



ANZRSAI Newsletter

July 2009

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

An interdisciplinary international association of researchers and practitioners on the growth and development of urban, regional and international systems

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Contributions welcome.

Please send contributions, notices of events and conferences, and articles of 500 – 1,000 words to the editor at anzrsai@anzrsai.org
Articles must include your name and professional affiliation

What region is this?

The 1800's gold mining town of Marysville has been a significant tourist destination through the 20th century. Old style guest-houses and spectacular scenery made Marysville a popular destination.



The mountain ash forests surrounding the town always held the potential for bushfire. The destruction delivered on 7th February 2009 was beyond most people's imagination. In both loss of human life and physical destruction of the town the statistics were stark – 34



Public record office of Victoria VPRS 12903

residents perished and most buildings in the town were lost.

The loss has been felt well beyond the town. Many thousands have enjoyed weekends, honeymoons, hiking and camping in this scenic location.

The town is one of many now facing the challenges of rebuilding lives, economy and infrastructure in the wake of bushfires.

The Royal Commission into the fires, underway since early May, will deliver an interim report in August. The report is expected to focus on fire warnings, the “stay or go” policy, and emergency management and response processes. In mid 2010 a final report will be delivered with further recommendations being made, including some relating to planning and building aspects of the fires.



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Information on the Royal Commission can be found at: www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au/

Sources:

<http://www.travelvictoria.com.au/marysville/>
www.scenicaccommodation.com.au/marysville.htm

(Thanks to Fiona McKenzie for this item. Ed.)

ANZRSAI and Economic Development Australia (EDA): A future for both

Late in April 2009 Anne Evans, Deputy Chair of the South Australian Chapter of EDA and Tony O'Malley, ANZRSAI Council member for SA shared a conversation about the contributions each association makes to regions.

The common features of ANZRSAI and EDA create opportunities for collaboration and the differentiating features create opportunities for specialisation and specific membership.

Economic Development Australia is focused on the interests of regional practitioners, social planners and local government. EDA has specific interests in economic development practice and emerging issues for sustainable regions. EDA supports best practice initiatives and local workshops. There are about 500 members nationally and 47 in SA.

ANZRSAI has specific interests in research, publications for researchers and practitioners, and in strengthened collaboration between local and international researchers and practitioners.

EDA and ANZRSAI share interests in policy, economy, program management and the sustainable growth of regions. The two organisations could collaborate in events on professional development, modelling outcomes and best practice.

In practical terms this might include:

- Building local networks of practitioners and researchers in each State to identify emerging issues and to build linkages;
- Developing professional development workshops for practitioners; and
- Pursuing a national research initiative on Sustainable Regions.

A network is operating in SA and is building links with EDA.

Tony O'Malley
23 April 2009

(If you would like to comment on this article or the ideas explored please send an email to anzrsai@anzrsai.org)



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Regional Development

Authorities:

A progress report

According to The Hon Gary Gray AO MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia, writing in *Sustaining Regions* “We are now in the process of transitioning the Area Consultative Committees into a new network, Regional Development Australia (RDA), which will have a much broader and more strategic role than the previous network.” The process is described at

http://www.rda.gov.au/about_the_rda_network/nsw.aspx

On 23 February 2009 an MOU was signed by the Australian Government Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia, Gary Gray, and the New South Wales Minister for Regional Development, Phillip Costa, setting out the arrangements for the creation of Regional Development Australia.

This process is demonstrating the diversity of Australia’s regions and the inherent difficulties in one size fits all solutions.

In New South Wales the new Regional Development Australia (RDA) network in NSW is replacing the Australian Government’s 14 Area Consultative Committees and the NSW Government’s 13 Regional Development Boards to create a more comprehensive and coordinated network of 14 RDA committees.

The RDA network (NSW) will be funded by the State and

Commonwealth governments to:

- cooperate to improve the co-ordination and delivery of regional development initiatives;
- deliver strategic input into national programs and help co-ordinate development initiatives at the regional and local level;
- work with all levels of government as a key link organisation to empower communities in regional development activity;
- provide independent advice to government on the efficacy of the delivery of policies and programs across all levels of government.

In Victoria a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Australian Government and the Victorian Government is under development. The MOU includes a proposal for jointly funded RDA committees in the Victorian Government's five provisional administrative regions and three metropolitan administrative regions. Victoria had twelve Area Consultative Committees.

In Queensland there were 12 Area Consultative Committees. On 14 May 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Parliamentary Secretary, Gary Gray, and Premier, Anna Bligh on behalf of the Australian and Queensland Governments. The MOU establishes the framework for the establishment of Regional Development Australia in Queensland. It also signals the start of a new State and Federal Government



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partnership to create a network to work with and grow the regions in Queensland.

The twelve QLD RDA committees will:

- work with all levels of government to develop a shared understanding at a regional level of regional development issues and priorities;
- provide independent advice to government on the efficacy of the delivery of policies and programs across all levels of government;
- cooperate to improve the co-ordination and delivery of regional development initiatives;
- deliver strategic input into national programs and help co-ordinate development initiatives at the regional and local level;
- work with all levels of government as a key link organisation to empower communities in regional development activity; and
- participate, where appropriate, in Government place-based responses to economic downturn.

In Western Australia there were nine Area Consultative Committees. The Australian and Western Australian governments are close to finalising a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the RDA in WA.

The MoU builds on an established strong relationship between the Australian and WA governments in driving regional development. WA Regional Development Commissions will deliver RDA functions on behalf of the Australian and WA governments.

In South Australia the development of an MoU for Regional Development Authorities has involved the SA Local Government Association as a participant. All three levels of government will work together. Eight RDA committees will be created by:

- amalgamating four non-metro Area Consultative Committees (ACCs) and thirteen Regional Development Boards (RDBs) to become seven RDA committees; and by
- transitioning the Adelaide Metropolitan ACC (AMACC) to become RDA Adelaide.

The new boundaries will be based on the South Australian Government planning regions, with RDA Adelaide encompassing the four metropolitan regions.

The draft MOU provides for maintaining the existing number of shop fronts except where there is duplication. The new boards will be incorporated associations funded by Local, State and Commonwealth governments.

In Tasmania in-principle agreement has been reached between the Australian Government, Tasmanian State Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania for the establishment of Regional Development Australia in Tasmania.

The agreement supports the adoption of a more integrated and aligned approach for regional engagement and economic development in Tasmania. The Memorandum of Understanding between the three levels of government



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on these arrangements is expected to be signed shortly.

Tasmania had one Area Consultative Committee.

In Australian Capital Territory there was a Capital Region Area Consultative Committee.

On Monday 25 May 2009, an MoU establishing RDA in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) was signed by Parliamentary Secretary Gary Gray and Chief Minister Jon Stanhope.

In Northern Territory there was one Area Consultative Committee.

In-principle agreement has been reached between the Australian and Northern Territory (NT) Governments on arrangements for Regional Development Australia (RDA) in the Territory and builds on an established strong relationship.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is progressing with the implementation of RDA in the NT.

In some states local government will be a signatory to the agreements, while elsewhere local government involvement may occur in the form of appointments to RDA Committees.

Sustaining the independent commercial focus of the RDA boards, while accounting to a multitude of funders, will be challenging.

Sources: ANZRSAI SA network discussion notes and <http://www.rda.gov.au/index.aspx>

Abstracts—AJRS Vol 15 No. 1

(These papers were presented at the 32nd ANZRSAI Conference held in Adelaide from 30th Nov – 3rd Dec 2008.)

Urban Growth Centres on the Periphery: Ad hoc Policy Vision and Research Neglect

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ABSTRACT: The focus of this paper is peripheral urban growth centres on the edges of capital cities in Australia and the challenges they face as dormitory suburbs attempting to establish their own local business development. These challenges create dilemmas as infrastructure and climate change place pressure on long commuting times, while developing strong locally based communities is limited by many resource and demand constraints. The main research question is to examine how these challenges are being addressed in both public policy and academic research. Two propositions emerge from this analysis. The first is that, despite clear recognition of these challenges by public policy makers, there is a lack of coherent policy vision in addressing the dilemmas that are facing these urban growth centres. The second is that, despite all the concerns and lack of policy vision, there is a dearth of useful academic research in Australia to understand the dilemmas and provide guidance for appropriate policy options.



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In the context of ad hoc policy and academic neglect; Casey, Melton and Wyndham are the three major urban peripheral local government areas in Victoria that are profiled in this paper. They serve as examples in examining incoherence of policy and then analysing the elements that are needed for effective and strong peripheral growth centres that could propel these centres towards efficient and equitable liveable communities. A broad composite model of regional economic development is used to examine the attendant problems in these urban centres and the various viable policy options for addressing these problems. In the process, this paper aims to provide a basis for further rigorous academic investigation of peripheral urban growth centres in Australia and, arising from this, more coherent policies for the economic development of such centres.

A Critique of Dopfer and Potts's Evolutionary Realism

James Juniper

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ABSTRACT: Influenced by both the Classical Economics of Malthus and Marx and the Austrian economics of Joseph Schumpeter, Evolutionary Economics has developed into a significant school of economic thought that offers a conception of growth and innovation markedly different to that afforded by neoclassical economics. This paradigm has informed analysis in economic geography and regional economics, and contributed to the development and evaluation of science and technology policy. In Australia,

the recent Venturous Australia policy document prepared by Terry Cutler and Associates for the Commonwealth Government, owes much to the Evolutionary Economic way of thinking about innovation. In a recent methodology paper Dopfer and Potts (2004) establish three axioms of "evolutionary realism" with the intention of illuminating the ontological commitments of Evolutionary Economics. This paper subjects these axioms, and the manner in which they are applied, to a critical interrogation grounded in a comprehensive interpretation of Whitehead's categorical logic. On this basis it is argued that Dopfer and Pott's axiomatic approach lacks in both rigour and depth, thus failing to achieve its methodological objectives. While theoretical cross-overs between thermodynamics and economics are well known, the paper goes on to examine recent developments in non-equilibrium thermodynamics and complexity theory, arguing that Dopfer and Potts provide few insights into how recent developments in non-equilibrium thermodynamics could inform economic analysis.

Rethinking community participation in urban planning: The role of disadvantaged groups in Sydney Metropolitan Strategy

Zeenat Mahjabeen, Krishna K. Shrestha and John A. Dee

Urban and Regional Planning and Policy, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006.

ABSTRACT: Community participation is considered fundamental to fair and representative decision making in contemporary urban planning practice. It is often argued



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that the voices of the traditionally voiceless (e.g. poor and minority groups) are critical if plans are to succeed in achieving equity, efficiency and sustainability. However the participation of poor and disadvantaged groups in planning processes is difficult to achieve particularly where programs are located in powerful political and bureaucratic structures. In these situations community inputs are often ignored and the decisions are made through an elite culture of political and bureaucratic control. An important question to emerge is: Is it possible to achieve effective participation which includes poor and minority groups in programs that are controlled by political and bureaucratic elites?

This study critically investigates the opportunity for participation involving disadvantaged groups (aboriginal groups and groups from a non-English speaking background) in the making of the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy (SMS) – a major plan initiated by the NSW government to guide the future of Australia's largest and most socio-economically and culturally diverse city, over the next 25 years (from 2005 to 2030). The results of this study show that the SMS created opportunities for stakeholders to provide inputs into the decision making process through expert working groups, local government level forums and public submissions. These participation platforms were organised and exclusively managed by government bureaucrats where the interests of socio-economic elites — educated individuals, government employees and business groups — were dominant in the process at the expense of community and

disadvantaged group interests. The opportunity for aboriginal and non-English speaking groups to participate in a meaningful way was almost non-existent thereby leaving them without a voice in the process. Hence the final decisions were made by bureaucrats and politicians with little to no inputs from these groups. The principal implication of this study is that since there was no effective participation of poor and minorities groups in the plan-making process, specifically targeted platforms organised under a new independent body that is downwardly accountable to these groups are needed to initiate, institutionalise and sustain effective and fair participation.

(We acknowledge that disadvantaged groups can be defined differently in different contexts. Here, we use the term specifically referring to groups of people that are socio-economically, culturally and linguistically in minority in Australian society.)

The ownership of many homes in Northern Ireland & Australia: Issues for states and localities

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ABSTRACT: This paper examines new evidence relating to comparative aspects of the ownership



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and use of multiple residences in affluent societies, especially in Australia and Northern Ireland (NI). The paper assesses the extent of the ownership of second homes ('holiday homes' in Australia) based on data from two recent surveys: an omnibus survey by the NI Statistics and Research Agency and the 2007 Australian Survey of Social Attitudes Survey (AuSSA). The paper suggests that 3-4 percent of households in both countries own holiday homes and/or dwellings used for other non-commercial purposes related to individual and household mobilities. We consider evidence indicating likely further growth of the ownership of many homes by affluent households, albeit in the changed context of a major downturn in many housing markets, including the UK and Ireland. We also review the relevance of these findings to issues and debates in both societies, especially relating to concerns of local government in regional Australia.

Residential intensification in a suburban fringe local government area, Casey, Melbourne Metropolitan Area, Australia

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ABSTRACT: Urban consolidation has featured in Australian planning policy debates, especially after the adoption of sustainability as a guiding principle in the 1990s. Recently, urban consolidation has been adopted in strategic planning policy in different states, such as the Victorian state-wide land use planning policy, Melbourne 2030, released in October 2002. This paper presents a result of mapping urban consolidation patterns in the City of Casey using Victorian Spatial Data. Increased dwelling numbers refer mainly to new residential land cover on Greenfield sites that leave most dwellings in acceptable proximity to schools but less-well served with regards to hospitals and the public transport network.

Moving the theory of Local Economic Development beyond Metaphors

James Rowe

PhD Candidate, Planning Department, University of Auckland and Senior Planner Economic Development, Manukau City Council, New Zealand.

ABSTRACT: The importance of metaphors and stories in economic development, geography and urban planning has been previously noted in the literature. Metaphors and stories are essential ingredients in the promotional literature and daily rhetoric of the economic development profession. The literature also indicates that if economic developers want to be more effective in translating knowledge to action then practitioners should pay more attention to the craft of story telling and learn to use metaphors more effectively. Metaphorical analogies and stories can generate ideas which can provide leaps



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in understanding that in turn leads to theorising. This writer asserts that the economic development profession may benefit by embracing Deleuzian metaphors because they resonate with the practice and assists practitioners to visualise economic events that help one to understand the practice of local economic development.

The Spatial Division of Labour in the Sydney and Melbourne Information Technology Industries

Glen Searle

School of the Built Environment, University of Technology, Sydney. PO Box 123, Broadway NSW 2007

ABSTRACT: This paper analyses the spatial distribution of employment in information technology (IT) industries in Sydney and Melbourne in 2006, and the spatial distribution of occupations in the largest two IT industries, computer and related equipment manufacturing, and computer services. The analysis indicates two main job locations: central and inner city areas, and a suburban business parks. Managerial and professional occupations predominate in central areas, while there tend to be more integrated occupation profiles in non-central clusters. Nevertheless, the spatial division of labour identified here is relatively truncated, and needs to be considered in the context of the global division of labour in the IT industry sector. The main policy implication of the analysis arises from the way that large firms' preferences for business parks reduce employment accessibility from lower income suburbs.

(Full papers can be viewed on our website www.anzrsai.org)

Noticeboard

2009 AUCEA National Conference STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS IN REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT: Business, Industry and Community Partnerships

8 – 10 July 2009,
Whyalla South Australia

The 2009 Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA) National Conference is hosted by University of South Australia.

The pre-conference program includes a half-day workshop on Indigenous Cultural Awareness on the afternoon of 7 July. The Keynote speakers are Professor Rob Greenwood Director of the Harris Centre at Memorial University Newfoundland on Lessons in Knowledge Mobilisation for Regional Policy and Development; Professor Ian Goulter, Vice Chancellor, Charles Sturt University and Professor Paul Johnson, Vice Chancellor, Latrobe University in a Vice Chancellor's Panel on University Perspectives on Regional Engagement; Professor Hilary Winchester, Pro Vice Chancellor & Vice President Strategy and Planning, University of South Australia on A Regional Leadership Model to enhance educational outcomes in disadvantaged regions; and Kym Winter-Dewhirst, Vice President Community and Government Relations, BHP Billiton Uranium.

There is a plenary discussions with a panel from the Whyalla community on What Value are Universities to Regional Communities?



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There are parallel sessions with excellent speakers on: Experiential learning, Teaching and learning, Research method, Community engagement practice, Networks and social inclusion, Indigenous engagement, Environment and sustainability, Populations and regions, Health and health promotion, Business and professions, Business and economic development, and Partnerships.

RURAL CHALLENGES & INNOVATIVE RESPONSES - The Heartland Rural Development Conference: Hamilton, 15- 16 July

The Heartland Regional Development Conference is an innovative conference being led by Dr Paul Collitts of the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning at RMIT University Hamilton.

Places are limited to 50 people, so please ensure that you book early should you wish to attend. A booking form and further information are available on the ANZRSAI website at www.anzrsai.org

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21st Conference for the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation, (PRSCO) 2009 July 19 - 22
Conrad Jupiter's, Gold Coast, Qld

This conference is also the ANZRSAI Annual Conference.

The program includes an Opening Address by Associate Professor Scott Baum on The Financial Crisis and Changing Regional Vulnerability

Keynote addresses are from Professor John Quigley on The Housing Crisis, Blair Comley on Economics of Climate Change, Professor Geoff Hewings on Regional Science and Policy, and Professor Antoine Bailly, with a panel including Professor Philip McCann and Professor John Madden, on Regional Science and Its New Frontiers.

There is an opportunity to honour the contribution of Professor Rod Jensen. Over 140 papers are to be presented by authors from across the Pacific and around the world.

This is a conference not to be missed.

Register now at www.uow.edu.au/conferences/PRSCO2009 and enjoy the Gold Coast.

August 2009
ERSA congress 2009
August 25-29
Lodz, Poland

September 2009
Second International Conference on Social Sciences
Social Sciences Research Society
(SoSReS)

September 10-11
Dokuz Eylul University DESEM
Conference Centre,
İzmir, Turkey
www.icssconference.net/



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ANZRSAI Council 2008-09

Notices

Nominations have been called for members of Council. Elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting to be held during the PRSCO 2009 Conference.

Membership renewals are now due for the 2009-2010 year. Current members should have received a renewal notice and we ask that these are returned by the end of July. New members may join by completing and returning the form available from our website.

Feel free to make copies of the *ANZRSAI Newsletter* for your office colleagues or others who may be interested in learning more about regional issues or about the ANZRSAI

Share your regional experience with others

The Newsletter welcomes contributions from readers. Articles of 500-1000 words should be sent to the editor at anzrsai@anzrsai.org.

Please indicate your name and professional affiliation when sending contributions

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