From the President

What is Australia’s largest formal geographical activity? I suspect that it is the Australian Geography Competition (AIC) which involves more than 70,000 school students each year. This is a remarkable enterprise that many geographers in the IAG will not know about. The AIC is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, and the Australian Geography Teachers’ Association (AGTA) that began in 1995. There are three levels to the competition. The first is the general geographical quiz (which is the one the 70,000 students do, from over 700 schools). From the results of the quiz, 16 high performing year 11 students are selected for Geography’s Big Week Out (GBWO). This is a week of geographical activities, that is hosted by different states and territories. The last GBWO was held on Kangaroo Island, SA. From the 16 students, four are selected to represent Australia in the International Geography Olympiad. The Olympiad programme involves three tests - a written response test, a multi-media test and a substantial fieldwork exercise requiring observation, cartographic representation and geographical analysis. Last year, at the Beijing International Geographical Congress, it was exciting to see the Australian team of four high-school students get the highest overall result in the

Students at the Belgrade Geographical Olympiad
International Geographical Olympiad. This year, in Belgrade, the Australian team also did very well against 44 other countries.

I mention the Australian Geography Competition because I am keen for Geographers in the IAG to become more familiar with the activities of Australia’s primary and secondary geography teachers through AGTA. AGTA celebrates its 50th birthday in 2017. I encourage everybody to learn about AGTA by looking at volume 30 of the AGTA journal, Geographical Education, which includes a special supplement ‘AGTA’s First Fifty Years’. This is available at the AGTA website (http://www.agta.asn.au). The IAG congratulates AGTA, and its dedicated workers, on this milestone. For several years AGTA has sent a representative to each IAG Council meeting, and the IAG is now reciprocating by sending an observer to one of their executive meetings as well. There are mutual advantages for the two organisations to work closely together. A nice example of this is that the Australian Geography Competition is now sponsored by the geography programs at Macquarie University and Queensland University.

On to a couple of other IAG matters. Robert Gale has been the Treasurer of the IAG for seven years, and has just stepped down. On behalf of the Council, and all of the IAG, I would like to formally thank Robert for his selfless service in this tough role over these many years. He leaves this role with the Institute’s accounts in a good state, and with several important initiatives in train. Robert will now focus on his geographical consulting business that he runs from Cairns, and we wish him all the best in this new chapter of his life. We welcome Paul McFarland as the new treasurer of the IAG.

Finally, could I remind IAG members of two important opportunities? The first opportunity is to nominate yourself or a colleague for a role on the IAG Council. Several positions will be open for new members from mid-2018. These will be: secretary, membership secretary, postgraduate representative, and two ordinary positions. Join the committee, do good, feel connected to the geography community, travel and see the world. Simply email me (idruth@unimelb.edu.au) or Robyn Bartel (rbartel@une.edu.au) our secretary, right now, if you are even vaguely interested, or if you have the name of somebody you think should be nominated.

The second opportunity I want you to consider is to nominate one of your colleagues for an IAG Award (see the list of the awards at the start of the newsletter). This is the collegial thing to do.

Best wishes,

Ian Rutherfurd, IAG President
University of Melbourne, idruth@unimelb.edu.au
CALL FOR AWARDS OF THE IAG - 2018

Members are invited to nominate their esteemed colleagues for the following awards:

- AUSTRALIA-INTERNATIONAL MEDAL is for outstanding contributions by Australian geographers to geography world-wide, or by geographers outside Australia to the geography of Australia.
- 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/

The closing date for ALL nominations is **Friday 30 March 2018**. Nominations should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au

For further enquiries about these awards, please contact either the IAG President, Ian Rutherford idruth@unimelb.edu.au or the Secretary, Robyn Bartel, at rbartel@une.edu.au.

No applications were received in Rd 2 of the Fellowship of The Institute of Australian Geographers (FIAG). Please note that this is the only award that has two calls per year. The other awards have an annual call, except for the Griffith-Taylor Medal, which is awarded every second year. The next call for the Griffith-Taylor Medal will be made in 2019.

STUDY GROUP FUNDING AND GUIDELINES FINALIZED

The submission of annual reports and funding applications by the Study Groups has been brought forward this year, at the request of the study groups, to allow more time for event planning.

A pool of $10,000 has been made available to study groups for the following events:
The Critical Development Study Group has been awarded $1000 towards a public panel event and conference sessions including a Decolonising community engagement workshop at the NZGS/IAG Conference in Auckland.

The Cultural Geography Study Group has been awarded $2000 towards a collaborative Oceanic Responsibilities Workshop to be held in Melbourne on 5 - 6 Feb 2018.

The Hazards, Risks and Disasters Study Group has been awarded $1000 towards a collaborative Framing Flammable Futures workshop at the NZGS/IAG Conference in Auckland, including a guest speaker.

The Health Geography Study Group has been awarded $300 towards a Health Geography workshop at the NZGS/IAG Conference in Auckland.

The Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Rights Study Group has been awarded $3000 towards a workshop at the NZGS/IAG conference in Auckland, including a guest speaker.

The Legal Geography Study Group has been awarded $1000 towards a Legal Geography Symposium in Canberra on 2-3 March 2018.

The Rural Geography Study Group has been awarded $1000 towards a joint conference with the IGU Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering (AGLE) at the University of Adelaide in November 2018.

The Urban Geography Study Group has been awarded $700 towards a postgraduate event at NZGS/IAG conference in Auckland, and an Untaming the Urban Workshop to be held in December 2018.

The IAG Council has approved an application made by the Environmental Sustainability Study Group and the Hazards, Risks and Disasters Study Group to merge the two groups in order to better focus and coordinate activities on these important issues.

The IAG Council has finalized, in consultation with the study groups, the guidelines for study group formation and operation and these are now available on the IAG website.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Paul McFarland has joined IAG Council as Honorary Treasurer, a role that fell vacant due to resignation. Welcome Paul!
OPPORTUNITIES ON COUNCIL IN 2018

IAG members are advised that several roles on Council will fall vacant mid next year, including Honorary Secretary, Honorary Membership Secretary, Ordinary Councillor (2 positions) and Postgraduate representative (1 position).

A call for nominations for these positions will be made early next year… so many opportunities, so little time!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As well as the above positions, IAG members may also like to consider the role of Honorary Editor of the Newsletter, as the current editor has signalled their intention to resign mid next year. Please note that this position is an IAG Council appointment.

MORE CONSTITUTION CHANGES MOOTED

The IAG Council has discussed a proposal to allow for rolling memberships, which would require an amendment to the IAG Constitution.

THANKS TO ROBERT GALE

The IAG Council thanks Robert Gale for his many years of service to the IAG and notes with acclamation his contribution as Honorary Treasurer of IAG Council 2010-2017.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNCIL

The next IAG meeting will be a combined Council meeting and Annual General Meeting on Friday 6 April 2018, date and venue TBC. The Annual General Meeting is in the main held for the purpose of approving our financial reports for the previous financial year.

There will also be a Council Meeting and a General Meeting held to coincide with the IAG Conference in Auckland, New Zealand. Time and Venue tba.

Have a happy silly season all and wishing you a safe and prosperous 2018,

Robyn Bartel,
IAG Honorary Secretary.
Farewell note from the Treasurer

Please welcome Paul McFarland as the new Voluntary Treasurer on IAG Council. Paul can be reached at pmcfarla@une.edu.au. This is my final newsletter note, so I will take the opportunity to summarise some Treasury information here.

Although IAG is well resourced, aspirations to support geographic initiatives exceed annual income. Demands on the budget for better bookkeeping, administration, membership management, webpage development, travel grants and study group funding have meant that expenditures are sometimes greater than income (resulting in Council approved drawing from savings). This is sensible on an occasional basis when improving services to members, but it is also sensible to constrain expenses within an annually agreed budget.

Income and expenditures fluctuate year to year, with average income of $111,500 over the last five years, and average expenditures of $104,000. The categories of expenses and their proportion of the budget are: IAG Council meetings, accounting and administration (35%); GR Journal (33%); and IAG annual conference support (Study Groups & Travel Grants) 20%. The major sources of income are: Memberships fees (36%); Wiley Royalties (32%); Wiley GR Editorial (15%); and Interest on Savings (10%). A significant investment has been made in the new webpage and membership management system, adoption of Xero booking software, and online banking for membership registration and renewals. If all these systems work as promised, the savings on bookkeeping and administration costs could reach $10,000 per year.

In the years ahead, I recommend IAG Council set some membership and income targets, and work out funding formulas for annual functions such as the GR Editorial Office, postgraduate travel grants, and thematic study groups.

Robert Gale,
Past Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Life Members of the IAG

IAG Members of over 50 years are invited by IAG Council to become Honorary Life Members. We hope to feature these Life Members in editions of the newsletter. Two biographies of Life Members are below. The following 9 people have accepted invitations as Honorary Life Members:

- Murray Wilson,
- Bob Loughran,
- Arthur Conacher,
- Alaric Maude,
- John Holmes,
- Peter Smailes,
- Bob Stimson,
- Peter Rimmer, and
- Bruce Ryan.

Peter J. Rimmer AM is an Emeritus Professor in the School of History, Culture and Language, ANU College of Asia & the Pacific, Australian National University, Canberra. He is a graduate of Manchester, Cambridge, Canterbury (NZ) and the Australian National Universities. Formerly a Lecturer in Geography at Monash University (1965-67), he was successively a Research Fellow, Fellow, Senior Fellow and Professor in the Department of Human Geography in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University (1967-2000); elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia (1992); the Distinguished Professor of Global Logistics in the Graduate School of Logistics at Inha University, Incheon, Korea (2005-07); awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters by examination at the Australian National University (2006); and made a Member of the Order of Australia (2007) ‘for service to economic geography, and to the urban and regional development in the Asia-Pacific Rim, particularly through research into the area of transport and communications systems’. He has supervised doctoral research work in Australia, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, People’s Republic of China, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. He has also acted as a consultant to international aid agencies and as an external examiner. His 310 publications include: Rikisha to Rapid Transit: Urban Public Transport Systems and Policy in Southeast Asia, Pergamon, 1986; Cities, Transport & Communications: The Integration of Southeast Asia since 1850, Palgrave Macmillan, 2003 (with Howard Dick); The City in Southeast Asia: Patterns, Processes and Policy, NUS Press, 2009 (with Howard Dick); Asian-Pacific Rim Logistics: Global Context and Local Policies, Elgar, 2014; and Consumer Logistics: The Digital Wave, Elgar 2018 (with Booi Kam).
John Holmes spent his childhood in Dora Creek where outside adventures and journeys across the lake, to Sydney, and to ancestral homes in Donegal and Belfast, were accompanied by books and maps. These interests were reinforced when his father gave him his British ordnance map reading manual (with topographic map extracts), saved from his World War I career as a British army officer in India and in Mesopotamia. Selected for Newcastle Boys High School, he could not study Geography but won a teaching scholarship and bursary to the University of Sydney in 1947 where he switched to Geography. His fascination with field work and observation led to a lifelong interest in field trips, and travel, as explorations that provide ongoing challenges in interpreting both environmental processes and human interventions. His 1950 Honours thesis on alternative rural settlement systems led to decades of interviews with decision-making landholders. Postgraduate studies were almost non-existent, as were prospects of academic jobs, with the discipline in New South Wales sustained by only four academics at Sydney and one at the New England University College. He was tied to a five-year teaching bond completing four years at Maitland Boys High and three at Gosford High School, during 1952-58 but completed a research masters degree part-time at Sydney in 1958 on the retreat of dairying in separate marginal locales of coastal New South Wales, with his first scholarly publication was in 1961. He commenced a UNE lectureship in 1959 and was awarded an International Fellowship of the American Council of Learned Societies in 1966-7, which he fulfilled at Penn State University, studying job decline in former coal-mining locales. This led to numerous invitations to various international workshops, fellowship awards and visiting academic positions in the United States, Britain, Israel, India, Hawaii, Bristol, Santa Barbara, Tampere and Colorado, eight Scandinavian universities, and nine British universities as well as membership of IGU Commissions. Supported by ARC funds and consultancy work, his research in the Australian rangelands produced insights into areas such as nucleated versus dispersed rural settlement, multifunctional transition, tenure and land reform, rural change and regional trajectories. A map he produced during the highly charged public debate about the Howard government’s 1997 legislative response to the High Court’s Wik decision was used as a counterpoint to Prime Minister Howard’s televised national broadcast map that 79 percent of Australia available for native title claim. His subsequent invitation to the Prime Minister’s Task Force on Native Title led to his surprise at the extent of geographical ignorance displayed by senior public servants, and their resultant inability to appraise real-world outcomes resulting from proposed legislation. John Holmes retired in 1995, but has maintained an active research engagement and fulfilled roles including: Chair, National Committee for Geography, Australian Academy of Sciences; Australian delegate at General Assembly of the International Geographical Union; Chair, Vegetation Management Advisory Committee advising the Queensland government on its inaugural tree-clearing legislation; President of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland; Chair, Wildlife Land Fund; several terms as President of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, and Chair and Organiser of the 2006 Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union, Brisbane. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and awarded the Griffith Taylor, Macdonald Holmes, Thomson and Australian Centenary Medals.
December 2017 marks the start of my third year as Editor-in-Chief. I remain grateful to the Council and Wiley for this honour: this role is one in which I delight. Much has been achieved, I hope, and much remains possible.

**Performance**

Our journal citation ranking has moved up in 2016. The system works with two-year and five-year measures; the former tends to be more powerful in terms of rankings, the latter is crucial in terms of the longer term reach of scholarship:

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<td>Five-year impact</td>
<td>1.069</td>
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<td>Two-year IF rank Geography</td>
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Year-to-date we have had 63 submissions of original and special issue articles, with 74 in the prior 12 months—about six or seven papers a month on average. The editorial team is working to ensure timely responses, with just over two months from submission to first decision, and around a third of a year from submission to final decision, accounting for both minor and major revisions. We are grateful to reviewers, who have an average turnaround of 27 days for an initial submission, and about the same for a revised submission.

**Editorial Team**

Since before my tenure, the editorial team has included three Associate Editors Professor Brian Finlayson [University of Melbourne], Dr Wayne Stephenson [University of Otago], Associate Professor Amanda Davies [Curtin University], and Dr Kirstie Petrou [Editorial Assistant; University of Tasmania, based in Adelaide]. In the third quarter of 2017, Brian and Wayne indicated a desire to lay down their service and flagged their willingness to move to positions on the Editorial Board, which has been welcomed. We are most grateful for the work done by Brian and Wayne over the years. Expressions of interest were sought from people willing to take on these roles. IAG Council has endorsed my recommendation to invite Professor Steve Turton [Central Queensland University] and Dr Danielle Drozdzewski [UNSW] to take up associate editor roles for an initial period from January 2018 to December 2020.
Expressions of interest were also sought for new members of the Editorial Board and we are grateful to these individuals for being willing to work with us on the journal. From January 2018 the Board will include:

1. Robyn Bartel  
2. Andrew Beer  
3. Andrew Brooks  
4. Harriet Bulkeley  
5. Nik Callow  
6. Jennifer Carter  
7. Beverley Clarke  
8. Gordon Clark  
9. Kerwin Datu  
10. David Dunkerly  
11. Kevin Dunn  
12. Brian Finlayson  
13. Amy Griffin  
14. Chris Gibson  
15. Katherine Gibson  
16. Richie Howitt  
17. Lesley Head  
18. Iain Hay  
19. Jamie Kirkpatrick  
20. Christian Kull  
21. Ruth Lane  
22. Richard Le Heron  
23. Cecily Maller  
24. Juliana Mansvelt  
25. Pauline McGuirk  
26. Francis Markham  
27. Kirsten Martinus  
28. Patrick Moss  
29. Monica Mulrennan  
30. Jamie Peck  
31. Bill Pritchard  
32. Guy Robinson  
33. Kristian Ruming  
34. Ian Rutherford  
35. Regina Scheyvens  
36. Jamie Shulmeister  
37. Thomas Sigler  
38. Tim Smith  
39. Wayne Stephenson  
40. Mark Wang  
41. Brenda Yeoh

Plans for 2018

We are working to refine the essay prize submission system, introduce a book panel series, and organise events at the Auckland conference … so please watch this space. As always, we welcome your submissions, commentaries, and engagement.

Elaine Stratford,  
Editor-in-Chief, Geographical Research
On Thursday 26th October, the joint meeting of the International Social Science Council and the International Council for Science at a joint meeting in Taipei, took the momentous decision to merge into a single dynamic organisation to take science forward in an evolving global context.

A merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) forges a new organisation – to be known as the International Science Council – to advance the creativity, rigour and relevance of science worldwide. It creates a unified, global voice of science, with a powerful presence in all regions of the world and representation across the natural (including physical, mathematical and life) and social (including behavioural and economic) sciences.

The importance of scientific understanding to society has never been greater, as humanity grapples with the problems of living sustainably and equitably on planet Earth. The Council will defend the inherent value and values of all science at a time when it has become harder for the scientific voice to be heard. It will strengthen international, interdisciplinary collaboration and support scientists to contribute solutions to complex and pressing matters of global public concern. It will advise decision makers and practitioners on the use of science in achieving ambitious agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015. And it will encourage open public engagement with science.

IGU, which was a founder Union in ICSU and has been a member of ISSC for many decades, hopes that the need to improve science education will also become an important focus for the new organisation.
New IGU Commission established: Agriculture and Land Engineering (AGLE)

At a conference held at Yulin University, Shaanxi Province, China in August 2017 a new Commission of the International Geographical Union (IGU) was formally established. This is the Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering (AGLE), with co-chairs, Yansui Liu (Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing Normal University) and Guy M Robinson (University of Adelaide). The new Commission’s committee comprises the two co-chairs plus Michael Woods (University of Aberystwyth, UK), Yuheng Li (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Brigitte Nougaredes (INRA, France), Habibullah Magsi (Sindh Agriculture University, Pakistan), Rajendra Shrestha (Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand), Bob Nanes (MIT, USA) and Hans Westlund (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden).

The General Secretary of the IGU, Michael Meadows (University of Cape Town, South Africa) formally welcomed the new member of the IGU community at the launch in Yulin City. The launch was also marked by a proposal for a ‘Global Rural Plan’, which calls for a series of actions:

1. To promote the establishment of a “Global Rural Plan” at the United Nations. It is considered essential to develop the theme of rural revival to counter the effects of urbanization across the globe;

2. To promote collaborations among key IGU commissions, including AGLE, Sustainable Rural Systems, and Land Use and Land Cover Change, to bring the world’s rural scholars together;

3. To hold annual global meetings and regional conferences with a rural focus, addressing major issues of concern for rural communities;

4. To launch the joint scientific investigation of the socioeconomic, resource and environmental situations of villages of different areal types in the world, and to release a global world rural development report;

5. To promote and intensify communications and collaborations with the World Bank, FAO, UNDP and UNEP;

6. To mobilize resources to support villages in the least developed countries and to seek solutions for rural revival and sustainability.

Investigations are in progress to hold a joint conference in late 2018 in Australia between AGLE, the IAG’s Rural Geography Study Group and the IGU Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification.
Awards Received

Congratulations to Matt King who received a national award from the Australian Academy of Science in recognition of a lifelong contribution to his field. Matt received the 2018 Mawson Medal and Lecture – for his contributions to the understanding of the important functions of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

The Mike Shield Award is given by the Planning Institute of Australia (Tasmanian Division), to the student graduating in the calendar year of the award with the best overall academic performance and who is anticipated to be resident in Tasmania in the year following the award. This year’s winner is Natalie Holman. Congratulations Natalie!

The Tasmanian Awards for Planning Excellence recognise and acknowledge quality, innovation and excellence in Planning. At the award ceremony last month, UTAS planning graduate Ella Rushworth (supervised by Stewart Williams) received the award for ‘Outstanding Student Project’. Ella’s research considered the role of land use planning in the uptake of urban agriculture in Hobart. Congratulations Ella!

Guy M Robinson (University of Adelaide) will visit Aligarh Muslim University in Uttar Pradesh, India in February 2018 as part of the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN), a scheme funded by the Government of India to enable distinguished foreign faculty to spend time at Indian universities.

Guy M. Robinson was awarded an Honorary Professorship of Yulin University, China in August. He has been a Guest Professor for the last two years in the Institute of Geographic Sciences & Natural Resources Research, at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Bruce Thom has been awarded Life Membership by the Geographical Society of NSW (GSNSW).

Chris Gibson was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia in October, in recognition of his contribution to Social Science.

Natascha Klocker (UOW) has won a UOW Community Engagement Grant application: Supporting refugee farming initiatives: from Mildura to Mingoola and Meroo Meadow ($12,978). Co-researchers: Dr Paul Hodge (Uni Newcastle), Dr Olivia Dun (Uni Melb) Partners: Mr Emmanuel Musoni, Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development International, Diana Eilert and Gary Schiller, Private landholders (Meroo Meadow), Ms Deborah Bogenhuber, Sunraysia Local Food Future/Food Next Door
Michael Adams’ Calibre award-winning essay ‘Salt Blood’ will be included in ‘Best Australian Essays 2017’, to be published by Black Inc in November. Dr Adams was also successful again in securing a fellowship at the Bundanon Trust Artist in Residence program for 3 weeks in 2018.

Brittany Betteridge, a geography Honours student (University of Sydney), received the Jim Rose Award for the Best Overall Paper at the GSNSW Honours/Masters Conference in November, at the University of Newcastle. Brittany’s thesis is titled “Everyday Resilience: Responding to Livelihood Threats in North Jakarta’s Kampung” and was supervised by Dr. Sophie Webber.

Sopheak Chan has been awarded a PhD for the thesis entitled “The production of space and construction of frontier: Contesting a Cambodian resource landscape.”

Tim Frewer has been awarded a PhD for the thesis entitled “Climate Assemblages: Governing the vulnerable in a neoliberal era.”

Hiswaty Hafid has been awarded a PhD for the thesis entitled “Sustainability and economic governance: Reconfiguring cocoa-chocolate production networks in Indonesia.”

Nick Skilton has been awarded his PhD at UOW for this thesis is entitled “Privilege and marginalisation in Australia’s national imaginary: constructions of mining and sex worker identities through technologies of power”.

Paul Marshall has completed his Master of Environmental Science (Research) at UOW. His thesis is entitled: “Strengthening biodiversity: examining volunteer engagement in local government community nurseries”.

Ellen van Holstein graduated with her Doctorate in November.

IAG Award Opportunities

Full details of all IAG Award recipients and their citations can be found at the following link: https://www.iag.org.au/awards-of-the-iag
Grants Received

**Michael Lockwood, Aidan Davison** and **Benjamin Cooke** have won an ARC Discovery Project “Owning nature: mapping the contested country of private protected areas”. This project aims to improve public good outcomes from private protected areas in Australia. Nature conservation on private land is being pioneered by Indigenous and other communities, landholders, governments, philanthropists and businesses. An innovative and interdisciplinary research design across diverse cases will provide knowledge of social drivers, impacts and future pathways for private protected areas. This will provide evidence that can guide policy and governance to integrate nature conservation and social justice outcomes, and enhance the sustainability of benefits from private lands.

**Arko Lucieer, Stuart Phinn, Susanne Schmidt, Kasper Johansen** and **Nicholas Coops** have won an ARC Discovery Project “Ultrahigh-resolution remote sensing for assessing biodiversity hotspots”. Robust indicators are central to the complex problem of conserving vegetation biodiversity. The project aims to address this by developing advanced techniques for interpreting data from ultrahigh-resolution remote sensing of essential indicators in Australian biodiversity hotspots. The expected benefit is to significantly advance international efforts in the large-scale validation of biodiversity indicators mapped from satellites.

**Sango Mahanty, Sarah Milne, Philip Hirsch**, and **Keith Barney** have been awarded $284K over three years for a new ARC Discovery Project entitled “Rupture: nature-society transformations in mainland Southeast Asia” worth $283,864.00.

**Dan Penny, Duncan Cook, Timothy Beach, Sheryl Beach, Elizabeth Graham, David McGee**, and **Quan Hua** won as ARC Discovery grant “Resolving the Maya climate-collapse hypothesis” worth $208,846.00.

**Arko Lucieer, Vanessa Lucieer, Zbynek Malenovsky, Luis Gonzalez, Jonathan Roberts, Christoph Rüdiger, Sharon Robinson, Stuart Phinn** and **Andrew McGrath** have won Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant “Sensor calibration facility for spectral and thermal remote sensing”. This project aims to establish a calibration facility for the radiometric and spectral correction of hyperspectral and thermal sensors for ultrahigh-resolution remote sensing. Sensor calibration and characterisation is critical to the accuracy of hyperspectral and thermal data products, however, there is no central facility in Australia for this purpose. This project will provide significant benefits, such as growing our capacity in ultrahigh-resolution remote sensing for ecosystem science, biosecurity, and disaster response.
I Cairns, A Dempster, E Bruce J Khachan, K Wong, R Hughes, E Aboutanios E, E Cetin, S Leon-Saval, B Evans, X Wu, R Murphy, J Held, W Li, P Michaels, A Antoniades, G Chamitoff, J Lawrence, S Carr, D Bongiorno, C Bachmann, D Neudegg, P Barber, and T Cocks won an Australian Research Council (ARC)/Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC), the “ARC Training Centre on Cubesats, UAVs, and Their Applications” worth $4.6 million.

Eleanor Bruce, E. Biggs, E. Bruce, B Boruff, N and Wales, won an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) grant on “Climate-smart landscapes for promoting sustainability of Pacific Island agricultural systems” worth $1.6 million.

Gordon Waitt, Ross Gordon and Paul Cooper were awarded fund from Energy Consumers Australia - $93,000 for their project ‘Exploring the nexus of energy use, ageing, and health and wellbeing among older Australians’

E Bruce and F van Ogtrop won an SSEAC Workshop Grant on “Climate adaptation in disaster-prone environments of Southeast Asia”, worth $15k.

Michele Lobo (with David Lowe and Liudmila Kirpitchenko) has won a recent grant - the Australia-India Student Mobility Experiences Lessons and Transformations, Australia-India Council/Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, 2017 – 2018. The project analyses preliminary outcomes of the New Colombo Plan’s (NCP) Australia-India student mobility scheme. It aims to transfer successful NCP elements into building leadership and resilience among Indian international students in Australia.

Stewart Williams, Joanna Ellison, Melinda McHenry and Andrew Harwood have received New Colombo Plan success, winning $33k to allow 10 students and 1 staff to undertake a fieldtrip to Fiji during the first half of 2019.

Vickie Zhang received an Endeavour Research Fellowship for her PhD fieldwork in China and institutional visits to China Agricultural University and Durham University next year.
NZGS/IAG Conference 2018

The School of Environment at the University of Auckland will be hosting the biennial, joint conference of the New Zealand Geographical Society and the Institute of Australian Geographers from 11-14 July, 2018 at the University of Auckland. The theme of the conference is ‘Creative conversations, constructive connections’

The first call for sessions will be made in December and will close in mid-January. This will be followed by a call for short abstracts, and a final demand for extended abstracts 3-4 weeks prior to the conference.

The conference will commence with specialty group meetings on Wednesday afternoon, coming together for a formal welcome and opening plenary later that day.

Registration opens in March and early-bird registration closes at the end of May. For more information visit http://nzgs.co.nz/nzgs-conferences/annual-general-meeting

The 2018 conference strives to be inclusive and equitable at all stages. We endeavour to be accessible, diverse and achieve gender balance on the organising committee, session chairs as well as invited speakers and selection of contributed abstracts. We are dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone. We will provide regular updates as to how we will accomplish this.

More information is available at:

http://nzgs.co.nz/nzgs-conferences/annual-general-meeting
Other Conferences

The International Geographical Union and the Canadian Association of Geographers invite you to their upcoming IGU-CAG Conference in Quebec City from August 6-10, 2018. More information at http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/

The EUROGEO (European Association of Geographers) 2018 Conference “Geography for All” will be on March 15-16 in Cologne, Germany. More information is at http://www.eurogeography.eu/conference-2018/

The Association of American Geographers Conference will be held from April 10-14, 2018, in New Orleans, 2018. More information is available at http://www.aag.org/cs/calendar_of_events/aag_annual_meetings

The 7th international symposium Mapping Empires: Colonial Cartographies of Land and Sea will be held from 13 to 15 September 2018 in Oxford (UK) and is jointly organised by the Commission on the History of Cartography together with the ICA Commission on Topographic Mapping and the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford. More information is available at http://mappingempires.icaci.org/

The 26th Annual Geographical Information Science Research UK Conference will be held at the University of Leicester on 17 - 20 April 2018. More information is available at http://leicester.gisruk.org/

The Asian Studies Association of Australia conference will be held at the University of Sydney, on July 3-5, 2018. More information at http://asaa.asn.au/conference/

The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference will be held in Sydney at the International Convention Centre from 29 August – 1 September 2018. More information is available at http://www.4sonline.org/meeting

The 2018 Housing Theory Symposium The Financialisation of Housing will be held at the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities, University of Wollongong 5-6 February, 2018. More information at http://www.uowblogs.com/ausccer/

A symposium on 'Geographies of Disruption' will be held at Macquarie University, funded by the Geographical Society of NSW, from the 19-20 April 2018. Thanks to Geographical Society of NSW funding, there are small grants to Early Career Researchers and Higher Degree Research students to facilitate participation in the symposium. If you are interested in participating, please email jessica.mclean@mq.edu.au before 18th December 2017. More details about the event are available here: https://groundworkgeop.wordpress.com/2017/10/16/geographies-of-disruption-symposium/.
Conference reports

IAG Brisbane

After enjoying the Adelaide IAG conference in 2016 and learning that there was going to be a session devoted to collective action in Brisbane, I was particularly keen to attend the IAG conference this year. On the Tuesday, the post-grad morning involved a great discussion of transdisciplinary research. The three presenters talked about their experiences and provided advice on how to go about making our way through common issues including how to reconcile different perspectives among colleagues and selection of methods. As someone who has transdisciplinary research interests, I found hearing about these three different experiences helpful at this stage of my career.

I was most excited for the session in which I was involved, Collective Action in Rural Australia. I was very glad to have a whole session of presentations and discussion highly relevant to my research. There were several issues relating to collective action that were echoed in all three presentations. We each acknowledged the importance of terminology and how it can make our research more challenging. Questions and discussion following the presentations highlighted the importance of the relationships that exist between individuals, elements of successful examples of landholder collaboration as well as the role of masculinity in property rights and how they are enacted.

The influence of politics in various forms was a recurring theme throughout the presentations I attended, but perhaps my passion for this subject makes me more inclined to see it everywhere. Topics discussed included the policy requirements of community gardens, the politics of blame for the occurrence of wildfires in the American west, the capacity for landholders to develop their own forms of collective action to address various land management issues, women’s involvement in sport and with sporting spaces, how the more-than-human may be represented in council policy and humans claiming of marine territory to the exclusion of other species. The range of presentations by peers and more senior academics highlighted the role of geography in revealing and challenging a range of political practices.

My sincere thanks go to the IAG for supporting my attendance at the conference. As a PhD candidate who is not situated within a geography school or department, having this period of exposure to the wide range of research involved in geography is particularly inspiring, stimulating and was an opportunity for which I am grateful.

Kaitlyn Height, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, University of Melbourne.
The APCG met at California State University (CSU) Chico. The lovely campus of this second oldest CSU in the state is situated on the edge of a delightfully walkable historic downtown. Imposing red brick buildings are spread among large trees and lawns.

With a theme of *Sustainable Communities*, the program opened with a riveting talk by David Little, editor of the local *Chico Enterprise Record* newspaper, on *The Crumbling Oroville Spillway (a story that didn’t have to happen)*. Richly illustrated with dramatic photographs of the failure in February 2017, which led to the sudden emergency evacuation of over 180,000 residents from endangered towns and rural areas. A lively audience discussion ensued as locals contributed further comment on the times and on the

*(The Sacramento Bee, February 12, 2017)*
misleading national media coverage.

Field trips the following day took geographers to rice farms, vineyards, a fish hatchery, the Pacific flyway, and downtown Chico. The day finished with a reception at the famous Sierra Nevada brewery, which was enjoyed by all.

The following day was filled with papers. In the afternoon, the always interesting Clark Akatiff, spoke to a large audience about *The Fabulous Life and Mysterious Death of William Bunge, Radical Geographer, 1928-2013.*

Clark remembers his legendary friend.
The day concluded with the traditional “BBQ”, upstairs in the colourful Madison Bear garden (not a misspelling of beer - the state symbol, the California bear, is depicted over the entrance).

Saturday opened with a wonderful Farmers’ Market downtown, a weekly feature of Chico life. With Halloween and Thanksgiving imminent, squash of all sizes, shapes, and colours were prominent among delicious fruit, nuts, vegetables, and flowers.

Papers and posters filled the day, ending with the lively student Geography Bowl, led by the indefatigable Tina White.
The conference concluded with the Annual Banquet. Present were special guests, members of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Executive, who had gathered to discuss big issues. One important issue was departmental mergers, clearly a trend in the USA as well as in Australia (remember Brian Finlayson’s commentary, GR 2015).

Joining our table were (from left) AAG Executive Director Douglas Richardson, who delivered Brief Comments on the Field; Antoinette Winkler-Prins, from the National Science Foundation (Geography and Spatial Sciences), who had led a workshop on Tips and Strategies in Writing Effective Proposals for the National Science Foundation; and Alexander B. Murphy, University of Oregon (AAG President (2003-4). This meeting allowed the sharing of ideas between geographers both academic and from other professions, faculty and students, undergraduates and graduates (post-docs in USA), and local residents. Comments were shared in a friendly atmosphere, with enthusiastic collaboration. Once again a memorable and most enjoyable APCG conference.

Next year in Reno, Nevada.

Professor Ray Sumner, Long Beach City College, California.
ANZAPS 2017

In November this year, 60 planning academics congregated at the University of Tasmania for the 2017 Australian and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools (ANZAPS) Conference. Coming from across Australia and New Zealand, we met and shared new research and innovations in planning education.

Highlights included a presentation from Pip Wallace (University of Waikato, New Zealand) about the emerging conflict between drones and wildlife, and what role planning can play. Read more from her article in The Mercury.

We also discussed the work we needed to do to ‘start the conversation’ about incorporating indigenous interest, perspectives and approaches into planning education. Such incorporation is part of the Planning Institute of Australia’s course accreditation policy. Tasmanian Aboriginal representatives Rob Anders and Greg Lehman joined us in our discussion. It was emphasized that there was a need to change how we teach the history of planning as planning has not been a ‘good news story’ or a story of progress for all people, everywhere.

News from the private sector

IAG Study Groups

Environmental Sustainability Study Group News

Members of the Environmental Sustainability (ES) Study Group have recently participated in a survey regarding a proposed merger with the cognate Hazards, Risks and Disasters (HRD) Study Group. The survey results showed overwhelming support for the merger. Of the 57 people who responded to the survey (77% from ES, 33% from HRD), 95% agreed to the merger. Most people commented favourably on the merger, including describing it as 'obvious' and that they thought the interaction would stimulate interesting discussions and opportunities. There were some more minor concerns that the group may become too broad and there could be a potential reduction in funding opportunities because IAG funding pools are accessed by all of the study groups.

Lauren Rickards (Convenor of the HRD Study Group) and I agree that a merger of the two study groups will be mutually beneficial, given the overlapping areas of concern and the advantages of building critical mass to attract interest and maximise benefits within and outside the IAG. The merger proposal has also recently been supported by the IAG Council (at the last meeting of Council in November 2017). If you are a member of either study group please anticipate an email invitation to nominate for roles on the new combined study group's leadership team. The group's office bearers will then update the Study Group’s constitution and nominate a new name for the combined study group, in consultation with members.

If you are not yet a member of either study group, and would like to be involved, or have any questions at all, please email Robyn Bartel rbartel@une.edu.au or Lauren Rickards laurenrickards@rmit.edu.au

Thanks all, best wishes,

Robyn Bartel
(Interim Convenor, ESSG).
News from the Universities

University of Tasmania

It is a time for growth and renewal for the University of Tasmania’s geographers.

Next year we will welcome Jason Byrne (Professor in Human Geography and Planning) and Dave Kendal (Senior Lecturer in Environmental Management) to our Geography staff. We are also pleased to have Andrew Harwood continuing with us, having been appointed as Lecturer in Human Geography.

Dr Greg Lehman recently started a post-doc with Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, entitled ‘Re-imagining lutriwita: exploring the deep history of Tasmania through art and science’.

As the year closes, we bid farewell to two valued members of staff – Associate Professor Michael Lockwood and Dr Lorne Kriwoken are both retiring. For many years Michael in particular has been central to our planning program. Amongst other things, he has ensured that we now have a Planning Institute of Australia accredited Master of Planning. We wish Lorne and Michael all the best!

We have a position vacant as Professor and Head of the School of Technology Environments and Design, University of Tasmania. The School of Technology Environments and Design is a new complex, bringing together expertise in architecture and design, information and communication technologies, physical and human geography, and spatial sciences. The opportunities to leverage themes such as sustainable development, urban liveability and nature conservation has never been greater, and will require sophisticated collaboration and strong leadership to achieve the full potential. MORE INFORMATION

Professor Elaine Stratford, a geographer based in the Institute for the Study of Social Change in the College of Arts, Law, and Education, has now completed an eight-part radio series on learning over the life-course. Done in partnership with ABC Radio’s Leon Compton, the series has focused on engaging a range of experts in conversations about how we learn throughout life, in different places and on the move. Podcasts of the series are available at http://www.utas.edu.au/social-change

With colleagues in the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, Professor Stratford has continued to work on three major grants focused on examining school-parent-community engagement in 12 Tasmanian government schools [Ian Potter Foundation, with Sue Kilpatrick and Robin Barnes]; a review of literacy teaching, training, and practice in 27 Tasmanian government schools [Tasmanian Government,
with Kitty te Riele and Sarah Stewart]; and a review of the fidelity of the application of the Big Picture School model at the Launceston Big Picture School. Each of these projects has strongly geographical dimensions pertaining to locational advantage and disadvantage, rurality, remoteness, and isolation, and social, cultural, and regional forms of identity.

Professor Elaine Stratford, Professor Godfrey Baldacchino [University of Malta], and Associate Professor Elizabeth McMahon [UNSW] are delighted that two new books in their Rethinking the Island Series are now in print. Published through Rowman & Littlefield International, the two are Carlo Cubero’s Caribbean Island Movements and Helen Kapstein’s Postcolonial Nations, Islands, and Tourism. They join three others in the series. See https://www.rowmaninternational.com/our-publishing/series/rethinking-the-island/ and the section on ‘Recent Books and Major Reports’ later in this newsletter.

Professor Philip Steinberg [Durham] and Dr Kimberley Peters [Liverpool], and Professor Elaine Stratford have now completed work on their edited collection Territory Beyond Terra, and the work has gone to print, to be published by Rowman & Littlefield International.

Geographers@UTAS blog
Keep up to date with what is happening in Geography at UTAS – visit and join our blog: https://geographyutas.wordpress.com/

School of Geosciences, University of Sydney

Congratulations to Dale Dominey-Howes (School of Geosciences, The University of Sydney) who has been promoted to Professor, effective 1 January 2018. Dale’s official title will be Professor of Hazard and Disaster Risk Sciences.

Emeritus Professor Bruce Thom has been appointed as Chair of the newly established NSW Coastal Council under the new Coastal Management Act 2016. The Coastal Council of NSW is to be re-established under the Coastal Protection Act 2016. This Act is one of the pillars of NSW Coastal Reform. The Council is composed of technical specialists and will advise the Minister for Environment and Heritage. It also will have an audit function of local council’s Coastal Management Programs and report on this role to the NSW Parliament.

Dr. Mark Vicol has been appointed as the University of Sydney’s inaugural New Generation Network postdoc scholar through the recently formed Australia India Institute. Mark will be working on a project investigating the links between food environments and food and nutrition security in India in 2018.
University of Newcastle

It has been a very busy 2nd semester at the University of Newcastle but we saved the best til’ last and we capped off the year with two very important events. On November 9th, the Discipline of Geography and Environmental Studies hosted the annual NSW Geographical Society Honours/Masters Conference. First started as a way for postgraduate students to share their work with colleagues and to network with like-minded researchers in the field, this year there were 13 wonderful presentations by students from Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, Western Sydney University, the University of Wollongong and the University of Newcastle. With topics ranging from urban development to wind farms, from sea level rise to resistance and activism, and from resilience and Indigenous geographies of home to the use of Tinder, the quality of the presentations was outstanding.

Judges from three different universities awarded the Jim Rose prizes to Brittany Betteridge (USyd) on her paper entitled “Everyday Resilience: Responding to Livelihood Threats in North Jakarta’s Kampung” and to Jean-Louise Olivier (UoN) for her paper entitled “When the Grandmothers are Protesting, you know there’s something up - Gender, Space and the Body”. Brittany was awarded the Best Paper at the annual conference and Jean-Louise was awarded Highly Commended for a presentation on a human geography topic.
Secondly, but by no means less important, our fantastic colleague, Associate Professor Kathy Mee scooped the pool at the latest University and Faculty of Science Awards presentation event. She won four awards which are listed below and we as a Discipline are rightly very proud of her and all her efforts to make the Bachelor of Development Studies into one of the best degrees of its kind in Australia.

**Winner - University of Newcastle 2017 Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence and Contribution to Student Learning (Science).**
Citation: Associate Professor Kathy Mee has provided superlative educational leadership and contribution to innovative program design for the Bachelor of Development Studies. This program is now recognised as an exemplar of best practice in teaching and learning, student engagement and graduate outcomes in the field of community development. Kathy has introduced close mentoring of students, successful internationalization of the program, national best practice in Indigenisation of curriculum, highly successful work integrated learning opportunities, and innovative use of social media to engage students and connect current students to inspiring alumni.

**Winner - Faculty of Science Staff Excellence Award 2017: Teaching Excellence and Contribution to Student Learning-Individual** for providing superlative educational leadership and contribution to innovative program design for the Bachelor of Development Studies.

**Winner - Faculty of Science Staff Excellence Award 2017: International Engagement-Individual:** for exciting students about the extraordinary learning, professional and personal development opportunities for students undertaking a variety of overseas experiences.

**Highly Commended (team member) Faculty of Science Staff Excellence Award 2017: Collaboration Excellence Team:** for collaborative participation in the Aboriginal Equity and Diversity project that has been instrumental in leading, coordinating and facilitating a host of important initiatives leading towards cultural safety and competence of students, staff, and the broader community.
University of Wollongong

Upcoming events
In February 2018 the School of Geography and Sustainable Communities (UOW) will be hosting the 2018 instalment of the Housing Theory Symposium. The theme for the Symposium is 'The Financialisation of Housing', and is co-convened by Dr Nicole Cook and Charles Gillon. We look forward to the two days of papers and discussion, and connecting with old and new colleagues. The call for papers has closed, but for any questions or inquiries about the event feel free to get in touch with either Nicole (ncook@uow.edu.au) or Charles (cwg317@uow.edu.au).

Department news
Two new honorary research fellows have started working with UOW Geography, Dr Andrew Glover (RMIT Digital Ethnography Research Centre, and the Beyond Behaviour Change research program) and Dr Gillian Gregory (NRM and community-based interventions; rural livelihoods, vulnerability and resilience).

Outreach
Dr Leah Gibbs gave evidence at a public hearing conducted by the Senate Environment and Communications References Committee, related to an inquiry into the efficacy and regulation of shark mitigation and deterrent measures. The invitation to give evidence arose from a written submission Dr Gibbs made to the Inquiry in March 2017. In addition, Dr Gibbs has been invited by the Environmental Defenders Office to provide expert advice in relation to recent approvals related to the shark control program in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Humane Society International (Australia) has lodged an appeal in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Dr Gibbs is an expert witness as part of that process.

Dr Michael Adams presented at on his Calibre Prize winning Essay at Sydney Ideas Festival, August 7th, podcast is here: http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/lectures/2017/australian_book_review_calibre_essay.shtml and at Thirroul Writers and Readers Festival, August 26th: http://thirroulreadersandwritersfestival.org/session-1/

Prof Pauline McGuirk Prof Robyn Dowling (USyd), Ms Chantel Carr made a submission based on findings from the ARCDP project Urban Energy Transitions.

Dr Lyn Phillipson (School of Health and Society, UOW), NHMRC-ARC Dementia Fellow, Dr Chris Brennan-Horley (School of Geography & Sustainable Communities), ARC DECRA fellow, and Professor Richard Fleming, (School of Nursing, UOW), Director Dementia Training Australia made a submission based on findings from the ARCDP project Dementia Friendly Communities. Their submission is a response to a personal invitation from Emma McBride, Federal Member for Dobel and a member of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities.
Early Career Researcher First Publication

**Liz Charpleix**, PhD candidate at the School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences, UNE, has just had her first two papers published - a journal article and a book chapter:


**Vickie Zhang** has had her first publication published:

- Immobilising the migration decision. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, which is available at [https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775817743972](https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775817743972).

**Abbas Miri** (University of Sydney) graduated in 2016 with a PhD for his thesis titled “Effects of plant morphology and density on wind velocity, sheltering efficiency and sand flux profiles: a wind tunnel study of two plant types *Cosmos bipinnatus* and *Ligustrum lucidum Ait*”. On completion he was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Water and Soil at the University of Zabol, Iran. The first joint paper from his PhD research has appeared in *Nature Scientific Reports*

  (2017) 7: 12831, 1-9 (Miri A, Dragovich D, Dong Z. *Vegetation morphologic and aerodynamic characteristics reduce aeolian erosion*. DOI:10.1038/s41598-017-13084-x)

**Mark Vicol** published his first single authored paper as an ECR:


**Billy Haworth** (Sydney PhD 2017) is now a Lecturer in Disaster Management within the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI), at the University of Manchester. An article based on his PhD thesis conclusion chapter is now published in Annals of the AAG:

Recent books and major reports


Older books and major reports

For a list of older books and major reports written by IAG members, please go to https://www.iag.org.au/books-by-iag-members