

NEWS & NOTES



June 2017

From the Master



Professor Peter Kanowski

When I last wrote in mid-December, we were preparing for the Vice-Chancellor's Garden Party for Staff, on a warm summer afternoon. That was a great success, ensuring its continuation this year, but that summer heat has certainly left the courtyard and campus. As I write, the Menzies Library is barely visible through the freezing fog that's typified the past wintry week, amplifying the post-examination period campus hush that similarly characterises this time of the academic year.



A foggy June day at the House captured by resident Myra Mentari

Of course, these seasonal cycles also mean that it's almost time for our Yuletide Dinner, that there's winter fare in Boffins, and a new Canberra porter on tap in Fellows.



A sunny summer's day in the courtyard: Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt speaking at the VC's End of Year Garden Party hosted at the House last December. Photographer: Stuart Hay

We're strengthening our array of local beers and wine to complement a renewed emphasis on quality local food. Those of you who've dined in Boffins or joined us in Fellows since the last *News & Notes* would know that we've made some significant changes to the style and presentation of our menus. Many of you have given us your feedback on those changes – thanks for that, as always, and I can report it's mostly been positive.

In the first half of the year, we've hosted sold-out dinners with former Governor-General Dame Quentin Bryce, political commentator David Marr, and chef Valli Little; and will shortly host author Julia Baird on her "intimate biography" of Queen Victoria.

Dame Quentin's visit had a particular significance, as her *Letters of a Governor General* (p4) reflect on one of the reasons why University House is a special place for her:

"on a perfect autumn afternoon 13 April 2008, the then Prime Minister, the Honourable Kevin, Rudd announced my appointment as Governor General. It was a nerve-wracking but lovely occasion at University House. There had been a shower of rain, the sun was out, soft clear light, and gold leaves scattered along the pathway, wet and gleaming."

The second half of the year is even busier, with an extensive line up for our Meet the Chef; Eat, Drink and be Literary; *ad hominen*; ATSE Talks; Poetry at the House; and Members' Events series (see our Events listing below).

Turning to the governance and operations of the House, I'm delighted to welcome new members of the Board of Fellows, and thank others who are continuing and those who have completed their terms. Both elected members, Dr John Biggs and Em Prof Elizabeth Minchin, stood down



UNIVERSITY HOUSE
AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BALMAIN CRESCENT ACTON ACT 2600
PHONE 6125 5211 UNIHOUSE.ANU.EDU.AU

after 6 and 14 years, respectively (in Elizabeth's case, 12 of those as an appointed member); they were succeeded by Danny Beran and Jeremy Boland. Prof Kiaran Kirk stood down after 17 years, many as Deputy and some as Acting Master; and Dr José Zapata completed a 2-year term as an Early Career Academic representative. They were succeeded by Prof John Carver and Dr Vini Gautam. John's appointment continues a family tradition; his eponymous late father was Bursar 1955-58, and his mother Mary continues an association with the House that began with their wedding reception. Dr Sorin Daniliuc, Assoc Prof Ann Evans (Deputy Master), Ian Grigg and Kevin Lonsdale all continue as members. As throughout the House's history, the Board continues to play a central role in guiding and overseeing University House. I thank them most warmly for that, and was delighted that most of the 'old' and new' Board members could join a celebratory dinner with DVC (Academic) Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington in May. You can read more about [new Board members](#) on our website in the news section.

One of the new Board's priorities will be to help me develop University House's plan in support of the implementation of the new [ANU Strategic Plan](#). That Plan is the foundation for the ANU to fulfil its mandate and further enhance its national and international standing – a challenging task, as Vice-Chancellor Prof Brian Schmidt noted in his most recent [Update](#).

About the House, you'll see renewal of some of the courtyard garden beds, and some new planting of Australian natives on the Liversidge St/Garran Rd corner. We're continuing the process of planning and approvals for renovation and upgrading of some of our public spaces; more on those exciting plans as they take shape. We are also upgrading the Library in a number of ways: with some additional tables to accommodate increasing resident student use; and with some major renewal of the collection, with the assistance of our volunteer librarian Dr Craig McDonald.

We also have many new staff, complementing the House's many longstanding and loyal staff members. We introduce some of them to you in the next section of *News & Notes*. We're also revising and standardising our branding and logo styles, so you might notice some subtle improvements there soon.

And we've celebrated the art of the House in a number of ways – at our Members' Morning Tea on 11 April, when Em Prof David Williams gave a preview screening of a film *Gerald Lewers Sculptor* and an introduction to some of our collection *in situ*. David kindly adapted that introduction for resident postgraduates on 14 June. We'll continue that theme at our next Members' Morning Tea on 12 September.



Em Prof David Williams speaking at the Members Morning Tea held in April

The fog is lifting outside, and my outstanding marking awaits. I wish you and your families all the delights of winter, wherever it finds you.

Peter Kanowski
Master

Staff News

Amongst the new staff who've joined University House recently are:

Catherine Haskins, who has joined our team as an Events Coordinator. Catherine was born and bred in Canberra and a graduate of ANU, with a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Graduate Diploma of Art History. In addition to working as a graphic designer in advertising, she has also owned several restaurants and cooking schools. These included Delicateating, The Fig, Podfood and 3seeds.

Melanie Hardowar, who has also commenced as an Events Coordinator at University House. Originally from Mauritius, Melanie moved to Australia in 2006. Since then, she has lived and worked around Australia, including Melbourne, Hamilton Island, Gold Coast, Adelaide and now Canberra. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge, with over 15 years in the industry and having previously worked at Parliament House, the National Portrait Gallery and the Australian Institute of Sport.

You can contact Catherine, Melanie and our other Events team members Julie and Lisa on 02 6125 5270 or events.unihouse@anu.edu.au.



Catherine Haskins



Melanie Hardowar





A autumnal view of the Fellows Garden captured by resident Myra Mentari

Resident Postgraduate Students

The University and Graduate House resident postgraduate community continues, as it should, to reflect much of the diversity of the ANU postgraduate population. An increased proportion of Masters students, to 25% of residents, reflects the growth in graduate coursework programs. The number of nationalities represented remains high, at around 40; with the single largest international group being Chinese, as across the ANU. The only other nationalities to exceed 10% of residents are Australians, Indonesians and Iranians. Men and women are equally represented, and our residents study in all of ANU's academic Colleges.



Intrepid residents braving the wilds of the Australian bush, in a Graduate Common Room Committee-organised trip to Tidbinbilla, April 2017

Member News

Change to Member Discount in Boffins and Fellows

We are clarifying the Members' Discount in Boffins and Fellows. The discount remains at 10%, but will be capped at a maximum of \$20 per transaction. This will ensure that we can sustain the discount, and will not impact on most members' access to the full value of the discount.

Upcoming Events

The House has an outstanding program of events this year. Those currently scheduled are listed below; others are being confirmed, and will be listed on our Events page and in our member updates.

Food & Wine Lunch & Dinners

- 29 July [The Truffle Hunt and Long Lunch](#)
- 9 October [Meet the Chef: Maggie Beer](#)
- 3 November [Meet the Chef: Matt Moran](#)
- 28 November [Meet the Chef: Poh Ling Yeow](#)

Literary Dinners

- 11 October *Incorrigible Optimist*, Gareth Evans

ATSE Pre-Dinner Talks

- 26 July Bio Security
- 27 September Water Security
- 21 November National Security

ad hominem with the Humanities Research Centre

- 31 July *ad hominem* speakers to be advised
- 4 September ([click for more information](#))
- 9 October
- 6 November

Poetry at the House

- 9 August [Andrew Burke, Merlinda Bobis and John Stokes](#)
- 13 September [Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Lizz Murphy and Paul Hetherington](#)
- 11 October [Peter Goldsworthy, Lesley Lebkowicz and Carmel Summers](#)
- 8 November [Tony Lintermans, Moya Pacey and Alan Gould](#)
- 13 December [Bronwyn Lea, Paul Magee and Geoff Page](#)

Member Events

- 12 July [Yuletide Dinner](#)
- 12 September [Members Morning Tea](#)
- 25 October All Fellows' Dinner (note date change)
- 24 November St Andrew's Dinner
- 6 December Members' Christmas Dinner

For more information or to book these events, please visit our website unihouse.anu.edu.au/events

Bookings for some of these events are open; see details on the following page. Booking details for the other events will follow in due course.