

EDITOR'S NOTE

Another year has flown by and certainly not without its share of achievements and challenges. Undoubtedly, one of the year's highlights was the successful Joint Institute of Australian Geographer/New Zealand Geographical Conference. As this edition of the Newsletter illustrates, a number of geographers have also had individual success on the teaching and research fronts. One of the ways the IAG rewards these successes is through a range of awards, including those for the best Honours and Postgraduate papers submitted to *Australian Geographical Studies*. The IAG also has a number of awards for long-term contributions to the discipline, including Professional Service Awards and Fellowship of the IAG. The IAG is currently calling for nominations for these awards, with details of these contained in this issue. This edition also contains an announcement for the IAG Conference in Canberra in July 2001. This promises to be an excellent meeting and the IAG is especially encouraging postgraduates and 'non-academic' geographers to attend.

Could you please note that the deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Newsletter is 30 May 2002. The preferred formats for file attachments are MS Word for Windows to version 2000 or RTF format. If you are unable to save attachments in these formats, please copy them into the text section of your e-mail message and forward to **Matthew Tonts at: <mtonts@geog.uwa.edu.au>**

All the best for Christmas and the New Year

Matthew Tonts
Department of Geography
University of Western Australia

IAG NEWS

IAG Special General Meeting

A special General Meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers will be held at 12:30pm on 1 March 2002 in The School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies at The University of Melbourne.

This meeting needs to be held to approve the audited accounts for the IAG and discuss two constitutional amendments proposed relating to postgraduate representation on the IAG Council and quorum issues for General Meetings. Further details on these issues will be provided shortly on IAG List.

All members are welcome to attend. Any enquiries, please direct to:

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School of Geography and Oceanography
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University of New South Wales
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Ph: (61) 2-6268-8309

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Discounts on Blackwell Books and Journals for IAG Members

Blackwell are delighted to offer IAG members a discount of 20% off all Blackwell books and many journals. To take advantage of this offer, simply:

1. Visit <http://www.blackwellpublishers.co.uk/journals/ages/society>
2. Print off the Society Members Special Order Form
3. Enter the details of the books and journals you wish to order
4. Return your completed form, with payment, to: Judy Cornish, IAG Member Orders, Blackwell Publishing, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, UK. Fax: +44 1865 381361

Electronic Access to *Australian Geographical Studies*

IAG Members now have electronic access to *Australian Geographical Studies* articles published since the beginning of 1997. Simply:

1. Visit <http://www.ingenta.com/journals/browse/bpl/ages>
 2. Enter the username and password in the boxes at the bottom left of the screen. The username is 'ages348' and the password is 'member90'
 3. Click the Enter button below these boxes, then select the article you want from the contents lists.
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IAG Website

The IAG website has recently been moved and updated. It can now be found at:

www.iag.org.au

The website includes information on study groups, future conferences, publications of the IAG, careers in geography and links to geography departments and organisations around the world. Special thanks to Julie Kesby and Glenn Banks for updating the website.

IAG Study Groups

Economic Geography Study Group

The IAG Study Group on Economic Geography recently held a joint meeting with national industrial relations scholars. The symposium was jointly sponsored by the IAG and the Discipline of Work and Organisation Studies at the University of Sydney. The event was titled *Towards an Enlivened Political Economy of Work: Industrial Relations Meets Geography* and was held at The Women's College at the University of Sydney from 13-14 November.

The symposium featured keynote addresses from Professor Jamie Peck, a special guest of the IAG from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a paper titled "Neoliberalizing space: labour regulation, rescaling, and post-Keynesian statecraft", as well as from Professor Katherine Gibson from the ANU presenting "Class politics, trade unionism and the challenges of cooperativism: lessons from Mondragon".

The symposium also heard 20 other papers including presentations from geographers Bob Fagan (*Macquarie*), Liza Tonkin (*ADFA*), Phil O'Neill, Elissa Sutherland and Tim Connor (all *Newcastle*), Susan McGrath-Champ (a geographer working in IR at *Sydney*) and special guest geographers from overseas: Peter O'Brien (*University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*), Christy Jocoy (*Pennsylvania State University*) and Scott Salmon (*Miami University, Ohio*).

The symposium explored different approaches to researching the worlds of work, industrial relations and employment practices from a variety of social sciences perspectives. The event generated a very high degree of interaction. Two special journal issues are planned as tangible outcomes. Participants agreed that joint meetings like this one are highly effective in assembling a critical mass of researchers beyond a disciplinary group where new approaches and exchanges can be limited.

Participants would like to express their thanks to the IAG for financial assistance for the event.

Phillip O'Neill
Convenor

Rural Studies Group

Several members of the Rural Studies Group attended the 2001 IGU Commission for Sustainable Rural Systems conference in France. Following a now well-entrenched and very popular 'linear' format, the conference began with papers in Rambouillet on the urban fringe of Paris and finished, following an extensive and fascinating field trip, in Montpellier in the south of France.

Roy Jones (*Curtin*), Tony Sorensen (*UNE*) and Roger Epps (*UNE*) all presented papers and gained much, both from meeting colleagues with similar interests from around the globe and also the experiences from the field trip. Rural France mirrors many of the problems confronting rural Australia - reduced significance of agriculture, loss of employment, population and services and an ageing demographic. There are, however, signs of successful entrepreneurship and increasing reliance on tourism. The role of co-operatives remains important and wine growing areas are still magnets for tourism. In addition, there is a continual growth in the ownership of rural *maison secondaires*, encouraged by the surfeit of cheap housing, pushed by the urban pollution and the predominant apartment-based lifestyle, and facilitated by the extensive autoroute system.

Many members of the Rural Studies Group have been involved in the preparation of articles for a special rural edition of the *Australian Geographer* to be published in March. The eleven papers were drawn from New Zealand and most states of Australia. They will provide a valuable profile of a range of current issues in Australasia, focusing on deregulation, globalisation, the reorientation and rebuilding of the rural economy, rural demographics and housing, land rights and urban fringe land management.

The scope of interests of the Rural Studies Group is very broad, as indicated by the range of issues addressed in the special edition. In addition, interests embrace the rural environment, service provision, welfare, and the 'consumption' aspects of the 'countryside'. Those with a related interest and an opportunity to attend the 2002 IAG conference are encouraged to nominate their papers for the rural sessions.

Roger Epps
Convenor

Indigenous Study Group

The Indigenous study group met at the joint NZGS/IAG conference in Dunedin earlier this year. At this conference, sessions were organised to reflect common research interests and time was allocated to issues raised in the workshops. A productive and enjoyable time was had by all.

Most of you will be aware that the IAG conference will be held in Canberra in 2002 and we are very keen to get feedback on how to spend our annual budget. Contact Cathy Robinson (Cathy.Robinson@adfa.edu.au) if you have any ideas.

Cathy Robinson
Convenor

Study Group Contact Details

The IAG hosts a number of special interest study groups which provide a forum for advancing the development of sub-discipline expertise or special interest issues.

At present the active groups and their convenors are:

Cultural Geography

Dr Gordon Waitt
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Economic Geography

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Geography and Environmental Science
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Rural Systems

Dr Roger Epps
Department of Geography and Planning
School of Human and Environmental Studies
University of New England
Armidale, NSW 2351
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Indigenous Issues

Dr Cathy Robinson
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University of New South Wales
Canberra, ACT 2600
<cathy.robinson@adfa.edu.au>

The guidelines for developing Study Groups can be found at:

<http://www.iag.org.au/#IAGStudy>

IAG Council has agreed to support these Study Groups with grants of up to \$500 per year. It is not intended that these funds be accumulated. The Treasurer has set aside funds in a separate dissection of the IAG accounts, and has allocated a nominal amount of \$500 to each Study Group. Conveners will need to arrange for invoices to be issued to the Study Group and sent to the Treasurer, or to send invoices with a letter explaining the expenditure, or claim reimbursement with receipts as documentation. Funds are intended to support conferences, workshops, publications and other activities that promote the objectives of the study group.

EQUITY ISSUES FOR THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS?

Bill Boyd

Associate Professor in Geography, School of Environmental Science & Management, Southern Cross University, Lismore, N.S.W. 2480; E-mail: bboyd@scu.edu.au

1. Introduction

Recent discussions at the Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers have included consideration of issues of gender and equity. The refocusing, for example, of the Gender & Geography Study Group reflects changes in the academic concerns of Institute members. It also reminds us that as an Institute, we may have issues of gender and equity to consider. The following is a first take on obligations, principles and implications regarding equity issues and the Institute. It is a set of notes prepared as discussion points by the Council, and is published here to provide points of interest and thought for the members. There is, befitting this early take on the topic, no prioritisation of issues. Some of the implications for the Institute may be or become contentious, while others may have follow-on implications in terms of practicality, finance and other resources. Others may simply alert Institute members to issues they should be considering in their own workplaces.

2. Legal obligations

There are several Federal Acts that may be relevant to the Institute, although there is some ambiguity related to the Institute's non-employer status. However, I suggest that the Institute does have an obligation to ensure absence of discrimination under several of the Federal Acts. I haven't worked through all the specifics of the legislation here, but note that some Acts have specific comment on incorporated bodies, which may also apply to the Institute. This can be followed up later. State legislation tends to follow Federal legislation, and there may be some specific legislation in the States and Territories that we need to know about.

Racial Discrimination Act 1975 This Act renders unlawful any act of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic and immigration (or that of a relative or associate), including acts in the area of employment. The Act was amended in 1990 to include a provision prohibiting indirect discrimination on the grounds of race. The Act applies throughout Australia and extends to all external Territories. Obviously the Institute is bound by this legislation, and I suggest we can respond to it both in terms of the rules, regulations and procedures of the Institute, and of the expectations we have for the behaviour of our members.

Sex Discrimination Act 1984 This Act prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status and pregnancy. Sexual harassment is specifically prohibited by

the Act, and the areas covered include work, accommodation, education, provision of goods, facilities and services, disposal of land, and activities of clubs. I suggest this includes the activities of the Institute. From the point of view of the Institute, obviously the employment implications of this legislation do not apply directly, although should the Institute hire temporary project officers, for example, it will need to take account of the provisions of the Act. Clearly, as a service or a “club”, this legislation applies to all our activities in terms of the procedures and practices we adopt.

Disability Discrimination Act (Commonwealth) 1992 This legislation aims to eliminate, as far as possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of disability in areas including work, accommodation, education, access to premises, clubs and sport, and provision of goods, facilities and services. The Act also requires employers to make reasonable adjustments in the workplace to accommodate the employee with a disability so that he or she will have access to equal opportunity. The balance that has to be struck is between, on the one hand, the adjustments that will have to be made to allow the person with a disability to adequately perform essential requirements of the job, and, on the other hand, the expense or inconvenience to which the employer will be put to provide those adjustments. From the point of view of the Institute, obviously the employment implications of this legislation do not apply directly. However, should the Institute hire temporary project officers, for example, it will need to take account of the provisions of the Act. The Act clearly applies to the Institute as an incorporated body, and thus we need to consider its implications as it applies to all our activities in terms of the procedures and practices we adopt.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Act 1986 This legislation provides the mechanism by which the Racial Discrimination Act and the Sex Discrimination Act are enforced. It also allows the Commission to investigate and conciliate a wide range of discriminatory practices related to employment that do not come within these two Acts. The powers of the Commission are wide ranging, and may impinge upon the Institute.

Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1996 This legislation aims to eliminate and ensure the continued absence of discrimination against women in the paid workforce. The Act requires employers of large workforces and higher education institutes to develop affirmative action programmes. Again, from the Institute’s position, the direct employment implications of this legislation do not apply. However, there may be implications in terms of the broader profession and employment patterns with the academic institutions in which geography is practiced.

3. Principles

Embedded in the various bodies of legislation are a number of equity principles; these may apply to the IAG.

Merit The principle of merit is usually applied in the recruitment, selection, appointment, staff development and training, and promotion of staff in a workplace. Decisions must be based on the relevant skills, experience,

qualifications, aspirations, potential and aptitude of applicants, and not on race, sex, seniority, marital status or other irrelevant criteria. For the Institute, this principle could be applied in several ways. First, as a guide to members' professional behaviour, the Institute could endorse and encourage it through its code of practice. Secondly, and specifically for the Institute, there are issues of membership, recruitment, committee and council membership, and awards.

Affirmative action This term refers to taking measures to remedy or redress the disadvantaged position in employment of identifiable groups of people. It involves consulting with representatives of each group and investigating the dynamics of the work environment, to determine the barriers to the increased rate and level of employment from equity groups. Policies and programmes are designed to actively eradicate these barriers and sources of discrimination. Again, this may be an issue for the Institute to address in terms of encouraging appropriate professional behaviour by our members. For the Institute, perhaps we need to consider active policy in targeting recruitment of members of the Institute, its committees and Council, and recipients of awards. There may be an active role for the Institute in profession development and overview of the profession of geography.

Creating a non-discriminatory working environment This means taking steps to ensure that a working environment is provided in which employees can achieve their fullest potential, free of unfair and discriminatory treatment based on stereotypical preconceptions. Again, there is a role for the Institute in guiding members in professional behaviour. Also, do we need to examine committee and Council meeting conditions and environments? What about conference and other public activities? Do we, for example, pay sufficient attention to disability access issues, and the cultural appropriateness of venues and style of meetings?

Reasonable accommodation The concept of reasonable accommodation or reasonable adjustment is used to ensure equal treatment in practice for people with disabilities in employment. Wherever it is necessary, possible and reasonable for the employer to make appropriate adjustments to the working environment to lessen the impact of the disability either for the worker or job applicant, they should do so. Again for the Institute, suitable guidance to members regarding professional behaviour is relevant. This is especially important in field-based work, where issues of disability can create serious issues of discrimination and disadvantage. The Institute may be able to play an important professional development role here. There are also implications in the running of Institute activities and events.

Indirect discrimination The concept of unlawful indirect discrimination provides the main tool for removing systemic, structural or organisational discrimination. It allows for the examination of seemingly fair rules and practices to check for adverse and unreasonable impacts on one gender rather than the other, particular ethnic groups as opposed to others, people with disabilities as opposed to people without, and so on. Again, the Institute may have a role in encouraging and supporting members in suitable professional behaviour in this regard. Further, perhaps the Institute needs to actively examine and monitor its own rules and procedures. It may also have an important input role to the profession of

geography and its practice in Australia in overseeing practices and supporting professional development of overcome indirect discrimination practices.

4. Implications for the Institute of Australian Geographers

From the above, several possible roles for the Institute are apparent. These are in no particular order.

Institutional practice of academic geography Four related roles may be considered.

- **Overview and monitoring** The Institute may have a role in overview and monitoring of practices within the discipline and amongst the organisations represented by academic geographers. Such overview and monitoring may be concerned with, for example, departmental staffing profiles and career development patterns, and of course would be focussed on issues of equity and equitable access to employment and professional progression amongst geographers.
- **Professional research** This is related to the first, although may be more broadly conceived to be a research or research support role into processes of professional inequality.
- **Structural development** The focus of this role would be upon the Institute playing an active development role across the discipline, and would include issues such as developing and implementing affirmative action initiatives within the discipline and its practicing organisations.
- **Lobby** The Institute may have an important role as a lobby group in the broader practice of geography and related academic pursuits.

Institute management The most immediate consideration regarding equity matters must be in the way in which the Institute manages itself. While the Institute is currently not an employer, and thus much of the legislation does not apply directly, it may become one. Perhaps more importantly, many of the principles enshrined within the law regarding equitable employment practice apply themselves readily to the activities of a body such as the Institute. To this end, fully equitable management of the Institute would serve as important professional best practice example, feeding into the other roles of the Institute. In particular, the Institute should consider the equity implications in the following activities.

- **Membership** There are issues about both Council and Institute membership that have equity implications; our membership and recruitment strategies may need to be reviewed and monitored. Does the constitution, which defines our membership, meet currently acceptable equity standards? Do we need to consider affirmative action policies or practices in developing the Institute's membership profile, especially in the light of an review of the broader discipline's staffing profile?
- **Awards** Are the aims, rules and processes of the Institute's awards equitable? Are they, on the other hand, conservative, and likely to reinforce historical trends in the distribution of authority and reward within the discipline? Could the awards system be used as an affirmative action process?
- **Code of conduct** The present code of conduct could be readily adapted to encourage, more explicitly, appropriate (and legal) behaviour regarding equity

matters. This will become increasingly important as a growing number of academics become *de facto* employers through their professional activities as consultants.

- **Event organisation** Consideration of equity matters has implications in terms of how the Institute organises and runs events such as committee meetings, specialist group workshops and conferences. Such issues include matters of access, inclusion, attendance opportunity, communication, support, and the cultural context and appropriateness of the event. Events form an important tangible and visible expression of the Institute, and provide opportunities to demonstrate best practice.
- **Professional development service** The Institute could have an important role to play as an agent of change at the individual member level, and, as for many professional institutes, could provide valuable professional development. In terms of equity issues, either formal support, information distribution or training is possible. Alternatively, a mentoring scheme managed through the Institute would provide a valuable professional development scheme. Further roles in the areas of advocacy and mediation are probably unrealistic at this stage.

5. Conclusion

This discussion is presented for comment and information, and while it provides a personal view by the author, the Council of the Institute has viewed versions of it, and is aware of the issues it raises. The Council appreciates that there are some implications suggested above that are largely impractical, from an Institute perspective, in the immediate term. The Institute is not a professional institute in the way that many others are, and thus some of the suggested functions are practically unable to be funded and enacted. There are other geographical bodies in Australia that may be more appropriate vehicle for such actions; the National Committee on Geography may, for example, be a more appropriate body to undertake some of the professional development, research and mentoring roles suggested here. More practically, the Institute can consider its own internal management, including the running of meetings and conferences; an awareness amongst organisers of Institute events may ensure appropriate activities in line with the law and the equity principles reflected by and embedded within the law. Finally, at the individual member level, awareness of relevant legal obligations should be seen to be an important part of the professional credibility of practicing geographers. The educational role of publishing such a discussion in the Institute's Newsletter should, thus, be viewed as a contribution from the Institute to the wider debate on equity and Australia as an equitable society.

FASTS NEWS

The following are extracts from recent media releases by FASTS

Universities: One Great Unresolved Issue

The university sector remains one of the great unresolved issues in Australian public life. A decline which began 15 years ago is continuing. The pressure on academics to perform more tasks is increasing, as their salary levels are steadily sliding down the ladder on international competitiveness. The quality of infrastructure declines as funding pressures increase.

Neither major party seems willing to tackle the issue. It is time for a national review of the university sector, with genuine discussion on what Australians want from their universities, and how much they are prepared to pay to achieve it.

FASTS welcomed the report "Universities in Crisis" by the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations, Small Business and Education References Committee.

The report paints a grim picture of the university sector, a position that has been reached after a decade of inaction and under-investment by successive governments.

Professor Peter Cullen, President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), said that Australia needed a constructive debate on the role and future of our 39 universities.

"It will involve clear thinking and hard decisions," he said. "We need to balance the sometimes conflicting factors of our size, our small population and our role in the region.

"What resources we should bring to bear on this sector as an advanced nation with a mid-sized economy?"

"This is a debate we have to have - the sector cannot be left to wallow indecisively any longer."

"Research and higher education may have been swept from the front pages by the dramatic events both in Australia and overseas, but these issues are long-term and we ignore them at our peril."

Professor Cullen said it would take time to digest the 471 pages and 39 recommendations of the Report, but at first glance, the report highlighted many of the issues of concern to the sector.

"One thing is clear: Australia needs to increase its national investment in research and higher education.

"We can argue what the level of that investment should be, and the appropriate balance between government, private and industry sources."

Professor Cullen said the science community welcomed a number of the recommendations, including proposals to double the number of research fellowships, to increase in the level of Block Grants, and to make the office of Chief Scientist a full-time position.

"Now we would like to see a wider canvassing of views, to maximise support from all sections of the community." he said.

Fasts Welcomes New Science Ministerial Team

Scientists and technologists welcome the appointment of Brendan Nelson and Peter McGauran as Ministers responsible for Science.

Professor Chris Fell, President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS), said their record of achievement was a good portent for the science sector.

"Science is all about jobs and a future for Australians," he said. "We need Ministers with vision, people who see the possibilities of the portfolio and represent them strongly to their colleagues.

"Brendan Nelson and Peter McGauran have all the hallmarks of being champions for science." Professor Fell said he was pleased the portfolio would continue to be represented in Cabinet.

"History has shown that the national interest is best served when Science is represented by a Cabinet Minister," he said. "We'd like a constant presence at the big table, where the major decisions are made. There is a strong component of science in most portfolios."

He gave a cautious endorsement of the new departmental arrangements, which place science with education and training.

"The big issue is the level of the national investment in science and research," he said. "Australia needs to lift its investment by Commonwealth and State governments and by industry.

He said that there was much unfinished science business to complete, and he hoped the Government would continue its strong commitment in this area.

"In launching 'Backing Australia's Ability', the Prime Minister said he was determined 'to back innovative Australians, build on known strengths, explore new opportunities, and compete successfully with the best the world has to offer'," Professor Fell said.

"That is a great statement of principle. We'd like the Government to remember these words when they come to setting the new triennium budget for CSIRO this year. "Government could also consider bringing forward some of the new money announced in 'Backing Australia's Ability'.

Professor Fell paid tribute to Senator Nick Minchin for his achievements as Minister for Industry, Science and Resources.

"Nick Minchin's period as Minister will be remembered for the major funding announcement 'Backing Australia's Ability', and for a strengthening of the Prime Minister's Science Council," he said.

FASTS is Growing

FASTS now has 57 Member Societies.

The most recent additions are:

Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology
Institute of Australian Geographers
The Society for Reproductive Biology

New FASTS Executive

The Board meeting on November 19 elected a new Executive. Successful candidates were:

President:	Professor Chris Fell
Vice-presidents:	Dr David Denham AM Professor Rob Norris
Secretary:	Dr Peter French
Treasurer:	Associate Professor John Rice
Policy Committee	Dr Ken Baldwin (Chair)

The Executive has co-opted Jan Thomas to join the Executive for the next twelve months, in the role of past Vice-President. Peter Cullen is unavailable to serve as past-President.

New FASTS Board

The new FASTS Board is:

Aquatic Sciences	Dr Alan Butler (CSIRO)
Biological Sciences	Assoc. Professor Melissa Little (UQ)
Chemistry	Professor Chris Easton (ANU)
Earth Sciences	Mr Mike Smith (Geo Instruments Pty Ltd, NSW)
Food & Ag. Sciences	Mr Ian Longson (Dept of Agriculture, WA)
Mathematical Sciences	Ms Judy Mousley (Deakin University)
Medical Sciences	Professor David Tracey (UNSW)

Physical Sciences	A/Professor John O'Connor (U. of Newcastle)
Plants & Ecol' Sciences	Professor Snow Barlow (U. of Melbourne)
Technology Sciences	Mr Len Ferrari (Consultant, NSW)

NEWS FROM OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL ORGANISATIONS

IGU Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification (COMLAND)

The Commission consists of 246 corresponding members from around the world and aims to promote and coordinate interdisciplinary research on land degradation and desertification in our changing global environment. In particular, it seeks to study the effects of environmental change, both natural and human induced, and their implications for land degradation and desertification.

The focus of attention is the vulnerability of ecosystems and affected societies, in order to communicate to and alert authorities about the need for adequate surveillance of land degradation processes and appropriate remedial and preventative actions. Land Degradation and Desertification are not positive fields of science. Rivers, glaciers and other interesting geographical features are no doubt exciting, but like medical doctors, we have chosen earth diseases as our field of investigation, and therefore we can define our task as a commission of GEODISEASES. The aim should be not only to describe and define the degradation problems and to study their extent, but also to analyse the causes and try to find solutions.

The Commission collaborates closely with a number of organisations, including International Association of Geomorphologists, the Association of American Geographers, the Association of Indian Geomorphologists, and the Sociedad Mexicana de Geomorfologia. Several commission members are active and cooperate with organisations such as UNESCO, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and the European Society for Soil Conservation

During 2001 COMLAND has organised a number of meetings. These include:

Santiniketan, India — January 9–11

XXII Conference of the Institute of Indian Geographers and COMLAND. Organized by Professor V.C.Jha, full member of COMLAND and attended by 225 participants. The emphasis was on the geographical interactions with regard to the fact that millions of hectares are affected by land degradation, reducing their potential capacity to provide goods and services to the community.

Mexico — May 7–14

Forty one papers were submitted in oral or poster presentations, and the meeting included a five day excursion from Mexico City to the Parícutin volcano in the state of Michoacán. Land degradation as a result of land use changes is a major problem in the urbanized areas of the large City of Mexico, as well as in the deforested mountains and hills. The message was that change is occurring at a pace which demands immediate actions from local and government authorities, but that measures which have been taken are not always supported by appropriate scientific research. For many of the participants it was their first encounter with Mexico, its spectacular volcanic landforms and the warm and friendly human environment.

Other meetings have been held in Tokyo and South Africa, with future meetings planned for South Africa, Argentina and Iceland.

For more information about COMLAND visit: www.comland-commission.com

IGU Commission on the History of Geographical Thought

The IGU Commission on the History of Geographical Thought has for many years had a representation from Australia and New Zealand. At present Patrick Armstrong, from the Department of Geography at UWA, is a member of the Commission. Prior to him, Joe Powell from Monash served for a number of years. Oskar Spate, of the Australian National University was a longtime member, retaining Honorary membership until his recent death. New Zealand is at present represented by Hong-Key Yoon, of the University of Auckland.

One of the principle activities of the Commission is the publication of *Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies*, which each year contains essays by geographers and others who have influenced the development of geographical thought. The series is published by Continuum Press of London and New York, and in 2001 the Commission celebrated the publication of its 21st volume. This included essays (several of them written by Australian authors) on the nineteenth century explorer of Arabia, Charles Montagu Doughty; the early feminist writer Harriet Martineau; pioneer ecologist Charles Elton; Giraldus Cambrensis or Gerald of Wales, the mediaeval writer on Wales and Ireland; Yi Chung-Hwan from Korea; and John Septimus Roe from Australia.

The 22nd volume in the series should appear in mid 2002. It will include a similarly varied series of essays, including those on pioneer geomorphologist Armin Lobeck; George Grey, the colonial administrator who was important in the development of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa; Antonio Garcia Cubas from Mexico; and Nikolai Mikouho-Maclay, an interesting Russian-Australian individual who did important work in New Zealand and the Pacific.

The Commission also held a successful meeting in Mexico during July 2001, and now looks forward to another conference with the theme: *Culture, Environment*,

Development in the History of Geographical Thought, to be held in Durban, South Africa, in August, 2002.

For further information on the Commission contact:
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The Geographical Association of Western Australia

The Geographical Association of Western Australia (GAWA) was established in the early 1970s to service the needs of students and teachers of geography in Western Australia. The organisation's main objective is to encourage the advancement, education, promotion and practice of the science of geography in Western Australia. It does this by providing an organisation and forum for students, teachers and practitioners of geography to share knowledge, ideas, opinions and activities about the science of geography and geographical education.

GAWA organises and provides a variety of activities including:

- **Geography Awareness Week** – each year, as part of an annual, national action/awareness week, GAWA prepares a package of learning and teaching resources which is distributed to all its members (in recent years this kit has comprised approximately 150 pages distributed to approximately 200 schools);
- **Geography TEE Revision Sessions** – half-day enrichment and revision workshops for prospective Geography Tertiary Entrance Examination candidates. A number of local experts provide input on a range of topics. In recent years approximately 300 students have attended these sessions.
- **Awards/Competitions**
 1. *Australian Geography Competition* - GAWA coordinates the WA entries (approximately 4000 entries from 50 schools) in this national competition which attracts approximately 40000 entries nationwide.
 2. *The Joseph Gentilli Memorial Geography Scholarship* - Each year, GAWA awards several scholarships (approximate value of \$500 each) to WA students who achieve highly in their Year 11 geography studies and who intend continuing their geography studies in Year 12.
 3. *John Forrest Award* – a geography skills-based competition for both lower and upper secondary Geography, and Society and Environment students in WA with cash prizes for winners in each section.

- **Geography Learning and Teaching Resources**

1. *Year 11 and Year 12 Geography Texts* – GAWA regularly produces a range of textbooks and other resources for students studying the Year 11 and Year 12 Geography Syllabuses.
2. *The Student's Guide to the 2001 Geography TEE* – This is an annual publication for Year 12 Geography TEE candidates. The book includes helpful hints and strategies for the Geography TEE, a discussion of last year's examination and exemplar answers. This publication has a major contribution from the Geography Chief Examiner and Chief Marker. This year's publication is due for release on 18th June.
3. *Geography TEE Revision Packages* - a new initiative this year in which GAWA has offered a number of different packages comprising the 'Student's Revision Guide' together with various other products including the 2000 Geography TEE paper and an associated Revision Broadsheet with revision questions and answers. These should provide excellent revision packages for potential Geography TEE candidates.
4. *Mining Kits* – in collaboration with the WA Chamber of Mines and Energy, GAWA has co-edited and produced three multi-media mining resource kits (*Mining in the Goldfields; Mining in the North West and Mining in the South West*) which have been distributed, free-of-charge, to all WA secondary schools.
5. *Topographic Map Broadsheets* – GAWA has published a series of topographic map broadsheets which can be used to help reinforce the application of geographic map and aerial photograph reading and interpretation skills.

GAWA also produces a journal, *Western Geographer*, which publishes research articles on topics of local interest.

During the year, GAWA organised a number of events for teachers and other geography practitioners. This year's highlights included a state conference in Bunbury and a series of professional development workshops. Over seventy teachers participated in a "Geographical Analysis with GIS" workshop conducted by the GIS Training Centre at Central TAFE. A successful 'working breakfast' was recently held on the topic of "City Foreshore Planning Options" presented by Max Hipkins, Perth City Council's Director of Planning. A talk to members on the topic, "The Geography of Football" was presented by Associate Professor Roy Jones of Curtin University in June.

For further information on GAWA visit the website: www.gawa.net

ALL THINGS ENVIRONMENTAL

I would like to draw everyone's attention to an annual event with the slogan *Environmental Disciplines Working Towards A Sustainable Future*. The event known as EERE (Environmental Engineering Research Event) has just had its 2001 meeting in Noosa, Queensland. To avoid any confusion I must add, that the word 'Engineering' is misleading as ALL areas of environmental research are invited to contribute.



The concept of a forum for postgraduate students involved in research with an environmental theme originated from the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Queensland (UQ) and the first event was held in 1995. The aim of the event was to allow postgraduate students working in the environmental field to present and discuss their work and to gain a broader view of global problems.

In keeping with tradition postgraduate students made up the organising committee for EERE 2001. A selection of prominent international and local speakers were present in Noosa and the three-day program (Nov. 20 - Nov 23) included invited speakers, student paper and poster presentations, seminars and the event dinner. Industry members were also represented and over the course of the event there was plenty of opportunity for networking between postgraduate students, senior academics and industry members.

As the chairperson of EERE 2001 I would like to thank all delegates, speakers and sponsors for their attendance, and a special greeting goes out to our EERE 2001 prize winners:

- Damien Giurco (Life Cycle Analysis: Copper recycling alternatives: an environmental analysis)
- Lionel Ho (Water Treatment: Biodegradation of microcystin)
- Steven Pratt (Waste Water Treatment: Model based data analysis of activated sludge system: a case study with a titrimetric respirometer)
- Aaron Saunders & Adrian Oehmen (Wastewater Treatment: Investigation of the enhanced biological phosphorus removal of a full-scale wastewater treatment plant)
- Olga Braga (Poster: Analysis of endocrine disrupters and pharmaceuticals in the environment)

A new enthusiastic organising committee has already got the ball rolling for EERE 2002. Enquiries for next year's event can be addressed to Olga Braga (*The Ray Williams Biomedical Mass Spectrometry Facility, UNSW, Sydney NSW 2052 Australia, ph ++61 2 9385 2952, email: o.braga@student.unsw.edu.au*) or Nyree Stenekes (*Centre for Water and Waste Technology, Civil and Environmental Engineering, The University of New South Wales, SYDNEY NSW 2052 AUSTRALIA, ph ++61 2 9385 4470, n.stenekes@student.unsw.edu.au*).

Susanne Wood
Chairperson, EERE 2001



IAG CONFERENCE 2002: SHAPING GROUNDS
9-12 July 2002, Canberra

Hosted by:

The Department of Human Geography, Research School of
Pacific & Asian Studies, ANU

The School of Geography & Oceanography, Australian Defence
Force Academy

The Geography Program, School of Resources, Environment
and Society, ANU

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

SHAPING	GROUND
...creating, fashioning, forming	...the surface of the earth, or part of it
...directing the course of	...a region, land, country
...developing from vagueness or confusion	...the elements of any study or branch of
into something coherent	...knowledge

Contact: Ms Chris Tabart (Chris.Tabart@anu.edu.au)

For further details please consult the Conference Website:

<http://www.iag.org.au/conf2002.html>

IAG Conference Travel Grants for Postgraduate Students

The IAG offers some financial assistance for postgraduate students to attend the Conference. For further details on this assistance contact Richie Howitt, IAG Treasurer, Department of Human Geography, Macquarie University, Sydney.

Email: <richard.howitt@mq.edu.au>

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Grant and Award Opportunities

IAG Honours Award

Each year the Institute of Australian Geographers offers a cash Award and a year's free membership of the Institute for a paper based on work undertaken in the 4th year Geography Honours degree, or equivalent program, at an Australian university. Manuscripts must not exceed 6,000 words (inclusive of references) and may include not more than six diagrams, maps or photographs together with necessary tables. Manuscripts should be submitted to the editors of *Australian Geographical Studies*, stating that the paper is to be considered for the award. Three copies of the paper should be submitted following the style conventions of *AGS* (see "Notes to Contributors" in a recent issue).

The papers will be reviewed independently by at least two referees and considered for publication in the normal way. The editors will judge which paper receives the award although all papers deemed acceptable by the referees and editors will be published in *AGS*. The designation of high commendation, with a year's free membership of the Institute, may be given to those submissions which come close to the level of the award winner. The paper is expected to be submitted within two years of the student's Honours thesis being accepted. All papers must be single authored. Papers should be submitted to the Editors of *AGS* before the **1st October** closing date.

IAG Postgraduate Paper Award

Applicants for the Postgraduate Paper Award are asked to submit a paper based on work undertaken during their own research for a higher degree. The paper could be submitted during the period of enrolment but should not be submitted later than one year after the award of the degree. The paper must be single authored. Format and standards for the paper will follow that of journal articles to *Australian Geographical Studies*. The Editor(s) of the journal will have sole discretion as to whether the paper will be published. The Award will consist of one year IAG membership fees and a cash sum of \$200.00. The Institute reserves the right not to make an award in any year.

For further details on both of the above awards contact:

The Editors
Australian Geographical Studies
School of Social Sciences
Curtin University
Perth, WA 6845

IAG Fellowships and Awards

The Council of IAG calls for nominations for the following awards of the Institute. Awards will be presented at the 2002 meeting of IAG in Canberra. Nominations should be accompanied by a statement describing the nominee's suitability for the award. The statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of the proposing financial member and seconder. Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers.

The Fellowship is awarded for distinguished service to the Institute. No more than one Fellowship is awarded each year. In the past Fellowships have been awarded to: Professor Murray McCaskill (1989), Professor Bruce Thom (1992), Professor John Holmes (1997), Dr Arthur Conacher (1998) and Mr Laurie Olive (1999).

Professional Service Award

This award is made in recognition of a distinguished contribution to geographical education or for the advancement of geographical practice in Australia. Each nominee should be required to have a continuous record of IAG membership of not less than five years. There will be a maximum of three awards annually. Past recipients of the award include: Dr. Don Biddle (1989), Dr. Deirdre Dragovich (1997), Dr. Alaric Maude (1997), Dr David Rich (1998), Dr Elspeth Young (1998), Professor Margo Huxley (1998) and Dr Bill Jonas (1999).

Australia-International Medal

This medal is awarded in recognition of either outstanding contributions by Australian (or Australia-based) geographers to the advancement of Geography world-wide or of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the geography of Australia by geographers permanently residing outside Australia.

A full statement must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President. Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee. No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award. Previous winners of the award are Janice Monk (1999) and Reginald Golledge (2000).

Nominations for these awards must be received before 28 February 2002.

Please direct nominations to:
Dr Glenn Banks
School of Geography and Oceanography
University College, ADFA
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia

Email: Glenn.Banks@adfa.edu.au

Sabbatical Fellowships in Human Geography

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC AND ASIAN STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Human Geography is offering Sabbatical Fellowships in 2002-3 for established scholars who would like the opportunity to explore or strengthen connections between their research and the changing geography of Asia and the Pacific. Situated within the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, the Department offers access to a range of scholars with regional expertise and libraries with excellent Asia Pacific collections. The Department is interested in fostering innovative geographic research and welcomes Australian and New Zealand scholars of high standing to apply.

A Human Geography Sabbatical Fellow will be a salaried member of an Australian or New Zealand University (other than ANU, University of Canberra or ADFA) and will typically be on an outside studies program from that university. They must undertake to be with the Department for a visit of not less than 12 weeks. They must be willing to contribute to the current activities of the Department.

Sabbatical Fellows will receive an allowance as a contribution to travel and living expenses while in Canberra. Intending applicants may make inquiries and obtain further particulars from the Departmental Administrator, Mrs Winifred Loy, by phone on (02) 6125 2234 or by email on Winifred.Loy@anu.edu.au

Applications must be sent to : Departmental Administrator, Department of Human Geography, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University, CANBERRA ACT 0200

Closing date: 28 February 2002.

Grants and Awards Received

John Connell (*Sydney*) was recently elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia.

Martin Bell (*UQ*) was awarded \$147,000 for an ARC Discovery project 'Circular Mobility in Australia: Types, Measures, Patterns and Impacts'.

Bob Stimson (*UQ*) received an ARC Discovery grant of \$202,500 for a project on "Determinants Of Quality Of Life In Cities: The South East Queensland Urban Region In Comparative Perspective".

More ARC success at UQ where **Bob Stimson, Martin Bell, Scott Baum** and other collaborators were awarded \$450,000 for a project entitled “Spatially integrated socio-economic analysis: Australia at the new millenium”.

Kurt Kubik (*UQ*) was awarded \$45,090 from the ARC for the project “Automated Vector Extraction from Airborne Laser Scan Data”.

Stuart Phinn (*UQ*) along with a number of collaborators received \$887,000 as part of an ARC Linkage project on “Vision and Remote Sensing: Using Nature’s Technology to Examine the Health of the Great Barrier Reef and Moreton Bay”.

UQ Staff are actively engaged in a number of Cooperative Research Centres. These projects are on-going:

- CRC for Coastal Zone and Estuaries: **Dr David Pullar** and **Dr Stuart Phinn** are involved in remote sensing, hydrological modelling and information systems work (awarded funding of \$229,000 in 2001),
- CRC for Sustainable Tourism: **Dr Pramod Sharma** has had several years very successful involvement in developing web-based information tools for the tourist industry (awarded funding of \$514,000 in 2001) and,
- CRC Rainforests: **Professor Geoff McDonald** and **Dr Stuart Phinn** continued their research programs on environmental planning and remote sensing and applications respectively (awarded funding of \$218,000 in 2001)
- CRC Tropical Savannas: **Professor Geoff McDonald** has a regional resource planning project in conjunction with the three northern States (awarded funding of \$248,000 for 2001-2003)

Final year regional and town planning students from UQ received a Tertiary Students’ Project Award for 2001 from the Royal Australian Planning Institute for a study of Brisbane’s western CBD entitled ‘Equity, Diversity and Prosperity’.

Several staff from Newcastle were successful in attracting funding in the recent Research Management Committee grants from the University. These included **Phillip O’Neill, Russell Drysdale, Ian Goodwin, and Kathy Mee**.

Phillip Geary (*Newcastle*) has received a Hunter Water Corporation grant to study wastewater treatment systems associated with wetlands.

Iain Hay (*Flinders*) is once again a finalist in the Australian Awards for University Teaching. The awards were established in 1997 by the Commonwealth Government to celebrate and reward excellence in university teaching. Iain was also a finalist in this award in 2000.

Donald Pate, W H Adams, K Walshe, L Leader-Elliott, PA Smith and David Bass (*Flinders*) were awarded \$187,118 over three years for "The Adelaide Hills Face Zone: Reconstructing the cultural landscape and the identification of sites of cultural significance". The project includes an Australian Postdoctoral Industry Award for Dr Smith. Industry partners include: Boral Resources, Planning SA and various local councils.

David Bass and **Neville Crossman** (*Flinders*) and the City of Mitcham have been successful in obtaining a grant of \$11,000 from the Native Vegetation Council for a project entitled: "Mapping Environmental Weeds on the Western Slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges".

A number of staff from the Geography Department at UWA were successful in securing UWA Small Grants. These included **John Dodson**, **Steffanie Scott** and **Matthew Tonts**.

Matthew Tonts (*UWA*) and **Alan Black** (*ECU*) were awarded \$67,000 from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation to study the impacts of changing farm business structures on rural communities.

Pierre Horwitz (*ECU*), **Matthew Tonts** (*UWA*), **Sue Nikoletti** (*ECU*), **Sarah Lumley** (*UWA*), **David Rapport** (*Guelph*) and other collaborators have received \$190,000 from ARC and the Water and Rivers Commission for a project called 'Indicators of ecosystem health in Western Australian recovery catchments'.

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

Flinders University

The School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management is offering a new degree from 2002 entitled 'Bachelor of Applied Geospatial and Information Technology'. This new and exciting course has just received special Federal Government funding under the Backing Australia's Ability program. It prepares students for a variety of careers involving the capture, synthesis, analysis and communication of spatially referenced information. Opportunities to apply these skills are growing rapidly in fields as varied as urban and regional planning, infrastructure management, transportation, environmental science, biological sciences, biodiversity management and archaeology.

The course provides a comprehensive training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), reinforced with skills in remote sensing, statistics and computing, plus the opportunity to study a major sequence in an applied area such as biology, earth sciences, archaeology, geography or environmental studies.

Industry placement and applied project topics will build links between the geospatial and information technology core of the degree and the applied major sequence, while developing applied skills. Further opportunities to reinforce those links and skills, and to build up a portfolio demonstrating abilities to prospective employers, will be provided by the choice of assignments in other core topics in the second and third years of the degree.

Professor Paul Matthews from the University of New Mexico is visiting the School for a year (until August 2002). His main area of interest is geography and law, and he has conducted considerable research in the area of water rights.

University of Newcastle

The Geography and Environmental Science programs at the University of Newcastle will be incorporated into a new School of Environmental and Life Sciences in 2002. Other programs involved are Biology, Chemistry, and Geology.

The Centre for Urban and Regional Studies has recently been established by human geographers at the University of Newcastle. The Director is Phillip O'Neill and the Deputy Director is Pauline McGuirk. The Centre's interests are focused on the economic, socio-cultural and political restructuring processes currently reshaping the geography of cities and regions in Australia and internationally. Its research focus includes traditional academic inquiry, commissioned industry and government projects, policy development and comment, and community engagement projects. While the Centre is located in the new School of Environmental and Life Sciences, it operates as a multi-disciplinary vehicle with involvement from a variety of disciplines including human geography, sociology, social work, economics, management, leisure and tourism, cultural studies, architecture and fine arts.

The Centre was pleased to be awarded an ARC Linkage Project Grant for 2002-5. Chief Investigators on the Project are Phillip O'Neill, Pauline McGuirk and Kathy Mee. The Project is a collaboration with the NSW Department of Housing and seeks to establish a spatial data analysis model to assist the management of the region's public housing stock and undertake an analysis of the Department of Housing's organisational behaviours in the face of new public service management directions. The project will involve three full time PhD scholars plus a research assistant.

University of New South Wales

After a drawn-out restructuring process in Science at UNSW (in which the previous two science faculties were merged together), geographers have decided to consolidate their interests in two new settings. From Jan 1, 2002, a group of geographers (Dr Bruno Parolin; Professor Ian Burnley; Dr Kevin Dunn; Dr Chris Gibson; Dr Jesmond Sammut and Wendy Shaw in the short term.) will head a program in geography from within the Faculty of the Built Environment, alongside urban planning, architecture and industrial design. This group will be physically relocated into new facilities in the 'Red Centre' building on campus.

Physical geographers and remote sensing staff (Dr Scott Mooney, Dr Robert Brander, Professor Anthony Milne and Mr David Edwards) will be located with biology and geology in a new school in science: Biology, Earth and Environmental Science. There is a developing consensus on mechanisms for maintaining

disciplinary identity and geography courses across these two locations. Research synergies for both groups of geographers will be significantly enhanced by the restructuring, boosted by recent staff appointments in remote sensing, economic geography, GIS and urban geography. A more detailed report on activities at UNSW will feature in the next IAG Newsletter.

University of Queensland

Following its induction into the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture in July 2000, the Department of Geographical Sciences and Planning now operates in conjunction with the Department of Architecture. This arrangement has some mutual benefits, particularly in respect of its programs in real estate and development, regional and town planning, and human geography.

In late 2001, the Department will be introducing an interdisciplinary postgraduate coursework suite in project management under the co-ordination of Dr George Earl. Geographical Sciences and Planning will operate in the program's built environment domain, the remainder being production engineering, logistics and supply chain management, and other applications of project management. The masters degree will offer the academic component for registration as a project manager with the Australian Institute of Project Management. This move completes the Department's strategic positioning, leaving it as probably the most diverse tertiary geography organization in the country.

In July 2001, 17 students from across Indonesia were admitted to the Master of Development Planning degree in a joint arrangement with Universitas Diponegoro in Semarang, central Java, where they undertook their first semester.

The Department has been pleased to host a sabbatical visit from July-December 2001 by Prof. Janet Franklin of San Diego State University who is working on rain forest fragmentation using GIS in association with Dr Stuart Phinn. Also on sabbatical is Dr Graham Clarke from the University of Leeds who is spending the period from September 2001-January 2002 working with Dr Martin Bell to compare micro-simulation with conventional transition methods of population forecasting for Eire (as a case study).

University of Western Australia

During 2002 the Department of Geography will be amalgamated with Geology and Geophysics and Soil Science to form a new School of Earth and Geographical Sciences. Existing teaching programs in geography will be retained, with scope for considerable collaboration with new colleagues in the School. Currently UWA offers a range of undergraduate courses in geography, with particular emphasis placed on environmental change and management, geomorphology, biogeography, GIS, Third World development, urban studies and regional development. There are also more than 20 postgraduate research students in the Department.

The Department hosted a number of visitors during 2001. **Prof John Selwood** from the University of Winnipeg spent February to August working on tourism development and niche industries in the south-west of Western Australia. **Dr Rita Afsar** (*Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies*) spent seven months in the Department writing up the findings of her research on international labour migration amongst Bangladeshi women, which she collected in the United Arab Emirates and Bangladesh. Other recent visitors to the Department included Victor Savage (*Singapore*) Geoff Haworth (*British Columbia*), Jon Shaw (*Aberdeen*) and Michael O’Cinneide (*National University of Ireland*).

One of the recent initiatives within the Department has been the establishment of the Institute for Regional Development (IRD). The Institute was established with support from the University and the State government with the aim of increasing research and teaching capacity on rural and regional issues. The Institute already has more than a dozen postgraduate students enrolled in its Graduate Diploma in Regional Development and Master of Regional Development courses. On the research front, the IRD is involved in projects relating to environmental assessment and management, social impact assessment, community development, and studies of socio-economic well-being in rural areas.

University of New England

Several geographers at UNE are involved in the establishment of a cross-disciplinary Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises. Research and teaching interests of Robert Baker, Roger Epps and Tony Sorensen are closely related to the objectives of the centre, but others including Neil Argent, Fran Rolley, Barbara Rugendyke and Jim Walmsley also have overlapping research interests. There will be major links with the Faculty of Economics, Business and Law and some with the Faculty of Education, Health and Professional Studies through the Centre.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS/MOVES

Moss Cass (*Melbourne*), the first Australian Minister for the Environment in the Labor years, was appointed an Honorary Fellow of the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Sciences.

Three staff from the University of Melbourne recently received promotions. **Mary Patterson** and **Monica Minnegal** were elevated to Senior Lecturer, and **Ian Rutherford** was promoted to Associate Professor.

Professor Neal Enright (Melbourne) continued in the role of Deputy Director of the Office for Environmental Programs and was appointed Deputy Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. **Tony Ladson** and **Mike Stewardson** were appointed research fellows.

Steven Henderson (*UNE*), after completing his PhD, was appointed as a research fellow at King's College, London, where he is working on an EU funded project focusing on agriculture in the rural/urban fringe.

Two new appointments have been made in the Division of Geography at Sydney University. **Dr Melissa Neave**, formerly of Monash and most recently of Frostburg State University, comes as Lecturer in Fluvial Geomorphology. **Dr Eleanor Bruce** arrives from the University of Tasmania as Senior Lecturer in GIS.

Bill Pritchard (*Sydney*) has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

John Connell (*Sydney*) was promoted to Professor at the start of the year (2001), when he also became Head of the School of Geosciences, a position which continues to the end of 2002.

Several staffing developments at the University of Queensland: **Prof. Tor Hundloe** was re-appointed to the Chair in Environmental Management in January 2001. His role is split between the Department of Geographical Sciences and Planning at the St Lucia campus and the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management, based at Gatton. In the same month, **Martin Bell**, formerly of the University of Adelaide, joined the Department of Geographical Sciences and Planning as a senior lecturer in population geography and demography. He was followed in June 2001 by **Hamish McGowan** who was appointed as a lecturer in climatology, having previously served at The Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

David Pullar (*UQ*) was promoted from lecturer to senior lecturer in November 2001.

Kathy Mee (*Newcastle*) has been promoted to Lecturer B.

Prof Robert Toia (*Newcastle*) took up his position as Chair of Environmental Science in July. He is currently organising a major environmental research institute, and has just been appointed Head of the new School of Environmental and Life Sciences beginning in 2002. Robert has a PhD in Chemistry from the University of New South Wales, and was previously on the staff at the University of San Francisco before coming to Newcastle. His research interests are in water chemistry and ecotoxicology problems.

John Dodson has been appointed Acting Executive Dean of the new Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. One of John's main tasks is to oversee the merger of the Faculty of Agriculture and parts of the former Faculty of Science (Geography, Geology, Botany & Zoology).

Neil Drew has been appointed the Director of the Institute of Regional Development at UWA.

GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...

Andrew Beer (*Flinders*) has returned from his period as a Leverhulme Fellow at Magee College, University of Ulster. While in the United Kingdom he worked on research projects relating to housing and local economic development. He also attended the Spring Conference of the Housing Studies Association in Cardiff at the beginning of September.

At the recently held AGM of the Weed Management Society of South Australia, **David Bass** (*Flinders*) was elected President and **Neville Crossman** (*Flinders*) was re-elected as Secretary of the Society.

Four Geographers at UNE are combining with a cross-disciplinary team to prepare a profile of recent economic development at Coolah, in the Central West of NSW. This town has, to a significant extent, been able to offset the serious decline in employment opportunities over the last five years and has developed social capital in the process. **Tony Sorensen**, **Jim Walmsley**, **Neil Argent** and **Roger Epps** are involved in the project.

Roger Epps (*UNE*) is preparing a publication based on his research into broadening the economic base of a sub-regional centre - Inverell in northern NSW. This Dept. of Transport and Regional Services funded project will be completed in April and has endeavoured to research the issue in part from the top-down, but primarily from the perspective of individual business owners and proprietors. The action research has helped catalyse the establishment of high tech training courses at the local TAFE, the purchase of sophisticated manufacturing equipment, some employment expansion, created an informal but active manufacturers' group, and is endeavouring to address serious underlying workforce issues which are constraining the growth of several established enterprises. Approaches to contract and workforce management have also been evident in the manufacturing sector.

Robert Baker and **Bob Haworth** (*UNE*) are continuing their, at times controversial, research into past sea level change. Their efforts are generating a consistent flow of publications, some of which challenge traditional views on the topic.

Dr Hamish McGowan (*UQ*) is examining the effects in Australian and New Zealand of natural aerosols on climate systems and complex-terrain wind regimes. He is also studying wind erosion processes and land management strategies in semi-arid landscapes in these countries and Antarctica.

Dr Martin Bell (*UQ*) is working on a three-year large ARC Discovery Grant on circular migration in Australia which will look at temporary moves and periods involving more than one night away from home. He has also established the Queensland Centre for Population Research within the University of Queensland to undertake applied research on regional and local area population change with external funding from the Queensland Treasury for five years.

Current activities of the University of Queensland Biophysical Remote Sensing Group led by **Dr Stuart Phinn** include supervision of postgraduate research in the Rainforest and Coastal Zone Cooperative Research Centres, and several ARC Industry Linkage projects examining questions of wetlands monitoring, kangaroo population estimation, and monitoring of coral reef health.

Kurt Kubik (*UQ*) is investigating automated methods to map the temporal change of Queensland forest cover over time intervals of two years each. SPOT and LANDSAT-TM stereo images are used as source material. This project is done jointly with the QLD Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Dr David Pullar (*UQ*) is pursuing research and commercial opportunities via the Urban Landscape Lab which specialises in the application of GIS and real-time 3D visualisation technologies to provide solutions to problems in urban planning and design, property, tourism, planning economics and environment. The Lab focuses on the use of Geographic Information technologies to link information environments to virtual scenes: augmented reality and location aware applications.

Professor Geoff McDonald (*UQ*) has a number of regional resource planning projects in Northern Australia. These collaborative projects, supported by CRC funding and additional agency funding, address a range of issues in the administrative arrangements for planning, planning processes, decision support systems and plan preparation under new NAP/NHT principles. A number of PhD students and research fellows are engaged on the projects.

Steffanie Scott (*UWA*) is conducting research on the gender dimension of land rights in Vietnam. A key aspect of the research is examining rural livelihood vulnerability associated with the decollectivisation of land in post-socialist Vietnam.

John Selwood (*Winnipeg*) and **Matthew Tonts** (*UWA*) are conducting research on the reinvention of the sandalwood industry in Western Australia, particularly its future prospects as a form of low rainfall agroforestry. John and Matthew are also doing research on a number of issues associated with the ownership of recreational homes in rural areas.

Marion Hercock (*UWA*) is continuing her research on the early explorers of Western Australia. Marion has also set up a company specialising in scientific expeditions that follow in the footsteps of Western Australia's explorers (albeit from the comfort of a four wheel drive vehicle)

Stewart Houghton (*UWA*) has just completed a manuscript on economic, social and demographic change over the past three decades in the south-west of Western Australia. One of the key aspects of Stewart's research has been to consider the effects of the Regional Forest Agreement on rural communities.

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

Rufus Akindola (*Melbourne*) was pivotal in organising a one-day forum *Africa Today*. Rufus, formerly a political journalist in Nigeria, now working with SBS, demonstrated exceptional initiative, drive and collaborative ability in bringing together high commissioners from a number of African countries as well as representatives of World Vision and NGOs to present a variety of papers on contemporary Africa ranging from the impact of internal conflict to poverty alleviation and social development policies.

During 2001 a number of PhD students from the University of Melbourne submitted and successfully attained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. They were: **Nick Bond** *Spatial variation in benthic community structures in upland streams: the influence of fine-sediment transport*; **Terri Chala** *The 'green gold' of Sabah: timber politics and resource sustainability*; **Darron Cook** *The value of discrete choice contingent valuation: what is the price of a hole in the ground?;* **Michelle Duffy** *Music of Place: the performance of identity in contemporary Australian community music festivals* **Jia Gao** *In the wake of June 4: an analysis of the Chinese students' decision-making process to stay in Australia*; **Simon Johnson** *Victims or actors: an ethnography of street youth and NGO intervention in Jakarta*; **George Perry** *Spatial modeling of landscape-level vegetation dynamics, Mont Do, New Caledonia*; **Violette Schubert** *Too many men: The problem of bachelorhood in a contemporary Macedonian village.*

Elizabeth Cheong (*ECU*) is in the early stages of an APAI funded PhD project examining the potential for New Generation Cooperatives to help revitalize rural communities. The industry partner is the WA Department of Agriculture.

Darren Venn (*ECU*) has embarked on Masters research examining the changing cultural landscape of Yanchep National Park in WA.

Don Newman (*UWA*) is continuing his research on the history of urban planning in Perth. As part of this research, over the past few years Don has spent a considerable amount of time (and money!) visiting the 'model towns' of Europe and North America.

Jeff Doucette (*UWA*) successfully completed his PhD thesis on the dynamics and distribution of nearshore bedforms on sheltered sandy beaches in southwestern Australia.

Liz Scott (*UWA*) is finishing off her PhD thesis on Australia's changing economic, political and cultural interactions with Indonesia.

Matthew Benson (*UWA*) is nearing the completion of his PhD thesis on 'The Sustainability of Sustainability'. Matt has also been working in a planning role with the City of Gosnells in Perth.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr David Wadley (*UQ*) has just co-edited a book with **Prof. Brian Roberts** (*Canberra*) entitled *Planning for Sustainable Industry* which is published by the Queensland Division of the Royal Australian Planning Institute (rapiqld@ozemail.com.au).

Bill Pritchard and **Phil McManus** (*Sydney*) published their book *Land of Discontent* (UNSW Press) at the end of 2000 to considerable critical acclaim. Bill followed this up with *Consuming Foods. Sustaining Governments* (ed. S.Lockie and B. Pritchard, Central Queensland Uni Press 2001).

Oxford University Press have published *A Future for Regional Australia: Escaping Global Misfortune* by **Ian Gray** (*CSU*) and **Geoff Lawrence** (*CQU*).

Steven Henderson and **Roger Epps** (*UNE*) have had *Urban Fringe Land Use Conflict: Two Poultry Case Studies* published by RIRDC.

Place, Image and Environmental Conflict: World Heritage and the Lake Eyre Basin by **Tom Jenkin** (*Flinders*) was published as part of the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia Monograph Series in August 2001. This 80 page treatise (with illustrations), is available at \$12.50 per copy (postage extra). To order email: sitters.valerie@slsa.sa.gov.au or write to GPO Box 419, Adelaide, SA 5001.

Maria Cotter, **Bill Boyd** and **Jane Gardiner** have recently edited *Heritage Landscapes: Understanding Place and Communities*, published by Southern Cross University Press.

Working on Country: contemporary indigenous environmental management in Australia by **Richard Baker**, **Jocelyn Davies** & **Elsbeth Young** was published by Oxford University Press in 2001. This book is aimed at undergrad & senior secondary students and also for more general readership. It presents a range of case studies and perspectives on associated issues from around Australia. Emphasises communication and collaborative processes of planning and action involving Aboriginal organisations and traditional owners, scientists and government.

The University of Western Australia Press recently published *The Salinity Crisis: Landscapes, Communities and Politics* by **Quentin Beresford**, **Hugo Bekle**, **Harry Phillips** (all *ECU*) and **Jane Mulcock** (*Murdoch*). The book examines aspects of the environmental, social, economic and political geography of dryland salinity in Western Australia.

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