

## President's Report

On 8 May 2024, ESAANZ AGM was held to take stock of the ESAANZ activities in 2023, and to elect the new Executive Committee. The elected members are: Gosia Klatt (President), Serena Kelly (Vice-President), Matt Harvey (Secretary and Treasurer), Anna Christoforou (Membership officer), Mat Doidge (ANZJES Journal Liaison). The outgoing President, Serena Kelly, submitted the below report for 2023:

*It has been a pleasure to represent the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ) as President for the 2023-2024 year, taking over from Associate Professor Gosia Klatt, as part of the rotation system between Australia and New Zealand.*

*For me, the success of ESAANZ rests on the support of the support of its members. I have greatly valued the support offered by the committee, in particular Vice-President and Treasurer, Gosia Klatt, Matt Harvey (Secretary) Anna Christoforou (membership manager), Cashias Gumbo (social media manager), Mathew Doidge (NZ representative), Xiwen Yang (NZ representative) and Peter Morgan (Australia and New Zealand Journal of European Studies representative).*

*Professor Peter Morgan has made the difficult decision to step down as editor of the Association's flagship journal, the Australia and New Zealand Journal of European Studies. Also a former Vice-President of ESAANZ's predecessor, the Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA), Peter's long-standing institutional knowledge, expertise and dedication to furthering European and European Union Studies in Australasia will be hard to replicate. I wish heartfully thank Peter for the huge amount of time and energy he has given to ESAANZ, as well as his commitment to mentoring the next generation of European scholars. It is great to see that he is remaining on the editorial board.*

*I would also like to highlight the excellent work by the editorial team at the journal, **the Australia and New Zealand Journal of European Studies (ANZJES)**. The journal continues to cover all areas of Europe from EU policy and operations to broader contemporary social and cultural issues, and it remains an important anchor for us.*

*ESAANZ continues to work closely with other organisations and associations where their interests overlap with ours. I would particularly like to especially thank Professor Bruce Wilson and his team at the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT for their support. As per previous years, ESAANZ continued to offer the **Annual ESAANZ Essay Prize Competition** for undergraduate and postgraduate students studying in Australia and New Zealand. It is pleasing to see the successful applications published in the ANZJES, as well as a selection of other outstanding essays that will be published in an upcoming edition.*

*We have recently re-introduced the **ESAANZ Bulletin**, which provides a regular platform to promote events and news from our partners. Thank you to Fasiha Faizi and Blake Ellul-Thorn from the University of Melbourne for taking this on this important role.*

*Looking to the **future**, I am looking forward to continuing to work with the ESAANZ team in supporting European Studies in our region. Funding remains a key challenge, as well as continuing to highlight our relevance in a challenging global environment with competing views.*

*Dr Serena Kelly  
ESAANZ President  
15 April 2024*

# News from the Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence

## ***National Centre for Research on Europe - University of Canterbury***

The National Centre for Research on Europe has recently hosted several European ambassadors for interactive Q&As. Nicole Menzenbach of Germany, Laurence Beau of France, Jane Connolly of Ireland, and Zsolt Hetesy of Hungary were welcomed earlier in the year, whilst Grzegorz Kowal of Poland will talk on Friday the 24th of May. The theme for these Q&As is the ambassadors' priorities and perspectives for the future direction of the EU. Further information on attending Grzegorz Kowal's Q&A can be found [here](#).

Dr Mat Doidge, Dr Serena Kelly, and students of the 2023 class of EU Diplomacy and Policy Engagement met with the EU Delegation, MFAT and European embassies in December 2023. These meetings were a huge success and provided valuable learning opportunities for all involved.



EU Diplomacy and Policy Engagement students at the Polish Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand.

## ***European Union Centre of Excellence - RMIT University***

On May 13, 2024, Melbourne will be hosting a significant event to commemorate Europe Day, celebrating a longstanding research and innovation partnership between the EU and Australia. The free event, set to take place from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm, will focus on the Horizon

Europe strategic plan for 2025-2027, showcasing the EU's global leadership in inclusive, public-funded research and innovation.

The panel discussion will feature prominent figures such as EU Ambassador to Australia, HE Mr. Gabriele Visentin, and experts from various research and innovation sectors, including Nishant Shandilya from EURAXESS Worldwide, Kate Finger from the Birchip Cropping Group, and academic leaders from RMIT University. Hosted by the EU Delegation to Australia, RMIT University EU Centre, the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria, the event promises to be a cornerstone for future collaboration and innovation between Europe and Australia. Specific event details can be found [here](#).

### ***University of South Australia***

In the 25th episode of "Europe Now" by the University of South Australia's Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, German Ambassador H.E. Ms. Beate Grzeski discussed the deepening strategic alliance between Germany and Australia. Ambassador Grzeski highlighted the significant collaboration across trade, culture, and politics, emphasising the importance of this partnership in addressing global challenges like climate change and geopolitical tensions. She noted Germany's focus on diversifying trade links and investing in Australian resources such as green hydrogen and critical minerals to achieve carbon neutrality. The ambassador also touched on managing global migration effectively within the EU framework and stressed the role of educational and cultural exchanges in fostering bilateral relations. Looking forward, she envisioned a robust partnership that leverages shared values and mutual interests to tackle future challenges. The full interview can be viewed [here](#).

### **ANU Centre for European Studies**

On 23 April 2024, ANUCES hosted a lecture "Europe in the New World Order" by Michael Karnitschnig, Director for External Relations at the European Commission's Secretariat General, who talked about the changed configuration of the international security order as a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the evolving role of the EU as a global actor in geopolitics and geo-security. The lecture can be viewed [here](#).

A seminar “Europe's response to Russia's invasion against Ukraine – a Japanese perspective” was delivered by Dr Atsuko Higashino on 27 March 2024. Dr Higashino provided an overview of the Japanese Government's evolving approach to Russia and discussed the competing views within Japan on a potential ceasefire and future support for Ukraine's reconstruction.

On 26 March 2024, ANUCES and the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” co-organised a roundtable “Global consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war”. “[Ukrainian Prism](#)” is a leading Ukrainian nongovernmental, bipartisan think-tank with robust expertise on foreign and security policy. More on the roundtable can be found [here](#).

### **ANU Centre for European Studies – Centre of Excellence**

The ANUCES Centre of Excellence focuses on understanding the challenges and opportunities for intersectional leadership in European and Australian societies and, specifically, within political institutions. Its main objective is to explore and understand how the intersections of race, gender, migration and ethnicity produce a new type of leadership particularly important in times of political instability and increased challenges to social cohesion. The Centre is currently are seeking a Visiting Fellow to undertake research within this broad theme. See the [official call](#) for more details.

## **Updates from fellow European Institutes in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand**

### ***University of Auckland European Institute***

The New Zealand Journal of Research on Europe in conjunction with the University of Auckland is calling on papers to feature in a special issue on ‘comparative perspectives on Europe’s energy transitions’. They are encouraging diverse perspectives with submissions open until the 15th of July, 2024.

More information can be found [here](#).

### **The Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies**

New [ANZJES issue \(Vol.15 No.3\)](#) is coming out soon – it is a student issue compiled from the selection of essays and policy briefs written by undergraduate and post-graduate students from Australian and New Zealand universities. This issue includes the winners of the ESAANZ Essay Competition 2023 for the best undergraduate and postgraduate essay in both Australia and New Zealand. We have also included two additional essays selected by the editorial board as representing outstanding potential in research on the European Union.

ANZJES **invites general submissions for forthcoming issues in 2024 and 2025**. They welcome original empirical, theoretical and methodological research examining post-war Europe and European issues, particularly from the social sciences, history, law, cultural studies and the humanities. More information can be found [here](#).

ANZJES **invites submissions of Research Notes and Review Essays**. Research Notes are concise compositions of 2000–3000 words in length (inclusive of references, notes, tables and figures). They should address an important research problem or question, advancing an innovative theoretical or methodological approach, or a practitioner analysis of a contemporary policy issue or problem. Review Essays may be a review of a single recently published book, of a number of recent contributions to a particular debate, or may be a broader ‘state-of-the-art’ survey of a contemporary theme or debate.

### **ANU Centre for European Studies**

ANUCES **invites submissions** to *Perspectives on Europe* book series – an open-access, double-blind peer-reviewed book series on Europe and the European Union published with ANU Press. For details see the [ANU Press website](#).

### ***Updates from the European Union Delegation in Australia***

#### Upcoming European Elections- JUNE 6-9, 2024

The year 2024 marks a significant political event for the European Union with the European Elections scheduled for June 6 to 9. Recognised as one of the largest democratic events globally and the only multinational election worldwide, these elections place the spotlight on European democracy. Millions of Europeans will engage in determining the trajectory of European democracy during this time. This unique opportunity allows all citizens to

collectively decide the future of the European Union, emphasising that Europe belongs to everyone, no matter where they are.

### Recent publications by ESAANZ members and colleagues

Author	Article
Dr Peter Záborský	Contextualising the Russian invasion of Ukraine: A fractured globalisation perspective. <a href="#">Click here to read the article.</a>
Marco Brunazzo	Human resources and sustainable development in the EU: The case of Erasmus+ programme. <a href="#">Click here to read the article.</a>
Peter Tesch, ANUCES Visiting Fellow	No, the West is not to blame for Russia’s war in Ukraine. Why this myth – and others – are so difficult to dispel <i>in The Conversation</i> . Read the full article <a href="#">here</a> .
Dr Sonia Mycak, ANUCES Visiting Fellow	review of a new biography on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the Sydney Morning Herald. See the <a href="#">link here</a> .

## Europe and Australia News

### ***European Commission - EU-Australia Energy Cooperation: Enhancing Educational Opportunities and Research***

During a significant visit to Australia, European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson, alongside Australian Minister for Energy and Climate Change Chris Bowen and Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Madeline King, emphasised the expansion of EU-Australia cooperation in the energy sector. Their joint commitment to accelerating the global clean energy transition under the Paris Agreement opens new avenues for educational and institutional growth.

Commissioner Simson highlighted the deep-rooted partnership between Europe and Australia, remarking, “As strategic partners sharing strong commitments to environmental sustainability and climate action, it is crucial for us to intensify our collaboration in these challenging times.” The discussion outlined several potential areas for joint efforts, including the advancement of renewable energy technologies such as wind, solar, and particularly renewable hydrogen.

This enhanced cooperation is likely to have profound implications for educational institutions in both regions. Universities and research centres are expected to benefit from

increased funding for research projects focusing on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency. This could lead to the development of new academic programs and training courses tailored to equip students with the skills needed in a decarbonising global economy.

More information on the expansion of EU-Australia cooperation in the energy sector can be found [here](#).

If you wish to have something included in a future ESAANZ bulletin, please contact

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