

## **CITATION FOR PROFESSOR CHRISTINE SMITH, ANZRS AI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

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There is a saying that all good things come to an end. The Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association has reached one such juncture. After a decade as Editor of the *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies* (or *AJRS* as it is more fondly known), one of our longest serving members of the Association and of Council, Professor Christine Smith, is standing down from that role. Council has therefore decided to award Christine its Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her tremendous role as Editor and in helping to manage the Association's affairs over all that time. To that end I have prepared this citation detailing that contribution.

Christine first joined ANZRS AI as long ago as 1977 after her graduation from the University of Queensland and shortly after the Association's founding by the likes of Rod Jensen and John Holmes. Indeed, she recalls working with them to organise the first annual conference in Brisbane. She contributed to subsequent meetings like the highly successful 1988 Bicentennial conference, again in Brisbane, and timed to coincide with the world expo held on Southbank; and the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation (PRSCO) event in 1992 in Cairns. I know that both of us recall vividly the banquet held on the Kookaburra Queen where we dined on venison as we floated down-river before returning up-stream for a spectacular fire-works display.

But I am getting a little ahead of myself. Christine first joined Council after her return to Australia after four years in the United States between 1979 and 1983. There she promoted the idea of encouraging research students to attend our meetings through the thesis awards and reduced membership fees, a move that has greatly benefitted our Association over many years. Twice she was elected Vice-President of ANZRS AI but, to quote Christine herself, she appeared always "destined to be the brides-maid and never the bride". Perhaps that is a little unfair, as she twice ascended to the role of Acting President after resignations by the presidents of the day. Christine also played an active role in successful financial negotiations designed to keep SS ANZRS AI afloat during precarious times, and our presence at this meeting now testifies to the success of that operation.

But Christine's starring role, worthy of a Logie or Oscar, was to take over Editorship of what became the *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*. ANZRS AI has long published an academic journal containing cutting edge articles in regional science, but she took it to a higher plane. That included

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<sup>1</sup> Citation delivered by Tony Sorensen at the ANZRS AI Conference Awards Dinner, Melbourne, 9 December 2010. Tony Sorensen is the only other holder of an ANZRS AI Distinguished Service Award, which was made to him in 2000.

publishing four fully refereed issues a year and masterminding the journal's transition from print to electronic mode, which helped the Association's finances considerably. Having edited journals myself, I can testify to the heavy load borne by editors as they receive articles, process them through the double-blind refereeing system – finding referees is hard enough – and ready manuscripts for on-line publication. We owe Christine, therefore, a huge debt of gratitude for her work as Editor. And during that time, she was also on the editorial boards of two regional science journals, thereby helping to raise our profile in international circles.

I thank you therefore, Christine, for your eminent work for our Association and confer on you the Australian and New Zealand Regional Science Association's Distinguished Service Award. May it long grace your display cabinet and remind you of all the good times you had with the Association.



Photo: Professor Christine Smith responds to the standing ovation given to her by members at the Conference Awards Dinner, 2010, after receiving her Distinguished Service Award.