

IAG

NEWSLETTER

Number 59 – June 2008

Institute of Australian Geographers (Inc.)

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As I was putting together this edition I received the very sad news Emeritus Professor Fay Gale AO passed away in Adelaide on the 3rd May 2008. Fay was a past president of the IAG and made a huge contribution to Australian Geography. Fay was also the first female Vice Chancellor at the University of Western Australia and was committed to issues of equity and diversity. Fay Gale will be very much missed.

In this edition, IAG president Jim Walmsley writes his final column as president. In 'Up Country' Jim includes some interesting updates on IAG council activities and our 'new' web page.

This edition also has details on the forthcoming IAG conference, the 2008 postgraduate day, recent publications, and recent awards and grants members have received.

Thank you to all those members who submitted information to be included in this edition. The next edition will be printed in November 2008, with the deadline for submissions advertised on the IAG list.

Amanda Davies
University of Western Australia

UP COUNTRY

Your President's Column

I am writing this shortly after Armidale's first snowfall of the winter (admittedly the fall was at 2 am on a Sunday morning when few knew and probably fewer cared). I am also writing it at a time when the annual conference is drawing near. Hobart is the venue in 2008 and Jamie Kirkpatrick and his fellow organisers have compiled a packed and fascinating programme. I look forward to seeing as many people as possible in Hobart.

The outcome of the last federal election (underway at the time of the last *Newsletter*) is now known. A change of government is ushering new policies on a range of issues of direct concern to geographers. Clearly, any incoming government has its priorities and so it is with the Rudd government. Moves to tackle the position of geography in secondary schools (on which the IAG campaigned alongside AGTA and the state geographical societies) have taken a back seat. However we are hopeful of progress now that the report, commissioned by Julie Bishop, has been released. The report by Erebus International entitled *A Study Into The Teaching of Geography in Years 3-10* is available on the DEST web site:

<http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/school_education/publications_resources/profiles/Study_into_teaching_geography.htm>.

It is well worth reading.

Domestically, the big news from the IAG is that we have been working very hard on our web presence. Attractive web pages are a *sine qua non* in the contemporary world. Council engaged the Melbourne firm EPS (Electronic Productivity Solutions) to revise our web site completely. They have done a fine job which will hopefully go live very soon. The talents of EPS would of course have come to nothing were there not someone in the Institute driving the change, tackling both day-to-day queries and bigger strategic issues. That "someone" has been Alaric Maude and he has done a truly magnificent job, just as he does with the Secretary's role generally. The IAG is very fortunate to have a person of Alaric's commitment, wisdom and energy as its Secretary.

This is my last column as President. Lesley Head takes over in Hobart. I would like to thank all Council members for their help and advice over the last two years but especially Alaric and Stewart Williams, our Treasurer, for the outstanding job that they do. It's only from the inside that you see how much work they get through. I would also like to thank Arthur Conacher, George Curry and Roy Jones for the wonderful work that they do on *Geographical Research*. IAG members often take the journal for granted, seeing it as probably the principal advantage of membership. The volume of work that goes into editing the journal as well as our Editors do, and into producing a journal of the quality of *Geographical Research*, is colossal. All IAG members should be grateful for the outstanding job that Arthur, George and Roy do.

This *Newsletter* also comes just before my departure on Long Service Leave and subsequent early “retirement”. I use the term advisedly because I am well aware of the massive contribution to organising journals, conferences and general IAG business made by “retirees” like Arthur Conacher, John Holmes and Alaric Maude.

See you all in Hobart.

Jim Walmsley
University of New England

RETIREMENTS

Neil Argent (University of New England) writes, In July 2008, Professor **Jim Walmsley** will retire after almost 37 years at UNE. Although there will be numerous opportunities over the coming months to thank Jim and pay tribute to his achievements and enormous contribution to geography at UNE and further afield, at this juncture we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Jim for his unstinting leadership of geography and planning at UNE, for his patient and wise counsel, his mentoring of younger and more junior staff, and the sheer companionship he has provided to us all over the years. We shall all greatly miss these qualities. We wish Jim a long and relaxing retirement, though we hope to lure him back for the occasional morning tea where his wry wit may again provide some light relief from talk of restructuring....

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Institute of Australian Geographers **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 1st July at 6:30 pm at the University of Tasmania. The meeting will be integrated into the 50th IAG conference programme (and will be held before the Conference Dinner).

IAG NEWS

A Note from the Treasurer

The Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) has made funds available to its members for the purposes of attending various professional and scholarly get-togethers over many years and this function is now a significant part of its institutional remit. In particular, it supports members' participation in both the IAG conferences that are held in major cities across Australia each year and the International Geographical Union (IGU) congresses which take place somewhere in the world every four years. It encourages its members' involvement in scholarly activities outside of these two arenas through participation also in one or more of the IAG's Study Groups detailed on the IAG website.

It is remarkable that all three of these functions of the IAG tend to be known about and pursued by its members in only the most varied and sometimes very limited manner. Therefore, I will elaborate in the hope that IAG members will learn or be reminded about and become more involved in the opportunities that are made available to them. Indeed, I feel that it is up to all members to foster our discipline through promoting the activities of the IAG and encouraging new membership (for example, by highlighting to students the advantages available and discussed below).

The financial support provided for IAG conferences comprises two main components in its funding of the IAG Postgraduate Travel Grants and its funding of specific events as proposed by each of the IAG Study Groups in any one year. The magnitude of such support is discussed here, starting with the Postgraduate Travel Grants. In 2006 we awarded \$7,800 to 26 postgraduate students to go to the IAG Brisbane; in 2007 we awarded \$1,500 to 6 postgraduate students for the IAG Melbourne; and this year we have awarded \$8,995 to 24 postgraduate students to attend the IAG conference in Hobart. It is well worth noting that such funds are always available for postgraduates each year and provide important means for bringing tomorrow's geographers into the fold early on.

The IAG's eight Study Groups, convenors and contact details are provided on the IAG website. The organisation of Study Group events is usually run in conjunction with an IAG conference and led by leading international geographers whose involvement has been sought by Study Group convenors and funded by the IAG. This year the IAG's eight Study Groups were invited to make larger than usual bids, including ones of up to \$5,000. Yet only three of them, namely the Urban Geography, GIScience and Cultural Geography Study Groups, sought funds to hold some such event this year (but were, of course, all successful). It is also interesting to note that while there are Study Groups that range across Environmental Sustainability as well as Indigenous, Rural, Economic and Political Geographies, there is a new one possibly on the horizon with a focus on Climate Change.

IGU congresses occur in different and often very exciting parts of the world every four years, and the IAG provides large travel grants to both postgraduates and early career researchers to attend. (These latter are termed ECRs and, for our purposes, they include anyone who has graduated with a PhD within the last 5 years). In 2000 we funded 15 IAG members to go to Seoul; in 2004 there were 14 members attended Glasgow; and yet this year we could find only 3 IAG members who wanted to go to Tunis despite even our increasing their funding from \$2,000 to \$2,500 each. Still, we will see what happens (and where) with the IGU congress in 2012.

In addition to these funding opportunities, the IAG also offers an award for the best paper by a student published in its journal *Geographical Research*. The award is judged and allocated at both the Honours and Postgraduate levels and so there are actually two prizes, here, each comprising \$200 and one year's free IAG membership (which also always includes free subscription to the journal).

Thus the IAG is a very supportive institute with several very worthwhile initiatives for promoting geography and funding its members. However, it is unfortunate that for various reasons each year, the travel grants, the Study Groups and their events, and the awards are not always applied for or allocated in the numbers that are possible. I hope that by bringing these details to your attention, the opportunities made available by the IAG will be taken up by you its members.

Remember, details of the IAG Post-Graduate Travel Grants, IGU Congress '88 Travel Grants, the IAG Study Groups, and the IAG Honours and Postgraduate Awards are all available on-line at the IAG website at: <http://www.iag.org.au/>.

Also, invitations to apply for such grants and to organise and participate in the various forthcoming Study Group events are all circulated on the IAG Listserve. (NB Please check that you are on this list as enrolment does not automatically follow with IAG membership). It is available again on-line at the IAG website or it can be accessed directly at: <https://listserver.flinders.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/iag-list>.

And so I look forward to seeing the IAG's great tradition of promoting geography, and especially Australian geography, both here and overseas, continuing to be upheld through your active (and well-supported) membership.

Stewart Williams (Hon Treasurer)
University of Tasmania

IAG Councillors and Officers 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>
<p><i>Councillor and Postgraduate Representatives</i> Ms Danielle Drozdowski School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales danielled@unsw.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Editor, Geographical Research</i> Associate Professor Arthur Conacher School of Earth and Geographical Sciences University of Western Australia Arthur.Conacher@uwa.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Editor, Geographical Research</i> Professor Roy Jones Geography Discipline Faculty of Media, Society and Culture Curtin University r.jones@curtin.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Editor, Geographical Research</i> Associate Professor George Curry Geography Discipline Faculty of Media, Society and Culture Curtin University George.Curry@curtin.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Editor, Newsletter</i> Dr Amanda Davies School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, University of Western Australia adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au</p>	

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

Over 120 people have already registered for the forthcoming IAG conference in Hobart. The conference promises to be an event not to be missed, with a number of pre and post conference field tours, a cocktail party and a dinner to celebrate 50 years of the IAG. Postgraduate students also have to option of attending a wine tour!

The official website is <http://www.geol.utas.edu.au/iag/home.html>. Organisers recommend that you visit it about once a week leading up to the conference as they upload various bits and pieces of information.

A draft programme has been released, but will continue to shape for a while, with room and chair allocations being finalised in mid June.

Organisers will make Abstracts will be available online as a PDF document a week before the conference and on CD Rom as part of your registration pack.

The conference organisers suggest that before arriving in Tasmania delegates may wish to visit the Bureau of Meteorology web site and check Hobart's weather conditions for July 2007:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/dwo/200707/html/IDCJDW7021.200707.shtml>

They advise that delegates 'layer up and bring a brolly, windbreaker and sunglasses'.

Postgraduate Day @ the 50th IAG Conference

Sunday 29th June 2008

Option 1 – Wine Tour (Full booked)... please check with organisers of the postgrad day for cancellations.

Option 2 –Foot tour of Hobart’s waterfront galleries, from 2-5pm. The tour will focus on exhibitions with a ‘geographical’ theme eg. landscape, plants and animals, place etc. Participants will be asked to reflect upon their work during this time and we will return to the conference venue via historic Battery Point for afternoon tea and a chat about emerging thoughts. This is an informal afternoon that hopes to create a ‘geographical’ space for reflection upon participants work – both the topic and the everyday nuts and bolts.

Dinner – An informal dinner combining participants from both tours will be held in the evening. Details will be announced on the day.

For further information on any of these options, or to RSVP to option 2, please contact Kate Booth boothk@postoffice.utas.edu.au

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 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 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 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 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 Geography

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. Judith Burns

School of Earth and Environmental
Studies
University of New England
<jburns@une.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. Shawn Laffan

School of Biological, Earth and
Environmental Sciences
University of New South Wales
<Shawn.Laffan@unsw.edu.au>

Urban Geography

Donald McNeill □

Urban Research Centre □
University of Western Sydney □
<d.mcneill@uws.edu.au>

Political Geography Studies Group

Dr. Kersty Hobson

The Australian National University
<Kersty.Hobson@anu.edu.au>

Rural Geography Study Group

Most members of the rural studies group have been kept very busy over the last six months pursuing their own research. A number of members are working on large ARC projects and others have been successful in accessing funding for research from RIRDC, the Natural Heritage Trust, AHURI and other funding organisations. The dialogue emerging from these projects is exciting, with new ideas and concepts being tested. A number of rural geographers will be delivering short papers on their latest research at the forthcoming IAG conference. I'm sure some of these papers will result in interesting discussions and debate...so be sure not to miss them! The rural geography study group will be sponsoring two special paper

sessions at the conference. Details are now available on the IAG conference website.

Indigenous Issues Study Group

Indigenous Issues Study Group members have been quietly pursuing their own research interests for the last six months, but some interesting papers are coming up in Hobart in the Indigenous Issues session. 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 and a review of the state of knowledge are currently under preparation for discussion at the Business Meeting in Hobart. The plan will focus on harnessing the synergies between researchers and practitioners working across a number of areas such as governance, mobility, Indigenous rights, knowledge and methodologies. The Study Group is always keen to work with other researchers who are interested in Indigenous issues, and anyone who would like their details added to our e-mail list is invited to contact Judith Burns at [<jburns2@une.edu.au>](mailto:jburns2@une.edu.au).

FASTS NEWS

New research classification welcomed

Australia will have a much better understating of investment trends in R&D following the release of a new comprehensive research classification by the Australian Bureau of Statistics today. The President of FASTS, Professor Ken Baldwin, said the new classification provides a much better picture of contemporary research than the previous 1998 classification.

“Nanotechnology, quantum computing, carbon sequestration science, green chemistry, bioinformatics and agricultural biotechnology are a few examples of important research that are now included in the ABS classification”.

“All research classifications become redundant as new areas emerge and previous staples become redundant so today’s listings will need on-going monitoring and changes as required”.

“Good data on R&D investment is essential to help institutions, funding agencies and Governments better understand where research investment is happening and how that sits with institutional or national priorities”.

“A report on the ABS Research Classifications published by FASTS in August 2006 found that the 1998 classification was no longer adequate and had no analytic, policy or strategic value”.

“A measure of the mismatch of the codes and actual research was the growing use of ‘other’ categories, which had grown to over 20% of university R&D expenditure by 2004.

Moreover, 32% of university R&D could not or was not allocated to specific codes. That is, \$1.4b of the \$4.3b universities spent on R&D in 2004 was not adequately coded.

In response to the FASTS' paper, the previous Minister supported this revision of the codes with funding coming via the former RQF group in DEST (which is now located in the Australian Research Council).

“The ABS has done a fantastic job in developing a fresh, comprehensive but practical classification”.

“The new classifications will be an important tool to ensure clarity in organising the new Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) project to assist evaluation of publicly funded research”, concluded Professor Baldwin.

Taxonomy in Peril

Australia's capacity to identify its plant and animal species is in peril, according to leading environmental scientist Associate Professor Bob Beeton. Speaking at the launch of the National Taxonomy Forum Proceedings, Associate Professor Beeton said the majority of Australia's current capacity to identify organisms rests with scientists who are either retired or approaching retirement.

“If the taxonomic capacity of Australia is not corrected, we really could put in jeopardy environmental governance, not only in terms of achieving conservation and development outcomes but also the safeguarding of Australia's natural and rural systems,” Associate Professor Beeton said.

The National Taxonomy Forum, held in October 2007 at the Australian Museum, was sponsored by FASTS, the peak body representing 60,000 scientists and technologists. It brought together scientists, policy makers, public interest and industry groups to workshop solutions and strategies for the future practice of taxonomy in Australia. Associate Professor Beeton, who chaired the 2006 National State of the Environment Committee, said the forum found Australia urgently needed new training and funding models for taxonomy.

“Australia needs to train six to ten graduates each year for at least a decade to stop the erosion of our capacity and stabilise our national capability in taxonomy,” he said.

Associate Professor Beeton, who also chairs the Australian Government's Threatened Species Scientific Committee, said taxonomy – the science of discovering, describing and naming life – provided the fundamental basis for biological conservation.

“And with the environmental investments Australia is now contemplating, it is now more important than ever that we ensure that the foundations are sound,” he said.

The State of the Environment Report, issued every five years by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, provides information about environmental and heritage conditions, trends and pressures for the Australian continent, surrounding seas and Australia's external territories. The action plan and

report are available from:

<<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/workshop-forum/ntf.html>>

FASTS Welcomes proposed Research Charter

The peak body representing 60,000 scientists welcomes Minister Carr's proposal to create a charter for public research agencies to ensure the independence of science and research. The President of FASTS, Professor Ken Baldwin, said it is critical that there be a clear statement of the rights and obligations of scientists and researchers in organisations like CSIRO.

"The relations between Government, politics, public opinion, science and research are increasingly complex and important".

"It is inconceivable that there can be sensible policy on climate change, water use, bio-security, obesity or ageing without the input and open discussion of good science."

"While Governments must have final responsibility for policy on issues such as climate change, it is dangerous for democracy, if researchers and institutions like universities, CSIRO and the Australian Research Council (ARC) are constrained by overt or implied political threats to the effective communication of the science."

"A critical element of Senator Carr's proposal is the idea that scientists and researchers not only have rights but also obligations to participate in policy debate".

"This expectation that science and research operate more effectively in the public domain comes at a time when there are growing expectations around the world that the results of publicly funded science and research should be freely available".

"On the 26th of December, 2007, President Bush signed legislation that mandates that all research funded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) must be made publicly accessible by lodging all publications with an open access (free) on-line journal. This is the first time such a requirement has been legislated anywhere in the world.

"The idea that publicly funded scientists and researchers have rights and obligations to participate in public debates also has profound implications for science education and research training".

"It says graduates need a wider range of skills and capabilities that will enable them to fully participate in public debate. Such expectations inevitably raise really important issues about the quality and funding of education and universities, concluded Professor Baldwin.

Note: These and other FASTS media releases are available online from
<<http://www.fast.org>>

CONFERENCES

RECENT CONFERENCES

In December 2007, **Rowland Atkinson** (University of Tasmania), **Pauline McGuirk** (University of Newcastle) and **Robyn Dowling** (Macquarie University) organised a workshop entitled *Home/City/Neighbourhood + Mediating points and containers in contemporary urban social life* at the University of Tasmania. The symposium consisted of 14 papers presented by speakers including Professor Tim Butler (Kings College London), Professor Roger Burrows (University of York) and Dr Karen Witten (University of Auckland). The symposium was designed to engender in-depth debate and the development of ideas and agendas around key issues shaping the integration of scales and social processes into debates about neighbourhoods and broader urban life. A collection of the papers are planned to appear as a special edition of *Environment and Planning A*.

Lesley Head (University of Wollongong) participated in Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's 2020 summit in Canberra, in the climate change and sustainability theme.

John Connell (University of Sydney), **Chris Gibson** (University of Wollongong), and **Andrew Gorman-Murray** (University of Wollongong) convened an ARC Cultural Research Network (CRN) symposium on Rural Festivals, in December 2007. The event, held at the University of Sydney, followed on from earlier CRN conferences, where it was discovered that a good number of CRN researchers have a common interest in rural festivals. The intention was for CRN researchers to come together to present written papers along with other key (non-CRN) researchers in Australia to discuss inter-disciplinary approaches to the study of the social, economic and cultural significance of rural festivals. Researchers in attendance came from backgrounds in geography, tourism, marketing, history, cultural studies, media and communications studies and from government. Participating geographers included **Amanda Davies** (UWA), **Jim Walmsley** (UNE), **Matthew Rofe** (UniSA), **Chris Brennan-Horley** (Wollongong), **Elaine Stratford** and **Andrew Harwood** (UTAS), **Michelle Duffy** (Melbourne), **Roy Jones** (Curtin), **Gordon Waitt** (Wollongong), **Brad Ruting** and **Jen Li** (Sydney). A book proposal stemming from the symposium is currently before publishers.

Chris Gibson and **Andrew Gorman-Murray** (University of Wollongong) from the ARC Cultural Research Network convened a two-day workshop on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Cultural Research. The workshop was held at the University of Wollongong's Spatial Analysis Laboratories on March 17-18. GIS has for many years been dominated by fields such as physical geography, surveying, and environmental science. More recently, GIS has infiltrated popular culture (for instance in car map navigation systems) and new media technologies (such as GPS-enabled mobile phones). GIS is also an increasingly common research tool in cultural geography, history and social planning. This workshop brought together geographers, historians, and academics in cultural studies and media/communications studies to showcase through paper presentations some examples of how GIS has been used in cutting-edge cultural

research. A series of exercises was also a feature of the workshop, for those with no or little experience with GIS, to become more familiar with its concepts and infrastructure, its possibilities and limitations. Keynote speakers were: Dr Sarah Elwood, Dept. of Geography, University of Washington, Seattle; A/Prof. Jeff Klenotic, University of New Hampshire; and Prof. Robert Allen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Andrew Gorman-Murray (University of Wollongong), **Emily Potter** (University of Melbourne) and **Clifton Evers** (UNSW) organised and convened a symposium on “‘Doing’ rural cultural studies’ for the ARC Cultural Research Network’s Rural Cultural Research Program at UNSW, on 7 March 2008. Several geographers attended, including **Rae Dufty** (UNE), **Michelle Duffy** (UniMelb) and **Kim Atherley** (UWA). Papers presented will be included in a special edition of *Cultural Studies Review* (March, 2010) edited by Emily Potter, Andrew Gorman-Murray and Clifton Evers.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

**International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society:
Minding Animals,
13 to 19 July, 2009**

Convened by the Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group & The University of Newcastle.

The conference has six major themes and objectives:

- To reassess the relationship between the animal and environmental movements in light of climate change and other jointly-held threats and concerns;
- To examine how humans identify and represent nonhuman animals in art, literature, music, science, and in the media and on film;
- How, throughout history, the objectification of nonhuman animals and nature in science and society, religion and philosophy, has led to the abuse of nonhuman animals and how this has since been interpreted and evaluated;
- To examine how the lives of humans and companion and domesticated nonhuman animals are intertwined, and how science, human and veterinary medicine utilise these important connections;
- How the study of animals and society can better inform both the scientific study of animals and community activism and advocacy;
- And how science and community activism and advocacy can inform the study of nonhuman animals and society;

For more information <http://www.mindinganimals.com/>

**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>

**Forth State of Australian Cities Conference
November 2009, University of Western Australia, Perth**

Jointly hosted by the University of Western Australia, Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University.

**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>

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 *Geographical Research*, stating that the paper is to be considered for the award. Three copies of the paper should be submitted following the style conventions of *GR* (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 *GR*. 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 *GR* 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 *Geographical Research*. 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

GRANTS AND AWARDS RECEIVED

In November 2007, **Michael Adams** (University of Wollongong) received a 2007 Carrick Award for Teaching Excellence at Parliament House in Canberra. Previous geographers to receive this Award include Iain Hay (Australian University Teacher of the Year 2006), Richard Baker (Award for Teaching Excellence 2006), and Richie Howitt (Award for Teaching Excellence 1999).

Kay Anderson's recent book 'Race and the Crisis of Humanism' (Routledge) has won the 2008 Literary & Cultural Criticism Award of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. Sponsored by Gleebooks, the prize is \$10,000.

Katharine McKinnon (Macquarie) has been belatedly awarded the ANU 2005 Crawford Prize for her PhD thesis entitled 'Locating Post-Development Subjects - Discourses of intervention and identification in the highlands of northern Thailand'. The prize will be awarded at a ceremony at the ANU in July 2008.

Leah M. Gibbs, currently working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow's Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences, has recently been awarded a Small Research Grant from the Royal Geographical Society with Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG). The research project is entitled: 'Environmental knowledge production and water governance in the global south'. This project will investigate the extent to which diverse environmental knowledge, including 'indigenous' and other 'local' knowledge, is acknowledged and accommodated in water governance in Tanzania, and the methods employed to

elicit knowledge. The research will contribute to current debates on the politics and practice of environmental knowledge production in the global south, and the production of knowledge about nature within academic discourse.

Macquarie Geographers were part of the team for a successful linkage grant between Macquarie's Centre for Research on Social Inclusion and Australian Red Cross on community capacity building.

Macquarie Geographers are also part of a team awarded a grant under the Commonwealth's Climate Change Adaptation Skills for Professionals Program for a project targeting development of an awards program, new courses and modules, and educational resources to incorporate climate change adaptation into undergraduate and graduate programs for environmental and urban planners and natural resource and environmental managers (\$140,708).

Bob Stimson (University of Queensland) was awarded an ARC discovery grant (\$89,096) for a project entitled 'Conceptualizing and Measuring Regional Endogenous Growth: A Collaborative International Comparative Investigation'.

David Pullar (University of Queensland) was awarded a large university strategic grant (45,232) for 'A Postgraduate Practicum on Integrative Learning in the Environment'.

Jonathan Corcoran and Professor **Bob Stimson** (University of Queensland) were awarded a 108,000 MEI and NGMR equipment grant for a project entitled 'Enhancing Spatial Modelling Capabilities for Spatially Integrated Social Sciences'.

Andrew Gorman-Murray and **Lesley Head** (University of Wollongong) were awarded a \$5000 GeoQuest Grant for their study entitled 'Culture and climate change: the cultural significance of snow in Australia'.

Kathy Mee and **Pauline McGuirk** (University of Newcastle) have received a grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Central Coast). The research undertakes analyses of facets of social, economic and demographic change in this rapidly developing region.

Donald McNeill (University of Western Sydney) was awarded an ARC Discovery for \$185,000 funding for 2008-10: '*The production and contestation of airport territory*', which explores these issues in London, Sydney, and Hong Kong. He was also awarded \$25,000 under the UWS Research Grants Scheme to research the introduction of Business Improvement Districts in the NSW context.

Mark Davidson and **Donald McNeill** (University of Western Sydney) were awarded \$50,000 in a joint partnership between UWS and Sydney Olympic Park Authority to explore how diverse publics are using the urban spaces of the Olympic precinct at Homebush. Mark has also received awards for research on '*Social sustainability as an urban policy goal: Comparing Vancouver and Sydney*' (\$7500) and '*The Impacts of Infill Development*' (\$16,400).

Jim Walmsley (University of New England), **Chris Gibson** (University of Wollongong) and **Ross Gibson** (UTS) were awarded in excess of \$500,000 for the ARC Linkage-Project Grant, “Cultural asset mapping for planning and development in regional Australia”.

Amanda Davies, Julian Clifton, Ben Radford and **Matthew Tonts** (University of Western Australia) were awarded \$127,000 by the Rangelands Coordinating Group to extend their research into human uses and values of Western Australia’s coast into the Kimberly region.

Amanda Davies (University of Western Australia) was awarded a small university grant (18,000) to examine ageing trends in the rural labour force. This project will extend her current research (with **Matthew Tonts**) on the geography of labour in rural and regional Australia.

The following geographers have recently qualified for the award of PhD

Kirstie Meheux (Macquarie University) has recently qualified for the award of PhD based on her thesis entitled ‘An evaluation of participatory damage assessment policy and practice in Fiji’.

Meg Sherval (Macquarie) has finalised her thesis entitled ‘The geopolitics of gold: Globalisation, remoteness and contested resource peripheries of the Northern Pacific rim’, and has qualified for the award of PhD.

Justin Ryan and **Jon Knight** (University of Queensland) have both recently been awarded their doctorates in the field of remote sensing – GIS.

Jessica Weir recently qualified for the awarded of PhD from the Australian National University. Her thesis was entitled 'Murray River Country: an Ecological Dialogue with Traditional Owners'. This work was supported by a research agreement with the Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations.

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

University of New England

The Division of Geography and Planning is currently enjoying a phase of renewal and rebuilding, the latter meant quite literally. March 2008 saw the arrival of **Rae Dufty** as Lecturer in Economic Geography. This has proved to be a doubly exciting time for Rae, as in April she graduated with her PhD from the University of New South Wales. Also in April, **Kiran Shinde** arrived to take up a Lectureship in Urban Planning. Kiran has just completed a PhD on sacred places and festivals in village society. We welcome both Rae and Kiran and sincerely hope that their time at UNE is enjoyable, inspiring and rewarding (and long!).

Towards the end of June, the whole Division will bid ‘adieu’ to its old ‘temporary’ weatherboard digs of the past fifty-odd years and decamp to the freshly renovated

Geology building on the other side of the campus. Although we shall not miss the welcoming aroma of decaying fauna in the wall cavities, nor the occasional entertainment provided by blocked sewerage pipes, a recent plethora of koala and king parrot sightings in the trees surrounding our offices has served to remind us all of the special environment in which we worked. The Division is being extremely capably led throughout this interesting time by **Fran Rolley**.

In other news, readers will be pleased to hear that **Tony Sorensen** has made a remarkable recovery from the heart attack he suffered in November last year. Despite his retirement in mid-2007, and his recent ill health, Tony is still actively researching and publishing, regularly appearing around the Division. Perhaps the IAG should establish a competition for the best punchline to complete the aphorism, "Old academics never die, they just...."?

UNE's two Pauls (MacFarland and Frazier) are taking on the Gold Coast half marathon in July. They have decided that the unique environment of the Gold Coast makes for perfect running conditions. That is, in July Armidale is very very cold and it is always hilly whereas the Gold Coast at this time is relatively warm and the course is very flat. So we throw out the challenge to all geographers to join in and keep the fully fit image of geographers intact.

Lastly, the Palaeo program in Physical Geography is growing with a new PhD student and two honours students in or expected to join the ranks this year.

University of Wollongong

Andrew Gorman-Murray presented a seminar on 'Gay-friendly neighbourhoods: towards understanding social cohesion across sexual difference' to the Brighton and Sussex Sexualities Network in Pokeno Pie Shop (!), Brighton, UK, on 28 March 2008. The talk was attended by both academics and community representatives.

Vanessa Cavanagh won the prize for the best fourth year Honours performance in the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, for her thesis 'The NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act in the Bundjalung Aboriginal Nation'.

Sumita Ghosh was appointed as a post-doctoral fellow to work with **Lesley Head** on her backyard project. Sumita's work will focus on mapping sustainability indicators for types of urban districts.

University of Newcastle

In July Associate Professor **Emily Gilbert** from the University of Toronto will visit the University. Associate Professor Gilbert's work is in the geo-political field of geography including work on citizenship, security, nation-states, globalization, monetary organization, and governance.

Jenny Cameron has taken up an Associate Professorship at the University of Newcastle in the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies. She is

currently researching social and community enterprises in the Australian context. In March 2008 she participated with other scholars and activists from Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, US, France, Italy and Denmark in the International Workshop on Ethnographies of the Social Economy at the University Durham. She is also continuing her research on social and economic responses to disadvantage.

Kathy Mee spent the last three months of 2007 on study leave at the Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow. During her study leave she also spent lots of time with the Geography Department at the University of Glasgow and visited the Department of Geography at Queen Mary University in London and the Department of Drama at the University of Exeter.

University of Western Sydney (Urban Research Centre)

Urban geographers have played a prominent role in the continued establishment of the Urban Research Centre over the past year. The Centre's geographers have conducted research on: urban infrastructure, housing, urban policy, public space and gentrification. Geography's presence at the University of Western Sydney continues to expand with two human geography positions recently filled.

Phillip O'Neill headed a group of researchers on a major study of western Sydney labour markets funded by a NSW Government Department of Planning grant in association with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC). He also delivered the keynote address to Symposium of the Housing and Community Research Unit, University of Tasmania, February. In addition to his regular column in the Newcastle Herald, Phil also now regularly contributes to a number of Western Sydney newspapers.

Louise Crabtree has been conducting research on housing affordability and community land trusts in Massachusetts, Vermont and California. She also organised the *New Research Directions in Housing* symposium in Sydney, August.

Professor **John Allen**, Open University, UK, visited the Urban Research Centre as an International Visiting Professor during late 2007. Professor **Rob Imrie**, King's College London, UK, visited the Urban Research Centre as an International Visiting Professor during autumn 2008. Associate Professor **Elvin Wylie**, University of British Columbia, Canada, will visit the Urban Research Centre as an International Visiting Professor during winter 2008.

Macquarie University

The Department of Human Geography welcomed two new staff members in 2008. **Katharine McKinnon** joined Macquarie from Massey University in New Zealand. **Donna Houston** came to Macquarie from Griffith University, and will be teaching in planning and resource management. Her research focuses on memory-work and environmental change – particularly in relation to 'post-industrial' landscapes and places.

Kate Lloyd is leading the Macquarie University cluster in the Carrick Institute funded 'Project EnRole' whose aim is to 'build a community of university teachers who are using online role play and develops a repository of sharable/reusable role play learning designs' (see <http://cedir.uow.edu.au/enrole/what.html>).

After a successful visit of Macquarie staff and students to the University of Malaysia, Sabah (UMS) in September 2007, a group of geography and social science students and staff from UMS will be visiting Macquarie in August 2008.

University of Sydney

Andrew Short and **Colin Woodroffe** (Wollongong) have just completed writing "The Coast of Australia" for Cambridge University Press (Melbourne). The full colour, illustrated book will be released later in the year. Its nine chapters cover all aspects of the Australian coast its processes, systems, ecosystems and management.

In May, **Andrew Short** (Sydney) was invited by the University of Genova to Massa on the Tuscany coast to run a one-day workshop on beach systems, hazards and safety. More than 200 attended the workshop. Andy also had time to present a talk at the Italian Coastal Conference.

Phil Hirsch, **Paula Brown** (3rd year PhD candidate), **Lindsay Souter** (1st year PhD candidate), **Kate Griffiths** (part-time 1st year Masters research candidate) and Nguyen Tuong Huy (a PhD candidate from the AMRC) will be attending the Southeast Asian Geography Association (SEAGA) conference in the Philippines. This runs between 3-6 June in Quezon City. Kate will be presenting a paper on the Geography of Chinese Aid, Lindsay will present a co-authored paper on the results of a Thai-Lao cross-border project for forest management education that was carried out as part of the Mekong Learning Initiative in 2006 and Paula will present research on livelihoods change in marine conservation in Vietnam. The IGU Regional Network for Southeast Asia, Australasia and the Southwest Pacific (SEAASWP) will also be holding a roundtable session at SEAGA on the question of whether collaboration between geographers in SE Asia, Australia and the Pacific should be framed mainly around development questions, or whether this perpetuates a neo-colonial frame of reference for networking. This roundtable is being facilitated by Phil Hirsch.

These five geographers will be also be attending the Challenges of Agrarian Transition (ChATSEA) dissertation workshop in Los Banos, Phillipines. This three day workshop will see postgraduate supervisors and academic advisors gather together to share thoughts and experience on researching in Southeast Asia. Lindsay will be discussing her proposal for research on water governance in Thailand and Cambodia.

Australian National University

Bryant Allen presented a report on the main sources of food in Oro Province, PNG (the site of the flooding late last year) to AusAID in Port Moresby and also

gave a presentation on the main databases relevant to natural hazards and disaster mitigation in Papua New Guinea to staff from the Humanitarian and Emergencies Section of AusAID and Geoscience Australia.

Katherine Gibson and **Amanda Cahill** hosted a writing and reflection workshop in December on the health impacts of community enterprises in rural migrant sending areas of the Philippines. The workshop was funded by the ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network and was attended by four NGO activists from the Philippines and early career researchers.

Katherine Gibson and colleague Julie Graham from the University of Massachusetts were participants in a week long EU funded workshop in Lisbon to review the research output from a three year project on ‘Socially Creative Strategies against Social Exclusion’. The workshop was attended by 70 academic and community sector participants from 16 countries. They presented a paper based on a book chapter written with **Gerda Roelvink** on ‘Social Innovation for Community Economies’.

Lesley Potter presented a paper entitled ‘Oil palm versus swidden in Kalimantan, Indonesia’ to a workshop at the Agricultural University of Hanoi, Vietnam, from March 3–7, the topic for which was ‘The demise of swidden in Southeast Asia?’ The participants, specialists in agricultural change in a number of Southeast Asian countries, delivered their workshop findings on the final day to a public forum in the city.

A number of members of the department attended and presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers held in Boston from April 15-19. Katherine Gibson, Julie Graham and Stephen Healy organised seven different sessions on diverse economies which ran for a day and a half of the five days of the conference. Papers presented were: Building community economies through enterprise development in the Philippines: ethical challenges and diverse pathways (Katherine Gibson); Sustainable development in rural, peripheral places in the global south: recognising the role of the diverse economy (Michelle Carnegie); Power play: the political implications of a diverse economies approach to rural livelihood development, (Amanda Cahill); and Training tools for the community economy: making an interactive CD for independent use, (Ann Hill). The new journal *Emotion, Space and Society* sponsored an ‘Author meets the critics session on *A Postcapitalist Politics* by J. K. Gibson-Graham’ that involved an interdisciplinary panel of discussants with responses from the authors. Gerda Roelvink also attended the Rethinking Marxism Conference ‘Surplus/Excess’ at the University of California, Riverside in April where she presented a paper co-written with JK Gibson-Graham called ‘Surplus and dignity: a post-humanist community economics’.

University of Queensland

Having reviewed arrangements at other Australian universities, The University of Queensland has revised its Bachelor of Arts requirements. A major now requires eight and an extended major 12 within the mandated 24 courses over three years.

The schools in Arts have been required to prune their first year offerings and to provide up to three advanced capstone courses for the major programs. Those introduced by the School of Geography, Planning and Architecture include Progress in Geography, and Global Change: Problems and Prospects, the latter to be first offered in Semester 2, 2008.

Recent and immediate appointments include:

Nick Callow (from UWA) who will teach and research in the area of physical geography;

Tiffany Morrison (from Flinders) who will teach and research in the area of environmental management and planning;

Martine Maron (from USQ) who will teach and research in the area of environmental management)

Tessa Anderson (from the University of Canterbury) who will teach in the area of GIS.

Leaving the team at UQ are:

Pramod Sharma (GIS) who has retired;

Peter Wulf, **Daryl McPhee** (both environmental management) and **Dominic Brown** (demography) who have resigned to join the private sector;

Douglas Bardsley (environmental management) who has accepted an appointment at the University of Adelaide.

Stuart Phinn (remote sensing) has been promoted to a chair in geography.

Bob Stimson has been appointed a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Patrick Moss has been elected the President of the Australasian Quaternary Association.

GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...

Matthew Tonts (University of Western Australia) has spent the last four months based at the University of Plymouth (UK) on study leave. Matthew has been conducting fieldwork in rural England for a number of his projects, including an ARC study exploring aspects of new regionalism, regional development and economic geography. Matthew is currently making preparations for two months fieldwork in rural France, before he returns to UWA in late July.

Robert Baker (University of New England) has signed with Springer for a new book entitled "Modelling Internet Traffic in Geographic Space and Imaginary Time". The content of the book will be based on the results from his recent ARC Discovery Grant. He is also presenting long term modelling of climate change, based on the Greenland Ice Core data, at the International Geological Congress at Oslo in August 2008. This uses the same solar magnetic field model showing the southern oscillation index follows a similar pattern every 80 years (to be published in Geographical Research later this year).

Neil Argent (University of New England) was an invited participant at ‘The Next Rural Economies’ symposium held at Prince George, British Columbia, 15-16th May. Neil presented a paper on behalf of Jim Walmsley, Tony Sorensen and himself with the title, “Something old, something new, something borrowed, something? Rediscovering the comparative advantage of the ‘new’ pastoral economies of northern New South Wales, Australia”.

During the last months of 2007 and the first couple of months of 2008, **Jim Walmsley**, **Tony Sorensen** and **Neil Argent** oversaw the completion of fieldwork within the Northern New England Tablelands for the ARC Discovery-Project Grant “Australia’s Rural Heartlands”. The project involves fellow geographers **Bill Pritchard** and **Phil McManus** (Uni of Sydney) as well as **Scott Baum** (Griffith), **Lisa Bourke** (Melbourne) and **John Martin** (La Trobe). Jim, Tony and Neil are indebted to UNE PhD graduate, **Alison McIntosh**, for the extremely competent manner in which she managed the survey work.

Kirsten Maclean graduated from The Fenner School of Environment and Society in July 2007. After 11 months working for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on Thursday Island she started a Post-Doc at the University of Queensland. Kirsten is working with a diverse research team to develop indicators for regional social resilience. Over the next few years she will be working on eight participatory case studies in the Barron and Johnstone river catchments in North Queensland. Kirsten recently presented a paper at the Resilience 2008 conference in Stockholm and looks forward to presenting a paper from her PhD research at the IGU Congress in Tunis in August. She is grateful to the IAG for awarding her financial assistance to attend this conference. Please contact her at Kirsten.Maclean@uq.edu.au if you would like to know more about her current work!

Phil Hirsch (University of Sydney) is currently working on a study of land titling in Laos. Phil’s research is funded by the Australian Development Research Awards scheme.

Katharine McKinnon (Macquarie University) is currently working on the emerging indigenous rights movement in Southeast Asia. Katharine writes ‘At the moment I am writing up material from fieldwork in July last year during which I helped to convene a workshop with several local NGO groups in northern Thailand. The workshop brought together NGO groups who represent minority highland groups, and community leaders and representatives to discuss the issue of taking on an ‘indigenous’ label for themselves, and how to engage with the 2nd indigenous peoples decade. The workshop was an eye-opener as the group spent almost a full day debating the question of how highlanders should represent themselves and whether the term ‘indigenous’ was appropriate, and if so how to correctly translate it into Thai language. For those that attended there was no question how important a label could be and was heartening reminder for me, as someone that works on issues of language and representation, of the real significance of the politics of representation’.

Richie Howitt (Macquarie University) and his research team recently submitted the draft final report of the Resource Assessment for Remote Indigenous Communities project to the Northern Land Council.

Pauline McGuirk (University of Newcastle), **Robyn Dowling** (Macquarie University) and **Rowland Atkinson** (University of Tasmania) are in an advanced stage of their research on Sydney's master-planned communities. This study involves close examination of six case studies.

Pauline McGuirk, Kathy Mee, Lesley Instone and **Robert King** from University of Newcastle are working together with **Phillip O'Neill** (University of Western Sydney) on an ARC Linkage grant with the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (Hunter Region). The research aims to develop protocols and procedures to facilitate data-sharing across government agencies as a prelude to developing fine-grained indicators of social well-being and social vulnerability.

Now retired for 13 years, University of Queensland **Emeritus Professor John Holmes** maintains an active scholarly life. His distinctive approach to the concept of rural (not merely agricultural) multi-functionality has captured a widespread international response. He argues that the multi-functional transition has seen the emergence of consumption and protection values, selectively displacing the former dominance of production values, and leading to greater complexity and heterogeneity in rural occupancy. Prompted by the pending fiftieth anniversary of IAG, he has just finished an article, to be presented at the Hobart meeting, on fifty years of disciplinary flux, seeking to identify the socio-cognitive dimensions of sub-disciplines and associated subcultures in human geography. Unexpectedly hit by a major coronary bypass operation, John is recovering well and should be in good shape for early July.

Mike Bourke and **Bryant Allen** (ANU), together with other colleagues in Australia, PNG and New Zealand, have been investigating aspects of poverty in Papua New Guinea for a decade, in particular delineating its extent. This has resulted in greater involvement in policy formulation and development issues recently including a joint briefing for Senator Bob McMullan, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance; a seminar to the PNG Branch at AusAID; a public lecture by Mike at the Divine Word University in Madang, PNG; and two newspaper articles in Australia and PNG. They also working with colleagues from the PNG National Agricultural Research Institute on PNG agro-ecological zones and a new ACIAR Project, 'Value-adding to PNG agroforestry systems'.

Mike Bourke (ANU) has also been closely working with three NGOs in Australia and PNG on poverty in rural PNG (CARE; World Vision; Oro Province Community Development Program).

Katherine Gibson (ANU) is working to complete outputs from an action research project in the Philippines funded by an ARC Linkage grant in partnership with AusAID. She is finalizing an interactive CD-Rom for use in the field by communities and NGOs and is making a film on social enterprises in the Philippines. With Julie Graham and the assistance of Sandra Davenport she has

compiled an online bibliography of over 200 entries on 'Diverse Economies in Geography' that is available on the *Progress in Human Geography* website [see: <http://phg.sagepub.com/pap.dtl>].

Lesley Potter (ANU) is continuing her work on tree-based commodities, traditional agriculture and forestry in Indonesia. Her chapter on coffee in southern Sumatra, for *Taking Southeast Asia to Market*, edited by Joe Nevins and Nancy Peluso, will be published shortly by Cornell University Press. She has completed draft chapters on oil palm in Kalimantan for two volumes associated with the 'Agrarian transition in Southeast Asia' project, one focussing on challenge and resistance to the transition, the second exploring the nature and limitations of the transition on the island of Borneo. These materials were presented in Montreal to a workshop on the Agrarian Transition, then aired in two of the panels at the annual conference of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies in Quebec City in October 2007. Lesley's latest project concerns forest transformations in Indonesia.

Brian Lees (UNSW@ADFA) is continuing with research into the historical plank roads of the Qin empire with support from the Australia China Council. He and David Jupp have been working with Chinese colleagues on this project for several years now. The project has produced a web-site and now a book which will be published later this year, in two languages, in the *Shimen* series. Another project Brian is involved in has also produced a book; Zhou, Q., Lees, B.G. & Tang, G.A., (eds), 2008, *Advances in Digital Terrain Analysis*, Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography, Springer, 465p.

Brian Lees' work in GISc has resulted in him being appointed as an Adjunct Professor, State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information Systems (LREIS), Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing; as a Member of the Academic Consultative Committee, Key Laboratory of Virtual Geographic Environment (Nanjing Normal University), Ministry of Education, China; and, as the External Examiner for the MSc Program in GISc at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. During 2008 year he gave a keynote address at the *International Forum on Sustainable Environmental Development*, Taiwan, and was an Invited Panel Member at the *International Forum on Rural Village Development and Information Technology*, Soil and Water Conservation Bureau, Taiwan.

Chris Gibson (University of Wollongong), **Jim Walmsley** (University of New England), **Ross Gibson** (University of Sydney) and **Lisa Anderson** (UTS) began work on their ARC Linkage Project *Cultural Asset Mapping for Planning and Development in Regional Australia* (with industry partners including the Australia Council for the Arts, Regional Arts NSW, The NSW Local Government and Shires Association and several local councils in NSW).

Nick Gill (University of Wollongong) is working with **Laurie Chisholm** (University of Wollongong) and **Peter Klepeis** (Colgate University) on the land use practices of rural lifestyle landowners. They have a paper from this project in press in *Land Use Policy* - 'Emerging Amenity Landscapes: Invasive Weeds and Land Subdivision in Rural Australia'. Peter Klepeis will be in Australia for year from June to first lead a study group and then work on this project.

Nick Gill (University of Wollongong) and **Kath Broderick** (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority) have edited a special edition of *Geographical Research: 'Socio-cultural and Environmental Dimensions of Water and Rivers'*. This will be edition 46(3) of the journal. The papers are mainly from a session on water resources held at the 2007 IAG organised by Kath, Nick and Fiona Allon (University of Western Sydney) and sponsored by the IAG Environmental Sustainability Study Group.

Andrew Gorman-Murray and **Lesley Head** (University of Wollongong) recently commenced a new project entitled 'Culture and climate change: the cultural significance of snow in Australia', which examines the place of snow/alpine environments in national and personal identities and experiences. The online survey component has already attracted 100 respondents, and Andrew has been invited to prepare an article for the July edition of *SkiMag*, one of the country's leading ski and snowsports publications.

Andrew Gorman-Murray and **Gordon Waitt** (University of Wollongong) and **Kirsten McLean** (University of Monash) have commenced an analysis of same-sex couple household data from the 2006 census.

Gordon Waitt (University of Wollongong) is working on new projects. The first is 'Living on the land: Cultures of climate changes in rural Australia'. Start-up funding has been provided from the Geoquest Research Centre to build upon community engagement initiatives in the Bega Valley Shire. This project collects oral histories from people living on small blocks to explore their relationships with the environment and questions of sustainability. The second new project is 'Gender, space and bodyboarding': this project examines the know-how of the Illawarra beaches held by bodyboarders. Marginalised by short-board surfing practices, this project examines the processes by which surf breaks are territorialised, and bodyboarders become 'local'. This project builds on a series of national and international publications examining the processes by which waves are gendered through surfing practices.

Jessica Weir, a Research Fellow in the Native Title Research Unit at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, is commencing on extending our understandings of native title within the context of ecological relationships, ecological change, and ecological destruction. As a part of this research, Jessica is undertaking case study research with native title holders who are required to establish a native title corporation to hold and manage their native title lands.

Matthew Tonts and **Amanda Davies** (University of Western Australia) are nearing completion of a three year national study into rural skilled labour issues. The study, funded by the Rural Industries Research Development Corporation, focused on quantifying skilled labour trends and shortages, and identifying the most vulnerable regions and industries. Six regional case studies were also used to qualify the social and economic impact of skilled labour shortages on rural communities and industries.

Amanda Davies and **Matthew Tonts** (University of Western Australia) together with **Kerry Carrington**, **Richard Stayner**, **Tony Sorensen** and **Fran Rolley** (University of New England) have completed the first phase of a large three part study into rural resilience. The study entitled ‘What makes a community resilient?’ is funded by the Rural Industries Research Development Corporation, and is using qualitative and quantitative research techniques to answer this complex research question.

Amanda Davies and **Matthew Tonts** (University of Western Australia) have recently completed a large three year project examining the how people use and value the marine environment. The study focused on the southwest bioregion of Western Australia, and involved fuzzy ‘perceptions’ mapping and socio-economic modelling and analysis. The study was funded through the Natural Heritage Trust II.

GEOGRAPHERS ON THE MOVE

Kersty Hobson, after nearly five years as a Research Fellow in the Department of Human Geography at the ANU has moved to the Fenner School of Environment and Society, also at the ANU, to take up a lectureship.

Sarah Prout, who graduated with a PhD from Macquarie University in September 2007, has moved to the Australian National University where she has taken a position as a Post-doctoral Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. Sarah is working in a team headed by fellow geographer John Taylor, in partnership with the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA), on a project examining a number of aspects of contemporary Indigenous demography. The three-year ‘Populations Project’ focuses in particular on the policy implications of both emerging demographic and socio-economic trends, and short-term mobility processes.

Judith Burns has recently left her teaching position at the University of New England to return to full-time consulting practice. She will remain an adjunct lecturer at UNE and also the convener of the IAG Indigenous Issues Study Group. Judith can still be contact on her UNE email address, <jbruns@une.edu.au>

MEMBERS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Ruth Fincher, from the University of Melbourne has recently release her new co-authored book: Fincher, R. and Iveson, K. *Planning and Diversity in the City: Redistribution, Recognition and Encounter*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Donald McNeill (University of Western Sydney) has two books forthcoming in 2008: a research monograph ‘*The Global Architect: Fame, Firms and Urban Form*’, to be published by Routledge, New York; and a jointly written textbook, ‘*Key Concepts in Urban Geography*’, to be published by Sage, London.

James Terry, from the University of the South Pacific, has recently published two books: Terry, J.P. and Thomas, F.R. (Eds.) *The Marshall Islands: Environment, History and Society in the Atolls*, published by University of the South Pacific, Suva, and Terry, J.P. *Tropical Cyclones: Climatology and Impacts in the South Pacific*, published by Springer, New York.

Andrew McGregor, from the University of Otago has a new book out: McGregor, A. *Southeast Asian Development*, Routledge, London

John Connell (University of Sydney) and **Barbara Rugendyke** (University of New England) have a new edited volume entitled *Tourism at the Grassroots. Villagers and Visitors in the Asia-Pacific* (published by Routledge, London). This book includes chapters by **Phil Hirsch** (University of Sydney) and **Raj Rajaratnam** (New England).

John Connell (University of Sydney) has also recently had published his book entitled *The International Migration of Health Workers* (published by Routledge, New York).

George Curry and **Gina Koczberski** (Curtin University) (with Omuru, E. and Nailina, R.S.) have a new book entitled *Farming or Foraging? Household Labour and Livelihood Strategies amongst Smallholder Cocoa Growers in Papua New Guinea*. The book has been published by Black Swan Press, Perth.

The Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Newcastle, has recently released a new book about basket weaving and culture in North East Arnhem Land. The book is jointly authored by Lak Lak Burarrwanga and her daughter Djawundil Maymuru and Lak Lak's sisters Ritjilili Ganambarr and Banbapuy Ganambarr from Bawaka, North East Arnhem Land together with Sarah Wright from the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies, the University of Newcastle and Kate Lloyd and Sandie Suchet-Pearson from the Department of Human Geography, Macquarie University.

Paul Memmott (University of Queensland) has published a book entitled *Gunyah, Gonndie and Wurley: The Aboriginal Architecture of Australia*. The book was published by the University of Queensland Press.

Catharina Williams (ANU) has published a monograph based on her doctoral theses entitled *Maiden Voyages: Eastern Indonesian Women on the Move* (published by ISEAS (Singapore) and KITLV (the Netherlands)).

Yan Liu has a forthcoming book entitled "Modelling Urban Development with Geographical Information Systems and Cellular Automata". The book, published by CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group) will be available in December 2008.

Frank Vanclay (UTAS), **Matthew Higgins** and **Adam Blackshaw** (both from the NMA) has recently completed their book "Making Sense of Place: Exploring the concepts and expressions of place through different senses and lenses". The book is a full colour book with an accompanying DVD which explore place from myriad perspectives and through evocative encounters. The book contains a selection of

papers presented at the Senses of Place conference held in Hobart in 2006, and is published by the National Museum of Australia Press.

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

University of Newcastle postgraduate students **Nicola Vaughan**, **Jill Sweeney**, **Jack Aisbett** and **Lisa Webber** presented the following papers at the Geographical Society of NSW Postgraduate conference *Emergent Geographies Conference 2007*:

Aisbett J 'Developing AIDS: How development agencies portray AIDS in Papua New Guinea'.

Sweeney J 'Geographies of whaling: the articulation of sovereignty in the Southern Ocean'.

Vaughan N 'Gardening as a practice of tenant participation in social housing'.

Webber L 'Social networks of Sudanese refugees in regional and urban locations'.

Nicola Vaughan also presented a paper at the *New Research Directions in Housing* Conference held at the University of Western Sydney. The paper was titled 'Tenant participation in public housing'.

Louise Askew recently presented a paper at the *Association of American Geographers Annual Conference* held in Boston, April 15-19 2008. The paper was entitled 'The 'peopled practice' of bureaucracies: ethical and caring actions in interagency networks of human service delivery'.

The University of Sydney has a number of new PhD students. **Raewyn Graham**, who has an Honours and Masters from Canterbury University, will be supervised by Phil McManus. Raewyn is working on part of the Discovery Project grant of Phil McManus and Glenn Albrecht (University of Newcastle) that is investigating thoroughbred breeding and the uses of nature, science and tradition.

Phil McManus will also supervise new student **Virginia Brunton**. Virginia, a part-time PhD student, will study environmental history, agriculture and soil in the Sydney Basin.

Dong Xing, who has a Masters from the University of Adelaide, will commence work in July on a project examining the role of rooftop gardens as part of sustainable cities. Dong will be working towards the award of PhD and will be supervised by Phil McManus.

Gareth Edwards, who is currently a PhD student at the University of Sydney (supervised by Phil McManus), was recently awarded a Wentworth Scholarship. Gareth's research is on the perceptions and management of urban water with a focus on equity issues.

Two ANU students, **Michelle Carnegie** and **Gerda Roelvink**, are nearing completion of their PhD doctorates. Michelle's thesis 'Place-based livelihoods and post-development challenges in Eastern Indonesia' considers how Eastern

Indonesia – a region characterised as ‘backward’ – might be represented as a site of development possibility based on already existing place-based livelihood practices. The study is informed by a post-development approach and the use of discourse analysis, ethnographic methods, weak theory and an anti-essentialist epistemology. It explores how people in a mixed ethnic, Christian-Muslim village in East Nusa Tenggara province determine their own development outcomes and live together successfully as a low-conflict society. Gerda’s thesis ‘Performing new economies through hybrid collectives’ theorises new forms of collectivity and the ways in which they are creating alternative economies. The hybrid collectives examined include documentary films, the World Social Forum, markets and community economies.

Tim Sharp, Pyone Myat Thu and **Kelly Dombroski** (ANU) have all returned from long term field work in Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Western China respectively. Tim’s research is investigating the long distance betel nut trade between the coast and the highlands of Papua New Guinea, tracing the various networks of actors including traders, marketplace vendors, street sellers, local authorities, raskols and politicians among others, who daily shape this market and the movement of betel nut. Pyone is studying rural livelihoods impacted by the Indonesian invasion in 1975. She is focusing on two displaced communities in the Baucau and Manufahi Districts where she conducted focus groups, oral histories, and journeyed back with the villagers to their original settlements. Kelly is interested in maternity and motherhood in a diverse economy and spent some time working with Hui (Muslim Chinese) groups in Qinghai Province.

ANU has two new human geography PhD students, **Ann Hill** and **Nathan Blank**. **Ann’s** research will be on community food systems in urban spaces with case studies in both Australia and South East Asia. **Nathan** will research international worker migration and Philippines government policy.

Naomi Atauea from Kiribati has commenced a PhD at the University of Wollongong. The research will be funded by AusAID, and Naomi will study the impacts of climate change on Pacific atolls. The research will be supervised by Colin Woodroffe and Colin Murray-Wallace.

Chris Brennan-Horley (University of Wollongong) has completed field work on his PhD topic examining qualitative applications of GIS for creative industry mapping. Using GIS to accumulate and analyse mental maps from ethnographic interviews, Chris is experimenting with 3D visualisation and online ‘map mashing’ as a means of communicating research results to participating creative communities. The PhD project is part of A/Prof Chris Gibson’s ARC Linkage Project on creative industries in Darwin.

Gabriele Caccamo (University of Wollongong) has started a PhD under the supervision of Dr. Laurie Chisholm, Dr. Marji Puotinen and Dr Ross Bradstock on cross-scale examination of the spatio-temporal dynamics of bushfire, moisture and drought regimes.

Adam Carrigan (University of Wollongong) has started a PhD under the supervision of Dr Marji Puotinen on natural disturbance of coral reefs under global

climate change. Adam has also recently been awarded a grant to attend the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium in Florida in July.

Christine Eriksen (University of Wollongong) is working on her PhD on the bushfire management knowledge and practices of rural lifestyle landowners. She has secured funding from the Bushfire CRC and the NSW Rural Fire Service. She has just completed a survey of landowners in her study areas, is analysing this material, and is planning a stretch of more in-depth fieldwork including participation in RFS brigade training.

Emma MacIntyre (University of Wollongong) has completed her PhD under the supervision of Dr Nick Gill and Professor Colin Woodroffe on the use of GIS in participatory natural resource management and planning by local government and Landcare groups. She is now working as a consultant in the Illawarra.

Kate Roggeveen (University of Wollongong) has started an MSc as part of Lesley Head's ARC project on the cultural ecology of Australian plants. She will be working on sustainability issues in vegetable production, with a particular focus on tomatoes.

Golam Mahabub Sarwar from Bangladesh has commenced a PhD funded by AusAID, and based at the University of Wollongong, on the impacts of climate change on the coast of Bangladesh. The research will be supervised by Colin Woodroffe and Brian Jones.

Aree Suwanmanee (University of Wollongong), under the supervision of Dr. Nick Gill, is busy writing his thesis on the relationship between local and official forms of environmental knowledge in Thailand.

Andrew Warren (University of Wollongong), supervised by Chris Gibson, has begun research on participation of young people in the creative industries of the Illawarra region. The PhD is part of A/Prof Gibson's new ARC Linkage Project, Cultural Asset Mapping for Planning and Development in Regional Australia (2008-2012). Andrew is interested in pursuing ethnographic research on young people's creative lives in diverse socio-economic and cultural circumstances.

David Webb has commenced a MSc under the supervision of Dr. Marji Puotinen and Dr. Laurie Chisholm to develop a high quality baseline dataset of fire scars from recent severe bushfires, and use the dataset to assess the positional accuracy of the existing Rural Fire Service bushfire history dataset as well as test remote sensing indices for mapping bushfire scars. David will be based at the University of Wollongong.

Rohan Wickramasuriya (University of Wollongong) has commenced a PhD under the supervision of Dr Laurie Chisholm, Dr. Nick Gill and Dr. Marji Puotinen on spatial decision support for managing land use change and its effects on biodiversity in rural environments undergoing rapid development as part of the 'treechange' phenomenon.

OTHER INTERESTING BITS

Professor Iain Hay from Flinders University provided the following information on two new books, *Aspiring Academics* and *Teaching College Geography*, to which Australian scholars have contributed, and may be of interest to research higher degree students and new academic staff members in particular. Both books deal with professional aspects of teaching geography at university level and have arisen from an ongoing National Science Foundation-funded research project in the USA. The books are published by Pearson with the Association of American Geographers.

For further information about the books, including ordering information, please visit http://www.aag.org/EDGE/edge_materials.cfm or contact the editors at msolem@aag.org, k.foote@colorado.edu, or jmonk@email.arizona.edu

Aspiring Academics

Edited by Michael Solem, Ken Foote and Jan Monk

Aspiring Academics is a set of essays designed to help graduate students and early career academics get started in their careers in geography and related social and environmental sciences. Rather than viewing academic work as a collection of unrelated tasks, *Aspiring Academics* stresses the interdependence of teaching, research, and service and the importance of achieving a healthy balance in professional and personal life. Drawing on several years of research, the chapters provide accessible, forward-looking advice on topics that often cause the most stress in the first years of a college or university appointment.

Aspiring Academics also features a companion website offering dozens of activities that can be used in workshops, seminars, and informal gatherings of graduate students and academic staff. Written in a spirit of collegiality and sharing of support, visitors to the website can post comments related to the chapters, participate in electronic discussions, and contribute their own resources and tips for others.

Teaching College Geography

Edited by Michael Solem and Ken Foote

Whether you are a tutor or the convenor of a course, *Teaching College Geography* provides a starting point for becoming an effective geography teacher from the very first day of class.

Divided in two parts, the first set of chapters in *Teaching College Geography* address “nuts-and-bolts” issues of teaching in the context of new technologies, student demographics, and institutional expectations that are the hallmarks of higher education in the 21st century. In the second part, chapters explore other important issues: effective teaching in the field; supporting critical thinking with

GIS and mapping technologies; engaging learners in large geography classes; and promoting awareness of international perspectives and geographic issues.

Teaching College Geography is based on the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), a broad-based, international movement to create more effective linkages between teaching and research in all disciplines. SoTL encourages all academics to become critically reflective teachers who constantly consider the effectiveness of their practices, keep abreast of research on teaching and learning, and contribute to the process of educational improvement by sharing innovations with peers and students. Toward that end, the book's chapters include activities that can be completed in workshops, seminars, and informal gatherings of graduate students and faculty. Visitors to the book's companion website can find additional activities, post comments related to the chapters, participate in electronic discussions, and share their own resources and tips with others.

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