

Issue 13: September 2010

In this Issue:

Regular Features

National Activities

State Activities

Student Space

Gerontology News

Looking Back

Upcoming Events



Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the AAG e-newsletter!

In April the Productivity Commission commenced its Inquiry into "Caring for Older Australians" seeking submissions into how the sector could be improved for the benefit of all older Australians. With over 440 submissions, the Commission will have plenty to digest as it prepares its report for Government in April 2011. If you would like to read the submissions, including the two prepared by the AAG, you can find them at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/aged-care/submissions>.

The AAG has also been busy over the last few months putting together a host of seminars and workshops on the theme of this year's Hot Topic "Housing and Older Australians". Issues covered to date have included homelessness and older Australians, independent living and apartments for life, residential aged care design for people with dementia, and Indigenous housing. It has been great to see so many different issues raised under this year's hot topic which has included perspectives from researchers, policy makers and consumers resulting in lively discussions and debates. The final Hot Topic event for 2010 will be the President's Symposium at this year's AAG National Conference.

Regarding the AAG National Conference, the AAG has been busy finalising the three day event which will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart from 15 to 17 November. Once again, the program is feature packed with an array of interesting sessions that will be sure to stimulate discussions and the cross-pollination of ideas for researchers, practitioners and policy makers. If you haven't registered yet, be sure to do so quickly. The Early Bird special expires on 24 September. For more information, including the current program and registration information, please visit www.aagconference.com or see the advertisement listed below.

The 2011 International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) Asia/Oceania Regional Congress is also shaping up well. The call for symposia is now open for those wishing to submit and we will shortly be inviting delegate registrations and calling for abstracts. For more information about the Congress, including a list of keynote speakers, please visit www.ageing2011.com.

With so much going on in the AAG, and within the field of ageing and aged care more broadly, now is a great time to get involved with the various AAG local activities on offer in your state. Not only is it an excellent way to network and meet with others with a fervent interest in ageing and aged care issues and latest research in the field, but it is also a chance to meet many of the new members who have joined the AAG and welcome them to the Association and to earn points towards becoming an Associate Fellow of the Association and derive further benefits. And for those of you attending the National Conference, we look forward to seeing you there.

Gill Lewin
National President
Australian Association of Gerontology

Tony Coles
Executive Officer
Australian Association of Gerontology

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Agenda

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Australian Association of Gerontology will be held at the National Conference, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania at 12.20pm to 1.20pm, Thursday 18th November 2010.

Business to be conducted:

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held 26th November 2009
3. President's Report
4. Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2010
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Election of office-bearers
7. 2011/12 Membership Fees
8. AAG Awards
9. Other Business

Close

Online access to the Australasian Journal on Ageing

AAG members who subscribe to the AJA through the Association are entitled to online access to the Australasian Journal on Ageing through **Wiley Online Library**. Featuring a clean and simple interface, this online service delivers intuitive navigation, enhanced discoverability, expanded functionalities, and a range of personalization and alerting options. Sign up for email alerts and RSS feeds, search for related content and click through to references.

It is easy to arrange access! All you have to do is email the AAG Secretariat at enquiries@aag.asn.au and request online access to the AJA. After confirming your AJA subscription, the secretariat will request Wiley Online to forward your access code and instructions directly to you at the email address detailed on your membership record.

Any queries should be referred to the AAG Secretariat.

From The AJA Editor's Desk

There has been a lot happening at the Australasian Journal on Ageing (AJA) in the last few months, and much more is planned before the end of 2010. In June, AJA received some very good news when our second impact factor was released. We were delighted that the journal's impact factor increased to 0.671, more than doubling our 2009 impact factor of 0.319. This achievement is due mostly to all the hard work put into achieving ISI listing for the journal. Meanwhile, we continue to work towards improving the quality of submissions to the journal.

The AJA Cover Photograph Competition ends in September, so please get clicking and submit your photos across the four themes: *Ageing in rural areas*, *Healthy ageing in the community*, *Intergenerational exchange*, and *Caring for the ageing population*, to the editorial office at sgoodwin@wiley.com, and help us to showcase ageing in our region. The prize for each theme will be a framed copy of the winning cover photo as an AJA cover, and \$100.

In November, the editorial team of the AJA is offering a workshop on *Writing and reviewing for scholarly journals: A view from Australasian Journal on Ageing* **at the upcoming** Australian Association of Gerontology 43rd National Conference, in Hobart. This workshop will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday

16th November, 2010. (See <http://www.aagconference.com/program.asp> for details). The facilitators will include myself, *Professor Richard Lindley*, and *Professor Yvonne Wells*, and we particularly encourage potential reviewers to attend.

Associate Professor Lynne Parkinson
Editor-in-Chief
Australasian Journal on Ageing

Regional Congress 2011 update - call for submitted symposia

Planning for the 2011 Asia / Oceania Regional Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology being held in Melbourne (October 23-27, 2011) continues to progress well. The call for submitted symposia is now open, with a deadline for submission by Friday 22nd October. Important details regarding the submitted symposia submissions are available on the conference website

www.ageing2011.com

These include that symposia should aim to include speakers from several countries within the region. People submitting symposia will be notified by late November 2010 of the outcome of their submission.

Other sections of the conference website are regularly being updated. Note that the call for oral presentations and poster presentations will be made in October 2010.

If you have any questions relating to the conference, please contact Felicity Nevin from the conference organisers - ICMS Australasia - felicityn@icmsaust.com.au

Keith Hill
Chair of Conference Organising Committee



Nominations Open: AAG General Council Member 2010

Nomination to serve as a General Member on National Council of Australian Association of Gerontology Inc.

Pursuant to Rules 18 and 19 of the Rules of the Australian Association of Gerontology Inc, the vacancies on Council are elected each year at the Australian Association of Gerontology Inc Annual General Meeting (AGM) and shall hold office for three years. The AGM this year will be held on Thursday 18th November 2010 (12.20pm – 1.20pm) at the National Conference, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania.

The AAG Council consists of the following officeholders:

1. the Executive Committee
2. the State Presidents
3. the Student President
4. 4 General Members (each serving three years)

At the 2010 AGM, two General Member positions will become vacant. Thus, NOMINATIONS are now open for the position of GENERAL MEMBER.

Nominations

1. The nominee must be a financial AAG member
2. The Nomination Form must be signed by the nominee consenting to the nomination, and must also be signed by the Proposer and the Secunder, each being a member of AAG and entitled to vote
3. With the nomination form, the nominee must send one A4 page outlining their biography and including a photo

4. If emailed to Secretary, the Subject heading must be: "Nomination for AAG General Council Member 2010"
5. To be eligible for election to the AAG National Council, a Member must give notice of nomination, to be received by the AAG Secretary no later than 5:30 pm (EST) on Friday 15 October 2010
6. Only one nomination per financial member will be accepted
7. All enquiries should be directed to the AAG Secretariat. E: enquiries@aag.asn.au P: 07 3103 1391

A copy of the nomination form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.aag.asn.au/constitution.php>

Election Process

1. Call for nominations will close 5.30 pm (EST) on Friday 15th October 2010
2. Information about the nominees will be placed in:
 - a) October E-Alert
3. If more than two nominations are received, an election will be held during the AGM

Nomination for election to the Council must be posted to:

Office Logistics
Secretariat for Australian Association of Gerontology
Suite 154, 236 Hyperdome
LOGANHOLME QLD 4129

Kind regards



Kristen De San Miguel
AAG Hon Secretary

State Activities

ACT Division

The ACT Division recently sponsored the attendance of Oliver Kickett at the Aboriginal Ageing Workshop and the Ageing North Conference in Darwin. Oliver is a senior policy officer in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit in ACT Health. The ACT Division looks forward to working with Oliver in developing local initiatives in relation to Indigenous ageing.

On 19 August, the ACT division had their Annual General Meeting. The guest speaker for the meeting was Andriana Koukari, Assistant Secretary, Office for an Ageing Australia. She provided an engaging overview of the broad spectrum of work being done by the department across all areas of the ageing spectrum.

On 11 August 2010, Kevin Vassarotti, ACT Division Secretary attended an informative research seminar on Older people and housing: the latest evidence. The seminar was organised by the Australian Housing and Urban Research institute (AHURI) and showcased some interesting research on:

- Dwelling and land use by older homeowners, Assoc Prof Bruce Judd;
- Reverse mortgages and older people: growth factors and implications for retirement decisions, Assoc Prof Catherine Bridge; and

- Integrating housing, support and care for older people: a national and international analysis.

The powerpoint for all presentations is available at www.ahuri.edu.au/events/event_downloads/. The convener of the seminar was Dr Andrew Hollows, Deputy Executive Director, AHURI

Ellen Skladzien, Newsletter Representative, ACT Division

NSW Division/Hunter Chapter

'The Silver Century – Prospects and Problems' **Seminar in conjunction with COTA (NSW)** **supported by Salvation Army Aged Care** **19th August 2010, Sydney**

In recognition of the late Emeritus Professor Sol Encel's vision and life work towards a just society

The ageing of Australia's workforce is set to reshape our lives. The issue of older people's participation was one of Sol Encel's passions, prompting him to draw together these distinguished speakers to consider the prospects and problems, the threats and opportunities, that an ageing workforce presents. It was terribly sad that Sol's death prevented him seeing the fruits of his labour, as we gathered for the *Silver Century* seminar in the Salvation Army Congress Hall in Sydney on 19th August 2010.

Sol's life and work was a unifying theme throughout the day. After welcomes from AAG (NSW) President, Julie Byles and COTA (NSW) President, Kath Brewster, Professor Hal Kendig reminded us of Sol's contribution as one of the founders of Australian sociology. Keynote speaker, the Hon Barry Jones, gave an engaging account of the history - and possible futures - of 'old age'. He stressed the problems that stem from conflating the 'third age' of healthy later life – potentially a time of personal fulfillment - with the 'fourth age' characterised by illness, frailty and the need for short term and intense care. He pointed out that, as the third age is a relatively recent phenomenon, society is not yet geared to meet the needs of this large group.



*Barry Jones and Janet Gilchrist
 (Executive Officer,
 AAG NSW)*

Representing the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing and Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, Pino Migliorino made an impassioned plea for policy-makers, and others in the ageing field, to fully embrace the diversity of older people. He pointed out that currently one in four Australians aged over 65 had been born outside Australia and that in ten years, this proportion will rise to one in three. Despite this, ageing policy and practice systematically fails to meet the needs of this growing cohort. He noted that, for example, Senior Citizens' Centres - an important venue for older people to connect with each other - are seriously under-utilised by CALD seniors who face many barriers to access. He was critical of groups purporting to represent the interests of older people, in which there was an over-representation of service providers and which did not reflect the diversity of the population. Pino expressed particular concern for older Indigenous people and refugees.

In a wide-ranging address, Professor Julian Disney laid out some of the policy changes needed in the Silver Century if the most disadvantaged are to avoid further social exclusion. These changes include improved urban development strategies to encourage decentralisation while maintaining access to necessary infrastructure and services; improved housing policy that encourages affordable housing that does not rely too heavily on (stigmatised) public housing; and substantial reforms to the superannuation system. Prof. Disney backed the Henry Review's call for tax reform that would remove unfair benefits to wealthy people, and criticised the welfare sector for habitually ignoring taxation policy that crucially impacts on welfare provision.

Professor Bob Gregory showed us that, as Hal Kendig observed, "the third age starts a whole lot earlier than we thought". Although we have been 'mesmerised' by the age '65' in the context of work and retirement, much of the discourse is informed by stereotypes that do not fit reality. One reality that surprised many of the audience was that ninety percent of men going onto the full pension do so from another benefit; in other words, these men are not retiring from fulltime employment, but have been out of the workforce for many years before 'retirement age'. This, Professor Gregory stressed, does not auger well for their

retirement, as they face old age with very limited savings and/or superannuation. Furthermore, the numbers of people on disability pension in mid-life are 'sticky' and - unlike unemployment benefits - do not reduce during periods of economic upturn.

Following these individual speakers, Barry Jones, Julian Disney and Bob Gregory took part in a panel discussion moderated by Hal Kendig. A significant thread emerged during the panel discussion about age discrimination in the workforce. An audience member in her mid-50s recounted her recent experience of winning an age-discrimination case, after being dismissed from her job when her employer wanted to replace her with a young male in his late twenties. The panellists responded that the ageing of the workforce may itself help to reduce age discrimination, since hirers are themselves ageing and may be less inclined to discriminate. Several audience members pointed out - quite passionately - that proactive efforts are also needed if age discrimination in the workplace is to be stamped out, including stronger legislation and broader structural change. Parallels were drawn with discrimination against women and the role of anti-discrimination legislation fought for by feminists in the past.

After a lunch kindly sponsored by the Salvation Army, we re-convened for a further panel discussion. Anthony Brown from the Men's Health Information and Resource Centre at the University of Western Sydney reminded us of the diversity of older people - echoing a theme raised by Pino Migliorino earlier in the day. Anthony warned that we ought not to become diverted by a discourse of 'competitive suffering' that pits different groups of older people against one another in an effort to determine who's the worst off. Alison Peters, CEO of NCOSS, picked up on the diversity theme, noting the importance of individualised approaches to meeting the needs of older people. She stressed that an individualised approach requires planning for the future - not only for those of us who are yet to become old, but also for currently older people. Priya SaratChandran, Senior Policy Advisor to Elizabeth Broderick, Commissioner responsible for Age Discrimination, outlined the Australian Human Rights Commission's work on age discrimination. She observed that age discrimination was the main barrier to mature age employment. The Commission takes a human rights approach to mature age employment, which stresses the right of older individuals to choose whether or not to continue working. Priya reported that the Age Discrimination Commissioner sees ageism as the root of age discrimination. The Commission is calling for a strengthened Age Discrimination Act, and is looking to conduct an 'audit of laws' to weed out legislation and policies that have a negative effect on older people. They are also calling for more research on which to build evidence-based policy.



*Alison Peters
(CEO, NCOSS)
and Anne-Marie
Elias (COTA)*

After a few final words from Julie Byles and Kath Brewster, attendees were invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the AAG (NSW Branch).

Report by Virginia Simpson-Young

Watch out next month for the Call for Papers for ...

AAG (NSW) Conference 2011

Across the Divide: Lessons on Care from Urban and Rural Communities

31st March - 1st April 2011

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

2010 Travelling Fellow, Professor Peter Langhorne

NSW Division and the Hunter Chapter have arranged with the NSW Stroke Network to co-host a seminar in Newcastle on Wed 10 November, at which the principal guest speaker will be the 2010 Travelling Fellow Prof Peter Langhorne. Full details of the program, venue and cost will be available shortly from aaghunter@aag.asn.nsw

Dr Virginia Simpson-Young, Newsletter Representative, NSW Division

Victoria Division

Evaluation of Programs under the National Dementia Initiative

Our June Forum was about cultural conceptualisations of ageing, presented by Dr Noorlaili Tohit.

Dr Tohit is a family doctor from Malaysia. She is currently undertaking a PhD at the Healthy Ageing Research Unit (HARU), Monash University, as part of the **Cultural Conceptualisations of Ageing Program (CCAP)**, under the supervision of Professor Colette Browning and Dr Harriet Radermacher. CCAP is concerned with studying the effects of culture upon conceptualisations of healthy ageing and how these affect health behaviours and health and aged care service usage. Current studies employ a model of 'cultural conceptualisations' to explore the ways in which patients and consumers understand healthy ageing and successful ageing. The project is validating the concepts of healthy and successful ageing in Anglo, Greek, Italian and Chinese Australians and examining whether there are significant cultural variations. Data has been collected in China and in Melbourne and study cohorts will soon be collected in Singapore and Malaysia. More information about CCAP can be found at:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sphc/haru/>

Dr Tohit's talk was entitled "We want a peaceful life here and hereafter': healthy ageing perspectives of older Malays in Malaysia". Dr Tohit conducted focus groups with older people of Malay origin in the Selangor region of Malaysia. Their discussions highlighted factors of importance to them which were not dissimilar to those reported by other older people – health, well-being and good family relationships. These older people had peace of mind as their utmost goal and their spirituality was fundamental and integral to achieving their goal.

The presentation can be found at:

http://www.aag.asn.au/filelib/Dr_Noorlaili_Tohit_-_Vic_Presentation.pdf

Queensland Division

As advertised in the last newsletter the Queensland Division is partnering with many other organisations to present

Positive Ageing Journey

Friday September 17th

Bardon Conference Centre, Brisbane

This day has been designed to be interactive, with a diverse program attracting both the wider community and professionals. It will offer those in attendance a range of ideas to enhance their own ageing journey through descriptive seminars and practical demonstrations

and

Prof Colleen Cartwright presenting her recent research on

Ageing, Ethics and Medical Decisions at End of Life.

Wednesday, 13th October, 5.30pm

followed by networking over a light supper and drinks at 6.30pm.

Venue: Ship Inn, Southbank

All members are encouraged to come to these events which always share up to date information that people working in all spheres relating to ageing can utilise as well as in their own life journeys.

Evonne Miller, President, AAG Queensland Division

SA/NT Division

The inaugural NT conference 'The Ageing North' has been a very successful event. The South Australian committee would like to thank Cathy Lock for all her efforts over the past year on their behalf in creating such an important event.

The South Australian state conference: 'Food for Thought! Recipes for Positive Ageing', will soon be upon us. Registrations are now open. It is being held in the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg on the 10th of September. The conference will be opened by Maggie Beer, SA's Senior South Australian for 2010. Keynote speakers include Mary Luszcz from Flinders University, Peter Orpin from the University of Tasmania, and Colleen Cartwright from Southern Cross University. As usual the close of the conference will include drinks, nibbles and opportunities for networking plus this year some interesting entertainment is being planned. Check the AAG website for more information, a copy of the program and to register online.

Our next seminar is being planned for November and will look at the role of the creative arts in ageing. Christine Putland from Flinders University will be the key presenter at the seminar and we are hoping to have a large display of arts programs and ideas from a range of organisations that interact with and assist older people with lots of opportunities for learning from others over wine and nibbles. Venue and date to be advised soon.

Helen Feist, Newsletter Rep, SA/NT Division

Western Australian Division

On Friday 3 September, the WA Division of the AAG held its forum entitled "Housing Matters!" in support of the AAG Hot Topic on Housing and Older Australians. The forum included presentations from Dr Chris Beer, University of Western Australia, Dr Elizabeth Karol, Curtin University, and John Thompson, from the WA Department of Housing. The Forum attracted a range of delegates to discuss housing issues such public housing and affordability, design, and housing choices for older Australians.

Prof Gill Lewin, Curtin University, is also looking for applicants for a PhD scholarship (Australian Postgraduate Award). This project will look at older people considering purchasing a personal alarm service and follow them forward for a year to see whether they have different outcomes dependent on their decision. For more information, please contact Gill Lewin at g.lewin@curtin.edu.au or phone 0419 988 311.

Donelle Rivett, Divisional Council Representative. WA Division

Tasmania Division

**43rd Australian Association of Gerontology
National Conference
*Islands of Ageing:
Building Bridges for People, Policy and Practice*
17th – 19th November 2010
Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania**

Are you a practitioner, researcher, educator, service provider, policy maker or member of the community with an interest in ageing and aged care?

Are you interested in the care and support of older people?

Do you want to participate in a thought provoking and informative national conference?

The '**Islands of Ageing: Building bridges for people, policy and practice**' conference in November will be a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions with colleagues and new acquaintances and to extend your knowledge and networks. This premier event in the ageing research calendar offers an excellent program including plenary sessions with Scotland-based Professor of Stroke Care Professor Peter Langhorne; Housing and Older Australians presented by Dr Diana Olsberg, Dr Catherine Bridge and Dr Anna Howe; and Professor Jane Farmer, Head of the La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University Bendigo Campus speaking about the involvement of older people in running basic services for themselves and each other in rural communities.

For further information on the conference, please visit the conference website – www.aagconference.com or contact the conference organisers:

East Coast Conferences
PO Box 848, Coffs Harbour, NSW, 2450
Phone: 02 6650 9800 Fax: 02 6650 9700
Email: aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Student Space

Heading into the second half of the year the student group has been active in its involvement with conferences and running information events for AAG students. Also, we have had some major milestones with a number of students submitting their PhD theses. In June, Lucie Baker, our Western Australian rep submitted her thesis titled 'Body Image in Older Adulthood: Development and Validation of a New Integrative Model and Quantitative Measure'. In August, Sharon Andrews, our Tasmanian Rep submitted her thesis on improving palliative care for people with dementia in aged care and Frances Batchelor submitted her thesis titled "Falls prevention for stroke patients following discharge home: A randomised trial intervention." Perhaps our cold winter has been conducive to writing. Congratulations to Lucie, Sharon and Frances on submitting and good luck with the reviews!

At the AAG National Conference in Hobart this year the student group will be organising a lunchtime panel discussion about how to turn a PhD into a career in research. Sharon Andrews is currently in the process of inviting panel members who will include early career researchers and more experienced post-doc and later career researchers. Some of the topics may include developing research networks and collaborations and locating post-doc opportunities. A student dinner will also be held on the evening of the 17th November and will provide students with an opportunity to meet and network with other students. Stay tuned for details from student reps coming soon.

Tim Henwood, Taylor Dong and Claudia Meyer continue to progress the student activities for the 9th Asia/Oceanic Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in October 2011. A tourist day is being planned on the weekend preceding the congress, with an informal visit to the Dandenong Ranges - stay tuned for more details. The website is now live at <http://www.ageing2011.com/> Please visit the website for the latest congress information.

Post PhD Panel Discussion

The Victorian Student Group held a dynamic informal discussion evening on "opportunities, surprises and disappointments of the post-doc experience" for students in July. Despite the heavens opening just before the event, there was a good student turnout and much discussion. The session was an open and honest discussion allowing students to ask questions of the panel members, John Van Holsteyn, Tony Coles and Melissa Russell. The discussion covered various options for students after completing a PhD such as attaining post-doctoral appointments, lecturing and academic positions, working in government and not-for-profit sectors, working overseas as well as the pros and cons of various career paths. The Victorian Student Group would like to thank the three panel members for their time and contribution.

Getting Published in A and A* Journals

The South Australian Student Group recently hosted a special presentation conducted by Dr Eva Kempf, from the School of Psychology at Flinders University. The Excellence in Research for Australia Initiative has highlighted the importance of getting research results published in top quality journals. As emerging researchers this can seem daunting especially when you hear that A and A* journals (i.e. the most highly ranked journals) have rejection rates of around 80%! A small group of PhD candidates, along with some other emerging researchers, appreciated the practical and encouraging advice given by Dr Kempf. Focussing on building up a profile which demonstrates potential, rather than focussing on only submitting to A & A* journals was one of the tips given to the group. Getting runs on the board is important as an emerging researcher and if you are branching into a new area. It was pointed out to the group that the top rating journals tend to be somewhat more general rather than specific in their content so keeping this in mind when writing up is important. Getting work published will not only have an impact on the field of research but will also aid one's career prospects, and be invaluable when applying for grants, so it's important to get your research published as soon as possible.

The final message was to think beyond reporting a single study. Can you realistically do a follow up study and/or replicate and extend the results from the first one? Can you collaborate with others in the same field to increase the coverage/breadth of a study? Is it possible to work together with others from different disciplines? So being strategic and having a plan from the beginning seems to be the way to go. I guess as PhD candidates we can get so caught up in the minute details of our own piece of work that we need to be prompted to take a step back from time to time and to remember the big picture.

Of course it wouldn't have been a student gathering without food and drink so after the excellent presentation we continued our discussion and grand plans for future research projects over coffee and cakes! Many thanks to those who attended and many thanks and congratulations to the newly promoted Associate Professor Eva Kempf.

Submitted by Chris Materne

AAG Deputy State Representative Positions Now Available

Are you a current AAG student member? Are you interested in becoming more involved, but don't really know how? A position as a deputy representative may be just the way to learn the ropes of the AAG Student Section committee in a friendly and supportive environment.

For the sustainability of the AAG Student Section we are looking for enthusiastic (or even just mildly interested!) Masters or PhD students or emerging researchers to fill a number of our deputy state representative roles.

The deputy state representative role is not at all onerous, and, as the old adage goes, many hands make light work. The role involves:

Assisting the state representative to organise 2-3 events (such as lecture evenings and/or social events) per year for the local student group

Attending (as able) the bi-monthly state executive committee meetings

That's all!!!

Benefits include:

- A gentle introduction to involvement with the AAG State executive committee
- An opportunity to broaden your network of research colleagues
- Improved understanding of the broader ageing research landscape
- An opportunity to help shape the student and wider AAG agenda

Please contact your state's student representative to find out more.

Kirsten Moore

Members Honoured



Ruth Inall

Congratulations to Ruth Inall and Dr John Hurley who were both awarded the Order of Australia Medal in this year's Queen's Birthday Honour's List on the 14th June.

Ruth was a founding member of the AAG, having attended the Inaugural National Conference which was held at the Australian National University in Canberra in June 1964. Her award was given for her service to aged care through the Australian Association of Gerontology. Dr John Hurley, who is also a distinguished member of the AAG received his award for his service as a leader and innovator in geriatric medicine through the development of best practice and quality improvement programs in aged care.



*Dr John Hurley
Photo courtesy of
The Courier, Ballarat*

Receiving this honour is an outstanding achievement and the AAG is very proud of both Ruth and John in receiving this wonderful recognition for their contributions to the field of gerontology and geriatrics.

Publication of a Gerontology Monograph - Calorie Restriction, Aging and Longevity

In July 2008, Associate Professor Arthur Everitt from the University of Sydney was invited by Dr Max Haring from Springer, the book publishers in Holland, to write a book on Calorie Restriction and Ageing. Four co-editors and 46 international authors produced a textbook of 18 chapters covering the biomedical aspects of the subject. The book was published in May 2010. During the 43rd National Conference of the AAG in Hobart in November the contents of the book will be described and several copies will be available for inspection.

National Aged Care Alliance meeting 30-31 August 2010

Summary Report

The last meeting of the National Aged Care Alliance was held on Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 August in Melbourne. With the outcome of the Federal election still hanging in the balance, there was a good deal to talk about in terms of where the aged care system might be headed, and what the election might mean for the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Caring for Older Australians. Both Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald and Assistant Commissioner Paul Lindwall from the Productivity Commission attended the NACA meeting to speak with delegates about some of the themes that had emerged from the inquiry submissions to date. As the Inquiry is seeking to take a more holistic approach to aged care reforms, there were a large variety of topics covered within the submissions. However, common themes were emerging. Of the 440 submissions received to date, an overwhelming proportion reiterated themes such as the need to support older people to live their lives in their own homes and in their own communities, the need to attract and retain aged care workers and nursing professionals in the sector, separating accommodation from care, and focusing on the requirements of special needs groups such as those living in rural and remote locations, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and older Indigenous populations. How the aged care system should be funded was also discussed appreciating the complexities of terms such as 'entitlements' and 'choice'. A draft report of the Inquiry is due out in December with a final report going to the Government in April 2011.

Bruce Shaw, National Policy Director, Palliative Care Australia also spoke to the Alliance about where PCA believes the health and aged care agenda requires reform. Bruce discussed the need for a coordinated whole of health system approach to overcome current health divides between acute care, chronic care, primary care, specialist care, community care and residential aged care in an effort to ensure all those

who require palliative care are able to receive it. He also emphasised that current arrangements with the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) do not adequately support palliative care needs despite increasing trends for hospitals to discharge terminally ill patients to aged care if they are over 55 years of age. These issues were raised by PCA in their submission to the Productivity Commission as well as in their recent report entitled "Health System Reform and Care at the End of Life: A Guidance Document".

The meeting finished with a session on the consultation process currently underway on "A National Framework for Advance Care Directives", which is being conducted by the Advance Care Directives Working Group of the Clinical, Technical and Ethical Principal Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. Both Dr Bronwen Harvey and Nicole Doran took the opportunity to seek comments from the Alliance on the draft Framework and to discuss issues such as decision-making pathways and making advance care directives user friendly for consumers as well as health professionals. The draft Framework can be downloaded at www.hwlebsworth.com.au/acdframework. For more information, or to have your say, please email acdframework.submissions@hwlebsworth.com.au.

"In Memory" - Professor Sol Encel (1925-2010)

Gerontology and Australian public life lost a leading scholar and champion for older people when Professor Sol Encel died peacefully on the morning of Friday 30 July. He had been working late the previous night completing a major publication on age discrimination in the workforce for National Seniors and the Australian Human Rights Commission. For many months beforehand he had been planning 'The Silver Century: Prospects and Problems' sponsored by the Australian Association of Gerontology (NSW Division) and Council on the Ageing NSW. A few weeks after his sudden death the event was held, with sadness, 'in recognition of the late Emeritus Professor Sol Encel's vision and life work towards a just society'. The day deeply reflected his excellence and commitment and we sorely missed him.

Professor Encel will be celebrated for his major contributions to Australian intellectual life and social commentary. His life's work was shaped by his own experience as a migrant arriving from Poland at the age of four years and his observation of the tragedies of Europe in the 1930s and the progress of Australian post war reconstruction and development. He was deeply affected by the social turmoil of the 1970s and was sought and respected throughout his career as a thoughtful and articulate advocate for vital social causes and disadvantaged people. When Sol spoke on ABC radio – as he did so many times – people listened.

Sol's first career was as the founding father of what then was the new discipline of sociology in Australia. Working originally in political science at the Australian National University during the 1960s he then moved in the 1970s to establish Australia's leading School of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of New South Wales. His book *Australian Society* (1965) laid the foundations for a generation of sociologists. His Phd students flourished under his wise mentoring, meticulous scholarship, and deep knowledge of philosophy and history as well sociology. Sol exemplified the highest values of rigorous and fair enquiry and debate, combined with honesty, humility, and social consciousness.

Sol's second career began in 1991 when he retired from Sociology at the age of 65 years and then took up an honorary appointment at the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre. With Allan Borowski and Elizabeth Ozanne he edited a new set of foundation books *Ageing and Social Policy in Australia* (1997) and then *Longevity and Social Change in Australia* (2007). While he was always actively involved in public and community service, Sol's energies were increasingly directed to ageing with his service on the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing and the Executive of the Australian Association of Gerontology (NSW). His quiet, authoritative words conveyed knowledge and wisdom with good humour and tolerance.

Over the last decade Sol devoted his scholarship and advocacy increasingly to shedding critical light on age discrimination in the workforce. His research found this discrimination to be real, deep, harmful, and based on prejudice rather than fact. To combat ageism he worked closely with Elizabeth Broderick and Priya SaratChandran from the Australian Human Rights Commission, Peter Matwijiw at National Seniors, and Anne-Marie Elias from the Council on the Ageing NSW.

Sol Encel was Australian Gerontology's leading voice and counsel for confronting ageism. He evinced the potential of older people by contributing deeply to public life during his own later life.

Hal Kendig Sydney August 2010

Looking Back

This issue we look at an extract from the first AAG conference held in Tasmania. Dr Alan Foster was a noted Tasmanian and a past President of AAG.

“The Aged Sick: A Mental Hospital Study” by Dr A J Foster

A sample of 55 patients aged 60 years and over in the Royal Derwent Hospital, Hobart (Tasmania's only mental hospital), was examined for presence of mental and physical disorders, prognosis, treatment and care of any disorder present, probable life expectancy, length of stay in the hospital, appropriateness of placement in a mental hospital, source of referral to the hospital, and family support. The study also examined the use of the hospital by Tasmania's three major geographical regions and the hospital's admission and discharge policies. The paper presents the findings of the examination.

The study suggested that 50% of the hospital's elderly patients were inappropriately placed in the hospital. The study also revealed significant presence of combined mental and physical disorders in the patients. The reasons for and ramifications of these findings were discussed.

To read the whole article please click on the following link http://www.aag.asn.au/filelib/AAG_September_2010_Newsletter_-_Looking_Back.pdf

Upcoming Events

AAG STATE EVENTS

ACT

28 September-1 October 2010 CANBERRA, ACT

Ageing and Spirituality: Resistance, Resilience and Change

Venue: University House, Canberra

P: +61 2 6272 6205

E: caps@csu.edu.au

W: <http://www.centreforageing.org.au/>

QLD

17 September 2010 BRISBANE, QLD

"Positive Ageing Journey"

Following the success of the inaugural Positive Ageing Journey (PAJ) Symposium in 2009, we are partnering with other organisations to run this event again in 2010

Venue: Bardon Conference Centre (full day event)

E: e.miller@qut.edu.au

W: http://www.aag.asn.au/qld_events.php

13 October 2010 BRISBANE, QLD

Evening event: Professor Colleen Cartwright, Foundation Professor of Aged Services at Southern Cross University and Director of the Aged Services Learning and Research Collaboration, will be the keynote speaker at this event.

E: e.miller@qut.edu.au

W: http://www.aag.asn.au/qld_events.php

NSW

31 March-1 April 2011 CESSNOCK, NSW

AAG (NSW) Conference 2011

Across the Divide: Lessons on Care from Urban and Rural Communities

E: Julie.Byles@newcastle.edu.au

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

September 2010

19 – 22 September 2010 HOBART, TAS

Aged & Community Services Australia Twenty 10 National Conference - Explore the Possibilities

The program is designed to challenge current thinking; stimulate creativity; create space for positive interaction and examine the current issues of the day.

Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania

W: <http://www.cdesign.com.au/acsa2010/>

23-24 September 2010 SURFERS PARADISE, QLD

National Dementia Research Forum 2010

Hosted by the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres (DCRCs), the Annual National Dementia Research Forum showcases the latest research in diagnosis, treatment and management of dementia, as well as providing updates on drug treatments, prevention of dementia and maintaining quality of life with dementia.

Venue: Holiday Inn Surfers Paradise

W: <http://www.dementia.unsw.edu.au/DCRCweb.nsf/page/Forum>

28 Sept – 1 Oct 2010 CANBERRA, ACT

Ageing and Spirituality: Resistance, Resilience and Change

Venue: University House, Canberra

Registrations close: 10 September 2010

P: +61 2 6272 6205

F: +61 2 6273 4067

E: caps@csu.edu.au

W: <http://www.centreforageing.org.au/>

29 Sept – 1 Oct 2010 DUBLIN, IRELAND

6th Congress of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS)

Venue: Convention Centre Dublin

P: +353 1 296 7252

F: +353 1 296 8678

E: louise@conferencepartners.ie

W: <http://www.eugms2010.org/>

October 2010

4-7 October 2010 ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

4th European Nursing Congress - "Older persons: the future of care"

Nurses from all fields of health care, including home care workers, general hospital staff, mental health professionals and carers for the mentally disabled, are invited to share their methods and their research findings with regard to care for older persons. Innovation, new ideas and creativity in organizing care will also be highlighted during the Congress.

E: info@rotterdam2010.eu

W: <http://www.rotterdam2010.eu/>

21 - 22 October 2010 NEWCASTLE, NSW

Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference

The Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference is the only national conference in Australia that showcases exclusively the work of postgraduate students doing research in ageing.

Venue: Newcastle City Hall

Cost: \$180

P: + 61 2 491 38325

F: + 61 2 491 38323

E: era2010@era.edu.au.

W: <http://www.era.edu.au/ERA+2010>

November 2010

3-5 November 2010

TOULOUSE, FRANCE

CTAD International Conference

The 3rd edition of the CTAD Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease will bring together the current leaders to discuss new results, drugs in development and future methodological issues (disease modifying outcomes, biomarkers, impact on healthcare economy).

P: + 33 0 467 10 92 23

E: ctad@ant-congres.com

W: <http://www.ctad.fr/>

11-14 November 2010 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

International Multidisciplinary Forum on Palliative Care

The forum is targeted at all medical professions from all fields of medicine and will focus on innovative educational sessions in palliative care.

P: +41 22 5330 948

E: mfridenzon@paragon-conventions.com

W: <http://www.imfpc.org/>

17-19 November 2010 HOBART, TASMANIA

AAG 43rd National Conference – Islands of Ageing, Building bridges for people, policy and practice.

Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

[Registrations now open](#)

P: 1300 368 783 / +61 2 6650 9800

E: aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au

W: <http://www.aagconference.com>

19-23 November 2010 NEW ORLEANS, USA

The Gerontological Society of America's 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting – Transitions of Care Across the Aging Continuum

500 sessions over 5 days

W: <http://www.geron.org/Annual%20Meeting>

23-24 November 2010 SYDNEY, NSW

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Healthcare 2010

Implementing a 'strength-based' approach to health

Venue: Citigate Central Hotel, Sdney

P: +61 2 9239 5700 or 1300 316 882

E: registration@criterionconferences.com

W: www.indigenoushealthcare.com

22 – 23 November 2010 ADELAIDE, SA

National Evidence-based Clinical Leadership Conference – Directing Policy to Action

The National Australian Conference will focus on the role of evidence-based clinical leadership in improving health and aged care.

Venue: Palace Nova, Cinema, Adelaide, SA

P: 08 8303 3637 (Chris Cafcakis)

E: chris.cafcakis@adelaide.edu.au

W: <http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au/events/2010NAC/>

2011

March 2011

25-26 March 2011 **SOFIA, BULGARIA**

1st European congress on Arterial Ageing

The 1st European Congress on Arterial Ageing will take place at the Kempinski Hotel in Sofia, Bulgaria on March 25 and 26, 2011. This event will treat "Arterial Senescence and Age-related Diseases".

P: +33 (0) 1 40 78 38 00

E: artage2011@aimfrance.fr

W: <http://www.artage-sofia2011.eu/>

April 2011

14-16 April 2011 **VANCOUVER, CANADA**

The Canadian Geriatrics Society organizes its annual meeting from April 14th to 16th, 2011 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver, Canada. With an active international participation, the conference will also present unique educational and networking opportunities.

P: +604 875 51 01

E: cpd.info@ubc.ca

W: <http://www.cgs2011.ca/>

14-17 April 2011 **BOLOGNA, ITALY**

VII International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) – European Region Congress "Healthy and Active Ageing for All Europeans II"

Deadline for papers (poster and oral communication): 15 October 2010

P: +39 055 2462.201

E: iagg@promoleader.com

W: <http://www.iaggbologna2011.com>

29 April 2011 **SYDNEY, NSW**

U3A Network NSW Inc 2011 Annual Conference, members meeting and AGM

"The Future in Mind"

Venue: Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney

28 April: Conference Dinner

E: info@nsw.u3anet.org.au

W: http://www.nsw.u3anet.org.au/?page_id=662

May 2011

30 June-1 July 2011 **BARCELONA, SPAIN**

IAGG 1st Intensive Course on Ageing

An international "**Intensive Course on Ageing**" will be organized under the auspices of the IAGG.

The program is currently under construction but the following main features have been announced:

Alzheimer's disease: from basic science to quality of life, Frailty, Nutrition and Ageing, Metabolic and Cardiovascular diseases.

W: <http://www.iagg.info/Intensive%20Course%20on%20Ageing>

November 2011

23-27 October 2011 **MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Ninth Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics

Every four years, the Asia / Oceania Region of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics coordinates a major conference to highlight the latest developments in the area of ageing. In 2011, the Australian Association of Gerontology, in collaboration with the New Zealand Association of

Gerontology, is hosting the **9th Asia / Oceania Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology** in Melbourne, Australia, from October 23-27.

Promotional slide for Regional Congress 2011

If any AAG member is presenting at a state, national or international conference in the coming 12 months, please contact the AAG national office (enquiries@aag.asn.au or +61 7 3103 1391) for a promotional slide that you can use at the end of your powerpoint presentation to promote the 2011 Asia / Oceania Regional Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology. This sort of additional promotion can be very effective in spreading the word about the conference to a wide audience of potentially relevant and interested persons.

Contact: Congress Secretariat, ICMS Australasia, GPO Box 3005, Melbourne VIC 3205

Close of call for abstracts: October 2010

P: +61 3 9682 0500

E: info@ageing2011.com

W: <http://www.ageing2011.com/>

* * * * *

TRAINING

16 September 2010 Online

Delirium – A Dangerous Condition

Objective – the registered nurse will be able to identify delirium; discuss the use of delirium assessment tools and facilitate the development, implementation and evaluation of nursing interventions to minimise the risks of and the management of delirium, as professionally required.

P: 1800 722 236

E: info@ageconcern.com.au

21 September 2010 Online

Effective Care Planning From Cognitive Assessment

Objective – the registered nurse will be able to analyse cognitive assessment data to effectively develop care strategies to support residents/patients/clients with dementia or cognitive impairment due to other conditions.

P: 1800 722 236

E: info@ageconcern.com.au

24 September 2010 GOONELLABAH, NSW

Aboriginal Cross Cultural Awareness

This course is intended to develop a better understanding of Aboriginal culture and the historical significance of this country. It also examines the impact generated by colonisation on present day society.

P: +61 2 6620 1800

E: admin@nrsc.org.au

W: www.nrsc.org.au

19-20 October 2010 PRESTON, VIC

"Assessment and Care Planning" training program

An interactive 2 day workshop designed for staff in HACC & Packaged Care programs. Key areas include assessment of decision-making capacity; goal-setting, development and implementation of care plans; and communication skills for understanding individual needs and building effective care partnerships.

Venue: Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre, Cnr Bell Street & St George's Road, PRESTON

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

P: +61 3 8387 2148

F: +61 3 9387 4030

E: l.bon@nari.unimelb.edu.au

W: http://www.nari.unimelb.edu.au/education/Education_programs.htm