



# Institute of Australian Geographers

## June 2009 Newsletter

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## Membership Renewal 2009

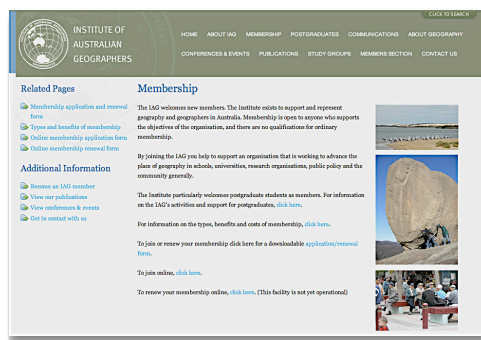
The IAG has been developing an online membership system linked to the new website. This is now ready for members to renew their membership for 2009, and for new members to join.

For both renewals and new members, please enter the IAG website ([www.iag.org.au](http://www.iag.org.au)) and select Membership in the top banner. Then look for 'To join online, click here', and do so. This brings up the membership form for you to complete online. Fill in the details.

When your membership payment has been processed these details will be added to the membership database which members (and members only) will be able to search, unless you indicate otherwise in the Consent box on the online form.

Your email address will be automatically entered into a members-only email list that we will use to communicate with you.

If you select a study group, the convenor of that group will automatically be sent a message about your interest.



Payment can be made by Mastercard or Visa, and these payments will be processed manually. We are assured that the system is secure, but if you prefer you can download the form from the Membership page, and post it to the Treasurer.

Finally select your username and password. This will enable you to enter the members-only section of the website, to search the membership database, and to amend your membership details.

Members that we suspect do not use the Internet will be sent a form to complete and return.

If you have any questions you can contact me by email at [<polymaude@ozemail.com.au>](mailto:polymaude@ozemail.com.au) or by phone (08) 82717673.

Alaric Maude, Secretary

## Notice of General Meeting 2009

Members of the Institute of Australian Geographers are notified that the next General Meeting of the Institute will be at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday 29 September 2009, during the Cairns IAG Conference. Please check the time and place in the Conference Program. Agenda papers will be distributed at the meeting.

## Editor's Note

*This edition of the IAG newsletter is being produced in both an electronic and printed format. The IAG Council is exploring a proposal to move to an electronic only version of the newsletter. This proposal will be discussed by the council at the September 2009 council meeting. If you would like me to take any comments about this proposal to the IAG Council meeting please email me by the 15th September 2009.*

Amanda Davies  
adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

## Vale Reginald C. Golledge

Australian geographers will be saddened to hear of the recent death of Reg Golledge who died at his home in Goleta, California on 29th May 2009. Although a long-time resident of the US, Reg returned to Australia frequently and maintained close contact with academic and personal friends

here. He was an honorary life member of the IAG, and was the second recipient of the Institute's Australia-International Medal, the award that honours Australian geographers who have had a distinguished career overseas and who have made an outstanding contribution to international geography.

Very much a NSW country boy, Reg Golledge was born in Dungog in the Hunter Valley and was brought up Tocumwal, Cootamundra and Yarra, near Goulburn where he went to high school. Given that background he went on to a regional tertiary college, the University of New England (then a college of Sydney University) and graduated in geography BA in 1959 and MA in 1961. In a recent memoir titled 'Building on the down under experience' (2007) Reg acknowledged the significant influence of Armidale geographers Ted Chapman, Eric Woolmington, Eugene Fitzpatrick and Bob Smith in getting him first to study and then pursue a career in geography. After teaching at Canterbury University in Christchurch for two years, he went on to the University of Iowa and

completed his PhD (1966). Appointments at the University of British Columbia and Ohio State University then preceded his move in 1977 to the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he was based up till his death. Initially known for his studies on consumer behaviour Reg's research moved on to environmental cognition and behavioural geography, and later, with his failing sight, to cognitive mapping, place recognition and special populations in society. The richness of his theoretical work in human geography together with his commitment to its application has been acknowledged many times including by his receipt of a Guggenheim Fellowship, honorary doctorates from the University of Goteborg in Sweden and Simon Fraser University in Canada and the Grosvenor Medal for Geographic Education. Reg Golledge was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a past President of the Association of American Geographers. It was during his presidency in 2000 that he was awarded the IAG's Australia-International Medal.

## IAG Councillors and Officers 2009

President: Professor Lesely Head, University of Wollongong, [lhead@uow.edu.au](mailto:lhead@uow.edu.au)

Vice President (President Elect): Professor Iain Hay, Flinders University, [Iain.hay@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Iain.hay@flinders.edu.au)

Vice President (Immediate Past President): Professor Jim Walmsley, University of New England, [dwalmsley@pobox.une.edu.au](mailto:dwalmsley@pobox.une.edu.au)

Treasurer: Dr Stewart Williams, University of Tasmania, [stewart.williams@utas.edu.au](mailto:stewart.williams@utas.edu.au)

Secretary: Associate Professor Alaric Maude, [polymaude@ozemail.com.au](mailto:polymaude@ozemail.com.au)

Secretary (Web): Ms Julie Kesby, Australian Defence Force Academy, [j.kesby@adfa.edu.au](mailto:j.kesby@adfa.edu.au)

Councillor: Professor David Gillieson, James Cook University, [david.gillieson@jcu.edu.au](mailto:david.gillieson@jcu.edu.au)

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Councillor: Dr Rachel Hughes, University of Melbourne, [hughesr@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hughesr@unimelb.edu.au)

Councillor: Dr Kathleen Broderick

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## Conveners of Study Groups 2009

Urban Studies Group: Associate Professor Donald McNeill, University of Western Sydney [d.mcneill@uwa.edu.au](mailto:d.mcneill@uwa.edu.au); Therese Kenna, University of Western Sydney [t.kenna@uws.edu.au](mailto:t.kenna@uws.edu.au)

Rural Studies Group: Dr Amanda Davies, University of Western Australia, [adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:adavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

Cultural Studies Group: Dr Rachel Hughes, University of Melbourne, [hughesr@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hughesr@unimelb.edu.au)

Economic Geography Study Group: Professor Phillip O'Neill, University of Western Sydney [p.oneill@uws.edu.au](mailto:p.oneill@uws.edu.au)

Environmental Sustainability Study Group: Dr Nick Gill, University of Wollongong, [ngill@uow.edu.au](mailto:ngill@uow.edu.au)

GIScience, Spatial Analysis and Modelling Study Group: Dr Shwan Laffan, University of New South Wales [shawn.laffan@unsw.edu.au](mailto:shawn.laffan@unsw.edu.au)

Indigenous Issues Study Group: Dr Judith Burns, University of New England [jburns2@une.edu.au](mailto:jburns2@une.edu.au)

Political Geography Study Group: Dr Kersty Hobson, The Australian National University [Kersty.hobson@anu.edu.au](mailto:Kersty.hobson@anu.edu.au)

# News From the IAG Council

## Constitutional Change

At the Council meeting on 29 July 2008 Council decided to delete the category of Registered Membership, for the following reasons:

1. This category of membership has attracted very few people
2. It is cumbersome to administer in the new online membership system because the category requires the submission of documentary evidence, thus reducing the efficiency gains of the system.
3. The new Fellowship that commenced in 2008 provides an alternative form of professional recognition.

The category of Registered Member is included in the Constitution of the Institute, which states:

*13.1 Any motion to alter the Constitution shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary in writing over the signatures of not fewer than five members not less than eight weeks before the date of a General Meeting. Such a proposal for alteration shall be circulated forthwith to members by the Honorary Secretary.*

I hereby give notice of the following proposal to alter the Constitution of the Institute of Australian Geographers.

### Proposal

- a. That Section 4 of the Constitution of the Institute of Australian Geographers be deleted.
- b. That subsequent sections of the Constitution be renumbered accordingly.
- c. That the reference to registered members in clause 9.5 of the Constitution be deleted.
- d. That the Schedule to the Constitution on the Code of Professional Conduct be removed, as this applies only to registered members.

### For the information of members

A. Section 4 of the Constitution is as follows.

#### 4. PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

*4.1 Any member of the Institute can apply for professional registration to become a Registered Member.*

*4.2 Registered members must*

- (a) have an appropriate educational qualification or a qualification accepted as equivalent by the Council;*
- (b) have an active involvement in professional practice;*

*(c) participate in continuing professional Development;*

*(d) accept the code of conduct for professional registration;*

*(e) satisfy the conditions as specified in the Schedule to the Constitution.*

*4.3 Members who satisfy the conditions of professional registration and accept the code of professional conduct and indicate this acceptance by signature will be identified as registered members and will receive an appropriate certificate of registration bearing the seal of the Institute and the signature of the President.*

*4.4 Any registered member who is considered by a two-thirds majority of the Council to have failed to observe the code of professional conduct shall forfeit the right to registration and shall be deemed an unregistered member.*

*4.5 The Council, through a majority decision of any General Meeting may amend and revise the Schedule to this Constitution.*

*4.6 The Council, through a majority decision of any General Meeting, may introduce a registration fee to cover the expenses of any services or assistance to be made available exclusively to registered members.*

*4.7 Any registered member may voluntarily surrender their registration by submission of their certificate of registration to the Secretary or President of the Institute.*

B. The sentence in Clause 9.5 that refers to registered members is as follows:

*The Public Officer shall keep a directory of all financial members and shall maintain a register of Registered Members.*

C. The Schedule to the Constitution is as follows:

#### SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

##### 1. AGREEMENT

*1.1 Registered members agree that geographers have responsibilities to the public, employers, clients and colleagues, and undertake to abide by the following duties*

##### 2. DUTIES TO THE PUBLIC

*2.1 Registered members accept a responsibility to Australian and international law and shall take care to comply with all relevant legal requirements.*

*2.2 Registered members accept a responsibility to society and shall endeavour to work in the best interests of the public.*

*2.3 Registered members shall be sensitive to and respect the legitimate concerns of persons whose social,*

*economic, cultural or political interests are the subject of investigation.*

*2.4 Registered members accept a responsibility to protection of the environment and shall engage in no work that is contrary to wise or considerate environmental management.*

##### 3. DUTIES TO THE PROFESSION

*3.1 Registered members shall not undertake any work beyond their competence.*

*3.2 Registered members shall protect the professional interests of their colleagues in an ethical manner.*

*3.3 Registered members are expected to set high standards of quality and control for all work contracted, including employment of staff and acknowledgment of all sources of data and information which have not been assembled from personal observation.*

*3.4 Registered members are expected to keep accurate records of contracts and accounts relating to all professional work completed.*

##### 4. DUTIES TO CLIENTS

*4.1 Registered members are obliged to negotiate a written statement of the task, anticipated costs and period of contract for all work for which a fee is to be received from a client.*

*4.2 Registered members are obliged to respect the confidentiality and ownership of any agreement or information obtained under contract with a client.*

*4.3 Registered members are obliged to maintain proper record of financial accounts with clients.*

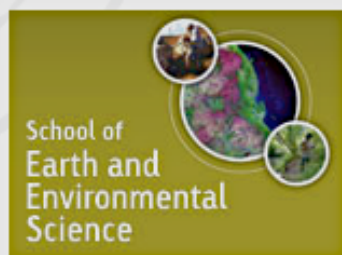
##### 5. DUTIES TO EMPLOYEES

*5.1 Registered members are obliged to observe all conditions of equality of employment opportunity when engaging staff.*

*5.2 Registered members are required to provide appropriate conditions of service, including workers' compensation insurance and leave entitlements to all staff employed.*

Alaric Maude, Secretary  
Institute of Australian Geographers  
22 May 2009

# IAG Conference Cairns 2009



**'Balancing Choices and Effects in a Dynamic World'**

**Cairns IAG 2009 Conference**

**James Cook University**

**Cairns**

**28 September - 1 October, 2009**

## Conference 2009

*The School of Earth & Environmental Sciences and Australian Tropical Forest Institute invite you to attend the 2009 Institute of Australian Geographers Conference in Cairns.*

This is the first time our annual conference will be held in Cairns, and we are working hard to ensure that all delegates have the chance to learn about, and experience first-hand, some of our fascinating tropical landscapes and ways of life.

The conference will be held on the Cairns campus of James Cook University. This is a new campus set in a circle of rainforest-clad hills some 15 km north of Cairns city. Good accommodation, dining, beaches and some entertainment are all available close to the conference venue.

The Organising Committee is developing a wide-ranging programme, and we are very grateful to those of you who have proposed sessions or who have agreed to be session convenors. Our conference theme 'Balancing Choices and Effects in a Dynamic World' reflects our location in the dynamic, very wet tropics, but the programme will also reflect the dynamism of geographical research being carried out across Australia (and beyond). More detail about the programme is provided below.

We think that this will be a very exciting conference, and an important chance for all of us to meet, discuss research issues in Geography, and maintain or initiate both national and international collaborations. The organizing committee look forward to welcoming you to Cairns in September 2009.

### Local Organising Committee

Steve Turton (Co-Chair), Dave Gillieson (Co-Chair), Lisa Law, Karen McNamara  
Marc Leblanc

### Programme Committee

Steve Turton, Dave Gillieson, Lisa Law  
Karen McNamara

### Programme

The conference programme will be spread over three days, with plenary sessions in the mornings.

Sessions have been proposed on diverse themes including, for example: World heritage and tourism; Sustainable cities; Tropical knowledges; Climate change and migration; Migration, land and livelihoods; Preparedness for natural hazards; Housing markets and the financial crisis; and Coastal management and development. A more detailed list can be found at:

[\(Session Details \(with descriptions linked to table as of 5 May\)\)](#)

[Study Group Sponsored Sessions listing as of 7 April \(Session-descriptions\\_7April09.pdf\).](#)

Abstracts for spoken papers and posters must be sent to the IAG Conference Secretariat. For information about the session content please contact the session convenors.

[\(IAG Abstract Submission Form \(pdf version\)\)](#)  
[\(IAG Abstract Submission Form \(Word rtf version\)\)](#)

Postgraduate student meetings will be on Sunday 27 September, plenary and paper sessions will be on Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 September.

### Key dates

- Registration closes – 24 July 2009
- Final Abstracts due – 26 June 2009
- Draft programme available – 24 July 2009

### Registration

The registration fee includes attendance at all sessions and plenaries, morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Also included are the Icebreaker, evening Poster Session and the Conference Dinner. The Conference Dinner will be held at the award winning Tjapukai By Night.

[\(IAG Conference 2009 Registration Form\)](#)

### Field Trips

Pre-conference one day field trip to Daintree/Cape Tribulation (Sunday 27 September).

Post-conference one day trip to Atherton Tablelands/Innisfail lowlands (Thursday October 1).

Specific details will be updated at a later date.

### Accommodation

Delegates will need to organise their own accommodation. It is recommended that delegates stay in one of the Northern Beach suburbs (e.g. Trinity Beach, Holloway's Beach, Yorkey's Knob, Clifton Beach) to be close to the JCU Campus. A regular bus service operates from the Northern Beaches to the JCU campus in Smithfield.

September is high season so delegates should book sooner rather than later.

The following web site is the portal into all that delegates need to know about Cairns and Far North Queensland, including accommodation (for all budgets) and scenic attractions:

<http://www.tropicalnorthqueensland.com.au/>

The Campus Lodge provides budget accommodation within walking distance of the University:

<http://www.studentlodge.com.au>

Sunbus website for timetables:

[http://www.sunbus.com.au/tt\\_index\\_cairns.php](http://www.sunbus.com.au/tt_index_cairns.php)



## Budget 2009/2001

*Against expectations, the budget provided significant new investment in science, higher education, research and innovation.*

In 2009/10 commonwealth expenditure on innovation, science and research will be \$8.6b, a 25% increase on 2008/9 budget – the single largest annual increase since science and innovation records began in the late 1970s.

The budget provides \$5.7b for new programs over four years across the higher education and innovation sectors in response to the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education and the Cutler Review of the National Innovation System. \$3.1b of this is in Kim Carr's DIISR portfolio.

The Government has also released a formal paper in response to the Cutler and Bradley reviews called /Powering Ideas (<http://www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview/Pages/home.aspx/>). This paper indicates commitments for various reforms such as activity based costing for evaluating full costs of research, which have been implemented in this budget, but also sketches commitments to future reforms such as the introduction of compacts between Universities and Government that are not implemented in this budget cycle.

Our main focus here is on DIISR and Education announcements but there were other announcements of interest to members in other portfolios including:

- Cutting of Land and Water
- Reduction in rural industries R&D Corp
- Extending NICTA beyond 2010
- Increase funding to BoM for infrastructure
- Increase Antarctica research
- Major health infrastructure funding including for medical research facilities and institutions
- \$4.5b clean energy initiative including \$2b in carbon capture and storage; \$1.6b in solar technologies and \$465m for Renewables Australia (most of these are existing or redirected programs although there is \$100m for renewables Australia)

The key budget items are:

### Higher Education

- A new quality and regulatory agency (that subsumes AQUA)
- Revised indexation arrangements for university grants (\$577m additional over 3 years)
- A more demand-driven university system

- Extra 50,000 new students to commence a degree by 2013
- Major infrastructure commitments
- Focus on equity funding for low SES including a 2% rising to 4% loading for teaching
- Major changes to student income support mechanisms

### Research

- \$512m to increase funding for the indirect costs of research: initially Research Infrastructure Block Grant (RIBG) up to 25 cents then to 50 cents in the dollar by 2014. Access to the higher levels will be conditional on undertaking activity based costing and other criteria.
- A new Joint Research Engagement Program that replaces the current Institutional Grants Scheme to support research collaboration between universities, industry and other end-users. Success in competitive grants will not be an indicator for competitive resource allocation.
- \$52m for collaborative research programs – a new scheme for 6 year networks based in non-research intensive regional unis in areas they have identified as strategic research strengths to build collaboration with other institutions.
- Modest increase to postgraduate stipends
- Indexation of research block grants

### Science

- A program called "super science initiative" with \$1.1billion for science initiatives (\$901m in infrastructure) in space science and astronomy; marine and climate science; and future industries (eg nano and bio technologies)
- Space science \$160.5m – new National Centre for SKA science in Perth; additional funding for the Australian Anglo telescope; \$40m for space research and skills and \$8.4m for a new space policy unit in DIISR
- Marine and Climate \$387.7m - Including Replacement vessel for Southern Surveyor; new tropical marine infrastructure at AIMS; distributed infrastructure for terrestrial ecosystems, groundwater depletion etc
- Future Industries \$504m - includes \$71m for Monash EMBL facility, nuclear science facilities at ANSTO, New Enabling Technologies Strategy

In addition, there will be 100 Super science fellowships (\$27.2m) for 3-year postdocs in these three science areas (50 commencing in 2010 and 50 in 2011) worth up to \$72,500pa.

The 2009 round of Science linkages has been cut and I expect that means the end of this troubled program.

### Public Sector Agencies

- CSIRO, ANSTO, AIMS and BoM all received infrastructure funding including over \$150m for CSIRO comprising \$120m for a replacement vessel and \$30m for Atlas of Living Australia; \$55m for AIMS; \$62m for ANSTO to provide additional neutron beam instruments for OPAL. There were no cuts. The agencies will also be partners in, or have access to, a lot of the other infrastructure investments.

### ARC

- ARC received funding to develop ERA, which means it does not have to be funded out of existing ARC programs. It also received additional funds for specific programs such as extension of NICTA and the super science fellowships.

### NHMRC

- No cuts or new programs. There are major new health infrastructure grants some of which will have direct benefits for researchers and universities (eg Monash and ANU)

### Innovation

The key innovation initiative is an R&D tax credit with two levels of assistance:

- A 45% refundable credit for companies with turnover of less than \$20 million (equivalent to a 150% tax concession) and
- A 40% non-refundable credit for companies with turnover of more than \$20 million and for companies with foreign-owned intellectual property arrangements that conduct R&D in Australia. equivalent to a 133% tax concession.

The new R&D tax credits take effect for income years commencing after 1 July 2010. Of particular note is the change to an R&D tax credit system means that the rate of support will be decoupled from any future changes to the corporate tax rate.

The arrangements for turnover <\$20m is a significant increase, as the current refundable offset has a group turnover limit of \$5 million, and aggregate R&D expenditure capped at \$1 million. For the R&D tax credit the turnover limit has been increased to \$20 million, and the cap abolished.

As a transitional measure, for the 2009/10 income year, the Aggregate R&D Expenditure cap will be lifted to \$2 million to provide more support and flexibility for organisations that currently do not qualify

## Budget 2009/2001 Continued ...

Where group turnover is over \$20 million, companies will be eligible for a 40% non-refundable credit, equivalent to a 133% tax concession, again one-third higher than the current basic rate of support.

Further, companies conducting R&D in Australia where intellectual property rights are held offshore (as for the current international premium R&D concession) will also be able to access this credit.

Both the current 175% premium and international premium will be abolished in line with the introduction of the new credit system, and the 2009/10 income year will be the last for claims under those programs.

It is important to note that there is no successor program to Commercial Ready, in particular R&D Start Grants.

That suggests that the Government has withdrawn from the usual mix of grants and tax support to tax support only.

Start up firms typically used R&D Start grants to leverage State Government and private venture capital so it remains to be seen what long term impacts the new policy environment will have on development/commercialisation pathways.

### Infrastructure

*Injection of almost \$3 billion into tertiary education and innovation Infrastructure through the Education Investment Fund (EIF).*

The Government has approved 31 projects received through Round 2 of the EIF worth \$934 million 12 for VET; 11 are for higher education teaching and learning facilities and 8 for research infrastructure.

The Government has also announced an allocation of \$500 million for Round 3, and a special \$650 million Sustainability Round of the Education Investment Fund.

The funding will be open to VET and higher education and research institutions and will support projects that feature sustainable design, energy efficiency and build capability for climate change related research.

\$1.1 billion will also be provided for the Super Science Initiative. Of this, \$901 million will come from the EIF for the capital components.

Applications for Round 3 of the EIF will open later this year and successful projects will be announced in early 2010.

### Successful Round 2 EIF grants are

#### Higher Education Teaching and Learning

- Gateway @ COFA at the University of New South Wales, Paddington - \$48m
- Leadership in Advanced Surgical Education at Macquarie University, North Ryde - \$16.638 m
- National Life Sciences Hub (NaLSH): An Integrated Science Hub in Food Security, Plant and Animal Health for Inland Australia at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga - \$34m
- La Trobe University Rural Health School at La Trobe University, Bendigo - \$59.6m
- Science and Engineering Precinct at University of Ballarat, Mount Helen - \$39.97m
- Transforming Graduate Learning Spaces - A New Delivery Model for Professional Education in Australia at the University of Melbourne, Parkville - \$16.278m
- Advanced Engineering Building at the University of Queensland, St Lucia - \$50m
- Science and Technology Precinct at Queensland University of Technology, Gardens Point - \$75m
- Engineering Pavilion at Curtin University of Technology, Bentley - \$20.5m
- Establishment of the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Education at Charles Darwin University, Casuarina - \$30.65m
- Stage 2 of the ANU Science Transformation: The Chemical Sciences Hub at the Australian National University, Acton - \$90m

#### Research

- Australian Institute for Innovation Materials (AIIM) - Processing and Devices at University of Wollongong, Innovation Campus, Fairy Meadow - \$43.8m
- Building the Sydney Institute of Marine Science into a World Class Marine Research Facility in support of Australia's National Research Priorities at Sydney Institute of Marine Science, Chowder Bay - \$19.5m
- Centre of Climate Change and Energy Research at University of Western Sydney, Richmond - \$40.0m
- National Centre for Synchrotron Science: Outreach and Research Support Facilities at Australian Synchrotron, Clayton - \$36.78 million

- The Centre for Neural Engineering at the University of Melbourne, Parkville - \$17.515 million
- The La Trobe Institute for Molecular Sciences at La Trobe University, Bundoora - \$64.1 million
- Smart State Medical Research Centre at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Hurston - \$55.0 million
- Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies at University of Tasmania, Hobart - \$45.0 million

## Strategic Leadership in Science

The transcript from the 'Science Meets Parliament Breakfast Forum' is now available [here](#).

The participants were Professor Penny Sackett (Chief Scientist), Dr Megan Clark (CEO, CSIRO), Baroness Susan Greenfield (UK) and Professor Mary O'Kane (NSW Chief scientist and scientific engineer).

## Science Meets Parliament Dinner

In this uncertain world, we should not neglect the role that science has to play in understanding uncertainty ... now is the time to invest anti-cyclically in science ... we should not take short term measures that risk our crucial investment in science with its long term payoffs.

The transcript from FASTS president Professor Ken Baldwin speech is available for download by following this link [download speech](#)

# Conferences

## The Dynamics of Local Growth, Perth

**13 - 17 July 2009**

*The next meeting of the IGU's Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces will be held in Perth at the University of Western Australia.*

For more information please visit

[http://www.ird.uwa.edu.au/iguconference\\_july2009](http://www.ird.uwa.edu.au/iguconference_july2009)

## Minding Animals Conference, Newcastle

**13 - 18 July 2009**

*The next conference of the Animals and Society (Australia) Study Group will be held at the University of Newcastle*

For more information please visit

<http://www.mindinganimals.com>

## Social Cohesion Conference, Sydney

**19 - 21 July 2009**

*The theme of this conference, to be held at the Sydney University, is 'Challenging Islamophobia: towards social justice and inclusion'.*

For more information please email

[info@affinity.org.au](mailto:info@affinity.org.au)

## World Library and Information Congress, Milan

**23 - 27 August 2009**

*At this conference there will be a three hour themed session entitled 'Cultural Heritage Preserved: The Role of Digital Maps'.*

For more information please email

[oanitak@yahoo.com](mailto: oanitak@yahoo.com)

## National EMS Conference, Bunbury

**15 - 17 September 2009**

*The theme of this meeting will be 'International Management Systems for Better Environmental Outcomes*

For more information please visit

<http://ems.asn.au/events/2009>

## Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Conference, Canberra

**20 - 21 October 2009**

*The theme of this conference is 'Policy to Practice'*

For more information please visit

<http://conlog.com.au/eianz>

## Volcanoes, Landscapes and Cultures, Catania (Sicily)

**11 - 14 November 2009**

*This conference will address core aspects of the ages-old relationships between humankind, the volcanic landscapes, and the obscure turbulences of the mineral world*

For more information please visit

<http://etnacatania2009.com>

## Asia-Pacific STS Network Conference, Brisbane

**23 - 25 November 2009**

*This inaugural annual meeting of the new Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network will focus on research and practice in the region. A special focus is on environmental and indigenous themes.*

For more information please email

[r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au](mailto:r.hindmarsh@griffith.edu.au)

## Agri-Food XVI Conference, Auckland

**24 - 27 November 2009**

*This conference will encourage debate, information exchange and collaboration between researchers based in universities and other organisations*

For more information please email

[r.leheron@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.leheron@auckland.ac.nz)

## State of Australian Cities Conference, Perth

**24 - 27 November 2009**

*The 4th State of Australian Cities Conference will be held at the University of Western Australia.*

For more information please email

[maginnpj@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:maginnpj@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

## Managing Biodiversity in a Time of Global Change, Hobart

**30 November - 3 December 2009**

*This meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology Oceania Section will focus on a range of Oceanian terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystem as well as Antarctic ecosystems.*

For more information please email

[karina@cdesign.com.au](mailto:karina@cdesign.com.au)

## Urban History Planning History Conference, Melbourne

**7 - 10 February 2010**

*This conference will be held at the University of Melbourne*

For more information please visit

<http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/aboutus/event/conferences/greenfields/call-for-papers.html>

# Grant and Award Opportunities

## Griffith Taylor Medal

*The medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to geography in Australia. No more than one medal is to be awarded in each two year period.*

### Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each second year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

## Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers

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

### Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

## Professional Services Award

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

### Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by the signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary.

## Australian-International Medal

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

### Award Rules

Nominations will be invited in September each year through the IAG list and through a notice in the Institute's last Newsletter for the year. A full statement (of no more than 1000 words) must be made describing the nominee's suitability for the award. This statement is to be accompanied by signatures of two proposing financial members and seconded by a further two financial members. Awards will be made by a majority of Council after receiving advice from the President.

Nominations for awards are strictly confidential and must not be made known to the nominee.

No member shall be informed of nomination until formally invited by Council President to accept the award.

## Past Winners

### Griffith Taylor Medal

- Mrs Ann Marshall 1989 ([citation](#))
- Dr Les Heathcote 1997 ([citation](#))
- Dr Joe Gentilli 1998
- Professor Fay Gale 2001 ([citation](#))
- Professor Bruce Thom 2004 ([citation](#))
- Emeritus Professor John Holmes 2006 ([citation](#))
- Professor Joe Powell 2008

### Australia - International Medal

- Professor Janice Monk 1999
- Professor Reginald Gollidge 2000
- Professor Tom McKnight 2001
- Emeritus Professor Harold Brookfield 2005 ([citation](#))
- Emeritus Professor Ian Douglas 2006 ([citation](#))

### The Former Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers

- Professor Murray McCaskill 1989 ([citation](#))
- Professor Bruce Thom 1992 ([citation](#))
- Professor John Holmes 1997 ([citation](#))
- Associate Professor Arthur Conacher 1998
- Mr Laurie Olive 1999
- Dr Morgan Sant 2001
- Associate Professor Richard Howitt 2004

### Fellowship of the Institute of Australian Geographers

- Professor Iain Hay 2008
- Associate Professor Tony Sorenson 2008



# Grants and Awards Received

## Paul Tranter (UNSW@ADFA)

has secured both ARC discovery and NHMRC grants for research on children's school grounds. The ARC Discovery Project – "Popping the Bubblewrap: Unleashing the power of play" (\$399k), and the NHMRC Project – "Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial of an Innovative Intervention to Increase Children's Physical Activity" (\$486k), both involve enhancing children's play in school grounds, with the objective of improving child health outcomes. Dr Tranter is working with a multidisciplinary research team on both projects. The research team includes researchers in the disciplines of Occupational Therapy, Early Childhood Education, Public Health, Psychology and Medicine.

## Iain Hay (Flinders )

has received the Doctor of Letters degree (LittD) from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. This higher doctorate has been awarded for over twenty years of post-PhD work on "Geographies of Domination and Oppression".

The Council of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (RGS/IBG) has conferred upon Iain Hay (Flinders) the Taylor and Francis Award 2009 'For excellence in the promotion and practice of teaching and learning in Geography in Higher Education'. The Award will be presented by RGS/IBG President Sir Gordon Conway in London on 1 June.

Iain Hay has also been admitted as a Senior Fellow (SFHEA) of the Higher Education Academy in the UK, a major honour that "recognises outstanding achievement in teaching and enhancing the student learning experience, combined with scholarship and academic leadership". He is one of the first two people outside the UK to be admitted as a Senior Fellow.

Communicating in Geography and the Environmental Sciences (3rd edn, 2006, Oxford University Press), written by Iain Hay (Flinders) has received an Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) 2008 Award. The Award was made on the basis of the book's "currency, authenticity, application of contemporary understandings of how students learn and use of cutting edge production and contemporary and innovative style". The Award was presented at the 2008 AGTA National Conference in Queensland on 1 October.

## PhDs Recently Awarded

**Samantha Ngui** (UNSW) has qualified (2009) for the award of PhD based on a thesis titled 'Freedom to worship: Frameworks for the realisation of religious minority rights'.

**Natascha Klocker** (UNSW) has qualified (2008) for the award of PhD based on a thesis titled 'A participatory, action-oriented and youth-led investigation into child domestic work in Iringa, Tanzania'.

**Edgar Liu** (UNSW) has qualified for the award of PhD (2009) based on a thesis titled 'Neo-normativity, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, and latrinalia: the demonstration of a concept on non-heterosexual performativities'.

**Rae Dufty** (UNSW) has qualified for the award of PhD (2008) based on a thesis titled 'Rethinking the politics of distribution. The geographies and governmentalities of housing assistance in rural New South Wales, Australia'.

**Tina Jaskolski** (ANU) for her thesis 'Envisioning a future for young Balinese: The move towards sustainability in secondary education'

**Michelle Carnegie** (ANU) for her thesis 'Place-based livelihoods and post-development challenges in Eastern Indonesia'

**Gerda Roelvink** (ANU) for her thesis 'Performing new economies through hybrid collectives'

## Reminder

Associate Professor **Neil Argent** (University of New England) is convening, on behalf of the IAG Rural Studies Group a special themed paper session at the 2009 IAG conference.

The session, entitled 'The Changing Governance of Rural Society, Space and Place' will bring together researchers working across the spectrum of geography and related social sciences to discuss, in a focused fashion, the changing governance of rural society, space and place.

Sponsored speakers for this session are: Professor **Michael Woods** (University of Aberystwyth, Wales) and Dr. **Lynda Cheshire** (University of Queensland).

For more information please email Neil Argent at [nargent@une.edu.au](mailto:nargent@une.edu.au)

# Geographers are Working On...

## Heather Macdonald (University of Western Sydney)

*presented a paper entitled "Constructing the "new" New Deal: lessons from history" at the Urban Affairs Association Conference in Chicago.*

The paper examined the challenges and achievements of agencies set up to deal with two previous financial crises - the Home Owner's Loan Corporation and the Resolution Trust Corporation - and concludes with lessons for the current bailout. Once proposals for the bailout have been firmed up, she will be able to finish the conclusions for the paper!

## Gordon Waite, Chris Gibson, Lesely Head and Nick Gill (University of Wollongong)

*have commenced work on their ARC Discovery Project 'Making Less Space for Carbon: Cultural Research for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation'.*

The project seeks to understand how households are responding to the twin challenges of becoming more sustainable, in a time of financial vulnerability.

A detailed survey of 10,000 households in the Illawarra has been piloted and will be fully distributed, with accompanying media campaign, in June 2009. The project will appoint a post-doctoral research fellow later in 2009 for on-going ethnographic research with participating households over a three-year period.

## Nick Gill (University of Wollongong)

*is continuing his work on land management by lifestyle oriented rural landholders with Dr Peter Klepeis from Colgate University, New York, and Dr Laurie Chisholm at Wollongong.*

They have recently published on lifestyle weed management in Land Use Policy and are about to resubmit a recently reviewed second paper on lifestyle senses of stewardship.

Ongoing work includes analysis of land cover fragmentation on subdivided land, diary projects

with lifestyle landowners in southern New South Wales, agent based modelling of land cover change in periurban areas by PhD student Rohan Wickramasuriya Denagamage, and related research in upstate New York led by Peter Klepeis.

## Phil McManus (University of Sydney)

is on SSP at the University of Edinburgh. He also presented a conference paper comparing Canadian thoroughbred breeding with international practices at the Canadian Geographers Association Annual Meeting at Carleton University, Ottawa, in late May 2009.

## Phillip O'Neill (University of Western Sydney)

major study of western Sydney labour markets funded (\$198,000) by a NSW Government Department of Planning grant in association with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) has continued to attract significant media attention. During 2009, Phillip will be hosting two visitors: Professor Jonathon Beaverstock from Nottingham, University will be a visitor at the Urban Research Centre in July 10 and August. He will be undertaking collaborative research with Phillip O'Neill, Donald McNeill and Mark Davidson on new global links to the Sydney urban economy, post crisis.

## Donald McNeill (University of Western Sydney)

has been conducting research in the UK, US and Hong Kong during 2009 for is ARC Discovery Project examining airport territories. He also presented an invited paper at an ESRC seminar series in Loughborough, UK in May 2009. Donald will also be hosting the visit of Dr James Falconbridge (Lancaster University) in September 2009. Together with Dr Mark Davidson, Donald presented a final report to the Sydney Olympic Park Authority. This reported on the effectiveness of the Authority's current place-making activities. In addition, Donald's has a text book, Key Concept in Urban Geography (co-authored with Alan Latham, Derek McCormack and Kim McNamara), published by Sage.

## Louise Crabtree (University of Western Sydney)

together with Professor Peter Phibbs hosted a visit to Sydney by Dr John Emmeus Davis, a global authority on perpetually affordable homeownership. The visit consisted of public seminars and documentary screenings, ministerial meetings and a professional short course on community land trusts. Louise's most recent publications are Crabtree L and Hes D (2009) Sustainability uptake in housing in metropolitan Australia: an institutional problem, not a technological one, *Housing Studies*, 24(2), 203-224 and Crabtree L (2009) Sub/urban dream(ing): land speculation and the quarter acre block, in de Souza, K and Begg, Z (eds) *There Goes the Neighbourhood: Redfern and the Politics of Urban Space*, Sydney: You Are Here, pp. 102-105.

## Mark Davidson (University of Western Sydney)

has been conducting research examining the relationship between corporate real estate capital and gentrification in Sydney with Associate Professor Elvin Wyly (University of British Columbia). He also delivered a paper at the 5th International Conference of the Research Network "Private Urban Governance & Gated Communities" at the University of Chile, Santiago in April. Mark latest research papers in 2009 have featured in *Ethics, Place and Environment*, *Urban Studies*; and *Population, Space and Place*. He also has a chapter in Imrie, Lees and Raco's *Regenerating London* (2009) published by Routledge.

## Iain Hay (Flinders)

has accepted an invitation from Springer Science +Business Media (formerly Springer Verlag and Kluwer Academic Publishing) to serve as the General Editor for their new 'International Handbooks of Human Geography' series. This series will comprise multi-volume reference works, each consisting of approximately 1,000 pages. Iain's role includes selecting and appointing an international editorial board, developing volume topics and selecting editors, and overseeing the overall quality and continuity of the series. He is looking forward very much to this challenging opportunity.

# News From the Universities

## UNSW@ADFA

*Both Associate Professor Jacky Croke and Dr Ingrid Takken resigned from their positions in PEMS at UNSW@ADFA in 2008. Both had made substantial contributions to environmental systems research and publication, and the teaching programs in PEMS.*

Two new appointments for PEMS in 2009 include Dr Alec Thornton & Associate Professor Stuart Pearson.

Dr Alec Thornton has joined PEMS as a Lecturer in Human Geography. Prior to appointment he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Poverty, Inequality and Development (PID) Research Cluster in the Division of Humanities, University of Otago, NZ. Alec is an interdisciplinary development geographer with a particular interest in people-environment relationships in the global 'South'. He has a PhD in Development Studies, and a MA in Rural Development from the University of Sussex. He is currently involved in a number of research projects: Institutional capacity building in Africa; the role of the church in development in Samoa; the impact of economic openness on small-scale industries in Samoa; and urban agriculture in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Dr Stuart Pearson will take up his position with PEMS as Associate Professor in Physical Geography on 6th July 2009. Stuart's experience includes being Innovation Program Manager (2007-2009), and Senior Knowledge Broker (2005-2007) for Land & Water Australia. He has a previous association with Environmental Science and Geography, University of Newcastle as a Conjoint academic, and Lecturer (1995-2005). Stuart is an Australian expert in the changes that have occurred in Australia arid ecosystems over the last 10, 000 years. This includes ecological changes caused by climate change, fire, and exotic species. His research in semi-arid environments using tree-rings and stick-nest rat middens has been used to provide meaningful environmental histories to land managers. His teaching includes a commitment to fieldwork and integration of human and physical geography approaches

## University of Western Sydney

*In late 2008, the School of Social Sciences established a Geography and Urban Studies teaching and research group, and has made a modest number of academic appointments to support that initiative. These include Kevin Dunn (ex of UNSW) and Heather Macdonald (from The University of Iowa). Dr Macdonald's research focuses on housing, including the social and economic effects from changes to housing finance and regulation, as well as a public housing provision. Dunn and Macdonald have joined a group of urban*

*researchers including Michael Darcy, Deborah Stevenson and Awais Piracha.*

In early 2009, the University approved a new Geography and Urban Studies major within the Bachelor of Social Science. The major will also be available to students within other degree programs, and will be a core component of the University's Urban Planning program.

The staff are working closely with those Geographers located in the University's research centres, these include the Urban Research Centre (Phillip O'Neill, Donald McNeill, Mark Davidson, Louise Crabtree), The Centre for Cultural Research (Kay Anderson, Cameron McAuliffe), and others.

The Geography and Urban Studies teaching and research group hosted the visit of George Galster (The Clarence Hilberry Professor of Urban Affairs, Department of Geography and Urban Planning, Wayne State University) during March 2009. George prompted a good deal of reflection on the valency of neighbourhood effects, and the general importance of place and context.

## Centre for Urban Research, University of Western Sydney

The Centre hosted a number of events during the first half of 2009. These included:

Dr John Emmeus Davis, of Burlington Associates in Community Development and visiting fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts delivered a public seminar "Community land trusts: perpetually affordable housing & community resilience" in Sydney, co-hosted with ShelterNSW.

The Centre's ongoing seminar series featured: Professor Jeff Malpas, University of Tasmania; Associate Professor Glen Searle, University of Technology, Sydney; Dr Naofumi Suzuki, University of Tokyo; Dr Matthew Rofe, University of South Australia; and Associate Professor Emily Gilbert, University of Newcastle.

Phillip O'Neill, Donald McNeill and Mark Davidson all presented papers at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

## University of Wollongong

Ph.D. student Christine Eriksen, supervised by Nick Gill, has continued her research on bushfire attitudes and management in periurban areas. Her

research has been supported by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service and the Bushfire CRC.

She recently presented her work to a large group of RFS staff as one of several postgraduate students working within the RFS-supported University of Wollongong's Centre for Bushfire Risk Management run by Prof Ross Bradstock of the School of Biological Science.

Ruth Lane (RMIT) and Andrew Gorman-Murray (UOW) are hosting a symposium called 'Material geographies of household sustainability in Australia and the UK: An interdisciplinary workshop' at the Centre for Design, RMIT, 4-5 September 2009. The event is funded by the Cultural Research Network (Cultural Geographies Node) and supported by the Centre for Design, RMIT. Participants will come from geography, design, social science and cultural studies, and will include scholars from the UK. To facilitate collaboration, presentations will be limited to 16 participants, but others may attend as audience members. For further information, please contact Andrew ([andrewgm@uow.edu.au](mailto:andrewgm@uow.edu.au)) or Ruth ([ruth.lane@rmit.edu.au](mailto:ruth.lane@rmit.edu.au)).

## Flinders

Two scholars from Beijing Universities visited the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management at Flinders University over the period October 2008-January 2009 next. Zhang Jingqiu is currently Director of Urban Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences at Beijing Union University; Luo Qing is a lecturer in the Beijing Vocational College of Finance and Commerce. They visited Flinders to gain an appreciation of the Australian higher education system and to complete some collaborative research with Iain Hay as part of a new Flinders-China mentoring scheme.

## Southern Cross

Geographers Bill Boyd, Kathryn Taffs, Jeff Parr and Anja Scheffers are currently in the process of rebranding the Centre for Geoarchaeology & Palaeoenvironmental Studies as a new look Centre for Earth Systems Science. The Centre for Earth Systems Science is a group of research scientists, post doctoral fellows and graduate students concerned with the interactions between human societies and the environment through time and space. Research interests across the group are diverse but the unifying philosophy is a belief in understanding the nature of human interactions with the environment over a range of time scales.



# Geographers are Working On cont...

## Bill Boyd (Southern Cross University)

continues his geoarchaeological involvement in archaeology in SE Asia, now as part of the "Resilience and Opportunity in Ancient SE Asia Research Project", a joint SCU/JCU/Thai government project. Bill is also continuing work in the "Bundjalung Cultural Mapping Project", a

community-based cultural mapping project in NE NSW, and the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority funded "Living and Working in Rural Areas Project". The latter is focused on the avoidance and management land use conflict where there are incompatible neighbouring land uses. Nearly one thousand copies of a planning handbook (available online at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pubs/north-coast-land-use>) have been distributed to community, industry, management and

government groups. The current phase of the project involves training workshops with, amongst others, real estate agents and environmental consultants. In between these projects, Bill has taken on the position of Chair of SCU's Human Research Ethics and Animal Care & Ethics Committees. He recently co-published a discussion on ethics in higher education geography.

## Members Recent Publications

**Brian J Shaw** together with **Rahil Ismail** and **Ooi Giok** (both from NIE Singapore) have produced a new edited volume entitled "Southeast Asian Culture and Heritage in a Globalising World: Diverging Identities in a Dynamic Region", published by Ashgate, Aldershot, 2009.

Thirty-six thousand kilometres of Australia's dramatic coast and more than ten thousand iconic beaches have been documented for the first time in a new book published by Cambridge University Press – *The Coast of Australia* – which is authored by UOW's **Colin Woodroffe** and **Andy Short** (Sydney). The glossy, colour-illustrated hardback looks at the effects of climate, tides and waves and describes the beaches, cliffs, dunes and reefs around Australia. A final chapter looks at the human impacts on the coast – from indigenous history through European settlement and modern day tourism, climate change and industry. The book will interest a broad audience, from academics through to people with interests in tourism, fishing, history or climate change – or even those who want to know more about the coastline where they live.

**Richard Gillespie** is an author of a new book, *The Bone Readers - Atoms, genes and the politics of Australia's deep past* (written with Claudio Tuniz, and Cheryl Jones) published by Allen & Unwin. The book examines the facts and myths about the first human arrival in Australia and its region, what modern DNA tells us about the origin of Australian Aborigines, theories on the Indonesian 'hobbits' and who or what killed off Australia's giant marsupials. The findings from Australia and its neighbours are echoed in debates over the mysterious demise of the Neanderthals and shed light on human evolution.

**Andrew Gorman-Murray** has secured a contract to write a book for Ashgate entitled 'Geographies of Sexualities Down-Under: Gay and Lesbian Spatialities in Australia', to be published in 2010.

**Meg Sherval** has recently has a book published entitled 'The Geopolitics of Gold - Narratives of Globalisation and Remote, Resource Economies' 2009, VDM Verlag, Saarbruecken, Germany

Boyd, W.E. 2008. Social change in late Holocene mainland SE Asia: A response to gradual climate

change or a critical climatic event? *Quaternary International*, 184, 11-23.

McGrath, R.J., Boyd, W.E. & Bush, R.T. 2008. The paleohydrological context of the Iron Age floodplain sites of the Mun River valley, Northeast Thailand. *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal*, 23, 151-172.

Learmonth, R., Whitehead, R., Boyd, B. & Fletcher, S. 2007. *Living and Working in Rural Areas: A handbook for managing land use conflict issues on the NSW North Coast*. New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Wollongbar. ISBN978-0-646-48527-0 112pp; <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pubs/north-coast-land-use>

Boyd, W.E., Healey, R.L., Hardwick, S.W. & Haigh, M., with contributions from Klein, P., Doran, B., Trafford, J. & Bradbeer, J. 2008. "None of us sets out to hurt people": The Ethical Geographer and geography curricula in higher education. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 32, 37-50.

## Members On the Move

### Katherine Gibson

After 10 years in the Department of Human Geography RSPAS ANU, Katherine Gibson has moved to Sydney and taken up a position as Professorial Fellow in the Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy at the University of Western Sydney.

### Meg Sherval

Meg is taking up a position as lecturer in Environmental Studies at the University of Newcastle from semester 2, 2009. Meg has previously been based at Macquarie University. Her research focuses on land use in urban, rural and remote areas, and on issues such as globalisation, resource peripheries, recreational land development and sustainability.

### Amanda Davies

After more than 4 years at the University of Western Australia, Amanda will be moving (in July 2009) to Curtin University of Technology (Perth, WA). Amanda will be based within the Faculty of Humanities and will continue her research on rural economic and social resilience.



# Darwin's Luck:

## *Chance and Fortune in the Life and Works of Charles Darwin*

**A New Book By Adjunct Associate Professor Patrick Armstrong**

Darwin is often thought of as leading a very fortunate life. He was born into a wealthy family, and educated at Shrewsbury School, Edinburgh Medical School and Christ's College Cambridge. At least at Cambridge he had excellent teachers. His scientific career was kick-started by his voyage on HMS *Beagle*, and helped along by a network of influential friends. He married a wealthy heiress who was devoted to him.

But there is another point of view. His mother died when he was seven and he said he could hardly remember her. He 'learnt little' at Shrewsbury, and disliked the medical training in Edinburgh, leaving unqualified. He was seasick for days at a time on the *Beagle* voyage, and frequently ill throughout his life. His girlfriend, Fanny Owen, of whom there is evidence that he was extremely fond, married someone else a few months into the voyage. Three of his children died in infancy.

So like most of us, he had good luck and bad luck. But he had the knack of 'seeing the silver lining' and of 'making his own luck'. Nevertheless, there were times in his life when he took a decision, someone else took a decision, or circumstances intervened that had a profound effect on the course of his life and work. This book seeks to identify these important moments and to discuss their consequences.

Darwin was bitten by disease spreading insects in South America, his ship nearly capsized in a storm off Cape Horn. He survived, and the world is not the same because of it. Moreover he was extremely fortunate in the places he visited on his voyage, and the order in which he saw them.

### **The Occasion**

The book was published on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Darwin's Birth, and the 150<sup>th</sup> of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*, in February 2009, by Continuum Publishing of London. It was released in Australia in April 2009.

As 2009 is the Bicentenary of the birth not only of Charles Darwin but also of William Ewart Gladstone (four times Prime Minister and arguably the greatest British statesman of the Victorian era), to acknowledge this connection, the W E Gladstone Memorial Library, St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, North Wales recently hosted a meeting to discuss Darwin's life and work. The Publication of the book was celebrated at this meeting.

### **The author**

Patrick Armstrong, holds the position of Adjunct Associate Professor of Geography, Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley, Western Australia. He is the author of some five books on Charles Darwin, and many other books and articles on nineteenth century thought. Yorkshire born, and a Durham University graduate, he has taught geography and ecology at colleges and universities in the UK and Australia for over 40 years. He lives in Nedlands, Western Australia.

**Contacts:** Patrick Armstrong: After 9 April 2009: +61 8 9386 6959;

Ben Hayes, Publisher: + 44 207 922 0890. Patrick's email: [parmstro@highway1.biz](mailto:parmstro@highway1.biz)

## *Back Files of Australian Geographical Studies Available Online*

In 2008 Wiley-Blackwell published the entire back history of *Geographical Research* (then *Australian Geographical Studies*) online. Content published since 1963 is now available alongside current content, at:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/119815348/group/home/home.html>

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

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