

Editor's note

This special issue of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies (ANZJES) represents a poignant moment for the journal. The founding body of this journal, the Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA), which established the journal in 2008, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2021. The association, which is now the European Studies Association Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ), wanted to celebrate this moment with a special issue of the journal to commemorate the Association's first 30 years of existence. This issue contains four distinct papers on European Studies in Australia and New Zealand as well as the role played by the respective European Studies associations. Thirty years for an association might seem short, but these years played out in the real world of European and global politics. Since its first days in the early 1990s, the European Studies associations have been at the forefront of engagement with both the European Union as well as Australian society. The role of the Association has been to enhance the understanding of the European Union in Australia. The papers included in this issue provide insights into some of the features and events which defined this role, and it should be noted that these papers are more of a reflection (personal or otherwise) of the Association and European studies and might differ slightly from our normal academic paper format. We make no apologies for this.

The first paper by Bruce Wilson from the EU Centre of Excellence at RMIT "Where would we be without CESAA" provides a rich testimony to the development of university cohorts and EU centres and what their future might be. The thesis is that what remains as other changes occur is the association and therefore the role of the association is more important today than ever before. The second paper by Bruno Mascitelli addresses the Association from an insider's perspective. He was President of the Association from 2004 until 2021, and his paper will provide a story of a journey with many anecdotes, observations, dilemmas and successes along the way. The third paper is authored by Martin Holland, Director of the NCRE in Canterbury, New Zealand. Martin's paper addresses the direction of EU Studies in New Zealand as well as a recognition of the role of the Jean Monnet and other EU funding mechanisms which, as he says, is now uncertain at a time when a change in EU support for academic experts at a time when EU public diplomacy has never been more important. The fourth and last paper is that of Peter Morgan from Sydney University. His paper examines the decline of languages taught in Australia and especially at the tertiary level. This account is directly related to his experience with CESAA and the future trajectory of foreign languages in Australia.

We are sure that the reader will find these papers thought-provoking, adding another dimension to an understanding of European Studies in Australia. We hope the reader will see that the role of the Association while primarily grassroots is a collection of interested colleagues who wanted nothing other than to help others in Australia understand better what this phenomenon of the European Union is.

Editor of the Anniversary issue: Bruno Mascitelli