

EDITOR'S NOTE

As well as the regular up-dates (president's column, news from the council, news from the departments and updates on grants, awards and publications), this bumper edition also includes notes from the Australian Academy of Science National Committee for Geography and the Australian Heads of Geography Units Annual Meeting. A number of Geographers have also contributed accounts of recent conferences they have attended, which make interesting reading.

In this edition you will see that again Geographers have performed well in the ARC rounds, with many large grants involving cooperative partnerships between institutions. A number of Geographers have also been recognised for their contributions to research or teaching: award recipients are listed in the 'Grants and Awards' section of this newsletter.

Lastly, Tony Sorensen (University of New England), who many of you will know, has retired after 36 remarkable years of service. Tony was my PhD supervisor (with Neil Argent) and had a significant impact on my early professional development and subsequent career. I, along with all members of the IAG, wish Tony the very best of luck in his 'retirement' (Tony will continue his role as Deputy Director of the Centre for Applied Research in Social Science at UNE).

Amanda Davies
University of Western Australia

UP COUNTRY

Your President's Column

This column is being written at the start of a six week Federal election campaign that seems to have been going on for about sixteen weeks already. One of the striking things about the campaign so far is the number of times attention has turned to issues of direct relevance to the discipline of Geography: global warming, drought, urban development, regional development, international trade, globalisation, environmental degradation, migration... The list goes on. One of the unfortunate things about the election campaign is that it will inevitably stall "the other campaign", that by various organisations concerned with Geography to impress on the Federal government the need to do something about the position and state of Geography in the school curriculum. We will hopefully see renewed interest and action on this front early next year, no matter which party wins government, thereby capitalising on our meetings with the Minister and with the staff of the Leader of the Opposition, and our appearance before the Senate Standing Committee *Inquiry into Academic Standards of School Education*. Evidence for the relevance and importance of Geography to society is to be seen in many areas, not least the fact that the IPCC was the joint winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Many geographers have been involved in the work of the IPCC in various ways and I congratulate them all.

Since my last column, the IAG has held its annual conference in Melbourne. I would like to thank Ruth Fincher and the entire team of Melbourne organisers for the excellent job they did in putting together what was a very impressive conference. The IAG Council met twice during the course of the conference. It is at such meetings that changes occur in the composition of Council as a result of Council elections. In Melbourne, Phil O'Neill and Steve Turton stood down after long and very valuable service to Council. Their contributions were excellent. Their positions have been taken by Kathleen Broderick and Phil McManus. I welcome both and hope that they enjoy their time on Council.

Many academic geographers are preoccupied at the moment with the RQF exercise. This requires universities to "package" researchers into teams which then write submissions to demonstrate, to the Federal government, the quality and impact of their research. Like most new initiatives, this is discomfiting, not least because of the amount of work that is going into the exercise for, as yet, unknown monetary rewards. Underpinning the RQF exercise is the RFCDD (the Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines) classification. The Australian Bureau of Statistics is currently revising this classification. In an ideal world, there would be one overall category for "Geography" that recognised the integrated nature of the discipline. In the *realpolitik* of university funding, this is not going to happen.

The Institute has been active in trying to ensure that Geography is treated as well as possible in the revised classification. Some progress seems to have been made. “Economic geography” is to be repatriated to its rightful home in “Human geography”. And “Physical geography” at last gets recognition, at the same level in the classification as “Human geography”, in a new code called “Physical geography and environmental geoscience”. Unfortunately, “Climatology” will not appear under “Physical geography”. The atmospheric scientists seem unwilling to let it go. Similarly, the biological scientists are intent on keeping “Biogeography”. This situation is unfortunate but some progress has been made. Perhaps the next revision of the coding will see further progress.

To some, the RFCD classification might seem to be a rather abstract exercise. This is far from the truth. Governments keep statistics on how much research activity there is in various fields and how much money goes to various disciplines by recording the RFCD codes used on grant application and publication records. It is incumbent on us all, therefore, to make sure that we use an RFCD code in our work that recognises the geographical nature of our work. In my experience, the RFCD code is one of the last issues that researchers attend to in writing applications. I think we have failed to recognise its importance. I would urge all IAG members to make sure that they use the RFCD classification most relevant to Geography in all applications.

Finally, don't forget that our next conference is in Hobart in July 2008. Our recent conferences have been very impressive and I hope that you will be able to get to Tasmania next year.

Jim Walmsley
University of New England

IAG NEWS

IAG Councillors and Officers 2007-2008

<p><i>President</i> Professor Jim Walmsley School of Human and Environmental Studies University of New England dwalmsley@pobox.une.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Vice President (Immediate Past President)</i> Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania J.Kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Vice President (President Elect)</i> Professor Lesley Head School of Earth and Environmental Sciences University of Wollongong lhead@uow.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Treasurer</i> Dr Stewart Williams School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania Stewart.Williams@utas.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Secretary</i> Associate Professor Alaric Maude 26 Blyth Street Parkside SA 5063 polymaude@ozemail.com.au</p>	<p><i>Secretary (Web)</i> Ms Julie Kesby School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences Australian Defence Force Academy j.kesby@adfa.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Councillor</i> Dr Elaine Stratford School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Councillor</i> Dr Phil McManus School of Geosciences University of Sydney pmcmanus@mail.usyd.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Councillor</i> Dr Kathleen Broderick ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University Kathleen.Broderick@jcu.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Councillor and Postgraduate Representatives</i> Ms Amity James School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management Flinders University Amity.James@flinders.edu.au</p>
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NEW COUNCILLORS

Phil McManus (University of Sydney)

Phil McManus is a senior lecturer in urban and environmental geography in the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney. In Australia he has previously been employed at Curtin and Newcastle universities. Phil studied at Curtin University of Technology, York University (Canada) and has a PhD in geography from the University of Bristol. His primary reason for nominating to the IAG Council was to promote geographical education and research at a time when the continuation of geography in Australian schools and universities is under threat.

Phil's teaching is in the area of sustainable development, environmental and resource management and sustainable cities. He was the Director of Environmental Science at the University of Sydney from 2000-2004 and has extensive experience in environmental organisations, including being elected for six years to the National Council of the Australian Conservation Foundation. For the past three years Phil has also participated on judging panels for NSW Government awards for rural environmental initiatives, and for overseas study awards to support environmental education.

Phil's research includes urban sustainability, as seen in the book *Vortex Cities to Sustainable Cities: Australia's urban challenge* (UNSW Press).

He is also interested in perceptions and uses of nature, as evidenced in an ARC Discovery Grant with Glenn Albrecht (U of Newcastle) about the uses of nature, science and tradition in thoroughbred breeding, and in issues that cross urban-rural divides (current work with John Connell).

Finally, he is also involved in a team headed by John Martin (La Trobe) working on an ARC Discovery Grant looking at the changing character of farm enterprises and settlements in dryland agricultural regions of eastern Australia.

Kathleen Broderick (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority)

Kathleen is the manager of Social and Economic Information and Research at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Kathleen hails from Western Australia and has had several careers: first in education; second in natural resource management in the Western Australian government, and; recently in studying the social systems surrounding the Great Barrier Reef and its river catchments with the Coral Reef Studies Centre of Excellence. Her passion for restoration and improved management of ecosystems has now lead her on to her new role at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Kathleen completed her PhD at the University of Western Australia in 2005 and is a regular participant at the annual Institute of Australian Geographers Conference.

IAG 2008 CONFERENCE UPDATE

‘OUT OF THE COLD AT 50’

THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS, ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HOBART

Sunday 30 June – Thursday 3 July 2008

Commitments to organise sessions, workshops, debates and field discussions are sought, as are papers on any subject, of any temperature, of interest to geographers. A guided day excursion to the place reputed to have the worst climate in Australia will be available for those interested in world heritage management and glacial landforms (Thursday 3 July), as will a guided tour involving the social and economic highs and lows of greater and lesser Hobart (Sunday morning 30 June) if numbers are sufficient. Papers, workshops and other forms of sessile academic discourse will be held from Monday to Wednesday inclusive. Sunday will be devoted to meetings, including a postgraduate get together, the IAG Council meeting and the Heads meeting.

There will be a special 50th birthday dinner with appropriate music, food and dress, for those so inclined.

The conference will be held in and around the School of Geography and Environmental Studies in the Hobart Campus of the University of Tasmania. Accommodation is available in nearby colleges, motels, hotels and the casino.

Contact the conference organiser, Jamie Kirkpatrick (ph. 03 6226 2460, email: J.Kirkpatrick@utas.edu.au) to discuss any aspect of the academic program. Our upcoming website (<http://www.geol.utas.edu.au/IAG/>) has contact details for prospective sources of accommodation and facilities for registration and submission of abstracts.

JOURNAL OF GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH - NEWS

Members who attended the Annual General Meeting in Melbourne July 2007, were treated to a presentation by Rose Williams from Blackwell Publishing on the performance of the *Geographical Research*. Ms Williams showed the audience circulation figures which clearly revealed that our journal has grown in popularity. In 2006, the total number of libraries with access to *Geographical Research*, via consortia sales, increased by 31 per cent. While I am unable to publish circulation data in this newsletter (as it is commercially sensitive) Blackwell has provided us with a few other bits of interesting information.

In 2006, *Geographical Research* articles were downloaded 27,988 times, an impressive increase of 58 per cent compared to 2005.

The most downloaded articles in 2006 were:

ARTICLE TITLE	AUTHOR
The Challenge of Change: Australian Cities and Urban Planning in the New Millennium	Clive Forster
Immigration Responses to Global Change in Asia: a Review	Graeme J. Hugo
Ecologically Sustainable Development in a 'Quarry' Economy: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back	David Mercer , Peter Marden
Global Change and Southern Africa	Michael, E. Meadows
Geographical Takes on Three Decades of Economic Reform in Australia	Phillip O'Neill , Bob Fagan
Managing Environmental Impacts of Recreation and Tourism in Rainforests of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area	Stephen M. Turton
The Local Drivers of Land Degradation in South-East Asia	Ian Douglas
Decentralisation and Environmental Management in Australia: a Comment on the Prescriptions of The Wentworth Group	Marcus B. Lane , G. T. McDonald , T. H. Morrison
Reconsidering the Geography of Tourism and Contemporary Mobility	C. Michael Hall
The 'Cultural Turn' in Australian Regional Economic Development Discourse: Neoliberalising Creativity?	Chris Gibson , Natascha Klocker

By the end of 2006 there were 973 e-toc subscribers to *Geographical Research*, compared with 714 in 2005; an increase of 36 per cent.

The top 10 articles cited in 2006 were:

AUTHOR	TITLE
J.H Holmes	Geography's Emerging Cross-Disciplinary Links: Process, Causes, Outcomes and Challenges
G.M Crowley, S.T Garnett	Changing Fire Management in the Pastoral Lands of Cape York Peninsula of northeast Australia, 1623 to 1996
R. M. Argent, T. A. McMahon, J. M. Bowler, B. L. Finlayson	The Dendroecological Potential of <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> Dehnhardt (River Red Gum) from the Barmah Forest, Victoria, Australia
P.J Smailes	The Diverging Geographies of Social and Business Interaction Patterns: a Case Study of Rural South Australia
Richie Howitt	Frontiers, Borders, Edges: Liminal Challenges to the Hegemony of Exclusion
Roy Jones	Geography in Australia's New (Post-1987) Universities
Ron Johnston	Research Quality Assessment and Geography in Australia: Can Anything be Learned from the UK Experience?
Samantha Muller	Towards Decolonisation of Australia's Protected Area Management: the Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area Experience
W. S Shaw	Ways of Whiteness: Harlemising Sydney's Aboriginal Redfern
N.M Argent, F Rolley	Financial Exclusion in Rural and Remote New South Wales, Australia: a Geography of Bank Branch Rationalisation, 1981-98

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS OF THE INSTITUTE

GRIFFITH TAYLOR MEDAL

The medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded in each two year period.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each second year through the IAG list and by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS

The Fellowship is awarded for distinguished service to the Institute. No more than one Fellowship is to be awarded each year.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD

In recognition of a distinguished contribution to geographical education or for the advancement of geographical practice in Australia. Each nominee should be required to have a continuous record of IAG membership of not less than ten years. There will be a maximum of three awards annually.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

AUSTRALIA-INTERNATIONAL MEDAL

In recognition of either outstanding contributions by Australian (or Australia-based) geographers to the advancement of Geography world-wide or of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the geography of Australia by geographers permanently residing outside Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded each year.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

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. Rachel Hughes
Geography Program
University of Melbourne VIC 3010
<hughesr@unimelb.edu.au>

Economic Geography

Professor Philip O'Neill
Director Urban Research Centre
University of Western Sydney
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith South DC NSW 1797
p.oneill@uws.edu.au

Rural Studies

Dr. Amanda Davies
School of Earth and Geographical Studies
The University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway, CRAWLEY
Western Australia, 6009
<adavies@cyllene.uwa.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

Dr. Nicholas Gill
School of Earth and Environmental Science
University of Wollongong
NSW 2522 Australia
<ngill@uow.edu.au>

GIScience

Dr. Amy L. Griffin
School of Physical, Environmental and
Mathematical Sciences
UNSW@ADFA
<A.Griffin@adfa.edu.au>

Rural Studies Group

Rural Geographers were well represented at the recent IAG conference in Melbourne, with almost three full days of 'rural' papers. The Rural Studies Group organised three themed paper sessions, attracting many very interesting papers.

Papers for the *Geographies of Sea Change/ Tree Change* session were contributed by: **Jim Walmsley, Renee Fulton, John Connell and Phil McManus, Lesley Crowe-Delaney, Margaret Reynolds and Maryann Wulff, and Amity James.**

For the *Contemporary Rural Transitions* session there were only two (although very well received) papers. The presenters in this session were **Simon Batterbury and Neil Argent.**

The third session *Natures of Rural Geography* was co-sponsored by the Environmental Sustainability Study Group (convened by Nick Gill, Amanda Davies and Neil Argent). There were eight papers for this session, and speakers included: **Emily Mendham, Michael Roche, Peter Klepeis, Megan Farrelly, Lesley Head, Jacquie Dibden, Neil Argent and John Holmes.**

A rural cultural session organised by the ARC Cultural Research Network (convened by Kate Darian-Smith, Chris Gibson and Andrew Gorman-Murray) also provided another forum for rural geographers to present their research. This session had 10 papers, covering a range of very interesting topics. **Brad Ruting** presented a lively talk on 'Bagpipes in the Bush', with many in the audience surprised to learn that Brad is still completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Sydney. Well done Brad!

The annual meeting of the study group was held mid conference. At this meeting members discussed possible events that could be held in association with the 2008 IAG Hobart conference. If you have any ideas please forward these to Amanda Davies as soon as possible adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY

The Committee held its 2007 meeting on October 18 in Canberra. Our discussion included the following issues.

- The national discussions about Geography in Schools, spearheaded by the IAG, the Royal Geog. Soc. Qld and AGTA have had positive outcomes and involvement by a number of geographical bodies, including the NCG. We agreed to participate in follow up activities with the incoming Education Minister, after the Federal election. The document that came out of these activities, 'Australians Need Geography' is a very useful resource and it will be posted on the Academy website. (For a pdf copy, contact Kath Berg at admin@rgsq.org.au)
 - There was lengthy discussion of the RQF and its implications for Geography. The submissions by different universities are likely to provide
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useful summary resources about the state of Geography in different parts of Australia. If the submissions do not become public documents, we agreed to try and collect these and make them widely available after the process is over.

- Many geographers have been involved in the IPCC process and should thus share in some of the kudos of the recent Nobel Peace Prize. We are collating a list of all Australians involved to further publicise the work of geographers – please send names and roles to Brian Lees (brian.lees@adfa.edu.au).
- University geographers are reminded that AGTA has a very useful website that includes careers in geography (<http://www.agta.asn.au/>) (<http://www.geocareers.net.au/aboutus.htm>) and has potential links to all uni departments. Heads of units are asked to forward details to rberry@melbpc.org.au

Lesley Head

Chair (lhead@uow.edu.au)

**REPORT ON THE AUSTRALIAN HEADS OF GEOGRAPHY
UNITS
ANNUAL MEETING
Held at University of Melbourne, 1st July 2007**

Representatives from each department represented reported briefly on enrolments, research performance and other issues relevant to their activities. In general, there were no ‘major crises’. However, at two institutions (Edith Cowan and QUT) the academic unit hosting geography was under threat, although it seemed that geography itself was not. Both situations seemed very fluid.

Departments seem to be linked to a diverse range of degree programs and to be doing well financially, sometimes as a matter of good fortune. Masters coursework programs are successful overall and provide a useful source of income. This sense of stability contrasts with Heads’ meetings of a few years ago where there was a real sense of desperation at times.

A number of new academic appointments were noted. This was seen as a very positive sign.

Priya Rangan (Monash) reported on the difficulty of GIS teaching and services. Despite high demand for people with applied GIS skills, there is limited enrolment in GIS subjects offered at undergraduate level, but a significant level of interest in, and use of, applied GIS among existing and potential Higher Degrees by research students. However, neither of these are sufficient in EFTSU terms to justify increased resourcing for GIS in terms of additional academic staff. Priya asked whether a similar situation prevailed in other geography programs, and asked the group to share their experiences regarding GIS teaching.

Ian Rutherford and Ruth Fincher (Melbourne) reported to the group on the status of the “Melbourne Model”, the move to a 3+2 American model which commences in 2008 with the introduction of 6 new generation degrees. This is bringing about an enormous amount of restructuring within the university and in Geography as well. SAGES will move into the Faculty of Land and Food and will go from 40 down to 15-20 academics. The teaching load will be moved to the PG level and, in theory, every academic will teach one UG and one PG course.

There was an extensive discussion about the RQF Geography trial that involves UNSW Kensington and UNSW@ADFA. Several key points were raised in the discussion on the overview of the process of the trial. As most of us are now working with the run-up to the real thing, this is probably no longer relevant.

Jim Walmsley noted that it was important for Geography to speak with one voice, and to this end there should be a formal link between the Heads meeting and the IAG. Jim proposed the following:

- Invite the President of the IAG, or nominee, to the Heads meeting, and
- Current Chair of the Heads meeting to write a column for the IAG newsletter.

There was unanimous agreement among attendees to the above propositions.

Bruno Parolin observed that he had served his official two year term as Chair of the committee (actually a 3 year term) and now felt it was appropriate to stand down.

The meeting confirmed Brian Lees as the new Chair for a term of two years and extended its sincere thanks to Bruno Parolin for his efforts over the past three years.

Alaric Maude mentioned that the IAG will turn 50 next year, something to think about in planning for the next meeting in Hobart

Brian Lees
UNSW@ADFA

FASTS NEWS

FASTS have prepared two tables using data from ABS to identify the amount of money spent on R&D in higher education institutions (down to 6 digit code level for both RFDC and SEO codes for 2000, 2002 and 2004).

Bradley Smith, Executive Director of FASTS writes:

The tables were compiled to inform our arguments/lobbying with Ministers Bishop and Costello, ABS, DEST and Treasury to revise the RFCD codes before any introduction of an RQF. The data reinforces our strong view the codes need comprehensive revision.

In brief, the ABS 6 digit level data is pretty much useless – although the data might still be of considerable interest for societies looking at distortions, gaps etc in relevant disciplines (4-digit) and subjects (6 digit).

The problem is not just the codes do not adequately reflect research (as evidenced – in part - by the high, and growing, proportion of ‘other’) but also some universities do not provide data below 4 digit level (and not only, I gather, because of problems coding multi-disciplinary work – one institution will not provide ABS with any data below 4 digit level).

As I am sure many of you will be aware – ABS collects RFCD and SEO data in three hierarchical levels - 2 , 4 and 6 digit codes. In the tables you will notice that a lot of 4-digit codes have a 00 suffix. This is used when universities cannot allocate at the 6 digit (xxxx01 – xxxx99) level. The xxxx99 is used as an ‘other’ category.

FYI - The % share of total expenditure on R&D by higher education institutions categorized as ‘other’ (xxxx99) codes in 2000, 2002 and 2004 was 15.94%, 16.95% to 19.49% (respectively) for RFCD codes.

When ‘xxxx99’ and ‘xxxx00’ codes are added, they constitute 29.4%, 27.79% and 32.6% of the \$s spent in the same years making it pretty much impossible to do any useful work on subject trends.

The corresponding figures for SEO codes are, 17.87% (29.5%); 17.99% (24.52%) and 20.32% (29.61%).

Within some disciplines the % of ‘other’ is considerably higher.

Despite the limitations of the data, some of you may also want a feel for what the changes in expenditure means in real terms. The \$ for each year are expressed in the respective current year prices. To convert to chain volume measures (effectively real terms), using 2004 as the reference year, multiply 2002 figures by 1.0586 and 2000 figures by 1.1394

Editorial Note: Due to the size of the tables they have not been included in this newsletter. If you would like me to email you an electronic version of both tables please email your request to adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

CONFERENCES

XII World Congress of Rural Sociology 6-11 July 2008, Goyang, Korea

The XII World Congress of Rural Sociology is fast approaching. Information on how to submit session proposals can be found at the International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA) web site at:

<http://www.irsa-world.org/XII/program/index.html>

AGRI-FOOD XIV

25th – 29th November 2007

The University of Queensland, Brisbane

Sponsored by the University of Queensland and Griffith University

Organisers invite the submission of papers from people currently undertaking social scientific research on agri-food systems. Topics can include any aspect of the political or social life of food, and we are eager to hear from those who have proposals for panel sessions and symposia. Post-graduate students are particularly encouraged to present papers at the conference.

Third State of Australian Cities Conference

28th – 30th November 2007

University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia

Jointly hosted by the University of South Australia, Flinders University and the University of Adelaide.

The Adelaide conference has a focus on the Growth, Sustainability and Vulnerability of Urban Australia. It will be a working research conference extending over three full days, providing participants with the opportunity to report on and learn about current research on issues related to urban and regional sustainability and to identify research gaps for future exploration and funding. The conference will be an important forum for established researchers but will also include space for early career academics and doctoral students.

Emergent Geographies: a Geography postgraduate student conference

15th November 2007, The University of NSW

Hosted by The Geographical Society of NSW.

The conference is intended to provide a forum for postgraduate students, at whatever stage of their candidature, to present their research in a fairly relaxed and friendly environment. It will also be an excellent opportunity to meet other postgrad students and academics from various universities in NSW, and connect with the broader geography community.

<http://www.gsnsw.org.au>.

5th International Conference on Geographic Information Systems

2-5 July 2008, Fatih University in Istanbul, Turkey.

The ICGIS-2008 will combine various activities to meet the needs and expertise of participants from both private and public sectors. Panel sessions, paper and poster presentations, exhibition, courses, GIS project competition, special workshops, and 'GIS for Teachers' promise to bring together hundreds of people creating a vibrant

venue to network and examine the latest technology and services in GIS offered by different institutions.

<http://icgis2008.fatih.edu.tr/>

**International Geomorphology Conference – 2009
Melbourne Convention Centre**

Meredith Orr and David Dunkerley (*Monash*) are on the organising committee for this conference, which will be the first time that this 4-yearly conference has been held in the southern hemisphere. About 1000 delegates are expected.

See <http://www.anzgg.org>

**Geographies of Higher Education Reform - AAG
15-19 April 2008, Boston**

Organizers: John Paul C. Catungal and Kate Geddie (University of Toronto)

Discussant: Kris Olds (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

This session seeks papers that deal with the socio-cultural, political and economic geographies of higher education governance reform, particularly by taking up the broad motif of "changes and challenges." Whether in terms of the changing prioritization of the multiple objectives of higher education institutions and systems, or challenges posed by varying socio-political climates, we welcome papers that explore the shifting scales, landscapes, and topographies of governance, as well as the implications of these changes within and outside the academy.

**Geography and Indigenous Peoples -AAG
April 15-19 2008, Boston Massachusetts:**

The Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group (IPSG) invites scholars working on issues that involve Indigenous peoples, across all regions and specializations within Geography, to participate in IPSG-sponsored sessions. Indigenous-Geography issues operate on the forefront of Postcolonial Theory, Cultural Studies, and Critical Theory, as well as addressing issues of human rights, protected areas, environmental management, borders and mobility, and much, much more.

If your work intersects with Indigenous issues, consider participating in one of our sessions, or if you have a session that pertains to indigenous people and their issues, please let us know that we may look into (co-)sponsorship. Every year, the IPSG sponsors a range of sessions, some of which are conceptualized from the start, and some which come together out of the diverse interests expressed by potential participants.

Please view the IPSG website for full information on these and forthcoming sessions.

<http://www.pacificworlds.com/ipsg/meetings.html>:

Governing Climate Change: new politics, new discourses, new geographies

Organisers: Diana Liverman, Tyndall Centre, University of Oxford
Harriet Bulkeley, Tyndall Centre, Durham University
Max Boykoff, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford
Julian Agyeman, Tufts University

Organisers invite papers which examine these new politics, discourses and geographies of climate change governance, and which consider their implications for socio-environmental justice.

<http://aag.org/annualmeetings/2008/abstract.htm>

Land Use and Land Degradation: Land Degradation Processes, Dynamics of Land Degradation.

5-13 June 2008, Taiwan-Japan.

A COMLAND meeting (with field trips in Japan and Taiwan).

Organisers: Professor Jiun-Chuan, Department of Geography, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, and Prof Takashi Oguchi, Center for Spatial Information Science, The University of Tokyo, Kasahiwano, Japan.

<http://www.taolin.com.tw/comland/comland.html>

International Geographical Union (IGU) Congress

August 2008, Tunisia.

Sorry, no further information has been received.

GRANT AND AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

IAG Honours Award

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

The papers will be reviewed independently by at least two referees and considered for publication in the normal way. The editors will judge which paper receives the

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

IAG Postgraduate Paper Award

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

For further details on both of the above awards contact:

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

Brian McLoughlin Postgraduate Award

The Brian McLoughlin Postgraduate Award had been established by Urban Policy and Research to honour the memory of Brian McLoughlin and to encourage new and emerging scholars in fields such as urban planning, human geography, urban sociology and housing studies. Brian, who died in 1994, was Chair of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Melbourne. His most well-known publication is probably *Shaping Melbourne's Future. Town Planning, the State and Civil Society* (1994), which presents a theorised and empirically-grounded study - still-unequaled in Australian planning literature - of the effects of planning policies and practices and their unintended consequences for urban spatial form.

The recipient of the Award will receive a cash amount of AUS\$1,000 and one year's free subscription to Urban Policy and Research. In addition to the main prize Urban Policy and Research can award the designation of high commendation, with a year's free subscription to the journal, to those submissions that come close to the level of the award winner in a given year.

The paper must be based on work undertaken for a higher degree at a university in the Asia-Pacific Region. It can be submitted during the period of enrolment but no later than one year after the award of a higher degree. All papers must be single

authored. Papers should be submitted to the Editors of Urban Policy and Research before the 15 October of each year. Manuscripts must not exceed 5000 words (inclusive of references) and it should be indicated that the paper is to be considered for the Award. Three hard copies or one electronic copy of the paper should be submitted and must follow the style conventions of Urban Policy and Research (see "Notes for Contributors" in the journal). The papers will be reviewed independently by at least two anonymous 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 editors will be published in Urban Policy and Research. The Editors of the journal will have sole discretion as to whether the paper will be published. Urban Policy and Research reserves the right not to make an award in any year.

Papers can be submitted either by post to
Urban Policy and Research
School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning
RMIT University, GPO Box 2476V, Melbourne VIC 3001
or by email to upr@rmit.edu.au

GRANTS AND AWARDS RECEIVED

In April 2007, The University of Cambridge awarded **Colin Woodroffe** the degree of Doctor of Science. A Doctor of Science is a prestigious degree awarded on the basis of a collection of published works which make a distinct and original contribution to the advancement of science or learning. Colin's research has focused on the way in which coastal landforms change. His publications include a scholarly book, entitled *Coasts, form process and evolution*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2003, as well as more than 100 scientific papers in prestigious journals.

Michael Adams (University of Wollongong) was awarded a Carrick Award for Teaching Excellence, the highest award for teaching and learning in Australia. This award will be conferred by the Federal Minister for Education at a ceremony at Parliament House in November, and is accompanied with prize money of \$25,000. Dr Adams is one of only three NSW academics to receive an Award for Teaching Excellence, and this is a timely acknowledgement of Dr Adams' commitment to teaching and learning, and in particular his dedication to innovation in the area of experiential learning in indigenous and environmental education.

Barbara Rugendyke (University of New England) received a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (\$10,000) in the 2007 Carrick Australian Awards for University Teaching. The Citation was 'For inspiring students to envisage and pursue greater global equity through stimulating cross-cultural understanding, global awareness and critical thinking about development issues'.

Mike Morwood and Penny van Oosterzee's (University of New England) 2007 book *The Discovery of the Hobbit: the Scientific Breakthrough that Changed the Face of Human History* (Random House, Sydney) won the John Mulvaney Book Award at the Australian Archaeological Association Annual Conference.

John Connell (University of Sydney) was a joint recipient of the MacDonal Holmes Award this award in 2007, (along with Dr. Grant Kleeman Macquarie University). Over many years John Connell has contributed enormously in the areas of teaching, supervision, research, sartorial excellence and previously as Head of the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney.

Lee Arnold won an ARC Discovery Project (with post-doctoral fellowship) to commence in 2008 entitled 'Pleistocene evolutionary dynamics and past environments of Siberia: Reconstructions using luminescence dating of ancient DNA sedimentary archives' (\$338,000). This study will yield critical new insights into faunal-environment interactions in Siberia and their long-term implications for the evolution and extinction of Siberia's biota. These fundamental issues are of relevance to Australian archaeology, palaeontology and biogeography, and so our discoveries are of direct interest to Australian researchers studying these disciplines. The methodological advancements in OSL dating and DNA techniques that will accompany this research will enhance Australia's international scientific standing and create new opportunities for collaborative initiatives in both cutting-edge scientific research and consulting activities.

Adam Brumm won an ARC Discovery Project (with post-doctoral fellowship) to commence in 2008 entitled 'A reassessment of early human stone technology from a Southeast Asian perspective' (\$280,000). Project Summary: The study of early stone technology is crucial to our understanding of human evolution worldwide, providing insight into the capabilities of our earliest ancestors. Current models focus on the evidence from Africa and Europe, potentially marginalising the importance of eastern Asia in the global development of early human stone technology. This impacts how nations and communities in our region interpret themselves to the world and reduces the impetus of innovative research on this subject. The proposal aims to establish detailed comparisons between Southeast Asian and 'Western' technologies, providing a suitable framework through which current preconceptions can be more rigorously assessed.

Bert Roberts and Allan Chivas (University of Wollongong) won an ARC Discovery project to commence in 2008 entitled 'Monsoons and migrations: Quaternary climates, landscapes and human prehistory of the Arabian peninsula and the Indian subcontinent' (\$580,000). By providing important new data on the initial dispersal of *Homo sapiens* from Africa to Australia via Arabia and India, this project will improve our knowledge of the time-depth of cultural connections between indigenous Australians and other societies. It will provide a long-term perspective on the impact of climate change on hunter-gatherer communities, and will contribute to NRP Safeguarding Australia by increasing our understanding of cultures in Arabia and India. Technical advances made in this study will benefit researchers worldwide, increase capacity for commercial services, and enhance Australia's international standing in the geosciences. We will also train high-quality research students and create new collaborative initiatives.

Chris Gibson (University of Wollongong), Jim Walmsley (University of New England) and Ross Gibson (UTS) won an ARC Linkage Grant to commence in 2008 entitled 'Cultural Asset Mapping for Planning and Development in Regional Australia' (\$866,000 + \$987,000 industry partner in-kind contributions). The collaborating/partner organisations are: Regional Arts NSW; the Local Government & Shires Association of NSW; The Australia Council for the Arts; Canberra Arts Marketing; the City of Wodonga; Albury City; Uralla Shire Council; Armidale Dumaresq Council; Wollongong City Council and Central Darling Shire Council. Project Summary: At a time when the environmental, social and industrial bases of regional life are changing markedly, this project examines ways that many areas in Australia might revitalise their economies and communities by engaging in new approaches to the arts and creative activity. For consumers and producers alike, many non-metropolitan regions in Australia offer opportunities for enhanced cultural activity and productivity and quality of life. But these opportunities have not yet been thoroughly observed, described or analysed. This project addresses this serious gap in knowledge and gives policy-makers, planners and regional and rural communities crucial information they need to decide their futures.

Allan Chivas and ten other researchers from the **University of Wollongong's** School of Earth and Environmental Sciences won an ARC Linkage Equipment Infrastructure grant to commence for 2008 for A stable-isotope mass spectrometer for novel determinations of past temperatures (\$250,000). Project Summary: Much of the Australian landscape is subject to a dry and evaporative climate, making it very difficult to use conventional geochemical techniques to estimate past temperatures, even on short timescales of tens to hundreds of years. The application of a new isotopic technique to preserved carbonate minerals (soil carbonate, shells in rivers, lakes and the ocean) avoids the difficulty of this variable evaporation, and directly measures past temperatures. This will have a profound effect on our understanding of environmental changes on both short and long time scales, and permit a better understanding of the hydrological balances within the landscape.

Nick Gill and **Michael Adams (University of Wollongong)** were awarded a University of Wollongong ESDF Grant entitled 'Principles and practice for fieldtrips in a multi-campus teaching environment Part One: Developing and integrating fieldtrips into teaching, assessment and student interaction across multiple campuses'.

Allan Chivas and **Adriana Garcia (University of Wollongong)** were awarded \$199,216 by the NSW Environmental Trust for the project: 'Natural versus Human Impacts: Management of the Macquarie Marshes'. This is a collaboration with Paul Hesse at Macquarie and Scott Mooney at UNSW.

Chris Gibson, Gordon Waitt, Nick Gill, Marji Puotinen and **Andrew Gorman-Murray (University of Wollongong)** were awarded \$10,000 as a GeoQuest Research Centre Strategic Research Grant for a project entitled 'A Human Geography of social cohesion and Australian families'.

Roy Jones and Alan Pilgrim (Curtin) were awarded \$90,000 from the Desert Knowledge CRC for Stage 2 of their 4WD Desert Tourism project.

Tim Dolin and Roy Jones (Curtin) were awarded an ARC Discovery grant valued at \$123,916 for a study entitled 'An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Literary Tourism and Literary Subjectivity'.

Amanda Davies (University of Western Australia) with **Kerry Carrington, John Scott, Tony Sorensen, Richard Stayner, Fran Rolley (University of New England)** and **Mathew Tonts (University of Western Australia)** were awarded \$200,000 by Rural Industries Research Development Corporation to investigate the social and economic factors of rural community resilience.

Matthew Tonts and Amanda Davies (University of Western Australia) were awarded \$77,000 by the Department of Education and Training to continue their investigations into rural and regional labour markets. This study will focus specifically on the booming Goldfields region of Western Australia.

Rebecca Dobbs Emporia State University received a \$US 108,600 contract from the US Bureau of Reclamation for an applied project involving spatial interaction between reservoirs and population in California.

Tony Sorensen was part of a **University of New England** Agriculture-Law team that won a \$480,000 NSW Climate Adjustment Grant (CAG) to investigate the development of ethanol from ligno-cellulose feedstock. Although most of the project concerns the chemistry of the ethanol process, it also has clear geographical dimensions.

Dr I Takken, and A/Prof JC Croke (UNSW@ADFA) with Dr PN Lane; Dr GJ Sheridan; Dr AA Webb were successful in the recent ARC Linkage round with their project: Developing a Decision Support System (DSS) for the management of road runoff for water quality protection (\$290,000).

Richie Howitt, Kevin McCracken, Robyn Dowling, Frank Siciliano and Bob Fagan (Macquarie University) are part of a new ARC Linkage Grant awarded to researchers in Macquarie's Centre for Research on Social Inclusion (CRSI). The project will explore evaluation of community capacity building initiatives in Sydney with partners from the community sector.

Mike Poulsen, Jim Forrest (Macquarie University) and Ron Johnston (Bristol) received a new ARC Discovery Grant (2008-2010) to continue their investigation of contemporary ethnic segregation in major global cities. Their project will portray and assess the Australian situation relative to that in comparative countries and in doing so to place the so-called crisis in multiculturalism and proposed responses into context within the Australian scene.

Jim Forrest (Macquarie University) is part of a team led by **Kevin Dunn (UNSW)** which was awarded an ARC Linkage grant for a project titled Constructing regionally appropriate anti-racism strategies. Partner organisation for this project are the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Equal Opportunity Commission of South Australia and Victorian Equal Opportunity &

Human Rights Commission.

The following geographers have recently qualified for the award of PhD

Max Kwiatkowski's (University of Sydney) thesis was entitled 'Backwards, Forwards and In-Between: Nostalgic landscapes, Photography, Identity and the Return Home'. Max was supervised by **John Connell**.

Alison Gates' (University of Sydney) thesis was entitled 'Acclimatisation as embryonic environmentalism: The role of acclimatisation societies in south-eastern Australia'. Allison was supervised by **Phil McManus**.

Viliam Phraxayavong's (University of Sydney) thesis was entitled 'A History of Aid to Laos: Motivations and Impacts'. Viliam was supervised by **Philip Hirsch**.

Daniel Robinson's (University of Sydney) thesis was entitled 'Biodiversity related traditional knowledge in Thailand: Intellectual property relations and geographies of knowledge regulation'. Daniel was supervised by **Philip Hirsch**.

Kim Doohan (Macquarie University) completed her PhD with Vice Chancellor's Commendation for Excellence. The thesis reviews the development of relations between the Aboriginal owners of the Argyle Diamond Mine and the mine operators.

Sarah Prout (Macquarie University) completed her PhD investigating Aboriginal mobility and its implications for service delivery agencies operating around Meekatharra, WA. Sarah is now working as a postdoctoral researcher with John Taylor in ANU's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research.

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

University of Wollongong

There have been a number of promotions and changes of position at the University of Wollongong. **Lesley Head** has been appointed Head of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Promotions include **Nick Gill**, who was promoted to Senior Lecturer and **Chris Gibson**, who was promoted to Associate Professor.

New appointments at Wollongong include **Sol Buckman**, previously from the **University of South Australia**, who was appointed as Lecturer in Earth Resources and **Andrew Gorman-Murray** who has been appointed as Research Fellow in Human Geography

University of New England

Tony Sorensen 'retired' in August after 36 year of service, though not in practice having returned the following day. He is continuing his role as Deputy Director of the UNE Centre for Applied Research in Social Science and, in an adjunct capacity is involved in several ongoing research projects. "Retirement" seems only to mean that he doesn't appear in his office until 8.15am

Neil Argent and **Tony Sorensen** attended the quadrennial meeting of *English-speaking Rural Geographers* in Spokane (Washington State) in mid-July. This conference, which brings together leading ruralists from the UK, Ireland, the US, Canada and the antipodes, was an outstanding success. It combined numerous excellent papers with excellent networking opportunities, along with the scenic attractions of northern Idaho.

This year's annual conference of the IGU Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems was held in Rabat, Morocco. Tony Sorensen is the Australian representative on the CSRS steering committee and attended, finding the event stimulating - in more ways than one as he found himself walking through fields of marihuana near Chefchaouen in the Rif Mountains. "Spies" report that they saw **Tony Sorensen** and **Roy Jones (Curtin)** scrambling among piles of 'rocks' at the site of the Roman city of Lixus.

Jim Walmsley, Tony Sorensen, Fran Rolley, Raj Rajaratnam and **Alison McIntosh** – worked with UNE sociologists (including Professors Kerry Carrington and Michael Bittman) to complete an important report for the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIaC). The report, entitled *The Social Costs and Benefits of Migration into Australia*, parallels the recent Productivity Commission equivalent on the economic benefits of migration, and draws attention to significant successes of Australia's migration programs.

University of Western Sydney

Kay Anderson has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Human Geography at Western Sydney is continuing to expand, with a forthcoming appointment of a new Chair (recently advertised). Following this appointment, it is anticipated that there will be some new human geography lectureships over the next year or so.

Macquarie University

Meg Sherval (who recently completed her PhD) was appointed as a lecturer B in July 07. Meg's research interests are in the effects of Globalisation and the creation of resource peripheries, sustainable resource development, and emerging and transitional economies.

Macquarie University has established a new Bachelor of Planning program, which will commence 2008. Human Geography at Macquarie have also had approved a number of revised or new postgraduate programmes. These include – a revised Masters of Arts plus Postgrad Certificate and Diploma in Human Geography; a new collaboration with the Australian Centre for Educational Studies offering a Masters, Postgrad Diploma and Postgrad Certificate in Geographical Education; and Australia's first tertiary qualifications in Social Impact Assessment with a Postgrad Certificate and Postgrad Diploma in SIA.

These programmes further strengthen human geography at Macquarie

University of Sydney

Many geographers would be familiar with the Madsen Building at the University of Sydney. For quite a number of months now this building has been a demolition and construction site. The building itself is intact, but the inside has been substantially altered. Information Technology, which was on the third floor, have a new building on Cleveland St., and finally the School of Geosciences is being housed in the one building!

Melissa Neave was promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer, effective 1 January 2008.

Professor **Andrew Short** has retired after many years of distinguished service at The University of Sydney. Andy's work on beaches and coastal management is internationally recognised and is an enormous contribution to understanding the geography of Australia. Like many "retired" academics, Andy is busy doing funded research, supervising postgraduate students and so on.

Dr. **Krishna Shrestha** (Geography PhD, 2005) has returned to The University of Sydney as a Lecturer in Environmental Planning and Management in the Urban and Regional Planning program. The faculty forward to cooperating and working with Krishna in future years.

Professor **Gill Valentine (Leeds)** has been awarded a University of Sydney International Visiting Fellowship. Dates for her visit are still to be finalised, but looks like a few weeks early in 2008.

Dr. **Phil McManus** has been in the news lately with an opinion piece in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and being quoted in a number of different articles about the Equine Influenza outbreak in Australia. The media work builds on previous research in the Upper Hunter and current research with Associate Professor **Glenn Albrecht (U. of Newcastle)** looking at the uses of nature and tradition in thoroughbred breeding.

The **Australian Mekong Resource Centre** (School of Geosciences) co-hosted a major conference on the Mekong with AusAID, in partnership with Oxfam Australia. The conference also provided a venue for public discussion of the recent

White Paper on the aid program, and it was the occasion for the launch of AusAID's new Mekong Regional Strategy by the Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Greg Hunt. A diverse range of approximately 150 NGO, government, academic, international organization and community participants from all the Mekong countries, Australia and elsewhere brought diverse perspectives and lively debate to the meeting on 26-27 September 2007. See <http://www.mekong.es.usyd.edu.au/conference07/index.htm> for further details.

From November 2007 until February 2008, the School of Geosciences will be host to three senior scholars from Bogor Agricultural University (Indonesia), the Bangalore University of Agricultural Sciences (India), and Tay Nguyen University (Vietnam). The visiting scholars will work together with **Phil Hirsch**, **Jeff Neilson** and **Bill Pritchard** on a research activity under the theme 'The Non-state Regulation of Agricultural Trade', which includes a comparative study of environmental governance in the coffee sectors of India, Indonesia and Vietnam. The visiting scholars are funded by AusAID under the Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship (ALAF) Program. The ALAF Program aims to further the intellectual development of current and aspiring leaders from priority countries who are in positions to advance key regional policy issues, by providing them with high quality and continuing access to Australian expertise.

Farshad Amiraslani (PhD candidate at the University of Sydney) was selected from amongst applicants from nearly 60 countries for the Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship 2007. He is a PhD candidate in the field of Physical Geography, with the research title of "Modelling of vegetation benchmarks and indicators for management and control of degraded ecosystems". He is supervised by Associate Professor Deirdre Dragovich.

Curtin University

Roy Jones took up the position of Dean, Centre for Research and Graduate Studies, Division of Humanities in February. He was replaced in the Geography Programme by Associate Lecturers **Shaphan Cox** (Semester 1) and **Graham Thompson** (Semester 2)

Roy Jones, **Colin Ingram** and **Andrew Kingham** presented the paper 'Local Development at Australia's North West Cape: Sustaining Natural, Pastoral or Scientific Heritages?' at the International Geographical Union, Commission on Sustainable Rural Systems International Colloquium held at the Universite Mohammed V Agdal, Rabat.

Roy Jones, **Alan Pilgrim** and **Graham Thompson** presented the paper 'Environmental Impacts or Environmental Management?' at The Views of Event Organisers and Event Hosts in Western Australia.

Roy Jones and **Alan Pilgrim** convened the session 'The Environmental Impacts of Tourism and Recreation' at the 2007 Institute of Australian Geographers Conference in Melbourne. Both presented papers at this conference.

University of New South Wales @ ADFA

Brian Lees has been appointed Adjunct Professor of the State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information Systems (LREIS), Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing.

Brian Lees has also been recently appointed Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* and the Head of the School of Physical, Mathematical & Environmental Science, UNSW@ADFA.

Jacky Croke has been elected to the role of **Discipline Coordinator** for Geography for the School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences. Jacky will represent the geographers in the school from September 2007 until 30 June 2009.

Paul Tranter's research on child-friendly environments continues to attract interest from organisations concerned with children's rights. Paul has recently been collaborating with **Scott Sharpe** on the topic of "children and peak oil". A paper on this topic, titled "Children and peak oil: an opportunity in crisis" recently appeared in the *International Journal of Children's Rights*.

This year, Paul has presented his research at the following forums:

- Keynote Speaker at Walking School Bus Forum, Canberra, March 2007
- Keynote Speaker at ACT Children's Plan Community Network Forum, June 2007 – Creating Child Friendly Environments
- Speaker at launch of the Annual State of the World Population UNFPA report at Parliament House, Canberra, on the topic of Child Safety in Cities, June 2007
- Keynote speaker at "A Child Friendly Melbourne", as part of "the Melbourne Forum" at Museum Victoria, July 2007
- Keynote Speaker at the "In Safe Hands" forum of the Northside Community Service, October 2007
- A public lecture at the National Museum of Australia as part of ACT Children's Week, October 2007, titled: "Creating child friendly cities: lessons from Monstropolis" (using the children's movie *Monsters, Inc.* to introduce themes relating to child friendly cities and peak oil.

Paul Tranter has also been invited to present at the Sustainable population Australia National Conference, March 2008.

GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...

Jim Walmsley and **Alison McIntosh** (**GeoPlan, University of New England**) and Kerry Carrington (Sociology, UNE) have edited and submitted a major report for the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship on The Social Costs and Benefits of Migration to Australia. The report is available from the DIAC web site and from the Centre for Applied Research in Social Science at UNE (<http://www.une.edu.au/carss/publications.php>). The report paid special attention to the notion of social capital. This was also the subject of a paper that Kerry and Jim presented at the 12 International Metropolis Conference in Melbourne, October 2007.

Rebecca Dobbs received her PhD from **University of North Carolina** at Chapel Hill in May 2007. She is currently in her second year as assistant professor at **Emporia State University** in Kansas, where she is busy recruiting students to geography and trying to restore the geography major within the multidisciplinary Social Sciences department. She is also working with the Office of International Education to increase the University's connections to Australia. Rebecca has a chapter 'Genealogy, historical geography, and GIS: parcel mapping, information synergies, and collaborative opportunities' coming out in *Geography and Genealogy* in late 2007.

Kersty Hobson (ANU) along with Dr SJ Niemeyer; Dr P' Hart; Prof W Steffen; Prof BG Mackey; and Dr JA Lindesay (all at the ANU) have started working on a three year Australian Research Council funded project '*Social Adaptation to Climate Change in the Australian Public Sphere: A comparison of individual and group deliberative responses to scenarios of future climate change*'

Lareen Newman completed her PhD in Geography at the **University of Adelaide** April 2006 and took up a 3-year contract position as a Research Fellow on the Australian Health Inequities Program (Department of Public Health at **Flinders University**). Lareen's work is looking at the unequal distribution of health access and outcomes across Australia and critically analysing the equity aspects of government policy.

Geographers at the **University of Sydney** started work on the four year ARC-Linkage project 'Port Stephens Flood tide Delta: Shoreline Management Issues'. The project was awarded to Jeng, D.-S., Vila-Concejo, A., Short, A. D., Hughes, M. G. and Ranasinghe, R. J.. Further information is available at http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/research/re_portstephens.shtml

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (**Australian National University**) is currently working on the ARC linkage project *Creating Empowered Communities: Gender and Sustainable Livelihoods in a Coal Mining Region in Indonesia*. For up-dates and publication information related to this project visit the website at <http://empoweringcommunities.anu.edu.au>

Richie Howitt (Macquarie University) is working with a student team to finalise the report for the Resource Assessment for Remote Indigenous Communities with funding from DEWR through Northern Land Council. Three honours students are submitting theses from this project addressing marine resources (Stephanie Russo), Ranger programs in the Daly region (Rosie Smith) and the West Arnhem Land Fire Management Area, which won a Eureka award earlier this year (Mitchell Lendum).

Sandie Suchet-Pearson, Kate Lloyd (Macquarie University) and **Sarah Wright (Newcastle)** are finalising a new book on women's weaving and community development in northeast Arnhem Land.

Arthur Conacher (University of Western Australia) and **Jeanette Conacher** recently attended the COMLAND meeting in Inner Mongolia held from the 7th to the 17th September 2007. Arthur and Jeanette commented that Inner Mongolia was every bit as good as, and maybe even better than, expected. They were exceedingly well looked after by their Chinese colleagues who could not be faulted. Their hosts were very attentive, efficient and well-organised and subsequently everything ran smoothly (ignoring the several hours with some 30 delegates stuck in the bus in truck traffic on the way back from three days in the field - coal and food trucks trying to evade road regulations north of Beijing. Forays into adjacent corn fields and gullies for comfort moments gave rise to some considerable amusement, not least among onlooking truck drivers).

The mid-conference trip to the dunes of the extensive Tengger desert (not the mega-dunes of the post-conference trip - see below) proved an almost spiritual experience - golden dunes as far as the eye could see in the late afternoon sun, very beautiful and silent. This scenery was in stark contrast to what was experienced an hour earlier, when they had been high in adjacent mountains looking at pine forests (in the rain), yaks, monks and massive erosional and despositional features.

Arthur and Jeanette found the scenery of Inner Mongolia north and west of Beijing mind-blowing: wide-open grasslands, massive mountains and dunelands, traditional mud villages, many abandoned as farmers are being encouraged to move to the cities. They explored the terrific history of the region (the Khans, Silk Road -- incredible tombs/ruins) and visited the ruins of the summer palace where Marco Polo reputedly met Kubla Khan (grandson of Genghis). They viewed neolithic pottery shards lying on desert surfaces, colourful people, huge highways crossing vast spaces, a vast wind farm and coal-fired power stations. They experienced comfortable, air-conditioned coaches, fibre optic cable, mobile phone working much better than in regional Australia, and grandiose public space architecture and rebuilding.

Arthur commented 'Land degradation problems of course abound, especially in the grasslands and arid/sub-arid landscapes which often are overly pressured by grazing, exacerbated by periods of drought and/or climate change, resulting in the wind-generated remobilisation of previously stable dunes; but also gullies, wadis and mass movement are evident in wetter areas, with freeze-thaw undoubtedly paying an important role; and extensive quarrying, especially of limestone and clays to feed cement and brick factories. The tree-planting schemes of the 1970s

(Mao's 'Great Green Wall') are hard to comprehend in their extent, sometimes mismatched to eco-needs, but difficult to criticise in such environments'.

GEOGRAPHERS ON THE MOVE

Andrew Gorman-Murray has moved into a position as a Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the **University of Wollongong**.

Bob Fagan (Macquarie University) spent the period April to mid July as a visiting fellow in the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change at the National University of Ireland Galway working on local impacts of globalised food supply chains into the European Union and on localised food initiatives.

Robyn Dowling (Macquarie University) has spent the second semester of 2007 on sabbatical based at the Centre for Urban Research, University of Western Sydney.

Kevin McCracken has been seconded (50%) to the position of Macquarie University's Academic Director for the Scholar Ship (<http://www.thescholarship.com/>) - a joint venture between Macquarie, Al Akhawayn (Morocco), Cardiff (UK), Fudan (China), Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico), University of California, Berkley (USA) and University of Ghana (Ghana). He spent a couple of weeks on board the vessel in the Mediterranean during August-September and reports it was terrific!

Bob Fagan at Macquarie University has announced his retirement from the end of December. In 2008 he will hold an adjunct position as deputy director of the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion.

Divya Tolia-Kelly (Durham) has been a brief visitor at Human Geography and CRSI at **Macquarie University**.

Donna Houston (Griffith) and **Katharine McKinnon (Massey)** are joining Human Geography at **Macquarie University** in early 2007.

Marco Amati (Massey) is taking up a 12 month contract at **Macquarie University** in 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

Lesley Head and Pat Muir (University of Wollongong) have release their new book *Backyard. Nature and Culture in Suburban Australia*, published through the University of Wollongong Press. The book uses suburban backyards from Sydney, Wollongong and Alice Springs as a window on to Australian environmental attitudes and practices. In-depth interviews with backyarders are woven into an accessible discussion of current theories about the environment and ideas of nature

and change. The book challenges the divisions between cities and nature, and the argument that urban Australians are alienated from nature, by showing how we are all enmeshed with the non-human world.

Helen McGregor, a post-doctoral fellow at the **University of Wollongong** was lead author on a major publication on Climate Change impact in the prestigious journal *Science* ('Rapid 20th-century increase in coastal upwelling off northwest Africa' *Science*, 315:637-639).

Kurt Iveson (University of Sydney) published his book *Publics and the City* with Blackwell in 2007. This book explores relationship between making of publics and contests over urban space, with case studies from Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Canberra.

Phil McManus' (University of Sydney) 2005 book *Vortex Cities to Sustainable Cities: Australia's urban challenge* is being reprinted by UNSW Press for 2008.

Molle, F., P. Wester and **P. Hirsch** published their chapter 'River Basin Development and Management', in the 2007 book *Water for Food, Water for Life: the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture*. This book was published by Earthscan, London.

Roy Jones (Curtin) and **Brian Shaw (UWA)** have published with Ashgate their new book *Geographies of Australian Heritages: Loving a Sunburnt Country?*

Roy Jones (Curtin), **Colin McGregor** (formerly Curtin, now UWA), **Alan Pilgrim (Curtin)** and **Graham Thompson (Curtin)** completed a technical report for the Sustainable Tourism CRC entitled *The Environmental Impacts of Events: Western Australian Case Studies*.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (Australian National University) and **Robert Wasson (Charles Darwin University)** have a forthcoming edited edition through SAGE entitled *Water First: Issues and Challenges for Nations and Communities in South East Asia*.

Barbara Rugendyke (University of New England) has completed a book entitled *NGOs as Advocates for Development*, Routledge, Abingdon and New York (publication date October 2007). An edited collection, the volume focuses on the most recent global trends in NGO activity, particularly their engagement in advocacy and campaigning at various spatial scales in attempting to change the structural forces which perpetuate global inequality. It contains contributions from former UNE postgraduate students Ian Anderson, Cathryn Ollif and John Sayer, and from Associate Professor Phil Hirsch and Lindsay Soutar, both of Sydney University.

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

Paul Hodge (Newcastle) is nearing completion of his PhD on development discourse in the South Pacific. Drawing primarily on Michel Foucault's earlier works (1971, 1972) his thesis unpacks development's 'self-evidence' focusing on Fiji's aid industry. Inspired by post-development's critical energy but refusing to abandon the promise of development, Paul embarks on a postcolonial foray working between these often antagonistic positions drawing specifically on the activities and aspirations of those engaged in Fiji's NGO community. Guided by postcolonialism's unrelenting critique Paul extends his analysis to consider academic discourses in the context of the 'third world'. Given geography's imperial legacies, the analysis inevitably falls on the discipline's present colonising tendencies.

Paul aims to publish several articles from his thesis while continuing to write his monthly column in an independent local newspaper on urgent social and political issues. He hopes to secure a postdoctorate in 2008/9 and maintain research relations with the participants from his field work in Fiji.

There are four new geography postgraduate students at the **University of Wollongong**. These include: **Chris Brennan-Horley** supervised by Chris Gibson, **Christine Eriksen** supervised by Nick Gill, **Behrooz Karamiqucham** supervised by Allan Chivas and, **Sam Morgan** supervised by Colin Woodroffe and Brian Jones,

Meg Sherval's PhD, entitled 'The Geopolitics of Gold: Globalisation, Remoteness and the Contested Resource Peripheries of the Northern Pacific Rim' was passed by the **University of Macquarie** Academic Senate in November 2007.

John McKinnon has recently commenced doctoral research at the **University of New England**. John's research will focus on the effectiveness of commercial enterprises, established by NGOs in Cambodia, in contributing to poverty alleviation. Barbara Rugendyke and Tony Sorensen are supervising John's research.

Anthony Kent (RMIT University) is now conducting field work on the food manufacturing cluster in Melbourne's northern suburbs. This work is part of an ARC Linkage Grant entitled *Re-imagining the Australian suburb*. Anthony is conducting interviews with firm managers which will supplement customised ABS census data. He will try and establish the forces behind the clustering of the food processing firms. His main hypothesis is that local labour markets, rather than innovation or localised inputs, have been greatly underestimated as a factor.

Sam Muller (Macquarie University) received a Wentworth Group of Scientists Scholarship, which is assisting her to host a major stakeholder workshop on Sea Country planning and Indigenous Sea Country Rights in Darwin as part of the community feedback on her PhD work in northeast Arnhem Land.

Matalena Tofa (from New Zealand), **Lana Leslie** (from Curtin and now appointed to a continuing position at Macquarie's Warawara Dept of Indigenous Studies) and **Justus Kiithia** (from Kenya) have recently commenced PhD research at **Macquarie University**.

Gaim Lunkapis (from **Universiti Malaysia Sabah/ Macquarie University**) has been undertaking his field research for his PhD in Sabah.

Deirdre Wilcock (**Macquarie University**) has negotiated a cotutelle arrangement with the Faculty of Environmental Studies and Human Geography at Macquarie for her PhD project on Indigenous participation in co-management arrangements governing water in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Siri Veland (from Norway) (**Macquarie University**) is working towards fieldwork on Indigenous responses to climate risks in the Northern Territory.

Kerryn Higgs, a PhD student with Geography and Environmental Studies at **UTAS** has recently published a series of three articles on economics and ecology online at "Webdiary". This venture used to be with Sydney Morning Herald but is now independent.

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