It was in the early years of high school that I first heard of the feat of Eratosthenes of Kyrene. In 240 BC, using the angle of the sun in a well in Aswan, Egypt, and some neat geometry, he managed to estimate the circumference of the earth - to within (possibly) 1%. No self-respecting Greek really believed the earth was anything but a sphere. It was only recently that I discovered that Eratosthenes is also credited with coining the term ‘geography’ and ‘geographer’. He was the librarian in Alexandria, and amongst other achievements, he appears to have been the first person to divide the planet into lines of latitude and longitude, as well as recognise and define climatic zones such as ‘temperate’, ‘frigid’ and ‘torrid’. Why do I mention the so-called ‘father of geography’? Perhaps so that we can identify the mother of geography (a point for later correspondence?), but also because I happened upon a book of the collected ‘fragments’ of his Geographika treatise (Roller, 2010, Princeton Uni Press). What a surprise. I had always imagined a sage gentleman sitting serenely in the library. Instead the fragments show a feisty brawler who was in constant dispute about the nature of the world. He saved much of his scorn in the Geographika for the proponents of the popular genre of fantasy geography where scholars invented far-flung, anatomically unlikely communities.

What is my point? Geography was born in dispute and disagreement, and it should continue so. I think, in this regard, of the first president of the IAG, Griffith Taylor. He certainly did not shrink from dispute, and was apparently hounded out of the country (hopefully not the fate of all presidents).
One measure of our influence is the strength of our consequential debate – not just amongst ourselves - but across our community. But a good place to hone our debates is with each other at the annual conference. Can I encourage everybody to submit your abstracts and register for the Brisbane IAG conference? Do this, not just for the stunning line-up of keynote speakers, and the fabulous program, but so that you can get along and courteously disagree with each other. If you are organising a session for the conference, how much progress are you making if everybody agrees?

In the same vein, the IAG is about to embark on a strategic plan following the imminent release of the strategic plan for Geographical Sciences by the National Committee of Geographical Sciences. There will be a special session on the IAG strategic plan at the Brisbane conference, and we will be coming to you all for ideas over coming months. I hope that there will be vigorous debate about our direction and purpose. I am sure that Eratosthenes would make a submission if he could. I am also sure, that if he was with us he would volunteer to stand on the new National Committee of Geographical Sciences (see the next article), and he would encourage us to join him there.

Best wishes,

Ian Rutherfurd, IAG President
University of Melbourne,
idruth@unimelb.edu.au
News from IAG Council

IAG FUNDING FOR STUDY GROUPS

IAG Council is delighted to inform all members that the following amounts have been recently awarded to study groups for activities to grow and advance the discipline in 2017:

Urban Geography Study Group
Funding awarded: $3500 for Urban Theory Symposium

Rural Geography Study Group:
Funding awarded: $2371 for joint arrangement with Hazards, Risks and Disasters Study Group for keynote conference speaker and related activities

Legal Geography Study Group
Funding awarded: $4000 for keynote conference speaker and related activities

Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledges and Rights Study Group
Funding awarded: $4500 for joint arrangement with Critical Development Study Group for keynote conference speaker and related activities

Hazards, Risks and Disasters Study Group:
Funding awarded: $2371 for joint arrangement with Rural Geography Study Group for keynote conference speaker and related activities.

Critical Development Study Group:
Funding awarded: $4500 for joint arrangement with Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledges and Rights Study Group for keynote conference speaker and related activities.

CALL FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAVEL AWARDS

The IAG supports the active participation of its postgraduate members. To further this aim the IAG provides travel grants to assist eligible Research Higher Degree students to attend the annual IAG National Conference. The following describes the selection criteria and application process for postgraduate members of the IAG who wish to apply for funding to attend the Institute’s Annual Conference in Brisbane, 11-14 July, 2017.
Eligibility criteria and award conditions:

You must be:

- a current financial member of the IAG (Note: Eligible applications from student members outside Australia will be considered);
- enrolled on the date you apply for funding in either a Masters degree (Research) or a Doctoral degree;
- presenting a paper at the conference; and
- registered to attend the conference for its full duration.

Grant recipients must write a 500 word report for the IAG Council. The report should outline your participation in the conference, your reflections on the conference and detail how you spent the grant money. Your report should be submitted to the Vice-President (Past President), Prof Steve Turton s.turton@cqu.edu.au within 90 days of the conclusion of the conference. Reports may be reproduced in part or full in the IAG Newsletter.

How to apply for funding:

You must complete the Postgraduate Travel Grant Application Form available from 

https://www.iag.org.au/postgraduates/travel-grants-for-post-graduates/ and email it to IAG Vice President Assoc Prof Beverley Clarke beverley.clarke@flinders.edu.au by Monday 15 May 2017. In the subject line of your email please write “IAG Postgraduate Travel Grant Application for the IAG conference for [your name]”.

You must also attach:

(i) evidence of your registration at the conference;
(ii) advice of the acceptance of your paper (where available);
(iii) a copy of your paper’s abstract and title; and
(iv) proof of your enrolment in either a Masters degree (Research) or a Doctoral degree.

Travel grants are awarded at the discretion of the IAG Council. Whilst the total sum awarded is generous, the amount of each individual grant will vary depending on the number and location of applicants as a tiered system of funding is employed according to distance travelled to and from the event. In previous years individual grants have rarely exceeded several hundred dollars per applicant. Students are encouraged to pursue other sources of funding support if required.
AWARDS OF THE IAG

Please note that the Call for awards of the IAG 2017 CLOSED ON FRI 31 March

- The GRIFFITH TAYLOR Medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia.
- The AUSTRALIA-INTERNATIONAL MEDAL is awarded for outstanding contributions by Australian geographers to geography world-wide, or by geographers outside Australia to the geography of Australia.
- The DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (DFIAG) is awarded for distinguished service to Australian geography through furthering the aims of the Institute.
- The FELLOWSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHERS (FIAG) recognizes sustained service to the profession of geography in Australia.

Further details of all awards, including nomination details and requirements, are available from: https://www.iag.org.au/about/awards-of-the-iag/

Thanks to all those who have submitted nominations for the above awards. The awards sub-committee will be considering these in advance of the IAG conference.
For further enquiries about the awards, please contact either the IAG President, Ian Rutherfurd idruth@unimelb.edu.au or the Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS

One position (Ordinary Councillor) will fall vacant at the IAG General Meeting in July 2017 at the IAG Conference in Brisbane:

The Councillor elected will hold office until the second succeeding General Meeting following their election, which is normally two years. They shall be eligible for immediate re-election as Councillors but with a maximum period of continuous office up to the fourth succeeding General Meeting after their initial election.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 15 May 2017. Nominations must be received in writing using the form included below and should be emailed to the Honorary Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au.

Should an election be required, ballot papers will be emailed to financial members, who will have until Monday 26 June 2017 to return them to the Honorary Secretary, who will be the Returning Officer.

Results will be reported at the General Meeting in Brisbane.
NOTICE OF IAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Friday 28 April  
Time: 1.00 - 2.00 pm  
Venue: The University of Melbourne  
Room: School of Geography, Tea Room, Level 2, 221 Bouverie St, Carlton.

The Annual General Meeting will be held for the purpose of approving our financial reports for the previous financial year, following the requirements of our revised Constitution.

NOTICE OF IAG SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

There will be a Special General Meeting held to coincide with the IAG Conference in Brisbane.  
Date: Wednesday 12 July  
Time: 5:10 - 6:10 pm  
Venue: The University of Queensland, Steele Building (03)  
Room: Room 206

NEXT IAG COUNCIL MEETINGS

The IAG Council is holding its next meeting in Melbourne and there will also be an IAG Council meeting at the IAG Conference in Brisbane.

Date: Friday 28 April  
Time: 10 – 4 pm (breaking for the AGM above)  
Venue: The University of Melbourne  
Room: Dean’s Boardroom, on Level 12, 198 Berkeley St, Faculty of Business and Economics

Date: Tuesday 11 July  
Time: Noon – 5 pm  
Venue: The University of Queensland, Chamberlain Building (35)  
Room: Room 519

Robyn Bartel,  
IAG Honorary Secretary.
I, _______________________________(the proposer)

being a financial member of the IAG, do nominate

_________________________________(the nominee) of

___________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________ (address of nominee)

and

I, _______________________________(the seconder)

being also a financial member of the IAG do second the nomination of

____________________________________________________(the nominee)

to the position of _______________________________ of the IAG.

Signed (proposer):

    Date:

Signed (seconder):

    Date:

I, _______________________________(the nominee) accept this nomination and if
elected will serve the IAG as set out in the Constitution.

Signed (nominee):

    Date:

Brief biographical statement of nominee (maximum 200 words):
National Committee for Geographical Sciences

Associate Professor Alaric Maude has completed his term as Chair of the NCGS. Alaric has played a pivotal role in driving the Strategic Plan for Geographical Sciences, and members of the committee congratulated Alaric for his leadership and wished him well in his future endeavours. Alaric will play an important role behind the scenes as we finalise the plan. Other members of the committee that have completed their terms are Professors George Curry, Margaret Robertson (Deputy Chair), Nigel Tapper (Past Chair) and Jamie Schulmeister. These individuals have served the committee extremely well and we thank them for their service and contributions. Remaining members of the committee are working with the new chair to recruit members to fill these vacancies. The committee has agreed to increase the membership to 10. As well as ensuring a good geographical spread of new members, we are keen to secure a mix of early, mid and late career geographers.

The main business of the NCGS over coming months will be the completion of the Strategic Plan, its formal launch in Canberra and, most importantly, implementation of its recommendations over coming years. The committee agreed that, at the time of the launch and when socialising the plan with government, multiple government departments will need to be involved. We should all look forward to the launch of the Strategic Plan and playing a role in promoting our discipline in Australia and beyond.

Steve Turton, Chair, NCGS

Funding grants for Women’s Leadership Development

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across Australia’s science sector.

The initiative is providing women with grants to enable participation in a range of leadership development programs.

The leadership development programs are part-time and delivered nationally via WLA’s blended learning model. Scholarship funding is strictly limited and will be awarded based on a set of selection criteria being met.

Expressions of Interest: Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to June 7, 2017: http://www.wla.edu.au/assoc-
Griffith Taylor Medal
The medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded in each two year period.

Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers
The Fellowship is awarded for distinguished service to Australian geography through furthering the aims of the Institute. The award was called the ‘Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographer’ prior to 2008.

Australian-International Medal
In recognition of either outstanding contributions by Australian (or Australia-based) geographers to the advancement of Geography worldwide or of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the geography of Australia by geographers permanently residing outside Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded each year.

Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers
Is awarded for sustained service to the geography profession in Australia.

Past Winners

Griffith Taylor Medal
- Mrs Ann Marshall 1989
- Dr Les Heathcote 1997
- Dr Joe Gentilli 1998
- Professor Fay Gale 2001
- Professor Bruce Thom 2004
- Emeritus Professor John Holmes 2006
- Professor Joe Powell 2008
- Professor Michael Webber 2011
- Professor Jim Walmsley 2013
- Professor Arthur Conacher 2015

Australia - International Medal
- Professor Janice Monk 1999
- Professor Reginald Colledge 2000
- Professor Tom McKnight 2001
- Emeritus Professor Harold Brookfield 2005
- Emeritus Professor Ian Douglas 2006
- Professor John Connell 2009
- Professor Katherine Gibson and Professor Julie Graham 2010
- Associate Professor Louise Johnson 2011
- Professor Graeme Hugo 2014
- Professor Gordon Clark 2015
- Emeritus Professor Ralph Gerard Ward

Recipients of the former Fellowship of the IAG
- Professor Murray McCaskill 1989
- Professor Bruce Thom 1992
- Professor John Holmes 1997
- Associate Professor Arthur Conacher 1998
- Mr Laurie Olive 1999
- Dr Morgan Sant 2001
- Associate Professor Richard Howitt 2004

Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers
- Dr Peter Smailes 2008
- Emeritus Professor Bob Fagan 2009
- Emeritus Professor Murray Wilson 2009
- Professor Hilary P.M. Winchester 2009
- Dr Robert Burne 2010
- Dr Jocelyn Davies 2010
- Dr Ruth Farmer 2010
- Ms Julie Kesby 2010
- Emeritus Professor Bruce Ryan 2010
- Dr Robin F Warner 2010
- Associate Professor Neil Argent 2012
- Dr Hugo Beke 2012
- Professor Robyn Dowling 2012
- Associate Professor Deirdre Dragovich 2012
- Associate Professor Jim Forrest 2012
- Dr Ashley Webb 2012
- Professor Chris Gibson 2012
- Dr Scott Mooney 2012
- Professor Jim Walmsley 2012
- Dr Ashley Webb 2012
- Mr Graham Pascoe 2014

Citations are available from: https://www.iag.org.au/about/awards-of-the-iag/
Grants and Awards Received

Congratulations to the following who have recently received the award of PhD:

Dr Paul Smith for the thesis entitled “Commodification And Commodity Status In Master Planned Estates: Insights Into The Processes Of New Urban Developments” (supervised by Phil McManus and Kurt Iveson).

Dr Billy Haworth for the thesis entitled “Assessing the potential, application, and implications of volunteered geographic information in disaster risk reduction” (supervised by Eleanor Bruce and Kurt Iveson).

Congratulations to the following who have recently received other awards and grants:

Dale Dominey-Howes, together with a team led by Professor Anthony Capon from the University of Sydney’s School of Public Health have been awarded a two year grant of $500,000. The grant is to develop the NSW Human Health and Social Impacts Node of the NSW Government, Office of Environment and Heritage's response to climate change. Dale's role will be to coordinate research focusing on vulnerable people and communities to climate extreme events such as heat waves.

Christine Eriksen and PhD Candidate Shefali Lakhina were awarded $40,893 by the NSW Office of Emergency Management as part of the 2017 Community Resilience Innovation Program. Their project titled ‘Resilient Together’ will examine and engage the knowledge and capacities of refugees for a disaster resilient Illawarra.
Meg Sherval from the Centre of Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) and colleagues from the Centre for Social Research and Regional Futures (CSRFRF) have been awarded research funding ($10,000) from the University of Newcastle Pilot Linkage Grant Scheme for a project entitled ‘Aging Well: The Expectations and Realities of Ageing in Rural and Remote Australia’. The project will examine ageing and rurality centred on social, environmental and mental health. The research team are discussing the project with potential linkage partners.

Meg Sherval and colleagues from the Centre for Social Research and Regional Futures (CSRFRF) were granted research funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries to investigate local attitudes towards changing land use in Narrabri Shire. The finalised evidence-based report drew on 65 semi-structured interviews with local residents and key stakeholders including planners, policy makers and decision makers. The report considers how land use variation is understood and responded to within that particular rural community.

Michael Adams has been appointed an Academic Fellow of the Australia India Institute. Michael Adams was successful with an Asialink Residency grant to India: http://asialink.unimelb.edu.au/arts/residencies/2017-residents. He will spend six weeks in the south of India later this year, hosted by EARTHCoLab and focusing on relationships between people and oceans in India and Sri Lanka.

Honglin Chen (UOW, School of Education) with the Heads of Postgraduate Studies from each School in the Faculty of Social Sciences (including Leah Gibbs, School of Geography and Sustainable Communities), have been awarded a University Internationalisation Committee grant for an exchange program with University College London to develop our Faculty HDR training program: ‘Creating innovative research training environments for knowledge transformation’, UOW Internationalisation Committee International Links Grant Scheme 2017.

Kurt Iveson has received funding from the Henry Halloran Trust for a three-year project called “Organizing the 21st Century City”, which will examine the role of urban-scale alliances and coalitions in urban politics and policy. Amanda Tattersall has been appointed as a Post-Doctoral Researcher on the project.
CONFERENCE UPDATE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS EXTENDED

Planning for the 2017 IAG annual conference in Brisbane is well underway. This year’s conference has an exciting line-up of guest speakers — some key speakers are shown below. Field trips have been organised and information will be released shortly.

Key themes for the conference include spatial science and GIS, cultural geography, geomorphology and paleoclimatology, economic geography, urban geography and many more.

Due to demand and the upcoming Easter breaks, the abstract deadline has been extended until 19 April 2017.

For full details, visit www.iagconference.com.au

Thomas Sigler, Conference Chair

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE

**Professor Michael Batty**
Emeritus Professor of Planning, Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Faculty of the Built Environment, University College of London, UK

*Big Data and Urban Analytics: New Tools for Understanding and Planning the Smart City*

**Professor Jonathan Nott**
Professor of Geoscience, College of Science, Technology and Engineering, James Cook University, Australia

**Professor Jo Little**
Professor in Gender and Geography, University of Exeter, UK

*Everyday Geographies of Love and Fear in the Rural*

**Professor Matt Zook**
Professor of Economic and Information Geography, University of Kentucky, Kentucky, USA

*Attentional Social Media: Mapping the Spaces and Networks of the Fashion Industry*

REGISTRATION & ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS

Registration:  Is open and we encourage you to register early to reserve your place.

Accommodation:  The week of the Conference falls over State of Origin final game in Brisbane. The Conference Organisers have secured excellent accommodation options (starting from $135 per night). However, due to the State of Origin game, there will be limited availability after the early registration deadline.

Early registration deadline is 10 May.

Register and book accommodation online at www.iagconference.com.au
Other Conferences

The **RGS-IBG ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017** will be held at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington, London from 29th August – 1st September 2017. More information is available at: [http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm](http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm)

The next **IGU Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems** conference “Rural spaces in a multifunctional transition experience and adaptation” will be held from 16-22 April at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. More information is available at: [http://csrs2017.hcmussh.edu.vn/Default.aspx?TopicId=d459bef8-ea49-4f4f-91c6-800d9d7a8e21](http://csrs2017.hcmussh.edu.vn/Default.aspx?TopicId=d459bef8-ea49-4f4f-91c6-800d9d7a8e21)
The **5th International Conference on Geographies of Children, Youth and Families** will be held from 25-27 September 2017 at the University of Loughborough UK. The session title is Precarious lives: children, youth and families in contexts of urban povertis currently calling for papers, and session organisers, Lorraine van Blerk (University of Dundee, UK) & Harriot Beazley (University of the Sunshine Coast, AUS) are currently calling for papers. More information at:  [https://gcycfrg.wordpress.com/2016/11/15/cfp-fifth-international-conference-on-geographies-of-children-youth-and-families/](https://gcycfrg.wordpress.com/2016/11/15/cfp-fifth-international-conference-on-geographies-of-children-youth-and-families/)

The **IGU Commission on Geography of Governance** will hold its 2017 Annual Conference on Local Governance in the new urban Agenda at the University of Salento, Lecce, Italy, from 19-21 October. The conference website is at:  [https://sites.google.com/site/geogov2017conference/](https://sites.google.com/site/geogov2017conference/)

The inaugural **International Symposium of the Active Living Laboratory** at the University of Otago (New Zealand), will be on “Active Living and Environment: Towards a Healthier and More Sustainable Future” from 28-30 August 2017 at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. The goal is to bring together researchers, policy makers, health promoters, urban designers, transport experts and interested members of the public to engage in a multidisciplinary and multi-sector dialogue about Active Living and Environment. Symposium themes include Health, Transportation, Environment and Sustainability. More information is available at:  [http://www.otago.ac.nz/active-living-2017/otago633091.pdf](http://www.otago.ac.nz/active-living-2017/otago633091.pdf)

The **2017 Developing Northern Australia Conference** will be held at the Pullman Cairns International Hotel on the 19th and 20th June, followed by study tours on 21st June. Following the highly successful conferences in Townsville in 2015 and Darwin in 2016 and the implementation of the government White Paper, the focus of the 2017 conference will be on initiatives to drive progress, growth and investment in the development of Northern Australia. As a member of the The Institute of Australian Geographers, you are eligible to register to attend the Conference at the Member registration rate. For information on prices please visit the website at [http://northaust.org.au/](http://northaust.org.au/)


The Geomorphology Association in cooperation with Elazığ Fırat University Geography Department will be hosting the "International Geomorphology Symposium" at Elazığ Fırat University, Turkey, on 12-14 October 2017. The notifications presented at the symposium will be published in the "Proceedings" booklet. Symposium presentation language is in Turkish and English. The symposium aims to bring together all national and international scientists and practitioners who are interested in geomorphology and who contribute to the development and spread of geomorphology. More information at: http://ujes.org/?lang=en

The 45th annual conference of The Australian & New Zealand Map Society will be held from 22-23 May, 2017. It is hosted by the University of Melbourne, The State Library of Victoria & the Queen Victoria Centre, Melbourne. More information at: https://www.anzmaps.org/2017/02/13/notice-of-anzmaps-2017-mastering-maps-from-creation-to-care/

A two-day training course on social impact assessment will be held from 17-18 July 2017 at the University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane. Australia, in partnership with the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, University of Queensland. Trainers are Prof Frank Vanclay and Dr Ana Maria Esteves. This intermediate course provides a current overview of leading industry practice related to social impact assessment and management that is consistent with IAIA’s International Principles for SIA and Guidance for SIA. The course will address the current issues relevant to the business of managing the social impacts of extractives projects. The trainers include a leading academic in SIA and a person with considerable industry consulting experience. In the course, SIA is regarded as being more than just the ex-ante prediction of social impacts, it should be the process of managing the social issues, and a mechanism to ensure social and economic development. More Information and registration is available at: https://www.csrm.uq.edu.au/social-impact-training-2017

The 8th State of Australian Cities Conference will be held in Adelaide from 28-30 November. SOAC is the premier conference for academics and researchers focused on the complex challenges and issues facing urban landscapes within Australia. The conference aims to provide a focus for new urban scholarship and will bring together the most prominent academics working in this area in Australia, together with new researchers, policy makers and practitioners – who are interested in the Australian city. More information at: http://soac2017.com.au/


The Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute is holding the Queensland Survey and Spatial Conference in Southport, QLD on 4-5th May. The theme this year is “From seabed to space; managing global uncertainty in a spatial world.” More information at: https://www.sssi.org.au/Events/QLD-Surveying-and-Spatial-Conference-QSSC17/eid/1667.html
The biennial AGTA Conference was held at the University of Melbourne from 9 - 12 January 2017. It was a privilege to hear Professor David Lambert and Dr Michael Solem provide a joint keynote session about the Geo-capabilities Project and then have time in a follow-up workshop to work with them and explore this project more thoroughly.

Over 200 geography educators attended the conference; whilst the majority of conference delegates were from Australia (metropolitan, rural, regional and remote), about 10% joined us from Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, United Kingdom and the United States of America. As with previous AGTA Conferences there were a range of keynote speakers, workshops and field-trips, multiple networking opportunities and the AGTA Awards at the Conference Dinner. For 2017 there were three recipients for the Don Biddle Friend of Geography Award: Greg Way (SA), Leonie Brown (VIC) and Malcolm McInerney (SA). Their citations are available at http://agta.asn.au/Awards/Don%20Biddle%20Award/index.php and the AGTA Board would once again like to congratulate these recipients for their sustained contribution to AGTA and to the national geographical education landscape.

Finally, the AGTA Board would also like to publicly extend their sincere thanks to the new AGTA Chair, Trish Douglas and the team from GTAV who led the conference convening process. For further information about the AGTA Conference and to view the presentations please follow the weblink http://agta.asn.au/conf2017/presentations/index.php. The next AGTA Board meeting will be held in Adelaide on 27 - 28 May 2017. A more detailed report about AGTA activities and projects will be available for the interest of IAG members in the following newsletter.

Susan Caldis
AGTA Secretary
Study Groups

“Economic Geography symposium in Sydney focusses on global restructuring”

The Economic Geography Study Group recently held a symposium at the University of Sydney Business School on the theme of globalising the Australian economy. Multiple paper presentations highlighted the dynamic nature of the Australian economy from a spatial perspective. This symposium commemorated Fagan and Webber’s Global Restructuring: The Australian Experience, which overviewed how the Australian economy responded to the structural changes associated with the ‘new international division of labour’. Contributions from both junior and senior academics highlighted the changing nature of agriculture; higher education; manufacturing; finance; commodities; energy; and global integration. The symposium was organised by Kirsten Martinus (UWA); Thomas Sigler (UQ); Phillip O’Neill (WSU); and Matthew Tonts (UWA), and hosted by Eric Knight (Syd). Nick Lewis (Auckland) delivered a provocative keynote address on the geography of restructuring in New Zealand.

Early Career Researcher
First Publication

Two refereed journal articles have been published by University of Sydney geography Summer Scholarship students (2nd and 3rd year students at the time). This is their first academic publication. There were two groups working in 2015-2016 under the guidance of Phil McManus and Elizabeth Duncan. Congratulations to:

Nadine, Paul and Daphne on their publication “Transitioning to a more sustainable residential built environment in Sydney?” in the open access journal GEO: Geography and Environment http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/geo2.33/full

CSIRO

Tom Measham has relocated to Brisbane to lead the Resources and Communities Team in CSIRO Land and Water. The team comprises geographers, economists and social scientists and is shared between two sites: the Ecosciences Precinct in Dutton Park and the Queensland Centre for Advanced Technologies, Pullenvale.

The University of Wollongong

Christine Eriksen has for the past two years been an invited expert on a steering committee for the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) examining sexual harassment and gender discrimination in wildfire management internationally. The steering committee presented the initial findings as an opening plenary panel at a fire congress in the US in October 2015, and a Position Paper with accompanying infographics was released in December 2016. The significant findings and recommendations in the Position Paper evoked an invitation for AFE to submit a written testimony to a US Congressional Hearing into this issue. This is a pivotal moment in the wildfire management profession, particularly in the US. All of the documents are available online: http://www.fireecology.org/page-1807009

The Asia-Pacific Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Research Group, School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Dale Dominey-Howes has been appointed by the Federal Attorney-General to an Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Policy Innovation Roundtable. Based on his expertise in natural hazards and risk management, he has been invited to contribute to the development of a new set of policy, practice and research priorities to enhance disaster risk management preparedness for the coming decade. The first meeting of the policy round table group occurred in late March 2017.
Dr. Sophie Webber has commenced work as a Level B Lecturer of Geography. We have also made new appointments in the School - Dr. Bree Morgan (has arrived from Monash University) as an Environmental Geochemistry lecturer and Dr. Vasilis Chatzaras (a geologist currently at Utrecht) will commence in January, 2018. We will appoint a .6 FTE Lecturer Level B in Urban Geography, using funds provided by the University of Sydney to cover half of Associate Professor Kurt Iveson’s work as the NTEU Sydney Branch President, very soon. We also have three new Postdocs - Dr. Emma Calgaro and Dr. Bradley Garrett are Sydney Fellows and Dr. Amanda Tattersall is a Halloran Trust funded postdoc.

Deirdre Dragovich hosted Saeed Najafi, a PhD student from Tarbiat Modares University (TMU), on an 8-month study program which ended in March. During his time here Saeed worked on modelling sediment connectivity in his field area in Iran and was involved in drafting a review paper on functional and structural connectivity. He expects to complete his thesis within the next few months.

Associate Professor Andrew McGregor (Macquarie) will be an academic visitor on SSP in the School of Geosciences at the University of Sydney from 3rd July- 15th December, 2017.

From 6-12 January, 2017, Iris Bergmann, PhD candidate at the School of Geosciences, University of Sydney, attended and spoke at the International Thoroughbred Breeders Federation (ITBF) annual Congress 2017 in Cape Town. Iris’s research seeks to extend the sustainability paradigm to include animal protection, whereby the practice of thoroughbred racing is used as a case study. The event presented a remarkable occasion in so far as an industry body had taken the initiative to invite a presenter critical of their day-to-day practices on the ground, and in the bio- and geo-space of human-animal relations in general. It is noteworthy also since the thoroughbred industry would generally seek solutions in the veterinarian and technological fields, or by consulting their PR department. The presentation and the interest demonstrated by the ITBF, indicate the seminal role of human/animal geographies, and the social sciences in general, in advancing the sustainability transition. The presentation titled “Sustainability, Welfare and Thoroughbred Breeding and Racing” can be viewed at https://vimeo.com/199972380.

On 3rd February, Professor Jamie Peck (Canada Research Chair in Urban & Regional Political Economy and Professor of Geography at the University of British Columbia, Canada) delivered a public lecture at the University of Sydney on Conjunctural Urbanism: Cities, Financialization, and Late Neoliberalism. This event was very well attended, and followed by a Master Class led by Dr. Sophie Webber (Sydney) that attracted participants from across Australia and international visitors. This multidisciplinary Masterclass included geographers, architects, urban planners, sociologists, and many other academic disciplines. It focused on contemporary urban restructuring, delving into neoliberalism, financialization, variegated capitalism and conjunctural urbanism.
Professor Jamie Peck public lecture

Master class

There is also an amazing Human Geography seminar series called Thinking Space - http://www.geosci.usyd.edu.au/news_events/ne_seminars.shtml

Professor Bill Pritchard is taking the leading role and working with a number of other leading academics throughout Australia to organise the Regional Studies Association Australasia Conference at the University of Sydney from 3-5 July, 2017. The title of the conference is Fragmented Regional Worlds: Inequality and Populism in a Globalising World. Leading geographers are among the keynote speakers http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/plenary-sessions/keynote-speakers-sydney-2017. For further details, see http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-australasia-2017

Professor Phil Hirsch will officially retire in July after 30 years of service to the University of Sydney, during which time he built an international research reputation for his work on environmental management in South East Asia. He will assume the honorary title of Emeritus Professor when he officially retires. A farewell event was held in late March in the School of Geosciences.

Many students have a lot to be grateful for in terms of their educational experience, and the term “life-changing” is apt for the students who had the good fortune to share educational experiences with Phil in the Mekong. Phil has supervised 20 PhD students to completion, 15 Research Masters and numerous Honours students (all as primary supervisor), with three PhD students anticipated to complete in 2017.

Professor Hirsch has received 20 grants since 2000 and has published extensively, and influenced policy in the Mekong region. His 2017 edited publication, Routledge Handbook of the Environment in Southeast Asia, highlights his international standing. This publication follows his recent co-authored book The Mekong: A Socio-legal Approach to River Basin Development, which is the first detailed study from a socio-legal perspective of an international river basin that sustains approximately 70 million people across six countries.
Professors Phil McManus, Phil Hirsch and John Connell. Photograph courtesy of Tubtim Tubtim

Associate Professor Kurt Iveson, Professor Phil Hirsch and Professor Phil McManus at Phil Hirsch’s farewell celebration, March 29th. Photograph courtesy of Tubtim Tubtim
The University of Melbourne
School of Geography

On February 23 we welcomed 400 people to the launch of our School in the Faculty of Science, a great evening was had by all!

Emeritus Professor Ruth Fincher has been awarded American Association of Geographers Lifetime Achievement Honors in 2017.

The School welcomed Dr Ellen van Holstein in March. Ellen will be contributing to Professor Lesley Head’s work on ethnic diversity and environmental sustainability.

Dr David Bissell (ANU) is a visitor with us in Melbourne until the end of May.

Two seminars of note were also recently convened in the School:

- Dr Sangeetha Chandra-Shekeran ran a workshop in December 2016 to explore electricity market engagement, vulnerability and smart meters, see https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/you-snooze-you-lose-in-victoria-s-electricity-market

- A one-day workshop on Environmental Reconstruction was convened by Dr Michael Fletcher on March 23. The workshop brought together presenters and researchers from a range of fields including climatology, archaeology, palaeoecology and landscape evolution.
The University of Wollongong

We warmly welcome our three new colleagues, Dr Nicole Cook, Dr Scott McKinnon, and Dr Laura Hammersley. Nicole joins UOW as a lecturer. Here she is continuing her research on social movements, emergent cities and higher density housing, as well as continuing her teaching focus on resilience and public policy. Scott joins us as a Vice Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Scott’s project is titled ‘Reducing community vulnerability to disasters: what role does collective memory play?’ and investigates memory as a critical factor in how Australian communities have experienced, planned for and managed disasters triggered by natural hazards. Laura continues to co-create online curriculum in her new role supporting SGSC to develop innovative online teaching and learning resources. Her passion for ethical international volunteering, service-learning and community development also continues as she prepares to co-conduct an undergraduate human geography field trip to Bali in June.

Congratulations to Dr Victoria Ikutegbe, on completion of her PhD thesis, entitled: ‘A phenomenological study of gardening practices and invasive plant management in the Sydney Basin’, supervised by Nicholas Gill and Noel Castree. Welcome to our four new HDR students:

- Freya Croft (PhD), supervisors Michael Adams, Jennifer Atchison. ‘Historical representations of oceans’.
- Marc Llewellyn (PhD), supervisors Jennifer Atchison, Nicholas Gill. Title to be determined.
- Vivian Pham (PhD), supervisors Leah Gibbs, Gordon Waitt, and Paul Cooper (Sustainable Buildings Research Centre, UOW). ‘Low-carbon retrofit for community housing and household resilience’.
- Adam Woods (MPhil), supervisors Nicholas Gill, Michael Adams. ‘The applications and function of citizen science in growing community based knowledge’.

In April 2017 the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities and the Australian Centre for Cultural Environmental Research (AUSCCER) will host Prof. Jamie Peck (UBC). As part of his visit Jamie will present a free public seminar on Wednesday 26th April on the theme of Global Outsourcing. More details will be available through the AUSCCER website and Facebook page. To attend the seminar please contact Andrew Warren: awarren@uow.edu.au
Christine Eriksen has for the past two years been an invited expert on a steering committee for the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) examining sexual harassment and gender discrimination in wildfire management internationally. The steering committee presented the initial findings as an opening plenary panel at a fire congress in the US in October 2015, and a Position Paper with accompanying infographics was released in December 2016. The significant findings and recommendations in the Position Paper evoked an invitation for AFE to submit a written testimony to a US Congressional Hearing into this issue. This is a pivotal moment in the wildfire management profession, particularly in the US. All of the documents are available online: http://www.fireecology.org/page-1807009

John Connell (Sydney) and Chris Gibson (Wollongong) launched their new book, Outback Elvis, at the 25th annual Parkes Elvis Festival in January 2017. Published by NewSouth, Outback Elvis draws upon over a decade’s worth of research at the festival conducting visitor surveys, interviewing shopkeepers, local luminaries and countless Elvis impersonators. Pitched at the general nonfiction audience - and refreshingly free of academic referencing and footnotes! - the book and its launch received widespread media attention, including BBC News (UK), the Huffington Post, Sydney Morning Herald/The Age’s Good Weekend, American Airlines’ American Way inflight magazine, ABC News (and ABC radio stations across Australia), and a memorable segment on Channel 7’s Sunrise breakfast TV show, with both authors resplendent in full polyester jumpsuits. Officially launching the book in Parkes was the Mayor of Parkes, Ken Keith, along with performances by Parkes’ own premiere Elvis tribute artist, Barry Green, and Australia’s leading female Elvis tribute artist, Scheryl Sharkie, aka ShElvis. All three feature prominently in the pages of the book. Outback Elvis is available now in all good bookstores and via various online booksellers.
The University of Newcastle

Bursary Award Recipient

Final year Doctoral student Phoebe Everingham won a Bursary award for her PhD paper entitled ‘I’m not looking for a manufactured experience: diversity of motivations in volunteer tourism’. As part of this, Phoebe was invited to attend Otago University, New Zealand for the 2017 Council for Australasian Tourism and Hospitality Education Conference. Her paper was peer reviewed and will be published as part of the 2017 conference proceedings.

Phoebe was also featured in GOOD Travel, a business that endorses and facilitates sustainable and responsible tourism. You can read Phoebe’s advice for ethical volunteering and tourism in South America via http://good-travel.org/blog/volunteering

Phoebe Everingham (second left) with other Bursary Award winners
Welcome to Dr Michelle Duffy
Dr Michelle Duffy is joining the University of Newcastle in April as Associate Professor. Michelle is a cultural geographer. Her research interests are wide-ranging and multi-disciplinary spanning topics such as social cohesion and community wellbeing, and geographies of sound, music and performance. We’re very much looking forward to her contribution to teaching and research.

Greetings to Dr Philip Ireland
Dr Philip Ireland has allied with us to become our newest Conjoint Lecturer. Philip’s research centres on progressive change, with specific focus on climate change and development. Dr Ireland is currently working in collaboration with Associate Professor Dr David Karpf (George Washington University) and Dr Nina Hall (University of Queensland) on how new movements are impacting social, economic and environmental change. He is currently Managing Director for the Online Progressive Engagement Network (OPEN), which serves some of the world’s largest progressive digital campaigning organisations, and he is Chair of The GetUp Board.

Farewelling Dr Miriam Williams
Dr Miriam Williams has left to pursue her role as lecturer at Macquarie University in Urban Geography and Planning. Miriam contributed greatly to our discipline and will be missed by colleagues. We wish her all the best for the future.

Yandaarra – Gumbaynggirr for ‘shifting camp together’
Yandaarra is a collaboration led by the Gumbaynggirr people and co-facilitated with non-Gumbaynggirr people. Associate Professor Dr Sarah Wright, Dr Paul Hodge and PhD Candidate Lara Daley held a stall for Yandaarra on Gumbaynggirr Country at the Saltwater Freshwater Festival, Coffs Harbour. The event was an opportunity to share the drive behind Yandaarra focussed on maintaining and strengthening cultural practice, Dreaming and bonds with others, self and the Earth. At the festival, women and girls told stories in a weaving circle with the MiiMi Mothers Aboriginal Corporation.
More than an ‘ice’ time: Why I visited Antarctica with 75 women scientists…

By Amanda Davies, Curtin University

Occasionally life presents you with some pretty remarkable opportunities. Recently, one came my way when I was selected to participate in a three-week expedition to Antarctica with 75 other women scientists. The expedition formed part of an 18-month leadership development program aimed at women in the sciences.

The leaky pipeline in science
With the SAGE pilot of the Athena Swan charter in full-swing in Australia, it would be difficult not to know there is a serious under-representation of women in senior and leadership positions in the sciences.

Referred to as the ‘leaky pipeline’ of women in science, we know that while lots of women get degrees in STEMM fields, far fewer end up in senior or leadership positions. The story is not all that different in other disciplines.

Drip points in the leaky pipeline
There are a lot of drip points in the leaky pipeline. I have recently navigated two of the big ones – taking parental leave and moving to a part-time position.

In my case, navigating the ‘drip point’ of parental leave and then the ‘drip point’ of shifting to part-time work took a huge toll. It was not, in any way, as simple as it appeared on paper. It took a lot of negotiating, an insane amount of unpaid overtime, and a truly uncomfortable amount of my own financial resources just to hang in there…

I understand why so many have left academia at this point of their career. It is not that they were not tough enough, or committed enough, or clever enough. The blame has to rest with the institutions and with our systems. Blaming individuals will do little to stem the flow. Actually getting serious about addressing systemic discrimination will.
Doing Something About It…
When I started to speak out about my experiences of being a working mother, of
gender bias, and of gender discrimination, some responses were:
• “We all went through that - you can’t change the system”
• “But you still have your job right – what is there to complain about”
• “You can’t have everything”
• “It was your choice to have kids, what do you expect”
• “Your arguing for equality, but you also want special consideration for
  meeting times – make up your mind”

Argh…. Dealing with this sort of feedback made me realise I needed to ‘thicken my
skin’. I also found I needed some new communication strategies – how could I drive
change while navigating around these roadblocks?

The Homeward Bound Program
A rather unique opportunity for leadership skill development came my way when I
was selected to participate in the inaugural Homeward Bound Leadership and
Strategy Program for Women in Science (HB). The program brought together 76
women scientists from around the world and involved 18 months of webinars and
coaching and a 20-day expedition to Antarctica.

So much excited me about HB. Obviously, the expedition to Antarctica, to be led by
renowned Australian mountaineer (and geologist) Greg Mortimer OAM, was a
massive draw-card. Also thrilling was that the program was supported by some of
my heroes including primatologist Jane Goodall, environmental champion
Christiana Figueres and filmmaker Fanny Armstrong.

Developed by Australian leadership expert, entrepreneur and author Fabian
Dattner, the program had a grand vision – to build a global
collaboration of 1 000 women
in science and support them
into leadership roles to help
shape policy and decision making.

Lucky for me, my university
was extremely supportive of
my involvement in HB,
proving funding and logistical
support.
Leadership, learning and laughter in Antarctica...

The journey to Antarctica was unlike anything I have ever done before. I have sailed some of the world’s roughest oceans – but nothing quite prepared me for the experience of passing by the treacherous Cape Horn.

When we reached the Antarctic peninsula, the landscape was epic in scale. With the ice constantly melting and shifting, the environment was thoroughly dynamic. Despite taking thousands of photographs, it proved difficult to capture the same image twice.

For a landscape that was plainly and utterly inhospitable, when we sailed amongst the channels and bays, it seemed to pull us in and physically embrace us.

On board the ship for 20 days with 75 other women scientists from different backgrounds was snow fun!! I can not tell you how much laughter there was. I had a whale of a time.

It was summer, so the days were long. The crew worked diligently to lengthen each day by keeping our G& T glasses chilled with 3 000 year-old Antarctic ice.

The program for the 20 days was absolutely full-on. Each morning we would board RIBs and make our way to the continent, exploring penguin colonies, getting up close to glaciers, peering into deep crevices and climbing the highest peaks (and then sliding back down on our bottoms)

We had the rather unique opportunity of visiting the USA’s Palmer Research Station and also the Argentinian Carlini station (the gift stores were poorly prepared for 76 women with credit cards two weeks before Christmas!!).

The leadership coaching sessions were intense and were frequently broken by whale sightings.
What now…
It is difficult to distill into a few points all that I learnt from my participation in Homeward Bound, from spending 20 days in the company of outstanding women scientists, from exploring the Antarctic continent.

Since I have returned from Antarctica, I have started to open up about some of the difficulties I have faced as a working parent and as a part-time staff member. I’m feeling a bit braver in speaking up. I figure if I can deal with the discomfort of swimming in sub-zero Antarctic waters (yep, I did a polar plunge), I can deal with the discomfort of an awkward meeting or three.

As a final note, Antarctica is amazing! It is unlike any other environment I have ever experienced. If you do go, make sure you are on a smaller vessel that includes landings (tourism is tightly regulated by treaty and agreement and passengers on larger cruise-ships are not permitted to land).
Call for nominations and applications

The Australian Academy of Science invites nominations and applications for its 2018 honorific awards, research conferences, research awards and travelling fellowships.

The closing date for award nominations is 20 April 2017 and the closing date to apply for travel, conference and research support is 1 June 2017.

For further information you can download the awards poster. Information on eligibility criteria and nomination/application processes, is available on the website www.science.org.au/opportunities.

For enquiries please email the Awards Team or call +61 2 6201 9407.
Recent Books
Kurt Iveson and Cameron McAuliffe (Western Sydney University) led a team who have authored a major report “Reframing graffiti and street art in the city”, which has now been published by the City of Sydney, and has informed recent Council decisions in this area. The report can be accessed from: http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/reframing-graffiti-street-art


Older books


With co-editors **Godfrey Baldacchino** and **Elizabeth McMahon**, Elaine **Stratford** is pleased to announce the first of three books in the Rethinking the Island series:


Nicole Cook, Aidan Davison and Louise Crabtree. 2016. Housing and Home
Unbound: intersections in economics, environment and politics in Australia. Routledge,
Available from: https://www.routledge.com/Housing-and-Home-Unbound-Intersections-in-
economics-environment-and-politics/Cook-Davison- Crabtree/p/book/9781138948976

Lesley Head, 2016 Hope and Grief in the Anthropocene: Re-conceptualising Human–nature
Anthropocene-Re-conceptualising-humannature-relationships/Head/p/book/9781138826441

Richie Howitt, Claire Colyer, Janie Monk, David Crew, and Stephanie Hull,
2016 Looking Forward - Looking Back: Changing social and economic conditions of Aboriginal
people in rural NSW, 1965-2015. Macquarie University:Department of Geography & Planning,

website: https://global.oup.com/academic/product/qualitative-research-methods-in-human-
geography-9780199010905?q=iain%20Hay&lang=en&cc=au#

Details at: http://www.elgaronline.com/view/9781783474035.xml and to place an order (and
receive 20% online discount) go to: www.e-elgar.com

Available from: https://www.routledge.com/products/9780415720687

Gibson K, Safri M and St. Martin, K (Book Series Editors) Diverse Economies and Liveable Words,
University of Minnesota Press, Minnesota. Available from: http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-
division/books/building-dignified-worlds

Garth Lean, 2016, Transformative Travel in a Mobile World, CABJ, Wallingford. Available at:
http://www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781780643991

Phillip O’Neill authored a major research report on behalf of the Western Sydney
University’s Centre for Western Sydney. The report examines population and employment
trends to paint a grim picture of the future of Western Sydney’s workforce and its transport
infrastructure. The report finds the lack of local jobs and increasing population growth will
exacerbate transport congestion, place enormous pressure on economic productivity, and
generate unsustainable fiscal pressure for governments to fund adequate transport
infrastructure. The report generated considerable media attention. It can be downloaded
The Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment at the University of Tasmania hosted its inaugural ‘Education Transforms’ symposium in July this year, and a comprehensive e-collection from the symposium is now available at http://www.utas.edu.au/underwood-centre/EducationTransforms2015. The Centre and symposium both highlight the powerful connections that exist between educational outcomes and diverse geographical challenges, questions, and public policy frameworks and solutions, and may be of interest to geographers concerned with questions of social, economic, and cultural change and their relationship to the educational well-being of children and young people. For further information please contact Elaine.Stratford@utas.edu.au.


Ross, A, Hall, R, Griffin, A, 2015 The search for tactical success in Vietnam: an analysis of Australian task force combat operations. Cambridge University Press reporting the results of an analysis of Australia’s participation in the Vietnam War. Full details about the book are available here: http://www.cambridge.org/bn/academic/subjects/history/military-history/search-tactical-success-vietnam-analysis-australian-task-force-combat-operations?format=HB. There is a companion website with an interactive map of all 4600+ combat operations, and aimed at communicating to a lay audience, which can be found at http://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au


