



AAGNational

March 2003

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY

2002 - 2003 OFFICE BEARERS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This issue contains news of a number of important developments in expanding the knowledge of ageing.

Research in Ageing

The Building Ageing Research Capacity (BARC) project is a joint project between the Office for an Ageing Australia (OAA) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). It has the assistance of an expert Steering Committee, a number of whom are AAG members.

The BARC Project is looking at strategies to assist in providing the evidence base that is needed to support the decisions that must be made as the Australian population ages. A major step forward in that process was the Expert Forum held on 9 December 2002 in Canberra. Over 70 invited experts from around Australia, including researchers, educators, policy makers, providers and practitioners, gathered to take stock of where we are now with ageing research, the policy issues facing an ageing Australia, the problems or challenges in those key areas, and the gaps in evidence.

The Forum provided a valuable opportunity to develop a broader shared understanding across academic disciplines and between researchers and users of research, including policy makers, consumer representatives, service providers and practitioners, working together to help determine the priority research questions in the context of Australia's rapid ageing.

All AAG members will have the opportunity to be part of this process by attending the *National Symposium on Ageing Research*, to be held in Canberra, 23 - 25 September 2003. More information on the National Symposium is on page 3.

Work is continuing on setting up an Ageing Research Online website which will incorporate the Australian Ageing Research Directory, currently in hard copy only. Such a web based network would be a tremendous resource for researchers, educators, policy makers, providers and practitioners. It would facilitate the sharing of knowledge and setting up collaborative projects, especially of a multi-disciplinary nature.

AAG National Conference

In this issue you will find the First Announcement and Call for Papers for our 2003 National Conference, to be held in Hobart 12 - 14 November. The Conference will finish on Friday afternoon, leaving time to enjoy at least a weekend of seeing the sights of Tasmania.

If you like to plan ahead, you can count on the AAG National Conference being in November each year, to avoid clashes with other organisations and to give those with teaching commitments a chance to finish them and get to the Conference.

I am delighted to announce that the RM Gibson Fellow for 2003 is Prof Clare Ungerson, from the University of Southampton, UK. Prof Ungerson's special areas of research are community and informal care, and theories of gender and welfare. She is no stranger to Australia, and we will be arranging visits by Prof Ungerson to a number of AAG Divisions, before and after she features as a Keynote Speaker at the National Conference in Hobart. She will be able to share her knowledge of various European systems of paid and unpaid care work with members and in discussions with policy makers. You will find more information about Prof Ungerson on page 7.

Closer links with New Zealand

Cross Tasman ties in gerontology were strengthened by visits to Australia in November last year by Sally Keeling, President of the NZ Association of Gerontology, and Assoc Prof Judith Davey, Director of the NZ Institute for Research on Ageing (NZIRA). The website of NZIRA is www.vuw.ac.nz/ageing-institute, and you can visit and subscribe to a free list-server which aims to encourage Australian and New Zealand collaboration in research in gerontology.

The June edition of the AAG National will have a special report on research on ageing in New Zealand, and we are planning special joint sessions with NZAG as part of our 2003 National Conference. NZAG will have their next national conference in Christchurch at Easter, 2004, a delightful time of year to visit New Zealand.

*Barbara Squires
National President*

INSIDE...

- 2003 AAG International Partnership in Law and Mental Health 2
- Call for RM Gibson Grant Applications 2
- National Symposium on Ageing Research 3
- AAG fosters Aboriginal participation at Perth Conference 4
- Australia Day Honours to AAG members 6
- Upcoming Conferences 12

AAG

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

WEBSITE www.aag.asn.au

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2003 AAG International Partnership in Law & Mental Health

AAG members will have another opportunity to join in an international conference under the AAG banner at the beginning of October 2003 when the 28th Conference of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health is held in Sydney (see Diary Dates). The IALMH was founded on the belief that issues arising from the interaction of law and mental health can best be addressed through multidisciplinary and cross-jurisdictional approaches, drawing on law, the health professions, social sciences, and humanities.

The connections between the interests of the AAG and IALMH have lead the Academy to approach the AAG to co-host the "ageing day", which will come under the plenary theme *Children, Families and Ageing Citizens: Intergenerational Rights and Responsibilities*. Anna Howe, AAG Immediate Past President, is a member of the National Scientific Committee for the Conference and her role is focused on planning the ageing sessions. Under the

day theme of *Ageing and the Future of Elder Care*, four sessions will address questions of who is responsible for elder care, intergenerational rights and responsibilities, do the aged need special legal protection and end of life decision making. This last session will include a paper by AAG President Barbara Squires on experience with advance care directives in NSW.

There are other ageing-relevant Conference sessions under the plenary themes of *Mental Health and Public Policy*, and *Law, Ethics and Social Policy*. The latter theme includes a session on *Euthanasia, Suicide and the Right to Die*, in which a speaker will be AAG Queensland Division member, Dr Colleen Cartwright, a leading Australian researcher in this area.

A separate workshop on *Dementia Care Ethics* will be held on Monday 29 September, led by Prof Peter Whitehouse, who heads an integrated program

spanning neurology, psychiatry, psychology, nursing and bioethics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Special registration rates are offered to AAG members for the conference as a whole, for the ageing day and for the workshop.

This partnership will build on the relationships that George Tomossy, Executive Director of IALMH, has already established with AAG members. George is Associate Lecturer in the Law Faculty at Sydney University and his research interests include the ethics of research involving cognitively impaired elderly subjects.

More information about the IALMH conference can be found at: www.ialmh.org, or contact georget@law.usyd.edu.au or anna.howe@bigpond.com.

RM GIBSON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FUND

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

\$15,000 is available for the award of up to three grants to members of the AAG for medical research.

Research can include any investigative project undertaken by a person practising in the field of gerontology. Research projects must be related directly to issues or disorders associated with ageing. Projects must be innovative. There is no age limit for applicants but grants are intended for beginning researchers. Applicants must be able to supply evidence that appropriate supervision will be available.

The fund supports research projects by contributing to salaries, equipment and materials, computing charges and other

essential expenses. Grants are in the form of a single amount and will not be repeated for the same project. Grants may contribute to a larger project.

Grant awardees will be expected to present the results of their research project at an AAG National Conference. A free registration will be provided and additional support for travel may be granted for this purpose.

The RM Gibson Scientific Research Committee will make the final decision regarding the award of grants.

**Application forms are available from:
Australian Association of Gerontology**

**C/- The Centre for Ageing Studies
Laffer Drive, Science Park,
Bedford Park SA 5042**

Phone: (08) 8201 7552

Fax: (08) 8201 7551

Email: aag.secre@flinders.edu.au

**Or can be downloaded from the web
www.aag.asn.au**

CLOSING DATE 30 JUNE 2003

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGEING RESEARCH

23 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2003

Partner or Perish

Australian National University, Canberra

The structural ageing of the Australian population poses increasing challenges for policy makers and expanded opportunities for researchers. Now as never before there is a need to improve the quality and relevance of the research and statistical information available to guide both policymakers and practitioners. Improved collaboration and communication among policy-makers, researchers, industry, practitioners and consumers are required to meet the challenges of an ageing society.

The National Symposium on Ageing Research will:

- Review the draft National Ageing Research Priorities which are intended to identify key areas for ageing research over the next decade.
- Identify areas where the interests of policy-makers, practitioners and researchers converge, and the potential for alliances and strategic development.
- Examine the capacity of the ageing research community to tackle policy questions that have remained in the too hard basket for decades past.
- Explore the potential of multi-disciplinary and collaborative models

- Attract and inform researchers from diverse fields and emerging researchers
- Showcase the work of existing researchers and major centres that are already contributing to the evidence base.

Participants at the National Symposium will have the opportunity to share the experiences of major national and international figures in managing the interface between research, policy and practise. They will also have the opportunity to showcase their own work and contribute to the refinement of the ageing research agenda for Australia.

For further information, please contact Heather Logie at heather.logie@aih.gov.au.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

These are some of the issues discussed at the most recent meeting of the AAG's Council, and plans to take them further.

Students' Groups

The International Association of Gerontology (IAG) has formed the council of Gerontology Student Organisations to promote interest in gerontology and links between students worldwide. For further information, see the IAG website, <http://www.sfu.ca/iag/>

Members of Council believe it will be valuable for the AAG to investigate forming a student group or division, and have asked Taylor Dong (PhD student at the University of Sydney) and Dr. Laurie Buys who teaches in the School of Social Sciences at QUT, to take the idea further.

Indigenous Ageing

Council is keen to support indigenous involvement in the AAG, as a way of helping to improve the experience of ageing for indigenous Australians. As a first step, Council agreed that the current "Seniors/retired" rate of membership fee will be available to indigenous Australians aged 45 and over. Council has also established an Indigenous Ageing Sub-Committee which will put a proposal to the next Council meeting regarding indigenous involvement. The members are Rob Ranzijn (SA), Marjory Kobold (ACT), Jill Pretty (NSW), Tony Broe (President Elect) and Barbara Squires (President).

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AAG FOSTERS ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION AT PERTH CONFERENCE

The National, SA and ACT Branches of the AAG funded travel for two of the SA Grannies Group to attend the Perth IFA conference. The WA Office of Seniors also assisted with registration fee payment for these and three other Aboriginal speakers.

Besides the valuable networking that conference attendance offers, these workers are seeking contacts to create opportunities to increase the skills levels amongst their people, by co-operative ventures which respect the contribution they can make to resolve their own community problems. The Indigenous speakers demonstrated that much good work is initiated.

SA Grannies Group

Martha Watts and Veronica Brody spoke passionately about their experiences in the SA Grannies Group, established 4 years ago.

The Grannies have children who are alcohol- and substance-misusers. Many care for grand children, mostly without support. They meet to bond and discuss issues around the heartbreaking circumstances they experience. For the Grannies, getting together is most important. Solving problems, creating new partnerships to work on the intractable health and social problems in communities, and as a group, developing skills in consultation and advice, are side benefits. This strengthens their role as elders, the traditional source of community advice and control. Because it actually works, respect for their traditional role is increasing.

As part of the Aboriginal Drug Strategy, four workers were funded to work with families of users in metropolitan Adelaide. The Grannies meet regularly with the workers to explore what could be done better and to advise the Department about policy and services affecting them.

Satellite Groups have formed in other SA areas. They are not funded or incorporated, as they believe it could make it hard to speak out.

On their advice, a Kinship Program has been established to strengthen family bonds. Grannies

also meet and talk, providing advice to senior managers in Government Departments, the Prison systems, and Federal and State Ministers.

Kimberley Aged Care Services (KACS)



Marilyn Warra with Niddie, Aged Care Manager

Marilyn Warra and Selina Middleton spoke about their role as Aged Care Co-ordinators in the vast Kimberley region. Their key message was about community control of services and how pooling the funds of several aged care programs allows co-ordinated support by KACS to small community services to provide culturally suitable services.

Marilyn is co-ordinator responsible for about 10 community services based on Kununurra. In each community an Advisory Group assists planning, and a regional planning camp is held around two yearly to set regional priorities. She provides support and problem solving advice, advocacy and assistance to meet accountability requirements. KACS workers have produced "translated" tools to simplify reporting.

Selina outlined the positive outcomes of this culture-focused approach. Fewer elders are leaving their homes. Culture and language is being strengthened. More local people are being employed. Co-ordination offers better training opportunities and aged care is growing in status and value as a career.

Aboriginal Contenance Strategy



Esther Quintal

Esther Quintal, Aboriginal Liaison, Port Hedland Hospital, spoke about developing with an Indigenous advisory group, a national continence strategy for Aboriginal communities while seconded to the Commonwealth's National Contenance Strategy. She, with Dr Jan Paterson of Flinders University, outlined the development and trial of continence training materials they developed, auspiced by the SA Elders Committee.

The continence training package provides material at a range of levels. It is hoped that mainstream and Indigenous education institutions will adapt the materials for delivery across Australia.

Further information:

SA Grannies Group:

Marj Tripp Senior Aboriginal Liaison Officer, SA Department of Human Services (08) 8226 6212

Kimberley Aged Care Services:

Maxine Baird (08) 9192 1012

Contenance package:

Dr Jan Paterson (08) 8201 3266

Contenance Resources:

National Contenance Helpline 1800 330 066

*Marjory Kobold
formerly with Commonwealth Department of
Health and Ageing and University of Canberra
(Health Education,) now a Consultant working
with Indigenous aged and community care.*

NEW APPOINTMENT

AAG Fellow, **Professor Henry Brodaty AO**, has been appointed Chairman of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI). ADI, which has 60 member countries, is based in London. Professor Brodaty holds the positions of Professor of Psychogeriatrics at the University of New South Wales and Director of the Academic Department for Old Age Psychiatry at the Prince of Wales and Prince Henry Hospitals in Sydney. We congratulate him on his appointment.

INVITATION FROM ASGM

The Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine invites you to participate in the 2003 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at Crown Towers in Melbourne, from 16-18 June, 2003.

The varied and exciting program of the 2003 ASM is intended to be of interest to all health professionals involved in the care of the elderly. The Keynote speaker is Prof Ken Rockwood of Canada, a dynamic and motivational speaker who is extensively published in the fields of frailty, epidemiology and dementia. The Australian Keynote Speaker is Ophthalmologist, Prof Paul Mitchell from the Blue Mountains Eye Project who will discuss sensory deprivation in the elderly. In selecting the speakers and topics for this meeting, the organising committee has strived to cover some difficult to manage aspects of Geriatric Medicine, including Parkinson's Disease, Diabetes, the Older Driver and End of Life Decisions. We anticipate that the sessions will be thought provoking and discussion inducing as well as academically enlightening. More information, including timetable and registration details, can be found on our web-site at www.icms.com.au/asgm2003.

Dr Juli Moran, Convener.

Ageing and population health: knowledge and education needs of the ageing and aged care workforce.

A project team from the University of Newcastle, headed by Assoc Prof Julie Byles, Director of the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is conducting a series of qualitative telephone interviews in early 2003, to discuss with people working with older people and in aged care throughout Australia their educational needs, gaps in knowledge, and perceptions of current issues with respect to ageing and population health.

The aim of this research is to use the results to guide the development of teaching modules on

Ageing and Population Health, an identified Commonwealth Government need we have been funded to meet. All professionals involved in ageing and aged care are invited to take part in a qualitative interview of about one hour's duration to discuss issues around ageing and population health.

If you would like to find out more about how you can take part in a qualitative interview, please contact Dr Lynne Parkinson, the Project Supervisor by email at lynne.parkinson@newcastle.edu.au

APPLY NOW FOR THE AAG (SA/NT) RESEARCH AWARDS

The South Australia and Northern Territory branch of AAG is offering two Awards to researchers in the formative stages of developing a research profile in Gerontology. The AAG SA/NT Research Awards were previously known as the SANRA Research Awards and were presented in 1999, 2001 and 2002 and attracted widespread interest. The purpose of the Awards is to recognise the achievements of South Australian and Northern Territorian researchers, to encourage people to undertake and continue in research and to promote and disseminate current research in this field.

The two winners of the 2003 Awards will each receive a certificate of achievement, a prize of \$500 and an annual subscription to AAG.

Entries close for these awards on Thursday 24 April 2003.

For further information, including criteria, rules and procedures and an application form please contact Ms Dianne Langridge on 8201 7552 or email aag.secre@flinders.edu.au.



The Asia-Oceania Regional IAG Newsletter will be available shortly on the AAG web site.

www.aag.asn.au

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS TO AAG MEMBERS

Three people who have contributed to the AAG over a number of years have been recognised in the Australia Day Honours list, along with several others who have had made major contributions to improving the lives of older Australians.

ASSOC PROF JOHN SNOWDON, AM



Photo Courtesy of Southern Courier

John Snowdon's award acknowledged his service to the mental health of older people, with particular mention of his contribution to research and rehabilitation, and as executive and consultant on a range of government and professional organizations.

John completed his medical training at Cambridge University and St Thomas' Hospital in London, and after a three-year long "adventure" in Australia, returned to Britain in 1971 and studied psychiatry, subsequently working at the Maudsley Hospital in London. He returned to Australia in 1977, and after working at the Prince Henry and Prince of Wales Hospitals, moved to the Central Sydney Area Health Service in 1992, and is now Psychogeriatric Director, based at Rozelle Hospital.

John is a Fellow of the AAG. He has been an invited speaker at conferences at home and abroad, and his work has been published extensively. He has also had a considerable teaching role.

John says he "likes dealing with older people" and "enjoys getting people better", and is keen to see that older people have independence, opportunity and choice.

DR. MICHAEL BURR, AM

Michael Burr was a pioneer in developing aged care assessment and domiciliary services in Adelaide. Like a true pioneer, Michael met any obstacles that were in his way head on, and charted the way for those who were to follow. The service that he established in what was then the new territory of the Eastern Metropolitan Domiciliary Care and Rehabilitation Service, which had only commenced in 1974, laid the foundation for the system that became the mainstay of community care in South Australia.

Michael spread the word about opportunities for new endeavours in the field of aged care. He engaged widely, and vigorously, in public debate and put considerable time and effort into preparing reports and submissions to government inquiries into aged care to convince others of the need for expansion in the field. As a mentor, he influenced many young doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to take up careers in aged care as the field grew through the 1980s. Michael pursued the vision of aged care that he shared with others in South Australia through an active involvement in the AAG, and in taking a leading role in establishing the Australian Society of Geriatric Medicine.

DIANE GRIFFIN, AM

Di had a long career as a social worker in Sydney, much of it at Gladesville Hospital. Her work with older people with "senile dementia" who had been placed in the back wards of the hospital led her to be part of the group who established ADARDS (now Alzheimers Australia NSW) in 1982. She chaired ADARDS for the first five months until the first AGM. Di worked closely with Prof Henry Brodaty, and played a leading role in establishing groups of carers of people with dementia across NSW.

From 1984 to 1991, Di was co-leader of *Social Workers with Dementia Sufferers*, a network for support and resource information on dementia for social workers, especially those in rural or isolated settings. In the 1980s she worked with those seeking to establish guardianship legislation in NSW as she saw its potential to assist people with dementia. Di became one of the first members of the Guardianship Board when it began to operate in 1989.

Failing health led to her retirement, but she retains an active interest in the issues of dementia and ageing.

36th National Conference of the AAG

EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Wednesday 12 to Friday 14 November 2003
Wrest Point Conference Centre, Hobart, Tasmania

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Call for Papers is now available and a copy is enclosed with this newsletter. If you would like extra copies or information on possible pre or post tours in Tasmania please contact Melinda Andrews at aag.conf@flinders.edu.au or 08 8302 1051.

Important dates:	
Deadline for abstracts	9 August 2003
Close of early bird registration	19 September 2003

AAG National Conference Secretariat
C/- Centre for Ageing Studies
UniSA City East Campus
GPO Box 2471
Adelaide SA 5001
Phone: (08) 8302 1051
Email: aag.conf@flinders.edu.au
Web: <http://www.aag.asn.au/conf/>

CLARE UNGERSON - RM GIBSON FELLOW FOR 2003



Clare Ungerson, Professor of Social Policy at the University of Southampton, will be the RM Gibson Fellow for 2003. She will be a keynote speaker at our AAG National conference in Hobart, and will also visit several states, as yet to be decided.

Prof Ungerson studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford and Social Administration at the London School of Economics. She was awarded a PhD from the University of Kent, where

she was Reader in Social Policy prior to her appointment to the Southampton chair in 1993.

Her principal teaching and research interests are in the areas of community and informal care, and theories of gender and welfare, often within a comparative framework. Her books include *Policy is Personal: sex, gender and informal care* (1987), *Gender and Caring: work and welfare in Britain and Scandinavia* (1990), and two editions of *Women and Social Policy: A Reader* (1985; 1997). Her work on the process of the 'commodification of care' has been published widely both in the UK and abroad.

Her most recent research has been concerned with the shifting boundaries of paid and unpaid work, especially in the area of care. She has recently completed an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded project as part of the ESRC Future of Work Programme (with Prof Sue Yeandle, Sheffield Hallam University). This looked at the future of paid and unpaid care work in five European countries (Austria, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and the UK) where systems of cash payments to care users to allow them to employ their own caring labour have been introduced.

She and Prof Yeandle are now in the process of writing up the cross national empirical data, and

disseminating the results to a wide range of interested actors, including organisations of care users, carers, care workers, and key policy makers from the Departments of Health, Work and Pensions, Education and Skills, and the Women's Equality Unit, as well as local government Social Service professionals and locally based NGOs concerned with the support of care users and their carers. The final report of the project was awarded an 'outstanding' grading from the ESRC.

Prof Ungerson has visited Australia on several occasions. In 1994 she was a visiting fellow in the Department of Sociology, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. While there she worked on the second edition of her textbook *Women and Social Policy: A Reader* and developed her early ideas on the 'commodification of care'. She has since returned to Australia - twice in 2002, presenting two papers arising out of the ESRC funded project at the International Sociological Association XVth World Congress in Brisbane in July, and a plenary paper at the International Federation of Ageing 6th Global Congress in Perth in November.

Prof Ungerson is a member of the British Society of Gerontology and a past Chair of the UK Social Policy Association.

RHONDA NAY - PRESIDENT AAG VIC DIVISION

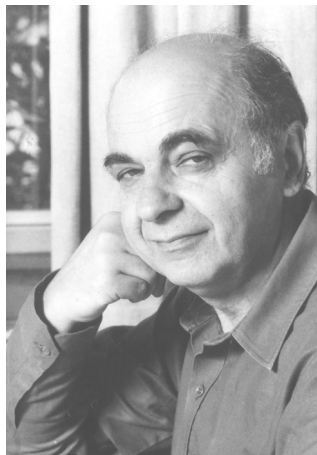


Rhonda Nay was elected President of the AAG (VIC) in 2002. She is Professor of Gerontic Nursing at La Trobe University. Rhonda started nursing in 1969, took out her BA and MLit at UNE and was awarded her PhD from the Department of Sociology at UNSW. She has been actively involved in the AAG since 1984 and was elected a Fellow in 2000. She is also a Fellow of the RCNA and the College of Nursing (NSW) and an Expert Advisor to the International Council of Nurses. Rhonda is Director of the Gerontic Nursing Clinical School and the Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care, located at Bundoora Extended Care Centre and Caulfield General Medical Centre. She is also a Director on the Aged Care Accreditation and Standards Agency Board.

Rhonda chaired the Minister's Awards for Excellence in Aged Care in 2000 and 2001 and has served on a number of Editorial Boards and numerous national and State committees, including the National Advisory Committee on Ageing, the Commonwealth Aged Care Workforce Committee, the Nurses Board of Victoria Accreditation and Practice Committee and the Australian Health Care Agreements Reference Group on continuum of care. Rhonda has undertaken research into many aspects of aged care and gerontic nursing and presented and published her work internationally. Some of her recent work has included recruitment and retention and evidence - based practice related to care of people with dementia in residential, acute and sub-acute settings.

PUBLIC POLICY, AGEING AND WORK

Report on a Symposium at Cambridge University



By Prof Sol Encel, Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW

In December 2002, a 3-day symposium took place at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, devoted to a range of issues arising from the ageing of the work force. The symposium was organised by the recently established Interdisciplinary Centre for Research on Ageing, and sponsored by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation as part of its program of research reports entitled *Transitions After 50*.

Altogether, more than 50 people participated, representing 7 countries: Australia, Finland, Germany, Japan, The Netherlands, UK and the United States. The participants were a mixed group, drawn from government, NGOs, unions, employers' associations, private consultants and the universities. The Australian delegation comprised five people. Apart from myself, they included Ivan Neville, from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations; Linda Matthews, Equal Opportunity Commissioner for South Australia; Louise Rolland, from the Business Work and Ageing consortium, and Dr Margaret Steinberg, from the Queensland University of Technology.

Each delegation was asked to present a national report on the workforce situation in that country and the development of public policy responses. Some countries (notably Germany) supplied several reports expressing varying approaches to the issues.

Emphasis on the extension of working life has

grown in most countries which are members of OECD. It arises partly because of high levels of unemployment among older workers (defined variously as 40 plus, 45 plus, 50 plus, and 55 plus). More important, perhaps, is concern about the decline in labour force participation rates among men over 50. Concern about the impact of an ageing population on the availability of labour and pressure on established pension systems is probably the most important of all. Together, these pressures result in the demand for policies designed to extend working life and to improve employment opportunities for older people before they reach pensionable age.

The seven countries represented at the symposium have all developed public policy responses to these pressures. They include:

- Removal of incentives to early retirement and encouragement of later retirement
- Abolition of compulsory retirement
- Banning of age discrimination
- Gradual or phased retirement schemes
- Consciousness raising campaigns
- Training and placement programs for older workers
- Support for employers
- Employment subsidies and other employment incentive schemes

Most of the work done in the symposium took place in four workshops, each of which was assigned the task of reviewing the implications of public policy in particular areas. The final session attempted to knit together the discussions in the workshops, and came up with a number of basic issues relevant to public policy. They included:

- Targeting of older workers vs promotion of diversity
- Incentives for action vs restrictive rules
- Preservation of workers' rights
- Balancing of taxes and benefits to enhance incentives
- Encouragement of later retirement, but not at the expense of those who are forced to retire because of health or personal situation
- Incentives for people of all ages to undertake training
- Balancing of financial incentives to work by incentives to volunteer and to care.

Underlying this discussion are the ethical and moral issues created by policies of encouraging people to stay at work until later in life. The preferred age for retirement in many countries including Australia, is in the age range 55 - 60. People who work in boring, strenuous, or hazardous occupations would, in general, prefer to retire at that time in their lives. Social and political pressure to stay on is certain to increase. Discussions like those in Cambridge are becoming more frequent, and the contribution of organisations like AAG and COTA will be of particular importance.

Sol Encel

JOURNAL PAPERS SOUGHT

The editors of *Clinical Nursing Research*, an international, peer-reviewed, evidence-based journal, are seeking material on topics related to improving clinical practice. Special attention will be given to material related to the elderly/gerontology, stroke, and pain management. More details at:

<http://www.sagepub.com>

CALL FOR PAPERS

7th Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology, Tokyo, Japan
November 24-28, 2003

Attention all Members.

The Organising Committee in Japan has decided to extend the date for the submission of

ABSTRACTS UNTIL 30 APRIL 2003.

However it would help the Committee if you could ensure that your abstract is submitted as soon as possible. Further Congress information is on the website (<http://www.convention.co.jp/7thaog>), and in *Diary Dates*

Ruth J Inall
Executive Secretary
IAGR Asia/Oceania

QLD



Members of the Queensland Division had the opportunity to attend the inaugural Emerging Researchers Conference (ERA) as part of the Division's activities for 2002. Held in November at Customs House, Brisbane and attended by over 200 delegates from across Australia, the conference was conceived and organised by the Australasian Centre on Ageing at The University of Queensland. The conference concentrated on the range of methodological approaches PhD students are utilising to investigate ageing issues. The broad range of disciplines involved in research on ageing has meant that various methodologies are utilised, each offering valid insights into the ageing phenomenon.

Prof Gary Andrews delivered a keynote address on Gerontology, the field of the future. This set an excellent context for the day's presentations, which reported on research studies addressing many of the key issues identified by Prof Andrews.

The event was particularly timely as a new Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing initiative on Building Ageing Research Capacity (BARC) was launched earlier in 2002. The ERA conference therefore took the opportunity to explore research student experiences, perspectives, career expectations and needs in a panel discussion during this one-day event. The deliberations will be channelled to the BARC Steering Committee to help inform national strategic development on ageing research in Australia.

The Australasian Centre on Ageing has also published the Proceedings of the conference. The Proceedings reflect the diversity of ageing research currently being undertaken by PhD students from numerous disciplines across Australia. The papers are grouped into six themes: social policy issues, communication and cognition, retirement and economic issues, health risks, aged care, and exercise and body image. The Proceedings are available by contacting the

Centre. Alternatively, abstracts can be viewed on the website at <http://www.uq.edu.au/aca/downloads/Abstracts.pdf>

The AAG provided valuable support for the conference, along with the Seniors' Interests Unit in Queensland's Department of Families, Aged Care Queensland, and Commonwealth CareLink, West Moreton - South Coast Region. The ERA conference is set to become an annual one that not only makes a significant contribution to informing the evidence base of ageing policy and practice in Australia, but that also promotes the field of ageing as an exciting and important option for research students in the future.

Planning is well in hand for the Seminar program for 2003 which will have the overall topic of *Community Care - Old Issues, New Challenges*. At the first seminar, to be held on 25 February, 2003, Dr Diane Gibson from the AIHW will be the guest speaker and we are looking forward to a very successful year.

*Sandra Woodbridge
President*

NSW



For the NSW Division, the New Year has started with great activity as we finalise the details for our rural conference to be held in Coffs Harbour on 20 and 21 February. The NSW Division is very grateful for the generous support for this conference by Coffs Harbour City Council, Ramsey Health Care Services, Regional Express Airlines, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

Papers to be presented at this conference titled *The Future of Ageing, when the Baby Boomers Retire* address topics on the needs of this population as they retire on the coastal fringes of NSW, retirement incomes, health care planning for the ageing baby boomers, the impact on business, retail products and services in rural communities and the need for a skilled

workforce. The opening keynote speakers include Prof Len Gray, Kath Brewster, Deborah Kuhn, Assoc Prof James Curran and AAG's National President Barbara Squires.

Following the conference, there will be the first Coffs Coast *Retirement & Lifestyle Expo* which will commence with a hypothetical, *When the Baby Boomers Retire*, hosted by Cornelia Francis. The registrations indicate that there is considerable interest in this conference from all areas of NSW as well as other States and it is shaping up to be one of our largest rural conferences.

The Executive is also planning to hold a half-day seminar in June and a further day seminar in August in conjunction with our AGM. Topics that are being considered are the needs of the ageing Australian ethnic population and international trends in the provision of services to the future ageing population. Planning has already commenced for the 2004 rural conference to be held in the Hunter with our Hunter Chapter and Hunter Ageing Research.

This year looks to be another exciting and active year and our aim through our seminars and conferences is to demonstrate the benefits of membership of AAG to our colleagues in all professions and to promote an interest in the study of ageing to undergraduate and post graduate students.

*Jill Pretty
President and Newsletter Representative.*

VIC



Following our successful one day conference *Older People and Acute Hospitals*, the Division, along with COTA, the National Ageing Research Institute and the Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine co-sponsored the State Department of Human Services seminar on *Making the Hospital System Work for Older People* in December, 2002. Like our conference, this well-attended seminar highlighted the importance of health system experiences to older people. The

consumer perspective, presented by COTA and members of the State Minister's Advisory Council of Senior Victorians, was supported by practice reports from innovative projects funded by the State Department which emphasized the goal of 'elder-friendly' hospital systems that provide positive health outcomes and continuity of care. Details of the projects are available from Janet Laverick from the Sub-Acute and Care Continuity Unit at the State Department of Human Services.

The Division completed the year with a forum on *Future Policies for Aged Care* just prior to the State election. Mr Andre Zamurs, Chief of Staff for the Health Minister, presented the Government's position while Ms Helen Shardey, Shadow Minister for Ageing and Housing, presented the Opposition's future policies. Ms Shardey emphasized the coalition's philosophy of increasing choice for Older Victorians. She gave the example of developing a Meals-on-Wheels voucher system whereby consumers can select their own meals provider. She also discussed, inter alia, ways of enhancing volunteerism, further developing U3A, and the possibility of mandatory reporting for elder abuse. This latter topic generated many audience questions and debate. Mr Andre Zamurs then outlined the Government's achievements to date and further developments planned. He said the current government over the last three years had increased State funding on HACC by 46%, residential care by 104% and palliative care by 22%. Like the conferences referred to above, he identified increasing demand on the hospital system as a major area of concern. Planned responses to this include increasing by a large \$890 million expenditure on the Hospital Demand Strategy program, further financial incentives for greater collaboration between GPs, emergency departments and residential care, as well as new rehabilitation centres with expertise in aged care, and enhancing health promotion programs for older people. Audience questions raised issues covering delayed approvals for residential care, shortage of allied health in rural areas, nursing ratios, and the need for more research funds in ageing. Overall, this forum was very topical. The State election resulted in a resounding re-election of the ALP, and the new Minister for Aged Care in Victoria

is the Hon Gavin Jennings MLC.

The first forum to be conducted by the Division in 2003 will be on the new *Nurse Practitioner Aged Care Project* presented by nurse researchers and practitioners from the Royal District Nursing Service. The financial base of the Division is sound, the executive continues to discuss membership increase and a survey of members is being planned. Student issues such as reduced fees and the awarding of local prizes / scholarships are being considered. Overall, the executive looks forward to a productive year. We also pass on our congratulations to our President, Prof Rhonda Nay, on her appointment to the Federal Minister's new National Advisory Committee on Ageing.

*John McCormack
Newsletter Rep.*



The ACT Division looked to *The Future of Research and Healthy Ageing* at a presentation by Prof Tony McMichael, Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, in December 2002. Prof McMichael has conducted studies of occupational diseases, dietary influences on non-communicable diseases, socioeconomic studies of occupational health differentials, and environmental health problems. He has interests in the population health consequences of global environmental change and ecosystem disruption. His recent book, *Human Frontiers, Environments and Disease: Past Patterns, Uncertain Futures*, was published in 2001. Prof McMichael spoke on a broad range of research and direction and the longitudinal study on healthy ageing.

2003 promises to be an interesting and challenging year for the ACT Division. There have been some operational changes to the local committee that we believe will enhance our effectiveness. Further developing awareness and focus on research is high on our agenda for 2003

and a sound seminar program is planned.

Canberra is pleased to welcome Prof Marc Budge to the Australian Capital Territory. In January 2003, Prof Budge has commenced as the Head of the Academic Geriatric Medicine Unit, Australian National University Medical School and Senior Staff Specialist at The Canberra Hospital. Formerly a Clinician and MRC-funded Senior Research Fellow in the multidisciplinary Oxford Project To Investigate Memory and Ageing (OPTIMA) at the Radcliffe Infirmary (UK). His role as chief investigator/ medical consultant to OPTIMA and the NH-funded Maine-Syracuse longitudinal study of cognition and ageing of Boston University continues. His primary interests are the prevention and management of cardio-vascular and cognitive decline with ageing and disease.

Our thoughts are with the citizens of Canberra who were and continue to be affected by the fires of 18 January 2003. We are very saddened by this tragedy, but are grateful to all those who have provided support and continue to do so as we rebuild.

*Margaret Hodge,
Secretary*



Even with Christmas and New Year quickly approaching, the SA/NT Division showed few signs of slowing down with events to end the year memorably and planning events for the upcoming year.

19 November saw the successful launch of the new rural initiative *New Horizons in Aged Care*. The half day seminar held at Murray Bridge in conjunction with the Hills Mallee Aged Care Facility provided a broad update on a diverse range of topics of direct, practical interest to individuals working in aged care settings or delivering specialist services to older people. The program which included topics such as

understanding medication issues, practical falls management, managing change in acute care facilities, education and training options in the aged care sector, stroke, complementary therapies and IT systems in aged care, gained extremely positive feedback from attendees. This praise must be partly attributed to the effective use of the collaborative educational needs identification planning model. As its name indicates, the model involves a process of consultation with aged care stakeholders in the region to identify topics of interest, which is key to designing a community relevant seminar program. In the wake of this success, there are plans in the Division to extend the model to other rural communities in 2003.

4 December saw us end the year's seminar program with a bang and a splash! *The Ageing Time-Bomb Debate* challenged those present to reconsider the evidence for the dire predictions of societal collapse under the strain of a rapidly ageing population. Were these realistic or just plain pessimistic? Kicking off the debate, Division president Dr Rob Ranzijn presented evidence for the apocalyptic demography of a decade's time where fewer workers would be supporting increasingly larger numbers of older people, and the means society would be forced to consider in order to address this imbalance. Challenging the pessimism of this viewpoint, Prof Graeme Hugo, Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems, indicated there were important considerations that were not made in the analysis of the dire demographic data, and provided compelling alternative interpretations of it. These challenging viewpoints definitely made for lively conversation over the Christmas drinks that followed!

With 2003 scarcely underway, the Divisional Committee has already completed considerable planning and looks to provide a new and exciting year of events for members and the wider public. The planning for the 2003 Conjoint Scientific Meeting is going full steam ahead with the appointment of Emeritus Prof Freda Briggs as the keynote speaker for this year. The year's seminar program has also been planned and comes under the theme of *Innovative Interventions*. Seminars will look at the various divisions in aged care and the interventions that

stimulate thought and challenge conventional perceptions of ageing while bringing great benefits to older people. The first of these seminars planned for 26 February and will focus upon *Acute Care in Aged Care Settings*. The aim of this seminar will be to highlight the positive steps which can be and are being taken by aged care service providers to improve the quality and effectiveness of their management of acute incidents and conditions.

Thu Vu
Newsletter Rep.



A *Breakfast at Northbridge* was our final public meeting for the year. Gill Lewin provided an introduction to the *Vision for Community Care* discussion paper, and Chris Teye outlined the components of *Australian Palliative Aged Care Project*. At this meeting too, tribute was paid to Distinguished Person Award recipient Margaret Davey.

One of the "spin offs" from the I.F.A. 6th Global Conference has been the highlighting of many of the individuals actively engaged in research on ageing in W.A.

In the general plan for activities in 2003, floated at the last WA Division Committee meeting for 2002, proposals included providing further opportunities for presentation of studies by WA researchers of various disciplines, together with an invitation to students to contribute.

Also being considered is another Regional Seminar at Bunbury mid year, featuring some of the WA contributors to the 6th Global Conference, for those unable to attend in 2002, and in the city, two evening open meetings at Bullcreek and a *Breakfast at Northbridge*.

Our fine Newsletter Rep Jennie Cox found it necessary to temporarily relinquish her position

because of increased responsibilities to her family. Jennie, who is on extended leave from her position as a Community Nurse at the Department of Community and Geriatric Medicine, Fremantle, has been a tower of strength to AAG (WA) and our thoughts are with her in a difficult time.

Another willing contributor to the work in WA has been Chris Teye in spite of her husband's prolonged serious illness.

Our best wishes go out to these and all who have helped the cause in 2002 and we look forward to welcoming those whose work we have become aware of through contacts in various ways.

Ron Okely
President.

Appreciation

Thanks to Pam Bongers (ACT Division) who has generously assisted with editing this edition.

NEW FEATURE ON WEBSITE:

You will now be able to access past copies of the AAG National Newsletter on the web. The AAG's web address is: www.aag.asn.au

NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP

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COPY DEADLINE

Copy for the June 2003 issue of the AAG National is due on 30 April 2003. Please email to dianne.langridge@flinders.edu.au or fax: (08) 8201 7551

2003

March 18 - 21 MELBOURNE

Alzheimer's Australia National Conference
Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Choices
Email: info@wsm.com.au

March 22 - 26 AUSTRIA

43rd Austrian Congress of Geriatrics
Can we delay our aging?
Bad Hofgastein
Tel: +43 1 406 8340
Email: office@congress-man.at

March 25 - 28 GOLD COAST

Aged Care Queensland
State Conference & Trade Exhibition
Through the Looking Glass
Conrad Jupiters
Tel: 07 5592 1133
Web: www.acqu.org.au/conferences.htm

April 22 - 24 CANBERRA

Centre for Ageing & Pastoral Studies,
St Mark's Theological College
*Spiritual Tasks of Ageing: Humour and
Despair in Later Life*
Aust Centre for Christianity and Culture
Tel: 02 6273 8551
Email: cgliddon@csu.edu.au

April 30 - May 3 ARGENTINA

Pan American Congress of Gerontology
Buenos Aires, Argentine Medical Association
Argentine Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics
Tel: +54 11 4805 1699
Fax: +54 11 4961 0070
Email: sagg@connmed.com.ar
Web: www.sagg.org.ar

May 10 MELBOURNE

May 17 SYDNEY

May 24 BRISBANE

2003 Life Extension Symposium
Overseas and local speakers.
Full day. Trade Exhibition. Free lunch
Tel: 02 93513688
Web: www.life-extendors.com.au

June 16 - 18 MELBOURNE

Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine
Annual Scientific Meeting
Crown Towers, Melbourne
Email: asgm2003@icms.com.au
Web: www.icms.com.au/asgm2003

June 26 - 27 SYDNEY

The Hammond Care Group
Challenging Depression in Aged Care
Sponsored by Commonwealth Dept.
on Health & Ageing
University of New South Wales
Email: conference@hammond.com.au
Web: www.hammond.com.au/conference

July 1 - 4 BRISBANE

International Nursing Conference
Nursing in a Technological World
Queensland University of Technology
Hilton Hotel, Brisbane
Tel: 07 3864 1451
Web: www.hlth.qut.edu.au/inc2003

July 2 - 5 SPAIN

5th European Congress of Gerontology
Quality of Life for an Ageing Society
Barcelona, Spain
Email: barcelona2003@biotour.es
Web: www.eriag.com/barcelona2003

Aug 6 - 8 BRISBANE

National Demonstration Hospitals Program
Phase 4
A Better Third Age, Health Care for older people
Carlton Crest Hotel
Tel: 1800814611
Email: ozaccom@ozaccom.com.au

Aug 17 - 22 CHICAGO

11th International Congress
International Psychogeriatric Association
Email: chicago2003@ipa-online.org
Web: www.ipa-online.org

Aug 27 - 30 FLORENCE

2nd Congress of the European Union Geriatric
Medicine (EUGMS)
Web: www.eugms.org

Sept 18 - 19 CANBERRA

Carers Australia National Conference
Caring Matters
Email: carers@con-sol.com

Sept 23 - 25 CANBERRA

National Symposium on Ageing Research
Partner or Perish
Australian National University
Email: heather.logie@aihw.gov.au

Sept 28 - Oct. 3 SYDNEY

28th International Congress on Law and
Mental Health
Email: Sydney2003@ialmh.org
Web: www.ialmh.org

October 13 - 15 CHINA

4th International Symposium on Chinese Elderly
*Responding to the Changing Needs of the
Elderly: Ethics and Policy*
Beijing, The People's Republic of China
Fax: 86-10-62751976
Email: chengong@pku.edu.cn

October 19 - 22 PERTH

Aged & Community Services Australia
16th National Conference & Trade Exhibition
Journey to the New Aged
Burswood International Convention Centre
Perth WA
Web: www.acswa.org



Nov 24 - 28 TOYKO

7th Asia Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology

Email: 7thaog@convention.co.jp
Web: http://www.convention.co.jp/7thaog/
Tour Brochures are available from the
IAGR Secretariat
Private Bag No 1,
Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Tel: 02 9331 6920
Fax 02 9331 7296
Email: management@apcsyd.com.

Dec 8 - 12 CANBERRA

International Conference on Population Ageing
and Health
Modelling Our Future
Email: conference@natsem.canberra.edu.au

2004

October 15 - 17 JAPAN

20th International Conference of Alzheimer's
Disease International
Dementia Care in an Aging Society
Kyoto, Japan
Email: adi2004@jtbcom.co.jp
Web: www.alzheimer.or.jp

2005

June 24 - 29 BRAZIL

18th World Congress of Gerontology
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
Tel: 55 11 3081 6247
Fax: 55 11 3083 0473
Email: iag2005@unicamp.br



Nov 12 - 14 HOBART

Australian Association of Gerontology
36th Annual Conference
Expanding Knowledge of Ageing

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