For much of my childhood I lived in an inland city in New Zealand. I spent hours poring over books about the islands of the Caribbean. And my favourite song in the late 1970s was Typically Tropical’s ‘Barbados’ (yes, you can find it on You Tube). In the midst of long, foggy winters I sought some place in the sun. And now, decades later and in quite a different land, it has struck me that perhaps Geography is about to find its place in the sun. Let me explain.

In April this year, the AAG held its largest ever conference in Washington DC with over 8,000 attendees and papers delivered in up to 75 parallel sessions. Many IAG members attended. Then in July IAG held a tremendously successful conference in conjunction with the NZGS in Christchurch that pointed not only to the prospect of continuing and strengthening trans-Tasman links but also to the vibrance of research higher degree work in the discipline.

In June we received news that in its first year (back) in ISI Journal Citation Reports rankings, the Institute’s journal, Geographical Research, achieved stunning success. Throughout 2009 and 2010 IAG Secretary Alaric Maude has been leading valuable work to lay the foundations for a vital and relevant Australian Geography school curriculum.

The Academy of Science’s National Committee for Geography is preparing to develop a decadal strategic plan for Geography. Work within the ALTC’s Learning and Teaching Academic Standards project has almost finalised a nationally agreed definition of the discipline, outline of graduate careers, and importantly, specification of national minimum standards for Geography graduates. And I’m beginning to see more and more conference announcements on subjects like ‘Cartographies of the Imagination’ from scholars in disciplines other than Geography. And while we could bemoan the organisational fragmentation and vaporisation of Geography units that has occurred in Australian universities over the past decade or more, I think we need to focus instead on the bright prospects this constellation of events offers. As members of the discipline we need to seize this moment, don the sunnies, and set about consolidating for the future.
In that spirit, during my term as IAG President I want to encourage work towards six specific ends:

- Enlarge IAG membership. It has been revealed to me in the past few months that many leading geographers around the country are not paying their dues (so to speak)... If you think that means you, it probably does... So, if you’ve got this newsletter and you’re not a paid up member of IAG, please contact our trusty Treasurer & membership secretary, Robert Gale at r.gale@unsw.edu.au to make amends.

- Encourage more physical geographers into active and leading roles within the IAG.

- Support development of a robust Australian curriculum for Geography.

- Complete work across the discipline to define university expectations of Geography and its graduates.

- Support development of GEOView, the IAG’s new online journal for undergraduate students.

- Develop new mechanisms for international collaboration between IAG and kindred bodies.

Moreover, I’d like to give real scope to other members of Council and the Institute more broadly to drive initiatives for a dynamic Institute and a lively discipline.

I have already made that call to new and existing members of Council.

I now make it to you.

If you have any thoughts on ways of achieving the six ends listed above – or others supportive of your Institute – and you need moral or practical support to bring them to life, let me or any other member of Council know.

We all need to grasp the opportunities 2010 has presented us to secure our long-term place in the sun.

Iain Hay
IAG President
Report from the Council

Awards

Council has approved the following awards.

*Australia-International Medal*
- Katherine Gibson and Julie Graham (to be presented to Katherine in Wollongong in July 2011)

*Distinguished Fellowship of the IAG:*
- Alex Lyne

*Fellowships of the IAG:*
- Robert Burne
- Robin F Warner
- Jocelyn Davies
- Ruth Farmer
- Julie Kesby
- Bruce Ryan

Geographical Research

The term of office of the new editorial team for Geographical Research of Phil O’Neill (Editor-in-Chief), Brian Finlayson, Clive Forster and Wayne Stephenson commenced in January 2010.

A new contract to publish the Institute’s journal has been signed with Wiley-Blackwell. A PowerPoint of the presentation by the representative from Wiley-Blackwell, Simon Goudie, is posted on the IAG website under Publications, and has information on the most cited papers and the most downloaded papers in Geographical Research.

Geographical Research has recorded an initial ISI Impact Factor of 1.29, ranking 27 out of 61 geographical journals worldwide.

Council membership

At the General Meeting in Christchurch Phil McManus was elected as Vice-President (President Elect), Robert Gale as Treasurer, and Alaric Maude as Secretary.

New Council members elected were Tom Baker as Councillor representing postgraduate students, and Robyn Bartel, Christian Ruming and Wendy Shaw as Councillors.
Council matters

The following matters were discussed at the Council meetings in July 2010.

1. The (outgoing) President, Lesley Head, reported that: Several Council members were involved in the development of a national geography curriculum for Australian schools. She had made representations to the ARC on the initial ranking of Geographical Research. The ranking has since been raised from a C to a B. She was representing the IAG on the ALTC project on Defining Academic Standards in Geography (noted below). She had attended CHASS on the Hill.

2. Stewart Williams presented the Treasurer’s Report. He noted a further gain in membership, presented a list of new members, outlined the problem of getting members to renew their membership, and reported a surplus of income over expenditure of $14,261. Council thanked Stewart Williams and Paulene Harrowby for their enormous and painstaking work on the financial and membership records of the Institute.

3. Iain Hay reported on the ALTC project on Defining Academic Standards in Geography, which he was leading. Its aim is to establish national standards on what a graduate in geography should have learned.

4. There was considerable discussion of the apparently optional status of Geography in Years 9 and 10 of the proposed Australian curriculum. The President will lobby ACARA and education ministers about this issue, and several IAG Council members have recently had a meeting with Peter Garrett.

5. There was also discussion of a proposal from Malcolm McInerney, President of the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association and an ex officio member of Council, to set up a trial Geography Ambassadors program. The program is modelled on one run by the RGS in the UK. The paper was referred to the Heads of Geography programs.

6. Miriam Williams attended a Council meeting to present a brief report on the postgraduate workshop held in conjunction with the Christchurch conference. She reported that 70-80 people has participated, and that the event had been very successful. Council recorded its thanks to Miriam for her work as postgraduate member.

7. Council records its thanks to the New Zealand Geographical Society and the Canterbury University Geography Department for hosting a well attended and very successful joint New Zealand and Australian conference in July.

Alaric Maude
Secretary
The School of Earth & Environmental Sciences invites you to attend the 2011 Institute of Australian Geographers Conference in Wollongong. This is the first time since 1975 our annual conference will be held in Wollongong, in the Illawarra region – an hour and half from Sydney on the NSW south coast. We are working hard to ensure that all delegates enjoy their experience in this place, and have the chance to encounter its dynamic natural and cultural landscapes. The conference will be held in the beautiful bushland setting of the University of Wollongong campus. Good accommodation, dining, beaches and entertainment are all available in central Wollongong (about 3km away), linked by our city’s system of free public shuttle buses.

Our conference theme ‘Geography on the edge’ reflects our location at the dramatic perimeter of a continent, but also our desire to organise an integrated conference that connects and generates conversations across parts of the discipline. It will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to meet, explore cutting-edge research in Geography, and reflect on the significance of geographical research beyond the academy. We are poised at the tip of momentous change globally, a shift which is as much about social and economic transformation as it is about environmental change. What contributions can, and should, we as geographers in Australia and beyond, be making to these transformations?

The conference website is now open at the following link, and will be updated regularly.

Registrations will open on December 1, 2010.


The call for themed sessions is now open, due to Chris Gibson (cgibson@uow.edu.au) by January 31, 2011.
BACKGROUND

Early interest in the body in geography, sociology, cultural studies and cognate disciplines tended to treat
the body as an object. There was a sense of the body as something that could be left out of knowledge, so
that the redemptive project became defined in terms of the ‘re-embodiment’ of knowledge. As the
determinant and/or marker of one’s position, the body was seen to possess attributes that needed to be
laid bare. The gesture of reflexivity – the naming of one’s position in terms of gender, race, abilities and
so on – was figured as an essential moment of honesty and sensitivity to the particularity of one’s claims.
While raising important questions, there are new directions in thinking about ‘the body’ that take that
concept onto new terrains. This conference organises these directions according to two themes: bodies ex-
situ and bodies in-situ.

Seen from the point of view of their ex-situ status, the out-of-place character of bodies is emphasised.
Rather than emphasising the body’s positioning role, there is a marked shift toward recognising bodies
as inseparable from the productive problems of movement and change. This is an orientation to bodies
that recognises the ‘intrinsic connection between movement and sensation’; the body moves and it feels,
at the same time (Massumi 2002: 1). A body is never something that ‘I’ own, so much as a dynamic
relation, which has a degree of autonomy from my subjective experience of it. The notion of excess is
important to this way of thinking of bodies, since bodies are seen as excessive with respect to what
consciousness and knowledge can grasp of them.

Yet there is also some important work being done which tempers some of the more vitalist tendencies of
this view of the body as the site of change and difference. Such work does not return the body to its
status as a position in a spatial grid, but opens up new directions in the analysis of the body in-situ. In
work done on waiting and stillness, for example, the challenge is to conceptualise condensations and
slowing of the body’s dynamics. The idea of context is particularly important to this work on bodies in-
situ: how is the body tied up with relations of belonging as well as relations of becoming?

We welcome contributions that speak to the broad themes of bodies in-situ/bodies ex-situ. These could
include, but are not limited to, work on the ideas of corporeality; materiality; affect; emotion; vitalism;
becoming; belonging.

ABSTRACTS & TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

Please forward abstracts (no longer than 250 words) to Andrew Gorman-Murray
(andrewgm@uow.edu.au) and Scott Sharpe (S.Sharpe@adfa.edu.au) by COB Wednesday 15 December
2010. This event is sponsored by the Institute of Australian Geographers and some travel assistance is
available for post-graduate researchers presenting at the conference. Priority for this assistance will be
given to postgraduate members of the IAG or the NZGS.
On the Development of Geography (and History) ‘Standards’

Aim
Complete a national demonstration project to define discipline-based learning outcomes in terms of threshold discipline knowledge, discipline specific skills and professional attributes and capabilities (Threshold Learning Outcomes – TLOs).

Why Geography and History as demonstration disciplines?
Geography and History were selected by Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH)¹ and a national forum as demonstration disciplines for reasons including:

• Unambiguous location of History within ASSH Faculties around Australia compared with the challenges associated with Geography’s manifold locations in different university structures.
• Distinctive methodological and conceptual challenges associated with History and Geography.
• Different levels of attention given to these disciplines in benchmarking processes in other jurisdictions (e.g. QAA, Tuning).
• Opportunity for timely engagement with recent developments in Australian school curricula for Geography and History.

Who is currently involved
• ALTC-appointed Discipline Scholar to facilitate the work.
• Discipline-nominated Reference Groups² to:
  ➢ Provide advice to the Discipline Scholar;
  ➢ Draft and review drafts
  ➢ Facilitate and support engagement with key stakeholders.

Activities and timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key activities</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geography &amp; History proposed as demonstration disciplines by DASSH Executive and national Forum</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) and Australian Historical Association (AHA) agree to participate. Discipline Reference Groups (DRGs) established; 1st DRG meeting</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Statements prepared; international consultation</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd DRG meeting</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statements refined</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHA &amp; IAG conferences; Heads of HIST/GEOG. Consultation papers circulated.</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National consultation sessions in ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, WA.</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National consultation continues; independent consultant reviews draft Statements</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRGs revise Statements taking account of consultation feedback, independent consultant’s contributions and written submissions from 47 individuals and organisations (e.g. Royal Australian Navy, Academy of Humanities).</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statements finalised and endorsed; final reports drafted</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final report to DEEWR</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The draft Standards

• Expressed as assessable learning outcomes of Bachelor-level graduates.
• Comparable with appropriate international standards.

GEOGRAPHY – 8 TLOs grouped under the following headings:
➢ Knowing
➢ Thinking
➢ Investigating and Problem-solving
➢ Communicating
➢ Self-directing and collaborating

HISTORY – 8 TLOs grouped under the following headings:
➢ Knowledge
➢ Research
➢ Analysis
➢ Communication
➢ Reflection

From ‘demonstration’ to ‘groundswell’
Interest in the development of academic standards has grown throughout the year. Progress is now being made in the following ASSH disciplines:

Anthropology, Demography/Population Studies, Food Studies, Political Science, Sociology, Theology.

Project Leader
Professor Christine Ewan, Australian Learning and Teaching Council

Discipline Scholar
Professor Iain Hay, Flinders University

Project Officer
Mrs Jill Rashleigh, Flinders University
On the Development of Geography (and History) Standards cont....

Although the material set out in the Figure describing the development of Geography standards (page 6) refers to Geography’s links with the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities Discipline Group, all aspects of the discipline (e.g. physical, human-environment relations, Geographical Information Systems) have been considered in the establishment of Geography standards.

Members of the Geography Discipline Reference Group are: Robyn Bartel (UNE), Lorraine Craig (Imperial College, London), Kevin Dunn (UWS), Donna Ferretti (Donna Ferretti Consulting), Iain Hay (Flinders), Lesley Head (Wollongong), Stephen Legg (Monash), Brad Ruting (Productivity Commission) Nigel Tapper (Monash).

FASTS News

ABC Science Show, With Robyn Williams, Midday, Saturday 28 August

CEO of FASTS Anna-Maria Arabia speaks about the options for Australian science once a new government is in place in Canberra.

Eighty per cent of Australians think that science and science education are absolutely essential or very important to the national economy, yet the 5-week election campaign failed to deliver any long-term vision about this important economic driver that matters to so many voters.

Beyond a few modest commitments to science communication and teaching, scientists and innovators can’t be blamed for feeling unloved and leaderless.

There has been little or no recognition that without investment in science and innovation we would not be in a position to lay optic fibre across the country, nor could exploration and exploitation of Australia’s natural resources be possible.

Yet these are some of the most important policy issues that have influenced how Australians voted and which will determine the outcome of the election.

The truth is, science is the bedrock of the policies that are currently the subject of negotiation between the Parties and the independents in a quest to form government. Science is the basis of almost everything: the national broadband network, better health solutions in remote locations, and farmers whose prosperity relies on new technology to adapt to a changing climate and better pest control to ensure a healthy harvest - to name just a few. The independents have a reputation for being motivated by substance rather than politics. So, one would expect a sympathetic ear to policies that support science and that allow Australia to keep ahead of the game. But we will not remain ahead if we stick to the status quo.

The 34 per cent increase in government spending on research and innovation over the last term of government was both welcome and necessary.

But now is no time to be shy about investment in science.

Particularly when the US is doubling its basic science spending to 2016, including a 6 percent increase in 2011 alone; and China is witnessing a 25 per cent increase in central government funding to the science and technology sectors. It is little wonder that China has officially become the world’s second biggest economy, overtaking Japan.
Simply maintaining investment in science at its current levels really does mean going backwards. Australia runs the real risk of falling further behind the pack. Our current research expenditure is less than 2 per cent of GDP and Australia ranks 13th amongst OECD countries on this score. Just to match our international competitors, we need to see investment increase to about 3 per cent of GDP. This is not ambitious. This is achievable. And what’s more, this sort of investment pays back in spades. In fact the OCED has shown that the arrival of new ideas and technology gives rise to 50-70 percent of productivity growth. And a strong and productive science sector needs to be supported by a strong and productive workforce. Left unattended, over the next decade Australia will simply not have enough researchers to meet demand.

Forty per cent of current academics are aged 50 plus, and high school and university students are simply not taking up science and maths subjects in the numbers we need. Training takes time. Now is the time to act, not when the skills shortage is upon us. This requires a forward-looking government. One prepared to make the investment in training and to sort out messy immigration issues before we find ourselves unable to compete in attracting researchers from abroad, and unable to train and retain enough researchers domestically. And of course, all Australians in every electorate will be the winners if our parliamentarians take into account the scientific evidence base when making decisions about policy and the future of our nation.

When peer-reviewed science is treated in the same way as opinion, anecdotal evidence or unsubstantiated claims, science as a discipline suffers and the community is poorer for it. The following question was put to political Parties in the FASTS’ Federal Election Questionnaire: Does your Party accept that peer-reviewed scientific evidence should be used as a primary source of information in decision making?

It deeply troubles me that the Coalition responded that it was their belief that (and I quote) “all government decisions should be considered and well informed and where appropriate scientific evidence and opinion must be consulted.” Scientists Australia-wide, and indeed the broader community, are right to feel deeply uncomfortable with a position that places opinion on an equal footing with research and knowledge that has been gathered by some of Australia’s most respected and scientific authorities, such as the CSIRO.

Independent and scientific advice must always be delivered to and heard by governments, not just when it is appropriate. Scientists are the first to recognise that other factors may influence decision making, such as economic circumstances, but opinion should not be one of those factors. We must remain a nation driven by knowledge, not stifled by doubt. Science is at its best when we have a supported, trusted and confident science community; when governments are prepared to factor in the scientific evidence base in their decision making; when the community at large is scientifically literate; and when there is recognition that every taxpayer dollar invested in science is a dollar well spent.

Science should not be a partisan issue. It is bigger than politics. It is critical to our quality of life and economic prosperity. It is the foundation of sound decision making.

Whatever the configuration of the 43rd parliament, it is essential that science is treated as an investment, not a cost. Our representatives in parliament require the fortitude and wisdom to balance sectional interests against the long-term national interest. And the electorate should expect no less.

(Source: http://www.fasts.org/images/News2010/100828%20transcript%20abc%20science%20show%20with%20robyn%20williams.pdf)
Conferences

Critical Making and Social Media
12-14 November 2010
Centre for the Study of the United States, Munk School of Global Affairs
University of Toronto
http://diycitizenship.com/

National Rural/Regional Law and Justice Conference
19-21 November, 2010
Lady Bay Resort - Warrnambool, South Western Victoria
Hosted by Deakin University

Understanding the changing space, place and cultures of Asia
The Southeast Asian Geography Association (SEAGA) biennial conference
23-26 November 2010, Hanoi.
<http://www.seaga.co.nr/seaga-2010>

Spaces and Flows: An international Conference on Urban and Extraurban Studies
4-5 December 2010
University of California, Los Angeles, USA
http://www.spacesandflows.com/conference-2010/

Social Causes, Private Lives
The Australian Sociological Association Conference 2010
6-9 December 2010, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

7th International Conference on Environmental, Cultural and Social Sustainability
University of Waikato, New Zealand
5-7 January 2011
http://www.SustainabilityConference.com

International Symposium for Society and Resource Management
13-17 June 2011, Kota Kinabalu
Co-sponsored by Curtin and ANU
7th International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and Society
25-27 March 2011
University of Basque Country, Spain
http://www.Technology-Conference.com

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference
31 March - 4 April 2011, Chicago Palmer House Hilton, USA
http://www.mpsanet.org/

Fences, Walls and Borders: State of Insecurity?
17-18 of May 2011
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
http://www.absborderlands.org/

Australian and New Zealand Map Society (ANZMapS) Conference
24-28 May 2011
State Library of NSW

9th International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities
8-11 June 2011, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
http://www.HumanitiesConference.com

Joint IUGG Symposia
Revisiting experimental catchment studies in forest hydrology
28 June – 7 July 2011, Melbourne

14th Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education Conference
29 June-1 July 2011, Fremantle
http://www.fyhe.com.au

Planning’s Future – Futures Planning: Planning in an Era of Global (Un)Certainty and Transformation
World Planning Schools Congress
4-8 July 2011, Perth Western Australia
Conferences cont...

18th International Conference on Learning
5-8 July 2011, University of Mauritius, Mauritius
http://www.LearningConference.com

Global Studies Conference
18-20 July, 2011
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
http://www.GlobalStudiesConference.com

Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Video, Audio, New Media and Feminism
21-23 July 2011, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
http://www.flinders.edu.au/console-ing-passions

6th International Conference of Critical Geography 2011
“Crises – Causes, Dimensions, Reactions”
16-20 August 2011, Frankfurt, Germany
http://www.iccg2011.org

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity
26 – 30 September 2011, Aberdeen, Scotland
www.marine-biodiversity.org

5th State of Australian Cities Conference
28 November - 2 December 2011, Melbourne
From June 27th to July 1st 2010 Felicity Wray of the Urban Research Centre (University of Western Sydney) attended the bi-annual Summer Institute in Economic Geography which this year was held at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. The week long event was hosted by Jamie Peck and Trevor Barnes. Other special guest speakers and facilitators included Kim England (University of Toronto), David Rigby (UCLA) Nik Heynen (University of Georgia, Athens, GA) and Rachel Silvey (University of Colorado at Boulder). It was a great event to meet other young economic geographers from all over the world and against such a beautiful backdrop too. The format of the event mostly consisted of panel discussions facilitated by attendees that centred on methods, theory and research proposals. There was also a day devoted to field trips which included a visit to the Carnegie Centre in Vancouver’s deprived Downtown Eastside, a visit to North Shore Film Studios and the Museum of Mining.
On June 10th Felicity Wray and Phil O’Neill from the Urban Research Centre (University of Western Sydney) attended a Symposium on International Best Practice in Local and Regional Development hosted by Professor John Tomaney (Monash University and Newcastle University England) in Melbourne CBD. The one-day symposium was designed to inform a dialogue between European and Australian researchers, stakeholders and policymakers about new approaches to spatial policy. This vibrant and well attended event was opened by The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Regional and Rural Development and Minister for Industry and Trade in Victoria. This was followed by a range of presentations where speakers spoke about their own experiences and approaches of forming and implementing spatial policies. Such speakers included Dr Ronnie Hall, Directorate-General for Regional Policy at the European Commission, Louise Marra from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet New Zealand, David Admans from the Federal Innovative Regions Centre and Andrew Lewis from The Northern Way, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Presentations were also given by Professor Phil McCann from Groningen University and Professor Andres Rodriguez-pose of LSE.
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

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
- Professor Katherine Gibson and Professor Julie Graham 2010

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

- Professor Iain Hay 2008
- Associate Professor Tony Sorenson 2008
- 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
Grants and Awards Received

**Philip Hirsch (Sydney)** with Ben Boer, Ben Saul and Fleur Johns of the Faculty of Law (UoS) were awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for their project ‘Mekong Laws: Scales, Sites and Impacts of ‘Hard’ and ‘Soft’ Law in Mekong River Basin Governance’. The ARC grant is valued at $300,000 and the study will be conducted over 3 years from 2011.

**Lesley Head** and **Chris Gibson (UoW)** were part of a successful consortium which received $25 million in funding through the Federal Government’s Education Investment Fund for a project entitled Retrofitting for Resilient and Sustainable Buildings. The project includes: the construction of a core facility for developing low energy impact technologies appropriate for retrofitting residential and commercial buildings; funding for new training university and TAFE training programs in sustainable building and retrofitting; and funding to establish ‘living laboratories’ – i.e. existing homes that will be retrofitted and analysed longitudinally for their sustainability impact. The project is largely based in the Faculty of Engineering at UOW, but human geographers are to play a key role contributing insights on cultural dimensions of household sustainability, and in particular, households’ everyday cultural engagements with technologies, objects and materials in the home.

**Leah Gibbs (UoW)** has won a URC Grant ($12,000) for a project entitled: “Australian water governance in an era of climate change”.

**Natascha Klocker (UoW)** has won a URC Grant ($15,000) for a project entitled: “Climate change and cultural diversity: how the attitudes and behaviours of ethnically diverse Australians influence household sustainability”.

**Barbara Pini (Curtin)** with Soldatic, K., Meekosha, H. and Morris, C., has been awarded an ARC discovery grant for their study on disability in rural Australia. Valued at $188,000, the study will run from 2011 to 2013.

PhDs

**Javier Leon** was awarded a PhD by the University of Wollongong for a thesis entitled Torres Strait reefs and carbonate production: A geospatial approach.

**Christine Eriksen** has completed her human geography doctoral studies at the University of Wollongong, which explored the affect of amenity-led migration on awareness, preparedness and attitudes towards bushfire in southeast Australia.
Geographers are Working On...

Donald McNeill (UoWS) co-edited a special issue of Environment and Planning A (November 2010) entitled Geographies of Space Design, along with Dr James Faulconbridge of Lancaster University. The issue explores some key intersections between architecture, design and urban space, with papers by Louise Crewe (concerning the linkages between architecture and fashion), Norman Rantisi and Deborah Leslie (examining creative industries and urban workspace), Faulconbridge (the globalization of architectural design), and McNeill (a cultural economy of airport design and organisation).

Phillip O'Neill (UoWS) is spending six months in the second half of 2010 as a Senior Visiting Fellow in the School of Geography of the Environment at the University of Oxford. Phil is working on infrastructure issues surrounding his 2010-12 ARCDP project, Developing criteria to help solve Australia’s urban infrastructure crisis. While in the UK and Europe, Phil is giving visiting seminars at the Universities of Bristol, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Manchester, Birmingham and Bologna.

Amanda Davies (Curtin) is spending the first part of 2011 as a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford. Amanda will join the Institute of Ageing to undertake research on international retirement migration. Amanda will be looking at the impact of the global financial crisis on this population movement.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (ANU) gave a keynote address at a conference in Cambodia on ‘The “People” Dimension of Mining’, in the 1st International Mining Conference: Staking a Claim for Cambodia, Organised jointly by the UN and Royal Government of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 26-27th May, 2010. She also presented a paper ‘Dancing with the River’ at the 13th International River Symposium held in Perth from 11-14 October, 2010.

News From the Universities

University of Western Sydney - Urban Research Centre

From 5-7th October  Borce Dimeski, Spatial and GIS Analyst at the UWS Urban Research Centre attended the spatial@gov Conference & Exhibition in Canberra. The driving topic across many sessions was the implementation of community engagement information systems which has changed the way GIS and location based technologies are delivered. Crowd-sourcing technologies were also discussed, especially in being able to help local councils maintain and better manage their city plus a means to share location based information across a wide GIS community.

Urban Research Centre PhD Candidate, Tara Andrews recently presented her paper titled ‘Mobilising the University as a frontier for design-led social innovation’ at the Sustainability in Design: Now! Conference in Bangalore, India. The focus of the conference was on knowledge exchange between East and West in Sustainable Design and Design for Social Innovation. Tara had the opportunity to catch up with international members of the Design for Social Innovation (DESIS) network to further discussions on how design faculties in Australia, including UWS, can contribute to this project. Tara’s paper will shortly be available on the URC staff pages.
Members On the Move

Sarah Prout has moved from the Centre of Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at the Australian National University to take up a position as Associate Professor of Rural and Remote Health at the Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health (CUCRH) in Geraldton, WA.

Christine Eriksen has been appointed as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow within AUSCCER (UoW). Her post-doctoral research will examine gendered dimensions of bushfire risk engagement and bushfire resilience on the rural-urban interface.

Ruth Lane left the Environment and Planning Program at RMIT University in June 2010 to take up a position as Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Environmental Science at Monash University. She now coordinates the Masters of Environment and Sustainability at Monash University.

Members Recent Publications


Edward Elgar Publishing have recently released a new edited book by Susan McGrath-Champ (Sydney), Andrew Herod (University of Georgia) and Al Rainnie (Curtin). The book provides a comprehensive overview of the analytical interactions between geography, space, work and employment.


Chris Gibson and John Connell have finished editing their book on festivals, Festival Places: Revitalising Rural Australia. It is due out through Channel View (UK) in the new year and features contributions from several IAG members around Australia.

Barbara Pini (Curtin) has a number of new books including:


Iain Hay (Flinders) and Philip Giles (St Mary’s University, Nova Scotia) have recently published the first Canadian edition of Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences (2010, Oxford University Press, Toronto, 312pp). This is the ‘Canadianised’ version of Iain’s volume available in Australia under the same title. Oxford University Press is expecting to release the 4th edition of the Australian version of Communicating in time for the 2012 academic year.
Brendan Whyte, Assistant Map Curator at the National Library has recently published ‘The Railway Atlas of Thailand, Laos and Cambodia’, available from White Lotus, Bangkok.

The atlas presents detailed maps of three Southeast Asian countries, depicting every known railway, tramway and mass-transit line, public or private, past and present. The bilingual maps locate and name every station in both local and Romanised scripts. In addition, the extensive text describes the railway history of each country, and for each line gives a detailed commentary on its conception and construction, notable features such as bridges, tunnels and spurs, as well as a chronology, station listing, and reference list.

Postgraduate News

Postgraduate workshop in the NZGS/IAG Conference, 2010
By Miriam Williams (University of Newcastle) and Marcela Palomino Schalscha (University of Canterbury)

On Monday 5th July a postgraduate event entitled “From plans to papers: A forum on the postgraduate writing experience”, was held on the first day of the New Zealand Geographical Society (NZGS) combined conference with the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) in Christchurch, New Zealand. The event began with an informal lunch at Dux de Lux, a popular restaurant in Christchurch with approximately 55 people enjoying a two course meal which provided the space for students to meet and form connections. Following on from the lunch, students were provided with an opportunity to engage in a conversation on the postgraduate writing experience at the conference venue with four panel members in a forum. The forum involved the participation of Professor Audrey Kobayashi (Queen’s University, Canada), Dr Rae Dufty (University of Western Sydney, Australia), Dr Peyman Zawar-Reza (University of Canterbury, NZ), and Dr Mark Riley (University of Portsmouth, UK). The forum panellists spoke for 10 minutes on their own personal experience of postgraduate writing, publishing and/or as members of journal editorial boards, which included information about their research specialities, varied experiences and even some personal confessions that brought humour to the room, helped to break the ice and put the individual struggles in our work into perspective.
Postgraduate News

We were lucky to have such an exciting and varied panel, with panellists at different career stages, from both human and physical geography. It was also exciting to have 80 students participate from numerous universities throughout Australia and New Zealand, and also a few students from places like the USA and UK. The panellist presentations were followed by a space for questions, where issues like when a postgraduate should begin publishing, how to select an appropriate journal for your paper, and what makes a good conclusion, among many other interesting questions were raised. The answers from the panellists were very helpful and down-to-earth, and it was great to see the different opinions on certain issues.

It was a very supportive and inspiring event, and although not perfect, we are sure helped everybody in the room with their own work and studies. According to the feedback forms that were handed out, overall people found the event positive and helpful, with one forum participant commenting that “it was good to hear views from academics at very different stages of their careers and also to hear them speak from different aspects of the same topic”.

Many students made suggestions for future events on different topics related to the experience of Geography postgraduate students, like interactive facilitated workshops on writing, thesis examination, giving conference presentations, relationships with supervisors, experience of writing a Masters dissertation, and supportive discussions between students about their postgraduate experiences.

The event was generously sponsored by the Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences Network, New Zealand, the IAG and NZGS.

We are very happy of the opportunity to have a postgraduate space in the NZGS/IAG conference, and pleased by the great results of the workshop. We look forward to future opportunities for postgraduate students to meet and share experiences, as we could hear and read how much interest there is from our fellow postgraduate students.

Thank you to all of the people who attended, supported and contributed to the event!

New PhD Students

Lada Phadungkiati from University of Sydney is working with Philip Hirsch on formal and informal trade in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Tubtim Tubtim from University of Sydney is working with Kurt Iveson on counterurbanisation and class encounters in periurban Thailand.

Sunil Bajpai from University of Sydney is working with Deirdre Dragovich on sustainable national parks and tourism

Paul Smith from University of Sydney is working with Phil McManus on understanding processes of new urban development

Sophia Maalsen from University of Sydney is working with Kurt Iveson on a life history of sound

Lesley Lewis from University of Sydney is working with Kurt Iveson on geographies of disability, resilience and social justice

Erin Smith from University of Sydney is working with Bill Pritchard working on drought, climate change and rural adjustment
As a mature age student, returning to the academic world after 20 years away, and earning a Bachelor’s Degree with First Class Honours in one year, my recent life has been full of new experiences. I am currently applying for acceptance of my candidature as a PhD student.

The process I have been undergoing over the last 18 months can be described as “learning a new language”, by the reading of arcane discourses in an evolved lexicon far removed from everyday language, seeking to gain fluency in writing and speaking the language of Geography. I have been fortunate during my time at the University of the Sunshine Coast. I have been able to serve as a tutor in two Geography course and to work as a Research Assistant, helping develop a curriculum for a new Animal Geography course. By having these responsibilities added to my own studies my immersion in the ‘new language’ has been near total. My days are full of exploration, following leads, seeking depth in my understanding of interwoven concepts. Language is the key to all of this.

So, with the opportunity to present a paper at the IAG/NZGS conference, I was excited and a bit challenged. To share my first research project, that I had worked on for much of a year, to professionals in a field to which I had only recently been introduced, caused me some trepidation. I joined the Institute of Australian Geographers to indicate my pleasure at being accepted to present, as well as to open opportunities for collaborative work in the future. I was delighted to discover that a travel grant could be applied for, specifically to attend the annual conference. With only days to get the grant request to the Secretary, I only just made it on time. The grant came through, and I was off to Christchurch.

Just as one can learn only so much of a language from books, but can learn quickly, and with more of the subtleties, if one immerses oneself in a cultural setting where the language is that of normal conversation, so I found myself listening carefully, hearing the words I have been reading, spoken aloud. My confidence grew, my paper was presented (and well received), and I came away with a previously unattained skill – now I speak Geographer.

As a researcher in Human Geography, specializing in Animal Geography, it was a key experience for me to hear others whose work is in the same field. To experience Kay Anderson reading her newest paper, and to have a chance to chat with her was inspiring. Other presenters who stood out, for me, were Lisa Parks, David Conradson, Tony Binns, Guil Figgins, Geoff Kearlsey, Janet Cothran, Annie Potts, Julie Cupples, and Caroline Orchiston. I attended 39 presentations, two keynotes, one workshop and the IAG annual meeting.

Attending the pre-conference workshop for post-graduate students was worthwhile, especially meeting other students, hearing their stories. The IAG meeting, with the discussion about the relationship with Wiley-Blackwell Publishing was an eye-opener for me, to better grasp the role of the Journal in relation to the IAG.

I appreciate, very much, the generous support from the IAG to enable me to attend the conference. What I learned will support my future work as a Geographer in many ways.
As you may be aware of, since the end of 2009 a new publication has been added to the IAG website. Geoview is an online journal intended to encourage and publicise the work of undergraduate students of Geography and Environmental Studies across Australian universities. The journal is accessible from this address:


Geoview publishes the best of student work on the recommendation of assessors and with the consent of the student-authors. Papers undergo a peer-review process generally undertaken by postgraduate students. Geoview is ready to welcome papers written for assessment by undergraduate students that received very high grades (i.e. HD) and review then for publication. This is an important opportunity for undergraduate students to gain some experience with the publication process. We hope to be able to continue with this initiative and maintain a forum for undergraduate students to publish their high quality work, but we need the help of all of you who see the students and mark their work!

Geoview relies heavily on promotion from teachers and tutors, and their encouragement to students to submit their papers. The submission process is very simple and it is explained in detail on the Geoview website. We would be most grateful if teachers and tutors could encourage their best students to submit their work to Geoview and circulate this information throughout their departments and schools.