EDITOR’S NOTE

Dr. Matthew Tonts (University of Western Australia) is retiring as IAG newsletter editor after seven years in the job. Matthew was the longest serving editor of the newsletter. On behalf of the IAG membership, the IAG Council thank Matthew for his efforts as newsletter editor and his contributions to the IAG Council.

Preparations are almost finalised for the IGU 2006 to be held in Brisbane in July. The conference will be co-hosted by the Institute of Australian Geographers and the New Zealand Geographical Society. The conference is sure to be a lively event with over 800 early bird registrations received. The chairs of the organising committee for the conference are: Professor John Holmes, University of Queensland (Chair Organising Committee, Publications Committee); Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, University of Tasmania (Chair, Budget Committee); Associate Professor Brian Lees, Australian National University (Convenor Field Trips); Professor Nigel Tapper, Monash University (Chair, Programme Committee).

The deadline for the next edition is the 30th October 2006. Could you please send your contributions to: adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Amanda Davies
School of Earth and Geographical Sciences
The University of Western Australia
LOST IN SOSE

Your President's Column

Essential attributes of the modern leader are the ability to lie convincingly and to divert blame by subtly stirring up prejudice against the other. I seem to have qualified on the first count owing to the excessive efficiency of our new bulletin editor, thereby qualifying on the second count. It is truly a good thing that my power is nearly at an end.

In the period since you internalised the lessons in my last column there have been some good signs for our discipline. After discussions at our last council meeting, I wrote to the new Australian Government minister, Julie Bishop, to argue that geography was an essential integrative discipline, recognised as extremely important by the excellent governments in the USA and UK (leadership qualities in evidence here), yet, in our search for research quality, it seemed to be comprehensively sidelined. I suggested that the category ‘Human Geography’ should be converted to ‘Geography’ as a step in a process to avoid the dangers of geographic illiteracy in our society. I received a reply that thanked the IAG for its interest and implied that our points would be considered in the ongoing process. They may be, or may not.Copies went to all research DVCs, who we suspect are largely running the process. Nevertheless, geography was recently listed, among such luminary disciplines as history and physics, as part of an indicative essential (not ‘essential learning’) school curriculum desired by the Australian government. SOSE wasn’t.

The Brisbane meeting is shaping up as outstanding. It will be the biggest gathering of geographers since the IGU in Sydney. If this bulletin reaches you in time, and you are not going, reconsider. Late avifauna will be especially welcome. There were approximately 800 early bird registrations.

For the last few months I have been largely engaged in being a geographer, courtesy of a study leave that has relieved me of the burden of School leadership. Today, in my backyard shed where I now write this column, I will work on some of the tidying up of a book on people, sheep and nature in Tasmania, a ‘legacy product’ of a five year grant from Land, Water and Wool. Trying to integrate the cultural, social and ecological using methods varying from the qualitative to the hypothetico-deductive has been a pleasant change from the unmoving meditation of meetings and constant reporting against mistargets. It also beats writing communication and evaluation plans. I can report that sheep are not boring. They are certainly needed for leadership.

Jamie Kirkpatrick
President
Institute of Australian Geographers
IAG NEWS

News from the Council

The Council of the Institute met in Melbourne on 10 February 2006. The following items may be of interest to members.

1. Council now has a member representing the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association (AGTA), as a way of assisting the two organisations to work more closely together on common issues. Jeana Kriewaldt represented AGTA at the February meeting.

2. Council discussed the likely impact of the Federal Government’s proposals for research quality assessment on geographical research in general, geography as a single discipline, and the position of physical geography in particular. This issue is the subject of an article by Ron Johnston in the latest number of Geographical Research. The President, Jamie Kirkpatrick, has since written a letter to the Minister for Education, Science and Training outlining the Council’s concerns.

3. Matthew Tonts will relinquish editorship of the Newsletter after the next edition, and Amanda Davies has agreed to take over the job.

4. Congratulations were extended to the Armidale conference organisers for not only running an enjoyable and successful conference, but also for generating a financial surplus.

5. Council decided that study groups are entitled to apply for a sum of up to $1500 each year for their activities, and are strongly encouraged to use their grant for activities associated with the annual conference. The sum that can be applied for will be reviewed annually by Council. Study groups should contact the Secretary, Alaric Maude, on how to apply.

6. Amanda Davies, the postgraduate representative on Council, reported on the postgraduate events at the Armidale conference. Important issues raised by postgraduates at their sessions were:
   - Research ethics procedures.
   - Intellectual property rules and agreements.
   - The rights of students.

   In response to queries received from postgraduate students, it was decided that IAG would fund postgraduate attendance at the Brisbane Conference, but would not fund research projects.

7. The Secretary reported on the second round of public consultations for the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. It was agreed that he draft a submission and circulate it to Council members. This submission has since
been sent to the NHMRC. Members who would like a copy should email Alaric Maude at polymaude@ozemail.com.au.

8. There was considerable discussion on how to increase the participation of physical geographers in conferences. Suggestions included:

- Have a physical geography session at a conference focussed on a key speaker.
- Invite one of the specialised groups of physical geographers to hold a session at a conference.
- Construct sessions that bring several subdisciplines together.

9. Council confirmed that the 2007 Conference will be in Melbourne and the 2008 Conference in Hobart. Cairns has been approached to host the 2009 Conference, and New Zealand is likely to be the venue in 2010.

Comments from members on these items, and on any other matters, are welcome, and should be sent to the Secretary, Alaric Maude, at polymaude@ozemail.com.au. If there are things you think the IAG should be doing, but isn’t, please let us know.

Alaric Maude
Secretary

**REMINDER**

**INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers will be held during the Brisbane IGU Conference, at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 6 July 2006. The meeting venue will be advised in the Conference Program.
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 by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, 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.

The closing date for the next nomination period is November 2006. 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 by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, 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 by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, 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 world-wide 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 by email sent to each member who has registered an email address, 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:

**Cultural Geography**
Dr Chris Gibson
Geography Programme
Faculty of the Built Environment
University of New South Wales
Sydney, NSW
<ChrisG@fbe.unsw.edu.au>

**Economic Geography**
Dr Philip O’Neill
Centre for Urban and Regional Studies
University of Newcastle
Rankin Drive
Callaghan, NSW 2308
<gpmno@cc.newcastle.edu.au>

**Rural Studies**
Dr Neil Argent
Department of Geography and Planning
School of Human and Environmental Studies
University of New England
Armidale, NSW 2351
<nargent@metz.une.edu.au>

**Indigenous Issues**
Dr Cathy Robinson
School of Geography and Oceanography
University College, ADFA
University of New South Wales
Canberra, ACT 2600
<cathy.robinson@adfa.edu.au>

**Environmental Sustainability**
A/Prof Arthur Conacher
School of Earth and Geographical Sciences
The University of Western Australia
Crawley, WA 6009
<arthur.conacher@uwa.edu.au>

**GIScience, Spatial Analysis and Modelling**
Dr Shawn Laffan
Lecturer in Geography
School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences
University of New South Wales
<shawn.laffan@unsw.edu.au>

**Postgraduate**
Amanda Davies
Institute for Regional Development
School of Earth and Geographical Sciences
The University of Western Australia
Crawley, WA 6009
<adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au>
Study Group News

Economic Geography Study Group

The Economic Geography Study Group held a workshop on "Postcolonial Geographies" at Tusculum Villa, the offices of the NSW chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. The workshop was held over two days on April 6 and 7 and was combined with postgraduate training activities. About 25 participants were involved. The workshop centred on contributions from two leading international geographers, Professor Susan Roberts from the University of Kentucky and Professor Katharine Rankin from the University of Toronto. Also dropping in was Donald McNeill from Queen Mary College London. The workshop was jointly hosted by the Centre for Urban and regional Studies at the University of Newcastle and the department of Human geography at Macquarie University. Financial assistance was grateful received from the IAG.

The Study Group will host sessions at the IGU in conjunction with the New Zealand economic geographers and with the IGU Commission on Industrial Systems. The overall theme is the "Dynamics of Economic Spaces" and will feature sessions on: industries as spaces of governance; mediated modelling approaches to economic geography; beyond the new industrial divide: corporatisation and concentration in production and consumption activities; and labour market change.

A special feature of the IGU for economic geographers -- and the wider geographic community -- will be the special guest lecture by Professor Eric Sheppard from the University of Minnesota. Eric will speak on Critical Geography's Quandaries. The paper will examine the dangers for geographical scholarship presented by our neoliberalising institutions. It will examine the legacy of Anglo-American and European approaches to social theory, criticism of these from post-colonial writers and offer a commentary on the scholarship practices that are urgently needed.

Rural Studies Group

The Rural Studies Group is offering an intellectually stimulating and highly relevant set of sessions for the IGU/IAG/NZGS conference in Brisbane. All sessions are the product of collaborations with other IAG study groups or IGU Study Commissions. We will be running two sessions on the multifunctionality of rural areas. This will very much be an international perspective on the topic, with papers from Australasian, Scottish, Canadian and German researchers. We are also running a session on the highly topical theme of 'rural youth issues' in which youth out-migration will feature prominently. Papers will consider the gendered character of youth out-migration as well as potential initiatives to stem the loss of young people from rural regions. The final specialist session offered by the Group (joint with the IAG Cultural Geography Study Group) will focus on creativity. While the entire session looks irresistible, Martin Phillips' (Leicester) paper on 'rural mediascapes in Australia, Britain and New Zealand' should be a highlight.
Unfortunately, two other potentially exciting and high profile events have had to be cancelled. Due to health concerns, Prof. Paul Cloke (Exeter) cannot attend the conference and so his plenary address has been scratched from the programme. The planned session on 'Future trajectories for farming and rural communities in Australasia: coupled or uncoupled?’ has met a similar fate due to the cancellation of at least two of the panel members.

GIScience Study Group

The GISc study group is conducting a series of GIScience special sessions, with overall coordination by Brian Lees. These sessions will be on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and include Predictive Habitat Modelling, Geocomputation, Land Use and Land Cover Change, Spatial Data Infrastructure, and Health & GISc. The papers in these sessions showcase the diversity of applications and approaches GIScience makes available to geographers.

Other events:
The Sixth Australasian Postgraduate Workshop on GISc (Social and Environmental Modelling) will be held from 28Aug-01Sep 2006 at Kioloa on the south coast of NSW. Honours students are welcome! This is sponsored by UNSW@ADFA & NICTA. Contact b.lees@adfa.edu.au for details.

Cultural Geography Study Group

Cultural geographers are a strong presence at this year’s joint IGU/IAG/NZGS conference in Brisbane, with an unprecedented line-up of specialist sessions and speakers. The following is a summary of the specialist sessions being sponsored by the study group (including those co-sponsored with other study groups), and their convenors:

- Keynote Session: does Antipodean geography matter? (convenor Fraser MacDonald)
- Cultures of Nature (4 sessions; convenor Lesley Head)
- Geographies of Belonging (4 sessions; convenors Kathy Mee and Sarah Wright)
- Of Material Consequence? Object Geographies (2 sessions; convenor: Rachel Hughes)
- Visual Art and Cultural Geography (convenors: Ruth Fazakerley and Gavin Malone)
- Cultural Geography, Urban Worlds (convenors: Tim Bunnell and Lily Kong)
- Doing Participation 'Downunder' (2 sessions; convenors: Sara Kindon and Ruth Panelli)
- Critical geographies of the Asia-Pacific: power, identity and globalization (2 sessions; co-sponsorship with IAG-SEAGA Asia-Pacific Geographies Forum; convenors: Kathy Gibson, Linda Malam and Katharine McKinnon)
- Transnationalism: comparative perspectives (3 sessions; co-sponsorship with IGU Commission on Population and Vulnerability; convenor: Kevin Dunn)
- The Spaces of Culture (co-sponsorship with The Australia Research Council’s Cultural Research Network; convenor Michelle Duffy)
• Geographies of Rural youth (co-sponsorship with the IAG Rural Study Group; convenors Neil Argent and Chris Gibson)
• Geographies of rural creativity (co-sponsorship with the IAG Rural Study Group; convenors Neil Argent and Louise Johnson)

A general meeting of the study group will also held at the IAG Brisbane 2006 to discuss leadership and future events.

Cultural Geography Study Group Publications

In 2004 a special review symposium was published in Geographical Research (v42, n3) of Don Watson’s Death Sentence. The review symposium, edited by Phil O’Neill, stemmed from the special session ‘The State of Language in the Academy’ at the 2004 IAG in Adelaide (co-sponsored with the IAG Economic Geography Study Group). It features contributions from Phil O’Neill, Elissa Sutherland, Bob Fagan, Kevin Dunn and Chris Gibson.

Another forum publication is due out in Geographical Research (v44, n4) based on the special session held at the 2005 IAG in Armidale on the links between cultural geography and cultural studies. The session was organised by Chris Gibson in response to his participation in the recently funded ARC Cultural Research Network (RN0459928), which seeks to build bridges between cognate disciplines (see below). The session brought prominent cultural geographers, including past convenors of the IAG study group and journal editors, to reflect on their own experiences, while others raised a series of questions to engage wider discussion. The papers collected in the GR forum distil the essence of those presented in Armidale, and are followed by two responses: one by Rae Dufty, a postgraduate student at the University of New South Wales, and another by Jon Stratton, a prominent cultural studies academic from Curtin University of Technology in Perth.

Kathy Mee reports that the editing process is nearing completion on a special issue of Housing, Theory and Society, stemming from Cultural Geography Study Group sessions at the 2005 IAG in Armidale on Geographies of Home.

Several publishing outcomes are also likely from the IAG in Brisbane. Lesley Head is planning a special issue of Geoforum stemming from the Cultures of Nature sessions; and Sarah Wright, Kathy Mee, Kevin Dunn, Michelle Duffy and Katharine McKinnon are all discussing options for edited collections based on their sessions.

ARC Cultural Research Network

The ARC Cultural Research Network (RN0459928), led by Graeme Turner at the University of Queensland now includes the following IAG members: Kay Anderson, Christy Collis, Gordon Waitt and Chris Gibson. The aims of the Cultural Research Network are:
1. To enhance interdisciplinary exchange between researchers from cultural studies, media, and communications studies, and researchers contributing to emerging trends in cultural geography, cultural history, cultural anthropology, new media, and creative industries.

2. To apply the benefits of such exchanges to developing multidisciplinary approaches to research projects on cultural literacies, cultural technologies, cultural histories, geographies, and identities.

3. To establish networks of communication and exchange to maximise the influence, capacity and collaborative potential of innovative cultural research in Australia, and to assist the professional development of early career and postgraduate researchers.

4. Over the five years of the funding period, to develop focused programs of collaborative cultural research projects for which external funding can be sought.

5. To build on existing transnational links in order to internationalise the CRN.

Cultural geography has thus far played a major role in the network; it is one of its six keywords, and it has a dedicated place in the formal structure of the network, as a funded ‘node’. Chris Gibson the convenor for that node, with an annual budget that is intended to support events and initiatives that bring people together to discuss projects, with an emphasis on the interplay between geographical and other disciplinary perspectives. The other topical nodes in the network are: cultural literacies; communities and identities; cultural histories; and cultural technologies. There is also a dedicated node and budget for early career researchers and postgraduates. Opportunities exist to maximise opportunities for the Study Group in conjunction with CRN activities. Contact Chris Gibson if you have ideas or proposals (cgibson@uow.edu.au).

**FASTS NEWS**

*The following are extracts from recent media releases by Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies*

The Executive for FASTS 2006 is:

- President: Professor Tom Spurling (CRC Wood Innovation)
- Vice President: Associate Professor Judy Mousley (Deakin Uni)
- Secretary: Professor John O’Connor (Newcastle Uni)
- Treasurer: Graham Taylor (Industry consultant)
- Chair, Policy Committee: Dr Ken Baldwin (ANU)
- Early Career Scientist: Dr Matthew Hole (ANU)
- Ordinary Member: Professor Alan Carey (ANU)
Diminished Australian Research Council
30th March 2006

Today the Government introduced legislation that diminishes the capacity of the Australian Research Council to provide high level, independent analysis and advice to Government and the broader community on research issues.

The President of FASTS, Professor Tom Spurling said the proposed legislation removes an important power of the ARC – the capacity to undertake inquiries on matters related to research of its own volition.

“The legislation removes the Board of the Australian Research Council as recommended by the Uhrig Report on governance of Government agencies.

“However, in removing the Board, the Government has also removed the power of the ARC to initiate inquiries.” (refer section 9(1)(b) of the Australian Research Council Act 2001)

“This means the ARC could only undertake inquiries or reviews at the explicit direction of the Minister.”

“There is an important principle at stake – the ARC should have such a power if it is to be a credible, high level organisation providing independent advice and analysis to the Government and the community”.

“This power existed prior to the current ARC Act (2001) and has been used by the ARC to initiate inquiries from time to time.

“The legislation introduced today raises an important question as to why the Government did not take the opportunity to carefully examine the full operations of the ARC to ensure it is well placed to ensure high quality Australian research is identified and supported.”

“FASTS calls on the Government to first, amend the current legislation to restore the capacity of the ARC to initiate its own inquiries, and secondly, take the time to carefully consider the role of the ARC and work towards streamlining the grants processes”, concluded Professor Spurling.

Let’s rethink public investment in research
Australasian Science March 2006

Tom Spurling says the failure of National Research Priorities and CSIRO’s Flagships to capture imagination, and dramatic shifts in the profile of Australian research, mean science needs a new socio-economic focus.
Governments and companies don’t invest in science to keep scientists amused. They do so for some socio-economic purpose and governments expect scientists will do research to the highest international standards.

The government’s proposed Research Quality Framework (RQF) is intended to ensure the research it funds in universities and public agencies like CSIRO is of the highest quality and impact. While rewarding quality is necessary, it is not sufficient for a comprehensive national science policy.

Australia also needs:
- a national view about the problems our nations’ scientists should be tackling;
- the level of resources needed to solve those problems; and
- relevant structures and partnerships so industries, communities and Government can better capture science and innovation.

The National Research Priorities (announced in 2002) and CSIRO’s Flagships (2003) have tried to address priorities, but both have failed to capture the imagination of the nation or, indeed, the scientific community. Moreover, there is little value in setting research priorities if these are not coherently connected to funding and policy initiatives to enable adoption and commercial use of the knowledge gained.

Another defect is the National Research Priorities do not clearly differentiate research where Australia should a) be a world leader, b) be part of international R&D efforts to enable “fast-follower” adoption, and c) monitor international developments.

Sorting out the different levels of effort requires robust and public debate across all research priorities. We need strong public support for the considerable investment in research, skills and infrastructure that will be needed.

Since 1981-82 federal government support for science and innovation has averaged 0.66% of GDP. However, despite the modest boost from Backing Australia’s Ability, in 2005-06 funding will fall to only 0.6% of GDP, close to its 25-year low. With so many easily identifiable problems for research to tackle, this is not the right time to be reducing our investment in science and technology.

There has been a dramatic change in the past two decades in the distribution of funding. Support for major research agencies, like CSIRO, has dropped from 0.32% of GDP in 1981-82 to 0.15% in 2005-06. This expenditure there has been transferred to business R&D and innovation and programs such as Cooperative Research Centres and the National Health & Medical Research Council.

One of the consequences of the shift of resources has been a large increase in “non-oriented research” which has no particular socio-economic objective. One of the unplanned consequences of the RQF could be a further increase in such research if the funding that flows from the RQF gives undue weight to academic quality and insufficient emphasis to research impact.
If we are to gain the full value from public investment in research, we must have effective structures to ensure that research findings are adopted. We need timely access to the “codified” knowledge of research publications and high rates of transfer of the “embodied” knowledge of peoples’ skills through greater mobility between research and industry and rapid migration of PhD graduates into industry.

We have just changed our industrial relations system from one devised in the late 19th century to one which is supposed to be more suitable to conditions in the early 21st century. We have a public sector research system that was set up in the first part of the 20th century and now reflects the economic and social needs of a past era. It is time to rethink thoroughly the way we do public science in Australia.

Tom Spurling is President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) and a Professor at Swinburne, conSCIENCE is a column for Australians to express forthright views on national issues. Views expressed are those of the author.

CONFERENCES

International Geographical Union 2006 Brisbane Conference and joint meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers and the New Zealand Geographical Society

3rd – 7th July 2006

IGU 2006 Brisbane, held at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), will focus geographical attention on critical physical and human processes driving global change. Complex, global-scale processes exert pressures on environmental, social, cultural and economic resources at regional and local scales. It will look at regional responses in a changing world, with emphasis on tropical and arid zones, particularly in Australia, New Zealand, south-east Asia and the south-west Pacific.

Join us for challenging keynote addresses and a programme offering five days of Commission and Study Group symposia, excursions and tours. See http://www.igu2006.org/ for more details.

Geography and the Politics of Environmental Knowledges
28-29 June, 2006

A 2 day workshop with Professor Noel Castree, University of Manchester Organised by the GeoQuEST Research Centre, University of Wollongong,

Geography, along with cognate disciplines, is a major societal producer of environmental knowledges. Despite a long and much-discussed ‘human-physical divide’, physical geographers are not the only disciplinary producers of environmental knowledge. Since the early 1990s, human geographers have
'rediscovered' the non-human world, while the number of geographers operating in the marchlands between the two main branches of Geography appears to have grown. Through research, teaching, consultancy, advocacy and activism, geographers produce and disseminate high level (non-colloquial) knowledges that are often rich in cognitive, moral, aesthetic and normative content. This is occurring in a wider societal environment worldwide where more-and-more actors are in the business of creating knowledge (textual and visual) about the non-human world. Indeed, one might go so far as to say that the ‘natural world’ has become a veritable battle-ground among rival knowledge producers (academics, think tanks, research ENGOS etc) to have their claims heard and accorded legitimacy.

This workshop is aimed at professional geographers and is designed to generate some critical self-reflection on the why and wherefore of producing environmental knowledges as putative ‘experts’ in the wider society. The workshop will comprise presentations from Professor Noel Castree of Manchester University, England, leading to chaired discussion of a set of linked themes germane to the professional lives and aspirations of the attendees.

Given places are restricted, to avoid disappointment, please register your interest with Professor Lesley Head at the following email addresses: Lesley Head lesley.head@mna.hkr.se

**Catchments to Coast 2006, Cairns.**  
**July 9-14, 2006**

The International Society of Wetland Scientists and the Australian Marine Science Association.

The conference will feature the management of catchments and issues relating to marine/terrestrial interactions. All details, including the call for abstracts, mid-conference tours and conference program may be found on the website:  
[www.catchments.org.au](http://www.catchments.org.au)

**Everyday Multiculturalism**  
**28th and 29th September, 2006**

Centre for Research on Social Inclusion, Macquarie University and the ARC Cultural Research Network

While research on Australian multiculturalism and racism is well developed in Australia, qualitative research into everyday modes of lived multiculturalism, remains fairly limited. This two day conference seeks to bring together researchers exploring everyday experiences of cultural diversity and difference.

We invite proposals from any discipline that engage with any aspect of everyday multiculturalism with a special focus on those employing grounded methodologies
such as fieldwork, interviews, focus groups and ethnographic participant observation.

Please submit abstracts of 250 words or less with a short biographical paragraph by 30th June 2006 to selvaraj.velayutham@scmp.mq.edu.au

Website: www.crsi.mq.edu.au

Southern Perspectives on Development: Dialogue or Division?
30 Nov - 2 Dec, 2006

DEVNET: The Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Studies Network Conference 2006, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

The DEVNET 2006 organising committee the Inequality, Poverty and Development Cluster (IPD) at the University of Otago warmly invites you to the DEVNET 2006 Conference /Southern Perspectives on Development: Dialogue or Division?/ At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest for Conference sessions. If you would like to organise a session on a particular theme please email ideas to devnet2006@geography.otago.ac.nz, or alternatively contact Dr Andrew McGregor (+64 3 479 8780) or Dr Alan Dixon (+64 3 479 8971).

30th May 2006: Final date for submission of abstracts for consideration
30th July: Early bird registration
1st November: Final date for regular registration

More details available at:
DEVNET: http://www.devnet.org.nz

4th Australasian Discourse Theory Summer School
20 November to 15 December 2006

The fourth Annual Discourse Theory Summer School will be held at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, in November – December 2006. Like the previous three Schools, this School will provide an advanced learning forum for those interested in the theory of discourse. As such it will draw upon phenomenology, post-structuralism, and psychoanalysis. It will be trans-disciplinary, and like the last three Schools, is likely to attract academic staff and postgraduates from a wide range of science, commerce, and social science schools and faculties in New Zealand and Australian universities, as well as researchers and policy advisors from both public and private organisations.

Week 1: Introduction to Discourse Theory (20 to 24 Nov)
Week 2: Discourse Theory and Deconstruction (27 Nov to 1 Dec)
Week 3: Critical Theory and Discourse Theory (4 Dec to 8 Dec)
Week 4: Applying Discourse Theory (11 Dec to 15 Dec)

More details available at:
http://www.vuw.ac.nz/conted/discoursetheory/
ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference 2006
10-13 December 2006

The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research, Inc. (ACSPRI) will host a conference in December, 2006 in order to provide a national forum focusing on current issues in social science methodology.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

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 Australian Geographical Studies, stating that the paper is to be considered for the award. Three copies of the paper should be submitted following the style conventions of AGS (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 AGS. 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 AGS 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 Australian Geographical Studies. 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:
The Editors
_Australian Geographical Studies_
School of Social Sciences
Curtin University
Perth, WA 6845

**Grants and Awards Received**

Dr Gour Dasvarma and Dr Udoy Saikia have been awarded $1,500 from the 2006 Faculty Research Budget to support visiting research fellow Professor Prem Saxena, Independent Researcher and Consultant.

Professor Iain Hay has accepted an invitation to join the Review Board for the _International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education_. He has also joined the Editorial Board of _International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education_ (2006-2008).

Professor Iain Hay, Andrew Hughes and Mark Tutton are co-winners of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies Research Prize 2005 for their paper 'Monuments, memory and marginalization in Adelaide's Prince Henry Gardens' which was published in _Geografiska Annaler B_ (2004, vol. 36, no. 3, pp. 200-215). This paper was written while Andrew and Mark were undergraduate students in the School.

Dr Andrew Lothian, Until recently an adjunct lecturer in the School, won the National Award for Planning Excellence 2006 in the category of Environmental Planning or Conservation for his report, 'Coastal Viewscapes of South Australia'. The report covered the measurement and mapping of coastal landscape quality for the entire coast of South Australia which Dr Lothian completed in 2005 for the Coastal Management Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage. The award was made by the Planning Institute of Australia at its annual conference on the Gold Coast on 3 April. The win followed Dr Lothian being awarded the State Award for Planning Excellence last November by the SA Division of the Planning Institute of Australia for the same report.

Dr Meryl Pearce together with Dr Eileen Willis and Dr Ben Wadham are working with four Aboriginal communities in South Australia to provide an Aboriginal response to the National Water Initiative. The project also examines water use and ways of reducing water use and water costs to remote Aboriginal communities. The research is funded by the Departments for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Family and Community Services and United Water.
Dr Udoy Saikia has been awarded $3,000 from the 2006 Faculty Research Budget for the project entitled 'the country with the world's highest fertility: a preliminary investigation into the reproductive behaviour of women of Timor Leste'.

Dr Simon Batterbury & Dr Gilles Pestana (University of New Caledonia) "Twentieth Century rural development, labour, and agrarian change on Grande Terre, New Caledonia". Ambassade de la France/ASSA. 2006. $5,000.


Dr N Barbee, Dr S Swearer and Dr BJ Downes “Assessing the impact of estuary management on the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems” Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. 2005. $136,500.


Prof Marcia Langton, Dr Lisa Palmer, M Tehan, Dr LM Strelein and Dr LC Godden. “The implementation of agreements and treaties with Indigenous and local peoples in postcolonial states” ARC linkage ($445,963) and Rio Tinto and OIPC ($600,000), 2006-9.

Dr Monica Minnegal. “Comparative study of ITQ in small-scale fisheries” British Academy/Association of Commonwealth Universities, 2005. $9,500.

Dr Michael Stewardson “Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program” DSE Victoria, $125,000.

Dr Michael Stewardson “Integrated assessment of suspended solids and nutrients for Queensland catchments” Queensland EPA, $100,000.


NEWS FROM DEPARTMENTS

University of Melbourne

The School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies (SAGES) comprises 18 full time staff, plus several contract staff, 385 undergrads, 42 taught postgrads and 58 research students. We are housed in a modern building just south of the main campus. See www.sages.unimelb.edu.au
In January 2007 the Chair of Geography (vacant since 2003) will be filled by Ruth Fincher, currently Professor of Planning and Dean in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning. Ruth brings expertise in social, urban and feminist geography, and a long involvement with the IAG. Other recent hires, from 2003-5, include Simon Batterbury (PhD, Clark), a development and environment specialist, from the University of Arizona; cultural geographers Fraser MacDonald (PhD, Oxford; formerly U of Aberdeen) and Rachel Hughes (PhD subm., Melb); and Lisa Palmer (PhD, NTU). Recent hires in Anthropology include Prof. Andrew Dawson (PhD, Essex), Hans Baer (PhD, Utah; from Arkansas), and Tammie Kohn (PhD, Oxford; from Durham). Alan Thorold (PhD Cambridge) replaces Jon Barnett while Jon is an ARC Fellow. Sallie Weller (PhD, Victoria) is undertaking ARC post-doc research on the Ansett Airlines collapse. In 2006, Prof. Michael Webber and Dr. Anthony Marcus rejoined SAGES when Melbourne University Private was reintegrated into the University. One section of the national CRC, E-Water, is now based in the School, coordinated by Dr Mike Stewardson, and employing several new staff.

Teaching and research across these areas has been strengthened by these and other appointments. SAGES run undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Geography, Anthropology, Development Studies, Environmental Studies and Australian Indigenous Studies, making for an intriguing mix. There are four seminar series each semester, a monthly Human Geography Reading Group that attracts participants from across the city, and a host of international visitors. Melbourne is currently restructuring its Faculties and its entire curriculum, so there may be major changes to the School (hopefully, positive ones) ahead.

SAGES are one of the partners involved in hosting the IAG annual meetings in central Melbourne in July 2007.

**University of New South Wales @ADFA**

Geography at the University College, University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy is now located in the School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences (PEMS), along with the disciplines of Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, and Oceanography.

Dr Glenn Banks has recently been appointed Deputy Head of the School. Associate Professor Dennis Isbister was reappointed for another term as Head of School of PEMS, UNSW@ADFA. Professor Brian Lees took up his appointment as Professor in Geography on February 1 2006.

At the end of January 2006 Emeritus Professor Roger McLean retired from his position as Professor of Geography after 20 years. He will continue to contribute to the School of PEMS and UNSW@ADFA as a Visiting Fellow.

Dr James Burgess retired at the end of 2005 after a contribution to both Duntroon and UNSW@ADFA.
Flinders

In March the School held separate functions to welcome postgraduate students and new first-year students. These successful gatherings are part of the School's explicit and implicit ambitions to ensure a welcoming and supportive environment for all students.

The School also held a Postgraduate symposium on the 24th May. The half day event focussed on postdoctoral possibilities, strategies for a successful PhD and academic isolation and what can be done about it.

The school welcomed Dr Paul Sutton to the School. Dr Sutton is an associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Denver. His research interests are in the area of using geographic information science and technology to explore questions in the domains of urban growth and form, population geography, and ecological economics. Much of his work centres on the creative application of night time satellite imagery to problems in these areas.

An Administrative Officer has been employed in the School. Julie Nixon was appointed in April to support the research efforts of academic staff and provide general assistance with course administration.

A presentation evening was held on 10 May to congratulate students on awards for academic achievement as follows:

- The 2005 Les Heathcote Award for Masters of Environmental Management winner was Van Phong Vo;
- The 2005 Murray McCaskill Medal winner was Elena Mazourenko;
- The 2005 ESRI GIS award winner was Kelly Allen;
- The 2005 inaugural GIS Applied Project prize joint winners were Laszlo Katona and Nathan Daniels;
- The 2005 RGSSA John Lewis Prize winners are: 1st Year: Susanne Taylor; 2nd and 3rd Year: joint winners were Kay Govin Karpagam and Paul O'Connor; the RGSSA Silver Medalist was Janet Candy

The first edition of the School’s Newsletter for 2006 will be available on the website towards the end of June. If you would like to be placed on the circulation list, please email geography@flinders.edu.au

University of Tasmania

Dr Elaine Stratford has been appointed for four years as the Head of School for Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Tasmania. Elaine will take over this role from Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick. While always unravelling
and inspiring a Tasmanian sense of identity and place, Elaine has also been invited to be a founding member of the new IGU Commission for Small Islands.

Dr Stewart Williams, having completed his Doctorate late last year on the geographies of Edgar Allen Poe has been appointed as the Assistant to the six Theme Area Coordinators within the University of Tasmania.

In April 2006 The University of Tasmania hosted the Senses of Place conference at the Tasmanian School of Art. By all reports the conference was a fantastic success drawing people from a diverse range of backgrounds that included art, architecture, geography, philosophy and much more. There is presently a publication being put together from the proceedings by the National Museum of Australia.

University of Queensland

On 15 May 2006 Sir Peter Hall of University College London presented a public lecture entitled ‘The end of the city?: The report of my death was an exaggeration’, which was attended by over 150 people.

UQ is currently advertising lecturer/senior lecturer posts in urban and community planning and planning in developing countries, closing date 16 June 2006.

Human Geography, Macquarie University

The Department of Human Geography at Macquarie has had two small additions – Sandie Suchet-Pearson gave birth to her second child, Rhian, in January and Kate Lloyd had her first child, Hannah, in May. Rhian went on her first field trip to Darwin with her brother, Kai, and Sandie in April.

Meanwhile, HG has become a founding participant in the cross disciplinary Macquarie University Centre for Research on Social Inclusion and is hosting an ARC post doctoral research fellow, Dr Selvaraj Velayutham, who is based in CRSI. Raj is working with Dr Amanda Wise (Research Manager at the Centre) on a three year project titled, Transnational Affect and the Moral Economies of Temporary Skilled Migrations of Indians to Australia. The project aims to develop insights into the social and cultural impacts of temporary skilled migration both on temporary migrants and the wider Australia community. CRSI has been identified by the new VC as an important area for research leadership and is the first research centre to bring researchers together across internal administrative divisions. The Centre has five research clusters, and geographers are active participants in each:

- Migration, Multiculturalism and Nation
- Critical Theory and Social Hope
- Welfare, Care and Social Policy
- The Postcolonial World and Globalisation
- Inclusion and Exclusion in Urban and Regional Spaces

HG at Macquarie re-introduced an applied fieldwork unit this semester, GEOS347. Students had the option of undertaking fieldwork over the Easter break in South
East Asia, Darwin on organised tours or independently, locally. A small group of Macquarie students spent the Easter period in the Top End together with Development Studies students from Newcastle University. Even the staff, who had stressed the need for having several back-up plans, were taken aback by the onset of the worst floods for 450 years (at least according to the geomorphologists up there) that totally isolated the study area, the unavailability of Indigenous participants in the research due to a funeral, and the most severe cyclone ‘ever’ to hit Australia. Notwithstanding, the trip was both enjoyable and productive due to the power of positive thinking and the patience, generosity and knowledge of both the Aboriginal and white locals. Not surprisingly, student evaluations emphasised the ‘need for flexibility in research’ high among their learning outcomes...

Richie Howitt has taken over Iain Hay’s role as regional commissioning editor for the Journal of Geography in Higher Education and welcomes submission of manuscripts to the journal.

James Cook University

The big news from JCU is the merger of the School of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography with the School of Earth Sciences.

Both Schools are highly research active and the new unit will be the highest performing research School in the University. The amalgamation will also lead to greater cooperation in the teaching of geomorphology, especially coral reef, coastal and catchment processes that form a strong focus for each School. The exercise will involve Earth Science students and staff in Townsville moving into the TESAG building. In Cairns the two Schools are already co-located. It is anticipated that the outcome will strengthen the core overlap areas and encourage an even stronger research profile. Managing the increased diversity is likely to be a challenge and there is concern that some discipline areas may suffer. The name of the new School has not yet been determined although a likely name is School of Earth and Environmental Science. It is proposed that the Head of School rotate between the two former Schools beginning with Associate Professor Peter Valentine for 2006 followed by Professor Nick Oliver for 2007 and 2008.

Professor Steve Turton has been seconded to the Division of Research and Innovation at JCU for three years, where he has taken up the position of Director for the JCU/CSIRO Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture. He continues to supervise graduate students in the School.

Associate Professor Kevin Parnell and Dr Scott Smithers from are undertaking a major study in Torres Strait looking at island erosion processes.

Associate Professor David King from is working on disaster response plans on behalf of the Centre for Disaster Studies.

Professor Steve Turton is coordinating a research project examining the impacts of Cyclone Larry on north Queensland terrestrial ecosystems and human communities (funding from JCU and CSIRO).
**Associate Professor Peter Valentine** is working on a project for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service reviewing the prospects for World Heritage listing of Cape York Peninsula.

Several members of staff will take on research leadership roles in the new Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF). The facility replaces the Reef and Rainforest CRCs that cease to operate at the end of June 2006.

**GEOGRAPHERS ARE WORKING ON ...**

**Prof. Brian Lees, Prof. Roger McLean and Dr Jiashu Shen** have all contributed to Andy Short’s Special Issue of the *Journal of Coastal Research* on Australian Coastal Geomorphology. Brian has also recently contributed to Fotheringham and Wilson’s ‘Handbook of GISc’. Brian Lees is currently leading a new GISc project in NICTA with Terry Caelli, and will be once again running a Kioloa Workshop for research students in GISc, Social and Environmental modelling.

**Emeritus Professor Roger Mclean** conducted fieldwork in the Maldives with a team lead by former PhD student Paul Kench, University of Auckland, six weeks after the Boxing Day tsunami and resurveyed thirteen islands on which we had carried out profile and GPS surveys in 2002 and 2003. The results of this work are available in the March issue of *Geology*. **Paul S. Kench, Roger F. McLean, Robert W. Brander, Scott L. Nichol, Scott G. Smithers, Murray R. Ford, Kevin E. Parnell and Mohamed Aslam** (2006) Geological effects of tsunami on mid-ocean atoll islands: The Maldives before and after the Sumatran tsunami *Geology*; 34(3), p. 177-180, DOI: 10.1130/G21907.

**Glenn Banks** is currently involved in a Social Impact Assessment around the Porgera gold mine in Papua New Guinea, looking at the impact of relocating upwards of 9,000 people from the existing mining leases. He is also developing (with **Scott Sharpe**) a research project on the Barossa wine industry that builds on existing work on the Canberra District wine region, the Coonawarra and Transtasman wine labels.

**David Paull** and **Glenn Banks** have been working closely with Dave Gillieson (JCU) and Chris Ballard (ANU) on monitoring the environmental and social impacts of large mining operations in the Asia-Pacific region using remote sensing. Of note, they recently made a major contribution to ‘The Environmental Impacts of the Freeport-Rio Tinto’s Copper and Gold Mining Operation in Papua’, a 120 page report compiled by WALHI - Indonesian Forum for the Environment. Other aspects of this research appear in Paull, D., Banks, G., Ballard, C. and Gillieson, D. (2006). Monitoring the environmental impact of mining in remote locations through remotely sensed data. *Geocarto International* **21**, 33-42.
**David Paull** is also currently collaborating with Dr Robert Niven (UNSW@ADFA) on radon risk mapping in Australia, and with Dr Andrew Claridge, Dr Doug Mills (Dept Environment and Conservation), Dr Michael Rees and Dr Susan Carthew (Adelaide) on various wildlife research projects.

**Dr Amy Griffin** and colleagues in the US have a paper coming out shortly in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* on the relationship of perceptual and cognitive processes involved in viewing animated maps. She is also involved in research dealing with modeling of infectious disease with GIS, the landscape pathology of human health, and the role of expertise in using maps to think about geographical problems. She is currently involved in developing a new general education course on the Geography of Australian Sport.

**Assoc Prof Jacky Croke** was joined by research associate **Dr Kathryn Amos** in 2005, to continue the Fitzroy River research project, investigating the fluvial geomorphology of this c. 140 000 km², predominantly semi-arid catchment. Over the last year their work has focused on a GIS-based analysis of river styles, field-based investigation of anabranching reaches, and a study of floodplain sedimentation at several locations throughout the catchment, including OSL and radionuclide analysis dating techniques.

**Dr Scott Sharpe** (with Maria Hynes and Bob Fagan) has been investigating strategies of resistance to globalization, including a range of affective tactics such culture jamming, humour, mayhem and violence. Results of this work are being published in *FibreCulture* and in *Continuum* (forthcoming). He continues his work on 'geographies of excess' with Maria Hynes, examining the relationship between economy and ecology. Drs Paul Tranter and Scott Sharpe have developed a project examining the issue of peak oil and its effects on children and the urban environment.

**Professor Andrew Beer (Flinders)** has been involved in the organisation of The Southern Research Centre’s Australasian Housing Researchers Conference. The conference will be held between the 19th - 21st June 2006 in the Art Gallery of South Australia. Registrations are open, as is the call for contributions. Interested persons can obtain more information from the website [www.ahc06.com.au](http://www.ahc06.com.au) or via andrew.beer@flinders.edu.au.

**Dr Simon Benger (Flinders)** recently returned from fieldwork examining floodplain modification on the margins of the Tonle Sap (Great Lake) of Cambodia, working under a Faculty Research Grant.

**Mr Brian Caton (Flinders)**, Adjunct Senior Lecturer, working with staff of the Department of Environment and Heritage, has recently completed a conservation assessment study of the coast of the Northern Yorke Natural Resources Management region. The study identified conservation priority areas within the region, using a GIS based analysis. Mr Caton is currently working on a similar study of the coast of the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula.
Dr Gour Dasvarma (Flinders) and Dr Udoy Saikia (Flinders) travelled to Bougainville to prepare a Human Development Report for the Autonomous Bougainville Region.

Professor Iain Hay (Flinders), Dianne Bochner and Carol Dungey, have published the 3rd edition of their book *Making the Grade: a guide to successful communication and study*. The book is published by Oxford Press and is available from the 1st June 2006.

Dr Udoy Saikia (Flinders) along with UNDP Coordinator Dr Jim Chalmers organised three workshops (two in Bougainville and one in Port Moresby) as a part of the ongoing project on Bougainville Human Development Report (BHDR). The workshops were held from 18 to 21 April 2006.


Roy Jones (Curtin) and Brian Shaw (UWA) are co-editing 'Geographies of Australian Heritages: Loving a Sunburnt Country?', a volume in Ashgate's 'Heritage, Culture and Identity' series. Their article on 'Palimpsests of progress: erasing the past and rewriting the future - case studies of Singapore and Jakarta' was published in the International Journal of Heritage Studies earlier this year.

A new research project has been established through the Land and Water Australia Innovation Call program to investigate the impacts of clearing of native vegetation cover on the regional climate of Australia. The research will be jointly undertaken by The University of Queensland, the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water, and the University of Central Queensland. The research team consists of Dr Clive McAlpine (UQ), Dr Stuart Phinn (UQ), Dr Hamish McGowan (UQ), Dr Jozef Syktus (QLD Natural Resources, Mines and Water) and Prof Bob Miles (University of Central Queensland).

The project will use the CSIRO climate model to simulate the impact of pre-European and modern vegetation cover change on Australian regional climate. It will use high-resolution, new generation, satellite data to map modern-day vegetation characteristics such as leaf area index, albedo and fraction of vegetation cover required by the model. Historical mapping of pre-European vegetation will be used to reconstruct the vegetation characteristics as required to simulate the climatic impact of vegetation cover change. The data from the climate simulations will test the sensitivity of the magnitude of vegetation cover change in order to
identify potential thresholds in cover which trigger changes in regional climate. The emphasis will be on temperature and rainfall and the consequences for soil moisture and surface hydrology. The project will also evaluate the relative contribution of different forcings to the climate change signal in regional Australia, with a specific emphasis on comparing the relative importance of land cover change to the effect of elevated Greenhouse Gas concentrations. Most importantly, it will evaluate the consequences of the research findings for natural resource management and policy.

Dr Dominic Brown (UQ) is finishing the scoping phase of the demography of desert and savanna australia, research which will be presented at the Brisbane IGU regional meeting. He is also involved in continuing work on the structure of internal migration in Australia with findings to be presented at both the July 2006 IGU meeting and also in June 2006 at the European Population Conference in Liverpool, England.

GEOPHYSICISTS ON THE MOVE

After two decades as the resident Human Geographer at Avondale College (a small NSW-based higher education provider) where he lectured in Geography and International Development, Harwood Lockton, is moving to the NGO ADRA Australia to head their International Development Programs unit.

Dr Colin MacGregor (Curtin) has joined the Geography discipline in the Faculty of Media, Society and Culture as a Lecturer A. Colin was formerly lecturing at the University of St Andrews.

Dr Salut Muhidin (UQ) has now joined the UQ’s Queensland Centre for Population Research as a postdoctoral fellow.

PUBLICATIONS

Mike Bourke (Human Geography, ANU) has been involved in two publications which are part of a five volume series being published by AusAid on Solomon Islands agriculture. Solomon Islands Smallholder Agriculture Study. Volume 1. Main findings and Recommendations was co-authored with A McGregor, MG Allen, BR Evans, BF Mullen, AA Pollard, M Wairiu and S Zotalis, and Solomon Islands Smallholder Agriculture Study. Volume 4. Provincial Reports was produced with MG Allen, BR Evans, E Iramu, RK Maemouri, BF Mullen, AA Pollard, M Wairiu, C Watoto and S Zotalis.

In their book A Postcapitalist Politics, JK Gibson-Graham (Katherine Gibson from Human Geography, ANU and Julie Graham from the University of Massachusetts) present alternatives to capitalism and outline strategies for building alternative economies. The book has been published by the University of
Minnesota press together with a new edition of their earlier book *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It)* which includes a new introduction in which they address critical responses to this first publication and outline the economic research and activism they have been engaged in since the book was published.

**POSTGRADUATE NEWS**

PhD candidates close to submission from the University of Tasmania include: **Denbeigh Armstrong**, who is researching the geographies of local governance in the island rural townships of Tignish, Prince Edward Island, Canada and Geeveston, Tasmania, Australia. In her spare time Denbeigh is Personal Assistant to Professor Richard Coleman. **Andrew Harwood** is looking at island festivals, particularly the ‘Ten Days on the Island’ festival and the significance of island-ness. **Carol Patterson** is currently researching the relationship between cultural and economic capital in the context of Coles Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula on the east coast of Tasmania.

New candidates to join the ranks at the University of Tasmania in the last six months include: **Lif Jacobsen** from Denmark, who will be studying the environmental history of fisheries management in south-east Australia; **Sven Frijlink**, who will be conducting a social and economic assessment of two recreational fisheries - the game and charter fishery and the rock lobster fishery; **Elizabeth Jones**, who is undertaking a comparative study of aspects of environmental governance in two Bass Strait small island communities, employing place and island theory in the context of island-ness in Tasmania.

**Carol Farbotko**, from the University of Tasmania, has taken a few months leave after she was involved, as a pedestrian, in a motorbike accident while undertaking fieldwork on the small island of Tuvalu in the South Pacific. She has returned to Sydney to nurse her broken arm and is planning to resume her studies in the near future, hopefully back in Tasmania.

**Rebecca Jackson** has completed her fieldwork on Bruny, Phillip, Kangaroo and Rottnest Islands and is preparing to go to the International Small Islands Studies Association Conference in Maui with Carol Farbotko and Elaine Stratford.

**Peat Leith** continues his doctoral research on integrating local and scientific knowledges of climate variability to inform better decision-making in science and society. Peat recently published a booklet on his research for graziers and climate researchers, *Conversations about Climate: seasonal variability and graziers’ decisions in the eastern rangelands*. This has been well received by both these communities.

**Natalie Smith** from the University of Tasmania has commenced her second year of PhD research on the ‘between(ess) of place’. She has been undertaking fieldwork which involves the collection of road kill from a sixty kilometre line which is draw each day between her home and the university. It is Natalie’s
intention to give presence to the between(ess) c(art)ographically using both the skins of the animals found on the line and drawing on insights found in the lines of others.

Carol Freeman, from the University of Tasmania has submitted her dissertation on representations of the Tasmanian Thylacine and is hoping to make preparations for post-doctoral research in Tasmania.

The Department of Human Geography (RSPAS, ANU) has three new students – Kelly Dombroski is studying the migration of Tibetan and Hui people in Qinghai Province China; Pyone Myat Thu, customary land tenure in Timor-Leste and Timothy Sharp, betel nut networks in Papua New Guinea. Jennifer Litau and Pepito Fernandez have returned from fieldwork, Jennifer having spent nine months in the Morobe and Eastern Highlands districts of PNG compiling data and interviewing respondents for her thesis on rural non-formal migration and development and Pepito a year in the Philippines looking at the dynamics of power relations and governance issues behind the establishment and operation of four barangay-based marine protected areas in Northeastern Iloilo.

Rachel Nanson was awarded her PhD at a ceremony at UNSW early in 2006 - "Stream channel adjustment in upland swamps, Barrington Tops, New South Wales, Australia".


Takeshi Kamakawi is mid-way through a PhD on ‘Systematics, phylogeography, and speciation of the morabine grasshopper (genus Vandiemennella) in southeastern Australia’, supervised by David Paull (UNSW) and Steve Cooper (Adelaide). He has recently presented his research in Poland and Canberra, supported by grants from UNSW and ABRS.

Ayman Hamzeh is working on a PhD project with Amy Griffin that looks at ways of using GIScience technologies to increase farmer participation in locust mitigation activities.

Andrew Hughes continues to work on a PhD project with Associate Professor Jacky Croke and Dr Kathryn Amos, Research Associate, on the Fitzroy River, Qld.

Stephen Smith, Dylan Horne, and Bambang Trisasongko have all recently started postgraduate studies at UNSW@ADFA Geography. Stephen is looking at electoral geography, Dylan at the quaternary, and Bambang at remote sensing for environmental management.
**James Patrick Dawson** graduated with a Master of Science. His thesis topic was: Impact of wildfire on the spotted-tailed quoll Dasyurus maculatus in Kosciuszko National Park. His supervisor was Dr David Paull.

**Hans Pieters** commenced his PhD on 29th May 2006 in the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management (Flinders). His thesis examines the role of housing in the lives of workers made redundant as a consequence of the restructuring of Mitsubishi Motors Australia Ltd. His work is partly funded by the Southern Research Centre of AHURI.

**Elena Mazourenko** commenced her PhD in March 2006 in the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management (Flinders). Elena was the School’s Murray McCaskill medal winner for 2005. Her thesis is related to sustainable water pricing techniques with particular focus on environmental valuation of non-use values of sustaining biodiversity associated with environmental flows. The study is likely to be a comparison between South Australia and Alberta (Canada).

**James Catlin** (Curtin) has been awarded a CRC-Sustainable Tourism PhD scholarship to work on the Sustainability of Whale Shark Tourism at North West Cape. Both James and fellow Curtin PhD student Andrew Kingham have received small grants from the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management's Nature Based Tourism Research Scheme to assist with their field work costs at North West Cape/Ningaloo.
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: _______________________________

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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: Elaine Stratford, School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, 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.

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Back Issues of Australian Geographical Studies

The IAG holds back issues of 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.

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