

ANZRSAI Newsletter

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

An interdisciplinary international organisation focusing on understanding the growth and development of urban, regional and international systems

December 2008



What region is this?

Like many outer metropolitan areas in Australia, the municipality of Whittlesea, shown above, faces the pressures of suburban development with associated needs for expanded infrastructure and service provision.

In recent years, Melbourne has grown at a rapid rate with more than 1,000 new residents being added to the city's population every week. Demand for housing is also increased by the long term trend of declining household size. With fewer people per house (on average) more dwellings are now needed for a given population.

Do you have a photo of a favorite location that you could share with readers? If so, send it to the editor:

fiona.mckenzie@dpcd.vic.gov.au

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Seeking contributions

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.

*Merry Christmas to all our readers
Have a safe and happy new year*



MacDonnell Ranges, Central Australia

Photo: Simone Alexander

ANZRS AI Conference 2008

Keynote addresses

Adelaide 30 November to 3 December 2008

Conference report prepared by Tony O'Malley

ANZRS AI State Representative for South Australia

ANZRS AI's joint conference with the Australian Research Council Research Network in Spatially Integrated Social Science (ARC RNSISS) was a feast. The range of presentations lived up to the conference theme "People, Place and Space: rethinking regional policy agendas".

The organisation and the venue made for an enjoyable and stimulating event. The fit between the interests of ANZRS AI and ARCRNSISS was evident throughout the conference. ANZRS AI provides a logical home for members of the network as it reaches the end of its cycle.

There were many graduate students attending and presenting papers. The wide range of papers sustained interest through the three days. We can hope that ANZRS AI will experience a welcome increase in membership following this conference. Congratulations to the organisers.

Philip McCann of University of Waikato, New Zealand presented "Big questions in regional science: cities, countries and globalisation." This most interesting paper traces the rationale for and the optimal size for a nation. The optimal size of a nation is the result of a tradeoff between the economies of scale in the provision of public goods, which are available in large countries, and the capacity to meet heterogeneous preferences, which is offered by small countries.

Globalisation has brought a proliferation of countries as trade has enabled smaller countries to improve their provision of public goods and provide for their specific cultural preferences. Urbanisation also concentrates the provision of infrastructure and public goods in cities, lifting productivity while allowing some differentiation of culture. In addition, several countries now contain regions with specific cultural preferences which obtain access to national economies of scale in the provision of public goods by threatening to separate.

McCann offered two key principles:

Principal 1: the optimum size of the state cannot be divorced from the city.

The city-states relied on their surrounding regions to provide resources for industrialisation and traded around the world. Trade strengthened cities as industrial places.

When trade was restricted or closed following the Second World War the largest cities, such as Istanbul, London and New York, stopped growing relative to their peers. Tokyo emerged as the largest industrial city.

Globalisation, institutional and technological change, mobile money and outsourcing emerged in the late 20th Century. Eco-

nomics growth accelerated, economic activity dispersed around the globe, income distribution within countries became more unequal but countries became more equal. Smaller cities became more productive as intra-regional trade in knowledge intensive sectors grew, using the face-to-face advantages of proximity.

Principal 2: Urban scale is no longer an indicator of economic strength for the developed world.

City regions have become the base for multinational coordination of logistics and foreign direct investment. Internal transfers within multinationals account for a growing share of trade. City regions begin to extend across borders supporting cross border trade and creating international agglomeration.

In the end no nation state is independent. All developed nations rely on global capital flows to stabilize their economies and sustain their productivity and these flows are moderated through city regions. The critical role of face-to-face contact has driven agglomeration.

I began to wonder about the future for small, remote regional communities, such as those located in the high Arctic parts of Canada, or the arid zone of central Australia, or even the larger mining communities. Income distribution within their countries may have been shifting away from these regions, and local cultures may flourish. Could the emerging teleconferencing technologies bring these remote communities into closer face-to-face contact with their city-regions, perhaps improving income distribution outcomes while sustaining regional cultures?

Michael Batty of the Centre for Spatial Analysis, University College London (www.casa.ucl.ac.uk) then presented his paper "Using visual simulation for understanding and designing policies and plans".

I came to this paper in the middle of reading the book by Dodgson, Gann and Salter (2005, *Think, Play, Do: Technology, Innovation and Organisation*) in which the authors point to the role of simulation and other technologies in the intensification of innovation. Several papers at the conference were reminders that simulation and visualisation technologies are allowing the social sciences to conduct policy and other experiments which until now could not be conducted ethically.

Michael Batty explained the development of simulation and demonstrated the experiment of flooding London, polluting London and changing the skyline of London. Simulation tools allow us to understand how cities grow around development stimuli, how children walk to school, and how crowds move when to escape fire or disaster.

I wondered whether, as the Web 2.0 technology develops, we may be able to conduct policy experiments in virtual worlds in which decisions are taken by the owners of avatars, such as in Second Life. Perhaps we have.

ANZRS AI Conference 2008

Two topics of national importance

Mike Young, of University of Adelaide and the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists presented “Water security and regional development”.

Young argued that the appropriate policy responses to drought differ from those for permanent climate shifts. Policy makers have failed to apply an informed benefit cost calculus to the water management problem in the south, east and west of Australia. Policies for water security have not been robust; the hydrological, economic, environmental and institutional science has not been communicated to policy makers.

The hydrological assumption has been that water sources would always revert to the mean. However a one percent reduction in mean rainfall produces a three percent reduction in runoff. Assuming that flows will revert to the mean leaves inadequate supplies to cope with a shift.

The economic policy for water management has been to avoid scarcity pricing and competition for supplies. Pricing has been statewide, regardless of local catchment conditions.

Institutional policies have restricted demand rather than pricing as a means to manage demand. Neither developers nor owner occupiers are required to purchase a water entitlement or to consider the water efficiency of the development. Block tariffs with fixed charges transfer costs to renters and away from owners.

These policy settings ignore the flow of externalities between upstream, local and downstream communities. According to Young, the Goulburn-Melbourne pipeline would have the effect of moving jobs from Adelaide to Melbourne.

Young argues that we need an independent regulator of cost reflective pricing (including external costs) and an unbundling of institutions to cover regional bulk water, manufactured water (such as desalination and recycling), distribution and retail water.

The Murray-Darling Basin used to flow part of the year and has been converted into a series of lakes and stream flow has been allocated to users. If river flow falls by half then users lose two-thirds to three-quarters of their supply.

Stream flows leave out many other uses. Ground and surface water are connected. Forestry and farm dams use or intercept water. Where irrigation efficiency gains are applied to extend irrigation then the return flow to streams is eroded. If there is an efficiency gain the flow should be reallocated to the environment according to Young.

Speedy buy-backs and an unrestricted water market, including an externality market would also help. However, water licenses were not designed to trade and trading is administratively complex and risky. Desalination and recycling are similar in cost because each produces water at the bottom of the reticulation system, requiring costly pumping in order to contribute to supply.

I was reminded of the continuing political will to invest in water infrastructure to provide water for which there would be no demand were pricing cost-reflective.

William Mitchell, University of Newcastle and **David Thompson**, Jobs Australia Ltd presented “Creating effective employment opportunities for regional Australia”. This paper is the result of an ARC Linkage partnership between the Centre of Full Employment and Equity at the University of Newcastle and Jobs Australia Ltd.

The report (<http://et.newcastle.edu.au/coffee>) investigates the effects of a national employment guarantee to provide work for all. The presentation noted that under-employment in Australia has risen since 1975 and that under-employment is relatively concentrated in regional Australia. It was argued that privatisation of public sector infrastructure agencies has removed a buffer of public sector jobs which had previously sustained low rates of unemployment.

The study included a survey of social planners in regions which concluded that providing funds for needed projects and services in regions could absorb forty percent of unemployment. A figure of 11 to 15 billion dollars was suggested as needed for a combination of paid work, training and public sector job creation to achieve full-employment.

I was reminded of the huge disconnect between information provided about career options and educational choices for young people in regional centres in which he has worked. Schools there have neither the resources nor the links into their local economies to advise young people on their career choices. Young people are left to choose their careers from an encyclopaedia on the basis of the advice available from parents and teachers, many of whom have no knowledge of the region in which they are assigned to teach. The authors suggest that the manpower planning models of the past, which generated surpluses of obsolete skills, are better than nothing. The macro-economic effects of an employment guarantee on investment and savings were a topic of later discussions.

ANZRS AI membership

If you know of people who would like to join ANZRS AI, please download a membership form from the website:

www.anzrsai.org

Membership fees 2005-06 (GST Inclusive)

Standard	AUD \$ 160.00
Student	AUD \$ 87.50
Emeritus	AUD \$ 108.50
Institution	AUD \$ 337.50

ANZRSAI Conference 2008

Infrastructure investment and regional development

Bob Stimson introduced this session noting the current national government program of reforms, audits, priorities and investment. COAG had agreed to complete an audit by the end of 2008 and to produce a priority list in 2009. Water, energy, commuters, freight, climate change and 'nationally significant communications' were to be included. \$250 billion has been requested and \$20 billion has been allocated. Infrastructure Australia has responsibility to outline the prioritisation process and to produce Public Private Project Guidelines.

John Quiggin, University of Queensland, presented "Infrastructure financing after the financial crisis". The origins of the current financial crisis arise in expanded lending and relaxed credit standards, sustained by a capacity to sell mortgage securities and derivatives at a profit. As poor credit quality has become apparent there has been a worldwide spread of failures in the investment banks. Bear Stearns was rescued, Lehmann Brothers went bankrupt, American Insurance Group was rescued. National governments were panicked into guaranteeing bank deposits.

The Bretton Woods Agreement following World War II required an international balance of bank regulation, fixed exchange rates and Keynesian policies. Inflation in the early 1970s produced a collapse in these fiscal policies and removal of capital controls leading to rapid growth in private institutions and financial assets. This was accompanied by growing confusion about the valuation of complex instruments. Infrastructure spending fell.

In the 1990s stable, moderate growth and growing investment emerged. As risk premiums fell, debt rose and infrastructure became an attractive investment offering stable returns and a capacity to use high levels of debt. Governments were attracted to "build, own, operate and transfer" contracts with private entities by the ability to move debt off the government balance sheets. However, the transfer component of the contracts was interpreted by attorneys general to make governments the ultimate owner of the assets. Governments then moved to sell off their assets.

Pricing of private infrastructure tolls to service capital is constrained in an environment in which there is no congestion charge for access to adjacent public infrastructure. There was some offset from the greater efficiency of private ownership, but the crisis in the credit markets has driven up the cost of capital facing private asset owners relative to public owners.

Public-private partnerships should re-emerge in a new form in which Government owns the assets from completion of construction ("build and transfer") and as well as servicing the debt. They will have an incentive to adopt a more coherent road pricing policy including congestion charges and tolls leading to a substantial improvement in the allocation of investment in infrastructure.

I was prompted to think about the difficulties facing the owners of FreightLink, which in turn owns the Alice Springs to Darwin railway, and about the importance of both verifiable project evaluations, before and after construction, and verifiable ratings of investment instruments.

Kingsley Haynes, George Mason University, "Evaluating the role of infrastructure investments in regional economic development."

This paper reported on work conducted for the United Nations Foundation on Mega Cities (www.megacities.nl). The work considers hard, soft and smart infrastructure and examines effects on each dimension of economic development: wealth creation, innovation, equity and quality of life.

Infrastructure provides support for urban, industrial and local agglomeration economies, and helps to mitigate diseconomies of competition, crowding and pollution. Infrastructure can improve cooperation, assist in matching, mitigate discontinuity and create option values.

The value of incremental hard infrastructure in an existing system relies on output elasticities which are small (In the range 0 to 0.39) because of redundancies in existing systems and shifting bottlenecks. Scale effects can lift incremental returns. This form of infrastructure is typically pursued by the World Bank in underserved areas.

Soft infrastructure includes education, social and recreational support. Smart infrastructure includes human resources, tacit and formal knowledge and structures for sharing and diffusing knowledge. Education is provided from public, individual, private and quasi-government resources and varies in equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

The available models for evaluation need expansion and development. They include simple rates of return, cost benefit analysis, scenarios and demand forecasts, system optimisation.

The goods and institutional forms involved affect the evaluation approach. The cost of excluding non-payers from using the product of infrastructure affects public and private choices. Infrastructure capable of serving only a single user at a time, such as road space or an aircraft landing slot, favours horizontal integration of suppliers. On the other hand infrastructure which serves many users simultaneously, such as provision of bandwidth, may be more efficiently provided by a vertically integrated supplier. There are agency and transaction costs to be considered.

Infrastructure is both important and complex. There is competition and complementarity among infrastructures, owners, users and funders.

I was thinking that the future development of regions will require very careful selection and management of infrastructure, both to bring agglomeration economies to remote communities and to give appropriate attention to the replacement value and maintenance of existing infrastructure as well as to incremental infrastructures.

ANZRS AI Conference 2008

Spatial data and demographic analysis

Alec Bamber, Australian Bureau of Statistics, “The proposed new Australian Standard Geographical Classification.”

The new Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) will be published in late 2010 and take effect from July 2011. The structure is designed to be stable, meaningful for users and reflective of settlement patterns. It aims to harmonise with non-ABS structures such as postcodes and river basins. The new small area geography broadly reflects land use. For example it will show areas of 30 to 60 dwellings, or an educational institution.

Changes in local government boundaries have caused almost annual amendments of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) rendering the time-series data unstable. Census Collection Districts (CCDs) are redefined at every Census. The new structure will quarantine local government areas from the rest of the system and build them up from 330,000 mesh blocks, which cover the nation. There will be four levels of Statistical Area:

- SA1 is the Census output unit: 50,000 SA1s will each contain a population of about 400. CCD data will no longer be available and time series will not be comparable.
- SA2 is the smallest unit for non-Census data. They contain populations in the range of 3,000 to 25,000. This is the key level of classification used for modeling Estimated Resident Population (ERP).
- SA3 is urban hubs containing populations of 30,000 to 130,000.
- SA4 defines labour markets for labour force data and will contain populations of about 200,000.

Significant urban areas will be defined and can cross State boundaries.

I have great sympathy for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Like most users I want more and more detailed data at finer and finer classifications and I do not want to pay for it. Neither does the taxpayer. The ABS do a great job of an impossible task.

Graeme Hugo, National Centre for Social Applications of GIS, University of Adelaide presented “The implications of an Ageing Population for Australia’s Regions”.

Australia is ageing. Over the ten years to 2006 the population aged 55 to 64 years grew by 41 percent, the population aged 65 and over grew by 24 percent and the population 75 and over grew by 44 percent.

Baby boomers make up 26 percent of the population and 42 percent of the workforce. Migration is becoming the whole source of workforce growth. As they retire baby boomers are placing rapidly increasing demands on the services economy as workforce growth is slowing.

Most age in place, some migrate to coastal regions. Young people are migrating out of country regions. Populated coastal areas, regional centres, and peri-urban areas around capitals have rapidly growing aged populations. The aged population in the inner areas of metropolitan areas is declining but there are increases in the numbers aged 75 and over in the fringes. The match between the fringe location of aged people and inner city aged care service locations is poor, and low mobility further constrains access.

Ageing has distinct regional dimensions. Ageing in place requires retrofitting of accommodation and rural communities to service the needs of a non-driving population. One in four baby boomers enter old age alone and with a heavier care load. Many are retiring into poverty and lack the capacity to pay for their care needs. Aged care rationing and demand pressures will become increasingly familiar in regions, and will vary across regions.

I wondered how regional communities will cope with ageing in place without the agglomeration economies needed to drive substantial regional investment and growth.



What's on the web . . .

www.anzrsai.org

Have you visited our website lately? On the site you will find:

- Information about ANZRS AI
- Upcoming conference details
- Contents of *Sustaining Regions* journal
- Contents of *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies (AJRS)*
- Frequently asked questions
- Council contact details

Members benefits:

- Access to full articles in *Sustaining Regions* journal
- Access to full articles in *AJRS*
- Access to International Regional Science Association

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



ANZRSAI Conference 2008

Entrepreneurship, economic development and Indigenous communities

Nicholas Biddle, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Research, Australian National University, "Spatiality and Indigenous Australians: development options and dilemmas by location type".

Location matters to the economic development of indigenous people. Indigenous Australians make up 26 percent of the population of remote areas.

The study prepared an index of disadvantage for 531 indigenous areas across Australia. The most disadvantaged areas were town camps, and were often located in North Queensland, Northern Territory or South Australia. The disadvantage index is highly variable for city locations and less variable for town camps, indigenous towns and remote dispersed areas.

Development issues observed included low rates of full time, private sector employment, low rates of home ownership, limited access to economic resources, and low mobility.

In major cities there are high rates of concentration or segregation of indigenous populations into densely populated areas relatively far from central urban resources. Within these areas there are high rates of volunteering. There is a risk of entrenching disadvantage in these areas through limited interaction at school level with advantaged groups, and through the development of adverse norms and resentment.

However, segregation may not be the problem; people may be seeking out these areas for the purpose of developing culture and engagement in these areas. The balance of activity between state, market and customary purposes may affect perceptions of disadvantage. The customary economy is growing in remote communities.

Overall, the socio-economic challenges facing indigenous Australians are highly diverse.

Lay Gibson, University of Arizona, "The US experience with the economic development of Native American communities".

Seven critical issues for economic development were explored.

Self-governance and federal management: The 1975 Indian Self Determination legislation created a native American bureaucracy but may not have improved accountability or care.

Education has achieved an increase in school completion rates, and graduations in professions contributing to governance and management of tribal enterprises.

The jurisdictional geography of tribes is fragmented and concentrated regionally. Of 563 recognised tribes, 228 are in Alaska. There are 314 reservations covering 56 million acres but some are tiny.

Blood quantum has become a difficult issue as each generation dilutes blood lines. Tribal groups can gain casino licences on tribal lands which generate significant incomes for those tribes. Tribal enterprises distribute capitation payments based on lineal descent. However lineal descent does not provide a reliable standard and incomes are distributed unevenly.

Substance abuse has grown with affluence generated by casinos. The quality of diet and nutrition has fallen leading to high rates of obesity and diabetes.

Despair increases with delayed development. Prosperous places do not necessarily create prosperous people. Isolation and limited education restrict access to opportunity in the mainstream economy. Tradition and culture hold people in place and generate a conflict with mainstream pursuits.

Poverty persists. Low incomes, low rates of labour force participation and geographic isolation all create intergenerational effects. A history of dependency, limited property rights and non-market interests restrict development.

Improving rates of education and the retention of water rights on Native American land has created the prospect of agricultural development, which may bring mainstream economic activity into native communities.

I was reminded of the key-note presentation by Philip McCann in which nations are defined by a trade-off between cultural preferences and economies in the production of public goods. Indigenous disadvantage seems to reflect a failure to sustain public goods and services which accommodate the cultural preferences of these nations.



Visit the RSAI website at:

www.regionalscience.org

for information on events, publications, and other resources for researchers, policy makers and practitioners



Vineyards near Avoca
Victoria

Photo: Fiona McKenzie

Universities and cluster development

More from Ifor Ffowcs-Williams on cluster development

Around the world, the focus is on building 'knowledge intensive' clusters. For a cluster to be internationally competitive within its field it must be innovative and 'high-tech'. The active development of clusters demands alignment and commitment by the three triple helix partners:

- business
- government
- academia (universities)

However, many universities have yet to fully appreciate their opportunity to take a central role in their region's economic development. Universities have the opportunity and can choose to be central stakeholders. They can move beyond providing leading-edge research, knowledge creation and training. Universities need to be humble enough to open up to a two-way flow of tacit (informal) information, the critical information that has important spatial dimensions.

From a university's perspective, a clustering initiative can:

- Facilitate the development of specialised competencies within the university. The alignment of the university's assets, skills and expertise with the region's traded clusters maximises the regional benefit. The knowledge created needs to be absorbable by the local community.
- Build links with the business community; provide 'wholesale' access to SMEs (small to medium enterprises).
- Enable the university to keep up-to-date with changing environments. This provides early feedback for new curricula. It builds a community of support for technology and research.
- Provide opportunities for technology transfer...more than patenting and licensing:
 - spinning off emerging capabilities;
 - focussing on needs-driven research;
 - developing cluster specific incubators / research parks;
 - providing consultancy services; and,

- establishing research consortia for pre-competitive research.

- Enhance revenue generation. This includes tuition fees from international students attracted by the specialist competence and also from generating real-life research contracts.

For the cluster and the community, a university can:

- attract new talent and knowledge into the community;
- adapt knowledge originating elsewhere to local conditions; and,
- provide a neutral space for local conversations that are specific to the cluster.

For a university that takes on this more central role it requires a broad engagement from across the university, not a compartmentalised, silo approach. Porous boundaries are needed between academia and business. It is motivated, externally-orientated individuals from the business school, economics, technology faculties, law ... who will make the difference in the end.

Examples of local specialisation at universities include:

- Tuttlingen, Germany has a lead cluster in medical devices. The local university offers an MBA in 'Medical Devices & Healthcare Management' which is possibly the only one in the world.
- On Western Australia's surf coast and England's southern coast, the local universities offer graduate programmes in "Surf Science and Technology"

Some of the proactive universities I have contacted are:

- Tallinn's University of Technology (Estonia);
- Dar es Salaam (Tanzania);
- Makerere (Uganda); and,
- Rwanda's National University (see photos below).

Further information:

www.linkedin.com/in/clusterdevelopment



National University of Rwanda. Image: www.flickr.com



Dar es Salaam University, Tanzania. Image: www.ciee.org

The Journal

Regional Studies is a leading international journal in theoretical development, empirical analysis and policy debate in the multi- and inter-disciplinary field of regional studies. Regions are a central focus for agenda-setting work that interprets economic, environmental, political and social change and innovation. Regional Studies is a central forum in shaping and reflecting the development of advances in studying regions.

Further information about the journal can be found at:
<http://rsa.informaworld.com>

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Special Issue: Industrial Symbiosis: An Environmental Perspective on Regional Development

Final editorial for the Newcastle editorial team
Andy Pike, Mike Coombes, Gillian Bristow, Cindy Fan, Andy Gillespie, Richard Harris, Angela Hull, Neill Marshall and Colin Wren

Industrial symbiosis - an environmental perspective on regional development
Pauline Deutz and Donald I. Lyons

Industrial symbiosis in Puerto Rico: environmentally related agglomeration economies
Marian R. Chertow, Weslynn S. Ashton and Juan C. Espinosa

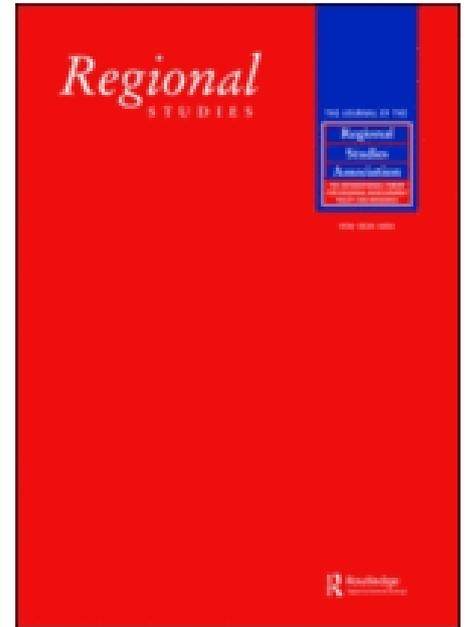
Industrial ecology and regional development: eco-industrial development as cluster policy
Pauline Deutz and David Gibbs

The humanistic side of eco-industrial parks: champions and the role of trust
Anne K. Hewes and Donald I. Lyons

Looking behind facades: evaluating effects of (automotive) cluster promotion
Martina Fromhold-Eisebith and Gnter Eisebith

Segmentation and segregation patterns of women-owned high-tech firms in four metropolitan regions in the United States
Heike Mayer

Spatializing industrial policies: a view from the south
Leandro Sepulveda



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Special Issue: Sustainable Regions

Editorial: Sustainable regions
Graham Haughton and Kevin Morgan

Sustainable development in post-devolution UK and Ireland
Graham Haughton, Dave Counsell, and Geoff Vigar

Greening the realm: sustainable food chains and the public plate
Kevin Morgan

Food systems planning and sustainable cities and regions: the role of the firm in sustainable food capitalism
Betsy Donald

Third wave sustainability? Smart growth and regional development in the USA
Rob Krueger and David Gibbs

Mines, wines and thoroughbreds: towards regional sustainability in the Upper Hunter, Australia
Phil Mcmanus

*Rottneest Island
Westernn Australia
Photo courtesy David Sykes*



Noticeboard



Outlook 2009 – a changing climate for agriculture

Conference organized by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE)

3 to 4 March 2009
Canberra, ACT, Australia

www.abare.gov.au/outlook

Australia's agriculture and natural resource sectors are undergoing substantial and rapid change adapting to new markets, new ideas and new challenges for long-term sustainability.

With challenges including climate change and international economic events, how will Australia's agriculture and natural resource sectors respond?

Join delegates for ABARE's Outlook 2009 conference as more than 70 speakers explore these key issues across 21 sessions including the keynote economic overview, farm performance, trade, irrigated agriculture and commodities.

Featuring leading economists with national and international perspectives, the economic overview session will open the conference. Discover the direction for national and international economies.

With continuing drought conditions in some regions of Australia, examine the agriculture sector at sessions on farm performance, irrigated agriculture, horticulture and water. The outlook for key commodities will be explored in sessions devoted to grains, meat, dairy, forestry, and wool. Speakers will examine the impact of climate change, issues for environmental land management and challenges for productivity growth. Analysis on international trade is on the Outlook 2009 agenda, along with food security and biosecurity.

Regional Entry Point

News from the Federal Regional Entry Point

<http://www.regionalaustralia.gov.au>

Business Enterprise Centres (BECs)

The Australian Government will provide \$42m over 4 years to fund the delivery of low cost small business advisory services through nominated Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) throughout Australia. Thirty six (36) BECs will be supported through this measure. The funding will enable BECs to expand and strengthen their capacity to provide low cost advisory services to small business; complementing the Government's overall objective to maximise the growth potential, prosperity and sustainability of small business. It aims to improve the business skills of small business operators, intending operators and independent contractors.

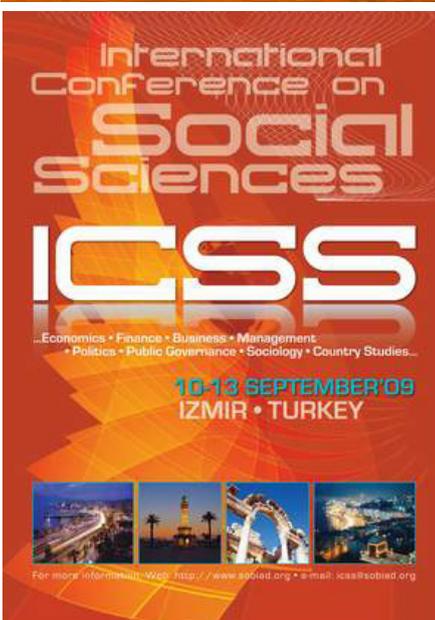
Industry Cooperative Innovation Program (ICIP)

The Industry Cooperative Innovation Program is a merit based grants program aimed at encouraging business-to-business cooperation on innovation projects both within Australia and internationally that enhance productivity, growth and international competitiveness in Australian industries. The program has the particular focus of meeting strategic industry needs. At this stage, the Government has made no announcement concerning a possible further round of ICIP. All existing contracts will remain unchanged.

Further information:

AusIndustry
GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: 13 2846

www.ausindustry.gov.au



The "Second International Conference on Social Sciences" organised by Social Sciences Research Society (SoSReS) is going to be held in İzmir, Turkey from 10-11 September 2009. The conference venue is Dokuz Eylül University DESEM Conference Centre, located in the heart of the city centre.

Description and Aim

This is a conference for those who are interested in all fields of social sciences. The conference topic areas focus on such disciplines as: economics; business; corporate and public governance; political science, and sociology. The conference aims to bring together a wide audience of academics, policy makers and practitioners around clearly circumscribed topics, engage participants in fruitful debate, and facilitate mutual understanding. An additional goal of the conference is to provide a place for academics and professionals with inter-disciplinary/ multi-disciplinary interests related to social sciences to meet and interact with members inside and outside their own particular disciplines.

Who Should Attend?

- Scholars in all areas of social sciences;
- Policy makers and public administrators,
- Business people and managers from private sector,

Conference Calendar

ANZRSAI Council 2009

February 2009

AGSE International Entrepreneurship Research Exchange

February 3-6

University of Adelaide, South Australia

www.swinburne.edu.au/hosting/agseconference/

4th Annual Water Symposium

February 20

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

www.legalwiseseminars.com.au

March 2009

Outlook 2009 – a changing climate for agriculture

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics

March 3-4

Canberra, ACT, Australia

www.abare.gov.au/outlook

2nd Biofuels: Food vs. Fuel Debate Forum

March 11-13

Protea Hotel

Bloemfontein, Free State, South Africa

info@lejweng.co.za

International Applied Business Research Conference

March 16 to 19, 2009

Hilton Hotel on the River Walk

San Antonio Texas USA

www.cluteinstitute.com

April 2009

Southern Regional Science Association 2009

April 2-4

San Antonio, Texas

10th International Coastal Symposium

April 13-18, 2009

Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal

<http://e-geo.fcsh.unl.pt/ICS2009/index.html>

July 2009

PRSCO 2009

July 19-22

Gold Cost Australia

August 2009

ERSA congress 2009

August 25-29

Lodz, Poland

September 2009

Second International Conference on Social Sciences

Social Sciences Research Society (SoSRs)

September 10-11

Dokuz Eylul University DESEM Conference Centre,

İzmir, Turkey

www.icsscconference.net/

President

David Fuller

University of Wollongong

Vice President (Australia)

Christine Smith

Griffith University, Brisbane

Vice President (New Zealand)

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Charles Darwin University, Darwin

Council Member (SA)

Tony O'Malley

Outlook Management, Adelaide

Council Member (VIC)

Paul Collits

RMIT University, Hamilton

Council Member (TAS)

Robyn Eversole

University of tasmania, Hobart

Council Member (QLD)

Grayson Perry

Gold Coast City Council

Council Member (ACT)

Shelby Canterford

Geoscience Australia, Canberra

Council Member (NZ)

James Rowe

Manukau City Council, Auckland NZ

Council Member (NSW)

Vacant

Council Member (WA)

Vacant