From the President

Dear Geographers

Welcome to this bumper IAG newsletter – packed with the remarkable activities of Australian geographers. Of many notable developments recorded in the newsletter I would like to highlight these few:

- If you are looking for summer reading (or gifts), scan through the 23 new books published by geographers this year (that is assuming that you have already read the 34 books published in 2014). This is spectacular productivity for a small discipline.

- Geographers have had similar success in the ARC Discovery round this year. There are 15 grants listed here, and I think there are more not listed.

- We congratulate Matthew Tonts on his elevation to the Dean and Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Faculty of Arts, Architecture, Business, Law and Education at the University of Western Australia. This is a very senior role of what looks like a complicated faculty.

- We also congratulate Trish Douglas on her new role as Chair of the Australian Geography Teachers Association, and thank Grant Kleeman for his stirling work in this role over several years.

- I was in Beijing at the IGC and was fortunate to see the Australian student team take out first place out of 44 countries in the International Geographical Olympiad. Australia consistently performs well in these highly competitive (and enjoyable) events, and this is an antidote to the sometimes dispiriting news about Australian education.

We had the last IAG Council meeting in Sydney in October (thanks to Phil McManus and Sydney Uni for hosting the Council over several years in their august building – we will be moving to the somewhat less historical venue of the School of Geography at the University of Melbourne for the next round of Council meetings).
I want to mention two decisions that were made at that meeting. The IAG has just signed a contract with a developer to produce a completely new web-site. This is fantastic news, and will make all of our lives better. The new site will not only provide beautiful event management, and discussion forums for study groups, but also a full membership management system, linked to a secure payment system. Nobody is more excited about this development than Julie Kesby who has valiantly managed the present web-site for many years; and, with Aidan Davison, has orchestrated the selection of the new web-developer. We envisage moving to full online management of the IAG this year. Just one example of the benefits of the new integrated system is the grant applications for postgraduate students to attend conferences. This year we had 26 postgrads attend the Adelaide IAG conference, and eight more attend the IGC in Beijing. Each application took five pages of information, and innumerable emails. We hope to be able to replace this process with one simple online form that automatically links to all of the information we need to allocate the grants, a simple banking system that pays the grants.

Development of the new website is indicative of the shift of the IAG toward a new professionalism that is required to represent the interests of a growing community of geographers. Related to this, a second decision made at the recent Council meeting was to develop the first strategic plan for the IAG in 2017. This is an appropriate response to the Australian Academy of Science’s soon-to-be-completed ‘Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences’. We will be consulting with you all on this plan next year.

Some end of year acknowledgements. First, thanks to all of you geographers across the continent who provide material for this newsletter, and particularly to Jennifer Carter who tirelessly collates that material. Second, whilst I thank all members of the IAG Council for their stirling work over the year, I want to make special mention of three people with the toughest jobs: Robyn Bartel our amazing Secretary, Robert Gale, our redoubtable treasurer; and Kirstie Petrou, our ever reliable administrative assistant. Elaine Stratford is our new editor of the IAG journal, Geographical Research, and has been extremely active in her first year. Finally, I want to thank Iain Hay for continuing to represent all Australian geographers, on the international stage, as our representative to the International Geographical Union. He continues to write about the super-rich, but fraternise with the super-influential.

On behalf of the Council of the IAG, I wish all Australian geographers, young and old, a safe and enjoyable break over Christmas.

Best wishes,

**Ian Rutherfurd, IAG President**

University of Melbourne, idruth@unimelb.edu.au
CALL FOR AWARDS OF THE IAG - 2017

Members are invited to nominate their esteemed colleagues for the following awards:

- The GRIFFITH TAYLOR Medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia.

- AUSTRALIA-INTERNATIONAL MEDAL is for outstanding contributions by Australian geographers to geography world-wide, or by geographers outside Australia to the geography of Australia.

- DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (DFIAG) is awarded for distinguished service to Australian geography through furthering the aims of the Institute.

- The FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (FIAG) recognizes sustained service to the profession of geography in Australia.

Further details of all awards, including nomination details and requirements, are available from: https://www.iag.org.au/about/awards-of-the-iag/

The closing date for ALL nominations is Friday 31 March 2017. Nominations should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au

For further enquiries about these awards, please contact either the IAG President, Ian Rutherfurd idruth@unimelb.edu.au or the Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au

No applications were forthcoming in Rd 2 for the Fellowship of The Institute of Australian Geographers (FIAG). Please note that this is the only award that has two calls per year. The other awards have an annual call, except for the Griffith-Taylor Medal, which is awarded every second year.
STUDY GROUP FUNDING AND ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Study groups will soon be invited to apply for funding in 2017 and submit their annual reports for activities undertaken in 2016.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL

The next IAG meeting will be a combined Council meeting and Annual General Meeting in April 2017, date and venue TBC. The Annual General Meeting will be held for the purpose of approving our financial reports for the previous financial year, following the requirements of our revised Constitution.

There will also be a Council Meeting and a Special General Meeting held to coincide with the IAG Conference in Brisbane in 2017. Time and Venue tba.

Have a happy silly season all and wishing you a safe and prosperous 2017,

Robyn Bartel,
IAG Honorary Secretary.

Welcome!
The IAG Council welcomes the following new members of the IAG

Tasmin Dilworth, Macquarie University; Anne Baker, ANU; Erich Morgenbesser, University of Queensland; Samantha Grover, La Trobe University; Jane Holloway, Department of Defence; Vincent Versace, Deakin University; Barry Lincoln, University of Adelaide; Toni Sheehan, Parramatta Marist; Xiao Han, University of Melbourne; Nahul Zhen, University of Melbourne; Suzanne Mavoa, University of Melbourne; Michael Hewson, Central Queensland University; Ani Ward-Mattila, RMIT; Warrick Fort, Curtin University; Joshua Dennis; Nikki Sloan, Akvo Foundation; Elin Charles-Edwards, University of Queensland; Scott McKinnon, Western Sydney University; Bradon Ellem, University of Sydney; Chris Kemp, University of Adelaide; Adele Pavlidis, Griffith University; Sally Weller, Australian Catholic University, Narinder Kaur, Smt. Mmk of Commerce and Economics,
Sustainability science initiative launches to safeguard Australia’s future

The Future Earth Program is being launched in Australia. Future Earth is a global initiative of the International Council for Science that brings together thousands of researchers and billions of dollars of sustainability research programs across the world.

“Future Earth is a significant international research framework, and its focus on social, economic and environmental sustainability is of particular importance to our region,” said Professor Andrew Holmes, President of the Academy of Science.

“The Academy of Science will establish an Australasian node of this important program to ensure that Australia and our neighbours have an opportunity to realise the full benefits of the sustainability work that’s being undertaken across the globe.

The Academy has appointed Dr Imran Ahmad to oversee this ambitious program following support from the CSIRO, the University of Queensland, Macquarie University and the University of Sydney. Dr Ahmad has extensive experience in international sustainability research, programs and policy through senior roles with the Global Green Growth Initiative, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

He said that the unique aspect of the Future Earth Program was the integration of physical sciences with the social sciences and humanities to achieve a truly holistic approach to some of humanity’s most complex problems.

“Australia faces unique sustainability challenges, and in many cases we don’t yet have good ways to address these,” he said. “Future Earth Australia will allow us to begin tackling challenges such as sustainable urban and agricultural development in parts of Australia that will have reduced rainfall by bringing together experts from fields such as agricultural science, urban planning, behavioural economics and history, for example.”

The launch of the Future Earth program follows an initial 18-month consultation and planning process involving each of Australia’s learned Academies that was funded by the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA).

More information and a copy of the Future Earth Australia strategic plan can be found at www.futureearth.org.au
News from the field

Please bring to the attention of potential Honours students who may be interested in working in Papua New Guinea:

New Colombo Plan Opportunities for Honours-based Field Research in Papua New Guinea.

An opportunity exists for two Honours students to undertake 4 to 6 weeks fieldwork in PNG in first semester 2017. Fieldwork will be heavily subsidised under the New Colombo Plan. Honours thesis topics should be related to two major themes in rural and agricultural development in PNG: food security amongst export cash crop producers in the lowlands of PNG; and rural entrepreneurship and development amongst women in PNG.

For selection criteria and further information, please contact:
Prof. George Curry <g.curry@curtin.edu.au> or
Dr Gina Koczberski <g.koczberski@curtin.edu.au>
Grant and Award Opportunities

**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.

**Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers**
The Fellowship is awarded for distinguished service to Australian geography through furthering the aims of the Institute. The award was called the ‘Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographer’ prior to 2008.

**Australian-International Medal**
In recognition of either outstanding contributions by Australian (or Australia-based) geographers to the advancement of Geography worldwide 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.

**Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers**
Is awarded for sustained service to the geography profession in Australia

**Past Winners**

**Griffith Taylor Medal**
- Mrs Ann Marshall 1989
- Dr Les Heathcote 1997
- Dr Joe Gentilli 1998
- Professor Fay Gale 2001
- Professor Bruce Thom 2004
- Emeritus Professor John Holmes 2006
- Professor Joe Powell 2008
- Professor Michael Webber 2011
- Professor Jim Walmsley 2013
- Professor Arthur Conacher 2015

**Australia - International Medal**
- Professor Janice Monk 1999
- Professor Reginald Colladge 2000
- Professor Tom McKnight 2001
- Emeritus Professor Harold Brookfield 2005
- Emeritus Professor Ian Douglas 2006
- Professor John Connell 2009
- Professor Katherine Gibson and Professor Julie Graham 2010
- Associate Professor Louise Johnson 2011
- Professor Graeme Hugo 2014
- Professor Gordon Clark 2015
- Emeritus Professor Ralph Gerard Ward

**Recipients of the former Fellowship of the IAG**
- Professor Murray McCaskill 1989
- Professor Bruce Thom 1992
- Professor John Holmes 1997
- Associate Professor Arthur Conacher 1998
- Mr Laurie Olive 1999
- Dr Morgan Sant 2001
- Associate Professor Richard Howitt 2004

**Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers**
- Professor Iain Hay 2008
- Associate Professor Tony Sorenson 2008
- Professor Arthur Conacher
- Professor Kay Anderson 2009
- Adjunct Associate Professor Patrick Armstrong 2009
- Mr Terry Birtles 2009
- Professor Bill Boyd 2009
- Professor Robert Freestone 2009
- Professor Roy Jones 2009
- Professor Brian G. Lees 2009
- Professor Richard Le Heron 2009
- Emeritus Associate Professor Bob Loughran 2009
- Professor Pauline McGuirk 2009
- Professor Phil O’Neill 2009
- Associate Professor Elaine Stratford 2009
- Emeritus Professor Murray Wilson 2009
- Professor Hilary P.M. Winchester 2009
- Dr Robert Burne 2010
- Dr Jocelyn Davies 2010
- Dr Ruth Farmer 2010
- Ms Julie Kesby 2010
- Emeritus Professor Bruce Ryan 2010
- Dr Robin F Warner 2010
- Professor Robyn Dowling 2012
- Dr Ashley Webb 2012
- Professor Chris Gibson 2012
- Associate Professor Deirdre Dragovich 2012
- Professor Jim Forest 2012
- Associate Professor Neil Argent 2012
- Dr Hugo Bekle 2012
- Professor Jim Walmsley 2012
- Dr Scott Mooney 2012
- Dr Ashley Webb 2012
- Mr Alex Lyne 2012
- Emeritus Professor Murray Wilson 2009
- Professor Hilary P.M. Winchester 2009
- Dr Robert Burne 2010
- Dr Jocelyn Davies 2010
- Dr Ruth Farmer 2010
- Ms Julie Kesby 2010
- Emeritus Professor Bruce Ryan 2010
- Dr Robin F Warner 2010
- Professor Robyn Dowling 2012
- Dr Ashley Webb 2012
- Professor Chris Gibson 2012
- Associate Professor Deirdre Dragovich 2012
- Professor Jim Forest 2012
- Associate Professor Neil Argent 2012
- Dr Hugo Bekle 2012
- Professor Jim Walmsley 2012
- Dr Scott Mooney 2012
- Dr Ashley Webb 2012
- Mr Alex Lyne 2012
- Emeritus Professor Murray Wilson 2009

Grants and Awards Received

Congratulations to the following who have recently received the award of PhD:

**Saiful Marbun** was awarded a MPhil thesis entitled “Fisheries Industrialisation and Blue Economy Policies in Indonesia: Impacts on Tuna Fisheries in Cilacap and Seaweed Farmers in Nusa Penida.”

**Cathy Cao** was awarded her PhD thesis entitled “Effective Communication of Household Wildfire Risk through WebGIS: Considerations in Content, Representation and Design.”

**Abbas Mir** was awarded a PhD for a thesis entitled “Effects of plant morphology and density on wind velocity, sheltering efficiency and sand flux profiles: a wind tunnel study.”

**Leonardo Valenzuela** was awarded a PhD for his thesis entitled "Coppered Lives: The Chilean sacrifice zone of Quintero Bay". Leonardo has recently moved overseas to commence a postdoc position with the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. He will be working in the exciting area of climate change, indigenous peoples and resource development in the Arctic.

**Liping Yan** was awarded a PhD for a thesis entitled "The ethnic and cultural correlates of water consumption in a pluralistic social context - the Sydney Metropolitan Area”.

**Jessie Connell** was awarded a PhD for her thesis entitled "Safeguarding resettlement: global expectations and local experiences in Cambodia”.

**Trina Isorena** was awarded a PhD for her thesis entitled "Water, water everywhere..? Examining approaches to rural water scarcity in Mindanao”.

**Danny Marks** was awarded a PhD for his thesis entitled "An urban political ecology of the 2011 Bangkok floods". Danny has recently started a post-doc at the University of Toronto as part of the Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia program.

**Victoria Ikutegbe** was awarded a PhD for her thesis entitled ‘A phenomenological study of gardening practices and invasive plant management in the Sydney Basin’.
**Heather Moorcroft** was awarded a PhD for her thesis entitled ‘Coming to terms with the occupation of nature: Engagements between Indigenous Australians and conservation organisations’.

**Katie O’Neal** was awarded a Masters of Environmental Science for her thesis entitled ‘Improving coastal management outcomes through science and the law’.

**Alison Scobie** was awarded a Masters of Environmental Science for her thesis entitled ‘Understanding printing behaviours and paper consumption at the University of Wollongong’.

In late July in Yirrkala and in September at Macquarie University, Laklak Burarrwanga was recognised with an Honorary Doctorate for her outstanding contribution to research with A/Prof Sandie Suchet-Pearson and A/Prof Kate Lloyd at Macquarie University and Dr Sarah Wright from the University of Newcastle. To read about the Yirrkala celebrations 'Honorary Doctorate celebrations in Yirrkala join Macquarie University and the Department of Geography and Planning with northeast Arnhem Land: Two worlds coming together in recognition of deep knowledge’, read here: [http://bit.ly/2b9Dowa](http://bit.ly/2b9Dowa).

A photo from the September ceremony is below:
Congratulations to the following who have received other grants and awards:

**Razia Sultana** who was recently awarded a 2016 Global Challenges Video-Challenge Travel Scholarship. The Scholarship will support Razia to undertake her fieldwork in Dhaka, as part of her PhD project: ‘Urban Green Infrastructure in the Global South: Adapting Slums to Climate Change in Dhaka, Bangladesh’. Well done Razia, and her supervisors Thomas Birtchnell and Nicholas Gill. This is a link to her award-winning video: [https://vimeo.com/188837561](https://vimeo.com/188837561) (and another to the story about the prizes: [http://globalchallenges.uow.edu.au/UOW206310.html](http://globalchallenges.uow.edu.au/UOW206310.html)).

**Pham Thi Bich Ngoc** (pictured above) is a PhD student at The School of Geosciences, Faculty of Sciences, The University of Sydney. She has received the full funding of the Australia Award Scholarship for this work from 2016 to 2020. Her research topic “Driving forces of Environmental Behaviour Changes of Cu Lao Cham Island Community in Hoi An, Vietnam”, under supervisions of Professor Phil McManus and Dr. Robert Fisher. Ms. Ngoc formerly is an environmental geography lecturer of The National University of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City, faculty of Geography. She won the World Bank Price for the Innovation Day 2005 in the environmental education project for children. She interested in environmental geography, environmental community and sustainable development in which she published books and articles in English and Vietnamese language. She also has done many environmental community action projects that were funded by WB, ADB, The Vietnamese Government, Swiss, Belgium, and the university.
**Deirdre Dragovich** has been awarded a Life Membership of the Geographical Society of NSW for her outstanding contributions to geography and the Society over many years. This award will be presented on 5th December at the Society’s Prize Night. Deirdre will be in Adelaide at that time, so one of her many former PhD students, Dr. Michelle Haron, has kindly agreed to accept the Life Membership award on her behalf.

**Emma Calgaro** has been awarded a three year University of Sydney Vice Chancellors Fellowship for a project entitled “Disasters and disability – making inclusion a reality”. Emma will undertake this research within the hazards and disaster research cluster in the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, with Dale Dominey-Howes and will also be a member of the university’s Sydney Southeast Asia Centre.

**Emma Calgaro** and **Dale Dominey-Howes** were part of a team comprising the Deaf Society of New South Wales, The Australian Red Cross, The NSW State Emergency Service, the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Fire and Rescue, NSW that won the 2016 NSW Resilient Australia Award for their project “Get Ready! A model for Deaf Community Leadership”. Get Ready was a project funded under the NSW Community Resilience Innovation Program (CRIP). The team received their award on the 12th October at a ceremony held at the NSW Parliament in Sydney. For more details, check out the award announcement here: [https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/emsector/awards/resilient-australia-awards/2016-nsw-winners.html](https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/emsector/awards/resilient-australia-awards/2016-nsw-winners.html)

**Emma Calgaro** (Team Leader) and **Dale Dominey-Howes** (Scientific Advisory) secured the second tranche of funding (one million USD) for their project Disability and Disasters: Empowering people and building resilience (see [http://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/teams/disability-and-disasters/](http://www.globalresiliencepartnership.org/teams/disability-and-disasters/)). From the website, the "University of Sydney, in collaboration with partners in Australia and Southeast Asia, will strengthen the voices of people with disabilities in the region who are disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters, and often overlooked in traditional disaster risk reduction efforts. Taking a multi-action approach, the team will support the generation of knowledge, risk awareness and skills needed to help people with disabilities to gain institutional and social support needed to effectively prepare for hazards and disasters. Through coordinated advocacy, they will also empower people with disabilities to influence governmental resilience strategies and become champions of resilience in their communities.”
Kirsten Martinus was awarded a DECRA grant on labour proximity in institutionally-thin innovative peripheries, $375,000.

Matthew Tonts, Kirsten Martinus, Ben Derudder, Thomas Sigler and Glen Searle were awarded an ARC Discovery on the globalisation of the resources sector(s) in Australian cities, $222,074.

Ellie Biggs, Eleanor Bruce, Bryan Boruff and Nathan Wales were awarded an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) grant on Environmental livelihood security for climate-smart landscapes; a preliminary investigation for informing agricultural policy in the South Pacific, $250,000, 2016-2017.

Flatau, P., Boruff, B., Wood, L. and Zaretzky, K. were awarded a grant from the WA Department of Regional Development on data analysis and business intelligence, 2016, $168,981.


Christian, H., Rosenberg, M., Lester, L., Trapp, G., Maitland, C., Thornton, A., Schipperijn, J., Trost, S. and Boruff, B were awarded a Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway) grant on the effectiveness of childcare centre programs and environmental upgrades to increase young children's physical activity, 2017-2018, $74,019.

Fiona Haslam McKenzie and Etienne Nel, and colleagues from University of the Free State, were awarded a National Research Fund of South Africa United Nations, and The University of the Free State, grant on managing mine closure in Africa: Expectations, People, Communities and Mining companies, 2016.

Bryan Boruff was awarded the Western Australian Spatial Excellence Award – Education Development 2016, Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA) and Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI).

Shari Gallop, Ana Vila-Concejo, and Ian Goodwin were successful in their submission to the Macquarie University Research Development Grant (MQRDG) for their project “Morphodynamics of estuarine beaches: Sediment transport and storm dynamics”, $49,651.
**Kurt Iveson** is Chief Investigator on “Organising the 21st century city: an international comparison of urban alliances as citizen engagement”, worth approximately $300 000. In a growing number of cities, citizens are channeling frustration with existing citizen engagement processes into the creation of urban alliances that bring together diverse civil society actors to articulate and pursue common interests. The intention of such alliances is to enable citizens to play a proactive role in the shaping of their cities, as an alternative to the reactive role they are often ascribed in existing governance and planning frameworks. This will be the first international comparative study of these alliances. Through desk-based mapping and qualitative case studies, the project will examine their global extent, their different forms and activities, their relationship to existing forms of citizen participation in existing structures of urban governance and planning, and their effectiveness as infrastructures for citizen engagement and empowerment. The research will contribute to scholarly understanding of citizen participation in urban governance and planning. It will make significant practical contributions to the efforts of citizens who engaged in urban alliances in their cities as a means to democratise urban governance, and it will also aid the efforts of those working in planning agencies who are seeking more genuine citizen participation.

**Dan Penny** is a member of a team led by Professor Roland Fletcher that won an ARC Discovery awarded $787,945 over five years for a project titled Urbanism after Angkor (14th-18th century): re-defining Collapse. This project aims to understand changes after the breakdown of low-density urbanism in Cambodia. Recognising the emergence of urban forms after the demise of Angkor challenges the global "Collapse of Civilisation" trope, and redefines the Middle Period of Cambodian history (15th-19th century). This project proposes that continuity, renewal, variety and adaptation are as apparent in Cambodia’s middle period as loss and failure. Applying landscape archaeology to this ‘dark age’ of Southeast Asian history embeds the demise of low-density urbanism and the development of towns in an environmental context. Identifying adaptive pathways after ‘collapse’ could have implications for urbanism in the tropics.

**Michael-Shawn Fletcher** received two ARC grants for projects on the effects of fire on the northern Australian savannah, and the effect of climate boundary changes on the Southern Westerly Winds.

**Barbara Downes** received an ARC grant to investigate the role of environmental variability and dispersal in permitting stable coexistence of species.

**Craig Jeffery** and **Jane Dyson** received an ARC grant to examine the nature and effectiveness of pre-figurative action among youth in north India.

**Michael Webber** and **Sarah Rogers** and cast of six other human and physical geographers received an ARC grant to investigate the political and hydrological consequences of the South-North Water Transfer (SNWT) in China.
Kate Booth, Bruce Tranter, Christine Eriksen, and Shaun French (have won an ARC Discovery Project “Geographies of house and contents under-insurance (DP170100096)”). This research aims to analyse house and contents insurance to advance strategic disaster management. When natural disasters strike, house and contents insurance provides a safety net, but many households are under-insured or not insured at all. Governments and communities tend to bear the costs, but the geographies of inadequate insurance, including any crucial post-disaster effects, are unknown. This research is expected to strategically improve disaster policy and practice, and reduce the financial and social costs of disasters to governments, communities and householders. The project will commence in 2017 and includes the collection of national survey data and in-depth qualitative case studies of fire-prone communities in NSW, Tasmania and Victoria. There is an opportunity for a PhD candidate to join the team and more information is available from the led-CI kate.Booth@utas.edu.au

Sarah Wright was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship for a project “Weather cultures: Enhancing adaptive capacity to environmental change.” This project will work collaboratively to attend deeply to weather cultures, including their expression through songs, songlines and stories, to understand the way weather actively and affectively co-constitutes people and place. Guided by a storm system, Cyclone Oswald (2013), the project plans to work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures connected through Oswald’s trajectory—where winds gathered (Timor Leste), where the cyclone formed (Yolngu sea-Country, Arnhem Land), and where rivers flooded (Gumbaynggirr Country, NSW)—to enhance adaptive capacity to environmental change through Indigenous-non-Indigenous two ways learning. The project seeks to illuminate alternate, Indigenous-led pathways of response and responsibility in a climate-changing world.

Robyn Dowling and Pauline McGuirk won an ARC Discovery Project “Emergent geographies of smart urbanism.” This project aims to analyse how to make Australian cities smart. Across the world, urban innovation coheres around the idea of the ‘smart city’. Through case studies across government-led and community-led initiatives, this project will reveal the structure, dynamics and consequences of smart city strategies. The project’s evidence base, critical insights on the limits and potentials of ‘smart’ for urban management, and stakeholder engagement are expected to inform policy and governance interventions. Its theoretical contribution should build understandings of how ‘smart’ will change Australian cities, their geographies and their governance, $259,023.00.
Kate Booth, Bruce Tranter, Christine Eriksen and Shaun French won an ARC Discovery Project “Geographies of house and contents under-insurance.” This project aims to analyse house and contents insurance to advance strategic disaster management. When natural disasters strike, house and contents insurance provides a safety net, but many households are under-insured or not insured at all. Governments and communities tend to bear the costs, but the geographies of inadequate insurance, including any crucial post-disaster effects, are unknown. This research is expected to strategically improve disaster policy and practice, and reduce the financial and social costs of disasters to governments, communities and householders.

Jane Farmer, Josephine Barraket, Michael Roy, Katharine McKinnon, Sarah-Anne Munoz, Susan Kilpatrick and Christopher Brennan-Horley won an ARC Discovery Project “Mapping the effect of social enterprise on regional city disadvantage.” This project aims to explore how social enterprises affect wellbeing and community capacity in disadvantaged areas of regional cities. Governments increasingly invest in social enterprise to benefit individuals and places. This project will use a spatial methodology to map where and how benefits are realised. To date, robust evidence about how social enterprise affects disadvantage is lacking, partly due to inadequate research methodology. This project expects to provide web-based design tools and applications to assist regional city communities and councils in the development of social enterprises that can help disadvantaged people and places.

Carl Grodach, Christopher Gibson, Justin O’Connor, Xin Gu and Andrew Warren won an ARC Discovery Project “Urban cultural policy and the changing dynamics of cultural production.” This project aims to identify new directions for urban cultural policy by conducting international comparative research around the emerging nexus between the cultural industries and manufacturing. Policies that govern Australia’s cultural economy focus predominately on cultural consumption. This approach does not account for the changing dynamics of the cultural economy, particularly the emergent relationships with a complex urban manufacturing sector. As a result, many innovation, employment and urban development opportunities around cultural production are unrealised. The results of the project are expected to yield insights into urban industry dynamics and change how Australians conceptualise urban cultural policy.
Planning for the 2017 IAG conference in Brisbane is well underway. The University of Queensland’s St Lucia campus will host the event, which is expected to draw a broad range of geographers across sub-disciplines.

The organisers are currently working with study groups to arrange for keynote and plenary speakers, and are organising a number of fieldtrips that take advantage of Southeast Queensland’s natural wonders.

Registrations are likely to open in December and a call for abstracts will be circulated early in the new year.

The ‘Geography Counts!’ theme draws attention to the relevance of geographical research in broader debates concerning global environmental issues.

More information will be distributed through the IAG website and newsletter, but please mark your calendars for 11-14 July.

Cheers,

**Thomas Sigler**
Chair, Local Organising Committee
Other Conferences

The 32nd Congress of Italian geography titled “Geographies, Revolutions and Reforms, and promoted by the Association of Italian geographers, will take place in Rome (Italy), June 7-10 2017. The title refers to the anniversaries of the Lutheran Reform and of the October Revolution.

The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, from April 5-9 2017. More information is available at http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting

The Australian Geography Teachers Association Conference is to be held from 8–12 January 2017 in Melbourne, Victoria. The conference will feature a number of outstanding keynote speakers including Dr Rachel Carey, Professor William Cartwright, Professor David Lambert, Dr Michael Solem and Professor Bruce Rasmussen. Conference participants will also have the opportunity to participate in a diverse education program of presentations, workshops and field trips. There will also be a pre-conference study tour to western Victoria. The conference is being held at the University of Melbourne’s Parkville campus. The campus offers a variety of unique cultural, architectural and landscape features which play an important part in the history of the City of Melbourne and the story of Victoria. A conference coordinating committee, led by Trish Douglas, Leonie Brown and Rob Berry, has done a terrific job in developing the program and organising what will be a very successful undertaking.

The IGU Commission on the History of Geography will have international symposia on “Critical, radical and postcolonial geographies and cartographies from early approaches to present-day debates” and “Geography as an international science: historical perspectives and present challenges” at the 25th International Congress of History of Science and Technology will be held in Rio de Janeiro from 23 to 29 July 2017. More information is available at http://www.ichst2017.sbhc.org.br/


The Education Transforms Symposium 2017 will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, 12-15 July 2017, with an opening reception on 11 July. The relationship between geography and educational attainment is clear; geography matters in several profound ways. The Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment will host this interdisciplinary biennial conference and asks colleagues to hold the date and keep a weather eye on [http://www.utas.edu.au/underwood-centre/events](http://www.utas.edu.au/underwood-centre/events). A call for papers will be sent out to the IAG List in the near future.

The 15th Islands of the World Conference of the International Small Islands Studies Association will be held on Kangaroo Island from 2-7 July 2017. Please see [https://kangarooisland2017.com/](https://kangarooisland2017.com/) for additional information. The conference will include the launch of Elaine Stratford’s edited collection Island Geographies: Essays and Conversations, and the first two volumes in Rethinking the Island, a series with Rowman and Littlefield International. The books are by Ralph Crane and Lisa Fletcher from the University of Tasmania, and Ian Kinane from University of Roehampton, London. See [http://www.rowmaninternational.com/series/rethinking-the-island](http://www.rowmaninternational.com/series/rethinking-the-island) for more details.

AGTA's principal focus in 2016 has been to support the implementation of the *Australian Curriculum: Geography* and its various state- and territory-based derivatives. A key element of this support has been the provision of professional learning opportunities for classroom teachers (*AGTA Geography Roadshow*), publication of a skills-based text *Geography Skills Unlocked*, ongoing promotion of *GeogSpace*, a contribution to the Australian Academy of Sciences Strategic Directions paper for the Geographical Sciences, and the development of a brochure to promote the study of Geography in schools.

**AGTA's priorities for 2017**

The AGTA Board agreed to focus on the following initiatives for 2017:

- a skills-based *AGTA Geography Roadshow* – a professional learning program offered in conjunction with State- and Territory-based affiliates. It will be a great opportunity to promote AGTA's most recently published resource, *Geography Skills Unlocked*.

- the publication of a new text-based resource – *Communicating in Geography and History*;

- the mapping of the Professional Standards for Accomplished Geography Teachers against the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) Professional Teaching Standards. This will be of use to teachers undergoing the accreditation process and provide the subject-specific language required to demonstrate the mastery of the AITSL professional standards at the *Accomplished* level.

- the support of Primary school Geography; and

- the enhancement of the *Geogspace* website.

**Publications**

*Geographical Education* is the professional journal of AGTA and is on the DEST Register of Refereed Journals. The journal was published in print form until Volume 25, 2012. The journal has since been published in a digital format and is available on the Association's website. The ISSN for *Geographical Education* is ISSN 2204 0242. Contributions of varying length are invited, with a maximum of 5,000 words for major articles and research reports. Shorter articles of 2,000 words, featuring classroom strategies, reflections on particular issues and practices in geography teaching, in-service education workshops, and comments on previous articles are especially welcome. The theme for Geographical Education Vol. 29 is Fieldwork Questions. There are four articles, two of which are refereed contributions. One of the refereed articles is submitted by Dr Lou Preston article – Field ‘work’ vs ‘feel’ trip: Approaches to out-of-class experiences. The other refereed article is submitted by Nick Hutchinson – Landscapes both invite and defy definition. AGTA thanks Nick Hutchinson and Geoffrey Paterson for their ongoing contribution to the journal. It is greatly appreciated.
Competitions

Australian Geography Competition and Geography’s Big Week Out

AGTA is again pleased to be associated with this important national initiative offered by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. In 2016, more than 66,000 students participated in the competition. The National Geography Competition is a great opportunity to promote the study of Geography in schools. Winners of the competition can also be invited to join the Geography Olympiad team and attend Geography’s Big Week Out to be held on North Stradbroke Island near Brisbane in December 2016. Thank you to GTAQ for taking on responsibility for the GBWO in 2016. The 2017 and 2018 GBWO will be organised by the Geography Teachers’ Association of South Australia.

International Geography Olympiad

In August, Australian students outperformed 44 other countries to win first place in the 13th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) held in Beijing, China. Singapore, Thailand, Russia and China-Taipei were placed second, third, fourth and fifth respectively. The Australian Team members were:

- Andreas Orsmond, Sydney Grammar School, NSW;
- Claire Yung, Narrabundah College, ACT;
- Deepan Kumar, Narrabundah College, ACT;
- Georgia Worner, Loreto College Kirribilli, NSW.

Professional advocacy

Australian Alliance of Associations in Education (AAAE)

The AAAE is a body specifically formed to represent the interests of teacher professional associations at a national level. The body’s role is to lobby at a Federal level on issues affecting teachers and their professional practice. AGTA is a founding member of the newly established entity. Malcolm McInerney continues to play a leadership role in the Association.

Australian Federation of Societies for Studies of Society and Environment (AFSSSE)

AFSSSE is a consortium of four professional associations – Australian Association for Environmental Education, Australian Geography Teachers Association, Business Educators Australasia, and Social Educators Association of Australia. AFSSSE was formed in 1992 to act as the peak organisation for the broad area of study known as Studies of Society and Environment. Rob Berry continues to represent the views and interests of AGTA on AFSSSE. AGTA’s ongoing affiliation with AFSSSE is to be reviewed in 2017.
National Committee for the Geographical Sciences

The AGTA Board voted to support the Australian Academy of Science’s National Committee for the Geographical Science’s Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences. The plan will include a focus on the contribution of school geography to the nation’s strategic research priorities. The purpose of the document is to inform policymakers – in government and industry – about the role of Geography. Contributors included Jeana Kriewaldt, John Butler, Grant Kleeman, Malcolm McInerney, Nick Hutchinson and Susan Caldis. The paper is in its final stages of preparation and will be published in 2017.

Malcolm McInerney

After many years of exemplary service, Malcolm McInerney completes his long tenure as an AGTA Director. During his time as Chair (2008–2013) and the period during which he served as Immediate Past Chair (2014–2016), Malcolm made an outstanding contribution to the Association and geographical education more generally. It is by no means an understatement to state that under Malcolm’s leadership the Association achieved a new level of authority. The decisive role AGTA played in the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography is a mark of Malcolm’s leadership as is the enhanced status and effectiveness of the Association as a representative body. He has also contributed AGTA’s emergence as a provider of professional learning and the provider a quality educational resources. Of particular note was his coordination of the GeogSpace initiative.

New AGTA Executive

At AGTA’s Annual General Meeting on Sunday 30 October, Trish Douglas was elected Chair and Daryl Michie Deputy Chair. Susan Caldis will continue as AGTA Secretary and Grant Kleeman will take on the roles of Immediate Past Chair and Honorary Treasurer.

Thank you!

I would like to thank the AGTA Board for its support during my tenure as Chair. It has been a real privilege to lead such a wonderful organisation. It is, however, time to pass the baton to a younger generation of geographers. I wish my successor well and look forward to my ongoing involvement as Immediate Past Chair. A special vote of thanks goes to Susan Caldis (AGTA Secretary), Malcolm McInerney (Immediate Past Chair), Leonie Brown (Honorary Treasurer) and Trish Douglas (Deputy Chair). AGTA can only remain strong and relevant if each Director commits, on behalf of the affiliate they represent, to advance the aims of the Association.

Grant Kleeman, AGTA Chair

The full report is available in Geographical Education Volume 29 and can be accessed via the AGTA website www.agta.asn.au
CSIRO and Charles Darwin University

Professor Cathy Robinson has just taken up a part time role as Director of the Northern Alliance. This role will facilitate a partnership between the Northern Institute (CDU) and the CSIRO to enable a research program of work that will enhance the well-being of Northern Australia’s Indigenous and rural community workforce and build surveillance and service delivery systems that improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of Northern Australia. Cathy Robinson (CSIRO) is leading a program of work that focuses on if and how environmental management agreements can deliver benefits to local Indigenous communities. This includes a project focused on the design of frameworks to evaluate Indigenous fire management partnerships [http://www.nespnorthern.edu.au/projects/nesp/lessons-from-top-end-indigenous-fire-management/](http://www.nespnorthern.edu.au/projects/nesp/lessons-from-top-end-indigenous-fire-management/) and a project focused on supporting on-country enterprise opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in protecting and recovering Australia’s threatened species and their habitats [http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news/partnerships-with-indigenous-communities-key-for-threatened-species](http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news/partnerships-with-indigenous-communities-key-for-threatened-species).

Central Queensland University

Professor Hilary Winchester has left CQUniversity after four years as Provost. She is now based in Adelaide and has resumed her own business specialising in higher education quality and review.
Amanda Putri is a PhD student undertaking multidisciplinary research about the impacts of water pollution on traditional fisheries in Jakarta, Indonesia. She was lucky to have another opportunity to visit her study area, Muara Angke, one of the major fishing villages in Jakarta, Indonesia. She went for an exciting fishing trip with some green mussel farmers during which she observed directly how the farmers harvested the mussels from a bamboo platform using all hand-made diving apparatus. More information at: http://www.globalwaterinstitute.unsw.edu.au/news/a-well-rounded-approach

Maozeng Jiang has been working on his PhD thesis investigating risk governance of Antarctic scientific activities, and discussed materialized risk in governance from a philosophical perspective at the 2016 IAG with the Legal Geography Study Group.

Stuart Pearson, working with IAG members, Australian Defence Force and Department of Defence people, is continuing to build the Strategic and Military Geography Group. Highlights in 2016 were the American Association for Geographers group paper, further group meetings and a Resilient Regions session at the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility conference. Please contact s.pearson@unsw.edu.au soon if you are interested in participating.

Rahnum Tasnuva completed her MPhil thesis on Assessment of spatial and temporal variation in surface water quality in Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Australian Capital Territory after presenting a paper at IAG in 2015 and 2016.

Upcoming workshop:
A book writers workshop, Australian Strategic and Military Geography will be held from 2 Dec 2016, Canberra. Expressions of interest from potential authors welcome. For more information contact s.pearson@unsw.edu.au
University of Melbourne School of Geography

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Teresa Konlechner as a research fellow in coastal geomorphology. Teresa will be working with Dr David Kennedy, and is one of a series of appointments as part of the University’s newly founded National Centre for Coasts and Climate.

Dr Catherine Phillips has commenced work as lecturer in Geography. Catherine’s research explores the relations between people and the environment, especially those involving agriculture and food.

Another new arrival is Dr Amy Prendergast who commenced on Monday 21 November as a McKenzie Fellow within our School.

Congratulations to Dr Wolf Dressler, who has been successful in his application for promotion to Level D.

The School is currently hosting four wonderful visitors:

- Dr Tim Edensor, Reader in Cultural Geography at Manchester Metropolitan University, who is visiting until June 2017.

- Professor Uma Kothari, Professor of Migration and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Manchester, who is visiting until June 2017.

- Professor Gunhild Setten from the Department of Geography at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, who is visiting until December this year.

- Dr Jichuan Sheng, Associate Professor at the School of Economics and Management at Nanjing University, who is visiting until September 2017.
UniSA's Centre for Rural Health & Community Development (CRHaCD)

CRHaCD, which employed several geographers, closed in June 2015 when its Director, Prof Guy Robinson retired. Guy is now an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography, Environment and Population at the University of Adelaide. He continues to be Editor of Land Use Policy and has been appointed as a Guest Professor at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) in the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

News of former staff of CRHaCD:

- Dr Jen Cleary - delivered the Fay Gale Lecture at this year's IAG Conference in Adelaide. Jen has been appointed CEO of Centacare Catholic Family Services Country SA and is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Centre for Global Food and Resources at the University of Adelaide.
- Dr. Doris Carson - Researcher in the Department of Geography and Economic History, Umea University, Sweden.
- Dr Chris Raymond - Assistant Professor in Landscape Planning, Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).
- Dr Emily Moskwa - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Geography, Environment and Population, University of Adelaide.
- Dr Susan Robinson - teaches in the School of Management, University of South Australia and for Kaplan Business School in Adelaide.
- Inga Ahonen - will start a PhD in 2017 in the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong.
- Dr Karen Cosgrove - Principal Social Scientist at Social Innovations Pty Ltd, Western Australia.
- Dr Artur Steiner - Lecturer in Social Entrepreneurship, Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health, Glasgow Caledonian University.
- Dr Joy Penman - Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Monash University.
- Dr Elizabeth Hoon - Arthritis SA Florey Research Fellow, University of Adelaide
University of Sydney

PhD student Iris Bergmann presented results of her PhD project on the mental models of thoroughbred welfare in the horse racing industry in Stockholm, at the conference "Equine Cultures in Transition - human-horse relationships in theory and practice: changing concepts of interaction and ethics", organised by the Centre for Studies in Practical Knowledge of Södertörn University, 27-29 October 2016. Although this conference was not framed as such, it did make a valuable contribution to the range of questions that need to be addressed to advance the transition to a truly sustainable future, where sustainability extends to human-animal relationships. Viewed with that perspective in mind, the conference also demonstrated the seminal role of the social sciences and the humanities in advancing the sustainability transition. Iris frames her work within a sustainability paradigm and her paper attracted much interest. She was interviewed by independent online horse TV Epona.tv.

Associate Professor Kurt Iveson, in October 2016 became the Branch President of the University of Sydney branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU).

The School of Geosciences received 2 of 11 postdoc positions across the University of Sydney awarded through the Sydney Fellowship scheme. This is unprecedented. The rules changed for the 2017 round and the nominations had to go through a research centre/institute. The successful candidates, centre, title and sponsor are:

- Dr Bradley Garrett - Sydney Environment Institute 'Preppers: Defending against anticipated environmental collapse' (Kurt Iveson).
- Dr Emma Calgaro - Sydney Southeast Asia Centre 'Disasters and disability: Making inclusion a reality' (Dale Dominey-Howes).

We look forward to Emma and Brad joining our School in 2017 for these illustrious and highly competitive three year postdoc positions. The School of Geosciences is also keen to support additional top candidates in future years for this scheme. It is highly competitive, but as this round has shown, with excellent Geographers applying, the School of Geosciences can succeed.

Upcoming event at the University of Sydney:
On Friday, February 3rd 2017, Professor Jamie Peck (UBC) will present a Masterclass: "Conjunctural urbanism: Cities, Neoliberal Hegemony, and Financialized Restructuring". This Masterclass focuses on contemporary urban restructuring, delving into neoliberalism, financialization, variegated capitalism and conjunctural urbanism. The Reading discussant chair is Dr Sophie Webber, School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney. The day includes a public lecture. For more details contact: phil.mcmanus@sydney.edu.au

Science Teachers Week
In November the School of Geosciences held consecutive days of high school teacher training in the Madsen Building for geography teachers and for earth and environment/geology teachers. Twenty teachers from throughout NSW and China attended the geography event which was led by Dr. Josephine Gillespie, Dr. Dan Penny and Dr. Jeff Neilson. This is the first time that the School of Geosciences has participated in this event in its current format, and the response from high school teachers was very positive. The event is held every two years, and now forms part of the School of Geoscience strategy for engaging with high schools and promoting geography as a high school and university subject.

Western Sydney University

Promotions effective in 2017:
• Associate Professor Michael Darcy promoted to Professor
• Dr Andrew Gorman-Murray promoted to Associate Professor
• Dr Awais Piracha promoted to Associate Professor

Professor Michael Darcy is retiring at the end of 2016 and will be appointed as an Adjunct Professor; he will continue to work with the Urban Research Program
University of Newcastle

Colombo Program Scholarship Recipient
Second year student Adam Kennedy was awarded a New Colombo Program Scholarship to study for semester 1 2017 at the National University of Singapore. The New Colombo Program Scholarships are available to students across Australia and are assessed on the following criteria: Academic excellence at the tertiary level; Leadership in the community; Adaptability and Resilience; and Ability to contribute to New Colombo Plan goals. Adam has a strong interest in urban and regional development and will be studying geography courses in Singapore including Economy and Space; Leisure, Recreation and Tourism, and the Changing Landscapes of Singapore. Adam will also be completing an internship during his stay in Singapore.

The Jim Rose Geography Award
Honours student Jasmine Horrocks was awarded The Jim Rose Geography Award for Best Paper at the 2016 Geographical Society of NSW Honours/Masters Conference. Jasmine presented on her Honours project conducted in collaboration with Compass Housing, The Road Home: Older Tenants’ Housing Pathways and Making Home in Community Housing. Jasmine was supervised by Associate Professor Kathy Mee. Caitlin Ganzer also presented on her Honours research conducted in collaboration with Beanstalk Organic Food Cooperative, Shifting Economic Subjectivity: Politics and Pragmatism in a Food Cooperative. Caitlin was supervised by Associate Professor Jenny Cameron.

Welcome Dr Hyeseon Jeong
Dr Jeong has joined the discipline as a conjoint lecturer. Dr Jeong recently completed her PhD at The Ohio State University (A nation with a place in the world: A postcolonial critique of the imagined geography of South Korea). She is working on publications from her thesis and is doing research assistance work with Associate Professor Kathy Mee on a Linkage Pilot project grant exploring community engagement practices in community housing.
**Centre for Urban and Regional Studies Reading Group and Postgraduate Workshop**

In Semester 2, the reading group read the published work of current and completed PhD students: Phoebe Everingham in Tourism Geographies; Melina Ey and Meg Sherval in Area; Rhyall Gordon in Rethinking Marxism; Ainsley Hughes, Kathleen Mee and Adam Tyndall in Mobilities; Ryan Jones in Handbook of Cities and the Environment; and Miriam Williams in Area. At the annual postgraduate workshop in November there was discussion about options beyond the PhD with contributions from recently-completed PhD students, Dr Tom Baker (University of Auckland), Dr Adam Tyndall (NSW Dept of Premier and Cabinet) and Dr Nicola Vaughan (Housing ACT).

**The Politics of Unconventional Resources**

In the latter part of the year, Dr Meg Sherval has been a visiting researcher in the Department of Geography at Durham University (supported by a Visiting Academic Women’s Fellowship at St Mary’s College). Meg has been researching the politics of unconventional resources (focused on shale gas in the UK and coal seam gas in Australia). While in the UK she has conducted fieldwork interviews with activists throughout the country on their motivations for resistance. She will be considering whether the tipping points for action and resistance are the same or different as those in communities in Australia.

Meg has also participated in a combined British Water, Durham Energy Institute and Institute of Hazards, Risk and resilience workshop on the water/energy nexus speaking about how peak water rather than peak oil will be the tipping point for Australia. She has also delivered an associated seminar, ‘The water, food and energy nexus: risks and responsibility in a climate challenged world’.

She is also part of a successful University of Newcastle Network Application for 2017 for a project entitled, “Rural land use and community research network: rural neighbours in times of change”.

**Nurturing Strengths, Challenging Myths: The Role of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Support and Advocacy Organisations**

Dr Paul Hodge (with PhD candidate Faith Curtis) have been conducting interviews with Asylum Seeker and Refugee support and advocacy organisations in Australia. The research aims to document and highlight projects and initiatives which recognise and build on the strengths and capacities of on-shore Asylum Seekers and Refugees to challenge myths targeting these marginalised groups and as a way of exploring the ‘national benefits’ of increased resource allocation, permanent residency and ultimately Australian citizenship for those seeking asylum.
Caring for Country: Geographies of Co-existence in Gumbaynggirr Country

As part of their ARC Linkage, Associate Professor Sarah Wright and Dr Paul Hodge (with PhD candidate Lara Daley) have been working with Gumbaynggirr ‘old fellas’ to collectively think through what co-existence in Gumbaynggirr Country might look like in Natural Resource Management contexts on the mid-north coast of NSW. After four ceremony circles led by Gumbaynggirr knowledge holder Aunty Shaa Smith, Yandaarra ‘Shifting Camp Together’ is taking shape as they move into the next phase with their ARC Linkage partners, Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance of NRM organisations.

Reconfiguring the Enterprise: Shifting Manufacturing Culture in Australia

As part of this ARC Discovery (with Professor Katherine Gibson and Dr Stephen Healy, WSU), Associate Professor Jenny Cameron attended the first National Forum of the Farm Co-operatives and Collaboration Pilot Program. She has also been conducting initial visits to a range of manufacturers including the social enterprises Soft Landing and WorkVentures (with Professor Katherine Gibson), and Cowan Manufacturing and the Varley Group (with Joanne McNeill, the project’s Research Associate).
Prof. Pauline McGuirk was named as one of 39 new Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences. Congratulations Pauline! [link](http://cms.assa.edu.au/pdf/media/ASSA%20Media%20release-%20New%20Fellows%202016.pdf). Pauline chaired the annual RGS/IBG Progress in Human Geography lecture presented by Prof Charlie Withers (University of Edinburgh, and recently appointed Geographer Royal for Scotland). The lecture was entitled: Trust in Geography [link](http://conference.rgs.org/AC2016/7161f0f0-3bf9-4763-a7bb-80d44d33ec24).

Scott McKinnon is a new appointment, and has been awarded a Vice Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellowship. Scott will begin at UOW in February 2017, working on a project titled ‘Reducing community vulnerability to disasters in Australia: what role does collective memory play?’ We look forward to welcoming him.

John Connell (Sydney) and Chris Gibson (Wollongong) will launch their new book Outback Elvis: the Story of a Festival, Its Fans, & a Town Called Parkes (see later in the newsletter) in Parkes on Friday 13 January, as part of the 25th Parkes Elvis Festival.

Thomas Birtchnell’s research was featured recently in The Guardian: “Could 3D printing help tackle poverty and plastic waste?” Startups are turning plastic waste in developing countries into filament for 3D printers while employing local waste pickers. The book 3D Printing for Development in the Global South: The 3D4D Challenge (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) on the topic by Dr Thomas Birtchnell (Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong) and CEO of NGO Techfortrade William Hoyle was discussed in the The Guardian’s ‘Sustainable Business’ section on 6 November 2016: [link](https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/nov/06/3d-printing-plastic-waste-poverty-development-protoprint-reflow-techfortrade).

Leah Gibbs’ research was published recently in The Conversation, ABC, and The Guardian: Gibbs L (2016) More shark nets for NSW: why haven’t we learned from WA’s shark cull? The Conversation 13th October 2016 [link](https://theconversation.com/more-shark-nets-for-nsw-why-havent-we-learned-from-was-cull-66985)
[link](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-13/shark-nets-nsw-wa-cull/7930032)
[link](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/14/shark-nets-dont-enclose-swimmers-they-catch-and-kill-sharks)

The School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong is preparing to launch a second new degree, the Bachelor of Sustainable Communities in 2018. This is Australia’s only Bachelor of Sustainable Communities degree currently, bringing together teaching across four faculties. The degree is designed to equip student with critical thinking, problem solving, interaction and technical skills.
University of Western Australia

In 2017, Geography at UWA will join the new “UWA School of Agriculture and Environment” as part of a university-wide restructure and renewal process.

Matthew Tonts has been promoted to Dean and Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Faculty of Arts, Architecture, Business, Law and Education, commencing officially in January 2017. In this role, Matthew will sit on the University’s senior executive team. This is a very significant and high profile appointment. We are thrilled for Matthew and we wish him all the best.

Paul Plummer, economic geographer, has been promoted to Professor.

Clare Mouat Co-Convened the ‘Comparative Social Sustainability Symposium: Living a higher life? Addressing the social sustainability challenges of condominium law, living and landscapes” conference in Barcelona (21-22 Nov 2016).

Kirsten Martinus with Thomas Sigler (University of Queensland), Phil O’Neill (Western Sydney University) and Eric Knight (University of Sydney) hosted an economic geography symposium for authors of forthcoming Australian Geographer Special Issue celebrating 20 years on from the Fagan and Weber book ‘Global Restructuring: The Australian Experience’; University of Sydney, Nov 3.

Fiona Haslam McKenzie gave keynote addresses at the SEGRA (Sustainable Economic Growth Regional Australia) conference (Albany, Western Australia 25-28 October) and at the ANZRSAI conference (Melbourne 4-7th December).

Gen Simpson completed her PhD thesis on “Community perception of renewable generation technologies in Western Australia.”

University of the Sunshine Coast

The Sustainability Research Centre held its annual retreat in Noosa. Patrick Nunn is taking students to Fiji this month on New Colombo Scholarships to study Indigenous heritage. Jen Carter conducted workshops at the University of Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education and the University of Technology Sydney Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges. The workshops were based on the results of the Office for Learning and Teaching project “The ‘university place’: How and why place influences the engagement and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students.”
Study Groups

“Economic Geography symposium in Sydney focusses on global restructuring”

The Economic Geography Study Group recently held a symposium at the University of Sydney Business School on the theme of globalising the Australian economy. Multiple paper presentations highlighted the dynamic nature of the Australian economy from a spatial perspective. This symposium commemorated Fagan and Webber’s Global Restructuring: The Australian Experience, which overviewed how the Australian economy responded to the structural changes associated with the ‘new international division of labour’. Contributions from both junior and senior academics highlighted the changing nature of agriculture; higher education; manufacturing; finance; commodities; energy; and global integration. The symposium was organised by Kirsten Martinus (UWA); Thomas Sigler (UQ); Phillip O’Neill (WSU); and Matthew Tonts (UWA), and hosted by Eric Knight (Syd). Nick Lewis (Auckland) delivered a provocative keynote address on the geography of restructuring in New Zealand.

Early Career Researcher
First Publication

Tayanah O'Donnell, 2016, Legal geography and coastal climate change adaptation: the Vaughan litigation, Geographical Research 54 (3) 301-312.

(Tayanah’s PhD institutes are the Western Sydney University Institute for Culture and Society, and University of Canberra.)
Recent Books


With co-editors **Godfrey Baldacchino** and **Elizabeth McMahon, Elaine Stratford** is pleased to announce the first of three books in the Rethinking the Island series:


Other 2016 books


Phillip O’Neill authored a major research report on behalf of the Western Sydney University’s Centre for Western Sydney. The report examines population and employment trends to paint a grim picture of the future of Western Sydney’s workforce and its transport infrastructure. The report finds the lack of local jobs and increasing population growth will exacerbate transport congestion, place enormous pressure on economic productivity, and generate unsustainable fiscal pressure for governments to fund adequate transport infrastructure. The report generated considerable media attention. It can be downloaded from www.westernsydney.edu.au/cws/policy.
2015 Books

The Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment at the University of Tasmania hosted its inaugural ‘Education Transforms’ symposium in July this year, and a comprehensive e-collection from the symposium is now available at http://www.utas.edu.au/underwood-centre/EducationTransforms2015. The Centre and symposium both highlight the powerful connections that exist between educational outcomes and diverse geographical challenges, questions, and public policy frameworks and solutions, and may be of interest to geographers concerned with questions of social, economic, and cultural change and their relationship to the educational well-being of children and young people. For further information please contact Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au.


Rae Dufty-Jones, Dallas Rogers (eds), 2015, Housing in 21st-Century Australia: People, Practices and Policies, Ashgate: Aldershot. (The book will be launched by Prof Peter Phibbs at The State of Australian Cities Conference in Queensland on 10th December 2015.) Available at http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472431134


Ross, A, Hall, R, Griffin, A, 2015 The search for tactical success in Vietnam: an analysis of Australian task force combat operations. Cambridge University Press reporting the results of an analysis of Australia’s participation in the Vietnam War. Full details about the book are available here: http://www.cambridge.org/bn/academic/subjects/history/military-history/search-tactical-success-vietnam-analysis-australian-task-force-combat-operations?format=HB. There is a companion website with an interactive map of all 4600+ combat operations, and aimed at communicating to a lay audience, which can be found at http://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au


2014 Books


Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt 2014 Experiencing and coping with change: women-headed households in the Eastern Gangetic Plains. ACIAR Technical Reports No. 83. Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research: Canberra. 67 pp


