

# NEWS & NOTES

December 2016

## From the Master



Professor Peter Kanowski

I'm writing with the sounds of Oriana Chorale, their annual Christmas Carol performance at the Members' Christmas Dinner, and the equally dulcet tones of members accompanying the Chorale at all the appropriate points, still ringing in my ears. Those of you who could be there may feel similarly. And perhaps, like mine, your ears had only just stopped ringing from the sounds of

the long and short pipes of St Andrew's Night a few weeks earlier. So it's been the usual busy end to the Members' year, as in the House more generally – we'll reach a crescendo of sorts on 19 December, when the Vice-Chancellor hosts a garden party at University House for all ANU staff. Some of you might be able to tell me the last occasion on which that happened ... And, as usual, we continue to play a central role for the university as a venue for official events – most recently the launch by the Foreign Minister, Hon Julie Bishop MP, of Prof Amin Saikal's latest book, *The Arab World and Iran: A turbulent region in transition*.



ANU Vice Chancellor Brian Schmidt, Minister of Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop, Professor Amin Saikal and ANU Chancellor Gareth Evans. Image: Stuart Hay, ANU.

As *News & Notes* records below, it's been a year of change and some challenge at the House. Some of our longest-serving staff have moved on – we acknowledge and thank them, and wish them well. We're part way through the process of appointing successors; in some cases, to new roles that reflect the changing business and university environment. 2016 has been a difficult year financially for the hospitality sector in Canberra, and we

haven't been immune from that. On the other hand, we're also now much better positioned to address the challenges and opportunities ahead, thanks to the hard work of both University House staff and colleagues in the ANU. We're assisted in that by some new reporting lines with ANU (see next section).

There are a number of clear priorities for the House in 2017. The first of these is in continuing to enhance the quality of experience for our members, guests and clients, in all that we do across our various activity and business areas. For members, we hope this will translate into a greater diversity of events than we've been able to offer for the past few years. I've appreciated feedback from many of you about those issues – thanks. In terms of the House's commercial operations, we'll continue to develop the menus and style of Boffins, Fellows and our events to reflect both our standing as an ANU and Canberra institution and our ambitions to deliver the best contemporary service in that context. Similarly, we'll begin a program of investment in upgrading our accommodation, respecting and amplifying the heritage values that characterise the ambience of the House. And we'll continue developing the House's role in the life of all ANU research students, as well as the central role we already play in the lives of our 220 impressive post-graduate residents.

At the end of a demanding year, it's timely to thank our dedicated staff, both long-standing and new arrivals. They are, as you know, the engine room of the House, and I thank them all. I also thank the members of our Board of Fellows – Dr John Biggs, Dr Sorin Daniliuc, Assoc Prof Ann Evans, Mr Ian Grigg, Prof Kieran Kirk, Mr Kevin Lonsdale, Em Prof Elizabeth Minchin, Ms Alyssa Shaw and Dr Jose Zapeta – for their guidance and support, as always. I also want to acknowledge many ANU colleagues who've assisted us in a range of ways, particularly in the second half of the year (see next section).

Further on in this *News & Notes*, you'll find details of our Christmas closing (again extended by kitchen renovations), and the first set of key dates for 2017. And, as always, on behalf of all of us at University House, and from Lisa and me personally, I wish you and your families all the peace and joy that should characterise the end of one year and the start of the next.

Peter Kanowski  
Master



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## New Governance Arrangements for University House

As part of a review of his portfolio in July, the Vice-Chancellor transferred responsibility for University House from his office to the portfolio of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington. In communicating that change, the Vice-Chancellor emphasised that it was a pragmatic response to his workload and travel schedule, not any indication of a diminished commitment to the House. That's been evident in both respects.



Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington

Prof Hughes-Warrington is probably well-known to many of you; she's frequently in the media in relation to ANU and national academic issues, and also in her role as the first woman National Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarships in Australia. In addition to her responsibilities for education per se, Marnie's ANU portfolio includes student experience, encompassing the ANU's residential halls and colleges. University House is a logical complement to, although a somewhat different entity from, the other areas of Marnie's responsibility.

A related change in our operational working arrangements has been to strengthen our links with the key ANU service areas – in addition to Human Resources, who already support us directly, we're building closer relationships with the Facilities and Services, Finance and Business Services, and Information Technology Services. We're already realising benefits from these enhanced relationships, and expect more to follow.

I conclude this section by thanking Marnie, Chris Grange (Executive Director, Administration and Planning), and the Directors and staff of the service divisions for their considerable assistance and support in 2016. We shared some unexpected challenges with them, and greatly benefitted from their collegiality and professional responses.

## Staff Update

Since the last *News & Notes*, but as you're aware from the last Members' Update, a number of longstanding staff left the House in the second half of 2016; Operations Manager Tony Karrys, in July, and Functions & Events Manager Lyn North in December. Our Executive Chef of four years, Anshul Chanda, also left in October. We acknowledge their

contributions to University House; Lyn has, of course, been a central part of the social and events fabric of the House for some 30 years; and Anshul's progression to a role at one of the world's top 50 restaurants speaks to his qualities.

Correspondingly, we welcome new staff who've joined University House. Matt Dowdney, our new Operations Manager, has a background in senior roles hospitality, the media and corporate retailing – all excellent background for his University House role. Albert Chung, whom some of you may know from his roles with The Chairman Group, joined us initially as a consultant and now as a fixed-term Food and Beverage Manager, with oversight of Boffins, Fellows and Functions catering and service. Julie Seaton and Ale Jimenez Oropeza have joined us as Events Coordinators, working with Lisa Finlayson – any of them can respond to enquiries or issues that Lyn used to cover. Rob Freeth has assumed the newly expanded role of Student Administration Manager for both Graduate and University Houses.

Elsewhere in the House, we've been fortunate in 2016 to have the services of Tim Millard, who took over from Scott McLaren as the keeper of our heritage-listed gardens; and the continued service of our many longstanding staff, as well as some new arrivals, in each of our teams. Please take the opportunity to catch up with our team whenever you visit.



Matt Dowdney



Julie Seaton



Ale Jimenez Oropeza



Tim Millard



## Activities and Events Update

**Ladies Drawing Room** – Louise Moran, whose family association with the Ladies Drawing Room dates from its establishment in 1956, has assumed the Convenorship of the LDR, succeeding Glenda Richards, who has played that role for 12 years. I thank both Glenda and Louise on behalf of the House for their roles in continuing this significant institution, now entering its 61<sup>st</sup> year. The LDR next meets on 16 March, when it will be addressed by DVC (Academic) Prof Marnie Hughes-Warrington.



Louise Moran



Glenda Richards

**ANU Club for Women** – as another significant institution long associated with University House, the Club continues to meet at the House, and to generously contribute funds each year to support students in financial need; the House then matches those funds. We thank the Club for their continuing support of our residents, and for increasing their annual gift to \$750.

**Collegiate Way International** – University House co-sponsored, and hosted on behalf of the ANU, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collegiate Way International Conference, 13-17 November. Under the theme ‘Collegiate Communities – Global Contexts’, the Conference continued conversations begun at the inaugural conference at Durham University, UK, in 2014. There were more than 100 participants from some 45 residential colleges and halls worldwide, and across Australia; they were welcomed by Prof Dame Marie Bashir, former Governor of NSW and Chancellor of the University



2<sup>nd</sup> Collegiate Way International Conference, 13-17 November 2016 Photos  
From left: Lieutenant General David Morrison; Conference Delegates

of Sydney; regaled by ANU Chancellor, Prof Gareth Evans, at the conference dinner; and inspired in the concluding session by David Morrison, Australian of the Year and

former Chief of the Australian Defence Force. Delegates from elsewhere went away both envious and as friends of the House. You can find out more about the conference at <http://collegiateway2016.com.au>

**Literary and Meet the Chef Dinners** – most of the eight dinners in the 2016 series were sold out, and all were enjoyable! We’ll continue both series in 2017, beginning with Julia Baird (*Victoria: The Queen*) on a still tbc February date. Details for 2017 will follow as soon as events and dates are confirmed. We thank Colin Steele and ANU Communications and Public Affairs for their partnership in these dinners.

**Poetry at the House** – the first year of *Poetry at the House* has been successful for the poets, and for the House; and this Canberra cultural icon will continue at the House in 2017. *Poetry at the House* resumes its monthly readings on 8 February; see our Events webpage for details, or contact our Events team.

**Music in the House** – while we’ve been fortunate to host wonderful concerts by the Australian Haydn Ensemble in 2016, we haven’t been able to return to a fuller series of performances. Addressing that gap is a priority for us in 2017.

**ATSE-University House pre-dinner talks** – the always-informative series of pre-dinner talks hosted jointly by the Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering and University House will continue in 2017, with a thematic focus on security. Dates tba in February.

## Other News around the House

**Boffins** – those of you who’ve dined in Boffins recently would know that we’ve revised the lunch and dinner menus. The Members’ Club Lunch, and Members’ discounts, continue as before. Please note that Boffins will be closed from 24 December – 29 January.

**Fellows** – we’ll be renewing Fellows’ menus, continuing to emphasise value for money but also healthier eating, in the first months of 2017, and will welcome your feedback. Please note that Fellows will close for longer than usual this Christmas and New Year, as we have to renew kitchen flooring. Fellows will close from 24 December, and reopen 16 January for breakfast and lunch only, and from 23 January for normal trading.

**Summer accommodation deals** – our accommodation team have a range of extra-good deals on rooms though January, should you have visitors looking for that special Canberra experience. Contact our accommodation team at on 02 6125 5275 or email the team at [accommodation.unihouse@anu.edu.au](mailto:accommodation.unihouse@anu.edu.au).

## Early Career Academic Fellows and Visiting Fellows

Our Early Career Academic Fellows have made important and varied contributions to the House and to our resident postgraduate community in 2016. We're about to appoint the next cohort of ECAFs; you'll be able to see their profiles on our webpage (<http://unihouse.anu.edu.au/students-alumni/ecaf/>) early in 2017.

We've also benefitted greatly from a trial partnership with ANU's Humanities Research Centre over the past six months, under which their Visiting Fellows have enjoyed a similar status at University House. We look forward to continuing and expanding that program in 2017.

## Resident Postgraduate Students

The postgraduate residents of University and Graduate Houses continue to capitalise fully on their privileged on-campus life. Academic events in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2016 included a University and Graduate Houses' July warm up for the university-wide 3-Minute Thesis competition; ultimately, two of the 12 3MT finalists were Graduate House residents. In September, the Vice-Chancellor joined us for the dinner following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Postgraduate Residents Conference, which was a great forum for learning about the breadth of residents' work; and a series of evening research talks, jointly with Toad Hall, rounded off the year. Social events continued the tradition of earlier years, with a Winter Ball and Christmas Party, and a multitude of smaller-scale events in between.



Residents' Winter Ball 2016

Applications for accommodation at University and Graduate Houses for 2017 continue to exceed availability by. The university's new financial arrangements for accommodation, which received some press 2016, include Graduate House; however, the current management

arrangements will continue, and we expect the impacts on residents to be minimal.

## Membership Renewals 2017

Some of you received a rather unfriendly email about your membership on 1 January 2016, the result of an unfortunate hiccup in our new membership software. We believe that issue should not recur in 2017, but ... please don't take offence if our system draws from some uncorrected piece of code and sends you a stray message. You should now be receiving a membership renewal, and reminders as necessary, around the anniversary date of your membership.

If your experience any difficulties with renewals, or any other membership issues, please contact the membership team on 02 6125 7467 or alternatively email the team at [membership.unihouse@anu.edu.au](mailto:membership.unihouse@anu.edu.au)

## 2017 Member Events

The dates of key dinner events in 2017 are as below. We have yet to confirm scheduling of other events of interest to members, such as our Truffles and Clonakilla evening. We'll schedule and advise those as soon as possible in the new year.

<b>18 January</b>	First House Dinner for 2017
<b>22 February</b>	Founders' Drinks & Dinner
<b>12 July</b>	Yuletide Dinner
<b>11 October</b>	All Fellows' Dinner
<b>24 November</b>	St Andrew's Dinner
<b>6 December</b>	Members' Christmas Dinner

## Holiday Trading Dates

### Boffins Restaurant:

Lunch and Dinner -

*Closes 24 December 2016, reopens 30 January 2017*

### Fellows Bar and Café:

Breakfast & Lunch -

*Closes 24 December 2016, reopens 16 January 2017*

Dinner & Fellows Bar -

*Closes 24 December 2016, reopens 23 January 2017*