From the Secretary - By Alaric Maude

In July I will end eight years as Secretary of the IAG, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Institute for their support and patience. I am retiring because I think it is time for new ideas and new energy, and because I want to devote more of my own time to helping to complete the Australian school geography curriculum (due at the end of this year), and then assisting teachers with its implementation from 2014 onwards. I became involved in the school curriculum through my role of Secretary, and it has taken up far too much of my time over the last two years. Consequently I have found it difficult at times to keep up with secretarial duties, and I apologise to those of you who had had to wait for answers to emails. It is time to move on.

Robert Gale, our Treasurer, has now taken over membership administration, and is moving rapidly to resolve the remaining problems in our online system. There are over now 400 members in a searchable database, and joining and renewing are much easier procedures than before.

One aspect of our administration that I hope the next Secretary can solve is communication with the membership. Many of the notices about IAG activities are posted on the IAG-list, but many members are not on this list, while many non-members are. I think we need a way to send many of these notices to all the members, especially those relating to study group activities. At present the notices you receive as members, such as this Newsletter, are sent through my home email.

The Council is busy developing ideas for new activities and projects, which the President will report on. These are essential for the health of geography in Australia, and I hope members will support these initiatives.

Notice to Members

The IAG’s 2012 AGM will be held on Tuesday 3rd July, from 5pm at Macquarie University. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.
In The News

New Geography App
Wiley Blackwell’s new geography app now features the IAG Macquarie conference in its conference listings. You can also use the app to track new articles in our journal, Geographical Research, as well as from your other favourite Wiley Blackwell journals. It’s like browsing the library shelves in the good old days! Detail of the app can be found here: http://itunes.apple.com/en/app/id496465459?mt=8
And a video shows you how, here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViAJfmJw1gs

2012 IAG Conference
The 2012 IAG conference is being hosted by Macquarie University. The conference theme ‘Inspiring Connections’ encourages participants to focus on both existing connections that inspire their work, and the ways in which geographical research, education and engagement inspires new connections of value to society and the planet.
Registrations will close on the 25th June. For on-line registration visit: https://www.iag2012.com.au/

2013 IAG Conference
The 2013 IAG conference will be held at the University of Western Australia from the 1-3 July. A postgraduate event will be held on 30th June, and fieldtrips will be held from the 4th July. The conference is being convened by Matthew Tonts (UWA) and Roy Jones (Curtin).

New Zealand Geography Conference
The 2012 New Zealand Geography conference is being held in Napier from 3-6 December. The conference theme is ‘Connecting Landscapes. Conference details are available on the following websites. We are now receiving abstracts and proposals for panels.
http://www.nzgs.co.nz/

IAG Study Group News

Indigenous Issues Study Group - By Judith Burns (UNE)
The Indigenous Issues Study Group is planning a Pre-Conference Workshop prior to IAG 2012. The workshop, to be held at La Perouse and at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern over the weekend prior to the conference, continues the tradition established at Stradbroke Island in 2006, and at the Ngati Moki marae (near Christchurch) in 2010. At the workshop, members will have the opportunity to meet with members of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, visit sites significant to Aboriginal people in Redfern, network with fellow researchers working on issues to do with Indigenous people’s rights and knowledges and, importantly, work together on the Study Group Strategic Plan which will guide initiatives over the next five years. Indigenous Issues Study Group members are grateful to the IAG Council for generously subsidising this workshop. We will report back on proceedings in the next Newsletter.
Rural Studies Group - By Meg Sherval (Newcastle)

The Rural Studies Group is delighted to announce that prof. Warwick Murray from Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand will be our special guest for the upcoming IAG Conference at Macquarie University in July. He is delivering an address on ‘Underdeveloped Rural Geography - Towards a View from the South’. Please keep an eye out for this session and come and hear Wellington’s “Singing Professor” speak and if we're lucky - play us a tune on his guitar!

Conferences

IGU Commission on Gender and Geography Meeting
23-25 August 2012, Hamburg

32nd International Geographical Congress
26-30 August 2012, Cologne
http://www.igc2012.org

Rural and Remote Resilience: Making the Priorities Possible
24 - 28 September 2012, Whyalla and Upper Spencer Gulf
www.international-rural-network.org

2012 New Zealand Geography Conference
3-6 December 2012 Napier, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand
http://www.nzgs.co.nz/

I’m a scientist, Get me out of here - by Dustin Welbourne (UNSW)

“I’m a scientist, Get me out of here” is an award winning science engagement event originating in the UK that has now spread to numerous countries including Australia. Friday, 25th of May, the competition wrapped up and Dustin Welbourne (UNSW Canberra, PhD Student in Biogeography) was among one of three national winners to receive $1000 to go toward a science communication project.

“This is a brilliant event for both student and scientist. As a scientist, it provided a far better understanding of where the students are at in terms of their thinking. But it is also great for the students; it is a rare opportunity for students to be able to interact with scientists at all, let alone 15 of them. Events like this may provide just that little bit of inspiration to tip a talented student into the sciences, away from the dark side, economics.”

The event will run again later in 2012, those interested should contact the organisers to express their interest.

Link to the website
http://imascientist.org.au/

Link to Dustin’s Blog about the event.
Antipodean Economic Geographers Unite - Felicity Wray and Rae Dufty-Jones (UWS)

December 5th and 6th 2011 saw the Antipodean Economic Geography Symposium being hosted by ourselves and Phil O’Neill from the University of Western Sydney. The symposium, which was kindly sponsored by the Institute of Australian Geographers and the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, took place in the impressive settings of the State Library New South Wales with glorious views over the Botanical Gardens.

Taking inspiration from recent postcolonial interventions in economic geography and sociology the purpose of the symposium was to consciously examine and critically reflect on the economic geographies produced from an Antipodean or Southern perspective across a range of themed panel sessions. The panel sessions included: urban economic geographies, governance and neoliberalism, diverse economic geographies, cultural economic geographies and constructions of inequality and economic geography. The symposium was attended by a large proportion of primarily economic geographers from Australia and New Zealand with a few English geographers too – such as Andy Leyshon and John Tomaney. Panellists in each session were guided by the following questions: to what extent is there a distinct antipodean geography and is this helpful? How are Australian and New Zealand economic geographies expanding theorisations beyond the North? What might future antipodean economic geographies look like politically, spatially and thematically? In what ways do our own antipodean perspectives and experiences bring to or speak to economic geography debates?

Throughout the symposium frequent references were made to the un-reflexive nature of Northern Theory and the way that theories, categories or vocabulary associated with Anglo-American economic geography does not necessarily reflect the specificities or conditions of Antipodean contexts. The difficulties that this made for teaching economic geography to undergraduate students from an antipodean perspective made for a prolonged discussion.

Meanwhile, an irony noted by Andy Leyshon was that while most economic geographical inquiry tends to be undertaken and produced from the ‘core’ economies in the Global North, the Australian economy is an increasingly dominant player in the global economy. This raises interesting questions about the future of economic geography in terms of where and how the production of theory is likely to derive. From a policy perspective exactly whether or not the Australian and New Zealand context is too unique thus making it difficult to draw lessons from socio-economic challenges from other parts of the globe was raised by John Tomaney. Like many places spanning the global North and South, Australia shares common socio-economic challenges such as spatially imbalanced growth, migration, urbanisation and interregional competition. While local context is recognised as critical to the success of economic development policy, recognition that problems and solutions do not necessarily need to be bounded by artificial definitions of geography or economic conditions, or that lessons can’t be shared and learnt from contexts was advocated.

Ambiguity, contestation and consideration surrounded how antipodean scholars positioned themselves and their work. The extent to which scholars identified themselves as either antipodean or economic geographers or both varied across the group. This lead to conversations about how as scholars we are positioned and embedded in multiple constitutive networks and that our work is sometimes unavoidably shaped and fractured by having access to Anglo American knowledge networks.
Another recurring theme of the symposium was the benefits that were seen to accrue from pursuing post structuralist political economy perspectives (PSPE). Such a heuristic was frequently posited as a solution to situating antipodean economic geography knowledge, and enabling empirical analyses and scholars to be enmeshed in a variety of assemblages of people and things near and far, in turn enabling multiple and provincialised economic geographies and perspectives.

Of course the symposium wasn’t all about critical scholarship and there was plenty of time for socialising. A delightful three course meal was had by almost all at the Beresford Hotel in Surry Hills, as well as drinks at Opera Bar in Sydney Harbour at the end of the two days. Many attendees were keen to point out how unusual but enjoyable it was to bring so many economic geographers together in one room, with suggestions about establishing bi or annual Antipodean economic geography symposiums being raised.

An exciting outcome of the symposium is that a paper ‘Neither here nor there? Reflecting on Antipodean Economic Geographies’ is currently in preparation for the journal Dialogues in Human Geography.

Once again, we would like to thank the Institute of Australian Geographers and the University of Western Sydney for their kind sponsorship of the event, without which the symposium would not have been able to take place. We also extend a warm thanks to all of those that participated and made the event thoroughly enjoyable and collegial.

**AAG 2012 New York - by Robyn Bartel (University of New England)**

Three panel sessions were devoted to an exploration of legal geography and what David Delaney’s idea of the “nomosphere” offers for geography (David Delaney’s ‘Nomospheric Investigations’ was published by Routledge in 2010). There were papers from Israel, Canada, the US and Australia in the sessions co-organized by Melinda Harm Benson (University of New Mexico) and Robyn Bartel (University of New England). Papers were submitted in advance to the invited guest discussants for each session: Oren Yiftachel, Marc Poirier and David Delaney himself. The organizers are now considering a special issue or some other avenue to publish the contributions. Thanks to all those involved! The programme for the New York conference is at [http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting/program](http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting/program) (note soon to be archived) and the next AAG will be in Los Angeles, 9-13 April 2013 - [www.aag.org/annualmeeting](http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting)

**Engaging Tactics**

Leah Gibbs (AUSCCER, UOW) recently participated in a symposium 'Engaging Tactics' (30th April - 1st May), which explored creative methods emerging in the social sciences. This Postgraduate and Early Career event was organised by graduate students of the Sociology Department at Goldsmiths, University of London, and sponsored by the British Sociological Association. Engaging Tactics was remarkable for its innovative use of the spaces within and around Goldsmiths and the New Cross area. Presentation format and overall workshop structure enabled demonstration of creative methods being explored by participants. Leah presented work based on her current research in a talk entitled 'Embodied research methods and the river'.
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)

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)

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)
Dr Robert Burne 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
Grants and Awards Received

Ryan Lowe (UWA) whose work focuses on coastal geography, geomorphology and coastal processes, has been awarded an ARC Future Fellowship.

Matthew Tonts (UWA) has been awarded $1m over five years to continue to develop an urban research program with the Committee for Perth. Matthew has also been awarded $1.25 million from the Western Australian Regional Cities Alliance to develop a research program on the economic, social and planning needs of WA’s largest regional towns: Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Port Hedland and Broome.

Christine Eriksen and Nick Gill (both AUSCCER, UOW) have been awarded a $283,000 Bushfire CRC funded project ‘Co-existing with fire: managing risk and amenity at the rural/urban interface’ with fire ecologist Professor Ross Bradstock. This research will identify bushfire risk to property at the peri urban/urban-wildland interface, identify and map residents’ amenity in such areas, and analyse the relationship between the two.

Lesley Instone (Newcastle) received a Faculty of Science and IT Pilot Grant ($12 000) to her work on Dogs and the City, investigating companion animals, local government regulation and urban space.

Human geographers and international public health experts from the University of Sydney are collaborating on a project to help people in Laos adjust to large-scale environmental changes, with a research grant of $1.4 million from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. The research team includes Philip Hirsch, Yayoi Largerqvist, Natalia Scurrah and Jessica McLean from the Mekong Research Group, School of Geosciences and Michael Dibley from the Sydney School of Public Health. The three-year project, which commenced in May 2012, will address key livelihood and environment issues related to hydropower and mining development. For further information see; http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=8926

Lesley Head (AUSCCER, UOW) was elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Nick Gill (AUSCCER, UOW) was recently awarded the UOW Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Community Engagement. Nick’s diverse engagement activities with community partners is evidenced through his teaching, research and professional activities. Nick’s lengthy list of achievements and activities include his development of research relationships with the Rural Fire Service, securing funding for bushfire management education, running rural fieldtrips to encourage students to think across regional rural/urban boundaries plus founding a campus Bicycle User Group and co-organising the UOW Ride to Work Day in 2010 and 2011.

Alison McIntosh (Queensland University of Technology) has been working within a multi-disciplinary team on an ARC-funded project researching aspects of masculinity and violence in rural Australia. She and co-authors Kerry Carrington (Queensland University of Technology) and Russell Hogg (University of New England) have been awarded the Allen Austin Bartholomew Award for 2012 for their article ‘The resource boom’s underbelly: Criminological impacts of mining development’ published in The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology.
University of Western Australia

UWA moved to a teaching structure similar to the University of Melbourne in 2012. All vocational degrees are now taught at postgraduate level, with undergraduate degrees focused on a general education. As part of these changes Geography is offered as a major in the Bachelor of Science, with a new major in 'Human Geography and Planning' in the BA. The restructure has given staff the opportunity to update the curriculum, with a number of new units and compulsory field work. Enrollments have been strong over recent years, and the early evidence is that the new model has had little impact on this. At the postgraduate level, Geography has taken the lead on a new MSc in Environmental Science and a PIA accredited Master of Urban and Regional Planning.

The University of WA has made a number of new appointments recently:

- Paul Plummer, currently Professor of Geography at Calgary, has been appointed to a Chair, and will take up his position in November.
- Nik Callow will relocate from the University of Queensland to take up a position in Physical Geography in July.
- Natasha Pauli has been appointed Lecturer in Geography, working mainly in the area of Environmental Management.
- Matt Hipsey has been appointed Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography, and will work mainly in the area of environmental hydrology.
- Brian Shaw retired in late 2011, having been with the University since 1975. Brian's importance is reflected in the fact that he will be replaced by two new appointments during 2012.

Roger Clark's thesis on the Historical Geography of Public Open Space in Metropolitan Perth, 1829-1969 was passed in late 2011. Roger was UWA's first PhD student in Geography commencing in 1965, but did not complete as family and professional commitments intervened. He finally returned to his thesis in 2010. 45 years between enrollment and completion must surely stand as some sort of record.

Mr David Scott, a former member of the UWA geography staff, passed away in October 2011. David was employed a few years prior to the formation of the Department in 1964, and taught economic geography until his retirement in 1988.

University of Wollongong

The Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER), an initiative emanating from Human Geography at the University of Wollongong, now exists in the social media landscape. AUSCCER can be followed on twitter (@AUSCCER) and on facebook (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Centre-for-Cultural-Environmental-Research/157312741052410). An AUSCCER blog is under construction and is due to go ‘live’ in the coming weeks.

Gordon Waitt was recently promoted to Professor and Michael Adams was recently promoted to Associate Professor. After completing her post-doctoral fellowship with the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research, Carol Farbotko has taken up a permanent position as social scientist with the CSIRO in Brisbane.
News From the Universities

University of Sydney

The University of Sydney has established the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, following a proposal put together by a working party co-chaired by Philip Hirsch and Michele Ford. The Centre is interdisciplinary and seeks to establish an area studies model that includes, but also goes well beyond, the humanities and social sciences core of traditional area studies.

The following geography students were awarded their PhDs at a graduation ceremony at the University of Sydney in May, 2012.

- Robin Branson – Bilateral industrial symbiosis: An assessment of its potential in New South Wales to deal sustainably with manufacturing wastes.
- Michelle Haron – Spatio-temporal patterns and processes of dryland salinity in South-Eastern Australia.
- Fiona McKenzie – Farmer driven innovation in agriculture: Creating opportunities for sustainability.
- Chun Yeong (Young) Ng – Geopark and geotourism: A management approach to conserve valuable geological heritage in China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
- Nathan Wales – Combining remote sensing detection and qualitative data to examine landscape change in the context of World Heritage.

New PhD students – Leonardo Valenzuela (supervisor, Phil McManus) is a student from Chile who is funded by an Endeavour Award and is studying the lived experience of extreme development using Puchuncavi- Las Ventanas in Chile as a case study.

Lada Phadungkiati and Mattijs Smits have been awarded IAG travel awards to present at the IGU conference in Cologne.

University of Western Sydney

Geography and Urban Studies Group at UWS is collaborating with PIA in organising the NSW Young Planners Forum. The NSW Young Planners Forum will be held at Parramatta Campus of UWS on May 31 and June 1, 2012. The forum will be attended by around one hundred young planners from all over the state. Kevin Dunn, Dean of School Social Science and Psychology, will inaugurate the conference. A number of the Geography and Urban Studies academic staff will also present at the conference as well as assist in the heritage tours of Parramatta City and UWS Parramatta Campus.

The theme of this year’s forum is Designing our Future. The conference will begin in the afternoon of May 31, 2012. An array of presentations will be made by the GUS/School staff including: Designing our future by building on our past by Professor Katherine Gibson; People, planning and the planning law: capturing socioeconomic and cultural directions by Awais Piracha; Planning for the creative city: cultural planning, public art and graffiti management by Cameron McAuliffe; and; Sustaining our regional towns and cities: A discussion on issues faced by rural regional communities by Laura Schatz, Rae Dufty and Andrew Gorman-Murray.
News From the Universities

Newcastle University

In recent months both the B.A/B.A. (Hons) and B. SocSci /B.SocSci (Hons), including the Geography majors in each program were externally reviewed. Geography came through the flying colours and was highlighted particularly for its inclusion of indigenous curriculum.

Dr Jane Palmer was appointed as the post-doctoral research fellow on the NCCARF-funded project ‘Urban housing, climate change and adaptive capacity’ led by Lesley Instone and Kathy Mee. Jane has degrees in philosophy and architecture and as a registered architect on projects in northern Australia including housing for indigenous people in remote communities. In 2011, Jane completed her PhD thesis on the contribution of older people’s life stories to understanding precariousness and adaptation in social-ecological systems, based on fieldwork in Aceh, Indonesia. She has recently worked as a futures consultant to the Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health at University of Queensland, and to the Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research at Monash University.

Three new postgraduate students have commenced their PhDs: Faith Curtis will work with Kathy Mee on cultural geographies of belonging. Phoebe Evehingham will work with Sarah Wright on linguistic in-betweeness and the role of emotions. Lara Daley will work with Pauline McGuirk on the right to the city and alternative/autonomous urbanisms.

Curtin University

After much (paper)work, Curtin will reinstate its Geography Major. Curtin’s Geography major was renamed ‘Sustainable Development’ some years ago, despite fierce protest from the geography staff. The geography staff welcome the University’s most recent decision. Curtin offers geography units in both physical and human geography.

Members On the Move

• **Jessica Weir** has accepted a Senior Research Fellow position in the Bushfire CRC at the University of Canberra, working with Barbara Norman on risk and uncertainty in urban and regional planning.

• **Nikolas Callow** has accepted a Senior Lecturer position at UWA. Nic will teach into the geography program and will continue his research on the impacts of land management on hydrology, river geomorphology and ecohydrology in the Australian landscape, and the potential that management interventions have to offer in changing landscapes and climates.
Geographers are Working On...

**Bill Pritchard** (Sydney) (with Jeff Neilson and Prof Henry Yeung) organised a workshop on the Geographies of Global Value Chains at the National University of Singapore in December 2011. The keynote address was given by Prof Gary Gereffi of Duke University, USA. Bill Pritchard’s longitudinal study of the Australian tomato industry has recently been cited by The Age newspaper in Melbourne and he did a few follow-up radio interviews on the state of the Australian food processing industry (http://world.theage.com.au/national/canned-why-local-tomatoes-cop-a-pasting-20120526-1zc2q.html)

The NCCARF-funded project ‘Urban housing, climate change and adaptive capacity’ led by Lesley Instone and Kathy Mee (Newcastle University) is progressing. Interviews with renters and institutional rental organisations are underway. The team will present a paper to the NCCARF Adaptation in Action Conference in June, Melbourne. A website for the project will be available shortly.

**Pauline McGuirk** and **Robin Dowling**’s (with Bulkeley) ARC discovery project on urban carbon governance has recently complete a major audit across Australia’s capital cities of local government, private sector and NGO-led urban initiatives aimed at carbon governance. The team presented a paper at the AAG 2012 in New York. Two more papers will be presented in the coming months: one to the Governing City Futures Symposium (UWS, August) and one to the Retrofit 2050 workshop (Manchester, Sept).

**Sarah Wright**, **Paul Hodge** & **Fee Mozeley** are representing the University of Newcastle at the Australian University Community Engagement Alliance 2012 Conference ‘Next Steps: Community Engaged Learning’ to be held in Brisbane 9-11 July. Their paper ‘Transformative student learning in the Northern Territory - lessons for WIL in cross-cultural settings’ draws on research with third year development studies students’ experiences of emotional learning.

**Andrew Warren** (AUSCCER, UOW) recently converted his PhD on the economic/labour geography of the surfboard industry into a book, for the University of Hawai’i Press. The book is due to be released at the end of 2012. Andrew’s work on the surfboard industry recently featured in an article on The Conversation (http://theconversation.edu.au/once-a-cultural-icon-is-australias-surfboard-industry-destined-to-disappear-7001) and in ABC radio interviews in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, and was profile on surfing websites across Australia and the United States. Andrew’s research can be followed on twitter (@AWsurf).

**Natascha Klocker** (AUSCCER, UOW) and **Danielle Drozdewski** (Geography, UNSW) have recently had accepted in Environment and Planning A an article on the experiences of geography academics as parents. Look out for the their panel on this topic at the upcoming IAG conference at Macquarie University.
Jenny Cameron’s (Newcastle University) Newcastle Community Garden Project is in its final phase with community garden participants giving feedback on the fieldtrip based methodology and the ways this has informed what’s been going on in gardens in the two years since. The results of this feedback will shortly be available in the same type of format as early project outcomes such as the Community Gardens Manifesto (See Newcastle Community Garden Project, 2010. A Community Garden Manifesto, Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Newcastle. Available online at http://www.communityeconomies.org/site/assets/media/Jenny_Cameron/Manifesto_Small.pdf)

Members of the Indigenous-non-Indigenous research collaboration of Wright, Burarrwanga, Lloyd and Suchet-Pearson are finalising a new book looking at Yolngu patterns of knowing and belonging at Bawaka in Arnhem Land. The book is under contract with Allen and Unwin and is due for release in August 2013.

Robert Gale has spent the last 20 months directing the research and policy development for a National Wildlife Corridors Plan for the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) in Canberra. Robert’s team worked with an independent Advisory Group of twelve members appointed by the Minister and Chaired by the Hon. Bob Debus. The plan recognises that conservation connectivity is a fundamental requirement of healthy, productive landscapes. It lays the foundation for a new, collaborative, whole-of-landscape approach to biodiversity conservation that is based on voluntary cooperation and the existing efforts of communities, landholders, governments and industry. The public comment period closed in April, and these comments and others are being being taken into account. At the time of writing, the plan – an election commitment of the current government – is expected to be released sometime between July and September 2012. More information can be found at the Department’s website: http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-corridors/index.html.

Lesley Head (The Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) at the University of Wollongong) recently launched AUSCCER’s Discussion Paper series with a public talk in Wollongong on urban water and cultures of household sustainability. AUSCCER Discussion Papers are available freely online: http://www.uow.edu.au/science/eesc/ausccer/ausccerdiscussionpapers/index.html. Prof. Head’s public talk as part of UOW’s Uni in the Brewery series can be viewed online (http://www.uow.edu.au/research/unibrewery/UOW120743).

Iain Hay (Flinders) has just sent off to publishers, Edward Elgar, the completed manuscript of his edited collection Geographies of the Super-Rich. In this volume a group of distinguished and emerging international scholars including Jon Beaverstock (Nottingham), Phil McManus (Sydney), Pauline McGuirk (Newcastle), Pow Choon-Piew (Singapore), Sue Roberts and Rich Schein (Kentucky) cast their critical eyes over the geographical implications of the world’s super-rich, a privileged yet remarkably overlooked group. What emerges from this first-of-its-kind review is an picture of the influence of the super-rich over a diverse range of affairs extending from the shape of urban and rural landscapes to the future of art history. By giving attention to those at the apex of the economic pyramid, Geographies of the Super-Rich provides valuable insights to the institutions, practices and cultural values of our society, as well as a more comprehensive view of the consequences of global capitalism. The book is to be published in very early 2013.
George Curry and Gina Koczberski (Curtin) have recently returned from a month’s field work in PNG. This was the latest trip in their comprehensive field work program for their study on palm oil plantations and livelihoods. On this latest trip George, Gina and their team were in a race against the clock to get all their field interviews done before the parliamentary elections, and accompanying feasts and festivities commenced. Previous experience has taught them it is hard to convince people to participate in interviews against the backdrop of the smells and sounds of community feasts.

Amanda Davies (Curtin) has been selected to participate in this year’s Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank. The think tank ‘Australia’s Population: Shaping a Vision for Our Future’ will be held in Adelaide on the 26th and 27th July.

Michele Lobo (Centre for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University) was awarded an Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in July 2011. She is working on a pilot project titled Exploring Intercultural Encounters in the Darwin-Palmerston urban area. The aim of the study is to understand indigenous-white-ethnic minority relations through a focus on everyday multi-sensory experiences of public spaces.

David Bissell (The Australian National University) was awarded an ARC DECRA. David’s project is titled ‘Stressed mobilities: understanding the significance of the commute for city-workers’. David writes ‘It is no secret that commuting within many Australian cities is the source of significant stress. Yet whilst commuting stress is a much-vaunted part of life in Australian cities, its effects are yet to be properly understood. In order to better grasp the dynamics of city life and apprehend how city life might be made better for its inhabitants, it is vital that we develop a richer understanding of how the stresses and strains of commuting impact on people’s work and home lives. Through extensive and innovative in-depth fieldwork with commuters in Sydney, this project will explore this crucial but overlooked part of city life, by investigating how people work on their sense of self, attend to their bodies, and engage in all kinds of social relations in ways that have significant impacts on their sense of well-being. This project is the first of its kind which grapples with how these stresses and strains emerge, play out through home and work life, and impact on the longer-term wellbeing of city workers’.

Retirements

Alan Pilgrim (Curtin)
In July Alan will retire from Curtin after more than 25 years teaching into the geography and planning programs. Alan has long been involved in local government issues and brought his practical experience and knowledge to his teaching and research. In ‘retirement’ Alan plans to continue his role as deputy president of the Shire of Mundaring and his involvement in environmental conservation efforts.
A Note About Australian Geographer - By John Connell (AG Editor)

The next issue of Australian Geographer (June 2011 – due any time now) will be somewhat different. It introduces a new section - Thinking Space. This is a long overdue innovation – what Australian Geographer is seeking to do here is to encourage geographers, and others, to contemplate the contemporary issues that affect our world and write about them – op eds on a slightly larger scale (and even with references, or maps or whatever work ..) but not necessarily polished (well somewhat) and lengthy research papers. We seek creative and challenging thinking. And the June 2012 has it. We very much welcome Team Wollongong’s ‘A Country that Makes Things?’ – a joint piece from Chris Gibson, Chantel Carr and Andrew Warren - topical, timely and good geography.

We will also ensure that these pieces will not just grace the worthy pages of Australian Geographer but we will get them out quickly to a wider public and demonstrate what geography in the Australian region has to offer. All suggestions more than welcome. … mining booms and the environment/labour migration/ climate change/ 2100 census implications/China and us .. … etc. But please run ideas by me beforehand since we will probably only have one Thinking Space per issue.

A Note From The University of South Australia’s School of Natural and Built Environments - by Matthew Rofe

The University of South Australia’s School of Natural and Built Environment, in conjunction with Universiti Sains Malaysia’s School of Housing Building and Planning, is delighted to be hosting the 6th International Conference and Workshop on the Built Environment in Developing Countries (ICBEDC-2012) entitled Fragmented Futures: the built environment in a volatile world in Adelaide, South Australia. The Conference will be held Monday 4 December to Tuesday 5 December 2012 at the University of South Australia.

We cordially invite you to attend ICBEDC 2012 in Adelaide, Australia. The call for abstracts is now open and we look forward to offering researchers, postgraduate scholars and practitioners a platform for presenting research and engaging in rigorously critical debate and discussion across, albeit not limited to, the fields of architecture, engineering, urban and regional planning, project management and construction and tourism on the nature, form, function, governance and futures of the built environment in the developing world. The conference website is now live and can be viewed at: http://www.plevin.com.au/icbedc2012/index.html
Postgraduate News

Ben Gallan (PhD candidate, AUSCCER, UOW) recently commenced his field work on the experiences of new parents navigating work/life balance and the rhythms of day and night in the city. To participate in or follow Ben’s research, see his blog (http://crepuscularrambling.wordpress.com/) or twitter stream (@BenGallan).

Chantel Carr commenced a PhD thesis project at AUSCCER, UOW, under the supervision of Chris Gibson. Her thesis project is concerned with the social, cultural and environmental issues around making things. Broader research interests include the political and spatial agency of design, and vernacular creative and sustainable practices in industrial cities. Chantel’s research can be followed on twitter (@lifeofstuff).

Anna de Jong commenced a PhD thesis project at AUSCCER, UOW, on mega urban festivals, young people, rurality and mobility. She is supervised by Gordon Waitt and Chris Gibson. Anna’s research can be followed via her blog (http://annadejong.wordpress.com/) or on twitter (@anadejong).

Katie O'Neal commenced a Masters by Research thesis project, supervised by Leah Gibbs (AUSCCER, UOW), Debora de Freitas and Richard Kenchington (Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, UOW). Katie’s research will focus on coastal governance and legislation, and the uptake of science in decision-making.

Daminda Thushara Solangaarachchi (PhD student, UNSW Canberra) has been selected to attend to the Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability - From Social Vulnerability to Resilience: Measuring Progress toward Disaster Risk Reduction which will be held in Schloss Hohenkammer (near Munich) Germany in July 2012. This event is hosted by the Munich Re Foundation and the United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) with the goal to developing "a cutting-edge research and policy implementation agenda on social vulnerability as well as providing a platform for dialogue between scientists, established experts and UN representatives". Daminda has also received a travel grant from Munich Re Foundation to attend to this Summer Academy. At this Summer Academy he will discuss a paper related to his PhD research on “Social Vulnerability and Community Perceptions: Challenges for Bushfire Management”.

Julia-Anwar’s (UWA) thesis on the The Arts and Social Wellbeing in Rural Communities was passed earlier in 2012. Julia is now a Research Fellow in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Curtin University.

Gertrude Szili (University of South Australia) was awarded her PhD entitled Entrepreneurial Governance and the Green Imperative: A Critique of the Environmental Rescripting of Port Adelaide and Mawson Lakes, South Australia in March of this year. She was supervised by Matthew Rofe.
Members Publications

2013 Books


2012 Books


