

### **Note from the Editors**

This edition of the Australasian Journal of Regional Studies (AJRS) is the first that we have produced since formally taking over as editors at ANZRSAI's AGM in December 2010. Volume 17 (1), which was published in the first half of 2011, contained selected conference papers and keynote addresses from the December 2010 meeting. It was guest-edited by our President, Professor Paul Dalziel. After a challenging transition of editorship we are now operating optimally. Both the pace of article submission and referee turn-around times accelerated greatly in the second half of the year so that we are close to copy-editing Volume 17 (3) and we now have a good number of articles now in the refereeing pipeline. Since Volume 18 (1) will also contain refereed material from the 2011 Conference in Canberra, we expected to be back on track to produce our three issues on schedule during 2012. Please consider publishing your research in AJRS so that we maintain its high standard and keep to schedule.

Meanwhile, regional issues have high visibility in both Australia and the Pacific region, but politico-bureaucratic systems are struggling to define problems and develop evidence based solutions to them in an age of economic and social turmoil. In Australia's case, rural regions are benefitting from high demand and prices for both mineral and agricultural commodities. On the reverse side of the coin, urban employment is suffering from declines in manufacturing and retail employment wrought by the highly valued Australian dollar, and from consumer caution in the wake of the GFC. Australia and even more the rest of the Western Pacific are not immune to financial contagion spreading from Europe and, to a lesser extent, the US. There must be sufficient copy amidst the stresses and strains of 21<sup>st</sup> century regional development, or the need to update our theories of regional processes, to keep AJRS afloat for many years. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

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