclusive privilege of celebrated academics and dignitaries.

The success of any event hinges on three key elements–an outstanding venue, attention to detail and the ability to provide all guests with a memorable experience.

Call us to plan your next wedding, meeting or special event.

Lyn North
02 6125 5270 or lyn.north@anu.edu.au

Audrey Haslam
02 6125 5271 or audrey.haslam@anu.edu.au



THE HOTEL

Once the exclusive home to students and academics, the hotel is now the perfect location to relax or focus on business.

Reservations: 02 6125 5211 or unihouse@anu.edu.au

the fellows BAR & CAFE

Sophisticated yet relaxed surrounds, fresh and tasty food and the al fresco area of the Fellows Garden make this the perfect place to unwind.

Enquiries: 02 6125 5289

BOFFINS RESTAURANT

Boffins has been a long standing dining institution and is a must-visit location on Canberra's culinary map.

Bookings: 02 6125 5285

ANU reporter

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2010

www.anu.edu.au/reporter

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ANU Reporter is published quarterly by the Communications and External Liaison Office at The Australian National University.

Editor: Simon Couper
T: 02 6125 4171
F: 02 6125 5568
E: reporter@anu.edu.au
W: www.anu.edu.au/reporter

Mail: ANU Reporter
Communications and External Liaison Office
Office of the Vice-Chancellor
The Chancelry
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

Design: Krissan Pattugalan
Production: Fairfax Media

Volume 41 No. 3

Cover: Megan Davis
Dissolution and resolution, p16.
Photo: Darren Boyd

ISSN 0727-386X CRICOS Provider No. 00120C

Engaging with the nation and the world

ANU will play a lead role in improving the quality of public policy making in Australia, after a series of announcements on campus this year, culminating in the May launch of the $111.7 million public policy precinct.

In this edition of *ANU Reporter* you can read about the new precinct that will strengthen the exchange between researchers and public servants, ensuring the best possible thinking informs the policy making process.

We are grateful for former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's personal interest in the precinct, and for the Commonwealth funding that will support it.

This reinvigorated relationship between ANU and the Commonwealth Government has benefits for everyone, not just for the University and Government.

Many students and staff across the campus will be involved in the new precinct as it develops, consolidating existing expertise across many disciplines.

In this edition we can also see a broad range of other ways ANU engages with the community and the world.

Stories range from a look at the fundamentals of international aid to Geoffrey Lancaster's ambitious plan to record all of Haydn's piano sonatas. Elsewhere you can read about the rise and rise of South America, while a young scholar reports on US politics direct from his internship on Capitol Hill.

One of the real pleasures of being Vice-Chancellor at ANU is seeing the variety of staff and student research and the vigour with which it is pursued. I hope you also enjoy learning more about it in this edition of *ANU Reporter*.

Professor Ian Chubb AC
Vice-Chancellor and President

Dreaming of great things: players fight it out on the FIFA two-star accredited Willows Oval, opened by Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water Minister, Penny Wong, on 17 June 2010. The artificial turf and its huge underground water tank will save 15 megalitres of water a year to be used on gardens and other sporting fields across campus.
Photo: Michael Laurie / HG Sports Turf

then and now

Who said that news goes stale as soon as the ink hits the page? Then and Now opens the vault on past editions of *ANU Reporter* and compares them with events on campus today. In this edition we take a glimpse at 100 years of Duffield family involvement with the ANU observatory at Mt Stromlo.

then

Dr Walter Geoffrey Duffield was the pioneer Director of the observatory at Mount Stromlo, now home to the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics (RSAA) at ANU. Duffield's daughter, Joan, recalls the extracurricular activities of her father and mother, Doris, who lived up the mountain near Canberra in the 1920s.

"They were both devoted to music; my mother played the violin and my father the double bass. They were instrumental in forming what they called the 'Stromberra Quintet'. Each week they would trundle down the mountain in the old car with the double bass slung between the front and back seats, and spend an evening with other members of the Quintet rehearsing for an upcoming concert. These concerts were usually held in the old Causeway Hall in Kingston or in the Albert Hall when it was completed in 1928. The proceeds went to various charities, buildings or church organ funds."

Joan Duffield quoted on p47 of *Stromlo: An Australian Observatory* by Tom Frame and Don Faulkner (Allen & Unwin 2003).

Dr Walter Geoffrey Duffield and Mrs Doris Duffield en route to a musical event. Photo: Australian Academy of Science

Joan Duffield celebrates her 100th birthday at Mt Stromlo with family, friends and the RSAA community. Photo: Neal McCracken, ANU Photography

now

At the 100th birthday celebration for Joan Duffield, RSAA Director Harvey Butcher spoke of the family's connection with Mt Stromlo. It continues in the form of an endowment in her name, supporting postgraduate scholarships in astronomy and astrophysics.

"A hundred years ago, three events that were of seminal importance to our Observatory took place.

"First, the legislation bringing the Federal Capital Territory into existence was concluded.

"Second, the site here at Mt Stromlo was selected for site testing for a new solar observatory.

"And of course, on 19 April 1910, Miss Duffield, one of our most important friends and benefactors, was born. In a real sense, therefore, Joan Duffield was born with our Observatory, and she has been closely involved with the institution since she and her family moved to Canberra at its formal inception in 1924.

"Miss Duffield is the daughter of our Observatory's foundation Director, Dr Walter Geoffrey Duffield.

"As a graduate student in 1905, he realised that Australia, because of its geographic location, could potentially play an important role in the study of the sun.

"From that time, he lobbied in England and in Australia for a new solar observatory, which eventually would become the Commonwealth Solar Observatory and finally the Mt Stromlo Observatory of today," he said.

Book gift for new ANU China Centre

The University's new China centre has a far richer library after a visit by the Vice-President of the People's Republic of China.

Vice-President Xi Jinping was at ANU to meet with University leaders and scholars from the new Australian Centre on China in the World. The Vice-President also made a gift of more than 1800 books, donated by the Chinese Government, covering multiple aspects of Chinese history and contemporary society.

In return, ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb presented the Vice-President with a selection of books covering Australian history and culture, as well as the story of engagement between China and Australia.

ANU Chancellor Gareth Evans and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Chubb. Photo: Darren Boyd

ANU Vice-Chancellor to retire next year

ANU Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb has announced that he will retire in 12 months' time, after more than a decade leading the national university.

Making the announcement, ANU Chancellor Gareth Evans said he and other Council members were saddened by the news, but recognised that ANU was in an extremely healthy state due to the work of the Vice-Chancellor.

"Professor Chubb has invigorated ANU, made the most of its exceptional research strengths, and extended those riches to all students, making the educational experience at ANU a unique one," Professor Evans said.

"By leading ANU so successfully through a time of change and uncertainty in Australian higher education, Professor Chubb leaves a remarkable legacy."

Dr Charani Ranasighe. Photo: The John Curtin School of Medical Research

HIV vaccine research boosted by major grant

ANU researcher Dr Charani Ranasinghe has recently won a Grand Challenges Explorations grant worth $US 100,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The grant is to develop a new HIV vaccine that might also lead to vaccine breakthroughs for other major diseases.

Dr Ranasinghe and her colleagues at The John Curtin School of Medical Research are developing a mucosal HIV vaccine that works by limiting the effect of the hormone-like molecule, inter-leukin 13, which boosts the body's immunity to viruses like HIV and related infections.

The funding from the Gates Foundation will be used to enhance the current vaccine, work that could lead to human trials within the next four to five years.

word watch

The Australian National Dictionary Centre is a joint venture between Oxford University Press and ANU. Director **Bruce Moore** takes a look at our lingua franca.

At one point in Miles Franklin's *My Brilliant Career* (1901), the young heroine Sybylla dresses up as 'a fat old Irish woman', and imitates an Irishwoman in her speech, including the use of the Irish plural pronoun yez: "Shure, sir, seeing it was a good bhoy yez were afther to run errants, it's meself that has brought this youngsther for yer inspection". Later in the novel, the uneducated Mrs McSwat is given the plural pronoun yous in her speech: "It'll do yous good," she said. This is the earliest evidence for yous in Australian English.

By the end of the eighteenth century the singular second person pronouns thou, thee, and thy had largely disappeared from ordinary speech in Standard English, and you was forced to take over most second person functions, singular as well as plural. In some parts of America you all or y'all serves for the missing plural pronoun, and in many Englishes you guys has been serving a similar function for almost two decades—I'll see you guys tomorrow. A number of Englishes have done the obviously sensible thing and added -s to you to make it plural—I'll see yous (or youse) tomorrow. This is what happened in Irish English, where the modified plural appeared first as yez (or yiz) and later as yous. The yous(e) form, first evident in Australia in the Miles Franklin passage, is often heard in Australian English, most famously from the three-time world champion boxer Jeff Fenech to his fans after a title win in 1987—I love youse all. It is likely that the form itself is a borrowing into Australian English from Irish English.

In spite of the fact that migration from Ireland to Australia in the period 1840 to 1914 was significant, the Irish have not had a great influence on Australian English. A handful of Australian words such as barrack and sheila are Irish, and a few other features of Australian English have been attributed to Irish influence, but as with yous(e), they are usually regarded as non-standard or sub-standard: the pronunciation of the word film as 'filum', with two syllables, and the pronunciation of the letter H as 'haitch' rather than 'aitch'. These features—youse, filum, and haitch—are often said to brand their speakers in a number of ways: not being fully in control of Standard English, coming from a lower class social background, having a poor education, or belonging to a tradition of Australian Irish Catholicism.

In the history of Australia, the Irish were often set apart because of their religion, their system of education, and their typically working class status. The low social status of Irish migrants in the second half of the nineteenth century serves to explain why words were not borrowed from them by mainstream Australian society (whereas many were borrowed from Scottish and Northern English migrants). The prejudice against the Irish perhaps serves to explain why any linguistic features that had a whiff of the green about them (such as youse, filum, and haitch) were condemned, and continue to be condemned, as sub-standard and socially unacceptable. This is an instructive story about the intimate relationship between language and society.

Definition: youse (pronoun) Plural second person pronoun, colloquialism

ANU wins $2.5 million in Super Science Fellowships

Invisibility cloaks, faint galaxies, ancient climate change and genes for health are some of the topics to be explored by ANU researchers who are sharing in more than $2.5 million in new science funding.

Four research teams have won the funding as part of the Federal Government's Super Science Fellowships scheme.

Administered by the Australian Research Council, the scheme is designed to attract and retain outstanding researchers in space science, marine and climate sciences, biotechnology and nanotechnology.

Kinloch Lodge, in the ANU Exchange, where much of the new accommodation will be built.

ANU wins government support for affordable accommodation

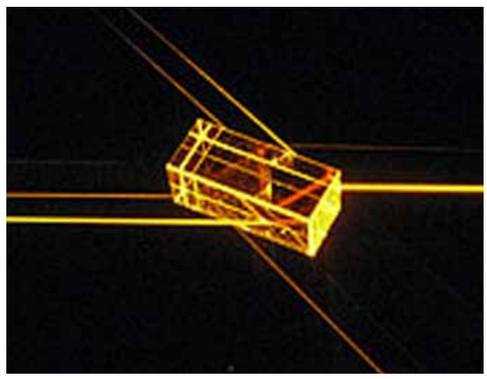
ANU will build 1023 new accommodation units over the next two years with assistance from the Commonwealth's National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) and on land made available by the ACT Government.

The new units will provide housing at 20 per cent below market rental rates for future students on land adjacent to the ANU campus.

"The new accommodation will fill a significant gap in accommodation in Canberra for those students who come to the ACT to study at ANU," said ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb.

"I hope this scheme will encourage more people to participate in higher education, especially where the additional costs of accommodation might be a barrier."

When the Commonwealth and ACT contributions are added to the University's, the total investment will be $200 million.



Light passes through the crystal in the quantum memory experiment. Photo: ANU

World first for quantum memory storage

An ANU-led team has developed the most efficient quantum memory for light in the world, taking us closer to a future of super-fast computers and communication secured by the laws of physics.

The team at the ANU Research School of Physics and Engineering used a technique they pioneered to stop and control light from a laser, manipulating electrons in a crystal cooled to a chilly -270 degrees Celsius.

"Light entering the crystal is slowed all the way to a stop, where it remains until we let it go again," explains lead researcher Morgan Hedges.

"When we do let it go, we get out essentially everything that went in as a three-dimensional hologram, accurate right down to the last photon."

life sentences

The ***Australian Dictionary of Biography*** (ADB) is the flagship project of the National Centre of Biography, based in the Research School of Social Sciences at ANU. With the Melbourne Cup approaching its sesquicentenary, postdoctoral fellow **Samuel Furphy** explores the lives of notable Australians with links to the famous race.

If the Melbourne Cup truly is 'the race that stops a nation' then surely it must feature among the thousands of entries in the ADB. Sure enough, a search of the ADB online yields 111 hits.

Top of the list is the notorious bookmaker and entrepreneur John Wren (1871-1953), who boasted that his Collingwood-based 'tote' was built on Carbine's victory in 1890. Other ADB entries that mention the race include biographies of pastoralists, businessmen, politicians, priests, journalists, artists, designers, engineers, and trainers and jockeys.

The Sydney-born studmaster Etienne De Mestre (1832-1916) trained Archer, the winner of the first two Melbourne Cups, but he ran into financial trouble in 1882 when a large bet on the Victoria Derby/Melbourne Cup double went awry. De Mestre's rival John Tait (1813-1888) owned and trained four horses to Cup victory and was notable for approaching racing more as a business than a sport.

The ADB features 25 jockeys, including David 'Darby' Munro (1913-1966), who won the first of his three Melbourne Cups riding Peter Pan in 1934: "Swarthy and poker-faced, he was known, among other names, as 'The Demon Darb'". The leading Melbourne Cup jockey remains the "abstemious but jovial" Bobby Lewis (1878-1947), who rode four winners.

The Melbourne Cup is as much a social institution as it is a horse race. This is largely due to the egalitarian civil engineer Robert Cooper Bagot (1828?-1881), who transformed Flemington Racecourse into a truly public space, paving the way for the first crowd of 100,000 in 1880. In the 1920s the advent of radio took public interest to a new level. The colourful broadcaster Eric Wilfred Welch (1900-1983) called 27 cups for 3LO and 3DB. He advised punters: "Never bet on anything that can talk". Turf journalist Herbert Austin Wolfe (1897-1968) used the by-line 'Cardigan' after the 1903 Melbourne Cup winner, which his grandfather had trained. In 1932 Wolfe reported Phar Lap's victory in the Agua Caliente Handicap in Mexico, after gaining permission to land a plane on the course so that he could fly straight to San Diego to cable home the story. He covered 21 Melbourne Cups for Melbourne's *Herald*.

The influence of the cup in the political sphere is evident in the ADB's biography of Prime Minister John Curtin (1885-1945): "He was a student of racing form but hardly ever betted, apart from an annual £1 on the Melbourne Cup". Similarly, sport and religion merge where the Melbourne Cup is concerned. In the 1950s Catholic priest John Patrick Pierce (1909-1970) instituted a Melbourne Cup mass at St Francis's Church. The ADB also reveals the allure of the race for Australians with a creative bent, including the artist Martin Frank Stainforth (1866-1957), who painted several Melbourne Cup winners and was renowned for his "ability to depict speed and movement". In 1962 the set and costume designer Ann Rachel Church (1925-1975) created "bawdy and elegant costumes, as well as opulent, extravagant settings" for the Australian Ballet's production Melbourne Cup.

Due to longstanding equine restrictions, many of the most famous Melbourne Cup identities are not included in the ADB. In 1977 regular ADB author Barry Andrews addressed this deficiency by penning a biography for "LAP, PHAR (1926-32), sporting personality, business associate of modest speculators and national hero". Read by Andrews during an after-dinner speech at a *Making of Sporting Traditions* conference, the biography concluded: "Tall and rangy, known affectionately as 'Bobby', 'The Red Terror' and occasionally as 'you mongrel', Lap died in mysterious circumstances in Atherton, California, on 5 April, 1932, and was buried in California, Melbourne, Canberra and Wellington. A linguist as well as a businessman, he popularised the phrase 'get stuffed!' although owing to an unfortunate accident in his youth he left no children". Read the full version here: http://ncb.anu.edu.au/newsletter/phar-lap-legendary-adb-tale

More: http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au

Professor Quentin Grafton

UN and ANU to tackle water security

The world's first UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance has been announced at ANU.

Professor Quentin Grafton, Director of the Centre for Water Economics, Environment and Policy, has taken up the position. The chair is an initiative of ANU, the United Nations and the Australian Government and aims to address the challenges of water security in Africa, which has the largest disparities in water availability and least coverage in potable water supply and sanitation in the world.

During his initial four-year appointment, Professor Grafton and his ANU team will work with UNESCO to help achieve one of the key Millennium Development Goals - environmental sustainability in relation to water resources.

UC Vice-Chancellor Professor Stephen Parker and ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb sign the MoU. Photo: Rohani Moore

New alliance strengthens local education

An alliance between ANU and the University of Canberra (UC) will boost the stock of highly skilled teachers in Australia, create new joint degrees and build national policy expertise in areas like water planning.

The Vice-Chancellors of ANU and UC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Canberra earlier this month to capitalise on the complementary strengths of the two institutions.

The MoU will also broaden the scope of existing ANU and UC partnerships and build on the success of joint projects such as Capital-WATER.

Initial ventures within the alliance include a new four-year joint degree program in science and education to be offered from 2011, and Innovation ACT, a joint commercialisation training scheme for postgraduate students.

Dr José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. Photo: Darren Boyd

President of Timor-Leste talks democracy

Confidence in East Timor's state institutions has increased markedly since the low point of the 2006 crisis, the nation's President José Ramos-Horta said in a speech at ANU last month.

The East Timorese head of state delivered the annual Centre for Democratic Institutions lecture in Llewellyn Hall to an audience of 1100 people.

The President said that his nation had regained stability, thanks in part to bilateral support from countries like Australia and Portugal, leading to a "tremendous recovery in trust in the institutions by the people we are supposed to serve".

The Nobel Peace Prize winner thanked Australia for its ongoing friendship and support of East Timor, but said we should "never forget democracy is a living thing".

From left: Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb, at the announcement of the public policy precinct in May 2010. Photos: Darren Boyd

Stronger ties, better policy

The Commonwealth Government's commitment to fund the Australian National Institute of Public Policy and its constituent centres on China and national security will boost the nation's public policy expertise.

The special relationship between ANU and the Commonwealth entered a new phase earlier this year with the announcement of the $111.7 million Australian National Institute for Public Policy (ANIPP) at ANU.

The May 8 announcement from former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd pulled together a number of new institutions, all aimed at breaking down the barriers between academics and public servants, and boosting the quality of public policy.

Based around the Crawford School of Economics and Government at Lennox Crossing, ANIPP will include the new Australian Centre on China in the World, the National Security College and the H.C. Coombs Policy Forum, where spirited policy debate will take place.

Delivering the 70th George E. Morrison lecture on China at ANU in April, Mr Rudd said the China centre would "foster research and educational links with other Australian institutions and increase our national capacity to provide research, outreach, postgraduate and other training activities dedicated to an informed and mature consideration of China."

Mentoring people in the public sector and providing access to a broader community of outstanding scholars, practitioners and the media would be a crucial part of the centre's mission.

"It is difficult to provide strategic policy advice. And while the Australian Public Service does a fine job, I believe we can always strive to do better."

– Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

"Our role is to explore the important problems and issues that confront the nation, the region and the world, and to work to provide solutions."

– ANU Vice-Chancellor.

The National Security College (NSC), headed by Michael L'Estrange, will facilitate collaborative leadership in the national security community and build trusted networks within and outside government.

This public policy precinct will act as an umbrella body incorporating the centres on China and national security.

ANU alumnus and former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd meets with China scholars after the announcement of the Australian Centre on China in the World

Mr Rudd said: "I believe the ANU is the ideal venue for the Institute of Public Policy – for precisely the reasons the university was established in Canberra 64 years ago. "Its proximity, its research excellence and its international reputation in public policy make the ANU the natural partner in the Australian Government's plan for strengthening the Australian Public Service," he said.

All these developments have been formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Government and ANU signed on 8 May by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Kim Carr, and ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb. ■

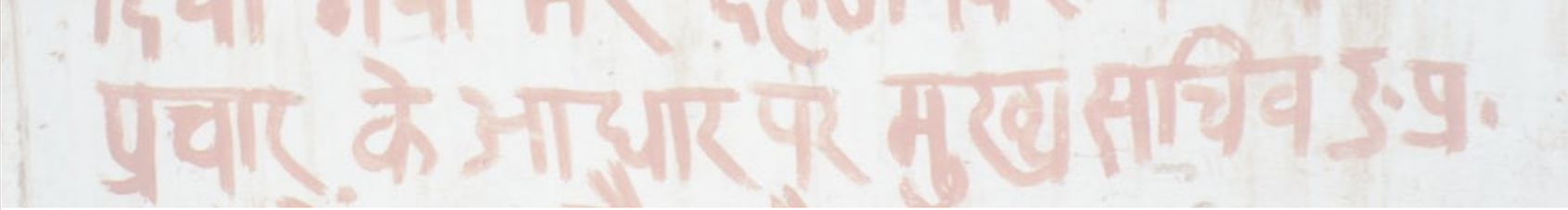
More: Listen to the former Prime Minister's addresses on ANUchannel at YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/ANUchannel

Love of language

One man's 49-year pursuit of the language he says is the key to understanding the story of contemporary India.

BY JAMES GIGGACHER

A teacher delivers Hindi lessons in a village classroom in rural India. Photo: ©istockphoto.com/Vikram Raghuvanshi



There is a word in Hindi, romanch, that describes the feeling you get when your hair stands on end. This is exactly what Dr Richard Barz felt when he first fell in love with the language.

"When I was about 16 I read an English translation of the Bhagavad-Gita, a sacred Hindu scripture that was published as a Penguin paperback," Barz says. "I stayed up all night. I just couldn't put it down."

After that sleepless night, the teenage Barz wanted to learn more about the language behind the classic. In 1961 he undertook undergraduate studies in Hindi at the University of Arizona, completing his PhD in Hindi and Sanskrit at the University of Chicago eight years later.

Barz's love of Hindi is just as strong today. The senior lecturer in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific has been teaching the language for 41 years.

When he is not teaching or researching, Barz writes poetry in the language, about his feelings and the "things that wake me in the night". He is quick to point out that his Hindi poetry is published not because of its rhythmic qualities or its subject matter, but because of its novelty. He says that there are not too many foreigners outside India who write poetry in Hindi.

"What I really love about Hindi is the literature," Barz says. "The fact that its pre-modern literature is one of the world's most outstanding bodies of literature really excites me. I have found that other languages I have looked into haven't got that kind of depth. So for me it is definitely the literature."

Like the stories from the language's rich literary history, Barz believes that Hindi is the key to unlocking the narrative of contemporary India. If a person wants to truly understand a society and culture, they must speak the language of that place, he says.

"If you have a real interest in India, beyond casual tourism and travel, and if you have an interest in getting into the country deeply, then you really have to know an Indian language. And the logical language to start with is Hindi because it is spoken in so many places across the country."

The importance of Hindi in contemporary India can be explained by two factors. First, the term Hindi refers to a literary language of the state, written in the Devanagari script, which borrows heavily from Sanskrit. Barz says that whilst this literary language is not anyone's first tongue, it is used in school as well as all over northern India in formal communication. This form of Hindi is designated the official language of India.

"But there is another language which is Hindustani," says Barz. "This is a trade language and grammatically it is the same as Hindi as well as Urdu, which shares the same grammar and form of Hindi but is written in Arabic script. This trade language, whilst not written, is also spoken all over India. It is also the language used in film."

And if you listen to some of Barz's Indian business executive friends talking, you can "get a hint of what is really happening".

"They will always start out in a formal elite version of English," says Barz. "But when they start their negotiations they lapse into Hindustani. They'll conclude their meeting in English, but they have conducted their business in this Hindi or Hindustani lingua franca.

Defining Hindi

There are three terms that cover the word Hindi.

Hindi derives from the Persian word for India, Hind. As such the word Hindi not only refers to the language of the 'Indians' but also anything to do with India, including language.

Hindustani comes from the word Hindustan, originally a reference to northern India but later coming to represent all of India. The name is a reference to the spoken lingua franca of trade, a dialect of Delhi, which has been used all over northern India and many other parts of the country for more than a 1000 years.

Originally Hindustani was an unwritten language. When it was first written, Arabic script was used. This is what became known as **Urdu.** After partition between Pakistan and India in 1947, Urdu became the official language of Pakistan and Hindi the official language of India.

Dr Richard Barz has been teaching Hindi for over forty years. Photo: Stuart Hay

"To my ear, as a foreigner this language is Hindi. It is what I am teaching in my classes."

Barz says that people outside of India imagine that English is somehow the only language used all over the country. Yet Barz points out that this is not the case.

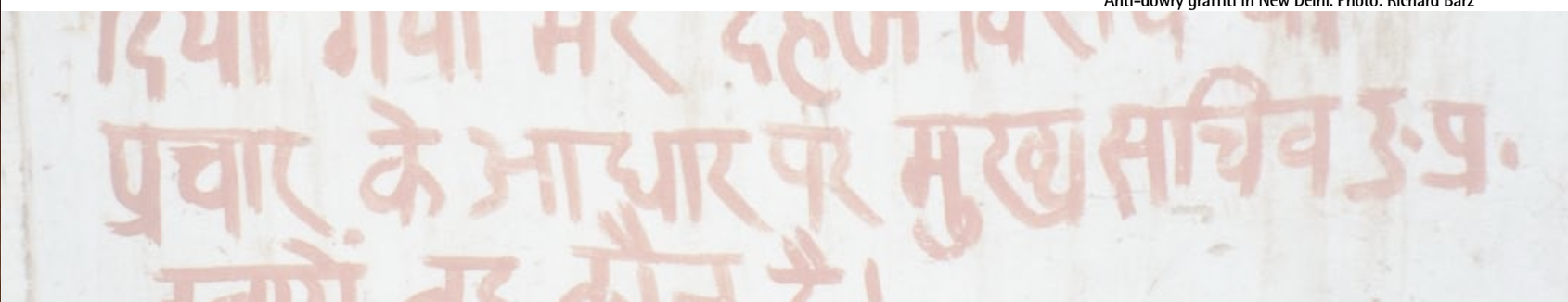
"In India, even though people put this huge emphasis on English – and even quite poor people want their children to be educated in English - there is no sign that English is replacing any Indian language as the language of the household, friends and everyday use."

Barz also has a few words of warning to those who cite the rise of global English as an excuse for not needing to learn other languages.

"For those people who would say that if you are going as a diplomat or a business person and know that everybody at your level will speak English, I tell you one thing that you learn very quickly," he says. "If a bunch of Indians are telling a joke, at that elite level, they may start in English. But I can guarantee you that the punch line is always in Hindi."

Not becoming the butt of an Indian 'in' joke clearly makes learning Hindi a serious matter. ■

Anti-dowry graffiti in New Delhi. Photo: Richard Barz



Gillard PM

Julia Gillard gives her first press conference as Australia's 27th and first female Prime Minister.
Photo: Supplied courtesy, *The Canberra Times*

Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel.
Photo: IG BCE http://www.flickr.com/photos/igbce/

Mari Kiviniemi, Finland's second woman prime minister
Photo: Paloneva

Are all women leaders created equal? Media coverage has confused the matter by mixing Presidents with Prime Ministers. BY MARIAN SAWER

"NATION wakes to a new dawn" was one of the headlines suggesting that Australia had entered a new era when Julia Gillard became prime minister in June. But some commentators were quick to assure us of the opposite: that having a woman as PM means that gender is irrelevant in Australian politics and that women are already well-represented in political leadership roles.

So which is it? To begin with, we need to be clear about what's being compared with what. Lists of "women leaders" used in some media coverage since Gillard took the top job appear to come from American sources that treat anyone who is called "president" as if they are an executive president and head of government as well as a head of state. *The Sydney Morning Herald,* for example, published a graphic showing eighteen current "women leaders around the world," which included the presidents of Finland, India, Ireland and Lithuania. All of these countries operate under systems in which the prime minister, not the president, is head of government, even though the president is directly or indirectly elected.

Julia Gillard is one of a smaller group of women who actually are heads of government. The most prominent of these, Angela Merkel, is in her second term as German chancellor. Finland also has a woman prime minister, elected by parliament just two days before Gillard's ascension. Like her Australian counterpart, Mari Kiviniemi was sworn in by a woman head of state, in this case President Tarja Halonen. As with Gillard, Kiviniemi's mission was to rescue a government in trouble.

But there the similarities end. In the Finnish case the troubles include a two-year campaign-funding scandal, an economy in recession, and revelations about the former prime minister's private life. (A recent book, *The Prime Minister's Bride*, included steamy scenes in the sauna – the sort of thing we've fortunately been spared in Australia.) While Australia was the first country to give women the right to stand as well as to vote for the national parliament, Finland was the second. And Finland immediately elected nineteen women to its parliament (in 1907) while Australia had essentially given women the right to stand but not to sit. It was not until 1943 that the first women took their seats in Australia's national parliament.

In line with Finland's longer tradition of women in parliament, Kiviniemi is Finland's second woman prime minister. And her cabinet, like her male predecessor's, has a majority of women. In contrast, only a fifth of the members of Gillard's cabinet (four out of nineteen) are women.

Finland is not the only country Australia is lagging behind. Women make up a majority of cabinet members in Spain, for example, and about half in Norway and Sweden, 37 per cent in Germany, and a third in New Zealand and France. It would be easy to assume that higher proportions of women in cabinet simply reflect a greater presence of women in parliament, and indeed 40 per cent of Finnish parliamentarians and 33 per cent of members of the German Bundestag are women. But in both cases women are "over-represented" in cabinet relative to their presence in parliament.

In Australia women make up 30 per cent of the federal parliament. Instead of being over-represented in cabinet, however, they are under-represented. And if we look at the actual pool from which cabinet ministers are drawn – the government benches – then women are even more under-represented. Women make up 36 per cent of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (caucus), but only 21 per cent of cabinet. Nor is it the case that women in caucus are disproportionately newcomers and hence less eligible for front-bench appointments; in fact, the 2007 election saw a slight drop in the proportion of women in caucus.

While Australia might stand out because women are under-represented in cabinet, the gender stereotyping of portfolios is similar the world over. In Mari Kiviniemi's cabinet, men hold all of the economic portfolios as well as foreign affairs and defence, and this is also true of the cabinets of Angela Merkel and Julia Gillard.

Does this gender typecasting of portfolios matter? Holding "social" or "nurturing" portfolios clearly doesn't prevent women from rising to leadership positions. What it does do, in times of public sector cutbacks, is hand women the responsibility for making the painful cuts that will disproportionately affect women in the community. A well-known example was Harriet Harman's being given responsibility for cutting sole-parent benefits within the Blair government in Britain.

Women continue to be disproportionately dependent on the welfare state for employment, services and income support. So gender does continue to be an issue in government, both for policymakers and policy takers. It is central to matters such as the undervaluing of work in childcare and other community services and the current equal pay test case for community sector workers. So it is fortunate that industrial relations is the forte of Australia's new prime minister. The fact that she is a woman may well be of substantive as well as symbolic importance, at least in this policy arena. ■

Marian Sawer is an Emeritus Professor in the ANU School of Politics and International Relations. This piece was originally published in Inside Story, *the net-based journal of current affairs and culture, an ANU/ Swinburne collaboration http://inside.org.au/*

A Washington education

Graduate student James Boyers reflects on his time working as an intern in the corridors of power in Washington D.C.

The snow began late on Friday evening. By Saturday morning, December 19, a thick coat of white powder covered everything in sight, creating an ethereal calm over Capitol Hill.

I rose early that Saturday to attend a sitting of the United States Senate. I wanted to witness the first of a series of procedural votes that would herald the passage of the Obama administration's healthcare reforms.

Never mind that it was the weekend and that Washington was in the midst of what would become the District of Columbia's worst ever December snowstorm. A vote had been scheduled by the Democratic Party Senate leadership, and the vote was going to be held. I was determined to attend, as much for the political significance as for the sheer absurdity, to this Australian, of convening the Senate and holding a vote on a Saturday at 8am in deep winter.

It was still snowing heavily when I left my apartment, turning into East Capitol Street and seeing the grand rotunda through the falling flakes. I made it to the Senate and found a place in the staff galleries. Below me, the Senators went about their business, as they had done for over 220 years, without any indication of the time, the day or the weather. A roll call vote was held and procedural passage for the initial stages of the bill secured.

The final vote on the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was scheduled on December 24, neatly coinciding with another snow fall. Again, I rose early to bear witness. At a little after 7am on Christmas Eve, I took my place in the public galleries. The clerk called the bill, a roll call vote was taken and the bill passed with the required 60 votes. An element of theatre was added to the unusually jovial sitting when Robert Byrd, Senator for West Virginia, was rolled into the Chamber in a wheel chair, emphatically calling that, "This vote is for my friend Ted Kennedy, Aye!" After campaigning for healthcare reform for over 40 years as a Senator for Massachusetts, Kennedy had died in August.

I had arrived in the US one month before the healthcare vote to spend three months as an intern in the office of Senator Richard Lugar. My placement was part of the University's National Parliamentary Congressional Internship program.

Senator Lugar is the senior Republican Senator for Indiana. He is well acquainted with Australia, having twice been a chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and currently serving as the Committee's ranking minority member. I was the third Australian to intern in his office.

During my time in the Senator's office, I worked on many tasks and projects including sorting the mail. This sounds trivial but is actually an incredibly important task given the volume of correspondence. After I mastered the mail system, I was able to assist the Senator's staff on co-sponsorship of legislation relating to credit card interchange fees and energy efficiency rebates.

My time in Washington wasn't all toil. In early January, I attended talks given by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and later military heavyweights, Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staffs and Admiral Gray Roughead, Chief of the United States Navy.

I travelled to Massachusetts for the President's Day long weekend to work as a volunteer on the Senate special election to fill Ted Kennedy's vacant seat. Two days before the election, I travelled to Worcester, in mid western Massachusetts, to attend my first American political rally, for Republican candidate Scott Brown.

The sky was overcast in Worcester when I arrived and a light sleet was beginning to fall. As I stood on the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets, a crowd of thousands surged down the hill from the Mechanics Hall. The hall was already full, even though the rally was 30 minutes off. I joined the crowd and went along to hear the 'truck driving' candidate speak. The assembled thousands cheered during his address and roared afterwards. Two days later, Brown won, beating the Democrat favourite.

After this, it only remained to dine with Senator Lugar in the Senate dining room. After some pre-lunch introductions to fellow Senators, the Senator and I discussed a wide range of issues and shared some laughs. I gained first-hand insights into how the Senator views Australia, the future of the United States and some invaluable lessons if I ever decide to pursue political office in Australia.

My internship was an amazing personal and professional experience. I have an ambition to enter politics, and working with Senator Lugar was an affirming experience. His work and knowledge confirmed that running for public office is a noble endeavour and that politicians can be positive agents for change. ■

Lessons from a

The Asian Tsunami from late 2004 may be fading in our collective memory, but one researcher says its lessons should remain clear in the present. BY SIMON COUPER

Many millions of words have been written about the international aid response to the Asian Tsunami of 2004.

This amount of commentary is not surprising given the magnitude of the event. It left hundreds of thousands of people dead or injured and infrastructure destroyed in some of the world's poorest places.

Still, the lessons about how to cope with the next, inevitable, megadisaster are not clear.

Enter Peter McCawley from the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. He is an Indonesia specialist with a distinguished career in aid administration, having played leadership roles at AusAID and the Asian Development Bank before returning to a life of applied research at ANU.

McCawley and his colleague Professor Sisira Jayasuriya, from LaTrobe University, have spent years sifting through all the words to try and find answers.

"The problem with 1,000 articles or more is that we're all time poor and there is just too much, so you need summaries of information," McCawley says. "One of the things we've tried to do in the book, to stand back and say: What are the big lessons of the tsunami?"

One of the lessons was that humanitarian goals are not the only motivating factor.

Geopolitical interests are often much more important when nations are deciding if and how to lend a helping hand.

McCawley says that the Asian Tsunami provided an opportunity for Indonesia and Western nations to forge a better relationship.

"Indonesia had gone through the 1997 Asian economic crisis, and then it had gone through period of erratic presidents – Habibie, Wahid and Megawati. The West was having trouble dealing with Indonesia in this very volatile political period. Then just before the tsunami, in October 2004, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was elected. Suddenly the political situation was beginning to look ok. Here was a moderate former general, who got there through a democratic process.

"Add this to that the fact that the West was having difficulties with Islamic countries in the context of the Iraq war. Indonesia is the world's biggest Islamic country, and it looked great to be able to establish a rapport with a newly democratic Islamic country. In a sense the tsunami provided a window. It became possible for the West to respond in a supportive way, but in a way that appeared non-political."

Contrast this event with Cylcone Nargis. When it struck in 2008, this savage tropical storm led to the worst natural disaster in the history of Myanmar. Yet the reluctance of that country's military junta to engage with the West, and vice versa, led to much less international aid.

"International cooperation works best when there are strong shared interests... Idealism helps, humanitarianism is good when it is there, but ultimately international cooperation works best when the interests are there."

Aid also works best when it is tailored to local needs rather than international ideals, he says.

"You would not want to be bleeding to death waiting for the international community to turn up."

"You can use aid for all sorts of things: medical purposes, housing, food, women, children, roads, schooling. You can spend your money on lots of things. Just as you and I go to a supermarket and walk up and down the aisles and decide what to buy, in a sense the international community and NGOs, when they go into a disaster situation, have to decide how they spend their money. There is a very big problem

tsunami

A US Air Force plane drops aid over Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake this year. Photo: US Air Force

of coordination. It is unfortunately the case that almost every disaster attracts a whole rash of new people who are motivated by a whole range of humanitarian goals but not a lot else. Their hearts often run before their heads."

But this talk of running is misleading in one sense. International aid seldom runs – it treads slowly and steadily.

Take the earthquake in Haiti. Although the disaster struck in January this year, the UN-coordinated conference of donor nations and organisations didn't occur until more than 10 weeks later.

McCawley says: "You would not want to be bleeding to death waiting for the international community to turn up. Of that money that is promised, some of it will take up to three years to arrive.

"In the immediate aftermath of a crisis, local people are going to be on their own. To better prepare people for these events, then, you have to devise programs in developing countries so that people can deal on their own until help arrives."

McCawley says that fostering disaster preparedness at the local level is one of the most important responses to megadisasters.

Every nation should be assessing where and how many disasters may occur, then putting resources and education into the right place.

"If we do this, we won't get deaths down to zero but we can significantly reduce them…there were some dramatic examples in the case of the Asian Tsunami. When the water went out, people stood there watching. Some even walked out into it. They didn't realise they should be running the other way. If more people had realised that, we probably could have saved thousands and thousands of lives.

"You need programs in schools and you need to identify the top two or three disasters that are likely to occur in regions and you need to teach the kids to climb a tree. Kids are pretty good at that. If lots of them had climbed into trees, we probably would have saved thousands and thousands of lives."

One of the most important lessons of all, McCawley says, is that megadisasters like the Asian Tsunami have long tails. Although the catastrophe happened almost six years ago now, the aid-related recovery and rebuilding continues to this day.

McCawley first visited Banda Aceh in Indonesia nearly 40 years ago, his most recent visit occurring in December last year. He says while there has been visible restoration of the city's infrastructure after the tsunami, it is still not clear how less tangible things like political stability and economic health will fare as the aid organisations begin to withdraw.

"We're in a period of wind down [in Banda Aceh]. The donors are leaving. While I was there, almost every day, there was an official announcement that the Germans, the Americans, were closing their programs."

How we and others on this planet cope with the tests of natural catastrophes will depend, McCawley says, on how well we learn from disasters past. ■

The Asian Tsunami: Aid and Reconstruction After a Disaster *by Peter McCawley and Sisira Jayasuriya will be published in November 2010 by Edward Elgar.*

Lessons in tsunami aid delivery:

1. Objectives
The very large number of different donors and other actors involved in the delivery of assistance had many differing objectives. The effective delivery of humanitarian emergency relief was one of these objectives, but only one.

2. Local responses
The fastest relief after the Asian tsunami was usually provided by local communities. We should think more about strategies to improve the capacity of local communities to cope in times of disaster.

3. Coordination
The overall coordination of the tsunami aid effort was often very difficult. A large number of different agencies were involved. The early establishment of credible national and international agencies with recognised standing can help improve coordination arrangements.

4. Stages
Responses, and the role played by different actors, varied over time. In planning, it is important to distinguish between the relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and post-assistance stages.

5. Donors
Donors often tended to be supply-oriented rather than demand-responsive. We need to ensure that local communities can communicate what they see as their priority needs.

6. Finance
The details on the provision of international finance were often problematic. The performance of the international donor community sometimes fell below the standards expected in the delivery of international aid in terms of speed and scale.

7. Cost increases
There are sharp increases in some costs for items in short supply. Aid planners should allow for sharp cost increases, particularly in the construction activities, when drawing up assistance programs.

8. Spending methods
Assistance following the Asian Tsunami was delivered in many different ways. The way in which aid is provided has many implications for, amongst other things, the speed of delivery and effectiveness of the assistance. Donors should consider things like whether aid should be in cash or in kind.

Dissolution and resolution

Earlier this year Megan Davis created history by becoming the first Australian Indigenous woman elected to a United Nations body. James Giggacher looks at the inspirations and hopes behind what is already a remarkable career.

Megan Davis didn't grow up in an activist Aboriginal family.

"When my non-Indigenous mother and Aboriginal father separated, mum did the best she could to foster a scholarly environment in our housing commission house," Davis says.

"Politics was her core passion and even though we weren't very wealthy growing up, we always had a subscription to *Time* magazine. I think I have read every single issue since 1981."

In this way, Davis says, she became aware of the United Nations and the role it plays in fostering world peace. She says this realisation set her on her path towards human rights law.

Her passion for law in general seems to come from an unlikely source – a man infamous in Australia's political history. During her final year of primary school, Davis' mother gave her a copy of *Matters for Judgement*, the biography of Sir John Robert Kerr, the Governor-General who dismissed the Whitlam Government in 1975.

"I guess it was because I was fascinated by politics growing up and particularly really fascinated by the constitution," says the Visiting Fellow at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

"The book was about the double dissolution and it was something I was obsessed with. It was then that I knew I wanted to do law.

"So whilst some of my colleagues were motivated towards a career in law by really significant historical events and issues to do with Indigenous people, I can honestly say it was because of the double dissolution."

The little girl so enthralled by constitutional law issues has gone on to forge a remarkable career as an international human rights lawyer. She recently submitted her PhD, which investigates the relationship between Indigenous women and liberal democracy. She undertook her doctorate at the Regulatory Institutions Network at ANU, supervised by Dr Hilary Charlesworth, while also directing the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Prior to this, Davis completed an internship as the first UN Indigenous Fellow at the Geneva-based Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. There she began to help draft the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a process she continued to participate in until the final draft was completed in 2005.

Given this record of hard work and achievement, it is perhaps no surprise then that Davis has recently created history, being named the first Australian Indigenous woman elected to a UN body.

Gough Whitlam (above) and his government were dismissed by the Governor-General Sir John Robert Kerr (below) in 1975.

In April this year she was selected by the 54 countries of the UN Economic and Social Council to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a body that advises the UN on indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

Her appointment to the forum is also the first time that an Australian Aboriginal person has been nominated for a UN role by the Australian Government. Davis says she is looking forward to advocating for indigenous peoples' rights in international law.

"This is a really exciting opportunity for me, and I am really honoured to be nominated by the Federal Government," says Davis.

"I was very fortunate that the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, and the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, nominated me for this position because it rounds off in a very nice way the experiences that I have had at the start of my law career.

"Personally, I feel that whilst it wasn't always my intention, it is what I have always been working towards."

Davis says she wants to use her time on the forum to address the core issues that affect Aboriginal women, such as violence. She points out that the there is often an assumption in international law that the experiences of Indigenous men and women are often the same.

"A lot more work needs to be done by international law – particularly human rights committees – to elaborate on how the rights of women and individuals, within a collective, fit in with broader collective rights," says Davis.

"One of the main roles that the forum has is coordinating the work of the UN. It really is what the forum exists for. So during my three years in the UNPFII I am really interested in seeing what the UN is doing on the issue of Indigenous women, gender and violence and how they can do things better."

Her appointment to the forum also signals a cultural change, Davis says. She claims that too often Aboriginal women are overlooked for important roles due to a general assumption that "they just can't do the job".

"It was clear that my appointment, and that a woman fill the position, was also really important to [the UN] too, because we won a majority of votes" adds Davis.

During her three years on the forum, which begin in 2011, Davis also wants to look at how the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is being implemented by different states as well as how it is used by different courts.

"I am really interested in how the declaration is being used by Aboriginal people. A concern I have about the declaration is that Indigenous communities so often focus on what the state is doing to implement the declaration.

"I think it is really important for Aboriginal communities to take it to government themselves, to take to all their meetings at every level of government and agitate. When we only focus on what the state is doing, there is not so much attention on how communities themselves can use the declaration."

Davis says that international law is only as strong as a state's commitment to it as a body of law. Yet the scholar believes there is cause for optimism.

"We know that international law has been a really important, if not the most important, factor in influencing domestic legal systems in the way that governments behave towards indigenous people.

"I think international law has been absolutely critical to rights development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia...It has been the most significant influence.

"There is that constant question in Aboriginal affairs as to whether international law is as useful as we think it is. But I also think that most people could not dispute the influence it has had, particularly the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

"Even 30 years ago it would have been unheard of to have an Indigenous rights declaration like we do today," Davis says, clearly impressed.

One can't help but also be impressed at just how far a young Indigenous schoolgirl obsessed with politics and the constitution has come. ■

Megan Davis wants to use her time on the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to address the issue of Indigenous women, gender and violence.
Photo: Darren Boyd

Life with lions

A male lion stares down the camera.
Photos: Kevin MacFarlane

A family of lions in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, Botswana.

Kevin MacFarlane says that crouching by the anesthetised body of a lion is "absolutely humbling".

"Too often we're so busy doing our field work that we don't get time to think about the experience," MacFarlane says. "But as soon as you stop, say when somebody else is doing something, you can sit there and watch the lion. They are huge creatures. The male weighs more than 240 kilograms. The paws are enormous."

The zoologist spent his early childhood in South Africa, so knows from experience how far away one should remain from a wakeful lion to remain safe. He says this knowledge is background noise when he and his colleagues are working up close with one of the big cats, applying a new tracking collar or collecting the data from one already in play. For this kind of work, the researchers need to put the lion to sleep and then hurry to accomplish all their tasks within the 60 minute window available.

"Now you're on top of the lion, and you're touching it, you're feeling it breathe," MacFarlane says. "It's both humbling and makes me feel like the luckiest man on Earth."

MacFarlane is as driven as he is lucky. The PhD researcher from the Fenner School of Environment and Society at ANU is exploring ways to reduce conflict between humans and lions over food resources around the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana. Up to 30 lions are shot by graziers and other people near the reserve each year. Now the Botswanan government wants to stop this attrition, so is helping to support MacFarlane find ways to avoid the killing.

As a first step, MacFarlane needs to know as much about the lions as possible – including information on their movements and feeding habits.

He and his colleagues are fitting a representative sample of the cats with GPS collars so they can track them around the 52,800 square kilometre expanse of the park.

They're also keeping a close eye on the behaviour of the lions, from a safe distance, as well as analysing the animals' stats to collect information on what they're eating.

When he's not in the field, MacFarlane is back at base camp analysing GPS data or lion ID photographs. He's also worked hard to build support for the research project, both from institutions and individuals who want to help safeguard the lions. The tracking collars and other equipment are expensive and the team members need to be paid.

"It's a hard balancing act, spending time in the field and chasing the money," he says.

To stay in touch with donors and help find new support, MacFarlane has built a detailed website and sends out regular newsletters on how the project is developing.

"One of the sad things with lions is that so few people realise that they are in bad shape as a population," he says. "They've really declined recently. One of the great keys of having a charismatic animal at the front of your conservation project is that other animals that maybe aren't as charismatic benefit. The wider environment will benefit. So, in a way, the lions are a flagship and we're trying to bring up the conservation value of the whole area."

As the research project reaches the 18-month mark, MacFarlane says he is inspired to keep going by the thought of helping to reduce the conflict between humans and endangered animals, conflicts in which the animals rarely come out on top. He says the answer will always lie in working with people as well as the animals.

"The local people need to get value. They need economic reasons for protecting their own wildlife. That's the shift we're talking about. It's really the locals on the ground who need to benefit."

More information: http://www.ckgrlionresearch.org

The statue of Christ the Redeemer looms over Rio de Janiero in Brazil. Photo: ©istockphoto.com/1001nights

The new New World

Once it was a right of passage to finish school, pack your bags and head to Europe. These days you're just as likely to find yourself trekking up an Inca trail, dancing on a beach in Brazil, or searching for the ghosts of an Aztec empire. Beyond salsa, sombreros and tequila, there's something alluring about Latin America that captures the Australian imagination. Researcher John Minns argues that the region could be increasingly important to Australia's future.

BY PENNY COX

Latin America is home to around 550 million people, the world's 10th and 12th largest economies, and land rich in minerals and petroleum resources. As a region it sits with Europe and North America as the world's third great group of democracies.

Dr John Minns, Director of the Australian Centre for Latin American Studies (ANCLAS), says there is good reason for Australia to think seriously about its relationships with the counties of Latin America.

"We should be thinking more about Latin America because the world doesn't stand still and massive changes are happening which are making this region more interesting and important to us," Minns says.

"This is about looking ahead at the shifting sands of global influence and activity. Latin America is a diverse region of over 550 million people, some rapidly developing economies and a new orientation to the outside world. We think it's on the verge of becoming much more important.

"Think of Australia's dealings with China at the beginning of the 1970s. At that time, there was virtually no relationship. Trade was practically non-existent and people-to-people exchanges very limited. Now, no one can fail to see China's importance. But unless there had been institutions like ANU studying and teaching about China then, these relationships would have been much slower to develop. In some ways, Latin America now is in a similar position as China was then."

Latin America has changed dramatically in the last couple of decades. In 1982, the region was at the centre of the developing-country debt crisis. Now, most Latin American countries are in much healthier economic positions – even though huge problems of poverty and inequality remain. Minns says that, although there are enormous differences within the region, on the whole Latin America is very much more open than it has ever been.

"We should be thinking more about Latin America because the world doesn't stand still and massive changes are happening which are making this region more interesting and important to us."

"In trade terms, Latin American attention used to be overwhelmingly concentrated on the US. It is now much more diversified and multidirectional. Latin American trade with China and the European Union has become much more important and the region's trade with US is now down to less than half the total," he says.

"It's the same in the education sector. Many Latin American governments are now consciously trying to internationalise their higher education systems, planning an expansion of the number of their tertiary students studying overseas.

"The number of Latin American students studying in Australia has quadrupled since 2002. Most of these are not yet in higher education, but the numbers here are growing as well."

Minns says that one of the reasons Latin America is fascinating to scholars is that it has virtually previewed all the major political and economic trends of the 20th century, both good and bad – socialism, fascism, democratic transformation, corporatism and more.

"We have seen the election of a wave of left-of-centre governments – Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay – that have very different ideas about economic growth and their relationships to institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank and to foreign policy alignment from the past.

"One of the major changes that has taken place is the fall of the various military or authoritarian regimes over the last several decades and their replacement with elected governments.

"Until the coup last year in the small country of Honduras, there had been no successful coup anywhere in Latin America this century. In Nicaragua, El Salvador and Uruguay, former guerrilla fighters are now in elected office. In a region virtually covered by dictatorships 30 years ago, this is a major achievement.

"In all but two countries in Latin America (Mexico and Colombia) there has been a change of government to the centre left, accompanied by a widespread rejection of neo-liberalism. Although the right recently won the presidential election in Chile, it follows a long period of centre-left government. Even in Mexico the centre left very nearly won the last presidential election and in Colombia the green party candidate picked up a great deal of support."

These political shifts have also resulted in efforts by most Latin America countries to diversify their connections with the rest of the world and not focus quite as much on the United States. Australia has been one of the countries that many in Latin America have begun to look towards - in more ways than one.

"There are many ways in which politics and culture in Latin America and Australia intersect," Minns says.

John Minns believes that Latin American countries could become key global players in the years ahead. Photo: Stuart Hay

"The number of Latin American students studying in Australia has quadrupled since 2002."

"Both were settled by Europeans who found cultures which were dramatically different from Europe. We each have our histories of conquest and colonisation and a struggle over interpretations of that history. In Latin America, there is la leyenda negra and la leyenda blanca – a black legend and a white legend – about the way in which the indigenous people were treated in the conquest. There, it has been an argument since the 16th century and still informs contemporary politics and the formation of modern identities. The similarities with Australia are obvious."

ANCLAS, Australia's first centre dedicated to the study of Latin America, was established at ANU nearly a decade ago by the late Dr John Gage, who was motivated to better understand the similarities and links between Australia and Latin America.

Minns took over as Director almost three years ago. He says there is a small but committed group of staff, postgraduate and undergraduate students who do the leg work.

"In the past two years alone we have held around 40 seminars or public lectures and about 50 film screenings," Minns says. "We also find that there is a very loyal group of enthusiasts off campus who come to these events and spread the word about them."

This year is especially important for scholars of Latin America, because it marks the bicentennial of independence for a number of countries and the beginnings of the struggle that eventually created independent republics throughout the region. Like the American and French revolutions, these events signaled a different way of thinking about citizenship, liberty, freedom and equality – arguments that continue to this day.

ANCLAS commemorated the bicentennial year by holding two conferences in July that attracted over 150 papers and many international scholars. This was the largest academic event on Latin America yet held in Australia.

Minns says that the region itself is of growing cultural interest to young Australians, as it was for him when he studied Latin America as an undergraduate and then researched Mexico for his PhD.

"It's an extremely diverse place, composed of many sources of experience, of people and of cultures. It has an ancient past and a sophisticated one. When I used to teach Latin American history it always astounded my students to learn that when Hernán Cortés – the Spanish conqueror of Mexico – reached Tenochtitlán, now the site of Mexico City, in 1519, he found a city larger in population than any in the Spain from which he came – indeed almost larger than any city in Europe.

"These pre-Colombian, indigenous roots survive in many parts of Latin America and infuse its modern culture. European culture, of course, plays a major part, in the first place from the Iberian peninsula, but also from other parts of Europe. Africans were brought in chains and brought their cultures. There are also significant Chinese and Japanese diasporas there as well. The complexity and diversity of modern Latin America is part of its allure." ■

Pluto, dwarf planets and potatoes

The number of dwarf planets skirting the edges of our solar system might be many times higher than we've previously thought. Charley Lineweaver argues that it's all a matter of classification.

BY TIM WETHERELL

The five planets known to ancient people were Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

Although outwardly star-like in appearance, their movement across the sky relative to the background stars made them objects of great fascination for centuries. The invention of the telescope revealed their true form, spherical worlds with moons and surface features much like the Earth.

No one had any reason to suspect that there might be more planets in our solar system and it's hard to imagine the surprise in 1781 when William Herschel announced that he had found a sixth planet, Uranus. The discovery of Uranus, though highly significant, was really just a happy accident brought about by Herschel's prolific observations and thorough note-taking.

As astronomers monitored the movement of Uranus over the following century they noticed that its orbit wasn't behaving quite as their calculations suggested it would. They supposed, correctly, that Uranus was being influenced by the gravity of another massive body orbiting further from the sun. In an almost superhuman feat of manual calculation, the French astronomer Urbain Le Verrier correctly predicted the position of the mystery planet, leading to the discovery of Neptune shortly afterwards. This was an early triumph for theoretical astronomy.

When, in later decades, the orbit of Neptune also seemed to be deviating slightly from expectations, it was no surprise that the scientific community suspected the presence of yet another planet beyond Neptune and began to search for what was termed planet X.

Dr Charley Lineweaver is an avid planetary scientist. Photo: Tim Wetherell

In 1930, Clyde William Tombaugh working at the Lowell Observatory discovered what he believed to be the elusive planet X, now known as Pluto.

Yet as time went on, all did not seem to be quite right. Pluto was too far away for its size to be measured directly, but astronomers knew that it must be either very small, very dark in colour or both, because it was so dim. Even the most optimistic estimates of its mass were nowhere near big enough to have any significant effect on the orbits of Uranus or Neptune. It also had a peculiar orbit, more tilted than the other eight planets and even passing inside the orbit of Neptune at times.

In 1978, Pluto's moon Charon was discovered and subsequent observations of orbital motion of the pair enabled scientists to calculate the mass of Pluto with far more accuracy. It turned out to be miniscule, at just 1/500th of the mass of the Earth. To make matters worse, other bodies of similar size began to be discovered beyond the orbit of Neptune too.

Increasingly, it became apparent that Pluto was merely one of the largest of a whole family of icy worlds that occupy the outer regions of the solar system beyond Neptune.

Astronomers now call these bodies Trans-Neptunian Objects or TNOs. One of the features of TNOs is that, just like the asteroids that orbit between Mars and Jupiter, they have a range of sizes from small planetary bodies like Pluto down to little more than dust particles. Clearly, they couldn't all be termed planets, so a decision had to be taken as to what exactly qualifies a body to be called a planet.

In 2006 the International Astronomical Union decided that, to qualify as a planet, a body must be in orbit around the sun, have sufficient mass to assume hydrostatic equilibrium (a nearly round shape), and have 'cleared the neighbourhood' around its orbit.

Pluto and the other large TNOs fail to qualify because, although they are round, they have insufficient mass to have cleared their orbital paths of other material either by direct impact or gravitational perturbation. But, in recognition of their being of sufficient size to have achieved hydrostatic equilibrium, they were designated dwarf planets.

Most astronomers agree that the new classification system represents a sensible approach to classifying the many bodies that orbit the sun, especially since the mass difference between the smallest planet Mercury (3.3×1023 kg) and the largest known dwarf planet Eris (1.6×1022 kg) is over a factor of ten.

Although everyone agrees on the clear difference between planets and dwarf planets, it's not quite so clear where the line between dwarf planets and large chunks of rock or ice lies. The matter hinges on rule two, being massive enough to be essentially round. But how big is that?

The rules provided no hard figure for this radius but, based on observational evidence, most astronomers took it to be roughly 400km, which implies that there are five dwarf planets.

Icy moons (top) become spherical when their radius exceeds about 200km, whilst the size threshold for rocky asteroids (bottom) is around 300km radius.

Ceres with a radius of 490km is the only one in the asteroid belt and there are at least four beyond the orbit of Neptune, comprising Haumea (575km), Makemake (750km), Eris (1200km) and of course Pluto with its radius of 1150km.

The question of how big is big enough is of great interest to Dr Charley Lineweaver, a planetary scientist at ANU.

"I really wanted to know how big a potato-shaped object can be, before it becomes a sphere under the weight of its own gravity," he says.

The critical diameter is what Lineweaver aptly terms the "potato radius" and, surprisingly to date, there has been relatively little theoretical work done to establish just how big this is.

What is known from observation is that rocky bodies, like asteroids, and icy ones, like TNOs, both have quite similar potato radii.

"Initially, it surprised me that bodies like asteroids that are made of materials like rock and iron would have the same potato radius as trans-Neptunian objects that are predominantly made of ice," Lineweaver says. "If you imagine crushing an ice cube with a pair of pliers then doing the same to an iron bolt, the bolt would be far more difficult. But the explanation is that at the distance from the sun TNOs lie, their temperature is very close to absolute zero, which significantly increases the yield strength of the ice."

Because direct imaging of the shape of most TNOs is impossible with current telescope technology, Lineweaver wanted to calculate the potato radius from first principles. In this way, by knowing the radius of an object from its brightness and the material it's composed of, it would be possible to calculate whether it would be round or not and hence whether it should be called a dwarf planet.

"The first calculation I did gave a very surprising answer." Lineweaver says. "A body with a structure like the Earth would need to be around 10,000km radius to achieve hydrostatic equilibrium, which is quite absurd because, as we can see, many bodies smaller than that are perfectly round.

"It turns out that my maths was correct but what I was asking was, 'What would the surface gravity of a planet need to be to deform a rock at the surface?', which is the wrong question. What I needed to calculate was, 'What overburden pressure within a planet would deform rock?'."

The overburden pressure is essentially the force on rocks inside a planet created by the mass of rocks above.

So whilst the gravity at the Earth's surface may not be enough to deform a rock, a few kilometres below the surface the force of millions of tons of rock above being attracted to the Earth's centre is.

"When I modified my calculations to incorporate overburden pressure, the potato radius turned out to be about 200 to 300 km," Lineweaver says, "Which is about what we see."

If Lineweaver is right and any icy TNO of greater than 250km radius will have reached hydrostatic equilibrium, this would greatly increase the number of dwarf planets.

"The whole Pluto question arose when my co-author Dr Marc Norman and I were speaking to one of our graduate students, Michele Bannister. Together we counted at least 50 TNOs with estimated radii in the 250km plus range, which would multiply the number of dwarf planets by a factor of ten," he says. But Lineweaver isn't fixated on names.

"I don't think the whole naming debate is tremendously important to astronomers, we're not really a sentimental bunch! What's really interesting is the nature of bodies like Pluto and what they can tell us about the formation of the early solar system. But even if you're a Pluto fan, the news is not all bad. You can think of Pluto as the second largest of a whole family of Trans-Neptunian Objects," he says. ■

A version of this article first appeared in ScienceWise, *the ANU science magazine: http://sciencewise.anu.edu.au/*

A stupa holding the skulls of over 5000 genocide victims is a powerful reminder of the Khmer Rouge's killing fields. Photo: Mendhak Paranormal http://www.flickr.com/people/mendhak/

Echoes in the killing fields

During the 1970s the Khmer Rouge ravaged the population of Cambodia in a brutal regime of social engineering and genocide. Thirty-one years later, ANU graduate law student, Lyma Nguyen, is finding that the path to justice is difficult.

BY JAMES GIGGACHER

A small white temple squats in the tropical vegetation, its layers tapering towards the sky. The walls of the temple are as marked and cracked as the hundreds of skulls piled haphazardly inside. They are silent and still like the brick that entombs them.

The temple and its grim contents are a powerful reminder of the Kraing Ta Chann prison, one of many killing fields that dotted Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. During the Khmer Rouge's regime of terror and genocide, up to 200,000 people were killed and buried at sites like Kraing Ta Chann. The regime's policies also caused the death of two million people through disease and starvation.

Thirty-one years later, Lyma Nguyen is helping the country to come to terms with this violent past. In addition to studying for her Master of Laws, she has been working as a pro bono international civil party lawyer at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). Through the ECCC, Nguyen is able to seek moral and collective reparations for victims of the regime's persecution of Cambodia's minority ethnic Vietnamese population – a group who also suffered terribly under the Khmer Rouge.

"The Khmer Rouge deliberately targeted the ethnic Vietnamese for elimination," Nguyen says. "In legal terms, what my clients went through amounts to genocide as the crimes [had] an intention to destroy their group, either in part or in whole, on the basis of ethnic and national identity.

"Whilst I focus on cases of persecution against ethnic Vietnamese, my clients – who today number over 100 – include people from the United States, New Zealand and Australia, who lost family members through the Khmer Rouge's policies against foreign nationals," Nguyen adds.

"Together with my national co-lawyer, NY Chandy, I am also representing Khmer in mixed marriages who lost their Vietnamese spouses

Lyma Nguyen (left) sits with locals whilst collecting the testimony from a victim of the Khmer Rouge.

or family members as well as non-Vietnamese who suffered crimes because of a perception by the perpetrators that they were Vietnamese."

Like all victims of the Khmer Rouge, Nguyen's clients experienced forced relocation, enslavement, overwork, starvation, sickness and mental and physical abuse from their forced work in the killing fields.

"Victims were forced to dig soil, build dams and grow crops from 6am to 11pm each day. They were given meagre rations of watery porridge for meals, and were subjected to summary executions for the most arbitrary of reasons.

"Entire Vietnamese families were taken away in ox carts, never to be seen again, and many victims will never know the fate of their loved ones. In the communes where some of my clients lived, the Khmer Rouge dried human gallbladders taken from their victims and hung them out on the trees, to frighten and intimidate others."

Nguyen believes that the contempt for, and abuse of, ethnic Vietnamese were also made clear through mixed-marriage policies implemented by the Khmer Rouge where a Khmer spouse in a mixed Cambodian/Vietnamese family would be expected to kill the Vietnamese spouse as well as their mixed children, or have the entire family killed by the Khmer Rouge.

"Some people under these conditions were forced to kill their own family members," says Nguyen. "Unfortunately, as victims age, a number of key witnesses have passed away and the direct testimony is lost with the person."

Although the Khmer Rouge is no longer in power, discrimination against ethnic Vietnamese continues. Nguyen's clients claim that the Vietnamese in Cambodia have suffered ongoing and contemporary human rights issues, including immigration problems. They are at times treated with contempt and hostility, as a result of past conflicts between Vietnam and Cambodia.

"Entire Vietnamese families were taken away in ox carts, never to be seen again, and many victims will never know the fate of their loved ones."

"Even though the ethnic Vietnamese were deliberately and positively targeted for elimination and persecution by the Khmer Rouge, some people do not regard them as 'victims'. This has led to the very real issue for this victim group of mistrust of authorities, and a fear of reprisals from surviving members of the Khmer Rouge who are still within the community. Khmer Rouge members continued to target ethnic Vietnamese into the 1990s, although those crimes are not within the jurisdiction of the ECCC."

In December 2009, Nguyen and her fellow lawyers filed a legal submission to the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges (OCIJ) in the ECCC, requesting the tribunal consider new evidence that the Khmer Rouge targeted Vietnamese populations living in Cambodia, with the intention of systematically wiping out the group.

Shortly after the submission, the tribunal charged former leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime - Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan and Ieng Thirith - with genocide against ethnic Vietnamese. Nguyen believes that the charge is an acknowledgement of the scale and nature of the suffering caused by the regime's persecution of minority Vietnamese.

According to Nguyen, the ethnic Vietnamese she represents, like many victims of the Khmer Rouge, identify themselves, first and foremost, as survivors of the regime.

"That they are still alive is core to their identity," says Nguyen.

"Victims of genocide have distinct suffering and distinct interests and demand a true representation of the nature and extent of the crimes they suffered, simply because the scope of human suffering depicted by genocide has historic impact on victims, including on their descendents."

Yet the ECCC's December 2009 ruling has not ensured justice for all of Nguyen's clients. In January, an arm of the tribunal ruled that 16 people represented by the lawyer were inadmissible as civil parties due, in part, to the locations in which the alleged crimes took place. This was despite their being accepted as legitimate by another arm of the tribunal earlier on. In April, yet another part of the tribunal recommended that the clients have their ability to proceed reinstated.

"It provided a glimmer of hope in allowing us to re-submit their applications to the court," says Nguyen.

"The recent inclusion of genocide charges affords victims of genocide the opportunity to seek justice for the unspeakable crimes they suffered and, in that process, discover the truth about the defendants' role in those atrocities.

"The genocide charges are not only a manifestation of justice for Cambodia but a reminder, internationally, that there will never be impunity for perpetrators of genocide."

In June 2010, Nguyen will return to Cambodia to continue her pursuit of reparations for victims of violence against ethnic Vietnamese, through a placement with Legal Aid Cambodia and the support of Australian Volunteers International. In addition to working in the ECCC, Nguyen is also helping to rebuild legal capacity within the state.

Tree rings tell climate story

A mountain plum pine. Photo: Sarah Goldin

Endowment funding from ACTEW is helping one researcher extend his tree-ring study in Australia's alpine regions. The end result could be a comprehensive climate record stretching back hundreds of years - with some sobering lessons for the future. BY SIMON COUPER

Dr Brookhouse with the gnarled, up to 500-year-old mountain plum pine, which holds many climate secrets. Photo: Sarah Goldin

Humans have been keeping comprehensive scientific climate records for a few hundred years now, at most.

The availability and reliability of meteorological information from the past is a geographic game, depending on where you are in the world and who has been paying attention.

If you want to find hard data about things like average annual rainfall in Australia prior to the late 18th century – when Europeans arrived with their equipment and log books – then you need to think laterally. Or saw laterally, as is sometimes the case for Dr Matthew Brookhouse.

Brookhouse is a scientist and lecturer in the Fenner School of Environment and Society at ANU. He's also a woodsman.

For weeks at a time, the young researcher can be found striding through the high country of south-eastern Australia, collecting alpine tree-ring samples to build up a climate record stretching back over the last 400 to 500 years. He'll use them to look at the correlation between tree growth and environmental factors, such as snow quantity and ambient temperature. The relative distance between tree rings in the trunks of various trees shows the relationship between growth and environment. For this work, the iconic snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) has proven to be a useful window to the past.

"It's funny, but snow gum turns out not to like snow," Brookhouse explains. "It grows at the snow line because it's out competed by everything else lower down. At the snow line, these trees are very sensitive to how much snow falls during winter. Initially this seems odd, but a deep snow pack during winter extends the period the snow sits there during spring. The longer it sits there, the longer the snow prevents the soil from warming up, which stops the plant from growing, which narrows the window for growth."

By drilling core samples out of snow gum trunks – a process that doesn't harm the tree – Brookhouse has used tree rings to construct a growth history, or chronology. From this he has been able to infer things like how warm a season was, or how much water fell as snow. This white stuff is not merely picturesque, he says, but also a vital source of melt water for catchments across south-eastern Australia.

"That snow melting in September and October is largely responsible for the annual peak in flow in rivers like the Murray, the Murrumbidgee, the Cotter, the Thompson, and the Kiewa. All rivers flowing out of alpine rivers show this peak, some a little later depending on where they are."

It's this kind of work that landed Brookhouse $50,000 in research funding as part of a new partnership between ANU and the government-owned utility companies in the ACT. In 2009, ACTEW and ActewAGL put aside $2 million in an endowment fund supporting a range of undergraduate scholarships and research projects at the University. What better project than one looking at historic patterns of temperature and water cycles in the catchment for Canberra?

Brookhouse says he's pleased to receive the support, as it will allow him to branch out from snow gums to bring the mountain plum pine (*Podocarpus lawrencei*) into the picture. These gnarled, dwarfed trees grow amid the rocks and boulders of alpine Australia. But don't let their size or shape stop you from showing due respect. Some of them are old. Very old.

"*Podocarpus* can get to be a 400 or 500-year-old plant, with clear tree rings," Brookhouse says. "All the bells are ringing saying this plant is ideal for a temperature reconstruction in the Australian Alps. We know that it exists all the way through the high country. There are hundreds of thousands of them. They grow to a good age and they're highly sensitive to climate.

"So why don't we work on it more often? Like all members of its family, mountain plum pine has an eccentric growth habit. They put on a lot of growth on one side for 100 years, and then the area in which they're putting on growth will shift. It will be on another part of the bole. The plant is also prostrate, so that makes it even more severe."

This eccentric growth behaviour means the tree rings in *Podocarpus* can prove difficult to read with traditional coring methods, as you might sample a part of the tree where growth has been compressed for hundreds of years. If you can't core, then you have to cut, and that could mean lopping hundreds of trees. But sometimes nature lends a helping hand.

"In 2003, fires burned nearly two million hectares of forest in Victoria, NSW and the ACT," Brookhouse says. "*Podocarpus* is normally protected from small fires because it grows in these boulder streams, where there is no fuel to carry the fire. But in 2003 and 2006, the fire fronts moved through stands that hadn't been burnt for some time. This meant that many stands are now dead. We now have had hundreds of thousands of plants across the alps, some of them several hundred years old, from which we can cut small discs. As a result we now have six to eight hundred samples ready to analyse."

Analysing the tree rings is no simple task. Each disc needs to be sanded as smooth as possible, using varying grades of sandpaper and taking hours of labour. These sanded discs are then digitally scanned, but even then clever computers need an awful lot of human guidance on which tree rings to trace. The entire process can take days for each sample. In this kind of work, patience and strong hands are virtues.

Brookhouse estimates that it will take two to three years to process all the information from the *Podocarpus* samples, yet he says the wait is worthwhile. As well as building up a comprehensive climate record, he says the project could also lead to a fire history for the highlands of south-eastern Australia. These two things might influence future water planning decisions.

"The first thing we see in the tree ring reconstruction [from work completed in Victoria] is this dry period over the last ten years," Brookhouse says. "It replicates reasonably well the observed record.

"We also know that the period during the 1950s and 1960s was pretty wet, and the tree-ring record shows that as well. It also picks up the years after the Federation Drought when it was a bit drier, so this method seems to replicate the high-end variability, but it does even better at decadal trends.

"It was also dry during the period during the 1860s through to the turn of the 20th century - at least as dry as it has been in the last decade. It appears that we could go through long periods, multi-decadal periods of low rainfall and low river flow.

"That's great to know, but it's something that we didn't know when we built dams like the Thomson or the Snowy Mountains Scheme. What we knew then was how much water had been flowing into the system during the early period of the 20th century. In short, we didn't base our infrastructure on long-term knowledge. Instead, we 'grew up' in a period that was wet, and that may be a poor indication of what it's actually like most of the time."

Brookhouse believes that listening to trees like the snow gum and mountain plum pine will do more than provide insights into the past climate of Australia – it may also ring a wake-up bell for the present. ■

Geoffrey Lancaster says it's the stasis at the core of Haydn's works that is his great achievement. Photo: seventyeight.com.au

Haydn in full

Geoffrey Lancaster is recording the entire suite of Haydn's piano sonatas. The project is a 200th anniversary homage to the composer, whose subtlety, sense of humour and innovation can often surprise lovers of classic era music.
BY PATRICK INGLE

Few people have to worry about where to put a piano, let alone what to do with 900 of them. But Dr Geoffrey Lancaster grapples with that question constantly.

Lancaster says that between two to five people call each day with offers of pianos for the ANU School of Music Keyboard Collection, which is also Australia's largest working public and scholarly resource of historical keyboard instruments.

"In some cases the pianos are amazing. Someone just rang me up from Dubbo who's got an instrument that Dame Nellie Melba used all the time when she was touring Australia. I'm happy to say that this culturally significant instrument has now been bequeathed to the School of Music's collection."

Lancaster is a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and the ANU School of Music, to which he returned in 2000 while maintaining an international performing and research career. After serving as Head of Keyboard from 2008 to 2010, he now teaches and researches in historically informed keyboard studies. His international reputation was established 30 years ago when he became the first Australian to win the Festival Van Vlaanderen International Mozart Fortepiano competition. As a former curator of keyboard at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, he also has extensive experience managing acquisitions for keyboard collections.

One fortepiano from the ANU collection, a Paul McNulty copy of a 1788 Stein, can be heard on Lancaster's recently released recording of the first volume of Joseph Haydn's keyboard sonatas.

The scholar-musician is currently recording all 52 of Haydn's keyboard sonatas as part of a project he began last year to mark the 200th anniversary of the composer's death.

The first release has attracted stellar reviews in Australia and Europe, though Lancaster is surprised at the acclaim.

"I'm astounded. I didn't expect people to be so favourably disposed towards what amounts to an innovative way of looking at this music in the context of the interpretative traditions of our own time. I don't play Haydn in the way that most pianists around the world tend to."

But Lancaster says this worldwide interpretative uniformity is beginning to change, opening up new ways of understanding the music of composers such as Haydn.

"Things are little by little beginning to turn around. We're beginning to hear performances that are less metronomic, more spontaneous and more rhythmically flexible. In other words, performances that are more 'rhetorically' based.

"Improvised ornamentation is also an important part of performing 18th century keyboard music. This music was very much like jazz is now. Fortunately, hundreds of music treatises were published during the 18th century, which give us a lot of information on how improvised ornamentation might best be done.

"If we're to play 18th century fortepianos and the music that was written for them, research into music treatises of the time is essential. It's only through these treatises that we can understand in a richly contextualized way the incomplete record that's represented by 18th century musical notation. Once you understand the performance conventions of Haydn's time, there's freedom to be spontaneous."

It's a seeming spontaneity – and humour – that Haydn is particularly well-known for, Lancaster says.

"[Haydn] had a very humorous edge. Remember that humour in the 18th century is not so much 'ha-ha', but rather 'ah-ha'. It's to do with the unexpected turn; you are led down a musical path, and then you suddenly find you've hit a brick wall and you're doing a screaming u-turn. It's the constant and delightful thwarting of expectation.

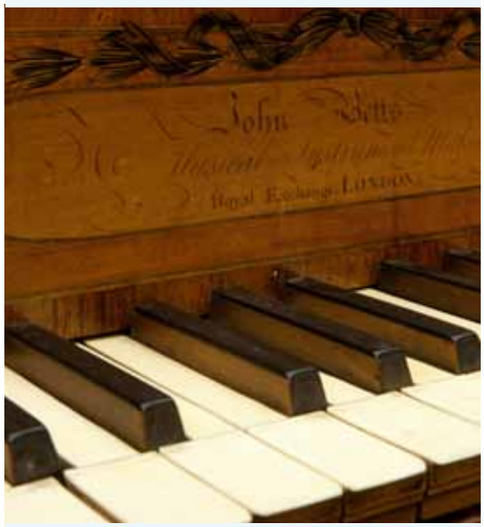
Henrion Square Piano (circa 1750)

"This is the type of so-called 'square' piano that Mozart would have known. The Mozart family owned an instrument that sounded similar. There are only two square pianos by this maker in the world, and we have one of them here in the ANU Keyboard Collection, courtesy of an enlightened private collector."

Rönisch Grand Piano (1879)

"This piano is unique. It was the centerpiece of Nicholson & Co's stand at the first Melbourne International Exhibition, held in 1880 in the Melbourne Exhibition Building. After the Exhibition, the instrument was used mainly for concerts given in Nicholson's Melbourne and Sydney shop concert rooms. It stretches all the design parameters for grand pianos of the time. There was nothing like it in the world. It was acquired with the assistance of a Commonwealth grant from the Movable Cultural Heritage Account, and funding from Pioneer Australia."

Betts Square Piano (circa 1770)



"Betts was a violin-maker and musical instrument dealer who put his own nameboard on this piano, which is interesting given that it was made by someone else. We think this piano was actually made by Christopher Ganer, who was one of the most important innovators of square piano design in late 18th century London. This instrument is extremely rare. It has also been generously donated to ANU."

Photos: Stuart Hay

"Haydn is a very complex composer. There's no other 18th century composer who could write for the connoisseur and the lover of music at one and the same time. Haydn did this better than anyone, so that listeners who heard his music during his lifetime, be they connoisseurs or lovers of music, always came out completely fulfilled.

"But what I find especially attractive about Haydn's music is that, regardless of how much is going on in terms of invention or emotional intensity, there is always a wonderful sense of stasis at the very heart of everything he does."

Lancaster believes it is this stasis that makes Haydn "the greatest genius of the classic era."

"There's a deep, still contemplation in Haydn's music. It's simultaneously remote and glowing. Haydn's music has something about it that's exceedingly quiet and intense and private. Haydn apprehends these things with a wonderful vulnerability that's more than sensuous beauty. Haydn's a visionary. He always points to the path that leads from darkness to light. His music is always underpinned by love and joy and peace. He's both sage and humane.

"It's a little bit like saying, 'I am Mr Haydn and I am giving you a chocolate', in other words, a beautiful musical idea. 'Have this chocolate – isn't that delicious! Would you like another one? Yes? Here's another one. Isn't that delicious?' Haydn encourages reflection. Mozart has the same box of chocolates, but he throws the whole box at you.

"Mozart and Haydn were both capable of being intensely subtle, and incredibly tasteful. In the 18th century those who could say the most with the least number of notes were considered the most tasteful. With three notes, Haydn can create a universe."

"With three notes Haydn can create a universe."

Ultimately, Lancaster hopes to bring what he sees as the beauty of Haydn to a wider audience.

"My hope is that listeners will be engaged from second to second by Haydn's musical discourse. His music is so consummately imaginative and unpredictable, and always so compelling. If I can release that when performing his music, I'll have done the honourable thing. After all, Haydn's got more talent in his little finger than most musicians have in their entire body."

For Lancaster, the fortepiano is also crucial to understanding and interpreting Haydn's music. Featuring heavily in the School of Music's Keyboard Collection, the fortepiano is the historical version of the piano for which all 18th century composers wrote, and one which naturally lends itself to reinterpretation of the repertoire composed for it.

"The collection here at ANU has keyboard instruments of the type Haydn would have used in his lifetime, ranging from those he would have encountered in Austria through to the then very new-fangled pianos that he encountered and was supremely impressed by when he visited London.

"[Haydn] made two visits to London. He composed his virtuosic last three piano sonatas specifically for English pianos. These pianos were very different from the instruments that Haydn had encountered up to that time. They had a different sound, and they were played differently.

"Earlier instruments are all perfectly calculated for the music that's written for them because they were intimately understood and appreciated by composers of their time. After all, composers don't write for instruments that don't exist yet."

By playing historical instruments, Lancaster says, we can rediscover the music of another era.

"The music regains its 'original voice'. Consequently, the meaning of the music changes, both for the audience and the performer; where the beauties lie, where the passions lie, where the intellectual constructs lie, these things become evident in a way that a modern piano cannot reveal."

And whilst Lancaster was trained on the modern piano, it is with the fortepiano that he feels the deepest connection.

"The fortepiano is really my personal voice, it's where my musical love is, and so it's not surprising that that here at ANU I'm building what I'm building. As an educator, it's vital to enable piano students to realise that there are many ways of musical knowing. Many of my northern hemisphere colleagues are envious of the ANU collection of historical pianos, and repeatedly tell me that they wished they had a similar resource through which they might combine teaching and research."

But looking after a large keyboard collection is not without its own challenges. For Lancaster, the greatest challenge might just be knowing where to put the next piano. ■

More: Geoffrey Lancaster's latest Haydn recording, Complete Keyboard Sonatas, Vol 1 and Vol 2, is released by Tall Poppies Records http://members.iinet.net.au/~tallpoppie.

Numbers women

Women accountants in World War II

The Second World War was a time of great loss, suffering and upheaval in Australia, but it was also a time of opportunity. The conflict opened up professional opportunities for women that had previously been denied to them. Researchers from the ANU College of Business and Economics have been talking to some of Australia's women accounting pioneers to gather stories from the start of their careers.

BY STEPHEN GREEN

Today women are an integral part of professional life in Australia.

It's easy to forget how very recently the situation was different.

The accounting profession provides a striking example. Close to half of the current members of Australia's largest professional accounting body, CPA Australia, are women. In 1933, however, a census showed that only four per cent of accountants in Australia were women. The advent of war in 1939 meant things were to change radically, providing the platform for the establishment of women in the profession.

Three researchers from the School of Accounting and Business Information Systems at ANU have been collecting rich testimony about the constraining attitudes of the pre-war era and the opportunities for professional empowerment that the war provided.

Dr Colleen Hayes, Dr Leanne Johns and Catherine Ikin used advertisements in national newspapers to invite women who had worked in accounting between 1939 and 1960 to be interviewed about their experiences. Twenty women from around Australia responded, one even saying, "It's about time someone told our story!" The interviews revealed how women embraced the opportunity war gave them to enter accounting and how they went on to have successful and rewarding careers in the profession.

The researchers argue that the small number of women in accounting before the war, as with many similar professions, was the result of Victorian thinking. This persistent patriarchal attitude assumed that women didn't have the intellectual disposition to cope with the rational and technical demands of the discipline. At the same time, many women were denied the tertiary education or professional training opportunities as these were reserved for their male siblings, or because it was believed the education would be wasted on them. One of the study participants recalled: "I was going to get a scholarship to go to the college to do the leaving [exam], but Dad said no, I'd better get a job, because, 'I've got seven sons to educate and education is wasted on girls because they only get married'."

This is typical of the stories revealed in the interviews, stories of bright women with great potential denied the opportunity to further themselves at university.

Women were encouraged into office work instead. One participant recalled her experience from the mid-1930s: "At that time, I remember my father saying to me, Well now you've got a good opportunity, you can come and do office work with me... or you can go and do dressmaking or something.' ... He reminded me that he had a son to bring up ... the idea was in those days the boy got most of the education. So he went to school and he became an engineer ... and I just became a bookkeeper."

All of the women interviewed began their working lives between the ages of 15 and 17 in office roles unrelated to accounting. They worked in commerce, industry and government. When war broke out in 1939 many professions lost men to the war effort and this opened up many more opportunities for women.

For accounting practice to survive, the only option was for women to step into the breach. Women were recruited from the ranks of shorthand typists, stenographers, non-audit clerks and cashiers. One woman recalls: "Oh yes, the firm was in a pickle. There was no question of hiring anybody else. There was nobody at all. So that's how I became an accountant."

Asked if the war had played a significant role in her career, one woman's response was: "Oh yes, I wouldn't have been sent as an assistant to an accountant. I was the assistant cashier and the great thing was that the cashier left and I became the cashier. One of the accountants was complaining he couldn't manage, could he have an assistant? And because I had done this tax schedule because I was good at maths, I became his assistant."

Statistics show that the number of women in accounting increased threefold over the war years. Yet statistics don't tell us the "positive and essential way in which the women" contributed to the development of the profession and the wider war effort, researcher Colleen Hayes says.

"Whilst the war provided the initial opportunity, the interviews reveal how the aptitude and application of the women involved began to counteract prevailing negative attitudes and dispel the myth that accounting was beyond the intellectual ability of women," Hayes says. "In so doing, they laid the foundations for future generations of women to enter the field."

Almost all of the women interviewed had had some exposure to bookkeeping in secondary school. They all expressed an interest in, and an aptitude for, figures. Most of them also enrolled in accounting courses during the war as a means of improving their technical competency and were encouraged by their employers

to do so. Working and studying was by no means easy. Women were working six days a week and attending night classes during blackouts, all of this at a time when there was limited public transport available.

Some of the women recall the encouragement and support of male supervisors, grateful to have intelligent and able accountants. Yet the underlying perception that women were not suited to the profession prevailed. One woman recalled: "The managing director was away when they employed me and he came back and found he had this young lady in charge of all his finances. He was very shocked, but then it worked out so well and he apologised within a few months."

Elizabeth Ellen Tilse 1908 – 2008

In 2008 the *Australian Professional Accounting Journal* ran a short article celebrating the 100th birthday of Elizabeth Tilse, a woman who had reached the pinnacle of the accounting profession, having embarked upon her career during the Second World War. Dr Hayes recalls: "That prompted me to reflect on the role that women had played in the history of the profession in that era, and so the study began."

Sadly, the researchers were unable to interview Mrs Tilse before she died, but her story, one of opportunity, resilience and great application, is amply echoed in the testimonies of the women who feature in the study.

Hayes and her colleagues say that their research project shows how women thrived in their new roles and continued to practise as accountants for many years and in many different spheres. Their stories provide ample evidence of a shared interest in numbers and accounting, mathematical ability and high achievement. They also might be considered one positive outcome of a terrible conflict.

Elizabeth Tilse

Loud bangs in the Afghan night

Tribal and religious gather for a shura, or Islamic consultation, in Kandahar – the core area of Taliban insurgency. Photo: Mark O'Donald / US Navy http://www.flickr.com/people.isafmedia/

ANU alumnus and inaugural Hedley Bull Scholar, Tom Gregg, spent four years working with the United Nations in Afghanistan. Today he continues to use his passion and expertise to build a better future for a struggling nation.
BY JAMES GIGGACHER

The stillness of the night is suddenly broken by the sound of a grenade exploding. Heavy brick crumbles, leaving a gaping hole in what was, only moments before, Tom Gregg's bedroom wall.

Gregg says this was one of the "most unpleasant" experiences that he had during his time working in Afghanistan. Fortunately, the rude awakening did not cause any lasting harm to him or his colleagues.

"My two dogs Jack and Ciccolina were also unhurt," he is quick to add.

"[During the four years that I was in Afghanistan] there were many days that had their fair share of intrigue, interest or tension," says Gregg. "We had a very good security team and were able to travel to even the most isolated parts of the border regions by invitation from the local tribes. It's really the only way to go."

Gregg first went to Afghanistan in January 2005, as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

"It was the time of the Afghan elections in 2004 and the UN Mission was looking for political affairs officers," explains Gregg.

"My friend and former thesis supervisor, Dr Paul Keal, sent me an email, not only alerting me to the vacancies but encouraging me to apply. At the time I was in Byron Bay on a three-week surf safari."

Leaving behind the blue breakers of northern New South Wales, Gregg was soon amongst the dusty, mountainous landscape of southeast Afghanistan. Starting off as a political affairs officer, Gregg rapidly rose through the United Nations Mission's ranks, eventually becoming the head of UNAMA's southeast region.

During this time, Gregg met with religious and tribal leaders in the insurgency-ridden Zadran area, consulted political leaders like the Afghan-Australian Governor of Paktya province, Hakim Taniwal, and observed elections near the Pakistani border.

After spending three years in Afghanistan's tribal belt, Gregg was promoted again and went to Kabul. There he took up a role as the special assistant, advising the UN Secretary General's Special Representative to Afghanistan and head of UNAMA, Kai Eide.

The move put Gregg right in the heart of the United Nation's day-to-day work in Afghanistan, coordinating international efforts in the country and supporting the Afghani government in critical state-building areas, including security, governance, and regional cooperation. In this role, Gregg also travelled around the world with Kai Eide, briefing political leaders such as George W. Bush, Angela Merkel and Tony Blair about the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

In addition to his extensive work with the UN in Afghanistan, Gregg has consulted for the Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue as well as Strategy International. He has worked for the Australian Council for International Development on Pacific Policy and as an independent researcher with ANU.

His time working at ANU resulted in the publication of *How Ethical is Australia?*, a book he co-authored with renowned ethicist Peter Singer. "I have to admit," says Gregg, "after spending four years in Afghanistan, Australia looks very ethical."

Today Gregg is half a world away again – this time in New York City. Whilst he is no longer in Afghanistan, his commitment to the fragile nation state remains strong. He is now a Fellow and Senior Program Coordinator of the Afghanistan Regional Project at New York University's Center on International Cooperation (CIC).

"The focus of my work is on political settlement in Afghanistan and regional cooperation," he says. "It's a very 'hands on' role, which I enjoy. I travel to Afghanistan and the region three to four times a year."

As part of his work for CIC, Gregg has been looking at how Western engagement with the Pashtun tribes of southeast Afghanistan may be one of the best chances for improving stability in this strategically important region.

In a country characterised by weak central governance and state illegitimacy, many analysts argue that tribal allegiances are an important consideration. Afghanistan's contemporary political landscape is shaped by tribal groups and they are set to remain important players well into the future, Gregg says.

"That's why it is so important to engage with tribal groups," he says. "There is no purely military solution in Afghanistan. It's political – people need to talk.

"Today's Afghanistan is less stable than when I left only 12 months ago. The road ahead will be long and difficult. I just hope that some type of political settlement can be reached because at the moment it is the Afghan population that is suffering more than anyone from the ongoing conflict." ■

Tom Gregg completed a Master of Arts in International Relations in 2003. To learn more about the Graduate Studies in International Affairs program see http://rspas.anu.edu.au/gsia

alter ego

Professor Kerry Jacobs is an accountant with a difference. From his base in the ANU College of Business and Economics, Jacobs researches serious matters like public sector accountability and governance. Yet he also writes poetry that's published in accounting journals and once mixed university study with clown training. Jacobs says there is no difference between academic work and creative endeavours – only shifting mental gears.

Why are you interested in writing poetry?

In one sense I think I'm rebelling against being an accountant, and maybe even being an academic is a rebellion against being an accountant. I started out by reacting against my own perception of what an accountant was or wasn't. Then I got into an accounting firm and discovered that my own perception was right and I probably didn't fit. The nice thing about being an academic is that there is a much broader scope about acceptable behaviour in the sense of the kind of person you can be and the things you can be interested in.

When did you start penning poems?

When I was younger. Angst-ridden teenagers should write bad poetry. You write it when relationships break up, that kind of thing. Mostly you're polite enough not to expose it to the world. I remembered a session at school where someone who was doing a class on poetry said that poems didn't have to rhyme. Suddenly I thought, 'That's really interesting'. Here is a way of communicating and expressing something important.

Do you draw mental lines between your different modes of writing?

I don't think about it as, 'Here's another thing I do'. It's more like this is a part of who I am. Is writing poetry different from playing the Irish drum? Is it different from writing academic papers? Is it different from making presentations to politicians from developing countries? I don't really see an alter ego, I don't see a difference.

What's your favourite of the poems you've written?

It's a piece about my childhood impressions of growing up in New Zealand. Some of [my other poems] are about me being amused by a situation or reflecting on a job interview or the shortage of academic staff and how everyone plays these musical chairs. So some of it is safe, but this one is kind of dangerous because it's so personal.

Value in exchange

Nobody is irreplaceable they say
With exchangeable parts
As if what is unique
Can be traded away
We are after all
Commodities
Units not
People

Published in the *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*

catch up

Been a while since you've visited campus? That doesn't mean you should miss out on the many conversations taking place at ANU.
Check out our latest podcasts at: http://www.anu.edu.au/podcasts
Or view our new videos at: http://www.youtube.com/user/ANUchannel

Here is a taste of three talks that have taken place at ANU recently.

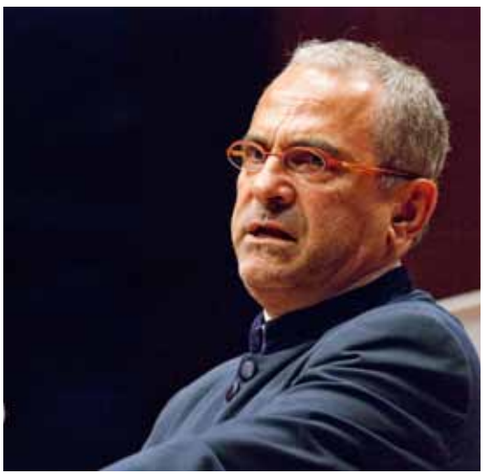


Photo: Darren Boyd

Democracy in Timor-Leste: Challenges and prospects

Dr José Ramos-Horta
President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
Listen: http://www.anu.edu.au/discoveranu/content/podcasts/democracy_in_timor_leste_challenges_and_prospects/

After two years of peace and almost a decade since independence there is hope that the days of occupation, violence, disease and starvation have passed for the young country of Timor-Leste.

In the annual Centre for Democratic Institutions Lecture, Dr José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste gives a major speech on the development of democratic institutions, culture and practice in Timor-Leste and the broader challenges for democracy.

Photo: NASA

The greatest unsolved mysteries of the universe

Dr Paul Francis
Astronomer, ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics
View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n19HIHCpOVE

Which way do comets' tails face? Does dark matter exist? Where did the universe come from and what is it made of? What's at the end of the universe? In this presentation Dr Paul Francis explores some of the greatest unsolved problems of modern astrophysics, describes why they are so hard, and discusses the efforts being made to solve them.

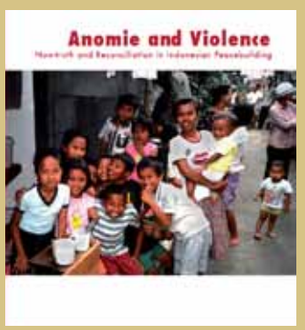
Australia's role in refugee protection: Where to from here?

Professor Penelope Matthew
Freilich Foundation Chair, ANU
View: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uC_ua4T0YQQ

Australia's handling of the asylum-seekers on board the Oceanic Viking has sparked vigorous and ongoing debate. In her inaugural lecture as the Freilich Foundation Chair, Professor Penelope Mathew takes a look at Australia's past and present policies against the backdrop of global refugee movements. The expert in international, human rights and refugee law assesses these policies for compliance with accepted international human rights standards as well as evaluating their capacity to deal with the problem of forced migration.

bookshelf

ANU E Press was established in 2003 to explore and enable new modes of scholarly publishing. *ANU Reporter* explores one of the hundreds of titles that readers can either download as free eBooks or order as print-on-demand copies. To see more, visit http://epress.anu.edu.au/



Anomie and Violence
Non-truth and reconciliation in Indonesian peacebuilding
John Braithwaite, Valerie Braithwaite, Michael Cookson, Leah Dunn

Indonesia suffered an explosion of religious violence, ethnic violence, separatist violence, terrorism, and violence by criminal gangs, the security forces and militias in the late 1990s and early 2000s. By 2002 Indonesia had the worst terrorism problem of any nation. All these forms of violence have now fallen dramatically. How was this accomplished? What drove the rise and the fall of violence?

Anomie theory is deployed to explain these developments. Sudden institutional change at the time of the Asian financial crisis and the fall of President Suharto meant the rules of the game were up for grabs. Valerie Braithwaite's motivational postures theory is used to explain the gaming of the rules and the disengagement from authority that occurred in that era.

Ultimately, resistance to Suharto laid a foundation for commitment to a revised, more democratic, institutional order. The peacebuilding that occurred was not based on the high-integrity truth-seeking and reconciliation that was the normative preference of these authors. Rather, it was based on non-truth, sometimes lies, and yet substantial reconciliation. This poses a challenge to restorative justice theories of peacebuilding.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

2010 PREMIER CONCERT SERIES

CONCERT #3
VIRGINIA TAYLOR & TIMOTHY KAIN
SUNDAY 8 AUGUST, 3PM

CONCERT #4
SCHUMANN LIEDER RECITAL
THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER, 7:30PM

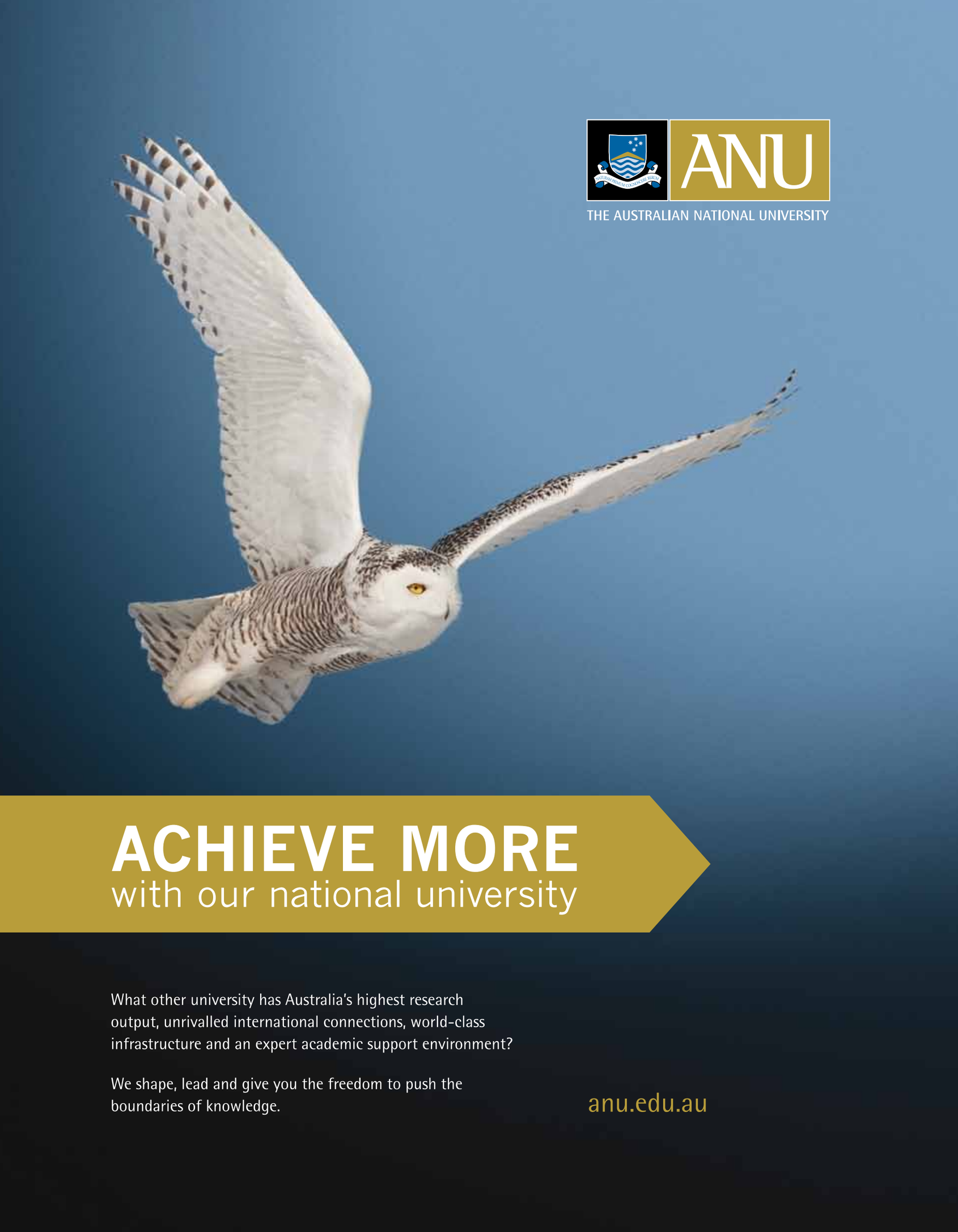
OTHER FEATURED EVENTS IN SEMESTER TWO

International visiting artist | **Ricardo Gallen (Spain) - guitar** | Thursday 5 August | Llewellyn Hall

SoM Opera presentation | **Dido & Aeneas** | Friday 27 - Sunday 29 August | Street Theatre

Floriade 2010 Concert Series | **Rhythm & Blooms** | Sat 10 September - Sunday 10 October | Stage 88

Tickets: Ticketek 132 849 or www.ticketek.com.au
Information: ANU School of Music 02 6125 5700 or www.music.anu.edu.au


ANU
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
ACHIEVE MORE
with our national university
What other university has Australia's highest research output, unrivalled international connections, world-class infrastructure and an expert academic support environment?
We shape, lead and give you the freedom to push the boundaries of knowledge.
anu.edu.au