



THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

FOUNDED 1927

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A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

The GSNSW has been fairly busy since the last Newsletter. We hosted two successful student conferences at the University of NSW—the 11th Annual Honours Conference and ‘Emergent Geographies’, the inaugural postgraduate student conference, we celebrated the Society’s 80th Anniversary in late November, we presented 2nd year student prizes and the Macdonald Holmes awards. Due to these various commitments, we find ourselves combining two newsletters into one—November 2007 and February 2008. In this issue of the Newsletter we report on all the events that took place during the second half of 2007, which include the regulars such as the Study Tours and Travellers Club reports.

The GSNSW Program of Events for 2008 can be found on page 14 so members can keep up-to-date on events happening throughout the year. ‘Ela Taranto has schedule some excellent speakers for the Travellers Club and we have a planned postgraduate student workshop late in the year, not to mention the regular events such as council meetings, awards nights and the Honours Conference, which will be held at Sydney University in November.

In this issue we also farewell Marilyn Herrod, the current GSNSW Office

Manager, who has dedicated many years of service to the Society. We would also like to draw members attention to the job advertisement on page 13 that seeks an office manager for the society. Members may know of people who would be interested in applying for this position and appreciate any assistance in our search for a new office manager. We as Editors would like to express our deepest thanks to Marilyn for all her assistance over the years with the production of the Newsletter.

We wish to thank all who have contributed items for this issue of the *Newsletter*. Submissions to the *Newsletter* are always welcome and can be forward to either Colin (colsale@ozemail.com.au) or Therese (t.kenna@unsw.edu.au). Finally, we would like to invite letters to the Editors on issues related to Geography that have either been expressed in this Newsletter, or that are more broadly in circulation through the media.

Therese Kenna (Editor)
Colin Sale (Assoc. Editor)

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OUR LONG-TIME OFFICE MANAGER RETIRES IN 2008

At the end of February 2008, Mrs Marilyn Herrod is retiring after having given the Geographical Society of New South Wales 28 years of loyal service as Office Manager. She took over from her predecessor, Ms Elsa Webster, just after the Society's office was moved out of Science House in Sydney's *Rocks District* where it had been located since its inception in 1927. Eric Bedford, the then Minister of Education, and a Geographer, found new premises for the Society in rooms at Truscott Street Public School, and the Geography Teachers Association (GTA) separated from the Society by moving into the Professional Teachers Council premises at Rozelle Public School.

Initially, Marilyn's work for the Society was just a part-time job, but she would soon become a wandering *Gypsy*, with many changes of office location. As well as taking into account schools' changing needs for space, much depended on the good-will of school principals and secretaries which could vary greatly as school staffs changed. Initially there was a room move at Truscott Street, but when Truscott Street Public School took on extra classes, including new ones for children with disabilities, the Geographical Society moved to Gordon West Public School where GTA joined them in limited space. The next move in 1989 was into two classrooms on the first floor at Gladesville Public School, but this was probably the best of the many moves as one large room could be used as the office and also for meetings, while the other adjoining former classroom could be used for storage.

From 1988, Marilyn's work became full-time as GTA began using her services jointly with the Society, as well as the same premises at Gladesville Public School, and it was established that this would become 3 days for GTA work and 2 days for GSNSW work. But this ideal location didn't last, and the next move was into a noisy ground floor location next to the assembly hall at Gladesville, until that room was also required for school use. A small space was made available in the basement for storage, with the staff common room becoming available for meetings. It was now impossible to find a vacant classroom in any school so in 2002 Marilyn's office was relocated in a room in her own home in Ryde, with storage space being found at Rozelle Public School while Council meetings would take place in a conference room in Fisher Library at Sydney University.

In all of this time, Marilyn's duties have included a wide variety of activities, and the Society feels very fortunate to have had her for so long and realises it will be very difficult to find someone to fill her shoes. The following lists the

many activities of her job description carried out with great diligence, but she has always worked beyond these.

Accountancy – the banking of income from members and their activities, the payment of accounts, the preparation of financial statements for the Treasurer's reports to Council Meetings and the AGM, and the arranging of account audits, salaries and taxes.

Membership – keeping the membership data-base up-to-date, and invoicing members and/or sending reminders of membership dues.

Council Meetings – preparing for and attending Council Meetings, the AGM and Society activities, recording the minutes of meetings and the emailing and posting of agendas and minutes to Councillors, listing and summarising mail received, and attending to correspondence where required.

Publications – providing the mailing labels for the *Australian Geographer* to be posted out by the publishers, and attend to taxes involved when necessary, liaising with the editors of the quarterly *Newsletter*, and assisting with the preparation of each edition, arranging for its printing, collection, packaging and posting out to members.

Travellers Club – keeping the membership data base up-to-date, including name-tags for meetings, liaising with the chairperson re speakers and the preparation, printing, and mailing of brochures, receiving and preparing lists of people attending meetings, shopping and preparing afternoon tea and preliminary drinks and nibbles, providing these at meetings and cleaning up afterwards.

Conferences – receiving registrations and preparing lists and name tags, attending the conferences to register participants and undertake catering where necessary, pay accounts and send out invoices for outstanding payments to the Society.

On the personal side, Marilyn will be greatly missed by the many people who have been associated with her in the Society and at its activities - from the Society's Councillors working with her, to the regulars attending the Travellers Club meetings - all have appreciated her cheerful assistance and friendship. The Geographical Society of New South Wales thanks Marilyn sincerely for the 28 years of excellent work for the Society, and wishes her a long and very happy retirement with husband Rick and family.

- Colin Sale



REPORT FROM THE GEOGRAPHY TRAVELLERS CLUB

September 9th 2007: The Galapagos Islands
Speaker: Dr. Eileen Kennedy

Eileen is a veteran of several GSNSW Study Tours and attracted some fellow veterans as well as new members on a sunny day despite our hopes for rain. The recent exploration of the 19 Galapagos Islands with her husband was a pilgrimage to a shrine for the Biological Sciences - Charles Darwin's visit in 1835 inspired his research & Theory of Evolution. Her presentation comprised:

- An introduction with facts, figures and history of this World Heritage Site;
- A cruise to several islands inhabited only by unique flora & fauna aboard the "San Juan", maximum 20 passengers with its brilliant cook/skipper and continuous south American music (human habitation prohibited on 15 islands where visitor numbers kept low via an expensive visitor fee of \$US100);
- Highlights of Quito, the city from which Ecuador Airlines flights connect with the Galapagos 1000 km westwards.

The volcanic geology of the islands & submerged ridges/connections with the mainland derive from collisions of the undersea Cocos and Nazca plates. The unique giant tortoise & iguana are popular icons/symbols for this place. The shape of the tortoise shell looks like a galapagos (Spanish for saddle) hence the name of the islands. Since 1536 when the islands were discovered & named by the Bishop of Panama, intermittent habitation and frequent visitation by pirates, buccaneers & whalers resulted in the near extinction of the tortoise. Tortoise meat was a delicacy to the extent that several giants would be taken on board to be slaughtered during the voyage.

The population of 20,000 is confined to 4 islands. We saw photos of **Santa Cruz** island including the Charles Darwin Research centre and numerous sea lions. **Floreana** island boasts the largest population and crop farming. Before the 1950 declaration of the Galapagos National Park, the Ecuador national Jail was located on Floreana which was also the site for the 19th century whalers post office/box (look through for anything addressed to your crew members & deposit mail for other whalers to collect when they sail in).

Now began our treat of flora & fauna photos with a focus on those unique to the islands, accompanied by comments with a biological slant. We started with the finches – different beaks on each island! Sally Lightfoot crabs have camouflaged babies –black like the rock. Sea lions cuddling, lots of pelicans, beautiful flora including Darwin's Poppy and Yellow Parkinsonia also aroused our interest.

Next we visited **Espanola** Island with its 20m high blow-hole, mocking birds frigate birds & booby birds. There are 3 types of boobies – we were shown mating dances, chicks with a special posture to conserve energy whilst waiting for food/parents. Only chicks who stay in the nest can avoid raiding iguanas who target the chicks forced to stay outside because they have grown too large to squeeze in with their siblings. (Hey you parents, how about building bigger nests?) The unique Waved Albatross breeds only on Espanola. The Marine Iguana which spends part of its day in water (diving for seaweed) and changes color (black, teal, red) at different stages is here. It is the only sea going lizard in the world. Onwards to **Santa Fe** Island with its unique species of vegetarian land iguana – colored yellow with a diet of prickly pear and flowers. Understandably prickly pear is also protected here. Some good shots of Darwin finches and Galapagos Doves came from Santa Fe. **North & South Plaza** Islands have different species of land iguanas. It was explained that in hard times there is interbreeding between land & marine iguanas but the offspring are sterile. Other photos here were of oyster catchers, luxury boats & sea lions. **Isabella** Island photos focused on recent lava flows featuring colonizing pioneer plants. **North Seymour** Island is a favourite breeding ground for Frigate Birds who can't swim but fly over water & capture surface fish with their hooked beak as well as pirating food from other birds. We were fascinated to see & hear about the male frigates with huge distended red throats to attract females at breeding time.

Quito is the capital of Ecuador which first proclaimed independence from Spain in 1809 and finally achieved it with the help of Simon Bolivar in 1822 and laid claim to the Galapagos Islands in 1830. The highlights selected by Eileen included 16th Century churches, the main square, a statue of the Virgin on the highest point in the city. The famous Otavalo town market yielded photos of marzipan, dolls, toys and "gorgeous women in traditional dress"! Of particular interest was a group of statues of scientist, including Geographers, who worked out where exactly was the equator, a church & monument located on the equator and the information that a popular marriage event was the bride standing in the north hemisphere and the groom in the south hemisphere as they took their vows.

It was so refreshing to listen & see the Biologist's slant on the extraordinary Galapagos where animals, birds & plants are properly protected from human interference. Sincere thanks to you Eileen!

- 'Ela Taranto

GEOGRAPHY STUDY TOURS

The third and final Study Tour of 2007 took place during September-October with 28 people participating. The **Best of the Balkans Study Tour**, with Colin Sale as leader, was one of the most successful ever, and this was partly due to the fact that it covered some very spectacular landscapes, and partly because it had an outstanding local tour guide – a 27-year-old Geography graduate from Slovenia with excellent English, escorting them. Flying to Europe with THAI, their journey began in Istanbul, where, after a short stay for rest and preliminary sight-seeing, the 4,600 km tour began by travelling to two great cities in Bulgaria – 300-year-old Plovdiv established by the Romans and still with its ancient Amphitheatre in use, and Sofia, the highest capital city in Europe (550m) and with the largest Church in the Balkans.

Spectacular travel through the Dinaric Alps followed as the party crossed Macedonia, a country in dispute with Greece over its name. Although Skopje only became its capital city in 1990, it contains a fortress dating from the 16th century, a beautiful 15th century Turkish stone bridge, and oriental bazaars considered the largest and most colourful in Europe. After time in Skopje, largely rebuilt after its devastating earthquake of 1963, the party moved on to the country's greatest tourist attraction – beautiful Lake Ohrid, one of the world's deepest (294 m) and oldest lakes (over 3.5 million years old) – a tectonic water-filled crack in the earth's crust, and with the ancient city of Ohrid on its shores; this cultural gem is a world heritage site with 3rd century BC Greek Theatre, 10th century fortress, city walls and gates, and many Byzantine churches and monasteries with beautiful frescoes.

As Albania shares Lake Ohrid with Macedonia, the party was soon exploring their third country of the Balkans, and spending time in the little-known capital city of Tirana. For 47 years from 1946, a Stalinist-style Communist Government was in power, initially with Enver Hoxha ruling the country as an oppressive dictator and isolating it from the rest of the world. Following elections in 1992, Communist rule came to an end and the country has been experiencing an economic boom. Although it is still one of the world's poorest countries, and its 3.3 million people have a relatively low standard of living, it has large resources, excellent tourism potential, booming new construction industries, and a capital city undergoing a remarkable transformation. Close to the coast in the north of Albania, the tour route passed through Shkodra, considered to be one of the oldest cities in Europe; an old Illyrian Kingdom based here in the 3rd century BC, held out against the Roman invasion until 168 BC.

From here, their travel commenced along one of the world's most beautiful coastlines, where the feet of Dinaric Alps have been drowned by the Adriatic. Initially, travel was along a small piece of the coast in Montenegro, the world's newest

country; a recent referendum held here voted for independence from the remaining part of former Yugoslavia, and this was achieved on 5 June, 2006. After passing through the port city of Bar, seeing Sveti Stefan – the island village which became a luxury hotel, and exploring the medieval walled town of Budva, the UNESCO-protected ancient city of Kotor became their next stop, located on a deep tectonic inlet cutting into the mountainous coastline, looking like a Norwegian fiord. This medieval walled city was ruled by Venice from 1420 to 1797.

Croatia was the next country, and most time would be spent here, starting with the *Pearl of the Adriatic* – Dubrovnik – a completely-walled medieval port city which became the highlight of tour highlights for the group. People had 2 days to explore the city and district; they enjoyed the 2 km walk around the ramparts with 20 towers and a 16th century fortress, the exploration of the city's narrow streets and marble-paved squares, churches and monasteries, and ferry trips to nearby islands.



Figure 1: The magnificent medieval walled city of Dubrovnik on the Dalmatian coast of Croatia (Source: Colin Sale)

While continuing further up the coast to Split, the largest city on the coast, a detour was made inland into Bosnia-Herzegovina to see the beautiful medieval town of Mostar with its famous 16th century Turkish stone bridge; this was destroyed in the recent Muslim-Croat war in 1993, but it has been carefully rebuilt exactly as it was. Split was not a city established by the Romans, but a remote country site which Emperor Diocletian chose to build his retirement home in the 3rd century AD; a town just grew up around, and later over, the large palace. Although he hated and persecuted Christians, his large mausoleum here was converted into the city's Christian Cathedral and one of the city's major interesting sites to be explored.

Following short visits to other places along the spectacular

coast, eg Trogir and Zadar, the group travelled inland again through the mountains to another great highlight of the trip – Plitvice National Park with 16 terraced turquoise lakes linked by waterfalls dropping over travertine barriers. Two half-day hikes on the circuits of the Upper and Lower Trails were enjoyed. Other places visited in Croatia included Zagreb - the county's capital, Opatija - the once exclusive posh seaside resort of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Pula - an ancient Roman port-city, and Rovinj - a picturesque fishing village with massive baroque Cathedral built in 1736 in its Venetian period. In the 11th to 13th centuries. Croatia's capital grew up out of two small villages on the tops of two adjacent hills and became the medieval town of cobble-stone streets of Zagreb, while the Lower New Town was developed as part of the city in Austr-Hungartian times and has many beautiful buildings like Vienna and Budapest, and some fine parks, gardens and imposing monuments.



Figure 2: The National Theatre in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia (Source: Colin Sale).

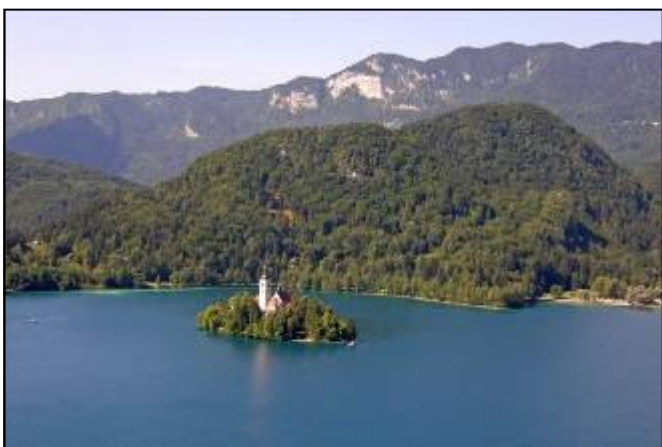


Figure 3: Beautiful Lake Bled, the "pride of Slovenia", with the 17th century baroque *Church of the Assumption* on its small island (Source: Colin Sale).

Travelling next through Slovenia, the large limestone karst land became the next part of the tour route with a visit to the famous Postojna Caves which have been explored by 31 million people since they opened in 1872. Ljubljana, the capital

of Slovenia came next with its beautiful Old Town located below an imposing castle and on the banks of the narrow Ljubljica River with 3 small squares linked by cobble-stone streets. Slovenia is the wealthiest country of the Balkans today, and, following time in this fine city, the party travelled the short distance to the country's scenic gem for a short stay; this was Lake Bled, described as "an emerald green 2 km-long glacial lake, with a little island church in its centre, and a dramatic castle towering overhead". They then travelled along the emerald green Soca Valley beneath Slovenia's highest mountain (Mt Triglav, 2863m), crossed the border into Italy, and continued on to Venice for a delightful stay there of two nights. The journey from there was through the Alps via the ski resort of Cortina in the Dolomites and the Tirol of Austria where many of the forests were seen in autumn gold colour. A short time was then spent seeing the sights of Salzburg before the party flew home from Munich, with a short stop-over in Bangkok en route.

Study Tours in 2008: Colin has organised 3 new tours for 2008, and brochures for these are now available; see "Study Tours" on the Society's web site, or obtain brochures from the Society' office manager. The **Highlights of China Study Tour** is planned for May with the intended major highlights being (1) a good look at the rapidly changing Tibet, including a trip on the world's newest and highest long-distance railway, (2) A cruise through the famous gorges of the Yangtze River, and (3) some of the country's best National Parks with some of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the world. It is then planned to repeat the 2007 **Best of the Balkans Study Tour** in September-October, 2008, because it was considered to be one of the best ever, and to run it at the same time of year because of the brilliant autumn forest colours in the northern parts of the tour route. Read about the tour route above. The **Wild and Wondrous India Study Tour** planned for November, 2008, will include the country's greatest cities – Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, but is intended to give emphasis to the country's major National Parks and their outstanding wildlife, including tigers, elephants, and rare birds, and to the region of the Himalayas centred on Darjeeling and Sikkim, but it is also to be one of the first group tours ever to make an in-depth visit of *Assam*, a little-known unique region in the northeast corner of the Sub-continent, described as a "green paradise", and home to over 40 *Adwas* (Tribal groups) who have similarities with the hill-tribe people of Myanmar, Laos and north Thailand. For May 2009, it is intended that there will be a *Spain and Portugal Study Tour*, and in September-October 2009, there may be a repeat of the very successful tour of 2000 to *East Canada and New England in the Colourful Fall*.

- Colin Sale

UNIVERSITY STUDENT PRIZE NIGHT

The University student prize night was held on Tuesday 11th September 2007, at the University of Sydney. Each year the Society awards prizes to the best performing Geography student in the second year of their degree. The prizes were awarded by the Society President Associate Professor Gordon Waitt. Prize winners from the University of Newcastle and The University of New England were unable to attend on the evening. Pictured below are the prize winners for 2007. Readers may find it interesting that all the prize winners pictured below are female!



Figure 1: J. Ingram (Macquarie University) receiving her award from the Society President, Associate Professor Gordon Waitt, 11th September, 2006 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 2: S. Travers (University of NSW) receiving her award from the Society President, Associate Professor Gordon Waitt, 11th September, 2006 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 3&4: S. Tame (left) & A. Payne (right) (University of NSW @ ADFA) receiving their awards from the Society President, Associate Professor Gordon Waitt, 11th September, 2006 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 5: A. Roberts (University of Sydney) receiving her award from the Society President, Associate Professor Gordon Waitt, 11th September, 2006 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 6: E. de Vet (University of Wollongong) receiving her award from the Society President, Associate Professor Gordon Waitt, 11th September, 2006 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).

THE MACDONALD HOLMES AWARD 2007

GSNSW / GTANSW

In 2007 the Macdonald Holmes Award of the GSNSW and GTANSW, awarded for outstanding contributions to Geography teaching and learning, was jointly awarded to Professor John Connell (University of Sydney) and Dr. Grant Kleeman. The award ceremony was held at the University of Sydney on Tuesday September 11, 2007. Prof. Kevin Dunn, Assoc. Prof. Chris Gibson, Nick Hutchinson, Ian Macdonald Holmes and Society President Assoc. Prof. Gordon Waitt, all made introductory remarks on the evening on each of the recipients and the Society's awards. Information on each of the recipients was provided in the event flyer—excerpts from which follow.

Professor John Connell

Professor John Connell exemplifies excellence in tertiary teaching and learning at the University of Sydney. John is a dynamic and inspiring teacher. Evidence of his dynamic qualities is evident in how his course curriculum is constantly being revised. In his teaching he is always thinking about how moves in the discipline of geography can be captured and translated into subjects that capture the interest and imagination of students regardless if they are first-year or third-year students. This teaching practice of translating disciplinary change into topical subjects is clearly evident in the myriad of courses that he has designed and taught including Tourism Geographies, Mining and Society, and Cultural Geography. His field schools to the Pacific are legendary and have been the subject of academic publications reflecting on the value of students learning about the world 'in the flesh'. The success of his dynamic and highly reflexive teaching practice is found within the testimonies of his students. Through their acclaim John has received constant praise for his teaching and has been nominated for teaching awards.

Dr Grant Kleeman

Since 2000 Grant has been the Coordinator of the Secondary Teacher Education Program at Macquarie and through his inspirational teaching and leadership at the university he has helped to develop thousands of beginning teachers to supply schools throughout the state with quality teaching staff. In 2006 Grant received a PhD from Macquarie, researching the role that interest groups play in shaping curriculum development. During his career, Grant has published 28 highly acclaimed text books for students in all years of high school. In 1995 Grant received *The Australian Award For Excellence in Educational Publishing*. Grant is also a prolific author of academic articles which have appeared in numerous Australian and international peer reviewed journals.



Figure 1: Prof. John Connell accepting his Award from Ian Macdonald Holmes, University of Sydney, 11th September, 2006 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 2: Dr. Grant Kleeman accepting his Award from Ian Macdonald Holmes, University of Sydney, 11th September, 2006 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).

‘EMERGENT GEOGRAPHIES’

THE INAUGURAL POSTGRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

The GSNSW hosted the inaugural postgraduate student conference, *Emergent Geographies*, on Thursday 15th November, 2007. The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for postgraduate students to present their research, to gain feedback and advice, as well as network with other Geographers, in a setting that was collegial and different to formal institution-based reviews or national conferences. The conference was also an important avenue to showcase some of the most recent and emerging research projects and agendas from within Geography. *Emergent Geographies* was opened by Professor Paul Adam, Head of School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES), Dr. Scott Mooney, Geographer and Associate Dean, Faculty of Science, which was followed by a Keynote address from Professor John Connell, University of Sydney. Thanks to all three for their opening remarks.

Conference delegates were treated to 22 presentations from a range of research areas within Geography, from patterns and processes of migration to issues of environmental management to discussions of method and applications. Five paper sessions ran over the course of the day, with students representing a variety of institutions—Sydney, UNSW, Macquarie, Wollongong, Western Sydney, Charles Darwin, Newcastle and ADFA. Two awards for ‘Best Presentation’ were presented on the day by the Society’s President Gordon Waitt to Danielle Drozdowski for a paper titled: ‘Exploring Polish memory in diaspora’ and Gareth Edwards for a paper titled: ‘The equity implications for water scarcity’. The conference closed with the final session discussing future events and ideas for how the GSNSW can assist the development of postgraduate students. Some of these ideas will be implemented this year.

By all reports, the conference was successful, but not without the help and guidance of a number of people. Thanks to the postgraduate students who were involved in the behind the scenes organisation for the conference, particularly Sarah James (UWS) and the UNSW crew—Danielle Drozdowski, Claudette Rechterik and Karin Maeder. Thanks also to the student who chaired sessions on the day. Further thanks to those members of the academic Geography community who attended and showed their support for the student presenters and the conference itself. It is this level of support that allows these events to be successful and of benefit to emerging scholars. The biggest thanks are due to the excellent staff in the Student Office of the School of BEES at UNSW—Matthew Hunt & Ann Lonergan—who had copious amounts of enthusiasm and support for the conference and assisted with so many tasks such as room bookings, organising conference materials (bags, pens, paper, etc.), tables, printing, etc., etc., that made the conference run particularly smoothly, for which I was most grateful.



Figure 1: Danielle Drozdowski (UNSW) receiving her award for best presentation at ‘Emergent Geographies’, from Society President A/Prof. Gordon Waitt (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 2: Gareth Edwards (USyd) receiving his award for best presentation at ‘Emergent Geographies’, from Society President A/Prof. Gordon Waitt (Source: Sarah James).



Figure 3: Intense discussion taking place at the end of the day between delegates at the conference about future events and the role of the GSNSW for Geography postgraduate students (Source: Marilyn Herrod).

THE 11TH ANNUAL HONOURS CONFERENCE

The 11th Annual Geographical Society of NSW Honours Conference was successfully hosted by The University of New South Wales on Friday 16th November, 2007. Professor Paul Adam, Head of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences welcomed students, staff and other guests to the conference. He explained how the honours year was a very taxing experience, much more hectic and stressful than PhD study, and that it was a rite of passage that prepared you for an academic career. He encouraged all the student presenters to write up their work for an academic journal, so that the results could be widely read.

There were 20 presentations divided into five sessions, with students representing UNSW, Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and Macquarie. Each student presented the outcomes from the research that they'd undertaken as part of their Honours year. Approaches that students applied ranged from discourse analysis, through statistical modeling, to charcoal surveys. A diversity of topics were covered including: gated communities, fisheries management, tourism and microfinance as development tools, indigenous sovereignties, etc (see the website for presenters, titles and abstracts).

For chairing the sessions, thanks must be given to Therese Kenna (UNSW), Pauline McGuirk (Newcastle), Scott Mooney (UNSW), Daniel Robinson (UNSW) and Wendy Shaw (UNSW). Thanks also to Therese Kenna and Marilyn

Herrod for their assistance with catering and behind-the-scenes organising and to the large number of other staff who attended the conference to support their students and the conference generally. Over forty delegates attended the event.

Professor Ian Burnley, at the close of the conference, congratulated all the students for participating. He also presented the Jim Rose Geography Awards. The award for the best presentation at the conference for was given to Tamsin Lloyd (Sydney University) for her presentation titled: *Cyber-citizenship: Wikipedia's 'world in the wires'*. Alanna Kamp and Sophie Pieters-Hawke also received highly commended awards for their presentations titled *'Business' and 'Bisnis': Evaluation of a microfinance program in Vanuatu*; and *Rhetoric of exclusion: Chinese and the nation in parliamentary debates, 1901*. Professor Burnley (UNSW) reflected on how Jim Rose had assessed Ian's PhD thesis, and had founded a very robust geographical department at Macquarie University. Jim Rose had been very much involved in the NSW Geographical Society, and had also helped organise the highly successful International Geographical Congress in Sydney in 1988. Thanks to Scott Mooney and Wendy Shaw (UNSW), Mel Neave and Kurt Iveson (Sydney), and Ela Taranto, for their award judging throughout the day.

- Kevin Dunn



Figure 1: Delegates at the GSNSW 12th Annual Honours Conference, The University of NSW, Friday 16th November 2007 (Source: Marilyn Herrod).

Figure 2: Tamsin Lloyd (below) receiving the Jim Rose Award (Best Presentation) from Prof. Ian Burnley (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 4: Sophie Pieters-Hawke receiving the Jim Rose Award (Highly Commended) from Prof. Ian Burnley (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 4: Alanna Kamp receiving the Jim Rose Award (Highly Commended) from Prof. Ian Burnley (Source: Marilyn Herrod).

LIGHTHOUSE, CORNUCOPIA, & HAVEN REFLECTIONS ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AT EIGHTY

For me, it was always **the** Geographical Society. My memories, so fond and fulsome, go back to 1953, when I completed high school. My geography teacher at Sydney Tech. High was Fred Gallie, one of the Society's Councilors. Fred invited me to attend a few Geog. Soc. meetings as his guest, even before I had matriculated. Meetings were held in Science House on Gloucester Street, on the second Tuesdays of most months. Other high school teachers also took two or three of their proselyte-students to those meetings. I remember serious girls in grey uniforms and straw hats, chaperoned by facsimiles of Oscar Wilde's Miss

Prism. Those meetings were the amiable, unhurried breeding grounds for professional geographers. The Society provided the *Viagra*. *Bravo!*

Beaming, brown-suited George Muir was the first President of the Society whom I recall. He cut a fine figure as a ball-room dancer with Miss Elizabeth Bannan, the Dean of Women at Sydney Teachers College. Tea and biscuits were served after the evening's lecture or film screening, not wine and cheese. When Griffith Taylor chaired the meetings from 1956-59, he would brusquely remind questioners to be

brief because “some of us have a bus to catch, you know.” Others would stroll back to Wynyard station, networking at street corners. I became aware that geographers were meeting in the same venue as botanists, geologists, engineers, and other scientists. Were these now my peers? It dawned on me that I had found a second home, and a second family. That was the Society’s doing. *Bravo!*

Day excursions took members to the Kurnell peninsula, Hawkesbury River, Brookvale quarry, and Sydney’s northern beaches. Griffith Taylor led several of them. He would stand like Moses on the rock (Hawkesbury sandstone, in fact), declaiming away. He would dress formally in a jacket, tie, and felt hat, with binoculars slung across his chest and a rock-knapping stick to brandish before his devotees. He was always amending his own sketch maps. Were even our paragons prone to error, I wondered? Did Homer sometimes nod, as one of his Canadian students had dared to ask?

I recall our trip to the “Hole in the Wall” at Avalon. This was a cave in the sea cliff where whole choirs could amplify their reverberating songs. Griff fastened a rope to a bush at the top of the cliff, tossed it over the edge, then instructed his daughter to test its strength by lowering herself first. That accomplished, he followed her down the rope, directing us to descend after him. Were those old-fashioned field excursions what convinced me to look the real world straight in the face, eyeball to eyeball, and not depend on armchair reading? The Society opened my eyes. *Bravo!*

When I actually joined the Society in 1954, as a freshman, I received my first copies of *The Australian Geographer* (Volume VI). Journals were different, and these were my very own, as well as my very first. Journals transported me to front line thinking, right into the intellectual war zone. No longer was I confined to superseded text books. I could now glimpse the future, and soon pictured myself becoming part of it. How I admired those freehand maps by Edgar Ford, and the exquisite drafting of Kon Matveev and Hans Gunther. They mentored my own cartography. Here were articles by my university teachers, exposing their original research to the callow likes of me. These became benchmarks for my own work. Tom Perry showed me how geography could illuminate history. Ray Mathieson showed me how mathematical equations could transform the face of geography. But wasn’t my prose as precise and eloquent as theirs? Weren’t my ideas at least as profound? So I ventured further into geography with increasing self-assurance. My unwitting sponsor was the Society. *Bravo!*

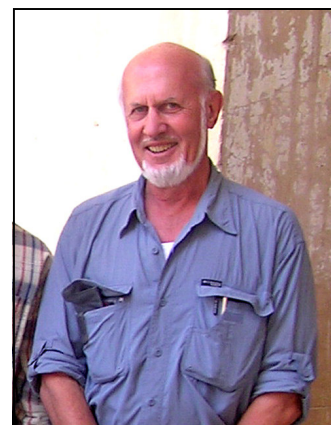
During the fifty years that followed, the Society published some of my own research, as if to place me on a pedestal alongside those whose work had originally inspired mine. Although I tarried in Cincinnati for thirty-three of those years, by maintaining my membership in the Society I could

still call myself an Australian geographer. My American students read the *Australian Geographer*. I could entice its editor to the 75th anniversary of the Association of American Geographers. I could offer American hospitality to the Society’s presidents. As an exile, I was hardly the pariah described by Ambrose Bierce: “one who serves his country by residing abroad, yet is not an ambassador.” With feet planted in two continents, I became a citizen of the world, as I believe all geographers should. We aliens could turn to the Society for consular services. *Bravo!*

When I retired to Australia in 1999, old friends invited me to busy myself in the Society. Other returning expatriates had done the same, among them Griffith Taylor and Marcel Auroousseau. Perhaps we felt an obligation to repay—in some small measure—what the Society had bestowed on us. In my case, the benefits continued unabated. The annual Honours Conferences brought me into contact with Australian undergraduates. Now the Emergent Geographies Conference is keeping me abreast of postgraduate research. These youngsters are our volcanoes. Colin Sale’s study tours and the Travellers Club have introduced me to dedicated lay folk who pursue geography without professing it. They are our bedrock. I applaud the Society’s vigorous defence of geography when its institutional homes are besieged, or when educators overlook its importance. *Bravo!*

Eight decades have now passed since that inaugural meeting on 10 August 1927. Geography has weathered wars and depressions, flood tides and ebb tides. Despite its longevity and continuing vitality, the Society faces a cloudy future. It still needs a permanent address, a reliable income, a larger membership, and a program adapted to the twenty-first century. More than anything, it needs the unstinting support of every academic geographer in New South Wales. Scholars have studied geography for well over two thousand years. The tender age of eighty is no time for the Society to rest on its laurels. Yet what laurels they are! *Bravissimo!* Long may you flourish, my octogenarian ally.

- Bruce Ryan



THE 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Councilors and members of the Society joined in celebrations to mark the 80th Anniversary of the GSNSW. The celebrations took place at the University of New South Wales, following the inaugural postgraduate student conference, on the evening of Thursday 15th November, 2007. Attendees mingled around tables with plenty of food and wine, enjoying a wonderfully diverse view over the city of Sydney, 11 stories high, that only Geographers would truly appreciate. Six current councilors gave entertaining speeches at the event reflecting on the past, and future, of the GSNSW. The proceedings of the evening benefited from the assistance of Danielle Drozdzewski, Rebecca Cross and Helen Karathomas — graduate students at UNSW. A big thanks to the three of you! Thanks are also due to Kevin Dunn, Marilyn Herrod and Gordon Waitt for assisting with plans and preparations for the evening.



Figure 2: Danielle Drozdzewski, Wendy Shaw, Chris Gibson & John Connell enjoying the celebrations (Source: Sarah James).



Figure 1: Ela Taranto, Jack Devery & Martin Pluss enjoying the celebrations (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 3: Pauline McGuirk, Bruce Ryan, John Connell, Kevin Dunn, Jack Aisbett, Colin Sale & Ken Hill at the 80th (Source: Marilyn Herrod).



Figure 4: Councilors Pauline McGuirk, Kevin Dunn, Colin Sale, Ela Taranto, Therese Kenna & Mel Neave giving speeches at the 80th Birthday celebrations (Source: Marilyn Herrod).

POSITION VACANT: OFFICE MANAGER, GSNSW

We would like to draw members attention to the following advertisement for the GSNSW Office Manager. Members may know of someone in a position to apply for this appointment.

Part-time, office manager position (1 day a week)
Clerical Admin State Award Grade 5 (\$144 per day)

The Geographical Society of New South Wales is seeking to fill the position of Office Manager. The Geographical Society of New South Wales is a non-profit organisation. Established in 1927, the aim of the society is to promote and support scholarship in the discipline of Geography. Key activities of the Society include publication of the *Australian Geographer*, a newsletter, the Travellers' Club, Study Tours and conferences. The Office Manager plays a crucial role in helping to maintain the Society's accounts, correspondence, records and organisation of events. The work of the office manager is suitable for a person seeking to work from home one day a week. The Office Manger is provided with a lap-top computer, necessary computer-programs, office supplies, printer/fax/photo-copier, telephone and internet connection. In addition, it is a requirement that the Office Manager attend five Council's five yearly evening meetings and the AGM, and to assist the chairperson organise five yearly meetings of the Society's Travellers' Club and to assist in Society events organised from time to time (e.g. conferences and seminars).

Applications should include a CV and letter addressing the following selection criteria. All application should be sent to:

Martin Pluss
Tara Anglican School
Masons Drive
North Parramatta 2151

For answers to any queries about the job description, please call Martin: 0447866464.

The closing date for the applications is **March 28th 2008**.

Geographical Society of New South Wales: Office Manager Selection Criteria

Essential Criteria:

- Experience of administrative duties, including office management, office, database and basic accounting software
- Experience or willingness to learn web-page management
- Experience of organising meetings, workshops or conferences
- Willingness to become involved in activities that support the aims of the Geographical Society of New South Wales.

Further details of Office Manager duties can be found on the website: <http://www.gsnsw.org.au>

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM 2007***Geography Travellers' Club***

Speaker: Colin Sale
 Topic: Central America
 Date: Sunday 9th March
 Place: St Ignatius College, Riverview
 Cost: \$10 per person (includes pre-meeting drinks & afternoon tea).

Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday 18th March
 Time: 7pm
 Place: Fischer Library Conference Room, University of Sydney

Geography Study Tour: Highlights of China

Leader: Colin Sale
 Date: 2nd—27th May 2008
 Cost: \$8,675

Geography Travellers' Club

Speaker: Lindsay Vowels
 Topic: Antarctica and Easter Island
 Date: Sunday 4th May
 Place: St Ignatius College, Riverview
 Cost: \$10 per person (includes pre-meeting drinks & afternoon tea).

Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday 3rd June
 Time: 7pm
 Place: Fischer Library Conference Room, University of Sydney

Geography Travellers' Club

Speaker: Stephen Codrington
 Topic: China's Ancient Teahouse Route
 Date: Sunday 27th July
 Place: St Ignatius College, Riverview
 Cost: \$10 per person (includes pre-meeting drinks & afternoon tea).

Geography Study Tour: Best of the Balkans (A repeat of the 2007 Tour)

Leader: Colin Sale
 Date: 10th Sept. — 11th Oct. 2008
 Cost: \$10,985

Geography Travellers' Club

Speaker: TBA
 Topic: TBA
 Date: Sunday 14th September
 Place: St Ignatius College, Riverview
 Cost: \$10 per person (includes pre-meeting drinks & afternoon tea).

AGM, GSNSW Fellowship and Student Awards

Date: Tuesday 16th September
 Time: TBC
 Place: University of Sydney.

Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday 21st October
 Time: 7pm
 Place: Fischer Library Conference Room, University of Sydney

Geography Postgraduate Student Workshop 2008

Date: TBC; Late 2008
 Place: TBC
 Contact: Therese Kenna
 Ph: 0421 222 034

Geography 4th Year Honours Student Conference 2008

Date: TBC
 Place: School of Geosciences, University of Sydney
 Contact: Dr, Mel Neave
 Ph: (02) 9351 6463
 Fax: (02) 09351 3644
 Email: mneave@geosci.usyd.edu.au

Geography Study Tour: Wild and Wondrous India

Leader: Colin Sale
 Date: 3rd—25th November 2008
 Cost: \$8,835

Geography Travellers' Club

Speaker: TBC
 Topic: TBC
 Date: Sunday 9th December
 Place: St Ignatius College, Riverview
 Cost: \$10 per person (includes pre-meeting drinks & afternoon tea).

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