

**Record of a Meeting of the IAG Environmental Sustainability Study Group
Ballroom 4, Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg, South Australia
16 April 2004**

Present: Kath Broderick, Jan Carey, Arthur Conacher, Geoff Evans, Megan Farrelly, Nick Harvey, Mick Hillman, Jamie Kirkpatrick, Marcus Lane, Bruce Thom, Sarah Wright

Apologies: Several email apologies had been received over the months prior to the Adelaide conference. Richard Baker apologised as he was presenting a paper at the same time as the ES SG meeting.

Committee functions

Megan Farrelly agreed to take on the role of Deputy Convener and to be responsible for preparing a Newsletter and submitting material to the IAG website (or setting up our own, with a link to the IAG website?). It is envisaged that the deputy convener will take over the role of convener after a year or two.

[*Note:* Nick Gill had also offered to take on this role but was unable to be present at the meeting. It was subsequently agreed that the group should have two Deputy Conveners: Megan Farrelly (UWA) and Nick Gill (Wollongong)].

Kath Broderick agreed to be responsible for developing the group's programs at future meetings.

Mick Hillman offered to assist with the Newsletter and with activities involving Aboriginal interests.

Action: Megan to work on the website/newsletter with the assistance of the above.

Future Workshop

It was agreed that the group should run a 1-2 days Workshop to clarify the environmental issues, and the roles of geographers in those issues, with which the group should be involved. Adelaide is a central location and Alaric Maude and Nick Harvey have kindly agreed to assist. Nick indicated that Ian Lowe would be in Adelaide in November/December 2004 and could be a most useful participant.

The purpose of the Workshop would be to carry out a brain-storming exercise, with some thought-starter presentations, to examine the following questions:

- § Which environmental issues should the study group be concerned with?
- § What are geographers' roles in environmental sustainability?
- § What skills do geographers bring? Theoretical contributions? Concepts? Management contributions?
- § What are appropriate spatial units for environmental planning and management?
- § What constitutes communities?

Bruce urged, and it was agreed, that urban environments should be included explicitly. It was also agreed that the focus of the group would be on Australia.

Action: Kath Broderick with Arthur Conacher and Nick Harvey/Alaric Maude

Future Meetings

It was agreed that meetings of the ES SG should be held in association with future IAG conferences, possibly at Armidale, NSW, in July 2005, and the IGU/IAG/NZ Geog Soc Regional Congress in Brisbane in July 2006. Richard Baker suggested that the group meet for a day prior to these (and other) IAG conferences as we would not be constrained by the usual time limits and could 'do our own thing' without having people disappearing to go to competing/parallel sessions. Jamie expressed reservations, and it was agreed that members would additionally still submit and present papers as part of the IAG conference in the usual way.

Action: Arthur and Kath keep an eye on where and when the next IAG conference will be held. This information should be available within a couple of weeks.

Publications

It was agreed that Arthur would contact presenters of suitable quality papers at the 2004 Adelaide IAG conference with a view to publishing them in AGS, and that the group work towards a theme issue in the future. For that issue there would be a focal theme with contributors invited to contribute papers on various aspects of the theme. The purpose of the proposed Nov/Dec 2004 Adelaide Workshop might be suitable for this purpose.

Action: Arthur for the first item; Kath and Arthur for the second.

Arthur Conacher
21 April, 2004