



# AAGNational

September 2003

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY

## 2002 - 2003 OFFICE BEARERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### President

Ms Barbara Squires

#### President Elect

Prof G A (Tony) Broe

#### Immediate Past President

Dr Anna Howe

#### Honorary Secretary

Dr Roger Rumble

#### Treasurer

Mr Adrian Ware

### SECRETARIAT

Ms Dianne Langridge

C/- Mark Oliphant Building

Laffer Drive, Science Park

Bedford Park, SA 5042

Phone: (08) 8201 7552

Fax: (08) 8201 7551

Email: aag.secre@flinders.edu.au

### DIVISIONAL REPS

NSW Mrs Jill Pretty

VIC Prof Rhonda Nay

QLD Ms Sandra Woodbridge

SA/NT Dr Rob Ranzijn

WA Mr Ron Okely

TAS Dr Andrew Robinson

ACT Ms Sally Rubenach

### GENERAL MEMBERS

Prof Gary Andrews

Dr Diane Gibson

Ms Marie Curlis

Prof Mary Luszcz

### EDITOR

Ms Dianne Langridge

C/- Mark Oliphant Building

Laffer Drive, Science Park

Bedford Park, SA 5042

Phone: (08) 8201 7552

Fax: (08) 8201 7551

Email: aag.secre@flinders.edu.au

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my last message to you as President. My three year term comes to an end at the AGM during the National Conference in Hobart in November, when Prof Tony Broe becomes President. It has been a great privilege to lead the AAG and I have enjoyed the experience immensely. It has been a big commitment, and at times, has stretched me to the utmost.

Those who developed the AAG's constitution wisely limited the term of office bearers to three years. This means there can be a planned turnover, with time for committee members to understudy those in leadership positions. It brings a healthy flow of new ideas and enthusiasm, without the loss of experience and wisdom. I would encourage all members to consider serving for a period on a Divisional committee or on the Council at the national level. I can guarantee you will get back more than you give.

The past three years have seen ageing on Australia's agenda as never before. The sheer number of the ageing baby boomers has added urgency to the need to plan and prepare for the next forty years. We have seen a number of major reports produced and reviews commenced, and all have in common the call for more research in ageing.

Research is the foundation of good practice. Evidence based medicine is now accepted as the norm, and there is growing recognition of the need for evidence based policy and service provision. The evidence needed to provide the basis for good policy and practice can only come from a strong research community that is well resourced, clearly focused and able to work collaboratively on the complex issues of ageing.

It is an irony not lost on me that I am one of a few AAG Presidents who is a service provider, not a researcher. It has made me even more passionate about the AAG's uniqueness: it is the only organisation concerned with ageing that is multi-disciplinary, and that advocates not only for research but for the interrelationship between research, education, policy and practice. Every member is important, because our richness lies in the variety of disciplines and the range of settings in which we are involved and from which we can share our knowledge.

Our members provide leadership across the whole spectrum of research in ageing, including biological, clinical, economic and social. AAG members will be prominent in the *National Symposium on Ageing*

Research to be held in Canberra 23 – 25 September (see Diary Dates)

The National Symposium has as its theme *Building evidence, policy and practice*. It will focus on the content of the research agenda in ageing, and on building the capacity of the research community. It will feature the launch of *Ageing Research Online*, a web based resource that will replace the printed Australian Ageing Research Directory. It will be a powerful tool in improving collaboration between the producers and users of research. There is still time to plan to attend and contribute.

Our annual National Conference is multi disciplinary collaboration in practice. This year's theme is *Expanding knowledge on ageing* and it will be an opportunity to hear from leading researchers as well as from those who are becoming established in their fields. I hope many of you will be able to join us in Hobart from 12 – 14 November. There is more information on page 4 and on our website, [www.aag.asn.au](http://www.aag.asn.au).

As I hand over the Presidency to Prof Tony Broe, I do so with great confidence that his leadership of the AAG will take us further towards achieving our ultimate goal: to improve the experience of ageing.

*Barbara Squires*

## INSIDE...

- AAG AGM Agenda ..... 3
- The Gerontology Foundation of Australia wrap up ..... 3
- Research Profile on Tasmania ..... 4
- Centenary Medals to AAG members... 6
- Research Agenda on Ageing ..... 11
- Insert 2003/04 Guide to Education

# AAG

EXPANDING  
KNOWLEDGE  
ON AGEING

WEBSITE [www.aag.asn.au](http://www.aag.asn.au)

ISSN 1327-3620

## NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### COUNCIL MEETING TIMES

The AAG's National Council will meet during the 36<sup>th</sup> National Conference *Expanding Knowledge of Ageing*.

#### Wednesday 12 November 2003

10am – 12 noon,  
*Outgoing AAG Council Meeting*

#### Thursday 13 November 2003

12.00 – 1.00pm,  
*Annual General Meeting*  
5.00pm – 7.00pm,  
*Incoming AAG Council Meeting*

### RM GIBSON TRAVELLING FELLOW – CLARE UNGERSON

Arrangements are underway for this year's travelling fellow, Prof Clare Ungerson. Prof Ungerson will be visiting the following states:

*Adelaide* 8 – 11 November

*Hobart* 11 – 15 November

(AAG National Conference)

*Canberra* 15 – 17 November

*Sydney* 17 – 19 November

*Newcastle* 19 – 21 November

*Brisbane* 21 – 25 November

These Divisions will be organising seminars, presentations etc. and detailed information will be distributed closer to the event. Topics that Prof Ungerson

will present include *Current issues in the supply and demand of long-term care: a UK perspective*, *Funding care users to employ their own care labour: a cross national European perspective* and *Issues in care giving; a UK perspective*.

### AAG FELLOWS

Applications for recognition as a Fellow of the AAG have been distributed with renewal notices. Fellowship status is open to all members of five years' standing who meet four of six further criteria covering service to the AAG, higher qualifications, presentations at AAG Conferences etc. Following endorsement by State Divisions and National Council, the Fellows for 2003 will be announced at the AGM in Hobart.

### AAG'S GUIDE TO EDUCATION

The AAG Education Guide is produced annually by the AAG in pursuing the AAG's objective of expanding knowledge of ageing. The Guide outlines courses in ageing at Australian tertiary institutions and provides contact details for course enrolments. A copy of the Education Guide is included with your newsletter or can be viewed on the AAG website: [www.aag.asn.au/education](http://www.aag.asn.au/education).

## AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AGENDA

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Australian Association of Gerontology will be held at Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart, at 12.00pm, Thursday 13 November 2003.

#### Business to be conducted:

1. Apologies
  2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM held 30 October 2002 in Perth
  3. President's Report
  4. Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2003
  5. Appointment of Auditor
  6. Election of office-bearers
  7. 2004/2005 Membership Fees
  8. AAG Awards
  9. Other Business
- Close

## 36th National Conference of the AAG

# EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

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

**CLOSE OF EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION -  
10 OCTOBER 2003**

AAG National Conference Secretariat  
C/- Centre for Ageing Studies, UniSA City East Campus  
GPO Box 2471 Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: (08) 8302 1051 Fax: (08) 8302 1054  
Email: [aag.conf@flinders.edu.au](mailto:aag.conf@flinders.edu.au)  
Web: <http://www.aag.asn.au/conf/>

## THE GERONTOLOGY FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

**A substantial donation to the R.M. Gibson Scientific Research has been received following the winding up of the Gerontology Foundation of Australia. AAG President Barbara Squires welcomed the donation and acknowledged the valuable contribution to ageing research made by the Foundation over more than thirty years. She has assured the Foundation's Directors that the funds will continue to provide worthwhile support to emerging researchers in the field of ageing.**

**Ruth Bright, AM, D.Mus, erstwhile Vice-president, Gerontology Foundation of Australia pays the following tribute to the life and work of the Gerontology Foundation of Australia:**

Early in the 1960s, a need for clinical research to be carried out at the 1000-bed Lidcombe Hospital was discussed, and anaesthetist Dr Brian Sharkey (supported by Dr Tony Broe and the late Dr Frank Ofner and others), set up a Unit of Clinical Investigation. This unit was of value to the hospital and also significant in the subsequent establishment of the Gerontology Foundation. The unit's committee included representation from the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research (situated on campus) and this committee's responsibilities encompassed decisions on ethical aspects of research.

Records of the unit's work are no longer available, but we have information on one early project, Dr Shirley Sarks' 1967 research: *Clinicopathological study of age-related macular degeneration*. This work was supported financially by the Laura Bushell Trust, and marked an important step in the investigation of visual loss due to maculopathy.

Other money came from funds raised by Hospital Auxiliaries, and gifts came from patients and families who were grateful for the help they had received. Equipment was updated or replaced and

a special research laboratory was set up as part of the development of the Unit.

When the late Dr Nick Carter became Medical Superintendent of Lidcombe Hospital, he set in motion the establishment of the Gerontology Foundation (as it was originally called) in order to maintain a research program which would be independent of public service control. Articles of the Foundation were similar to those of the Glaucoma Foundation but nevertheless five years elapsed before matters were completed in 1971, since approval was required from three different government departments (e.g. allowing donations to be tax-deductible, and other formal requirements). The words 'of Australia' were added in order to delineate the Foundation as a national rather than a local hospital charity.

Fund raising continued, and substantial sums were raised from a dinner at Strickland House. A major early project of the Foundation was the purchase of an electron microscope, used at Lidcombe for research (chiefly skin and eye conditions). Because the microscope was the property of the Foundation, it was not amongst the equipment moved to Liverpool Hospital when Lidcombe Hospital closed in 1996, but was transferred to (and, more recently, donated to) the Medical Research Unit at Prince of Wales Hospital.

The Foundation gave many 'novice grants' to encourage young professionals to specialise in gerontology. In its years of existence, the Foundation funded a range of projects, including:

- hip fractures
- heart disease
- ophthalmology
- the benefits of gardening,
- the design of garden tools for people with disabilities
- two different projects in dementia (one in social relationships and one in music therapy)
- dental care in old age, a multiple project which had wide implications for general health and well-being
- assessment in music therapy, and
- our most recently-completed research project, an investigation into the psychosocial effects upon older people of caring for persons (often adult children) with mental illness.

### Closure

Donations are not easily obtained for matters pertaining to old age *per se*, and low interest rates had reduced income to such an extent that administrative costs were in danger of exceeding the grants towards research. To run the Foundation, the Board needed the services of a competent professional officer, a role which was admirably filled for many years by Peter McConvill. His resignation precipitated the decision to dissolve the Foundation on 16 June 2003.

The Directors were saddened at having to make this decision, but it was unavoidable. It was decided that, rather than giving the residual funds to an organisation dedicated to a specific condition, the money would be given to the RM Gibson Scientific Research Fund of the AAG, which supports multi-faceted aspects of research into ageing in an approach similar to that of the Foundation.

Over the years, the Foundation has been served by many people: the late Dr Nick Carter (who was the motivating force behind many of the Foundation's activities) Prof Arthur Everitt, Dr Shirley Sarks who was a Director from first to last, Ms Elspeth Browne (the last person to serve as President), Dr Jeff Flack, Dr (now Prof) Tony Broe, Ms Mary-Lee Sinclair, Dr Kate Georgouras, Prof John Snowdon, Dr Robert Yeoh and many others. All these people worked voluntarily, bringing to the Foundation their professional expertise and integrity coupled with a wish to enhance the quality of life for older Australians. Our Patron, Colleen McCulloch, has strongly supported our work financially and in other ways.

*(I am grateful to Dr Shirley Sarks and Prof Tony Broe for their help in assembling information for this article; Dr Sarks was appointed as Honorary Ophthalmologist at Lidcombe Hospital in 1965 and was closely involved in the establishment of the Foundation, serving as a Board member from its inception to its dissolution in June 2003, and Prof Broe, Neurologist at Lidcombe for many years, gave significant service as President in the Foundation's formative period.)*



## RESEARCH PROFILE: TASMANIA

### The Conference State

AAG members in Tasmania are working hard to organise the 2003 Conference and hope to showcase Tasmanian research in aged care. We may be a small state, but it's surprising to see how much is going on in a diverse array of areas. We hope that the brief outline of some of the research to be presented at the November Conference will tempt you to come to Hobart.

### Brain ageing

**Professor James Vickers**, Head of the Discipline of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Tasmania, will present the David Wallace Address at the 36<sup>th</sup> AAG National Conference in Hobart. James is co-director of the Neuro Repair Group in the discipline. The Group has been successful in attracting four NHMRC grants, and comprises a team of neuroscience researchers, including two NHMRC Research Fellows. The latest grant is *Healthy and Pathological Ageing of the Brain* which funds most of the Group's ageing and Alzheimer's disease work. The grant provides \$300,000 over 3 years and is part of a new initiative of the NHMRC to fund bio-medical research related to ageing.



*Professor James Vickers*

Professor Vickers' research interests focus on degeneration and regeneration of the nervous system, and the Neuro

Repair Group conduct research programs related to Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, glaucoma and head/spinal cord trauma. A major interest of the group is determining new therapeutic leads for these neurodegenerative diseases and acquired forms of neuronal injury. This has involved studies on the regenerative properties of nerve cells following various forms of injury and the examination of a range of agents for their ability to promote healing of the nervous system.

As the presenter of the David Wallace Address, James will give a paper focusing on the brain changes that occur as a result of 'pathological aging' of the brain. There is a possibility that these age-related forms of cellular pathology may represent the preclinical stage of Alzheimer's disease. He will also be detailing what we know

of the cellular changes that underlie neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease and how this understanding of the cause of nerve cell degeneration and death may lead to new therapeutic approaches. Specifically, he will outline the growing view that the abnormal stimulation of regenerative processes in the brain may ultimately cause nerve cell death, synaptic disconnection and the dementia of Alzheimer's disease.

### Population ageing

Political economic demography is the research focus of **Dr Natalie Jackson**, a Senior Lecturer in Social Demography and Director of the Demographic Analytical Services Unit at the University of Tasmania.



*Dr Natalie Jackson*

Dr Jackson has a Ph.D. from the Australian National University and a Master of Social Science from the

University of Waikato in New Zealand. She has published extensively on population and ageing issues in both Australia and New Zealand and is the author of *The Policy Maker's Guide to Population Ageing* published by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services. She is a member of the Commonwealth Government's Steering Committee on Building Ageing Research Capacity, Vice President of the Australian Population Association, and Editor of the new international journal, *Applied Population and Policy*.

Natalie's current research is on the differing implications of the structural and numerical population ageing, the regionality of population ageing across Australia's States and Territories, and the implications of these factors for

institutional funding. She will present a paper giving an overview of the differences between structural and numerical ageing and their implications for gerontologists and governments. The paper includes some very interesting projections of dementia, hospital separations, and various other aspects of care services.

### Health assessments

Another Tasmanian researcher is PhD student and General Practitioner, **Gerard Gill**. Gerard graduated in Medicine from the University of Tasmania in 1975 and entered general practice in the northern suburbs of Launceston in 1980. It was an interesting time in the practice, where he worked with, among others, the ALP and Liberal campaign managers for the 1975 Bass by-election, as well as a GP who became Senator Bob Brown.

Gerard has a strong interest in general practice education and in 1994 was awarded a General Practice Evaluation Program Scholarship to undertake a master's degree in general practice evaluation at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health in the Australian National University. Since graduating in 1996 he has become an active researcher with a number of Australian and international conference presentations and journal publications. In 2000 Gerard commenced his PhD at the University of Tasmania on the topic *General Practice Aged Care Health Assessments in Australia: Equitable, Effective or Caring?* His PhD is exploring whether the uptake of GP health assessments is equitably distributed in both geographical and socio economic dimensions, whether they are effective at preventing admission to residential care and whether patients feel better cared for if they have had an assessment. In recognition of his efforts thus far, Gerard was awarded a NHMRC Medical

Postgraduate Scholarship in December 2002 to enable him to complete his PhD studies full time.

In the paper he will be presenting at the AAG conference, Gerard intends to address the first three years' experience of the health assessment program, covering issues such as the equitable coverage of the Australian population, their effectiveness in diminishing first claims for medical services in residential care, and their effect on out-of-hospital medical service usage.

## Rural and remote communities

Ageing research is being pursued further in the Faculty of Health Science, University of Tasmania, by a number of multi-disciplinary teams. One team comprises the UTas Professor of General Practice, Peter Mudge and social scientist Dr Emily Hansen, as well as Dr Andrew Robinson, and Mr Geoff Crack from the Tasmanian School of Nursing (TSoN). The team is especially interested in conducting aged care research in rural and remote communities and their first project had a focus on exploring issues which impact on the coordination of care for people with dementia (PWD).

This project was conducted in collaboration with health care providers and carers in a remote part of Tasmania who requested assistance to investigate the provision of care for PWD who live in their community. A qualitative design was used, and a research assistant with close community ties conducted focus groups with family members who act as carers, local general practitioners, community nurses, hospital staff and ACAT team members. A number of specific issues that impact on the provision of care of people with dementia in this small community were identified and Dr Emily Hansen will present these findings at the AAG Conference.

## Residential care

Dr Roger Rumble from the School of Pharmacy is a member of another multidisciplinary team. Roger is a senior lecturer in the School, a consultant pharmacist for two residential aged care facilities in the Hobart area, and National Secretary and President of the Tasmanian Division of the AAG. The other team member is Dr Andrew Robinson, a senior lecturer in the Tasmanian School of Nursing.



*Dr Roger Rumble*

The research team have just completed a study, funded by a University of Tasmania Institutional Research Grant, which Roger plans to present at the Conference. The study examined the incidence of the re-assessment of elderly clients following admission to a residential aged care facility in Tasmania and the variables that make elderly clients vulnerable to re-assessment. Interestingly, the findings highlighted that more than 10% of elderly people admitted to a residential aged care facility in Tasmania are subject to a re-assessment within 60 days of admission and that aged care providers appear to lack confidence in the ability of ACATs to accurately assess the level of care residents will require following admission. The research team are currently developing other local research projects as well as establishing research ties with interstate groups, such as the Sociably Sustainable Health Research Centre at the University of South Australia.

## Student research projects

The Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) program involves students in research projects carried out in aged care facilities. These projects are part of the clinical research and teaching program in aged care that is being developed by Dr Andrew Robinson, Senior Lecturer in the TSoN. To date, four students have completed projects supported by \$5,000 scholarships provided by three aged care industry partners: The Park Group, Masonic Homes Launceston and Eastside Care. These students' projects have addressed a diverse range of topics including:

- how information regarding resident care is transferred from unregulated workers (PCAs) to RNs;
- the experience of nurses in using the Resident Classification Scale (RCS) for care planning;
- how environmental factors affect the mealtime behaviours of elderly people with dementia in a dementia specific unit in an aged care facility; and
- the experience of nurses working in a dementia specific unit.

The students, Brett Menzies, Elizabeth van der Spek, Jonette Barratt and Linda Jongeling, will present their research in a symposium showcasing Tasmanian student projects in aged care.

## Preceptorship in aged care nursing

Another key component of the TSoN efforts to build an aged care clinical research program is exploring possibilities for facilitating teaching and learning in residential care facilities. A first project *Making Connections in Aged Care* was funded by the Park Group, Masonic Homes Launceston and a UTas Teaching Development Grant. The intent was to provide students with a positive experience in what is a rapidly expanding area of nursing practice. The *Making Connections* project employed an innovative 4<sup>th</sup> generation evaluation methodology with parallel focus group discussions involving both nursing students and their registered nurse (RN) preceptors, with a feedback loop between the groups.

Through this process, the students and registered nurses collaborated to develop and implement strategies to facilitate preceptorship and thereby support to students to have a positive experience in aged care. The findings indicated this approach was highly effective in developing preceptors' knowledge, interest and skill in effectively supporting undergraduate students in aged care practice and that this was critical to facilitating a positive change in the students' attitude to working in the sector.

Katrina Cubit, research assistant to the project, and the project leader, Dr Andrew Robinson, will present some of the research findings at the Conference. The paper will focus on how student nurses come to terms with 'old wrinkly bodies'. The success of this project is evident in the project team being awarded nearly \$80,000 by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to extend the project into a further six Tasmanian aged care facilities as a part of the Commonwealth Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Support Systems program.

## Extending research networks

Showcasing their research at the Conference will give Tasmanian researchers the opportunity to extend their networks and identify areas for further collaboration. Don't miss out – come to the Conference!

## AAG Members Receive Centenary Medals

Congratulations to **Ron Okely**, WA President and his wife Rona who received Centenary Medals for "outstanding voluntary service to the Gosnells community" and "for long and outstanding voluntary service to the community" respectively.

Congratulations to **Gary Andrews** who received a Centenary Medal for "outstanding service in the field of ageing research".

Congratulations also to **John McCallum** for "outstanding service as a researcher to ageing and aged care issues".

## Ageing in WA

Exciting things are happening in the West. The Western Australian Government has received a report on Active Ageing from a taskforce chaired by the Hon. Dr. Cheryl Davenport. The report, entitled *Active Ageing Taskforce Report and Recommendations* was presented to the Government in March 2003 and is available on the Government of Western Australia's website at [www.activeageing.dpc.wa.gov.au](http://www.activeageing.dpc.wa.gov.au). Dr Davenport describes it as a paradigm shift in policy making

on ageing - 180 odd pages of interesting and "readable" policy.

The WA Government has also released a Strategic Plan for Aged Care for which the Chair of the WA Aged Care Advisory Panel, Dr Penny Flett says "Our intention is that the plan should act as a touchstone to encourage planners, policy makers and service providers alike to stay oriented to the "person-centred" perspective in all their endeavours". If you would like to check out the Plan, you'll find it at:

[www.health.gov.au/publications/documents](http://www.health.gov.au/publications/documents).

## Be as well-briefed as the politicians!

If you haven't already discovered the Parliamentary Library website, check it out at <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/SP/agedcare.htm>. The staff of the library often prepare comprehensive briefing material for parliamentarians which is then made available on their public website. The reference above is to an excellent overview of aged care support and services in Australia, prepared by Greg McIntosh and Janet Phillips of the Library's Social Policy Group. Material on many other subjects is also available.

## A message from the Hon. Kevin Andrews

The Commonwealth Minister for Ageing, the Hon Kevin Andrews has invited nominations of older Australians for Senior Australian of the Year.

Nominations are now open for The Australian of the Year Awards 2004 and the new category is intended to recognise senior Australians who have and continue to make significant contributions to our community. These may be ordinary Australians doing extraordinary things or Australians who have made our nation a better place to live.

The Senior Australian of the Year is one of four awards made as part of the National Australia Day celebrations forthcoming on January 25, 2004. All entrants will first be judged at state and territory level and the winners, announced in November 2003, will compete for the national awards.

Nomination forms are available from Commonwealth Bank branches or you can nominate online by visiting the website: [www.australianoftheyear.gov.au](http://www.australianoftheyear.gov.au)

# AUSTRALIAN LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF AGEING (ALSA)

## NH&MRC Grant takes the Australian Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ALSA) into its second decade.

Readers will be aware that countries worldwide are experiencing demographic shifts, with increasingly larger proportions of most populations being designated as 'old', i.e., 65 years of age or more.

In 1976, 9% of Australians were 'old'; 20 years later, they comprised 12% of the population. ABS projections estimate that by 2016 16%, i.e., over 3.5 million people, will be 'old'; one in four will be by 2050. Increased longevity, especially the growing proportion of the 'oldest old', and the impending crossing of the 'old' threshold by 'baby boomers', have implications not only for health and social policy or programs, but also for individuals reaching this phase of life. These factors constitute an unparalleled environment in which to study ageing, as distinct from disease or disability, as experienced by the vast majority of those adding life to years, i.e., living the motto of the Gerontological Society of America.

As Australia's demographically oldest state, South Australia provides an ideal environment to pursue ageing research. In 2003-2004 the capacity to do so will be enhanced by an NH&MRC project grant awarded to Prof Mary Luszcz and co-Chief

Investigators Dr. Michael Clark and Prof Gary Andrews at Flinders University. The grant, entitled *Late life transitions and pathways to healthy ageing*, will support Wave 7 of the Australian Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ALSA) conducted through the Centre for Ageing Studies at Flinders University. ALSA began in 1992, with a sample of 2087 individuals, then mostly over the age of 70. In 2000, Wave 6 data was collected from 791 people. Thus far about 200 journal articles and conference presentations have resulted from the ALSA.

Half of the previous waves (Waves 1, 3, and 6) comprised multidimensional (bio-psycho-social and behavioural) individual interviews and assessments (bio-medical and neuropsychological), conducted at participants' place of residence (i.e., in the community or residential care). The NH&MRC grant provides funds to 'gear up' for the 7th Wave, conduct the in-home interviews and assessments, and create basic data files to be archived by the US National Institute on Ageing. We plan to be in the field from late-September until Christmas.

Wave 7 will follow the format of Waves 1, 3 and 6, and occur about 3 years since Wave 6. This phase

places an added emphasis on normative transitions, i.e., those more likely to occur in later life. Older people are more likely to experience changes in marital status (e.g. widowhood and/or re-marriage), health (illness or disability), or function (cognitive or instrumental). Adjustments may also have to be made to driving habits, to living arrangements and to a perceived lessening of control or mastery over their lives. These transitions could occur to an individual ALSA participant or to a couple or spouse; all three can be addressed with ALSA data.

Transitions may be stressful, but they also offer opportunities for personal growth. Regardless of whether transitions are seen positively or negatively, it is likely that resources to cope at this late stage of life are on the decline. We hope that the outcomes of Wave 7 and the trends observed over nearly a decade of research will give us a better understanding of which transitions are most consequential to healthy ageing, the interpersonal and societal implications of important transitions, and how to effectively use existing resources (personal and systemic) to maintain or enhance healthy ageing of individuals and those dearest to them.

## STUDENT SPACE

By Taylor Dong

Since joining the NSW Executive Committee in 2000, I've had lots of encouragement from a variety of aged care professionals. Just recently at a Members' Dinner on 25 June at the Marigold Restaurant in Chinatown, Sydney both Prof John McCallum and ACSA's Greg Mundy helped satisfy my longstanding curiosity on the costs of running a nursing home within Australia. My curiosity arose from my concern that there would not be enough homes to cater for our growing ageing population and the changes in family dynamics that will see the increased need for institutionalized care, particularly for our large ethnic elderly population.

They told me it costs \$10m approximately, to set up a nursing home, with each bed costing around \$120,000, and operating costs for staff and maintenance. This information has given me greater

insight into the allocation of tax payers' money for aged care, as well as the responsibilities for facility managers to make ends meet to care for Australia's elderly. Mrs Smith, one of my research interviewees, is no longer just an elderly lady living in a standard nursing home in the Western Suburbs, but can be seen as a fortunate Australian getting a high standard of accredited care from a complex circuit of funding from both the government and private sectors that she perhaps would not be able to access in a remote area or in a poorer country.

Our AAG dinners, seminars and conferences are a great venue for students to meet and network with professionals who have already been there and done that and are a world of resourceful information to emerging researchers in ageing. I would like to encourage students to come along to the next AAG forum or to join the executive committee in their state as a student representative to find out more about their field of study.

### Upcoming events for students:

ERA 2003 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference for Emerging Researchers in Ageing Conference  
21 November 2003, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Bank, Brisbane  
[www.uq.edu.au/aca](http://www.uq.edu.au/aca)

National Symposium on Ageing Research:  
*Building evidence, policy and practice*  
23-25 September 2003, Australian National University, Canberra  
[www.ageingsymposium.com.au](http://www.ageingsymposium.com.au)

### SPECIAL STUDENT RATE

**AAG**  
**Expanding Knowledge**  
**on Ageing**  
12 - 14 November  
Hobart

**\$220**

[www.aag.asn.au/conf](http://www.aag.asn.au/conf)

## WHO'S WHO

### ANDREW ROBINSON - AAG COUNCIL MEMBER



Dr Andrew Robinson is the AAG Tasmanian representative and a Senior Lecturer in the Tasmanian School of Nursing (TSoN), University of Tasmania (UTas). Andrew teaches in the area of aged care and is the TSoN Director of

Research and Higher Degrees. In this position he coordinates the Bachelor of Nursing (Hons), Research Masters and PhD programs in the School.

Andrew completed his nursing diploma at Phillip Institute of Technology (now RMIT) in 1980. He went on to become a registered midwife and upgrade his diploma to a degree by 1985. In 1987 he commenced the first Master of Nursing Program in Australia, at La Trobe University. Between 1990 and 1993 Andrew worked as a full time researcher in the Centre for Studies in Paediatric Nursing (CSPN), at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. The role involved establishing a clinical research program with ward nurses in the hospital, most of whom were experienced clinicians who had no prior involvement of research. This was the first nursing research centre of its kind in an Australian hospital which involved clinical nurses in developing and

implementing research projects within an action research framework. This activity was very labour intensive but now the hospital has a very high percentage of nurses actively engaged in research and graduate education.

In 1994 Andrew took up a position as lecturer in the Tasmanian School of Nursing. Since that time he has drawn on his experience in the CSPN to undertake action research projects with a focus on developing practice in aged care contexts. In 2001 he completed his PhD, which used an action research method to investigate strategies to develop networks between an ACAT and health care providers in acute and community contexts, in order to improve the coordination of care for elderly clients assessed by the team. Since completing his PhD Andrew has continued to work in the area of aged care assessment. In 2002 he collaborated with Dr Roger Rumble from the School of Pharmacy UTas, to investigate the re-assessment of elderly people following admission to residential care, and in 2003 completed the Review of the Tasmanian Aged Care Assessment program with Dr Anna Howe.

Andrew's other research focus has been the development of teaching and learning in aged care. He has supervised a number of BN (Hons) students

who have undertaken projects in the sector and in 2002 completed a project with a focus on facilitating the preceptorship of undergraduate nursing students on clinical placement in residential aged care. The project, which involved four cohorts of students on placements in two aged care facilities, illustrated an effective approach to supporting students in practice. This was most apparent in the findings that on entry approximately 30% of students indicated that they would consider working in aged care following graduation, whereas on exit around 95% of students indicated this intention. Following a successful tender as part of the Department of Health and Ageing, Commonwealth Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Support Systems program, this project will now be replicated in six aged care facilities in the north, northwest and south of the State. The industry partners involved in this project, Launceston Presbyterian Home for the Aged, The Manor Complex, Karingal Home for the Aged, Mt. St. Vincent Nursing Home, Queen Victoria Home and Vacluse Garden Lodge will also contribute funding to extend the project and use an action research method to develop specific areas of nursing practice in their facilities. Andrew has numerous publications and a 15 year history as an active researcher.

## QLD



The Queensland Division has continued to offer Education Seminars around the theme for 2003 *Community Care-Old Issues New Challenges*. In May, Dr Vicki Naumann a Psychiatrist from the Sandgate Community Mental Health Service and Ms Elaine Collins from the Mental Health Centre, Royal Brisbane Hospital, provided those in attendance with a thought provoking overview of the situation for people with mental health who are ageing. This area is one which challenges many services, both residential and community care and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future.

The seminar in June, with the title of *Informal Care and Ageing Carers* was presented by Ms Julie Austin, Senior Policy Advisor, National Carers Association. The role of the Carers Association in Australia as a peak body which lobbies for and on behalf of carers throughout Australia was discussed. The title of the presentation reflected growing concerns within Queensland regarding the number of elderly frail parents who are the primary caregivers for people with disability who are also ageing.

This seminar also saw the presentation to Ms Anne Maree Grasso of the AAG Distinguished Service Award for 2002. Mr Graeme Parry, in presenting the award, spoke of Anne Marie's dedication to the work of AAG over many years and how he had very much valued her support during his period as President. Ms Grasso who works for Veterans' Affairs on the Gold Coast, thanked the Division for the honour and shared some of her recollections of her time on the Committee.

Despite being somewhat distanced from the activities of the Division (which predominately occur in the South East of the State) we have a core group of members in North Queensland who have joined with others, to meet regularly to discuss issues relating to older people in the area and to support each other in the work that they do. During a recent visit to Townsville, the Division sponsored a small function which brought together not only AAG members but also other members of the Townsville community with an interest in the well being of older people. The function was well attended, some travelling from Charters Towers and

Bowen. Those present were provided with a short presentation on the role of AAG in Australia and the value of becoming a member. The Division will continue to support this group and to encourage membership of the AAG. It is hoped that once there are sufficient and willing AAG members from the area, consideration maybe given to the formation of a Chapter. The group is planning a seminar in the coming months to be held in Townsville and the benefits of becoming a member of AAG will be well promoted.

Sandra Woodbridge  
President

## NSW



Following the International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing Conference in Sydney in June, the NSW Division hosted a members' evening at the Marigold restaurant in Sydney. This was a new initiative by the Executive and although numbers were small it was an extremely successful evening. Prof John McCallum gave a short address on his experiences of ageing in Japan and pointed out the changes that are occurring in the care of their ageing population in an environment where most family members are required to work. Japan has considered the needs of the ageing workforce and it is interesting to note that the number of people in the workforce 70 years and over is much higher than we experience in Australia. Japan is also one of the first countries to introduce long-term care insurance.

Our next event is a one-day seminar, *Ageing in a Multicultural Society: Moving Forward Together* on 29 August. The focus of the seminar is to promote discussion and debate around aged care issues within a multicultural society and to provide a forum where aged care workers and multicultural health and community workers can exchange information and explore issues together. The seminar is shaping up to be a very successful event with registrations currently over 200. The seminar will be followed by the NSW Division's AGM.

Our final event for 2003 will be the hosting of the Gibson Travelling Fellow Clare Ungerson. Prof Ungerson will be in Sydney on Monday 17

November where the NSW Division is planning a members' evening and on Tuesday 18 November, there will be morning and afternoon presentations in conjunction with other Sydney organisations and state government departments. On Thursday 20 November, the Hunter Chapter will be hosting Prof Ungerson.

Planning is underway for the 2004 rural conference at Kurri Kurri TAFE in conjunction with the Hunter Chapter and Hunter Ageing Research. The title of the conference, to be held on Thursday and Friday 11 & 12 March 2004, is *Beyond the Boundaries, Ageing in the regions and in the future*. A call for papers is currently being circulated and the closing date is the first week in October 2003. If you are interested in submitting a paper, please contact Adelaide Bornmann [abaust@smartchat.net.au](mailto:abaust@smartchat.net.au).

Jill Pretty  
President and Newsletter Representative

## VIC



The Division has continued to deliver research and educational forums for members, as well as encourage new membership. Our new AAG scholarship award (\$3000) was advertised and applicants are under consideration, with the winner being announced at our AGM in late August. We think this award will be a positive influence for ageing research in Victoria and have some direct benefit for our older population. We have the Federal Minister for Ageing, the Hon Kevin Andrews, booked to speak at our AGM on the topic of *Population Ageing: Challenges and Opportunities*, and we anticipate he will draw a substantial audience, which of course is good for our local profile. Future forums are being developed on topics such as Diabetes, and as in the past, some are to be conducted in outer parts of the State.

The most recent forum was on the topic of *Exercise for 'at risk' older people*, and attracted a considerable audience of practitioners in this field. Dr Michael Dorevitch was the first speaker and he reported on the results of an innovative Functional Maintenance Program (FMP) conducted in a local acute hospital, with a control group design. In response to the 'hostile' nature of the hospital environment for older patients where being in bed

with minimal exercise and potential functional decline is the default status, the FMP implemented a daily exercise program to change the ward culture to a new default status where being up and out of bed was the norm. Convincing ward staff of the benefits of the FMP was a major challenge but once adopted, the experimental program showed significant gains by the older patients on a range of measures.

Dr Dorevitch noted that sustaining this change in ward culture to being out of bed is the biggest challenge for this useful program.

Continuing the exercise theme, Dr Keith Hill from NARI reported on a feasibility study for falls reduction that he conducted using Tai Chi for 'frail' older people with arthritis. The study was motivated by a literature review showing positive functional results of Tai Chi for older people but a dearth of studies with people who were frail. Classes were conducted two days a week by a physiotherapist and assistant and half the group completed the program. While results showed some improvement on a range of measures, balancing was identified as the most difficult task. Memory was also important in remembering the movements for practice at home. So, while results for this under-served frail group appear positive, Dr Hill recommended more studies be undertaken. Audience participation at the forum was substantial with people commenting on their own exercise practise results.

*John McCormack  
Newsletter Rep*



Confronted with such a major disaster as our January bushfires, agencies at all levels are evaluating their response and revising emergency plans. Many ACT Division members had noted unanticipated problems that had arisen for older Canberrans in the fire crisis. Six-months after the fires, our Division hosted a forum where aged care service providers could share issues which might usefully be addressed in future public disaster planning processes.

To place this in some context, the 70 km firefront impinged on Canberra suburbs from many directions, and the threat to other suburbs over the following week remained extreme. Over 500 homes were completely destroyed in the fires, and four

people died, including one elderly widow living alone. The Recovery Centre registered 1580 people, and of the 380 aged over 60, 91 had lived in accommodation totally destroyed. Several residential aged care complexes were evacuated. The building which housed many HACC-funded services was in the midst of properties destroyed by fire, and staff had to move to temporary facilities for some time. Families who may ordinarily have been able to help out were fighting their own fires. Older people from affected suburbs were relocated all over Canberra in the immediate crisis period, and in some cases for longer, breaking their links to services traditionally delivered on geographic lines. And power was off in affected suburbs for an extended period of time, with immense effects.

Following a disaster, older people will have the same needs as the population as a whole. This forum acknowledged the noteworthy resilience of older people, but argued too that as the literature suggests, sensitivity to aged-related problems is a necessity in responding to the immediate needs of older people.

Invited speakers were from the Recovery Centre, the community service which covered most of the affected suburbs, and an evacuated retirement village complex. Pam Bongers, from the ACT Division, gave a brief overview of some of the information from gerontological literature and knowledge that might usefully be borne in mind in disaster planning, particularly with regard to the frail aged. She advocated too ensuring that older people be asked what they saw the issues to be, as the literature had shown this may not be what the workers anticipated.

Experiences and concerns raised were extensive, and ranged from the practicalities associated with disaster communication, appropriate accommodation for evacuated very disabled people, and the loss of power supply over an extended period, through how to identify where older folk lived who may need help with evacuation, and rebuilding/alternative accommodation issues, to ethical dilemmas for staff re work responsibilities versus protection of their own homes.

Marjory Kobold is undertaking the substantial task of transcribing forum comments. Following the meeting, Recovery planning personnel indicated they would seriously consider establishing a team to look at vulnerable groups, and we look forward also to the upcoming special edition of the Recovery Centre's weekly community newsletter, which will focus on the situation for older people.

The fire experience on 18 January was a whole-of-ACT event. The community spirit has been outstanding, the land is regenerating, and some of the homes destroyed have been rebuilt. The Recovery program has earned much praise. But some people are still acutely distressed, and many still have important and difficult decisions to make. We hope the experiences shared in our forum will provide useful material for those reviewing Disaster Planning policy, towards the goal of best meeting the needs of older people in any future disasters.

*Pam Bongers*



Friday 13 June may not sound altogether auspicious but the date of the SA/N/T Division's Conjoint Scientific Meeting offered no hitch to the great event that it resolved to be. CSM attendees were indulged with exceptional plenary speakers and a variety of concurrent streams addressing the conference theme of *Them and Us*.

Keynote address Prof Frida Briggs gave an enlightening presentation on the importance of the role of grandparents in their grandchildren's lives: how their involvement is not only essential to the wellbeing of the children but key to shaping their perceptions of older people in later life. Jo Harrison with her powerful presentation *on Becoming visible: gay, lesbian, bisexual and intersex ageing in Australia* challenged the conventional perceptions of sexuality and ageing while also highlighting the difficulties still unfortunately faced by this population of people perceived very much to be "them". The Sir Keith Wilson Oration was given by Dr Diane Gibson, whose provocative presentation highlighted the ageism in supposedly objective population analyses and how this can result in the perception that older people are a "burden" on society. The day was concluded with Dr Peter Last who spoke about the biological significance of grandmothers and which neatly linked us up with our first address of the day by Prof Freda Briggs.

CSM attendees were also spoilt for choice in terms of the available concurrent sessions which explored diverse topics such as collaboration, issues in "hands on" care to the hospital and community

interface. The papers from the plenary speakers and from those in the concurrent sessions will soon be available on the division's website.

In all, the CSM was a success. In this, the organisational efforts of members of the Planning Committee were not forgotten and we "chewed the fat" and celebrated it with a lovely post-CSM dinner.

Busy as the CSM planning has kept the Division, we have still some great events for the second half of the year. The Division is holding the Annual General meeting on Wednesday 27 August at Grivell Hall, Helping Hand Aged Care. We are also looking forward to the upcoming morning seminar with visiting fellow Prof Ungerson on Monday 10 November from 11am to 1pm. A day long seminar series at Pt Pirie has also been planned for Monday 1 December. This seminar series is being organised in close collaboration with the local services of Mid North region of South Australia and will cover topics such as new research and development in the field of ageing, medication management, mental health in aged care and alternative therapies.

Thu Vu  
Newsletter Rep



The WA Division held a very successful regional seminar in Bunbury on 27 June, *Listening to the Elders*. Approximately 50 people attended, despite the torrential rain, and many commented that they enjoyed the sessions. The latter part of the day was devoted to the presentation of research findings, with the emphasis on the work of new researchers, however, a number of morning speakers covered other topics of interest. Dr Penny Flett, CEO of the Brightwater Care Group and Chair of the WA Aged Care Advisory Council, reported on the newly developed *State Aged Care Plan for Western Australia, 2003-2008* (WA Aged Care Advisory Council, 2003). This plan was truly "hot off the press" as it was tabled in parliament just the day before our seminar. Mr Frank Schaper CEO of the Alzheimer's Association of Western Australia spoke about the needs of people with dementia in Australia with particular reference to the recently released report

prepared for the association by Access Economics (2003). Additionally, Prof Kateryna Longley, Executive Dean of the Division of Social Sciences, Humanities and Education at Murdoch University, provided an extremely stimulating session on the importance of autobiographical story-telling in the lives of the elderly, with particular reference to elders who have been forced to leave their homelands.

Our 2003 program continues with more, high calibre speakers. Following the AGM, to be held on 12 August, Dr Trevor Lee, a Consultant Social Worker will talk on the topic of the *WESROC Seniors' Needs Study*. This study is being conducted on behalf of several councils in the Western suburbs of Perth to develop an understanding of how local government may better serve the seniors living in their areas. At our breakfast meeting, to be held at 7.30 am on 2 September at the Northbridge Hotel, we will be able to hear Dr Rhonda Nay, Prof of Geriatric Nursing at Latrobe University and President of the Victorian Division of the AAG. Rhonda will address the topic of *Admission and Discharge of People with Dementia*.

Another piece of good news to be shared with fellow AAG members is the fact that the WA President, Ron Okely, was awarded a Centenary Medal for voluntary services to the community. WA understands that another AAG recipient was Prof Gary Andrews. Congratulations to both!

#### References:

Access Economics (2003). *The dementia epidemic: Economic impact and positive solutions for Australia*. Report prepared for Alzheimer's Australia. Canberra, Australia.

WA Aged Care Advisory Council, 2003. *State Aged Care Plan for Western Australia, 2003-2008*, Department of Health, Perth

Chris Toye  
Newsletter Rep

## Conference Summary

### Challenging Depression in Aged Care Conference

June 26 – 27, 2003

#### UNSW, the Hammond Care Group and the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing

An audience of over three hundred delegates attended the first national conference on depression in aged care, hosted by the Hammond Care Group and sponsored by the Department of Health & Ageing and *beyondblue*. Special guest speakers included the Hon Jeff Kennett (Founder) and Dr Ian Hickie (CEO) of *beyondblue* but unfortunately the Minister for Ageing, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP had to be replaced at the last minute due to a cabinet meeting.

Invited speakers included several of our AAG NSW Executives namely Barbara Squires, Sharon Wall and Catherine Wallace who gave provocative and insightful papers on topics, ranging from cultural issues to policies and procedures in relation to depression in aged care, gaining wide audience appeal with their presentations.

I had the pleasure of being invited by Richard Fleming, Principal Consultant for Hammond to work with his team across the two days facilitating VIP arrivals and recording the photography for this successful event. One of my highlights was being able to meet Geoffrey Atherden, writer of acclaimed ABC TV Series *Mother & Son* and invited guest speaker for the Cocktail Party held at the Scientia on the first day.

Atherden reflected on his work in promoting awareness about mental health issues via his depiction of dementia in Ruth Cracknell's colourful character, but commented on the challenge he would face if he were to try and create a story to highlight depression.

The conference concluded with a discussion of the proposals for the establishment of a national association on depression in aged care, which fueled some lively debate from the audience, with many delegates preferring an alliance with *beyondblue* to an independent association.

T Dong

## CALL FOR PAPERS - AAG Hunter Valley Conference

### *Beyond the Boundaries: Ageing in rural areas, the future and the imagination*

11-12 March 2004 at Kurri Kurri TAFE

YOUR SUBMISSION SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

**Title:** Abstract title **Name:** In capital letters **Address:** Street/PO Box, State, Post Code  
**Phone, Fax, Email** Abstracts to be 250 words or less and should be emailed to the Executive Officer

CLOSING DATE: 1 OCT 2003

Adelaide Bornmann, Executive Officer

**Email:** abaust@smartchat.net.au **Phone:** 02 9523 1715 **Fax:** 02 9523 4026

## RESEARCH AGENDA ON AGEING FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: PRIORITIES FOR AFRICA –

*brief report of a regional expert meeting held in Cape Town 3 to 5 March 2003*

The *Research Agenda on Ageing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* project is a joint undertaking of the United Nations program on ageing and the International Association of Gerontology. The Agenda was presented and endorsed during the Valencia Forum held prior to Second World Assembly on Ageing in Spain in April 2002. It was then tabled and presented at the World Assembly and has subsequently been acknowledged by the UN General Assembly.

Opportunities are now being taken to explore the implications of the Research Agenda at the regional level and to examine priorities for research on ageing in the regional context. The first expert regional workshop to review the Agenda and explore these issues was convened in Cape Town, South Africa in association with the African regional conference - *GeriatricsAfrica '03* held in March 2003. The meeting was organised by the Adelaide Centre for Ageing Studies sponsored by Help the Aged (UK).

Co-convened by Alexandre (Sasha) Sidorenko representing the UN program on ageing and Gary Andrews, Immediate Past President on behalf of the IAG the meeting brought together a group of 17 experts (eight from African countries and ten others drawn from the IAG, WHO, UNFPA and other agencies around the world).

The outcomes of the workshop were reported by Gary Andrews to the *GeriatricsAfrica '03* conference. In this presentation the impressive depth and scope of the expert deliberations were acknowledged as was the extent to which it proved possible to identify the priorities for, and urgency of, research into key aspects of ageing in Africa even in the context of the many other pressing economic, social, health and humanitarian challenges facing the continent.

The meeting set out a framework for priorities for research on ageing in Africa. While many specific needs for research action were discussed the workshop identified priority questions and need for research in four broader arenas as follows:

### POVERTY

- Poverty and its effects on older people
- Strategies for combating poverty in old age through preparation for retirement
- Extent of participation of older persons in national policy development and poverty reduction strategies
- Effectiveness of social protection systems for older persons

- Informal and formal social security systems
- Household level resource allocation patterns and effects on health and well-being of older persons

### FAMILY

- Changing structures and functions of the extended family and implication of these changes for intergenerational support and intergenerational solidarity
- Intergenerational support and exchange (reciprocity)
- Role of older persons in providing family support
- Community support strategies: nature, effectiveness and potential for strengthening
- Migration – Patterns of late life in intra-country migration
- Impact of urbanization on families
- Forced migration – outcomes

### HEALTH

- Ageing and health - health status, disability and healthy ageing
- Mental health and ageing e.g. dementia patterns and variation
- Health care delivery to older persons: methods, funding, training and evaluation
- The need for information on health care systems coverage and responsiveness
- Long term care needs and provision
- Nutrition and health in older persons
- Role of traditional medicine

### HIV/AIDS

- Identification and analyses of the extent HIV and impact on older people in Sub Saharan Africa
- Impact of caregiving to adult children and grandchildren infected or affected by HIV/AIDS

Other specific issues related to the African situation were identified and a number of methodological challenges especially around issues of capacity for improved data collection and research methodologies were enumerated.

### FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION

A significant challenge was seen by workshop participants in taking the positive message and outcomes of the workshop further in Africa.

A Second regional workshop was convened in Barcelona, Spain in association with the IAG European Regional Meeting in July this year and others are planned for Santiago in September with the COMLAT meeting and Tokyo in November with Asia/Oceania

## International Links:

*Over here and over there*

AAG council member, Prof Mary Luszcz of Flinders University has been appointed Professor of Gerontology, leading *Flinders Linking Ageing Research and Education (FLARE)*. This half-time responsibility complements her existing appointment as Professor in the School of Psychology and recognises her longstanding research, education and professional contributions to Lifespan Developmental Psychology and Gerontology.

In a busy start to 2003, Prof Luszcz has spent two months overseas, mainly in Germany with shorter visits to Switzerland and England. Invited by Prof Paul Baltes to be research scientist in residence at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Prof Luszcz worked with Prof Paul Baltes and Jacqui Smith on mutual research interests relating to longitudinal studies of ageing. The *Berlin Ageing Study* and the *Australian Longitudinal Study of Ageing* (see page 6) have much in common.

During a brief trip to Switzerland, she had meetings with the production team of *Gerontology* about the *Behavioural Science Section* of which she is Editor. Then, on a day-trip to the Institute of Psychology, Department of Gerontopsychology, University of Zurich, she gave a seminar on the ALSA and met with the Director of the Institute, Prof Mike Martin and his colleagues.

En route back to Australia she visited colleagues at Cambridge University (Felicia Huppert) conducting the *English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)*. She presented a seminar on ALSA and consulted with colleagues on theoretical and methodological aspects of longitudinal studies of ageing.

After a few days back in Adelaide, Prof Luszcz again took to the air, this time to New Zealand. There, at the *Australasian Human Development Association Meetings*, she delivered a keynote address entitled *Ageing as Human Development* and chaired a symposium on Psychology and Ageing. Contributors to the latter symposium included Assoc Prof Judith Davey (University of Wellington, NZ), Ms Rachel Newson (Flinders University), Dr Julie Robinson (Flinders University) and Prof Candida Peterson (University of Queensland).

To finish off the year, Prof Luszcz will attend the upcoming conferences in September in Canberra, the AAG meeting in Tasmania and the Asia-Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology in Tokyo, Japan (see Diary Dates). Back at the ranch, she will be concentrating on ALSA and FLARE.

## 2003

**Sept. 18 – 19** **CANBERRA**  
 Carers Australia National Conference  
*Caring Matters*  
 Email: carers@con-sol.com

**Sept. 22 – 23** **CANBERRA**  
*The Dynamic Processes in Ageing*  
 Manning Clark Complex  
 The Australian National University  
 Web: www.anu.edu.au/cmhr/symposium

**Sept. 23 – 25** **CANBERRA**  
 National Symposium on Ageing Research  
*Building Evidence, Policy and Practice*  
 Australian National University  
 Email: heather.logie@aihw.gov.au

**Sept. 28 – Oct. 3** **SYDNEY**  
 28<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Law and Mental Health  
 Email: Sydney2003@ialmh.org  
 Web: www.ialmh.org

**Sept. 30 – Oct. 2** **ARMIDALE**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mental Health and Wellness Ecology Conference  
*Mental Health Ecology for the 21st Century*  
 University of New England  
 Armidale, New South Wales  
 Web: www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/mhc.

**Oct. 13 – 15** **CHINA**  
 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**Oct. 19 – 22** **PERTH**  
 Aged & Community Services Australia  
 16<sup>th</sup> National Conference & Trade Exhibition  
*Journey to the New Aged*  
 Burswood International Convention Centre  
 Perth WA  
 Web: www.acswa.org

**Oct. 26 – 28** **PHILADELPHIA**  
 American Society on Aging  
 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Care Management  
*Care Management in an Aging Society*  
 Web: www.asaging.org

**Oct. 26-29** **MELBOURNE**  
 22 Annual Congress & Federal Educational Forum  
*Creating and Sustaining Business Viability in Aged Care*  
 ANHECA  
 Email: anheca@con-sol.com



**Nov. 12 - 14** **HOBART**

Australian Association of Gerontology  
 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
*Expanding Knowledge of Ageing*  
 Tel: 08 8302 1051  
 Fax: 08 8302 1054  
 Email: aag.conf@flinders.edu.au  
 Web: www.aag.asn.au/conf

**Nov. 12 – 15** **INDIA**

International Conference on Ageing  
 Challenges & Answers  
 Jananeethi Institute for Justice, Education,  
 Research and Development  
 Thrissur, Kerala, India  
 Email: jananeethi@zyberway.com  
 Web: www.jananeethi.org

**Nov. 21** **BRISBANE**

*Emerging Researchers in Ageing*  
 2nd National Conference  
 Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre  
 Web: www.uk.edu.au/aca



**Nov. 24 - 28** **TOKYO**

### 7th Asia Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology

Email: 7thaog@convention.co.jp  
 Web: http://www.convention.co.jp/7thaog/  
 IAGR Secretariat  
 Tel: 02 9331 6920  
 Fax 02 9331 7296  
 Email: management@apcsyd.com.

**Dec. 8 – 12** **CANBERRA**

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

## 2004

**April 14-16** **CHRISTCHURCH**  
 NZ Association of Gerontology (NZAG)  
 Expanding Horizons: The Art and Science of Ageing  
 Christchurch Convention Centre  
 Email: gerontology@cont.canterbury.ac.nz

**Oct. 15 – 17** **JAPAN**  
 20<sup>th</sup> 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

**Feb. 22 - 25** **SYDNEY**  
 Alzheimer's Australia National Conference  
 Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre  
 Darling Harbour  
 Web: www.alznsnsw.asn.au

**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

### NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP

The Australian Association of Gerontology is fortunate in gaining the support of the Board of Management of the Elderly Citizens Homes of South Australia in the production of this publication. The Association is most appreciative of this support.

### COPY DEADLINE

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

### Appreciation

Thanks to Felicity Barr who has generously assisted with editing this edition.

**AAG WEB ADDRESS >**

You can now get online at **www.aag.asn.au**