From the President

Planning for our annual conference in Canberra (1-3 July) is progressing very well under the able stewardship of Drs Tom Measham (CSIRO/ANU) and Bruce Doran (ANU). This year’s theme ‘Exploring Geographical Connections’ is timely and appropriate to the conference locus in our nation’s capital. Now is an important time to reflect on how geographers contribute to policy agendas in relevant portfolios of our national government and how we might be much more influential in the future. Additionally, we should use this conference theme to ask how well do Australian geographers connect with industry, business and NGOs within and outside Australia? How can we use the outcomes from the conference to enhance the importance and central role of geography in critical issues of the 21st Century? Some 30 session proposals have been received by the local organising committee that will ensure an outstanding meeting this year. As in previous conferences, we can expect strong participation from our student members, many of whom will participate in the pre-conference postgraduate workshop organised by our IAG postgraduate student councillor, Ms Rachel Chapman. This year the IAG Council has approved significant funding for activities of our study groups that will add depth and vigour to the conference program through provision of high-profile speakers and organisation of pre- and post-conference workshops. I thank the study group convenors for their efforts in bringing together these exciting initiatives to extend the profile of the IAG.

In January this year, members of the IAG and geographers at-large were saddened by the death of Professor Graeme Hugo AO. There have been wonderful tributes to Graeme from his many colleagues and friends and we publish a special tribute on the IAG Facebook site. We are reminded that only last July the IAG presented Graeme with our prestigious Australia-International Medal in recognition of his significant contributions as an Australian Geographer to geography worldwide. One comment from a close colleague and mentee remembered Graeme as “a true Geography hero – he is a serious loss to Australia.”
There are some changes to the IAG Council membership this year. We especially extend our huge thanks to Dr Rae Dufty-Jones for her sustained contributions to council and the IAG during her 4-year period of service. With the completion of Rae’s term on council, we have a vacancy for a Councillor and ask members to please nominate for this position by May 18, 2015. Serving on council is a great experience and provides a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the discipline at the national level. I’d also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge my hard working colleagues on council who contribute so much of their precious time to dealing with matters that are crucial to the effective running of our organisation.

The National Committee for Geographical Sciences (Australian Academy of Science), chaired by Associate Professor Alaric Maude, will be devoting much of its time over coming months to the preparation of a Strategic Plan for Geographical Sciences. A number of you have been invited to contribute to working groups to write sections of the plan and we can look forward to draft versions later in the year.

I wish you all the very best for the rest of 2015 and look forward to catching up with many of you in July at the Canberra conference.

Steve Turton,
IAG President,
James Cook University,
steve.turton@jcu.edu.au
NOTICE OF IAG SPECIAL AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The IAG Special General Meeting will be held at lunchtime on Friday 1 May for the purposes of voting on the amendments to the constitution previously circulated to financial members. Details of the meeting are as follows:

Friday 1 May 2015
12.30 – 2.30 pm
Conference Room (Rm 449)
Madsen Building
University of Sydney
A light lunch will be provided.

The IAG Annual General Meeting will be held during the IAG conference in Canberra. Please see the conference programme when available for details. An agenda, and draft minutes of the previous AGM and Special GM, will be circulated at the meeting.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS

Members of the Institute are invited to nominate candidates for the following positions, which will fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting at the IAG Conference in Canberra:

One (1) Councillor.

The Councillor elected will hold office until the second succeeding General Meeting following their election, which is normally two years. They shall be eligible for immediate re-election as Councillors but with a maximum period of continuous office up to the fourth succeeding General Meeting after their initial election.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 18 May 2015. Nominations must be received in writing using the form attached (below), and should be emailed or posted to the Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au or Geography and Planning UNE Armidale 2351.

Should an election be required, ballot papers will be emailed to financial members, who will have until Monday 22 June 2015 to return them to the Honorary Secretary, who will be the Returning Officer.

Results will be reported at the Annual General Meeting in Canberra.
AWARDS OF THE IAG

Thanks to those who nominated your esteemed colleagues for these awards. Awards will be announced at the IAG in Canberra. Applications for the following awards for 2015 closed on March 27:

- The GRIFFITH TAYLOR MEDAL is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia. Please note that the GRIFFITH TAYLOR MEDAL is only awarded every second year. Nominations will next be called in 2017.
- AUSTRALIA-INTERNATIONAL MEDAL is for outstanding contributions by Australian geographers to geography world-wide, or by geographers outside Australia to the geography of Australia. Nominations will next be called in 2016.
- DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (DFIAG) is awarded for distinguished service to Australian geography through furthering the aims of the Institute. Nominations will next be called in 2016.
- The FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (FIAG) recognizes sustained service to the profession of geography in Australia. Nominations will next be called in July 2015.

Further details all awards of the IAG are available from: https://www.iag.org.au/about/awards-of-the-iag/

STUDY GROUPS

The IAG Council has been delighted to receive a record number of applications for funding this year. While we may not be able to sustain the magnitude of such funding each year, we are pleased to see active study groups organizing events for the benefit of their members and the wider IAG membership. We are happy to announce the following funding for 2015:

- **Critical Development Study Group**: $3145 for guest speaker, workshop and panel presenter, Maria Angela (May-an) Villalba, Philippines-based lecturer, Director of NGO, Unlad Kabayan, at and following IAG Canberra 2015.
- **Cultural Geography Study Group**: $4236.25 for guest speaker and masterclass (Dr JD Dewsbury, University of Bristol) at/prior to IAG Canberra 2015.
- **Economic Geography Study Group**: $1001 for guest speaker (Em. Prof. Raewyn Connell, USyd) to present at IAG Canberra 2015.
- **Hazards, Risks, Disasters Study Group**: $2600 for Communicating in Recovery Best Practice workshop to be held in late June 2015 and led by Kate Brady, Red Cross and Jayne Nursey, Australian Centre for Post-traumatic Mental Health.
- **Indigenous People's Knowledge and Rights Study Group**: $4100 for one-day “Giving Back” workshop at AIATSIS prior to IAG Canberra 2015, focusing on Monk Archive and return of research material, led by Prof. Richie Howitt with key presentations from Jan Monk and PhD candidate David Crew.
- **Legal Geography Study Group**: $4895 for two-day writing workshop at UNSW in late 2015.
An earlier application, submitted in the 2014 round, for $4000 to the Urban Geography Study Group for a workshop was also successful.

If you would like to participate in any of these activities, or if you are not yet a member of any of the study groups but would like to join, then please contact their office-bearers, please see for further details https://www.iag.org.au/study-groups/

POSTGRADUATE MEMBER SERVICES
Please note the IAG provides travel awards for postgraduate students each year and the details of postgraduate travel awards for the IAG/NZGS conference can be accessed at https://www.iag.org.au/postgraduates/travel-grants-for-post-graduates/

The deadline for applications is Friday 1 May 2015. For full and further details please see the above link.

Conference presentations made by postgraduate students are also eligible for the Postgraduate Student Awards of the IAG.

The IAG Council is also pleased to announce that postgraduate members have been successful in their application for $1680 for their pre-conference workshop at IAG 2015 in Canberra. Please see the conference programme when available for details or contact Ms Rachel Chapman rachel.chapman@research.uwa.edu.au

CHANGING AND CONTINUING ROLES WITHIN IAG
Congratulations and thanks go to Dr Rae Dufty-Jones who is leaving her role as IAG Councillor this year. We extend our gratitude to Rae for her 4 years of service and her commitment to and championing of the IAG, and in particular the recognition of postgraduate research through the IAG Postgraduate Student Awards at recent IAG conferences. We have no doubt that Rae will continue to be an active and enthusiastic member of IAG and wish her well for the future in her many other roles.

NEXT IAG COUNCIL MEETINGS
The IAG Council is holding its next meeting on Friday 1 May 2015.

Robyn Bartel,
IAG Honorary Secretary.
Call for nominations for Council positions

Financial members of the Institute are invited to nominate candidates for the following position, which falls vacant at the Annual General Meeting in July 2015 at the IAG Conference in Canberra:

One (1) Councillor

The Councillor elected will hold office until the second succeeding General Meeting following their election, which is normally two years. They shall be eligible for immediate re-election as Councillors but with a maximum period of continuous office up to the fourth succeeding General Meeting after their initial election.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 18 May 2015. Nominations must be received in writing using the form attached, and should be emailed or posted to the address above.

Should an election be required, ballot papers will be emailed to financial members, who will have until Monday 22 June 2015 to return them to the Honorary Secretary, who will be the Returning Officer.

Results will be reported at the Annual General Meeting in Canberra.

Robyn Bartel,
Honorary Secretary
INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS INC
NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2015

I, _______________________________ (the proposer) being a financial member of the IAG, do nominate

_________________________________ (the nominee) of

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________ (address of nominee)

and

I, _______________________________ (the seconder)
being also a financial member of the IAG do second the nomination of

________________________________ (the nominee)

to the position of ________________________________ of the IAG.

Signed (proposer):                        Date:

Signed (seconder):                        Date:

I, ________________________________ (the nominee) accept this nomination and if elected will serve
the IAG as set out in the Constitution.

Signed (nominee):                        Date:

Brief biographical statement of nominee (maximum 200 words):
IAG was officially represented at Science Meets Parliament which was held from 24-25 March 2015. The event brought together around 200 scientists from across the country to be educated in how the policy world works and to take a field trip to meet with a living breathing politician and engage in productive discussion. Interestingly, the training day started off with an emphasis on the media, considering how media and politics interact in curious ways and feed off each other. Recalling something of my first year zoology training from a previous century, it sounded like a symbiotic host and parasite relationship, but it was not clear which role was the host and which was the parasite – such is the link between media and which by politics, with an ambiguous role for public servants somewhere in the middle. So where does science and research in general fit in (if at all)? Speakers from the lobby industry argued that the whole rulebook for how policy and science interact has been re-written in recent years (just in case you’ve read it already). These days politics is more directly influenced by community debates disseminated wide and fast through social media hence the need for researchers to explain themselves in 140 characters or less. The alternative is to hope that policy advisors and busy public servants will stumble upon our research and know what to do about it. So if that seems easy, the next objective is to be inspiring and express our findings which resonate with the issues and concerns of electorates, or at least with their personal interests, so we should try to get to know them better. With this in mind I applied myself to think through the message from IAG for the Honourable Laurie Ferguson, the politician I was scheduled to meet the next day. So here goes:

1) The issue in a nutshell: Geography has a contribution to make to all the National Strategic Research Priorities and we seek to raise the profile of the discipline. (137 characters leaving space for ‘#’ and ‘@’)

2) Requested action: Would Laurie Ferguson agree to becoming a formal advocate for the discipline under the heading of ‘Friend of Geography’.

The Honourable Mr Ferguson responded very positively to the idea and expressed his own views on the importance of understanding the relationships between people and place. In his case this had manifested itself through extensive travels throughout the world, allowing him firsthand experience of a wide range of issues that geographers study in textbooks and fieldtrips.

Additional highlights of the Science Meets Parliament included a National Press Club address where the Chief Scientist launched a report which expressed the value of science in the language of business, making a compelling case for increasing research funding. Finally, the participants took part in a lively Q&A session with Kim Carr who, amongst other things, declared his broad view of science as ‘knowledge of the world’, with a strong role for the humanities and social sciences. If others have the opportunity to take part in Science Meets Parliament next year I would encourage them to do so.

Tom Measham,
CSIRO
**Medal for Contributions to Human Geography**

Lesley Head is to be presented with the 2015 VEGA medal of the Swedish Association of Anthropology and Geography, for contributions to human geography.

The Swedish Association of Anthropology and Geography is a scientific learned society founded in 1877, which aims to link science and the public through the two disciplines. It does so through awarding fellowships and medals, organising field trips and public seminars, and since 1919 has published the international journal *Geografiska Annaler*.

Lesley is currently *Distinguished Professor of Geography* at the University of Wollongong, and *Head of the Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities*. She is also an *Elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences* for contributions to geography and an *Elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities* for interdisciplinary contributions to geographical and archaeological sciences. Lesley has long been interested in human-environment relations, exploring how humans have changed earth systems through time. Her recent research has been around plants and cultural geography, although she has studied many contexts of environmental change in households, suburbs, cities, farmers, national parks and indigenous land. She recently completed an *ARC Australian Laureate Fellow* (2010-2014) to establish the *Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research* at the University of Wollongong, where she is currently Director.

She has been *Visiting Professor* at the *Department of Human and Economic Geography* at the University of Göteborg, Sweden, for two months of every year since 2012. The presentation will be by the King of Sweden in Stockholm on April 22, to be followed by a symposium that she has the honour to convene, on the theme of ‘Climate change: everyday denial, everyday action, everyday hope’.
Welcome

The IAG Council welcomes the following new members of the IAG

Diane Luhrs, (Monash); Emilia Skarbek-Newman; Graham Houghton; Jennifer Macdonald (Charles Darwin University); Kaye Follett; Miriam Khan; Nerida Godfrey (UNSW); Olivier Hoffer (University of New Caledonia); Ori Gudes (Curtin University); Paul Burton (Griffith); Richard Thackway (UQ); Sophie-May Kerr (Wollongong); Susan Caldis (NSW Department of Education and Communities); Susan Caves (University of Newcastle); Timothy Neale (UWS); Hugh Burley.

News from Geographical Research

Geographical Research is attracting a growing stream of good quality papers from Australia and around the world. In part, this may be due to its elevated impact factor of 1.206.

Several papers from recent issues (2011-2015) of Geographical Research were included in a Wiley showcase of articles on the theme of ‘Research on Indigenous Australia’. They were released on Thursday 19 March, ‘Closing the Gap’ day. Articles in the showcase came from a range of journals, and covered topics across health and wellbeing, social, behavioural and environmental sciences. The papers featured will be made freely available for six months.

More details are available at:

http://olabout.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-825035.html
Grant and Award Opportunities

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 (citation)
- Dr Les Heathcote 1997 (citation)
- Dr Joe Gentilli 1998
- Professor Fay Gale 2001 (citation)
- Professor Bruce Thom 2004 (citation)
- Emeritus Professor John Holmes 2006 (citation)
- Professor Joe Powell 2008
- Professor Michael Webber 2011 (citation)
- Professor Jim Walmsley 2013 (citation)

Australia - International Medal
- Professor Janice Monk 1999
- Professor Reginald Golledge 2000
- Professor Tom McKnight 2001
- Emeritus Professor Harold Brookfield 2005 (citation)
- Emeritus Professor Ian Douglas 2006 (citation)
- Professor John Connell 2009 (citation)
- Professor Katherine Gibson and Professor Julie Graham 2010 (citation)
- Associate Professor Louise Johnson 2011 (citation)

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

Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers
- Dr Peter Smailes 2008 (citation)
- Emeritus Professor Bob Fagan 2009 (citation)
- Professor Ruth Fincher 2009 (citation)
- Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick 2009 (citation)
- 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

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
- Emeritus Professor Murray Wilson 2009
- 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
Grants and Awards Received

The following have recently received the award of PhD:

**Paul Munro** (University of Melbourne) for his thesis entitled “A Critical History of Forest Conservation in Sierra Leone”

**Sarah Rogers** (University of Melbourne) for her thesis entitled “Household Vulnerability to Climate Change in a Rural Chinese County: Does the Local State Matter?”

The following have recently received grants:

**Susan McGrath-Champ** was jointly awarded an International Collaboration (‘STINT’) Grant (The Swedish Foundation for Cooperation in Research and Higher Education) for research on “Teachers working conditions in times of competition, choice, and privatisation: A Swedish-Australian comparison” (with K. Parding, Lulea Univ of Technology, Sweden, S. Fitzgerald, A. Rainnie, Curtin Univ) 2014-2018: $213,000 (1,344,138 SKR).

**Pauline McGuirk** and **Robyn Dowling** were awarded an ARCDP grant for their project “Governing urban energy transitions: reconfiguring spaces, sites, subjects”. The project addresses the lack of understanding of the forms of governance required to facilitate much needed transitions in energy consumption and provision, especially in critically important cities. In a novel analysis of the materiality of governance, this project investigates the pathways, practices, and political dynamics of energy transitions in Sydney and Melbourne. Through a focus on commercial office space in CBDs and suburban office parks it will identify opportunities for and barriers to transition and shed new light on the limits and potentials of urban energy transitions.

**Meg Sherval** with colleagues from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies and the Centre for Social Research in Energy and Resources was awarded research funding ($49,900) from the NSW Department of Primary Industries for a project on Local Attitudes to Changing Land Use in Narrabri Shire.
Jean Hillier, Wendy Steele, Diana MacCallum, Jason Byrne, and Donna Houston were awarded an ARC Discovery Project (2015-17) on “Enabling Innovation in Local Climate Adaptability”.

The Asia – Pacific Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Research Group at the University of Sydney in partnership with the Centre for Disability Research and Policy, received funding from the NSW Ministry for Police and Emergency Services to undertake a two-year ground-breaking research project to assess and increase the resilience to natural disasters of NSW people with disabilities, their families, carers and representative organisations. In Australia, one in 5 people live with a disability. People with disabilities are two to four times more likely to die or be injured during natural disasters than the general population. This project – which has already received solid support from all the NSW emergency management agencies - will work directly with NSW people with disabilities, NSW Community Services Organisations and NSW Disabled People Organisations to increase the preparedness of people with disabilities to disasters. The project, valued at $589,388, received $321,480 under the 2015 Natural Disaster Resilience Program (Community Resilience Innovation Program) and a further $260,000 in partner agency funding. The project will begin in May 2015.

Matthew Tonts, Paul Plummer, Fiona Mackenzie, Sarah Prout and Mike Dockery were awarded $200,000 by the Western Australian Department of Regional Development to undertake two projects entitled: ‘The evolution of regional centres in Western Australia’ and ‘The Connection between Assets and Aboriginal Wellbeing in Western Australia’.
2015 IAG Conference, Canberra

By Co-Chairs Tom Measham and Bruce Doran, IAG 2015 Program Convenors

The 2015 Conference ‘Exploring Geographical Connections’ is shaping up very well with rich discussions amongst on Twitter and email lists abounding. Around 250 abstracts were submitted and are currently undergoing review by the session convenors and conference organisers to develop a draft program.

Four keynote speakers have been confirmed, plus several more guest speakers who will be presenting semi-plenaries on behalf of the study groups. (With most of the study groups putting forward a guest speaker, there simply isn’t the program space to give each one a full plenary).

In addition to the main conference, several workshops are associated with the main conference, including a workshop on ‘Giving back’ hosted by the Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledges and Rights Study Group, the first ever workshop of the newly formed Study Group on Hazards, Risks and Disasters, a lively post-graduate workshop and the ‘Informing Australian Land Use Symposium’. The program continues to evolve so please check the website for updates, and keep an eye on the conference Twitter hashtag #IAG2015Canberra. Early bird registration is currently open, so now’s a great time to register.

We look forward to seeing you in Canberra. More information available at:

IAG Postgraduate Pre-Conference Day

The IAG Postgraduate Pre-Conference Day will be held at The Australian National University in Canberra on 30 June 2015, the day before the IAG Conference commences. The day has been designed as a forum for postgraduate scholars to meet each other and discuss their research prior to the conference proper. Please register on the conference website if you wish to attend.

The morning of the Postgraduate Day will provide scholars with an opportunity to participate in one of two workshops an Urban Geography Study Group Workshop run by Nicole Cook and Sarah James or an Intensive Writing Workshop run by Rae Dufty-Jones. In Nicole and Sarah’s workshop, scholars in urban geography will be invited to present their current PhD project in small sessions attended by academic mentors who will provide feedback on research design, literature review, interpretation and analysis. Please note, expressions of interest for this workshop need to be emailed to Sarah.James@anu.edu.au as soon as possible. In Rae’s Intensive writing workshop, postgraduate scholars are invited to bring their draft conference papers to this workshop and use the time and space to begin the process of building these drafts into a document for publication. This 4-hour session will be an interactive session looking at the way in which the benefits of attending and presenting at conferences do not end with the last session but can be used as a productive launching pad for building those initial drafts into a publication. Requirements for this session include: a draft conference paper (for this conference or from a past conference) and either paper and pen(s) or computer (whatever works best for you).

Two consecutive panel sessions will be run in the afternoon. The first, facilitated by Dr Inger Mewburn (a.k.a. ‘The Thesis Whisperer’) will focus on getting a job after the PhD in light of her recent research. Two recent doctoral graduates will then reflect on Inger’s comments in light of their own experiences in entering both academic and non-academic paths. The second seminar session will focus on ‘research impact’. This session will explore what impact is, whether geographers should aim for ‘impact’ and how to achieve research impact. This session will include reflections from Libby Porter, a geographer from RMIT who identifies as a ‘scholar-activist’; Steve Dovers the head of the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the ANU whose research has a strong public policy emphasis; and another scholar to be announced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9.00 am - 1.00 pm</th>
<th>Urban Geography Study Group</th>
<th>Intensive Writing Workshop</th>
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<tr>
<td>(inc. morning tea 10.45 - 11.00 am)</td>
<td>Nicole Cook &amp; Sarah James</td>
<td>Rae Dufty-Jones</td>
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<td>1.00 - 2.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>2.00 - 3.00 pm</td>
<td>Panel: getting a job after the PhD</td>
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<td>3.00 - 3.30 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30 - 4.40 pm</td>
<td>Panel: Research Impact: What is it, should we have it, how do we do it?</td>
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Francis Markham and Sandra Potter
New Zealand Geographical Society 2016
Conference: Geographical Interactions

University of Otago, Dunedin, 1-4 February 2016

The Otago Branch of the NZ Geographical Society extends a warm invitation to our 2016 Conference. We invite papers in all areas of Geography and related disciplines, but we ask that you consider the conference theme. We feel it is timely to recognise the connections and interactions that distinguish geographical research, geographic education and professional practice by geographers. These ‘connections’ are manifest as collaborations between geographers (local, national and international), academic and professional interactions, as well as informal and formal connections with the community, Maori, government and NGOs.

We welcome proposals for themed sessions, pre- and post-conference fieldtrips.

The programme commences with a welcome in the Otago Museum at 6pm on Monday 1st February 2016, and thereafter comprises paper and poster sessions and fieldtrips. The conference dinner will be held at Larnach Castle. The conference will close on the evening of Thursday 4th February. We plan to share the best of southern hospitality and the exceptional local environment.

Finally, the organisers extend a special invitation to post-graduate students and will endeavour to support your attendance at the conference. The programme will include sessions for secondary school teachers and others interested in geographical education.

The second notice will outline abstract submission and registration details. In the meantime, information will be added to the conference website as it becomes available from the 1 April 2015 (http://www.otago.ac.nz/nzgs-conference-2016). If you have any questions or would like to get in touch with the organizing committee, please contact (nzgs.conference@otago.ac.nz).

Mike Hilton
For the Organising Committee
“The Power of Maps”

The 43rd annual conference of The Australian & New Zealand Map Society (www.anzmaps.org) in conjunction with The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia (www.mappingsciences.org.au)

WED 29 APRIL – FRI 1 MAY 2015
Hosted by THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA
Celebrating the centenary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

Keynote speakers:
Prof. Georg GARTNER, President, International Cartographic Association (Vienna University of Technology, Austria)
Dr. Chris PIGRAM, CEO, Geoscience Australia (Canberra).
Mr. Kent LEE, President & CEO, Eastview Geospatial (Minneapolis, USA)
Mr. KHIN Maung Maung, Geocomp International (Melbourne)
Includes SSSI Cartography and Map Design Workshop and tours of facilities at to Geoscience Australia, ANU, National Arboretum, Australian War Memorial, Red Hill Lookout.

Full programme and online registration link at:
www.anzmaps.org/conferences
Contact: Brendan Whyte  bwhyte@nla.gov.au
The California Geographical Society

The California Geographical Society is holding its annual meeting 1-3 May at Humboldt State University in the Deep North of California. The use of the name of the Father of Geography, Alexander von Humboldt, may seem mysterious since he never ventured to this part of America. The University is located in Arcata, a city of around 17,000, situated 12 km north of Humboldt County seat, Eureka. The region is often described as being Behind the Redwood Curtain; a documentary film of that name was released in USA in 2013. A better known moniker is The Emerald Triangle (a comparison with the Golden Triangle of Asia). Here is the real home of California’s most lucrative agriculture – the growing of marijuana. Inland across the ranges from Eureka is the recently famous town of Weed, which thrives on the sale of substance-suggestive t-shirts and whose signage is often “souvenir-ed”. [FIGURE 3] It was actually named after its founder Abner Weed. More news will follow the meeting.
The **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting** will be held from April 21-25 in Chicago, Illinois. Full details of the conference are at: [http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting](http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting)

The **IGU Regional Conference** will be held in Moscow, 17-21 August 2015. Full details of this interesting conference are at: [http://www.igu2015.ru/](http://www.igu2015.ru/)


The **Norwegian Research Network on Political Ecology and Environmental Policy, the Norwegian Researcher School in Geography, and the Department of Geography, University of Bergen** will hold a workshop entitled “Power in political ecology” from 26th-27th November, 2015, in Bergen. In political ecology, analyses of conflicts in the exploitation, governance and knowledge of the environment and environmental resources form key objects of study. These analyses focus on the involvements of resource users, NGOs, states, planners and (multi)national companies or other actors, including researchers, in material and discursive struggles over access, control and meanings of resources, spaces and landscapes. Identifying power and diverse ways through which power is gained, legitimized, exercised and resisted by different actors in environmental resource governance and at multiple scales is crucial. Understanding power from both structural and actor-oriented perspectives has thus been essential in political ecology, although the concept is not always clearly defined in this field. This workshop explores the concepts of power used in political ecology and aims to provide insight into the theories of power explicitly or implicitly used in political ecology. Papers on relevant research in contexts from all parts of the world are invited. Email abstract by 15th September and full paper by 30th October to [ragnhild.overa@geog.uib.no](mailto:ragnhild.overa@geog.uib.no)
Between the plough and the pick: Informal mining in the contemporary world

This international conference will be held in The Australian National University on 5-6th November, 2015. The primary purposes of the conference are to engage with the scholarly understandings of contemporary agrarian transition, the political ecology of mineral extraction, the global processes driving the informalisation of mining, the roles played by local social-political-historical context, and aspects of labour processes. Millions of people all over mineral tracts of economically poor countries are engaged in mineral extractive practices. Neither these people, nor their practices, have so far been at the forefront of debates on mining. Collectively, these informal extractive practices have been described as artisanal and small-scale mining (or ASM in short). We are, however, using the term ‘informal mining’ primarily because such mining practices, even when licensed but carried out on a smaller scale, comprise a part of the informal sector of these countries. Those who engage in these practices are often the poorest and most exploited labourers, erstwhile peasants caught in the global vortex of change, and performing the most insecure and dangerous tasks. Located at the margins of the mainstream mining economy, they produce enormous amounts of mineral resources and find a livelihood (and often a path out of poverty). It is important to understand the diversity within their extractive practices, the forces driving such mining, the creative agency and capacities of these miners, as well as the human and environmental costs of such mining. These informal, artisanal and small-scale miners are inextricably engaged with, or bound to, global commodity values and supply chains, are intimately involved in the production of new extractive territories and rural economies, and their labour re-shapes agrarian communities and landscapes of resource access and control. Collectively, these miners have also been redefining our understanding of the political economies, political ecologies, and resource geographies of commodity extraction. This social and economic milieu also holds significant implications for scholarly understandings of contemporary mineral-dependent livelihoods, agrarian transitions, informality, and the social meanings of destitution and poverty. The conference will also disseminate the results of two research projects funded by the Australian Research Council: ‘Beyond the Resource Curse’ (Discovery Project, CI Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, 2013-2015) and ‘Going for Gold’ (Linkage Project, CIs Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt and Keith Barney, 2014-2015).

Further details of these projects can be gleaned from the website www.asmasiapacific.org

Conference contact: Kuntala.Lahiri-Dutt@anu.edu.au or informalmining@gmail.com
Summer school on Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Social Sustainability, 6-17 July 2015, University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

This two-week summer school (practical training course) promotes understanding about and develops skills in managing the social risks and impacts associated with the development of public and private investment projects (e.g. mines, dams, highways, industry parks, electricity transmission corridors, agricultural developments, etc), and particularly issues related to land acquisition and resettlement. The course is offered by the University of Groningen in conjunction with the World Bank, Community Insights Group, Intersocial Consulting, and Frederic Giovannetti.

Research into the displacement of peoples required for large projects generally shows that they can be made worse-off unless the process is properly planned and managed. With the increasing number of international standards (e.g. World Bank safeguard policies, IFC Performance Standards, EBRD Performance Requirements, Equator Principles, and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights), there are established international standards and good practices that are expected to be met in the development of investment projects. However, the varying cultural and developmental contexts of different countries presents significant challenges to fully implementing these standards.

This training course is based on international standards and good practice, as well as on lessons learned on the ground from practical case studies. It will include a technical site visit to a resettlement site. The course will be delivered by some of the world’s leading social assessment and resettlement practitioners, specialists from international development institutions, as well as key academics. It seeks to provide capacity building in the practice of managing the social issues of investment projects, focusing especially on land acquisition and resettlement. It is targeted to an international audience of current and intending social performance and resettlement practitioners, and people involved in the governance of projects from public and private institutions. It is also open to advanced students interested in the practical management of social issues associated with development. For those who complete the optional assessment, 5 ECTS credits are available. For more information, please go to: http://www.rug.nl/education/summer-winter-schools/summer-schools-2015/land-acquisition/?lang=en or contact Prof Frank Vanclay at Frank.Vanclay@rug.nl
AGTA Report

AGTA’s principal focus in 2015 is supporting the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography. A key element of this support is the provision of professional learning opportunities for classroom teachers (the AGTA Geography Roadshow). Other elements include the promotion of GeogSpace, and the publication of a skills-based text to replace Keys to Geography Skills.

AGTA Geography Roadshow

The first of the AGTA Geography Roadshows took place in Brisbane on Saturday 21 March. The one-day professional learning event included both a primary and secondary program. Topics addressed included ‘thinking geographically’, ‘inquiry in Geography’, fieldwork, ICT in Geography, and developing literacy through Geography.

More than 80 teachers participated in the Roadshow. Multiple events are planned for NSW in the weeks following the release of the new NSW Geography Syllabus. Other states and territories will follow.

GeogSpace

The GeogSpace website is an initiative of the Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) supported by the resources of Education Services Australia. GeogSpace has been designed to support primary and secondary teachers implementing the Australian Curriculum: Geography. Developed by AGTA’s team of practising Geography teachers, the site ensures that all schools across Australia have access to a unique resource that reflects best practice using current technology and pedagogies.

Geography skills book

Work is progressing on a replacement for Keys to Geography Skills. The yet to be named text will provide students with an up-to-date resource aligned to the requirements of the Australian Curriculum: Geography. The writers (John Butler and Mick Law) are due to submit their contributions in April. Publication is scheduled for early 2016.

AGTA Conference

The 2015 AGTA Conference was held from 11–16 January 2015 in Rotorua, New Zealand. The Conference proved a great professional learning opportunity for teachers. The Conference featured an extensive program of keynote presentations, workshops and fieldwork. There were also pre- and post-Conference tours.

Participants were impressed by the quality of the Conference presentations, the fieldwork (White Island was amazing), extra-curricula activities and the catering. Nick Hutchinson, ably assisted by Rob Berry, did a terrific job organising the conference. Victoria has agreed to host the 2017 ACTA conference.
Geographical Education: Current issue

Geographical Education, Volume 27, is now available on the AGTA website. The 2014 issue features two reports related to the Review of the Australian Curriculum: Geography – the Submission to the Review of the Australian Curriculum Submitted by the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association Limited from Dr Grant Kleeman and Comments on the recommendations relating to geography in the Review of the Australian Curriculum by Associate Professor Alaric Maude.

There are also four peer reviewed articles:

- Sustainability in the Australian Curriculum: Geography by Associate Professor Alaric Maude;
- Investigating the impacts of global education curriculum on the values and attitudes of secondary students by Dr John DeNobile, Dr Grant Kleeman and Ms Anastasia Zarkos;
- Post-primary education and energy literacy: An analysis of the potential for geography curricula to contribute to Australian students’ energy literacy by Mr Brad Maddock and Dr Jeana Kriewaldt; and
- Interested and influential: the role of a professional association in the development of the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Geography by Ms Susan Caldis.

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. Since then the journal has been published in a digital format and is available on the Association’s website. The ISSN for Geographical Education is ISSN 0085 0969.

Australian Curriculum: Geography

The Federal Government (Minister Christopher Pyne) recently announced that ACARA would develop a Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum for Foundation (Kindergarten) to Year 6. The proposed curriculum will seek to integrate Geography, History, Business Studies and Civics and Citizenship into a single subject area. It appears, however, that education ministers have agreed to nothing other than having ACARA come up with some proposals. They have not committed to accept any new curriculum. Indeed, NSW has already announced that the State’s new Geography and History syllabuses, aligned with the Australian Curriculum, will be implemented as planned.
Australian Alliance of Associations in Education

AGTA is proud to be a founding member of the newly formed AAAE. This is a body specifically formed to represent the interests of teacher professional associations at a national level. There are 23 founding member associations and the AAAE will be able to lobby at a Federal level on issues affecting teachers and their professional practice. The AAAE has begun to develop Position Statements on a variety of issues of interest to educators. AGTA is delighted to offer teaching resources to support the implementation and delivery of the Australian Curriculum: Geography in classrooms.

Primary Geography Challenge

AGTA and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland are developing a Geography competition for primary school students. At this early stage, organisers are planning an online competition that tests a wide range of geographical skills and knowledge in an engaging way, using a variety of questions and graphics. The competition will be aimed at Year 6 students, at least initially.

The Primary Geography Challenge will complement the highly successful Australian Geography Competition.

Decadal Plan for Geography

AGTA has agreed to help fund the development of the National Committee for the Geographical Science’s strategic directions paper for the discipline. AGTA is also keen to contribute to the School Geography element of the plan.

Vale Wayne Sutton

AGTA was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Wayne Sutton (President of the Tasmania Geography Teachers Association and a long-standing AGTA Director). Wayne Sutton has been a long-standing member of the AGTA Board and made an outstanding and lasting contribution to the teaching of geography in Tasmania. Wayne was passionate about geography and actively involved with providing leadership and support to geography teachers. He taught senior geography at Hobart College for 18 years where he was Head of Department. He was the chief marking examiner and had been the setting examiner and state moderator for Geography. In addition, Wayne was a contributing author for several publications and held positions on advisory editorial committees for a number of publications.

A kind, considerate and deeply caring person Wayne will be sadly missed by the geography community throughout Australia.

In recognition of Wayne’s outstanding service to geographical education AGTA has to award Wayne the Don Biddle Award (posthumously). We plan present Louise Sutton (Wayne’s widow) with the award during AGTA’s Board Meeting in Hobart on 2 May.

Dr Grant Kleeman,
AGTA Chair
Study Groups

The Indigenous Peoples Knowledges and Rights Study Group:

‘June 30 IAG 1 day Workshop, Canberra – ‘Giving back’.

At the heart of the workshop will be discussion of the Monk Archive, a 50 year old body of work that geographer Jan Monk collected in 1965 and which has been revisited through an ARC Discovery Project. Professor Richie Howitt will lead the workshop with presentations from Jan Monk and PhD candidate David Crew. Indigenous members of two communities involved - Griffith and Deniliquin - will attend the workshop to discuss the impact of the return of the Monk Archive, how each community has reflected on their own local history over the last 50 years and how they are working in partnership with researchers to identify stronger futures for their communities. This will be complemented by presentation and discussion of other geographical work around issues such as repatriation of ancestral remains. The workshop is co-hosted with AIATSIS and supported by funds from the IAG. Please email jessica.mclean@mq.edu.au or sandie.suchet@mq.edu.au to register your interest.’

Rural Geography Study Group:

The Rural Geography Study group have been busily organising sessions for this year’s annual Institute of Australian Geographer’s Conference in Canberra. We have proposed four sessions related to ongoing rural concerns which include: 1) Natural resource management, land use change, and governance in peri-urban and high amenity rural areas; 2) Rural Futures –what next? 3) Rural Mobilities and 4) The International Year of Soils –Remembering the role of Nature in Ecosystem services and Industries. These sessions collectively engage with the conference theme of ‘Exploring Geographic Connections’ as they suggest the ongoing connection between rural and urban spaces and remind us of the important role the rural still plays in providing us with resources, food sources and ecosystem services which are often ignored by our globalised world. In other news, members of our study group (Robyn Bartel - UNE, Meg Sherval - UoN & Stewart Williams -UTas) joined with members of the Legal Geography Study group for a very successful 2 day Legal Geography Symposium organised by Dr Nicole Graham at UTS Law. Again here, the connections between rural, urban and remote spaces and the law was very apparent and made for some intellectually stimulating conversations, the outcomes of which will be a special edition of Geographical Research. (For more information about the workshop, see Robyn Bartel’s Legal Geography Study Group Report).
Legal Geography Study Group

Legal Geography Study Group members are looking forward to two full sessions at the upcoming IAG conference in Canberra. Study Group members have recently enjoyed the Inaugural Australian Legal Geography Symposium convened by Dr Nicole Graham at UTS Faculty of Law and sponsored by the IAG and UTS. Nicole writes:

On 12-13 February, the IAG and UTS Faculty of Law co-sponsored the first Legal Geography Symposium held in Australia. Our colleagues in the northern hemisphere have convened at dedicated conferences and symposia for well over a decade. The Inaugural Australian Legal Geography Symposium was held in Haymarket at the University of Technology Sydney Faculty of Law and brought together Australian scholars working in the field from the disciplines of Law and Geography to discuss their interdisciplinary research and explore shared methodological practices and concerns. Symposium participants circulated their full written papers two months in advance of the meeting and prepared detailed comments on each others’ writing, as well as consideration of a modest set reading program. The conscientious efforts of all participants meant that the detailed and lengthy discussion of the written papers and set readings proved beneficial not only to the authors but also to the group generally. Participants unable to attend for various reasons, supplied comments on the papers both before and after the Symposium. Nineteen people participated in the Symposium of which, for various reasons, only 15 attended on the two days scheduled. The Symposium was successful in achieving its objectives and in planting the seed for further such opportunities. The symposium follows on from two similar paper-writing workshops convened by Dr Robyn Bartel (UNE) and Dr Stewart Williams (UTas). Dr Daniel Robinson from the UNSW Institute of Environmental Studies will host the next such gathering.

Participants’ Perspective on the Inaugural Legal Geography Symposium, UTS, 2015:

Tayanah O’Donnell and Lauren Butterly, write that the aim of the Inaugural Legal Geography Symposium was to encourage conversations about legal geography in Australia – to consider if there is a unique form of Australian legal geography – and to bring together researchers in the disciplines of both law and geography to exchange ideas and methods relevant to Australian legal geography in the form of draft journal papers. All participants’ papers were exchanged, reviewed and critiqued by other participants prior to the Symposium. We both come from backgrounds in the discipline of law and in the social sciences and this was our first attendance at a legal geography event. The highlight was how this Symposium was clearly designed with collegiality and critical thinking as the core pillars for learning.

Subjecting one’s work to the viewpoint of your peers, is no easy task especially when the audience are from different disciplines. Yet, this Symposium masterfully balanced critique with inclusion and support, both of which are crucial for those of us at the early stages of a research career. Having the opportunity to not only receive feedback from eminent Australian legal geographers, but to also give those people feedback on their draft papers, was an invaluable experience. The unique mix of disciplines represented in the workshop also presented opportunities to think in different ways, not only about how we might research, but how we express our research and make it accessible. The experience has also provided us contacts across disciplines to ask for advice and swap drafts, as well potential collaborators.
The collegiality of the group was a stand-out feature of our experience. Everyone had the time to discuss the critical edges of legal geography, and the inroads Australian legal geography could contribute to the international sphere of legal geography. This is a group of scholars that we are keen to be part of due to their enthusiasm, inclusiveness, academic rigour and willingness to share ideas. Although the conversations about legal geography at the Symposium necessarily came from a critical perspective, we both came away from the workshop with a sense that we want to, and do, identify as legal geographers.

Participants at the Inaugural Australian Legal Geography Symposium, UTS, in front of the new Dr Chau Chak Wing Building designed by Frank Gehry. L – R are Meg Sherval, Libby Porter, Josephine Gillespie, Paul McFarland, Lauren Butterly, Brad Jessup, Stewart Williams, Nicole Graham, Jason Prior, Robyn Bartel, Daniel Robinson, Spike Boydell, Tayanah O’Donnell, Rachel Young. Not in Photo: Liesel Spencer, Emily O’Gorman, Marlo Slavin.
Urban Geography Study Group

The Urban Geography Study Group convened the workshop Australian Cities, Urban Geographies at the University of Melbourne 27 March 2015. The workshop brought together 25 academics and doctoral students from Queensland, NSW and Victoria. Papers were circulated prior to the workshop and grouped into four key streams: urban environments, urban governance, urban economies and urban cultures. Key themes emerging included plurality and universality, informality/formality, tropical urbanism, geographies of urban and regional encounter, assemblages of finance and property investment, urban restructuring and change, the indigenous city, and human-non-human engagements. Thanks to everyone for a really excellent, intellectually engaging and enjoyable meeting. The next meeting of the Study Group- where outputs from the workshop will discussed and events will be planned for 2016- will be held at the Institution of Australian Geographers Conference in Canberra, July 2015. We hope to see you there.

Economic Geography Study Group

The Economic Geography Study Group is pleased to announce that the group’s sub-plenary address speaker will be Professor Raewyn Connell of the University of Sydney. Raewyn is well known to geographers through her contributions to Southern Theory, gender studies and more recently, to a ‘southern’ take on neo-liberalism. Raewyn is a world leader in her field (44,000+ citations in Google Scholar!) and an inspiring speaker. The Urban Geography study group is co-sponsoring the session. We’d like to thank the IAG for their help with the costs. Even if you are not presenting at the IAG, it would worth the trip to attend this important address.

Critical Development Study Group

The Critical Development Study Group (CDSG) committee have been working away on preparation for IAG including a post-conference workshop. We are very lucky to have Maria Angela (May-an) Villalba from the Philippines joining the group for its various activities, sessions and workshop during and after the conference. May-an is Director of NGO, Unlad Kabayan, and pioneer in alternative economic development strategies and Philippines-based lecturer in Social Entrepreneurship. Drawing on the experiences and strengths of colleagues and friends in the region is central to CDSG attempts to deepen its relationships and collaborative work hence building on a key agenda focus discussed at our meeting in Melbourne last year. At the IAG in Canberra the Study Group will establish specific areas of collective interest, including thinking through potential research collaborations, ways to communicate the study group’s activities, and how we might go about engaging politically on critical contemporary issues i.e., skype writing circles for quick response.

The study group would especially like to thank the IAG Committee for their financial support towards Maria Angela (May-an) Villalba’s participation in the activities of the group in Canberra.
IAG Cultural Geography Study Group

Event and kindly supported by the IAG
When: 29th-30th June, 2015
Where: UNSW Canberra

The Event of Research: ethos, objects, politics (JD Dewsbury)

This workshop stages an open forum of reading group debate, panel discussion and plenary presentation to think through the event of research. Framing the questions surrounding the event of research, the workshop will draw upon three key themes: ethos, objects and politics.

JD Dewsbury will present the plenary paper, The Event of Research. He will draw on recent conceptual arguments in geography and philosophy, in order to set out potential trajectories for thinking through these three central themes and the way that they shape our ability as academics to intervene in our contemporary condition. The following questions will be considered under each of the themes:

Ethos: how do we set up the parameters of research, both conceptually and empirically? Thus, for example, how do we theorize the relationship and difference, if any, between nature and culture? How do we argue for the micro scalar and quotidian alongside, within and beyond the macro and the epochal?

Objects: how do we create our matters of study, distributing agency in such a way that ecologies, events and practices are as much the focus of research as the distinction of subject and object has traditionally been? What might the impacts of this be on science, law, art and policy?

Politics: how might we reevaluate the values within which we situate our research, so as to make it an effective and transformative critique? How can we ensure that its impact involves a challenge to the status quo in artistic, political and scientific spheres?

The workshop will be especially appealing to those researching questions about aesthetics, affect, anthropology, ecology, embodiment, feminism, governmentality, mobilities, new materialism, nonhuman relations, performance, post colonialism, social activism, technology and techno-science.

For further details and enquiries please contact Scott Sharpe, S.Sharpe@adfa.edu.au
Please RSVP to Scott by 1 June 2015.
News from the Field

Rupert Doney, PhD candidate at the University of Newcastle with Pauline McGuirk and Kathy Mee, began fieldwork in mid-2014. His research explores the governance and regulatory frameworks shaping the delivery and use of retrofits, focusing on residential heating and cooling retrofit.

In addition Rupert is investigating the lived experiences of householders who have made material changes to their home for the purpose of heating and cooling. Part of his fieldwork involves building a picture of retrofit processes and the ways in which various organisations are involved in the provision and management of retrofits in the Newcastle area. Interviews are ongoing, but thus far Rupert has conducted interviews 19 participants from organisations, including: local councils, product manufacturers, industry associations, energy auditors, community groups, research scientists, architects and tradespeople. Exploring householders’ experiences of retrofit has involved 20 interviews and household tours where the material changes to the home—through retrofit—are pointed out, engaged with, and discussed in the context of their use and function. This more ethnographic approach has usefully complemented attempts to explore the entanglement of retrofit practices in everyday life and social processes. Rupert also participated as a panellist in the Newcastle stage of the Just Transitions Tour, set up by 350.org, focusing on the local challenges and opportunities for retrofit in transitioning to a low carbon economy.
News From The Universities

University of Newcastle, Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies

Meg Sherval was promoted to Senior Lecturer, and appointed as a Councillor of the NSW Geographical Society. Sarah Wright was promoted to Associate Professor. Sarah Bell submitted her PhD thesis entitled "Frictions of Management: Engaging and Performing 'Nature' in Kur-ring-gai Chase National Park".

Pauline McGuirk has returned from a year of Sabbatical as Visiting Professor at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Long Service Leave in 2014, to the role of Head of Discipline. Pauline commenced in the role of Editor of Progress in Human Geography, alongside Noel Castree (Managing Editor), Sue Roberts, Sarah Elwood-Faustino, Kristian Stokke and Chris Philo. She is the first southern-hemisphere based editor of the journal and will serve for four years.

In the first half of 2015, Jenny Cameron is on unpaid leave from the University of Newcastle and has taken up a Visiting Professor Position at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Department of Geography and Resource Management). She is teaching a special studies undergraduate course based on her co-authored book Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming our Communities. She is also running a semester-long academic writing workshop for over 20 research higher degree students, and is conducting research into a range of diverse economy initiatives in Hong Kong.
In November, Dr JD Dewsbury (University of Bristol) took time out from his sabbatical during his stay in Canberra to journey north to Newcastle and the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies to contribute to the annual Postgraduate Workshop of the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS). Dr Dewsbury presented a seminar and engaged in critical discussions with staff and PhD students around inspirations and how these related to key methodological, conceptual and practical dimensions of PhD research.

In 2014 the BDevStudies program convened by UoN’s Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies underwent its 5-yearly review. The Review Committee, chaired by Prof Ritchie Howitt (Macquarie University), judged the program to be national best practice. On the strength of the review the program has been nominated to become a “flagship program” of the University.

Macquarie University Department of Geography and Planning

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Department of Geography and Planning within the Faculty of Arts at Macquarie University, as of January 2015. Our new Department, led by Prof Robyn Dowling, is excited about continuing its research and teaching in justice and governance in changing environments.

University of Tasmania

University Associate Kerryn Higgs will give an Author talk of her new book, Collision Course: Endless Growth on a Finite Planet, in Melbourne at the New International Bookshop, Trades Hall, 54 Victoria St, Carlton, (03) 9662 3744 on 30 April 2015, 6.45pm. Phone in or accept on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/newinternationalbookshop

The Brisbane launch of the book will be at Avid Reader, 193 Boundary St, West End, Brisbane 4101 on Friday 26 June 2015, 6 - 8pm: Kerryn Higgs in conversation with Paul Barclay Bookings at http://avidreader.com.au/index.php?option=com_registrationpro&view=event&did=550&Itemid=136&shw_attendees=0

Kerryn was recently appointed Fellow of the International Centre of the Club of Rome. The Club of Rome’s International Centre, based in Winterthur, Switzerland, is engaged in research projects relating to the Club’s search for a more just, equitable and sustainable world. This includes the project in which she has been invited to participate: to define an alternative economic system and investigate whether there is any practical way to get there.
The University of Sydney, School of Geosciences and Asia–Pacific Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Research Group

Phil McManus has been appointed as Head of School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney.

The project titled “COastal Vulnerability to Multiple inundAtion souRces (COVERMAR)”, undertaken by the University of Sydney’s Asia – Pacific Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Research Group in partnership with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group, received the 2014 National Federal Australia Resilient Award under the category “Local Government”. COVERMAR had already received the NSW State Award, and was assessed at the Federal Level by the Australia Attorney’s General Department, against several projects in the field of natural disasters undertaken throughout Australia. COVERMAR was judged the best local government resilience project in Australia for 2014, and Dr. Dall’Osso, Prof. Dominey-Howes and Stephen Summerhayes received the award from the Minister for Justice, the Hon Michael Keenan MP at the official ceremony in Canberra, held on the 24 November 2014. Details of the project can be found at the webpage: [http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/covermar](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/covermar)
The University of Western Australia, School of Earth and Environment

The School of Earth and Environment (SEE) is delighted to welcome to new senior appointments to the faculty:

- Professor Fiona Mackenzie, joining UWA from Curtin, and is Co-Director of the Centre of Regional Development
- Professor Petra Tschakert, joining UWA from Pennsylvania State University, will be the new Chair of Rural Development within the SEE

Dr Paul Maginn was appointed Editor-in-Chief of Urban Policy and Research in September 2014.

Michelle Walker was one of eight PhD students selected, nation-wide, to participate in the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists 2015 science leaders program. The program included a three day Master Class in March which facilitated a two-way exchange of knowledge and ideas with Wentworth Group members and several young professionals. Discussions particularly focused on the Blueprint for a Healthy Environment and a Productive Economy report that was released by the group in November 2014. Michelle contributed specifically to a discussion on how reforms in regional-scale land and water planning and management could produce opportunities that contribute to the health of land, water and people in the Kimberley region, where she is researching Indigenous perspectives of freshwater ecosystem management.

In 2015, the SEE has introduced two new Masters programs:

- Master of International Development - The aim of this course is to provide students with a grounding in international development concepts, theories and approaches. Students are equipped with the analytical and practical skills they need to engage critically in development issues and debates from an interdisciplinary perspective, and to work across broad areas of development policy, research and practice. The degree is collaboratively taught between the Faculties of Arts and Science, with a geography specialisation entitled ‘Development Policy and Practice’.
- Master of Geographic Information Systems – The course develops technical and research skills applicable to the range of disciplines relying on the use of spatial analytic techniques. It provides students with a grounding in both GIS theory and practice, and competencies in advanced GIS techniques, spatial problem solving, and implementation and management of GIS projects.
The SEE has initiated a new second year unit called International Fieldwork in Geography, which has proved immensely popular with students immediately. The unit is designed to exemplify issues of urban and rural development, conservation and resource management in contrasting settings, with students gaining intensive interaction with local planners, managers and stakeholders in the destination region. Two trips were run in 2014: one to north-western USA in conjunction with the University of Plymouth, UK, and another to Indonesia. The USA trip covered both physical and human geography, including aspects of urban and regional development, climate change, and environmental management in Washington State, Oregon, and Idaho. The Indonesia trip was based in eastern Bali, and focused on the linkages between development and environmental change. In 2015, the unit will take students to Barcelona to explore aspects of urban and regional development in situ.

The University of Melbourne, School of Geography

There is now officially a School of Geography at The University of Melbourne. The School is one of seven in the Faculty of Science. The Head of School is Professor Ruth Fincher. Staff and students are relishing these new circumstances! Staff movements include:

Dr. Sonia Graham has taken up a continuing position in the School of Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales. Though this is bad news for Melbourne University, it is good news for Sonia and UNSW.

Dr. Paul Munro has taken up a position as lecturer in environmental humanities at The University of New South Wales

Dr. Simon Batterbury has joined the first group of visiting research fellows at the new Brussels Centre for Urban Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium. Simon will be at the Centre from March to June 2015, working on understanding the contribution of community bike workshops, of which there are now several hundred, to community economies and urban sustainability in Belgium, France and Germany.

The School of Geography in association with the Urban Geography Study Group of the IAG will be hosting 25 academics from around Australia for the writing workshop 'Urban Geographies; Australian Cities' on March 27.

The University of Wollongong

The University of Wollongong’s Department of Geography & Sustainable Communities welcomes ten new PhD students beginning their studies in 2015. A warm welcome to: Lance Barrie (supervisors: Chris Brennan-Horley & Gordon Waitt); Rebecca Campbell (supervisor: Gordon Waitt); Ryan Frazer (supervisor: Gordon Waitt); Ananth Gopal (supervisors: Natascha Klocker & Lesley Head); Ren Hu (supervisor: Nick Gill); Sophie-May Kerr (supervisors: Natascha Klocker & Lesley Head); Leigh Reis (supervisor: Thomas Birtchnell); Leigh Robinson (supervisors: Thomas Birtchnell & Anne Cusick); Razia Sultana (supervisor: Thomas Birtchnell); Carrie Wilkinson (supervisors: Leah Gibbs & Gordon Waitt).
The University of the Sunshine Coast

The University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) has become the new host of the Social, Economic and Institutional Dimensions (SEI) Research Network of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF). The network is one of four research networks within NCCARF. The SEI research network was formerly hosted by the University of Melbourne and convened by Professor Jon Barnett. The phase 2 SEI Research Network is comprised of a Hub, whose central node is at USC, where it will be convened by Professor Tim Smith (tim.smith@usc.edu.au). The network has four sectoral themes, and a Governance Integration Theme. The Themes are:

- **Industry** - led by Prof John Fien, Swinburne University of Technology (jfien@swin.edu.au);
- **Government** – led by Prof Barbara Norman, University of Canberra (Barbara.Norman@canberra.edu.au);
- **Indigenous** – led by Dr Melissa Nursey-Bray, University of Adelaide (melissa.nursey-bray@adelaide.edu.au) and Phil Rist, Girringun Aboriginal Corporation (eo@girringun.com.au);
- **NGOs** - led by Dr Dana Thomsen, USC (dthomsen@usc.edu.au); and
- **Governance integration** – led by Dr Rochelle Spencer, Murdoch University (Rochelle.Spencer@murdoch.edu.au) and Dr Martin Brueckner, Murdoch University (M.Brueckner@murdoch.edu.au).

The Network’s objectives are similar to those of phase 1 but with more of an emphasis on the coastal zone, which reflects the new emphasis of NCCARF. The network’s new objectives are to:

- Undertake activities for capacity building of researchers and end-users (with a focus on the coastal zone);
- Collaborate with research providers, the private sector, and non-government organisations;
- Disseminate relevant adaptation information;
- Review the SEI National Adaptation Research Plan, demonstrating how research priorities have changed as knowledge has advanced and end user needs have evolved; and
- Support NCCARF through its coastal framework, synthesis and engagement activities.

Please email Tim if you would like to become a member of the SEI Network or added to the e-list: tim.smith@usc.edu.au
Recent 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


2013 Books


**Salim Momtaz** (Newcastle) and **Kabir, SMZ** 2013. *Evaluating Environmental and Social Impact Assessment in Developing Countries*, Elsevier, New York.


**Lesley Instone** and **Kathy Mee** (Newcastle) with **Palmer J, Williams M, Vaughan N.** 2013. Rental housing, climate change and adaptive capacity: a case study of Newcastle, NSW. Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Newcastle.


2012 Books


