

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights in the Australian Geography calendar for 2004 was the Adelaide IAG Conference. Geographers from around the country attended and represented most areas of the discipline. The conference was superbly organised and provided an excellent forum for academic debate. Of course, one of the most enjoyable aspects of any conference is the chance to socialise with friends and colleagues, and the restaurants, bars and cafes of Glenelg were perfect for place for geographers to gather. One of the most important parts of the Conference with the dinner, which gave the IAG an opportunity to recognise the activities of some of Australia's leading geographers. The details of these award winners are included in this edition of the Newsletter. The future of the discipline was also well represented in Adelaide, with a large number of postgraduates presenting papers. The very best of these were also recognised with IAG Awards.

Many Australian geographers are also attending the International Geographical Congress in Glasgow during August, which will provide a terrific opportunity to showcase the work of IAG Members. In 2006, the IAG (along with the NZGS) will host the IGU's Regional Conference. At present the Steering Group are busily planning for these events, and are calling on interested geographers to contribute to the planning and organisations of sessions.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition of the Newsletter. The deadline for the next edition is the **19<sup>th</sup> November**. Could you please send your contributions to: [mtonts@segs.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mtonts@segs.uwa.edu.au)

Matthew Tonts  
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The University of Western Australia

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## LOST IN SOSE

### Your President's Column

Personally, I hate the idea of Australia being a republic with a president – so unimaginative, so nineteenth century, so redolent of silly hats and the banalities of evil. But, here I am, elected president of a slightly more benevolent and august institution than the government of Australia, and not too severely depressed. Geography is doing very well on our north-drifting plate, with *Australian Geographic* markedly more popular than the *Australian Sociologist* or the *Australian Chemist*, and distance, space, place and environment central to much public discourse. Politicians even say the word ‘geography’ as if they understand it. Is this an atavism from their long incarceration in secondary schools, before geography got lost in SOSE (Studies of Society and Environment), when they learned the lengths of rivers and the names of the capitals of the world, and how to tell south if the sky is cloudy? Or, does it mean that geography is as real in the mind of the public as history? I suspect the latter, especially given the failure to learn from either.

My first few months as President of the Institute of Australian Geographers (love those capitals) started in the Annual General Meeting at the enjoyable and stimulating conference in Adelaide, when Ruth Fincher reluctantly gave up the silly hat after being at the helm for a century or two. She gave an outstanding Presidential Address, in which she addressed both the politics of geography as a discipline, and a significant part of its substance. I hope that this address, through publication in our journal, will be enjoyed by those not able to attend the conference. I always look forward to our conferences, and even council meetings, because geographers are such convivial and interesting people, and tend to give mind-shifting papers, full of new vocabulary.

Ruth had a presidency of epochal duration because we were slightly conference-challenged for a while. Our council hopes that this will not be the case in the next few years. We have a definite IAG meeting subsumed in an IGU regional meeting, also subsuming a NZGS meeting, in July 2006 in Brisbane. We also have an almost certain IAG meeting in Armidale in July 2005. This promises to be relatively inexpensive and laid back, compared to the sound of gold trumpets in Brisbane, although Brisbane is likely to be less expensive than most IGU occasions. John Holmes and Andy Gillieson have put an enormous effort into kick-starting the IGU regional meeting, which promises to be one of the great such conferences. The IAG is two thirds responsible for this conference, with NZGS responsible for the other third.

Apart from conferences, my main aims for the next two years are too see if we can find some simple way to certify geographers as professionals and to facilitate the globalisation of our journal. I will write more about these things in the next exciting episode of *Lost in SOSE*.

Jamie Kirkpatrick

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## IAG NEWS

### IAG Awards

*The following awards were presented at the Institute of Australian Geographers' Conference in Adelaide, April 2004.*

#### ***Griffith Taylor Medal***

##### **Professor Bruce Thom**

The Institute of Australian Geographers periodically awards its Griffith Taylor Medal to geographers who have made a distinguished and sustained contribution to geography in Australia. It is the Institute's highest award and is named after (Thomas) Griffith Taylor, the dominant figure in Australian geography in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Taylor was one of the founders of the Institute of Australian Geographers and in 1961 was our first President.

The Griffith Taylor medal has been presented to just four Australian geographers. Notably, yet fortuitously, given the venue of this year's IAG Conference here in Adelaide, three recipients of the medal have been from South Australia. Appropriately, two of those medal holders are here at the dinner, and we welcome Leslie Heathcote and Fay Gale. Tonight they will be joined by the 2004 medallist, Bruce Graham Thom (The other two medal winners are the late Ann Marshall and the late Joseph Gentilli of Western Australia).

Sydney born and bred, Bruce Thom has always been a geographer with an abiding interest in coasts. As he remarked in his Presidential Address to the IAG Conference in 1987: "I am proud of coastal Sydney... I was born within spitting distance of Bondi... (So)... it is no wonder I have devoted my career to coastal studies".

In that address he also acknowledged his debt to three past presidents of the IAG: Joe Jennings (for his capacity to stimulate all who came to see him); Jack Davies (who demonstrated to the world the contribution a geographic perspective could bring to understanding coastal systems); and Trevor Langford-Smith, Bruce's first mentor in coastal geomorphology who gave him the opportunity as a third year undergraduate to do a study of Coogee beach and headlands, and later to research in the Porth Stephenson-Myall lakes area.

Awarded a University Medal at The University of Sydney, Bruce Thom, like several of his honours contemporaries from geographer departments throughout Australasia in the early 1960s, left home to do a PhD degree at the Coastal Studies Institute at Louisiana State University. Here, Bruce undertook ecologic and geomorphic studies of sand barriers and deltas at Tabasco and Campeche on the coast of Mexico, as well as completing a major study on the enigmatic 'Carolina Bays' of South Carolina between 1964 and 1966. Now, with a wealth of coastal

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field and analytical techniques under his belt, as well as a PhD in coastal studies, it was time to transfer those skills to the coasts he had left behind, and come back to Australia.

But that did not happen immediately. Instead of the golden sand beaches of Australia, Bruce Thom's first post-PhD job was way inland, in fact on the Labrador-Ungava border in Quebec, Canada, as Director of McGill University's Sub-Arctic Research Laboratory at Schefferville. Few geographers know of this important part of Bruce Thom's career, but there in the tundra and permafrost Bruce and wife Irene had their two children (Graham and Jeanette). It was also a time to complete papers on the Mexican and Carolina coasts and, significantly, to apply some of those recently used concepts and skills to improve understanding of permafrost and its delimitation. The results were published in several papers. The Timmins 4 Permafrost Experimental Site initiated by Bruce Thom in 1968 became a prize location for monitoring permafrost processes.

In the three decades following his return to Australia in 1970, Bruce Thom established himself as the 'father figure' of Australian coastal studies. His geomorphic research (with its conceptual and methodological roots set firmly in the LSU tradition and Schefferville experience) dealt with three different time scales and themes and was carried out in all states in Australia. These included: i) a consideration of short term beach process-form interaction; ii) the magnitude and frequency of coastal change at seasonal, inter-annual and decadal scales through coastal monitoring; iii) the formation and modification of sand barriers and estuarine deltaic complexes in the Late Quaternary using morphostratigraphic techniques.

Dozens of papers have resulted from each of these research themes, as well as from his attempts to unify the different approaches within an overarching morphodynamic framework; a framework that has gained universal acceptance. Undertaken with a host of collaborators, colleagues, and students – all of whom acknowledge his stimulus and guidance – there is no doubt that Bruce Thom's coastal research will remain one of his greatest legacies.

But, if Bruce Thom had been a dominant figure in coastal science for the past three decades, his role as a passionate advocate for geography is of no less consequence. Many in this audience will know that Bruce Thom has held academic positions at the Australian National University, University of New South Wales at Duntroon, and the University of Sydney. He has also been a senior university administrator and, indeed, was the fourth President of the IAG to become a Vice Chancellor of an Australian university. He is presently a Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales and an Emeritus Professor at the University of Sydney.

Bruce Thom's contribution to professional geography in Australia is also well known, particularly as the Chair of the Organising Committee of the highly successful International Geographical Congress held in Sydney in 1988. In recent years he has been a geographic practitioner at a number of different levels, including Federal and State government. He was Chair of the Australian State of the Environment Committee which produced the State of the Environment Report

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in 2001. He has been long-time Chair of the Coastal Council of New South Wales, an independent watchdog for coastal management in that state.

He is a member of the influential Wentworth Group of concerned scientists, and an author of the Group's report *Blueprint for a Living Continent* published in July 2003 (which proposed an end to broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation, clarification of water property rights, and government purchase of urgently needed environmental flows for the Murray River and its tributaries) as well as the Brigalow Declaration of November 2003 about land clearing in Queensland. He has also been a special guest of Margaret Throsby on her classical music programme on the ABC!

This concern for the Australian environment, its condition, utilisation and carrying capacity is something that both Griffith Taylor and Bruce Thom shared. Nor is that where the similarity between the two ends. Both are graduates of Sydney University and have been heads of Geography there. Both spent time in the United States and Canada, and both returned to Australia to make major contributions to Australian geography, including as Presidents of the Institute of Australian Geographers. Both were prolific publishers and both have brought geographic perspectives to the big environmental issues of the day.

No doubt Bruce Thom will continue to provide such a perspective, and to support geography and geographers in Australia. But, for the moment the Institute wishes to acknowledge his sustained contribution to Australian geography over the past few decades by awarding him the Griffith Taylor Medal.

### ***Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers***

#### **Associate Professor Richard Howitt**

Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers is awarded for distinguished service to the Institute. The IAG is very pleased to award its Fellowship to Associate Professor Richie Howitt from the Department of Human Geography at Macquarie University.

The Institute has been well served over many by people who devote long hours – somehow sandwiched into busy academic careers – looking after business and administration of the Institute, putting their indelible stamp on new directions and policy initiatives. Between 1998 and 2002, Riche was an outstanding and innovative Treasurer and Business Manager for the Institute.

Richie spent large amounts of time developing practices that will serve the Institute well into the future, dealing effectively with the dazzling maze of paperwork which accompany things like negotiating with auditors and Corporate Affairs and dealing with the implications of the GST. Richie worked especially hard on expanding our membership, especially among postgraduate students and younger geographers going out into professional life. He wisely administered the conference travel

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grants for postgraduate students, and the IGU Young Scholar awards, and was an active participant in postgraduate workshop days.

Yet in addition to these crucial roles in managing IAG business, Richie Howitt has also made two outstanding contributions to the academic goals of the Institute.

- The first is his passionate contribution to the primary objective of the IAG – promoting the study of geography. His career has been marked by his contributions to pedagogy including: first, actively participating in conferences and workshops run by the IAG and Australian Geography Teachers' Association on issues concerning geography teaching; and second, developing innovative approaches to tertiary teaching of resource and environmental management. These reflect Richie's passionate commitment to geography as a doorway into issues of social and environmental justice. His contributions were recognised in December 1999 when he was announced as the outstanding social sciences teacher in the Australian Awards for University Teaching.
- The second is his commitment to the other principal goal of the Institute – promoting professional practice. He has been an outstanding applied geographer in the areas of Native Title and Indigenous Rights for Aboriginal Australians. After many years working with Land Councils and community groups, he recently worked with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies on regional agreements and negotiations between Aboriginal groups and mining companies. Most recently, he has acted as principal consultant to the Native Title Unit of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement of South Australia negotiating directly with the South Australian Government and developing path-breaking legislation relating to Native Title. With colleagues, he established the IAG's Indigenous Studies Group, organising its 1999 conference and being a regular contributor to the group's programs.

The IAG Council is delighted, therefore, to award a Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers to Richie Howitt.

### ***Postgraduate Paper Awards***

These awards are presented to the best papers by postgraduate students at an IAG Conference. The best postgraduate papers at the 2004 Adelaide Conference were presented by:

Kathleen Broderick - University of Western Australia

Amanda Davies - University of New England

Nicole Cook - Macquarie University

Megan Farrelly - University of Western Australia

Sarah Goodall - University of Adelaide

Andrew Gorman-Murray - Macquarie University

Julia Hinsliff – University of Adelaide

Tina Jaskolski - Australian National University

Tom Jenkin - Flinders University

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Linda Malam – University of Newcastle  
Lareen Newman - University of Adelaide  
Susan Owen - University of Auckland  
David Paull - Australian Defence Force Academy  
Debra Pearce - - Curtin University of Technology  
Kristian Ruming - University of Newcastle

### **Tom McKnight, 1928 - 2004**

Tom McKnight, Professor Emeritus of Geography at UCLA died in February. McKnight earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern Methodist University in 1949, an MA from Colorado in 1951 and a PhD from Wisconsin in 1955. He joined UCLA's Department of Geography in 1956 and remained on the academic staff until 1993.

Tom had a longstanding interest and involvement in Australian geography. He was the recipient of a Fulbright and an American Philosophical Society grant for research in Australia. He is the author of numerous publications and several full-length texts on Australia and the surrounding region, including *Australia's Corner of the World*, *The Outback: Australia's Tropical and Arid Center and West*, and *Australia*.

Among his many awards, he received the Australia-International Medal from the Institute of Australian Geographers in 2001. 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.

### **Australian Geographical Studies**

To assist with finding suitable reviewers of books sent to AGS for review, the editors have decided to list books received on the IAG website (AGS page). Readers are invited to contact the editors with offers to review these books. In reaching this decision, we note that we are not always aware of current or recent doctoral graduates who have recently carried out detailed reviews of the literature in their fields, and who are well-placed to review recently published books in their area of expertise, or of early adopters who may have used them for research or teaching purposes.

However, we reserve the right not to accept every offer, and of course to continue with the current practice of inviting scholars to review books for the journal.

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If you are interested in reviewing one of the books listed on the IAG website <<http://www.iag.org.au/iagbooksreview.pdf>>, please contact the editors at: <[AGS@curtin.edu.au](mailto:AGS@curtin.edu.au)>

### **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

### **IAG Study Groups**

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 Chris Gibson  
Geography Programme  
Faculty of the Built Environment  
University of New South Wales  
Sydney, NSW  
<[ChrisG@fbe.unsw.edu.au](mailto:ChrisG@fbe.unsw.edu.au)>

#### *Economic Geography*

Dr Philip O'Neill  
Centre for Urban and Regional Studies  
University of Newcastle  
Rankin Drive  
Callaghan, NSW 2308  
<[ggpmo@cc.newcastle.edu.au](mailto:ggpmo@cc.newcastle.edu.au)>

#### *Rural Studies*

Dr Neil Argent  
Department of Geography and Planning  
School of Human and Environmental Studies  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351  
<[nargent@metz.une.edu.au](mailto:nargent@metz.une.edu.au)>

#### *Indigenous Issues*

Dr Cathy Robinson  
School of Geography and Oceanography  
University College, ADFA  
University of New South Wales  
Canberra, ACT 2600  
<[cathy.robinson@adfa.edu.au](mailto:cathy.robinson@adfa.edu.au)>

#### *Environmental Sustainability*

A/Prof Arthur Conacher  
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Crawley, WA 6006  
<[arthur.conacher@uwa.edu.au](mailto:arthur.conacher@uwa.edu.au)>

#### *Postgraduate*

Amanda Davies  
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School of Human and Environmental Studies  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351  
<[adavies@metz.une.edu.au](mailto:adavies@metz.une.edu.au)>

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## FASTS NEWS

*The following are extracts from recent media releases by Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies*

### **Ten Top Issues for 2004**

#### **1. Bring on "Backing Australia's Ability II"**

BAA was a first step to invest in Australian science. It's time to take the second step and increase our national investment to match the OECD average.

#### **2. Retain our bright young research scientists**

Recent science graduates have plenty of employment opportunities, but postdoctoral researchers have run into a career bottleneck. The best ideas will flourish if BAA II creates attractive career opportunities in research and industry.

#### **3. PhD science graduates to invigorate industry**

BAA II should provide matching Government funds to employ new PhD graduates in industry for 2 years, to bring fresh scientific ideas for new methods and new products, and to forge science-based industry career paths.

#### **4. Encourage industry to be more inventive**

Give increased tax breaks on a sliding scale to reward companies prepared to increase their investment in research, because enterprising and inventive companies grow and provide more jobs.

#### **5. Attract venture capital into new industries**

Venture capital is scarce. Make it more attractive to invest in new ideas and industries that have long-term payoffs by lowering capital gains tax for long term investments.

#### **6. Now we have the map, Australia needs a compass**

The National Mapping exercise has shown us where we are. We should create a plan for up to 10 years into the future that sets goals and national directions, including national action plans on limiting climate change and on sustainable energy strategies.

#### **7. Hecs breaks for science and mathematics teachers**

Science and maths teachers are in short supply in Australia, but they pay higher HECS fees than other teachers and thus take home less pay. Bring in HECS breaks for science graduates when they take on teacher employment.

#### **8. Collaboration, not competing silos**

Destructive competition between separate research organizations for the funding dollar limits research outcomes. Provide more collaborative funding incentives to build on the different strengths of universities and Government funded research agencies.

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## 9. Quality science graduates

Quality science and technology graduates are vital to Australia's economic and environmental future. We need measures to ensure that the new Higher Education Funding arrangements help reverse the current decline in higher education science enrolments.

## 10. We are now 20 million and growing

Australia is a fragile continent with an expanding population. We need to develop a scientifically based population strategy that takes into account limits to growth determined by, for example, water resources and soil salinity.

## **\$450 Million Squeeze On Universities Distorts Research Balance**

FASTS has welcomed the release today by Minister Nelson of three key reports on Australian research.

The President of FASTS, Professor Snow Barlow said a key finding of the report *Evaluation of Knowledge and Innovation* was the total funding leveraged out of universities to participate in competitive ARC, CRC, NHMRC and Major National Research Facilities (MNRF) programs was estimated to be more than \$450 million in 2003-4.

“Universities must provide top-up funding or matching dollars to access competitive programs. FASTS believe the magnitude of this leverage seriously impedes the capacity of universities to invest in infrastructure, early-career researchers and strategic research priorities.

“The primary source of funds to support university strategic priorities, are block grants. However, the leveraging of \$450m distorts the balance of research funding in favour of competitive grants.

“Today, Minister Nelson publicly supported retention of the current balance of block grants and competitive funding.

“FASTS calls on the Minister to ensure the balance is real by ensuring ARC, NHMRC, CRC and MNRF funding is adequate to cover the actual costs of competitive research programs.

“There is greater emphasis in competitive programs on short term commercial outcomes as distinct from public-good basic and strategic research.

“Leveraging \$450m out of universities structurally disadvantages public-good research with long term horizons.

“FASTS endorses a common theme in the three reports that there is a need for greater investment in Australian R&D and innovation. Maintaining the status quo is not acceptable as that will be a decline relative to competitor OECD countries.

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“The case to substantially build on *Backing Australia’s Ability* in this year’s budget is compelling. Any loss of impetus will be a serious setback for Australia’s future capacity to generate wealth and successfully manage environmental and social challenges, concluded Professor Barlow.

### **Real Priorities – the FASTS 2004 Election Statement**

Australia's scientists have released their blueprint to evaluate the policies and commitments of political parties and candidates in the lead up to the next Federal election.

The President of FASTS, Professor Snow Barlow said the FASTS’ *2004 Election Statement* maps out the real priorities needed to take Australian science and R&D forward.

“Credible policies must prioritise building our national investment in R&D, removing barriers for science teachers and encouraging a culture change in Australia’s R&D-averse business sectors.“

“Since 2001 there has been some progress in reversing the decline in national investment in R&D and more recognition that R&D requires long-term investment. However, we still lack a coherent vision of where Australian science and research are heading.

“Long-term vision and long-term commitments are required if Australia is to fully capture the benefits of Australian innovations and inventiveness and meet the social, environmental and economic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

“Economic growth in the global economy is increasingly dependent on the quality and capacity of the science and technology knowledge base. But Australia’s investment in science and R&D as a percentage of GDP is well below the OECD average and the gap is widening.

“Investment in R&D spend as a % of GDP is an important indicator. It tells us a lot about how much of today’s economic activity we are prepared to invest for our future and our children’s future.

“Government investment in R&D is projected to fall to 0.62% of GDP in 2004/05 – down from 0.66% in 2002-03.

“While this reflects the growth of sector GDP, this decline raises really important questions as to our national priorities.”

“FASTS are particularly looking for decisive action to inject more scientists and technologists into all levels of Australian industry. Even a modest program that places 100 post-docs into industry per year will significantly change business culture over time,” concluded Professor Barlow.

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# COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

*The following is an announcement about the formation of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.*

## **1. Aims and purpose of CHASS**

Australia needs an advocacy body to make the case for the humanities, arts and social sciences. Too often the skills and expertise in the sector are overlooked in setting national policies, and too often the needs of the sector are overlooked when it comes to funding.

## **2. The next step**

The inaugural AGM will be at the National Press Club in Canberra on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 June. This meeting will discuss the draft constitution and elect the inaugural President and Board.

## **3. Constitution**

The draft constitution is up on our web site. It sets out the aims and structure of CHASS, and sets out categories of membership. And see the website for a guide to likely subscription levels: [www.chass.org.au](http://www.chass.org.au)

## **4. "HASS on the Hill"**

"Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences on the Hill" is an opportunity to talk to parliamentarians about the significance of your work.

Over 80 federal Parliamentarians have already accepted our invitation to discuss the humanities, arts and social sciences at individual meetings on Wednesday June 16. This 2-day event is a wonderful opportunity to sell the message of the humanities, arts and social sciences! The full program and registration forms are at our web site: [www.chass.org.au](http://www.chass.org.au)

## **5. Foundation membership**

Your society or organisation can become a Foundation Member of CHASS. Membership is open to all organisations with an interest in the future of humanities, arts and social sciences in Australia.

The subscription is a flat rate of \$100, and only Foundation Members will be able to vote at the inaugural AGM on Wednesday June 16.

Application forms for Foundation Membership are on our website.

## **6. National Press Club address**

Iain McCalman will address the NPC on Wednesday 16 June, immediately before the inaugural AGM.

His address will be televised live by ABC across Australia.

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## **7. The Steering Committee**

Members of the Steering Committee piloting CHASS through the formation process are: Professor Tom Stannage (Convener) Dean, Curtin University Dr John Beaton, ED, Academy of Social Sciences, Australia Professor Linda Behrendt, UTS Mr John Byron, ED, Academy of the Humanities Professor Malcolm Gillies, D-VC, ANU Professor Andrea Hull, Director, Victoria College of the Arts Professor Iain McCalman, President, Academy of the Humanities Professor Sue Richardson, President, Academy of Social Sciences, Australia

If you are interested in CHASS, the best way to keep up to date is by registering to receive our newsletter. If you have not already registered, there's a simple form on our home page: [www.chass.org.au](http://www.chass.org.au)

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## CONFERENCES

### *Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, July 2005*

July 2005

The School of Human and Environmental Studies at The University of New England will be hosting the next IAG conference. The conference has been scheduled for July 2005, and will be held in Armidale at UNE. The organising committee are already busily making arrangements, so watch this space for future announcements.

### *International Geographical Union Regional Conference , Brisbane*

3-7 July 2006

‘Beyond Global Cities: Regional Geographies in a Changing World’

The 2006 International Geographical Union Regional Conference in Brisbane focuses attention on critical physical and human processes driving global change. Complex, global scale processes exert pressures on environmental, social, cultural and economic resources at regional and local scales. Such pressures encourage societal division and undermine practical efforts to enhance the sustainability of human society. The 2006 Conference will take up this challenge by focussing on regional responses in a changing world, with emphasis on equatorial and tropical zones, particularly in south-east Asia and the south-west Pacific.

Analysis of contemporary development issues will be a key theme, including the role of indigenous and non-indigenous co-management of resources. The regional conference enables a timely audit and review of these issues and an opportunity for agenda-setting research discussion. These necessarily involve debates about cross-national engagements.

The Institute of Australian Geographers and the New Zealand Geographical Society will be hosts of the 2006 IGU Regional Conference. This will also be the next joint conference for the two societies.

The Steering Group for the 2006 Conference accordingly invites geographers in Australia and New Zealand to indicate their interest in organising and planning conference activities. You may wish to indicate your interests to **Prof John Homes** (j.homes@uq.edu.au).

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## **International Association of Geomorphologists Conference, Zaragoza, Spain**

7-11 September 2005

The Conference Organizing Committee, on behalf of the International Association of Geomorphologists, has the pleasure in inviting all geomorphologists and others in related fields to participate in the scientific and social program of the Sixth International Conference on Geomorphology.

The Spanish territory is characterised by marked topographic contrasts and a high mean altitude (660 m) due to the presence of extensive plateaus and numerous ranges, with peaks up to 3000 m in the Pyrenees, Betic Cordillera and Canary Islands. The location of the Iberian Peninsula, between the Atlantic and Mediterranean seas, causes a significant climatic variability. The northern sector of Spain has a humid climate, whereas most of the rest of the Peninsula is dominated by semiarid conditions. The alpine and subtropical environments are represented in the high mountains and in the Canary Islands, respectively. This climatic variability controls the type of active geomorphic processes and the resulting landforms. On the other hand, the Spanish coasts have splendid landscapes, like extensive masshes, rías and rugged cliffs. The Iberian Peninsula, affected by the Hercynian and Alpine tectonic cycles, has a great lithological diversity, favouring the development of structural landforms. There are magnificent examples of granitic, volcanic, karst and badlands landscapes. This high geomorphological diversity, with amazing environmental contrasts in a small portion of the Planet is an excellent excuse **to invite all geomorphologist to this International Conference.**

A wide variety of pre- and post-conference field trips and social events have been planned. Additionally, several social events, cultural visits and trips will be prepared for accompanying persons.

Deadline for abstracts and advances registration fee 1 March 2005.

For further information visit: <http://www.geomorph.org/main.html>

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## 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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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

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## Grants and Awards Received

**Kimberly van Neil** (*UWA*) with colleagues has received \$380,000 from the ARC for research on Sustainability and Urban Design: An Evaluation of the Impact of Liveable Neighbourhoods.

**John Dodson** (*UWA*) has received ARC Discovery funding of \$107,000 for research on Human Impact and Environmental Change in the Lower Yangtze Delta China.

**Martin Bell and Tom Wilson** received an ARC Discovery Grant for 2004-06 on The Structure of Internal Migration in Australia - \$253,000

**Martin Bell** (*UQ*) Australian Population Research Network: Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations in Research on Australia's Population Transformations and the Social, Economic and Environmental Implications - \$8,000.

**Graeme Hugo** (*Adelaide*) has been awarded an ARC Discovery grant for a project on Temporary Migration To and From Australia: Changing Patterns, Causes and Implications.

**Philip Hirsch** (Australian Mekong Resource Centre, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney) has been awarded a research grant of \$150,000 over 12 months by AusAID's Australian Water Research Facility for a study of water management and regulation in its social and institutional context. Philip has also been granted US\$70,000 over two years by Oxfam America and the Open Society Institute to coordinate a curriculum development project (Regional Mekong Curriculum Development Initiative) among nine universities in five Mekong countries. AMRC facilitated an inception workshop at Can Tho University in the Mekong Delta in December 2003 and a materials development workshop at Khon Kaen University in April 2004.

**Roy Jones** (*Curtin*) with **David Wood** (*Planning, Curtin*) and **Christina Birdsall-Jones** (*Anthropology, Curtin*) received \$24,500 from Curtin's Liveable Communities Programme for a study of Indigenous land-based tourism in regional WA.

**Alan Pilgrim** (*Curtin*) has received \$123,000 from Alcoa to research and write a book about Alcoa's Landcare Program.

**Susan McGrath-Champ** (*Sydney*) with colleagues from University of Sydney and UWS was awarded and ARC Linkage grant of \$298,000 (industry partner contributions a further \$75,000) for research on skills infrastructure, labour market change and migration in the Australian construction industry.

**Pramod Sharma** (*UQ*) received \$10,000 from the CRC for Sustainable Tourism for research on Tourism Informatics and Technology Products.

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**Andrew Beer** (Flinders) has received ARC Linkage funding for a project entitled Gambling and Pathways into Homelessness.

**Graeme Hugo** (Adelaide) with colleagues received funding for a number of new projects in the latest ARC Linkage funding round:

- A spatially sensitive approach to understanding the impact of public expenditure on social exclusion.
- Explaining relationships between material culture and language, propinquity, population, subsistence and environment in New Guinea.
- Towards an understanding of the relationships between creative capital and regional economic and employment development.

## NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

### University of Queensland

As part of its activities to recognise the Year of the Built Environment, the School of Geography, Architecture and Planning hosted a public seminar on 26 March 2004 to address planning problems in southeast Queensland under the title Brisbane, the 200 Kilometre City, a theme which has been attracting considerable local press coverage.

Emeritus Professor **John Holmes** is chairing the Steering Group for the 3-7 July 2006 International Geographical Union Regional Conference in Brisbane in association with other geographers in Australasia and professional and industry groups in Queensland (see announcement in this Newsletter).

### Melbourne University

A number of human geographers from the University of Melbourne have established the Melbourne Human Geography Reading Group. The primary rationale of this reading group is to develop closer ties with, and foster new dialogues between, various Melbourne-based researchers who are interested in human geography. While this was originally conceived in relation to colleagues within the University of Melbourne, it was immediately obvious that this network needed to include other universities and a wider community of independent scholars. The only criterion for participation is an interest in contemporary human geography. We would therefore want to encourage staff and students (especially postgrads and honours students) alike to come and participate. We should also

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emphasize that the reading group is a social, as well as an intellectual, event. To this end, we continue the discussion informally over drinks after each meeting.

The group meets at 3.30pm on the last Friday of every month. Each meeting will be opened and chaired by someone who will very briefly introduce the reading(s) (i.e. 5 minutes) as a way of stimulating discussion and debate. We hope to have a selection of readings throughout the remainder of the year that will represent the diversity of human geography: social, economic, cultural, political, historical, urban and so on. One of the benefits of a reading group is that it provides a structure or discipline that encourages us to read cutting edge work outside our own immediate research area. We therefore aim to stay as contemporary as possible, preferably sticking to journal articles rather than books or book chapters (though this is by no means a hard and fast rule).

As conveners we have selected a few articles to get the group going but we do welcome suggestions for future readings. The article(s) should be representative of an emergent and significant theme within human geography and should be potentially of interest to a wide audience of human geographers. The reading may be one long paper, or a paper and some responses, or two shorter papers. In time, we hope to develop a web page from which the readings may be accessible but otherwise an original copy will be left in the photocopy room in the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Melbourne at 221 Bouverie St, Parkville campus.

To be put on the mailing list, please contact one of us by email:

[med@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:med@unimelb.edu.au)

[hughesr@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hughesr@unimelb.edu.au)

[fraserm@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:fraserm@unimelb.edu.au)

We look forward to increased participation in developing a wider community of human geographers in Melbourne.

Michelle Duffy, Rachel Hughes and Fraser MacDonald  
Conveners

## **The University of Queensland**

The University of Queensland has advised that, following extensive consultation and evaluation, it will be changing its online learning platform from WebCT Standard to Blackboard, for a three-year term commencing in first semester 2005.

The School of Geography, Planning and Architecture at The University of Queensland has an automatic, wireless weather station installed at its St.Lucia Campus. The model is a Davis Advantage Pro Plus Station wide range of atmospheric data.

All data and graphs are available to the public from the web site <http://www.geosp.uq.edu.au/uqweather/>. The station measures all parameters every 5 minutes and a log holds a rotating 7 day ASCII data set which is accessible from

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the web. The web site also has links to Weatherzone, Energex and The Bureau of Meteorology. For further information please contact Alan Victor at [a.victor@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.victor@uq.edu.au).

### **The University of Western Australia**

In March 2004 Professor Lyn Abbott was appointed Head of the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences. The School was formed in 2002 following a merger of Geography, Soil Science and Geology. The outcome has been a number of collaborative initiatives between these different groups, particularly in undergraduate teaching. A number of postgraduate initiatives are also emerging, especially in the area of natural resource management.

The School has had a number of visiting researchers over the past six months. **Prof Louis Albrechts** (*Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium*) spent the first half of the year conducting research into various aspects of strategic urban and regional planning in Western Australia. **Valeria Paul** (*University of Barcelona*) spent a number of months examining land use change and planning issues in Perth's urban fringe. **Prof John Selwood** is currently visiting from the University of Winnipeg and investigating aspects of holiday home development on the WA coast, and the historical geography of settlement in the south-west of the state.

### **Australian Defence Force Academy, UNSW**

The School of Geography and Oceanography at ADFA has been incorporated into a new School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences (PEMS) as part of a restructure. The other schools in this new mix are Mathematics and Statistics, Chemistry and Physics. Geography has retained 10 full time academic staff and maintains good undergraduate student numbers. Geographers are currently working on the development of a number of study 'pathways': a Geography course of study (with a major and minor in geography); an Environmental Science course of study, and a Society and Space course of study (which combines geography courses with courses in English, Politics, History and Indonesian). It may also be the case that synergies emerge with the other disciplines within the school. ADFA recently advertised for a new Professor of Geography.

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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS/MOVES

**Martin Bell** and **Stuart Phinn** (UQ) were both appointed to Associate Professor in the latest University promotion round.

**Roy Jones** (*Curtin*) has been promoted to Professor.

**Michael Gillen** has been appointed to the position of Lecturer in Regional and Town Planning at the University of Queensland.

**Fiona Miller** (PhD, University of Sydney and currently teaching at Dept of Human Geography, Macquarie University) has been appointed to an ongoing research fellowship at the Stockholm Environment Institute.

**Tom Measham** (*CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems*) has accepted the position of Social Geographer with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems in Canberra.

**Tony Sorensen** (*UNE*) has given up being Associate Dean (Research) and is on a year's study leave before entering the fray as the next Head of School.

**Julia Fry** has been appointed Senior Lecturer in the Institute for Regional Development at the University of Western Australia.

**Patrick Armstrong** (*UWA*) has retired from the University of Western Australia. Patrick joined UWA in 1975 and made significant contributions in the areas of biogeography, ecology and the history of geographical thought. He will continue with the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences as Senior Honorary Research Fellow.

**Matthew Tonts** (*UWA*) has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

**Karen Holmes** has been appointed as a Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences at UWA. Karen is working on a number of research projects within the Coastal CRC.

**Sam Saunders** has left Geography at UWA to take up a position in the University's School of Chemistry.

**Fiona Haslam-McKenzie** has been appointed Senior Research Fellow in the Graduate School of Business at Curtin University.

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## GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...

**Dominic Brown** (*UQ*) is involved in two projects in demography: temporary mobility/circular migration in Australia; and remote populations in desert and savannah areas of Australia.

**John Minnery** (*UQ*) gave the keynote address at the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland annual conference on 15 May 2004: 'Down to the Sea in Shops: The Changing Urban Form of South East Queensland'.

**Fran Rolley** and **Neil Argent** (*UNE*) recently completed a chapter on rural homelessness for a book exploring international perspectives on the issue. The book is edited by Paul Cloke and Paul Milbourne and will be published by Routledge. Fran's and Neil's chapter provides a national overview of rural homelessness as well as the nature and causes of homelessness in two contrasting regions of New South Wales: the Mid-North Coast and the Northern Tablelands. **Andrew Beer** (*Flinders*) has contributed a chapter on rural youth homelessness to the same book.

**Phil O'Neill** (*Newcastle*) and **Neil Argent** (*UNE*) are guest editors of a special edition of *Australian Geographical Studies* on the topic of 'Neoliberalism and Australia's Regions'. This special edition, due to appear in early 2005, will carry selected papers from the successful joint Economic Geography Study Group and Rural Studies Group workshop held at the University of Newcastle in November 2003. Several papers have been submitted and are currently under review.

Recently completed *UNE* doctoral candidates **Cathryn Ollif** and **Ian Anderson** are joining former *UNE* postgraduate student **John Sayer** and **Barbara Rugendyke** in writing a book focussing on the advocacy work of NGOs which is directed towards achieving greater global social justice. This book builds on the existing research of all four authors: Barbara's about Australian non-government development assistance agencies, Cathryn's research into the advocacy activities of Australian NGOs, Ian's work about the impacts of Oxfam International on World Bank policy and John's examination of the advocacy work of British NGOs related to the activities of major multinational companies operational in developing nations.

**Robert Baker** (*UNE*) and his team continued research from an ARC Discovery Grant collaborating with Professor **Les Cottrell** from the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre USA on the geography of the Internet. The results clearly show that distance does matter with the Internet and space and time behaviour are interdependent even at this scale. Geography is fundamental to understanding Internet dynamics. He will be presenting the results at the IGU Conference in Glasgow in August 2004.

**Anthony Kent** and **Dave Mercer** (*RMIT*) along with **Trevor Budge** and **Michael Buxton** are examining planning decisions behind the Portland Wind Energy Project. The working title of their paper is 'Major Infrastructure Projects, Local

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Planning Schemes and the Interventionist State: The Case of the Portland Wind Energy Project’.

**Philip Hirsch** (*Sydney*) gave a Keynote lecture at the Linking Latitudes conference in Hanoi, attended by 300 Australian school teachers.

**Marion Hercok** (*UWA*) is on the editorial committee of the *Expeditions of Exploration in Western Australia* and has written the introduction for the Volume 1 (1827-1835) which is to be published this year. The committee's aim is to reproduce all the diaries, reports, journals, letters and other documents that narrate expeditions of discovery in Western Australia from European settlement until Federation. The project is partially funded by the Heritage Council of Western Australia with the support of the Department of Land Information and Hesperian Press. Supervised by an editorial committee of researchers, scholars, scientists and authors the completed publication will stand as a reliable and authenticated historical record.

**Matthew Tonts** (*UWA*) has recently completed study leave during which he continued his research on the social geography of sport in rural areas. He also spent a period at the University of Barcelona conducting research into the preservation of historic agrarian landscapes around the metropolitan region of Barcelona.

**Patrick Armstrong** (*UWA*) has recently completed the manuscript for a new book on various aspects of the science and life of Charles Darwin. The book will be published by Continuum.

**Ian Eliot** (*UWA*) is continuing his research with a team of postgraduate students on various aspects of natural resource management in wetland and coastal environments of northern Australia. The research focuses on aspects of tourism development, wetland management, and Indigenous environment management.

**Kimberly van Neil** (*UWA*) is currently involved in a research project examining how urban design, particularly access to public open space and parkland, influences levels of physical activity in metropolitan areas.

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## POSTGRADUATE NEWS

At the recent IAG conference in Adelaide over 30 postgraduates presented research papers. Generally, the papers were of a high standard with some exciting research findings presented. The conference enabled postgraduates to discuss their findings or proposals, with some engaging conversations following from many of these papers. The Institute of Australian Geographers supported postgraduate attendance to the conference with a significant number of postgraduates receiving travel grants.

A postgraduate workshop was held on the final day of the conference and was very well attended. Congratulations and thanks are extended to Tom Jenkin who organized the event. For the postgraduates who attended the workshop, a lot of interesting and relevant information was gained –including how to access grants, current issues in research, and what to do after finishing a postgraduate degree. The workshop was followed by a de-brief at a nearby bar, allowing new and old friends alike a chance to catch-up in an informal setting.

Postgraduates continue to be involved actively in the IAG through participation in the various study groups. Last year, study group meetings and workshops gave postgraduate students the opportunity to discuss new or current research ideas with each other, with some subsequent collaborative research papers produced.

**Cathryn Ollif** (*UNE*) recently successfully completed a thesis entitled 'Speaking Up: The Advocacy Work of Australian Aid and Development Non-Government Organisations'. **Ian Anderson's** (*UNE*) thesis entitled 'Towards Global Equity: Northern and International development non-governmental organisations' advocacy examined through Oxfam International's World Bank poverty reduction policy influence' was also accepted by the examiners. Cathryn and Ian were both supervised by Barbara Rugendyke and Jim Walmsley.

**Andrew Benwell** (*UWA*) recently completed his PhD titled: "Maintenance of diversity in volcanic outcrop vegetation of the Moreton Region Central Eastern Australia." The submitted thesis makes a detailed and highly original contribution to our knowledge of the vegetation and biogeographical relationships of volcanic outcrops in central eastern Australia. Andrew was the last of Jeremy Smith's students, now retired from UNE and sometime station commander in Antarctica. Final supervision was by Bob Haworth, of Geography and Planning, and Caroline Gross of Ecosystem Management. The thesis required Andrew Benwell and Bob Haworth to make expeditions to isolated volcanic peaks high in the dense rain forest areas of the Border Ranges, in areas rarely if ever visited before (or ever again, if anyone is in their right mind). During one of these trips, Andrew, with another student, discovered a new species of rain forest tree, a rival to the Wollemi Pine discovery further south in NSW. Andrew lives near Mullumbimby in the Northern Rivers district of NSW, and is regarded by State Forestry and NPWS as one of the foremost authorities on the vegetation of this botanically rich region.

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**Kim Nicholson's** (*UNE*) thesis, a dissertation for a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, was concerned with establishing whether NSW coastal zone management policies had been implemented more to preserve landholders' property or to conserve vulnerable coastal habitat. The title of her thesis was, 'Coastal Zone Management: A Question of Balance, NSW'.

**Freea Itzstein-Davey** (*UWA*) has successfully completed her PhD on the topic 'Changes in the abundance and diversity of the Proteaceae (Banksia family) over the Cainozoic in south-western Australia'.

**Tom Measham** (School of Resources, Environment and Society, ANU) has been admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. His thesis title was: Learning and Change in Rural Regions: Understanding Influences on Sense of Place. NB: (thesis submitted to ANU in September 2003, Admitted to Degree of PhD in April 2004), supervised by Richard Baker and Daniel Walker.

Two postgraduates from the University of Queensland students have successfully completed their doctoral dissertations: **David Temple-Smith** for 'Decision Support for Ecosystem Management in Local Government' and **Arnon Accad** for 'Vegetation Community Modelling using GIS-integrated Statistical, Ecological and Data Models: An application in the Wet Tropics of Northeastern Queensland, Australia'.

The Department of Human Geography at ANU has two new students. **Gerda Roelvink** is working on "Gendered developments: the 'third sector' in the new global order" and **Jennifer Litau** is interested in internal migration in Papua New Guinea.

**Anthony Kent** (*RMIT*) has commenced a PhD on institutional and NGO responses to the environmental impacts of land use change in the extended metropolitan zone of Jakarta, supervised by Dave Mercer.

**UQ:** The following PhD students have received scholarships or grants toward their studies:

**Jason Jones** – CRC Tropical Savannah scholarship for PhD (Dr Clive McAlpine and Prof Geoff McDonald, UQ)

**Matthias Kubler** – ARC scholarship in demography for PhD (Assoc Prof Martin Bell, UQ)

**Jenni Garden** – Brisbane City Council – Research Support for PhD - \$5,000 per annum (Dr Clive McAlpine, UQ)

**Grant Walsh** (*UWA*) has recently commenced PhD research on various aspects of local economic development amongst Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

**Misty Lawrie** (*UWA*) has commenced PhD studies on the social geography of long-term campers in the Ningaloo Coast region of Western Australia.

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## Membership of the Institute of Australian Geographers

To the Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers: We two members of the IAG wish to nominate for election to membership of the Institute: \_\_\_\_\_ whose personal details and credentials for membership are provided below:

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University Degrees (with date of award and University for each) \_\_\_\_\_

Present Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please list your major research/teaching interests: \_\_\_\_\_

I do / do not (delete one) consent to having these professional details included in the IAG's WWW membership directory.

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If elected a member, do you wish to become a Registered Member by signifying your agreement to abide by the IAG Code of Professional Conduct? YES NO

Please return completed form to:

Elaine Stratford, School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart, 7001, Tasmania, Australia.

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## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT

Anyone with a university degree in Geography (or its equivalent) is qualified to join the IAG. The annual subscription is A\$100 for full members, A\$50 for retirees and student/concessional members (note: the financial year is the calendar year). This includes copies of all publications.

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## Back Issues of *Australian Geographical Studies*

The IAG holds back issues of *AGS* and is able to provide single issues or runs for volumes 20-34. Since volume 35 the journal has been published by Blackwells and these are available from them on a commercial basis. Members who have missed issues in volumes 35-37 because of membership problems may seek missing copies from the Treasurer.

Copies of volumes 20-34 are available at a single issue rate of \$12, or whole volume rate (2 issues per volume) of \$20 plus \$5 handling in Australia, \$10 overseas surface mail or \$20 overseas air mail. Payment can be made using Visa, Mastercard, Bankcard or cheque made payable to IAG Inc.

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