

ANU to remember Des Ball



***New Mandala* invites readers to celebrate the life and career of an extraordinary scholar.**

On 12 October, the Australian National University, Australia and the world lost one of its intellectual giants.

Professor Desmond Ball lost his long-running battle to cancer and passed peacefully away surrounded by loved ones.

Des was the leading figure in Strategic Studies in Australia of his generation, and made [a major contribution to global scholarship](#) in a field of vital importance. He was one of Australia's foremost public intellectuals, and exemplified the way scholars can and should contribute to national policy debates. Over many decades he was a major voice on questions of defence policy, nuclear strategy, intelligence and Asia-Pacific security.

Des was also a past contributor to *New Mandala* and readers will no doubt be aware of his exceptional work on mainland Southeast Asia.

For many decades Des was a linchpin of Myanmar-focused research at ANU. His studies of the Myanmar-Thailand borderlands, captured in four major books and many other publications, were

truly unique.

To commemorate Des and his remarkable career, ANU will hold [a memorial service on 22 November](#). The event is open to the public and will be led by ANU Chancellor and former Australian foreign affairs minister, Professor the Hon Gareth Evans AC QC.

"For a scholar deeply conscious of our common humanity, never content just with conceptual theorising, always focused on real world outcomes benefiting real people - it doesn't get much better than this," Professor Evans said.

"And in the long and proud history of ANU it didn't ever get much better for us. Des Ball was a giant in every way, and we will miss him profoundly."

Readers and members of the *New Mandala* community are warmly invited to celebrate the life and work of brilliant researcher, analyst, writer and educator.

For more details and to register visit [here](#).

Vale Des. You will be missed, and long remembered.