

Indigenous Issues Study Group Report for 2007-2008

- Since the IAG Melbourne conference meeting the main initiative has been the organisation of a sessions at the IAG Hobart conference, and starting to formulate proposals for the 2009 and 2010 conferences
- Other than this, Study Group members have been quietly pursuing their own research interests. The variety of papers to be presented at the Indigenous Issues session in Hobart indicates the breadth of the issues Study Group members are working on: governance, mobility, resource issues, Indigenous rights, knowledge and methodologies are just a few examples.
- With a number of recent developments in Indigenous affairs, such as the COAG Trials, the Northern Territory Intervention, and the long-overdue Apology, we are, as a group, just moving into a more vibrant phase of collective activity. A draft action plan has been prepared for discussion and adoption at the Business Meeting. The objective of the plan is to develop a strategic focus on drawing together a discursive community interested and active in research and practice around Indigenous issues. By implementing the plan we will revitalise the IAG Indigenous Issues Study Group as an active group within IAG, and work towards ensuring that geographers have a voice in the policy debate.
- The plan focuses on:
 - Study Group membership, participation, leadership and interaction; particularly in terms of encouraging greater participation in Geography by Indigenous people, and broadening representation by early career researchers and researchers from related disciplines;
 - Working to raise the profile of Indigenous issues in Geography;
 - A range of Indigenous-themed sessions at the IAG 2009 and 2010 conferences, with related publications to follow.

Judith Burns