

NEWS & NOTES

May 2016

From the Master



Dear Members,

Welcome to this first edition of News & Notes for 2016. As at ANU and in the life of the nation more generally, it's been a busy start to the year. As always, N&N will update you on what's been happening, and what's coming up, at University House.

Professor Peter Kanowski

Firstly, on the following pages, you'll meet three new staff members in key roles: Joyce Wewaru, our Finance Manager; Emilia Ciampa, Administration Manager at Graduate House; and Gabrielle Vannithone, in the new role of House Administrator. Welcome to them all. One of Gabrielle's key roles is to help us upgrade communication with and services to members. We also welcomed eight new Early Career Academic Fellows (p. 2).

Secondly, our Heritage Management consultants and Strategic Design architects have been busy too. The *Heritage Management Plan*, informed by last year's feedback from members and others with an interest in University House, has been finalised. Those able to join the *Celebration of University House's Heritage*, held in recognition of Founders Day on 17 February, heard an overview.

The *Plan* is now available for download from our website from the 'membership' page. I think you'll agree that the *Plan* represents a thorough, thoughtful and very helpful characterisation and interpretation of the unique heritage values of University House and its immediate environment. It will guide the decisions we make in relation to both management of the House and future investment in its maintenance and development.

The companion *Strategic Design and Facilities Brief* has been completed in draft form; we'll also make it available through our website. Amongst the major elements the *Brief* explores (in terms consistent with the HMP) are the renovation and expansion of the Drawing Room, the refurbishment and improvement of the reception area and forecourt, and the expansion and improvement of both landscaping and parking in the Molly Huxley carpark area.

Thirdly, Executive Chef Anshul Chandna and his kitchen team, and Functions Manager Lyn North and her hospitality team, have continued to receive well-deserved accolades for the very successful "Eat, Drink and be Literary" and "Meet the Chef" dinners. So far we've been entertained by Anna Funder, Ken Done and Justine Schofield; James Viles of Biota, Mark Best of Marque, and some other big names are scheduled for later in the year – see p. 4 and keep an eye on the Events listing on our website homepage, where there are some musical events too.

The House is again participating in the Canberra Truffle Festival, with *Canapes & Clonakilla* on 12 August (p. 4); and we're about to launch Boffins' fabulous winter menu. You can also enjoy Chef Anshul's cuisine at the Yuletide in July dinner on 13 July, or at any of our weekly House dinners (p. 4). And you can enjoy more cosy winter seating in Fellows Bar following a reconfiguration there.

Fourthly, the resident postgraduate student community have been busy with both academic and social activities, some in conjunction with the Early Career Fellows. The Vice Chancellor will join us for the dinner following our second resident postgraduate conference, on 28 September.



The Vice Chancellor with 2016 Awardees for Excellence in Education, including Gemma Betros (back row, 5th from right) and Peter Kanowski (front row, 4th from left)

Lastly, two of our Early Career Fellows - Drs Gemma Betros and Amy King - were nominated for Vice Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Education 2016, and I was nominated for a Supervision Award. Gemma and I were amongst those announced as awardees at a ceremony at University House on 25 May. We join ECAF's Cate Frieman, Kim Huynh and Trang Ta, who are previous recipients of these prestigious awards.

Warmest autumnal wishes,
Peter Kanowski



Early Career Fellows



Early Career Fellows' "Research Bytes Panel, 25 May 2016

Eight new Early Career Academic Fellows joined University House early in 2016:

- Dr Andrew Cichy – Music, CASS
- Dr Emilie Dotte – Archaeology, CASS
- Dr Elena Martin Avila – Biology, CMBE
- Dr AJ Mitchell – Nuclear Physics, CPMS
- Dr Claire O'Brien – Medicine, CMBE
- Ms Kate Ogg – Law, CoL
- Dr Christina Spry – Biology, CMBE
- Mr Stephen Tang – Law, CoL.

The 2016 ECAFs join the 18 ECAFs from 2015 who are continuing in 2016. Amongst other activities, the ECAFs are convening academic-related events with postgraduate residents of University and Graduate Houses, mentoring Tuckwell Scholars, and generally adding some youthful energy to the life of the House.

You can read more about the University House ECAFs and their academic work on the University House website, in the 'Students & Alumni' section.

Board of Fellows

The Board of Fellows, including Dr John Biggs and Em Prof Elizabeth Minchin as members elected by the membership, met as usual in February and May. As part of the upgrade to our website and services to members, we'll be posting the agenda and minutes (without any confidential information) on the Members' area of our website.

Major issues of discussion in the two 2016 meetings to date have been:

- the House's financial situation, which was not as strong in 2015 as in previous years. The Board and management discussed both short- and longer-term strategies to ensure the House's financial sustainability;

- the ANU's plans, outlined most recently by the Vice Chancellor in his blog of 10 March, to test market interest in 30-year financial concessions for some ANU student accommodation, including Graduate House.¹ University House would retain responsibility for management of and resident student wellbeing at Graduate House;
- the Heritage Management and Strategic Design Plans.

1. www.anu.edu.au/news/all-news/update-from-the-vc-student-accommodation

Ladies Drawing Room: 60th Anniversary



University House - Ladies Drawing Room (circa 1955), ANU Archives

This July marks the 60th Anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Ladies Drawing Room at University House. Jill Waterhouse's history records that the LDR was initiated primarily at the suggestion of Keith Hancock, as an antidote for the somewhat 'bleak' experience of Canberra life in the 1950s.

Glenda Richards, whom we thank for continuing her role as Convenor of the LDR, writes:

"This group of ladies has been, and still is, a significant part of the life of Australian National University, and of University House. They are keenly interested in the ANU, of which many have been pioneers, and they have contributed to both the academic and social fabric of the University and the House. The ladies, now quite elderly and fewer in number, still meet three times a year."

The 60th anniversary luncheon will be held in the Drawing Room on 7 July. Contact Lyn North at 6125 5270, or events.unihouse@anu.edu.au, for more information.



Managers' Updates

We started the year with the total restoration of the main kitchen floor due to the numerous issues, some of which were occupational health hazards. We anticipate a similar refurbishment in Fellows at the start of 2017.

Our gardener for the past 8 years, Scott McLaren, was relocated to maintain and manicure our heritage-listed gardens. We wish him all the best and welcome our new gardener Tim Millard to his new role looking after our gardens.

We are investing in upgrading the audio-visual equipment in most of our public rooms, including a large screen for the Hall. Most work should be completed in the next few months.

We have also relocated the Business Centre to the Library, so the former Centre can provide office accommodation. Members and guests will continue to have access to three networked computers in the new location.

The House has just been awarded a 2016 Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor, reflecting the consistently great reviews we've received on that website.

Boffins also continues to receive great reviews from our customers, and Chef Anshul is about to introduce his winter menu (see the Boffins webpage for details). We'll have a special truffle menu during the Canberra Truffle Festival (late June - mid August), and Truffle canapes on 12 August. And we're excited about the forthcoming Meet the Chef dinners (see p 4).

Staff Awards

As mentioned in last December's News & Notes, University House has instituted monthly awards to recognise the contributions of staff across both University and Graduate Houses. 2016 awardees to date are pictured below.



Elizabeth Ward-Smith



Kaori Oikawa-Ruthven, Scott McLaren & Sue Cusack

Welcome to new Staff

In the first part of 2016, we've made appointments to three key roles at the House. Here they are ...



Joyce Waweru

Joyce Waweru has joined University House as Finance Manager. Originally from Nairobi, Kenya, Joyce was working with the Australian Medical Association before joining University House.



Gabrielle Vannithone

Gabrielle is fulfilling the new role of Administrator for University House. Gabrielle's professional background is in Public Relations and Social Media Marketing. Gabrielle will work, especially, on communications and membership.



Emilia Ciampa

Emilia is the new Graduate House Manager. Emilia joins us from the ANU Graduations and Prizes Office, and also has experience at Toad Hall.



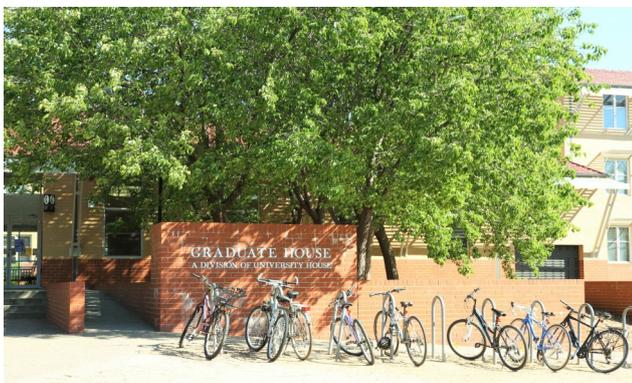
2016 Residents Advisory Committee with Chair Dr Margaret Kiley (second from left at front).

Resident Postgraduate Community

The University and Graduate House resident postgraduate community in 2016 is as diverse as ever, with nearly 40 nationalities represented. Eighty-five percent of our residents are PhD scholars, and the remainder are completing graduate coursework degrees. They are distributed across the ANU's seven colleges, and the gender balance is almost exactly 50:50.

This year, we've strengthened residents' representation on the Residents Advisory Committee, independently chaired by Dr Margaret Kiley, and on the Common Room Committee. These two committees advise and work with the Master and management, and with the Student Leadership Team of Senior and Duty Residents.

More than half our residents participated in the annual Multicultural Lunch on 7 May. Amongst the academic activities planned are the 2nd University & Graduate House Postgraduate Conference, on 28 September. The Vice Chancellor will join the conference dinner.



Key Events 2016

The House has an outstanding program of Literary and Meet the Chef dinners this year. Those currently scheduled are listed below; others are being confirmed, and will be listed on our Events page and in our quarterly updates.

Food & Wine

16 June	Meet the Chef: James Viles (Biota)
1 August	Meet the Chef: Mark Best (Marque)
12 August	Truffle Canapes & Clonakilla Wines
4 November	Meet the Chef: Stephanie Alexander AO
11 November	Meet the Chef: Manu (MKR & MasterChef)

Pre-Dinner Talks (5pm)

20 July	Sarah Pearson (Canberra Innovation Network)
10 August	Prof Frank Bowden, ANU, author of "Infectious"
28 September	David Blair (UWA) & David McLellan (ANU), on the Gravitational Wave Project.

Poetry at the House

15 June	Devin Johnston (St. Louis) , Adrian Caesar (Canberra) & Nicola Bowery (Braidwood)
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Australian Hadyn Ensemble

14 July	Haydn & Mozart
13 October	Beethoven 4th Piano Concerto
15 December	Haydn's Passion

Members' Dinner Dates 2016

13 July	Yuletide in July Dinner
19 October	All Fellows' Dinner
25 November	St Andrew's Dinner
7 December	Christmas Dinner
14 December	Last House Dinner for 2016

To keep up-to-date on Members' and public events, visit <http://unihouse.anu.edu.au/news-events>