

Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 by Zoom, commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The President David Belair, took the Chair, opened the meeting, and welcomed those in attendance. He read ‘The Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country’ as part of the general welcome to all present.

2. Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Professor Mark Stevenson, of the Melbourne School of Design – Professor of Urban Transport and Public Health. He briefly explained the main stages of his career. He currently leads a multi-disciplinary team – including researchers from engineering, psychology, mathematics, medicine and architecture. The aim of the Transport, Health and Urban Design Research Lab is to explore the effects of urban form and transport on the health of the city’s residents. There is emphasis on “big data”. Artificial Intelligence technology is utilized.

Professor Stevenson spoke about the work that he and his team are engaged in, work aimed at the correlation of various existing and proposed approaches to urban planning and development with public health and general community wellbeing. He described two major projects of the team:

- Six cities were compared in terms of density, distance and diversity. The cities were Melbourne, Boston, London, Copenhagen, Sao Paulo and Delhi. The modes of transport of each city were presented graphically. Melbourne’s dominant mode of transport was observed to be private car whilst for Sao Paulo and Delhi it was bus. Health gains produced by a compact city scenario were noted and examined. There would be a disadvantage for a car dominant city, such as Melbourne, because of a probable increase in road trauma, with current infrastructure. Other health factors were positive.
- A machine learning approach was applied to a database comprising map images of every city over 300,000 population (numbering 1692 cities). Map images (400 x 400 m) provide a high-level abstraction of the following urban characteristics - road networks - rail transit networks - green and blue space. Nine clusters could be identified. The least road trauma occurred when public transport was high and there was medium to high density population.

The President thanked Professor Stevenson for his enlightening and most interesting presentation.

3. Attendance

a. Members in attendance (all by Zoom):

Anne Ada, David Bellair (President), Cecily Close, John Harcourt, Irene Jablonka, Ros McMillan (Treasurer), John Nelson, Stan Sahhar (Vice-President), John Scott (Secretary).

b. Apologies - received:

Gary Israel, David Janson, Elizabeth Mitchell.

c. Leave of Absence – as granted:

Nil.

d. Unspecified

Beverley Rodan, Noel Whiting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The previously distributed minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 18 May 2022, were accepted, and confirmed.

Proposed: Ros McMillan; Seconded: Stan Sahhar; carried.

5. Correspondence

Since the last meeting, the following correspondence was generated.

a. Nil.

6. Membership

a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

b. Leave of Absence

None.

7. Report of the President

The President referred to the attached report that he had provided in advance of the meeting.

In particular, the following points are noted.

- a. The continuation of the website of the Committee should be discussed at its next meeting.
- b. Members were requested to offer suggestions as to questions that might be put to a speaker from the Alumni Council at a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.
- c. For the foreseeable future, meetings of the Committee should always afford Zoom participation and, where possible, additional face to face participation (in hybrid format).
- d. There was agreement that the President should make a formal approach to the Graduate Union to explore possibilities for joint action, generally in support of the University and, particularly, to achieve maximum coverage for the valuable presentations of the guest speakers of the Committee.

- e. Geoffrey Lawler, an Alumni Council VP could be a guest speaker at the September meeting. He has been requested to liaise with Irene Jablonka. All of those present felt that it would be valuable to have him speak. Some felt that, if possible, a face-to-face meeting would assist the establishment of rapport with Geoffrey as a representative of the Alumni Council, given that it has taken a long time for contact to be established between the bodies. The possibility of inviting him for dinner was raised.

8. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Ros McMillan, reported that the bank balance of the Committee stood at \$93.69. She recommended that the members should now seriously consider the contribution of \$20 each, to bolster the funds.

The meeting accepted the Financial Report provided by the Treasurer.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee may be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000, Acct No. 141509497.

9. Key Matters for Consideration

- a. Actions Update – refer to the attached list of Actions.
- b. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee. Where appropriate, members might consider contacting their Dean(s). Elizabeth Mitchell reported that she knows of a possible prospective member.
- c. Projects – nil.
- d. Website – John Harcourt reported that he continues to expand the website as necessary.
- e. Speakers and Tours – Irene Jablonka reported on her aim to secure a tour of the campus in Port Melbourne. Mention was made of a possible return visit to the Burnley campus

10. Other Business

- a. Website
John Harcourt continues to maintain the website, updating the information that it carries, as necessary, but as suggested by the President and agreed by all, the value of continuing the website will be subject to review.
- b. Speakers and Tours
Irene Jablonka advised that she is continuing to explore options for future guest speaker presentations to the Committee.

She continues to see no immediate prospect for the organisation of tours.

11. University of Melbourne Items of Interest

- a. Anne Ada mentioned her concern that the full “student experience” at the University may be in some jeopardy because of a strong trend towards the remote delivery (via the internet) of many

elements of courses of study. She suggested that the matter might be given further consideration.

- b. Anne Ada noted that there was no further clarity as to the grounds management at the University.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 21 September 2022, at Graduate House and via Zoom, commencing at 5.30 pm.

13. Close

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Attachments

Actions list

Report of the President

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
118	2022-07-20	Submit, to the President, suggested questions for the Alumni Council	All	In progress	118
119	2022-07-20	Liaise with the Alumni Council about possible joint consultations	President	In progress	119
120	2022-07-20	Liaise with Graduate House about possible joint action	President	In progress	120
121	2022-07-20	Consider the future of the website of the Committee	All	In progress	121

Committee of Convocation President's Report July 20, 2022

1. I thank Ros McMillan for arranging the Zoom link for this meeting, and Irene for arranging our guest speaker, Prof Mark Stevenson.
2. John Harcourt has been at the Freemasons' hospital in East Melbourne, where he seemed bored as he wasn't up to reading and the radio reception was poor. I imagine he is now at rehabilitation which I hope can help with his mobility.

John told me didn't think he would be back to Committee meetings, but perhaps we should give him leave of absence for a few months until things become clearer.

If John doesn't return to our meetings, we need to decide how best to recognise and thank him for his long service to the Committee (I don't know how long).

3. We should take this opportunity to reconsider the need for our web site. While it is an excellent record of the Committee background and activities, I don't think it attracts many viewers, and a considerable effort would be required to modify it to be useful to people accessing it via their mobile phones.

I had wondered whether we could change its format to provide easier access to the University web site pages which might interest graduates (as opposed to potential new students and donors), but Google really does that anyway.

The next half-yearly payment of \$90 for the web site hosting is due during October, so it does not come cheaply. Although we could find much cheaper web site hosting (such as in the Ukraine) I wonder whether the ongoing effort is worth it.

4. I suspect that Ros followed up with someone she knows in Alumni Relations, and I had a response from the Alumni Council saying that a Vice-President, Geoffrey Lawler BArch(Hons) 1979 could be our guest speaker at the September meeting. I hope that fits in with Irene's plans for speakers, and I responded thanking the Alumni Council and asking him to liaise with Irene.

Geoffrey has recently retired, and his CV is at :

<https://www.unimelb.edu.au/alumni/community/alumni-council/alumni-council-members/geoffrey-lawler>

I know that we want to be of service to the University, but I think that the main roles of the Alumni Council seem to be in arranging for mentoring of recent graduates, and giving them opportunities to network with potential employers, and I'm not sure how we could work with them. Please come along with your

questions so that we can have a constructive discussion with him. I would be quite happy if that took most of the meeting.

5. Elizabeth Mitchell reminded me about a keynote address Ros McMillan gave to the UNESCO International Arts Education Week back in May. The link to a recording of her address is at:

<https://www.asme.edu.au/vic/events-archive/>

which you might like to view.

Elizabeth wrote that "*At the meeting I would have congratulated Ros on a brilliant and beautifully-delivered lecture for the UNESCO Festival. I do hope some of the CofC saw it online*".

6. It looks as if COVID-19 is not going away any time soon, so we will probably be meeting solely via Zoom for a while. It may also be worthwhile continuing with Zoom when we re-start in-person meetings at Graduate House. There are concerns about the charge which Graduate House makes for providing the Zoom connection, but I think we could do it ourselves.

I now have a camera which I think will work with an in-person meeting, and my wireless internet modem works well in the GH meeting rooms, so we don't need GH to provide a Zoom connection.

7. I think that for some members, our guest speaker and the fellowship at dinner after our meetings are perhaps more important than our actual meetings. Also, it is a pity that more people do not hear our guest speakers. There is no reason why our meeting format should remain as it was 50 years ago, especially as the Committee now has no role in University governance.

Should we consider some alternative format, possibly even separating the guest speaker and dinner from our formal meetings, perhaps different times of day?

8. Related to the previous item 7, I wondered whether some more formal association with the Graduate Union might be of benefit in getting GU members to hear our guest speakers (at least). However, as the GU is an affiliated college of the University, that might jeopardise the Committee independence.
9. I would appreciate your emailed comments on any of the above, please.

David Bellair
July 20, 2022

Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 18 May 2022 at
Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton (hybrid), commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The Vice-President Dr Stan Sahhar, took the Chair, opened the meeting, and welcomed those in attendance. He asked Ros McMillan to read ‘The Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country’ as part of the general welcome to all present.

2. Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Professor Gustavo Duque, Chair of Medicine and Director of the Australian Institute for Musculoskeletal Science (AIMSS) at the University of Melbourne, and Geriatrician (Staff Specialist) at Western Health.

Professor Duque, whilst recovering from Covid, spoke about osteosarcopenia and its relationship to disability and frailty in older persons. Osteosarcopenia is concerned with the connection between fractures and falls of older people. Work continues to be done on muscle and bone interaction, with fat infiltration of muscle, on the inside as well as surrounding the bone.

Further to osteosarcopenia Professor Duque commented on the relationship of a low level of vitamin D to a heightened risk of falls and fractures.

The President thanked Professor Duque for his comprehensive and most interesting presentation.

3. Attendance

a. Members in attendance (some by Zoom, as noted):

John Harcourt, Irene Jablonka (Z), Ros McMillan (Treasurer), Elizabeth Mitchell, John Nelson (Minute-taker), Beverley Rodan (Z), Stan Sahhar (Vice-President).

b. Apologies - Received:

Anne Ada, David Bellair (President), Cecily Close, Gary Israel, David Janson, John Scott (Secretary).

c. Leave of Absence – as granted:

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The previously distributed minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 16 March 2022, were accepted, and confirmed.

Proposed: Ros McMillan; Seconded: John Nelson; carried.

5. Correspondence

Since the last meeting, the following correspondence was generated:

- a. Nil.

6. Membership

- a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

- b. Leave of Absence

None.

7. Report of the President

The Vice-President read the attached report that had been provided by the President.

The following points were noted:

- a. He attended an event on 30 March to mark the end of Believe: A Celebration of Impact, which raised over one billion dollars for the University and involved over 100,000 graduates.
- b. An invitation was sent to the President of the Alumni Council to present at one of our meetings.
- c. He noted that little mention had been made of tertiary education during the election campaign.
- d. He is concerned that the reduced numbers of overseas students, whose fees had been cross-subsidising University research funding, has worsened the crisis in funding and has made it obvious that a new scheme for funding is needed.
- e. He is concerned that the government emphasis on “applied” research has reduced the support for “basic” research.
- f. He appended a short paper about the Acknowledgement of Country listing the University’s requirements for such Acknowledgements. He concluded “the Acknowledgement adopted at our March meeting amply meets” University requirements.

In conclusion, the Vice-President offered the Committee’s sincere appreciation for all that the President does in leading the Committee.

8. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Ros McMillan, reported that the bank balance of the Committee stood at \$183.39.

The meeting accepted the Financial Report provided by the Treasurer.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee may be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000, Acct No. 141509497.

9. Key Matters for Consideration

- a. Actions Update – no Actions outstanding as Action Item 114 is complete, the President having contacted the President of the Alumni Council.
- b. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee. Where appropriate, members might consider contacting their Dean(s). Elizabeth Mitchell reported that she knows of a possible prospective member.
- c. Projects – nil.
- d. Website – John Harcourt reported that he continues to expand the website as necessary.
- e. Speakers and Tours – Irene Jablonka reported on her aim to secure a tour of the campus in Port Melbourne. Mention was made of a possible return visit to the Burnley campus

10. Other Business

- a. Website
John Harcourt continues to maintain the website, updating the information that it carries, as necessary.
- b. Speakers and Tours
Irene Jablonka advised that she is in the process of arranging a speaker for the meeting in July. She sees no immediate prospect for the organisation of tours.

11. University of Melbourne Items of Interest

- a. Ros McMillan reported that she is giving the ASME (Vic) Music Education Address, a keynote address at the Melbourne UNESCO Observatory of Arts Education, during the UNESCO International Arts Education Week 2022, on Tuesday 24 May at 5.30pm. This address can be viewed online, by booking through Eventbrite, and she will send the link to all Committee members.
- b. Irene Jablonka mentioned that the University of Melbourne Hawthorn Campus is up for sale.
- c. Irene Jablonka informed the meeting that in-person graduations, in the Exhibition Building, have recommenced - for science graduands.
- d. Irene Jablonka advised as to the formation of the 'Collaborative for Better Health and Regulation'. Its co-directors come from the Law School, the Medical School, and the School of Population and Global Health.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 20 July 2022, at Graduate House and via Zoom, commencing at 5.30 pm.

13. Close

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

Attachments

Report of the President

ADDENDUM

As indicated in Item 7 (b), above, the President had contacted the President of the Alumni Council, Dr Rachel Baird. He subsequently forwarded to members some e-mail correspondence, that had passed between them, indicating that as Dr Baird lives in Brisbane, she may find it preferable to organise a Council Vice-President to attend one of our meetings.

President's Report May 2022

1. I regret that I cannot be part of this May meeting of the Committee.
2. I attended the event on March 30 at Melbourne Connect in Swanston Street, to mark the end of *Believe: A Celebration of Impact*, which raised over one billion dollars for the University and involved over 100,000 graduates. It was a very successful event in an excellent location, and included a number of short presentations by students who have been supported and by supported researchers who have done very useful projects for local and overseas communities. It included a presentation on the establishment of Little Hall, a new university college in Lincoln Square, in the traditional mould, but taking students from a wider range of backgrounds than the original colleges. It has been funded by the Little family, just as some of the original colleges were funded.
3. I sent an invitation to the President of the Alumni Council to give a presentation at one of our meetings, via the contact I was given in the Alumni Office by Ros McMillan, but have had no response. I don't want to speculate about the reason.
4. The Centre for the Study of Higher Education will be holding its biennial Teaching and Learning Summit all day on June 1. I have been to a number of previous Summits and have found them quite informative. The two main topics this year will be:
 - * Experiential and authentic learning: How do we know it works?, and
 - * Cultural diversity and inclusion within the curriculum: What is it and how do we do it?Although they say it is only for University staff and graduate researchers, members who were interested could probably gain admission.
5. I note that little mention has been made of tertiary education during this election campaign.
6. There has been little emphasis on tertiary education during election campaign. There are obviously very few votes to be gained by raising it.
7. I am concerned that the reduced number of overseas students, whose fees had been cross-subsidising University research funding, has worsened the crisis in funding and has made it obvious that a new scheme for funding research on a long-term basis is needed, to avoid dependence on ad-hoc ministerial decisions. Such schemes exist in the UK and I believe also in Canada.

8. I am also concerned that the government emphasis on "applied" research has reduced the support for "basic research. I think that both are necessary in the long term.
9. Following a query from a member about the Acknowledgement of Country adopted at our March meeting, I have appended a short paper summarising what I think are the University requirements for such Acknowledgements.

David Bellair
President
May 2022

University of Melbourne Requirements For Acknowledgement Of Country - Some Background

At our last Committee meeting, which took place at Graduate House (an affiliated college of the University), we adopted a form of Acknowledgement devised by Ros McMillan to be used at our meetings. Since then, one of our members has asked whether we should have formally sought approval from indigenous representatives before adopting it.

The University policy is described in the following University web pages.

1. [a brief summary](#)
2. [a more extensive summary](#)
3. [a comprehensive discussion](#)

The first link above describes an Acknowledgement of Country as:

An Acknowledgement of Country is a statement of recognition that is made by someone who is NOT a Traditional Custodian or Owner of the country or land on which the statement is being made. Acknowledgements of Country can be offered as a formal or informal statement. Depending on your event, you may want to extend the acknowledgement, i.e. to other Indigenous people who may be present or to the Indigenous leadership at the University.

It appears that an Acknowledgement can be formal or informal, so long as it is appropriate for the occasion, is sincerely expressed, and makes reference to Traditional Owners/Custodians of the land on which the statement is made. There is no single Acknowledgement which must be used on every occasion. There is no requirement that an Acknowledgement be formally approved.

I think that the Acknowledgement adopted at our March meeting amply meets the above requirements.

I note that at a recent event for donors and volunteers held at Melbourne Connect, the Vice-Chancellor gave quite a long Acknowledgement, which was sincere and appropriate to the occasion. Other speakers expressed their own briefer acknowledgements which were equally sincere and appropriate.

David Bellair
President
May 2022

Committee of Convocation
Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at
Graduate House, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton (hybrid), commencing at 5.30 pm.

1. Welcome

The President, David Bellair, took the chair, opened the meeting, and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Professor Peter Otto, Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor, English and Theatre Studies; and Executive Director, Enlightenment, Romanticism and Contemporary Culture Research Unit (ERCC), University of Melbourne.

Professor Otto spoke of the work of the ERCC and its interdisciplinary approach to research through “big-picture” questions, the leading one being “What does it mean to be human in the 21st century?” Taking our cultural inheritance and its old certainties from the European Enlightenment and later developments to appear threatened by, for example, modern technology and non-European currents of thought, the Unit pursues research which may reveal common themes between the European and non-European traditions. Involved are common approaches to answering the over-arching question, “What does it mean to be human in the 21st century?”

The President thanked Professor Otto for his highly stimulating presentation.

3. Attendance

a. Members Present (some by Zoom, as noted):

Anne Ada, President David Bellair, Cecily Close (Minute-taker), John Harcourt, Gary Israel (Z) – left meeting at 6.30 pm, Irene Jablonka (Z), David Janson (Z), Treasurer Ros McMillan, John Nelson (Z), Deputy President Stan Sahhar, Secretary John Scott (Z).

b. Apologies - Received:

Elizabeth Mitchell, Beverley Rodan, Noel Whiting.

c. Leave of Absence – as granted:

Nil.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The previously distributed minutes of the preceding meeting, held on 17 November 2021, were accepted and confirmed.

Proposed: Ros McMillan; Seconded: Stan Sahhar; carried.

5. Correspondence

Since the last meeting, the following correspondence was generated:

- a. Letter from the President of Convocation to Dr Rachael Baird, President of the (full) Alumni Council, introducing our committee and inviting her to speak at one of our meetings; and
- b. Letter from the President of Convocation to Professor Pip Nicholson, newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (People and Community), congratulating her on her appointment and wishing her well.

6. Membership

- a. Additions and Withdrawals

None.

- b. Leave of Absence

As previously granted.

7. Report of the President

The President spoke to the contents of the attached report.

The members engaged in general discussion of the points made in the report.

8. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Ros McMillan, reported that the bank balance of the Committee stood at \$173.39.

Members are reminded that payments to the Committee may be made by bank deposit to: BSB 633-000 Acct No. 141509497.

9. Key Matters for Consideration

- a. Acknowledgement of Country – Ros McMillan drew attention to the fact that it is University policy to begin meetings with an acknowledgement of country. She provided the wording, copied below, for consideration.

C of C Acknowledgement of Country

For thousands of generations, young people learnt from their elders and shared ideas on the grounds where we meet today. Now, as a committee of graduates of the institution established and enduring in this place, we gather to reflect upon that which benefitted our lives as well as expressing our hopes that current and future students will similarly benefit.

We thus acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Following general discussion, the members approved adoption of the suggested wording for use by the Committee of Convocation.

Proposed: Ros McMillan; Seconded: Cecily Close; carried.

- b. Meeting time and format – alternatives were discussed but it was agreed to maintain the current arrangements.
- c. Meeting Form – it was agreed to continue to conduct meetings of the Committee in hybrid form.
- d. Actions Update – refer to the attached list of Actions.
- e. Membership Development – all members were again urged to approach eligible colleagues who might be interested in joining the Committee. Where appropriate, members might consider contacting their Dean(s).
- f. The Secretary drew attention to discussion that had been held at the meeting of the Executive, held in February. He read the following extract from notes made at that meeting.

It was agreed that the purposes and functions of the Committee include:

- continuing to provide satisfying opportunities for member participation;*
- continuing to strengthen the links between the Committee and the University staff that result from staff members making presentations at meetings of the Committee;*
- maintaining the historical link with the foundation of the University.*

Faculty representation is considered unlikely to expand, greatly, in the current times of general dislocation but Committee members should continue to be alert for opportunities.

- g. Projects – nil.

10. Other Business

- a. Website

John Harcourt continues to maintain the website, updating the information that it carries, as necessary.

- b. Speakers and Tours

Irene Jablonka advised that she is in the process of arranging a speaker for the meeting in May. She sees no immediate prospect for the organisation of tours.

11. University of Melbourne Items of Interest

- a. David Janson referred to the appointment of Professor Pip Nicholson, former Dean of Law, to the post of Deputy Vic-Chancellor (People and Community) of the University. He also drew attention to the productive visit to the University, on 10 February 2022, of Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State, whose father-in-law studied law at the University.

- b. Irene Jablonka mentioned that Antony Blinken had met with Melbourne Connect and staff from Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences to discuss various partnerships with University Bio Science / Biomedical Precinct partners and US Biotech companies such as Moderna, Bristol Myers Squibb and IBM. The Vice-Chancellor and Professor Jane Gunn were present, and others. Mr Blinken said that his visit marks a strong commitment by the United States to work with Melbourne University and partners to fight global health threats.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is to be held on Wednesday, 18 May 2022, at Graduate House and via Zoom, commencing at 5.30 pm.

13. Close

The meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

Attachments

Updated Actions listing

Report of the President

COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION - ACTIONS

Ref. No.	Date	Description	Responsibility	Status	Ref. No.
114	2021-05-19	Contact Dr Rachel Baird, Chair of the Alumni Council, with a view to arranging for her to make a presentation to the Committee	President	In progress	114

Committee of Convocation President's Report March 2022

1. I thank Irene for tonight's speaker.
2. I thank John Harcourt for setting up Zoom.
3. I have tried to contact Noel Whiting but so far have been unable to talk to him. I'll keep trying.
4. Thanks to Ros, we've found that David Schofield was never President of the Alumni Council, but was President of the Economics Faculty Alumni Council. I guess the Alumni web site wasn't being maintained because of COVID. The President is actually Dr Rachael Baird, a law graduate, and I have written to her via the right person in the Alumni Office, who Ros also discovered, inviting her to speak at one of our meetings.
5. I have written to Professor Pip Nicholson congratulating her for her appointment as Deputy V-C (People and Community). I think that the term "community" means the university community (including students) rather than the general public.
6. I note the cancellation by the Acting Minister of Education Stuart Robert of six research grants recommended by the Australian Research Council after thorough peer review. I note that our Deputy V-C (Research) made a fairly strong public comment opposing that action by the Minister, and I wondered whether the Committee wants to take any action. Perhaps we should wait until after the election. Of course, individual members can act in their personal capacity.
7. *Believe - Celebration of Impact* event, 6:30pm Wednesday 30 March. I hope you have all received invitations as volunteers or donors, but registrations close this Friday. The web page is:
<https://comms.alumni.unimelb.edu.au/link/id/zzzz622fd70e0ec37802Pzzzz564924dc2e35c697/page.html>
8. Ros has drafted an *Acknowledgement of Country* for us to use at our meetings, which she will circulate at the meeting. I used to think that the usual acknowledgement is just rattled off and lacked sincerity, but I've come round to the view that we should understand how our indigenous people must feel after what had been their country for 50,000 years was mostly taken from them. I'd like to hear what other Committee members feel about the Committee using Ros's thoughtful draft at each meeting.

David Bellair
March 2022