In my final report for this busy year for Australian geography, I have a few exciting matters to share with you.

In this Newsletter there is an update from Associate Professor Alaric Maude about recent activities being undertaken by the National Committee for Geographical Sciences - in particular the development of a strategic plan for geography involving all relevant stakeholder groups. This inclusive plan titled the *Geographical Sciences: Strategic Directions* will provide a ‘road map’ for our discipline over the next decade and beyond. The strategic plan will be structured around the current and future contribution of Australian geographers to the five societal challenges identified in the Australian Government’s Strategic Research Priorities statement. There will be plenty of opportunities for members of the IAG to engage with the process, including through membership of working groups. I encourage you to get involved as such an opportunity only comes around every 10 years or so. We are especially grateful for Alaric’s energy, unpaid time and personal commitment to the project.

We have received some exciting news from Wiley, the publisher of our journal *Geographical Research*. The statistics for 2013 are impressive: 80,000 downloads of the journal and the Impact Factor has increased to 1.206. On current trends we can expect an even higher Impact Factor for 2014, which will move Geographical Research up the global rankings of geography journals. We must thank past and present editors and contributors for this great achievement and can look forward to some exciting themed issues over the next two years.
Finally, we need to be constantly vigilant of the status of geography in our universities. There have been several cases this year involving the fracturing (or attempted fracturing) of geography groups as a consequence of restructuring of administrative units. In some cases the decision to break up geography, mostly into human and physical groups, has been the desired course of action by the academic staff and the separate groups continue to cooperate with teaching and research. In other cases, the break up has been determined by higher-level decisions with little or no consultation with affected parties. Either way, geography in universities remains vulnerable to future changes in higher education despite the rhetoric from governments about the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and research. We all need to argue the case for geography more strongly. Our greatest strength comes from our strong linkages across the human and physical worlds and this positions us extremely well to take on the ‘grand challenges’ facing society and environment. Moreover, we now have a national curriculum for geography in primary and secondary education with a push to make geography compulsory up to grade 10 across all the States and Territories. We are also witnessing a resurgence of interest in geography in many Australian universities. We need to bring these developments to the attention of our senior university administrators to retain our rightful place in academe.

I trust that all members of the IAG have had a productive and satisfying year and can find some time to relax over the festive season to enjoy some quality moments with families and friends.

Best wishes

**Steve Turton,**  
James Cook University  
[steve.turton@jcu.edu.au](mailto:steve.turton@jcu.edu.au)
News from IAG Council

Major Geographical initiatives involving members
IAG Council members are involved in the recently renamed National Committee for Geographical Sciences and its work towards developing a plan for *Geographical Sciences: Strategic Directions*. IAG Council members are also involved in a new initiative re *Foundations for the Future: a long-term plan for Australian ecosystem science* and its programme to establish an Ecosystem Science Council for Australia. IAG Council members continue to be involved in the development of the National Geography Curriculum as well.

Future revision of the IAG Constitution warranted
Members will recall the changes made to the Constitution at the IAG General meeting in Melbourne (please see previous newsletter for details). After forwarding the revised document to the regulatory body, the ACT Office of Regulatory Services (ORS), we have been informed that several of the provisions are now out of sync with the current legislation. These are unrelated to the recent changes. Future revisions to the IAG Constitution will therefore be needed. Our application to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commissions (ACNC) for registration as a charitable organisation will be delayed until the provisions in the amended Constitution are accepted by ORS. The membership will be kept informed as further news comes to hand.

Thanks to the Conference Organizers of the Melbourne IAG/NZGS Conference 2014
We extend our most grateful thanks and congratulations to the Conference Organizers A/Prof Ian Rutherfurd and Dr Brian Cook and their team at the University of Melbourne for a most successful and worthwhile IAG conference earlier this year. We note that this year’s conference, combined with the New Zealand Geographical Society (NZGS) Conference, attracted a very high number of participants and notably high proportions of both postgraduate students and international attendees. For those who might have missed some of the action, please see the IAG Facebook site for news and photos!

Your membership dues at work
The IAG Council has approved expenditure of up to $10,000 for postgraduate travel awards for 2015 and up to $20,000 for study group activities, given satisfaction of the necessary criteria and demonstrated benefit to members.
Call for Nominations: Awards of the IAG

We would like to open the call for awards of the IAG for 2015. Please consider nominating your esteemed colleagues for the following awards of the IAG.

**GRIFFITH TAYLOR MEDAL** is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded in each two year period.

**AUSTRALIA-INTERNATIONAL MEDAL** is for 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)** and **FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (FIAG)**. Distinguished service to the IAG is recognised by the award of a Distinguished Fellowship, while contributions to the profession of geography are recognised by a Fellowship.

The closing date for ALL nominations is Friday 27 March 2015. Nominations should be sent to the IAG Secretary, Dr Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au. Further details of the four awards being considered for 2015, including nomination requirements, are available from: [https://www.iag.org.au/about/awards-of-the-iag/] (https://www.iag.org.au/about/awards-of-the-iag/)

For further enquiries about these awards, please contact either Professor Steve Turton at steve.turton@jcu.edu.au or on (07) 4042 1292, or the Secretary, Dr Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au or (02) 6773 2904

No applications were forthcoming in Rd 2 for the Fellowship of the IAG.

**New Study Group**

A new study group of the IAG has been formed. Entitled *Health Geography*, it will have a presence on the IAG website very soon. Thanks to Professor Neil Coffee (UniSA) for his work in establishing this new group.

**Study Group Funding**

Applications have been called from study group conveners for funding in 2015. Annual reports for 2014 are also due.

**Next IAG Council Meeting**

The next IAG Council meeting will be a planning meeting in April or May at a venue to be confirmed.

Robyn Bartel,
IAG Honorary Secretary.
The IAG is pleased to have welcomed 74 new members during 2014. Retaining current members and recruiting new members remains a top priority for Council. We understand how difficult it can be to remember to make annual payments, so have introduced a three year payment option. Current records for paid membership are as followed:

2013: 387 members
2014: 310 members
2015: 99 members (prepaid)
2016: 25 members (prepaid)

There are still over 150 outstanding payments due for 2013 and 2014. If you are on our reminder list you will have likely received notice recently that payment is outstanding. Membership dues for 2014 are $148 for ordinary membership and $77 for concessional membership, whether a student or retired. A payment in December would ensure that there is no disruption to ongoing receipt of Geographical Research. The next list of paid members will be supplied to the publisher early in the New Year.

As 2014 draws to a close, this is the last chance to take out a three year membership at current rates ($430 for general members or $215 for students/concessional/retired). Notices for 2015 membership renewals will be sent out in January at new CPI indexed rates. Once our bookkeeping records roll over, we have to move forward to the 2015 rates.

If you are unsure about your membership status or need help logging on to the IAG website to renew your membership, please contact our admin assistant, Kirstie Petrou (kpet5792@uni.sydney.edu.au) who will be happy to assist.

Robert Gale, Treasurer
&
Aidan Davison, Membership Secretary
The National Committee for Geographical Sciences is a committee of the Australian Academy of Science. It represents geography nationally and internationally, and has members drawn from academic geography, school geography and the public geographical societies.

One of the functions of a national committee is to produce a decadal plan, reviewing the state of the discipline, its potential contribution to society over the next decade, and the challenges to be overcome in order to fulfil this contribution. The plan is addressed at policy makers rather than the profession. It will examine the position of geography in schools and in public life as well as in research. Geography has not yet produced such a plan, but several other disciplines have, and the Committee has decided that a decadal plan for geography must be its priority over the next year. We have commenced developing a proposal that will outline the objectives of the plan, how it can be produced, and what funding may be needed. This will be done in consultation with the Institute of Australian Geographers, the Australian Geography Teachers Association and other key organisations.

The National Committee for Geographical Sciences has also started discussions with the Academy of the Social Sciences to see what joint activities could be undertaken to link the science and social science academies through geography.

**Alaric Maude**
Chair, National Committee for Geographical Sciences, Academy of Science
News from
Geographical Research

Strategic Direction

The journal’s new Editorial Board (discussed in the last IAG Newsletter) recognises an explicit strategic position we are moving towards with the journal and that is: that Geographical Research is an international journal by virtue of its encouragement of dialogue between our region (Australia and its environs) and the rest of the world. Although we do hope to sustain international coverage and authorship, Geographical Research will not be an international journal because it carries papers about many different parts of the world, by scholars from around the planet, or because it has an Editorial Board with representatives from ostensibly ‘leading universities’ on each continent. Instead, Geographical Research will more firmly secure its international status by continuing to be the leading venue for Australian geography’s conversation with the rest of the world. Ideally, this conversation should be a dialogue, rather than a comparatively unidirectional flow of knowledge fuelled by Australian geographers deferring to Anglo-American works produced in those regions’ so-called ‘international’ journals as well by as Anglo-American geographers paying little heed to work based in the Antipodes.
Recognizing One Another

It is all very well to point to this strategic direction, but how is it to be achieved? How is Geographical Research to be better recognised as a key nexus for international conversations? Well, in a somewhat paradoxical way, to be better recognised internationally, we need to be even more heavily cited. And to be cited, we must recognize one another’s work. After a just a short period as Editor-in-Chief I have already observed the tendency of contributors to cite works published in a small range of journals – other than Geographical Research! You can probably name them as easily as I: Annals, Transactions, PiHG, E&PA…. There’s usually little doubt about the relevance of these citations – although I am sometimes entertained by the apparent tendency to cite some authors in the hope of basking in their reflected glory (an unfortunate practice encouraged in some ‘how-to’ scholarly publications – but the disturbing adjunct to this is the relative absence of citations by contributors to appropriate papers published in Geographical Research. On some occasions referees identify such shortcomings and as Editor-in-Chief I can see it too, but there is a limit imposed by apparent self-interest on the extent to which the editors can exhort individual authors to cite specific works published in Geographical Research. So, rather than make this appeal to contributors individually, I make that call in general terms here. Cite your colleagues! Not only might this very small action on your part endear you to those colleagues, but it brings the broader long-term prospect of raising the profile of your own work by raising the profile of the journal! It will give greater voice to Australian geography and therefore support our region’s engagement in international scholarly dialogue.

Impact Factor

Recently, we have been given a tremendous fillip in the direction discussed above. We received the wonderful news that Geographical Research’s Impact Factor (IF) has increased to 1.206 from its previous figure of 0.783. Moreover, the journal’s ranking in the Geography subject category is 31/76, also an excellent increase on last year’s 41/72. This new IF and discipline grading gives us a great deal of the momentum we need to advance the interests set out above.

Notwithstanding the unfortunate and misguided 2010 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) journal ranking exercise, the past few years have been very good for Geographical Research. I hope that collectively we are all able to build on this momentum.

Iain Hay, Editor in Chief
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)
• Associate Professor Alaric Maude 2009 (citation)
• Emeritus Professor Roger McLean 2009 (citation)
• Mr Alex Lyne 2010
• Emeritus Professor Roy Jones 2013 (citation)

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
Congratulations to Professor John Connell on being awarded the Fellowship of the Geographical Society of NSW. The Fellowship was conferred at the Society’s annual Awards Evening on Monday 1st December, 2014. Professor Kevin Dunn (UWS) read the citation that honoured John for his “outstanding contribution to geography, the University of Sydney, The Geographical Society of New South Wales and to the success of the Society’s journal *Australian Geographer*.” The award was presented to John by the Society’s President, Professor Phil McManus.

The Awards Evening also included awards to the top second year students from last year (2013) from the nine universities across NSW where geography is taught. There was also an engaging Guest Speaker – Professor Bruce Thom from the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and from the School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney. Bruce spoke about “Geography: Yesterday, today and tomorrow” and highlighted the work of two leading geographers of the twentieth century in Australia – Thomas (Grif) Griffith-Taylor and James MacDonald Holmes – and how their ideas link with the contemporary regional-based approach to natural resource management being promoted by The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists in their November, 2014 “Blueprint for a Healthy Environment and a Productive Economy”.

Professor Bruce Thom delivering his speech.
Scott Heyes was the winner of the University of Canberra’s Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence Awards 2014 in Equity and Diversity. The award recognised the deep community participation and support of the project titled *Transects: Windows into Boandik Country*. The project, based in the South East of South Australia, involved the production and public display of counter-maps of country. Over fifty members of the Mt Gambier community participated in the project, including members of the Boandik community, the South East Aboriginal Focus Group, Burrandies Corporation, landholders, natural resource management agencies, University of Canberra landscape architecture students, and local and state government. An exhibition of the project is currently touring the South East. A copy of the exhibition booklet is available at [http://www.canberra.edu.au/researchrepository/file/d3ecc26-2ee9c-493f-b10e-38aa4c8c6e65/1/full_text_published.pdf](http://www.canberra.edu.au/researchrepository/file/d3ecc26-2ee9c-493f-b10e-38aa4c8c6e65/1/full_text_published.pdf) and a video summarising the project is available on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G3aLtCVVx4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G3aLtCVVx4).

Fillipo Dall’Osso and Dale Dominey-Howes were presented with the NSW State Government ‘Resilient Australia Award’ (in the category of Local Government) on 16 October 2014, by the NSW Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. Stuart Ayres, MP, for their project entitled *Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources (COVERMAR)*. COVERMAR was a two-year project, funded by the NSW Ministry for Police and Emergency Services under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program that developed and tested a multi-hazard tool to assess the vulnerability of buildings and critical infrastructure in Sydney to inundation from storm surge and tsunamis. The project was undertaken in partnership with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group and is available at: [http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/covermar](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/covermar).
The following have recently received the award of PhD:

**Jen Cleary** for her PhD entitled *Cultural icons and cash commodities: The two-world story of Australian bush foods*. Jen was runner-up for the Best Dissertation in Regional Science in 2014, awarded by the International Regional Science Association at its annual conference in Washington DC. Jen was also a runner-up in this year’s South Australian Science Excellence Awards, in the category of PhD Excellence in Life & Environmental Sciences.

**Philip Holmes** for his PhD entitled *The environmental and financial sustainability of pastoralism in Australian arid rangelands: a case study approach.*

**Sophia Maalsen** for her PhD entitled *The life history of sound.*

**Tubtim Tubtim** for the PhD entitled *Rural crossroads: class and migration in peri-urban Chiang Mai.*

**Ann Turner** for her PhD entitled *Institutional regimes in transport: case studies of rail and road in NSW and Queensland 1850-2000.*

**Colette Morteux** for the PhD entitled *Understanding Adaptation: Households and bushfire risk in Mt Dandenong.*

**Tamara Tynan Mihalic** for her PhD entitled *Initiating Peace: Local Peacebuilders’ Experiences in Croatia.*

**Veronica Bue** for her study entitled *The role of smallholder farmers in sustaining household food security at Bialla and Hoskins oil palm land settlement schemes, Papua New Guinea.*

**Graham Thompson** for his study entitled *Monitoring Community Engagement in Social Learning for Sustainability in Natural Resource Management: Two Western Australian Examples.*

To be conferred on December 12th

**Dong Xing** for the PhD entitled *Sustainable urban development and governance: Making Green Roof policy in Beijing, China.*
Grant recipients:

**Christine Eriksen** (Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research, University of Wollongong) was awarded an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) for her project *Bushfires, Faith and Community Cohesion: Building a Resilient Australia* ($353,773).

**Adam Bumpus** has been awarded an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award to investigate low emissions innovation in Australia, the USA and China.

**Emma Power** has been successful in gaining an ARC DECRA totalling $348,710 for her project *Bridging house and home: Ageing, home and housing security among single, asset-poor older women*. The project aims to investigate the stability of single older women’s senses of home, security and belonging as they negotiate asset and income insecurity. It examines: how national and housing-provider scale housing policy and governance frameworks shape the ways that older women experience and make decisions about the home; and how the home is affected by housing mobility. Using a housing pathways approach, the project aims to develop knowledge of how housing markets and supply affect, and are shaped by, homemaking cultures and practices. The project aims to address a research gap about the ways in which asset-poor older Australians maintain stable housing pathways and senses of home, security and belonging as they age.

**Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt** along with **Bill Pritchard, Stewart Lockie, Patrick Kilby** and **Amita Shah** have won an Australian Research Council Discovery Project grant of AU$ 300,000 for the research project *Farmers of the Future: the Challenges of Feminised Agriculture in India* from 2014 – 2016.

**Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt** is Co-Director with **Amita Shah** and **Itishree Pattnaik** (Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad, India) on an Indian Council of Social Science Research grant of INR 12,000,000 for research project *Inquiry into the Feminisation of Agriculture in India* from 2014 – 2015.

**Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt** is Co-investigator with **Amalendu Jyotishi** (Amrita University, Bangalore, India) on a SANDEE grant of USD20,000 for research project *The question of property rights in informal gold mining in India*, jointly 2014 – 1015.

**Graeme Hugo** was awarded an ARC Discovery for this research on *Demography and Diaspora: Enhancing Contributions to Migration and Development*. This project will rethink demographic concepts of migration, incorporating concepts such as diaspora, circular migration and transnational links. It will use quantitative and qualitative data analysis in case studies of six countries around the initiation, maintenance and significance of diaspora and its potential for development poverty reduction.

**John Tibby** and others were awarded an ARC Discovery for their work on high resolution analyses of continuous 140 000 year old sediment deposits that help to explain how Australian environments came to be.
Emma Calgaro (Natural Hazards Research Group, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney) together with Frank Thomalla (Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI, Asia Centre) have been awarded a seed grant of 30,000 Euros from the International Social Science Council (ISSC) under the Transformations to Sustainability Programme. This project is aimed at exploring the role context and culture play in influencing vulnerability and resilience to environmental risk. Contextual factors (ideologies, cultural beliefs, social norms, economic and power systems, institutional cultures, governance structures and processes, and the framing of problems and solutions) influence vulnerability and resilience to environmental risk. But how these complex contextual and cultural factors and processes combine in different places and cultural settings remains poorly understood. Furthermore, little is known about how culture influences risk responses and outcomes. The urgent need for better understanding and addressing culture and its influence on risk and disaster risk reduction is emphasised by the recently published 2014 World Disasters Report of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), which is dedicated entirely to culture and risk. This project is a multi-partner initiative. Core collaborative partners include Lisa Schipper (SEI and the Overseas Development Institute), Mark Pelling (Kings College London), Dale Dominey-Howes (University of Sydney) and Richie Howitt (Macquarie University). The Transformations to Sustainability Programme promotes research on the fundamental and innovative processes of social transformations needed to secure effective, equitable and durable solutions to some of the most urgent problems of global change and sustainability. The Programme is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and serves as a contribution to Future Earth. Supplementary support for seed grants is provided by the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) UK through the Newton Fund and the National Research Foundation of South Africa. Contact details: Emma Calgaro: www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/ people/st_calgaro.shtml; Frank Thomalla: www.sei-international.org/staff?staffid=336; ISSC website: www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/transformations

Dale Dominey-Howes and Emma Calgaro of the Natural Hazards Research Group together with the Deaf Society of NSW, the NSW State Emergency Service and the NSW Rural Fire Service have been awarded a research grant of $237,406 under the Community Resilience Innovation Program of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program for a project entitled Sharing responsibility for natural disasters by enhancing the emergency preparedness of deaf people. This project builds upon previous work undertaken by this group funded by the same program from 2011 – 2013.

Dale Dominey-Howes and Eleanor Bruce have received a seed grant of $10,000 from the Marie Bashir Institute together with Professor Jon Iredell from the Westmead Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney and Dr Maurizio Labbate of the iThree Institute at the UTS to investigate the Geography of the disaster risk of antibiotic resistance.

Bill Pritchard is lead investigator on a three year ARC Discovery project entitled Nutrition insecurity and livelihood decision-making in rural Myanmar.
Katherine Gibson is Principal Investigator on the ARC Discovery project *Strengthening Economic Resilience in Monsoon Asia*. The project has been awarded a total of $197,300 (2015-2017) and has Dr Lisa Law, Associate Professor Darlene Occeña Gutierrez and Professor Nay Win Oo on the research team.

David Kennedy is part of team lead by Prof. Colin Woodroffe (Wollongong) that has been awarded an ARC Discovery project to investigate sedimentary processes and the evolution of coastal plains in southern Australia.

Jon Barnett, Ruth Fincher, Anna Hurlimann, Sonia Graham and Colette Mortreux were awarded the Planning Institute of Australia, Victorian Division Award for Cutting Edge Research and Teaching for their ARC Linkage Project on *Equitable Local Outcomes in Adaptation to Sea-Level Rise* project.

Bryan Boruff with colleagues has been awarded $640,000 from the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre for a project entitled: Reconnecting urban planning with health: The development and validation of national liveability indicators associated with chronic disease risk factors and health outcomes. 2014-2016.

Sharon Biermann has received funding of around $175,000 from Main Roads WA for two projects. The first relates to land use planning, transport and activity centres, while the second is a review of transport modelling methodologies.

Matthew Tonts, Paul Plummer and Neil Argent have received an ARC Discovery grant to extend their work on evolutionary perspectives on rural Australia. In addition to taking a wider look at rural Australia, the grant will also provide an opportunity for Matthew and Neil to revisit their respective PhD case study areas more than 20 years after having done their original fieldwork.

Andrew Gorman-Murray and Catherine Jean Nash (Professor of Geography, Brock University, Canada) have been awarded an Endeavour Fellowship ($24,500) to further fund their research into LGBTQ neighbourhood change in Sydney, Australian and Toronto, Canada. This fellowship will fund Catherine to visit UWS/Sydney for 4-6 months in the second half of 2015. Andrew and Catherine have published (or have in press) seven articles/chapters from this project, previously funded by a UWS IRIS grant. In this next round of work under the Endeavour, they intend to examine the role of social media and digital/mobile technologies in neighbourhood change.

Ryan Lowe with colleagues has been awarded funds from the Australian Institute of Marine Science for a project entitled: Research on the Impacts of Tropical Cyclones on Offshore Coral Reefs and Shoals in Northwestern Australia.

Amanda Davies was awarded $120,000 for her study entitled *An investigation into the performance, barriers and opportunities for Businesses in Regional Western Australia* for the Department for Regional Development (WA).
The 2015 IAG Conference is being held in Canberra from 1-3 July at the Australian National University. The theme of the conference is *Exploring Geographic Connections* and focuses on exploring and strengthening the links between geography and the diverse domains that geographers apply themselves to regarding current and emerging challenges.

The conference draws attention to geographers’ existing (and potential) contributions to the policy sphere. Beyond the formal policy arena, the theme of exploring connections also draws attention to the wider governance systems in which geographers have a contribution to make – such as through interactions with the business sector, the not for profit sector and others, in a wide range of contexts, from urban to rural. Of particular emphasis at this conference is the focus on exploring cultural connections, and foremost amongst those are the links to Indigenous communities. In pursuing the theme of geographic connections, the conference also turns the spotlight on the discipline itself, to inquire where Geography is heading from national and international perspectives. What new connections should geographers be cultivating and what aspects of our disciplinary tradition are valuable to retain for the future?

In the first instance, the program is being developed in collaboration with the IAG study groups so please discuss your plans for conference sessions with the appropriate study group convenor. If any IAG members have an exciting idea for a special session outside of the study group architecture please contact Tom.Measham@csiro.au. The conference website will be open soon with information about the conference including timelines for abstract submission.

Other 2015 Conferences

The Australian & New Zealand Map Society (www.anzmaps.org) in conjunction with The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia (www.mappingsciences.org.au) will hold the 43rd annual conference The Power of Maps from Wed 29 April – Fri 1 May 2015; and will be hosted by The National Library of Australia, Canberra. Confirmed Keynote speakers are:

Prof. Georg Gartner, President, International Cartographic Association (Vienna University of Technology, Austria)
Mr. Kent LEE, President & CEO, Eastview Geospatial (Minneapolis, USA)
Mr. KHIN Maung Maung, Geocomp International (Melbourne)
Dr. Chris PIGRAM, CEO, Geoscience Australia (Canberra).

The call for papers is at http://www.anzmaps.org/conferences/ and send presentation submissions and queries to Brendan Whyte: bwhyte@nla.gov.au ph +61 2 6262 1192.

The Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers will be held in Chicago, Illinois, USA, from April 21-25, 2015. Current themes include Radical Intra-Disciplinarity; a Symposium on International Geospatial Health Research: Creating Synergies; a Symposium on Physical Geography: Environmental Reconstruction -- A Nexus of Biogeography, Climatology and Geomorphology; Geography and Online Education; GeoHumanities; and Chicago and the Great Lakes Region. More information at: http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting

The Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting will take place on 1-5 June 2015 in Vancouver, hosted by Simon Fraser University. More information is at the conference website http://www.sfu.ca/cag2015.html

The Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM) is an international geography conference held in every second year in one of the Nordic Countries and now, for the first time, in Estonia. The 6th Meeting will be held in Tallinn and Tartu on 15-19 June 2015. For more information on the conference please go the conference website http://www.tlu.ee/en/NGM2015/Conference-information/List-of-sessions

The 2015 World Social Science Forum (WSSF) Call for Abstracts has just been published. Under the theme of Transforming Global Relations for a Just World, the next Forum will look into issues of inequality and justice. It will take place in Durban, South Africa, from 13 to 16 September 2015. The WSSF is a flagship activity of the International Social Science Council (ISSC). The 2015 edition is hosted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), and co-organised with a large consortium of leading South African Universities and research units, research councils, and prominent non-governmental organisations. More information on the 2015 WSSF. The deadline for the receipt of all abstracts is 1 March 2015.
The Zero Waste SA Research Centre for Sustainable Design and Behaviour and the University of South Australia will host the conference Unmaking Waster 2015: Transforming Production and Consumption in Time and Place from 21st - 24th May, in Adelaide. Waste is created when we no longer value something we create, possess or use. Barriers to prematurely discarding goods and resources have steadily fallen in recent years. Easy credit, low prices, instant online access, and a 24 hour promotional media all reinforce an expanding consumerism. While much effort has gone into researching and implementing successful technical strategies for reducing waste and emissions, accelerating rates of consumption are undermining these efforts. It is clear that we need new systems-based approaches to reduce this excess consumption, including the excesses of our ‘waste-making’, to generate a more sustainable circular economy. There are four Conference Themes that will explore new approaches to reduce the speed, volume and impacts of ‘waste-ready’ global consumerism: Engaging Values and Innovative Practices; Engaging Communities through Social Innovation; Engaging Design for Reuse; and Redesigning Urban Systems for Low Carbon Living as well as workshops and an exhibition. For further information on these, please go to: www.unmakingwaste2015.org

The Australian National University in Canberra will host the International Conference Between the plough and the pick: Informal mining in the contemporary world from 5-6 November, 2015. Millions of poor people all over mineral tracts of economically poor countries are engaged in mineral extractive practices. Neither these people, nor their practices, have 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. Abstracts are due by 30th March, 2015. For more information see: www.asmasiapacific.org
“Changes, Challenges, Responsibility”

International Geographical Union Regional Conference

by Anita Bokwa, Assoc. Prof., Jagiellonian University, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, 7 Gronostajowa St., PL-30-387 Krakow, Poland.

The 2014 IGU Regional Conference took place in Krakow, Poland, in the Jagiellonian University. This combination of time and location has a few dimensions which contributed to the conference organization. In 2014, Poland celebrated 25th anniversary of the political independence resumption, the Jagiellonian University celebrated the 650th anniversary of its foundation, and Polish geographers celebrated the 80th anniversary of the 14th IGU congress organized in 1934 in Warsaw. Therefore, the 2014 IGU RC in Krakow was organized under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and the members of the conference Honorary Committee were Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of the International Geographical Union, Professor Michal Kleiber, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Krakow and Professor Wojciech Nowak, Rector of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

The idea of hosting the IGU conference in Poland for the second time in history was initiated in 2002 by the Polish Geographical Society which acted as an umbrella for the consortium of eight Polish geographical institutions which cooperated to promote Polish geographical research worldwide and which prepared the conference proposal. The consortium consisted of the following institutions:

- Polish Geographical Society
- Jagiellonian University, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Krakow
- Pedagogical University of Cracow, Institute of Geography
- Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, Poznan
- Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Warsaw
- University of Lodz, Faculty of Geographical Sciences
- University of Silesia, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Sosnowiec
- University of Warsaw, Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies
The representatives of the consortium institutions established the Steering Committee of the conference. In 2011, the Local Organizing Committee was established and began the conference arrangements.

The conference began with the Opening Ceremony organized in Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University. Among the invited guests there were senior professors of geography from all over Poland and families of Polish geographers who organized the IGU conference in Warsaw in 1934. Conference participants were welcomed by Professor Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Kraków and Professor Piotr Laidler, Vice-Rector of the Jagiellonian University, and then addressed by Professor Pawel Swianiewicz, Advisor of the President of the Republic of Poland, Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of the International Geographical Union, Professor Marek Chmielewski, Vice-President of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Professor Marek Degórski, Chair of the Steering Committee of the 2014 IGU RC. Professor Jacek Majchrowski contributed to the Gold Medal Ceremony of the 11th International Geography Olympiad, led by Ms. Kathryn Berg and Professor Lex Chalmers. The 11th International Geography Olympiad was organized in the Pedagogical University of Cracow, on 12-18 August 2014, and was attended by 36 teams from all over the world. The best score was achieved by the team from Singapore. During the second part of the Opening Ceremony, a short piano recital by Mateusz Mateja allowed the ceremony participants to experience Polish tradition, landscapes and history, expressed with the international language of musical masterpieces of Frédéric Chopin. Opening lecture: “Relevance of Geography” was presented by Professor Leszek Kosiński. Opening ceremony was followed by the ice-breaker party in Auditorium Maximum and then by the opening of the exhibition “The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland” in the museum of the Jagiellonian University in Collegium Maius.
Conference core activities consisted of IGU commissions sessions, thematic sessions (both oral and poster ones) and plenary sessions. The sessions took place in three buildings of the Jagiellonian University Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, located in the Campus of the 600th Anniversary of the Jagiellonian University Revival. There were 226 oral sessions organized by particular IGU Commissions. The commissions which organized the largest number of sessions were:

- C12.08 Dynamics of Economic Spaces: 22 sessions;
- C12.11 Geographical Education: 19 sessions;

Additionally, there were 19 joint sessions organized by two or more IGU commissions, and 47 sessions organized by the conference participants. Totally, in all the oral sessions, there were 1171 oral presentations. Parallel, 227 posters were presented, each of them assigned to a particular session.

On each conference day, one of the key conference theme words: Changes, Challenges, Responsibility was considered during plenary lectures. The directions and dynamics of CHANGES in the environment were discussed during the plenary session on 19 August 2014. The lecture presented by Professor Benno Werlen (2016 The UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) – The UN International Year of Geography) has driven the attention to both traditional and new areas of changes which are of interest to geographers. The plenary lectures by Professor Zbigniew Kundzewicz (Climate change, related challenges and responsibilities) and Professor Gideon Biger (The Challenge of Historical Geography and the geographical question of “Where is the Holy Land”?), presented during the plenary session on 20 August 2014, gave an opportunity to exchange insights on contemporary CHALLENGES. They emphasized the role of both natural and social aspects of global issues with their strong local repercussions. An attempt to determine the RESPONSIBILITY of human kind for the observed changes (a plenary session on 21 August 2014) were undertaken during the lectures by Professor Julie Winkler (Embracing the Complexity and Uncertainty of Climate Change: Responsibilities for Geographers) and Professor Andreas Faludi (Place is a no-man’s land, so who is responsible?).

There were 1470 participants who registered for the conference and 1372 attended the event (93%). About 100 young researchers took part in the conference thanks to the opportunity of the reduced fee offer. The participants came to Krakow from 60 countries, including 416 persons from Poland. Attendance by countries (apart from Poland) is presented in figures 1-3.

Fig. 1. Countries with 40-100 participants of 2014 IGU RC
Accompanying events included pre-conference meetings and seminars of the IGU commissions, the 11th International Geography Olympiad, exhibition and workshops organized during the conference, IGU commissions business meetings during the conference, two academic excursions (before and after the conference), exhibition “The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland” in the museum of the Jagiellonian University, half-day and 1-day touristic tours in Krakow and its vicinities, and three social events. Six IGU Commissions organized pre-conference meetings in various localities in Poland:

- C12.13 Geography of Governance: 14-16 August 2014, Poznan
- C12.15 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change: 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts
- C12.33 Political Geography: Geographical-political aspects of the transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage, 15-17 August 2014, Lopuszna
During the conference, the exhibition area was arranged in one of the conference buildings. There were 14 exhibitors, including the organizers of future IGU conferences in Moscow (2015) and Beijing (2016). Parallel to conference sessions, there were four workshops available:

- **City without God**. Origin and changes of religious space in new socialist and post-socialist cities; organisers: Elżbieta Bilska-Wodecka (Poland), Tomáš Havlíček (Czechia), Katarzyna Kulczynska (Poland), Justyna Liro (Poland), Izabela Soljan (Poland)
- **Current trends in landscape fragmentation and connectivity assessment**; organisers: Katarzyna Ostapowicz (Poland), Elżbieta Ziolkowska (Poland)
- **Ecosystem services concept in spatial planning**; organisers: Ewelina Mocior (Poland), Agnieszka Nowak (Poland)
- **Improving your presentation skills**: a video-training workshop for young geographers; organisers: Joos Droogleever Fortuijn (The Netherlands), Joop van der Schee (The Netherlands)

Nine IGU Commissions organized their business meetings during the conference. Additionally, General Assembly of the European Association of Geographical Societies took place on 20 August. During the whole conference week, the participants were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition “The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland” in the Museum of the Jagiellonian University, in the building of Collegium Maius. This exhibition is aimed at acquainting all the interested parties with the magnificent tradition of the Polish geography, dating back to medieval times. The main mission of our ancestors has always been to make the society realize how important and wonderful science geography is.

The conference participants attended three types of excursions:

- **half-day trips** (a guided tour in Krakow’s Old Town and a guided tour in Nowa Huta district);
- **one-day trips** (Wieliczka Salt Mine Tour, Ojcowski National Park and a Castle in Pieskowa Skala; a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wadowice and Lagiewniki);
- **academic excursions**: 1. Land degradation and reclamation in the Silesian Upland and the Polish Carpathians (14-17 August 2014); organizers: Paweł Prokop, Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch Krakow, Renata Dulias, University of Silesia; 2. Central Poland (23-25 August 2014); organizer: Robert Wilus, University of Lodz
There were three social events organized for the conference participants:

- ice-breaker party after the Opening Ceremony, in Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University;
- outdoor social event in the “Stara Zajezdnia” restaurant, located in a former tram depot, close to the Museum of City Engineering;
- Gala Dinner in the underground historical salt mine chamber „Warszawa” (in English: Warsaw), located 125 m underground in the Wieliczka Salt Mine Museum, located about 10 km south-east of Krakow.

During the Closing Ceremony, on 22nd August, Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of IGU, handed in the IGU award to the Commission on Gender and Geography, and Professor Janice Monk represented the commission. Professor Michael Meadows, Secretary General and Treasurer of IGU, presented twenty conference participants awarded with the IGU Travel grants. The programme of the next IGU Regional Conference to be held in Moscow in 2015 was presented by Dr. Sergey Chalov, and Professor Chenghu Zhou presented the programme of IGU Congress to be held in Beijing in 2016. The musical accent of the Closing Ceremony was a short recital by the Academic Choir “Camerata Jagellonica” of the Jagiellonian University which performed five songs, from 13th century popular academic song “Gaudeamus igitur” to traditional Polish folk songs. The two last presentations were delivered by Dr. Anita Bokwa, the chair of LOC, and by Professor Marek Degórski, the chair of the conference Steering Committee, who presented the basic conference statistics and closed the conference.

The Local Organizing Committee could never realize its tasks without the full support from the IGU Executive Committee and without the support from Colleagues working in other Polish cities who organized most of the accompanying events. Special thanks should be directed to the staff of the Jagiellonian University Department of Communications and Marketing – Conferences who supported the LOC in all formal and financial issues and ran the conference office. Last not least, a huge work was completed before and during the conference by about 120 volunteers from eight Polish geographical institutions and special thanks are also directed to them.

The conference programme where you can find more information about the conference is still available at the conference web page as a pdf for download:
http://www.igu2014.org/programme

Knowledge/Culture/Economy Conference

The Institute for Culture and Society held the Knowledge/Culture/Economy International Conference from 3–5 November 2014. The conference assessed the shifting roles of knowledge, culture and economy in contemporary and historical scenarios of globalisation, production, consumption, expenditure, crisis, governance, technological change and reckonings with nature. Particular themes were Asia Pacific Cultural Economies, Cultures of Finance, Economic Diversity, Digital Life and Fragile Environments. Katherine Gibson, Aihwa Ong, Timothy Mitchell and Chris Gibson were keynote speakers at the event.
The World Parks Congress (WPC) occurs once every ten years which, if you consider that the Philae spacecraft launched during the last WPC in Durban and landed during Sydney’s meeting, implies that you can do quite lot in the intervening time. The Sydney WPC focused more on protected area targets and milestones than interplanetary travel, with over 6000 attendees involved in eight parallel streams spread out over Olympic Park. Notable luminaries included Greg Hunt, whose contributing statement of ‘if the Reef pays, the Reef stays’ unfortunately did not greatly enhance the debate on payments for ecosystem services.

The Congress is the landmark global forum on conservation and national parks, and is held every 10 years. Organised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and hosted by the NSW and Australian governments, the 2014 Congress released their concluding agenda, ‘The Promise of Sydney’ on Wednesday. The Congress also announced the first ‘Green List’ of outstanding protected areas, including Montague Island Nature Reserve on the NSW south coast, which has been the subject of research by both Tom Nagle and Professor Gordon Waitt. The overall focus of the WPC tends to be more on conservation practice than analysis of policy, hence a large number of the presentations were given over to examples of ‘good practice’ in a wide variety of settings.

There were, however, some more critical evaluations of conservation policy, particularly in contexts involving indigenous peoples or local resource users, which reflected many of the pressing ‘people and parks’ problems worldwide. The stronger recognition of indigenous rights, customary practices and past injustices in the name of conservation is one of the more welcome messages coming out of this Congress and it is to be hoped that this is reflected in conservation action over the coming decade. Heather Moorcroft (PhD current), said ‘the Congress gave a clear message about the need to view the benefits of conservation more holistically as well as the potential for Indigenous knowledge to contribute to emerging environmental challenges’. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples chaired the launch of the book World Heritage and Indigenous Peoples’ Rights. Associate Professor Michael Adams of the Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities, who has a chapter in the book, gave a presentation on World Heritage at Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. Dr Jennifer Atchison presented a paper on invasive species management by Aboriginal people in northern Australia, featuring research undertaken at the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research with Professor Lesley Head. Dr Atchison also contributed to the Congress statement, ‘The Promise of Sydney’.
The Association of Pacific Coast Geographers
Annual Meeting

The Association of Pacific Geographers held their 77th annual meeting this year in Tucson, Arizona, from 24-27 September. We were beckoned to the Welcome/Opening Session by rousing sounds of the school band, rehearsing vigourously for the next “Wildcats” game. Lithe cheerleaders sprang into dazzling formations outside the splendid glass façade of the Hall of Champions. Our proceedings began with abundant words of welcome from a phalanx of geographers-of-influence now leaders at the University of Arizona.

• John Paul Jones III, Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Professor of Geography
• Vincent del Casino, Vice Provost, Digital Learning and Student Engagement and Professor of Geography
• Connie Woodhouse, Interim Director, School of Geography and Development
• Chris Lukinbeal, Interim Associate Director, School of Geography and Development, and indefatigable Conference organizer

The Keynote address by Joseph Wilder, Director of UA’s Southwest Center, presented images of Tucson’s progress in creating urban spaces suited to the desert environment. A single-line Sun Link Streetcar had recently begun service; an online map of cultural assets along the route was created by UA Geography students (http://www.tucsonpimaartscouncil.org/initiatives/our-town-tucson/cultural-asset-map/). We were urged to visit the western terminus, Mercado san Augustin area where a sustainable and environmentally designed district is under way, with high walkability, and “green” housing.

So geography flourished at UA, and there is a strong Australian component, since this is the academic home to Australian geographer Jan Monk, Research Professor, School of Geography and Development, Research Social Scientist Emerita, Southwest Institute for Research on Women. Jan spoke at APCG, in a session on pedagogy and praxis, about some issues regarding her current Australian work with Richie Howitt of Macquarie on social conditions of Aboriginal People in rural New South Wales. Her account of opening her Tucson garage and seeking out decades old research data from her Australian PhD research certainly resonated with me, because I had done just the same in my Long Beach garage just two months earlier.

University of Arizona Old Main Building (1909)
In another session on indigenous research, Cathy Robinson from CSIRO spoke on negotiating payment to Australian indigenous peoples for cultural ecosystem services. My own talk on the continued demonization of Amalie Dietrich was somewhat lost in a session on Media.

After the conviviality of banquet and awards, there is always a sense of regret in returning to the mundane world of everyday teaching. The return trip across the desert provided plenty of opportunity to admire dramatic saguaro cactus, but there was also an un-earthly experience; in Gila Bend (“Home to 1700 friendly people and 7 OLD CRABS”) we visited the famous Space Lodge, where Star Trek is memorialized in the reception, restaurant, even at the swimming pool, though “Enterprise” never had such a space.
Study Groups

Legal Geography Study Group:
The IAG and the UTS Faculty of Law shall co-host the Inaugural Australian Legal Geography Symposium on 12-13 February, 2015 (note change of dates). The Symposium will bring together for the first time Australian scholars working in the disciplines of both law and geography to discuss questions and concerns regarding the methodology and scope of legal geography as an emerging specialism, as well as the independent and dedicated legal-geographical work of these scholars. Participants will distribute to all other participants in advance their full and formal papers of up to 8,000 words to facilitate a detailed and sophisticated discussion of each other’s work at the symposium, rather than a series of presentations. In addition to reading these papers, participants will also be encouraged to undertake a modest shared reading program to inform collegial debate concerning familiar methodological issues in legal geography. If you are interested to know more, please contact Dr Nicole Graham at nicole.graham@uts.edu.au

Critical Development Study Group (CDSG):
CDSG is currently setting up its facebook page and will be discussing possible workshop formats over the coming months with a view to our next gathering which is tentatively planned to run immediately following the 2015 IAG Conference in Canberra. One of the key actions emerging from our inaugural first meeting in July was to establish relationships with our Aotearoa-New Zealand friends working in the field of development, in particular the Devnet crew. I have just returned from their International Development Conference held in Dunedin where I was invited to the steering committee meeting. I would like to thank Regina Scheyvens and John Overton (Co-Chairs) for their welcoming approach to the idea and look forward to working closely with the group in the coming years. Also emerging out of the joint IAG-NZG Conference in Melbourne this year, CDSG is planning a special issue collection in Geographical Research which will draw on presentations from our panel session on the nature of critique and critical development studies. The panellists contributing to the SI include: Associate Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Associate Professor Yvonne Jasmine Te Ruki-Rangi-O-Tangaroa Underhill-Sem, Professor Michael Watts, Dr Katharine McKinnon, Associate Professor Andrew McGregor and Associate Professor Sarah Wright. Looking forward to a successful 2015 and thank you to all those who have supported and encouraged the Study group this year. Paul Hodge (Convenor, CGSG)
In 2012 Amelia Travers studied both social and physical Geography at the University of Queensland, and did my honours researching floating houses and communities living on a lake in Cambodia. Following the humid hours spent in the topics I took a small research deviation which involved a month living in Longyearbyen (literally translates to “Long Year City) in the Arctic Circle. I completed a marine benthic biology subject at The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS). Whilst overall the course was fantastic and it was incredibly exciting as an Australian to get the chance to explore life in the Arctic Circle, the real highlight was two weeks on the R/V Helmer Hanssen, a Norwegian research ship. Our group of 18 students spent the “cruise” rotating between four research topics from the Structure and Function of the Arctic Benthos to investigating the difference between fjords open and closed for fishing. There was a lot of hands on biological science, identifying very small deep sea creatures and investigating stomach contents of fish, which was quite a deviation from my usual desk based geography. However, the breathtaking views made all the blood and guts worth it. Seeing glaciers, ice-bergs and moraines in the flesh, so to speak, was incredibly exciting. The crash and boom of glaciers moving, falling into the sea, brought with it a reminder that geography is active and living, and in its own way, incredibly fragile.

During our cruise around the north of Spitsbergen we had two landings, one at the ghost town that is Smeerenburg and another at Ny Ålesund. Smeerenburg is where Dutch whalers, around 200 people at peak in the early 1600’s, lived, hunted whales and boiled them down for oil. They even used the whale bones to fuel the fires, so there wasn’t too much remaining. However, it was a fantastically remote place to visit and an intriguing reminder of what lengths people will go to in order to access natural resources. Ny Ålesund is the world’s most northerly permanent settlement, and even has the world’s most northerly post office, the place to be to do some remote geography!
From a geographical perspective, rather than pure biology, I was particularly interested in the different relationships Arctic countries now have, and have historically had, with the area. It’s going to be a location to watch with an ice-free summer having massive economic potential for any country with access.

Our preliminary research results showed that there is difference between Fjords open and closed to fisheries, but we didn’t find the specific differences hypothesised by our lecturers. We did however see a general shift of species and water temperatures associated with a warming Arctic.

For further information about my research and for more photographs please see my blog at http://gisandjournalism.weebly.com/blog.html which has been updated with a more recent course I have studied in Svalbard investigating Polar Winter Biology.
During November Andrew Warren and Chris Gibson (University of Wollongong) have been filming interviews with surfboard-makers on the Gold Coast and in Byron Bay for a new short documentary to accompany their 2014 book, *Surfing Places, Surfboard-Makers* (University of Hawaii Press). The documentary is due to be released online in January 2015, to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Duke Kahanamoku’s visit to Australia, an event which is historically viewed as the ‘arrival’ of stand-up surfing in Australia.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt is conducting research in the field for her ARC Linkage project “Going for Gold” which will be running until June 2016.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt checking out informal gold mining in a hard rock tunnel in South India
2014 has been a year of consolidation for the Australian Geography Teachers Association Ltd (AGTA). This follows a busy few years during which AGTA played a leading role in the development of the Australian Curriculum: Geography and facilitated the development of the GeogSpace professional learning website in conjunction with Educational Services Australia. The Association’s challenge going forward is to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography and the promotion of school Geography more generally.

The Australian Curriculum: Geography

With the Australian Curriculum: Geography F–10 and the senior years now a reality (not withstanding any intervention resulting from the Federal Government’s Review of the Australian Curriculum), Australian students have, for the first time, an opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of the places that make up our world.

AGTA played an important role in making the curriculum a reality. Together with other professional bodies, including the Institute of Australian Geographers and the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, it lobbied for Geography to be included in Phase 2 of the curriculum development process and played an active role in the curriculum development process. The challenge for AGTA is now to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography, especially through the provision of quality professional learning and resources.

Each state and territory has approached the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: Geography differently and over a different timescale. In NSW, the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards has just released the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum: Geography K–10. For those interested, the draft syllabus can be found at: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/australian-curriculum/pdf_doc/geography-k-10-draft-syllabus-for-consultation.

Review of the Australian Curriculum

AGTA developed a submission to the Federal Government’s Review of the Australian Curriculum. Led by Nick Hutchinson, all affiliates had the opportunity to provide input into, and comment on, the various drafts of the document. The recommendations of the Review are a mixed bag and it certainly lacks rigor. It is problematic that one Geography teacher’s perspective should hold such sway given the hours of consultation involved in the development of the Australian Curriculum: Geography.
National Committee for the Geographical Sciences

The AGTA Board recently voted to support the Academy of Science’s National Committee for the Geographical Science’s Decadal Plan for the discipline. To be known as 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. We look forward to making a contribution to the development of the plan.

Australian Geography Competition

AGTA is pleased to be associated with this important national initiative offered by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. In 2014, more than 70,000 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 (this year held in NSW). The Australian team represented the country at the International Geography Olympiad held in Krakow, Poland, in 2014. The Australian team was placed second. Kath Berg’s continued involvement in the Competition is greatly valued and appreciated.

AGTA Patron

The Reverend Tom Costello, Chief Executive Officer of World Vision Australia, has been invited to act as the Association’s Patron for another three years. AGTA greatly appreciates Tim’s ongoing commitment to the study of Geography in Australian schools.

Grant Kleeman
Chairperson, AGTA
University of Melbourne, School of Geography

The Geography program at Melbourne University is now located in the Faculty of Science, and next year there will be a School of Geography in that Faculty. As part of this move the School is recruiting for a new Professor who will also be Head of the School.

In October Jon Barnett delivered the second Al-Moumin Lecture on Environmental Peacebuilding in Washington D.C., an endowed lecture sponsored by American University, the Environmental Law Institute, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Rachel Hughes and Nicole Cook (with Elizabeth Taylor, Melanie Davern and Steve Livesley) convened the Greening Greater Melbourne workshop as part of the Shading Liveable Cities project on November 6. Guest-speakers included Rebecca Salminen Witt from the Greening of Detroit. See: http://greeningofdetroit.com

University of South Australia - Centre for Rural Health and Community Development

Dr. Emily Moskwa was appointed to a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to work on the ARC Linkage Project ‘Busfires and Biodiversity’ with Prof Guy M Robinson and Dr Delene Weber (UniSA) and Dr. Douglas K Bardsley and Prof Grame Hugo (Adelaide).

Dr. Doris Carson, formerly Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Centre, is now a Research Fellow in the Department of Geography and Economic History at Umea University, Sweden.

Dr. Chris Raymond, who was awarded his PhD from UniSA in 2012 is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen and a Research Fellow in Geography & Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania.

University of New South Wales

Sonia Graham has been appointed as a Lecturer in Social Research and Policy, starting in January 2015. She has just moved back to Sydney from Melbourne and is looking forward to reconnecting with colleagues at the various universities in Sydney.
University of Western Australia

On the 28th November UWA celebrated 50 years since the establishment of the Department of Geography. While the first geography courses were offered in 1940 by Dr Joe Gentilli, it was not until the appointment of Martyn Webb as the Foundation Professor in 1964 that the Department was established. Nearly 200 current and former students and staff joined in the celebrations. Three of the former chairs were present (Martyn Webb, 1964-1986; Mike Taylor, 1989-1994; John Dodson, 1995-2006) as well as longstanding former staff including Arthur Conacher, Patrick Armstrong, Ian Eliot and Ian Alexander.

The focus though was on the achievements of more than 1600 graduates, whose diverse careers span all manner of fields, and include senior public servants, former and current politicians, and community and business leaders. Photos of the night and other aspects of the Department’s history are on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/GeographyUWA
Dr Petra Tschakert, currently at Pennsylvania State University, will take up a new Chair at UWA in early 2015. Dr Tschakert was appointed to the position of Centenary Professor in Rural Development within the Discipline of Geography, and will help lead a new Masters in International Development. Petra’s position was one of two Chairs established by the Faculty of Science to commemorate UWA’s Centenary. Her interests incorporate rural development in Africa and Asia, mining and development, and aspects of gender and equality.

Paul Maginn (UWA) with Emily Cooper (Lancaster) and Martin Zebracki (Leeds) have organised a special session for the Chicago AAG that already has 28 confirmed papers on De-sexualisation and de-pornification of space: spatialisation, politicisation and regulation of sex, sexuality, sex work and pornography.
UWA lost one of its early appointments to the Department of Geography in July. Stewart Houghton arrived at UWA in 1967 having completed postgraduate studies at the University of Hull in the United Kingdom. Arriving in the middle of the ‘quantitative revolution’ Stewart was particularly interested in urban ecology and population geography, contributing primarily to the Department’s teaching urban geography. Some of his most important work was undertaken in the 1970s and 1980s, when he led the preparation of the various social atlases of Perth and Western Australia that were commissioned by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These publications provided invaluable insights into rapid change in the socio-spatial structure of Perth as it experienced rapid expansion as a result of the iron ore boom. Stewart later contributed to important work on aspects of urban and regional social change, including influential papers on fly-in/fly-out mining, immigration and population structure. He retired in 1994, but remained active, writing on regional development in the south-west of Western Australia and the restructuring of the State’s timber industry. Stewart was in the Department regularly until soon before his passing, and will be sadly missed by friends, colleagues and former students.
Phillip O’Neill has been appointed Director of the Centre for Western Sydney at the University of Western Sydney. The new centre is the university’s facility for enhancing the policy impact of research with particular focus on Western Sydney, Australia’s fastest growing metropolitan region. The centre will play a major role in enhancing the links between researchers and policy makers/users across the range of disciplines, with geographical research (of course) playing a central role. Phillip has published a paper with co-author Sally Weller in the Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society. The paper, *De-industrialisation, financialisation and Australia’s macro-economic trap*, is about the impact of macro-scale settings and global financial behaviours on employment decline in manufacturing in Australia.

Michael Grosvenor and Phillip O’Neill have published a paper in Geographical Research titled, *The Density Debate in Urban Research: An alternative approach to representing urban structure and form*. The paper analyses the impact of density on sustainability outcomes in Sydney, qualifying the too-often assumed relationship between increased density and better sustainability outcomes.

Katherine Gibson presented at the International Conference on Peri-Urban Landscapes: Water, Food and Environmental Security; at the Royal Geographical Society / Institute of British Geographers Conference in London; at Wageningen University, the Netherlands; and at the Shrinking Commons Symposium, Oxford University. She also conducted a masterclass at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, and travelled to Paris for research meetings with R-URBAN researchers. On 11 December Katherine will present on *Community, economy and ethics for the Anthropocene* at the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, University of Melbourne, as part of their Sustainability in the Anthropocene Seminars. Katherine (J.K. Gibson-Graham) had a paper published in Current Anthropology: *Rethinking the economy with thick description and weak theory*. [http://www.jstor.org/stable/full/10.1086/676646](http://www.jstor.org/stable/full/10.1086/676646)

*Take back the economy: an ethical guide for transforming our communities* by J.K. Gibson-Graham, Jenny Cameron and Stephen Healy has been translated into Korean. A Book review symposium on Take back the economy has been published in the latest issue of Sociology. [http://soc.sagepub.com/content/current](http://soc.sagepub.com/content/current)

Stephen Healy attended the first meeting of the steering committee of the Relational Poverty Network (funded through a five year grant from the US National Science Foundation) and associated conference at the University of Washington. The steering committee included RPN CI’s Sarah Elwood and Vicky Lawson as well as Ananya Roy and Francis Fox-Piven (the famous anti-poverty activist and scholar). The idea is to use the network of international research to reframe how we understand and respond to poverty. Stephen also gave a keynote address at La Trobe University’s ‘ReStructure’ conference which focuses on the future of the arts in an age of austerity.
Donald McNeill presented work on 'volumetric urbanism' and 'conditioned atmospheres' from his Cool Living Heritage ARC Discovery project to the Royal Geographical Society / Institute of British Geographers conference in London, and in a seminar to the Department of Geography, Durham University. He was also a keynote speaker on Smart Cities and Urban Leadership at an industry workshop in London organised by Arup and University College London's Department of Science, Technology and Public Policy. Donald McNeill's review of Andy Merrifield's book The new urban question has been published by Antipode. http://radicalantipode.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/book-review_mcneill-on-merrifield.pdf. His 2008 book Key concepts in urban geography (2008), co-written with Alan Latham, Derek McCormack, and Kim McNamara, has been published in Chinese. http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book230472. Donald had an article, Airports and territorial restructuring: the case of Hong Kong, published in Urban Studies. http://usj.sagepub.com/content/51/14/2996

Timothy Neale and Jessica Weir attended the AFAC (Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council) Conference in Wellington, New Zealand, where they presented a poster titled Can We Better Understand How Scientific Knowledges Work in Risk Mitigation Through Scenario Exercises?. This poster drew upon a recent report by Dr Josh Wodak for their Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC project, Scientific Diversity, Scientific Uncertainty and Risk Mitigation Policy and Planning, on the use and design of Scenario Exercises, available at: http://www.uws.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/749915/RMPP_Scenario_Exercises_Research_Report_UWS.pdf


Cameron McAuliffe presented conference papers in August at the International Geographical Union Regional Conference in Krakow, Poland and the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in London. Both papers related to his research with Assoc. Professor Kurt Iveson (USYD) on graffiti and street art policy and practice in the City of Sydney. In December, Cameron will be visiting the Design Against Crime Research Centre at Central St Martins School of Art and Design at the University of the Arts London where he will present a keynote at the international symposium, The Graffiti Sessions, hosted by the Centre in conjunction with the Urban Laboratory at UCL and the Southbank Centre.

ICS will host two Australian Government Endeavour Fellowship recipients in 2015. The prestigious six-month long fellowships are awarded to high achieving applicants to conduct post-doctoral research.

Nuala Morse (PhD, Durham University, UK) will work with community engagement practitioners in museums and heritage sites in Sydney to provide a close examination of the practice of engagement in Australia. Nuala will work closely with Associate Professor Emma Waterton.

Pablo Fuentenebro Alonso (PhD, UCLA) will be working with Professor Donald McNeill on a comparative study of arts philanthropy and urban redevelopment in Sydney and Los Angeles. Pablo’s home country is Spain and he currently has a position with the UN in Nairobi.

The new SAGE Handbook of Human Geography (http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book235283?siteId=sage-uk&prodTypes=any&q=sage+handbook+of+human+geography&fs=1) contains links to three video conversations that act as an interactive introduction to the volume. One involves Katherine Gibson and Susan Smith talking about the role of Geography in reaching beyond the academy. Watch the video online. http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid750119352001?bckey=AQ~~,AAAAPmbRRlk~,C5G7jhYNtiexS5VyD_Z2uLVfSuANsVS0&bctid=3494204534001
In November Dr Andrew Warren moved from the University of New England, to join UOW’s Department on Geography and Sustainable Communities as a new lecturer.

Dr Anja Kanngieser is moving from the Department of Sociology at Goldsmith’s College, University of London, to undertake a 3 year Vice Chancellor’s Post Doctoral Fellowship commencing 2015. Anja’s research will examine climate change, coastal communities and soundscapes.

Dr Leah Gibbs has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Lesley Head completed her three year appointment as Visiting Professor in the Department of Human and Economic Geography at the University of Gothenburg in November. She was a Senior Research Visitor at the Advanced Studies Centre, Keble College, University of Oxford, in November and December.

From mid-2015, Professor Chris Gibson will take the helm as editor of *Australian Geographer*. In the first half of 2014 Chris will be working with the current editor, Professor John Connell, to enable a smooth transition.

The University of Wollongong’s new Bachelor of Social Science will welcome its first students in 2015. Human Geography subjects are core to this new multi-disciplinary degree.

*Uncertain Islands: Geographies of Change in the Andaman Archipelago* is a new subject for social science students to be run in Summer Session 2014/15. The field trip will embed students with Indian researchers investigating social and environmental change in the Andaman Islands. Associate Professor Michael Adams of the Department of Geography and Sustainable Communities (UOW) will lead the pilot program. Dr Adams was recently awarded a $21,500 AsiaBound Mobility grant which will provide individual travel grants to ten students to help fund the trip. The fieldwork intensive is a collaborative effort between UOW and two Indian NGOs, Dakshin Foundation and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Environment Team, ANET.

The final report is now available of a three-year project *The Social Construction of Fuels in the Interface*, which examined the challenges of co-existing with bushfire in the context of risk and amenity at the rural-urban interface. A collaborative effort between human geographers and fire ecologists at the University of Wollongong funded by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, the project provides both pre- and post-fire insights into life in the Blue Mountains as well as other regions of New South Wales. See: [http://www.bushfirecrc.com/sites/default/files/](http://www.bushfirecrc.com/sites/default/files/)
Geography, Environment and Population (GEP) at the University of Adelaide has just celebrated its 110th Birthday! Melissa Nursey-Bray coordinated the party on Tuesday 4th November (right after the Melbourne Cup!) and staff and students past and present attended. The event was opened by Professor Susan Oakley (Head of School) and closed by Executive Dean of Faculty of Arts, Professor Jennie Shaw.

Doug Barnsley and Thomas Wanner

Professor Nick Harvey gave a talk on the history of Geography at Adelaide (begun 1904) and Professor Graeme Hugo gave a speech on why geography matters noting that environmental literacy at spatial scales is a core future skill. Our key strengths and curriculum have maintained an underpinning theme of spatial analysis around three main strands:

1. Urban and regional and planning (including studies of cities, urban and regional planning and housing issues)

2. Environmental management and environmental change (including the biophysical and socio-economic dimensions of environmental policy and management, environmental economics, environmental sustainability, climate change and environmental change)

3. Population studies (including global population issues, social justice, and applied population studies related to migration, climate change, health and planning)

Nick Harvey
There is a teaching-research nexus with each of the above linked to a university-approved research centre. The first is linked to the Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning led by Professor Andrew Beer, the second is linked to the Centre for Coastal Research, led by Professor Nick Harvey; and the third is linked to the Australian Population and Migration Studies Centre, led by Professor Graeme Hugo.

Staff research achievements include Jennifer Bonham who was recently the speaker for Research Tuesdays; many of GEP staff have been cited in latest IPCC reports (Andrew, Melissa, Graeme, Doug), and Nick Harvey just gave the key note at the national Coast to Coast conference.

There are lots of good things in teaching too - including grants to work on flipped classroom (Thomas) and development of online excel workshops (all GEP, especially Melissa Nursey-Bray, Jennifer Bonham and Julie Franzon); and Melissa is leading development of a MOOC in Language Revival to be launched next June.
Moreover our students also forging ahead – PhD graduate Girmachew Zewdu (Di Rudd and Graeme supervisors) just won the Dean’s commendation for doctoral thesis excellence; another of our PhD graduates, Deborah van Gaans was awarded the South Australian Spatial Excellence Postgraduate Research Award for her PhD thesis; and current postgraduate student Rhiannon Niven gave the student keynote at recent NCCARF conference.

Geography now is more important than ever as we face the dilemma of how to address the key challenge of our time: how do we live on the planet in ways that nurture people and place? GEP and its people continue to work on answering the big questions confronting society across the planet, in terms of sustaining our environment, developing cultures, improving economies and advancing the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Here’s to the next 110 years and Happy Birthday!
The School of Geosciences has recently been involved in a major Change Management Project called Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences (LEES). This project initially included three faculties and five schools and was opposed by the School of Geosciences, with the support of professional associations, leading geographers, and others. The revised project has omitted the School of Geosciences from this proposed arrangement, which involves reductions in debt, better use of space, and job losses. The initial proposal generated much comment, with 99 of the 140 submissions received being associated with the School of Geosciences.

Professor Veena Joshi from the Department of Geography, University of Pune, India is the recipient of a 6-month Australian Government Endeavour Research Award. She is based at the University of Sydney, conducting joint research on soil erosion with A/Prof Deirdre Dragovich. Work so far has concentrated on broad-scale estimates of soil loss in the Hunter Valley, using RUSLE; and this will be extended with field investigation of processes operating in a selected gully system.

The Mekong Research Group has been awarded $120,000 to conduct a research mapping and political economy analysis of land governance in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam and is led by Philip Hirsch and involves Ms Natalia Scurrah and Dr Satomi Higashi. The research is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation through the Mekong Regional Land Governance project. Dr Yayoi Lagerqvist and Dr Bob Fisher are part of a small steering group associated with this project. The Mekong Research Group at the University of Sydney is working with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation-funded Mekong Region Land Governance project on issues of land security for smallholders, land-grabbing, land policy, and related issues in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Specifically, they are conducting a research mapping exercise and a political economy analysis to pull together and make accessible existing work in this area, and to explore the research-advocacy-policy interface on issues of land governance in the region. The team is led by Professor Philip Hirsch and includes Dr Satomi Higashi and Ms Natalia Scurrah, working with an extended group of researchers who are assisting as country reference persons.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Geographical Society of NSW (GSNSW) on 18th August 2014, former IAG President Phil McManus (Sydney) was elected to succeed Professor Gordon Waitt (Wollongong) as the President of the GSNSW. For updates on the GSNSW, please visit the Society’s website at http://www.geogsoc.org.au/site/index.cfm and/or follow the Society’s news and events on facebook via https://www.facebook.com/geogsoc. The 2014 Geographical Society of NSW Honours Conference was held on 21 November at UNSW, with Associate Professor Wendy Shaw being the organiser.

- The Jim Rose Geography Award for Best Paper and a cheque for $250 went to Cameron Byers, University of Sydney, for his thesis “The Contested Visions of Tourism on Cape York Peninsula: Frontier fantasy, campaign rhetoric or sustainable future?”.
- The Jim Rose Geography Award for a Highly Commended presentation on a Physical Geography topic and a cheque for $100 went to Adam King, University of NSW.
- The Jim Rose Geography Award for a Highly Commended presentation on a Human Geography topic and a cheque for $100 went to Heather McGirr, University of Melbourne.
After numerous ‘restructures’ over the last decade, geography and planning have joined to form the Department of Planning and Geography. Geographers and planners have been working closely together for many years in both teaching and research and the move to form a Department was welcomed.

The geography staff have had a busy period at Curtin, with many research projects underway.

Gina Koczberski and George Curry have completed fieldwork in four provinces in PNG as part of a new 4 year project examining the current status of food security among oil palm and cocoa smallholder households and the range of adaptation strategies they are adopting in their livelihood and farming systems in response to environmental, social and demographic stresses. The project is in collaboration with James Cook University and PNG researchers from Unitech and two of PNG’s agricultural research institutions. The project is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

Amanda Davies is completing a large study into regional businesses in Western Australia for the Western Australian Department of Regional Development. The study examines business owners’ perspectives on doing business in regional WA and investment intentions. Amanda is also working with Aileen Hoath (CRC Remote Economic Cooperation) on a study examining the livelihood strategies of FIFO worker migration to Bali.

Amanda Davies and Diana MacCallum have commenced a study examining social innovation in rural Australia.

Gina Koczberski has secured funding to support a Visiting Fellow - Dr Sylvain Rafflegeau from the Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), France. He will be working with George and Gina on land tenure and land use change in the South Pacific and equatorial Africa: implications for food security and livelihoods.

George Curry and Roy Jones attended the 22nd Annual Colloquium Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems of the International Geographical Union which was held in Romania, August/September 2014. George presented the paper ‘Farming households in transition: changing generational relations of production in Papua New Guinea’ (co-authored with Gina Koczberski) and Roy presented the paper Group Settlement in the South West of Western Australia: an Unsustainable Rural System? (co-authored with John Selwood, Mark Brayshay and Alexandre Diniz).
Roy Jones, Shaphan Cox and Tod Jones attended the Association of Critical Heritage Studies Conference held at ANU. Roy presented a paper entitled "Western Australia's 'shackie' settlements: a heritage or a memory?"; Shaphan presented a paper entitled "Competing Representations of Place: the Noongar Tent Embassy and the horizons of heritage" (co-authored with Thor Kerr), and; Tod presented a paper entitled "Conservation politics on the edge of the state: heritage movements in central Java, Indonesia".

George Curry made a short visit to the Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) in Montpellier. CIRAD is the leading French research organisation on sustainable livelihoods and food security in the global south, and employs 850 researchers working in 90 countries. The main purpose of his visit was to further develop the Sustainable Livelihoods Research within the Department of Planning and Geography, Curtin University.


Reuben Wanobo Sengere is conducting his research on The Rise, Fall and Revival of the Papua New Guinea Coffee Industry. He has completed his first phase of fieldwork earlier this year in which he was able to conduct cases studies, qualitative and quantitative interviews with a range of coffee industry actors. The findings are expected to elicit the socioeconomic and political factors affecting coffee production and productivity.

Susan Inu completed her final field work in the PNG Highlands with coffee farmers on 24th November for her masters thesis titled: The influence of socio-economic factors in farm investment decisions and labour mobilisation in smallholder coffee production in Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. Her research provides an understanding about coffee households and their decisions on their main productive assets, land and labour.

University of the Sunshine Coast

The Sustainability Research Centre held its annual retreat on 26 and 27 Nov. Professor Roy Sidle was honoured by the Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources (JSHWR) on October 3 with their 2014 JSHWR International Award for his significant contribution to progress in the field of hydrology and water resources and for his valuable devotion to collaboration with Japanese and Asian researchers. Roy has been collaborating with Japanese and Asian hydrologists and geoscientists since 1991 in the fields of catchment hydrology, landslides, and sustainability science.
Recent Books
Books published since last edition of the newsletter:


Other 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


2013 Books


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


2011 Books


**Frank Vanclay** (University of Groningen) and Ana Maria Esteves (eds.) 2011. *New Directions in Social Impact Assessment*. Edward Elgar. Available from: [http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/Print_product_detail.lasso?id=13943](http://www.e-elgar.co.uk/Print_product_detail.lasso?id=13943)