

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Another busy year has flown by for Australian geographers, particularly on the conference front. Following the success of the IAG Conference in Adelaide, a large contingent of Australians attended the International Geographical Congress in Glasgow. In 2006 we will hold our own regional IGU Conference in Brisbane and preparations are well under way. Details about the conference and how to get involved are contained in this edition of the Newsletter. Prior to this, UNE will host the 2005 IAG Conference in Armidale.

As always, this issue of the Newsletter reports on the grants and publications success of IAG Members. This year Geographers have again been very successful in winning ARC grants, with the diversity of research being funded a reflection of the strength of the discipline. There have also been a number of very interesting and important books published in 2004. I'm sure 2005 will hold as much success.

The deadline for the next edition is the **30<sup>th</sup> May 2005**. Could you please send your contributions to: [mtonts@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mtonts@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

Matthew Tonts  
School of Earth and Geographical Sciences  
The University of Western Australia

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## LOST IN SOSE

### Your President's Column

Since my last presidential missive I have had the pleasure of being exposed to excellent Holmes family hospitality, and some rather less excellent viri, in a visit to Brisbane to help plan our monumental IGU/IAG/NZGS meeting in July 2006. We inspected the central campus of QUT, the Convention Centre on the South Bank and the Hilton Hotel as possible venues. Our conference organizer and our guide in the Convention Centre seemed remarkably close to death to still be in a vertical state (their virus later rendered me horizontal for four days). Our team of conference planners were not seduced by the slick luxury of the commercial venues, while being impressed by the giant hall at the Convention Centre with its huge Lego screens and projection paraphernalia straight from the Republican Presidential Convention and the space age lifts in the hole in middle of the Hilton. Despite the grey concrete and only one moderately large TV screen, we liked QUT, right next to the botanical gardens, with heaps of refs and cafes, with lecture and workshop spaces well set up for academic presentations and discussions, and only a short stroll to the city or South Bank. It is also relatively cheap. We want to have a conference that is inexpensive enough to be accessible to all of our members, including students, with the quality concentrated in discourse rather than fittings and the artistic arrangement of comestibles. We are therefore looking for suggestions for exciting sessions related to the theme of the conference.

On the subject of conferences, we should have a great gathering in Armidale next July. Details are in this issue. By this time our journal will have its new internationalised title, agreed upon at the last IAG Council meeting in Melbourne. The change in the journal title and emphasis is partly a response to the developing agenda of research quality appraisal. It appears that the government, through its bureaucratic agents, will inflict upon us a research quality assessment exercise, of the type that has destroyed the reputation, and reality, of many academic units in the UK and New Zealand. Researchers seem likely to be judged by their best publications. The judgement seems likely to be made either by a motley collection of quasi-colleagues, and/or on the basis of the ISI citation rates of the journals in which we publish our research. The basic aim of these research quality appraisal exercises is to force at least some universities to employ teaching only staff, thereby cutting down on the cost of tertiary education.

In the UK and New Zealand there are still many academic units labelled Geography. I find it hard to see how the academic units incorporating geography in Australia could be compared in an assessment like that in the UK. Perhaps universities will be scrabbling to reconstitute traditional disciplines to fit the research assessment exercise. Stranger things have happened.

One of these stranger things is the fate of geography at the University of New South Wales. Once immensely strong, the geography discipline has ended up being split between faculties, and maintaining a clear identity only within Architecture. This arrangement is currently in turmoil. I have written to the senior academics in

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the University of New South Wales arguing that they strongly consider bringing Geography together again within one strong unit.

I wish everyone a good collapse from the stress of the year, and a dazzling new one.

*Jamie Kirkpatrick*  
*President*  
*Institute of Australian Geographers*

## **IAG NEWS**

### **Changes to IAG's Journal**

At the IAG conference held in Adelaide in May this year, members of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Australian Geographical Studies: Journal of the Institute of Australian Geographers*, agreed to recommend to the IAG Council a change of name of the Institute's journal. The objective is to increase the journal's international appeal.

At its meeting in Melbourne on October 15th, IAG's Council resolved to change the name to *Geographical Research: Journal of the Institute of Australian Geographers*. In essence this removes one 'Australian' and replaces 'Studies' with 'Research'. The change will be instituted with the first issue of 2005 - volume 43 number 1.

Several other changes will take place at the same time. We now have an International Editorial Advisory Panel as well as the Australian Editorial Advisory Board. The journal's objectives on the inside front cover will be modified (again). The number of issues published each year will increase from three to four, and there will be an increase in the number of theme issues. Page sizes will increase slightly and Blackwell has agreed to improve the quality of the paper. The cover will also be re-designed.

*Arthur Conacher*  
*(on behalf of the editors)*

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## **IAG Logo Competition**

The Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers has decided that the IAG needs a new logo. So, we are asking our members to help design the new logo.

### **What you need to do**

If you are interested in designing the new logo for the IAG, send your concept drawing to the competition coordinator Amanda Davies. Submissions can be sent electronically or via the post.

For those who do not have a high level of graphic art skills don't panic - entries do not have to be in final state. However, they must clearly show your design, including colours. A short written statement explaining your design would also be beneficial.

### **What you can win**

The winner of the logo competition will be awarded a two year subscription to the IAG and a \$200 cash prize.

### **Judging**

All valid entries will be displayed at the 2005 IAG conference at the University of New England, Armidale. IAG members can vote on their preferred choice of logo from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> July at the conference venue. The IAG council will decide the competition winner informed by the popular vote from the IAG members. The winner will be announced at the conference dinner on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2005.

For further information please see the IAG conference web site, the IAG web site or contact Amanda Davies at: [adavies7@une.edu.au](mailto:adavies7@une.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

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## 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>

### *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>

### *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>

### *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>

### *Environmental Sustainability*

A/Prof Arthur Conacher  
School of Earth and Geographical Sciences  
The University of Western Australia  
Crawley, WA 6006  
<arthur.conacher@uwa.edu.au>

### *Postgraduate*

Amanda Davies  
Department of Geography and Planning  
School of Human and Environmental Studies  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351  
<adavies@metz.une.edu.au>

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## **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY**

### **An Overview of the National Committee for Geography, Australian Academy of Science**

Professor Dave Gillieson, TESAG, James Cook University

The National Committee for Geography (NCG) is one of twenty-two national committees supported by the Australian Academy of Science. The NCG is seen as one of the most active committees, and our engagement with geography teachers and State organisations is seen as exemplary.

The formal aims of the National Committee for Geography are to:

1. Liaise with the International Geographical Union (IGU) through its Executive and Commissions
2. Propose and encourage activities in Australia that will enhance the status of the Geography discipline and promote cooperation between professional and regional societies
3. Encourage and support Australian geographers in all vocational areas to join IGU commissions and attend IGU Congresses
4. Inform the IGU of Australian activities and ensure our views are heard

The current strategies to allow these aims to be achieved are to:

- Provide a central coordinating role in the organisation of the 2006 regional IGU conference in Brisbane
- Produce a volume synthesizing the state of the discipline of Geography in Australia
- Actively promote Geography as an integrating science in the Southwest Pacific region
- Enhance existing strong links to national and State geography teachers' associations
- Involve Australian geographers in IGU commissions and congresses

Current members of the National Committee for Geography are: Dr Richard Baker, Dr Steve Cranby, Professor Bob Fagan, Professor Kathie Gibson, Professor David Gillieson (Chair), Professor Iain Hay, Professor Lesley Head, Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick. The following corresponding scientific societies are also members: Geographical Society of New South Wales; Royal Geographical Society of Queensland; Royal Geographical Society of South Australia; Spatial Sciences Institute Inc.

The NCG coordinates the activities of the IGU Commissions in Australia. Australian geographers are members of 27 of the 32 IGU Commissions, and hold office in 7 of those. This provides Australian geographers with timely access to the latest developments in their chosen sub-disciplines of Geography, as well as creating opportunities for international publications and conference attendance. The NCG also coordinates the financial support for early career researchers attending IGU congresses.

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## FASTS NEWS

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

### **Business Expenditure on R&D declines as share of GDP**

The President of FASTS, Professor Snow Barlow, said the decline in BERD as a percentage share of GDP was a disturbing result in view of the buoyant state of the national economy.

The latest ABS figures on Business Expenditure on Research and Development (BERD) released today show BERD declined as a percentage share of GDP from 0.81% in 2001/2 to 0.79% in 2002/3.

“While BERD increased by 3.6% in 2002/3 - or 1.5% in real terms\* – the decline as a percentage of GDP raises serious concerns about how much of today’s economic activity Australia is prepared to invest in the future. Australia’s national investment in R&D is declining relative to OECD averages and today’s ABS figures confirm the gap is widening. Australia’s strong GDP growth is not sustainable while Australia’s national investment in R&D continues to decline as a percentage of GDP”.

“With the impending retirement of the ‘Baby-boomer generation’, future growth must come from new knowledge generated from R&D and innovation. Governments cannot simply rely on record consumer spending to underpin GDP growth. For 14 years Australia’s strong economic growth has been built on financial and labour market reforms but there are diminishing returns with this approach”.

“Economic growth in the global economy is increasingly dependent on the quality and capacity of the science and technology knowledge base. That is why Governments in Europe, US, Canada and the United Kingdom are all pressing for increased public and private sector investment in R&D. The ABS results follow this year’s budget figures, which show Government investment in R&D is projected to fall to 0.62% of GDP in 2004/05 – down from 0.66% in 2002-03. The Coalition and Labor must offer the electorate credible policies that prioritise building our national investment in R&D”, concluded Professor Barlow.

*(\* The ABS have rounded up the change in BERD to 4% (2% in volume or real terms) in their media release, but the actual ABS report states the increases are 3.6% and 1.5% respectively).*

### **‘Science meets Parliament’ wins Eureka Prize**

Dr Ken Baldwin has won the 2004 Australian Government Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science for initiating and championing the annual FASTS’ ‘Science meets Parliament’.

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Congratulating Dr Baldwin on his win, the President of FASTS, Professor Snow Barlow said 'Science meets Parliament' has become a standout event in the calendar of politicians and scientists.

"For two days a year, 250 scientists and more than 150 politicians discuss a whole raft of ideas in cutting edge science and how these can improve the quality of our lives, environment and economy."

"Science meets Parliament' is a two-way street that has transformed both politicians' understanding of the diversity and potential of science and scientist's understanding of parliamentary processes".

"Science meets Parliament' is a non-partisan event that has been warmly embraced by politicians from all parties and attracts 16 major sponsors from both the public and the private sector."

"FASTS gratefully acknowledge the support it has received from the Minister for Science, Peter McGauran, Shadow Minister, Senator Kim Carr, Democrat's spokesperson, Senator Natasha Stott Despoja and the 150 politicians who participate each year," said Professor Barlow.

Dr Baldwin is the Chair of the FASTS' policy committee and a Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum-Atom Optics at the Australian National University.

The *Australian Museum Eureka Prizes* are the nation's most comprehensive science awards. Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the Eureka Prizes raise the profile of science in the community by acknowledging and rewarding outstanding achievements in research, innovation, engineering, training, journalism and education.

The *Australian Government Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science* is awarded to individuals or groups for outstanding works of science communication.

The next 'Science meets Parliament' event will be in March 2005.

### **Scientists welcome Recommendation for a Full-Time Chief Scientist**

FASTS have welcomed a key recommendation of a Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee report that the Chief Scientist be a full time position.

The President of FASTS, Professor Snow Barlow, said the importance of science in economic, environment and social domains warranted a full time chief scientist.

"A full-time Chief Scientist will play a larger role in a whole-of-government approach to science and technology and enhance co-ordination across portfolios."

"The necessity for all levels of Government to be well informed by good science has never been higher."

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"Science, mathematics and technology underpin economic success and innovation in the global knowledge economy."

"The capacity of Governments to make good policy in a wide range of areas including health, environment, agriculture, defence, communications and quarantine is increasingly dependent on science".

"Good Government needs high level scientific advice and a full-time Chief Scientist is one critical avenue for this."

"Not only is the scope of the responsibilities of the Chief Scientist immense, but having a full-time Chief Scientist would send a clear message of the importance that Government places on this role," concluded Professor Barlow.

## **Acid Test For Science Publishing**

**Professor Snow Barlow**

**President - Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS)**

'Serial killing' is now a routine part of academic life. Each year university libraries make tough choices as to which journals will be removed from the subscription list.

The reasons are straightforward. The cost of academic journals has been increasing far in excess of library funding and changing pricing policies of major academic publishers toward 'bundling' content has put great pressure on libraries' capacity to buy journals best suited to institutional needs.

Academic publishing has become a highly profitable global business as nations seek knowledge economies through investment in science and innovation.

Digitisation and communications technologies have transformed scientific publication with on-line access, archiving, search and retrieval the norm, not paper copies. This technology has also enabled a backlash against mainstream publishing with the emergence of various 'open access' and 'author-pays' models based on free online access.

As Governments invest more in R & D they are developing a fundamental interest in ensuring effective dissemination of knowledge and efficient access to intellectual property. An important 1997 OECD report, National Innovation Systems, argued knowledge distribution was at least, if not more important, than knowledge production in a knowledge economy.

These dual pressures have attracted the interest of the UK Parliament and this month the Select Committee on Science and Technology released a report - Scientific Publications: Free For All? - examining the scientific publishing industry.

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The reports' key conclusions include:

- Provision of scientific journals are not satisfactory due to publisher pricing policies and inadequate library budgets;
- The practice of large publishers exercising market power by bundling content to be sold as 'the big deal' to academic libraries is constraining libraries and having a negative impact on smaller publishers;
- The market for scientific publications is global -the UK cannot act alone.
- Rigorous quality assurance through independent peer review of all disseminated research is central to the integrity of scientific publication and research whatever publishing models are used.
- While there is insufficient understanding of how new open access and author-pays models will operate, they warrant further experimentation.

None of this is surprising. Australian university libraries - who spent \$120 million on journal subscriptions and licences in 2002 - have been at the international forefront grappling with many of these issues. They have been developing collaborative strategies to deal with the pressures of inadequate funding, vagaries of exchange rates, publisher's pricing policies and changing research needs for some years due to economic necessity.

The real significance of the UK report is less to do with any specific recommendations but more the strong case it mounts that Governments have an imperative to take a stronger strategic and funding role in scientific publishing. This argument will reverberate through publisher boardrooms, funding agencies, departments and Governments around the world.

If Governments do take an assertive role in scientific publication markets it is likely they will be more interested in cost effectiveness, efficiency and how they might use their market power to bring about competitive pressure on prices rather than differences between traditional 'user pays' models and emerging 'author-pays' publication models.

For researchers, the key issues are access and the integrity and quality of publications rather than which business model(s) thrive.

Digitisation and ICT has led to an explosion of information but sorting the wheat from the chaff is a real issue. For all its faults, peer review remains the best quality control system and researchers will be rightly wary if some 'open access' models undermine peer review.

In many respects scientific publication is a perverse market. They are an essential resource for scientific research and publication of journal articles is intimately bound up with the practices, rewards, prestige, and recognition of scientific research. Publications, citations and impact measures are routinely used by Governments, funding agencies and institutions in resource allocation around the world with real 'quantity/quality' consequences.

Emerging changes in scientific publication practices are elements of far broader transformations in scientific research. Traditional disciplinary based research, with

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its 300 year synergistic relationship with academic journal publications, is being supplemented by new modes of knowledge production based on trans-disciplinary, problem based research with more informal networks of collaboration and dissemination and somewhat less reliance on traditional academic articles.

The UK Government report has picked up on elements of these changes and its implications for research infrastructure and library resourcing.

In my view, scientific researchers collectively have not been particularly reflective about the profound changes in the organisation of research and knowledge production. In many respects we have been passive functionaries too often whinging about the present or harking back to a (mythical) past rather than examining critical meta-research issues of organisation and governance of science. What are the role and prospects of disciplinary-based societies? How do we represent ourselves? How do we represent and engage with community interests and concerns? Indeed, what is a scientist and how do we select them?

Scientific researchers have a strong interest in thinking these questions through and promoting relevant organisational and governance models. Changes in publication and dissemination practices and needs are important elements of this more crucial challenge.

**This article originally appeared in *The Australian Higher Education Supplement*, 28 July 2004, p. 34.**

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## CONFERENCES

### *Geographies for Sustainable Futures*

34<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers

19-22 July 2005

The conference local organising committee takes great pleasure in inviting you to the University of New England and to Armidale, heart of the beautiful New England region of New South Wales, to take part in the 34<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers 19-22 July 2005.

Key dates to remember are:

Abstract submission deadline: 8 April 2005  
Early bird registration deadline: 1 June 2005  
Registration deadline: 12 July 2005  
Postgraduate workshop date: 18 July 2005  
Conference dates: 19-22 July 2005

The conference web site has information on: how to register and submit abstracts; how to get to Armidale and the UNE main campus; accommodation options and a college accommodation booking service; academic and business programme; mid-conference tours and registration, and postgraduate workshop and registration.

There are four mid conference tours including: a tour to Point Lookout in the New England National Park to look at the spectacular physical landscapes of the area; a tour to Tinga and Guyra (small agricultural service centres) focused on small rural town change, and some innovative efforts to revitalise rural areas; a walking tour around Armidale town; and a tour to Mt Yarrowick to look at an Aboriginal rock art site. The tours are all low cost with more detailed information on these tours is available on the conference web site.

Visit the conference web site at: <http://www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/iag2005>

### *IAG Postgraduate Workshop*

18 July 2005

In conjunction with the organisers of the 2005 IAG Conference, and the Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers, a workshop will be held for postgraduate members of the Institute of Australian Geographers on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

The workshop, open to postgraduate students who have registered for the IAG conference, will cover a number of topics including ethics issues for researchers, advice on writing academic papers and grant applications, and clues as to what markers are looking for in a thesis.

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The workshop is free of charge for financial IAG postgraduate members however places are limited so registering early is advised. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided free of charge.

For more details see the IAG conference web site:  
<http://www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/iag2005>

### ***11th International Medical Geography Symposium, 2005***

5-9 July at Fort Worth, Texas.

The Medical Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers is pleased to host the 11th ***International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS)*** at the Fort Worth Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas, USA during July 5 - 9, 2005. The IGMS is the largest meeting of medical geographers in the world. It covers virtually all topics related to medical geography, health geography, and health and the environment. This event is organized on behalf of the Medical Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers, the Health Geography Research Group of the RGS/IBG, and the Study Group on the Geography of Health of the Canadian Association of Geographers.

The meeting will feature a variety of formats for the presentation and exchange of ideas, including: plenaries by invited speakers; paper sessions designed to present major research findings and to allow informed discussion on any aspect of medical geography and the geography of health; panel sessions organized by a chairperson presenting discussions among 4 to 6 individuals and the audience; and poster sessions for the presentation of material that is highly technical or better suited for visual rather than verbal communication. A pre-conference workshop concerned with the integration of GIS and spatial analysis into public health will be held on July 5, 2005.

You are invited to submit a paper, panel or poster for presentation at the IMGS. The deadline for **abstract** submissions is May 2, 2005. Panel sessions do not require abstracts but we would welcome the chance to discuss proposals for these sessions.

For further details, visit the conference website:

<http://www.geog.unt.edu/medgeogsymp.htm>

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*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).

*Further Invitation: Planning for the Brisbane IGU, 2006*

**Background:** Planning for the International Geographical Union Regional Conference in Brisbane, 3-7 July 2006, is gathering pace. The First Circular was included in satchels at the Glasgow Congress in August and is now being distributed globally, including to all ANZ universities. Please peruse this circular for further information. Also, keep visiting our website at [www.igu2006.org](http://www.igu2006.org) for progressive updates. The Organising Committee recently met in Brisbane and decided on the Gardens Point campus of QUT as the conference venue. We are planning an innovative programme at a very reasonable registration fee.

IGU2006 will encompass three core (but linked) programmes in one conference: it acts as a venue for meetings of IGU Commissions and Task Forces; it will have also have a strong regional focus, offering opportunities for developing stronger links with academics and professionals in the S-W Pacific and S-E Asia; and it will also be a joint meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers and the New Zealand Geographical Society.

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**Invitation for Expressions of Interest:** We have received a steady flow of proposals from ANZ geographers, while some IGU Commissions and Task Forces have informed us about provisional plans. Given the long lead-time needed in planning the two international components, mentioned above, we need to issue this reminder. We seek your support by informing us, preferably no later than 31 January, 2005, of all proposed initiatives for conference sessions which may have links either to the IGU Commissions and Task Forces or to the Regional Theme. Also of comparable importance, but with a much later deadline, are initiatives linked to the ANZ joint meeting. We anticipate strong links between all three conference components.

In presenting your proposals tied to the Regional Theme, please refer to the statement, overleaf, which also lists the information we seek from proponents. Proposals may also be linked to the interests of IGU Commissions and Task Forces. For full details on these, please visit the IGU website at <http://www.igu-net.org>, click on the Union Jack, then on Organizations, or refer to the detailed list forwarded to departments. Currently, the Commissions are: Climatology; Coastal Systems; Dynamics of Economic Spaces; Evolving Issues of Geographic Marginality; Gender and Geography; Geographical Education; Geographical Information Sciences; Geography and Public Policy; Geography of the Information Society; Geomorphological Response to Environmental Change; Hazards and Risks; Health and Environment; History of Geographical Thought; Karst; Land Degradation and Desertification; Marine Geography; Modelling Geographical Systems; Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow; Population and Vulnerability; Sustainability of Rural Systems; World Political Map; Biogeography and Biodiversity; Diversity in Mountain Systems; Fluvial System Research; Applied Geography; Tourism, Leisure and Global Change; Global Change and Human Mobility; Land Use and Land Cover Change; Cultural Approach; Arid Lands; Cold Regions; Environmental Evolution; and Landscape Analysis. The Task Forces are: Megacities; Vulnerability; GeoParks; and Olympiad.

**Contacts:** All proposals should be sent to one of the following (preferably all):  
John Holmes, Geographical Sciences, University of Queensland, 4072  
[j.holmes@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.holmes@uq.edu.au)  
Nigel Tapper, Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University,  
Clayton, 3168 [Nigel.Tapper@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Nigel.Tapper@arts.monash.edu.au)  
Dick Bedford, DVC (Research), University of Waikato, PB 3105, Hamilton, N.Z.  
[rd@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:rd@waikato.ac.nz)

### ***Capacity Building in SE Asia and SW Pacific***

Brisbane IGU, July 2006

**Background:** In presenting our offer to host the 2006 Regional Conference, we highlighted our capabilities in forging links to geographers and other policy-makers and programme-directors in S-E Asia and S-W Pacific with an emphasis on capacity-building. In pursuit of the stated regional theme, we proposed specialist sessions on:

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- Local and regional impacts of resource exploitation and community responses.
  - Mobilisation of regional capabilities to sustain and enhance social, cultural and environmental values.
  - Constructive responses to natural disasters, climatic change and other global-scale processes.

The regional theme is spelt out more fully on our website at [www.igu2006.org](http://www.igu2006.org) while a shorter version is presented in the First Circular.

**Proposal:** We urgently seek expressions of interest from those willing to organise and/or participate in specialist sessions, with a regional focus, primarily including Australia, New Zealand, the S-W Pacific and S-E Asia, though not necessarily excluding other regions. The Brisbane conference provides a rare opportunity to develop structured programmes designed to enhance capacities of selected delegates from neighbouring countries. Some sessions may be capable of attracting funding from AusAID, DFAT, DEST, DIMIA, South Pacific Forum or other sources.

While programmes need to be tailored to the individual or group requirements of delegates from the region, we anticipate two main streams, one being for S-W Pacific and the other for S-E Asia delegates (although some sessions may be common to both programmes). Our proposal is to offer a package of specialist conference sessions for the first two or three days on relevant themes, such as: hazard management; dynamic processes (coastal, catchment, etc), environmental change, managing impacts (tourism, forestry, fishing, urbanisation, etc), migration, policy formulation, governance, etc. This would be followed by two or three days of small-group workshops involving information exchange or technical sessions, with the latter being focussed on spatial analysis, remote sensing, use of internet, etc. Technical sessions could be held in laboratories at universities or in government departments. Some local fieldwork could be involved.

**Implementation:** We seek an early response to this proposal, with suggestions on its feasibility, on shaping up the proposal and particularly on recruiting a small team of experienced people, together with leaders, to get this going.

**Suggested Information:** Name(s) of proponent(s); title and brief description of proposal; possible additional contributors; target 'audience'; possible source of funds or sponsors; any other information or suggestions.

**Contacts:** All proposals should be sent to one of the following (preferably all):

- John Holmes, Geographical Sciences, University of Queensland, 4072  
[j.holmes@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.holmes@uq.edu.au)
- Nigel Tapper, Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University, Clayton, 3168  
[Nigel.Tapper@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Nigel.Tapper@arts.monash.edu.au)
- Dick Bedford, DVC (Research), University of Waikato, PB 3105, Hamilton, N.Z.  
[rdb@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:rdb@waikato.ac.nz)

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## CALL FOR COLLABORATION

*GEST-Group for the Study of Society and Territory,  
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil.*

GEST- The Group for the Study of Society and Territory, a research group based at UFRGS-The Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil, is interested in establishing agreements and collaborating with colleagues in other institutions, cities and countries. We can either be a South American and/or American "leg" of comparative research projects and/or have colleagues as partners in any of our projects.

We have several research projects, many with a strong historic component. I would like to say that I do accept new partners in these projects, where we have several undergraduate research assistants, the so-called "estagiários de iniciação científica" in the Brazilian research system. If you would like to propose a project, we are willing to discuss possibilities and if you want to become a partner in a comparative study with any of the projects below we can also explore options together.

GEST members work on subjects ranging from the History and Geography of Housing and Cities in South America to the Spatial Dynamics of Crime in the Metropolitan Region of Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil. Other research interests in the group include economic restructuring, spatial cycles and their spatial impacts; residential and intra-metropolitan mobility; and the grape and the colonization of the Brazilian territory: A Geography of wine. GEST members have done empirical work in places such as Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Recife, Porto Alegre, and Buenos Aires, and in several libraries and universities in Europe (Paris, Oxford, Cambridge, London, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Turin), Latin America, and the USA (Chicago, Washington, Milwaukee, New York, and Boston).

We are also interested in receiving foreign scholars to give lectures here. While we do not have funds to pay travel expenses from abroad, we might be able to pay your travel from any point in Brazil and we will provide accommodation here for sure. Please get in touch if you want to lecture or do research here.

If you would like to establish any kind of collaboration with GEST, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Prof. Dr Joel Outtes  
Head, GEST-Group for the Study of Society and Territory  
UFRGS-Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul  
E-mail: Outtes@uol.com.br

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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

**Kay Anderson** (*UWS*) was awarded a 3- year ARC Discovery Grant (2005-7) for the project titled, The Humanities Beyond Humanism: Race, Nature and 'the Human' in Australia.

**George Curry** and **Gina Koczberski** (*Curtin*) have been awarded a three year ARC Discovery grant for the project 'Contested Landscapes and Divided Communities: The Struggle for Place and Belonging in PNG'.

**Bob Stimson** (*UQ*) has been awarded an ARC Discovery grant for the project "The Geography of Australia's People in Places".

**Bob Stimson, Martin Bell, Tom Wilson** (*UQ*) and many others received an ARC Research Network Grant in Spatially Integrated Social Science, \$300,000 per year for five years (\$1,500,000).

**Daryl McPhee** (*UQ*) has received a new staff start up grant to investigate 'The Structure of Surf Zone Fish Assemblages in South East Queensland: A Pilot Study', \$11,980.

**Dominic Brown** (*UQ*) also received a new staff start up grant for a project entitled 'Towards developing a rigorous analysis of inequalities in morbidity and mortality in Australia'. \$12,000.

**Pramod Sharma** (*UQ*) has been involved as the Project Leader for Decipher. Decipher is an online data warehouse for tourism business research and intelligence. The project has been funded by two AusIndustry grants of \$1m each in 1999 and 2004. Significant additional funds have been provided by the Sustainable Tourism CRC. The system was launched on 9 September 2004 as [www.decipher.biz](http://www.decipher.biz). Further information can be obtained from [http://www.crctourism.com.au/Documents/headlines/Decipher\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.crctourism.com.au/Documents/headlines/Decipher_flyer.pdf)

**Andrew Beer** (*Flinders*) was one of four Team Leaders in a successful NHMRC Public Health Capacity Building Application. The other Team leaders are Prof Sue Richardson of the National Institute of Labour Studies (NILS) Flinders University, Prof Fran Baum, Public Health, Flinders Univeristy and Ann Kavanagh, Melbourne University. The grant will fund a program of work around social inequalities and health with funding of \$500,000 for each of five years.

**Phillip O'Neill** and **Pauline M<sup>c</sup>Guirk** (Newcastle), with Dick Bryan and Frank Stillwell (University of Sydney) were awarded an ARC Discovery Project Grant 2005-6 for a project titled Understanding Sydney's changing role as a global city in the Australian urban and regional network.

**Glenn Albrecht** (*Newcastle*) is joint CI on a cross-disciplinary ARC Discovery Project Grant 2005-7 titled Open Cuts to Land and Culture (involving coal mining in the upper Hunter).

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**Tony Sorensen** (*UNE*) has won a 2005 ARC Discovery Grant for \$143,000 over 3 years on “Regional Governance in Rural NSW: Emerging Issues and Future Options”. Co-researchers are Professor Brian Dollery (Economics) and Associate Professor Neil Marshall (Political Science) at UNE. Tony is also a member of ARC Research Network on Spatially Integrated Social Sciences, co-convenor of working group on scenarios and forecasting, and member of the network strategy / planning committee. [The Network is under the Direction of Professor Bob Stimson at UQ]

**Chris Gibson** (*UNSW*), **Jim Walmsley** (*UNE*), **John Connell** (*Sydney*) and **Gordon Waitt** (*Wollongong*) won a Discovery Grant for a study of "Reinventing rural places? The extent and impact of rural festivals as regeneration strategies".

**Jim Walmsley** (*UNE*) is part of the team (led by **Martin Bell** (*UQ*)) which won an ARC Learned Academies Special Project Grant to look at "Patterns of mobility and internal migration in Australia".

**Chris Cocklin** (*Monash*) and **Geoff Wilson** (*Plymouth*) have been awarded an ARC Discovery grant for a project entitled “From Productivism to Multifunctionality: Agrienvironmental governance in Australia and the UK”.

**Rebecca Dobbs** (*North Carolina-Chapel Hill*) has received a prestigious Hugh McColl Fellowship at her home university to fund her final year of doctoral work, to be completed in May 2005. In this work she is using historical GIS to map and analyze patterns of 18th century European settler land claims in North Carolina to see whether indigenous transport routes influenced settlers' locational choices and the emergence of towns in what later became an important polycentric urban region.

**Bill Pritchard** (*Sydney*) won the "John Dickinson Memorial Award" for the best paper in the journal for 2003-04 from the Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association for the best paper in the *Australasian Journal of Regional Science*. *The paper was titled "Beyond the Resource Enclave: Regional Development Challenges in Northern Australia"*.

**Tony Dalton** and **Dave Mercer** (*RMIT*) have won an ARC linkage grant to study the Aurora project – a new, master-planned, sustainable housing development on Melbourne's urban fringe. The project is with VicUrban and has two APAI scholarships attached to it. These will be advertised shortly.

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## NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

### **Australian National University (Human Geography, RSPAS)**

The Department has been pleased to have Dr Lesley Potter, recently retired from the University of Adelaide, and Professor Joe Painter from the University of Durham as Visiting Fellows. Lesley is continuing her research on smallholder agriculture and the environmental history of Southeast Asia and Joe is working on a research report on urban citizenship and a new book on the everyday political geographies of the state.

This year has seen the establishment of a number of field sites for the ARC-ANU Linkage Project 'Negotiating alternative strategies for regional development in Indonesia and the Philippines'. Human Geography staff, Katherine Gibson and Deirdre McKay visited Jagna in Bohol and Linamon in Mindanao in the Philippines throughout the year to conduct familiarisation and training workshops. Other sites have been established in Bajawa, Flores and Buton in Indonesia and were visited by Department of Anthropology colleagues in the project, Kathryn Robinson and Andrew McWilliam.

### **University of Queensland**

As reported in the previous edition, the University of Queensland automatic weather station is going from strength to strength, recording nearly half a million hits a month in providing five-minute Brisbane weather data to the university and the world. An initiative of Dr Hamish McGowan, Senior Lecturer in Climatology, the weather station has been linked to a live web site at: <http://www.geosp.uq.edu.au/UQweather/>. It measures air density, barometric pressure, dew point, evapotranspiration, effective moisture content of wood (emc), heat index, heating and cooling degree-days, rain rate, rainfall, rain storm, solar radiation and solar energy, temperature, temperature humidity [sun] wind, index (thw) (th[s]w), uv index and uv dose, wind chill, wind direction, wind run and wind speed.

Soon, a "drivable" weather web camera will be installed to capture real time video of significant weather events. The web site will also be expanded to include climatic data as well. For information, please contact Mr Alan Victor on 07 3365 6528 or a.victor@uq.edu.au.

The Physical Geography programme at The University of Queensland opened its new wet and dry laboratory in March 2004. It consists of three sub-units – an air quality / climate laboratory, a wet laboratory for sediment, soil and basic water analysis and class teaching, and a calibration facility for remote sensing instrumentation. The facility also provides new space for equipment storage, servicing and testing. The laboratory is equipped with drying ovens, fume cupboard, sediment sieving facilities, while throughout the year additional instrumentation will be installed to support research and teaching in the priority areas of climatology, geomorphology, biogeography and remote sensing.

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In November 2004, UQ hosted a day long workshop on Spatial Indicators and GIS in Human Geography by Professor Paul Longley, Department of Geography, University College of London (UCL), whose research focuses on the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and quantitative methods in urban analysis.

Sabbatical visitors in the last half-year to The University of Queensland have included two climatologists, Professor Andy Sturman (*Canterbury*) and Professor Konrad Steffen (*Colorado, Boulder*), and Dr Shaun Bond (*Land Economy, Cambridge*).

## **University of New England**

The School of Human and Environmental Research at UNE comprises Geography and Archaeology. As many people would no doubt be aware, our colleagues in the Archaeology section, led by Mike Morwood, have just made one of the most important finds of the century with their discovery of a new, diminutive species of human. Full credit should be given to Mike Morwood, who stuck it out keeping a team together for seven years in tough conditions, with very little funding at first. Mike Morwood is a good geomorphologist in his own right, but he was helped in the field by geomorphology PhD from Wollongong, Kira Westaway, who has completed a 100 000 year dating profile of the cave sediments at the Flores site.

The 'hobgoblin' (*Homo floresiensis*) survived to the Terminal Pleistocene in Flores, east Indonesia, and may have survived longer in adjacent islands, perhaps almost to the present. Next season, Bob Haworth and Rajanathan Rajaratnam from the School will help with the search for possible cave sites in the limestone regions of the island arc east of Flores. Our ongoing research on Quaternary sea level changes will help, as the whereabouts of fossils are probably determined by *Homo floresiensis*' ability to use land bridges at times of lower sea levels. Sea level research is continuing along more tectonically stable coastlines than Flores. We have now gathered samples of inter-tidal sub-fossil shells from hundreds of sites around the Australian coast. Carbon -14 age results continue to show a marked similarity in the pattern of sea level fluctuations from all sampled regions, a result quite at odds with prevailing hydro-isostatic rebound models.

The combination of Archaeology and Geography at UNE has been especially good for Quaternary Studies of this kind, giving a greater depth than any one discipline could manage on its own. Currently, members from the two disciplines are cooperating in developing a phytolith data base for estuarine wetlands, as well as related pollen work and the testing of different charcoal counting methods to establish the record of past bushfires.

Amazingly, the School has been told that its building is at long last to be demolished and the staff rehoused. For those familiar with the "temporary" 1950s weatherboard buildings, this will come as a relief. The thought of a 50th anniversary of the buildings, and a heritage order, was too frightening to contemplate. It is not known what will happen to the snakes, possums, echidnas, koalas and kangaroos who live around the building.

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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS/MOVES

In November 2004, **Professor David Rich** took up the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) at the University of New England, Armidale. Previously, David had been Director of the Centre for Flexible Learning at Macquarie University, and before that served with the Human Geographers at Macquarie.

**Tony Sorensen** (*UNE*) will be taking over as Head of School on 1 January 2005. Tony replaces **Jim Walmsley**, who has been Head for the past three years, is looking forward to 6 months of study leave. Jim will be working on his ARC projects during this period.

**Robert Baker** (*UNE*) was re-elected Vice Chair of the IGU Commission of Modelling Geographical Systems and deputised as Chair at the Glasgow Conference in August. He also presented a paper on Holocene sea levels at the International Geological Congress in Florence in August.

**A/Prof Arthur Conacher** retires at the end of 2004 after 36 years of service at The University of Western Australia. Arthur will be continuing his research, postgraduate supervision and other academic interests as a Senior Honorary Research Fellow.

**Professor John Dodson** (*UWA*) has taken a secondment to Brunel University in the UK, where he heads up a new Institute for the Environment. John retains a fractional appointment in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences at UWA.

**Janet Hunt** is leaving RMIT at the end of 2004 to take up a research position with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Research at the ANU.

**John Fien** is leaving Griffith University in January and starting at RMIT as Innovation Professor in Sustainability.

**John Connell** (*Sydney*) steps down after four years as Head of the School of Geosciences and, after six years, a geologist finally takes over the Headship of the School.

**Pauline M<sup>c</sup>Guirk** (Newcastle) was promoted to Associate Professor and **Kate Hartig** (Newcastle) was promoted to Senior Lecturer (effective 2005).

**Sarah Wright** has been appointed to the position of Lecturer in Human Geography (Development Studies) at the University of Newcastle. Sarah is a first class honours graduate from the University of Sydney and was recently awarded her PhD at the University of Washington.

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## **Australian Defence Force Academy, UNSW – Vacancy – Professor of Geography**

UNSW@ADFA consists of five Schools which form a campus of the University of New South Wales. Located at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, UNSW@ADFA provides undergraduate courses to officer cadets and midshipmen as well as postgraduate courses and research opportunities to civilian and defence personnel. Staff enjoy pleasant surroundings and have access to various facilities and free parking. A generous superannuation scheme is offered.

### **School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences Professor of Geography Ref. No. PEMS 11818**

Applications are invited from geographers with a distinguished record in research and research supervision, and a commitment to high quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. The successful applicant must have the experience and interpersonal skills to provide academic leadership in geography. The appointee will be required to contribute significantly to a strategic vision for the School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences, and to develop strong linkages among the disciplines within the School (chemistry, geography, mathematics/statistics, oceanography and physics) as well as with other Schools within UNSW@ADFA. The appointee will be eligible to serve as Head of the School.

Teaching and research interests within geography at UNSW@ADFA encompass human and physical geography and the application of remote sensing technologies and geographic information systems to geographical and environmental issues. Human geography is currently focussed on social and cultural geography, geography of the Asia-Pacific region, resource management, geography of development and transport geography, and in physical geography on geomorphology, biogeography and conservation ecology. Geography can be taken in either the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, as well as in postgraduate coursework degrees, and in Masters and PhD research programs. Undergraduate students are either midshipmen or officer cadets while honours and postgraduate students may be either civilian or service personnel.

**Essential Criteria:** a PhD or equivalent qualification; a distinguished record of research and publication in geography; a record of success in attracting research funding; the capacity to provide excellent academic leadership; demonstrated commitment to fostering innovative approaches to education; a commitment to field-based teaching in geography; experience in implementing equity and diversity policies and programs, and knowledge of OHS responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant OHS training.

**Desirable Criteria:** a record of achievement in administration and management; teaching and/or research experience in integrative aspects of geography; ability to integrate geography with other disciplines in the School; and a high level of professional service to the discipline and/or community.

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The salary for Professor is A\$116,278 per year (this is inclusive of a superable UNSW academic loading of \$3,000 per annum). Subject to consent by the University, the appointee may undertake a limited amount of consultative work.

People from EEO groups are encouraged to apply. The University reserves the right to fill the position by invitation or not to fill the position.

Membership of a University approved superannuation scheme is a condition of employment.

Enquiries may be directed to Associate Professor Dennis Isbister, Head, School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences, telephone +61 2 6268 8801 or email [d.isbister@adfa.edu.au](mailto:d.isbister@adfa.edu.au)

An information package is available from Deborah Bator, School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences, Building #26, UNSW@ADFA, Canberra ACT 2600 Australia, telephone +61 2 6268 8785, facsimile: +61 2 6268 8786; email [d.bator@adfa.edu.au](mailto:d.bator@adfa.edu.au) or [http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/admin/hr/emp\\_opps/index.html](http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/admin/hr/emp_opps/index.html) Applications close 28 January 2005. Please quote reference number: PEMS 11818

A written application addressing the selection criteria, a resume, and the names and addresses (preferably email) of at least three referees should be submitted to: HR Recruitment, UNSW@ADFA, Australian Defence Force Academy, Northcott Drive, CANBERRA ACT 2600. You may email your application to: [uni.college.recruitment@adfa.edu.au](mailto:uni.college.recruitment@adfa.edu.au) For confirmation of receipt of application telephone (02) 6268 8707. People from EEO groups are encouraged to apply.

## GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...

The Land Management Group (Bryant Allen, Mike Bourke, Tracey Harwood, Mike Lowe and Matthew Allen) in the Department of Human Geography at the ANU are continuing to work on the Information for Development and Planning in Papua New Guinea Project and together with John Gibson from Waikato University is also working on a book on agriculture in the economy of PNG.

**Tony Sorensen** (*UNE*) is just finishing a one-year Study Leave. During his study leave Tony visited Montreal, the Canadian Atlantic Provinces, Arizona, Texas and Virginia collecting material on North American approaches to regional development for a book on comparative regional development policy. Tony also visited the University of Tabriz and presented a seminar on regional small business financial performance to the Department of Geography and Planning (in English, not Azeri). Tony has also been invited to join the steering committee of the IGU Commission on Local Development headed by Michael Sofer at Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel.

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Four new PhD students will start on the ARC linkage project – Re-Imagining the Australian Suburb in early 2005. This is a collaboration between RMIT University, Griffith University, Stockland, VicUrban and the City of Whittlesea. RMIT staff involved are **Dave Mercer**, **John Jackson** and **Jan Scheurer**. **Jago Dodson** is the Griffith University contact. This is one of several ongoing and planned projects at RMIT investigating sustainability issues at the urban fringe. **Sarah Bekessy** also has a Linkage grant to study biodiversity preservation at the urban fringe. This currently involves one PhD student and a post-doctoral fellowship.

A recent visitor at RMIT for several weeks was **Pieter Glasbergen**, author of *Greening Society*, and Professor of Environmental Studies at Utrecht University in The Netherlands.

**Neil Argent** and **Fran Rolley** (*UNE*) are continuing their work on homelessness in rural Australia and have recently had an article published in 'Parity' - journal of the Council to Homeless Persons. The article is titled: 'What does the homeless data say about rural homelessness?'

**Robert Baker** with his Team ( Troy Mackay, Raj Rajaratnam and Brett Carson), funded by an ARC-Discovery Grant and in collaboration with Les Cottrell at Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre (SLAC), have classified Internet traffic in a global network of sites according to proxies developed from a dynamic model. They show unequivocally that distance does matter for the Internet and flawed assumption of the 'death of distance' hypothesis'. There are number of publications forthcoming. Robert and Troy presented the work at Stanford in October and an animation shown jointly at the SC 2004 (Supercomputer Conference at Pittsburg, November 6-12 2004).

**Bob Stimson** (*UQ*) has accepted an invitation from the Lord Mayor to join Brisbane City Council's Planning and Development Advisory Group. Meanwhile, **David Wadley** (*UQ*) is serving on a economic development reference group for the State Government's new regional plan for southeast Queensland which has been assembled by the Office of Urban Management.

**John Minnery** (*UQ*) gave the keynote address entitled "Down to the Sea in Shops" at the annual conference in Brisbane of the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland. It engaged the 1996 and 2001 censuses to show how the urban areas of the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane were becoming more undifferentiated from each other, and more like cities that happened to be on the coast rather than coastal cities. It was also argued that people are moving to the coast for the up-market life-style (i.e. to shop) rather than to be near the sea.

**Rebecca Dobbs** (*North Carolina-Chapel Hill*) is working with **Wendy Shaw** (*UNSW*) and **Doug Herman** (*Towson*) to put together a special journal issue (and a future edited book) on indigenous geographies, and has co-organized a series of sessions on historical GIS for AAG 2005 in Denver, with **Paul Ell** (*Queens University Belfast*), **Ian Gregory** (*Portsmouth*), and **Mary Ruvane** (*North Carolina-Chapel Hill*).

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**Bryant Allen** (*Human Geography, ANU*) and **Mike Lowe** are assessing the economic and social importance of national highways in PNG on behalf of AusAID. [AusAID provides funding of \$40 million for highway maintenance in PNG]. Bryant is also working for the World Bank HIV/AIDS Project determining the population living within the catchment areas of the main centres and mining, fishing and forestry projects.

**Mike Bourke** (*Human Geography, ANU*) has undertaken two trips to PNG under an Agricultural Innovations Grant Facility, which is providing funding for agricultural research to institutions and universities to extend information out to the village level. He is also working on two books 'Sweet potato in Oceania: A reappraisal' and 'Solomon Islands rural livelihoods and broad based growth strategy'.

**Katherine Gibson** (*Human Geography, ANU*) and Professor Julie Graham from the University of Massachusetts have completed the manuscript for their book, 'Reluctant Subjects: Ethics and Emotions for a Post-Capitalist Politics'. Katherine is also continuing her research on community economies and her work with Deirdre McKay and colleagues, Kathryn Robinson and Andrew McWilliam from the Department of Anthropology, RSPAS, on the ARC-ANU linkage project on diverse economies in Indonesia and the Philippines.

**Kersty Hobson** (*Human Geography, ANU*) has been developing new research streams since joining the department from the University of Birmingham last October. This has included conducting fieldwork into environmental NGOs in Singapore, with the aim of expanding the geographical scope of this work in the future. She is also developing research with the Australian Conservation Foundation, examining 'sustainable consumption' programs in Australia, which will be developed into an ARC research grant in the near future.

**Deirdre McKay** (*Human Geography, ANU*) has undertaken fieldwork in and around Baguio City and Cordillera Central in the Philippines and in Singapore for her work on agroecosystems and household economic strategies in the upland Philippines and Filipino translocalities and overseas/immigrant communities.

**Howard Bridgman** (*Newcastle*) is on study leave at Indiana University until the end of the year. He and John Oliver (Indiana State University) are writing a book titled *The Global Climate System: Patterns, Processes and Teleconnections*, to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2005. Howard will retire from his permanent position at Newcastle in 2005. A farewell function will be held in Newcastle on February 11. Enquiries to [Betj.Georgievski@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Betj.Georgievski@newcastle.edu.au)

On the 17th November 2004 the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Newcastle in conjunction with the Economic Geography and GIS study groups of the IAG hosted a workshop titled *Spatial Indicators and GIS in Human Geography*. The esteemed Professor Paul Longley from University College London was a key note speaker at the workshop.

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## POSTGRADUATE NEWS

IAG Postgraduate members' attendance at national and international conferences has been high this year. Conference attendance is recognised as being important part of candidatership for many higher degree research students. The IAG also recognises the importance of attendance to, and participation in, conferences for higher degree research students. As such, the IAG makes funds available every year for postgraduate members to attend conferences.

This year the IAG awarded postgraduate travel awards to 20 members to attend the IAG conference in Adelaide in April 2004

The IAG also awarded 13 postgraduate members and early career researchers travel awards to attend the IGU in Glasgow in August. Recipients of this award included: Simon Bengner, Kathleen Broderick, Nikolas Callow, John Collins, Amanda Davies, Megan Farrelly, Kristie Fryirs, Mick Hillman, Kersty Hobson, David Marshall, Catherine Robinson, Sandy Suchet, and Catherina Williams.

All of those who attended the IGU presented papers, many presenting their original research to an international audience for the first time. Interestingly (although a little daunting for the presenter) some of the postgraduate sessions attracted large audiences with the 'who's who' in their field. Feedback from those who attended the IGU has been positive, with most making use of the conference to present there research and get feedback, network, get up to speed on new research, and for some identify potential thesis markers.

In 2005, travel awards will be made available to postgraduate members who wish to attend (and present a paper at) the IAG conference in Armidale. Details of how, and when, to apply for this award will be made available on the IAG website.

In other news, the Council of the IAG had the pleasure of awarding 16 certificates 'For and Outstanding Presentation (postgraduate)' based on paper presentations given at the 2004 IAG conference in Adelaide. Awards were decided on both the quality of the material contained in the paper and the manner of its presentation. Award winners were (listed in alphabetical order): Kathleen Broderick, Nicole Cook, Amanda Davies, Megan Farrelly, Sarah Goodall, Andrew Gorman-Murray, Julia Hinsliff, Tina Jaskolski, Tom Jenkin, Linda Milan, Lareen Newman, Susan Owen, David Paull, Debra Pearce, John Pickard, Kristian Ruming.

Lastly, don't forget to register for the IAG conference and **Postgraduate Workshop**. Places to the workshop are limited. The workshop is free of charge for IAG postgraduate members (financial) including a lunch and afternoon tea.

**Amanda Cahill** (*Human Geography, ANU*) is currently conducting field research in Jagna, the Phillipines for her thesis 'Strengthening capacity within a decentralised health sector – The case of returned female migrant workers in the Phillipines'.

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**Michelle Carnegie** (*Human Geography, ANU*) is in Oelua, a coastal village on Roti, East Nusa Tenggara Province Indonesia researching the trading, fishing and sailing livelihoods of Muslim migrants.

**Pepito Fernandez** is a new PhD student in the Department of Human Geography, RSPAS, ANU. His thesis will focus on fisheries resource management particularly co-management arrangements in Northeastern Panay Island, the Philippines.

**Tina Jaskolski** (*Human Geography, ANU*) is on fieldwork in Bali looking at sustainability and environmental education initiatives in schools.

**Katharine McKinnon** (*Human Geography, ANU*) has submitted her thesis 'Locating Post-Development Subjects: Discourses of intervention and identification in the highlands of northern Thailand'.

**Bridget Kearns** was awarded her PhD from the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management at Flinders University. Bridget's thesis was entitled 'Exporting Locally' and examined the use of regionally based strategies to encourage small and medium sized companies to export. Bridget is currently a Research Associate but is about to head to Indonesia to live.

**Bruce Visser** was also awarded his PhD from Flinders University in December. Bruce's thesis was entitled 'From Braai to Barbeque: South African Settlement in Australia'. Bruce currently works for the the Department of Transport and Urban Planning in South Australia.

Under the supervision of Dave Mercer, **Tony Cutcliffe** is writing a PhD thesis on the topic of practical reconciliation in Shepparton, Victoria.

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## Publications

**Chris Cocklin** and **Jacki Dibden** (*Monash*) have edited *Sustainability and Change in Rural Australia*, published by UNSW Press. The book is the outcome of an ARC Special Academies Project and includes papers by a number of geographers, including Graeme Hugo, Peter Smailes, Neil Argent Trevor Griffin and Matthew Tonts.

Chris and Jacki have also recent published: *Stewards of the Land: Landholder Perspectives on Sustainable Land Management*. Report prepared for the Victorian Catchment Management Council and Department of Sustainability and Environment. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne. 42 pp.

**Peter Dunbar-Hall** (*Sydney*) and **Chris Gibson's** (*UNSW*) book *Deadly Sounds, Deadly Places: Contemporary Aboriginal Music in Australia* has been published by UNSW Press.

**John Connell's** (*Sydney*) work on the migration of health workers (mainly nurses and doctors) in five Pacific island states was published as a monograph by the World Health Organisation as 'The Migration of Skilled Health Personnel in the Pacific Region'.

**Iain Hay** (*Flinders*) was one of a group of five who published *Communicating in the Health and Social Sciences* (Oxford University Press, 2005). Co-authors are health academics Joy Higgs (*Sydney*), Ann Sefton (*Sydney*), Annette Street (*LaTrobe*) and Lindy McAllister (*Charles Sturt*). Iain has also recently been admitted to the Australian Institute of Management as a Fellow.

**Phil McManus** (*Sydney*) has recently had *Vortex Cities to Sustainable Cities: Australia's Urban Challenge* published by UNSW Press. The book is about Australian cities and their prospects for sustainability, looking specifically at the environmental prospects of a number of Australia's largest cities and discusses their histories and the planning ideas that have shaped their development. *Vortex Cities to Sustainable Cities* contains chapters on population and demography, air quality, water quality, water availability, transport and biodiversity.

**Michael Hall** (*Otago*) and **Dieta Muller** (*Umea, Sweden*) have recently edited *Tourism, Mobility and Second Homes: Between Elite Landscape and Common Ground*, which was published by Channelview Publications. This is the first major update of Coppack's landmark collection *Second Homes: Curse or Blessing?*, published in 1977.

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