Editors’ Note

We would like to present the Australian National University’s community with the second volume of the ANU Undergraduate Research Journal (AURJ), the annual showcase for exceptional undergraduate work from a variety of disciplines. Established in 2008, AURJ was designed to give students a unique opportunity to publish their undergraduate work; it is a peer-reviewed journal managed by a team of postgraduate student editors, with guidance from the staff of the Office of the Dean of Students and published both in print and electronically by ANU eView.

While ANU is widely appreciated for its scholarly production at the professional and post-graduate levels, less is known about the extent and the quality of research conducted by the almost ten thousand undergraduate students who represent more than half of the university’s enrollments. As we believe that this substantial share of the ANU community deserves equal attention to their more senior colleagues, and that originality, commitment and entrepreneurship are qualities to be found across the whole academic body, we seek here to exhibit a snippet of this year’s undergraduate production.

AURJ extends to these students’ research experience and alerts them to the range of opportunities that are available at ANU for research and publication. In particular, by publishing work from a range of disciplines, we would like to encourage the academic community to become aware of different fields of study and to engage in discussions about these interdisciplinary issues. In order to do so, we have chosen a crosscutting topic, that of movement that forces us to consider real-world problématiques in their constantly evolving features beyond scholarly sectoralism.

We live in a constantly moving and interconnected world. Such dynamism creates relationships where actions lead to reactions, whether biological adaptations, literary movements or political and economic international dynamics. This year’s volume explores the movement inherent in today’s world. Although the articles range from a variety of disciplines, they all revolve around the idea of purposeful movement and the effects of such movement.

In accordance with the AURJ tradition, we chose not to use a uniform referencing system in order not to enforce a discipline-specific tone on all essays and took away from the integrity of a student’s article. As with last year’s volume, each
article is referenced according to the general norms of the relevant field, and should enable readers to approach these essays as examples of “best practice” scholarship in their discipline.

We hope readers enjoy perusing the journal as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

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