From the President

This will be my last “From The President” before handing over to Steve Turton at the IAG Annual General Meeting in Melbourne in early July. I can say that (nearly) two years has gone very fast, much has happened, more is planned and there is still a lot to do.

Since the last bumper edition of the IAG Newsletter in December 2013, the IAG has been active on many fronts. The most obvious of these is in the newsletter itself. We welcome Jennifer Carter as the new IAG Newsletter Editor, and wish her well in this position. Please support her by the timely provision of appropriate news so that she can publish three fantastic IAG newsletters each year. We also thank Amanda Davies for her excellent work as the newsletter editor for the past nine years. A testimony to the high esteem in which we hold Amanda’s work is her appointment as an Editor of the Institute’s flagship journal, Geographical Research.

Another area where there have been changes is in Geographical Research. Iain Hay has commenced as Editor-in-Chief, and along with the team of Wayne Stephenson, Brian Finlayson and Amanda Davies, is embarking on the challenge of taking the journal to a new level. To this end we have negotiated an arrangement that, at no additional cost to the IAG, sees the appointment of Kirstie Petrou as an Administrative Assistant to facilitate communication with authors and referees. This will enable the editors to focus more on editorial matters.

The IAG also made a formal submission to the Review of the Australian Curriculum that was commenced by the Federal Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, in mid January and is scheduled to report back by mid 2014. This review of the previous government’s national curriculum for selected subjects, including geography, is important both for the expansion of geographical literacy in schools across Australia, and for the likely future uptake of geography at the tertiary level.

We also encouraged geographers to engage with the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2015, particularly around the codes assigned to geographical journals in Australia in the Draft ERA Journal and Conference List. There was a marked discrepancy between the treatment of Australian geography journals and the major international geography journals and other national/regional journals. At the time of writing this report, I can say that the consultation period is closed, but the outcomes of the submission process are yet to be revealed.
The forthcoming joint IAG/NZGS Conference in Melbourne is looking very exciting. The keynote speakers, the fieldtrip, the venues, the accessibility of Melbourne to other cities and the beautiful grounds of the University of Melbourne (and being so close to the city centre) all look like creating a synergy that will result in a fantastic conference. The IAG is working closely with the co-organisers of the conference (Ian Rutherford and Brian Cook) and supporting this event in many ways, not least being the allocation of $10,000 to support postgraduate IAG members to attend this event. In addition to our usual support of postgraduate activities at the conference, this year the conference will commence with a joint IAG Council and postgraduate student lunch – a great way to foster engagement between generations of geographers. Academics, please encourage your postgraduate students to attend this event and the other postgraduate activities at the conference.

The IAG is also providing substantial financial support for the IAG Study Groups, much of which is conference oriented. It’s wonderful to see many active and engaged Study Groups at the moment. In addition to our eight existing groups, we welcome the new Critical Development Study Group, whose executive comprises Paul Hodge, Sarah Wright, Andrew McGregor, Katherine McKinnon and Matthew Allen. There are also two new study groups at various stages of formation. The energy for these new groups, plus the rejuvenation of some existing groups, is heartening. Our IAG member survey in 2013 included questions on Study Groups, with the feedback being given to each Study Group Convenor. In 2014 we have a record number of funding applications for a record amount of money – a challenge that the sub-committee is currently negotiating, but one that is far preferable to apathy.

Following our successful inaugural Planning Day in 2013, the IAG Council is holding our annual Planning Day on 2nd May. In accordance with the theme of “The IAG in the Electronic Age”, we are initiating a “video conference”, partly as a trial to learn about its potential for IAG Council Meetings and other matters so we may be more cost-effective, participatory and sustainable. The IAG Council currently uses skype for sub-committee meetings, and one feature of the 2013 IAG Conference in Perth was the use of facebook. The facebook communication will also be a highlight of the joint IAG/NZGS Conference in Melbourne in early July, 2014. We are also updating our website when possible, including wonderful work by Julie Kesby in developing a link for PhD theses so that geographers, and others, can become aware of current research in our field. Of course more can be done, but it is a matter of prioritising initiatives and doing each of them well. If members do have ideas about what the IAG should be doing in the electronic age to provide better services for our members, please email them to me and I will ensure that they are included in the discussions on Planning Day.

I wish to thank the entire IAG Council for the great work that they have done in recent times, and will no doubt continue to do as some councillors leave and new ones come on to the Council. Particular gratitude is extended to the IAG Secretary (Robyn Bartel) and the IAG Treasurer (Robert Gale) for their dedication and excellent work to help our organization. I also want to highlight the contributions of various IAG councillors working on sub-committees such as postgraduate support, awards, finance, study groups and marketing and communications. Too often this “backstage work” is overlooked, but I can assure members that it is vital.

Finally, I am looking forward to catching up with many existing IAG members, and hopefully new ones, at the joint IAG/NZGS Conference in Melbourne. This is looking like a conference not to be missed. Despite the challenges, it is a good time to be a geographer in Australia and, of course, it is always a good time to be a member of the national organization for geographers, the IAG.

Phil McManus,
The University of Sydney, phil.mcmanus@sydney.edu.au
NOTICE OF IAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The IAG Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 30 June at 5 pm (tbc) during the IAG/NZGS conference in Melbourne 30 June – 2 July 2014. Please see the conference programme when available for details. An agenda and draft minutes of the previous AGM will be circulated at the meeting. Council is considering making some amendments to the IAG Constitution. Any proposed changes will be circulated to the membership eight weeks in advance of the AGM and these will be put to the vote of members at the meeting.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS

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

- Vice President (President Elect).
- Three (3) Councillors.
- Postgraduate Representative.
- Honorary Treasurer.
- Honorary Secretary.

The Vice-President (President Elect) shall hold office until the second succeeding General Meeting after their election, at which point they would normally assume the role of President. The President shall hold office until the second succeeding General Meeting, and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.

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

The Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall hold office until the second General Meeting after their election, and shall be eligible for immediate re-election to office.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 19 May 2014. Nominations must be received in writing using the form attached, and should be emailed or posted to the Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au or Geography and Planning UNE Armidale 2351.

Should an election be required, ballot papers will be emailed to financial members, who will have until Monday 23 June 2014 to return them to the Honorary Secretary, who will be the Returning Officer.
AWARDS OF THE IAG

It is my great pleasure to announce that Professor Graeme Hugo is the recipient of the Australia-International Medal of the IAG in 2014. This medal is awarded to Professor Hugo in recognition of his outstanding contribution, as an Australian geographer, to the advancement of Geography world-wide.

The Australia-International Medal will be awarded to Professor Hugo at the forthcoming IAG/NZGS conference in Melbourne, 30 June – 2 July, 2014.

The Griffith Taylor Medal, awarded to Emeritus Professor Jim Walmsley in 2013, will also be presented at the IAG/NZGS conference in Melbourne.

Is also my pleasure to announce that Mr Graham Pascoe has become a Fellow of the Institute of Australian Geographers, in recognition of his sustained service to the geography profession in Australia.

Thanks to those who nominated your esteemed colleagues for these awards.

- Please note that the GRIFFITH TAYLOR MEDAL is only awarded every second year. The Griffith Taylor Medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia. Nominations will next be called in 2015.
- AUSTRALIA-INTERNATIONAL MEDAL is for outstanding contributions by Australian geographers to geography world-wide, or by geographers outside Australia to the geography of Australia. Nominations will next be called in 2015.
- DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (DFIAG) is awarded for distinguished service to Australian geography through furthering the aims of the Institute. Nominations will next be called in 2015.
- The FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (FIAG) recognizes sustained service to the profession of geography in Australia. Nominations will next be called in July 2014.

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

STUDY GROUPS

The IAG Council has been delighted to receive a record number of applications for funding this year. While we may not be able to sustain the magnitude of such funding each year, we are pleased to see active study groups organizing events for the benefit of their members and the wider IAG membership. We are happy to announce the following funding for 2014:

To the Critical Development Study Group, an amount of $4030 for Professor Michael Watts to attend IAG/NZGS as a guest speaker on the topic: “Geography of Small Wars in the Asia-Pacific Region.”

To the Economic Geography and Rural Geography Study Groups, an amount of $5300 for their combined application for Professor Jamie Peck and Professor Danny McKinnon to attend IAG/NZGS to present papers and lead discussion on both the potentials and limitations of geographical political economy as a lens through which to view resource dependent economies.
To the Environmental Sustainability Study Group, an amount of $2080 for Professor Prodyut Bhattacharya to attend IAG/NZGS as a guest speaker, on the topic of Transforming Sustainability and environmental geography in the global south, and a follow-up writing workshop in Sydney in November 2014.

To the GIScience, Spatial Analysis And Modelling Study Group, an amount of $2800 for Professor David O’Sullivan to attend IAG/NZGS as a guest speaker on the topic: “Simple spatial models: building blocks for process-based GIS?” and to also conduct a 1/2 day workshop at the conference.

To the Legal Geography Study Group, an amount of $4500 for the inaugural Australasian legal geography symposium to be held in February 2015 at UTS, Sydney.

The Indigenous Issues Study Group did not apply in this round.

It is expected that the Urban Geography Study Group will be submitting an application for a 2 day workshop for early next year.

In an out of session application late last year the Cultural Geography Study Group were awarded $4428 for a 2 day conference Cultures of Sense, Cultures of Movement at the ANU.

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

POSTGRADUATE MEMBER SERVICES
Please note the IAG provides travel awards for postgraduate students each year and the details of postgraduate travel awards for the IAG/NZGS conference can be accessed at https://www.iag.org.au/postgraduates/travel-grants-for-post-graduates/. The deadline for applications is Friday 2 May 2014. For full and further details please see the website. Conference presentations made by postgraduate students are also eligible for the Postgraduate Student Awards of the IAG.

CHANGING AND CONTINUING ROLES WITHIN IAG
Congratulations and thanks go to Dr Amanda Davies who is leaving her role as IAG newsletter editor to take up a position as Associate Editor of Geographical Research. We welcome Assoc Prof Jennifer Carter as the new editor. Welcome Jennifer! This role is vital to facilitate communication within the discipline of geography in Australia and particularly the IAG. We extend our gratitude to Amanda for her 9 years of service and thanks to Jennifer for stepping into the position! IAG administrative assistant Ms Kirstie Petrou is with us for another year in the role, thanks Kirstie!

NEXT IAG COUNCIL MEETINGS
The IAG Council is holding a planning day on Friday 2 May 2014 and the next meeting of Council will be on Sunday 29 June, immediately prior to the IAG/NZGS conference in Melbourne and commencing with a joint Council - postgraduate student lunch.

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

Financial members of the Institute are invited to nominate candidates for the following positions, which will fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting at the IAG/NZGS Conference in Melbourne:

Vice President (President Elect).
Three (3) Councillors.
Postgraduate Representative.
Honorary Treasurer.
Honorary Secretary.

The Vice-President (President Elect) shall hold office until the second succeeding General Meeting after their election, at which point they would normally assume the role of President. The President shall hold office until the second succeeding General Meeting, and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.

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

The Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall hold office until the second General Meeting after their election, and shall be eligible for immediate re-election to office.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 19 May 2014. Nominations must be received in writing using the form attached, and should be emailed or posted to the address above.

Should an election be required, ballot papers will be emailed to financial members, who will have until Monday 23 June 2014 to return them to the Honorary Secretary, who will be the Returning Officer.

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

Robyn Bartel,
Honorary Secretary
INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS INC
NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2014

I, _______________________________ (the proposer)
being a financial member of the IAG, do nominate
__________________________________________ (the nominee) of
___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________ (address of nominee)
and
I, _______________________________ (the seconder)
being also a financial member of the IAG do second the nomination of
___________________________________________________________ (the nominee)
to the position of __________________________________ of the IAG.
Signed (proposer):

Date:
________________________________ ________________________________
Signed (seconder):

Date:
________________________________ ________________________________

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

Date:
________________________________ ________________________________

Brief biographical statement of nominee (maximum 200 words):
Congratulations to two outstanding geographers who were recently nationally acknowledged through the Australia Day Honours List. It is great to see the profile of geography with the community being so well recognised.

Ruth Fincher became a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in January 2014 “for significant service to education, particularly geography and urban studies, and to national and international geographic associations.”

Ruth has been an urban geographer working at the University of Melbourne for 27 years, and was nominated by many geographers and other colleagues. The award reflects her numerous leadership positions within the University of Melbourne (e.g. currently President of Academic Board) but also her significant international and national service role to geography and urban studies, and more broadly to education, through executive positions on associations such as the International Social Sciences Council, the International Geographical Union, and the Institute of Australian Geographers. Ruth believes that geographers should take on these positions of visibility. In addition to working for the discipline, she regularly tells colleagues “I’m a geographer” because it raises the respect and visibility of geography in institutions. Ruth will give reflections on ways of serving geography at the forthcoming IAG/NZGS conference in Melbourne in July in a talk entitled “Making the Case for Geography”.

For more details of Ruth’s award, see
Rod Shearing was awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia ‘for service to geography’. Rod served as President of the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia from 1993-1997 and again from 2008, and is now its longest serving President. He has a long history of professional and community involvement with committees and agencies which he brought to his role as President to help promote Geography.

Rod is always struck by the diverse and dynamic nature of the discipline, which he encounters through lectures, conferences and other events that educate people about different aspects of our world. Rod believes that by informing the public about Geography they will understand and act on our combined responsibility as stewards of the planet, and that geography should be integral in education alongside subjects such as English, maths and history. He also suggests the private sector has a role, particularly in working with educational institutions. For example, he organised a visit to Australia in 2007 by Dr Rita Gardner CBE (the Director of the Royal Geographical Society in London) through funding from BHP Billiton, to speak with educators about her experiences in England in making geography meaningful to the community, and to professions such as planning and environmental decision making in society. He is passionate about Geography and personally applies his principles into practice for shaping the role of Geography in society.

For more information on Rod’s achievements see https://www.gg.gov.au/australia-day-2014-honours-lists
‘Mapping Our World’ exhibition breaks NLA record

Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia, featuring many of the greatest maps in the world, has become the National Library of Australia’s most successful exhibition.

The exhibition, which closed on 10 March 2014 attracted a total of 118,264 visitors, surpassing Treasures from the World’s Great Libraries in 2001 where 115,081 visitors attended, many queuing around the National Library in Canberra day and night.

Mapping Our World: Terra Incognita to Australia was opened by Hollywood movie star and self-confessed ‘map nerd’ Russell Crowe in November 2013 and, since then, has enjoyed near full-house attendance at all timed sessions. The catalogue, published by the National Library, and featuring essays and images of the more than 100 maps, atlases, globes and scientific instruments in the exhibition - representing the most significant moments in our cartographic history - came close to selling out.

The appeal of maps, and thus geography, to the general public is shown not just be raw attendance figures, but by interstate visitors coming multiple times: 7 times for one Adelaide couple, and the desire of one visitor to obtain a high-resolution image of an 11th century world map by Macrobius, so his ‘personal decorator’ could tattoo it upon his person.

Dr Brendan Whyte,
Assistant Curator of Maps
National Library of Australia
Welcome!

The IAG Council welcomes the following new members of the IAG:

Jane Walker, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority; Angeliki Balayannis, University of Melbourne; Keith Barney, ANU; Geoffrey Brown; Sharyn Hickey, UWA; Patrick Nunn, USC; Andrew Warren, UNE; Joshua Whittaker, RMIT; Tom Fitzgerald, University of Sydney; Matthew Ellis, University of Sydney; Sarah English, University of Sydney; Ben McGowan, Charles Darwin University and ANU; Warwick Sayers, Geoplex; Roger Baars, University of Auckland; Leisel Spencer, UWS; Shanti Sumatojo, RMIT; Ray Sumner, Long Beach City College; Bettyann Doyle, UNE; Susannah Clement, University of Wollongong; Rosemary Franzon; Melina Ey, University of Newcastle; Sandra Astill, James Cook University; Wendy Steele, RMIT; Libby Porter, Monash; Kate Booth, University of Tasmania; Jennifer Atchison, University of Wollongong; Ashraful Sudeep Alam, Macquarie University; Jana Thing, Curtin University; Nathalie Gentle, University of Newcastle; Desiree Moon; Patrick Kirkby, University of Tasmania; Aeng Phaengsuwan, University of Newcastle.
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)

Australia - International Medal
- 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

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)
Grants and Awards Received

The following have recently received the award of PhD:

Nicola Vaughan for her thesis titled ‘More-than-useful Geographies of Gardens in Public Housing: (e)valu(at)ing Everyday Practices of Gardens, Home and Community.’

Tom Baker for his thesis titled ‘Cities from Elsewhere: Chronic Homelessness and Globalising Urban Policy.’

Christopher M Raymond for this thesis titled ‘The influence of human values, place attachment, beliefs and norms on the planning of native vegetation in rural South Australia.’

Janine Pierce for her thesis titled ‘Social sustainability of emerging environmentally sensitive industries: a study of oyster aquaculture on the South Australian Eyre Peninsula.’

Jen Cleary for her thesis titled ‘Cultural icons and cash commodities: the two-world story of Australian bush foods.’

Gayle Farnsworth for her thesis titled ‘Multicultural policy and practice in rural communities: Perspectives of gendered others.’

Reza Jamshidi for his thesis titled ‘Dynamics of sediment yields using hydrologic models in managed catchments, Eastern Australia.’

Soimart Rungmanee for her thesis entitled ‘Compromised margin: migration and agrarian transformation in the northeastern Thai-Lao borderlands.

Robyn Bartel was recipient of the AELERT (Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators neTwork) Achievement award 2013. Dr Robyn Bartel was nominated for her instrumental role in the movement that led to the 2003 meeting at which AELERT was born. In announcing the Achievement Award at the 2013 AELERT Conference in Melbourne in mid-November last year, AELERT Chair John Merritt acknowledged Robyn’s foresight in writing and thinking about environmental regulation in a broader sense and the contribution Robyn had made, beyond her own sphere of work, to support effective environmental regulation throughout Australia. "We are the beneficiaries of this foresight and I congratulate Robyn as the winner of the 2013 AELERT Achievement Award.” In receiving the award Robyn acknowledged all of those that had played an important role in the formation of AELERT, including those involved with the founding meeting and the wildlife officers who had already established a model of networking and conferences. At the AELERT conference Robyn presented a forthcoming paper in the journal Local Environment entitled Vernacular knowledge and environmental law: cause and cure for regulatory failure. See website: https://aelert.net/news/and-the-winner-of-the-2013-aelert-achievement-award-is/
**Iain Hay** (Flinders) has had conferred on him the Award of Academician of the United Kingdom’s Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS). He joins 27 other scholars from around the world admitted to the Academy this year. The Award recognises that Iain has published widely on geographies of oppression and domination, proving insights to social power by revealing the often unintended and insidious ways in which structures of injustice – such as exploitation, marginalisation and powerlessness – are created, reproduced and transformed. In support of this work which has been published in over 150 outlets, including 12 books, he has received grants in excess of A$1 million from a range of agencies including the AAG, ARC, ALTC, British Academy, China State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs, Ian Potter and George Alexander Foundations and the RGSSA. Iain was also Australian University Teacher of the Year in 2006/7. The Award will conferred in London in July.

**Frank Vanclay**

(University of Groningen, The Netherlands, previously University of Tasmania) has been awarded the 2014 Individual Award from the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA). This award, which recognizes a major achievement and advancement by an individual to the theory and/or practice of the discipline of impact assessment, is for his contribution to social impact assessment. Quite coincidentally, his latest edited book has just been published by Edward Elgar. Entitled "Developments in Social Impact Assessment", it is a reprinting of 50 articles of current or historical significance, together with an original introduction (see ‘Recent Books’ below). Frank has also been appointed Chair of the Editorial Board of IAIA’s journal, Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal.
Sarah Wright, Sandie Suchet-Pearson and Kate Lloyd from Macquarie University were awarded an ARC Discovery Project for their project ‘Closing other gaps: Yolngu perspectives on and proposals for two-ways learning to improve intercultural communication and policy’.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt from ANU received an AusAID ADRAS grant (2013 – 2015) on the research project ‘How can a gender-sensitive approach be useful for Mongolia’s development trajectory?’ (with Professor Saleem Ali, Dr Deanna Kemp and Ms Isabel Cane CSRM, UQ, AUD$ >650,000).

Gina Koczberski and George Curry have been awarded an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research grant for a $1.2 m four-year research project on food security and vulnerability among smallholder households in PNG. It is a collaborative project with researchers from James Cook University, the PNG University of Technology and two agricultural research institutes in PNG. The project, “Strengthening livelihoods for food security amongst cocoa and oil palm farming communities in Papua New Guinea”, builds on their ongoing research among smallholder farmers in PNG and involves former postgraduate students. It is likely that there will be external scholarship opportunities for postgraduate students to work on various aspects of the project.

Guy M Robinson (UniSA), Delene Weber (UniSA), Doug Bardsley (UA), and Graeme Hugo from UA have been awarded an ARC Linkage grant on ‘Bushfires and Biodiversity: optimising conservation outcomes in peri-urban areas at risk’, $236,486, 2014-16.

Peng Bi, D. Pisanielle, A. Kitson, J. Newbury (UA), and Guy M Robinson from UniSA were awarded an ARC Discovery on ‘Adaptive Capabilities in the Elderly during Extreme Heat Events in South Australia’, $122,000, 2013-14.

Guy M Robinson, Jen Cleary, and Chris Raymond were awarded a grant from Australian Wool Innovation on ‘Making the case for Payments for Environmental Services (PES) for Australian Woolgrowers’, $30,000, 2014.

William Van Caenegem (Bond Uni), Peter Drahos (ANU) and Jen Cleary (UniSA), were awarded a project from RIRDC on ‘The potential of Geographical Indications of Origin as Regional Development Tools’, $80,000, 2013-14.

Anthony Hogan (U of Canberra), Dean Carson (Flinders) and Jen Cleary (UniSA), were awarded a RIRDC grant on ‘Securing the Wealth and Wellbeing of Rural Communities’, $100,000, 2012-2013.

Guy M Robinson, Jen Cleary (UniSA) and Dean Carson (Flinders), were awarded a grant from FaHCSIA on ‘Homeless Away from Home: The impact of mobility on remote Aboriginal homelessness’, $102,000, 2012-2013.
IAG members may be interested to know that three papers from the IAG’s journal, Geographical Research, appear in the final draft of the IPCC WGII (Working Group 2) AR5 Chapter 25 Australasia.


For the latest articles including the current issue on ‘Fire Research in Australia: Review and Prospects’ from Geographical Research go to

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1745-5871
The organisers of the 2014 IAG/NZGS annual conference (June 30th – July 2nd) would like to thank everyone for contributing to the development and organisation of the conference through the proposal of sessions. We received more than seventy wide-ranging and high-quality proposals and are now overseeing the registration of attendees.

Already, we have many excellent sessions filled, panel discussions, and networking activities planned. Similarly, the postgraduate day organisation is well underway, with students taking charge to address issues relevant to their career stage. As of now, we have a wonderful array of keynote speakers including recent Order of Australia recipient Ruth Fincher, John Chappell, Marcia Langton, Eric Pawson, and Noel Castree. Each will address and engage with topics of fundamental significance to the discipline.

We have begun development of the final program, which requires people to have completed their registration. As part of preparations, we have worked hard to secure affordable lodging options and make the overall experience enjoyable. We encourage all interested to finish this process as soon as they can. This will help us with organising and (ideally) enable us to limit this number of similar, parallel sessions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Melbourne,

Ian Rutherfurd and Brian Cook
Other Conferences

The RGS-IBG ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014 will be held at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London from 26-29th August, 2014. The theme of the conference is ‘geographies of coproduction’ as commercialisation, participation, and other new encounters are disrupting the sites in which knowledge is located and how problems are framed, including in universities. This conference will reflect on challenges and opportunities in co-production and explore multi-disciplinarity and how different communities collaborate to challenge geographers to think more creatively and knowledge production, exchange and dissemination, including in our research and teaching. For more information see https://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm

IGU Regional Conference The International Geographical Union’s Regional Conference on Changes, Challenges and Responsibility will be held in Kraków, Poland, 18-22 August, 2014. This conference will focus on recognising and responding to changes in the environment, society and economy. The conference is aimed to defining sustainability solutions and responding to risks around global environmental change. For more info see: http://www.igu2014.org/

Agrifood XXI, which is the 2014 Conference of the Australia-New Zealand Agri-Food Research Network, will be held from 24-26 November 2014 in Sydney. The Conference will be hosted by the University of Sydney through the Food, People & Planet Research Node of the Sydney Environment Institute. The Conference will be held at the National Indigenous Centre of Excellence in Redfern, close to the main University of Sydney campus. It will be preceded by a Field Trip program, details of which will be announced later in the year. For future reference, please bookmark the Conference website, which is http://sydney.edu.au/environment-institute/events/agrifood-xxi-food-planet-people/. At the current time, the organisers are asking for Expressions of Interest to hold Special Sessions. If you have a Session proposal, please email your ideas to Bill Pritchard, at bill.pritchard@sydney.edu.au. The general Call for Papers will open in May, and Registration will open in July.

EUROGEO The 35th annual conference of EUROGEO (European Association of Geographers) will be held from 15-17 May 2014, in Valletta on ‘the Power of Geography and the role of Spatial Information’. The conference will explore key challenges of concern to the forthcoming Horizon 2020 EU programme for research and innovation. Horizon 2020 aims to “tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprises to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential (EC Horizon 2020, 2013)” - See more at: http://www.eurogeo.nl/malta2014/

GEOCART’ 2014, 42nd ANZMapS Conference, and 3rd ICA Symposium on Cartography for Australasia and Oceania The seventh National Cartographic Conference GeoCart’2014, 42nd ANZMapS Conference, and 3rd ICA Symposium on Cartography for Australasia and Oceania will be held at the University of Auckland, 3-5 September 2014. GeoCart’2014 is jointly organised by the New Zealand Cartographic Society and Australian and New Zealand Map Society and endorsed by the International Cartographic Association (ICA). See more at http://web.env.auckland.ac.nz/public/geocart2014/
Call for Seed Funding

Transformations to Sustainability Programme

The International Social Science Council (ISSC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new global research funding programme on transformations to sustainability.

The Transformations to Sustainability Programme will promote research on the fundamental and innovative processes of social transformations needed to secure effective, equitable and durable solutions to some of today’s most urgent challenges of global change and sustainability. They include, for example, climate change, biodiversity loss, water and food security, energy production and consumption, rapid urbanisation and their complex interactions with persistent poverty, growing inequalities, and social discontent and are more urgent in developing countries.

The transformations programme will support researchers from the social, behavioural and economic sciences to take the lead in developing international Transformative Knowledge Networks that will:

- undertake research on the needs and opportunities for social transformation in concrete contexts of application
- bring together researchers from different disciplines and fields of science, as well as different regions of the world
- engage stakeholders in the co-design and co-production of solutions-oriented knowledge and the development of networks of mutual learning, and
- build capacity for international research collaboration and support early career social scientists.

This initiative is intended as a major contribution to the work of Future Earth, a global research platform that provides knowledge and support to accelerate transformations to a sustainable world. Future Earth is co-sponsored by the members of the international Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability.

1 For further information: www.futureearth.info
2 Membership of the Alliance includes the ISSC, the International Council for Science (ICSU), the Belmont Forum and International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations University ( UNU) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). For further information: www.stalliance.org
Study groups and workshops

The Indigenous Issues Study Group has changed its name to The Indigenous People's Knowledges and Rights Study Group (IPKRSG). This change, one of a number of initiatives emanating from the planning day at our IAG-funded pre-conference workshop held at Redfern in 2012, reflects the strengths among the Indigenous people who are part of the Study Group, and the communities we work with. A further initiative under development is the IPKRSG Facebook group. We have talked within the Study Group for many years about the need for an online forum of some sort - a 'virtual tearoom' - where members can discuss their research, talk about issues such as research ethics and methodologies and generally support each other's efforts to draw together as a discursive community. We particularly hope to use Facebook as a vehicle to support the engagement of Indigenous scholars in the discipline. This is a closed group available to IPKRSG members only. If you are a Study Group member you can ask to join this group from within Facebook - just search for IAG IPKR Study Group.

The Legal Geography Study Group:


A group of Australian legal geographers recently announced that “Law is a powerful influence on people and place. Law both creates and is created by the relationship between people and place, although it rarely acknowledges this. Law frequently operates as if space does not matter. Law and legal processes, therefore, deserve greater attention from geographers” (Bartel et al, 2013. Geographical Research 51(4) p 339). This session will provide room for this gap to be interrogated and addressed, particularly in light of the ‘post’-world of postmodernism, a world which is also increasingly described as post-human and post-natural. What are the challenges for both law and geography in the post-world? What can ‘legal geography’ offer? Are we as ‘post’ as some imagine? Is legal geography evidence of post-disciplinary scholarship? This session will draw together papers offering various perspectives on this overarching theme.

If you would like to be part of the Legal Geography session please select “Legal Geography – interrogating the scope of legal geographic perspectives in a post-modern, post-human and post-natural world” as your first choice when submitting your abstract at http://iag2014.asnevents.com.au/be-involved/submit-an-abstract/

Abstract submission and registration closes 1 June 2014 (Early bird registration closes 30 April 2014). Please also send your abstract to Robyn Bartel rbartel@une.edu.au by 30 April 2014 for consideration by the session organisers.
The Rural Geography Study Group has been busily preparing for two conferences this year: the combined IAG/NZGS conference at the University of Melbourne, 30 June - 2 July 2014; and the International Geographical Union - Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (IGU-SRS) meeting in Romania – 25 August – 2 September 2014 where Roy Jones (Curtin) and Tony Sorensen (UNE) will be the group’s representatives.

The Rural Geography Study group is also offering 2 themed sessions at this year’s IAG/NZGS and 2 combined sessions. These include:

1. **Gendered Perspectives on Rurality: Enriching and Energising the Field** (Session organisers: Meg Sherval, University of Newcastle & Barbara Pini, Griffith University).

   While still marginalised within rural geography, gender perspectives have significantly opened up the field to new areas of inquiry, to new methods and to new conceptual frameworks. This session welcomes submissions which demonstrate the energy that gender studies scholars have brought to rural geography. Contributors may present work on gender and rurality which addresses new theoretical approaches (e.g. posthumanism, critical animal studies), engages different methodologies (e.g. visual methods, autobiography), explores disparate and understudied spaces of rurality (e.g. small businesses, schools) or attends to difference and diversity within the categories ‘rural woman’ and ‘rural man’ (e.g. with a focus on disability, sexuality, age, ethnicity, race).

2. **Delivering the Future – the role of Rural and Regional Australia and its close neighbours** (Session organisers: Meg Sherval, University of Newcastle & Tony Sorensen, University of New England).

   The UN FAO has estimated that world demand for food and fibre is likely to increase 73% by 2050 and with this, Australia’s role as a potential leading contributor is also set to rise. Likewise, near neighbours such as New Zealand will also be asked to contribute to the global need for food security. Whether these nations will have the capacity to deliver on this, however, remains questionable. Environmental constraints such as reduced water supply, projected temperature rise from global warming, increased salinity and ongoing conflicts over land use from the mining, CSG and agricultural sectors, suggest that currently, a plentiful future is anything but certain. This session welcomes contributions on the perceived future of rural and regional Australia and New Zealand and the roles that technology, entrepreneurship, capital, scale and government decision-making might play in addressing future global and local food and fibre shortages.

3. **Planetary Urbanisation: Antipodean perspectives – with the Urban Geographers Study Group.** (Session Organisers: Rae Dufty-Jones, UWS, and Wendy Steele RMIT).

   In 2011 Brenner and Schmid invoked the term ‘planetary urbanisation’ as means of interrogating geographical categories and assumptions, most particularly the urban and the rural, which they argued were ‘rooted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries’ geohistorical conditions’ (p.11). This provocative intervention raises questions around:

   - How useful are categories like ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ to geography?
   - If not these concepts which ones?
   - What does this mean for studies of urban and rural geographies in Australia and New Zealand?
   - To what extent should this concept be (re)assembled to accommodate the geographical particularities in this region?
   - What does this mean for studies of urban and rural geographies in Australia and New Zealand?
   - To what extent should this concept be (re)assembled to accommodate the geographical particularities in this region?
In July 2011, a workshop in the Pilbara mining region of Western Australia, a booming resource economy located in the semi-periphery of the global economy, was organised. The aim was to bring together an international group of geographers to consider both how the conceptual and methodological perspectives of ‘geographical political economy’ might be employed to enhance our understanding of resource economies and to explore the degree to which the Pilbara region might provide a “stress-test” for thinking about the geography of uneven development. The collected papers produced from this exercise were published in the September issue, 2013, of Australian Geographer. To capitalize on this unique collaborative enterprise between a diverse group of geographers, and to broaden awareness of the political economy of resource dependent economies amongst other geographers, this session will explore the issues raised during the Pilbara workshop and the subsequent writing up of those experiences. At the heart of the project was an ongoing dialogue about the role of geographical political economy in understanding the dynamics of resource economies in the semi-periphery. In the proposed session, the participants will reflect on both the potential and limitations of geographical political economy as a lens through which to view resource dependent economies. The Invited Guest speaker is Jaime Peck - Canada Research Chair in Urban & Regional Political Economy and Professor of Geography at UBC Canada.

For more information on the Rural Geography Study Group, contact its Convenor, Meg Sherval meg.sherval@newcastle.edu.au at the University of New England, Callaghan.

The GIScience, Spatial Analysis and Modelling Study Group is sponsoring a special session at IAG 2014. As part of this session we have obtained finds from the IAG to bring in Prof David O'Sullivan from UC Berkeley as a plenary presenter within the session. The talk is titled ‘Simple spatial models: building blocks for process-based GIS?’. Prof O'Sullivan will also be running a half day workshop during the conference on the use of NetLogo for the development of dynamic spatial models in GIS.
Proposal to establish a new IAG Study Group: “Hazards, Risks and Disasters”

We are writing to seek expressions of interest from IAG members who are interested in joining a proposed new IAG Study Group in “Hazards, Risks and Disasters”. Based on our experience from attending past IAG conferences, it is clear that there is a rich body of human and physical geographers in Australia and abroad working on a variety of topics concerning hazards, risks and disasters that affect the Australasian region. To date, however, there has been no structured framework for the hazard and disaster conference sessions organised each year, nor is there an opportunity to join forces through a formalized support network. The proposed Hazards, Risks and Disasters Study Group will meet these needs.

The proposed overall aim of the Study Group is to further research and education in the field of hazards, risks and disasters, by:

• creating and managing a forum for discussion and intellectual examination of hazards, risks and disasters in the Australasian region;
• encouraging and supporting scholarly research and study of hazards, risks and disasters that will contribute to increased societal resilience to hazards and their associated disasters;
• supporting and training the next generation of Australian hazard, risk, and disaster geographers;
• engage interest and collaboration in the research and study of hazards, risks and disasters in the Australasian region; and to
• represent geographers with an interest in hazards, risks and disasters in the Australasian region.

If you would like to support our proposal and join the Hazards, Risks and Disasters Study Group, please e-mail both Christine Eriksen (ceriksen@uow.edu.au) and Dale Dominey-Howes (dale.dominey-howes@sydney.edu.au) by Monday 2nd June 2014. Many thanks to those who have already responded positively to this request.

If sufficient support (10+) is achieved, a draft constitution will be submitted to the IAG Council for consideration in June and a Study Group meeting will be held at the forthcoming joint IAG/NZGS conference in Melbourne.

Kind regards,

Christine Eriksen and Dale Dominey-Howes
News from the Field

Sarah Bell, PhD candidate at the University of Newcastle conducted fieldwork from mid 2012 to mid 2013 for her PhD research entitled ‘Performing ‘nature’ in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park through Management’. Initial fieldwork involved landscape analysis, where she spent time in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, walking the tracks, sitting in picnic areas, and participating in the normal activities of the park to get a general idea of what it is used for.

Then she started volunteering at Kalkari Discovery Centre, a volunteer run visitors’ centre located in Ku-ring-gai Chase. She volunteered at the centre for a couple of months getting to know the volunteers and what they do. She also conducted work experience with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff in Ku-ring-gai Chase, where she participated in activities such as attending meetings with stakeholder groups and local councils, fox and rabbit baiting, bandicoot monitoring, volunteer bush regeneration days, site visits, general duty days with the field officers, removing pythons from a nearby hospital, tree lopping and Aboriginal site assessments. To accompany these more human centred methods, she also did a number of things to try and engage the nonhuman through setting up a series of encounters, which included literally following lace monitors, kangaroos and lyrebirds around the park.
Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, ANU, is undertaking research through the position of Strategic Advisor, Women in the Mining Action Plan for the Minerals Resource Authority, Papua New Guinea (August-December, 2013).

She has also recently reported some findings to the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research in a report titled ‘Women-Headed Farming Households in the Eastern Gangetic Plains’. Her ARC Discovery research “Beyond the Resource Curse’ takes her to India where she explores informal coal mining.

Informal coal mining in eastern India, currently under investigation by Dr Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, funded by an ARC Discovery Project 'Beyond the Resource Curse’ (Photo from Kuntala)

Students from the third year geography course Animals and Society at the University of the Sunshine Coast conducted a field trip to Australia Zoo, with Mandie Miller and Jen Carter, where they observed and recorded naturalistic and built settings of wild/domestication, and the commodification of nonhumans including through representations of place.
University of Newcastle

Two new PhD students have recently started: Melina Ey is examining corporate social responsibility within the natural resource extraction industry in the Pacific region (Principal Supervisor, Meg Sherval) and Nathalie Gentle is working on Australian urban energy transitions in the corporate sector using the lens of urban political ecology (Principal Supervisor, Pauline McGuirk).

Recent journal publications by staff and RHD students include a Special Issue of Local Environment edited by Jenny Cameron and Sarah Wright, on the theme of Researching Diverse Food Initiatives. The special issue includes a paper by Jenny Cameron, Katherine Gibson and Ann Hill on a hybrid collective research method. Also published in Local Environment is a paper by Jane Palmer, Lesley Instone, Kathy Mee, Miriam Williams and Nicola Vaughan based on an NCCARF-funded project on Climate Change Adaptation in the Rental Sector. Other journal publications include a paper by Jenny Cameron and Jarra Hicks in Antipode (on performative research practice in the context of climate change and grassroots renewable energy initiatives); a paper by Rupert Doney, Pauline McGuirk and Kathy Mee in Australian Geographer (on social mix and social housing); a paper by Lesley Instone in Emotion, Society and Space (on the affective relations of ecological restoration); and a paper by Meg Sherval in Polar Geography (on Arctic Alaska’s role in future United States energy independence). Recent book chapters include those by Jenny Cameron in Australian Environmental Planning (with Deanna Grant-Smith) and Social Entrepreneurship and Enterprise (with Sherelle Hendriks). Louise Askew, Meg Sherval and Pauline McGuirk have a book chapter in Rural Change in Australia – Population, Economy, Environment. And Paul Hodge, Sarah Wright and Fee Mozeley have a book chapter in Theory and Method in Higher Education Research II (International Perspectives on Higher Education Research, Volume 10).

Professor Pauline McGuirk is currently on Sabbatical to the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

University of Sydney

News from the Geographers at the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney

In April 2014, the University of Sydney generally, and the School of Geosciences specifically paid host to internationally renowned Geographer, Professor Sarah Whatmore. Professor Whatmore is the Head of the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford. Professor Whatmore’s visit was funded by the Human Animals Research Network (HARN) at the University. Within the HARN, Geography is represented by Professor Phil McManus who is on the Executive of this group. The School of Geosciences hosted Professor Whatmore for a Special Morning Tea on Friday 11th April 2014. Professor Whatmore engaged in a series of activities in research collaboration, community outreach talks and postgraduate discussions during her visit. Details about these events are available at: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/harn/news_events/whatmore_events.shtml
News from the Natural Hazards Group, University of Sydney

Since the last IAG Newsletter, staff, researchers and students associated with the Natural Hazards Research Group at Sydney University have been busily engaged in a variety of activities. These include:

Research on a variety of Summer Vacation Research Scholarship projects: Many congrats to Kelly Grim, Ben Bolton and Cameron Byers who all successfully completed highly competitive six-week summer vacation research scholarship projects working on a variety of hazards related problems. Each produced a major report that complements work associated with two ARC Discover projects that Dale Dominey-Howes is chief investigator for. Project reports included:

Bolton, Ben. (2014). Trans people’s experiences of natural disasters in the Australian context. 28pp


Grim, Kelly. (2014). The construction, governance and conflicting objectives of Queensland’s Wivenhoe Dam and its role in the January 2011 Brisbane flood disaster. 23pp

Successful research project launch: Dr Filippo Dall’Osso – Post Doc Fellow in the Hazards group and Dale Dominey-Howes were centre stage on Thursday 27th February 2014 launched the results of a two-year Natural Disaster Resilience Program funded project entitled COVERMAR – Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources. This project – led by Filippo from inception to completion, was a collaboration with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG), Sydney. All reports and final outputs will be uploaded to the project web page to be hosted by the SCCG and can be found here: http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/node/106

Special Guest Seminar presentation: Dr Min Jiang, Honorary Research Fellow in the Natural Hazards Research Group visited the School from 3rd to 8th March 2014 to work with Dale writing up results of an AusAID funded study on assessing the resilience and vulnerability of the tourism sector in Pacific Island countries. On Wednesday 5th March, Min gave a research seminar on her work as part of the Talking Space Series. Entitled: “Exploring new approaches to the interactions between tourism, water, and climate change” Min presented about how climate change is one of the most significant, controversial global issues facing both research and policy. Climate change impacts will exacerbate freshwater scarcity resulting in continued and/or increasing competition of multiple water users. Building on her research in tourism adaptation to climate change and water law and policy, Min explored new approaches to the complex interactions between tourism, water, and climate change. Min provided an overview of the major research projects that she had undertaken and presented a new research initiative on the governance processes of freshwater-based tourism destinations in the context of adaptation to climate change. Dr Min Jiang is a Research Fellow at the Tourism and Events Research Group (the former Centre for Tourism and Services Research), College of Business, Victoria University. As an environmental lawyer by training, Min has led and coordinated a number of research and industry consultancy projects on tourism, climate change, and the green economy. In the last three years, Dr Jiang has contributed to attracting a total of $462,036 external grants including two Category One funds by the Australian China Council and one grant by Bushfire CRC. Min is also the author of the commissioned book ‘Towards Tradable Water Rights: China’s Water Law and Policy Reform’ by Springer. In 2012 Dr Jiang was awarded a Victoria University Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research and Research Training (Early Career Researcher).
In a small restructure of Faculties at the University of Melbourne, the Faculty in which Geography has been located for the last 6 years (the Melbourne School of Land and Environment) has been disestablished. Geography will therefore move into the Faculty of Science in the very near future, probably as a Department of Geography.

News from academic colleagues and research students in Geography at Melbourne is as follows. Professor Jon Barnett attended the 10th Plenary Session of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from March 25-29, 2014. The meeting approved the Summary of the Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. During one late night Jon estimated that 41 of the 309 Lead Authors and Review Editors involved in the report were geographers.

Professor Ruth Fincher was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia during the recent Australia Day Honours. (See more on this elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Research Fellow Dr Sonia Graham has been invited to attend the 2nd Science Incubator International Workshop on Weeds and Invasive Plants. Only 30 people have been invited to attend internationally and Sonia has also been awarded a travel scholarship by Meat and Livestock Australia to attend the workshop.

Celebrating the leadership of Professor Emeritus Michael Webber over many years, a new prize has been established - The Michael Webber Doctoral Prize in Geography. The prize will reward and support students undertaking a PhD in Geography at the University of Melbourne, in perpetuity. It will be awarded annually, starting this year, to the student making the best thesis proposal in Geography over the preceding year. If anyone would like to contribute to the capital of the fund, donations would be gratefully accepted at the following website!


Associate Professor Ian Rutherfurd and Dr Brian Cook are organising the 2014 IAG/NZGS annual conference (see elsewhere in the newsletter). They’ve had an amazing response and expect a large and vibrant meeting. Numerous eminent keynote speakers have been confirmed, as has a dinner at the State Library of Victoria. Ian and Brian have prioritised developing and supporting the geographic community, and look forward to the mentoring opportunities and discussions on Geography’s place in the modern university system, as well as a large program of fascinating academic papers.
Geography PhD candidate Candice Boyd led a workshop in the Department on ‘Practice-based methods in Geography’ on 10 December 2013, which was attended by more than 40 academics, postgraduate researchers and artists from Melbourne, interstate and overseas. The workshop consisted of four oral papers and a field exercise.

Dr Rachel Hughes presented on non-representational theories in geography, Dr Candice Boyd presented on the ontology and epistemology of performative geographies, a visiting DPhil student from the University of Oxford, Matthew Shepherd, presented on practice-based methods in contemporary cultural geography, and Dr Michelle Duffy from Monash University presented on sonic methods. The field exercise was facilitated by Dr Duffy.

The workshop was immediately followed by a solo art exhibition of the creative work forming part of Candice Boyd's PhD. Candice has joint candidature with Geography and the Victorian College of the Arts. The exhibition entitled ‘Ekphrastic Geographies’ was an exploration of the non-representational geographies of therapeutic art making.
University of New South Wales

Alec Thornton presented a talk at the 6th Australian Food Alliance and Community Garden Gathering in partnership with Food4Thought in Hobart on 21-23 March. He also presented at a round table discussion on ‘Edible Geography’ entitled ‘Space & Food in the City. His abstract is: Urban social movements concerned with social, environmental and food justice themes are emerging as influential agents in shaping post-industrial urban planning, through carving out spaces for urban agriculture, such as community urban gardens and farmers markets. Although these themes are largely playing out in western cities, they are gaining some purchase in cities in developing countries. Some pre-conditions for ‘successful’ urban food spaces include effective community/city council partnerships. This paper will position urban agriculture within radical urban theory, in an effort to conceptualise a phenomenon that takes place in urban areas, at different scales and with often very different results. Case study examples are drawn from cities in developing and developed countries.

The bearded garden dude, Costa, from the ABC gardening program, was one of the key note speakers. To view the program, go to http://events.communitygarden.org.au/food-4-thought-program/full-program-food-4-thought-2014/

Assoc Prof. Paul Tranter UNSW Canberra is continuing his work on child friendly environments and children’s risk-taking. Working with a team of researchers from University of Sydney, Macquarie University, Australian Catholic University, and University of Technology Sydney, Paul was part of a successful ARC Discovery Project application - Levelling the Playing Field: Starting with the School Playground. Project summary for public release: We will demonstrate the effectiveness of a simple, innovative program for changing adults' attitudes toward manageable risk-taking and increasing the level of responsibility that children take for their own actions. This project is a radically different approach to reducing social exclusion for children with disabilities. Total grant - $510,000

University of Western Australia

Dr Valeria Paul joined UWA from University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain in February. Val’s research and teaching interests are concentrated on peri-urban change, heritage, rural geography and spatial planning. He is working alongside Sharon Beirmann in the Planning and Transport Research Centre, which is hosted by the School of Earth and Environment. Professor Jonathan Rigg (National University of Singapore) will spend 6 weeks at UWA in April/May as part of a Professor-at-Large scheme funded by the University. Jonathan will undertake some Masterclasses on rural development with postgraduates and early career academics, and offer a public lecture. A new Centenary Chair in Rural Development has been advertised as a joint appointment between Geography and Resource Economics. The position was funded as part of UWA centenary celebrations in 2013, and will contribute to teaching and research activities in the area of applied rural development, with a focus on either Asia or Africa. In November, UWA hosted a workshop on Labour Geographies, with visitors including Andy Herod (Georgia), Jamie Peck (UBC) and Neil Coe (NUS), as well as members of the Geography Discipline and Business School.
University of South Australia - Centre for Regional Engagement

Dr Emily Moskwa has joined the Centre as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow to work with Prof. Guy Robinson on the ARC-funded ‘Bushfires and Biodiversity’ project. Emily has a PhD in Environmental Studies from The University of Adelaide and Bachelor’s degrees from both the University of Adelaide and Flinders University. Her previous research has focused on the evaluation of environmental interpretation and the management of ecotourism destinations. Dr. Doris Carson, a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Centre, will be leaving in June to take up a similar position at the University of Umeå, Sweden. Doris has recently been a Guest Lecturer at the University of Salzburg (Austria), Lakehead University (Canada) and the IMC University of Applied Sciences, Krems (Austria).

University of the Sunshine Coast

News from the School of Social Sciences and the School of Science & Engineering

Congratulations to Dr Sanjeev Srivastava who was recently promoted to Senior Lecturer, Geospatial Analysis. Sadly, Dr Jerry Maroulis, Lecturer in Physical Geography, resigned to return to the Netherlands, although will retain an affiliation with the university through his appointment as Adjunct Senior Research Fellow. The university will announce his replacement shortly. Mandie Miller is currently working as Associate Lecturer in Geography, and is doing her PhD on Children’s Geographies under Dr Harriot Beazley, and both staff recently completed field work in Cambodia. Jen Carter recently completed Indigenous Voices at USC: creation of an archive of Indigenous interview curriculum materials designed to embed Indigenous perspectives within learning and teaching.

News from the Sustainability Research Centre

Professor Patrick Nunn joins USC as the new Professor of Geography. Prof Nunn was previously the Head of the School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences at UNE. Prior to his appointment with UNE, Prof Nunn was with the University of the South Pacific (Professor, Head of School of Geography, Pro Vice Chancellor Research and International). Prof Nunn’s research interests include climate change (IPCC lead author); geo-archaeology; and geo-mythology. Dr Richard Wilson AO has also been appointed to USC as a principal research fellow. Dr Wilson is the current chair of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, former Major General in the Australian Army (retired), and former Director of the Defence Intelligence Organisation. Dr Wilson’s interests relate to security and disasters. Prof Nunn and Dr Wilson are part of the Sustainability Research Centre (focused on the relationships between people, place and change) at the University of the Sunshine Coast, which has been developing a critical mass of geographers, including Prof Tim Smith, A/Prof Jennifer Carter, Dr Dana Thomsen, Dr Harriot Beazley, Dr Tristan Pearce, Dr Noni Keys, Dr Maria Melo and Erin Smith.
Geographers are Working On...

Bernard Fitzpatrick, first class Geography Honours graduate from the University of Queensland in 1989 was appointed to the recently created position of Executive Officer of The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland. In this role, Bernard will undertake the day-to-day running of the Society’s Office, and assume the role of Coordinator of the Australian Geography Competition.

Roy Jones is a Visiting Professor at the University of Gloucestershire in his retirement where he will be in May/Early June to work with A/Prof Iain Robertson on issues of rural heritage. In mid June, he will be visiting Dr Alexandre Diniz at the Pontifical University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte to discuss a possible comparative study of the 1920s Group Settlement Scheme in the South West of WA and the contemporary Nova Amazonia settlement scheme. (The fact that the World Cup is on in Brazil at that time is purely coincidental, he tells us).


Staff of the hazards group have been involved in major community outreach and public education events. For example: “Planet Terror: is earth becoming more dangerous?”.

MD Younus and N. Harvey have published an article in the 2014 edition of Local Economy titled: Economic Consequences of Failed Autonomous Adaptation to Extreme Floods: A Case Study from Bangladesh (see Volume 29 Issue 1-2 pp. 20 – 35).
Geographers are Working On...

**Bruce Gorring** (University of Notre Dame Australia) was a member of a Research Team that recently completed a project entitled “Can’t Be What You Can’t See”: The Transition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students to Higher Education. This research sought to identify key enablers and constraints for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in transition to higher education with a specific focus on models of successful transitions relating to access, participation, retention, and completion. The research was commissioned and supported by the Australian Government through the Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT). The project involved staff from the Nulungu Research Institute at the University of Notre Dame Australia in collaboration with colleagues from Southern Cross University and the Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE). It was completed under the expert leadership and guidance of Professor Lyn Henderson-Yates, Professor Marguerite Maher and Professor Patrick Dodson. The project was officially launched at the 50th anniversary AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference on 27 March 2014 in Canberra. Copies of the Final Report, Literature Review and additional Web Resources are available on the University of Notre Dame Australia website located at: [http://www.nd.edu.au/research/olt-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-transition/home](http://www.nd.edu.au/research/olt-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-transition/home).

Bruce is also a member of a collaborative Research Team led by the Nulungu Research Institute at the University of Notre Dame Australia that will focus on Indigenous Wellbeing as part of a university-wide project entitled Healthy People, Healthy Country: Translating evidence into action to improve health and wellbeing in vulnerable populations. The University of Notre Dame Australia has been awarded $5.96 million over the period 2013-2017 by the Australian Government to conduct multiple projects relating to health and wellbeing. In conjunction with colleagues from the Kimberley Institute and the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at ANU, the Nulungu project seeks to examine Indigenous lifestyles with an emphasis on improved wellbeing outcomes for traditional owners and Indigenous residents of the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Further information regarding the Nulungu project can be found at: [http://www.nd.edu.au/nav-research/collaborative-research-network-program/indigenous-wellbeing](http://www.nd.edu.au/nav-research/collaborative-research-network-program/indigenous-wellbeing). Further enquiries can be directed to Bruce on (08) 91920602 or at: bruce.gorring@nd.edu.au
New Book Series: *Rethinking the Island*

Over the last three decades, academic writing on islands has grown rapidly. To date, effort has focused on island ecologies and environments, island heritage and culture, and island vulnerabilities and resilience. In much of that work, characteristics such as isolation, insularity, small size, or dependency are presented uncritically and taken for granted. New ways of thinking and writing about islands and island futures are needed. Rowman & Littlefield International has commissioned a new series, *Rethinking the Island*, to comprehensively investigate the range of topological and topographical characteristics that may lie at the heart of the idea of ‘islandness’. The books in this series will work from a twin understanding that the island is central to conceptions of self, place, and planet, and that the idealization of islands is upheld by strong associations between their materialities and their status as powerful imaginaries. Authors from varied disciplines are invited to engage with key issues implicated by these fluid boundaries by submitting proposals for monographs and collections to the editorial team:

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