

Foreword

Welcome to Volume XII of the Bruce Hall Academic Journal, *Cross-sections*, which is now in its eleventh year.

As Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University (ANU), it gives me great pleasure to introduce this academic journal, which is written and produced by the students of Bruce Hall, home to an excellent community of Australia's finest future scholars and leaders.

This journal exemplifies the spirit of the residential experience at ANU, and is a demonstration of the reason why I think it is so important to give students the opportunity live together on campus. It shows the benefits of bringing a community together from different fields of endeavour and providing them with the opportunity to expand their interests beyond their own boundaries. It represents the diversity of experiences, backgrounds and interests across our community, through a thriving culture of intellectual achievement. It also brings research-led education to life through the passion of the students who have written for it.

The range of works included in this edition represent the great disciplinary breadth and creative energy of ANU. Each of the authors and artists have produced highly interesting and creditable pieces of work, which I encourage you to explore.

The subjects in this journal range from birth control in Latin America, and judicial appointments in the US and Australia to human enhancement, and the writing of Ursula Le Guin.

I would like to congratulate the authors and editors of this outstanding publication and to invite all academics to enjoy reading these pages.

*Professor Brian P. Schmidt AC
Vice-Chancellor and President*