From the President

As previously reported, our secretary Alaric Maude has been the Lead Writer in the National Curriculum process for K-12 Geography, and several executive members are on the advisory group. The draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Geography document is currently going through an extensive process of review. Over the coming years it will challenge University geography departments to revise their curricula also, since all Australian children will have experience of geography in years K-10.

At the university level, there are two main areas of current activity. We are monitoring the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) process and its implications for Geography, and I will report further on this in Christchurch in July. Broadly, the main issues identified so far by members are the journal rankings, and the disciplinarity question. There appear to be anomalous rankings of journals, particularly by comparison with other related disciplines. Further, with ERA considering things very tightly in FoR codes, there is widespread concern that the interdisciplinarity of geography will receive insufficient recognition. This has strongest implications for small organisational units whose publications may fall below the threshold to be considered in one of the geography codes.

Secondly, we are involved in the Australian National Learning and Teaching Academic Standards (LTAS) project as it relates to Geography. Our Vice President, Iain Hay, is Discipline Scholar for Humanities Arts and Social Sciences, and Geography is being considered in this group, but with the strong consciousness that it is a discipline spanning both natural and social sciences. Iain has reported on this process in this newsletter and via the IAG-list.

I will hand over the Presidency to Iain Hay at the NZGS/IAG conference in Christchurch in July, where I look forward to catching up with many IAG members. I would like to thank Council for their support over the past two years, including during some difficult times for me personally. Particular thanks go to Alaric Maude and Stewart Williams who, as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, have worked with great diligence and professionalism on behalf of us all.

Lesley Head
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As a member of the IAG you are part of an active community of geographers and related professionals. Through your membership you can network with other geographers and learn about new approaches, methods, and techniques. Through the IAG’s conferences, study groups and discussion forums you can stay on top of current research in your specialty.

The IAG provides a voice in national discussions of significance to geography/geographers such as the academic standards framework and the national geography curriculum.

The IAG also supports emerging and established researchers through generous travel grants, financial support for specialty workshops and awards for excellence.

Some of the Benefits of Membership...
• Four copies of Geographical Research per year
• Two copies of the IAG Newsletter per year
• Generous travel grants for postgraduate members to attend national IAG conferences
• Generous travel grants for postgraduate and early career members to attend the IGU conference
• Support for study group activities (for example, mini-conferences, regional workshops, support for international speakers).
• Members can ‘advertise’ their recent books/publications on the IAG website and in the newsletter
• Members can ‘advertise’ their forthcoming conferences/workshops in the newsletter and on the IAG website
• Access to the IAG list
• Support for an annual postgraduate workshop (held in conjunction with the annual conference)

In Addition...
your membership will increase the ability of the Institute to:
• Make submissions on behalf of Geography and geographers on matters such as human research ethics, Geography in secondary schools, the statistical classification of geographical research, the assessment of geographical research and the rating of geographical journals
• Promote the position of Geography in Australian universities (the President has played a significant role in defending the status of Geography in two Australian universities)
• Recognise outstanding individual contributions to Geography and the IAG through a variety of awards

Please encourage your colleagues and postgraduate students to join
Inaugural Fay Gale Lecture (given by Professor Kay Anderson)

The inaugural Fay Gale lecture was held on Wednesday 10 March 2010 at UWS’ Parramatta campus. Established by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA), this annual lecture series honours the late Professor Fay Gale who passed away in 2008. During her life, Professor Gale achieved many significant personal and professional milestones as: being the first Honours Geography graduate from Adelaide University; the first female PhD graduate in Geography from Adelaide University; the first female professor at Adelaide University (at a time when there was only a small number of female professors nationwide); and first female President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and of the Association of Australian Vice-Chancellor’s Committee.

Professor Gale’s work focussed on “the interface of ‘culture’ and ‘environment’” (Anderson, 2008), exploring the complexities in the intersections of human and physical geography, and in particular, of ‘city’ and ‘Aborigine’. Her work challenged persistent perceptions which associated supposedly authentic indigeneity with isolated, desert settings and foregrounded instead those caught in-between the blunt racial categories of ‘black’ and ‘white’ and on the spatial fringes of cities and suburbs (Anderson, 2008).

In front of a well-attended audience, proceedings were opened by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Janice Reid, who spoke of her roots in being a graduate of Adelaide University who had also encountered Fay’s work and helpful influence. ASSA representative, Professor David Goodman of the University of Sydney, advised that the Fay Gale Lecture will be an annual event that will ‘travel’ around different universities every year. After being introduced by friend and colleague Professor Kathie Gibson, Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, UWS, Kay presented her paper, Provocation from the Periphery: Rethinking ‘The Human’ in Memory of Fay Gale, which eloquently wove together a tribute to Fay, while simultaneously offering an overview of Kay’s current research focus, and Fay’s enduring influence on her work.

Professor Anderson has subsequently presented the lecture at the University of Adelaide on 18 March, and at the University of Wollongong on 28 April.

Academic Standards in Geography

The Australian Government is developing a new Higher Education Quality and Regulatory Framework as part of its Education Revolution. Among other things, the Government is establishing the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) to regulate the sector against agreed standards for higher education. Five elements to the regulatory framework are likely:

In developing the learning and teaching standards, the Government has made clear it is committed to the active involvement of the academic community. To that end, the Government has commissioned the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) to manage the Learning and Teaching Academic Standards (LTAS) project. The approach is designed to ensure that discipline communities define and take responsibility for implementing academic standards within the academic traditions of collegiality, peer review, pre-eminence of disciplines and academic autonomy.

Value of standards

The LTAS project will help protect national and local academic reputations by setting out expectations about threshold standards for degrees in a range of subject areas. These standards will describe what gives a discipline its coherence and identity, and define the skills, knowledge and other attributes that can be expected of a graduate in that discipline. As such, the standards may be of interest to prospective students and employers seeking information about the nature and standards of awards in a subject area.

The LTAS project will not establish a national curriculum. Individual institutions will be free to set learning outcomes over and above national minimum outcomes and increase the number of learning outcomes they expect. They will also be free to determine the processes by which threshold learning outcomes are achieved, including curriculum, learning resources, learning activities and formative and summative assessment methods. It is expected however that the standards will offer a useful resource to assist those involved in program design, delivery and review.
Academic Standards in Geography

ASSH in the LTAS project
The Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (ASSH) aspects of the LTAS project are led by the ALTC Discipline Scholar and IAG Vice-President, Professor Iain Hay, and his Project Officer, Jill Rashleigh (both based at Flinders University). They are working consultatively with the academics, students, employers and other stakeholders over 2010 to define the threshold (or core/minimum) learning outcomes for the bachelor level degree (as defined in the draft Qualification Standards – the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)) with a major in Geography or History. Demonstrated achievement of these threshold learning outcomes is expected to be one aspect (among others) of TEQSA’s evaluation of Australian universities. The specific ways in which TEQSA will monitor standards will be negotiated separately.

It is very important to note that although Geography is being handled within the ASSH grouping, all aspects of the discipline (e.g. physical, human-environment relations, GIS) will be considered in the establishment of Geography standards.

Geography as a demonstration discipline
The Australasian Council of Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (DASSH) recommended History and Geography as demonstration disciplines for this project. That recommendation was supported at a national forum held in Melbourne in February 2010 and subsequently accepted by peak discipline bodies – the Australian Historical Association (AHA) and the Institute of Australian Geographers (IAG) – following discussion with the Discipline Scholar.

By the end of 2010 a set of learning outcomes and a commentary on the process by which they were achieved will be available to advise those disciplines which will follow over the coming years.

Role of the Discipline Scholar
As the Discipline Scholar for Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities Professor Hay will:
• engage discipline communities and higher education institutions in the standards setting agenda.
• facilitate disciplinary development of academic standards as minimum learning outcomes for programs/majors
• provide resources to inform both the new regulatory framework and institutional development of standards related processes.
• lay foundations for demonstrated achievement of learning outcomes by higher education institutions.
Academic Standards in Geography

Discipline Reference Group

A Discipline Reference Group Geography has been nominated by IAG and DASSH to support the LTAS Project by:
providing advice to the Discipline Scholar on the direction and implementation of the Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project
drafting and/or reviewing drafts of project-related material, including statements of threshold learning outcomes
facilitating and supporting engagement with key discipline group stakeholders.
The Geography Discipline Reference Group is:
• Professor Iain Hay, Chair and Discipline Chair
• Professor Lesley Head, President IAG
• Dr Stephen Legg, DASSH Nominee
• Dr Robyn Bartel, Disciple Expert
• Professor Kevin Dunn, Disciple Expert
• Professor Nigle Tapper, Disciple Expert
• Mr Brad Rutting, Recent Graduate
• Dr Lorraine Craig, Disciple Expert (Jurisdiction outside of Australia)
• Dr Donna Ferretti, Relevant Employer Representative

What to know more?

A full discussion of the LTAS project is available on the ALTC website at:  http://www.altc.edu.au/standards This site includes answers to Frequently Asked Questions http://www.altc.edu.au/standards/FAQs

Want to participate?

Sign up to receive a regular monthly ‘Disciplines Setting Standards’ Newsletter http://www.altc.edu.au/standards/newsletter by sending a blank email to join-standards_newsletter@edna.edu.au

Join the discussion of the draft Geography standards to be held at the 2010 NZGS/IAG conference in Christchurch, New Zealand

Respond to calls for comments made through communications from the Institute of Australian Geographers (e.g. iag-list, IAG Newsletter, IAG website).
Want to participate? cont...

Respond to draft standards when they are made available through the IAG listserv, the ALTC website, at the IAG conference, and through other media. (1st versions expected about June).


Phone, write to, or email the Discipline Scholar.

Ask the Discipline Scholar to come speak to your organisation or institution about the LTAS Project.

Forthcoming events

International panel session to discuss draft Geography standards to be held at the 2010 NZGS/IAG conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, 5-8 July. Details at: http://www.nzgs2010.org.nz/

Discussion at Head of Geography Programs meeting to be held in conjunction with the 2010 NZGS/IAG conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, 5-8 July.

Presentation to discuss draft standards to be held at the 2010 DASSH conference in Fremantle WA, 29 September – 1 October. Details at: http://www.dassh.edu.au/conference/2010/about

Contacts
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Professor Iain Hay (Discipline Scholar) iain.hay@altc.edu.au
Conferences

Healthy Climate, Planet and People
2010 Australian Academy of Science Fenner Conference on the Environment
23-24 June 2010, The Shine Dome, Acton ATC.

Local Food Systems in Old Industrial Regions:
Challenges and Opportunities
International Geographical Union Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces
August 3-7, 2010
Toledo, Ohio

Sustainable Societies in the Tropical World
2010 Fulbright 60th Anniversary Symposium
19-20 August, Cairns, 2010

Masculine/ Feminine: New Issues for Geography
16-18 September, 2010
UMR ADES Bordeaux

The Next Generation of Cultural Research: Building New Cultural Intelligence for 21st Century Problems
20-21 September 2010, University of Western Sydney, Parramatta
‘A cultural research conference for postgraduates and ECRs’

Spaces of Difference
20-21 October, 2010
Universita di Milano-Bicocca

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/
Conferences cont...

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

Understanding the changing space, place and cultures of Asia
The Southeast Asian Geography Association (SEAGA) bi-ennial 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

In and Out of Place
For postgraduate and early-career researchers
10 December 2010
Centre for Research on Social Inclusion, Macquarie University

International Symposium for Society and Resource Management
13-17 June 2011, Kota Kinabalu
Co-sponsored by Curtin and ANU

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
In many ways this extremely successful and timely seminar in Delhi organized by Anindita Datta (University of Delhi) and Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (Australian National University) was a first. It was the first major initiative in India to engage gender scholars across and within disciplinary boundaries, the first seminar in India under the banner of the IGU Gender Commission, and also the first attempt to bring together significant number of geographers working on gender related themes in Asia in general and India in particular.

Over three days (March 3-5) geographers from 14 countries engaged in 12 parallel sessions that included more than 45 papers, three plenary sessions, and two workshops. Janice Monk (University of Arizona) was the Guest of Honour and the seminar was opened by Veena Mazumdar, often described as the grandmother of the women’s movement in India, and Amitabh Kundu eminent social scientist of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Brenda Yeoh, (National University of Singapore), Linda Peake (York University, Canada, and Tamara Jacka (Australian National University) were plenary speakers.

Many small touches aimed at widening the field set the seminar apart. Among these were the deliberate inclusion of voices from the margins (early career researchers and geographers from non metro locations); the distribution of important readings to all participants (courtesy of the British WGSG and ANU) and informal get togethers that broke down cultural barriers creating a spirit of bonhomie and camaraderie.

Sessions ranged from methodological issues to the spatial underpinnings of gender and gender performances over different levels of space, including a distinct movement away from the older political economy approach to the more contemporary postmodern and postcolonial approaches to doing gender. Animated discussions spilled over to the coffee breaks and get togethers so that important connections were forged. The seminar cannot but be remembered as a major milestone in widening and deepening the field in Asia in general and India in particular.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (ANU) and Anindita Datta (Delhi University)
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.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each second year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute’s last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee’s suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President. Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee. No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

Professional Services Award

In recognition of a distinguished contribution to geographical education or for the advancement of geographical practice in Australia. Each nominee should be required to have a continuous record of IAG membership of not less than ten years. There will be a maximum of three awards annually.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute’s last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee’s suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President. Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee. No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers

The Fellowship is awarded for distinguished service to the Institute. No more than one Fellowship is to be awarded each year.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute’s last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee’s suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President. Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee. No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

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.

Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute’s last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee’s suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President. Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee. No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

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)
• Emeritus Professor Ian Douglas 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)
Grants and Awards Received

Andy Short (OAM) (Sydney)
was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to science in the area of coastal studies, and to the Australian Beach Safety and Management Program.

Bruce Thom (AM) (Sydney)
was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia as recognition for service to the environment as an adviser and advocate for the ecological management of the coastal zone, as a contributor to public debate on natural resource policy, and to the academic and professional discipline of geography.

Iain Hay (Flinders)
At the recent AAG meetings in Washington DC Iain received the 2010 inaugural Association of American Geographers’ E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Award, for “outstanding contributions to the discipline of geography due to his special competence in teaching and research, especially his work in international education reflecting sustained professional commitments, mentorship and leadership”.

Robert Freestone (University of New South Wales)
was awarded a Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers in September 2009.

Research Grants

Tom Measham (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems)
received $20,000 from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to track and evaluate a discussion forum on regional development and changing service needs relating to the expansion of mining on the Liverpool Plains, NSW.

Phillip O’Neill, Felicity Wray and Tong Wu (UWS Urban Research Centre)
in association with Jane Pollard from CURDS, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne, have received a $40,000 grant from the NSW government to examine impediments to employment growth among Arabic businesses in the Auburn-Bankstown area. The grant is a follow-up to the Centre’s Western Sydney employment study in 2008-9 ($200,000) where the West Central planning sub-region, which includes Auburn and Bankstown, was identified as likely to experience major difficulties in meeting jobs targets over the next 25 years. At the same time, though, the study found the area had a high rate of new enterprise formation with the Arabic, Chinese and Korean communities.

Danielle Drozdewski and Wendy Shaw (University of New South Wales)
have received a Regional and Rural Research and Development Grant (valued as $25,000) to examine “Treechange migration to the NSW Southern Highlands: motivations and outcomes of urban to rural migration”
Stewart Williams and Keith Jacobs (University of Tasmania)

have joined forces with researchers from James Cook University David King (CI), Alison Cottrell, John Ginger and Cam Leitch for the project ‘Adaptation of the Built Environment to Climate Change induced Increases in the Intensity of Natural Hazards’. The project will be funded to the tune of $283,376 (excl GST) over two years 2010-2012 from the Dept Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and delivered through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility’s ‘Emergency Management’ programme. The project has three components: 1.) building construction, building codes and regulations; 2.) urban and regional land-use planning; and 3.) provisions in housing and housing services such as insurance. They will be examined as key mechanisms for implementing climate change adaptation and especially with a focus on the expected worsening impacts of natural hazards.

Geographers are Working On...

Kay Anderson (Centre for Cultural Research, University of Western Sydney)

presented the inaugural Fay Gale Lecture on March 10 (University of Western Sydney), March 18 (University of Adelaide), and April 28 (University of Wollongong). The Lecture, titled ‘A Provocation from the Periphery: Rethinking the Human in Honour of Fay Gale, AO’ was sponsored by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

George Curry and Gina Koczberski (Curtin)

began work on a new four year ACIAR funded project with coffee smallholders in the Eastern Highlands. The project is a collaborative project with CSIRO, the Coffee Industry Corporation of PNG, the Coffee Research Institute, the National Agricultural Research Institute of PNG and Curtin University. Gina and George are continuing with their work on land access and food security among migrant settlers in West New Britain Province, PNG. Presently, they are working with an agronomist in the PNG Oil Palm Research Association to examine intercropping of smallholder oil palm with food crops and fuel wood species on smallholder plots.

Stewart Williams (University of Tasmania)

has been successful in working up several quite diverse collaborations in applying for NCCARF funds. His success firstly has been in bringing together assorted peoples and agencies with applications submitted to NCCARF (National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility). Stewart has had success in the NCCARF ’Emergency Management’ programme is has been but am invited to submit a full research proposal for the ‘Settlements & Infrastructure’ programme. Through his work in writing these proposals Stewart has brought together scholars and practitioners from across quite different disciplinary fields, institutions, state agencies, and corporate organisations as well as various states.

Amanda Davies (Curtin) and Amity James (University of Queensland)

are busy putting the final touches to their new book ‘Geographies of Ageing’. To be published by Ashgate, Amanda and Amity are hoping to have the manuscript finalised before Amity commences 9 months of maternity leave (in July 2010).
University of Western Sydney - Urban Research Centre

The UWS Urban Research Centre has enrolled five new scholarship holding PhD students in 2010, bringing its PhD cohort to nine. The increase has enabled the Centre to institute a systematic training and development program. The new enrolments are from a variety of discipline and education and employment backgrounds, motivated for higher education study by issues related to climate change and social justice in major cities.

The UWS Urban Research Centre’s Graduate Program in Urban Planning and Management (Master, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate) is targeted at graduates seeking to move into the area of urban management and planning; and at existing professionals who are trying to upgrade their skills. After a modest start in 2008-9, the program is building momentum. Critical here has been the accreditation of programs at UWS for professional qualification by the Planning Institute of Australia. This has been achieved by linking the Master program to the UWS College of Arts’ Social Science undergraduate urban studies program. Eleven new students have enrolled in the first semester in 2010 (including four international students) and the expectation is that this will grow consistently as students are fed from the undergraduate program in search of their professional accreditation. Coordinator for the program is Professor Peter Phibbs.

University of New South Wales

UNSW Geography is growing, with postgraduates working on a vast range of topics, spanning the breadth of geography and cognate disciplines.

Research synergies between human and physical geography are building, particularly since the arrival of Associate Professor Dale Dominey-Howes, Professor James Goff, Dr Catherine Chague-Goff, and their team of postgraduates working in the Natural Hazards Research Laboratory and the Australian Tsunami Research Centre.

After completing two ACIAR funded projects in PNG (3 years) and an AHURI project on Aboriginal Homelessness (led by Christina Birdscall-Jones, Curtin), Wendy Shaw (with Danielle Drozdzewski) has commenced ‘A historical geography of cotton farming in NSW & Qld: adaptation and adoption’, funded by Cotton Catchment Communities CRC ($166K).

University of Wollongong

In February Dr Natascha Klocker commenced as Lecturer in Human Geography. Natascha’s research interests are in the fields of development studies, children’s geographies, migration and racism studies.

In May Dr Leah Gibbs commenced as Lecturer in Geography. Leah’s research focuses on the cultures and politics of water.

Dr Emily O’Gorman has been appointed on a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER). Emily brings to AUSCCER skills and experience in environmental history, including major projects on floods in the Murray-Darling basin, and bushfire in Victoria. She will be working on a project on cultures of sustainability in the Murray-Darling agricultural sector.

Dr. Jenny Atchison was appointed as Senior Research Assistant at the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER)
Jenny has multi-disciplinary research skills spanning ethnobotany, archaeology and cultural geography. She will be working with Lesley Head on her various ARC Laureate Fellowship projects.

In April Chris Brennan-Horley commenced as GIS Project Manager (Human Geography) at the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER). Chris bring to AUSCCER skills in meshing GIS with qualitative methods in cultural geography. Chris will be working with Chris Gibson and Gordon Waitt on their ARC Discovery Project: Cultural Sustainability in Australian Country Towns.

Elyse Stanes has been appointed in an on-going position as Human Geography Technical Officer, providing support to human geography undergraduate teaching and the newly established Human Geography Laboratory at the University of Wollongong.

In May, Chris Gibson was promoted to professor.

Dr. Marji Puotinen will soon move to Ohio, USA for three years during which time she will retain an association with UOW as an honorary fellow while continuing her research as a visiting fellow at Ohio State University.

Curtin University of Technology – School of Social Science and Asian Languages

The geography program at Curtin continues to gather momentum. Along with high undergraduate enrolments, the geographers recently welcomed two post-graduate students from PNG: Veronica Gawi-Bue from Unitech, a PhD student examining the role of smallholder farmers in sustaining household food security at the Hoskins and Bialla Oil Palm Land Settlement Schemes, PNG, and Senny Mendano, Masters student, investigating the effectiveness of extension services provided to smallholder farmers by the Oil Palm Industry Corporation in West New Britain Province, PNG.

John Selwood from the University of Winnipeg, Canada, has been working with geographers from UWA and Curtin. With his Curtin colleagues, he has been exploring the role of local markets in rural changes in the south-west of the State.

University of Tasmania – School of Geography and Environmental Studies

Michael Lockwood, senior lecturer and Deputy Head, co-edited the book Connectivity Conservation Management: A Global Guide. This groundbreaking book is the first guide to connectivity conservation management at local, regional and continental scales. It establishes a context for managing connectivity conservation. Written under the auspices of the World Commission on Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, this guide brings together a decade and a half of practice and covers all aspects of connectivity planning and management.

Aidan Davison has written a chapter, Technonatures: Environments, Technologies, Spaces, and Places in the Twenty-first Century, in an edited collection called Living Between Nature and Technology: The Suburban Constitution of Environmentalism in Australia. In this innovative collection, leading international thinkers explore the notion that one explanation for the current malaise of the “politics of ecology” is that we increasingly find ourselves negotiating “techno-natural” space/times. International contributors map the political ecologies of our techno-natural present and indicate possible paths for techno-natural futures.
Chris Watson and Neil Holbrook have been awarded ARC Super Science Fellowships as partners in larger teams led by Maths and Physics and the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies.

Neil Holbrook, Associate Professor in Climatology and Climate Change in the School, is undertaking research which will for the first time provide a clear indication of the relationship between the physical environment of the benthic habitats on the continental shelf in southeast Australia and the distribution of benthic assemblages, predict future changes in temperature and nutrients in the area, and predict the effects of these changes on the associated benthic biota. These predictions are critical to an informed adaptation response to climate change.

University of Sydney – School of Geosciences

Yayoi Lagerqvist has been appointed as a post-doctoral fellow in the School. She is also a Senior Researcher with the Australian Mekong Resource Centre and is working with Jeff Neilson and Phil Hirsch on several projects associated with agrarian change and natural resource management in Southeast Asia.

National Library of Australia

The National Library of Australia has recently acquired scanned copies of secret Soviet military mapping of Australia from the 1970s-80s. This includes complete coverage of Australia at 1:1,000,000 and 1:500,000 scale, and 1:25,000 scale city plans of Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth. The digital files can be viewed at the library, and copies ordered via the 'Copies Direct' service. These maps complement our other Soviet military holdings, including complete paper and/or digital coverage of Afghanistan, Cambodia, mainland China and Iraq at 1:200,000, and Soviet city plans of various Asian cities at 1:25,000 or 1:10,000.

The Map Section of the National Library of Australia currently has two small public displays: one of late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century maps naming Australia as 'Notasia' / 'Notasie', and the other showing Australian placenames on Mars, including the Canberra and Woomera craters. An upcoming display will highlight early maps naming Australia as 'Ulimaroa'. The displays are in conjunction with the Australian Placenames Survey at Macquarie University.

Members On the Move

Felicity Wray

The UWS Urban Research Centre recently welcomed its newest postdoctoral fellow, Felicity Wray. Felicity completed her PhD in 2008 at the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS) at the University of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Felicity was a lecturer in human geography at UWA in 2009. Her research specialisations are in economic and urban geography related to new firm start-ups, venture capital and broad questions of economic development and social justice.
Frank Vanclay

Frank Vanclay has moved from his position as professor of rural and environmental sociology in the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research at the University of Tasmania to being professor in the Department of Cultural Geography at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. His research will continue along the same topics including social impact assessment, sense of place, social aspects of environmental issues, social aspects of new technologies, and social aspects of farming and rural communities. He is currently finalising the editing of a book on New Directions in Social Impact Assessment (to be published by Edward Elgar). He is also facilitating the process of developing international guidelines for good practice in SIA through the International Association for Impact Assessment. He can be contacted at frank.vanclay@rug.nl

Members Recent Publications

Shawn Laffan (University of New South Wales)

has recently released ‘Biodiverse version 0.14’. Biodiverse is a tool for the spatial analysis of diversity using indices based on taxonomic, phylogenetic and matrix-based (e.g. genetic distance) relationships, as well as related environmental and temporal variations. Biodiverse supports four processes:

- linked visualisation of data distributions in geographic, taxonomic, phylogenetic and matrix spaces;
- spatial moving window analyses including richness, endemism, phylogenetic diversity and beta diversity;
- spatially constrained agglomerative cluster analyses; and
- randomisations for hypothesis testing.

Biodiverse is open-source and supports user developed extensions. It can be used both through a graphical user interface (GUI) and through user written scripts. Further details and download links can be accessed through http://www.purl.org/biodiverse
Philip Hirsch and Nicholas Tapp have edited a new book ‘Tracks and Traces: Thailand and the work of Andrew Turton’. The book is available from Amsterdam University Press.

Daniel Robinson (University of New South Wales) and PhD alumnus of the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney supervised by Professor Philip Hirsch and Dr Bob Fisher, has turned his PhD into a path-breaking new book published by Earthscan. The book is titled; Confronting Biopiracy Challenges, Cases and International Debates.

John Connell (University of Sydney) completed his ‘trilogy’ of books on the migration of health workers. The first, the edited The International Migration of Health Workers (Routledge, 2008) had contributions from several geographers, including Rochelle Ball (ANU). The second The Global Health Care Chain. From the Pacific to the World (Routledge 2009) was a detailed analysis of migration in nine Pacific island states. The third - Migration and the Globalisation of Health Care. The Health Worker Exodus? (Edward Elgar, 2010) – is a comprehensive overview of the global situation.
Iain Hay (Flinders)
The third edition of Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography edited by Iain Hay has just been published (Feb 2010) by Oxford University Press, Toronto. The success of the book’s earlier editions in North America saw publication shift from Oxford (Australia) to Oxford (Canada) for this new edition. The book now includes a new chapter by the University of Western Ontario’s Jamie Baxter on ‘Case Studies’; a completely rewritten chapter by Gordon Waitt exploring Foucauldian discourse analysis; and extensive modifications to other chapters to reflect the ways in which new technologies are changing qualitative research methods.

Deirdre Dragovich (University of Sydney)
with Amiraslani F. has published an article in Natural Resources Forum Vol. 34. The article is titled ‘Cross-sectoral and participatory approaches to combating desertification: the Iranian experience’

Postgraduate News

Lesley Crowe-Delaney (Curtin)
has been awarded a scholarship to attend the ASAA 18th biennial conference to be held in Adelaide in late June. Lesley will present her latest research at the conference and also attend a workshop about translating Old Japanese language.
The ‘Birth’ of the IAG
By Harold Brookfield. Presented at the 2008 IAG Conference (Hobart)

I am sitting on the floor at Keith Thompson’s home in Adelaide late on an August evening not yet quite fifty years ago. There is a fire over to the right and the windows are opposite. There are some twenty people still in the room. The party, which has brought together most of the geographers attending the 1958 ANZAAS, has been a good one and the time has come for more serious business. Someone puts the question: has the time at last come to form a separate professional organization of Australian geographers? Efforts had been made before without success but now, with the Commonwealth government moving rapidly toward comprehensive support of the national university system, we had every prospect of a large and sustained increase in the size of academia. Geography was surely going to share in this, and it was important to get its act together. So there was no disagreement. The time to act was now.

I think we got as far that evening as discussing the name of our new organization, to be launched two or three days later at a hastily assembled meeting. We could not have an Association of Australian geographers because that would cause confusion with the American AAG. So despite demur at seeming to copy the Brits – which I hope I correctly remember voicing – it was agreed that it should be the Institute of Australian Geographers. None of us, at that time, foresaw the day of IAG incorporated.

1958 was a good year in which to come together. The profession was small and was still a single discipline. The real split between physical and human geography was still most of a decade off. Griffith Taylor was still around to be our first president. The quantitative revolution was only just beginning to rise over the trans-Pacific horizon and at least for geographers Karl Marx was still asleep in his remote Highgate tomb. Much was stirring and my generation was very definitely a part of it, but in 1958 it was still all in the future. Even the Beatles still lay a little way down the track. Thinking back from this distance it seems that IAG was born as the immediate post-war era ended, as the great age of decolonization got under way and as geography entered the most turbulent decades in its history. It was a good moment to be born, and to be alive.

The Establishment and First Years of the IAG
By Alaric Maude. Presented at the 2008 IAG Conference (Hobart)

I was too young to be present at the very first meetings of the IAG, although just old enough to be a graduate student and participant at the second conference in 1961. So here I will present the events as recorded in the minutes of the Institute. Others who were present at these events will add flesh to this factual account.

A meeting to establish a national body for geography in Australia was held in Adelaide on 25th August 1958. The minutes of that meeting record that several attempts had been made to create such an organisation since 1952, but without success.
The reasons stated at the Adelaide meeting for a national geographical organisation were:

- Geographers had been meeting annually as Section P of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) (Geography was alphabetically the last Section of ANZAAS, and the social events that geographers enjoyed after conference sessions were popularly called Section Q). But other disciplines were now starting to have more specialised separate meetings, and it was thought that Geography should follow.
- A national organisation was needed for Australian geography to affiliate with the International Geographical Union. At this time the Australian geographical societies were state-based, and only covered Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.
- There was a need for a substantial national journal. The Australian Geographer had been produced by the New South Wales Geographical Society since 1928, but there was a feeling that there was room for a more national journal.

This was also a time of rapid growth in Australian university geography departments and staff, and in enrolments in geography, fuelled by the postwar economic and demographic growth of the nation and the resulting demand for teachers. At the Adelaide meeting Keith Thomson was elected the first Secretary/Treasurer.

Council members were Harold Brookfield, Dick Greenwood, Peter Scott and Alan Tweedie. It was also resolved to invite Professor Griffith Taylor to be the first President. Griffith Taylor had been the first head of a geography department at an Australian university, being appointed as Associate Professor of Geography at Sydney University in 1921. He moved to Chicago in 1929, and then to Toronto. He returned to Australia on retirement in 1951 and became the ‘undisputed dean of the geographical community in Australia’. It was therefore very appropriate to invite him to be the first President.

Griffith Taylor accepted the invitation two days later (by telegram on 27th August 1958), and chaired the inaugural meeting of the interim Council of the IAG held in Canberra in February 1959. The minutes of that meeting record that 42 persons had accepted an invitation to become Foundation Members.

Council also decided to produce a service periodical, Australian Geographical Record, with news from university departments and other research centres and a review of Australian geography. This first appeared in 1959, edited by Harold Brookfield.

The first General Meeting of the IAG was held in Melbourne during the 1960 Conference. The minutes record that 30 members and 24 other geographers attended, and that 54 persons had accepted the invitation to become members. The Constitution drafted by the Interim Council was adopted, with amendments, and a new Council elected. Griffith Taylor continued as President and Keith Thomson as Secretary/Treasurer, Oskar Spate was elected as Vice-President (President Elect), and John Andrews, Harold Brookfield, Dick Greenwood and Alan Tweedie were elected as Councillors.

The first Conference was a more leisurely affair than those of today, with two papers presented each half-day, and only nine papers in all. There were no parallel sessions, and most people went to listen to every paper, regardless of the topic.
The Establishment and First Years of the IAG cont...

The papers presented included two from people who are here:

- H.C. Brookfield, The Highland population concentrations of New Guinea
- M.G.A. Wilson, Some population characteristics of Australian mining settlements

The second conference was held at the University of Queensland in 1961, when 65 members and observers attended, including four overseas visitors and over half the membership of the Institute. The papers presented included one from a person who is here:

- J.H. Holmes, The changing distribution of dairying in coastal New South Wales

There was considerable Council discussion in the first three years about whether and how to publish a journal, which had been one of the original objectives of the IAG. For a small organisation this represented a major, and risky, financial undertaking, with little prospect of any funding support. In 1963 the first issue of Australian Geographical Studies, the name chosen by the members, was published, strongly supported by subscriptions from schools in New South Wales and Victoria.

So by 1963 the three objectives of the establishment of the IAG had been fulfilled. There was now a specialist conference for geographers separate from ANZAAS, Australia had been accepted as a member of the International Geographical Union (in 1960), and there was a national geographical journal.