

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you to all of those who contributed to this edition of the Newsletter. One of the highlights of recent months was the IAG Conference at the University of New England in Armidale. As always at these conferences the cutting edge of Australian Geography was on display. Congratulations to the organisers of the conference for preparing such an engaging programme and social calendar. Preparations also continue for the Brisbane IGU, which promises not only a terrific conference, but also a range of other post and pre congress activities. Further details are contained in this edition of the Newsletter.

The deadline for the next edition is the **30<sup>th</sup> November 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

Our new regular regime of conferences and council meetings has many benefits. Not the least of these is the mid winter timing of our annual conference. Next year, in Brisbane, there will be the warmth in winter associated with geriatric transhumance. This year we experienced the delights of grass frosted rigid in the morn and lucid blue days. We also experienced magnificent New England hospitality and much highly stimulating intellectual interaction. From 40 m tsunamis less than gently caressing the Australian coast 1500 years ago to the balance between style and comfort in domestic decoration, we ranged almost the full extent of our integrative discipline, a discipline marked by its concentration on human scale problems. The relative lacunae of this year will be filled in Brisbane, where, because of the opportunity to interact with colleagues from the IGU commissions, we expect to see a greater representation of those interested in physical geography.

Although much of the research presented at the conference had been quality controlled by the grant application process and subsequent performance indicators, communication plans and millstones (or is that 'milestones'?), there seemed to be an increasing proportion of papers presenting research that was in the curiosity-led mode. Geographers had actually decided to find out what they wanted to find out without asking anyone's permission, having scoping sessions or referring to a strategic plan. Given that most research activity in universities and government is conducted outside the 35-40 hour working week, and the strong encouragement of involution by our funding processes, this is both moral and more likely to advance knowledge and understanding than directed research. Research teams are fun, but some individual has to think the new. If Einstein had have had a research team with him on his tram, he may not have noticed relativity in the heat of the discussions on the politics of funding of their new cosmic theory project. Then, we would not have had the environmental benefits of nuclear power, or the Scrabble-useful word 'quark'. Perhaps teams are the right approach after all.

One of the highlights of the conference was the presentation of our International Medal to Harold Brookfield, a geographer who has steadfastly addressed the real world problems of development. While the integrative, non-quantitative approach he has taken has drifted in and out of academic fashion, it has always been effective in understanding and improving the world. The International Medal recognizes the outstanding research achievements of Australian geographers elsewhere, and non-Australian geographers in Australia. Harold amply qualified on both counts. A brief citation is published here in the Newsletter, but look for the full citation in *Geographical Research*. The Council of the IAG, in its 8 am Friday morning meeting decided that citations, as well as obituaries, should be located in our international journal.

I re-read my first 'Lost in SOSE' this morning. I am pleased to report that my stated aims as President have been largely achieved in the last year, with the refocusing of our journal and some revival of the professional membership process.

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However, in the university context, geography has not gained ground, with defeat snatched out of the jaws of apparent victory on several fronts. The label ‘Geography’ is sliding into oblivion in the academic world as it becomes more and more prominent in public discourse. Academic geographers have tended to have a perpetual identity crisis, but at least in the past we were labelled correctly. The subjects of space, place and people-environment relationships will persist, and may even increase, in teaching in universities and as foci of research projects. The interdisciplinarity of geographers is now seen as an academic virtue, without being identified with us. We will need to fill the spaces created by this ‘new’ virtue, whatever their labels, and continue our discipline through the agency of the IAG and geographic journals. Thus, our focus in the near future seems likely to be the maintenance and expansion of networks of individual geographers, rather than networks of academic units.

*Jamie Kirkpatrick  
President  
Institute of Australian Geographers*

## **IAG NEWS**

### **Emeritus Professor Harold Chillingworth Brookfield**

#### **Recipient of the Australia-International Medal from the Institute of Australian Geographers**

*At the recent conference of the Institute of Australian Geographers held in Armidale, the Australia- International Medal of the IAG was awarded to Emeritus Professor Harold Chillingworth Brookfield. The medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions by Australian (or Australian-based) geographers to the advancement of geography worldwide or of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the geography of Australia by geographers permanently residing outside Australia. The following are some of the comments made at the Award ceremony. A full citation will be published in the IAG’s journal Geographical Research.*

Recently – if I might briefly ‘place drop’ – I was a thousand metres up in the interior of Madagascar, travelling through spectacular mountain scenery, with terraced rice, strawberry and various other fields. As the irrigation water descended through the tiny terraces I realised that I was actually looking at what have been called in parts of the South Pacific ‘brook fields’ – some indication perhaps that Harold was always destined to undertake work on lands and landscapes of cultivation.

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After picking up Harold and Muriel Brookfield at the Armidale train station recently, I remarked to Harold that I had just returned from Madagascar. He immediately commented that he had just been reading a good French book on highland agriculture there and wished he had known beforehand that I was going so that he could have given me a couple of key questions to seek answers to as I travelled. Harold is a man who retains a massive curiosity about the world and continues to maintain an older geographical tradition of being fluent in more than one language.

Harold gave an account of his philosophy in his 'Experiences of an Outside Man' a chapter that appeared in a collection reflecting on the impact of the quantitative revolution. Not only did he see himself as outside that revolution, and later diametrically opposed to it, but at very many times also saw himself as outside or at least on the very fringes of the geographical world, in his perspectives on that world and what he sometimes saw as irrelevance within.

I first met Harold in the early 1970s at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. There I was mainly a lone geographer and thus much encouraged to discover another who shared similar perspectives on development issues. When, a couple of years later, I went to the Australian National University it was to a Research School where his influence had certainly enabled approaches to development more in tune with local perspectives than were those of the northern hemisphere.

Though in many subsequent years we both travelled and worked in similar parts of the Pacific – New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu etc – we never worked either together or simultaneously in any one place. But, if our geographical destinations differed, I would like to believe that our intellectual trajectories varied less, though I remain, as I have always been, very much in Harold's considerable shadow. Indeed his book *Interdependent Development* became regarded by *Progress in Human Geography* as a 'classic', and Dick Bedford has described his regional geography of Melanesia, as one of the greatest of regional geographies. These are both sentiments with which I thoroughly concur.

These two are only tiny parts of Harold's work, which in total has left an enormous and ongoing legacy. As I came into this conference I picked up a couple of copies of the new journals on display – this month's issue of *Professional Geographer* has one article citing Harold's work; the current issue of *Geographical Journal* has no less than three. Yet this is a man who officially retired fifteen years ago.

For me, not only was Harold always both inside and outside – distilling, synthesizing and contributing to the wisdom of a variety of disciplines – but he was at the very centre. He is the most distinguished Australian geographer of the contemporary era. It is fitting that the IAG has recognized this and brought this most remarkable of outside men into the very centre in the best possible way.

***John Connell***

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There are an enormous number of things that could be said about someone who has had an immense influence on our discipline, not only within Australia, but internationally. Elsewhere, many have written about the significance of Harold Brookfield's contributions to geography, and a former colleague of mine, David Lea, described him as 'a giant among Australian geographers who has influenced the world stage'. However, from the huge body of writings Harold has produced in a career spanning well over half a century, two interrelated things strike me as being of particular importance.

The first text about development issues which I read as an undergraduate was Harold's book, now heralded as a classic in human geography, *Interdependent Development*. I have recently had cause to re-read this and many of Harold's other writings. While doing so, I thoroughly enjoyed the fact that they are not only accessible in terms of the language used, but there is a fundamental commonsense in all that Harold writes. Harold has survived several revolutions in geography and his research is widely acknowledged as having profoundly influenced the discipline in many ways, but especially in its emphasis on the cultural, the environmental, and on the study of perceived environments. Throughout all, though, a central theme pervades – there is an ever-present focus on the interactions between people and their environments.

Secondly, and equally important, Harold has demonstrated a tireless commitment to seeking social justice and to undertaking research which is socially relevant. I was privileged to be able to interview Harold in late 1998 as he reflected on his life's work (which continues unabated!). He commented then that the discipline of geography needed '[t]o get back to either of its two roots, either spatial patterns or the relations between people and biophysical environments, or both. Become more aware of real people.' With that central focus, geography would retain social relevance. Harold's insistence that the discipline remain grounded, practical and socially relevant has been, and remains, inspirational to generations of younger geographers.

***Barbara Rugendyke***

### **Proposal for a Political Geography Study Group**

Expressions of interest are sought from IAG Members interested in forming a Political Geography Study Group. With political geography being particularly strong and topical internationally, and many Australian researchers also doing excellent research in the area, the time is opportune to explore the possibility of establishing a group to support further work in this area. IAG guidelines stipulates at least ten members are needed for the formation of a group. Could interested members please contact Ann El Khoury (email: [aelkhour@els.mq.edu.au](mailto:aelkhour@els.mq.edu.au)), Dept of Human Geography, Macquarie University, Phone +61 2 9850 8389

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## Discounts on Blackwell Books and Journals for IAG Members

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

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

## 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  
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### *Postgraduate*

Amanda Davies  
Department of Geography and Planning  
School of Human and Environmental Studies  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351  
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## FASTS NEWS

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

### **Alarming Trend In R&D Investment Must Be Reversed**

Analysis of the budget shows Commonwealth investment in R&D will drop to below 0.6% of GDP in 2005/6 – the lowest level in two decades. The President of FASTS, Professor Snow Barlow said Australia cannot expect to maintain strong economic growth while national investment in science and R&D continues to decline as a percentage of GDP.

Despite the modest increases in R&D in *Backing Australia's Ability*, Commonwealth investment in R&D is projected to fall to 0.597% of GDP in 2005/06 – down from 0.66% in 2003-04 and 0.62% in 2004/5. Investment in R&D as a % of GDP is an important indicator of future economic growth. 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.

It would be very courageous to assert there is no correlation between investment in R&D and long term productivity and economic growth. The ageing population and future climate change are two very good reasons to ramp up our investment in science and innovation.

Reversing this decline in R&D's share of national economic activity must be a top priority for the next budget. Failure to address this urgent issue will threaten our future prosperity and result in Australia going backwards in a highly competitive global knowledge economy.

### **Third Stream Funding (Op-Ed- *The Australian*, 20 July 2005)**

The debate around the proposed Research Quality Framework (RQF) has placed 'third stream' funding for universities on the policy agenda. Third stream (also called third mission, outreach, or engagement) describes a wide range of activities where universities interact with society, in addition to the two streams of teaching and research.

Such activities are typically seen as forms of knowledge transfer where universities share their knowledge widely to communities and industry to enhance economic, cultural or regional development, industry/business linkages or sustainability.

While Australian universities routinely engage in a wide variety of these activities there is no specific, permanent funding programs to support them. The case for new money to do this is strong and growing.

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Today's universities are expected to interact more dynamically with society to better leverage their knowledge, capabilities and facilities. In other words, excellence in teaching and research is necessary but not sufficient for universities to be drivers of innovation.

The core idea of third stream funding, then, is explicit recognition that these activities are sufficiently distinct from teaching and research to warrant their own funding and policy framework.

This approach was adopted in England when it introduced such funding in 1999 and it is now well-recognised that third stream funding has contributed to increased community engagement and business-industry linkages in the UK.

As a result, many of the recommendations to enhance third stream funding by the influential Lambert Review of Business-University Collaboration have been adopted by the UK Government including increasing funding to 110m pa (A\$260m).

To ensure the integrity of an Australian program, the sector and the Government will need to consider key issues including scope, design and appropriate measures. One trap that must be avoided is the political temptation to create a 'second prize' - a slush fund for universities who might be 'losers' in the RQF process.

For good reasons, many third stream activities will focus on economic and commercial outcomes. However, developing a third stream program cannot be done in isolation of existing approaches to commercialisation of research.

FASTS and other groups are critical of the narrow conception of commercialisation that lies at the heart of current policy and debate. There is an unhealthy emphasis, both in rhetoric and performance measures, on a linear pathway from public sector research through IP/patents to spin off companies.

In reality, there are multiple pathways from universities to commercial use. Over-emphasis on the IP-Spin off model has undervalued the considerable economic impacts through adoption of knowledge into commercial exploitation by other channels. Non-exclusive transfers to industry (as exemplified by rural R&D corporations) and education and training targeted at local needs are good examples.

Two recent Commonwealth Government reports recognise the limitations of current thinking. The Co-ordinating Committee on Science and Technology report, Metrics for Research Commercialisation, recommends a wider range of measures to evaluate commercialisation performance than patents and spin-off companies, including, for instance, consultancies. While the proposals are still fairly one-dimensional, they are, at least, a step in the right direction.

A more sophisticated approach is adopted in the DEST commissioned study by Howard Partners - The Emerging Business of Knowledge Transfer. This provides a useful framework for understanding the diversity of economic benefits that flow from universities and should inform the development of a third stream program.

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While third stream activities have an important role in a comprehensive approach to economic development and commercialisation, they must not become a mere subset of such policy. There is a strong imperative to legitimise the considerable benefits to regional, environmental and cultural development through wholesale diffusion of 'public good' knowledge in, for example, environmental sciences, arts and social sciences.

The fundamental design question is whether third stream funds should be allocated on a project or competitive basis. Australia can learn from the UK experience. Initially, third stream funding was allocated to individual projects by tender. However, this undermined the capacity of universities to engage in sensible strategic planning and management of their third stream activities.

In response, the UK Government has announced funding will move toward predictable allocations based on a range of research, commercialisation and other knowledge transfer metrics.

While there are good reasons to support a competitive system, identifying appropriate performance measures is problematic as they need to account for differences across disciplines as well as between universities.

A particular challenge is recognise and enhance the informal and subtle nature of linkages that universities already have with industry, business and communities. Many academics contribute outside teaching and research through a wide range of activities including providing pro-bono expertise to high-level Government advisory committees and local community organisations as well as collaborations and consultancies with business and industry.

Ironically, there is a risk that heavy-handed bureaucratic interventions from Government and/or central management of institutions may diminish the range and nature of the outreach activities they are meant to support. We do not want a system that makes academics like lawyers billing out every minute of their working life.

The prospect of third stream funding in Australia represents an excellent opportunity to identify gaps in current policy and funding to better leverage the economic, social and environmental benefits of the ideas, knowledge and capabilities embedded in Australian universities.

Professor Snow Barlow  
President  
Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies

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## CONFERENCES

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

3-7 July 2006

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

IGU2006 Brisbane promises to be a landmark event for the geographers in the Antipodes and a worthy successor to IGU1988 Sydney. We anticipate a packed conference programme over the five days, 3 to 7 July, 2006, given the level of involvement already evidenced by Australian and New Zealander geographers as well as IGU Commissions. Offers to convene sessions, so far received, are shown in the attached document. We also are finalising a list of high-profile keynote speakers, to be publicised when confirmed.

#### ***Some Critical Dates***

The Second Circular will be released by mid-August, containing details on registration, accommodation, submission of abstracts, programme structure, field trips and other relevant information. For those seeking to contribute to programme development, the following dates are given here:

*15 August:* Deadline for acceptance of proposals to convene sessions. These proposals may originate from IGU Commissions, IAG Study Groups or any other interested source.

*24 February:* Deadline for receipt of abstracts which are eligible for consideration in specialist sessions.

*28 April:* Deadline for receipt of abstracts for inclusion in general paper sessions. (These papers may, however, be relocated into a relevant specialist session, where desirable).

#### ***Programme Development***

The conference programme will be constructed around three different session formats:

- Keynote sessions: These will be given prominence in morning time-slots, with no more than four concurrent sessions.
- Specialist sessions: These will comprise the 'mainstream' sessions convened by Commissions, Study Groups and others, built around specific themes. Depending on the numbers of papers received, ten or more concurrent sessions may occupy each time-slot.
- General Paper Sessions: These will include papers not accepted into specialist sessions.

We anticipate four ninety-minute time-slots each day but may need to extend this, depending on numbers of papers accepted for presentation. Four or five papers per session may need to be accommodated. However, keynote sessions may have

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varying formats, possibly comprising one lead speakers with discussants or a panel discussion or some other format.

***Invitation: Proposals for Keynote Sessions***

All Commissions currently involved in programme development and all IAG Study Groups are invited to propose a keynote session. Priority will be given to proposals of high academic quality, broad appeal across the discipline, contemporary relevance and/or linkage to the conference theme. We urge you to contact us promptly with your proposals, identifying a convenor and, where already decided, the name(s) of speaker(s) and the title or theme and format for this session. We will seek to timetable your keynote session to ensure continuity with your specialist sessions.

***Programme Co-ordination***

Our Programme Committee, comprising Nigel Tapper (Chair), Richard Le Heron, Phillip O'Neill and Gary Brierley will be working on an integrated conference programme, following the August 15 deadline for receipt of proposals. However, we invite all those proposing to convene sessions to scrutinise all offers so far received and undertake advance discussions with other convenors where there may be benefits in co-ordinated or joint sessions. Also, individuals wishing to offer papers in specialist sessions should now directly contact relevant session convenor(s) with their offers. Emails of convenors are shown in the attached listing. (Please note that, in due course, all abstracts must be submitted centrally via our conference website.)

Our proposed schedule will enable IAG Study Groups to engage in further planning for IGU2006 during their meetings at the Armidale conference in July. John Holmes will be available to attend Study Group business meetings to fill in any further details.

***Keeping in Touch***

Basic conference information is available on our website at [www.igu2006.org](http://www.igu2006.org) With the release of the Second Circular, this website will include full details on how to register and submit an abstract. It will also will progressively include details on the conference programme as it is developed and the texts of all abstracts as they are registered.

John Holmes  
Chair, Organising Committee  
[j.holmes@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.holmes@uq.edu.au)

Nigel Tapper  
Chair, Programme Committee  
[Nigel.Tapper@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Nigel.Tapper@arts.monash.edu.au)

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### ***Cultural Geography at the IGU Brisbane Conference***

An opportunity exists for a joint session in the area of Cultural Geography convened by the IGU's commission 'A Cultural Approach in Geography' and the IAG's Cultural Geography Study Group at the IGU Brisbane Conference in 2006.

Potential contributors are invited to offering titles, plus 100 word descriptions, of your proposed session(s). Obviously you will need to be mindful of generating enough speakers (no less than 4) for such sessions from people who will be attending the event, although speaker names do not need to be finalised at this time.

Expressions of interest are requested until the until 15th September 2005. The address for replying with session proposals is [ccr@uws.edu.au](mailto:ccr@uws.edu.au) and please mark your message 'attention Tulika'.

Kay Anderson (IGU) and Chris Gibson (IAG)

### ***International Congress of Historical Geographers***

University of Hamburg, August 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006

'Transformation Processes of Cultural Landscapes'

The Institute of Geography at Hamburg University in connection with the Geographical Society in Hamburg of 1873 will host the next International Congress of Historical Geographers in 2006, the largest meeting in its field, last held in Quebec, Canada (2001) and Auckland, New Zealand (2003).

The 2006 conference wants to address not only geographers but also all sciences interested in cultural landscape development questions. The intention is to take up long-term but also short-term processes in the change of cultural landscapes, as well as tradition of cultural heritage into the present and questions of cultural heritage preservation.

The conference wants to take up a wide range of subjects regarding the various branches of Human Geography. The aim is to compile some lectures for international comparison in selected sessions. Special concerns of the conference are

- to reconsider the methodical approach and status with regard to the contents of Historical Geography,
- to present and discuss current map-making projects for Historical Geography,
- to state more precisely the methods of taking landscape inventories for the preservation of cultural landscape elements by means of Historical Geography,

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The organizers welcome further suggestions and offer to organize adequate thematic sessions. The deadline for proposals is January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. It will be possible to update the abstract before the printing of the final programme (Spring 2006). The key dates are:

- January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006      Submission of abstracts
- February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006      Acceptance of papers

#### Conference fee

- Registration before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006    € 180.00 (graduate students/retired € 90.00)
- Registration before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006    € 240.00 (graduate students/retired € 120.00)

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[www.geowiss.uni-hamburg.de/i-geogr/ICHG.2006.html](http://www.geowiss.uni-hamburg.de/i-geogr/ICHG.2006.html)

## 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

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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

### **Grants and Awards Received**

**Natascha Klocker** (*UNSW*) was awarded an Australian Federation of University Women bursary (\$6000) to support her PhD on child domestic work in Tanzania.

**Jes Sammut** (*UNSW*) received support for a project on *Technical Training and Capacity Building Program for the Restoration of Tsunami- Impacted Brackishwater Aquaculture Ponds in Aceh*, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The grant is worth \$102,000.

**Jes Sammut** (*UNSW*), A. Mustafa (*RICA*), D. McKinnon (*AIMS*), F. Sukadi (*DGA*), P. Danoedoro (*GMU*), **Wendy Shaw and Chris Gibson** (*UNSW*) received \$732,586 for a project on *Land Capability Assessment and Classification for Sustainable Pond-Based, Aquaculture Systems*, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR),

D. McKinnon (*AIMS*), Rachmansyah (*RICA*) and **Jes Sammut** (*UNSW*). *Planning tools for environmentally sustainable tropical finfish cage culture in Indonesia and Australia*. Funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). \$745,285

**Pierrick Geeraert** (*Sorbonne*) and **Kevin Dunn** (*UNSW*) received a grant (\$9500) for their project, 'Social and spatial variations of racism in Paris and Sydney: a comparative analysis'. This project includes a novel emphasis upon spatial variations of racism. Cooperation between the *UNSW* and the *Université de Paris 1* will facilitate intellectual and methodological advances in the study of racism in both France and Australia.

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**Stuart Phinn** (*UQ*) in collaboration with Drs Pullar, McAlpine and Sharma has established the Centre for Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Science based in the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture with a seeding grant of \$1.0 million for the next four years.

**Bob Stimson** (*UQ*) has received funding of \$100,000 for a study on 'Community variations in crime: A spatial and econometric analysis'. Bob has also received ARC Discovery funding for a project entitled 'The Geography of Australia's People in Places: Processes of Change and Policy Responses'.

**Martin Bell** (*UQ*) was awarded \$100,000 for an ARC Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects Funding – Patterns of Population Mobility and Internal Migration in Australia.

**Basil van Horen** (*UQ*) Strengthening Urban Slum Upgrading and Urban Governance in Cities in Southeast Asia. \$70,000 2004, \$80,000 2005, \$72,000 2006. Granting Body - ARC Discovery Grant.

**Kathi Holt-Damant** (*UQ*) Emerging futures: Transit-oriented Development as a Strategy for Dealing with Urban Sprawl and Congestion in Southeast Queensland. \$117,000 2005, \$117,000 2006, \$63,000 2007, \$23,000 2008. Granting body - ARC Linkage Grant.

**Hamish McGowan** (*UQ*)– Dusty archives: A 10 ka Reconstruction of Wind Erosion and Climate Variability from Archives of Australian Dust Deposition. Granting body - ARC Discovery (reserve).

**Richard Hyde** (*UQ*) Re-imagining the Australian Suburb – Ecological Sustainability and Urban Development. Granting body – ARC Linkage.

Prof Paul Boreham, Prof **Martin Bell** (*UQ*), A/Prof Mark Western – Australian Social Science Data Archive: Facility Enhancement & Network Development. \$416,902 2005. Granting body – ARC Linkage LIEF.

**Hamish McGowan** (*UQ*) The Australian Dust Transport System: Characterisation and Downwind Impacts. \$100,000 2005, \$95,000 2006, \$70,000 2007. Granting body – ARC Discovery.

**Patrick Moss** (*UQ*) Late Quaternary Environments of North Stradbroke Island. \$12,000 (18/10/2004 to 31/12/2005). UQ New Staff start-up grant.

**David Neil** (*UQ*), Peter Skinner & **Basil van Horen** – Feasibility Analysis and Preliminary Development of International, Integrative Undergraduate Coursework. \$16,500 2005. Granting body – University of Queensland Faculty Strategic Funding 2004.

**Pramod Sharma** (*UQ*) A Prototype Location-Based Services System for the Tourism Industry. \$80,000 2005. Granting body – CRC Sustainable Tourism in association with Monash University and Victoria University.

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**David Wadley** (*UQ*) and Mr Peter Elliott - Impact of High Voltage Electricity Transmission Lines on Property Values. \$150,000 2005-2007 Granting Body - Powerlink Queensland.

**Stuart Phinn** received the inaugural Asia-Pacific Spatial Excellence Award from the Spatial Sciences Institute of Australia and the Australian Spatial Information Business Association, November 2004; and also the Queensland Spatial Excellence Award for Education and Professional Development from the Queensland Division of the Spatial Sciences Institute, July 2005.

**Ian Eliot** and **Matthew Tonts** (*UWA*) were awarded \$143,000 from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in WA for a study of Recreational Use of Perth's Metropolitan Beaches.

**Veronica Huddleston** and **Matthew Tonts** (*UWA*) recently started work on a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project on Socio-economic Change in the Western Rock Lobster Industry. The project is worth \$435,000 over three years.

**Matthew Tonts** (*UWA*) was recently awarded \$15,000 from the Wheatbelt Development Commission for a study on 'The Geography of Migration Amongst Rural Young People in Western Australia'.

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## NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

### **University of Queensland**

With guidance from its Teaching and Development Institute, the University has recently built several Co-operative Learning Centre laboratories. Partly experimental in nature, these facilities are developed as learning pods with considerable technological infrastructure including computer stations, screen projections, on-desk visualisers and video-conferencing capability. Staff of the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture have taken early opportunities to assess the capacity of the laboratories for innovative teaching approaches. Staff in the School have also spent much of the year planning for a review (seven year cycle) in early September.

The School of Geography, Planning and Architecture currently has a tenure-track lecturing vacancy in urban geography and would welcome any expressions of interest.

### **University of Newcastle**

The Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (Geography, University of Newcastle) hosted a national workshop on June 15 entitled "Towards an Antipodean theory of space." The workshop was organised by Natalie Moore, Phillip O'Neill and Pauline McGuirk. The workshop was funded by the ARC Research Network in Spatially Integrated Social Science (ARCRNSISS). It dove-tailed with a two-day workshop, also at Newcastle, on Methodology, Tools and Techniques. Paper givers from the Geography community included Phillip O'Neill, Pauline McGuirk, Sarah Wright, Nazeeh Almansyeh and Philip Lane (Newcastle), Kate Lloyd and Sandie Suchet-Pearson (Macquarie), Neil Argent and Robert Baker (UNE), Bill Pritchard (Sydney), Bob Stimson, Prem Chhetri, Scott Baum and Tung-Kai Shyy (Queensland). Details of papers and abstracts are at:

[www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/curs](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/centre/curs)

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

As part of an ongoing review of all degrees at UWA, the Geography programme is currently being reviewed. A recent meeting with 30 representatives of industry showed that employers still regard a Geography degree as producing graduates with an ability to deal with issues in a holistic and synthesising way. Both public and private sector organisations stressed that Geography graduates (particularly those with Honours) were readily employable and usually had a unique skills set. However, it was also noted that the proliferation of vocational degrees presented a challenge to more generic degrees, including Geography. The restructure of UWA has presented opportunities to become embedded within such degrees, with Geography majors or clusters of units now available in Natural Resource Management, Land Rehabilitation, Landscape Management, Resource Economics, Public Health, and Agriculture.

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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS/MOVES

**Stuart Pearson** has resigned from the University of Newcastle to work with Land and Water Research and Development Organisation as a Senior Knowledge Broker. His new role involves improving the application of science to natural resource management at catchment level.

**Howard Bridgman** (*Newcastle*) retired from teaching in February and now is a Conjoint Professor. He continues to supervise post-graduate research students. In the second half of 2004, he travelled to Bloomington Indiana for his last study leave, where he wrote a book entitled the *Global Climate System: Patterns, Processes and Teleconnections* with John Oliver from Indiana State University. The book will be published by Cambridge University Press at the end of the year.

**Martin Bell** (UQ) has accepted a Chair in the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture. He will also be Head of School for 2005-2007.

**Graham Jordan**, formerly head of geography and social sciences at St Paul's School, Brisbane, has been appointed co-ordinator of first year geography and other students in the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture at The University of Queensland.

**Robyn Bartel** has joined the Division of Geography and Planning at UNE. Robyn was formerly a Post Doctoral Scholar at the Australian National University.

**Veronica Huddleston** has taken up a Research Fellow position in the Institute for Regional Development at The University of Western Australia.

**Jeff Doucette** has been taken up a position in Physical Geography at UWA. Jeff is replacing Ian Eliot, who is on secondment to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

**Brian Lees** has been appointed Professor of Geography at the Australian Defence Force Academy UNSW.

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## GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...

**Tom Measham** (*CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Canberra*) is working with landholders and biophysical scientists on an evaluation study of capacity building amongst farmers in the Wallatin and O'Brien subcatchments of Western Australia involved in a Catchment Demonstration Initiative (CDI) as part of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. Whilst the CDI itself is focussed on engineering related mechanisms to reduce salinity, landholders are interested in broader issues, including sense of community and sense of place, and how these may affect their capacity to manage salinity and improve biodiversity in their catchments.

**Elaine Stratford** (*Tas*) has been working on a number of projects that maintain her position in the borderlands among cultural geography, political ecology and critical theory. A paper on Tasmania's 2020 vision – Tasmania Together – and the constitution of island identities in place, will appear in *Geoforum* in the near future, and draws on insights from her ARC Discovery project on islands, globalization and the rhetorics of sustainability.

**John Connell** (*Sydney*) was on study leave at the World Health Organisation (Geneva) for the first half of 2005 where he was involved in producing 'The Migration of Health Workers: An Overview' for the annual World Health Assembly.

**Rafe Pfitzner** and **Andrew Beer** of the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management have submitted a "Preliminary Land Capability Audit" to the Mid North Regional Development Board.

**Jes Sammut** (*UNSW*) coordinated a workshop between 28 April and 9 May entitled '*Technical Training Workshop on the Restoration of Tsunami-Impacted Brackishwater Aquaculture Ponds in Aceh*' which involved 26 Acehnese aquaculture officers. The workshop was funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and was conducted in collaboration with the Indonesian Directorate General of Aquaculture. The workshop was conducted in Aceh and Batam, Indonesia.

**David Neil** (*UQ*) visited the Solomon Islands in June 2005 to participate in a multi-disciplinary project under the auspices of the United States based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to study reef and lagoon health.

**Stuart Phinn** (*UQ*) is participating in a World Bank Global Environment Facility coral reefs project based at the University with applications in Belize, Palau, Indonesia and the Great Barrier Reef. He visited the first of these locations in April 2005.

**Hamish McGowan** is working on reconstructing the paleoclimate and associated environmental conditions for eastern Australia for the last 40,000 years and drawing parallels with the experience in the Antarctic.

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**Jim Walmsley** (*UNE*) is on Study Leave for Semester 2 2005 and is working on the future of leisure and tourism in Australia. With **Fran Rolley**, **Matthew Tonts** and **Neil Argent**, Jim is also writing a chapter on internal migration in inland Australia as a our contribution to the ARC Learned Academies Special Project on Internal Migration in Australia.

Work with AINSE's **Quan Hua** and NTU's **David Bowman** has used the radiocarbon bomb pulse to test the assumption of annual formation in *Callitris glaucophylla* and *C. intratropica* in central Australia and northern Australia. Extension into mallee Eucalyptus and mallee pines (*C. intertexta*) near Cobar has begun (Sarah Harvey, honours 2004). We have already collected extensively from the Pilliga in sites with known regeneration and disturbance histories (Rachel Gleason incomplete honours 2003).

On-going stick-nest rat midden work by **Erin Greentree** (*Newcastle*) has provided long (200-5000 years), spatially constrained (30 metres) and spatially extensive (arid zone) information about plants and animals in the Yathong Nature Reserve.

## POSTGRADUATE NEWS

**Lucyna Gayler** (*Newcastle*) has continued her PhD research on the deposits of the Paroo catchment and has also a beautiful baby boy (Gabriel). Robert DeVries has started a PhD working with massive databases and GIS models to understand rainforest dynamics. He is able to do "what if" scenarios using these models.

**Sonny Fernandez** (*Human Geography, ANU*) is on fieldwork in Northeastern Panay in Iloilo Province, The Philippines, where he is focussing on the politics of scale in marine protected area management.

**Jennifer Litau** (*Human Geography, ANU*) is in Papua New Guinea conducting fieldwork for her thesis 'Rural non-formal migration: a livelihood process in Papua New Guinea'.

**Linda Malam** (*Human Geography, ANU*) has submitted her thesis 'Encounters across difference on the Thai beach scene'.

**Katharine McKinnon** (*Human Geography, ANU*) has been admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Her thesis is entitled 'Locating Post-Development Subjects: discourses of intervention and identification in the highlands of northern Thailand'.

**Ruth Turia** (*Human Geography, ANU*) has submitted her thesis 'Cannot see the land for the trees: the forest management dilemma in Papua New Guinea'.

Graduate students in Elaine Stratford's (*UTas*) care have also been contributing to a growing program in **island studies**. **Rebecca Jackson's** doctoral work is an

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inquiry into the tensions between conservation and tourism imperatives on islands that are offshore from Australian mainland capital cities. **Carol Farbotko** is engaged in doctoral research on perceptions of climate change among the people of Tuvalu, and Elaine and Carol will travel there in early August to commence fieldwork. **Denbeigh Armstrong** will also sojourn to Newfoundland in October at the invitation of local government there, and will participate in a multi-jurisdictional forum on governance, work that draws on her cross-cultural doctoral work involving Prince Edward Island and Tasmania. **Andrew Harwood's** work on the constitution of islandness through the Ten Days on the Island festival has also been a catalyst for the development, over the period from October 2004 to the last festival in April 2005, of a new interactive educational website, **Webbing the Islands**, through which island school children from all over the world have engaged and shared work around eight themes pertinent to these geographical entities and those who reside on them.

In the domain of environmental studies, other graduate students supervised by Elaine have been working on the roles of state and non-state actors in the international governance of the Patagonian toothfish (**Liza Fallon**); on development application processes for tourism in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (**Rachelle Padgett**); and on comparative studies of UNESCO's biosphere reserve program in Australia and Canada (**Kate Matysek** – and watch for a joint publication with Elaine and Lorne Kriwoken, forthcoming in *Canadian Geographer*). **Peat Leith** continues his investigations into how scientists and farmers in Australia's rangelands are constituting the discourse of climate variability. **Dianne Gee** has just returned from field work in Kalimantan, where she has been focusing on model forests as examples of state and community partnerships for sustainability. **Duika Burges Watson's** dissertation, *Risking Carrageenan: a critical geography of prudentialism in preventive health* will be completed in early June.

In cultural geography, **Stewart Williams' (UTas)** work on crime detective fiction and the works of Poe is also due for completion in June. **Natalie Smith** has recently joined the crew from Macquarie University, and is commencing work on the topic of *Mapping Mapping: Drawing the Geographies of Between*, which will bring together insights from geography, philosophy, art and architecture. **Carol Freeman** has just completed a penultimate draft of her dissertation, which traces the visualisation of the Thylacine in zoological and natural history works during the colonial period, and will shortly address the Royal Society in Tasmania on that research.

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## An Earthquake and Tsunami of 1835: A Note

Patrick Armstrong

Geographers have contributed to the discussions on the Aceh earthquake and the subsequent tsunami that devastated large areas of the coastlands of South and South-east Asia, on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004. There has been considered comment on the causes of the initial ‘quake, through plate movement, and on pleas for the establishment of an “early warning system”. Some have pointed out that the careful attention that a young English girl paid to a geography lesson on tsunamis was responsible for her noticing early signs, and saving the lives of 100 people at a hotel in Thailand. There has been less discussion of comparisons with earlier, analogous events. A particularly detailed account of an event that was in some respects extraordinarily similar is to be found in *Charles Darwin’s Diary of the Voyage of HMS Beagle* (CUP, first published in 1933, edited by his granddaughter, Norah Barlow).

In the first few months of 1835, the young naturalist was exploring the Andes of Chile and Peru. For example, high in the Andes, in a “clay slate” he found “abundant impressions of shells, of which *Gryphaea* is the most abundant ... *Ostraea*, *Turritella*, ... small bivalves...” at the height of 12000-13000 feet (about 4000 m). Here was evidence indeed that the great range had been formed by the uplift of sediments. His experiences on the islands of the Atlantic Ocean, and his reading of Charles Lyell’s *Principles of Geology* (of which he had a copy with him on the *Beagle*) had by now convinced him that he lived in a dynamic, changing world. This was a theme that he carried with him as he explored the coral islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, developing his “theory of coral reefs”, the first draft of which he wrote just before the ship arrived in Sydney, in January 1836.

Darwin personally felt the evidence that the landscape of the Andes was unstable when he was at Valdivia, on 20 February 1835. There he experienced an earthquake.

I was on shore and lying down in a wood to rest myself. It came on suddenly and lasted two minutes... The rocking was sensible; the undulation appeared ... to travel from due East. There was no difficulty in standing upright; but the motion made me giddy. I can compare it to skating on very thin ice or to the motion of a ship in a little cross ripple.

An earthquake like this destroys the oldest associations; the world, the very emblem of all that is solid, moves under our feet like a crust over a fluid... In the forest, a breeze moved the trees, I felt the earth tremble .... At the town ... the scene was more awful ... The houses were violently shaken and creaked much, the nails being particularly drawn. ... The effect on the tides was very curious; the great shock took place at a time of low water; an old woman on the beach told me that the water flowed quickly but not in big waves to the high-water mark, and as quickly returned to its proper level. She said it flowed like an ordinary tide but a good deal quicker.

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A few days later, the ship reached Concepción: there was not a house left standing, seventy villages had been destroyed and “a great wave” had washed away almost everything that remained.

The whole coast was strewed over with timber and furniture as if a thousand great ships had been wrecked. Besides chairs tables, bookshelves etc in great numbers, there were several roofs of cottages almost entire. Storehouses were burst open.... The force of the wave must have been very great, for in the fort a gun and carriage, which ... weighed about 4 tons, was removed 15 feet upwards. 200 yards from the beach and well within the town there is now lying a fine schooner, a most strange witness to the height of the wave. ... The length of the coast which has been much affected is rather less than 400 miles.

Although the destruction was on a smaller scale – Darwin estimated that 100 people had been killed rather than over 300,000 – some of the details that he records of the earthquake and “great wave” are uncannily similar to the tsunami that affected the province of Aceh, Indonesia, and adjacent parts of South-east Asia, in December 2004.

Darwin’s observations on the earthquake and the effects of the tsunami are extremely detailed (just a few extracts are given above), and in many ways far ahead of his time. By noting the direction of the cracks in the buildings of Concepción, and analysing the accounts he had from various sources of the direction from which the wave came, he attempted to pin-point the epicentre of the ‘quake. He was not entirely successful in this, but a reading of his diary entries reveals that Darwin was not only biologist, geologist, student of animal behaviour, and anthropologist but also “something of a seismologist”.

*Patrick is Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, University of Western Australia; his book Darwin’s Other Islands was published by Continuum in late 2004.*

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