EDITOR’S NOTE

For those that were unable to attend the IAG conference in Hobart it was one of the most vibrant and content rich conferences I have ever been to. This is certainly an outcome of the hard work put in by the team at the University of Tasmania. However, I also think the ‘positive vibe’ of the conference was an outcome of the ever strengthening position of geography. Many university based geography groups have undergone recent expansions due to new core funded positions and research funded positions. Subsequently, areas of research excellence have been strengthened and new research and teaching interests have emerged. It will be interesting to see how the GFC (global financial crisis) will influence university funding and, in turn, the general ‘positive momentum’ we have recently experienced in geography. It will also be interesting to see how the ‘University of Melbourne Approach’, which is now being considered by a number of other Australian Universities, will influence the position of geography and nature of geography teaching.

There are a number of interesting items in this edition. In particular, I would strongly recommend reading the postgraduate student reflections on the IAG conference and also Alaric Maude’s article on the national geography curriculum.

Again, in this edition you will see that IAG members have been successful in the latest ARC funding rounds. Well done to those individuals who secured funding for their research in a reportedly very competitive year.

As always thank you to those members who submitted information to be included in this edition. The next edition will be printed in June 2009, with the deadline for submissions advertised on the IAG list.

Amanda Davies
University of Western Australia
FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was duty rather than pleasure that made me feel I should read and synthesise the final Garnaut report between its release at the end of September and the second year lecture on climate change adaptation in mid October. Actually I can’t claim to have read all 660 pages, but I did enjoy the process. In structure and style, the report is a model of plain speaking, and plain English writing. It does this without sacrificing nuance and complexity in its wrestle with the ‘diabolical’ problem of climate change. Any scholar who aspires to use their craft in the service of the wider community could learn from Garnaut.

The subject matter of course was not so enjoyable. Commentators obsessed with whether Garnaut had gone too ‘hard’ or ‘soft’ on emissions targets clearly hadn’t read past the executive summary. Whether we’re going for a 450 or a 550 world, as the jargon has it, exactly how are we going to get there? What social processes will we need to mobilise? What risks are acceptable? How will climate interact with economic systems, and at what scales? What hard choices will we need to make, and which people and places will be most affected? Not hard to demonstrate to students that the processes of climate change adaptation and mitigation are intensely geographical ones.

Just when I was depressed at the impossibility of the necessary social change, capitalism apparently collapsed around us. My colleague Chris Gibson rewrote his lecture even faster than me when he had to explain ‘Globalisation and World Cities’ to first year, as stock exchanges went into freefall and governments around the world nationalised the banks. Is there a glimmer of hope in the fact that governments can act decisively, swiftly and cooperatively if they perceive the problem to be significant and urgent enough?

A new book on Griffith Taylor by Carolyn Strange and Alison Bashford was escapist reading by comparison. This beautifully illustrated work, written from Taylor’s papers by two historians, takes us back to a time when academics could take three months to attend the Pacific Science Congress, and had wives who edited and proofread everything they wrote. It is a warts and all look at our high maintenance disciplinary hero, who quite enjoyed the national role of ‘prophet and pariah’. Highly recommended.

Fortunately there are many ways to be geographers, many contributions we can make to the challenges of climate change, and many ways to find a public voice. I wish all IAG members well in their endeavours over the coming months. They are all needed, and more than ever.

Lesley Head  
University of Wollongong

The Garnaut Climate Change Review Final Report is available at www.garnautreview.org.au

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ruth Fincher (Melbourne) was recently elected as a Vice President of the International Geographical Union (IGU). Ruth will serve a four year term (2008-2011). The election took place at the IGU Congress held in Tunis in August 2008.

NOTICE OF MEETING

A Special General Meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers will be held on Monday 24 November 2008, in the Madsen Building at the University of Sydney.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the financial statement for the year 2007-2008. This meeting will be held in conjunction with a Council meeting, and IAG members are invited to join the Council for a light lunch at 1 p.m. The financial statement will be presented at 1.30, and non-Council members are invited to stay for the next item of Council business, which will be a discussion of the national geography curriculum project.

Please inform the Secretary, Alaric Maude, if you are attending, so that you can be provided with any relevant documents, as well as lunch. Contact details are: phone: (08) 8271 7672, email: polymaude@ozemail.com.au

IAG NEWS

A Report from the Council

A General Meeting of the Institute was held during the IAG Conference in Hobart. At that meeting the results of the elections for office bearers and members of Council were announced.

Vice President (President Elect)  Professor Iain Hay
Treasurer  Dr Stewart Williams
Secretary  Associate Professor Alaric Maude
Councillors  Dr Rachel Hughes
  Professor David Gillieson
  Ms Miriam Williams (Postgraduate Student Representative)

The following awards were presented or announced:

Griffith Taylor Medal  Professor Joe Powell
Distinguished Fellowship  Dr Peter Smailes
Fellowship  Associate Professor Tony Sorenson
  Professor Iain Hay
The Council also met twice in Hobart. A major matter for discussion was the promotion of geography in schools, following representations to the then Federal Minister for Education, Julie Bishop, in 2006, and her commissioning of the Erebus International Report into the teaching of geography in Years 3-10 in 2007 (available at: www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/8221F0DF-E962-402E-A64E-0D26B910F328/21023/geographyreport.pdf). The Australian Geography Teachers’ Association representative on Council outlined their plans for a continuing promotion strategy, and also spoke of the desirability of academic and school geographical organisations working together to develop proposals for a national curriculum, before the National Curriculum Board started its own work on a geography curriculum. Council agreed to collaborate in developing the latter project, which is reported on elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Other non-routine matters included:

- The Treasurer reported that membership, which had been declining in 2006 and 2007, had risen to 407 in June 2008.
- A decision to raise the value of the Honours and Postgraduate Awards from $200 to $500.
- A search committee was created to find new Editors for Geographical Research.
- A sub-committee was established to examine the administration and functioning of study groups, to see if any new provisions were needed.
- Council expressed its undying thanks to Jamie Kirkpatrick for his six years as Vice President and President, and for his role in the organisation of the Hobart Conference.

Alaric Maude
Secretary

Towards a National Geography Curriculum for Australia

As most members will be aware, the National Curriculum Board (NCB) is currently preparing curricula for mathematics, science, history and English for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The Board’s aim is to set core content and achievement standards that will be adopted across the nation, while still allowing for variation to suit local conditions. Further information, including the Initial Advice papers on each of the four subject areas above, can be obtained from the Board’s website (www.ncb.org.au).

In the second phase of their work the Board will be developing curricula in languages and geography, in consultation with teachers, academics, education authorities and the community generally. The IAG has joined with the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association and the Royal Geographical Society of
Queensland in establishing a project to develop ideas for the geography curriculum that will hopefully become a major input into the Board’s deliberations. In particular, the aim is to see if the three groups can reach agreement on the key principles of a new curriculum, and can therefore speak with one voice. The IAG Council fully supports this project, and has appointed me as its representative on the Project Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee has developed a set of questions about a national curriculum, and is inviting input on some or all of these questions from anyone interested. They can be found on the Project’s website (www.ngc.org.au), and can be filled in online, or downloaded and emailed. The deadline for responses is 8 December 2008. The Council of the IAG is likely to be making a detailed response, but individual members are also urged to send in their thoughts. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see that IAG members are invited to discuss the Council’s response as part of a Special General Meeting in Sydney on 24 November 2008. During 2009 there will also be opportunities to comment on draft papers produced by the Project, and to participate in workshops around the country.

Any IAG member interested in this project is invited to contact me so that I can keep you informed on what is happening, and enable you to have an input into the Council’s responses. My contact details are: phone: (08) 8271 7672, email: polymaude@ozemail.com.au

If you want to be involved, I would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Alaric Maude
Secretary

News From Geographical Research

Geographical Research Goes to ‘Early View’

We are very pleased to announce that, in cooperation with our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, Geographical Research will now be available electronically, online, in ‘Early View’ (previously termed ‘Online Early’ but changed following the merger of Blackwell Synergy into Wiley InterScience).

Early View papers are produced individually or in small batches. Papers are dealt with in the usual way: submitted to editors, refereed, returned to authors for revision, revised papers are copy-edited by the editors and returned to authors for approval, often with further queries, and then forwarded to the publisher once authors and editors are satisfied. Proofs will be sent from the publisher to authors and the relevant editor as they are prepared individually or in small batches, and the editor will incorporate all the changes into the proof and send the corrections back to the publisher. Authors are asked to note that only errors may be corrected at the proof stage: this is not the time to rewrite the paper. Once the paper is
finalised it is published online, and at that point the article is considered fully published and no further changes can be made. When it is time to collate the issue, papers will be paginated and published in print and in the issue table of contents online. If there is an error in a paper published in Early View it would need to be corrected with an erratum, just as if it had been published in a hard copy issue.

There are two main benefits for authors, as we see it. First, most papers will be published more quickly than at present. There will no longer be a lag between final acceptance and copy-editing, and publication; whereas at present this lag may extend over several months.

Second, authors’ papers receive two exposures: once when the article is placed in Early View, and second when it appears in the printed version. Early View papers are cited by their digital object identifier (doi) number: at that stage they will not have volume, issue or page numbers. In all other respects they are full publications.

Arthur Conacher, George Curry and Roy Jones
Editors Geographical Research

Back Files of Australian Geographical Studies Available Online

Earlier this year Wiley-Blackwell published the entire back history of Geographical Research (then Australian Geographical Studies) online. Content published since 1963 is now available alongside current content, at:
http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/119815348/grouphome/home.html

The IAG and Wiley-Blackwell are currently working on arrangements to provide all IAG members with online access to the back files.

Top Five Most Downloaded Papers for 2007

Congratulations to the authors of the top five most frequently downloaded Geographical Research papers for 2007:


• **Louise Johnson,** *Valuing the Arts: Theorising and Realising Cultural Capital in an Australian City,* Vol. 44, No. 3, September 2006

• **Ian Douglas,** *The Local Drivers of Land Degradation in South-East Asia,* Vol. 44, Issue 2: Theme Issue: IGU 2006 Brisbane Congress, Regional Responses to Global Changes: a View from the Antipodes, June 2006

### IAG Councillors and Officers 2008/2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University/Authority</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td><strong>Professor Lesley Head</strong></td>
<td>University of Wollongong</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lhead@uow.edu.au">lhead@uow.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President (Immediate Past President)</td>
<td><strong>Professor Jim Walmsley</strong></td>
<td>University of New England</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwalmsley@pobox.une.edu.au">dwalmsley@pobox.une.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President (President Elect)</td>
<td><strong>Professor Iain Hay</strong></td>
<td>Flinders University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:iain.hay@flinders.edu.au">iain.hay@flinders.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td><strong>Dr Stewart Williams</strong></td>
<td>University of Tasmania</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Stewart.Williams@utas.edu.au">Stewart.Williams@utas.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td><strong>Associate Professor Alaric Maude</strong></td>
<td>26 Blyth Street</td>
<td><a href="mailto:polymaude@ozemail.com.au">polymaude@ozemail.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary (Web)</td>
<td><strong>Ms Julie Kesby</strong></td>
<td>Australian Defence Force Academy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.kesby@adfa.edu.au">j.kesby@adfa.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td><strong>Professor David Gillieson</strong></td>
<td>James Cook University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:david.gillieson@jcu.edu.au">david.gillieson@jcu.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td><strong>Dr Phil McManus</strong></td>
<td>University of Sydney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pmcmanus@mail.usyd.edu.au">pmcmanus@mail.usyd.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td><strong>Dr Kathleen Broderick</strong></td>
<td>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kathleen.Broderick@gbrmpa.gov.au">Kathleen.Broderick@gbrmpa.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td><strong>Ms Miriam Williams</strong></td>
<td>Newcastle University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Miriam.williams@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au">Miriam.williams@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td><strong>Dr Rachel Hughes</strong></td>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hughesr@unimelb.edu.au">hughesr@unimelb.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor, Geographical Research</td>
<td><strong>Associate Professor George Curry</strong></td>
<td>Curtin University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:George.Curry@curtin.edu.au">George.Curry@curtin.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor, Geographical Research</td>
<td><strong>Professor Roy Jones</strong></td>
<td>Curtin University</td>
<td><a href="mailto:r.jones@curtin.edu.au">r.jones@curtin.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor, Newsletter</td>
<td><strong>Professor Alaric Maude</strong></td>
<td>University of Western Australia</td>
<td><a href="mailto:polymaude@ozemail.com.au">polymaude@ozemail.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor, Newsletter</td>
<td><strong>Dr Amanda Davies</strong></td>
<td>University of Western Australia</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au">adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**President**

**Professor Lesley Head**
University of Wollongong
lhead@uow.edu.au

**Vice President (Immediate Past President)**

**Professor Jim Walmsley**
University of New England
dwalmsley@pobox.une.edu.au

**Vice President (President Elect)**

**Professor Iain Hay**
Flinders University
iain.hay@flinders.edu.au

**Treasurer**

**Dr Stewart Williams**
University of Tasmania
Stewart.Williams@utas.edu.au

**Secretary**

**Associate Professor Alaric Maude**
26 Blyth Street
Parkside SA 5063
polymaude@ozemail.com.au

**Secretary (Web)**

**Ms Julie Kesby**
Australian Defence Force Academy
j.kesby@adfa.edu.au

**Councillor**

**Professor David Gillieson**
James Cook University
david.gillieson@jcu.edu.au

**Councillor**

**Dr Phil McManus**
University of Sydney
pmcmanus@mail.usyd.edu.au

**Councillor**

**Dr Kathleen Broderick**
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Kathleen.Broderick@gbrmpa.gov.au

**Postgraduate Representative**

**Ms Miriam Williams**
Newcastle University
Miriam.williams@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au

**Councillor**

**Dr Rachel Hughes**
University of Melbourne
hughesr@unimelb.edu.au

**Editor, Geographical Research**

**Associate Professor George Curry**
Curtin University
George.Curry@curtin.edu.au

**Editor, Geographical Research**

**Professor Roy Jones**
r.jones@curtin.edu.au

**Editor, Newsletter**

**Dr Amanda Davies**
University of Western Australia
adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
IAG 2009 CONFERENCE UPDATE

The 2009 Conference of the IAG will be held at the James Cook University Campus in Cairns, from 27 September to 1 October. Study Group and Postgraduate student meetings will be on Sunday 27 September, paper sessions will be on Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th September, while excursions will be on Thursday 1st October. Further details will appear on the IAG website when available.

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS OF THE INSTITUTE

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.

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.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE 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.

**AUSTRALIA-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 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.

DISCOUNTS ON BLACKWELL BOOKS AND JOURNALS FOR IAG MEMBERS

Blackwell are delighted to offer IAG members a discount of 20% off all Blackwell books and many journals. To take advantage of this offer, simply:

1. Visit http://www.blackwellpublishers.co.uk/journals/ages/society
2. Print off the Society Members Special Order Form
3. Enter the details of the books and journals you wish to order
4. Return your completed form, with payment, to: Judy Cornish, IAG Member Orders, Blackwell Publishing, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, UK. Fax: +44 1865 381361

IAG STUDY GROUPS

The IAG hosts a number of special interest study groups which provide a forum for advancing the development of sub-discipline expertise or special interest issues. At present the active groups and their convenors are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Geography</th>
<th>Economic Geography</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Hughes</td>
<td>Philip O’Neill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
<td>University of Western Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:hughesr@unimelb.edu.au">hughesr@unimelb.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:p.oneill@uws.edu.au">p.oneill@uws.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Geography</td>
<td>Indigenous Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Davies</td>
<td>Judith Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Western Australia</td>
<td>University of New England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au">adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jburns2@une.edu.au">jburns2@une.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>GIScience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Gill</td>
<td>Shawn Laffan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wollongong</td>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ngill@uow.edu.au">ngill@uow.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Shawn.Laffan@unsw.edu.au">Shawn.Laffan@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Geography</td>
<td>Political Geography Studies Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald McNeill</td>
<td>Kersty Hobson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Western Sydney</td>
<td>The Australian National University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:d.mcneill@uws.edu.au">d.mcneill@uws.edu.au</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kersty.Hobson@anu.edu.au">Kersty.Hobson@anu.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural Geography Study Group

The Rural Geography Study Group held their annual general meeting during the IAG conference in Tasmania. The discussion was lively and broad ranging, covering topics from what to do with our web-space on the IAG webpage to what we mean by ‘rural’. There was also a discussion regarding the group’s activities for 2009. It was decided that the group would work towards hosting a workshop on governance in rural spaces. The aim is to run the workshop immediately before, or after, the 2009 IAG conference in Cairns. Neil Argent (University of New England) has agreed to convene this workshop, and reports that organisation efforts are well underway.

Over the summer months I am hoping to start work on updating the group’s web-space on the new IAG website. If you would like to participate in this activity please feel free to contact me via email: <adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au>

Amanda Davies
Convener

FASTS NEWS

New Laureate scheme is a real capacity-building opportunity (3rd September 2008)

Minister Carr’s announcement of a new Laureate Fellowship scheme has been welcomed by the peak body representing 60,000 scientists and technologists.

The President of FASTS, Professor Ken Baldwin, said the Laureate Fellowship program is an excellent capacity-building opportunity.

“It will enable Australian universities to attract and retain world-leading researchers along with the core of their research groups, as each Fellowship will support up to two post-doctoral and two PhD students”.

“This will better allow structured ‘knowledge transfer’ between top-flight researchers and emerging talent”.

“The Laureate Fellowships replace the Federation Fellows program, which was introduced in 2001 by the previous Government in response to ‘brain drain’ concerns. However, one of the problems with the Federation Fellows program was a tendency for them to be unconnected to other funding schemes which made it difficult for universities to propose them in new areas”.

“FASTS are pleased that the Government has recognised that it is not enough to only provide salary for fellowships but that fellowship holders need sufficient resources to hit the ground running. Both the Laureate and the previously
announced 1,000 mid-career *Future Fellowship* programs provide funding to cover some of the basic costs of carrying out research”.

Each fellowship will be worth about $600,000 pa for 5 years. This includes a salary top-up of $100,000 pa with universities required to provide a base professorial salary, up to $300,000 pa for research costs in addition to the post-doc and PhD positions.

“Once the scheme is up and running it will provide about 75 research teams. That is a non-trivial investment that will assuredly make an impact on the fabric of Australian research”, concluded Professor Baldwin.

**An Emissions Trading Scheme is a means - not an end (4th September 2008)**

The peak representative body of 60,000 Australian scientists and technologists has today issued a statement on climate change. The President of FASTS, Professor Ken Baldwin said there is concern in the scientific community that the argy-bargy over an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) following the release of the Garnaut Review is distorting political and policy imperatives.

“The scientific evidence is compelling that global policy objectives must remain squarely focused on returning greenhouse gas concentrations to near pre-industrial levels through the reduction of emissions”.

“An Emissions Trading Scheme is a means to that end, but it is not an end in and of itself, particularly without reference to targets for significant reductions in the short and medium term”.

“Australia should be showing leadership by moving to a low carbon emissions economy and at the same time exploit the innovation benefits of being a supplier and early-adopter of low-carbon technologies and practices”.

“Rather than being a ‘free-rider’, Australia must vigorously pursue opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including those additional to an ETS, such as diversification of stationary and transportable energy supply, improving energy efficiencies and changing consumption behaviours.”

“Global climate change is real and measurable. While the natural atmospheric composition varies over time, the observed warming in the late 20th century can be attributed with a very high degree of confidence to additional human emissions of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, broad-scale deforestation and other human activity”.

“Australia must take decisive policy actions, informed by evidence and thorough debate, that will enable us to exhibit global leadership by reversing our upward trend of total and per capita emissions of greenhouse gases,” concluded Professor Baldwin.
CONFERENCES

RECENT CONFERENCES


The IAG supported the attendance of three Australian post graduate / early career geographers at the 31st International Geographical Union Congress held in Tunis, Tunisia, 12 – 15th August 2008. Kirsten Maclean, University of Queensland, Margaret Loughnan, Monash University and Gavin Malone, Flinders University made the journey.

Kristen, Margaret and Gavin write “the three of us would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Institute for its generous support as well our respective Universities for their assistance”. “The presentation of our research as well the cultural experiences were most gratifying and stimulating. The journey confirms that we live in a privileged country and have a responsibility to improve our cultural and ecological stewardship through the science and profession of Geography, here and globally”.

Kristen, Margaret and Gavin prepared a few notes on their overall experience in Tunis and their individual experiences at the IGU Congress.

The Tunis Experience

Now an independent nation, in more recent history Tunisia was a French colony but many layers of human culture are evident. The capital Tunis blends these histories, from the Roman ruins of Carthage, through the old Medina, to the French architecture and contemporary Mosques. Whenever possible we navigated Tunis via the very well oiled and ancient public transport system. The Tunisian people were delightful and welcoming: friendly, interested and always ready for a quick exchange in our broken French or their English. A culinary highlight in the capital was couscous in the Medina. One brave southern hemispherian enjoyed the local delicacy of ‘half a lamb’s head’! The Medina was also fantastic for shopping (carpets, leather goods, sweet treats, pottery, local fashion) and getting lost. Each of us enjoyed all manner of ‘tourist scams’ in the many alleys and lane ways in this heart of the ancient city.

The Congress

The topic of the Congress was “Building Together Our Territories”. International representation was broad and the three of us enjoyed stimulating discussions with a variety of geographers from countries including India, New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore, Canada, France, Germany, Iran and, of course Tunisia.

Reflections from the Participants

Kirsten Maclean: I presented a paper entitled “Who participates? The potential of knowledge networks for environmental management in Australia”. This was a result of my PhD research partly carried out in central Victoria. I enjoyed being
one of a panel of three presenting ideas related to the role of local actors in environmental governance. The conference was in a variety of languages, mainly English, French and Arabic. Papers ranged from the role for traditional Indian dance in ecotourism and the use of Rap music to recapture the passion to relearn Indigenous language in Norway; to discussions on how to predict and manage for the urban heat island in Manchester.

**Margaret Loughnan:** My adventures in Tunis were most enjoyable. Not only was I able to network with fellow Health Geographers from many countries, I also chaired my first conference session and presented a paper titled Heart Attack Admissions to Hospital on Hot Days. I managed to fit two field trips into my schedule, firstly going to the Roman ruins at Carthage, followed by a tour of Le Bardo Museum, a large palatial building with magnificent Arabic architecture featuring filigree marble ceilings and ornate cornices, containing an amazing array of Roman mosaics and statues. Finally, onto the Medina of Tunis where ancient Tunisian culture and modern tourism welled through the narrow streets and spilled out of the Bab El Bhar into the city centre. I also managed a post conference field trip to the ancient and traditional Muslim city of Kariouan in the Sahel, stopping to see the age-old agricultural systems of Meskat-menkaa. We passed the Sebkha el Kelbia Ramsar wetlands, which were a little dry at the end of a long hot summer season. Finally on to Sousse which is a harbour city with a varied and dynamic history of invasions from the Pre Roman times to the recent past, and is now one of the new tourist show towns of Tunis.

**Gavin Malone:** Within the theme of the Congress my paper was ‘Territory, Country, Place – Engaging the Ecological through the Cultural’ which I presented twice, finding much to my surprise that I was to speak also in the main auditorium on the first day of the Congress! As well as the experiences of the Congress and Tunis I undertook a five-day excursion into the southern Tunisian desert and oases region led by two Tunisian geographers. The excursion engaged both the cultural and physical landscapes, the similarities between Australian and Tunisian desertification was stark, along with water and soil degradation issues. The impact of grazing over millennia was also alarmingly evident. Much of the upper canopy vegetation in Tunisia is now Australian species introduced by the French. It was indeed curious to see wattles, gums and sheoaks along the road verges and on the northern edge of the Sahara desert. Also came across film sets and locations for the English Patient and Star Wars, re-watching now on DVD.

The IAG support also facilitated attendance (being in the northern hemisphere) at the Royal Geographical Society International Conference in London, 27-29 August, where a further two papers on my research, Indigenous Inclusion in the Symbolic Value of the Public Space, were presented. A study tour of the symbolic value of the public space, affiliated to my PhD, was undertaken visiting Rome, Paris, London and Berlin. For me, these cities form the four legs of the chair on which many Australian social practices and histories sit, the political decisions and social lores of those places profoundly influencing Australian society.
FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society: Minding Animals
13th - 19th July 2009
Convened by: the Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group & The University of Newcastle.

For more information please see: http://www.mindinganimals.com

Forth State of Australian Cities Conference
November 2009, University of Western Australia, Perth
Jointly hosted by: the University of Western Australia, Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University.

7th International Conference on Geomorphology
Ancient Landscapes – Modern Perspectives
6th – 11th July 2009

For more information please see: http://www.anzgg.org

2009 AAG Annual Meeting
22nd – 27th March 2009, Las Vegas, Nevada

Mekong Mainstream Dams: People’s Voices across Borders
11th - 13th November 2008, University of Sydney
Co-organised by: The Australian Mekong Resource Centre (Geosciences, University of Sydney)

AMRC is managing a plenary session on Governance and Knowledge Role of MRC with respect to the Mekong mainstream dams. This international conference will bring together academics, NGOs, government and local voices concerned with the implications of the current push for hydropower development on the mainstream lower Mekong River.

Asia-Pacific Power and Energy Engineering Conference (APPEEC 2009)
28th - 30th March 2009, Wuhan, China

The conference will be held in Wuhan, which is one of the largest cities in China on the banks of the Yangtze River. It is in Hubei Province where the Three Gorges Dam is located.

For more information, please contact: appeec@srpublishing.org

Sixteenth International Seminar on Urban Form
4th – 7th September 2009, Guangzhou, China,

Co-hosted by: South China University of Technology and Guangzhou Urban Planning Bureau. The theme of the conference is Urban morphology and urban transformation.
The Tenth Asian Urbanization Conference

16th – 19th August 2009

Hosted by: Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning, The University of Hong Kong

For more information please see: www.hku.hk/asia2009

GRANT AND AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

IAG Honours Award

Each year the Institute of Australian Geographers offers a cash Award and a year's free membership of the Institute for a paper based on work undertaken in the 4th year Geography Honours degree, or equivalent program, at an Australian university. Manuscripts must not exceed 6,000 words (inclusive of references) and may include not more than six diagrams, maps or photographs together with necessary tables. Manuscripts should be submitted to the editors of Geographical Research, stating that the paper is to be considered for the award. Three copies of the paper should be submitted following the style conventions of GR (see "Notes to Contributors" in a recent issue).

The papers will be reviewed independently by at least two referees and considered for publication in the normal way. The editors will judge which paper receives the award although all papers deemed acceptable by the referees and editors will be published in GR. The designation of high commendation, with a year's free membership of the Institute, may be given to those submissions which come close to the level of the award winner. The paper is expected to be submitted within two years of the student's Honours thesis being accepted. All papers must be single authored. Papers should be submitted to the Editors of GR before the 1st October closing date.

IAG Postgraduate Paper Award

Applicants for the Postgraduate Paper Award are asked to submit a paper based on work undertaken during their own research for a higher degree. The paper could be submitted during the period of enrolment but should not be submitted later than one year after the award of the degree. The paper must be single authored. Format and standards for the paper will follow that of journal articles to Geographical Research. The Editor(s) of the journal will have sole discretion as to whether the paper will be published. The Award will consist of one year IAG membership fees and a cash sum of $200.00. The Institute reserves the right not to make an award in any year.

For further details on both of the above awards contact:
GRANTS AND AWARDS RECEIVED

Tony Sorensen (University of New England) has been awarded $200,000 from the Cotton catchment Communities CRC to examine community and business development in towns associated with the cotton industry in NSW and Queensland. Tony will work with Bernice Kotey of the New England Business School. The study will involve a comprehensive profiling of cotton communities and a focus on a representative sample of six towns stretching from Emerald in Central Queensland to Warren on the Macquarie in Central NSW.

Andrew Gorman Murray (Wollongong) received an ARC grant valued at $262,000 over three years for a study entitled ‘Men on the home front: spatialities of domesticity and masculinity’. This project promotes 'good health and well being for all Australians'. Case studies are used to investigate the factors underpinning self-reliance and family support in a time of changing household structures. They seek to understand how the domestic lives of men both living alone, and in families, can better contribute to social wellbeing and wider community interaction and cohesion.

University of Wollongong geographers Gordon Waitt, Chris Gibson, Nicholas Gill and Lesley Head have been awarded an ARC discovery grant for their research entitled ‘Making less space for carbon: cultural research for climate change mitigation and adaptation’. The grant is valued at $403,984 over a four year period.

A team of geographers from the University of Sydney, University of Melbourne and University of Wollongong have joined forces for a study entitled ‘Cultural sustainability in Australian country towns: amenity, mobility, and everyday life’. The team includes CA Driscoll, K Bowles, K Darian Smith, Chris Gibson, D Nichols and Gordon Waitt. The study will be funded through the ARC Discovery scheme and is valued at $323,486.

Jamie Kirkpatrick and AG Davidson (University of Tasmania) were awarded 130,000 through the ARC discovery scheme for their study entitled ‘Australia’s changing urban tree estate: a socio-ecological study of patterns, causes and consequences.

Amanda Davies and Matthew Tonts (University of Western Australia) were awarded $227,000 through the Caring for Our Country scheme for their on-going research on coastal communities in regional Western Australia.
Louise Crabtree (University of Western Sydney) was awarded a research grant from UWS for a project entitled: “Housing affordability, adaptive co-management and resilience: an audit of innovative housing in Australia”. This research will attempt to build models for localised governance and community development able to respond to changes in the local financial, social and physical environment while maintaining core objectives such as the delivery and maintenance of equitable and sustainable housing.

As part of a consortium of researchers from the University of Western Sydney and the University of Sydney Phil O’Neill (University of Western Sydney) has been awarded funding from the Reserve Bank of Australia to identify sites of severe mortgage distress.

The following geographers have recently qualified for the award of PhD

Louise Askew for her study entitled “Prosaics of interagency human service delivery: the potentialities of peopled, practised and caring states”.

NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

University of New England

Geography at UNE continues to go from strength to strength. In their new home (fabulously renovated old Geology building) the geography team has expanded, with new positions in planning and geography being created. Coupled with a number of recent retirements, this expansion has resulted in a considerable generation shift.

University of Wollongong

Rittick Borah has been appointed for three years as a Spatial Analyst (Disturbance Modelling) for a collaborative spatial sciences and bushfire research project involving Dr. Marji Puotinen and Dr. Laurie Chisholm.

Wollongong geographers were also particularly successful in the 2008 ARC discovery grant scheme, with details listed in the section ‘Grants and Awards Received’.

University of Newcastle

In September 2008, a book launch was held at The University of Newcastle for Weaving Lives Together At Bawaka North-East Arnhem Land, the joint work of Lak Lak Burarrwanga, Djawundil Maymuru, Ritjilili Ganambarr, Banapuy
Ganambarr, Sarah Wright (The University of Newcastle), Sandie Suchet-Pearson (Macquarie University) and Kate Lloyd (Macquarie University).

In August 2008, Jenny Cameron facilitated a one-day workshop on community enterprises in the food sector. Participating were geographers (Bob Fagan from Macquarie University; and Katherine Gibson and Ann Hill from The Australian National University), community enterprise practitioners (including representatives from the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Victoria; Food Connect, South East Queensland; Organic Buyers Group, Sydney; The Beanstalk Cooperative, Newcastle; and Fig Tree Community Garden, Newcastle); and leading international social enterprise activist and author, John Pearce (UK).

Jenny Cameron has run two two-day writing workshops in 2008, one with Oxfam and another with PhD students from Griffith University. Both workshops were based on Joseph Williams' lessons on how to achieve clarity and grace in writing.

Jenny Cameron was the invited Australian representative at the International Workshop on Ethnographies of the Social Economy held at Durham University in March 2008. An edited collection based on the workshop is due out in 2009 (edited by Ash Amin, and published by Zed Publications).

The University of Newcastle and Macquarie University held a joint post-graduate and staff workshop in June 2008. The workshop comprised a roundtable discussion of a key text (Raewyn Connell, 2008, Southern Theory: The Global Dynamics of Knowledge in Social Science, Allen and Unwin, Sydney), followed by panel-led discussions on strategies for successful conference presentations and for surviving a PhD.

Emily Gilbert has taken up an Associate Professorship at the University of Newcastle in the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies. Her research on critical geopolitics addresses questions relating to citizenship and governance; security, borders and mobility; and regional integration. She recently edited, with Deborah Cowen, War, Citizenship, Territory (Routledge, 2008). She has a chapter on biometrics forthcoming in Observant States: Geopolitics and Visual Culture, edited by Fraser MacDonald, Rachel Hughes (both in Geography, at Melbourne) and Klaus Dodds.

University of Western Sydney (Urban Research Centre)

Urban geographers continue to play a significant role at the Urban Research Centre. Particularly in the areas of: urban infrastructure, housing, urban policy, public space and gentrification. The Centre has also been pleased to work with UWS’s new human geography and urban studies program, run by Professor Kevin Dunn and Associate Professor Heather MacDonald.

The Urban Research Centre congratulates Samantha Sharp (supervisor: Cristina Martinez-Fernandez) on being its first PhD completion. Her thesis title is ‘Regional Dimensions of Innovative Activity in Outer Western Sydney.’ Sam is now a postdoctoral fellow at Cambridge University, UK.
The Centre hosted a number of events during the second half of 2008. These included:

- Innovative Solutions to Australia’s Urban Infrastructure Crisis: Speakers included Phillip O’Neill, Pru Sanderson (CEO VicUrban), Patrick Forth (CEO Boston First) and Kerry Schott (Managing Director, Sydney Water).
- Beyond McMansions, a Western Sydney Forum: This event was held in conjunction with the NSW Architects Registration Board and Penrith City Council. Speakers were Phillip O’Neill, Peter Mould (NSW Government Architect), Robyn Dowling (Macquarie University) and Caroline Pidcock (Pidcock Sustainability + Architecture).
- Gentrification: Antipodean Perspectives: Speakers included Elvin Wyly (University of British Columbia) and Matthew Rofe (University of South Australia).
- The Centre’s ongoing seminar series featured: Chris Gibson (University of Wollongong), Pauline McGuirk (University of Newcastle), Elvin Wyly (University of British Columbia) and Kevin Dunn (University of Western Sydney).

**University of Sydney**

A number of geographers at the University of Sydney have recently received promotion, including: Kurt Iveson (Lecturer to Senior Lecturer), Dan Penny (Research Fellow to Senior Research Fellow), Phil McManus (Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor) and Peter Cowell (Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor).

Phil McManus delivered an invited lecture about global warming and Australia at Nihon University, Fujisawa, Japan, in November 2008. The invitation came from the Australian Studies Society of Japan as part of a special lectures series on Australia. It was funded by a grant from Australia-Japan Foundation.

Phil Hirsch will be supervising two new PhD students (Oulavanh from Laos and Worawan from Thailand) from early next year. The students were recently awarded Australian Leadership Awards by AusAID. These elite awards will provide for university fees for four years, full stipend and travel money. The School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney will now host three Australian Leadership Award recipients (Rotha from Cambodia started his in July).

In June 2008, Philip Hirsch and four postgraduate students at University of Sydney presented papers at the Southeast Asia Geography Association conference in Manila. Prior to this, Phil and three of the students took part in a three-day international dissertation workshop associated with the Challenge of the Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia (ChATSEA) program. The workshop was held at Los Banos.

**GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...**

Phil Hirsch (Sydney) and three of his Cambodian colleagues will present posters at an International Seminar on Towards a political ecology of irrigation and water
use efficiency and productivity, organized in London by ICID.UK & UEA on Thursday 6 November 2008 at the Institution of Civil Engineering.

Danielle Drozdzewski, a recent PhD graduate from the University of New South Wales, is working as a Lecturer at UNSW.

Natascha Klocker, a recent PhD graduate from the University of New South Wales is working as the Research Practice Leader for VicHealth


Brendan Whyte (Ubon Ratchathani University) has recently completed a bilingual map of his 8 sq. km campus, along with the first accurate and complete street map of Ubon Ratchathani city in NE Thailand. Besides developing a map collection in the university library, his recent publications include: \[Whyte, B. and Whyte, S., 2008, "The Inscriptions on the First World War Volunteers Memorial, Bangkok", Journal of the Siam Society, 96:175-192.\] \[Whyte, B., 2008, "Visa-free Travel Privileges: an exploratory geographical analysis", Tourism Geographies, 10(2):127-149.\] Brendan will continue working on an atlas of Thailand's past and present railways.

Mark Davidson (University of Western Sydney) has completed research looking at the development of social sustainability urban policies in Vancouver and Sydney (‘Social sustainability as an urban policy goal: Comparing Vancouver and Sydney’). Mark also hosted the visit of Associate Professor Elvin Wyly (Department of Geography, University of British Columbia) during June-August 2008. They are working on a project examining gentrification, residential development and housing markets in Sydney. Mark has published a paper entitled ‘Spoiled Mixture: Where does ‘positive’ state-led gentrification end? (Urban Studies) and contributed a chapter to Rob Imrie, Loretta Lees and Mike Raco’s Regenerating London (Routledge).

Phillip O’Neill (University of Western Sydney) has completed a major study of western Sydney labour markets funded ($198,000) by a NSW Government Department of Planning grant in association with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC). He has also, with Louise Crabtree and Peter Phibbs, completed a study of Landcom: “An explanation of the housing affordability problem and an evaluation of intervention schemes”. In addition, Phil presented a study to NSW Department of Planning entitled: “Assessment of journey-to-work patterns for full time workers in Western Sydney”. This was completed with the research assistance of the Urban Research Centre’s spatial analyst, Maria Piquer-Rodriguez.
GEOGRAPHERS ON THE MOVE

David Marshall has returned to academia after 3.5 years in the Queensland Government. David has been appointed as a Research Fellow in the 'Healthy Communities Research Centre' at the University of Queensland.

Amity James has taken up a research fellowship at the University of Queensland in the Social Research Centre. Amity was previously based at Flinders University and has undertaken studies on rural housing, ageing and sense of place and youth migration.

MEMBERS RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Donald McNeill (University of Western Sydney) had his most recent research monograph The Global Architect: Fame, Firms and Urban Form, published by Routledge, New York.


Remy Sietchiping has a new book entitled Predicting And Preventing Slum Growth. (Vdm Verlag Dr. Muller Aktiengesellschaft & Co. Kg (Germany), July 2008 Paperback, 280 pages).

Ruth Fincher (Melbourne) and Kurt Iveson (Sydney) have recently had their book Planning and Diversity in the City: Redistribution, Recognition and Encounter published by Palgrave.


Brad Ruting, who is currently completing his Honours at the University of Sydney, has had a journal article published: Ruting, B. (2008), ‘Economic Transformations of Gay Urban Spaces: revisiting Collins' evolutionary gay district model” Australian Geographer, 39(3), pp. 259-269.

Wendy Shaw’s new book Cities of Whiteness and Kurt Iverson’s book Publics and The City, were recently launched at Gleebooks in Sydney.

A new edited version by Frank Vanclay (University of Tasmania), Higgins and Blackshaw, entitled Making Sense of Place: Exploring concepts and expressions of place through different senses and lenses, has been published by the National Museum of Australia Press.
POSTGRADUATE NEWS

Anthony Kent (RMIT University) is writing up his PhD thesis, which investigates knowledge and labour flows and processes in the food and beverage manufacturing cluster in Melbourne's northern suburbs. The empirical component of the thesis is based on in-depth interviews with 30 firm managers, trade unionists, local council officials and local service providers as well as customised Census data. Based on this research, the author argues that policies directed at enhancing local inter-firm collaboration have limited application. Rather, attention should be drawn towards the local web of institutions and services with which the local labour markets engages, including housing, transport, child care and English language training. In both conceptual and policy terms, our understanding of a sustainable local economy then becomes based on its most localised element, namely the labour force itself.

Virginia Brunton (University of Sydney) attended the ANU Environmental History Workshop in October and is presenting at the Agri Foods Conference in Sydney in November.

Young Ng Chun-yeong (University of Sydney) is on the Steering Committee for the new geopark in Hong Kong. The geopark was officially endorsed by the Hong Kong Government on Oct 15, 2008. Young’s PhD thesis is a study of two geoparks in China and the lessons that can be applied to other contexts, particularly Hong Kong.

Robin Branson (University of Sydney) has recently returned from an overseas trip that included a study visit to Kalundborg, Denmark to investigate the origins and implementation of industrial ecology, as part of this PhD thesis research.

Fiona McKenzie (University of Sydney) has recently had a co-authored chapter published in Ten Commitments: Reshaping the Lucky Country’s Environment (CSIRO Press, 2008). Fiona is also presenting at the Agri-Foods conference in Sydney in November, and attending a national symposium hosted by University of New England and titled "New Pathways to Adoption and Diffusion of Primary Industries Innovations".

Postgraduate Reflections on the 2008 IAG Conference

By Miriam Williams (Newcastle)
I commenced my PhD candidature at Newcastle University in March 2008 and am researching the geographies and politics of care in the new inner-city: uncovering geographies of hope. In July of this year I attended the IAG conference and was fortunate enough to attend the Urban Study Group workshop with Jenny Robinson on City Visioning. I gave a brief paper in this session on how Robinson’s work Ordinary Cities has shaped my PhD research interests and approach which I found very beneficial. At the main conference I presented a paper from my honours research completed in 2007 entitled ‘Supplying the ethical latté: a study of the discourses shaping the Fair Trade movement in Australia’, as part of a session on Diverse Economies.
One of the conference highlights for me was the opportunity to meet post-graduates from around the country during the post-graduate day. I attended the wine tour which incorporated wine tasting at three wineries including award winning Pooley wines and lunch in historic Richmond. An alternate tour of Hobart’s Waterfront galleries was organised for another group of post-grads and following this the two groups got together for dinner at a local pub. Thank you to Amity James and Danielle Drozdzewski for organising the events and for their hard work as post-graduate reps. I am looking forward to attending the conference next year and to other opportunities to catch up with people from different universities.

If anyone is interested in helping plan the next post-graduate day in Cairns 2009 or has ideas for another post-grad event please feel free to contact me at miriam.williams@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au

By Javier Leon (University of Wollongong)
The 2008 IAG conference was the first one I have attended. It was also the first conference I have attended covering a wider scope in geographical research. My overall impression is that it was very well organized, catering for students and early career researchers, as well as for senior staff and anyone with an interest in geography.

Sessions generally ran smoothly and it was easy to switch rooms between presentations. The IT support staff did a great job as A/V facilities offered no problems whatsoever. As for the topics exposed, I thoroughly enjoyed the diversity of presentations, especially the depth and relevance of the plenary talks. One exception though was the third plenary, which I considered focused too much in biographical issues and lacked addressing general aspects of the geographical science.

Regarding the conference logistics, as a student, I think the accessibility to the conference venue and the lunch vouchers were very helpful and really appreciated them. I was very impressed by the food catering (including most dietary requirement) offered in the coffee breaks. In addition to this, and even though I did not participate in them, I heard really good comments about the pre-conference seminars and post-conference field trip. I did attend to the postgrad dinner which I think helped breaking the ice before the conference. I also attended the first night drinks and art exhibition, which were a bit of a very pleasant surprise, as I have never seen similar (free!) events in previous conferences I have participated.

As for my participation in the conference, besides attending the aforementioned events, I presented a paper based on my PhD research titled: Coral Reef Geomorphology and CaCO3 production - Torres Strait, Australia. The research uses GIS and remote sensing technology to address geomorphological issues in coral reef systems located in Torres Strait, northern Australia. The GIS study group I found was a small but very keen group. I did get some useful feedback and networking from students, as well as from senior researchers. I must emphasize the great job done by Shawn Laffan who encouraged me to attend the presentation and join the IAG.
One last thing, that got my attention during the conference, and I still ask is: where are the geographers dealing with physical aspects of the environment? I cannot see how geography could advance as a science with just one leg.

Wiktoria Glad (University of Technology Sydney)

This was my first IAG conference and my first geography conference. Earlier I have mainly presented my research at interdisciplinary conferences on the topics of my research, like buildings, housing and energy. I have an undergraduate degree in geography, but since then my work has been transdisciplinary including science and technology studies, sociology and ethnography. During all my postgraduate studies the Swedish geographer Torsten Hägerstrand’s work has guided my research approaches and inspired studies on innovations and technological change. Also I work closely with Kajsa Ellegård, one of Hägerstrand’s apprentices and am inspired by her work on everyday life.

For the IAG conference I prepared a paper on an urban redevelopment project in Sydney, drawing on Hägerstrand’s concept diorama. The idea is to present a holistic picture of a planning process which has been fringed with power struggles, vocal locals and a need for a more sustainable development. I am now in a phase where I am finalising my paper for a submission to the journal Geographical Research. The Urban stream at the conference provided a good audience for this paper and I received some positive comments about my work and possible future contacts at other universities than my present affiliation.

I also attended the workshop organised by the Urban Geography Study Group on Saturday with Jennifer Robinson. Urban geography is a new research area for me but I found the workshop useful since I realised the many different approached could be incorporated in this field, including my own research. Jennifer Robinson’s concept of ordinary cities provides an alternative to otherwise popular geographical concepts like world cities and global cities. My main objective to this approach is that it claims to be yet another approach to analyse every city, everywhere and these grand approaches feels unnecessary and something other disciplines have dismissed and are beyond. However, the discussion about the divide between Western cities and third world cities made me wanting to explore this concept in regard to different sizes of cities and the many towns or small cities in many European countries, which is more the scope of my research.

Except for the many interesting papers presented in the Urban geography stream, I really enjoyed the plenary sessions and especially the last one by Ronlyn Duncan. She presented case studies from the Tasmanian context and gave a critical analysis of the processes of mega projects. It is good to learn that geographers engage in analyses of power plays and also try to influence the path of harmful projects.

The fieldtrips led by Jamie Kirkpatrick provided useful insights into the various landscapes, natural and cultural phenomena in Tasmania. Since I did not have the opportunity to drive around on the island myself these tours felt like “the essential Tassie tour” to me and made me want to come back and experience more.
In general the IAG conference was really moreish to me. The eclectic mix of human, cultural and physical geography suited my transdisciplinary research ambitions and gave inspiration to new research ideas. I will try to attend future IAG conferences as well as other geography conferences.

The only thing I would like to change is the culture of presenters reading their papers instead of speaking freely to their slides. English is obviously not my first language and I struggled not to look too much in my paper, and I was surprised to see students as well as professors from Australia reading word by word from their paper. By doing this the presenters didn’t connect with the audience and the idea of presenting something orally was lost. The spoken language and the written language are different and should remain so.

Wendy Harte (Queensland University of Technology)

I was awarded a postgraduate travel grant to attend the Institute of Australian Geographers conference in Hobart (30 June-2 July 2008). I enjoyed the opportunity and found it to be a valuable experience. This report outlines my participation in the conference, my reflections on the conference and how I spent the travel grant.

I presented a paper, *Emerging themes in the geography of African refugee settlement in Southeast Queensland*, on the final day of the conference, and attended the morning plenary and other sessions on Monday 30 June to Wednesday 2 July. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the scheduled wineries tour or art gallery tour that were organised for the postgraduate conference delegates on Sunday, or any of the social events (opening drinks and dinner) during the conference.

Papers in the body of the conference that I attended and found instructive for my PhD research include those in sessions on: Geographies on Racialisation; Urban Residential Transformations; Urban Matters; Culture and Place; and Applied Social Geographies. I presented my paper in the Applied Social Geographies session on Wednesday morning.

The moving tribute to Fay Gale by Kay Anderson and the reflection on 50 years of the IAG by Alaric Maude, Murray Wilson, John Holmes (and Harold Brookfield) on Monday morning provided me, a relative new-comer to Australia and the IAG, with an insight into the journey of geography in this country. The plenary sessions on the following days by Jim Walmsley, Tim Cresswell and Hayden Lorimer were stimulating and informative. The Wednesday morning plenary was rather malodorous, though, with the liberal spraying by the audience of Walter Poucher’s ‘pickled’ Yardley Bond Street perfume!
Keeping readers up-to-date with the latest

By registering with Blackwell *Synergy* you can have free email table of contents (eTOC) alerts sent to your inbox whenever your favourite journals are published.

These email alerts link directly to the article abstracts, giving you instant information about new publications in your research area. To try the Blackwell *Synergy* eTOC alert service go to

www.blackwell-synergy.com

and sign in, or register if you’re a new user.

Click on the My *Synergy* button at the top of the Blackwell *Synergy* screen and then go to the Email Alerts tab. Select the journals you are interested in and submit – and now Blackwell *Synergy* will let you know as soon as new papers are published!

For more information about eTOC Alerts and getting the most out of Blackwell *Synergy*, click the Help button at the top of the Blackwell *Synergy* page or contact

onlinehelp@blackwellpublishing.com

Blackwell *Synergy*—improve the quality of your research time.

www.blackwell-synergy.com
Membership of the Institute of Australian Geographers

To the Council of the Institute of Australian Geographers: We two members of the IAG wish to nominate for election to membership of the Institute: ______________

whose personal details and credentials for membership are provided below:

Proposer: ________________________________

Seconder: ________________________________

Date: __________________

Nomination Consent (to be completed by nominee)

Title: __________________

Name (please print in full): ________________________________

University Degrees (with date of award and University for each) __________

___________________________

Present Position: ________________________________

Professional Address: ________________________________

___________________________

Telephone: ______________

Fax: ______________

Email: ______________

Please list your major research/teaching interests: __________________

___________________________

I do / do not (delete one) consent to having these professional details included in the IAG’s WWW membership directory.

I wish to be elected to ORDINARY/RETIRED/STUDENT membership of the Institute of Australian Geographers Inc.

Signature: ____________________ Date: ______________

If elected a member, do you wish to become a Registered Member by signifying your agreement to abide by the IAG Code of Professional Conduct? YES NO
Please return completed form to:
Dr. Stewart Williams, School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 78, Hobart, 7001, Tasmania, Australia.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT

Anyone with a university degree in Geography (or its equivalent) is qualified to join the IAG. The annual subscription is A$120 for full members, A$60 for retirees and student/concessional members (note: the financial year is the calendar year). This includes copies of all publications.

Credit card payments to the Institute of Australian Geographers Inc. may be made by Visa, Mastercard or Australian Bankcard. Please complete the requested details. Receipts are issued only on request.

PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS BY E-MAIL AS IAG DOES NOT USE APPROPRIATE ENCRYPTION.

Alternatively you can pay by cheque or money order.

Please forward your payment to:

Dr Stewart Williams, School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 78, Hobart, 7001, Tasmania, Australia.

I wish to make payment for the amount of A$ _ _ _ _ _

Cheque enclosed (Payable to ‘Institute of Australian Geographers Inc and crossed not negotiable)

Credit Card payment

Bankcard/Visa/Mastercard

Card Number: _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _

Expiry Date shown on card: _ _ / _ _ _ _

Cardholder’s Name (Please use Block Letters): __________________________

Cardholder’s Signature: _____________________________________________
Back Issues of *Geographical Research (and Australian Geographical Studies)*

The IAG holds back issues of *GR/AGS* and is able to provide single issues or runs for volumes 20-34. Since volume 35 the journal has been published by Blackwells and these are available from them on a commercial basis. Members who have missed issues in volumes 35-37 because of membership problems may seek missing copies from the Treasurer.

Copies of volumes 20-34 are available at a single issue rate of $12, or whole volume rate (2 issues per volume) of $20 plus $5 handling in Australia, $10 overseas surface mail or $20 overseas air mail (these fees may be subject to change). Payment can be made using Visa, Mastercard, Bankcard or cheque made payable to IAG Inc.

Please note prices for journal editions and postage may be subject to change.

To receive back issues send the following form to Dr. Stewart Williams, School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 78 Hobart, 7001, Tasmania, Australia.

---

*Geographical Research (and Australian Geographical Studies) Back Issues Order Form*

Name: __________________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________

Please provide ____ copy/ies of *Geographical Research/ Australian Geographical Studies* vol ___ no ___.

Payment is enclosed at the rate of $12/issue plus handling (see above rates) or $20/full volume plus handling (see above rates).

Handling option:-

_____ Australia Post _____ overseas surface mail _____ air mail

_____ cheque enclosed

Credit Card payment:

Card no: _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _

Card Type: ____ Visa ____ Mastercard _____ Bankcard

Expiry Date: ___ / ___

Cardholder's name (please use block letters): ________________________________

Cardholder's signature:_____________________________________________________

---