

## **Environmental Sustainability Study Group Report for 2007-2008**

The following points encompass the activities of the EESG for 2007/8.

1) At 2007 IAG conference in Melbourne six specialist sessions were organised under the aegis of the ESSG. Two were held in conjunction with the Cultural Geography and Rural Geography IAG study groups. The six sessions were:

- Urban planning and Sustainability
- The Environmental Impacts of Tourism and Recreation
- The Nature of Rural Geography
- Water crisis? Socio-cultural and environmental dimensions of water and rivers.
- Social and Policy Dimensions of Climate Change in Australia and its Near Neighbours
- Institutions and Society-Nature Interactions

2) Nick Gill (Wollongong) and Kathleen Broderick (JCU/Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority) have edited a special edition of *Geographical Research* based partly on papers presented at the 'Water Crisis?' session in 2007. This will be edition 46(3) of the journal and will include papers relating to climate change and water resources, participatory governance, evaluation of urban water education programs, and the role of amenity values in water management.

3) At the 2007 IAG conference the main activity that the Group decided upon was to run sessions and a writing workshop on a sustainability theme and to invite a leading researcher in the area to participate and lead the workshop. A proposal was prepared by Phil McManus and Nick Gill, and funding secured from the IAG. Unfortunately, the neither of the two preferred invitees were able to attend and by the time this was apparent, there remained little time to adequately organise the session and workshop and we decided to postpone it. This is disappointing. The meeting of the ESSG at the 2008 IAG will consider whether to revisit this proposal.

4) Whereas the ESSG was very active at the 2007 IAG with sessions, my efforts to solicit sessions for 2008 led to relatively few proposals. Perhaps six sessions in 2007 exhausted group members' interest and energy to run sessions. Only two proposed sessions resulted for the conference. These sessions are:

- Neoliberal Natures: Organismal – Species, Habitat and Agroecosystems
- Un(ique)ly Australian? Geographies of environment and sustainability: Moving mountains

Nick Gill