

## *SUSTAINING REGIONS, the newsletter of ANZRS AI, 3(1)*

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### **EDITOR**

Professor Paul Dalziel stepped down as President of ANZRS AI at the 2012 Annual General Meeting after a distinguished term of more than three years. Paul Dalziel was elected President on 20 July 2009 at the 2009 Annual General Meeting held on the Gold Coast. Paul Dalziel continues on Council as Immediate Past President. For more than 3 years he has provided leadership, energy and strategic direction to ANZRS AI. Council has benefited from his leadership, strategic thinking and clarity of focus. The President of ANZRS AI, with the assistance of a local convenor, undertakes the planning of the ANZRS AI Annual Conference. A successful Conference underpins the financial viability of ANZRS AI. Paul led three successful Annual Conferences: 2010, 2011 and 2012. Apart from securing the venue and associated funding, Paul led the organization, designed and issued the call for papers, arranged for refereeing, developed and presented the program, and edited the Transactions. In 2011, Paul joined the board of the Regional Science Association International for a three year term,

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maintaining ANZRSAI's international standing. At the 2011 Conference Paul ran a discussion on the future of ANZRSAI and converted the notes and associated discussions at Council into the paper on the Future of ANZRSAI, which continues to guide Council. The 2012 Annual General Meeting of ANZRSAI passed by acclamation a motion thanking Paul Dalziel for his leadership. ANZRSAI today is strong and has a plan for its future. Thanks Paul.

Into these big shoes, [Paul Collits](#) has now stepped. Paul Collits has been a long serving member of ANZRSAI Council, having served as Vice President and as editor of Sustaining Regions. He is Research Program Director at the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development, Fraser Coast Campus, University of Southern Queensland. He brings to Council substantial experience in and understanding of regional policy and research. He is well-regarded as a researcher and commentator on regional development policy and brings a thorough understanding of the regional policy environment in Australia and New Zealand. Welcome Paul.

This edition of Sustaining Regions the Newsletter of ANZRSAI includes news from Regional Australia Institute, current abstracts from Australasian Journal of Regional Studies and from the RSAI journal Papers in Regional Science, an opportunity to influence the data Australian Bureau of Statistics may produce in future, some notes and links to recent reports on regional practice, and the activities of your Council.

We urge you to invite your colleagues to join ANZRSAI. Standard membership is now only \$80 and application forms are available on our [website](#) .

Sustaining Regions, the Newsletter of ANZRSAI invites contributions on research, policy and practice relevant to urban and regional communities. These can be commentary, articles, book reviews, and descriptions of policy initiatives. Contributions must reveal the author; they will not be refereed, and will not enjoy the copyright protection of a refereed journal. Authors seeking refereeing and copyright protection should approach Australasian Journal of Regional Studies [www.anzrsai.org](http://www.anzrsai.org).

**SELECTED PAPERS**

***The Regional Australia Institute***

*Launch of the Regional Knowledge Base and Stocktake of Regional Research*

RAI launched the products from the Stocktake of Regional Research on 30 October at a Community Forum in Wagga Wagga.

RAI's Regional Knowledge Base - an online data base of the 1500 most important regional research reports and 281 data sets on regional Australia - is now available online for anyone involved in regional development to use.

The Regional Knowledge Base makes it easy to access the knowledge we have already on regional issues. It will be a valuable tool for anyone involved in regional development issues. RAI will maintain this resource over time so that it is no longer so difficult to access the diversity of research on regional issues.

RAI has also released two reports which outline the findings of our Stocktake of Regional Research project. This includes a gap analysis of current research and also a summary of 50 of the most influential pieces of research from the last decade.

In completing the stocktake, RAI engaged with 200 policy makers, researchers and regional leaders. The reported information reported from these engagements should be of interest to members of ANZRSAI who hope that their research work might influence policy, or that their policy work might benefit from research.

- Policy makers expressed most interest in knowledge about opportunities for growth and development of Australia's regional communities, a topic which accounts for only 10% of the Regional Knowledge base coverage.
- Policy makers were also interested in regional Australia's position and potential which accounts for about 40% of the Regional Knowledge base.
- Policy makers were somewhat interested in engaging regional communities and delivering services which accounts for 60% of the Regional Knowledge base.
- Policy makers were least interested in strategies for regional communities to cope with change, which also accounts for 60% of the Regional Knowledge base.

Apparently policy makers are interested in opportunities and potential for growth, while researchers are interested in improving services and problem solving! If this is the case, then researchers interested in funding will need to present their work as delivering growth, rather than as improving services or solving problems.

The systematic review of over 80,000 potentially relevant pieces of academic and 'grey' literature, from which 1,500 reports and 281 data sets were chosen, noted that:

- Little international research is usable in Australia
- The performance of policy interventions has seldom been evaluated
- "There is no obvious or centralised convenor of a research agenda for regional Australia and its attendant policy issues"

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- Australian communities, researchers and policy makers lack awareness and access to regional research material.

RAI concludes that a key message from this work is that we need to focus new research on opportunities for regional growth and development that exist throughout regional Australia. RAI is considering how we can do that in their research program. They would value your thoughts on ideas which you can now share via our new Pitch an Idea space for sharing and discussing new regional research concepts.

To read the findings of the Stocktake of Regional Research, click here: <http://t.co/Alfama9a>

Source: RAI Announcement and 'RAI Stocktake of Regional Research: Gap Analysis'.

### *The RAI Community Forum in Wagga Wagga: 30 October 2012*

Edited notes by courtesy of Adjunct Professor Tony Sorensen

The meetings of Fellows and the Board members debated current key themes in regional development research: defining regional conditions – including especially demographic trends and their implication for place prosperity; understanding processes; appropriate governance structures able to deliver effective regional policy (both formal tiers of government and private / social institutions); the implications for regional prosperity of emerging new technologies; the ability of regional development actors to control or adapt to the future; the appropriateness of current institutional arrangements to address regional problems; and meaning of and practicality of developing an adaptive culture.

The public meeting was about Wagga Wagga in particular and the Riverina more generally – the processes affecting their development, how well they are traveling, what's not going so well, how to manage the transition to the future, etc.. The platform was occupied by a mix of local and external presenters, all of whom gave short addresses.

There is a substantial gap between bureaucrats and academics on the definition of the main themes in regional development strategy.

While researchers are looking at the big picture and process, practitioners seem to be fighting the spot-fires of the moment using the available tools and constrained by Australia's governance systems, laws, and money. A lot of the current research work documents changing regional conditions and the processes driving them – information which might be useful in defining 'regional problems' but which is increasingly less useful in a fast changing world in which practitioners are asking more about where things are headed in the medium term and yesterday looks like ancient history.

Two examples of useful themes emerged:

- Documented and well-researched examples of good regional development practice evaluated against strict cost-benefit yardsticks.
- Sourcing and attracting investment capital into innovative rural SMEs and farm enterprises.

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AJRS has received no manuscripts on these themes in the last two years. Is the regional science community missing the boat when it comes to researching crucial issues pertaining to regional development?

The mandated and assumed roles of the RAI did feature prominently and those effectively amount to acting as a bridge between researchers and policy-makers. This was a role played by ANZRS AI in the past, but that role has diminished over time as practitioner membership has faded, though we still have fairly good links in Canberra and we maintain links with practitioners through local networks in some States. The question of how external organisations like ANZRS AI or the Regional Studies Association might participate in framing or popularising the agenda never arose.

Ed. What do you think dear reader?

### *Regional Australia Institute has been hiring*

The Regional Australia Institute has been looking for enthusiastic, talented and experienced individuals to apply for two new positions in the RAI research team - [Policy Manager](#) and [Research Manager](#). Applications have now closed, but the advertisements give an idea of what RAI is about.

“The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) conducts research into priority policy issues impacting regional Australia; we identify solutions and promote the results to governments and the wider community.”

The Policy Manager is “to lead the development and delivery of innovative policy solutions from concept to outcome” by

- Developing policy briefings, etc. on policy issues impacting the future of regional Australia
- Liaise with policy makers, think tanks and researchers on policy context, issues and evidence
- Lead the translation of RAI research into policy relevant information

The Successful Candidate will have “experience and success working in other think tanks, as a political advisor, in central or relevant line agencies at the federal or state level, in representative organisations engaging with government or another policy relevant role is essential. In addition, you will bring to the RAI:

- knowledge of politics and policy debates, and regional policy issues
- understanding of the policy process and the roles (and constraints) of key players.
- well-developed communication skills
- university qualifications in economics or public policy
- demonstrated policy research, analysis and writing skills

*New ABS Paper on RDA Issues*

Did you know that 44 out of 55 Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees were concerned about shortages of skilled professionals in their regions?



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has recently released a paper summarising findings from a review of the 2010 and 2011 RDA regional plans.

*[‘Research Paper: A Review of Regional Development Australia Committee Regional Plans, 2013’](#)* (ABS cat. no. 1381.0) contains a handy summary table of issues, and discussion of the issues under broad topic headings: economy; population; environment; society; and infrastructure. This work is assisting the ABS to understand how regional issues can be supported by data and analysis, and we trust other regional researchers will also find it a valuable resource.

***Productivity Commission on non-urban Unemployment***

The 2011-12 Annual Report of the Productivity Commission presents and discusses structural change indexes for employment in States and Territories, and for state or territory capital cities and the balance of the state or territory.

Australia has undergone significant, but not unprecedented, structural economic change arising from a mining investment boom and currency appreciation. The improved flexibility and adaptability of the Australian economy has been a dividend from previous policy reform. (Industry Commission, 2012, p. 1).

The Commission concludes:

“...it appears that recent structural changes have been mainly beneficial for Australia’s regions. Treasury (2011c) has calculated that, as the aggregate unemployment rate declined from 1998 to 2010, so did the dispersion of unemployment rates across the 1400 Statistical Local Areas (SLAs). In September 2010, around half of the areas had unemployment rates of less than 5 per cent, compared with fewer than 15 per cent of SLAs in 1998.” (Productivity Commission, 2012, p.22)

Productivity Commission 2012, Annual Report 2011-12, Annual Report Series, Productivity Commission, Canberra. [www.pc.gov.au](http://www.pc.gov.au)

**CURRENT RESEARCH  
ABSTRACTS**

***Australasian Journal of Regional  
Studies*** Vol. 18, No. 3

pp. 283-314

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNING  
REGIONS IN NEW ZEALAND: THE “6-I”  
FRAMEWORK**

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**ABSTRACT:** This article introduces the “6-I” framework which has been developed in order to evaluate regional development. The “6-I” framework is based on the concept of the “learning region”. The ideal “learning region” is innovative and economically successful. Six key factors have been identified that can be used to measure the development of learning regions. This article explains how the “6-I” framework was developed and demonstrates its utility by showing how it was used to assess regional development in two regions of New Zealand over the twenty year period from 1985 to 2005. There is a particular focus on the potential contribution that information and communication technologies (ICTs) can make to the development of learning regions.

Governments are increasingly making major investments in ICTs, such as ultra-fast broadband in the belief that they will facilitate regional development. However, little work has been done to assess the contribution of ICTs within a regional setting.

pp. 315 - 341

**ROLE OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS IN  
FORMULATING CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATION STRATEGIES FOR A LOW  
WATER FUTURE: A PUBLIC POLICY  
PERSPECTIVE**

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper examines the role of local institutions in supporting climate change adaptation action from a public policy perspective. While certain adaptation actions will provide public benefits, many others will offer private benefits. The paper argues that adaptation investments and assigning the adaptation responsibility across various actors should be guided by a clear public-private benefit framework. A case study of adapting to a ‘low water future’ in North East Victoria is used to discuss the role of local institutions and industries in formulating climate change adaptation strategies. The findings indicate that formulating adaptation strategies, at the local level, has been complicated by the existence of considerable uncertainty in the nature and magnitude of adverse climatic impacts. The planning problem is further exacerbated by considerable information asymmetries and moral hazard issues inhibiting climate change adaptation for reduced water supply by local institutions and industries.

pp. 342-363

**LOCAL ADAPTATION RESPONSES IN  
CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING IN  
COASTAL QUEENSLAND**

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ABSTRACT: This paper reviews adaptation actions in climate change strategies by four urban Queensland coastal councils (e.g. Cairns, Gold Coast, Redland, and Sunshine Coast), and two community-based climate action plans for Bribie Island, and the Noosa Biosphere. The actions in these six plans are analysed for their adaptive response categories: *Emphasising Nature*, *Emphasising Development and Managed Nature* (Vasey-Ellis 2009), along with *Council Governance of climate change*, and *Emphasising Community*. Climate change planning and infrastructure responses by Queensland coastal councils mainly focus on protecting coastal development from erosion and other climate hazards, and building community resilience, supplemented by 'soft' environmental actions protecting nature. While some climate change plans for coastal areas included actions for shoreline erosion, coastal inundation, and storm surges, only two addressed sea level rise impacts. This review found an integrated mix of adaptation actions for nature, governance and community is required for enhanced adaptive capacity at the local level.

pp. 364-391

**[CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN REGIONAL SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES IN AUSTRALIA](#)**

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ABSTRACT: The recognition that corporate social responsibility (CSR) is important for business sustainability has focused the bulk of research on explicit normative arguments for its adoption by large corporations. This ignores the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the investigation of how such firms actually perform CSR activities. This study begins with the premise that SMEs may design appropriate CSR strategies to address issues in local communities. SMEs operate within these communities and subsequently are more aware of community and environmental issues than their larger counterparts. From this emerges the aim of examining the reality of this proposition from the particular perspective of a regional city in Australia. The results show a gap between normative CSR proposals and the actual operation of CSR processes in this cohort of SMEs in a regional community. What is exposed is the complexity of CSR 'on the ground at the business frontline'.

pp. 392-419

**[A RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE? ATTITUDINAL DIFFERENCES TOWARDS WATER RESTRICTIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA](#)**

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper examines differences in attitudes towards water restrictions in rural and urban areas in South Australia. The areas differed on the relative importance of future water shortages, whether uniform restrictions should apply across the state and the disruptive nature of restrictions. An analysis of the determinants of the attitudinal differences revealed that the perception of a more plentiful water supply in the rural study area led to a perception that future water shortages were of lesser importance to their households compared to those in the urban areas. This may also account for their attitudinal differences on the uniformity of restrictions across the state. Differences in attitudes towards the disruptive nature of restrictions were significantly linked to the affluence of the urban households. Apart from these differences, generally, regardless of location, demographics and socio-economic conditions, the results showed support for restrictions and their value in assisting households to conserve water.

pp. 420-443

**‘COOL OR HOT’: A STUDY OF  
CONTAINER TEMPERATURES IN  
AUSTRALIAN WINE SHIPMENTS**

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**ABSTRACT:** Wine production is an important component of Australia's regional economy and wine quality is essential for maintaining Australia's high levels of wine exports to more than 120 countries. Temperature conditions during shipment are highly important in ensuring that Australian wines reach the customer table, locally or overseas, in optimum condition. This paper presents the results of a study tracking the temperature fluctuations that wine is exposed to during international shipment. The results indicate that extreme temperature fluctuations are more prevalent in the land transport legs compared to the sea leg. The impact of other factors such as the date of transport and shipment destination is also analysed. With this knowledge of conditions during travel, the Australian wine industry can put in place guidelines and policies with the goal of minimising exposure to heat and other damage by using appropriate packaging, container insulation or refrigeration and giving attention to the entire distribution process.

***Papers in Regional Science***

91(4) 2012

pp.697-722

[Technological interdependence and regional growth in Europe: Proximity and synergy in knowledge spillovers](#)Roberto Basile  
Roberta Capello  
Andrea Caragliu

Abstract: The economic growth literature suggests that knowledge spillovers are subject to distance decay effects. In this paper the main aim is to provide a theoretical framework and empirical evidence on the role played by other kinds of proximities, namely relational, social and technological proximity, in explaining productivity growth. Using a sample of 249 EU 27 NUTS 2 regions in the period 1990–2004, semiparametric spatial autoregressive models are estimated. Results provide evidence of a positive role of social and relational proximities as important channels of knowledge spillovers, and on the fact that, when simultaneously present, different kinds of proximities generate synergic effects on growth.

pp. 723-742

[Proximity and collaboration in European nanotechnology](#)Scott W. Cunningham  
Claudia Werker

Abstract: Collaborations are particularly important for the development and deployment of technology. We analyse the influence of organizational, technological and geographical proximity on European nanotechnology collaborations with the help of a publication dataset and additional geographical information. While organizational proximity influences the output of collaborations only indirectly, geographical and technological proximity do so directly. Geographical

proximity is most significant in statistical terms and technological proximity has the highest magnitude of effect. Consequently, the latter lends itself most for management and policy interventions, for example, by providing information on technological specialization of potential partners.

759-774

[New firm formation facing cultural and racial diversity](#)Shaoming Cheng  
Huaqun Li

Abstract: This paper is intended to examine how regional diversity in terms of cultural and racial diversity affects new firm formation in 10 disaggregated industrial sectors across US counties. Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo method is used to estimate the spatial autoregressive regression models. It is suggested that regional diversity positively affects new firm formation, both in its own and neighbouring counties, in selected industries examined.

795-821

[Social networks and regional recruitment of foreign labour: Firm recruitment methods and spatial sorting in Denmark](#)Torben Dall Schmidt  
Peter Sandholt Jensen

Abstract: This paper tests the hypothesis that social networks are crucial for regional recruitment and inflows of foreign labour. New survey data on 971 firms located in Region Southern Denmark show that the predominant recruitment method of foreign labour was through networks. Danish municipal data from 1997–2006 furthermore reveal spatial sorting since initial shares of employees with a foreign background out of total regional employment predict foreign labour inflow rates to regional employment. Thus, social networks appear crucial for the

recruitment and inflows of foreign labour, suggesting that employee referrals and information about vacancies in local job markets are also important for foreign labour.

849-871

[Adaptation behaviours across ecosystems under global warming: A spatial micro-econometric model of the rural economy in South America](#)

S. Niggol Seo

**Abstract:** This paper develops a spatial rural economy model of adaptation to climate change that accounts for a multitude of rural enterprises across a diversity of ecosystems in South America using household surveys. We model adoptions of crops, livestock, and forests. Both specialized and diversified enterprises are modelled. This paper finds that livestock, forests, and a diversification into crops, livestock, and forests are key adaptation strategies. Under the UKMO (United Kingdom Meteorological Office) scenario, a livestock-only enterprise would expand by 4 per cent, a crops-livestock-forests by 3 per cent, and a forests-only by 3 per cent. Adaptation behaviours are closely tied with ecosystem changes under global warming. A livestock-only would increase especially in the grasslands. A crops-livestock-forests enterprise expands into xeromorphic forests. A crops-livestock expands in Andean grasslands and tall grasslands. A forests-only expands in the coasts and woody zones. A crops-only enterprise decreases across South America.

### **Book Review**

pp. 874-875

[Beyond territory: Dynamic geographies of knowledge creation, diffusion, and innovation.](#)

Harald Bathelt, Maryann P. Feldman and Dieter F. Kogler (eds). London/New York: Routledge,

2011. 291 pp., 40 tables, 15 figures, index. Hardback £80. ISBN: 978-0-415-49327-7.

This book approaches the notion of economic innovation which it perceives with a territorial slant. In particular it attempts to highlight the role of spatial relations, geography and territory in processes of economic innovation. Such an approach to the notion of innovation is in itself innovative and complements well with numerous currently ongoing debates and discussions, among them that of territorial cohesion, understood as the capability of territories for sustained development in economic, social, infrastructural and environmental dimensions. The book concentrates on innovation which is one of key factors which determine the pace of development and thus it provides important input into this debate.

The volume consists of 13 chapters which include contributions from 21 European (representing Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and North American (representing Canada and USA) researchers and scholars. This diversity makes the book doubly interesting as it offers in one volume many perspectives and geographically specific insights into territorial aspects of innovation.

What is more, the contributions are just as heterogeneous as the contributors in the sense that they relate to several debates in the field of economic geography which concentrate on knowledge creation, circulation and innovation. Finally, the heterogeneity is further reflected in skilful merging of chapters which develop new and build on existing theoretical frameworks with chapters which are more empirical and focus on presenting case studies.

The book has three distinct parts. The first part of the book (*Agglomeration – aspects of specialization and diversity*) concentrates on

issues of localization economies. It emphasizes in particular the gains from agglomeration of economic entities belonging to the same sector (Chapter 2), economic as well as cultural diversity and its impact on regional economic development (Chapter 3), concepts of technological relatedness and related variety and the effects that they have on regional knowledge spillovers (Chapter 4) and, finally, it presents a case study of the IT sector in Demark which is a solid example of existing significant agglomeration economies (Chapter 5).

The second part of the book (*Beyond territory – evolutionary spatio-sectoral dynamics*) includes three case studies which build on the idea that emergence of new technologies is a prerequisite for economic growth (Chapter 6), while adopting a novel approach to identifying patterns which knowledge creation and diffusion follow – one which concentrates not only on urban areas but takes into account also rural, including peripheral, areas (Chapters 7 and 8). Finally, ways in which knowledge and innovation are created by TNCs are analysed in Chapter 9.

The third and ultimate part of the book (*Making connections – bridging the local and the global*) provides a global perspective on the processes of knowledge creation and diffusion which occur locally within individual territories. This part of the book highlights international knowledge transfers within one globally active firm (Chapter 10) as well as within a network composed of many entities which use international trade fairs for the purpose of transferring knowledge (Chapter 12). Furthermore, it emphasizes the need to use broad and comprehensive approaches to innovation (Chapter 11).

The overall impression that the reviewed book gives is extremely positive. The editors and all contributors managed, without fail, to achieve their objectives specified at the outset – that is to outline the geographic/spatial/territorial

aspects of knowledge creation, knowledge diffusion and innovation. The volume opens up many research challenges and policy-oriented questions, gives a novel and fresh perspective on traditionally perceived notions, holds a good balance between the theoretical framework and the empirical case studies. It is well grounded in literature and currently ongoing debates on knowledge and innovation in particular. Its strength lies in a successful attempt at perceiving innovation through spatially tinted glasses. Scarce editorial mistakes are the only real shortcoming and, for that matter, not very significant at all. The book is coherent, interesting and worth a recommendation to academics and policy-makers alike.

Maciej Turala  
University of Lodz  
Poland

### *Is there a Creative Class?*

Australian Policy On-Line has the following link to an excellent blog by Geoff Mulgan on the evidence critical of Richard Florida.

[http://www.nesta.org.uk/blogs/geoffs\\_blog/is\\_there\\_a\\_creative\\_class/](http://www.nesta.org.uk/blogs/geoffs_blog/is_there_a_creative_class/)

## **REGIONS & PRACTICE**

### *Have a Say - 2016 Census Planning*

**Planning for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing is underway, and the ABS invites you to have your say.**

The ABS has released a publication proposing directions for Australia's 17th national Census, to be held in 2016.

The publication [2016 Census of Population and Housing: Consultation on content and procedures – ABS](#) (cat. no. 2007.0) outlines initial ABS views on topics and procedures for the 2016 Census.

The ABS has begun a consultation process

with Census data users and the general public. The consultation process includes:

- public [information sessions](#) where the ABS presented proposed directions for 2016. (These were held late 2012 )
- a submission period where interested parties can formally submit their feedback and suggestions to the ABS via an online [submission form](#) or they can be emailed to the ABS (see 'Making a submission' for more details).

### **Making a submission**

Before making a submission it is important to:

- read the [information paper](#)
- make yourself familiar with the [guidelines](#) and criteria which each submission will be assessed against
- view the [presentation slides](#).

Submissions can be made to the ABS up to 31 May 2013.

### ***Bush produce PhD a labour of love***

by Esther Thorn

[Acknowledgement: UniSANEWS is the source of this article and Esther Thorn is the copyright owner. The article is reprinted courtesy of University of South Australia, UniSANEWS, Esther Thorn and Janelle White.](#)

Bush produce and 'meals on wheels' are two gastronomical areas that are usually poles apart, but for UniSA PhD graduate Janelle White, the two are inextricably linked.

When the 43-year-old started her thesis on Indigenous People's Livelihoods and Emerging Bush Produce Industries, the first thing she had to do was gain the confidence of the Aboriginal Elders.

Dr White had the inspired idea of getting to meet and know people by delivering them food.

"Taking the time to get to know the people you're working with is always so important,

but even more so when you're dealing with traditional knowledge and working across cultures," she said.

And so began a seven-year labour of love that took White more than 30,000 kilometres across the country to some of the most remote parts of the land.

"At the time there was a lot of information saying bush produce industries would be good for Aboriginal people but there were not a lot of Aboriginal voices being heard," she said.

"I wasn't an advocate for industry, I was just there to listen to what the communities wanted and had experienced to date."

Once Dr White had developed links in the communities, she was told about bush industries emerging in the most unlikely of places.

Two-hundred kilometres north-west of Alice Springs, White discovered women crafting jewellery out of batwing coral seeds – a kidney bean-shaped seed.

In Alice Springs an Aboriginal woman named Rayleen Brown is running catering company Kungkas Can Cook based on native bush produce.

And in the APY Lands, in South Australia's far north-west, the Amata community has set up the website bushrub.com selling a native fuschia medicinal rub online.

"They've used technology to overcome the distance and they're doing really well, they've involved kids at the local school and it has a lot of socio-cultural benefits," she said.

But while there were individual examples of success, overall Dr White was struck by how little long-term, culturally appropriate support there was for these activities as emerging enterprises.

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“Aboriginal people have been involved in these enterprises for many generations. They’re based on seasonal activities that collectively provide many benefits to people’s livelihoods including their health and well-being,” Dr White said.

“Most importantly, people wanted the traditional knowledge to be passed on, whether they got a financial return was an additional benefit.”

Overwhelmed by the complexity of the issue, at times Dr White wondered if she could finish her thesis.

“I didn’t realise how complex it would be, it stretched me in many ways and I didn’t know if I could do it (the thesis),” she said.

“I think a PhD changes you, it’s like doing a marathon over and over again.”

Ultimately it was the relationships she’d formed with the Aboriginal women that kept her going.

She felt she had a responsibility to warn people that if bush industries continue to develop along their current path, they won’t provide maximum benefit to Aboriginal communities.

“While (the industries) have the interest of Aboriginal people, they don’t have their full support because of a lack of consultation,” she said.

“The incorporation of Aboriginal people’s perception of bush produce use, customs and values need to be taken into account.”

Dr White graduated in August and is currently employed by a private company working with traditional owners whose land is being considered for development or mining.

But her long-term career goal is more closely aligned to her thesis.

I would like to work in the area of livelihood and bio-cultural sustainability,” she said.

“I’m passionate about people’s knowledge of place and that being allowed to flourish alongside their innate creativity.

Dr White’s PhD was supervised by Professor Bernard Guerin from the School of Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy, University of South Australia.

Courtesy UniSA News. October 2012.

### *A New Australian Federation*

The Australia and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) has published an ANZSOG Concept Paper: A New Federation with a Cities and Regional Approach – by Richard Murray

[http://www.anzsog.edu.au/media/upload/publication/103\\_Research-paper-A-New-Federation-with-a-Cities-and-Regional-Approach-Richard-Murray-120912.pdf](http://www.anzsog.edu.au/media/upload/publication/103_Research-paper-A-New-Federation-with-a-Cities-and-Regional-Approach-Richard-Murray-120912.pdf)

You may have already seen this but just in case you haven’t, this is a very interesting paper. There are other articles regarding this listed on the SEGRA site -

[http://www.segra.com.au/segra\\_issuespapers.html](http://www.segra.com.au/segra_issuespapers.html)

Provided by courtesy of: Marilyn Horgan and Rod Brown: [Marilynn.Horgan@emrc.org.au](mailto:Marilynn.Horgan@emrc.org.au)

This paper describes well the problems of the Federation and its Constitution. It recommends a new Constitution abolishing the States and replacing them with five cities (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth) and nineteen regional councils: six in New South Wales, three in Victoria, five in Queensland, two in Western Australia, one each in South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania.

This is an important contribution to a needed discussion.

### ***Airports Generate Jobs: BITRE***

The Bureau of Infrastructure, transport and Regional Economics has released an Information Sheet (46) on employment generation at airports. Jobs at airports have been growing faster than jobs in the host cities. View the paper here:

[http://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/2013/files/is\\_046.pdf](http://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/2013/files/is_046.pdf)

### ***Regional Australia Update***

Recent news from Regional Development Australia reproduced from Regional Australia Update Issue 31 with permission.

### ***Moreton Bay 'Thinker in Residence' program***

RDA Moreton Bay (Queensland) launched its first 'Thinker in Residence' program on 3 December 2012. Over the two day program, more than 130 delegates discussed fresh approaches and opportunities to promote economic growth within the region.

Chambers of Commerce, businesses, and industry groups from across the Moreton Bay region met with the world renowned business and economic development strategist Ifor Ffowcs-Williams, who showed participants how they could grow their business or business group through competitiveness, enterprise development, clusters and innovation.

Other roundtable sessions explored the future role of education in innovation, research and development and cluster development; the role of government in promoting economic growth through enterprise development, innovation and competitiveness; and the role of enterprise and innovation centres in supporting regional economic growth.

One of the key outcomes of the sessions was the development of a broad interest across

diverse regional stakeholders in the economic opportunity provided by business clusters, including the opportunities to develop pilot clusters within the Moreton Bay region. A 'cluster' is a group of businesses within a specific sector who can still compete but also collaborate for mutual benefit.

RDA Moreton Bay Chair Neil Hoddinett was excited by the significant opportunities for further collaboration to better support the regions business community which flowed from the 'Thinker in Residence' program.

"Through cooperation, we can significantly raise our region's economic competitiveness and start to see real business growth which can be sustained and support our region's future," Mr Hoddinett said.

For more information, visit the RDA Moreton Bay website. [www.rdamoretonbay.org.au](http://www.rdamoretonbay.org.au)

### ***Wheatbelt Youth Strategy released***

RDA Wheatbelt (Western Australia) has published a youth strategy that they hope will become the pre-eminent planning document for youth stakeholders in the region.

The Wheatbelt Youth Strategy 2012-2017 document outlines the Wheatbelt youth profile, along with priority focus areas that will enable stakeholders to plan and implement targeted initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for the young people of the region.

Through its Youth Connections program, RDA Wheatbelt facilitated four sub-regional youth network meetings during April and May 2012 to verify previously identified youth specific issues and barriers.

An agreed list of priority youth focus areas was identified, including:

- responsible behaviour
- education/training/employment
- parenting and families, and

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- health and wellbeing.

A Strategic Framework based on the four identified priority areas has been developed, with significant input from youth stakeholders. The primary aim of the framework is to ensure that key youth stakeholders in the region have a common focus for actioning initiatives that will contribute to improving opportunities and the wellbeing of youth in the Wheatbelt region.

For more information, or to download a copy of the Wheatbelt Youth Strategy, visit the RDA Wheatbelt website.

[www.rdawheatbelt.com.au/resources.aspx](http://www.rdawheatbelt.com.au/resources.aspx)

### ***Live music thrives in South Australia***

RDA Barossa (South Australia) is working with Adelaide Thinker in Residence Martin Elbourne to add to and complement the Barossa's economy.

Mr Elbourne, who co-founded international festival WOMAD and is the chief band booker for the Glastonbury Festival, was announced as Adelaide's latest Thinker in Residence in September 2012.

The residency is being hosted by the Don Dunstan Foundation, in partnership with RDA Barossa, the South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Arts SA, Adelaide City Council and Adelaide Fringe.

As part of the program, Mr Elbourne is looking at ways to reinvigorate the live music scene and stimulate the live music economy in Adelaide and the Barossa Valley. He is focusing on issues such as venue licensing, opportunities for local musicians and industry development. Mr Elbourne visited the Barossa in November 2012 as part of his residency and was shown around the region by RDA Barossa Executive Officer Anne Moroney.

Minister for the Arts, the Hon Simon Crean MP, has also recently announced the appointment of Dr Ianto Ware, a founding director of Format Adelaide and CEO of Renew Adelaide, as National Live Music Coordinator of Sounds Australia.

For more information, visit the RDA Barossa website. [www.barossa.org.au](http://www.barossa.org.au)

### ***Wide Bay Burnett moves toward FIFO***

RDA Wide Bay Burnett (Queensland) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with GVK Hancock in the next step towards establishing direct fly-in fly-out (FIFO) flights for the region's thousands of resource workers.

The Bundaberg News Mail newspaper reported that Hancock Coal Pty Ltd and Hancock Galilee Pty Ltd, collectively known as GVK Hancock, were currently developing two mines in the Galilee Basin.

RDA Wide Bay Burnett Executive Officer Paul Massingham told the News Mail that the biggest winners were the approximately 3000 resource sector workers and their families.

"The bulk of the workers working in the Bowen Basin are driving six to 10 hours each way," Mr Massingham told the News Mail.

"So FIFO is incredibly important for this area in the long-term."

Hancock Coal managing director Paul Mulder commended RDA Wide Bay Burnett for recognising the value of FIFO flights and the issues that were affecting resource workers.

"Having an MOU with RDA Wide Bay Burnett gives access to a skilled workforce, direct flight infrastructure and training solutions to support construction," Mr Mulder said.

Mr Massingham said he estimated GVK would require about 4500 construction workers for

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the Alpha Coal Project and more than 1800 for the Kevin's Corner Project, both in the Galilee Basin.

Mr Massingham said this was an important safety development for the workers.

“We need to be able to bring these workers home within an hour and a half of knocking off,” Mr Massingham said.

“This will address a lot of the social and family issues that affect workers in the community.”

RDA Wide Bay Burnett has developed a website, I'm 4 FIFO, where resource workers can express their interest for FIFO by registering online.

For more information, visit the I'm 4 FIFO website. <http://im4fifo.com.au>

### ***Regional Australia Institute launches local infrastructure report***

The Regional Australia Institute has launched its report on Catalysing Local Infrastructure Renewal.

The report *Catalysing the renewal of local infrastructure in regional communities: The case for Local Infrastructure Australia* calls for the establishment of a new national organisation to tackle the shortfall in infrastructure investment and boost the regions' capacity to contribute to national economic growth.

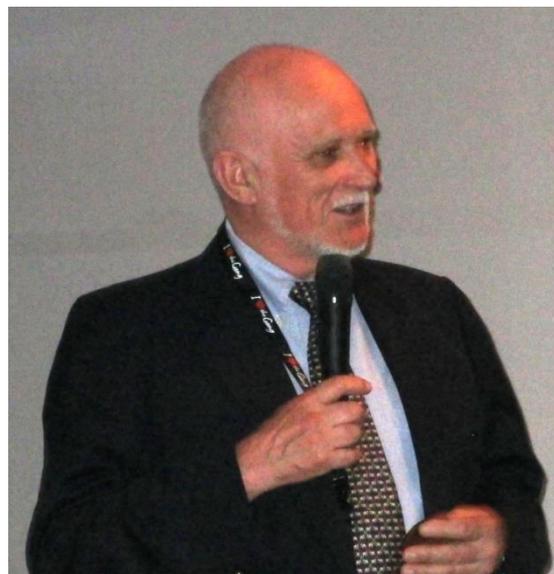
The report recommends the establishment of *Local Infrastructure Australia* as the most effective way of overcoming the backlog in local government infrastructure investment, now estimated at between \$12 and \$15.5 billion.

*Local Infrastructure Australia* would aim to solve three underlying problems that contribute to the growing infrastructure deficit by providing:

- local government with access to significant private sector capital in an efficient and cost effective way
- local government with much needed advice on effective infrastructure planning, investment and management, and
- policy makers with vital information on the infrastructure backlog and advice on the relative benefits of local infrastructure alongside other national and state infrastructure priorities.

For more information, or to download the report, visit [www.regionalaustralia.org.au](http://www.regionalaustralia.org.au)

## **36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



***Bob Stimson on receiving ANZRSAI's Distinguished Service Award***

Thank you and well deserved.

Conference Proceedings are available on the front page of our website at [www.anzrsai.org](http://www.anzrsai.org)

## **ABOUT ANZRSAI**

### ***ANZRSAI Council***

At its meeting on 4 December 2012 Council discussed institutional membership rates and made progress towards a structure which assists institutions while ensuring that each

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person registered for membership by an institution is recorded as a member with a unique identifier. A new Institutional membership structure is being developed. New lower individual membership rates are now in force.

Council has noted an opportunity to assist coordination and collaboration of regional research activities across the growing number of regional research institutes in Australia and New Zealand. An umbrella body could exercise leadership, develop better understanding of gaps in the field, foster higher level studies and training, provide mutual promotion and advocacy, and foster a closer involvement of research and practice.

Discussions on the redesign of the ANZRS AI website have continued following a meeting at our Annual Conference at which Internetrix described some of the capabilities which are now available from websites.

Internetrix designed and built our existing website in 2005, and have provided a quotation for an upgrade of the site following informal discussions last year.

Our website must serve a wide variety of purposes on behalf of the regional science community, and its costs of acquisition and operation must be within our means.

Council is now preparing a brief and specification by considering the capabilities needed to best serve our constituencies:

- regional practitioners and policy makers,
- regional research groups and institutions,
- members and
- our administrative operations.

In addition Council is considering the website capabilities needed to best serve our mission statement:

1. To disseminate knowledge relevant to regional issues and process.

2. To encourage research and analysis in fields relevant to regional policy and process.

3. To provide forums for the discussion of research, planning and process.

4. To facilitate the professional development of those involved in regional research and process.

5. To operate an efficient organisation (ANZRS AI Inc.) meeting the needs of its members.

6. To encourage (as members) all those working in regional economic and social research, policy planning process.

7. To facilitate the linkages between regional, economic and social theories, analysis, and process.

8. To encourage members to participate in discussions of regional, economic and social policy and process.

9. To develop policies in liaison with relevant agencies with respect to regional analysis and process.

10. To raise community awareness of regional, economic and social policy and practice.

When finalised, the brief will specify our requirements and support a request for quotations.

Following the AGM there is room for 2 more Ordinary members of Council. A member from Western Australia would be great.

### **ANZRS AI Council 2013**

#### *Office Bearers (5)*

##### **President**

Paul Collits

University of Southern Queensland

##### **Vice President (Australia)**

Robyn Eversole

University of Tasmania

##### **Vice President (New Zealand)**

David Wilson

AUT University, Auckland NZ

##### **Secretary**

Greg Kerr

University of Wollongong

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### **Treasurer**

Tony O'Malley  
University of South Australia

### **Ex-Officio Immediate Past President**

Paul Dalziel  
Lincoln University

### *Ordinary Members (5 to 8 allowed)*

#### **Council Member**

Yogi Vidyattama  
NATSEM, Canberra

#### **Council Member/Public Officer**

Tony Sorensen  
University of New England

#### **Council Member**

Rolf Gerritsen  
Charles Darwin University

#### **Council Member**

Paul McPhee  
University of Ballarat

#### **Council Member**

Matthew Campbell-Ellis  
University of Tasmania

#### **Council Member**

Michelle Graymore  
University of Ballarat

### *Editors:*

#### *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*

Tony Sorensen and Sonya Glavac  
University of New England

### *Life Member*

Bob Stimson  
Australian Urban Research Infrastructure  
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