From the President

How does the leadership of any organisation know that it is meeting the needs of the members?

One way is to ask the members themselves. At the Institute of Australian Geographers Council inaugural Planning Day meeting in April we decided to survey members on their perceptions of the organisation. In May 2013, the IAG organised a questionnaire for members using Survey Monkey. The survey was open for a month.

Before using this space to provide feedback on the survey itself, I would like to thank Tom Measham, Steve Turton and Kirstie Petrou for their work on designing and analyzing the survey, the IAG Councilors who piloted the survey and improved it, and all the IAG members who took the time to respond. I also acknowledge the kind words of a number of older IAG members who appreciated that the survey was being done, but did not complete the survey as they felt that the views of younger members should be given priority for the future of the organization.

The results of the survey were presented before a large gathering of members at the AGM in Perth in early July, with each IAG Study Group also receiving a separate response on the performance of that study group as perceived by its members. In this column I will provide a summary of a few key points.

There were 166 responses to the questionnaire, with 56% of respondents being male and 44% being female. Most respondents were from NSW, but all Australian states plus the ACT and Northern Territory were represented, and there were responses from overseas members of the IAG.

As shown below in Figure 1, the IAG is generally seen as important, trustworthy, approachable but not necessarily very innovative. We are certainly not seen as irrelevant or boring by most respondents. The organization is performing better in some areas than others, but this is to be anticipated and is also related to expectations.
Perceptions of our publications/media are particularly interesting (Figure 2). Our flagship journal Geographical Research is viewed very positively, largely due to the excellent work of the current editorial team who deserve our gratitude. Phil O’Neill and Clive Forster will be stepping down from this role at the end of 2013, while I am pleased to say that Wayne Stephenson and Brian Finlayson will ensure continuity in a new editorial team to be announced soon.

You can find out who the new editors are if you follow the IAG on Facebook (as many people did during the very successful IAG Conference in Perth) and/or on our website. Of course, there is always the IAG Newsletter, which has increased to three issues per year, and many of you are familiar with the IAG email list server which is a great way to learn about new jobs, scholarships and for discussions on matters of geographical relevance. Finally, it seems we may have to promote GEOView a bit more – an excellent electronic publication to foster young geographers through the publication of undergraduate geography work!

It is important that as an organization we maintain what is valued, respond to changing circumstances (preferably with foresight) and address those areas where improvement is required. The current leadership of the IAG sees this questionnaire as being one step in an ongoing process of improvement.
If IAG members have additional suggestions on how to improve our organization, the elected representatives are happy to hear them and consider these ideas. An active, positive and engaged membership is a healthy sign for any organization. The fact that we have recruited many new members to the IAG, have introduced a number of initiatives in recent months (see Robyn Bartel’s summary in this edition of the IAG Newsletter) and are looking forward to future challenges augers well for the future of our Institute and for geography in Australia.

Phil McManus
The University of Sydney
phil.mcmanus@sydney.edu.au

Figure 2

Date Claimer: The IAG 2014 Conference will be held in Melbourne in early July.
(Further details will be in the November 2013 Newsletter)
News from IAG Council

Communications
The Council is continuing to work to improve communications within the IAG and between the IAG and the ‘outside world.’

First of all, the IAG website is being gradually updated (including the reports and minutes from council and general meetings on the members-only site) and the website now also features a Visiting Scholars noticeboard, please go to:


If you know of an academic visitor, or are one yourself, and would like to be included in this initiative, please forward details to Kirstie Petrou at kpet5792@uni.sydney.edu.au so that this information service can be updated and be of maximum benefit to geographers.

The Facebook site of course has also been recently rejuvenated and is now also open for user-driven content. Please see:


If you attended the IAG conference in Perth you will have seen the flyer in the conference satchel – this flyer contains information about the services that the IAG provides, the study groups and their activities and membership information. If you were unable to attend the conference, the book of abstracts is available on our website at:


In addition, this IAG newsletter is now being produced thrice-yearly and this is the inaugural thrice edition! (enjoy!).

Note also that all of these communications initiatives are volunteer-run and dependent on users for content, this means YOU! If you have anything you would like to add then please contact Robyn Bartel rbartel@une.edu.au or Julie Kesby J.Kesby@adfa.edu.au or if you would like to post on Facebook then please go to:


Study groups are also urged to update their details on the IAG website.
Awards of the IAG

Emeritus Professor Roy Jones (Curtin) was presented with the Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers at the Conference dinner in Perth and gave a very eloquent speech that was well received by all in attendance.

Emeritus Professor Jim Walmsley (UNE) is the recipient of the 2013 Griffith Taylor Medal and will be presented with this award at a ceremony at the IAG conference in Melbourne in 2014 (co-hosted by NZGS).

The IAG would like to congratulate these two very deserving recipients. The citations for both are available on the website.

We would also like to encourage people to nominate your esteemed colleagues for awards of the IAG. A call for nominations for awards in 2014, including FIAG, DFIAG and the Australia-International Medal, will be made shortly. For further information on these awards please go to https://www.iag.org.au/about/awards-of-the-iag/

Study Groups

Three study groups have recently received funding from the IAG. There has been funding of $4500 to the Legal Geography Study Group for a workshop at the University of Tasmania. The Rural Geography Study Group received $5000 to help fund a bus tour of the Northern Wheatbelt of WA immediately following the IAG Conference. The Economic Geography Study Group has also received funding of $1130 for part sponsorship of visiting guest scholar Professor Henry Yeung.

Postgraduate Membership Services

Thirty-one post-graduate students applied for IAG travel awards to attend the IAG conference in Perth. All were successful in obtaining $330 each towards their travel costs. Only two students were unable to take up the offer due to other constraints. Please note for all postgraduate students that the IAG provides travel awards every year and the details of these can be accessed at https://www.iag.org.au/postgraduates/ A postgraduate workshop at the conference was also supported by the IAG. Conference presentations made by postgraduate students were also eligible for the Postgraduate Student Awards of the IAG.

Council Membership and New Roles Within

There has been cause for just one election for Council membership this year. Dr Rae Dufty-Jones was reappointed unopposed to the position of councillor. Congratulations Rae!
Dr Kristian Ruming (IAG Councillor) is our new membership secretary and Ms Kirstie Petrou (Univ of Sydney) is our new administrative assistant. Many of you will already have received correspondence from either or both of these excellent recruits. Welcome Kirstie and Kristian! These roles are vital to support and share the workload of the Treasurer, President and Honorary Secretary. One task that has already been performed is the very great and overdue achievement of an updated membership email list. This will be used for occasional and essential correspondence with members, noting that not all members subscribe to the IAG-list.

Matters Financial

In matters more mundane but necessary the IAG has entered into a new insurance policy which importantly provides coverage for fieldtrips.

The Special General Meeting held in April last year approved the audited financial statements for 2010 and 2011 and the AGM held in WA approved the audited financial statements for 2012. Thanks to Robert Gale, IAG Treasurer, for getting us back up to date! Council has also voted to approve the formation of an Audit and Risk Subcommittee of council to provide oversight of financial matters.

Planning Day

The IAG held a planning day in April 2013 and over the foreseeable future there will be initiatives rolled out as a result of this – including some of the already-actioned communications activities above. The membership survey in which many of you participated (thank-you!) was also an outcome of the planning day. Some of the results of the survey were reported at the AGM in Perth and these are also included in the report by the IAG President in this issue. Please see Phil’s report for details.

Robyn Bartel

IAG Secretary, The University of New England

rbartel@une.edu.au

IAG Postgraduate Travel Grants

Congratulations to the following members who were awarded an IAG postgraduate travel grant to attend the 2013 IAG conference:

Rebecca Cross (UNSW); Jianqiang Cui (UniSA); Rupert Doney (Newcastle); Brendan Doody (Durham); Helen Fitt (Canterbury); Timothy Frewer (Sydney); Charles Gillon (Wollongong); Ryan Jones (Newcastle); Jen Li (UWS); Dong Lin (UniSA); Tek Sheng Kevin Lo (Melbourne); Sarah McGowan (UNE); Anne O’Brien (UWS); Madeleine Page (Sunshine Coast); Anisha Pradhan (UNSW); Katrina Skellern (Wollongong); Nick Skilton (Wollongong); Paul Smith (Sydney); Colette Starheim (Canterbury); Joanne Stevenson (Canterbury); Alexander Tindale (Wollongong); Stephanie Toole (Wollongong); Eleonora Van Holstein (Wollongong); Sophie Webber (UBC); Justin Westgate (Wollongong); Peta Wolifson (UNSW); Dong Xing (Sydney); Liping Yan (Sydney).
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
Grants and Awards Received

The following PhD students received an IAG Outstanding Postgraduate Presentation Award at the 2013 IAG conference:

Rebecca Cross (New South Wales)
Marie Dade (Western Australia)
Carmen Elrick-Barr (Sunshine Coast)
Helen Fitt (Canterbury)
Charles Gillon (Wollongong)
Laura Hammersley (Macquarie)
Ryan Jones (Newcastle)
Jen Li (Western Sydney)
Madeleine Page (South Coast)
Alex Tindale (Wollongong)
Genevieve Simpson (Western Australia)
Colette C. A. Starheim (Canterbury)
Joanne R Stevenson (Canterbury)
Mandy Trueman (Western Australia)
Liping Yan (Sydney)
Donna Yoo (New South Wales)

(Thanks to Rae Dufty-Jones (Western Sydney) for organising the judging team. The postgraduate awards were judged by: David Bissell, John Connell, Nicole Cook, Dale Dominey-Howes, Danielle Drozdzewski, Andrew Gorman-Murray, Lesley Instone, Natascha Klocker, Shawn Laffan, Cameron McAuliffe, Pauline McGuirk, Phil McManus, Tom Measham, Meg Sherval).

Renee Fulton (Sydney) was awarded her PhD for her thesis titled “Green resource frontiers: spatio-temporal dynamics of green space structure and function in a coastal peri-urban landscape, NSW Australia”. Renee was supervised by Deirdre Dragovich.

Jeff Neilson and Fiona McKenzie (Sydney) are leading the social policy research component of a $2 million ACIAR project examining the sustainability of cocoa farm systems and value chains in Indonesia. The multi-disciplinary team also involves a plant pathologist from the University of Sydney (David Guest), botanists from La Trobe University (Philip Keane and Peter McMahon), and a team of research partners at various Indonesian research institutions.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (ANU) was awarded an Australian Research Council Linkage Project grant of AU$ 111,191 for the research project: Going for Gold: Safe Livelihoods for Informal Gold Miners in South and Southeast Asia.
Conferences

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2013
28 - 30 August 2013, Imperial College London, UK
http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm

2nd International Conference on Water and Society
4-6 September 2013, Wessex Institute of Technology
http://www.wessex.ac.uk/13-conferences/water-and-society-2013.html

Shaping Canberra: The Lived Experience of Place, Home & Capital
17-20 September 2013, Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University
http://hrc.anu.edu.au/100yearsinthemaking

5th Australian Housing Theory Symposium: ‘Housing and Space’
26-27 September 2013, Brisbane

First International Conference on Global Food Security
29 September - 2 October 2013, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands
http://www.globalfoodsecurityconference.com/

36th Applied Geography Conference
30 October - 11 November 2013, Annapolis, Maryland USA
http://applied.geog.kent.edu/

8th International Conference on Urban Regeneration and Sustainability
3-5 December 2013, Putrajaya Malaysia
http://www.wessex.ac.uk/13-conferences/sustainable-city-2013.html

Quarantine: History, Heritage, Place
14-16 August, 2014, The Quarantine Station, Sydney
e-mail for further information peter.hobbins@sydney.edu.au

Peri-Urban Landscapes: Water, Food and Environmental Security
8 - 10 July, 2014, University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus
http://periurban14.org/
The 2013 IAG Conference, ‘Multi Speed Planet; Multi Speed Geographies?’ was organised by Curtin University and the University of Western Australia and was held at the University of Western Australia from July 1-4. Matthew Tonts (UWA) and Roy Jones (Curtin) were the Co-Coordinators; Shaphan Cox, George Curry and Amanda Davies (Curtin) and Nik Callow, Rachel Chapman (Postgraduate Representative), Sandra Hamersley and Sarah Prout (UWA) comprised the conference committee.

This was the first time that the IAG had met in Perth since 1998. Notwithstanding the transport costs to and the accommodation costs in Perth, over 200 delegates from 13 countries attended and over 200 papers were presented in a friendly and convivial environment. The proportion of papers on physical and environment topics was higher than in recent years and a considerable number of authors/co-authors were from government and industry which contributed to the significant ‘applied’ focus of the conference. This was also apparent in Rob Brander’s (UNSW) keynote presentation on “The Science of Surf; saving lives through a communication of geography” – a topic for which he won the 2013 Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Australian Scientific Research. Iain Hay’s (Flinders) keynote on “The Super Rich … who cares?” continued the ‘tradition’ from Macquarie 2012 of keynotes by former IAG presidents. It was also particularly germane to both the conference theme and its location in Perth. This was also the case for the consecutive keynotes by two leading researchers from the National University of Singapore, Brenda Yeoh and Henry Yeung, on the social and economic implications of rapid social change in South East Asia and economic change in East Asia respectively, both of which impact significantly on Australia in general and on Western Australia in particular.

A short urban field trip conducted by Shaphan Cox and Roy Jones considered recent issues of Indigenous and non-Indigenous protest in central Perth while a considerably longer field trip conducted by Amanda Davies introduced its participants to the changes occurring in the rural areas to Perth’s north. At the conference dinner at the Royal Perth Yacht club Roy Jones received the IAG’s Distinguished Fellowship. The Griffith Taylor Medal awarded to Jim Walmsley (New England) will be presented to him at the 2014 conference in Melbourne when the beautiful message stick presented to the IAG at the Macquarie 2012 conference will be passed on to its Victorian organisers. They, and the Western Australian IAG conference organisers, look forward to seeing you there.

Photos from the IAG conference have been posted on the IAG Facebook page. If you want to view the pictures, or upload your own, please follow this link

This year’s IAG Conference started early for postgrads, who were keen to experience what is on offer outside the city. On Sunday, 30 June, after introductions and morning tea at the UWA campus, students headed to Guildford, one of the oldest settlements in the region. The group learned about the fascinating history of this beautiful town, while getting a chance to view many of the noted historical locations. The day continued with some “hands on learning” at the Lancaster Winery, where a member of the Lancaster family provided information about local winery practices and products. The day concluded at Elmar’s in the Valley Microbrewery, where students discussed what they had learned throughout the day and what they were looking forward to in the upcoming conference.

The event provided a great foundation for friendships that grew throughout the week. At tea breaks and mealtimes, postgraduates who had met that Sunday could often be seen chatting to each other, discussing the conference or just getting to know each other. It opened up the door for further networking throughout the week. The success Wednesday night, when a casual dinner and drinks with a few of Sunday’s participants grew via word-of-mouth to include over 25 people, both postgrads and academics, from at least 8 institutions. Overall, the postgraduate event was a far bigger success than of the event could not have been better demonstrated than on ever anticipated and greatly contributed to our enjoyment of the conference. A big thank you to the IAG for providing funding for the event. It is much appreciated.
IAG Conference
Rural Field Trip
By Meg Sherval (Newcastle) and Nick Skilton (Wollongong)

The post-conference field trip ‘WA is Not Just a Mining State: Exploring the Western Australia’s Northern Wheatbelt’ ran from the 4th July to the 7th July. The field trip was supported by the Rural Study Group through a study group grant from the IAG council.

At 10am on Thursday 4th July, fresh from the IAG Conference in Perth, 9 intrepid trekkers, representing various universities throughout Australia, Britain and the Netherlands, set out on what was to be a great adventure. Those in attendance included – Ellie Biggs (Uni of Southampton); Rebecca Cross (PhD student – Sydney Uni); Amanda Davies (Curtin Uni and bus driver extraordinaire!); Iain Hay (Flinders Uni); Jen Li (PhD student Uni of Western Sydney); Alison McIntosh (QLD Uni of Technology); Meg Sherval (Uni of Newcastle); Nick Skilton (PhD student – Uni of Wollongong) and Frank Vanclay (Uni of Groningen). Although our numbers were small, our enthusiasm and spirit of adventure was high!

Nick Skilton beautifully documents our journey below in his post taken from the AUSCCER website - http://uowblogs.com/ausccer/2013/07/31/a-field-trip-into-the-urban-rural-fringe/.

The setting was the four day rural field trip, fabulously organised by Amanda Davies from Curtin University.

DAY ONE
Nine of us left conference rooms of the University of Western Australia behind us and embarked into the urban-rural fringe. After the rigours of a three day conference, the first and much needed port of call was lunch at the Feral Brewery in Baskerville. The range of micro-brewed beers was first rate, and their sour beer some of the best I’ve had. The amount of tables and lawn space available suggested a high turnover on weekends and holidays despite the lack of transport options.
From the brewery, we headed to Australia’s only monastic town where we would spend a couple of nights whilst roaming the countryside during the day. New Norcia has an eclectic mix of architectural styles which made for a scenic tour of the grounds. Nine monks still live in the monastery, though they employ roughly 60 people to run their various businesses, like the New Norcia Bakery. The hotel in the town is grandiose to say the least. It was built in 1926 with a visit by Benedictine benefactors, the Spanish Royal Family, in mind. Locals, visiting ex-monks, and other interesting characters populated the bar in the evening, and despite enjoying ourselves immensely, an early start forced an early retirement.

DAY TWO

In the morning we journeyed to the remote and interactive Gravity Discovery Centre. Surrounded by a beautiful and biodiverse landscape, the Leaning Tower of Gingin is a striking sight. It is a scaffolded replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa designed to replicate Galileo’s famous gravity experiment. We did so by dropping water balloons from the top and watching their different masses hit the ground at roughly the same time, creating craters in an expired water balloon graveyard/sandpit. After playing with other scientific theories through interactive means, water-bottle rockets were launched and science was indeed proven to exist.

After lunch, we ventured onwards to Moora Citrus where we would experience a tour of a working citrus farm. They grew mostly oranges, though with some mandarins also. I think we all learned a great deal about citrus, the capital required for investment farms, and water necessities. Our daily nutritional requirements were topped up with a visit to the experimental citrus enclosure where we could pick our fancy from any number of rare and designer citrus breeds.
DAY THREE

In the morning we left New Norcia behind, and headed towards the coast via the Moore River (Mogumber) Mission. Now derelict, the Mission was operational from 1918 until 1974, when it was forced to close. A dirt road meandered through the beautiful old gums and buildings. Many of the shacks were only half standing, gutted out and crowded with weeds. Rusted out cars littered the scene. Like many old Aboriginal missions, the land has been leased to an Aboriginal Land Trust.

From there, we headed to Cervantes where a large and lucrative lobster farm is operating. A ten minute tour of the warehouse facilities was available. We walked on gangways above large tanks, conveyors, and packing equipment. I found this uncomfortable and so did not pay much attention to the handheld audio guide and only gave the operation a perfunctory look. Everyone (bar me) ate from the kiosk attached to the warehouse where they served fresh and processed lobster.

Done with lunch, we boarded the bus for a trip to Nambung National Park to see the famous Pinnacles and appreciate some of Western Australia’s beautiful landscapes. The Pinnacles are thousands of limestone formations rising up from orange sand. The bus wended its way along the route until we decided to get out and have a play, using the oddly shaped outcrops as photogenic props. The picturesque scene of so many jagged little teeth blending into dunes and then out to the ocean was unforgettable.

After a long days travelling, we packed it in for the relative comforts of the Jurien Bay Caravan Park. A brisk quick swim in incredibly clear blue water as the sun set capped off the day perfectly. We decided that a ‘family’ dinner was in order, so our little cabin kitchens were put to work to create a feast. The night ended after a collective laugh at one of cinema’s modern masterpieces, Pitch Perfect.

DAY FOUR

Our last day together was short but sweet. We drove south down to coastal suburb of Yanchep on the rapidly expanding periphery of Perth. It was built by Alan Bond in the 70s and continues to grow. We admired a new development of McMansions, replete with every poorly constructed and environmentally unsound stereotype imaginable. It was just a quick stop, however, as we rushed to get back to Perth to deliver a bus load of satisfied field trippers to the airport.
The field trip was a fantastic experience and I was surprised the number of us was so small. We saw a fair chunk of the country north of Perth and had a blast doing it. We made inter-personal connections that we otherwise would not have that will hopefully be sustained in conferences to come. I fully recommend that any readers of this blog post to consider future post-conference field trips as a matter of course. Thanks to Amanda Davies for the organisation, and to the other participants for making it a total success!

Nick is completing his PhD with AUSCCER. Follow him on Twitter @NickSkilton.

Final thanks must also go to the IAG for its financial support which made this trip a reality and once more to Amanda Davies, our fearless leader who delivered her second child – Mya, 17 days after our adventure!

************


************

---

Welcome

New Members

Ellen van Holstein (Wollongong); Sharon Biermann (UWA); Paul Chenevier (Sydney Water); David Clifton (Wollongong); Drew Collins; Nicole Cook (Melbourne); Rebecca Cross (UNSW); Rupert Doney; Brendan Doody (Durham); Carmen Elrick-Barr (Sunshine Coast); Helen Fitt (Canterbury); Kristine Garcia; Charles Gillon (Wollongong); Sonia Graham (Melbourne); Ryan Jones (Newcastle); Tek Sheng Kevi Lo (Melbourne); Francis Markham (ANU); Shaun Mckiernan; David Mitchell; Anne O’Brien (UWS); Madeleine Page; Heath Pickering (Melbourne); Sarah Prout (UWA); James Sach; Katrina Skellern (Wollongong); Colette Starheim (Canterbury); Joanne Stevenson (Canterbury); Blair Thomson; Stephanie Toole (Wollongong); David Turton; Kimberly Van Niel (UWA); Sophie Webber (UBC); Justine Westgate (Wollongong); Carrie Wilkinson; Serap Yilmaz (UWS).
The 21st Annual Colloquium of the International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems

By Roy Jones

This meeting, with the theme ‘Globalisation and New Challenges of Agricultural and Rural Systems’, was organised by Nagoya University and held from July 29- August 4. In addition to 35 presentations by scholars from 17 countries, the meeting included four days of field work. These visits highlighted the pressing nature of the issues currently facing rural Japan as the country’s economy plateaus, its population ages, and its distinctive cultural and landscape identity is increasingly challenged by globalising social forces. At this meeting, Roy Jones (Curtin) replaced Tony Sorenson (New England) as the Australian representative on the Commission’s Steering Committee.

The 22nd Colloquium of the Commission will be held in Romania in late August/early September 2014. It will be based in Bucharest and Sibiu (the 2007 European City of Culture) and will involve considerable fieldwork in the mountain (Transylvanian) region of the country. Further information can be obtained from the Colloquium organiser, Professor Ioan Ianos (University of Bucharest) ianos50@yahoo.com

Sibiu City: Picture supplied by Ioan Ianos

Sibiu City: Picture supplied by Ioan Ianos
Dale Dominey-Howes is delighted to be able to report that he has been appointed to The School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney. Given the School’s long tradition, leadership and international reputation in the discipline fields of Geography, Geology and Marine Geosciences - this represents an exciting personal opportunity. Dale heads a research cluster comprising four Post Doctoral Fellows, six Research Assistants and eight PhD students located in various geographic spots that collectively work on inter-related problems of hazard, risk, resilience, vulnerability and disaster. The whole team is funded by a variety of external research grants including amongst others, the Australian Research Council and the National Disaster Resilience Program. The teams focus revolves around core geographical concepts and project work continues in places as diverse as Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, SE Asia and Europe.

Erin Smith (PhD candidate) was selected for the Wentworth Group Science Program Scholarship 2013. The purpose of the program “is to give recipients access to the knowledge and networks of some of Australia’s leading practitioners in influencing public policy through their experience in the natural sciences, economics and public policy...to enable recipients to become active contributors at the interface of good decision making and world class science”. Erin attended the main event for the programme at the end of July – a three-day Master Class – with seven other PhD students, other professionals working in environmental policy and Wentworth Group members.

Chem Phalla and Mattijs Smits, who both had Professor Phil Hirsch as their Primary Supervisor, have completed the requirements for the award of their PhDs.

Iris Bergmann has enrolled in a PhD at the University of Sydney (supervised by Phil McManus and Paul McGreevy) as part of the ARCDP13 Project “Caring for Thoroughbreds”. Karen Ruse has enrolled at the University of Tasmania as part of the same project (Aidan Davison is her primary supervisor).

Sue Hobley was delighted to have recently been accepted for a PhD candidature at Sydney University (supervised by Phil McManus). For the past year she has been investigating the role of urban vegetation in sustainability. The title of her thesis is: What’s Missing from Sydney’s Urban Forest? Establishing the meaning and place of biodiversity in a ‘liveable, green and ecological’ model of urban sustainability.

In 2013, the School of Geosciences also welcomed new geography PhD students Paula Brown (supervised by Bob Fisher), Oulavanh Keovilignavong, Nguyen Tuong Huy, Kim Sean Somatra, Worawan Sukraroek, Timothy Frewer, Danny Marks, Chann Sopheap (supervised by Philip Hirsch), Hiswaty Hafid (supervised by Jeff Neilson).
Emilie Chevalier has come from the University of Limoges to undertake a co-tutelle PhD supervised by John Connell on discourses of climate change in Vanuatu and French Polynesia.

Liping Yan has finished fieldwork for her PhD research the Ethnical and cultural correlates of water use in Sydney. Liping is now focusing on the data analysis and thesis writing. She has been and will continue be active in presenting and attending conferences, learning and communicating with academics and practitioners in regards to water management and cultural studies.

She will be attended the IAG conference 2013 in Perth and will be attending the SOAC 2013 in Sydney. Her book review on Lifeboat Cities (by Brendan Gleeson) appeared in Australian Geographer in early May.

Erin Smith (PhD candidate) will participate in the Go8-C9 Student Leadership in International Cooperation (SLIC) Program. As part of the program, Erin will travel with six PhD students from other Go8 universities and visit five of the China 9 universities: Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Fudan University, Xi’an Jiao Tong University, University of Science and Technology China and Nanjing University. The purpose of the program is to develop proposals and ideas for cooperation between Australian and Chinese universities with the aim of promoting opportunities for outbound student mobility from Australia. The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education provided the Go8 with funding to establish the program.

Jo Gillespie has been awarded a research grant from the Australian National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The project, entitled Promoting a Human Rights Based Approach to Sustainable Conservation and Natural Resource Management in the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve, Cambodia, will investigate whether the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) can enhance sustainable conservation and natural resource management concomitant with respecting and supporting human rights. The grant is for 2013 – 2014.

Honorary Associate in the School of Geosciences, David Branagan, has completed a revised edition of the Field Guide (History of Geology, Sydney to Brisbane) he prepared for overseas visitors to the 34th International Geological Conference (Brisbane 2012). Revised for more general use it has been considerably enlarged, particularly with more maps and figures. It will be available shortly, on DVD, through the Earth Sciences History of Geology Specialist Group of the Geological Society of Australia.
News From The National Library of Australia

The National Library has acquired the Joan Blaeu wall map, Archipelagus Orientalis, sive Asiaticus (Eastern or Asian archipelago), showing ‘Hollandia Nova, detecta 1644.’ The map, over 1.5 metres in width, is the first large scale map of New Holland, and is one of four complete examples known to exist. Blaeu produced the copper plates for limited release in 1659, for the first time including details of all known Dutch discoveries in Australian waters up to and including the two voyages of Abel Tasman. This state of the map was printed in 1663, and this example was in the collection of the antique dealer Pelle Thulin of Amsterdam, in the 1950s. It was identified in 2010, and is complete with original roller mounts. Archipelagus Orientalis provides the most complete account of Dutch charting of Australia, and was the template for all maps of New Holland to follow. Details of interest include the sighting of Tasmania by the crew of the Zeehaen, and first use on maps of the Dutch names for Australia (‘Nieuw Hollant’) and New Zealand (‘Nieuw Zelandt’).

Like most maps of this kind, Archipelagus Orientalis is extensively damaged, and will require extensive conservation work prior to display at the end of the year in the Library’s international mapping exhibition, Mapping our World: Terra Incognita to Australia.
NLA Exhibition 2013/14 - Mapping our World: Terra Incognita to Australia.

From the world’s great collections come the maps that inspired the idea of Australia, from ancient times to the first complete map of the new continent. Mapping our World: Terra Incognita to Australia takes us on a journey from ancient and medieval notions of a southern continent to Flinders’ 1814 chart of Australia. A celebration of some of the world’s most significant discoveries, Mapping Our World is also a re-evaluation of Australia’s mapping past, with unique works by the most eminent names in the history of cartography including Ptolemy, Beatus, Mercator, Ortelius, Gerritsz, Blaeu and Cook. Opening in the ancient world, the exhibition explores conceptions of the earth and the heavens. Indigenous Australian, Babylonian, Greek, and Ptolemaic antecedents anchor the exhibition in the early traditions that first suggested a world beyond the Mediterranean. Exquisite examples of medieval mapping, both Christian and Islamic, give a sense of the complex and changing nature of maps at this time. The exhibition explores Europe’s first great ocean-going voyages and the profound effect of Ptolemy’s ancient Geography, re-discovered in Europe after 1,000 years of obscurity.

Dutch mapping of the continent also features extensively in the exhibition, from the first contacts by the Dutch East India Company to the voyages of Abel Tasman and Willem de Vlamingh. Mapping Our World illustrates how voyaging to the Spice Islands created great wealth and power, allowing Dutch cartographers to piece together the map of New Holland. The exhibition concludes with never-before-displayed hand-drawn maps created by James Cook, Louis de Freycinet and Matthew Flinders.

The exhibition brings together over 130 spectacular maps, atlases, globes and scientific instruments drawn from the National Library of Australia’s collections and those of Australian and international lenders including the Vatican Library, the British Library, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana. Mapping our World is timed to coincide with both the centenary of Canberra in 2013 and the bicentenary of Matthew Flinders’ chart in 2014.
Geographers are Working On...

Gareth Edwards (University of St Andrews) has been working in the UK since completing his PhD at the University of Sydney. He spent a year working with Harriet Bulkeley in the Department of Geography at Durham University on her ESRC-funded project Urban Transitions: climate change, global cities and the transformation of socio-technical systems. He then took up a post as Research Fellow in Sustainable Development at the University of St Andrews, and he has just commenced a British Academy-funded project Theorizing climate justice and understanding NGO discourses in the UK and Australia. This project will see him reviewing the academic literature on climate justice and interviewing NGO representatives in both the UK and Australia to understand how NGOs are understanding and framing climate justice.

John Connell’s (Sydney) new book *Islands at Risk? Environments, Economies and Contemporary Change* has been released by publisher Edward Elgar. The book provides a wide-ranging comparative analysis of contemporary economic, social, political and environmental change in small islands, island states and territories, through every ocean. It focuses on those island realms conventionally perceived as developing rather than developed, in the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (ANU) will be a senior visiting fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore from 1st August to 1st November, 2013. She will also be undertaking a consultancy for the World Bank between May-September, 2013 on women in mining in Papua New Guinea.

Salim Momtaz (Newcastle) has completed a new book with SMZ Kabir titled Evaluating Environmental and Social Impact Assessment in Developing Countries (published by Elsevier). Salim also has two forthcoming journal articles - one in Journal of Environmental Planning and Management and the other in Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management. Salim is supervising five PhD students at Newcastle. Two students are currently conducting fieldwork in Vietnam. Their research focus is on ‘Fisheries resource management in Vietnam. One student is currently conducting fieldwork in Bangladesh. The student is investigating into ‘Role of women in climate change adaptation’. One student has completed fieldwork and currently processing and analysing data. The topic is ‘climate change adaptation process in Bangladesh’. One student who commenced in July 2013 will study Climate change adaptation and environmental governance in island nations.

Iain Hay (Flinders) has been appointed Visiting Professor at the School of Geography and Oceanographic Sciences, Nanjing University, China under the Chinese Government’s ‘High-end Foreign Experts Recruitment Program’. He will be at Nanjing for two months each year over the period 2013-2015. He will also be Visiting Professor, Beijing Union University, China in September-October 2013. Iain is currently working collaboratively with Professor Jonathan Beaverstock (Nottingham) on a 400-page book for Edward Elgar entitled International Handbook of Wealth and the Super-Rich.
Recent Books

- John Connell, *Islands at Risk? Environments, Economies and Contemporary Change*
- Iain Hay, *Geographies of the Super-Rich*
- *Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming Our Communities* by J.K. Gibson-Graham, Jenny Cameron and Simon Inglis
- Chris Gibson and John Connell, *Music Festivals and Regional Development in Australia*
- *Ingrained: A Human Bio-geography of Wheat* by Lesley Head, Jennifer Atchison and Alison Gates
Recent Books

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)